

Spirit of the Land Programming Report

A major goal for the interns this summer was the development and implementation of additional programming for SoL. In the past, the class and conference have been the hub of activity for SoL, resulting in limited interaction with the community in winter, spring and summer. These events also cater more towards students and retired members of the community. This additional programming was meant to introduce SoL to other demographics, particularly young families and working adults. The programming also aims to introduce sustainable practices and discussions on issues related to ecology and spirituality.

Three levels of programming were established- the existing level of the class and conference, additional programming to be implemented in 2016/17 and future internships and expansion.

Levels of Programming

1. Current Conference and Class
2. Additional Programming
 - a. Seeds for the Soul (once a month)
 - b. Reconciliation Series (once a season)
3. Future Internships and Expansion
 - . Mirror Lake Project
 - a. Land Trust
 - b. Partnerships with Schools etc

The class and conference will continue as in the past, with the class combining road trips and classroom time to explore different issues related to ecology, sustainability and contemplation/spirituality. As well, this year there will be a CSL component for assistance with the conference.

For the additional programming, this summer, the Seeds for the Soul program was implemented on three occasions. The Seeds for the Soul Summer Series combined an hour of practical, hands on activity with an hour of contemplative discussion. These free events are organized to be open to all ages, with a craft prepared for the younger children. Coffee, tea and snacks are provided. By hosting these events at different, public locations around town, we hope to engage with parts of the Camrose community that may have never heard of SoL before! Advertising for these events is done through poster distribution, social media, email fan-outs, ads and articles in the local papers and word of mouth.

Seeds for the Soul Summer Series

June 1st 2016, 6-8pm

Hosted at the Ronning House
Fun with Pine Needles Activity (pine needle tea, firestarters, soap, antibacterial cleaner, incense)
Kids Craft: pine needle paintbrushes
Discussion: David Goa and "Three Perspectives on the Sacred" by John Chryssavgis

July 6 2016, 6-8pm

Hosted at the Camrose Public Library
DIY Aquaponics
Kids Craft: Coloring Aquaponics
Discussion: "Illusions of Scarcity" by Charles Eisenstein

August 3, 2016, 6-8pm

Hosted at the Railway Museum
Companion Planting
Kids Craft: Painting Gardens
Discussion: Bernice Kadatz and The Meeting Creek Restoration Project

In the fall, three more Seeds for the Soul events will be hosted, although topics and location remain to be determined.

Once a season, we also hope to host a half-day or full day event, in the spirit of the conference. By continuing to create spaces for people to discuss and learn, we hope to increase the impact of SoL year-round, as well as provide opportunities for those who want to learn more about reconciliation, sustainability and spirituality. While none of these events are confirmed, we have considered the possibility of having the Makokis's come to host a workshop on Indigenous history, relations and culture, as well as having Bernice Kadatz host a workshop on how to make and use Bokashi. Ideally, these events would be hosted in the winter and the spring, alongside Seeds for the Soul events, although this will depend on interest, funding and staffing.

Finally, throughout the course of the summer we worked on a number of projects that SoL could develop more fully in years to come. Both the Mirror Lake project and Land Trust research information has been compiled into separate reports and can be viewed there. We also met with a number of community members over the summer to discuss different ways that SoL could provide programming for youth and/or schools in years to come. While still in very early stages, a project similar to that of teacher Steven Schultz and his high school class in Lacombe (<http://lchsecovision.weebly.com/leafs---lacombe-education-aquaponics-foods-system.html>). It would be wonderful if SoL could visit classrooms in order to inspire or assist with gardening projects or alternative growing and energy. Hopefully, with the support of Carol Breitreutz and several teachers, we could connect this to the curriculum and have it be a yearly initiative. However, this project is 3-5 years away, realistically. We are looking forward to further conversations and ideas about how youth can be involved in SoL.