



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

**PROCLAMATION
Red Dress Day
May 5, 2023**

WHEREAS the REDress Project was created by Jaime Black as a public art installation in response to the missing and murdered Indigenous women;

AND WHEREAS the REDress Project began in 2010 and commemorates missing and murdered Indigenous women from the First Nations, Inuit, Metis and Native American Communities by hanging empty red dresses in a range of environments;

AND WHEREAS the colour red signifies the colour the spirits can see. The colour red is calling back the spirits of the those missing and allows them a chance to be among us and have their voices heard;

AND WHEREAS May 5th is the National Day of Awareness and honours Canada's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S);

AND WHEREAS on Friday May 5th at 5 PM, a ceremony to honour Red Dress Day will occur at Perth's Last Dual Park's Indigenous Healing Circle and Memorial to the MMIWG2S.

AND WHEREAS the ceremony will highlight Flora Meshier Riley who lost her sister Daphne Brown to a violent death by her husband in Goose Bay Labrador;

AND WHEREAS anyone can participate by marking the day and wear red, or by hanging a red dress in your window or yard, post it to social media by using hashtags such as: #MMIWG, @MMIWG2S, #WhyWeWearRed, and #NoMoreStolenSisters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jay Brennan, Acting Mayor of the Town of Smiths Falls declare May 5, 2023, as Red Dress Day in the Town of Smiths Falls and encourage all citizens to take a moment and reflect on the missing Indigenous women and girls and those who are no longer with us.

AND FURTHER THAT all community members are invited to honour this day in ceremony at the Last Dual Park's Indigenous space at 35 Craig Street, Perth, Ontario.

May 1, 2023



Jay Brennan, Acting Mayor