



Earth Day Grey Bruce News April 2023

Our goal is to champion a celebratory Earth Day event that energizes us all to take steps towards climate action including mitigation, adaptation, and social justice.

Your EDGB 23 committee is entering the last hectic weeks of planning for Earth Day on April 22. Most of the heavy lifting has been done but there are still details to attend to. If you are able to help, please sign up - directions on page 8.

The event has grown since last year, but the popular activities from last year are repeated.

When, What, Where

11am-2pm: YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION PROJECTS AND POSTER DISPLAY (50 POSTERS)
Owen Sound and North Grey Public Library

All day: EARTH DAY EXHIBITS and Grab&Go booklets. Tom Thomson Art Gallery

12:45-1:30pm: WATER CEREMONY with Shirley John, Strong White Buffalo Woman of Saugeen First Nation and the M'Wikwedong Hand Drumming group. Queen's Park, 1st Avenue W. across from the Farmers Market.

2:00pm: CLIMATE FAIR BOOTHS AND CHILDREN'S AREA. Owen Sound Farmers' Market

2:00-5:00pm. MUSIC, DANCE AND THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES. Owen Sound Farmers' Market

4:00pm: PROCESSION OF THE SPECIES PARADE Leaving from the Farmers' Market square. Everyone is welcome to join in.
Sheatre Act for Climate - along the route

5:00pm: CLOSE



M'Wikwedong Hand Drumming Group

Climate Fair

This year participating groups include:

- M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre,
- Owen Sound Junior Optimists,
- Sources of Knowledge,
- Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library,
- Grey Bruce Climate Action Network and the Climate Wheel,
- City of Owen Sound,
- National Farmers Union,
- Grey County Federation of Agriculture,
- Transition Meaford Community Gardens,
- Glassworks,
- Grey Bruce Master Gardeners.
- Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association,
- Regenerate Grey Bruce,
- Neighbourwoods North,
- Sydenham Bruce Trail Club,
- Owen Sound Waste Watchers,
- Owen Sound Field Naturalists,
- Grey Bruce Public Health Unit,
- Grey Roots Museum & Archives,
- Bagida'waad Alliance,
- Grey County,
- Holisera,
- Eat Local Grey Bruce.

In the Children's Area:

- Canadian Mental Health Association Grey Bruce with Jackie Ralph and her puppets
- Scenic Cycle bikes and e-bikes
- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
- Bob Nadon with his E-tractor
- Henna temporary tattoos with Rebecca and Melissa,
- Face Painting with Catherine.

A couple of highlights:

Bagida'waad Alliance

Bagida'waad means: "they set a net" in Anishinaabemowin.

The Bagida'waad Alliance, led by Chippewas of Nawash fishing families, is registered as a not-for-profit corporation. Now 5 years old the Bagida'waad Alliance conducts climate research on the waters of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, encourages youth to hear the stories of the Elders about the fish, and also actively stewards the lands and waters.

The Bagida'waad Alliance has a united board of directors, made up of Indigenous and non-Indigenous volunteers who are dedicated to working together on issues of lake & shoreline health. Andrew Akiwenzie, Caley Doran, Leigh Grigg, Solomon King, Doug Miller, Guy Nadjiwon, and Victoria Serda serve on the board and Natasha Akiwenzie is the manager. There are many partners and staff that support the organization, including two of Natasha & Andrew's sons, Christopher and Miingan Akiwenzie.



Bagida'waad Board Members

"FIRST 5 YEARS" HIGHLIGHTS

- Approx 40 shoreline cleanups
- Approx 50 interviews with community members

- 2018 Fisherman’s Dinner: served 200 community members a gourmet meal from 10 top Toronto chefs
- Operated a Film School for Anishinaabe youth to gather stories of stewardship
- Organized a “memorial paddle” around Neyaashiinigiing for Elder Justin Johnston, completing the vision of the late Marshall Nadjiwon
- Creating 2-4 annual summer jobs: Aki & Nibi Guardians
- Produced a mini-documentary.

WHAT IS IN OUR WATER?

That is the study the University of Toronto and the ITTN (International Trash Trap Network) have undertaken the last two years. About 50 seabin type devices have been collecting daily water samples throughout the Great Lakes. Teams of volunteer Citizen Scientists have been inputting data in the grand data base, and the results are surprising.

Come meet Inspector Seabin in person. Learn how sea bins work and the results from our local study, and more importantly, what is in the water that sustains us!

- Owen Glendon, Sources of Knowledge, Tobermory



EDGB Poster Contest

This year the Earth Day Planning Committee decided to have a poster contest for all students in Grey and Bruce counties to give as many students as possible ways to communicate their thoughts about Earth Day to the community and for us to choose one submission for our official printed poster for 2023. The poster contest was very exciting as we received 50 entries from various schools all over Grey Bruce and from students between Grade 1 and 8. However, the most exciting aspect of the contest was that it gave students opportunities to translate their thoughts about our environment, our responsibilities for the earth and the need for action into pieces of art which tell their stories very concisely from their perspectives. Here are some examples:

1st Place: WILLA RICKETS, Keppel Sarawak Community School. The printed version is our official poster for 2023.

Congratulations to Willa!

Runner up: Delilah Markland, Amabel-Sauble Community School

Runner up: Madelyn Friday, Amabel-Sauble Community School

Runner up: Laura Stinson, Beaver Valley Community School

Runner up: Freya Sheaves, Beaver Valley Community School

All poster submissions will be shown in a continuous slide show at the Library together with the Youth Climate Action projects.

Time: 11am to 2pm



EARTH DAY GREY BRUCE - APRIL 22, 2023

11:00 Youth Community Climate Action Projects on display at Library
 12:45 Water Ceremony with Saugeen Elder Shirley John at Queen's Park, 1st Ave. W.
 2-5:00 Earth Day Celebration, Climate Fair, Children's Activities at Owen Sound Farmers' Market
 4:00 Parade: Processions of the Species, from Farmers' Market

Funding for this project is provided by the Community Foundation Grey Bruce and the local business and industry sectors.
 Photo: Greg Sear, Steve Noyak

#earthday23
www.facebook.com/EarthDayGB

Earth Day Grey Bruce 23 Winning Poster by Willa Ricketts

Earth Day Wildlife Art Workshop

The Artistic Committee chose to feature the animals of the 7 Grandfather Teachings in this year's parade. The **Wolf** represents **Humility**. Wolves live in a pack and each member of the pack has a role. All roles are essential to the survival of the pack so no one member is above any of the others, they are all equal. The Wolf shows us how to be humble and live in community. The **Bear** represents **Courage** because of its strength and ability to overcome challenges. For example, a mother Bear will use her courage to protect her cubs against any enemy or danger despite the threat to her own life. The **Sabe** (Sasquatch) or **Raven** represents **Honesty** as they travel through the forest reminding us to be honest with ourselves and others. We need to accept ourselves as

Creator made us and accept others. The **Beaver** represents **Wisdom**. Beavers remind us to be aware of our gifts and use them just as the Beavers use their sharp front teeth to cut down the trees and use their knowledge to build their lodges and dams. They taught us how to build our homes. The **Turtle** represents **Truth** as Turtles remind us of the natural laws and the need to respect those laws. We need to be always truthful. The **Bison** represents **Respect** since Bison offered their lives to sustain indigenous people out of respect. They provided us with clothing, food, shelter and tools. To honour that sacrifice, we must show respect and never waste anything or take more than what is needed. The **Eagle** represents **Love** as eagles fly higher than any other creature carrying our prayers and thanks to Creator. Eagles are loving parents and teachers to their offspring.



Turtle stands for Truth: Understanding the Laws of Nature and following them

Georgian Bluffs Climate Action Team (GBCAT) joins Sheatre in 'Act for Climate' Project

During the week of March break eight climate-concerned citizens of Grey County took a crash course in improv theatre, resulting in the creation of a play to be

presented on Earth Day at the Owen Sound Farmers Market, April 22.

Joan Chandler and Kit Boulter of Sheatre led the workshop which included games, discussion of climate change, and full-on engagement of the imaginations, bodies and voices of the participants.

Sheatre is a professional community-engaged arts organization based in Grey Bruce, and the Earth Day workshop/play fit exactly into its mandate "to create and present interactive, issue-oriented and celebratory theatre and the arts."

The March break participants ranged in age from 10 to 76. One day was spent creating masks for the characters which had emerged during brainstorming and story-boarding during the week.

Integrated into the parade, the play will be performed along the Earth Day Parade route which will encompass 1st Avenues East and West crossing the 8th and 9th St bridges.

NOTE: The play features a villain whose name is top secret until the performance!

Sheatre wishes to acknowledge the sponsors whose generosity they certainly relied on to make this project happen. They are the Community Foundation Grey Bruce, Ron Todd & Associates IG Wealth Management, GBCAT and The Harmony Centre.



Group from Sheatre at Papier Mache Workshop

Performance Groups

The Saugeen Sound Conspiracy was formed and began jamming on a regular basis over ten years ago. Up to that point the friends and family who make up the band had played together occasionally or more regularly but not as a named band. Over those years the band's personnel and numbers have changed but always around the same core members. We are a band with a very eclectic mix of instruments doing covers and some originals and feel so fortunate to have this vehicle for musical expression in our hood and be having so much fun at the same time!



Richard-Yves Sitoski is the 2019-2023 Poet Laureate of Owen Sound. He has performed across the province and has published in journals across Canada. His one-person show, *Butterfly Tongue*, hits the stage at the Grey Roots Museum and Archives on June 8 and 10.



Oh Sing! Community Choir, directed by Louise Jarvis, will be joined by some musical friends to lead some songs at Earth Day 2023. We'll invite everyone to join us when we sing about our love for this beautiful Earth we call home!



Wildflower Dance Arts is a local youth contemporary dance company, focusing on the creation and performance of new dance works to share with the communities of Grey & Bruce Counties.



G.R.I.N.D. is an acronym for Get Ready! It's A New Day! This Pop Rock quartet has written two songs specifically for Earth Day, targeted for younger people. G.R.I.N.D. has been performing their all original music in the Grey Bruce area for the past nine years. Many of their songs deal with social issues and concerns. All of them are fun and danceable.

Other Earth Week Events

Earth Week Climate Films

Showing: Tuesday April 18, 7-9 pm at the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library

Two films focussed on climate action made right here in Grey County. The first: **Resilience: Transforming Our Community**, focusing on hope and climate action in the region, was produced by Liz Zetlin, local poet and film director, and features John Anderson, marine biologist.

The second: **Warming Stripes - Weaving the Weather**, is a more recent Liz Zetlin production, featuring Ann Schneider, Georgian Bluffs citizen and master weaver, and John Anderson. Ann was inspired to become a climate activist after seeing the film *Resilience* and joined several local climate action initiatives. After reading Katherine Hayhoe's book; *Saving Us - A Climate Scientists Hope for Healing in a Divided World*, Ann hit upon the idea of weaving a rug representing the change in the local climate in Grey County over the years that her historic home (1880) has been standing. This allowed her to reflect on the effects of climate change in her region while doing something she loved.

The film illuminates the process of weaving the rug, the inspiration for the project, and how the rug itself can be used to demonstrate to everyone the changes that are occurring. The *Warming Stripes* rug is on display at the Tom Thomson Art Gallery during Earth Week.



Earth Week Film Night; Tuesday April 18, 7-9

BAGIDA'WAAD FILM NIGHT

INTERESTED IN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES DURING EARTH WEEK 2023?



**THURSDAY
APRIL 27**

**6:30 PM - 9:30 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
HARMONY CENTRE
OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO**

www.bagidawaad.ca



Celebrating

EARTH DAY with LENORE KEESHIG

Renowned Storyteller, Poet, Author & Naturalist



Good of the Earth

"In celebration of Earth Day, I want to share through stories, my understanding of Anishinaabe relationship to the land, beginning with the name we call ourselves and where we come from. These stories will highlight various facets of Anishinaabe connection to the land and water, from a barren landscape to the food we eat and where we stand today in this era of Truth and Reconciliation."

**2pm SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023 Aboard the MS Chi-Cheemaun
1155 1st Avenue West, Owen Sound Harbour**

Sponsored by

Caframo.

Hosted by



Tickets \$5, each, at OS Farmers' Market, plus Suntrail Source for Adventure and at Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Visit www.osfu.ca

Knowing Nature Better

Downtown Parking

For those travelling distances to attend Earth Day Grey Bruce in downtown Owen Sound on April 22nd, please visit the link below for parking locations near the event. For Owen Sound residents who live near enough to the Library, Gallery and Farmer's Market to walk or bike there, we encourage you to use these earth-friendly means of transportation.

Link to the map:

<https://www.owensound.ca/en/living/resources/Documents/2019-Downtown-Parking-Map.pdf>

Call for Help

This year with more events and bigger ambitions, we are looking for even more help. We especially need volunteers to help on the day. Set-up and take-down are easier with more people, and acting as mobile 'hosts' during the event can make it more meaningful to you if you are interested.

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

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

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.



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

Many thanks to our generous corporate sponsors.



Partners

The groups in the banner below 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.



*Photos by Michael McLuhan and Joachim Ostertag
Newsletter edited by Nikki May*