

Living Into Right Relations – July/August 2025

Hello,

Welcome to summer in the Grand River watershed! We hope you've been able to find relief in the recent heat, and have also been able to take in the beauty of the region in this season. This newsletter contains some ideas for taking in cultural and educational events while you are out and about over the next couple of months. Look for these in Sections 2 and 3. Please also note the upcoming Fundraiser for Willow River Centre on July 7. More on that in Section 1.

I (Nancy) was at the Sunrise Ceremony in New Hamburg yesterday, an event that for me was the most helpful way to mark Canada Day that I have been to since I began to relearn our history with Indigenous peoples on this land. Thank you to the organizers of the event, to all of the people who showed up and to Ben and Brandon of Crow Shield Lodge who led the circle and kept the fire. It was a healing and hopeful time.

A final note: some of us on the search and edit team will be out of range in midsummer, so we have decided to combine the July and August newsletters. Enjoy your summer. See you in September!

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

1. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - at Willow River Centre, 243 King St., Kitchener, needs financial support, as reported in June's newsletter. See article again [here](#). They are having a fundraiser in hopes of raising \$50,000. Ways to help:
 - i. **July 7, 5-9 p.m.** Attend the [Community fundraiser for Willow River Centre](#) Victoria Park Pavilion 80 Schneider Ave., Kitchener. Tickets at the link.
 - ii. Donate items for the fundraiser. Find out how [here](#).
 - iii. How else to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#).

2. Day trips and other ideas for summer activities

- a. [The Great Niagara Escarpment Indigenous Cultural Map](#). Thank you, Henriëtte Thompson.

- b. **Mon, July 21-Sat, Aug 23.** [The Voice of the River](#) Grand River Community Play Project. Click on the link and check the map for dates near you or check this [link](#) for production dates. This is the culmination of a 4-year project through the Canadian Centre for Rural Creativity. (ruralcreativity.org)
- c. [2025 Pow Wow Guide](#). Check out this video guide to attending pow wows: <https://vimeo.com/1092164402/40228eafd7?ts=0&share=copy>. From MCCO.

3. Occasional Arts Section. Showing until ...

Aug 3 [Sir John A: Acts of a Gentrified Ojibway Rebellion](#) Performance at the Blyth Festival Theatre. Written by Drew Hayden Taylor. Directed by Vinetta Strombergs.

Aug 24 [CAMP](#) Inuk sculptor Couzyn van Heuvelen. Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery.

Sept 30 [Indigenous Art 2025](#). Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk St Brantford.

Oct. 5 [Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun Lets'lo:tseltun: Floor Opener](#). Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery.

Dec.14 [Currents of Change: Inspiring Action along the Grand River](#). McDougall Cottage, Cambridge.

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 (July 10), men's sharing circle (July 16), and more. Events listing [here](#).

July

- b. **Thurs, July 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.** [Teiethinonhwera:ton ne Ohne:kanos](#). "Let us give thanks to the water" Festival. Chiefswood Park, Lower Grounds.
- c. **Mon, July 7, 5-9 p.m., Fundraiser for Willow River Centre. See 1a. above.**
- d. **Tues, July 8, 6-9 p.m** [Indigenous Poets Society](#) Open Mic. The Grove Cafe 295B Lancaster St. W., Kitchener.
- e. **July 16, 6-7:30 p.m.** [Mohawk Institute Virtual tour](#). Woodland Cultural Centre.
- f. **Sun, July 20.** Paddlestock <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15tF1jNNNu/> at Chiefswood Park. Celebrating 10 years of the [Two Row on the Grand](#).
- g. **Wed, July 30, 12-2.** Grandmothers' Tea at St. George United Church, 9 Beverly St. E., St. George. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Joan (519-754-8786) or Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.
- h. **Sat, July 26, 8:00 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.

August

- i. **Aug. 5 to 24** [Online Auction](#) for the All Nations Grand River Water Walk taking place Sept. 21-27.
- j. **Wed, Aug. 20, 6-7:30** [Public Virtual Screening of Silent No More](#). Woodland Cultural Centre.
- k. **Sat, Aug 23, 8:00 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.
- l. **Wed, Aug. 27, 12-2.** Grandmothers' Tea at Grace Anglican Church, 4 Pearl St., Brantford. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Joan (519-754-8786) or Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.
- m. Other events in your area may be found on [Eventbrite](#).

On the radar

Prepare for an author visit in KW this October by reading [Valley of the Birdtail](#). (See flyer.) Critics call the book “gritty”, “eye-opening”, “magnificent”, and “compassionate.” For copies of the book or more info contact Gladys Bender. gladysbender@hotmail.com.

5. Looking for a deeper dive into Indigenous and settler relations?

Here are three different courses offered by three different universities, all free, all self-directed online. An idea: follow a course with a friend, to create space for discussion.

- a. [Introduction to Indigenous Matters](#), offered by Wilfrid Laurier University, beginning in January. Read more [here](#).
- b. [Land Back course](#) offered by the Yellowhead School, which operates out of Toronto Metropolitan University. Thank you, Laura Enns.
- c. [Indigenous Canada](#) offered by the University of Alberta.

6. Good Reads, News and Views

a. Reads

- i. [She Is Wise Magazine](#) Spring/Summer, 2025. Native Women's Association.
- ii. [The Indigenous United Church: a journey to right relations](#) Teresa Burnett-Cole, Broadview Magazine.
- iii. [Soft As Bones](#) by Chyana Marie Sage.

b. News

- i. [First Nations Leadership responds to the passing of Bill 5 with warning of legal and grassroots action](#), Chiefs of Ontario.
- ii. [London-area Grand Chief slams Ford's 'hat in hand' comments, says apology offers little relief | CBC News](#). [Isha Bhargava](#), CBC.

c. Views/Podcasts

- i. [Indigenous stories](#) on CBC Gem for stories, art and music, sports, and documentaries.
- ii. [Inuit Approaches to Conversation and Conflict Resolution](#) Ideas on CBC Listen.