

# January 30, 2020

## EVENTS

### **February 2 at the Villa St. Joseph Ecology and Spirituality Centre, Cobourg**

BEING SALMON, BEING HUMAN is a unique storytelling performance from Norway combining traditional tales, original music, and contemporary philosophy. Converting wild salmon into a commodity is a global fairytale that strips us of ancient and ancestral relations with the gift-giving earth. Weaving storytelling, traditional and contemporary music, this performance activates our senses, asks for a critical restoration and re-storying of what it means to be a human living within a larger body.

The performance will be followed by a discussion with the artists to localize the themes. Refreshments will be served. When: Sunday February 2nd, 2-4 pm. Doors open at 1:30, tickets held till 1:45 - show at 2pm

### **March 26-29 at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, Toronto**

The CSJ Blue Community project will be a sponsor for this year's Water Docs festival. Contact Paul for free tickets and volunteer at the information table. The festival is the centrepiece of Water Docs programming – several days of high-impact films, animated discussions and community learning, with opportunities to take action to protect water.

### **April 18th at Western Fair District Agriplex, London**

Visit the CSJ Blue Community project at this year's GO Wild GROW Wild expo.

It is the largest wildest, greenest, most adventurous event series in Ontario's far South as we collectively step forward to green our future! Together with thousands of adventurers, gardeners, nature enthusiasts, families and green people, Go Wild Grow Wild is growing a green future. This collaborative movement serves as a catalyst to celebrate, inspire and spark action to protect our wildlife and create a healthy habitat.

## NEWS

### **Fenelon Falls sewage bypass spills 6.2 million litres of partially treated waste into the river**

A sewage spill at the Fenelon Falls Wastewater treatment plant spilled more than 6 million litres of partially treated waste into the Fenelon River according to the Ministry of Environment. "The Ministry takes sewage by-pass events very seriously and continues to ensure the municipality takes appropriate actions to reduce these types of events." Bryan Armstrong, Ministry of the Environment told Kawartha 411 News. On Saturday January 11th near record rainfall overwhelmed the system resulting in the spill.

### **Sault should show leadership and eliminate single-use plastic use**

Soon, the city could embark upon a new educational campaign and do its part to reduce the annual three million tons of plastic waste tossed out by Canadians. The timing is right. The federal government's announced last spring that it wants to ban single-use plastics as early as 2021.

### **G'ganoonigonaa Zaagigan | The Lake Is Speaking To Us: Nuclear Waste In Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory?**

ONE KILOMETRE FROM THE LAKESHORE, 680 metres below ground, a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) has been proposed by Ontario Power Generation (OPG). The DGR will be the home for 200,000m<sup>3</sup> of low and intermediate level nuclear waste. Like so many of our Elders and Knowledge Keepers have been saying, it is time we all take responsibility (including OPG & Bruce Power) in our relationship to the water and derive our direction from there. It is time that Lake Huron takes up their rightful place in the decision-making processes as our wise Ancestor who's connection to Mother Earth gives and sustains life for all.

### **Here's what's in your bottled water (17 minute video)**

Ever wonder what's lurking in your bottled water? Marketplace asked a lab to test five of the top-selling brands of bottled water in Canada, and microplastics were found in all of them.

### **As Indigenous land acknowledgments become the norm, critics question whether the gesture has lost its meaning**

Offering a land acknowledgment has become a symbol of reconciliation and almost standard protocol for public gatherings across Canada, particularly at universities. But recently, they've also been criticized as an empty gesture, prompting some to ask whether they should change. Several scholars have called for acknowledgments to be rethought. Instead of reciting a script, they encourage people to speak frankly about their own connection to the communities and places they intend to honour, and building actual relationships.

### **Plastic and the State of Our Souls**

I, too, feel the urgency to keep plastics out of the oceans at all costs, but I fear that there is another story that is not being told. Disposable plastic is toxic not only to the body but also to the soul. The more we normalize short-term utility as the main criterion for evaluating the things around us, the more disconnected we become from a sense of the inherent worth of creation. The more we cultivate this habit of the heart of seeing things as disposable once they no longer serve us, the less able we are to find the beauty and value in our relationships with each other, or even the intrinsic value in ourselves once we are no longer "productive."

### **Fish That Eat Plastic – These Ones We Don't Mind!**

Goby The Fish is a beach sculpture that is being used to bring awareness about the damage done by plastic materials to marine life. The concept of Goby was created by sculptor Janardhan Havanje and is structurally made of iron rods. Standing almost 10ft tall and 8ft wide Goby is filled with plastic waste that was collected from the beach itself.

### **Ontario extends water bottling moratorium by 9 months**

After the province proposed the moratorium extension last month, it also asked for public feedback on the idea of the extension. The ministry received 8,703 comments.

The government said "the majority of comments supported the proposal to extend the moratorium ... Additional comments included advocating for a permanent moratorium on bottled water permits and requiring environmental assessments for all renewal applications for permits to take water for water bottling."

### **Excessive rainfall shuts down Hamilton wastewater plant**

After nearly an inch of rainfall in Hamilton since Sunday, the City of Hamilton announced that as of 3:30 a.m. on Monday, the Woodward Wastewater Treatment Plant entered by-pass mode. "Bypasses occur in extreme wet weather, when the amount of wastewater entering the sewer system exceeds the capacity of the Woodward Wastewater Treatment Plant," stated the City of Hamilton. "Wet weather from yesterday and today have exceeded the capacity of the treatment plant."

### **400 billion gallons of raw sewage was dumped into Canadian water**

The Department of the Environment stated that of the 3.4 billion cubic metres flushed per year across Canada, 374 billion gallons went untreated and did not meet the limits. The department's researchers also predict the actual discharges are likely much higher. "These volumes do not include releases from combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows or any other discharges occurring at a point other than the final discharge point," staff from the department wrote. The research involved looking at 1,737 sewage plants across Canada.

### **Federal Infrastructure Bank Says It Sees 'Potential' to Privatize Local Water Systems Across Canada**

The Infrastructure Bank's CEO even admits the scheme will see money flow from the pockets of ordinary citizens to big companies, telling a business magazine "users will fund the bulk of the operations and of the returns to investors through user-fees and other revenue mechanisms."

### **How One Kid Stopped the Contamination of a River**

Bowles collected and analyzed water samples, running them through a filter funnel and putting the filter on an enterococci testing card. After 36 hours in an incubator, the colonies of fecal bacteria on the card turn blue. Bowles counted the blue dots. The results revealed

levels of fecal contamination above Canada's federal standards for swimming or boating. Among those sailing the LaHave waters at the time was Bowles' little brother.

**THIS is what the 11,000 km of rivers and streams in the Grand River watershed looks like.**

A changing climate and growing population continue to impact our natural features. Words are not enough to express our thanks to all partners, landowners and residents who work with us to protect and improve the health and vitality of our lands and waters, and in turn, our watershed communities. Together we are securing our future.