

Living Into Right Relations – May 2023

Hello,

May 5 marks the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S) in Canada. The related tragedies across the country in the year since last May 5 make it clear that much hard work remains to be done. In Section 1 I have tried to point us to some events and other links to help us engage further.

The rest of the newsletter is full of a wide variety of events and information, and I know it is far from complete! If you have items that you would like to pass on for June or the summer, please feel free to email me.

May you walk in good company,

Nancy (nancydykstra@gmail.com)

1. **May 5 - Red Dress Day** Here is a partial listing of events in the watershed. City or location names are links to events. Note that one in KW is on May 14.

- a. **May 1-19** Red Dress Exhibit [Hamilton Public Library](#). Including a special ceremony on May 5, noon-12:30.
- b. **May 5, 11 a.m.-1p.m.** Sacred fire, awareness and educational event 90 Dickson St., [Cambridge](#).
- c. **May 5, 2-3 p.m.** [University of Waterloo](#).
- d. **May 5, from 5:30 p.m. ...** walk in downtown [St. Catharines](#) from City Hall to the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.
- e. **May 5, 7 p.m.**, [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) Sacred Fire at Willow River Park, [Kitchener](#).
- f. **May 11**, [Moose Hide Campaign](#) is a commitment to honour, respect and protect the women and children in your life and speak out against gender-based and domestic violence. See [here](#) for more detail.
- g. **May 14** Healing of the 7 Generations walk and vigil in downtown [Kitchener](#), Walk begins at **10 a.m.** at H7G, 300 Frederick St. The candle-light Vigil **later in the day** is at the Clocktower. Please check their Facebook page for updated timing details.

Some further reading/info:

The final report from the inquiry: [Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)
[Safe Passage](#) - Native Women's Association of Canada

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - read their Facebook posts. Here's a good news item:
 - i. [Permanent Sacred Fire Space Coming to Victoria Park](#)

- b. [1492 Land Back Lane](#) April 12 marked 1000 days on the site. Supportive actions -
 - i. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane. Our next delivery date: May 26.** We have been using our funds to provide gift cards for weeks when there is no Friday food delivery. We are reaching a low point in our account. Cash support would be lovely! Donations can be made through [Parkminster United Church](#). Please identify your donation as 1492 LandBack Lane. For more info or to lend a hand, contact me at nancydykstra@gmail.com. Thank you!
 - ii. Support their [legal defense fund](#).

3. Supporting Indigenous initiatives.

[All Nations Grand River Water Walk](#) is looking for volunteers to help with their online auction fundraiser. Interested? Read more [here](#).

[Crow Shield Lodge](#) is accepting donations for their silent auction for the May 26th Feed the Fire Fundraiser. Contact crowshieldlodge@gmail.com to learn how you can help.

4. Places and groups I can't keep up with!

I find I'm often including multiple events from these organizations. There's so much going on I find I'm picking and choosing. So instead, I've included browsing space here for you to see what resonates for you. I may have occasional repeats in Section 5 below, but there's often much more in these links:

[Woodland Cultural Centre](#) 184 Mohawk St Brantford. Their [Community Awareness Event](#) on May 12 is a great way to learn first hand about what they have in store.

[Chiefswood Park](#) at 1037 Hwy 54, Ohsweken, has a variety of outdoor events for adults and children, including a full moon paddle in June and its first ever Spring Craft Market in late May. Check out the calendar [here](#).

[Crow Shield Lodge](#) in Waterloo Region has a range of events related to education, healing, land stewardship and reconciliation. This includes community work days on May 6 and 13 at their 2 sites. Please see the current events listing [here](#).

5. Learning at home and connecting in person

- a. Last call for the [Two Row on the Grand](#) registration.
- b. **May 13, 8 a.m.** [Grand River Water Ceremony](#) All Nations Grand River Water Walk, 650 Otterbein Rd. Kitchener.
- c. **May 14** Healing of the 7 Generations [MMIP Walk and Vigil](#), See in Section 1 above.
- d. **May 17, 6-7:30 p.m.** Mohawk Institute Virtual tour. Book [here](#).
- e. **May 19, 4-7** Fish Fry at Grand River United Church, Ohsweken. Get there early! \$15.
- f. **May 26, 7-10:30 p.m.** [Feed the Fire Fundraiser](#) for [Crow Shield Lodge](#), Victoria Park Pavilion. Community, great food and a silent auction. Questions? Contact crowshieldlodge@gmail.com. For tickets or \$\$ donations see fundraiser link above.

- g. **May 27, 11a.m. - May 28, 4 p.m.** [Indigenous Art Market](#) 44 Gaukel St, Kitchener. Hosted by I AM Kitchener and Downtown Kitchener.
- h. **May 29, 1:30-3:30** [Nations Uniting](#) Sharing Circle - To join this event and be part of their mailing list contact Rhonda Johns at nations.uniting@gmail.com.
- i. **May 31, 12-2**, Grandmothers' Tea at Mohawk Chapel. 301 Mohawk St. Brantford, ON. In addition to food, this time please bring your own plate and cutlery. A donation to the chapel is also encouraged. For more information contact 519-756-0240.
- j. Browse through [Eventbrite](#) for other events of interest.

On the radar...

Sept 17-23 [All Nations Grand River Water Walk](#).


Ongoing and production in 2024 [Grand River Community Play Project](#).

6. Good Reads, News and Views



a. Reads/Podcasts

- i. Article by [Tony Snow](#) in [Broadview](#) magazine about [Land and Territorial acknowledgements](#). Clear and thought provoking.
- ii. Who are the Métis? It's complicated. This [podcast](#) explores the history of Métis people in Manitoba, beginning with Louis Riel who was a hero to some and a traitor to others. Thanks to Pam from W.I.N.D.
- iii. [Why Do Indigenous Peoples Have Higher Unemployment?](#) Indigenous Corporate Training Inc Blog. Thanks, Jan Ross.

b. News

- i.  Indigenous identity theft more widespread than people think, says Métis law...
- ii. [How Canadian law could change with the Vatican repudiation the Doctrine of Discovery | CBC Radio](#) (background see C.iii below).
- iii. KWUrban Native Wigwam Project a partner in [prize-winning energy efficient housing redesign](#) of 32 Mill St., Kitchener. The project still needs \$63,000 in sponsorships. Might this be an opportunity for you to contribute to an exciting initiative? Thanks, Mary Jane Patterson and Beverly Mc Nabb.

c. Views

- i. [Paddle Song](#) - The Life of Pauline Johnson, performed by Christi Maracle. Thanks to Pam from W.I.N.D. 58 min.
- ii. [Future History](#) - TV show from BC Knowledge Network. Explore the revitalization of Indigenous knowledge and culture after generations of colonial devastation. 13 episodes, rolling out over the rest of May and into June.
- iii. Two short videos on the Doctrine of Discovery with reflections on its impact today.
 -  [The Doctrine of Discovery and its grip on Indigenous lands](#) APTN, 7 ½ min.
 -  [Doctrine of Discovery](#) 10 min. Part of 8 short, testimonial films on the Haudenosaunee.