

Living Into Right Relations – June and July, 2026

Hello,

June is Indigenous history month and of course includes June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day. As always, there are events throughout the month to mark and celebrate Indigenous history and culture, and many excellent opportunities to engage in our own learning and advocacy with heart, mind and body.

Some of us on the search and edit team will be out of range in June/July, so we have decided to combine the June and July newsletters. This means that the July offerings are even more incomplete than what we normally can curate. Here's an [Eventbrite](#) link to help you find your own adventures. This link is for the Hamilton area but you can easily search for your own community. Be aware that some Indigenous events are for Indigenous community members only. It's important to check who the intended audience is.

As always, we welcome relevant information if you'd like to pass it our way. Thanks! Enjoy your seasonal shift into summer. See you in August!

Nancy (nancydykstra@gmail.com) Henriëtte, Bev and Lorna, the search and edit team.

1. **Events celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day.** A small sampling of events we know about now. Please continue to check Eventbrite or other options.
 - a. **Fri, June 19, noon - 4 p.m.** [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#), West Harbour, James St. Plaza, 3 Guise St, Hamilton. Cost: Free.
 - b. **Sat, June 20, 10-11 a.m.**, [Indigenous Teachings and Drumming Circle for Children](#). Kitchener Public Library, Country Hills Branch, 1500 Block Line Rd, Kitchener.
 - c. **Sat June 20, noon - Sun, June 21, 6 p.m** [Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Festival](#), including numerous [Indigenous performances and cultural experiences](#), Victoria Park, Kitchener.
 - d. **Sun, June 21, 9 a.m. - noon.** [Tsi thatitsyenhayentáhkwén: the place where they set down the fire](#). The official opening of the fire circle in Victoria (Willow River) Park. Hosted by Willow River Centre.
 - e. **Tues, June 23, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.** [UW celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day](#). Info and registration in the link. Open to the public.

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - at Willow River Centre, 243 King St., Kitchener.
 - i. Read their Facebook posts.
 - ii. See above for June 21 official opening of Tsi thatitsyenhayentáhkwen (the place where they set down the fire).
 - iii. How to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#).

3. Job Posting: a once-in-a decade section in this newsletter!

[Indigenous Neighbours Engagement Associate](#), Mennonite Central Committee, Ontario. Kitchener, Ontario. 13-month contract position.

4. Summer thoughts: cultural experiences that are a great way to learn.

- a. [River Talks Series](#) - Grand River cruises with an Indigenous lens.
- b. [The Complete Guide to Ontario Pow Wows](#)
Six Nations' pow wow: July 25/6. Grand River Champion of Champions. Check [website](#) closer to the date.
- c. Three presentations at Stratford's Meighen Forum:
 - i. June 20 [The Greatness of Graham Greene](#).
 - ii. June 21 [Shakespeare through an Indigenous Lens](#).
 - iii. June 24-28 Forum performance (on a city bus!) [Tales of an Urban Indian](#).

Some protocols to know about ... may be useful during the summer...

- d. [Do's and Don'ts | Canadian Pow Wows](#) - learning about pow wow protocols and how to attend respectfully.
- e. [Tobacco Offering Protocol](#) - from the [Indigenous Gathering Site](#), Carleton University.

5. Occasional Arts Section

- a. **June 2-7 in person and June 8-14 online**, [imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival](#), Toronto.
- b. **Fri, June 26, 7- 9 p.m.**, [Fourth Friday: MR. SAUGA](#), Civic Museum, 52 Norfolk St, Guelph. Cost: by donation.
- c. Alanah Jewell's mural, [Many Hearts. One Mind](#) at Velocity in UW's Innovation Arena, 280 Joseph St., Kitchener.
- d. **To Sun, Aug 30, 12-5 p.m. (Tues - Sun)** [Couzyn van Heuvelen: CAMP](#) at [Art Gallery of Guelph](#), 358 Gordon St., Guelph. Free, donations appreciated.
- e. **To Feb 28, 2027, 5 p.m.** [Maawnjidyang Maa – We come together here](#) Civic Museum, 52 Norfolk Street, Guelph. Cost: \$6.25 Adult.

6. Learning at home and connecting in person

June

- a. [Crow Shield Lodge](#) in Waterloo Region has a range of events related to education, healing, land stewardship and reconciliation. Events listing [here](#).
- b. [Woodland Cultural Centre](#) and the Mohawk Institute. Arrange a visit / tour.
- c. **Fri, June 5, 6:30-10p.m.** [Beats in the Square](#). Celebrate Pride and Indigenous History Month. Waterloo Public Square.
- d. **Mon, June 8, 2 p.m.**, Lecture [Five Reasons why Jesus Would Wear an Orange Shirt](#) given by Niigaan Sinclair. Hybrid: Keffer Chapel, WLU and on Zoom.
- e. **Thurs, June 11, 1:30-3 p.m.** University of Waterloo's Office of Indigenous Relations and The University of Waterloo Libraries present [Writing Our Stories: Indigenous Authors & Publishers Panel](#). Dana Porter Library, Main Floor (in front of the Indigenous mural), University of Waterloo. Register through the link.
- f. **Fri, June 12 or Thurs, Sept 17, 1-2:30 p.m.** [Silent No More: Virtual Tour of the Former Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School](#). Organized by the [Canadian Race Relations Foundation](#) and the [Woodland Cultural Centre](#).
- g. **Sun, June 14, 2-4 p.m.** 3rd Annual Indigenous Peoples Celebration Strawberry Social. Hosted by St. Joseph's parish, Grimsby, and friends from Six Nations. See attached poster.
- h. [Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch & Learn. See [SNP Calendar](#) for info. Details not available at the time of publication.
Wed, June 10, 12-1 p.m. TBD (Animals or Traditional Medicines) Six Nations Campus. 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken.
Wed, June 17, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fishing, Brantford Campus 411 Elgin St., Brantford.
- i. **Sat, June 20, 8 a.m.** [Grand River Water Ceremony](#), at [Otterbein Kayak Launch](#) in Kitchener. Please arrive on time to walk to the river together and smudge. Wear ceremonial regalia as your spirit calls; drums and shakers are also suggested.
- j. **June 17, 10am-1pm** [Nations Uniting](#) Women's Justice and Reconciliation Sharing Circle. 1652 Chiefswood Rd, Ohsweken ON. To register, contact Rhonda Johns at nations.uniting@gmail.com 519-445-2424. See attached poster for more details.
- k. **Sat, June 20, 4:30 - 8 p.m.**, [Father's Day Music in the Park](#), Mike and Sue Weber Bell. At Chiefswood Park, 1037 Highway 54, Ohsweken. Cost: Free. Food available for purchase.
- l. **Wed, June 24, 7-8 p.m.**, [Indigenous Food Tasting Workshop with Chef Destiny](#), Waterloo Public Library, John M. Harper Branch, 500 Fischer-Hallman Rd. N, Waterloo. Free. Very few tickets left!
- m. **Wed, June 24, 12-2 p.m.** Grandmothers' Tea at Mohawk Chapel, 301 Mohawk St., Brantford. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Bring your own plate, cup and cutlery and a favourite dish and a recipe to share. Contact Shirley (519-753-5789) for more info.

July

- n. **Wed, July 1, 7 (-8 ish) a.m.** Sunrise Ceremony– Norm Hill Park, [251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg](#). led by an Elder and Firekeeper from Crow Shield Lodge. Sponsored by The Township of Wilmot and the Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships. Please feel free to bring a lawn chair. Photos may be taken before and after, but not during the Ceremony.
- o. **Wed, July 8, 12-1 p.m.** [Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch & Learn. Strawberries/Wild Berries, Six Nations Campus. 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken. See [SNP Calendar](#) for info. Details not available at the time of publication.
- p. **Sat, July 11, 8 a.m.** [Grand River Water Ceremony](#), at [Otterbein Kayak Launch](#) in Kitchener. Please arrive on time to walk to the river together and smudge. Wear ceremonial regalia as your spirit calls; drums and shakers are also suggested.
- q. **Wed, July 29, 12-2 p.m.** Grandmothers' Tea at St James Anglican, 520 Ellis Rd, Cambridge. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Bring your own plate, cup and cutlery. Contact Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.

On the Radar

- r. **Sun, Aug 23 - Tues, Aug 25** [Great Lakes Collaborative Retreat](#). At Five Oaks, Paris. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada. Registration is filling up!

7. Good Reads, News, Views and Podcasts

a. Reads

- i. [Peace and Good Order](#) by Harold R Johnson - a window into the workings (and failures) of Canada's justice system by a practitioner of law from the defence and prosecution perspective. Thanks, Gerald Regehr.
- ii. [Kairos Times](#) a new blog related to Indigenous History month, with new posts added throughout the month. Other related posts [here](#).

b. News

- i. [Growth of Red Dress Day proof 'our voices are very powerful,' says project founder](#) CBC News REDress Project artist reflects on the national day of awareness for MMIWG2S+.
- ii. [City of Waterloo and GRCA working together on future of Laurel Creek Nature Centre](#) GRCA news release.
- iii. How did I miss this? [Two Row Path | Office of Indigenous Relations | UWaterloo](#).

c. Views

- i. [Still Standing](#) follows Canadian comedian Jonny Harris as he sets off across the country to discover the hidden stories of Canada's small towns. Season 11: Ep. 1, Osoyoos Indian Band, BC; and Ep. 6, Lennox Island First Nation.

d. Podcasts

- i. [Undercurrents - Ep 39 - Daily bread and a hundred-year plan: Sarah Augustine on long-haul justice](#)