

October 2016 Newsletter

*Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre
Inspiring Spirituality*

Holding Sacred Space Time of Transition

As Five Oaks enters into a time of transition - a time in which the future is yet unknown - we ask for your prayers and support - we invite you to hold space for this sacred place.

On November 15th, operations as we know them, will cease at Five Oaks; however, a glimmer of hope still remains as the Member Working Group continue on their visionary journey - but what happens in the meantime?

“Project Friendship” happens.

Project Friendship is an initiative that the Board of Directors and the Member Working Group have developed as a way of holding space during this in-between state. It is a way to generate revenue to aid in off-setting the fixed monthly expenses that Five Oaks will continue to incur even when not in full operation.

Within this project, we invite Friends of Five Oaks who wish to offer financial support during this transitional phase to come and experience *“A Week at Five Oaks.”*

Guests will stay in the Friendship House and have access to the grounds, where time can be spent connecting with Spirit, Self, Each Other and Nature. The cost for Project Friendship is \$500 per week and is perfect for self-sufficient groups that do not require housekeeping or food services. Other buildings will also be available for retreat, day-use, and week-long rentals.

Project Friendship will be in effect until the next AGM meeting in June 2017, and possibly beyond depending on what the future for Five Oaks looks like at that time.

We would love your support!

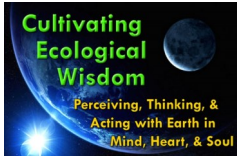
Contact Rafael for all booking and pricing inquiries at director@fiveoaks.on.ca.



Upcoming Programs...

To find out more about these programs, or other programs and events please visit www.fiveoaks.on.ca or call 519-442-3212

**Featuring
internationally-known
writer,
Mark Hathaway
Cultivating Ecological Wisdom**



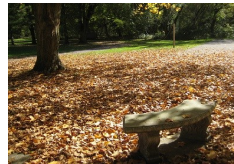
Oct. 30 - Nov. 1.
Sun. 4pm -
Tues. 5:30 with
dinner.

Ecological wisdom is rooted in a lived experience of the interconnection and intrinsic value of all life. It consists of the diverse modalities of perception and consciousness – together with the knowledge, skills, and emotional intelligence – that enable humans to listen to and learn from Earth's wisdom. Come reflect on key experiences in your own life that have fostered a sense of greater connection with the more-than-human world as well as trying some practices to further this process.

Leader: Mark Hathaway.
Cost: \$375

**Golden and Green
Retreat: Blessing the Earth in
"Re-fire-ment"**

Nov. 9-10. Wed. 10am - Thurs. 5:30pm ending with dinner. This gathering is specifically designed for those already living in "re-fire-ment" and those preparing for it. We will gather around the opportunity to explore practical strategies and spiritual practices to bless the Earth when we have the time and patience to do so! The idea for this program was birthed by a portion of a poem from William Butler Yeats who was himself reflecting on the opportunity to use the "golden" years of life for responding to our own sense of having been blessed by blessing others.



Leaders: Rivkah Unland and Peter Kingsbury
Cost: \$215

**Coming Together
for Reconciliation**

Nov. 11-13. Starts Fri. 5:30pm with dinner and ends Sun. with lunch. Gather with residential school survivors to learn about the history and legacy of residential schools and the church's role. Strategize together on action plans to bear witness and to engage in acts of reconciliation. The program will include a visit to the former Mohawk Institute residential school and time spent with residential school survivors from Six Nations. We will also engage with issues around treaties and land claims.



Leadership: The program will be led by staff, board members and friends of Nations Uniting, a ministry of the United Church of Canada located on Six Nations.

Presenters will include: Phil Monture, Lands Researcher, Six Nations of the Grand River
Cost: \$195

**Five Oaks
Gratitude Ceremony**

**November 13th
3-5PM**

**A gratitude ceremony is
being planned for this date
& time.**

Mark your calendar!

More details to follow

Forest Church

Come experience "Forest Church" - a fresh expression of church drawing on much older traditions when sacred places and practices were outside.

Forest Church isn't just normal church happening outside, instead it attempts to participate with creation. And it isn't just a fellowship group doing an outside activity. We aim to learn from, meditate on, pray and practice with the trees, at the spring, along the shore....

Come dressed for the weather, bring a walking stick if you wish, for hiking the Five Oaks trails. Bring an open mind and open heart. You may also want to bring along a compact, portable chair for sitting.

Date: Sunday, October 16, 2016 - 1:30 - 3:30pm

Leader: Rivkah Unland

Cost: by donation - RSVP required by contacting the office