

# Blue Skies Winter Newsletter

Welcome to the first communication for this year's festival, which is August 2-4th 2024

This is the place for news about this year, and information on how you can connect, engage, and help out with Blue Skies.



## Design the 2024 Blue Skies Tshirt!

Get your creative juices flowing & submit your design entries for the the 2024 Blue Skies T-shirt! The contest winner will not only have their design on the 2024 t-shirt but will also receive 2 free camping passes to the 2024 festival! To be a winner your design should:

- refer to music/the festival
- actually state "Blue Skies Music Festival 2024"
- be submitted in colour (up to 2 colours in addition to the T-shirt colour).

The **deadline is Friday, February 23rd**. Please submit your design in an editable digital format such as .ai, .psd, .pdf. No more than 3 designs per person please. We will contact the winner in mid-March. Email designs to: [tshirtdesign@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca](mailto:tshirtdesign@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca)  
\*Designs are subject to change due to printing limitations.

## Last Call! Eleventh Hour!

Final call for 50th Anniversary Book submissions! Send any last minute poems, stories, artwork and photos to [50years@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca](mailto:50years@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca).

## Workshop Call - Holistic, Teen, & Kids

Do you have a GREAT idea for a workshop? Let us know!

Please apply before Feb 20th by submitting proposals on the workshop link [HERE](#).

If your workshop is accepted, you will receive one free Blue Skies camping pass.

## Upcoming Site Days

Every year volunteers help maintain the site & repair the amenities before & after the actual Festival weekend.

There is usually one site day a month on a weekend day between April & July, & September & November. There's all kinds of tasks - from piling fire wood, cutting trees, to building and repairing structures. All skill levels are welcome! Whether one day or all of them, the help is appreciated

Dates of site days will be given closer to spring. It would be great to have you join us up at that special place in the woods.

## Adult Music Camp - Learning, Jamming, Friendship

*Blue Skies in the Community presents an immersive, educational, music experience.*

We offer three 'streams' of workshops, each limited to about 20 participants and about 50 in total.

- **"Bluegrass and Beyond"** with **Joey Wright** is appropriate for folks who like to sing and play one or more traditional bluegrass instruments & want to explore traditional and modern bluegrass.
- **"Singing Together!"** with **Evemarie Brunelle** is for singers of all levels of experience and abilities to explore sound and rhythm, in unison and in harmony through learning songs from diverse cultures.
- **"Singing around the Campfire"** is under the guidance of **Magoo**. This is ideal for folks who know at least a few chords or tunes on an acoustic instrument and would like to play and sing with others in a casual, welcoming setting

Look up these amazing presenters online!

Camp takes place at the Blue Skies Festival site. Participants may camp on site or commute.

This year, camp runs Sun. July 28, 2024 (evening) - Wed. July 31, 2024 (noon).

The cost is \$200 per person. Registration forms are available [HERE](#).



Oskar building the new stage - '81



Marriage! 2007

### Accessibility at Blue Skies

The Accessibility Committee continues to monitor legislation and ongoing annual provincially required training (AODA). If you plan to volunteer at the Festival this year, please check the Blue Skies website for info. Also check our FAQs and email us at [accessibility@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca](mailto:accessibility@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca) if you have questions. We will continue registration for Service Animals and marking out a first come/first served accessible camping area. Plans going forward include sharing awareness of challenges and developing strategies for making the Blue Skies site a welcoming space despite the challenging terrain.

### Blue Skies Kids Camp

Mark your calendars! The 23rd annual Blue Skies Kids Arts Camp runs Monday, July 22, 2024 - Friday July 26, 2024, on the magical Blue Skies Festival site.

This unique day camp is perfect for kids (8-13) who love to dabble in all things artistic and who appreciate the glorious outdoors. With a focus on developing new skills in Music, Art, Drama, Voice, Movement and Social Connections, this camp has opportunities for everyone. The instructors & leadership team are there to make campers feel welcome, safe and lead everyone in workshops, fun games and activities.

The camp also focuses on the development of leadership skills in youth. Older campers have ample opportunities for personal growth and interested campers can join the Leadership Team by becoming a camp Volunteer, and then move into the role of CIT and/or Counsellor.

Information about the registration process will be posted [HERE](#) in February. If you have any questions, please contact camp directors Jenn and Janine at [blueskiescamp@gmail.com](mailto:blueskiescamp@gmail.com)

# Blue Skies in the Community

Making Music Happen

BSIC has a mandate to support live music year-round in the rural communities surrounding the festival site. We make the music happen by facilitating an exciting range of music related activities including, the Community Fiddle Orchestra, the Kid's Summer Arts Day Camp, the Adult Music Camp, Funding Support for Concerts and Workshops, the Blue Skies Instrument Bank, the Choir Music Lending library and Music Lesson Bursaries. For more information about any of our programs check out [blueskies-in-the-community.ca](http://blueskies-in-the-community.ca)

## Fiddle Orchestra

Each year in early January, the Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra puts on the Little Christmas Concert at the Maberly Hall to welcome the new year. The orchestra is an all ages, all abilities group that practices throughout the year at the Maberly Hall. Fiddles are available through the Blue Skies Instrument Bank at a very affordable rate. For more information on joining, contact [cindy.fiddlemusic.mccall@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.fiddlemusic.mccall@gmail.com)

## Calling all musicians, community groups and teachers! 2024 Community Grants are now available!

Each year BSIC supports a number of live music projects. In 2023 over 1,200 students from 9 rural schools experienced live music in the form of concerts and workshops including the opportunity to explore instruments from around the world. If you have an idea for a concert, workshop or anything in-between that will bring live music to your school, community group or event apply for a community grant - up to 50% of the cost of the project could be covered.

## Changes to the Mailing List

The Mailing List is a database of all of the folks who will receive a 2024 ticket request form/lottery card by email. **Note - there is only ONE form sent per household. If who you live with or your contact info changes, tell us!** Snail mail is available by special request.

Everyone on the mailing list gets an email from Blue Skies in March asking for your ticket request, whether or not you want to remain on the list, drop off the list or correct your contact information. The list does keep growing, and we are trying to come up with a way to keep it full of folks who are still interested in coming to the festival. Even digitally, connecting with everyone carries a financial cost, so please let us know if you don't want to hear from us anymore!

Know someone who wants on the list? They can add themselves in the binder at the Info Booth during the festival OR (new!) they can fill out a form on the Blue Skies website anytime. Questions? Contact [blueskiesmailinglist@gmail.com](mailto:blueskiesmailinglist@gmail.com)



TESLA + MARTINA  
AT RETREAT, 2023



Carolyn & Fiddle 1990-ish

