

Living Into Right Relations – September 2024

Hello,

As evidenced by the many events below, September is “start up time” for many of us. Lists like this can be a bit overwhelming. Perhaps look for one or two things you can connect with.

September also includes the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to remember and reflect on the truths we need to know and accept, and the ongoing responsibility to work towards a more just future in our country. How might you participate in this reflective day? Section 1 offers ideas and information available to date. I expect you’ll find more information in your community closer to Sept 30. Remember - wear orange!

May you walk in good company,

Nancy (nancydykstra@gmail.com). Thank you, Henriëtte and Bev for ongoing editing and other support!

1. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

- a. Register now for [Truth and Reconciliation Week](#) (Sept 23 to 27) events and resources. From the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
- b. **Wed, Sept. 25, 6-7:30p.m.** [Public Virtual Truth and Reconciliation Presentation](#) from the Woodland Cultural Centre. Register through the link.
- c. **Fri, Sept. 27 3-7:30 p.m. & Sat, Sept. 28., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.** [MarketFest: In Peace & Friendship](#), WLU Brantford Campus One Market Atrium, 1 Market Street, Brantford.
- d. **Mon, Sept. 30 7 a.m.-2 p.m.** [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation | Office of Indigenous Relations](#). This link includes background info and the program for events at UW. Register [here](#).
- e. **Mon, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.** Every Child Matters Walk, Kitchener, Healing of the Seven Generations. From 300 Frederick St. to Victoria Park/Willow Park Clock Tower. Please check their [website](#) and/or [Facebook](#) pages for more info.
- f. **Mon, Sept. 30 7-8:30 p.m.** [Roots to Reconciliation: Songs and Stories with Rene Meshake Guelph Civic Museum](#) 52 Norfolk St., Guelph.
- g. **Worship Resources**
 - i. [A Christian Prayer of Lament on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation](#)
Thank you, Ron Flaming.
 - ii. [United Church of Canada LIRR newsletter](#), Aug. 2024. Second item.
- h. **Sat, Oct. 5, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.** [Walk Towards Truth](#). A reflective fundraising walk for Settlers to honour Indigenous survivors, families and communities. Start location 188 Mohawk St., Brantford.

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - at Willow River Centre, 243 King St., Kitchener.
 - i. All are welcome to join the [autumn clean up!](#) Sun, Sept. 8 & Sun, Sept. 22, 10am-1p.m. Schneider Haus, 466 Queen St. S. Kitchener.
 - ii. How to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#)

3. Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion Spiritual Covenant Follow up

For those who attended or heard about the [Strawberry Thanksgiving & Communion](#) in July, the easy part is feeling inspired to take action. The challenging part is acting on that inspiration. To help make this a reality in our churches and communities, MCC Ontario is offering two opportunities. The goal is to inspire, motivate, connect, and equip you to take steps toward the Spiritual Covenant. (see attached article by Adrian Jacobs). You are invited to register and encourage others in your churches to join one or both options.

1. [Hearts Exchanged](#): Laurie Warkentin from MCC Ontario is co-hosting with Cindy Stover from the CRCNA an ecumenical version of this CRC-created program. It's an 8-month in-depth monthly learning group, with homework, meeting online on the fourth Wednesday night of each month. Note: When registering, mention the Strawberry Thanksgiving & Communion Group.
2. [Budget Line Dialogue and Working Groups](#): With Sarah Augustine, six Thursday night sessions will equip us as organizers, engaging in dialogue and responsive work toward the Spiritual Covenant.

4. Learning at home and connecting in person

- a. [Crow Shield Lodge](#) in Waterloo Region has a range of events related to education, healing, land stewardship and reconciliation, including a monthly women's full moon ceremony (Sept 17), men's sharing circle (Sept 18), and more. Events listing [here](#).
- a. **Mohawk Institute Virtual tours**. Click [here](#) for a link to tickets.
- b. [Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch & Learn: The Indian Act. Click links below for details.
Wed, Sept. 11, 12-1 p.m. [Six Nations Campus](#). 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken.
Wed, Sept. 18, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. [Brantford Campus](#) 411 Elgin St., Brantford.
- c. **Tues, Sept. 10, 7-8p.m.** [Conversations of Courage and Resilience](#) - Waterloo Public Library. Eastside Branch. Waitlisted.
- d. **Thurs. Sept. 10, 8-9:30 p.m. ET.** [Residential School History & Legacy 101](#) Webinar from the University of Manitoba. Register [here](#).
- e. **Sun, Sept. 15 to Sat, Sept. 21** [All Nations Grand River Water Walk](#), 2024.
 - i. Read about Josephine Mandamin, the inspiration for the walk, here: [ONWA Celebrates Canada Post's Stamp Dedication to Grandmother Water Walker Josephine Mandamin](#).

- f. **Sun, Sept. 15, 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.** [Inuit Film Series at Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery](#). Register through the link. In conjunction with the exhibit [Sila](#) by sculptor Billy Gauthier, here until Oct 20. A must see!
- g. **Wed, Sept. 18** [River Run](#) in Toronto to support Grassy Narrows. Buses are being organized from [Hamilton, KW](#) and [Guelph](#). Some background information:
 - i. [The Story of Grassy Narrows](#)
 - ii. [Grassy Narrows First Nation appeals to international human rights commission over mercury contamination](#).
 - iii. [Grassy Narrows launches legal battle against Ontario's Mining Act](#)
- h. **Wed, Sept. 18, 6-7:30 p.m.** Public virtual screening of [Silent No More](#), the new virtual tour of the former Mohawk Residential School. Register through the link.
- i. **Sat, Sept. 21, 2-8 p.m.** [Directions Indigenous Arts Festival](#). Free. At Victoria Park/Willow Park, Kitchener. A welcome-back celebration for Conestoga College students and the community hosted by Be-Dah-Bin Gamik (Indigenous Services) and Conestoga Students Inc.
- j. **Wed, Sept. 25, 12 p.m.-1 p.m.** An [online conversation with Chief Dsta'hyl of the Wet'suwet'en Nation](#), Canada's first Amnesty-designated Prisoner of Conscience, less than a month after he completes his house arrest. Chief Dsta'hyl, also known as Adam Gagnon, was found guilty of criminal contempt for violating the terms of an unjust court injunction obtained by Coastal GasLink (CGL). Register through the link.
- k. **Wed, Sept. 25, 12-2** Grandmothers' Tea at Sydenham Heritage United Church, 120 Sydenham St., Brantford. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Joan (519-754-8786) or Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.
- l. **Fri, Sept. 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Books on the Bench: [Amanda Peters](#), bestselling Mi'kmaq author of [The Berry Pickers](#), discusses her new book [Waiting for the Long Night Moon](#). Library fundraiser hosted by Lincoln Pelham Public Library at Fielding Estate Winery. Tickets [here](#). Thank you, Michele Altobelli.
- m. **Sat, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** 21st annual Gidinawendamin/Ska'nikú•lát [Pow Wow at UW](#). Location: Columbia Icefields [Outdoor field 7](#). Grand entry at noon.
- n. **Mon, Sept. 30, 1-4 p.m.** [Beaded Broach Workshop](#) with Cecilia Elizabeth Best. Hosted by Canadian Clay and Glass Museum, 25 Caroline St N., Waterloo.
- o. **Sat, Oct. 5, 8 a.m.** [Grand River Water Ceremony](#), at [Schneider Park](#), Kitchener, parking off King St, across from Freeport Hospital.
- p. **Sat, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.** [Sing Fires of Justice 2024: Music Is Medicine](#) Day of Workshops with Lunch at St Matthews Centre, 54 Benton St., Kitchener. Tickets for purchase through the link.
- q. **Mon, Oct. 7, 2-3:30 and 7-8:30 p.m.** The Concerned Lay Catholics' (CLC) Indigenous Teachings Book study. [Split Tooth by Tanya Tagaq](#). Online, facilitated by Donna McGreal. See poster attached for book list for the upcoming year. To register and for more information contact concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com.
- r. Other events in your area may be found on [Eventbrite](#).

5. Good Reads

- i. [Our Long Struggle for Home - The Ipperwash Story](#) by Aazhoodenaang Enjibaajig. Stories of life on Stoney Point Reserve told by family and friends of Dudley George who was shot in 1995 by the OPP. A powerful foreword by John Borrows about relationships established by treaty. Thank you, Ron Flaming.
- ii. [Meeting My Treaty Kin - A Journey toward Reconciliation](#) Heather Menzies' story of growing awareness and change as she built relationships while supporting the writing of "Our Long Struggle for Home". Thanks again, Ron.
- iii. [ayahciyiniw pîtosaskîhk](#) published in Yarrow Magazine, by Chelsea Vowel, author of [Indigenous Writes](#). Thank you, Keith Regehr.