

# R2R: Rural Resilience



Tuesday October 16 – Friday October 19, 2018  
423 Queen St, Blyth, ON N0M 1H0



“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”  
Albert Einstein

Welcome to R2R18 a place for thoughts that lead to solutions.

## Tuesday October 16 – Conference Launch: Rural Women’s Day (RWD) – Blyth Memorial Community Hall

*RWD is a day of, by, and for rural women – it’s about challenges, opportunities, leading to recommendations (on all levels) for change.*

Time	Activity	Description
9:00 – 12:00	Arrival and morning session	Delegates are welcomed into a collaborative environment. The structure will include panel discussions, storytelling, and roundtables about the experience of being a woman in rural community. The panel will be diverse and representative of different lived rural experiences. What is the experience of a woman who has lived in a rural community for six weeks? Or for six generations? What are the junction points? How can sharing your story create a healthy environment for change?  What does change look like? How can rural women’s voice be consolidated to impact on policy, the rules and regulations that frame our lives? All building toward more resilient rural communities. Where are the gathering places? How inclusive are we? Focusing on small group discussions, attendees share their own stories on the issues they feel are important to share. There will be a volunteer scribe at each table, capturing ideas, stories and recommendations.
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch is shared	A traditional Syrian meal will be prepared by a group of local women who recently arrived in Canada as refugees. Our food comes with a story – and the stories of the food will be shared.
1:30 – 3:00	Afternoon session and closing remarks	In this session, small groups will come together and move forward the ideas shared in the morning session. Asking questions that challenge our thinking can create change in an environment that will inspire new ideas to come forward. What resources are available in our communities? Are our communities accessible, welcoming, inclusive? How are decisions made? How are decisions implemented? What are the support systems in place for mental health?  Recommendations derived from this day will be presented to the full delegation at the Friday lunch.
3:00 – 4:00	Walk on the Guelph to Goderich (G2G) Trail	An opportunity to go outside and move around in the fresh air. Everyone is welcome to come along for a stroll on the accessible G2G trail. Featuring G2G guides, this short walk will showcase some of the beauty of the area. The Lower Hall remains available for folks who choose to continue the dialogue indoors.

### 4:00pm Huron Sundowner – Lower Hall

Share in fellowship, Cowbell beer, Maelstrom wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and unique local snacks.

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## 5:00pm Art Gallery Opening – Art Gallery

All are welcome to join us in the art gallery as local and extraordinary photographer Terry Manzo unveils a new installation: “what it looks like to live on less than a living wage: a photovoice project.” Photographs by members of the community on different communities in the region will be displayed on the walls of the Blyth Memorial Hall Art Gallery.

## 6:00pm Dinner – Lower Hall

Dinner prepared with local ingredients from Huron County by award winning chef Peter Gusso of Part 2. A celebration with food, dance, and storytelling.

## Wednesday October 17 – Conference: Day 1 – Blyth Memorial Community Hall

Time	Activity	Description
7:30 – 9:30	Breakfast and Registration	Breakfast made and served by the Royal Canadian Legion, Blyth Branch 420, the Women’s Auxiliary, and the Lions Club.
9:30 – 9:40	Territorial Acknowledgement	Members of the First Nations Community on whose territorial land R2R is taking place, will be invited to tell their story.
9:40 – 10:00	Opening Remarks	Greetings from the township, county, province and country.
10:00 – 10:15	Conference kick off!	Sounds of the County: local high school talent will perform as delegates are welcomed to Huron County.  Peter Smith and Valencia Gaspard, producers of R2R, will set the stage for the next three days of exploration into rural resilience.
10:15 – 12:00	Wake Up!	Hans van der Loo delivers keynote presentation: Wake Up – This is (Y)Our Only Home. A Q&A on sustainability and resilience in communities follows. Hans is a member of the Advisory Board of <a href="http://www.investancia.com">www.investancia.com</a> , Chairman of the Institute for Integrated Economic Research (IIER) and Ambassador for the EU STEM Coalition and former VP at Royal Dutch Shell.
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Bounty from the County: local lunch catered.
1:00 – 3:00	Get Going: Community Wellbeing Panel	A session with leading lights from local rural communities, and representatives from across Canada and beyond, set to explore what community wellbeing is from the social, economic, health, and policy perspective. What does a resilient rural community look like in terms of wellbeing? How do we break out of our silos and work together to be a part of a healthy rural community? Presentations will lead to an interactive session with the entire delegation.

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		<i>Wasn't that a party? There will be cake. Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health celebrates 10 years of building a healthy rural community and we will celebrate their innovation and creativity and the people who make it go.</i>
3:00 – 5:00	How do I make a Rural Culture Hub?	The Rural Culture Hub (as a part of Appalshop) in Whitesburg, Kentucky is founded on the principle that every community has latent assets they can turn into new community wealth – but only if they can unbind their imaginations and tell new stories about themselves.  Ben Fink from the Culture Hub (a part of Appalshop) will join us to tell the story of its creation and share how a culture hub can be built in your community. Appalshop is a national leader in grassroots arts, has pioneered the practice of 'first voice/authentic voice', creating culture <i>of</i> and <i>by</i> the people of Appalachia.
5:00 – 6:00	Huron Sundowner: Closing Remarks and Networking	Reflections on the day and closing remarks will be offered in the Lower Hall featuring fabulous and local: Cowbell beer, Maelstrom wine, and non-alcoholic beverages, served with delicious unique snacks. An opportunity to network and carry on the dialogue sparked by the day's events.
6:00 – 8:00	Opportunities on Tap: Dinner at Cowbell	Dinner is served in Thresher's Hall at Cowbell Brewery. Over dinner, Shanna Ratner of Yellow Wood will share her experiences managing complex research and capacity building initiatives while analyzing rural economic development opportunities.

**8:30-midnight: A Newfoundland Kitchen party will break out with music, stories, dancing and plenty of East-coast influence.**

## Thursday October 18 – Conference: Day 2 – Blyth Memorial Community Hall

Time	Activity	Description
7:30 – 9:15	Breakfast and Registration	Breakfast made and served by the Royal Canadian Legion, Blyth Branch 420, the Women's Auxiliary, and the Lions Club.
9:15 – 9:30	Opening Remarks	Greetings to start the day.
9:30 – 12:00	Renewable Rural	Delegates from Oxford County (aiming to be 100% renewable by 2050) and members of the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation from BC (land stewards with a respectful sustainability project) along with community members from Huron County, discuss sustainability, resilience, and environmental management in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century.
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Bounty from the County: local lunch catered.
1:00 – 4:00	Passport to Research	Too often there is a divide between researchers and the individuals who can benefit most from the research being conducted, this is especially true in rural places. This afternoon, that divide will be bridged through interactive stations engaging rural scholars and conference participants. Rural researchers will be set up throughout Memorial Hall and conference participants will be given the tools to engage with researchers from

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		across Canada (graduate researchers, and practitioners) who are doing work with rural communities. Sponsored by the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD) at the University of Guelph
4:00 – 4:15	Closing Remarks	Reflections on the day and closing remarks will be offered.
5:00 onward	Huron Sundowner: Dinner and Farm Radio Forum	Join us for the launch of the Farm Radio Forum: facilitated by Keith Roulston founder of the Rural Voice and Blyth Centre for the Arts. Share in Cowbell beer, Maelstrom wine, and non-alcoholic beverages, served with delicious unique snacks (+ a unique junk food pairing). Tonight's dinner is a traditional Jamaican meal prepared by a local chef.

## Friday October 19 – Conference: Day 3 – Blyth Memorial Community Hall

Time	Activity	Description
7:30 – 9:15	Breakfast and Registration	Breakfast made and served by the Royal Canadian Legion, Blyth Branch 420, the Women's Auxiliary, and the Lions Club.
9:15 – 9:30	Opening Remarks	Coffee/tea and networking.
9:30 – 12:00	ReSkilling for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	RBC's John Stackhouse VP will present <i>Humans Wanted</i> – a year long cross-Canada study looking at what skills are necessary in the exponential age. Hans van der Loo will present the work he is doing with STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) in the European Union exploring the question: can we make it through the 21 <sup>st</sup> century in a civilized manner?  Workshop on adaptable ideas for progressive action in rural communities with focuses on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math to follow led by Hans van der loo and members of the Royal Bank of Canada's <i>Humans Wanted</i> team.
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch and Conv-her-sation	Bounty from the County: local lunch catered. Delegates from Tuesday's Rural Women's Day will share takeaways from their day and reflections on the conference.

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## On-going Activities:

### Market Street Strategies:

We are exploring bringing in 5 journalists to cover R2R wall to wall – through audio, video, blog, interview and on social media. The conference will be a live broadcast making the rural-focused conversations shared in Blyth accessible to communities across the country and beyond. The material will be archived following R2R for future reference.

### Research Tree:

The large tree trunk cut out and leaflet die-cuts are available throughout the R2R. Participants are invited to write research needs and ideas on leaves and populate the tree. At the end of R2R the list of community inspired research ideas will find partners from the conference to implement the research and will be compiled and forwarded to rural focused university researchers across Canada.

### The Granary Project: a meditation on rural

Created by the Common Collective this unique installation will be open for the entire R2R conference. Audience are invited to step into a once working Westeel Granary and experience rural images and video from across Canada. The images are complimented by an original score/soundscape.

### How Much is Enough?

Susanna Reid, Director of Social Research Planning Council and her team, will host a consultation meeting *How Much is Enough? (HMIE) – Impact of Low Incomes on Families and Communities in Huron and Perth Counties* are hosting a consultation meeting with stakeholders, local politicians about the HMIE research. October 16 only: Blyth Art Gallery, 1pm-4pm. This will be by invitation and outcomes will be reported at R2R. Delegates can engage with *HMIS* research at Passport to Research.

**[Ready to register? Click here!](#)**

Stay tuned for exciting R2R developments in the lead up to the October conference.  
Should you have any questions please drop us a line at [R2RBlyth2018@gmail.com](mailto:R2RBlyth2018@gmail.com) or give Peter a call at 519-955-4594.