



Earth Day Grey Bruce News Feb. 2023

After last year's very successful Earth Day we are now planning Earth Day Grey Bruce 2023. The main goal is again: Celebrate Earth Day with a community event that energizes us all to take climate change action - mitigation, adaptation, and justice. We acknowledge that we live in the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and welcome the participation of Indigenous people and groups in the event.

In this newsletter we are featuring some related workshops and conferences that will occur before Earth Day. Highlights from these preceding events will be shared at the Earth Day celebration to illustrate the multitude of climate-related activities that are going on all year in the Grey and Bruce communities.

Once again the day will be kicked off with a Water Ceremony led by Shirley John near the mouth of the Sydenham River.

Following the ceremony, the Climate Fair will take place at the Farmers' market site including live music, performances by local artists and musicians, children's activities. The day will end with a parade featuring an assortment of costumes representing wildlife and enactments from the Sheatre workshops described in this newsletter.



Earth Day Poster Competition

Here's an opportunity for students in Grey Bruce. We invite you to design posters that incorporate your creativity and your vision of a healthy planet and the information outlined below.

Your posters will be displayed during Earth Week, April 17 -22 at various locations. One poster will be chosen as our official poster and distributed throughout Grey and Bruce Counties.

The main message is the celebration of Earth Day with a community event that energizes us all to take climate change action - whether through mitigation, adaptation, and/or justice.

Posters needs to include the following information:

Title: Earth Day Grey Bruce 2023
April 22, 2023

12:45- Water Ceremony with Saugeen Elder Shirley John at Queens Park, 1st Ave. W
2:00-5:00 - Climate Fair, Earth Day Celebration at Owen Sound Farmers Market
3:30 - *Procession of the Species* for all ages starting from the Owen Sound Farmer's Market

Find us at: www.facebook.com/EarthDayGB
[@earthdaygb22](https://www.instagram.com/earthdaygb22) on Instagram

Poster Format:
Any format is ok
Leave blank space for sponsors at the bottom

Send Submission Form with Poster to:
Joachim Ostertag,
joachimostertag@gmail.com

Deadline for Submissions: **Friday March 24, 2023**

Youth Climate Action Conference

On March 2nd 2023, forty Owen Sound elementary school student leaders will gather at the Harmony Centre for a Youth Climate Action Conference.

In the morning session there will be 7 presentations from local climate heroes, sharing with students how they are making positive change in our community. Over lunch hour students will get to chat and eat with local municipal leaders, business owners and the inspiring speakers from the morning. During the afternoon, students will take part in climate action workshops, small breakout groups led by local facilitators and environmental advocates to support these student leaders in creating and following through on their own community climate action projects!

The community can learn about how these student projects are going on Earth Day, where the students will display their work and share how they are inspired to be climate action heroes themselves!!



~ * Youth Climate Action Conference* ~
YCAC Owen Sound 2023

**Engaging youth in
community
climate action**

Earth Day Grey Bruce 2023 at ChangeMaker Pub Night

On March 3rd, 7-10pm, at the Harmony Centre in Owen Sound, EDGB '23 will participate in a "10 for 10" celebration. During a "3 min elevator speech" EDGB will pitch the good things that their group is doing and how people might participate.

At this event, there will be 8 groups delivering speeches, 3 local musical acts, food, drinks and great networking opportunities.

SHEATRE ARTS PROJECT TO INSPIRE CLIMATE ACTION

Sheatre invites people young and old to participate in the vision of change we wish to create over five shared days together during March Break.

Climate change can be seen around us. What can we do about it? Sheatre is offering two connected, free, workshops to explore "what is possible". Theatre, puppetry, costume, sound and motion picture will stimulate ideas as the group invents and performs stories. The results will be showcased during the Earth Day parade, April 22nd. We will turn Owen Sound's River District into a stage that celebrates human ingenuity in climate action.

Local youth and adults will collaborate with artists Joan Chandler, Kit Boulter, and Ron Schweitzer.

The "ACT FOR CLIMATE" theatrical workshop, March 13- 17 (10-3 daily), will have participants creating characters, scenes and stories together. This is for ages 10 and up, "because any age can be a force of change for our community!" says Boulter.



The "Digital Directors" film workshop is offered to ages 14 and up, and will document the theatrical workshops on film beginning with a Zoom weekend March 11-12th (11-2 pm) and continue through March. Participants will learn the basics of creating with digital editing tools, and the skills to hone narratives and perspectives. A screen and live performance will take place at the Harmony Centre at a later date.



Sheatre is a community-engaged arts organization based in Grey-Bruce. With 38 years of experience, the company is noted for its impactful creative approaches, winning multiple awards (including YMCA Peace medallion, Owen Sound Cultural Award, Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction). Work is always done in partnership with topic specialists, in this case with Georgian Bluffs Climate Action Team and the support from Community Foundation Grey Bruce.

"Sheatre's motto is Play for A Change," says Chandler. "We believe in the power of theatre and of the arts to change lives and contribute to a healthy, compassionate society. We've seen it. Our work sparks ideas and action, and broadens perceptions. Most of all, it's fun!"

Register [online](#) or email engage@sheatre.com

Earth Day Wildlife Art Workshops

Earth Day Wildlife Art Workshops are back by popular demand! Part of what made our Earth Day celebration magical last year, was the convergence not only of people in all their diversity, but of striking art and music through our riverside parade. The annual Earth Day Procession of the Species is a space to honour and give voice to everything that we want to protect by bringing wildlife into the heart of the city through art. Last year, the procession was filled with colourful paper maché representations of animals, birds and fish that are most impacted by habitat loss and the climate crisis.

This year's workshop will have a special focus on the [Seven Grandfather Teachings](#) as represented by Wolf, Bear, Raven, Beaver, Turtle, Bison and Eagle.

The art workshops will reflect on what these animals have to teach us: humility, bravery, honesty, wisdom, truth, respect and love, at this moment of ecosystem crisis. This suggestion comes from Sharon Isaac, Artist and Indigenous Cultural Facilitator with the M'Wikwedong Friendship Centre, and we are thrilled to announce that she will be working with us to deliver these workshops and to bring the teachings through artistic representations of these creatures.



Local settler artists Hester Koopman, Ron Schweitzer and Michelle Lawrence will be co-facilitating these workshops, along with Sharon, to provide a variety of workstations where art enthusiasts of all ages can work small and large individual and collaborative art pieces for the parade.

This is an intergenerational workshop and everyone who wants to make art and be part of honouring Earth Day is welcome. Bring a friend or two. Children must be attended by a parent or guardian. And please encourage more people to join us on Earth Day, Saturday April 22nd at the Owen Sound Farmers Market. In particular, help us to carry all this beautiful art in the parade!

Art supplies will be provided, but please help the effort by bringing used cardboard and paper bags, and other recycled pieces

that you want to incorporate into your project. Everyone is encouraged to bring a plastic basket or container, or to think about how they will be bringing their work home to dry. Folks can choose to continue work on their projects at home, or return on the 26th to finish them. Let us know by email what you plan to do, and we will try to work together.

This is a popular workshop, and so early registration is encouraged. Public health guidelines will be followed.

Dates & time: Sundays March 12th & 26th from 12:30 - 4:30pm

Location: Harmony Centre, 890 4th Ave E. Owen Sound

Who: Anyone who wants to make art and carry it in the parade

Cost: Free, but donations towards the Harmony Centre are welcome

Bring: Recycled cardboard, paper bags, newspapers, an apron, a plastic container to carry your work home if you do not plan to attend both days

Registration: earthdaygb22@gmail.com

Earth Week 2023

This year, in conjunction with the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, The Harmony Centre, and the Owen Sound Library we will be expanding our series of events.



We're counting on YOU!

You can help make Earth Day Grey Bruce extra special. Your donation of any amount will go towards the costs associated with producing a community event – boring things like insurance and exciting things like papier mâché creations and performers. And thanks to Sheatre, a registered charity, you will receive a tax receipt! We are a small group of dedicated and passionate volunteers. We're counting on you, friends and supporters, to help us unite the community behind the cause of climate awareness and action before it's too late.

[Donate Now](#) with a credit card or PayPal account or email us at earthdaygb22@gmail.com to ask about making your donation offline.

Volunteers

Earth Day Grey Bruce is intended to be a community wide event. The contributions and help of volunteers are essential: for help with the pre-event activities like the March Break workshops in preparation for the Parade, to help on the afternoon of April 22nd at the Owen Sound Farmers Market. In the case of student volunteers, we will provide letters that confirm your volunteer hours.

[Sign Up Here](#) We will contact you.



Community participation shows people care

Sponsors

The Earth Day Grey Bruce Planning Committee gratefully acknowledges generous support from the Meridian Branches in Grey and Bruce as well as Meridian's Good Neighbour Program.



Funding for this project is provided by Community Foundation Grey Bruce.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
GREY BRUCE

We're here for good.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of Community Foundation Grey Bruce

Partners

Sheatre, the Harmony Centre, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, and the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library have been strong supporting partners from the inception of our work for Earth Day Grey Bruce. We are pleased to acknowledge their contributions to this event.



harmony
CENTRE



Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library

*Photos by Michael McLuhan
Newsletter edited by Nikki May*