

Rural Talks to Rural 2018



**Wednesday October 17 –
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.

Pre-Conference Schedule

Tuesday October 16 – Pre-Conference Session

Blyth Memorial Community Hall

This event is invitation-only and is not included in the general conference offerings. Delegates will have an opportunity to engage with this project. On Thursday at the Passport to Research session.

The United Way's Social Research and Planning Council will be hosting a consultation meeting with stakeholders, local politicians about their next research report How Much is Enough? Impact of Low Incomes on Families and Communities in Huron and Perth Counties.

Conference Schedule

Wednesday October 17 – Conference: Day 1

Blyth Memorial Community Hall

7:30 – 9:00 Registration Open
Enjoy morning refreshments from local businesses and connect with fellow delegates.

9:00 – 9:30 Territorial Acknowledgement and Greetings
Members of the First Nations Community on whose territorial land R2R is taking place, will be invited to tell their story. Local welcome and greetings from local dignitaries.

9:30 – 10:30 Plenary – "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 at the Institute for Integrated Economic Research (IIER) in Europe and is the EU Policy & Government Relations Advisor and former Vice-President at Royal Dutch Shell.

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break

Enjoy bounty from the County tasty refreshments are provided by local businesses.

10:45 – 12:30 Plenary – Making a Rural Culture Hub

The Rural Culture Hub 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 of and by the people of Appalachia.

Gil Garratt of the Blyth Festival will join Jennifer Miltenburg of the Kingsbridge Centre to discuss the impact the Blyth Centre for the Arts and the Kingsbridge Centre continues to have on their respective communities. Ben will then join Gil and Jennifer to talk about the creative, social, and economic impacts of rural culture hubs.

12:30 – 1:45 Lunch

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.

1:45 – 3:30 Concurrent Sessions

Session A) Food Systems and Security

From grassroots to large scale production food and water security will be explored in its challenges and strategies. From local food producers who grow for the local market to food producers who grow for an international one, this session is about rural right down to its roots.

Session B) Products of the System

The voices of many - including women, people of colour, LGBTQ+ folk, indigenous peoples - have been left out of decision-making systems. Isolation, exclusion, and marginalization have become part of how many people experience the rural places they call home. As we progress in the 21st century, it's time for a conversation about the systems that led us to where we are. Some of the systems are now being reimagined and this panel will explore how changing the system can lead us towards resilient rural communities.

3:30 – 4:00 Coffee Break

Enjoy bounty from the County tasty refreshments are provided by local businesses.

4:00 – 5:30 Plenary – Rural Radio Forum

Join us for the relaunch of the old Farm Radio Forum - connecting R2R to five kitchen tables from Newfoundland to British Columbia. Share in a Cowbell beer, a glass

Maelstrom wine, or a non-alcoholic beverage. Moderated by Keith Roulston and a panel of local and international ruralists.

5:30 – 6:30 Networking

Tonight's Huron Sundowner features the PhotoVoice Exhibit Opening Reception. Join us in the art gallery as photographer Terry Manzo unveils a preview exhibit of photos taken by the community that answer the question: "what it looks like to live on less than a living wage?".

The exhibit launches a PhotoVoice project by The Social Research & Planning Council connected to their "How Much is Enough" research project.

Taste of Huron and Community Futures Huron are hosting local appetizers complimented by Maelstrom wine and Cowbell beer.

6:30 – 8:30 Dinner and Keynote

Dinner prepared with local ingredients from Huron County by award winning chef Peter Gusso of Part 2 Bistro. Over dinner, Shanna Ratner of Yellow Wood from Vermont will share her experiences managing complex research and capacity building initiatives while analyzing rural economic development opportunities.

8:30 – midnight Newfoundland Kitchen Party

A party will break out with music, stories, dancing and plenty of East-coast influence... somebody bring an ugly stick!

Thursday October 18 – Conference: Day 2

Blyth Memorial Community Hall

7:30 – 9:00 Breakfast and Registration

Breakfast made and served by the Royal Canadian Legion, Blyth Branch 420, the Women's Auxiliary, and the Lions Club.

9:00 – 9:30 Opening Remarks

9:30 – 11:00 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 morning, 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 engage with them. These graduate researchers, and practitioners from across Canada are doing work with rural communities.

Cosponsored by Huron County and the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD) at the University of Guelph. This session is introduced by Dr. Ryan Gibson, Libro Professor in Regional Economic Development.

11:00 – 12:30 Plenary – Renewable Rural
Members of the Wiikwemkoong First Nation, delegates from Oxford County, and community members from Huron County, discuss sustainability, resilience, and environmental management in the 21st Century.

12:30 – 2:00 Lunch
Enjoy more bounty from the County, a local land-to-table lunch catered by chef James Eddington from Eddington's Restaurant in glorious Exeter, Ontario. During the meal Dr. Gibson offers reflections on Passport to Research.

2:00 – 4:00 Concurrent Sessions

Session C) Millennial Machinery
If a group of 20 and 30 somethings were to start a new rural community - what would it look like? Who would be involved? Engage in dialogue with a panel of fresh rural voices.

Session D) Where Are You Living?
Rural is experiencing a housing crisis – it is a challenge that impacts every strata of our society. From our ability to attract workers and families, to ensuring affordable housing for our citizens. And there's homelessness. What solutions are in play? How are rural communities dealing with the situation? The panel which includes Huron County Economic Development Officer Chris Watson will take the roof off the issue and offer up a discussion with plenty of options and opportunities. Dr. Nonie Brennan, Chief Executive Officer of All Chicago Making Homelessness History will bring a unique urban rural lens to our discussion.

Session E) Community Wellbeing
What is a healthy rural setting? A panel of leading thinkers will explore rural community from a health, economic, and social point of view. Success and failure, structure and innovation, shareable ideas are all on the menu. Join Gwen Devereaux from Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health, Dr. Heather Mair from the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo, Dr. Al Lauzon from the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, Liz Arkinstall Libro Credit Union's Corporate Social Responsibility Manager and some young budding scientists as wellbeing is discussed. It's also the 10th anniversary of Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health... so there will be cupcakes.

4:00 – 5:30 Huron Sundowner
Join us for a junk food pairing with Cowbell beer, Maelstrom wine, and non-alcoholic beverages. The drinks will be paired with unexpected and unconventional tasty treats.

5:30 – onwards Dinner
Tonight's dinner is a traditional Jamaican meal prepared by local Chef Summer Crofts from Summer's Restaurant in beautiful Wroxeter, Ontario.

Friday October 19 – Conference: Day 3

Blyth Memorial Community Hall

7:30 – 9:00 Breakfast and Registration

Breakfast made and served by the Royal Canadian Legion, Blyth Branch 420, the Women's Auxiliary, and the Lions Club.

9:00 – 9:15 Opening Remarks

9:15 – 12:00 Plenary – ReSkilling for the 21st Century

RBC's Senior Vice-President, John Stackhouse will present from the Humans Wanted project – 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 in the EU exploring the question: can we make it through the 21st century in a civilized manner? Panel discussion will follow with local entrepreneurs as well as entrepreneurs featured in the Humans Wanted report. Moderated by John Stackhouse and Hans van der Loo. Sponsored by RBC.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

Bounty from the County: enjoy the culinary creation of a local chef. Dignitaries from our local, provincial, and federal government offer reflections on the conference.

On-going Activities

Market Street Strategies:

Market Street Strategies, will be covering R2R from gavel to gavel with a dynamic team of young journalists who will crank out content on every imaginable platform. 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. Introduced as on-going passive programming.

Thank you to our lead partners!



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