

AUGUST 1-3

**Blue
says**

**MUSIC FESTIVAL
2025**

CLARENDON, ONTARIO



CONTENTS

3	WELCOME TO BLUE SKIES 2025
3	LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
4	HEALTH AND SAFETY
6	NEED TO KNOW
9	VOLUNTEERING
10	THE MC (MASTERS OF CEREMONY) TEAM
11	LET'S HELP EACH OTHER ENJOY THE CONCERTS AT BLUE SKIES!
12	FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS
14	SATURDAY & SUNDAY AFTERNOONS
15	SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERTS
18	SUNDAY NIGHT CONCERTS
20	CURTAIN PERFORMERS
22	OTHER SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS
23	THE BLUE SKIES CHOIR
23	UKULELE ORCHESTRA
24	FIDDLE ORCHESTRA
25	WORKSHOPS
26	SATURDAY SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS
28	MAP
30	SUNDAY SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS
32	WORKSHOPS CONTINUED
44	BLUE SKIES KIDS' AREA
49	FOOD, SNACKS AND ICE
50	STORE HOURS
50	BLUE SKIES IN THE COMMUNITY
51	BLUE SKIES 2025 HATS
52	NEED TO KNOW PART 2
54	WORKSHOPS FOR TEENS
55	KIDS' AREA SCHEDULE
56	2025 CONCERTS

WELCOME TO BLUE SKIES 2025

Welcome to this year's Blue Skies Music Festival! As always, there will be wonderful music and lots of magic. How do we make this year special? Just like we do every year we gather: by being neighbourly, being fully present and aware of how we treat each other. We'll show respect, care, and kindness, and we'll lend a hand to those who might need it.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the unceded homeland and traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg people. We offer our gratitude to the First Nations for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings. Indigenous wisdom teaches that our responsibility as humans is to give thanks every day, to put our minds together as one and give greetings to all the peoples of the earth. The traditional way emphasizes the importance of how we treat each other as the best way to help us learn behaviour and actions that promote harmony and balance within ourselves, our families, our communities and the natural world. This is what the Seven Grandfather Teachings seek to do – encourage respectful behaviour, humility, honesty, bravery, love, wisdom, and truth so that every individual has the knowledge and tools needed to act in good ways. May our time together here at Blue Skies be guided and blessed.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

INFO BOOTH

Here to help! Come by any time to ask questions or to get pointed in the right direction. You can find the Info Booth across from the Cook Shack, near Inner Parking. Staffed day and night, you'll find friendly neighbours happy to connect you with Security, First Aid or anyone else when you need help. Need assistance, or need to ask a question? Wander over to the Info Booth and they will be glad to lend a hand. This is also where you can check lost and found, sign up for the mailing list, and sign up to volunteer!

Hey Kids!

Bring your adults to the Info Booth. Ask your adults to remember what camping area they sleep in, Like Magooville or Sleepy Hollow. Let your adults know that if anyone needs help, all you have to do is ask someone wearing a TEAL (bluish-green) Blue Skies T-shirt. They usually know what's going on and will be glad to help you meet at the Info Booth.

FIRST AID

First Aid is at the top of the hill, beside the Info Booth. We are open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. We are not a medical clinic but we can offer first aid support for minor injuries and ailments and can assist those with more serious issues to get the help they need.

For after-hours emergencies, locate Security (wearing bluish-green Blue Skies T-shirts) or go to the Info Booth (open all night) to contact First Aid support. You can also call 911, although cell service can be unreliable. If you do so, please also contact Security. The Blue Skies road address is 2439 Clarendon Road. Nearest intersection is Hwy 7 and 509.

Please bring all of your regular/daily medications, including Epi-pens if you have anaphylactic allergies. To charge CPAP machines, the Recycling Depot has a few outlets and folks monitoring them (please respect the outlets and only use them for medical devices).

For everyone's safety and protection, if you are coming to First Aid please alert us before approaching if you have any of the following signs or symptoms – fever, chills, general weakness or lethargy, nausea/vomiting, difficulty breathing, new cough, any cold, flu or Covid-like symptoms. We will give you a mask and don one ourselves before any close contact.

The Tick of Things

The Blue Skies Festival site is considered a high-risk area for LYME DISEASE due to the population of black-legged ticks. Make no mistake – Lyme disease is a very serious illness and the sooner a tick is removed the less likely it is to spread Lyme disease.

DEET and Icardin-containing bug repellents help prevent tick bites. Wearing light coloured clothing can help you spot ticks easier. Everyone is advised to perform daily visual inspections on each other, on yourself and on your children. Instructions on removing a tick can be found posted at First Aid. If the tick was attached for longer than 24 hours, you may require antibiotics.

Be mindful after you leave Blue Skies that Lyme symptoms typically appear within one to two weeks. Pharmacists in Ontario can now prescribe antibiotics for tick bites.

ACCESSIBILITY

We do our best to make sure that people of all ages and abilities are able to enjoy our little slice of heaven. Blue Skies Organizers and volunteers have completed Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) accessibility training so they can assist when requested. We continue to address ongoing challenges to make things better. We understand there may be expectations that we can't address on this precious and rough land we share. We hope you have what you need for a wonderful festival and can manage without the amenities you might find at home. Please remember that we have only a marginal connection to electricity and cell service, that water is only cold and from a limited well, and that the outhouses are primitive (although pretty). You will need your flashlight to get around at night.

If you have accessibility-related requests, questions, or ideas, please come to the Info Booth or get in touch afterward through: accessibility@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca

FIRE SAFETY

We have several communal fire pits scattered around the site. They're great for cooking on, jamming around and generally getting together and meeting your neighbours. Please, never start a fire at a communal fire pit and walk away. Someone ALWAYS has to be looking after and RESPONSIBLE for every fire. The same goes for cook stoves and other flame sources.

Please keep in mind that fire safety is REALLY important. Never leave any flame unattended or drop a cigarette butt on the ground. A fire will ruin everyone's Blue Skies experience.

We won't know until the festival, but sometimes a fire ban is in effect during the festival weekend. We sure hope there isn't a fire ban but it can and does happen, so be prepared. If so, that means no open flames, nada, no candles and no campfires. Cook stoves are permitted but must be carefully monitored.

CLEAR PATHS

Please keep pathways clear through your campsite area. Encourage your neighbours to do the same. There must be clear access to every camping area for emergency vehicles.



NEED TO KNOW

SERVICE ANIMALS

If you are attending with a service animal, we request that you register the service animal upon arrival at the Front Gate. If you are already on-site and haven't done so yet, please make your way to the Info Booth and they will assist you.

PEACEFUL HAPPY FESTIVAL

The communal fire pit nearest the Main Stage will accommodate late-night revellers. Away from there, it's less noisy. Sleepy Hollow is the quiet camping area between the Main Stage and Gate House. Here we request no noise or boisterous singing, but quiet conversation and soft music are welcome. But quiet area or not, please remember, your neighbour will be a happier camper after some sleep. If your neighbour is more boisterous than you would wish, try asking them to tone it down. A gentle request goes a long way.

RULES AT BLUE SKIES

We have precious few rules at Blue Skies but we do have 'em: Dogs are prohibited (except for registered service animals, see above). Private sales are not allowed and glass bottles are not allowed on the Hill. Please respect these rules. Thanks everyone.

CRITTERS AND BLUE SKIES

The Blue Skies site is home to a huge variety of critters large and small, from dragonflies to raccoons, deer, and even bears. This means we have to be a little aware. Critters love to eat, so here are some things that can encourage them to dine elsewhere:

- Keep all food in a sealed cooler or container, especially overnight;
- Keep your garbage in a sealed container so that it does not attract critters to your campsite;
- Regularly bring your compost and sorted recycling to the recycling depot and wash your dishes regularly;
- Make your tent a food-free zone, and keep toiletries, including toothpaste and shampoo in a sealed container outside your tent.

BEER, WINE AND ALCOHOL BOTTLE AND CAN RECYCLING

All empty alcohol containers that were purchased in Ontario, can be donated at the Recycling Depot. They will be returned to the Beer Store, with all proceeds benefiting the Guatemala Stove Project. All other cans and bottles go to recycling. If you're not sure, the people at recycling are happy to help.

TA DA! THE NO GARBAGE BLUE SKIES! THANKS TO YOU!

There is no garbage pick-up or removal at Blue Skies! Any garbage you bring in, you'll need to take home with you, after the Festival. We will still handle your recycling and compost, though. Please take your recycling, bottles and compost to the Recycling Depot at the Inner Parking Lot.

Compost and recycling hours:

Saturday and Sunday: 8:30 – 10:30 am, 1 – 3 pm, and 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Monday: 8 am to 1 pm.

Compost is left-over food stuff, even bones. Recyclables include: aluminum, tin, glass, corrugated cardboard, box board, non-glossy paper, and plastics (recyclable numbers 1 through 7).

NEW: Styrofoam is now recyclable in Central Frontenac. This includes:

- Clean, loose, white Styrofoam
- Meat trays (please remove plastic wrap, labels, and tray liners)
- Packaging blocks
- Take out containers
- Cups

Everything else is garbage, and here's the important part: you must take ALL your garbage home with you. Keep your garbage in a sealed container.

TREAT YOUR WATER WELL

All the water at Blue Skies comes from a single well. Our system provides good, clean water for drinking, washing, and cooling. BUT, even in wet years, it's a limited supply. So, here are tips for conserving water:

If you clean your plate carefully before you wash it, lunchtime's rinse water can become dinnertime's wash water.

When washing or showering, turn off the water while soaping up. As Magoo says, "It will never get any warmer!"

Please use water sparingly, so there's enough for all of us.

SANITATION – OUR FAMOUS BLUE SKIES LOOS

Blue Skies' outhouses are known throughout the civilised world as the sweetest and most hygienic loos ever! Please help us maintain these high standards.

Use the "one poop, one scoop method" (one scoop of sawdust).

Close the lid once you are done, PLEASE. It helps the loo vent properly and makes tomorrow's visit so much more pleasant-ish.

Don't put anything down the hole with a half-life longer than a week, such as beer cans, sanitary products, baby wipes, or underwear (yes, you read that correctly).

Volunteer for a sanitation shift; it's a quick and easy way to contribute to the festival! Give your loo cleaning volunteers your love and gratitude when you see them at work.

We try, to the best of our ability, to provide a safe, clean environment for all attendees and in that effort we do suggest using all precautions to make yourself feel comfortable, like wearing a mask and providing enough personal space while waiting in line.

Hand-washing

While there are hand-washing stations around the festival, and hand sanitizer available, it's a smart thing to set up a hand-washing station at your own campsite or bring your own preferred cleaning products: such as hand sanitizer, wipes or wet cloths.

RESPECT, CARE AND KINDNESS

We all contribute to making Blue Skies the magical festival we look forward to all year long. One of the simplest and best ways to maintain the good vibes is by respecting people's boundaries and only touching people with their consent. People aren't always comfortable with being touched, so if you're not sure, just ask before hugging or touching someone, and be ready to accept it if they're not interested.

If you experience or witness harassment, assault, or disrespectful or otherwise harmful behaviour, you're encouraged to ask for it to stop, to intervene if it is safe to do so, and to communicate the situation to Security as soon as you can. The volunteers at the Info Booth will help connect you with Security, First Aid, or anyone else you need to help you deal with situations that you aren't comfortable handling on your own.

The Security team will follow up on every report of harmful behaviour and remain involved until it's resolved. On rare occasions, when resolving a situation calls for removing someone from the festival, that's what we do.

SAFE 'N' SOUND

Blue Skies is a special place, but if something goes wrong, know that support is close by. Whether you need help or see someone else who does, don't hesitate to reach out. Security—easily recognized by their teal (bluish-green) Blue Skies T-shirts—are always available and stationed at the Gate and the Info Booth overnight. They will follow up on every report and stay involved until the situation is resolved.

**Blue Skies Music Festival is not responsible for
any injury, loss, or damage, however caused.
All information is subject to change without notice.**



VOLUNTEERING

We are so lucky to be here during this wonderful weekend for camping and music! Did you know that this festival has always been run by volunteers? The passion of the volunteers is part of the magic of this weekend, keeping true to the original founders’ focus on music AND community. To keep the magic, not to mention food, cars and toilet paper flowing, we need additional help! Interested in helping out? If so, go to the sign-up board near the Info Booth and talk with a Volunteer Coordinator. They have a broad view of what’s going on, where extra help might be needed and where you could fit in. Best of all, they can find places suitable for any age or ability, so adults and kids can volunteer together. You can volunteer in parking, sanitation, the Kids’ Area and in many other areas.

Please note all volunteers (over 18) must take a short training course on how to assist people with disabilities. This training takes a few minutes and is available at the Info Booth and at each volunteer check-in station. You can also take the training online. Here’s the link: <https://www.accessforward.ca/customerService/intro>

Here’s a grid where you can write in what and where you (and your friend) have signed up to volunteer. Have a great festival!

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning			
Afternoon			
Evening			

THE MC (MASTERS OF CEREMONY) TEAM

MAGOO

Blue Skies is happening all around while Magoo is up there on stage as its beating heart, connecting with the artists and the crowd. Our beloved Master of Ceremonies does it all – fast on his feet and even faster at improvising – and this year is keeping it real for his 48th time.

Over the past decade or so, his pal Jake Roels has been his tech/backstage guy during the festival and, more recently, his partner teaching ‘Singing Round the Campfire’ at the Blue Skies Adult Music Camp. Last year, a natty Jake ventured out on the Main Stage and did a little *introductionation* himself. This year, in the spirit of intergenerational mentoring that works both ways, Magoo has added one more bright light. Eva Peringer, Blue Skies baby, keener, key volunteer, Hat and ‘Good gracious, she’s got yer back’ pal, to complete the MC Team that will steer the big ship. See ya out there!



EVA PERINGER

Born and raised just 45 minutes from the festival, Eva Peringer is a Toronto-based camp professional and performing arts educator. From belting it out in the Kids’ Choir to fiddling, singing and dancing with the Blue Skies Fiddle Orchestra, the Blue Skies Stage (and any other stage she can find) has always felt like home. Eva has spent the past 13 years as a festival organizer—first as a Volunteer Coordinator and more recently as co-Hat of the Fern Bar. Now, for her 30th Blue Skies (!!!), she is thrilled to return to the Main Stage as part of the MC team.



JAKE ROELS

A loop-pedalling, fiddle-sawing, theory-slinging campfire jam wizard, Jake has led the Blue Skies Adult Music Camp (Campfire Jam stream) with Magoo since 2019—helping pickers and strummers go from “what key is this in?” to leading their own rip-roaring jams. A lifelong Blue Skies kid turned multi-instrumentalist alt-pop oddball, Jake has performed on the Blue Skies stage(s) for decades—and sent Magoo into space (digitally, at least). Virtual doer of the Blue Skies Virtual Festival in 2020 and 2021, storyteller and art organizer, Jake now co-MCs with joy, mischief, and a deep love for this one-of-a-kind community.



LET'S HELP EACH OTHER ENJOY THE CONCERTS AT BLUE SKIES!

We're pretty sure there are precious few music festivals where you can actually sit on the grass and be at eye level with the musicians on stage. This creates a special intimacy between performers and audience. It really makes the Blue Skies magic possible.

We want everyone to enjoy these fantastic concerts in this gorgeous natural amphitheatre. Please be mindful of your fellow music lovers while sharing the good vibes.

Let's help people behind us see the stage—use low chairs and blankets—there's a great view at the back for tall chairs if that's all you have.

Let's take dancing and conversation to the side of the hill so people around you can enjoy the concert. Please take your smoke break away from the crowd, so sensitive lungs can breathe.

Bring your little ones to the benches at the front so they can see too. Nowhere else can little kids get so close to the music! To keep everyone safe, please keep the kids from dancing on the small apron stage in front of the main stage.

And watch out for your sleeping little ones and friends: especially when it's dark, people are moving around, and the dance party is happening.

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS

SHAUIT

Main Stage, 7:30 pm

Workshop: Saturday 11 am - 12 noon, Finger

Workshop: Saturday 1 pm - 2 pm, Main Stage

Hailing from Quebec's north shore, Innu singer-songwriter Shauit ingeniously mixes reggae, dancehall and soul with Innu-aimun, his native language, along with tracks in Creole, French and English. Shauit's songs are a musical fresco that offer honest, engaging stories filled with emotion and personal experiences. His breakout album "*Apu Peikussiak*" (2017) won the Félix for Indigenous Language Album of the Year at the First ADISQ Gala 2023, Best Indigenous Album at the Indigenous Music Awards, and Best Singer-Songwriter at the Folk Music Awards. Shauit's follow-up album, "*Natukun*" (2023), features collaborations with Quebecois artists, delivering music that is by turns festive, introspective and mesmerizing.

<https://www.facebook.com/Innureggaeman/>



CREEKBED CARTER HOGAN

Main Stage, 8:30 pm

Workshop: Saturday 12 noon - 1 pm, Meadow

Workshop: Saturday 2 pm - 3 pm, Hilltop

Workshop: Sunday 12 noon - 1 pm, Hilltop

Creekbed Carter Hogan is a trans nonbinary folk singer, artist and writer hailing from Austin, Texas. Rooted in the eccentric preoccupations of a messy Catholic childhood, Carter has been blazing a trail in the Austin music scene and in festivals across the U.S. South, with songs that pierce the soul, tickle the funny bone, and showcase a unique blend of self-taught folk picking and queer mayhem. With two albums, "*Creekbed Carter*" (2024) and "*Looking*" (2021), under their belt, Carter's outsider legacy of DIY energy, genre-bending, and pushing at societal norms is intent on making space for everyone. In their world, joy is found in deep pain, community is built in profound difference, and change sits at the tail end of every honest note.

www.creekbedcarter.com



MOSKITTO BAR



Main Stage, 9:30 pm

Workshop: Saturday 11 am - 12 noon, Main Stage

Workshop: Saturday 2 pm - 3 pm, Main Stage

Moskitto Bar closed out Friday night here at Blue Skies 3 years ago and did a bang-up job. This Toronto-based band excels at blending global sounds and rhythms, fusing influences from Breton (Celtic French), Balkan, Latin, and Middle Eastern music. Led by Tangi Ropars of Lemon Bucket Orchestra fame, this diverse lineup of talented musicians plays a mix of traditional instruments — the accordion, violin, clarinet, djembe, upright bass and oud. Their high-energy performances, filled with infectious rhythms and intricate melodies, are captured on their two records — *Moskitto Bar* (2019) and *Augusta av* (2021). Moskitto Bar is all about using music to celebrate cultural diversity and connection, using their music's universal appeal and rhythmic intensity.

www.moskittobar.ca/



SATURDAY & SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

OPEN STAGE FOR PERFORMERS

Saturday and Sunday from noon – 2 pm

At the Open Stage, musicians of all ages are invited to come and strut your stuff. Bring your instruments for playing, voices for singing, hands for clapping and ears for listening. What better way to get into the Blue Skies spirit?

THE BLUE SKIES SHOWCASE

Sunday, 3 pm, Main Stage

- **Bright Strings Community Fiddle Orchestra**, led by Cindy McCall (see page 24) Fiddle Orchestra practices are Saturday and Sunday at noon at the Swamp gazebo.
- **Kids' Choir**, led by Torin Bond and Hannah Lyon, with accompaniment by Chris DeAngelis. Kids' Choir practices are on Saturday and Sunday at 2:15 pm on the Kids' area large stage.
- **Ukulele Orchestra**, led by Christine Graves. The Ukulele Orchestra practices are at the Swamp gazebo on Saturday at 10:30 am and Sunday at 1:30 pm.

THE BLUE SKIES SQUARE DANCE

Saturday, 4 pm, and Sunday, 4:15 pm, Main Stage

Join in the fun in the biggest square dance you will ever see! Enjoy a live dance band of guest artists and Blue Skies musicians.

Emily Addison – Square Dance caller

Emily Addison is a dynamic dance caller, trad musician, and organizer from Ottawa. Emily brings a warm and playful energy for a grand ol' time of fun. From spirited contras, to circles and longways dances, to foot-stompin' squares, Emily loves to figure out just the right dance for folks on the floor. And if you've ever dreamed of leading a dance yourself, don't miss Emily's workshop where she will teach folks the basics of calling. Let's dance!



Nathan Smith – Square Dance band leader

Saturday, 1 pm, Swamp - Join the Square Dance Band

Nathan Smith is a fiddle player, composer, and singer based in Smiths Falls. He is a founding member of The Barrel Boys (who open Saturday night this year on the Blue Skies Main Stage), Vinta, Happy Trails, Prospector, and performs in a duo with Hannah Shira Naiman. Between these projects, Nathan has released seven studio albums, as well as a solo album called "*Let It Rest, Let It Rise*." Nathan is also in the workshop "Singing with Fiddles" at 11 am on Sunday.



SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERTS

THE BARREL BOYS



Main Stage, 7:00 pm

Workshop: Saturday 2 pm - 3 pm, Swamp

Workshop: Sunday 1 pm - 2 pm, Meadow

The Barrel Boys are a powerhouse 5-member bluegrass/folk ensemble from Toronto known for their rich vocal harmonies, killer picking (guitar, fiddle, dobro, banjo and bass), and a fun-loving, down-to-earth stage presence. Forged over a 2-year long apprenticeship of regular pub sets, where all five members crowded around a single vocal mic, The Barrel Boys have been featured at music festivals across Canada. Each band member writes and sings their own songs, making for a wide stylistic range showcased in their three albums of original material (the most recent is *Mainline* (2020), and one gospel album.

<https://thebarrelboys.com/>

TROJKA NOMAD

Main Stage, 8:00 pm

Workshop: Saturday 11 am - 12 noon, Main Stage

Workshop: Sunday 12 noon - 1 pm, Meadow

Trojka Nomad are three women, Margot, Manon and Brunelle, who met at a jazz school in the south of France and discovered a shared love of polyphonic Eastern European music. Always looking for new colours in their music, they have rearranged traditional music pieces you may have heard before, but never like

this. Trojka Nomad have created a captivating repertoire that will take you on a journey through storytelling, ballads, dance, and female emancipation, thanks to their three voices, their guitar, their double bass, and their percussion.



LAURA CORTESE

Main Stage, 9:00 pm

Workshop: Saturday 11 am - 12 noon, Hilltop

Workshop: Saturday 12 noon - 1 pm, Meadow

Workshop: Sunday 11 am - 12 noon, Swamp

Laura Cortese is an adventurous spirit who goes where the wind takes her. In her travels, Laura has found a global network of collaborators—friends and mentors who have helped her master many musical traditions. She now makes her home in Ghent, Belgium, where she does what she is best at: building musical communities. During the global pandemic lockdown, Laura created a new solo show based on original American folk songs where the audience becomes her band, stamping and clapping, and singing along. Laura performs internationally, exploring, and exalting in her passion for American roots music. She has seven solo albums under her belt and more with her band, The Dance Cards.

<https://thisislauracortese.com/#home-section>



AL QAHWA



Main Stage, 10:00 pm

Workshop: Saturday 11 am - 12 noon, Main Stage

Workshop: Saturday 12 noon - 1 pm, Main Stage

Al Qahwa, Arabic for “coffee house”, is a Toronto-based world music ensemble founded in 2016 by Maryem Tollar. Their first three albums covered popular traditional songs from Syria, Egypt and Iraq, and their fourth album “Weyn Allah” (Where is God) (2023) covers their own original repertoire. Their goal is simple and bold — to use music to bring feelings of freedom and belonging to the world and to unite humanity through their original world music. The title track “Weyn Allah” asks about inequity and racism to the tune of a qanun, saxophone and backing vocals in Arabic and English. A second song incorporates French lyrics that promote acceptance, and a third follows a tango. This explains their nomination for the 2024 “Oliver Schroer — Pushing The Boundaries” Canadian Folk Music Award. www.alqahwa.ca/

THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Main Stage, 11:00 pm

Workshop: Saturday 1 pm - 2 pm, Main Stage

Workshop: Sunday 11 am - 12 noon, Main Stage

the SPECIAL INTEREST group has been performing its infectious blend of conscious lyrics and danceable grooves in Toronto and across Ontario since 2014, bringing a new rhythm to songs of hope and struggle at clubs, concert venues, labour meetings and political rallies. They perform brand new versions of classics and little-known gems, generating a dialogue of songs with elements of folk, blues, rock, R&B, jazz, reggae and ska. the SPECIAL INTEREST group is all about celebrating the power of song, being conscious in the lyrics, the stories and the groove. This stellar cast of well-known musicians with decades of experience features Rebecca Campbell on vocals and guitar, Kevin Barrett on guitar and vocals, Jim Bish on sax, flute and vocals, Ian de Souza on bass, and Rakesh Tewari on drums.

www.thespecialinterestgroup.ca/



SUNDAY NIGHT CONCERTS

LEONARD SUMNER

Main Stage, 7:30 pm

Workshop: Saturday 12 noon - 1 pm, Meadow

Workshop: Sunday 12 noon - 1 pm, Main Stage

Anishinaabe MC/Singer/Songwriter Leonard Sumner's storytelling flows directly from the shores of Little Saskatchewan First Nation, located in the heart of the Interlake of Manitoba. In First Nations cultures, traditional songs and stories communicate histories, life lessons and philosophy from one generation to the next. Leonard has woven an enticing roots-blues-rap-country fusion around that traditional content. Unblinkingly honest, his lyrics are defiant yet vulnerable, and deliver the message: "We are still here and our voices must be heard." Leonard has recorded three albums: *Standing in the Light* (2018), *Rez Poetry* (2020) and *Thunderbird* (2021).

www.leonardsumner.com/



LENA JONSSON TRIO

Main Stage, 8:30 pm

Workshop: Saturday 11am - 12 noon, Hilltop

Workshop: Sunday 1 - 2 pm, Hilltop

Workshop: Sunday 2 - 3 pm, Swamp

Swedish multi-award-winning fiddler Lena Jonsson blends her deep knowledge of traditional Swedish folk music with innovative artistic sensibilities, crafting a unique style blending in rock, pop, American old-time, and bluegrass traditions. Joined by special guest guitarist Yann Falquet and bassist Johan Lindbom, they form a virtuosic playful trio whose unique tunes range from playful schottisches and melancholic waltzes to virtuosic polkas. A central melody for each song becomes a multi-layered composition, a synthesis of folk, classical, jazz and hints of other world music traditions. Jonsson has written and released three albums including *"Places"* (2019), *"Stories from the Outside"* (2020), and *"Elements"* (2023).

<https://www.lenajonsson.com/>



PINER

Main Stage, 9:30 pm

Workshop: Sunday 11 am - 12 noon, Meadow

Workshop: Sunday 12 noon - 1 pm, Hilltop

Piner (Claya Way-Brackenbury) is an alt-folk singer-songwriter based in Katarokwi (Kingston) who has been coming to Blue Skies since she was 2 months old. Backed by a 4-person band (Jason Mercer, Josh Lyon, Arden Rogalsky and Dylan Lodge), Piner's indie-folk songs are about telling stories and delving into their deeper meaning. Piner takes the listener into the stories of others, connects with the complexities of these challenging times, and encourages a new world of compassion and connection. Piner's latest album is *"A Netherworld"* (2023). Previous albums are *"The Breaking Point"* (2018) and *"Root Bound"* (2019). This year, in addition to being a Main Stage act, Piner is also a songwriting instructor at the Blue Skies Kids' Art Camp.

<https://www.facebook.com/pinermusic9/>



LARA KLAUS

Main Stage, 10:30 pm

Workshop: Sunday 1 pm - 2 pm, Finger

Workshop: Sunday 5 pm - 6 pm, Meadow

Lara Klaus, originally from Brazil, is a Montreal-based percussionist, vocalist and artist known for seamlessly blending Afro-Brazilian rhythms with contemporary soul-pop influences. Lara uses her art to advocate for diversity, and celebrate joy and resistance. In 2014, she founded Ladama, an all-female quartet known for its bold performances. Lara is an exceptional communicator whose workshops connect people with their bodies, their voices, and the legacy of Afro-Indigenous resistance music. Lara has released one album, *"Força do Gesto"* (2018) and has another album due for release. Ladama have released two albums, *"Ladama"* (2017) and *"Oye Mujer"* (2020).

www.laraklaus.com

www.ladamaproject.org/english



CURTAIN PERFORMERS

JING XIA

Workshop: Saturday 12 noon - 1 pm, Main Stage

Workshop: Sunday 1 - 2 pm, Main Stage

Jing Xia is a professional guzheng (Chinese zither) artist and ethnomusicologist based in Newfoundland. Born and raised in Hunan, China, Xia's music fuses traditional Chinese music to folk music, to experimental fusion and beyond, pushing boundaries in her collaborations with symphony orchestras and traditional rock bands, blending Chinese classics with post-rock influences. She won the 2023 East Coast Music Award for "Roots/Traditional Recording of the Year" and the 2023 MusicNL Award for "Album of the Year" for her solo album *The Numinous Journey*.

www.jing-xia.com



CHRISTINE GRAVES

Christine Graves' songs are heartfelt, poignant and delivered with a sideways smile. This Canadian songstress was a member of Malaika, the four women world-beat a cappella sensation. Word-play poetry is Christine's biggest driver when it comes to songwriting, although she does enjoy flexing the vocal chords with unusual melody and harmony. Following a hiatus, Christine's latest album, *"Everyday Life"*, was released in late 2022. Look for her local shows and as the newest member of Ottawa's driving folk sound sensation, the Tin Constellations. Christine is also leading the Ukulele Orchestra this year at Blue Skies.

www.christinegraves.com



CHRIS DEANGELIS & KAT ARMSTRONG

Chris DeAngelis and Kat Armstrong are a captivating folk duo based in Ottawa and known for their soulful blend of folk, jazz, and blues music. The duo, with Kat on vocals and Chris on guitar and vocals, is quickly becoming a staple in Ottawa's music scene, with regular shows at venues such as Night Oat and Ottawa Valley Coffee. They've spent the last year writing new material, shaping their sound, enchanting audiences with their synergy and rapport, and are eager to share their gifts with broader audiences this summer. They can be found online at [@itschrisandkat](https://www.instagram.com/itschrisandkat).



ALLYSANN MEI

Workshop: Sunday 11 am - 12 noon, Meadow

Allysann Mei brings a very special blend of wit, charm and passion to her songwriting and musical performance. The Chelsea-based singer-songwriter's sweet melodies and introspective songs draw listeners into an intimate space, inviting reflection and feelings. With a delicate yet strong voice, and carefully-crafted lyrics, Allysann shares her own thoughts and reflections from her little snippet of the world.

<https://www.instagram.com/allysannmei/>



LOTUS WIGHT

Workshop: Saturday 1 pm - 2 pm, Hilltop

Workshop: Sunday 10 - 11 am, Swamp

Lotus Wight is the stage name of artist Sam Allison. Long known for his work as the banjo player for Sheesham, Lotus and Son (which performed here at Blue Skies in 2014), the multi-instrumentalist Allison has performed in music festivals around the globe, sharing knowledge of bygone traditions with love, humor and enthusiasm.

Lotus Wight has released two albums – *Ode to the Banjo* (2015), and *Original Works for Voice and Banjo, Volume One* (2024). This latter collection of songs has been hailed as timeless works of art and Sam is busily preparing his next batch of songs.

www.lotuswight.com



OTHER SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

As always, Blue Skies is blessed with an abundance of musical friends, some new and many long-standing. They grace our music workshops and Main Stage this weekend, and help keep the music happening at campfires long into the night. To Liv Cazolla, Becky Poole, Brian Sanderson, James Stephens, Michael Ball, Evalyn Parry, b!Wilder, Evelyn MacIver, Teilhard Frost, Yan Falquet, Charlie Petch, and the many other hyper-talented festival-goers who make this festival so special, a heartfelt thank you!

TREVOR MILLS

Trevor Mills has been a regular at Blue Skies for some time now. You'll see him wandering around the site with his double bass. He's been known to join in the square dance band, accompany the ukulele orchestra and choir, and join in late night campfires and Fern Bar jams. He has also recently rejoined the band Digging Roots and has toured to Chile, the UK, Montreal and Kansas with them.

XEFIRA GANTON

Xefira (she/her) is a trans-genre fiddle player and songwriter emerging from deep cover, where she's crafted whole zines of joyful new tunes. "Toronto Queer Fiddle Tunes: Vol. 1" came out last year, and she's working on a sequel. After 7 years in the bluegrass world with Switchback Road, Xefira is stretching her wings & breaking binaries to bring you protest songs & soup jigs, along with wild selections from her queer Tolkien-inspired parody musical. An architect by day, Xefira can often be heard singing around the community with Marching Disorder, a music-making collective and radical brass band.



MADDY MACNAB

Maddy (they/them) swapped out the world of classical viola for the joyful cacophony of fiddle tunes some years ago and hasn't looked back. They are one of the organizers of the Toronto Old Time Social monthly jam. An enthusiastic amateur with a lot to learn in the vast world of traditional music, Maddy remains humbly in service of the groove.



ALI MCCORMICK

Known as "The Lioness of Lanark" for her mane-like hair and powerful vocals, Ali McCormick grew up next door to Blue Skies in the Lanark Highlands. Live music around the kitchen table was a common occurrence on that off-grid farm. With help and encouragement from her family, Ali began writing songs and eventually her folks chipped in for an acoustic cutaway. She brought that guitar back and forth across the country as a youngster playing anywhere people wanted to hear her music. After many years and many, many songs, Ali has developed a musical style all her own. Ali is hosting the Open Stage this year at Blue Skies.

THE BLUE SKIES CHOIR

JANE LEWIS AND KATHERINE WHEATLEY

The Blue Skies choir is led for the 2nd year by the amazing duo of Jane Lewis, choir director, and Katherine Wheatley, accompanist. Both Jane and Katherine are strong believers in the power of music and singing to bring people together. They co-lead weekly choir groups in their hometown of Guelph, as well as a bi-annual Women's Music Weekend retreat. They each lead various music workshops around Ontario, alongside their individual careers as singer-songwriters. Jane is in the duo "Gathering Sparks," and Katherine tours with the trio "Boreal." They have multiple recordings.

www.janelewis.ca & www.gatheringsparks.com

www.katherinewheatley.com & www.borealsongs.com



Blue Skies Choir Practice Schedule

Choir practice is in the Choir Loft, tucked in behind the Kids' Area. Everyone is welcome and music is provided. No experience is necessary, just the love of singing!

Friday 5 pm – Early Bird Choir Meet and Greet

Saturday 10:30 am – An important rehearsal, bring your coffee!

Saturday 5:30 pm – The important rehearsal

Sunday 9 am – The more important rehearsal

Sunday 1 pm – The MOST important rehearsal

Sunday 6:30 pm – Gather beside the Stage with your music

Sunday 7 pm – Performance time! We take to the Main Stage!!

UKULELE ORCHESTRA

CHRISTINE GRAVES - UKULELE ORCHESTRA

Main Stage, Sunday, 3:00 pm

Workshop: Saturday, 10:30 am - 12 noon, Swamp

Workshop: Sunday, 1:30 pm - 3 pm, Swamp

Christine's ukulele journey began in 2008 in a music workshop at the CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival. Invigorated and delighted, she explored cover songs to sing, and then songwriting with the remarkable four-stringed friend. A teacher training with James Hill, she developed the skills to lead others. Christine conducted the Ukulele Orchestra in 2023 and is thrilled to be back at this year's Blue Skies Music Festival.



FIDDLE ORCHESTRA

CINDY MCCALL AND THE BRIGHT STRINGS COMMUNITY FIDDLE ORCHESTRA



Main Stage, Sunday 3 pm Showcase

Workshop Saturday 12 noon - 1 pm, Swamp

Workshop Sunday 12 noon - 1:30 pm, Swamp

The Bright Strings Community Fiddle Orchestra directed by Cindy McCall has its shiny new name and continues the proud 25-year-old tradition of the Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra. This is an all-ages group of 60+ fiddlers, and accompanying instruments hailing from Lanark and Frontenac Counties, with a few distant members joining the Friday Zoom class.

Their fiddle music is sure to get your toes tapping and the fun they are having is contagious! It's always a joy to hear the new "crop" of tunes they bring each year to the festival. Friends old and new are invited to bring their instruments to the Swamp Gazebo for the "Join the Fiddle Orchestra" workshops on Saturday and Sunday. The Orchestra then performs at the Sunday afternoon Blue Skies Showcase.

This 25th-year anniversary is a special one for the orchestra. The support given by the Blue Skies Festival over the years has kept the fiddle tradition alive in the local area, taking the music out into local schools and to local and regional events like the Perth Pride parade, the Festival of Small Halls, as well as local farmers markets, seniors residences and other community events.

For forty weeks every year, the Fiddle Orchestra teaches four in-person classes every Saturday at the Maberly or Burgess halls. Each year, they explore a variety of styles and techniques with a particular interest in building the ability to play harmony and counterpoint. As well as fiddles, Cindy scores parts for cello, bass, guitar, whistle, mandolin, octave fiddle and viola.

Anyone interested in joining in the fun can call Cindy at 613-278-2448 or email her at brightstringsfiddle@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/962111450498255/>

WORKSHOPS

Workshops at Blue Skies are divided into different types – holistic, music and kids’ (plus some that we think will appeal to teens). Holistic workshops are chosen to appeal to a wide variety of festival goers and cover an astounding variety of topics. The music workshops are usually led by a host and one or two scheduled participants, with the hope that other musicians will be able to and want to join in. Generally, the holistic workshops are scheduled earlier in the day and the music workshops in the late morning and afternoon.

WANT TO GIVE A WORKSHOP NEXT YEAR AT BLUE SKIES?

Enjoying the workshops at Blue Skies this year? Can you imagine you or someone you know giving a workshop? What are you passionate about? What do you really want to share with others? This is a safe place to develop your presentation skills and have fun at the same time. And workshop presenters receive a free camping ticket to the festival! We have holistic, teen and kid workshops. Start thinking of amazing Blue Skies workshops for next year. The link to submit your proposals will be up on the Blue Skies Music Festival website starting on Dec 1 until Feb 15. Check the website for updates.

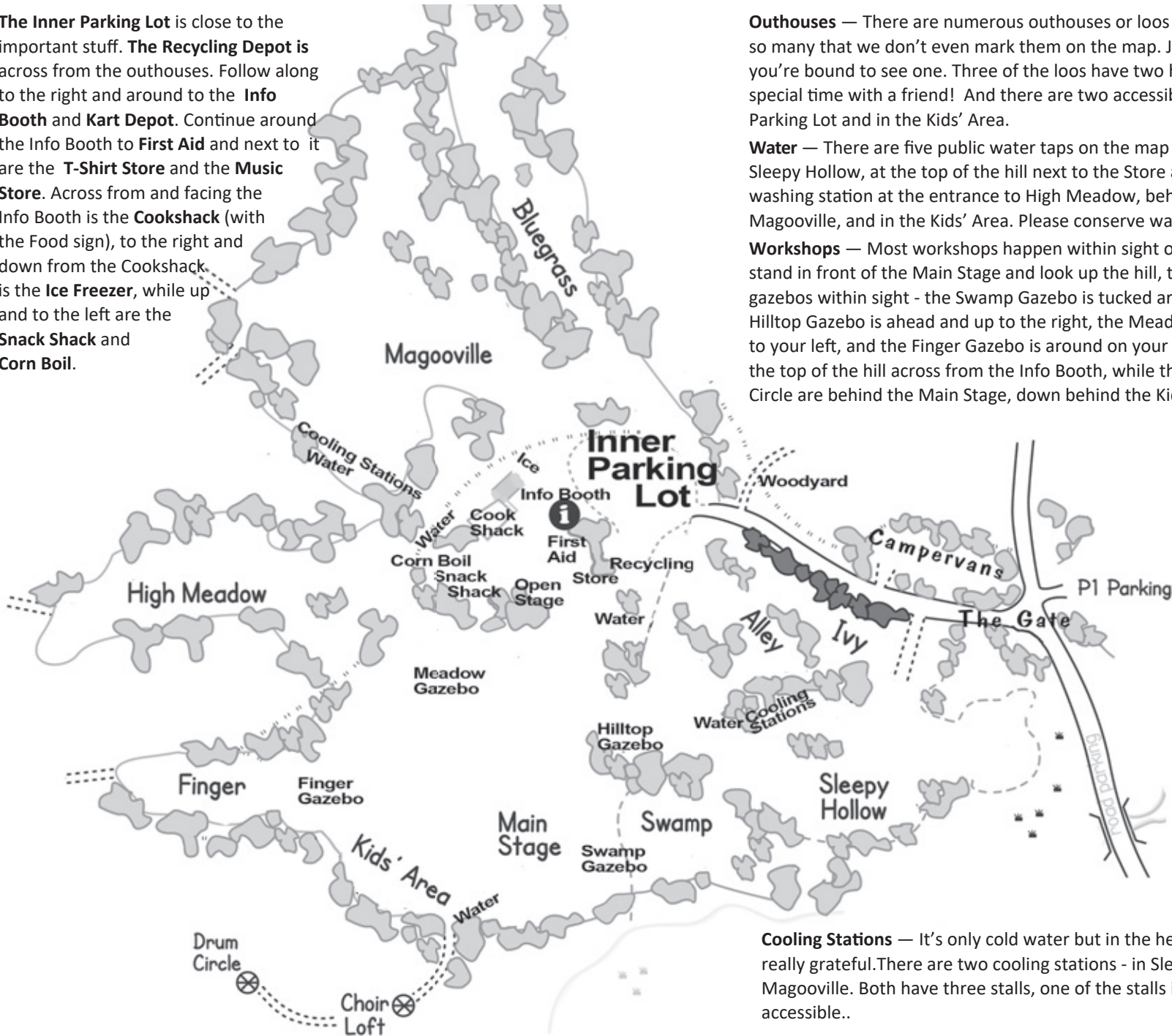
www.blueskiesmusicfestival.ca



	Main Stage	Finger	Drum Circle	Meadow
9:00	Hands in clay Cathy Reeves & Emilie Meredith	Off-Grid and On Our Wits Michael Nickerson & Claire Beetge	The Birth Of A Hand Drum Donna Mcleod, Shabogesic & Mandy Perissonotto	Breathe and Flow Yoga Alexandra Gruffydd
10:00	Laughter Unleashed Kit Pineau & Jenny Carver	Building Inclusiveness Michele Corbeil & members of the Accessibility Committee	Puppet Making Maddy Macnab & Emma Langley	Dance like a Chiropractor Andrew Klarer & Kendra Bell
11:00	Looking to the East Moskitto Bar, Trojka Nomad & Al Qahwa	Innu Music Shautit	Botany - Discover Biodiversity Joe Gabriel	Stitching Connections Bridget O'Flaherty
Noon	Zithers!! Jing Xia & Al Qahwa	Dance Calling 101 Emily Addison		Songs Have Power Leonard Sumner, Laura Cortese & Creekbed Carter Hogan
1:00	Reggae the SPECIAL INTEREST group & Shautit	Musical Saw Liv Cazzola & Becky Poole		Songwriting Tips for Grief The Gertrudes & Evalyn Parry
2:00	Global Folk Dance Moskitto Bar	Intro to DADGAD Guitar Yann Falquet		Queer Fiddle Tunes Xefira Ganton & Maddy MacNab
3:00				
4:00	Square Dance Caller: Emily Addison Band leader: Nathan Smith			
5:00				

Hilltop	Swamp	Open Stage	
The Fire Circle Thoma Rene, Felix Simpson & David Pare	Tai Chi Dale Driver	Ukulele Jam for Teens Sam Maloney & Azalea Atkin	9:00
Healing Sisterhood Christina Elizabeth Miller & Jess Williams	Devil Sticks Diabolo Juggling Ethan Anderman & Jessie Young	The Art of Mending Jasper Lyon Wicke & Abbie Miolée	10:00
	Join the Ukulele Orchestra Christine Graves		
Transatlantic Fiddle Tunes Laura Cortese, Lena Jonsson, James Stephens & Michael Ball		Origami Flower Folding 101 Cortenay Sarion & Mark Downey	11:00
Horns Go HERE Brian Sanderson	Join the Fiddle Orchestra Cindy McCall	Open Stage for Performers Ali McCormick	Noon
Instruments Are My Best Friends Lotus Wight & Brian Sanderson	Join the Square Dance Band Nathan Smith		1:00
First Lines: Songwriting Creekbed Carter Hogan	Vocal Harmony The Barrel Boys		2:00
			3:00
			4:15
Blue Skies Choir Loft Friday 5 pm Meet and Greet Saturday 10:30 am Choir Practice Saturday 5:30 pm Choir Practice			5:00

The Inner Parking Lot is close to the important stuff. **The Recycling Depot** is across from the outhouses. Follow along to the right and around to the **Info Booth** and **Kart Depot**. Continue around the Info Booth to **First Aid** and next to it are the **T-Shirt Store** and the **Music Store**. Across from and facing the Info Booth is the **Cookshack** (with the Food sign), to the right and down from the Cookshack is the **Ice Freezer**, while up and to the left are the **Snack Shack** and **Corn Boil**.



Outhouses — There are numerous outhouses or loos at Blue Skies, 17 in total, so many that we don't even mark them on the map. Just look around and you're bound to see one. Three of the loos have two holes so you can share that special time with a friend! And there are two accessible loos, in the Inner Parking Lot and in the Kids' Area.

Water — There are five public water taps on the map - at the Cooling Station in Sleepy Hollow, at the top of the hill next to the Store and Recycling, at the washing station at the entrance to High Meadow, behind the Cooling Station in Magooville, and in the Kids' Area. Please conserve water.

Workshops — Most workshops happen within sight of the Main Stage. If you stand in front of the Main Stage and look up the hill, there are four tarp-covered gazebos within sight - the Swamp Gazebo is tucked around to your right, the Hilltop Gazebo is ahead and up to the right, the Meadow Gazebo is ahead and to your left, and the Finger Gazebo is around on your left. The Open Stage is at the top of the hill across from the Info Booth, while the Choir Loft and Drum Circle are behind the Main Stage, down behind the Kids' Area, up in the woods.

Cooling Stations — It's only cold water but in the heat of August most folks are really grateful. There are two cooling stations - in Sleepy Hollow and in Magooville. Both have three stalls, one of the stalls in Magooville is wheelchair accessible..

	Main Stage	Finger	Drum Circle	Meadow
9:00	Tai Chi Dale Driver	Morning Yoga Katie Weststrate	Sing Walk: A Forest Experience Nicola Oddy	The Magic of Bookbinding Nicole Stafiej & Tanya Glowacki
10:00	Thai Massage Jacqueline McChesney	Elemental Hoop Dance Meghan Robinson & Iris Ahier	Tied in a Knot Adam Smith	Fire Making: Energy of the Sun Tom Marcantonio (at the fire pit)
11:00	Songs of Hope... the SPECIAL INTEREST group		Bush Craft: Build A Shelter Adam Smith	Song Circle Allysann Mei, Evelyn MacIver & Piner
Noon	Spoken Word Leonard Sumner, Evalyn Parry, b!WiLder & Charlie Petch	Middle-Earth Singalong Xefira Ganton		Polyphonic Singing Trojka Nomad
1:00	Chinese Traditional Music Jing Xia	Brazilian Singing: Call and Response Lara Klaus		Bluegrass Jam The Barrel Boys
2:00		Harmony Singing Rebecca Campbell		Mindful Murder Ballads Liv Cazzola & Becky Poole
3:00	The Blue Skies Showcase			
4:15	Square Dance Caller: Emily Addison Band leader: Nathan Smith			
5:00				Brazilian Percussion Lara Klaus

Hilltop	Swamp	Open Stage	
The Magic of Medicinal Mushrooms Jesse Long & Joseph Barker	Skies & Pines: A Plein Air Painting Workshop Frannie Potts & Rachel Karantayer	The Art of Design Olivia Shaw & Sarah McCracken	9:00
	Mouth Bow Lotus Wight	Intro to Macrame Chantal Lawrence	10:00
Break Free From Thought Loops Sheila Mayer	Singing With Your Fiddle Laura Cortese & Nathan Smith	Songs Alive Kirsten Lindell	11:00
Housing Justice Song Circle Piner, Rebecca Campbell & Creekbed Carter Hogan	Join the Fiddle Orchestra Cindy McCall	Open Stage Ali McCormick	Noon
Original Fiddle Tunes Lena Jonsson, Japhy Sullivan & Xefira Ganton	Join the Ukulele Orchestra Christine Graves		1:00
Scandinavian Fiddle Tunes Lena Jonsson			2:00
			3:00
			4:15
Blue Skies Choir Loft Sunday 9 am Choir Practice Sunday 1 pm Choir Practice Sunday 6:30 pm Choir Practice Sunday 7 pm – Performance time!			5:00

WORKSHOPS CONTINUED**SATURDAY****HOLISTIC Hands in clay****9 am - 10 am, Main Stage**

Guided by a professional ceramic artist, participants will enjoy the pleasure of creating simple forms from a ball of clay.

Hosts: Cathy Reeves and Emilie Meredith

HOLISTIC Off-Grid and On Our Wits**9 am - 10 am, Finger**

Enjoy the benefits of self-sufficiency. Energy, food, housing, community, on and off-grid energy systems, eco-housing, and organic food cycles. Join an open discussion about these and the pros and cons of communities, both intentional and those that we find around us.

Hosts: Michael Nickerson and Claire Beetge

HOLISTIC The Birth Of A Hand Drum**9 am - 10 am, Drum Circle**

The drum is significant for Anishinaabe and other Indigenous nations. Anishinaabe believe all things to be animate including drums: a spirit sits within the drum and needs to be called in or birthed. Learn the teachings and songs used in the ceremony of calling in the spirit to the hand drum. Participants' hand drums are welcome to join.

Hosts: Donna Mcleod, Shabogesic and Mandy Perissonotto

TEEN Breathe and Flow Yoga**9 am- 10 am, Meadow**

An all-levels Yoga class. Includes breath work, meditation and movement. Participants can bring their own mat as needed.

Host: Alexandra Gruffydd

HOLISTIC The Fire Circle**9 am - 10 am, Hilltop**

Learn how to form a men's group that fosters accountability, compassion, resilience and growth. For millennia, men have gathered around fires to share wisdom, relate, and support one another. Today, that tradition has been lost. Interconnected men build strong families and communities. Step into the circle—because together, we rise.

Hosts: Thoma Rene, Felix Simpson and David Pare

HOLISTIC Tai Chi**9 am - 10 am, Swamp**

Learn and practice elements of the 108-move Yang style Tai Chi form.

Host: Dale Driver

TEEN Ukulele Jam for Teens**9 am - 10 am, Open Stage**

Play ukulele with Ukulele Sam and Azie! Bring your own ukulele or borrow one from us and learn to play some songs! Everyone is welcome!

Hosts: Sam Maloney and Azalea Atkin

HOLISTIC Laughter Unleashed**10 am - 11 am, Main Stage**

Laughter lightens mental stress, works your heart, lungs, and muscles and increases endorphins released by your brain. The result? A happy, relaxed feeling that will leave you smiling for the rest of the day. This Laughter Class uses stretches, breath work and exercises to make you laugh, magically building to full authentic laughter and a sense of joy. Give it a try!

Hosts: Kit Pineau and Jenny Carver

HOLISTIC Building Inclusiveness**10 am - 11 am, Finger**

Building Inclusive Community – An invitation to share questions, concerns, strategies for feeling more comfortable outside your comfort zone. We want to learn more about how to keep Blue Skies special when you face challenges getting around and managing the rough terrain and busyness of the weekend. What are your strengths and strategies for navigating the challenges of the rough terrain and busyness?

Hosts: Michele Corbeil and members of the Blue Skies Accessibility Committee

HOLISTIC Puppet Making**10 am - 11 am, Drum Circle**

Join us for a joyful puppet-making workshop, perfect for all ages! Inspired by an educator's whimsical creations, this hands-on session invites kids and adults to explore storytelling, craft, and creativity together. Come make something playful and unexpected—no experience needed, just imagination and a sense of fun!

Hosts: Maddy Macnab and Emma Langley

HOLISTIC Dance like a Chiropractor**10 am - 11 am, Meadow**

Join us for an invigorating movement session led by a chiropractor and his niece. Set to a diverse range of music, you'll learn how to move your body in ways you may have never explored before. This class is accessible to everyone, regardless of experience or physical ability.

Hosts: Andrew Klarer and Kendra Bell**HOLISTIC** Healing Sisterhood**10 am - 11 am, Hilltop**

Darling, imagine a space where you can be fully yourself, held by the warmth of loving sisters. Healing Sisterhood is your invitation to connect, share, celebrate, and heal. Together, we'll move, talk, laugh, and create a circle of pure, radiant energy. Get ready to feel deeply connected. Let's make magic together!

Hosts: Christina Elizabeth Miller and Jess Williams**HOLISTIC** Devil Sticks Diablo Juggling**10 am - 10:30 am, Swamp**

WOWZERS! Juggling and circus skills! Whether you're looking to enhance your existing skills or learn something entirely new we'll have a variety of equipment available, including Poi, juggling balls and clubs, devil sticks, and diablos. Feel free to bring your own favorite toys and skills to share with the group!

Hosts: Ethan Anderman and Jessie Young**TEEN** The Art of Mending**10 am - 11 am, Open Stage**

Upcycling clothing combats fast-fashion and fosters self-sufficiency. Mediums like sashiko-style stitching and fabric painting make this activity fun and creative. By offering materials and guidance to teach these skills, our intention is to convey the idea that mending is more than practical - it's an art.

Hosts: Jasper Lyon Wicke and Abbie Miolée**MUSIC** Looking to the East**11 am - 12 noon, Main Stage**

Hear what 'East' means to these bands and how it influences their music. What do they share in common? Fingers crossed for some collaboration.

Hosts: Moskitto Bar, Trojka Nomad and Al Qahwa

MUSIC Innu Music**11 am - 12 noon, Finger**

Join Innu artist Shauit for a unique musical journey exploring the evolution of Innu music. From traditional drum rhythms to Innu folk sounds, and finally to Shauit's own style blending reggae and modern influences, this workshop offers an engaging look at how Indigenous music has grown and transformed. A powerful blend of culture, history, and contemporary sound.

Host: Shauit**HOLISTIC Botany - Discover Biodiversity****11 am - 12 noon, Drum Circle**

Hidden in Plain Sight! Join us for a crash course in botany. Discover vast biodiversity in everyday life, including the grounds of Blue Skies! Learn about identification basics and tools, invasive species management, foraging, eco-friendly gardening, and how anyone can be a scientist. Attendees receive an info package and guide to learning Ontario's plants.

Host: Joe Gabriel**HOLISTIC Stitching Connections****11 am - 12 noon, Meadow**

Continuation from previous years: The art of slow stitching by hand, using eco-friendly materials to create quilt blocks. All materials are provided and you can bring supplies to personalize your experience. Together, let's continue to stitch for a cause as we continue to contribute to the Quilts for Survivors project.

Host: Bridget O'Flaherty**MUSIC Transatlantic Fiddle Tunes****11 am - 12 noon, Hilltop**

Come hear tunes played by these fab fiddlers representing traditions from Scandinavia to Quebec to Louisiana and points in between!

Hosts: Laura Cortese, Lena Jonsson, James Stephens and Michael Ball**TEEN Origami Flower Folding 101****11 am - 12 noon, Open Stage**

Come and learn how to fold beautiful paper flowers that will never wilt or dry! We have lessons on how to fold tulips, lilies and roses for a bright and colorful bouquet!

Hosts: Cortenay Sarion and Mark Downey**MUSIC Zithers!****12 noon - 1 pm, Main Stage**

What is a zither? There are different kinds and we are lucky to have at least TWO at the festival this year. Let's hear all about them.

Hosts: Jing Xia and Al Qahwa

MUSIC Dance Calling 101**12 noon - 1 pm, Finger**

Ever wanted to try calling a square dance? This is your chance to learn a few of the basics and get started!

Hosts: Emily Addison

MUSIC Songs Have Power**12 noon - 1 pm, Meadow**

Can we change the world through song? We already have! This is a space for songs that needed writing. Come and listen or bring a song to share.

Hosts: Leonard Sumner, Laura Cortese and Creekbed Carter Hogan

MUSIC Horns Go HERE**12 noon - 1 pm, Hilltop**

If you brought a horn or wind instrument, come honk and blow!

Host: Brian Sanderson

MUSIC Reggae!**1 pm - 2 pm, Main Stage**

Will it be a jam? A dance party? A sing-along? It's bound to be fun.

Hosts: the SPECIAL INTEREST group and Shauti

MUSIC Musical Saw**1 pm - 2 pm, Finger**

Learn how to play the musical saw. Some saws will be provided, or BYOS (bring-your-own-saw)

Hosts: Liv Cazzola and Becky Poole

MUSIC Songwriting Tips for Grief**1 pm - 2 pm, Meadow**

Here's a chance to sit and write a poem. Join Evalyn Parry and members of The Gertrudes and learn to turn the anger and sorrow in your life into poetry and song, and turn emotions into words. Take away identifying details (so as not to hurt anyone), and lean into the magic of words as a healing tool. Bring a pencil or pen (worksheet provided so that you can write your own poem!).

Hosts: The Gertrudes and Evalyn Parry

MUSIC Instruments Are My Best Friends**1 pm - 2 pm, Hilltop**

An exploration of the quirkier, lesser known tools of the musical trade.

Hosts: Lotus Wight and Brian Sanderson

MUSIC Global Folk Dance**2 pm - 3 pm, Main Stage**

Come and Dance! We will show you some moves.

Hosts: Moskitto Bar

MUSIC Intro to DADGAD Guitar**2 pm - 3 pm, Finger**

Learn how to play in this dynamic open tuning. Bring your guitar or just come and listen.

Host: Yann Falquet

MUSIC Queer Fiddle Tunes**2 pm - 3 pm, Meadow**

Stir up a magic brew of fiddle tunes with the alchemy of queer and trans community-building. If there's a tune that means a lot to you as a queer person, or if you've coaxed an original melody out from where it was hiding in your fiddle, banjo, guitar (or any other instrument), or even if you'd like to just listen or play along — this space is for you. Let's celebrate just how wonderfully queer the fiddle and folk universe can be.

Hosts: Xefira Ganton and Maddy MacNab

MUSIC First Lines: Songwriting**2 pm - 3 pm, Hilltop**

Let's do some writing! First lines get the song off on the right foot and have a big impression on our listeners. Bring writing tools.

Host: Creekbed Carter Hogan

MUSIC Vocal Harmony**2 pm - 3 pm, Swamp**

Let's sing! Learn to sing in parts together.

Hosts: The Barrel Boys



SUNDAY**HOLISTIC** **Tai Chi****9 am - 10 am, Main Stage**

Learn and practice elements of the 108-move Yang style Tai Chi form.

Host: Dale Driver

HOLISTIC **Morning Yoga****9 am - 10 am, Finger**

Welcome the diurnal transition with breath and body flow Yoga designed to release tension and reconnect with the self.

Host: Katie Weststrate

HOLISTIC **Sing Walk: A Forest Experience****9 am - 10:30 am, Drum Circle**

Join music therapist Nicola Oddy on a forest walk where she will guide us in improvisational singing. Experience the connective experience of singing with others and the trees. What will you discover about the forest? What will you discover about your community? What will you discover about yourself?

Host: Nicola Oddy

TEEN **The Magic of Bookbinding****9 am - 10 am, Meadow**

Think of the magic that books bring into our lives. Come learn how to use the magic in your hands to bind a book! We will bring together scrap paper and give it new life, waiting to be marked with your spells.

Hosts: Nicole Stafiej and Tanya Glowacki

HOLISTIC **The Magic of Medicinal Mushrooms****9 am - 10 am, Hilltop**

Explore the magic of medicinal mushrooms in this hands-on workshop. Learn about their healing properties, benefits, and practical uses. Create your own mushroom tea blends or tinctures and discover how these natural wonders can support your well-being. A perfect blend of education, nature, and holistic healing.

Hosts: Jesse Long and Joseph Barker

HOLISTIC **Skies & Pines: A Plein Air Painting Workshop****9 am - 10 am, Swamp**

Learn from Mural Artist Frannie the joy of painting! With over a decade of experience, Frannie will guide you step by step in creating your own watercolour landscape inspired by the festival's beautiful skies and trees. No experience needed—just bring your creativity!

Hosts: Frannie Potts and Rachel Karantayer

HOLISTIC The Art of Design**9 am - 10 am, Open Stage**

Create your own Blue Skies bag, T-shirt, or tapestry. Explore a variety of mediums such as pressed flowers, dyes, embroidery fabric and patchwork. Bring home your finished product and a pamphlet with ideas to continue your creation. Material supplied or use your own clothing.

Hosts: Olivia Shaw and Sarah McCracken

HOLISTIC Thai Massage**10 am - 11 am, Main Stage**

We will perform the massage seated and facing each other to form a meaningful connection. The massage will be taught in sequence and will include techniques from reflexology and Thai massage, focusing on compassionate touch and active listening.

Host: Jacqueline McChesney

HOLISTIC Elemental Hoop Dance**10 am - 12 am, Finger**

Discover the meditative and playful world of Hoop Dance! Awaken your body's natural joy of movement and get an excellent workout. We will explore core hooping, free flow, and off-body in both vertical and horizontal planes. Create a flowing sequence that keeps you spinning with delight!

Hosts: Meghan Robinson and Iris Ahier

HOLISTIC Tied in a Knot**10 am - 11 am, Drum Circle**

An introduction to the logic and geometry of knots and knot tying. The workshop will cover basic geometry knots (such as the rolling hitch and bowline), busy knots (such as the timber-hitch) as well as lashing, tightening and hold-down strategies. Bring ropes of your own, any length and size, or use the ones provided.

Host: Adam Smith

HOLISTIC Fire Making: Energy of the Sun**10 am - 11 am, Meadow Firepit**

Join us at the Meadow Firepit. Learn about the mystery, history and spiritual significance of Fire and the ways we use it. We review different ways to keep warm. Pick up lots of tips and tricks to take home. We will build a mini firebrick rocket stove and cook flat breads/pizza.

Host: Tom Marcantonio

MUSIC Mouth Bow**10 am - 11 am, Swamp**

Lotus Wight (Sam Allison) leads a discussion, demonstration and workshop to build and play the mouth bow; a traditional musical instrument played all over the world, from the Appalachian Mountains and Inuit Nunangat to West Africa. Materials will be supplied and all ages are welcome. After creating an instrument for each person, the group will explore different ways to make sounds and rhythms as a group.

Host: Lotus Wight**HOLISTIC Intro to Macrame****10 am - 11 am, Open Stage**

Macrame is an ancient craft, knotting cords together in decorative patterns. We will learn 3 basic macrame knots, and use them to create a small artwork. Make a bracelet, keychain, feather or mini wall hanging.

Host: Chantal Lawrence**MUSIC Songs of Hope·Protest·Resistance·Resilience****11 am - 12 noon, Main Stage**

Speaking Truth to Power! Underscoring the crucial uplifting role that music plays in any collective gathering demanding change and bringing us together for a common purpose along our path to peace, equality, and justice. Everyone is welcome to sing along or share a song.

Hosts: the SPECIAL INTEREST group**HOLISTIC Bush Craft: Build A Shelter****11 am - 12 noon, Drum Circle**

The hardest part about making things is figuring out how to get two different pieces of stuff to hold together. In this workshop, we will look at ways of using the basics of tying, lashing and rigging to come up with our own ideas for shelter. From thatch roofs to tents to suspension bridges, this approach has its own ancient and organic logic.

Host: Adam Smith**MUSIC Song Circle****11 am - 12 noon, Meadow**

Listen to the well-crafted songs of these three writers. Bring a song to share!

Hosts: Allysann Mei, Evelyn MacIver and Piner

HOLISTIC Break Free From Thought Loops**11 am - 12 noon, Hilltop**

Do you have an unresourceful thought or story that you just can't get out of your head? You know it's not helpful, you try to think of something else and, wham, it's back haunting you. Join Certified CognoMovement Practitioner Sheila Mayer and claim your freedom.

Host: Sheila Mayer**MUSIC Singing With Your Fiddle****11 am - 12 noon, Swamp**

It's a beautiful thing to sing with the fiddle as accompaniment.

Hosts: Laura Cortese and Nathan Smith**HOLISTIC Songs Alive****11 am - 12 noon, Open Stage**

CO-CREATE a song to revive and electrify! Together with RAISED voices we will kindle our hearts to sing for resistance, nourishment and truth. Working with movement, groove, and percussion instruments, we will learn a song and then improvise to co-create our own song as we develop lyrics and tune in together to enliven our spirits.

Host: Kirsten Lindell**MUSIC Spoken Word****12 noon - 1 pm, Main Stage**

Poetry, rhythm, hip hop, improvisation... Let's explore this expressive art form.

Hosts: Leonard Sumner, Evalyn Parry, b!WiLDer and Charlie Petch**MUSIC Middle-Earth Singalong****12 noon - 1 pm, Finger**

Journey into a land of sapphic orcs, star-crossed elves, and dark lord divas as Xefira (she/her) leads a community singalong based on her emerging queer folk/rock revue, "Life Is Better With a Magic Ring: The Rom-Com: The Musical." We'll talk about the power of transformative works that shed new light on classic stories like Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, share songs (with simple sing-along parts), and for those who dare, we might even learn an a cappella round together. *Ring not required for entry. Costumes encouraged.

Host: Xefira Ganton

MUSIC Polyphonic Singing**12 noon - 1 pm, Meadow**

Learn the parts from one of Trojka Nomad's songs!

Hosts: Trojka Nomad

MUSIC Housing Justice Song Circle**12 noon - 1 pm, Hilltop**

Gentrification? Affordability? Renoviction? Let's sing our way out of this crisis.

Hosts: Piner, Rebecca Campbell and Creekbed Carter Hogan

MUSIC Chinese Traditional Music**1 pm - 2 pm, Main Stage**

Jing Xia is an ethnomusicologist from China and is now based in Newfoundland. She plays the guzheng and has plenty to share.

Host: Jing Xia

MUSIC Brazilian Singing: Call and Response**1 pm - 2 pm, Finger**

Brazilians are known for their communal singing, joining their voices as one and forming some of the most passionate and engaging crowds in the world. In this workshop, the artist will guide participants through a journey of call-and-response singing, sharing traditional Brazilian songs and inviting everyone to sing along.

Host: Lara Klaus

MUSIC Bluegrass Jam**1 pm - 2 pm, Meadow**

Come play and sing along!

Hosts: The Barrel Boys

MUSIC Original Fiddle Tunes**1 pm - 2 pm, Hilltop**

Come listen to a variety of styles and approaches to crafting original tunes. Bring one to play!

Hosts: Lena Jonsson, Japhy Sullivan and Xefira Ganton

MUSIC Harmony Singing**2 pm - 3 pm, Finger**

Let's sing together! Rebecca will guide us through multiple parts that blend together.

Host: Rebecca Campbell

MUSIC Mindful Murder Ballads**2 pm - 3 pm, Meadow**

We'll have a look at the history, intersectional angles (feminism, climate, domestic violence), form/structure, and sonic textures of murder ballads.

Hosts: Liv Cazzola and Becky Poole

MUSIC Scandinavian Fiddle Tunes**2 pm - 3 pm, Hilltop**

It's such a treat to have Lena here! Let's learn a tune, or just come and listen.

Host: Lena Jonsson

MUSIC Brazilian Percussion**5 pm - 6 pm, Meadow**

Lara Klaus will lead participants on a journey through rhythms from the Northeast of Brazil, such as coco, baião and maracatu, using both their bodies and instruments. No prior experience is required, and the workshop is open to everyone interested in learning more about the Brazilian musical universe and exploring its possibilities. Bring any percussion instruments you have with you!

Host: Lara Klaus



BLUE SKIES KIDS' AREA

Blue Skies Kids' Area aims to be a safe and creative space for the whole family. Adults and kids are all welcome. Everybody loves your smiling faces. Please note: There is no supervision at the climber/swing area and we are not a baby-sitting service. Please take responsibility for your children's care. So, KIDS, bring your adults!! We want all parents, grandparents, and fairy-friendparents with us!! Come hang out and enjoy the area and workshops!! Grown-up faces can be painted too!! Let's all be a part of the fun!!

Can you imagine you or someone you know giving a Kids' Area workshop? Workshop presenters receive a free camping ticket to the festival! The link to submit your proposals for next year will be up on the Blue Skies Music Festival website starting January 1 until Feb 15, 2026. Check the website for updates.

SATURDAY

Open Crafts (all day)

9 am - 3 pm

Explore the materials. Discover the endless possibilities!! Experiment. Design and make your own creations!! Have fun!! Smile & Laugh!!

Face Painting

9 am - 11 am, Small Stage

Fun Fun Fun!! Join us to have one of our talented face painters paint your face, or paint your own creation on your friends!!!

Hosts: Cedar McLean and Maggie McLean

Festival Creature Wings

9 am - 11 am, Large Stage

Want to add some pizzazz to your Blue Skies Parade outfit? Then come on down and make yourself your very own pair of festival creature wings! Transform yourself into a magical winged creature with recycled materials and paint. All supplies provided, kids of all ages welcome!

Host: Katie Ellis

Parachute Games

10 am - 11 am, Field

Non-competitive, co-operative parachute games for kids' between 5 to 10 years old. Fun Fun Fun!!

Host: Joe Rizk

Kids' Tie-dye

11 am - 12 noon, Out Front

KIDS' time: Get your hands messy and leave with a tie-dyed piece of art!! Bring anything that's made of 100% cotton. Some white t-shirts will be available for sale at the Kids' Area, so BRING CASH. Please bring your own plastic bags to put your creations in and then let them bake in the sun at your campsite. Bring extra bags, if you can. Please take all your tie-dye creations back to your campsite. Have fun!!

Hosts: Mitchell Webster and Rebecca Hodgins

Adult Tie-dye

12 noon - 1 pm, Out Front

Adults: now it's your turn to turn something into tie-dyed art!! Bring anything that's made of 100% cotton. Some white t-shirts will be available for sale at the Kids' Area, so BRING CASH. Please bring your own plastic bags to put your creations in and then let them bake in the sun at your campsite. Bring extra bags, if you can. Please take all your tie-dye creations back to your campsite. Have fun!!

Hosts: Mitchell Webster and Rebecca Hodgins

Parade Wands/Noisemakers

12:30 pm - 2 pm, Small Stage

Sticks & ribbons & bells; Oh My!!! Join us to create your very own magical festival parade wand to sprinkle your magic on Sunday morning's "The Best Parade Ever", right here, at Blue Skies!!

Hosts: Melody Starkweather and Rowan Banister

Washboard Hank & Sweet Muriel (performance)

1 pm - 2 pm, Large Stage

Washboard Hank is a true Blue Skies stalwart and the actual originator of the Blue Skies Sunday morning parade. He is a very well-travelled children's entertainer who has delighted children with his totally wacky combination of great songs and pure creativity. His Blue Skies kids' show is almost as much fun as Sunday morning's parade!



Hosts: Washboard Hank and Sweet Muriel

Tiny Puppets

2 pm - 3:30 pm, Small Stage

Come celebrate the joy of tiny friends by decorating finger puppets with a range of wacky recycled materials. Wanna make a frog? Yes! Feel like having a family of five dragons on your hand? Yes! Bring your imagination and we will help you create!

Host: Madeline McKinnell and David Howlett

Kids' Choir meeting & practice

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm, Large Stage

Come join the Kids' Choir!! Many voices will sing together and determine the nature of sound for this super fun event!!! Practice today. Another practice tomorrow and then perform on the Main Stage!! Yay!!

Hosts: Torin Bond and Hannah Lyon



SUNDAY

The Best Parade Ever! With Magoo & Washboard Hank

9:45 am - 10:15 am, Field

The Best Blue Skies Tradition Ever!! Come one, come all!! Shake those shakers!! Blow those horns!! Bang those pots and pans!! Dress your best!! Wear your most colourful, silliest costume!! Let's make this year's parade the very best ever!! Woot woot!!



Open Crafts

10:15 am - 3 pm (all day)

Explore the materials. Discover the endless possibilities!! Experiment. Design and make your own creations!! Have fun!! Smile & Laugh!!

Wind Chimes & Sun Catchers

10:15 am - 12 noon, Small Stage

In this workshop, kids will learn how to craft a wind chime/sun catcher using sticks found around the festival grounds. A cute keepsake for years to come. Come create a magical wind chime/sun catcher of your own. Perfect to hang up to watch as it dances in the sunlight and sings along with the wind.

Hosts: Beth Cartile and Tricia Cartile

Teilhard Frost (performance)

10:30 am - 11:30 am, Large Stage

The plan is the HAMBONE and we are going to slap ourselves silly! All people on the planet have a version of body percussion; this style is called 'The Hambone'. We will make rhythms with our body and become human drum sets and you can do it pretty much anywhere!

Hosts: Teilhard Frost



Parachute Games

10:30 am - 11:30 am, Field

Non-competitive, co-operative parachute games for kids between 5 to 10 years old. Super Fun!!

Host: Joe Rizk

Giant Bubbles

11:30 am - 12:30 am, Out Front

Do you like bubbles? Of course you do, what a silly question! Have you ever wanted to make giant bubbles? Well, now's your chance! Step into my office and I will show you how to make amazing bubbly orbs that will last just long enough for a child to pop it.

Host: Matt Ellis

Knot Your Average Bracelet: Hemp & Bead Creations

11:30 am - 1 pm, Large Stage

Join us for a knot-tastic adventure in bracelet-making! Learn simple macrame patterns that express your unique style. This will be a creative space to craft, meet new friends, and share your skills. You'll leave with a bracelet (or two!) and a new crafty hobby.

Hosts: Rachel Schleifer and Nicole Stafiej

Fan the heat away!!

12 noon - 2 pm, Small Stage

Love crafting and need to keep cool this Blue Skies weekend? Beat the heat with this fan-tastic craft!! Come create your own paper hand fans, and decorate them any way you desire!!

Hosts: Tanya Glowacki and Emma McLaughlin

Monkey Rock Music (performance)

1 pm - 2 pm, Large Stage

Monkey Rock Music is a fun, participatory music group for young children and their families. Our focus is on getting everyone involved in actions, singing, or playing instruments - there's no just sitting listening to music! Join us for classic kids' songs, as well as original rockers that will get you moving.

Hosts: Monkey Rock Music



Cartooning 101

2 pm - 3:30 pm, Small Stage

Explore the world of cartooning! A fun, and engaging workshop that will benefit any budding artist! Come join us as we unleash your drawing potential!!

Hosts: William Jessup and Beth Cartile

Kids' Choir Practice, then perform on Main Stage

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm, Large Stage

Prepare and practice one more time; then perform at the Blue Skies Showcase on the Main Stage at 3pm-ish!! Woot woot!!

Hosts: Torin Bond and Hannah Lyon with the accompaniment of Chris DeAngelis

FOOD, SNACKS AND ICE

COOKSHACK

Welcome back campers and day passers! The Blue Skies Cookshack has always offered great food at decent prices. We offer a variety of items that suit special dietary needs, but we can't guarantee absolute freedom from allergens (including gluten) in any of our food.

Coffee: 7 am(ish)

Lunch: 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Dinner: 5 pm to 7 pm

Late night pizza: 8 pm until sold out

Please remember that you need to BRING CASH to buy food at Blue Skies. There are no card sales here in the woods! And we implore everyone, especially folks coming on day passes, to please bring your own dishes and cutlery. We can't and won't serve curry or cheesecake on a Frisbee or your hand! If you need a plate, ask around the site. Blue Skies folks love to help.

SNACK SHACK

Frozen treats for your delectation.

Friday: 12 noon to 6 pm

Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm

Sunday: 11 am to 6 pm

CORN BOIL

Fresh, hot corn on the cob! Across from the Snack Shack, next to the Cookshack.

Saturday and Sunday: 4 pm until it's gone

ICE

Cubes and blocks at the foot of the hill, to the right of and down from the Cookshack.

Friday: 12 noon to 6 pm

Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm

Sunday: 11 am to 6 pm

STORE HOURS

T-SHIRT STORE

Friday: closed

Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday: 10 am to 4 pm

Monday: 10 am to 12 noon (if supplies last that long)

Note: There is no electronic payment at the T-shirt store.

Cash is necessary so BRING CASH.

MUSIC STORE

Friday: no sales (sign in for musicians)

Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm, 7:00 pm to 11 pm

Sunday: 10 am to 4 pm, 7:00 pm to 10 pm

Monday: 9 am to 11 am

BLUE SKIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Fun fact: Blue Skies Music Festival is three days of music and community but Blue Skies in the Community (BSIC) is 365 days of music and community! Launched in 1988 as an outreach initiative, this dedicated committee has spent over 30 years fostering creativity and community connection through music, bringing the spirit of Blue Skies to the rural communities surrounding the festival site.

The following programs help ensure that the joy and magic of Blue Skies continues long after the festival ends:

- **Blue Skies Kids' Summer Arts Day Camp** – A creative and fun-filled week where children explore music, art, drama and dance in a supportive outdoor setting.
- **Blue Skies Adult Music Camp** – A few days of immersive musical learning and community for adult musicians of all levels, featuring workshops, jams, and performances.
- **Community Granting Program** – Provides financial support for local arts and music initiatives that reflect the values and spirit of Blue Skies.
- **Music in the Schools** – Supports rural elementary and secondary schools within our catchment area by funding music-focused workshops and interactive concerts. During the 2024–2025 school year, this program served 18 schools, delivering 35 sessions and actively engaging 2,540 students and 268 adults in meaningful musical experiences.

BLUE SKIES 2025 HATS

Blue Skies Music Festival and Blue Skies in the Community are 100% not-for-profit, a registered charity and 100% volunteer run, and have been for 52 years! Something to celebrate, don't you think? Hats are the people responsible for the different parts of the festival. Together, the Hats depend on the dedicated and enthusiastic help of hundreds of volunteers! You're surrounded by volunteers who make Blue Skies a Happening Place.

Area	Hat
Artistic Director	Kate Weekes
Blue Skies in the Community (BSIC)	Shannon Curry
Communication	Haley Rose
First Aid	Isaac Guardino
Gate	Jason Walker
General Coordinator	Jenn Wilson
Holistic	Michelle DeGrandmont
Info Booth	Erica Brown
Kids' Area	Christa Matthews
Kitchen	Julie Mercier, Bria Aird
Legal	Warren Leroy
MC	Magoo
Meeting Minutes	Christine Peringer
Monday Cleanup	Beth Schilling
Music Store	Carole Johnson
Parking	Lonnie Bergstein, Rob Fletcher
Performer Accommodation	Martina Field
Performer Hospitality	Bob McLean, Eva Peringer
Program	Andrew Hall
Purchasing	Laura McDiarmid
Recycling	Nick Brennan
Sanitation	Jodi O'Sullivan
Security	Stephen Peringer
Site Coordinator	Bob Davidson
Snack Shack	Emily Walker
Stage	Jeff Hopkinson
T-shirt Store	Sue Cowin
Tickets	Liza Hamilton
Treasurer	Liz Clifffen Gallant
Volunteer Coordinators	Tracy Scott, Corcoran Peppley
Water	Pascal Lussier
Work Weekend	Gray Myers
The Land Council (TLC)	Linda Rush, Grant Pilkington, Liz McDermott, April Tuttle
Hat Support Council (HSC)	Joel LeBlanc, Ann Sharp, Damon Bond, Susan Sentesy, Kate Thomas

NEED TO KNOW PART 2

MONDAY MORNING MEETING

At 11 am, for one hour in the Kids' Area, we gather to share our ideas and feedback about how Blue Skies 2025 went. What did we really like and what can we improve upon for next year? This is a place where we can express appreciation and make helpful suggestions about how to do things better. There's no discussion or debate. We just listen to each other. If you want to learn how Blue Skies runs, this meeting is a good place to start. It's the kick-start for planning next year's festival.

BLUE SKIES COMMUNICATIONS

If you want to get on the Blue Skies Mail List or your contact info is out of date, you need to tell us!

Visit the website, www.blueskiesmusicfestival.ca, to add yourself to the mailing list. If you have moved or changed your contact information, please email maillist@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca OR you can also make the change at the Info Booth this weekend.

If you would like to attend the Blue Skies open meetings, please remember to check the "Meeting Notice" box. It's that easy! If you need to part ways with Blue Skies and wish to be removed from the Mailing List, please email or click "unsubscribe" on a mailing. Although parting is such sweet sorrow, we can certainly do that for you.

MONDAY CLEANUP

All the magic that is Blue Skies has to be put away when Monday arrives, and like all things Blue Skies, it only works if people volunteer. If you can, please think about helping out before Monday morning, and make it part of your Monday plan.

You can sign-up during the festival at the volunteer board, or talk directly with the area you usually volunteer with to see how you can help there on Monday. If you are unsure where and how to help out, come to the ice cooler area starting at 10 am Monday morning and the Monday crew will get you helping in no time. Lunch will be provided after 12 noon for those volunteering.

BLUE SKIES AND BOOZE

Blue Skies is a music festival and that means some folks like to bring a special beverage. That's OK but alcohol is not sold on site and you must keep what you bring at your campsite. For safety's sake, we ask that no glass bottles be on the hill.

As far as illegal substances go, we have a zero tolerance approach. If you are found possessing or selling illegal drugs, you will be escorted from the site and you will not be welcomed back. Nuff said.

THE WINNING T-SHIRT DESIGN

Congratulations to Haley Rose, the winner of this year's T-shirt Design Contest (design on the left below)! Would you like to see your own design on the front of next year's festival T-shirts? And win two passes to next year's Blue Skies Music Festival? Visit the T-shirt Store or the Info Booth to find out more.

Front cover design

Every year, lots of very creative folks submit designs for the Blue Skies T-shirt. Unfortunately, we can only choose one. So we are always happy to choose the cover for the festival program from one of the other submissions. For this year's program cover we used a design submitted by Jodi O'Sullivan (design on the right below). Jodi for those who don't already know, is also the Sanitation Hat for Blue Skies and takes the lead keeping our wonderful loos in tiptop shape. Thanks Jodi.



WORKSHOPS FOR TEENS

Too old for the kids' workshops? If you're looking for something to do and people your age, these workshops might be a good bet.

SATURDAY

Breathe and Flow Yoga

9 am- 10 am, Meadow

An all-levels Yoga class. Includes breath work, meditation and movement. Participants can bring their own mat as needed.

Host: Alexandra Gruffydd

Ukulele Jam for Teens

9 am - 10 am, Open Stage

Play ukulele with Ukulele Sam and Azie! Bring your own ukulele or borrow one from us and learn to play some songs! Everyone is welcome!

Hosts: Sam Maloney and Azalea Atkin

The Art of Mending

10 am - 11 am, Open Stage

Upcycling clothing combats fast-fashion and fosters self-sufficiency, and mediums like sashiko-style stitching and fabric painting make this activity fun and creative. By offering materials and guidance to teach these skills, our intention is to convey the idea that mending is more than practical; it's an art.

Hosts: Jasper Lyon Wicke and Abbie Miolée

Origami Flower Folding 101

11 am - 12 noon, Open Stage

Come and learn how to fold beautiful paper flowers that will never wilt or dry! We have lessons on how to fold tulips, lilies and roses for a bright and colorful bouquet!

Hosts: Cortenay Sarion and Mark Downey

SUNDAY

The Magic of Bookbinding

9 am - 10 am, Meadow

Think of the magic that books bring into our lives. Come learn how to use the magic in your hands to bind a book! We will bring together scrap paper and give it new life, waiting to be marked with your spells.

Hosts: Nicole Stafiej and Tanya Glowacki

KIDS' AREA SCHEDULE**SATURDAY****9 am**

- Open Crafts
- Face Painting
- Festival Creature Wings

10 am

- Parachute Games

11 am

- Kids' Tie-Dye

Noon

- Adult Tie-Dye

12:30 pm

- Parade Wands/Noisemakers

1 pm

- Performance:
Washboard Hank &
Sweet Muriel

2 pm

- Tiny Puppets

2:15 pm

- Kids' Choir Practice

SUNDAY**9:45 - 10:15 am**

- The Best Parade Ever!

10:15 am

- Open Crafts
- Wind Chimes &
Sun Catchers

10:30 am

- Performance: Teilhard Frost
- Parachute Games

11:30 am

- Giant Bubbles
- Knot Your Average Bracelet:
Hemp & Bead Creations

Noon

- Fan the heat away!!

1 pm

- Performance:
Monkey Rock Music

2 pm

- Cartooning 101

2:15 – 3:30 pm

- Kids' Choir Practice and
then Perform!

2025 CONCERTS

FRIDAY EVENING:

7:30 pm	Shauit
8:30 pm	Creekbed Carter Hogan
9:30 pm	Moskitto Bar

SATURDAY AFTERNOON:

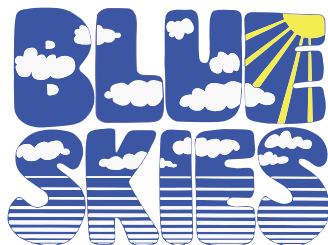
4 pm	Square Dance Caller – Emily Addison Band led by Nathan Smith
------	--

SATURDAY EVENING:

7 pm	The Barrel Boys
8 pm	Trojka Nomad
9 pm	Laura Cortese
10 pm	Al Qahwa
11 pm	the SPECIAL INTEREST group

SUNDAY AFTERNOON:

3 pm	Blue Skies Showcase
4:15 pm	Square Dance Caller – Emily Addison Band led by Nathan Smith



SUNDAY EVENING:

7 pm	Blue Skies Choir
7:30 pm	Leonard Sumner
8:30 pm	Lena Jonsson Trio
9:30 pm	Piner
10:30 pm	Lara Klaus

Please note that these times are Blue Skies times – kinda loose.