

Toronto and York Region Métis Council – Summer Gathering 2026 - Schedule

Saturday, July 18th - Snake Island (Toronto Islands) 10:30 PM – 6:00 PM

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM **Meet at Jack Layton Ferry Terminal (9 Queen's Quay West at Bay St.)** – Look for a TYRMC Sign-holding Representative to meet you at the Ticketholder Line to provide you with your Ferry Tickets.

11:30 AM **Board the Ferry to Ward's Island**

11:45 AM – **Disembark Ferry. Walk to the right (West) along Cibola Ave. for 15 – 20 minutes** till you arrive at the Snake Island bridge. You will see a washroom building and water station. The washroom is code-locked. You will receive the washroom code closer to the event. Walk across the bridge and follow the path to the beach (3-5 minutes).

*Look for signs: **"TYRMC Private Event - Pre-Registration Required – City of Toronto Permit #####"***

12:15 PM – **Rekindling the Fires** – Land Acknowledgment – Welcome – Tobacco Offering

12:25 PM – **Métis "Buried Treasure Hunt"** – "X" marks the spot! Métis Voyageurs cached (or buried) their supplies along their canoe and portage routes to lighten their loads on the way to their destination, and retrieved them on their return journey - if they could find them. Join our Treasure Hunt!

12:40 PM – **Lunch:** Chicken wraps or Veggie wraps, totopos side (chips), fresh fruit platter, local vegetable crudite, pop & water. Bannock with cheese and jam (jam & spreads courtesy of Kathy Morgan) for dessert.

12:45 PM – **Fire Starting Practices** - Ferro Rod and Bow Drill demonstration for fire making.

1:15 PM – **Bannock Cooking** on a stick over fire.

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM - **The Art and Tradition of Métis Storytelling**

Revered and respected Métis knowledge keepers and Storytellers, Virginia Barter and Kathy Morgan will walk us through the art and tradition of Métis storytelling.

They will regale us with their stories as we sit in our Story Circle with the sound of water lapping on the shore and the lake breeze whispering through the trees on Snake Island.

Tell Your Story and enter Draw for a \$25 Gift Card – Sign Up Required

Following Virginia and Kathy's presentation, you are invited to tell your story in the oral tradition and be entered into a Draw to receive 1 of three \$25 Gift Cards. The guidelines for this are set out below.

Please indicate in the Registration Form if you wish to tell your story as part of the Storytelling activity. At the event you will sign up to enter the Draw.

Your story must be 2 to 5 minutes in duration when spoken by you. A microphone and P.A. will be provided.

Your story can be fiction or non-fiction and should connect to Métis culture, heritage or history. For example, a story from the trapline, or a historical Métis event such as the 1828 migration from Drummond Island to Penetanguishene.

Your story could be personal to you and / or your family. For example, a story of how your ancestors came to Tkaronto from their historic Métis territories or communities.

Generally speaking, your story should be presented in the oral tradition (some written notes to keep you on track are okay, but simply reading your story from a script is not - it should be 'performed').

Come Prepared: Create and rehearse your story in advance of the Gathering.

The above guidelines must be followed in order to receive your gift card.

3:00 PM – 4: 00 PM – **Spoon Lesson followed by Spoon Dot Art Painting** – Spoons and paints supplied with facilitators Kathy Morgan and Virginia Barter.

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM – **4-Basket Disc Golf Challenge** – 1st, 2nd & 3rd Medals to be won!

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM – **Games & other activities as time permits**

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM – **Tug-O-War**: Team Ribbons to be won. Individual Rounds Medals.

Clean Up & Depart Snake Island to Ferry Docks. See you soon!

Please be advised of the following:

-The Summer Gathering event involves a lot of walking. It's a 25-minute walk from the Ferry Dock to the sandy beach on Snake Island. The City of Toronto has advised that the Snake Island walking bridge that crosses the river is not up to accessibility standards for self-propelled wheelchair access. In addition, the forest path may be muddy.

-Public transit will take you to the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal at 9 Queen's Quay West at Bay St.
– See TTC, GO Train Schedules

-Swimming is not advisable. The City of Toronto strongly discourages swimming in the inner harbour due to water quality. Parents and Guardians must keep their children in sight at all times, especially near the water.

-Bring your water bottle (refill station nearby), sunscreen, hats, wind protective clothing (it can be very windy on the island), comfortable walking shoes, etc.

Upon registration to the “Summer Gathering”, you will receive additional information and updates via email.

THIS EVENT IS WEATHER PERMITTING. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY EMAIL IF IT NECESSARY TO CANCEL DUE TO THE WEATHER.