



Great Lakes Water Walk Final Water Blessing / Concluding Ceremony

Overview: The Great Lakes Water Walk will culminate in a final water blessing at Marilyn Bell Park led by Anishinaabeg Elders Shirley Williams and Josephine Mandamin, with support from GTA faith and spiritual leaders of all backgrounds. The water-side blessing will be followed by a staged concluding ceremony featuring inspiring remarks by selected Indigenous, community and youth leaders. A final round dance will mark the end of the day and our shared commitment to safeguard our waters.

Time & Date: Sunday September 24, 2017, 3:00pm – 5:30pm

Location: Marilyn Bell Park, 851 Lake Shore Boulevard West, Toronto, ON

Itinerary: Please note: *Because of the nature of the walk, timings are approximate.*

Time	Description	Notes
12:00	Marilyn Bell Park set to welcome walkers with music, information tables, food trucks, performances, story telling	Volunteer staff and information tables will be available all day.
2:30	Grandmothers & walkers from Eastern & Western routes arrive at Marilyn Bell Park. Grandmothers and dignitaries escorted to water blessing area.	Walkers will be greeted by drummers and volunteers who will smudge walkers in, hand out tobacco ties, alert people to the start of the water blessing.
3:00	Grandmothers begin water blessing When signaled, faith & community leaders will join the Grandmothers in returning the ceremonial water to Lake Ontario, adding a blessing over the water in their own traditions.	Once ceremonial staffs have been placed, a welcoming big drum song will signal start of the blessing
3:45	Grandmothers will close the water blessing with the Nibi Song	All will join in. Cards with lyrics will be made available to all participants
4:10	Big drum and honor song cues beginning of staged concluding ceremony, featuring brief remarks by selected speakers.	At the close of remarks, all will be invited to join hands in preparation for a Round Dance
5:00	Round Dance	At the end of the dance, folks will be reminded to assist in leaving park clean/debris free
5:30	Close	



Final Ceremony Dignitary List:

<i>Great Lakes Water Walk Grandmother's Circle</i>
Elder Dr. Shirley Williams, Anishinaabe from Wikwemkong Unceded Territory
Grandmother Josephine Mandamin, Anishinaabe from Wikwemkong Unceded Territory
Elizabeth Osawamick, Anishinaabe from Wikwemikong Unceded Territory
Pat Oakes, Mohawk from Akwesasne Territory
Vivian Recollet, Anishinaabe from Wikwemikong Unceded Territory
Marilyn Capreol, Anishinaabe from Shawanaga First Nation
<i>Concluding Ceremony Co-Hosts</i>
Kim Wheatley, Ojibwe Anishinaabe from Shawanaga First Nation Reserve
Stacey Mortimer, Water Protector
Danny Richmond, Ve'ahavta
<i>Dignitaries</i>
Chief R. Stacey Laforme, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation
Chief Kelly LaRocca, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
Senator Constance Simmonds, Toronto and York Region Metis Council
Hon David Zimmer, Ontario Minister for Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Kristin Muskratt, "Youth for Water" Coordinator, Curve Lake First Nation
Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)



Ian Gilmour, Chair, EcoLogos

Multi-Faith & Spiritual Leaders (listed alphabetically)

Rev. Alexa Gilmour, Windermere United Church

Pastor Dr. Jerome Gregg, Jesus Restoration Ministries

Rev Dr. Larry Greenfield, Parliament of World Religions

Jennifer Henry, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

Samira Kanji, Noor Cultural Centre

Chander Khanna, Toronto Area Interfaith Council,

Rev. Ian LaFleur, St. Cuthbert's Church

Rev Timothy MacDonald, S.A., Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg, Temple Sinai of Toronto

Imam Abdul Hai Patel, Canadian Council of Imams

Helen Poizner, Canadian Council for Reform Judaism

Ven. Bhante Saranapala, University of Toronto

Bishop Rev. Riscylla Walsh Shaw, Anglican Diocese of Toronto

Swamini Shivapriyananda, Chinmaya Vedanta Heritage Centre

Sukhjit Singh, Avid volunteer and community leader, Mississauga

Rev. Evan Smith, Toronto Native Urban Ministry



Sr. Janet Speth, Sisters of St Joseph of Toronto

Catherine Starr, Wiccan High Priestess and Pagan, Chaplain, University of Toronto

Hasan Syed, Access to Clean Water

Christine Welter, Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies, Trent University

Ven. Man Yee, Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Temple