

Noojimo'iwewin Gitigaan/National Healing Forests - Toronto Initiatives Program Update, 2022

Fri, May 20th, 1 p.m.: World Bee Day: Right Relations Food & Medicine Garden planting & protection Rain date: May 23rd.

Sat, May 28, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Doors Open Toronto: Volunteers needed for Tabling and activities, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun, May 29, 12 to 5 p.m.: Doors Open Toronto: Volunteers needed for Tabling and activities, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

-Summer staff hiring-

Sun, June 5: Living into the Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action: Event to begin Indigenous History Month. On the UN Calendar, June 5 is World Environment Day. We will host a conversation between an Indigenous Knowledge-Keeper t.b.a. and Forest Health scientist, Dr. Michael McTavish (Bloor St. UC member), about invasive species, followed by a garlic mustard pull in Hillcrest (or other) Park.

Summer Bake Sale

Sun, June 12, 2:00 p.m.: Niibi bimaadiziwin: Ziibiing (Taddle Creek) Walk: June 12 is Canadian Rivers Day. Meet at the Wychwood Park Pond on the northwest side of Davenport Road. Led by Maya Ferguson-Klinowski, Indigenous Studies SA, University of Toronto. Walk ends on the University College Green.

Tues, June 14, 7 p.m.: Ode'miin Giizas: Strawberry Moon Feast & Ceremony: Potluck & Teaching Circle for women/2 Spirit/transpeople inside, with Sacred Fire outside. Bert Whitecrow's Strawberry Moon panel & Moon Gardens dedicated. Greg Loon (Fort Albany FN) has agreed to be our Firekeeper and storyteller for men and others who wish to remain around the Fire while the women are in Ceremony inside. Everyone will take part in the closing Ceremony around the Fire once the Moon rises.

Greg once lived at Sagatay, and is featured on the Na-Me-Res website as one of their "Success Stories." His story there includes a link to a website featuring his writing.

June 14th is the final day in Canada's Rivers to Oceans week. The Feast & Ceremony could also serve as a welcome event for our summer staff, who will begin the following day.

Sat & Sun, June 18 and 19: Summer Solstice, National Indigenous Peoples Day, & Na-Me-Res Pow Wow at Fort York: To volunteer at the Pow Wow, please contact Nancy Debassige at Ndebassige@nameres.org We will have a simple Solstice Ceremony on Sun, June 19th.

Mon, June 20 to Sat, June 26: International Pollinator Week

Wed. June 22 at 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion of Five Little Indians by Michelle Good

July: Weekly Program: Summer staff will have the opportunity to plan and implement programs in Noojimo'iwewin Gitigaan, in collaboration with IPSG and Hippo School

Tues, Aug 9, 6 p.m.: Bickford Centre & Park Celebration in honour of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the Launch of National Healing Forests in Toronto: Miinikaan Design & Innovation founders Johl Whiteduck Ringuette (Nipissing FN) and Lara Mrosovsky are committed to designating the Indigenous Teaching Gardens they steward in this important site on the Garrison Creek route as a National Healing Forests-Toronto initiative. Johl was also part of the artists' collective that installed the murals here, on the theme of "Plants as Medicines." Summer staff will take lead roles in planning this celebration, which will include a conversation with Johl Whiteduck and the installation of new signage with the NHF logo. Patricia Stirbys (Cowessess FN), Co-founder of the NHF initiative, has also been invited to speak, as has an Ambassador from Mississaugas of the Credit.

September: "School is a time for dreams" First Nations Child & Family Caring Society Indigenous Education campaign

Sun, Sept 18: Fall Equinox Ceremony

Sun, Sept 25, 2 p.m.: Niibi bimaadiziwin Garrison Creek Walk: World Rivers Day. Meet at the northwest corner of Bloor St. W. and Christie St. Led by Vanessa Barnes. Walk ends at Trinity-Bellwoods Park.

Fri, Sept 30: 2:30 p.m.: Orange Shirt Day/National Day of Truth & Reconciliation: Collaboration with Tollkeeper's Cottage & Park as new NHF site. Event planned for 2:00 to 4 p.m. An Elder and Ambassador of the Mississaugas of the Credit have been invited to attend. Catherine Watts, Community History Project Gardener for Tollkeeper's Park, has reached out to the Two Blue Jays Dancing Together 2 Spirit Collective, who have also gardened on this site.

Fall Bake Sale

October Work Bees

Sun, Dec 18: Pageant & Winter Solstice Ceremony