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The Indigenous Life Festival at Blue Mountain Village- Miino

Bmaadzwin

From August 18th to 20th, enjoy 3 days of free events, entertainment and activities celebrating the history, science and culture of First Peoples of Canada

Blue Mountains, Ontario. August 09, 2017 --- The Canadian “summer of celebration” continues with the free Indigenous Life Festival at Blue Mountain Village or Miino Bmaadzwin meaning ‘the good life’ in Ojibway. It’s going to be extraordinary. From live music and comedy, to Native films and traditional games and ceremonies, there’s a lot to see, a lot to do, and a lot to learn at this one-of-a-kind event. It’s a celebration of our differences as well as our commonalities. A chance to look back on history with an eye to the future. It’s engaging, interactive and, most of all, a whole lot of fun for the whole family.

It starts Friday night with a panel discussion on Indigenous Awareness hosted by renowned Cree comedian Don Burnstick and guest panelists Delilah Saunders, Michael McLuhan and Branden Emmerson. Sure to be insightful and entertaining. Then things start to heat up as Six Nations artist Logan Staats brings his passionate and bluesy sound to the Coca Cola Village stage. Saturday is packed full of events including traditional drumming, storytelling and cooking, plus the Indigenous 150+ Film Festival. Indigenous 150+ is a film and conversation series dedicated to honouring First Nations, Inuit and Metis culture, and putting Indigenous voices centre stage. Festival organizer, Lisa Farano, who is collaborating with Glenn Trivett, Cultural Coordinator from M’Wikwedong Native Cultural Resource Center in Owen Sound, says information is a big part of the festival. “There is a lot people can learn here about the real history of indigenous peoples”, says Farano, “but all of the information is presented in fun and entertaining ways.” And tasty ways too as Saturday also features renowned local chef Zach Keeshig.

Saturday night brings big laughs.

Saturday night at 8, “one of Canada’s best comedians of all time”, Don Burnstick takes the stage. Don is a Cree from the Alexander First Nation located outside of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Growing up on the reserve as the youngest of 15 children taught Don a variety of ways to defend himself, not the least of which became his use of humour, Don has had audiences across the country in stitches with his highly acclaimed comedy show, "You Might be a Redskin - Healing Through Native Humour".

Lots to do right through Sunday

Sunday begins at 10 am with the unique and moving Kairos Blanket Exercise – an interactive, sometimes emotional, teaching tool to share the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. The day continues with a full program of exciting events and activities for all ages including Elephant Thoughts in the Events Plaza, the continuing Indigenous 150+ film festival, and lots more traditional crafts, shelters, and games. All part of the story of the First Peoples of Canada. A story that organizers want visitors to take home with them. “My hope,” says organizer Lisa Farano, “is that guests will gain a better understanding of the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada and the relationship between natives and non-natives. If people can leave knowing a little bit more than when they showed up, the festival will be a success because when we know more we do more. And we all benefit when we do more.” An excellent sentiment for what is sure to be a fun, exciting and unique festival.

Schedule of Activities:

Friday, August 18th		
6:30pm	<p>Opening Prayer and Smudge Ceremony Led by GLENN TRIVETT, Ojibway Elder & Knowledge Keeper Glenn Trivett is an Ojibway knowledge keeper and medicine man. He is a member of the Odawa Midewiwin medicine society. He has traveled extensively throughout Ontario in initiatives related to Indigenous youth empowerment and healthy relationships. Glenn has learned about Indigenous history from elders, anthropologists and his spiritual leader in Wikwemikong. His unique presentation style and perspective leaves those he touches with a much stronger understanding of the issues and hope for the future. Glenn currently works at M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Resource Centre as their Cultural Coordinator.</p>	Petun Room, Village Conference Centre

6:45pm	Panel Discussion: <i>Indigenous Awareness</i> with DELILAH SAUNDERS, MICHAEL MCLUHAN, BRANDEN EMMERSON and host Comedian DON BURNSTICK	Petun Room, Village Conference Centre
8pm	Live Music with LOGAN STAATS	Coca-Cola Village Stage
Saturday		
9am-7pm	INDIGENOUS 150+ FILM SERIES Courtesy of Joanne Fishburne from Good Influence Films and Indigenous 150+. Indigenous 150+ is a film and conversation series that honours Indigenous culture, history and teachings and part of a movement to put Indigenous voices centre stage.	Lift Plaza
11am	Opening Ceremony Led by GLENN TRIVETT, Ojibway Elder & Knowledge Keeper Glenn Trivett is an Ojibway knowledge keeper and medicine man. He is a member of the Odawa Midewiwin medicine society. He has traveled extensively throughout Ontario in initiatives related to Indigenous youth empowerment and healthy relationships. Glenn has learned about Indigenous history from elders, anthropologists and his spiritual leader in Wikwemikong. His unique presentation style and perspective leaves those he touches with a much stronger understanding of the issues and hope for the future. Glenn currently works at M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Resource Centre as their Cultural Coordinator.	Coca-Cola Village Stage
11-12pm	Interactive Drumming and Dance Led by GLENN TRIVETT, Ojibway Elder & Knowledge Keeper, and PAUL NADJIWAN, Elder from Neyashiingiming First Nation Paul Nadjiwan is a respected drummer and elder from Neyashiingiming First Nation. His work has taken him all across Ontario including the Lake of the Woods, Thunder Bay and Manitoulin where he has learned from the most respected elders in the Anishinaabe world.	Coca-Cola Village Stage
11am-5pm	Elephant Thoughts Educational crafts and interactive family activities.	Event Plaza
12-4pm	Seven Grandfather Teachings & Stone Painting Activity at the Tipi (by donation) The Seven Teachings are principles of living a good life: Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth. Anishinaabe people, individually or with the help of an elder, use them as a means of how to build healthy relationships. When people live by these principles they live in harmony with the Creator and Mother Earth.	Water St. Bandstand

1pm	<p>Cooking Demonstration with CHEF ZACH KEESHIG Owen Sound-based Chef Zach Keeshig attended Georgian College's Culinary Arts Program before completing an apprenticeship under local chef Tim Johnston (Cobble Beach). He has since worked in restaurants such as Michael Stadlander's Eigensinn Farm (Singhampton) and Langdon Hall (Cambridge). Zach most recently opened a pop-up fine dining experience at the Owen Sound and District Farmer's Market that showcased locally sourced and foraged foods in a seven-course tasting menu. This won him an award through the City of Owen Sound. In his spare time Zach enjoys reading, recipe testing and teaching his children about local and foraged foods.</p>	Coca-Cola Village Stage
1-4pm	Creation Station: Medicine Pouches (by donation)	Event Plaza
2pm	Interactive Youth Drumming	Coca-Cola Village Stage
3pm	Interactive Youth Drumming	Coca-Cola Village Stage
4pm	Ojibway Interactive Dance	Coca-Cola Village Stage
4-6pm	<p>Indigenous 101 An interactive discussion about the history of Turtle Island (North America) from an Indigenous perspective. The facilitator will outline the ancient history of this land and the migrations of its nations. Colonization and settlement, along with the formation of treaties will be explained. The Indian Act and residential schools era will be outlined to put modern struggles into perspective. Participants will leave with a much deeper knowledge of the issues and hope for the future.</p>	Storytime Park
4-7pm	Creation Station: Make Your Own Medicine Wheel Button (by donation)	Event Plaza
7:30pm	<p>Live Music with LOGAN STAATS Multi-instrumentalist Logan Staats started writing and performing music in his early teens. He has since been awarded Best Folk/Best Producer at the Indigenous Music Awards, Best New Artist at the Native American Music Awards, Best Folk 2016 at the Indian Summer Music Awards, and Best Rock 2015 at the Aboriginal People's Choice Music Awards.</p>	Coca-Cola Village Stage
8pm	<p>Headliner: DON BURNSTICK Comedy Show Don Burnstick is a Cree from the Alexander First Nation located outside of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The youngest of 15 children, coupled with the fact of growing up on the reserve, taught Don a variety of means of defending himself, not the least of which</p>	Coca-Cola Village Stage

	<p>became his use of humour. Don has now been involved within the healing/personal wellness movement for the past 20 years and has utilized humour and performance to provide a holistic approach to healing. His message speaks to a proud heritage, the importance of healing through humor and his continuing desire to leave a better world for our future generations. Don wrote and individually performs the play "I Am Alcohol - Healing the Wounded Warrior". In this play, without preaching or moralizing, Don presents a gripping dramatization of the addictive power of alcohol and drugs, and the connections to other destructive forces that have plagued the Aboriginal community. In addition to his healing work, Don has established himself as one of Canada's best comedians of all times. His highly acclaimed comedy show "You Might be a Redskin - Healing Through Native Humour", is a comedic performance, that humorously portrays First Nations people, their habits, likes and dislikes.</p>	
Sunday		
<p>9am-7pm</p>	<p>INDIGENOUS 150+ FILM SERIES courtesy of Joanne Fishburne from Good Influence Films and Indigenous 150+.</p> <p>Indigenous 150+ is a film and conversation series that honours Indigenous culture, history and teachings and part of a movement to put Indigenous voices centre stage.</p>	<p>Lift Plaza</p>
<p>10-11:30am</p>	<p>Kairos Blanket Exercise Experience the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Recommended for youth 13+ and adults.</p>	<p>Event Plaza</p>
<p>11am-5pm</p>	<p>Elephant Thoughts Educational crafts and interactive family activities.</p>	<p>Event Plaza</p>
<p>12pm</p>	<p>Interactive Youth Drumming</p>	<p>Coca-Cola Village Stage</p>
<p>12-2pm</p>	<p>Storytelling with ELDER SHIRLEY JOHN "Strong White Buffalo Woman" member Loon/Grizzly bear of the Chippewa's of Saugeen along the beautiful shores of Lake Huron. 50% Ojibway 50% Mohawk, if you encounter this little spunky lady, you'll know her favorite saying is "Each and Every Day" knowing this grandmother lives for peace for all of humanity each and every day. Chi- Nokomis (Great Grandmother) has the youngest spirit of life and woman devoutly of prayer has given her the reputation of being humble, peaceful, kind and charming of all people and beings of Turtle Island. Attending the Spanish Residential School of Northern Ontario, first-hand knowledge of the impacts of these times had shaped her life and values. Shirley hung on and</p>	<p>Storytime Park</p>

	<p>continues to be fluent speaker of the Anishnaabe language and carrier of ceremonies, welcoming all nations to share. You will also find this petite glowing white haired lady at local Zumba classes dancing her heart out, swimming at the local pool, pumping weights at the gym, or with her newest interest kayaking down the Saugeen River. She speaks through her interactive teachings sharing her passion of the love of creation and her love and dedication for the water to numerous organizations and conferences throughout Turtle Island. Over the years she has been a visiting elder with many organizations throughout Canada and U.S. sharing spiritual guidance, and traditional teachings and a long-time friend of the friendship movement. Yearly you will find Nokomis out walking on rocky dusty roads.</p>	
12-4pm	<p>Seven Grandfather Teachings & Stone Painting Activity at the Tipi (by donation) The Seven Teachings are principles of living a good life: Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth. Anishinaabe people, individually or with the help of an elder, use them as a means of how to build healthy relationships. When people live by these principles they live in harmony with the Creator and Mother Earth.</p>	Water St. Bandstand
1-4pm	<p>Creation Station: Medicine Pouches (by donation)</p>	Event Plaza
2pm	<p>Interactive Youth Drumming</p>	Coca-Cola Village Stage
2-4pm	<p>Indigenous 101 An interactive discussion about the history of Turtle Island (North America) from an Indigenous perspective. The facilitator will outline the ancient history of this land and the migrations of its nations. Colonization and settlement, along with the formation of treaties will be explained. The Indian Act and residential schools era will be outlined to put modern struggles into perspective. Participants will leave with a much deeper knowledge of the issues and hope for the future.</p>	Storytime Park

For more information about the Indigenous Life Festival please visit

www.bluemountainvillage.ca/events

About the Village:

Between the foot of the Niagara Escarpment's scenic Blue Mountains and the rugged shores and crystal-clear waters of Georgian Bay, the picturesque Blue Mountain Village is Southern Ontario's premiere four-season destination. A cobblestoned pedestrian village framed by turn-of-the-century Ontario architecture, the Village offers a wide variety of family accommodations, activities and attractions including over 40 unique shops and restaurants, zip lines, ropes courses, hiking, biking, Segue tours and much more. An incredible natural retreat, the Village offers as much – or as little – as you'd like to do. For a complete listing of Village events, please visit

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