



Building Indigenous Relationships

The Pow Wow

Summer is a time of family and fun get togethers! Consider bringing your family to a Pow Wow, and together learn more about our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Pow Wows are a time for First Nations across Turtle Island (North America) to celebrate and share their cultures. They welcome all visitors!

The tradition of First Nations dance is ancient. The modern-day Pow Wow evolved from the Grass Dance Societies that formed during the early 1800s, when tribal customs and religions were outlawed by the Canadian Government in an attempt to eradicate our Indigenous sisters and brothers. No longer outlawed, the Pow Wow is an opportunity to celebrate life together with an ancient and valued nation of people.

Here are some summer events in our area:

- Six Nations: **July 21st – 23rd**. *“Experience the excitement of centuries of culture as dancers from across North America compete to become the Champion of Champions”*. Many native food and craft vendors. Chiefswood Tent and Trailer Park, 10:00 am, \$10. On Highway 54 east of Brantford. More information: www.grpowwow.ca
- Saugeen First Nation: **August 12th – 13th**. Located 2 miles northeast of **Southampton** and approximately 18 miles west of **Owen Sound** on Highway 21, at the base of the Bruce Peninsula. The Pow Wow will be held at the James Mason Memorial Cultural and Recreation Centre, 47 French Bay Road. Competitions. More information: www.saugeenfirstnation.ca
- Cheppewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation: **August 18th, 19th and 20th**. Cape Croker Indian Park, 112 Park Road, Wiarton. *“We invite you to come and join the celebration: Let your Heart Beat with the Drum. The Pow Wow is a time for renewing old friendships and making new ones. Once again, the Pow Wow Circle is Strong and alive”*.
- Silver Lake Provincial Park: **August 26th – 27th**. 22726 Hwy 7, R.R.#2, Maberly (about half way between Peterborough and Ottawa, between Sharbot Lake and Perth). Gates open at 10:00 am, grand entry at 12:00 noon.

Fall opportunities to participate in a Pow Wow:

- London: **September 16th and 17th**. The 8th annual traditional Pow Wow and Harvest Festival will be held at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology, 1600 Attawandaron Road, London. The Museum invited First Nations to hold a “real” pow wow on their grounds in 2008, and it has been growing ever since. Admission is by donation. It is recommended you bring cash as there is no ATM on site for food and craft vendors. This Annual Harvest Festival and Pow Wow features singing, dancing, and storytelling, along with many [workshops and demonstrations](#) for the whole family. More information at: www.museumpowwow.ca/ A great place to ask questions and to learn more about our Indigenous families.
- Waterloo: **Saturday September 23rd**. The Waterloo Aboriginal Education Centre of St. Paul’s University College, University of Waterloo, hosts a traditional Pow Wow. *“We celebrate drumming, dancing and other elements of traditional Aboriginal culture, and we invite everyone to join us. Craft and food vendors are on site, and we often have different stations where visitors can go to learn about different aspects of Aboriginal culture.”* More info: www.uwaterloo.ca/stpauls

Pow Wow Etiquette

Pow Wows are celebrations where First Nations and non-First Nations people meet to dance, sing, socialize, and honour First Nations culture. Following Pow Wow etiquette demonstrates respect and consideration for the Elders, dancers, singers, and drummers who are sharing their cultural traditions.

- People should stand during all ceremonial songs and dances. These include the Grand Entry, Flag Songs, Veteran songs, Honour Songs and any other songs that the M.C. designates as ceremonial songs.
- Use courtesy and respect when photographing. The M.C. will announce when it is not acceptable to take photos such as during the Grand Entry. If you would like to take a photograph of a dancer outside of the circle, please ask permission from the person or group you are photographing.
- Respect the Elders, drummers, singers and dancers.
- The dancers wear regalia while they are dancing, not “costumes”. Please do not touch the regalia.

Take a lawn chair, although most places provide bleachers; wear sunscreen and a hat.