

**OFL 2ND ABORIGINAL GATHERING
“WALKING IN OUR MOCCASINS”
SHERATON HAMILTON HOTEL
116 KING STREET W. HAMILTON, ON L8P 4V3
JUNE 2 – 4, 2010**

A G E N D A

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Registration: Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, Centre & East Ballroom Foyer

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Welcome & Traditional Circle

OFL Officer opens and welcomes the participants to the Gathering.

Tim Brown OFL Vice-President Responsible for Aboriginal Issues will then lead the traditional Aboriginal Circle. It has proven to be very useful within Aboriginal communities to begin the process of healing and cultural reclamation. It allows Aboriginal teachers to illustrate the spirituality of the Indigenous community over time and symbolizes the importance of community identity, history, heritage, and culture.

White Pine Dancers

For the past eight years, Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine Dancers have performed for over 35,000 guests both locally and internationally in some of Southern Ontario’s most celebrated educational venues. Audiences across Southern Ontario and beyond have stated that our performance was not only entertaining, but educational as well. Many audience members commented that they had learned more about First Nations culture during our one hour performance than they had anywhere else. Our performances are interactive as well as colourful and vibrant. Our audiences always come away with a smile on their face, a smile in their spirit and a smile in their hearts.....

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Thursday, June 3, 2010

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Participants will be picked up from the hotel and bused to the Six Nations Reserve of the Grand where they will get the hands-on opportunity to participate in all of the following events.

(A boxed lunch catered by traditional Chef Janace Henry will be provided for the group and the cost is included in the registration fee).

5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The participants will have a traditional dinner (included in the registration fee) and cultural entertainment at the Oshweken Community Hall in Six Nations catered by Vergie General Catering.

Friday, June 4, 2010

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Participants will meet in the **Heritage Room** to share their experiences through the traditional Aboriginal Circle.

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**Teachings (Six Nations Reserve)
Thursday, June 3, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

1. The Woodland Cultural Centre Museum

Over 35,000 artifacts are displayed in this Museum’s collection. It is one of the largest facilities in Canada that is managed and administered by First Nations. Participants will have the opportunity to explore all of the Museum’s holdings and a teaching about the Mush-Hole and memories of a residential school will be part of this visit.

2. GREAT (The Grand River Employment and Training Centre)

Here the participants will tour GREAT which is a community organization that delivers services and a variety of employment and training programs to Six Nations members. GREAT recognizes and supports the strong cultural and traditional beliefs of the community and this is reflected in the programs and services it provides.

3. Irocrafts

Shopping will be available for the group at a store that sells traditional and ceremonial Iroquois arts and crafts.

4. Six Nations Polytechnic

The participants will tour this facility and learn how the staffs who are from the same cultural background incorporate traditional values into all course content while the students learn in and/or about the Hodinohso: ni Rotinonhshonni culture and languages.

5. Janice Longboat

Janice Longboat, Turtle Clan, Mohawk Nation, has worked with many Native communities and will share the traditional teachings that she has gathered across Turtle Island. Janice is a Grandmother who practices the use of herbal medicines. Nurturing her way of life with medicines and healing, she was given the teachings by many Elders and Medicine people. Janice will share the Earth teachings in Traditional Medicine, Healing, Dreams, Ceremony, Fastings, and Earth changes.

JG/ph/cope343