

Living Into Right Relations – October 2025

Hello,

While researching events and learning opportunities for October, we noticed that it seemed lighter, possibly because September is such a busy month. The fact that there are multiple offerings almost every week, in what feels like a lighter month, speaks to the impressive variety and number of learning opportunities we have in the Grand River watershed. We hope you will connect with something that resonates for you.

A friend who volunteered at the Mohawk Institute reopening on September 30 said that, as predicted, it was very very busy! I hope that we can all get there, and as often as it takes, to experience what it has to teach us.

October 4 is a National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People. The report on the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women was presented in June of 2019, along with 231 Calls for Justice. The report and those calls are in Section 4a.

Hope you can get out and enjoy these first days of fall,

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.
 - i. Read their Facebook posts
 - ii. **Sun, Oct. 16, 6 p.m.** Climate vigil, at Willow River Park (aka Victoria Park), co-hosted by Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region and Land Back Camp. The climate crisis deepens. As we share our grief for all impacted and for persistent inaction, we remember that all is not lost. In the lead-up to the UN Climate Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, Nov 10-21, we gather in solidarity and hope. We welcome you to join us." For details visit: faithclimatejustice.ca
 - iii. How to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#).

2. Occasional Arts Section

- a. **ENDING SOON! Until Oct 5, 2025** [Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun Lets'lo:tse!tun: Floor Opener](#). Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener. Free, donation encouraged.
- b. **Thurs, Oct. 2 - Sun, Oct. 26.** A showing of Cody Houle's remarkable work. [ZAAGIGI GROWTH](#) Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King St. W., Hamilton.
- c. [MMIWG2S Art Memorial Installation](#) SW Sunroom, Southwest Community Library, 100 Rosenberg Way, Kitchener.

- d. **Sept - Nov.** AT THE MARGINS, 2025-2026 EXHIBITIONS Where Do We Still Plant Flowers? Art on the Wall, Martin Luther University College. Waterloo. An artistic invitation to reflect on the stories, traditions, and relationships that keep us accountable to a place. Artists: Bangishimo, Shalaka Jadhav, Roshan James, Bhavika Sharma, YW Kitchener-Waterloo transitional housing tenants. Thank you, Beverly McNabb.
- e. **Until Nov 23** [Kathleen Daly: Northern Exposures Revisited](#) Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener. Cost: Free, donation encouraged.
- f. **Until Dec. 14** [Currents of Change - Waterloo Region Museum](#) McDougall Cottage, 89 Grand Avenue South Cambridge. Cost: By donation.
- g. **Until Jan 4, 2026** [Unsettling Conservation Collective: Reworldings](#). Art Gallery of Guelph, 358 Gordon St., Guelph. Free, donations appreciated.
- h. [New Indigenous art and language installations celebrated at Region of Waterloo International Airport](#) Region of Waterloo.
- i. [Native Earth](#) is Canada's oldest Indigenous theatre company. It's currently operating in Toronto, but if you find yourself in Toronto, check them out! You can learn more about them and subscribe to their monthly newsletter [here](#). Thank you, Norah Menzies.

3. 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](#).
- b. The [Mohawk Institute](#) is open! After 10 years of fundraising and reconstruction, the former residential school (1828-1970) has been reopened as a "museum of conscience": an historic site and educational facility. Plan a visit, perhaps with a group. 184 Mohawk St. Brantford.
- c. **Sun, Oct 5, 1-2:30 p.m.** [Is it Cultural Appropriation or Appreciation?](#) Online. Presented by [Moms Against Racism](#).
- d. **Mon. Oct 6, 2 & 7 p.m.** The Concerned Lay Catholics' Indigenous Teachings Book study. [Moon of the Crusted Snow](#). Waubgeshig Rice, Online, facilitated by Donna McGreal. For more information contact concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com.
- e. **Sat, Oct. 18, 11a.m.-4p.m.** [Fall Festival](#) at Chiefswood Park 1037 HWY-54, Brant.
- f. **Thurs, Oct. 23 7-8:30 p.m.** [Voices of the Land: Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Justice](#). UCC United in Learning series webinar moderated by Lori Ransom, Indigenous Peoples Consultant for the World Council of Churches and Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator for The United Church of Canada.
- g. **Fri, Oct. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** [Meet the Authors - Valley of the Birdtail](#). A moderated conversation with the authors of this important book. Free event at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo. Authors are joining us online. Register through the link to reserve a seat. Sponsored by the KW area Living Into Right Relations network. To purchase the book at a reduced rate contact Gladys Bender (gladysbender@hotmail.com).

- h. **Sat, Oct. 25, 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.
- i. **Sat, Oct. 25, noon - 8 p.m.** [City of Brampton - Algoma University Traditional Pow Wow](#) Save Max Sports Centre, 1495 Sandalwood Pkwy E, Brampton.
- j. **Mon, Oct. 27, 1:30-2:30** [Nations Uniting](#) Sharing Circle - To join this event and be part of their mailing list contact Rhonda Johns at nations.uniting@gmail.com.
- k. **Wed, Oct. 29, 12-2** Grandmothers' Tea at Norwich United Church, 80 Main St. Norwich. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Bring your favourite dish and recipe to share. Also, please bring your own plate, cup and cutlery, and dress up if you like! Contact Joan (519-754-8786) or Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.
- l. **Mon, Nov. 3, 2 & 7 p.m.** The Concerned Lay Catholics' Indigenous Teachings Book study. [Our Story: Aboriginal Voices on Canada's Past](#). Various authors. Online, facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information contact concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com.

On the radar

- m. November 2-8 is Treaties Recognition Week. We will make this a focus of this newsletter in November.

4. Good Reads, News and Views

a. Reads

- i. [Wearing a Broken Indigene Heart on the Sleeve of Christian Mission](#) by Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne, former Moderator of the United Church of Canada.
- ii. [Status of the TRC Calls to Action](#) - as of Sept. 1, 2025. From Indigenous Watchdog. Read the Calls to Action here: https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf
- iii. [Reclaiming Power and Place](#) The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. [The Calls for Justice](#) Native Women's Association of Canada.
- iv. [The Walrus Sept. 29, 2025](#) Thanks, Henriëtte Thompson.

b. News

- i. Reopening of the Mohawk Institute [Canada's longest running residential school finds a new purpose](#). By [Shelby Knox](#), CTV News.
- ii. [Hundreds walk to mark National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Kitchener](#). By [Hannah Schmidt](#), CTV News.
- iii. [Beach returned to First Nation after 170 years](#). The Guardian.

c. Views

- i. [For Love](#) currently on Netflix. A powerful and inspiring cross-country presentation of the impact of Indigenous children in the Canadian child welfare system. Thank you, Henriëtte Thompson.