

Living Into Right Relations – April 2021

Hello,

I hope you have been able to get out this month, soak in the beauty of the season and revel in time together with people in your life. If you're like many, you've dusted off your bike and started touring again. Here's a cool cycling idea passed into my hands by Henriette Thompson. An [Indigenous Bike Tour](#) - a self-guided bike tour highlighting important Indigenous sites around Waterloo Region.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and continue to look after each other in this ongoing Covid time. Hang on...

Nancy

1. 1492 Land Back Lane

a. From their Facebook page: [Spring Supply Drive Challenge](#) Spring has arrived and with it comes our new [Amazon wishlist](#). A challenge to allies to help get all the items on the list by June 20th.

b. Supportive actions

i. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane.** They are continuing into the spring and summer and we welcome your support! Please consider donating food or funds. We have a core of about 5 worker bees and would love more. Cash donations can be made through Parkminster United Church [Parkminster United Church](#). Identify your donation as 1492 LandBack Lane. Our next food delivery date is Fri., April 2. For more info contact me at nancydykstra@gmail.com

ii. On Fri., April 2 there will also be a convoy coming from Muskoka with supplies to support the Land Defenders. Let me know if you're interested in joining with them to be a presence there on April 2. I can connect you.

iii. [Skyler's Story - 1492 Land Back Lane](#) A 5 min overview of the history and context of the 1492 LandBack Lane struggle. Created by Mike Enns as part of a project for Southridge Community Church, a church in Niagara working to advocate for justice for indigenous communities. It has been used during church services to give people background knowledge. If you are interested in using this, please contact me and I can put you in touch with Mike.

2. [Two Row on the Grand](#) Paddling season is coming! Paddle the Grand River and learn about the meaning of right relations in our region. This event has grown from a one-year effort to an annual event that was actually able to continue last year during all the restrictions because it's on the water! If you're thinking of joining this summer here are the paddling days for this year's CoVid version of the Two Row on the Grand. Ready-to-paddle time is usually 7:30 am:

June 21 Cambridge to Paris (National Indigenous Day)
June 26 Paris to Cockshutt Bridge (National Canoe Day)
July 10 Cockshutt to Onondaga Landing
July 22 Onondaga Landing to Caledonia
August 1 Caledonia to Cayuga
August 12 Cayuga to Willoway Park
August 18 Willoway Park to Dunnville
August 24 Dunnville to Port Maitland
Rain dates for all of the above are the next day.

Here are 2 videos that give more info about the Two Row: [Living the Two Row](#) and [Impacts](#)

3. [Bill C-15 - A step forward or a step back?](#) A recording of a webinar sponsored by Kairos in March which presented differing perspectives. It's worth looking at if you're looking for viewpoints about this important Bill.

4. Learning at home

- a. **Mar. 30 7pm.** Divest Waterloo is launching a project called [Creating Faith Food Forests in Waterloo Region](#) to support the creation of food forests in partnership with faith communities across our region. If you're interested in learning about what's planned for next steps, you can still get [tickets](#) for the kick off event on Tuesday!
- b. [April Kairos Blanket Exercise Teaching and Sharing Circle](#) 90-minute, interactive, Zoom-based sessions that build positive relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people through truth, sharing, and open dialogue. This April, three new topics are being offered
 - Tues., Apr. 6, 7-9pm Missing & Murdered Indigenous People:** Tracey Whiteye.
 - Tues., Apr. 20, 7-9pm Shannen's Dream & Jordan's Principle:** Tracey Whiteye.
 - Sat., Apr. 24, 3-5pm The Importance of Growing Gardens:** Mary-Anne Kehego.
- c. **Apr. 17, 10 am - noon.** [Introduction to Indigenous Lands and Issues in Canada](#) SESSION 3: Indigenous Child Welfare. Hosted by the [Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre](#) Ticketed event.
- d. **Apr. 21, 7pm** [Treaty as Sacred Covenant Storytelling series](#) from MCEC - next episode - Mary Anne Caibaosai is Ojibway Anishnaabe kwe, Bear Clan from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. Mary Anne is well known to anyone who has been connected to the [All Nations Grand River Water Walk](#). This series has a wealth of resources and background information. This is the final episode. Previous episodes and related resources are available [here](#). Thanks, Ron Flaming, for sending us this series. Free.
- e. **May 3 Deadline to register** for [Community courses about Indigenous cultures and reconciliation](#) offered through Renison. If you are looking for a place to guide personal reflection, ask your questions and receive thoughtful responses these are

well worth looking into.

Myth Busting with Michelle Thomas of Six Nations runs May 13-June 17. One hr/wk discussion of various myths we have grown up with and background information.

Reconciliation with Kelly Laurila runs May 14 - July 2 or 9. 1.5hrs online each week to discuss readings and personal responses.

I have taken both courses and am happy to discuss them if you have questions.

f. In case you missed it...:

Mar. 13 [TRed Talk # 2 Terry-Lyn Brant - Food Insecurity](#) TRed Talks from Two Row on the Grand. In 2021, TRed Talks are posted on the following dates: March 1, 13, 25; April 6, 18, 30; May 12, 24; June 5

Mar. 4 – [Reconciling Ways of Knowing Dialogue 8](#) This looks like a very interesting series. The series is available on their website under Past Forums. Thank you, Sonya Kofler

Nov. 4, 2020 [Treaties from a First Nation Perspective](#) with Phil Monture - from UW during Treaty Recognition week last November

5. Good Reading

In September we featured the [Grand Expressions Self Guided Tour](#) , a virtual exhibit of art works created by youth from Six Nations as part of doctoral research in water monitoring and management along the lower Grand River and nearshore of Lake Erie. This [article](#) gives an interesting look back on the project and the role of “Two-Eyed Seeing” in research - learning to see from one eye with Indigenous knowledge, from the other eye with western science and integrating the knowledge [to see with both eyes open](#).

If the value of “Two-Eyed Seeing” interests you, I encourage you to read or reread Robin Wall Kimmerer’s [Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants](#). Great storytelling, wise reflection, lots of learning through “two-eyed seeing”. One of the best books I’ve read. I know we just recommended it in January, but it’s worth it!

[Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization](#) by Elaine Enns and Ched Myers. The “ghosts” of settler colonialism, Indigenous displacement, and white supremacy that can be found in many of our family histories — if only we have the courage to look for them. Thanks to Henriette Thompson.