



Adele Finney

Materials:

Green burlap – My paternal grandmother taught me how to make hooked rugs on burlap with wool cut from used clothing. The burlap was stretched out on a large round wooden hoop. It was her ancestor Oliver Wolcott who was an Indian Commissioner after the American Revolutionary War. He made treaties with the Indians of New York State, Pennsylvania and Ohio, including the Second Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1784 with the Six Nations.

Paisley throw from India – from my mother-in-law who grew up in India, the daughter of missionaries. She and her two brothers were sent to residential school. None of them talked about their experiences at the school until late in their lives after our family had visited India. The fabric is part of the Unravelling exercise our Kawartha group has done.

Gold threads – from scraps of raw silk.

This is what I learned/remembered as I made the square:

The green burlap says we are all treaty people. The paisley began as a single piece of worn fabric. As I pulled it apart, unravelled it and placed it on the burlap, it seemed to be growing into a tree.

I worked with it a while then turned it upside down. I saw then the deep roots and the felled tree stump. I wanted to attach the stump to the treaty burlap with a long piece of unravelled burlap, but the string broke in three different places. The roots of the tree are sacred.

I had braided a longish piece of red thread from the paisley to be a circle somewhere because I have learned great respect for the sharing circle. That thread followed the shape of a swirl at the heart of the tree, the spirit that is released as we gather and hear one another.

That spirit extends to the unravelled threads that have disconnected from the tree. Other unravelled threads form a nest in the stump. The nest shelters a stone egg. Will it bring new life? Senecan music I heard in Malaysia, Mary Jemison and Senecan Queen Aliquippa all drew me into the journey with Aboriginal people.