



New three-day festival and concert at Grey Roots inspires, celebrates, and encourages understanding of Aboriginal Culture

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This summer, a new festival is coming to the Grey Bruce area. **The Good People Aboriginal Festival**, running **June 19-21, 2009**, offers visitors an opportunity to gain an appreciation of the culture of the Anishinabek, Grey County's first residents, through a three-day festival of Aboriginal celebrations and teachings!

Earlier this year, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism awarded Grey Roots a Celebrate Ontario grant to host the three day festival. *"We are very excited to receive this kind of support for presenting Aboriginal culture in Grey County. We look forward to partnering with our Anishinabe friends and neighbours for this and future events,"* says Brian Manser, Grey Roots Manager.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning at 6 a.m., the day begins with a traditional *Sunrise Ceremony* with Elder Justin Johnson. He'll be keeping the sacred fire burning on-site throughout the festival. To find Justin, just look for the tipi!

The first day of the Good People Festival on **Friday June 19th** is Education Day with a focus on visiting school groups. Students will gain an appreciation of the culture of the Anishinabek through Aboriginal dance, storytelling, medicine wheel teachings, games, and crafts. Award winning Ojibway Storyteller Aaron Bell and the White Pine Dancers will be performing as well as the Cape Croker School drummers and dancers. There is still some space left for school bookings.

On Saturday and Sunday of the Good People Festival, festivities begin at 10 a.m. with vibrant interpretive dance and drumming demonstrations and the rare opportunity to observe the construction of a wigwam by Ken Tabobondung and volunteers. Scott Carpenter will present the history of fur trade in Canada with a comprehensive Métis exhibit. Ron de Boer of *Gallery de Boer Fine Art & Jazz* will showcase Aboriginal talents at an Art Show and sale. Visitors can see one of many Aboriginal films throughout the weekend. Also presented for the first time is *"Nahneebahweequa - Upright Woman: Crusader for Native Rights"*, an exhibit containing Catharine Sutton related artefacts from the Grey Roots collection. Visitors will have the opportunity to add to the community dream catcher throughout the day. Well-known storyteller Priscilla Yellowhead will be presenting throughout the weekend and at the evening concert.

Aboriginal food will be plentiful - Diane Ritchie will be here serving up Nish Tacos, corn soup and scone dogs. The Order of Good Cheer will also be here selling their delicious fare. On Saturday enjoy: Marcel Labelle, a Métis birch bark canoe builder demonstrating his craft; traditional music of the Piyak Ootih Drummers as well as the Cape Croker School drummers and dancers. Saturday evening at 7 p.m., sway to the music of [Marc Nadjiwan](#) and his band in the Grey Roots Barn. Marc has been nominated for *Best Male Artist* at the *Canadian Aboriginal Awards*. Respected Anishinabe Historian and Elder, Basil Johnston will be sharing his stories on Sunday at 11a.m. The wigwam will be completed at 2pm.

This unique weekend gives us all a chance to be inspired, celebrate and gain an understanding of the distinctive culture of Canada's First Nations People. Visitors can come for a day, come for the concert or come for the whole weekend. Ticket prices for families, adults, Elder/senior, and children are available. Special prices for apply for Grey Roots' members.

Aboriginal Festival details:

Dates: Friday, June 19th, 2009, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Education Day)
 Saturday, June 20th - Sunday, June 21st, 2009 (Festival Days)

Location: Grey Roots Museum & Archives
Activities: Dancing, Music, Exhibits, Craft making, Film Festival, Wigwam building, Lectures, Drumming, Workshops, Ceremonies, Book and Craft sales.

Cost:

	Saturday Day	Saturday Evening (Concert Only)	Sunday Day	Weekend Pass General	Weekend Pass Members
Family	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$45.00	\$35.00
Adult	\$12.00	\$7.50	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
Elder	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
Child (5-12)	\$7.00	\$2.50	\$7.00	\$12.50	\$10.00

For a complete view of current and future events, visit <http://www.greyroots.com/programs-events>

About Grey Roots Museum & Archives:

Grey Roots Museum & Archives has grown and developed into a unique facility from the County Museum's beginning in 1955 and the later establishment of a County Archives in 2000 in order to promote and preserve the heritage of Grey County. With the consolidation of the Grey County Museum, Grey County Archives, and Tourism in 2004, Grey Roots has become a multi-faceted attraction with innovative and informative interpretive programs and demonstrations, rotating exhibits, a heritage village, archival resources and superior customer service create an exciting and educational visitor experience.

Grey Roots Museum & Archives
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