

Living Into Right Relations – June 2024

Hello,

It's National Indigenous History Month and June 21 is Indigenous Peoples Day. As I was browsing to find events and info to share this month I came across this suggestion from the Indigenous Ministry staff of the United Church: "This month is to not only celebrate Indigenous culture, language, song & dance, it's a month to learn and create relationships. So while exploring, be curious, ask questions..." It's simple advice but somehow struck a chord. I don't know if you have the same experience but one of the barriers I feel and have heard others speak of is our lack of real relationship with Indigenous people and organizations. The length of this newsletter speaks to the number of opportunities available to help change this. Have a good month!

Nancy (nancydykstra@gmail.com). Thank you, Henriëtte and Bev for ongoing teamwork.

1. Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day - events, reading and viewing, and resources.

An incomplete list. Check your local listings to see what is happening in your community.

- a. From the [Office of Indigenous Relations](#) at UW:
 - i. **Mon. June 10, 10:30 - noon** [What is Smudging?](#) Online webinar. (link not working at the time of posting this info here.)
 - ii. **Mon. June 17, 6-9 p.m.** [Indigenous Community Concert | Sultans of String "Walking Through The Fire"](#) Federation Hall, UW. Registration required. Free.
- b. From the [United Church](#): worship resources including Indigenous Day of Prayer, **Sun. June 16.** [Weekly posts](#) from United Church Indigenous Ministries staff.
- c. **Fri. June 21, 5:59-8 a.m.** At First Light, TheMuseum, downtown Kitchener. Traditional Sunrise Ceremony led by Haudenosaunee community member, Kelly Fran Davis and supported by local fire keeper, Al McDonald on. Register [here](#).
- d. **Fri. June 21, 7:30 p.m.** Free event at [The Westdale](#) in Hamilton. Music, dance, film, conversation.
- e. **Sun. June 23, 11-4** [Dwadə'nyota' Dwaga:'sho:'oh "We Celebrate our Stories" Presents National Indigenous Peoples Day](#) at Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk Street, Brantford. **Tickets:** Free, with a suggested donation of \$10 to Woodland Cultural Centre. Donate [here](#).
- f. Check this link for details about [APTN Indigenous Day Live](#).
- g. A resource and reading recommendations from [Waterloo Public Library](#). Includes this link to [CBC Gem catalogue of Indigenous films](#). Definitely worth checking out! Thank you, Carolyn Sullivan.
- h. [National Indigenous History Month](#) - Federal Gov't website with links for learning about historical and current topics, weekly themes throughout June to highlight specific aspects of Indigenous history, culture and perspectives, and includes some events for [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#).
- i. From Kairos Canada: [Celebrate National Indigenous History Month](#).

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - read their Facebook posts
 - i. Watch for a new date for gardening after being [rained out last Sunday](#).
 - ii. How to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#)
- b. [1492 Land Back Lane](#) Supportive actions - [legal defense fund](#)

3. Highlighting Indigenous-led initiatives and organizations: Willow River Centre (WRC)

On Oct 7th, 2023, [Willow River Centre](#) opened its doors. Located at 243 King St E, Kitchener, Willow River Centre is Indigiqueer-led, providing space for urban Indigenous Two Spirit, trans and non-binary youth and settler LGBTQ+ allies. They provide access to resources, Two Spirit teachings/ programming, and local advocacy for 2SLGBTQ+ issues and Indigenous sovereignty for the FNMI queer community. The centre is also used as a market, performance and gallery space for general public attendance. Rooted in [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#), the Land Back Camp initiative in our cities, they continue to work closely with grassroots organizations in Waterloo Region to call for Land Back and other land and social justice actions. (Adapted from Spectrum directory and the WRC Facebook page.)

4. Pow Wows

Whether you've been often or haven't experienced it yet, heading to a pow wow might be a great idea for a day or weekend out this summer. Know that there is specific etiquette to follow when attending a pow wow. See (a.) below for info about etiquette.

- a. [Great Lakes 2024 Pow Wow Guide](#) See p. 31 for info about pow wow etiquette. Pow wow listings start on p. 32. Thanks for sending this in, Bev McNabb.

Locally...

- b. **June 21-23** [Soaring Spirits Festival and Pow Wow](#) at Battlefield Park in Stoney Creek. Look for updates closer to these dates. Thanks, Cindy Stover.
- c. **July 5&6** [First Annual Pow Wow](#), hosted by Hamilton Region Indian Centre in Hamilton at Pier 4. Look for updates closer to these dates. Thanks, Cindy Stover.
- d. **July 26-28** [Grand River Pow Wow](#) Ohsweken Speedway, 1987 Chiefswood Rd, Ohsweken. Look for updates closer to these dates.

5. Learning at home and connecting in person

[Crow Shield Lodge](#) in Waterloo Region has a range of events related to education, healing, land stewardship and reconciliation. This includes men's nights, women's full moon ceremonies, and a variety of workshops. See the events listing [here](#).

- a. **Until Sept. 1** [RBC Artist In Residence: Melissa General](#) Art Gallery of Hamilton
- b. **Sat. June 8 Grand River Water Walk**
 - i. 8 a.m. [Grand River Water Ceremony](#), at [Schneider Park](#), Kitchener, parking off King St, across from Freeport Hospital.
 - ii. 6 p.m. [Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser](#) for [All Nations Grand River Water Walk Sept. 15-21](#). Stirling Mennonite Church, 57 Stirling Ave N, Kitchener. Book your reservation online and pay by donation at the door.
- c. **Tues., June 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** [Strong Indigenous Voices and their Role](#). Online webinar presented by Kairos Canada.
- d. [Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch & Learn. Deyohahá:ge: Collections Awareness.
 - Wed. June 12, 12 -1 p.m.** (2160 4th Line Road, Ohsweken) Info [here](#).
 - Wed. June 19, 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.** (411 Elgin Street, Brantford) Info [here](#).
- e. **Mon. June 17, from 6:30 a.m.** a variety of events at Brock University, including [Traditional Indigenous Dance Demonstration](#) at 10-11:30 a.m. For others scroll down on the linked Eventbrite page.
- f. **Wed. June 19, 6-7:30 p.m.** [Public Virtual Hodinohsho:ni Governance Workshop](#) Hosted by [Woodland Cultural Centre](#).
- g. **Fri. June 21, 28&29** [Indigenous Peoples Month- | imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival](#).
- h. **Sat-Sun June 22, 23** [KW Multicultural Festival](#) 57th year!!! Victoria Park, Kitchener.
- i. **Mon. June 24, 1:30 - 3** *Hamilton folks!* There's a new cross-cultural sharing circle starting up in Hamilton: Reconciliation, a vision and a process. For info and to join, contact Pam at Pam.awhamilton@gmail.com. See poster attached to email for more details.
- j. **Wed. June 26, 12-2 p.m.** Grandmothers' Tea at [Five Oaks](#), 1 Bethel Rd., Paris. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Rhonda Johns at nations.uniting@gmail.com for more information.
- k. **Thurs. June 27, 6:30 - 8 p.m.** Join United Church Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and her guest, Alf Dumont, for the next [Mod's Book Squad](#) featuring Dumont's memoir [The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge](#).
- l. **Sat. July 6, 10 a m. - 1 p.m.** *For those in church leadership*. Are you wondering how your church can honour the Haldimand Tract legacy? You might be interested in attending the [Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion](#) A free, in-person event. Our primary discussion will revolve around a proposal from 2007 for a Spiritual Covenant with Churches, delving into the complexities surrounding the Haldimand Tract lands and missing trust funds. This gathering presents an opportunity to collectively explore practical ways for the church to engage with these significant issues. Registration is required as space is limited.

On the Radar

- m. **Sat. Aug. 24, 10:30-noon** [Valley of the Birdtail](#) The Meighen Forum, Stratford Festival, Lazaridis Hall, Tom Patterson Theatre. Thank you, Muriel Bechtel. If you have not yet read the book, [Valley of the Birdtail](#), it is well worth picking up.

6. Good Reads, News and Views

a. Reads

- i. [GoodMinds.com](#) Check out their collections and suggestions for Indigenous History Month. Purchase online or at the store, 188 Mohawk Street, Brantford.
- ii. [The Indian Act the politics of exclusion](#) Indigenous Corporate Training (ictinc.ca) blog.

b. News

- i. [Breaking ground on the road to reconciliation](#) UWaterloo
- ii. [Kitchener announces Donna Dubie as the 2024 Senior of the Year!](#) Congratulations to Donna Dubie, director of Healing of the Seven Generations.
- iii. Scroll down to learn about the new Indigenous gallery space at UW: The Longhouse Labs [Art thrives here](#)
- iv. ['Language is identity': First Nation legislator to make history at Ontario Legislature](#) CBC
- v. [Grassy Narrows First Nation files lawsuit against Ontario, federal governments over mercury contamination](#) CBC

c. Views

- i. [Recommendations from First People's Law](#) Check them out!
- ii. <https://knowledge.thankyou4caring.org/emailviewonwebpage.aspx?erid=34440688&trid=76614a15-ae2a-42db-91cc-f0660852ff06>
- iii. Niagara Falls - rich with Indigenous History [CBC Unreserved: Unmapped](#) Posted: Apr 16, 2024. Audio. Interesting info and discussion about [Landscape of Nations Memorial](#) at Queenston Heights and [First Nations Peace Monument](#) in Thorold among others.