

MONICA VIRTUE

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SUMMARY

- A big picture thinker with a focus on innovative treaty research that combines Indigenous oral history and traditional archival research with digital mapping.
- 15+ years of experience collaborating with Indigenous people on visual storytelling projects.
- Academic research interests in mapping, data visualization, locative technology, and 360-degree storytelling.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Treaty Researcher

London District Chiefs Council | Bothwell, ON

June 2021 – December 2021

- Researched and wrote a 70+ page custom legal backgrounder about wampum and cession treaties for a Land Acknowledgement relating to health care for the eight First Nations in Southwestern Ontario.
- Designed custom visuals including maps of treaties/traditional territories and photos of wampum belts.

Workshop Facilitator

Treaty Workshops | Sarnia, ON

October 2017 – June 2019

- Designed and conducted popular training workshops about treaties for school boards, cultural institutions, and First Nations, in partnership with historian/author David D. Plain of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation.
- Focused on topics such as wampum agreements, cession treaties, the Indian Act, and reconciliation.
- Presented to audiences using oral history, slides, live digital mapping, videos, and interactive activities.
- Responsible for all marketing, sales, coordinating A/V needs, designing visuals, and building slide decks.

Treaty Researcher

Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation | Lambton Shores, ON

January 2019 – May 2019

- Traditional archival research and digital mapping for the Clench Defalcation Claim.
- On-site support for Chief & Council and the legal team during federal arbitration hearings with the Aamjiwnaang First Nation.

Graduate Research Assistant

Public Visualization Lab, OCAD University | Toronto, ON

December 2015 – June 2018

- Developed leading-edge data visualization projects by collaborating with a design team.
- Designs ranged from a locative storytelling platform for mobile and a platform utilizing machine learning to an interactive treaty map and physical walks featuring Indigenous place names in downtown Toronto.

Exhibition Coordinator

Digital Futures Program, OCAD University | Toronto, ON

February 2017 – May 2017

- Organized a successful graduate thesis exhibition at the Open Gallery, including development of the theme/branding, securing sponsorships, signing contracts, printing marketing materials, planning gallery installs with exhibitors, and synchronization of all elements to coincide with the opening night event.

Graduate Research Assistant

Visual Analytics Lab, OCAD University | Toronto, ON

August 2015 – January 2017

- Coordinated a highly successful interactive exhibition of the *CBC Newsworld Holodeck* for the 2015 Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, which saw lineups out the door of the Open Gallery until after 5 a.m.
- Employed user-centred, responsive and inclusive design approaches to assist with the creation, implementation, and user testing of the Lab's innovative digital media projects.
- Presented, pitched and demonstrated Lab projects for business partners (e.g. GestureTek), government (e.g. Premier of Ontario), and cultural institutions (e.g. Royal Ontario Museum).
- Performed effective Research Data Management and knowledge transfer between team members.

SELECTED PROJECTS

The Ipperwash Inquiry (Docu-Series)

Producer | Director | Researcher | Writer | Camera, Monica Virtue Productions | Lambton Shores, ON

November 2002 – Present (In Development)

- Producing, directing, treaty research and writing for a “true crime” story about the “Ipperwash Crisis.”
- Sourced highly sensitive audio/visual exhibits, transcripts, stock footage, photographs, and documents.
- Managed crew and equipment; operated camera for 100+ hours of interviews and cinema vérité footage.

A Water Story (360 Documentary)

Producer | Editor, Public Visualization Lab, OCAD University | Toronto, ON

January 2018 – Present (In Post-Production)

- Conceived all project elements in collaboration with Anishinaabe historian/author David D. Plain.
- Wrote a successful grant application, scouted locations, organized shoot, and assisted with filming.
- Partnering on team video editing using Adobe Premiere Pro.

Nnigiiwemin / We Are Going Home (Gallery Exhibition)

Co-Curator, Lambton Heritage Museum | Grand Bend, ON

January 2020 – August 2021

- Brought the original ideas of co-curator Summer Bressette to life through the re-design of the “*Gaawiin Ogiibagidenaawaasiwaawan / They Did Not Let It Go*” exhibition which travelled from Museum London.
- Collaborated with illustrator Bridget George to choose the colour palette and a new visual motif, and to design a large-scale map of the Anishinaabe Migration Story.
- Worked with a Knowledge Keeper on *Anishinaabemowin* place names for a re-design of five wall maps.
- Collaborated with a woodworker on the design of a birch rack to hold four wampum belts.
- Created video projections using historical recreations from “The Ipperwash Park Film Project.”
- Obtained consent from almost 50 community members to use their images/interviews in the exhibition.
- Pitched/wrote the concept for a popular “Name the Bear” contest; secured prize donations for the winner.
- Collaborated with the Museum's Curator/Supervisor to create a permanent online Virtual Tour.

Gaawiin Ogiibagidenaawaasiwaawan / They Did Not Let It Go (Gallery Exhibition)

Co-Curator, Museum London | London, ON

July 2020 – September 2020

- Collaborated on the gallery layout for an exhibit marking the 25th anniversary of the “Ipperwash Crisis.”
- Selected wampum belts and wrote corresponding didactics in collaboration with knowledge keepers.
- Interviewed, transcribed, and edited interviews and stock photos with family and community members.
- Designed a series of maps explaining treaties, “Aboriginal title,” and original place names, in consultation with knowledge keepers and *Anishinaabemowin* language speakers.

The Ipperwash Beach Walk (Locative Documentary)

Researcher | Filmmaker | Designer, Public Visualization Lab, OCAD University | Toronto, ON

2015 – 2018

- Built new relationships with project stakeholders, including the Chief & Council of the Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, the Kettle Point Elder's Lodge members, and local historians.

- Co-designed innovative counter-mapping content through multiple focus group sessions with Chief & Council and community members, with a goal of the oral history dovetailing with the archival research.
- Translated new content into interactive maps with the assistance of a design team.

Ogimaa Mikana Project (Place Name Database)

Graduate Research Assistant, Public Visualization Lab, OCAD University | Toronto, ON

April 2018 - May 2018

- Consulted with knowledge keepers and mined local, regional, provincial, and Internet archives to locate texts and maps listing the original place names for Toronto in *Anishnaabemowin* and Iroquois languages.
- Constructed a detailed database in Excel for use in mapped walks around downtown Toronto.

The Ipperwash Park Film Project (Educational Documentary)

Researcher | Producer | Director | Camera | Editor, Klippensteins Barristers & Solicitors | Toronto, ON

July 2005 – January 2012

- Conducted 2,000 hours of meticulous land claims research in collaboration with a legal team, and translated research into storyboards and scripts for 20 historical recreations or reality-based scenes.
- Designed and built all sets and props and designed, sewed or purchased all wardrobe pieces.
- Booked locations, obtained release forms, and successfully ensured project remained within budget.

EDUCATION

Master of Design , Digital Futures, OCAD University Toronto, ON	2014 – 2016
Graduate Certificate , Advanced Television & Film, Sheridan College Oakville, ON	2002 – 2003
Certificate , Business, Fanshawe College London, ON	1999 – 2002
Bachelor of Arts , Communication Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University Waterloo, ON	1996 – 1999

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Indigenous Mapping Workshop , Firelight Group Vancouver, BC	2020
Anishinaabemowin Language Classes with Helen Roy Aamjiwnaang First Nation, ON	2019
Master Series Class: Documentary Writing with Mark Monroe Toronto, ON	2015
Locative Media Workshop with Tapio Makela, OCAD University Toronto, ON	2015
UX Design Workshop , Bitmaker Labs Toronto, ON	2015
Master Class: Machinima with Skawennati Fragnito, OCAD University Toronto, ON	2015
Unity Workshop , OCAD University Toronto, ON	2015
Master Series Lab: Interactive Documentaries with Katerina Cizek Toronto, ON	2015
Mobile Workshop with Tom Barker, OCAD University Toronto, ON	2014
Internship: Assistant to Hyde Park Entertainment at TIFF Toronto, ON	2013
Film Incubator Program , Sheridan College Oakville, ON	2003 – 2005

AWARDS & GRANTS

Medal, Digital Futures Master's, Graduate Studies, OCAD University	2016
Best Social Contribution, Master's in Digital Futures Program, OCAD University	2016
Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Graduate Studies, OCAD University	2014
Grant for Emerging Filmmakers, Ontario Arts Council	2004
Production Excellence Award, Advanced Television & Film Program, Sheridan College	2004

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2021, Nov 4). Treaty Workshop for 75 classes of students across four school boards for Treaty Recognition Week. *St. Clair Catholic District School Board, Sarnia, ON.*

Virtue, M. (2019, Nov 19). Presentation on local treaties for Chiefs, Councillors and Policy Analysts from five area First Nations. *Waawayaaatanong Treaty Council, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, ON.*

Virtue, M. (2019, Sept 7). Presentation on the Ipperwash Inquiry for University of Windsor's Professor Beverley Jacobs and students. *Southwest Community Legal Clinics, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, ON.*

Virtue, M. (2019, June 5). Treaty Workshop for management/staff. *Ministry of the Environment, Sarnia, ON.*

Virtue, M. (2019, May 15). Treaty Workshop for Community Legal Clinic staff. *Southwest Legal Clinic Conference, London, ON.*

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2019, Jan 25). One-day Treaty Workshop for staff and community members. *Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, Kettle Point, ON.*

Bressette, Shelly, and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Nov 19). In Conversation: Visualizing Ipperwash. *Research Centre for Sustainable Communities, Lakehead University, Orillia, ON.*

Virtue, M. (2018, Oct 23). One-day Treaty Workshop for teachers, board members and staff. *Lambton Kent District School Board, Wallaceburg, ON.*

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Oct 9). One-day Treaty Workshop for teachers, board members and staff. *Lambton Kent District School Board, Wallaceburg, ON.*

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Oct 2-3). Two-day Treaty Workshop for teachers, board members and staff. *Bruce Grey District School Board, Hanover, ON.*

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Sept 20). One-day Treaty Workshop for the public. *Historic Saugeen Metis, Southampton, ON.*

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, July 9-11). Three-day Treaty Workshop for teachers, board members and staff. *Grand-Erie District School Board, Brantford, ON.*

Virtue, M. (2018, Apr 27). PD Day Treaty Workshops for elementary and high school teachers. *Lambton-Kent District School Board, Sarnia, ON.*

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Mar 24). Conversation leaders: Fractured Land post-film discussion. *Sarnia Justice Film Festival, Sarnia, ON.*

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Feb 23). Treaty Workshops for Cambridge Art Galleries staff and patrons. *Idea Exchange*, Cambridge, ON.

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Feb 17). One-day Treaty Workshop for Aamjiwnaang Chief & Council and community members. *Aamjiwnaang First Nation Chief & Council*, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, ON.

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Jan 12). Treaty Workshop for faculty and students. *University of Windsor*, Windsor, ON.

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Nov 14). Treaty Workshops for students, Grades 6 to 12. *Grand Erie District School Board*, Brantford, ON.

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Nov 3). Treaty Workshops for students, Grades 6 to 12. *Grand Erie District School Board*, Brantford, ON.

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Oct 25-26). Two-day Treaty Workshop for elementary teachers. *Lambton-Kent District School Board*, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, ON.

Virtue, M. (2017, July 10). Treaty Day Workshop with David Plain. *Aamjiwnaang Heritage & Culture: E'maawizidjig*. Aamjiwnaang First Nation, ON.

Virtue, M. (2017, June 1). Keynote: Policing the Ipperwash Crisis. *SW Legal Clinic Conference*, London, ON.

Virtue, M. (2017, Jan 23). Demonstration of The Ipperwash Beach Walk for Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne. *OCAD University*, Toronto, ON.

Virtue, M. (2016, Oct 28). Research as Ceremony: How Municipalities Can Better Work With Indigenous Communities. *Western University 2016 Local Government Alumni Conference*, London, ON.

Ladly, M., Mangaard, A., Farrelly, G., and **Virtue, M.** (2015, Sept 28). Postcard Memories: An application for patients with early stage dementia. *Aging 2.0*, Toronto, ON.

Virtue, M. (2014, Feb 13). The Ipperwash Park Film Project. *York University, Osgoode Hall Law School, Law and Social Change*, Toronto, ON.

Virtue, M. (2013, Feb 4). The Ipperwash Park Film Project. *York University, Osgoode Hall Law School, Law and Social Change*, Toronto, ON.

Virtue, M. (2012, Oct 24). The Ipperwash Park Film Project. *Lakehead University, First Nations Literature*, Orillia, ON.

Virtue, M. (2012, Jan 8). The Ipperwash Park Film Project. *York University, Osgoode Hall Law School, Indigenous Peoples and the Law*, Toronto, ON.

Virtue, M. (2011, Feb 8). The Ipperwash Park Film Project. *York University, Osgoode Hall Law School, Indigenous Peoples and the Law*, Toronto, ON.

Virtue, M. (2010, Oct 28). The Ipperwash Park Film Project. *Lakehead University, First Nations Literature*, Orillia, ON.

BROADCAST INTERVIEWS & PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Bressette, Summer, and **Virtue, M.** (2021, July 27). Virtual Talk recording: *Nnigiwemin / We Are Going Home* exhibition. *Lambton Heritage Museum*. Lambton Shores, ON

Voss, Georgina, and **Virtue, M.** (2021, June 17). Virtual Talk recording: In Conversation with Georgina Voss and Monica Virtue. *DesignTO Festival*, Toronto, ON

Bressette, Summer, and **Virtue, M.** (2020, Nov 25). Virtual Tour recording: *Gaawiin Ogiibagidenaawaasiwaawan / They Did Not Let It Go* exhibition. *Museum London*. London, ON

Virtue, M. (2020, Aug 25) Alive for a reason: Talking with Ipperwash survivors about mental health (Part 1 & 2). *Anishinabek News*, North Bay, ON.

Virtue, M. (2020, Aug 5) History of the 90's: Ipperwash. *Corus Entertainment: podcast*, Toronto, ON.

Kear, A., and **Virtue, M.** (2020, Sept 11). Museum London marking 25 years since Ipperwash Crisis with new months-long exhibit. *980 CFPL Radio/Global News*, London, ON.

Virtue, M. (2018, Aug 30). The Secret Life of Ipperwash. *CBC Radio: The Secret Life of Canada: podcast*. Toronto, ON.

Plain, D., and **Virtue, M.** (2018, Mar 14). Aamjiwnaang First Nation traditions and treaties. *YourTV Sarnia: #TalkLocal*, Sarnia, ON.

Virtue, M. (2013, Jan 16). How the lessons of Ipperwash have affected police reaction to Idle No More protests. *CBC Radio: Ontario Morning with Wei Chen*, Toronto, ON.