



MARCH NEWSLETTER – 2019

46th Annual Blue Skies Music Festival

August 2nd – 4th

Welcome to the 2019 March Newsletter with important dates and steps to take to get your weekend camping tickets, how to register for Kids' Arts Camp and Adult Music Camp, how to take part all year long in spreading Blue Skies magic with Blue Skies in the Community, how to help out with accessibility issues at Blue Skies, how we are getting ready for Blue Skies 50th Anniversary and how to stay in touch on the Blue Skies Mailing List today. Forty-six years of Blue Skies! Kindness, consideration, care for others and volunteering keeps the Blue Skies magic going on and on and on.

The Path to Weekend Camping Pass Tickets

If you get a Ticket Request Lottery Card in the mail, just dive right in and fill it out and put a light pencil line through your address label. Then, if you stamp it and place it in an actual, physical mail box, it will magically appear in the Blue Skies ticket hat's Really Big Hat - ready to be pulled out in the camping pass lottery draw. Please do not use an envelope and please do not send any money. To have your ticket request placed into the lottery Hat, you have to beat the **April 27th deadline**. (This includes your Day Pass orders.) Please, please don't order any "extra" camping tickets for your really good friends or your own grown-up offspring.

The ticket draw will happen in mid-May. If your lottery card is drawn, you will receive an invoice by your selected method: email or in the mail. Please choose email whenever possible. Then pay for your tickets by your selected method (e-Transfer, PayPal, or Money Order) before the June 16 deadline. Tickets are mailed out at the end of June. If your ticket request card is not one of the lucky ones drawn in the lottery, you will be in the majority and you will receive a "Sorry" email in May. Sorry. Sorry. Sorry. Sorry.

You can order and pay for Day Passes on this web site from July 1st until July 31st. They are also available at a few ticket outlets and at the gate (limited supply).

If you receive an email from tickets@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca pay close attention to it. It could be your ticket invoice or an email you have to respond to quickly so that you can receive your ticket invoice. Once you receive your invoice you should have no problem replying before the **April 14th** deadline. No stamps or long walks to the mail box required. Sticking to all your ticket purchasing deadlines is necessary so that the Ticket Hat can be ready for the Ticket Lottery. All reserved ticket sales (Organizers, Key Volunteers and Workshop Presenters) have to be accounted for in order to determine how many tickets can be pulled in the lottery. Each weekend camping pass that can go into the lottery means one less disappointed Blue Skies family. "Sorry" is the saddest email we send out.

Blue Skies Mail List

If you are moving before ticket order forms are sent out in May or tickets are mailed in mid-June, please let us know. You'll be so glad you did. If you ever want to drop off the Blue Skies Mail List, it's easy, just let us know. maillist@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca

Blue Skies Mail List
5339 Battersea Rd.
Battersea, ON K0H 1H0

What is the Blue Skies Mail List?

The Mail List is a database of all of the people who hope to attend the Blue Skies Music Festival. This year Blue Skies Organizers, Key Volunteers and Workshop Presenters will receive ticket information by email. Everyone else on the Mail List receives a Weekend Camping Pass Ticket Request Card in the mail. The card must be mailed back and received by the Ticket Hat before **April 27** in order to be eligible for the Camping Pass lottery.

What if I missed the March 17th deadline for getting on the Blue Skies Mail List and participating in the camping pass lottery?

Come to Blue Skies on a Day Pass this year and visit the info booth to see how to add your name to the Blue Skies Mail List. It's easy. Hope to see you in August! You can also be ready for next year's ticket request lottery by sending your email and mailing address to

maillist@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca



THE 50th ANNIVERSARY PROJECT – Let's Get Ready for 2023!

While we're looking forward to the magic at this summer's Blue Skies Music Festival, some folks have begun planning for the 50th Blue Skies Music Festival which happens four short years from now, in 2023.

To make this 50th Blue Skies really special, we want to do something similar to what happened in 1998 when the *"Nothing but Blue Skies"* book was published to celebrate Blue Skies' 25th anniversary. It sold out in no time. Then, in 2003, the movie *"The Ballad of Blue Skies"* was produced to celebrate the 30th anniversary. You can watch it on YouTube.

The Blue Skies book and movie were tons of work and loads of fun. We want it to happen again - a brand new collection of Blue Skies stories in book and movie form to help us celebrate the 50th Blue Skies Music Festival. What made the original book and movie so great are the many wonderful Blue Skies stories they tell. This summer and next, we'll be collecting Blue Skies stories that we can use in the new book and movie. We'll be wandering the Blue Skies site, and also hanging out at the Open Stage. Stop by and tell us your Blue Skies story or stories. A schedule will be posted.

If you have access to a camera, voice recorder or even pen and paper, you too can start collecting stories, pictures and video about the Blue Skies magic. Kindness, consideration and care for others in all story gathering will keep the Blue Skies magic going. If you want to get involved with the 50th Anniversary Project just email blueskies50th@gmail.com

Happy half a century everyone!
Andrew, Christian, Alvin and John

Accessibility Is An Important Issue For Us

The Blue Skies philosophy is about being inclusive and improving access, while continuing to respect the rugged nature of the festival land. As part of the *Accessible Customer Service Standard*, a regulation under the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(AODA\), 2005](#), we are learning how to do this in the best way possible.

We love that Blue Skies sits on a piece of Canadian Shield; however, as soft and cuddly as we all are, the land is hard and unwieldy. The roads and paths are unpaved, and accessible parking and camping spots are limited. If we can assist in making the Blue Skies experience a bit easier, it is our commitment to reduce accessibility challenges as best we can. Please contact accessibility@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca with questions, or to provide feedback.

There will also be information and a place to leave suggestions at the Info Booth. We welcome any input as we work within the rural reality of the Blue Skies festival site to make it a safe and wonderful experience for all.



Blue Skies in the Community

Making Music Happen

Since 1988 Blue Skies in the Community (BSIC) has been bringing live music to the communities surrounding the festival site during those other eleven months while we wait for the next Blue Skies. We support a variety of musical programs for both children and adults, including workshops, concerts, choirs, ukulele programs, coffee houses and bucket drumming – to name a few. Want to know more? Check out www.blueskies-in-the-community.ca

If you have a project in mind and want to talk to us about whether we might be able to help support it, contact Community Grants Liaison, Linda Rush at lindarush@yahoo.com BSIC is a group of passionate and dedicated volunteers who meet on a regular basis to plan and implement our programs.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the committee, our next **meeting** is open to anyone who wants to come and see what we do. Please join us on **Sunday, May 26**. Contact the BSIC Hat, Deb Chatreau for time and place roels.chatreau@gmail.com

The BSIC committee is a dedicated group of volunteers who work year round to bring live music into the communities surrounding the Blue Skies site. A little Blue Skies magic for everyone. We support live musical activities for both children and adults. Donations gratefully received to continue our work.

Blue Skies Fiddle Orchestra



Our flagship program is the Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra - an all ages group which practices weekly at the Maberly Hall, under the expert direction of Cindy McCall. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced player there is a place for you in one of the three groups presently running. Don't own a fiddle? No problem. BSIC has a lending library where you can rent a high quality instrument at a low cost.

Again this year, the Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra will host its annual **JAM-A-THON** and **PIE AUCTION**. This is the orchestra's main fundraising event of the year. On **Sunday, May 4th**, the Maberly hall will be filled with the sounds of fiddles, guitars, mandolins, whistles and voices. Drop in at any time from 12:00 to 5:00 for some rip roaring fun and toe tapping tunes. Come to play, dance or just watch. You can support the orchestra by sponsoring a member, getting your own sponsors and coming out to play, or just sending a donation. Or even better - buy a pie! Last year 40 pies were auctioned off and the competition for them was fierce!

For more information about this incredible community event contact Cindy at 613-278-2448 cindy.fiddlemusic.mccall@gmail.com or Wolfe 613-273-3986 cerlichman@yahoo.com

Blue Skies Adult Music Camp

Blue Skies in the Community is very excited to announce the 2019 Blue Skies Adult Music Camp! Last year's camp was so much fun that we are going to do it again. This camp will take place from the evening of Sunday, **July 28th** to midday on Wednesday, July 31st, just a few days before the festival, at the lovely, rural Blue Skies site, near Clarendon, Ontario. (So unlike other music camps, we'll actually be camping outdoors, with tents 'n' stuff.)



We offer three streams of musical instruction: 'Let's Sing!', with Nicola Oddy, 'Blue Skies Jazz Ensemble', with Paul Renz, and 'Singing Around the Campfire' with our good friend, Magoo.



'Let's Sing!' is open to anybody who likes to sing, and no experience is required. 'The Jazz Ensemble' is suitable for those with an intermediate ability on their favourite instrument, and 'Singing Around the Campfire' is for folks who know at least a few chords on a guitar, ukulele, or mandolin, and would like to sing and play with others in a casual, welcoming setting.



The cost for this event is \$180. For more information, or to sign up, go to 'Adult Music Camp 2019'. Don't delay; it's going to be fun and spaces are limited. We are already half full and last year sold out!

Blue Skies Kids' Arts Camp



Mark your calendars! The 18th annual Blue Skies Kids' Arts Camp begins Monday, July 22nd and runs to Friday, July 26th, 2019, on the magical Blue Skies Festival Site, Clarendon.

You are invited to register your children, 7 – 13 years of age, beginning April 13th, 2019 at 1:00 PM, online at www.blueskies-in-the-community.ca.

The fee is \$250.00 per child and includes a choice of arts' workshops taught by

highly skilled professional instructors, two snacks a day, additional fun activities and an opportunity to develop leadership skills. The registration process is quick and simple. Please note: Camp qualifying ages will change to ages 8 – 13 years in 2020. If you have any questions please contact Susan Walker susanann.walker12@gmail.com



Holistic/Kids' Workshops

Special Information for Workshop Presenters

We look forward to your fabulous workshop! Many of you this year are adapting your gift to be meaningful to children as well as adults, or maybe in the be 'tween. The email you received from the Blue Skies Ticket Hat contains your Ticket Order Form. That Ticket Order Form offers you one free ticket (regardless of how many workshops you are presenting) and allows you to purchase tickets for your immediate family and for your co-presenter (if you have one). Being able to purchase tickets this way is a privilege. Tickets are not transferable. Please let us know immediately if you are not able to offer your workshop.



If you have questions regarding your workshop, please contact Michelle at holistic@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca or Lyndsay at kids@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca. Questions about tickets go to Alvin at tickets@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca

- The Gate opens about 9am Friday. Please **do not** arrive earlier. Your tickets are stamped for Friday entry, please respect this.
- Kids Area Workshops – there is a **Meeting Friday** about **4PM** at the **Kids Area**
- 'Tween Workshops – there is a **Meeting Friday** about **5 PM** at the **Open Stage**
- Holistic Workshops – there is a **Meeting Friday** about **6 PM** at the **Hilltop Gazebo**
- Please ensure your workshop description for the Program is submitted to the Kids and Holistic Hat as soon as possible.
- If you require materials for your workshop, please verify with Lyndsay and or Michelle prior to purchase. Once pre-approved, receipts can be reimbursed at the meeting.
- Please note there is NO secure storage at the Kids' Area please keep all material at your campsite.

Any questions? Contact Michelle at holistic@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca or Lyndsay at kids@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca



Welcome to the 46th Blue Skies? We are so happy you can join us!

Michelle DeGrandmont
Holistic Hat
Lyndsay Koivisto
Kids' Area Hat

Volunteering At Blue Skies

This year, as every year, once you get to Blue Skies, volunteering is the thing to do. It is fun, rewarding and a wonderful way to express your love of Blue Skies! Sign up at the Info Booth or speak with one of the three Volunteer Coordinators who are walking around. The greatest way to feel that you are part of Blue Skies is to help out. Make this your year to volunteer!

Kids Area – helping out the kids

Sanitation – freshen up the loos – a fast and fun shift

Recycling – help keep our Recycling Program running smoothly
(Everyone takes their own garbage home.)

Kitchen – dishes, serving, grooving in the Cook Shack

Hospitality – cleaning, prepping, grooving back stage

Parking – for those of you with special spatial talents

Blue Skies Organizational Meetings

Blue Skies Organizers, affectionately referred to as Hats, Apprentices, Committee Members and Perennials, meet throughout the year to make decisions related to our three day Blue Skies Music Festival. Everyone is invited to the open meetings held in September and April. If you would like to attend the **April 27th, 2019** meeting, contact maillist@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca for time and location.

The Blue Skies Parking Challenge

We have a growing number of trailers coming to the festival (max 18 feet). If you are considering this, know that we have very limited space. Camping on the road is illegal, and could threaten the future of the festival. If we are full, this is not an option. Please be respectful of this and bring a tent in case your trailer doesn't fit. If you book ahead you can trailer camp at local Provincial Parks or Two Happy Girls

litsa.ducros@gmail.com

which has some camp sites next door to the Blue Skies site. This is a private site not connected with Blue Skies. You must purchase Saturday and Sunday day tickets ahead of time and show both tickets in order to camp here. Also check out the Accommodation Guide for Sharbot Lake <http://www.sharbotlake.com/accom.html>



**If you have Blue Skies organizational Hat announcements
that should appear in future
Blue Skies web site Newsletters,
please send them to**

maillist@blueskiesmusicfestival.ca

**Blue Skies in the Community news items go to BSIC Hat Deb Chatreau
roels.chatreau@gmail.com**

Thank you.

**Donna Wood
Maillist/Newsletter**

New Blue Skies Tickets Mailing address:

Blue Skies Tickets
5339 Battersea Rd.
Battersea, ON K0H 1H0

