

Living Into Right Relations – May 2026

Hello,

Despite evidence to the contrary, summer is coming, and with that many of us will be planning to spend special time with family and friends. Increasingly there are summer opportunities to engage with Indigenous cultures through pow wows, sports, theatre, camping experiences and more. Some ideas and tips around attending pow wows can be found in Section 2. If you hear of summertime opportunities in our area, please let us know. We would love to include more of these in the June newsletter.

Thank you!

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. Very exciting news: eight non-profits have together incorporated the Willow River Community Land Trust. Read more [here](#).
 - ii. How to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#).

2. Summer is coming! Planning to check out the pow wows? Did you know?... There is specific etiquette to follow when attending a pow wow. Consider attending [Pow Wows101](#) to learn or refresh your memory.

- a. **Tues May 12, 12-1 p.m and Wed May 13, 7-8pm [Pow Wows101](#)**. Webinars offered by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) What to expect and how best to show up at pow wows this summer. In person at the Community Meeting Room, 50 Kent Ave., Kitchener or online.

[Canadian Pow Wows](#) is another source with good background information and a list of pow wows across Canada. It will be updated as the season progresses.

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. Events listing [here](#).
[Feed the Fire 2026](#) Crow Shield's annual fundraiser is coming **Friday, June 5, 5:30-9 p.m.**. A big part of the evening is a silent auction. Donations for the auction are being accepted all month and are MUCH appreciated. Please contact Michelle at feedthefire@crowshieldlodge.com to make your donation.

Registration open now:

- b. **Sat. June 13, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** [Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion](#) at Six Nations Polytechnic, 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken. Are you wondering how your church can honour the Haldimand Tract Proclamation of 1784? This is an opportunity to collectively explore practical ways for the church to engage with the concept of [Spiritual Covenants](#). Video story [here](#). Registration is open now. Space is limited.

EVENTS

- c. **To May 24** [mīgīsak mīgohk / Beads in the Blood: A Ruth Cuthand Retrospective](#). Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King Street West, Hamilton. Adults \$15, Seniors (65+) \$12.
- d. **Mon, May 4 - June 22, 7 p. m.** [Online Storytelling Study exploring the Seven Sacred Teachings](#). Through [Alongside Hope](#). Guided by the Rev. Vincent Solomon of Norway House Cree Nation, weekly gatherings to reflect on wisdom, identity, and what it means to live into Right Relationships. All are welcome. Register [here](#).
- e. **Mohawk Institute Tours**. Click [here](#) for a link to virtual and self-guided tours.
- f. **Wed, May 6, 5:30-8 p.m.** [Multicultural Connections](#) Kitchener Public Library. 85 Queen St. N., Kitchener. Free. Snacks and children's activities provided.
- g. **Thurs, May 7, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.** [Community Awareness BBQ](#), Chiefswood Park, 1037 Brant County, Hwy 54, Caledonia. Free.
- h. **Sat, May 9, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** [Open Doors Along the Grand at Woodland Cultural Centre](#), 184 Mohawk St, Brantford. Free (BBQ - by donation, while supplies last.)
- i. [Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch & Learn.
Wed, May 13, 12-1 p.m. [Astronomy/Celestial Calendar](#) Six Nations Campus, Grand River Room. 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken.
Wed, May 20, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. [Ecological Systems/Processes](#) Brantford Campus, Rm A-103. 411 Elgin St., Brantford.
- j. **Fri, May 14.** [Moosehide Campaign Day](#). Walk and fast to end gender-based violence. Online events and local marches. You can order moosehide pins [here](#).
- k. **Sat, May 16. 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. **Sat, May 16, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** [Gathering of Makers – Indigenous Artisan Market Series \(2026\)](#) At Prudhomme's Antique and Flea Market, 3125 N Service Rd, Lincoln.

- m. **Sun, May 17, 10 a.m.** [Sacred Earth. Sacred Dialogue: Wisdom from Celtic and Indigenous Traditions](#). Conrad Grebel College Dining Hall. 140 Westmount Rd N, Waterloo. Sunday morning dialogue with John Philip Newell, Elder Myeengun Henry and Knowledge Keeper Kevin George. Part of the IRLFestival.
- n. **Thurs, May 21 - Aug 30, Tues – Sun, 12–5 p.m.** [Couzyn van Heuvelen: CAMP](#) at [Art Gallery of Guelph](#), 358 Gordon St., Guelph. Free, donations appreciated.
- o. **Sat, May 23, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.** [On-the-Land Learning](#) at Six Nations. Hosted by Adrian Jacobs, the Christian Reformed Church's Sr. Leader for Justice & Reconciliation. Engage hands-on with the land, learn from Indigenous leaders, and reflect on how we can support reconciliation and healing in our own contexts. Spaces are limited.
- p. **Sat, May 23, 2-6 p.m.** [The Great Shell-o-bration - Turtle Awareness Day](#) Hosted by [Kayanase](#) 993 Hwy #54 Brant County, Brantford. Free (BBQ food for sale.)
- q. **Sat, May 23, 6-9 p.m.** [All Nations Grand River Water Walk Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner](#). Stirling Ave Mennonite Church, 57 Stirling Ave. N., Kitchener. Gluten-free and vegetarian.
- r. **Sun, May 24, 4 p.m.** [Climate vigil](#) hosted by Faith Climate Justice WR and St Mary's Roman Catholic Church at St Mary's, 56 Duke St. Kitchener. Gary Whetung (Anishinaabe Catholic and member of Curve Lake First Nation) will speak about Laudato Si', an encyclical by the late Pope Francis about the care of creation. All welcome!
- s. **Wed, May 27 12-2 p.m.** Grandmothers' Tea at St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church, 110 Francis St., Cambridge. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Joan (519-754-8786) or Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.
- t. **Fri, May 29, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Heartland Forest [Friendship Garden Opening Ceremony](#) 8215 Heartland Forest Rd, Niagara Falls.
- u. **May 29-30, 9 p.m.** [Continuance Immersive Commemoration](#) co-presented by [Kaha:wi Dance Theatre \(Santee Smith\)](#) & [Woodland Cultural Centre](#).
- v. **Sun, May 31, 2-3:30 p.m.** [The Great Lakes: An Artist Talk](#) Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King Street West, Hamilton. Invites audiences to consider water as both a shared inheritance and an urgent call to care. Tickets [here](#). \$10 or \$15.
- w. **Mon, June 1, 2-3:30 and 7-8:30 p.m.** RC Diocese of Hamilton "Listening to Indigenous Voices" online book study. [The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information contact dwmcgreal@gmail.com.
- x. **June 2-7 (Toronto) & June 8-14, (online)** [imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival](#). Early bird ticket prices end May 6.

On the radar

- y. **July 6-10** [Healing Hearts. Transforming Nations](#) Co-hosted by [Resonate Global Mission](#) and the [Indigenous and Intercultural Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church](#), this workshop offers trauma informed skills for those working toward justice, intercultural understanding, and restored relationships. Open to anyone engaged in reconciliation, justice, or intercultural community work. Five Oaks Retreat Centre in Paris, ON. Early bird price \$400 - until May 15.

- z. **Sun June 14, 2-4 p.m.** 3rd Annual Indigenous Peoples Celebration Strawberry Social 3rd Annual Indigenous Peoples Celebration Strawberry Social. Hosted by St. Joseph's parish, Grimsby, and friends from Six Nations. Ticket info in June.
- aa. **Sun, Aug 23 - Tues, Aug 25** [Great Lakes Collaborative Retreat](#) At Five Oaks, Paris. Registration is open.

4. Good Reads, News and Podcasts

a. Reads

- i. [Anishinaabeg Outreach](#) newsletter (Kitchener). Read it to learn more about what they do and how to support.
- ii. New [MMIWG2S+ Advocacy Toolkit](#) by Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) Created to support Indigenous-led advocacy and community-led action on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited plus peoples. Thanks, Henriëtte Thompson.
- iii. [She Is Wise Magazine](#) from [Ontario Native Women's Association](#).
- iv.: [4 Canoes](#) I came across this resource for teachers. I don't know much about it. I noticed a connection to GoodMinds [4Canoes/Canoe Kids](#). Teachers looking for resources may find something here. Feel free to report back!

b. News

- i. [After 150 years, Canada still has an Indian Act. Why is it so hard to get rid of?](#) Apr 7, 2026, CBC News, by [Joy SpearChief-Morris](#).
- ii. [Bill C-10 will hold government's feet to the fire on implementation of modern treaties](#) Mar. 4, 2026 [Windspeaker.com](#), by Aaron Walker.
- iii. [Saugeen Beach and Sauble Beach are both rebranding. No, they're not the same thing](#) Apr 15, 2026, CBC News by [Kendra Sequin](#)
- iv. [Ten years later, Niigaan Sinclair challenges churches and Christians to answer the TRC Calls to Action](#) by Karen Luyendyk and Janet Allingham, Ottawa Anglican News.

c. Podcasts - If you know of a podcast focused on Indigenous affairs, let us know! When we have new ones to share, we'll post them here.

- i. CBC podcast [Forged - YouTube](#). Adrian Stinson On Norval Morisseau.
- ii. [Unsettled: Journeys in Truth and Conciliation](#). Builds upon the 94 calls to action of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, from the perspectives of Indigenous cohost Jessica Vandenberghe, settler cohost George Lee, and their Indigenous and settler guests. Thanks, Pegi Ridout.