

## Living Into Right Relations – August 2023

Hello,

The Grand River Watershed and how we live our lives along it is one of the fundamental connections and purposes of this group. Every time I hop in a kayak and head out on the river I am literally and figuratively transported to another place. I know there are lots of us who love the Grand. Section 1 below just touches on a few Grand-loving groups. I hope you take a look at it, and consider engaging with one of the groups there or with some other connection if you haven't already. If you know of other groups you think people should hear about, please let us know!

I hope you are able at some point in the summer to spend good time on the water or walking alongside. This is our home. This connects us.

Wherever you go, may you walk in good company,

Nancy ([nancydykstra@gmail.com](mailto:nancydykstra@gmail.com)) (asking for forgiveness if anything's awry. It's the summer! Things are moving at a different pace... Pls contact me if you have questions . :)

### 1. For the Love of the Grand

- a. [All Nations Grand River Water Walk Sept. 17-23](#). You can sign up for updates.  
How to support:
  - **Aug. 13, 6 p.m.** [Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser](#) Parkminster United Church, 275 Erb St. E, Waterloo. Volunteer help is welcome!! Free tickets [here](#). Make your donation at the dinner.
  - [Facebook Auction](#) **Aug. 14 - Sept 4**. Please join the group, add people, and share! You can support by posting a donation item and/or bidding.
  - **Aug. 12, 8 a.m.** [Grand River Water Ceremony](#) A monthly ceremony at 650 Otterbein Rd. Kitchener.
  - Other opportunities: <https://www.grandriverwaterwalk.com/donate>
- b. [Two Row On The Grand River](#) - an annual paddle that completed its 8th journey on July 28th. Get to know the river, learn about Indigenous culture and Indigenous and Canadian history, develop relationships in the spirit of the Two Row Wampum. Join the [Facebook](#) group or check out the website to learn more.
- c. [Grand River Community Play Project: THE VOICE OF A RIVER](#) is a project of [Canadian Centre for Rural Creativity](#). Peter Smith, who is the director of the project, was a paddler and speaker on the "Two Row" this year. I have posted about this project before; this update has better links. If you love community theatre, or you love the Grand and would like to be part of a creative project that celebrates it, check this out! It's a play, and more, and continuing to evolve.

## 2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - read their Facebook posts
  - i. Founding member and artist Bangishimo is being honoured in October by KWAG. Info and tickets [here](#).
  - ii. [Part of IMPACT Theatre this fall](#).
  - iii. How to support? One way is through Patreon at this link: [O se Kenhionhata tie](#).
  
- b. **1492 Land Back Lane**
  - i. Court Update: As reported in July: court decision gave an [absolute discharge for Skyler and others](#). Here are a couple of related news articles:
    - [Judge relies on Haudenosaunee law in court decision for 1492 Land Back Lane defender](#) APTN.
    - [Landback Lane organizer receives absolute discharge on all charges](#) CTV News.
  - Supportive actions:
    - ii. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane. Our next delivery date: August 25.** Cash donations can be made through [Parkminster United Church](#). Please identify your donation as 1492 LandBack Lane and include your street mailing address if you would like a tax receipt. For more info or to lend a hand, contact me at [nancydykstra@gmail.com](mailto:nancydykstra@gmail.com). Thank you!
    - iii. Support their [legal defense fund](#). Skyler refers to the value of this in his post.

## 3. Teaching and learning.

As another education year approaches and perhaps some of us are wanting more depth or background, here are a couple of ideas:

For teachers of all kinds - [Honouring the Survivors](#). Magazines for classrooms for Truth and Reconciliation Week. From the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation.

[Indigenous Canada](#) Good course to gain a solid historical background. Offered through University of Alberta in Edmonton, it's free, and you can do it at your own pace. Approximately 21 hours.

## 4. Indigenous-led organizations with ongoing intercultural opportunities:

[Woodland Cultural Centre](#) 184 Mohawk St Brantford. Look [here](#) for the next Virtual Tour on Aug. 16 and the Annual Smoke Dance competition Aug. 19.

[Chiefswood Park](#) at 1037 Hwy 54, Ohsweken. 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, sharing circles and Full Moon ceremonies. Please see the current events listing [here](#).

## 5. Learning at home and connecting in person

- a. **Aug. 20-25** [Camp Micah](#) supported by [KAIROS Canada](#). Camp for teens interested in Social and Environmental Justice. There may still be room.
- b. **Aug. 26-27.** [35th Three Fires Homecoming Pow Wow and Traditional Gathering](#), 2789 Mississauga Road, Hagersville.
- c. **Date TBD, 1:30-3:30** [Nations Uniting](#) Sharing Circle - retry for a discussion about the [remit](#) to establish an autonomous national Indigenous organization within the United Church. To join this event and be part of their mailing list contact Rhonda Johns at [nations.uniting@gmail.com](mailto:nations.uniting@gmail.com).
- d. **Aug. 30, 12-2.** Grandmother's Tea. Click [here](#) for a description. Contact Rhonda Johns at [nations.uniting@gmail.com](mailto:nations.uniting@gmail.com) for more info and about this month's location.
- e. **Sept. 8-10** [Celebration of Nations](#) St Catharines. Part of a long-term vision of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, Kakekalanicks, and the City of St. Catharines to build on the Two Row Wampum philosophy that promotes all Nations walking together, in parallel, with respect, compassion and understanding to cultivate an inclusive community for our shared future.
- f. Lots of other events to learn about through [Eventbrite](#).

### On the radar...

- g. **Sept. 29 - Oct 1** Seeking Transformation 2023, [Retreat at 5 Oaks](#).

## 6. Good Reads, News and Views

### a. Reads

- i. [Land back!: When radical architects took over the Canada Pavilion](#) CBC.
- ii. [The Unsettling Disparities: Indigenous Youth Mortality](#) Higher Rates of Death in Children and Youth From [Working Effectively with Indigenous Peoples® Blog](#).

### b. News

- i. [The impacts of Trudeau's cabinet shuffle on Indigenous Peoples](#) APTN.
- ii. [Indigenous leaders hope new minister Anandasangaree will follow in Miller's footsteps](#) Two Row Times.
- iii. [Human rights tribunal approves revised First Nations child welfare deal](#) APTN.
- iv. Two perspectives on the Ring of Fire Development: [Ring of Fire development stalled due to lack of dialogue with First Nations, Guilbeault says](#), Financial Post. [First Nation takes Ontario to court over Ring of Fire road](#), Canada's National Observer.

### c. Views

- i. [Bones of Crows](#) A 5-part series is premiering on [APTN](#) and APTN lumi in September.
- ii. [U of T's Sustainable Future Series: Professor John Borrows on climate justice](#) U of T Faculty of Law.