

# Rural Talks to Rural

November 16th-28th, 2020

Join us for a virtual conference at [ruralcreativity.org](http://ruralcreativity.org)

## VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2020

# 16

Monday

6:30pm - **OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Dr. Leroy Little Bear

### END OF LANE CONVERSATIONS

3-5 minute videos from Canadians living in this unique time answering two questions: How are you now? What does the future look like to you? What are you hopeful for in the future?

### VIRTUAL ART GALLERIES

ENDS OF THE EARTH virtual art gallery curated by ArtWorks East in Guysborough, Nova Scotia, and Kelly Rebar's photographic exhibit I'LL TELL YOU THE REST LATER.

# 17

Tuesday

12:00pm - **ARTS + CULTURE**

1:00pm **This Rural Life** - Moderated by Natasha MacLellan, AD at Theatre New Brunswick, with Gil Garrett AD at the Blyth Festival, Emmy Alcorn from Mulgrave Road Theatre in NS, Gaylene Buckle at Theatre NFLD/LAB, Marnie Hamagami AD at Theatre Northwest in BC, and Kimberly Rampersad from Shaw Festival.

6:30pm - **AG TECH + AG INVESTMENT**

7:30pm Featuring Steven Bolton, CEO of Libro Credit Union, Sean O'Connor Investment Specialist at Connexus in SK, Martin Vanderloo, Founder/CEO of Huron Commodities, and Anita Wortzman from Farmer's Edge, AB.

7:30pm - **RESEARCH MEETS ART - SESSION 1 OF 2**

8:30pm 4 distinguished rural researchers – 1 from Europe, 1 from Africa, 1 from South America, and 1 from North America plus 4 incredible artists from Canada will participate in a unique project where the rural research will be interpreted by a group of creative thinkers and doers.

# 18

Wednesday

12:00pm - **ENTREPRENEURS**

1:00pm **This Rural Life** - Moderated by Casandra Bryant with Scott Mitchell co-owner of Fifth Bean, Jason Lamont, bike mechanic, from rural Ontario, Emily Bland of ScuSEED in NFLD, and Bernice Clark, an Inuit soap maker from the north.

6:30pm - **LIBRO CREDIT UNION**

7:30pm **Passport to Research**  
Moderated by University of Guelph's Libro Professor for Regional Economic Development, Ryan Gibson, he will facilitate connections between emerging researchers and our rural communities.

7:30pm - **DIFFERENT WAYS OF SEEING**

8:30pm Jerrold McGrath from UKAI and Meghan Hellstern, recently of the Brookfield Institute, will be in conversation discussing how groups of people can go from disorganized, to not only seeing things differently, but also to reach a point of more effective collaboration.

# 19

Thursday

12:00pm - **RURAL CONNECTIVITY**

1:00pm **This Rural Life** - Ashleigh Weeden of the University of Guelph and Wayne Kelly from the Rural Development Institute in Brandon will co-moderate a panel on rural broadband and the need to get rural connectivity right

6:30pm - **COVID SURVEY RESULTS + STORY CIRCLE**

8:30pm Dr. Wayne Caldwell and Dr. Leith Deacon from the University of Guelph will present their findings on a Covid-19 survey they produced the fall of 2020, focusing on Huron and Perth Counties. The survey presentation/Q&A will be followed by a story circle of those involved in rural healthcare – moderated by Gwen Devereaux.

6:30pm - **TECHNOLOGY + YOU**

8:30pm **Workshop 1 of 2**  
Joey Chakraborty and Kaitlyn Peters will lead two workshops on how technology impacts on our decision making, on bias of data, with examples of progress being made in the tech cooperatives sector.

# 20

Friday

12:00pm - **RURAL MEDIA**

1:00pm **This Rural Life** - Moderated by Deb Sholdice, publisher of The Rural Voice/North Huron Citizen, will involve a small crowd of those working in communications - answering such as: where do you get your information? How does that information impact your decision making? What are the challenges of being rural?

# 23

Monday

12:00pm - **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

1:00pm **This Rural Life** - Professionals from rural BC, rural NFLD, and from Ontario, come together to discuss the state of municipal governments. Hosted by Pete Smith the panel includes Chief Resiliency Officer, Emanuel Muchado, from Gibsons BC, Deatra Walsh from Municipalities NFLD/LAB, John Marshall, Angel Investor/Entrepreneur from Huron County, David Mayberry Mayor from Oxford County, and Jim Ginn, Warden of Huron County.

6:30pm - **RURAL CHANGEMAKERS (ROI)**

7:30pm The Rural Ontario Institute joins with the Canadian Centre for Rural Creativity to bring a pair of Rural Changemakers from the ROI program – to discuss how they are making a difference in their community.

7:30pm - **MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF WICKED PROBLEMS**

8:30pm Moderated by Dr. Al Lauzon – Al and Dr. Walter Lepore will discuss what makes a wicked problem wicked – and some of the ways forward with regards to the complex issues of dealing with them. Al will also be joined by Dr. Leah Soroka and Dr. Scott Ensign who will discuss the roles of foresight and collaborative leadership, and how they can contribute to moving forward

# 24

Tuesday

6:30pm - **THE FUTURE OF RURAL IS...?**

8:00pm THE CANADIAN RURAL REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION (CRRF) and the Canadian Centre for Rural Creativity (CCRC) will bring together a panel of community builders from across the country to discuss the future of rural. Moderated by Ashleigh Weeden.

# 25

Wednesday

12:00pm - **RURAL WELLNESS/MINDFULNESS**

1:00pm **This Rural Life** - This Rural Life is an hour long discussion with people who work in the field of wellness. Methodologies range from connecting to our natural world, connecting to the many others we share the planet with, living in the moment without judgment. This session will be an opportunity to take a deep breath, and maybe to slow down in these unique times.

6:30pm - **RESEARCH MEETS ART - SESSION 2 OF 2**

7:30pm 4 distinguished rural researchers – 1 from Europe, 1 from Africa, 1 from South America, and 1 from North America plus 4 incredible artists from Canada will participate in a unique project where the rural research will be interpreted by a group of creative thinkers and doers.

# 26

Thursday

12:00pm - **RURAL TOURISM**

1:00pm **This Rural Life** - Andrea Gardi CAO of RTO4 (Regional Tourism Org. 4) and David Peacock of RTO4 and the Future Tourism Podcast will bring together futurists from the world of rural tourism – where it's at, and where it's going.

6:30pm - **FOOD SECURITY**

8:30pm Moderated by Stephen Anderson, partner at Food Economy Group in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, with panelists from all across Canada, we will get down to a discussion on and about our food and how it gets distributed in these uncertain times.

6:30pm - **TECHNOLOGY + YOU**

8:30pm **Workshop 2 of 2**  
Joey Chakraborty and Kaitlyn Peters will lead two workshops on how technology impacts on our decision making, on bias of data, with examples of progress being made in the tech cooperatives sector.

# 27

Friday

12:00pm - **AGRICULTURE**

1:00pm **This Rural Life** - Looking at the state of rural agriculture this noon hour panel discussion will be led by Linda Best of Farmworks in Nova Scotia. As we adapt to the changing times how are the times impacting the farmer? Linda will be joined by farmers from across Canada and the panel will look at what's happening right now on the farm and, as importantly, what could happen in the immediate future.

6:30pm - **SHINDIG FRIDAY**

8:30pm Moderated by Jordan MacDonald, Shindig Friday is a time for delegates to share a virtual beverage – and perhaps step up on at the SPEAKER'S CORNER to talk about their experience at R2R20 and what thoughts they have for us moving forward.

# 28

Saturday

9:00am - **LIBRO SATURDAY**

2:00pm **CLOSING KEYNOTE**  
**Libro Credit Union + G2G Rail Trail Inc** - a day devoted to community, environment and climate action.

Featuring guest speakers: Libro Credit Union, Goderich to Gueph (G2G) Rail Trail Inc., Senator Rob Black, Community Climate Council, Dr. David Lobb and a virtual lunch with chef James Eddington.

All times are Eastern Standard Time (EST)