



Paddle for Peace Celebration at Victoria Island

Join us on the United Nations International Day of Peace September 21, 2010 for Grandfather William Commanda's Eleventh Annual Peace Event in Ottawa

Launch the City of Ottawa's Peace Festival

Animate the quintessential Canadian *Spirit of Canoe* and build bridges, promote peace and partnerships, and celebrate *Sustainable Relationships!*

Supporters of Elder Commanda, under the auspices of *The Circle of All Nations* and *The Wolf Project*, are organizing a special *Paddle for Peace* event to ignite a flame for the Canoe as the synergetic symbol for Peace

Join Grandfather William Commanda and friends and celebrate the spirit of the *Canoe* with notable canoeists, peace and environmental activists who will share their perspectives on how canoes, water and nature combine to animate deep peace. Then participate in a community picnic, art and birch bark canoe making demonstrations, canoe demos on the water, a concert and information sharing and see how he animates a *Circle of All Nations!*

AGENDA

11.00 Canoes arrive at Victoria Island

11.15 Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks

William Commanda, Peter Decontie, T8aminik Rankin, Gilbert Whiteduck, others

11.30 Remarks from Special Guests including

Kirk Wipper: *A Passion for Canoes*

Max Finkelstein, Jay Morrison and Daniel Beauchamp: *Canoe Journeys*

Todd Labrador: *Canoe Making with William – Good Enough for Two*

Rebecca Mason: *Canoes, Water and Art*

Larry Graham: *Ottawa River Heritage Designation Project featuring the Canoe Brigade*

Larry McDermott: *Rivers, Canoes, Eels and Environmental Stewardship*

Ray Sunstrum and Minnie Matoush: *The Wolf Project and Racial Harmony*

George Fenn: *Fast Waters, Fast Friends and Pulling Together*

Lynda Kitchikeesic: *Flotilla for Friendship*

Bryan and Elyse Bowers: *Canoes, Rivers and Healing*

Douglas Cardinal: *Reconciling Differing World Views*

12.30 Lunch - Add your pot luck specials to the feast!

1.30 Concert with Tito Medina and friends

Birch bark canoe making **demonstrations and discussions** – Chuck Commanda and Marcel Labelle; and **River art** – Elena Love; and community participation in the

Creation of a Living Brook with Marcel Dubec!

Information sharing tables – themes: water, creativity, peace and nature and

Grandfather's *Circle of All Nations* books and dvds

3.00 Overview of City of Ottawa Peace Activities – Peter Stockdale/Bill Bhaneja

Closing Prayer



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Backgrounder



This project has been inspired by the work of William Commanda, the ninety six year old Algonquin Elder of the Ottawa River Watershed, the Carrier of the Sacred Three Figure Welcoming Wampum Belt.



His passions include birch bark canoe building, peace building and environmental stewardship. He has dedicated the past forty years of his life to creating a *Circle of All Nations, Culture of Peace*. A canoe builder of international renown, over seventy-five of his canoes have taken his energy around the world, including to Queen Margrethe of Denmark, from whose land the first newcomers arrived on Turtle Island. Entirely unsupported by any organization, he has reached the hearts of diverse communities, nationally and internationally, with his love, wisdom and prayer for peace, and recently, his lifetime of efforts has been acknowledged by his Master Canoe Builder and Bill Mason River Conservation recognition, receipt of the Key to the City of Ottawa, appointment as Officer of the Order of Canada, Lifetime Achiever of the 2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, and receipt of the Wolf, Harmony and Martin Luther King Dream Keeper Awards.



In 2000, Grandfather Commanda organized the Millennium *Circle of All Nations* Peace Gathering at Nepean Point, and later that year participated in the United Nations Peace Conference in New York; in 2005, Cercle de Paix and the Mayor of Montreal presented him with the *pacifist of the year* award in celebration of the September 21 United Nations International Day of Peace, and over the recent years, he has supported the City of Ottawa in its peace day celebrations.



In May 2000, the former Governor General, The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, participated in a special circle discussion on peace-building at the Millennium *Circle of All Nations* Peace Gathering; in 2004, Elder Commanda and then Excellency, John Ralston Saul participated in the *Boreal Rendezvous* canoe launch from Victoria Island. Friends of Elder Commanda see the proposed *Paddle for Peace* event as a further step towards the reconciliation of Aboriginal Peoples and Canadians; the advancement of the vision for Indigenous peace-building at *Asinabka*, on Victoria Island, on the Ottawa River; the promotion of *Sustainable Relationships* with all; and the celebration of *A Circle of All Nation, A Culture of Peace*:



For countless years, the *canoe* has been the central symbol to express the magic of the journey of life and discovery across the vast continent of North America. It is the zone where diverse cultures and peoples met and interconnected with the intimate face of Nature. It conveys thoughts about balance, cooperation, harmony and fun, consistent with the joy, flow and challenges of nature. The canoe has captured the imagination of the country so profoundly that it was selected as the winner in the CBC contest to uncover the *Canadian Seven Wonders* in 2008.



This ancient watercraft of the Indigenous Peoples continues to inspire modern sport enthusiasts, nature lovers and social activists to challenge themselves to build bridges and friendship, and over the past twenty years native communities and police have developed cross cultural trips to promote camaraderie, peace, racial harmony and relationship building, under such captivating titles as *Fast Waters, Fast Friends, Flotilla for Friendship*, and *Pulling Together*, linking Elders and youth, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Peoples, professionals and community voices.



Join us to celebrate the Spirit of the Canoe and Peace Building, and launch the CANOE as the quintessentially Canadian symbol for PEACE at the spot so precious to Grandfather – The SOURCE!



GINAWAYDAGANUC: WE ARE ALL RELATED



A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS
A CULTURE OF PEACE

