



News and Resources: September 2026 Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action Group



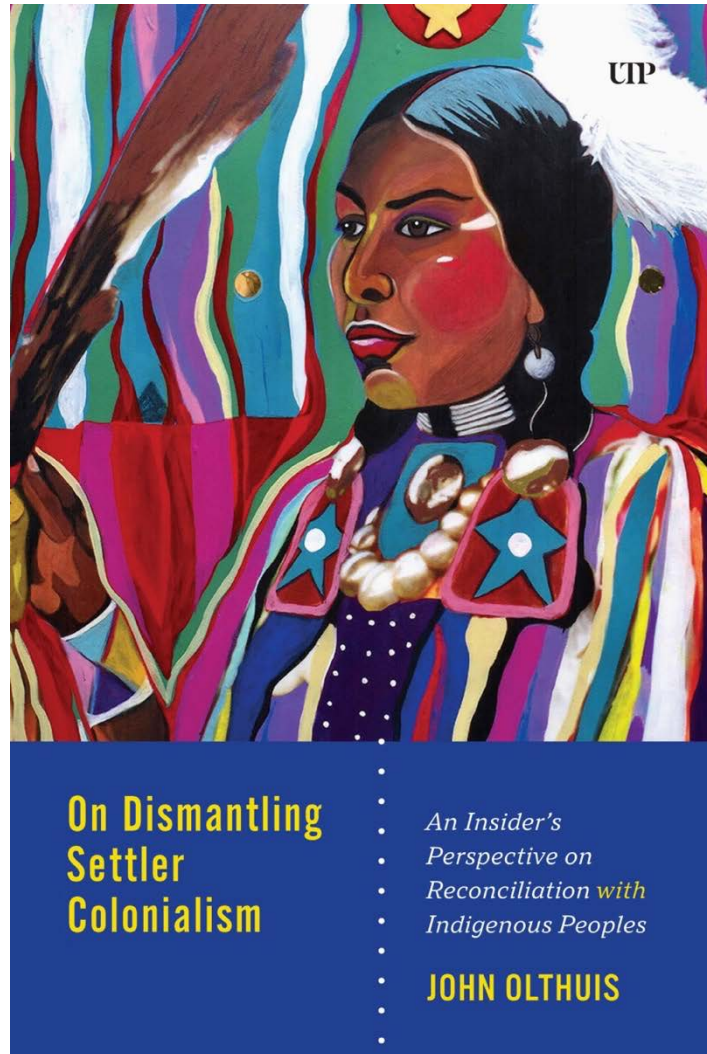
Beyond Land Acknowledgements: JTRAG hosts John Olthuis from September 24-29 to help us prepare for the 2026 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

HOLD THESE DATES: You may be aware of John Olthuis' extraordinary work on treaty rights and land claims over many years and of his new book *On Dismantling Settler Colonialism*. It advocates for a true reconciliation: one that fosters the creation of political, economic, social, and cultural spaces where Indigenous nations can self-govern, restore their traditional lands, and live in harmony with the earth according to their own values and beliefs.

Through deeply personal reflections on over five decades of activism in the communities of the Dene Nation, Grassy Narrows First Nation, Temagami First Nation and the Innu Nation of Labrador, John shares his powerful journey of working to dismantle settler colonialism. He brings to light the many neglected blueprints for true reconciliation, including discussions of over 700 recommendations for systemic change put forth by the *Penner Report*, The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. John's book offers a powerful exploration of how the challenging work of dismantling settler colonialism can be a transformative and deeply healing process for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples alike.

JTRAG has invited John to spend the week leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with us in the Kingston area and to help us reflect on the theme "Beyond Land Acknowledgements: How Can I Act?" Here's an early glimpse of John's program:

- **Thurs Sept 24 at noon:** John will deliver the Tom Courchene Distinguished Speaker Series for 2026. See: <https://www.queensu.ca/sps/events/distinguished-lectureseries#tom-courchene> It will take place at Queen's in Robert Sutherland Hall Room 202.
- **Fri Sept 25:** John will spend the day with staff and students at the Limestone District School Board. Contact Patrick Vanderholst for details vanderholstp@limestone.on.ca



- **Sat Sept 26 at 10:00 AM:** John will participate in a ceremony and sharing circle at All Our Relations Land Trust. See <https://www.aorlt.ca/>
- **Sun Sept 27 at 10:00 AM:** a joint service at Sydenham Street United Church, 82 Sydenham St with participation from at least five Kingston congregations. John will preach at the service focused on how we can mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept 30, 2026.
- **Sun Sept 27 at 1:30 PM:** a public lecture at The Spire, 82 Sydenham Street including a dialogue between John and Lindsay Borrows, inaugural holder of the Queen's Law Professorship in Indigenous Law & Governance. See <https://law.queensu.ca/directory/lindsay-borrows>.
- **Mon Sept 28:** John will spend the day with staff and students at St Lawrence College. Contact Lindsay Brant at LBrant@sl.on.ca for details.
- **Tues Sept 29:** John will spend the day with faculty and students in the Law Faculty at Queen's. Contact Anya Hageman for details: hagemana@queensu.ca

Please share this information in your networks and encourage people to seize these opportunities to consider how we move beyond land acknowledgements.



You Are Invited To An Evening with Dr. James Raffan, Speaker, Writer, Explorer

Topic: Telling Tales from Arctic Trails

Date: Friday October 16th

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Wall Street United Church, 5 Wall Street, Brockville, Ontario

Hosted by: Indigenous Sub-Committee of the Outreach Committee

Everyone is Welcome! Admission is Free! Refreshments are Provided!
For further information, contact Donna Greenhorn at greenhj@ripnet.com

Dr. James Raffan is one of Canada's most respected writers, explorers and storytellers. He is the author or contributor to more than 20 books and hundreds of articles about the north. He is a former geographer (with a Ph.D. in Cultural Geography), an educator, Professor and Director of Outdoor Education and Experiential Learning at Queen's University, Executive Director of the Canadian Canoe Museum, and he continues to serve as a tour guide in northern countries for Adventure Canada.

Dr. Raffan has entitled his presentation "Telling Tales from Arctic Trails". He will explore what the Arctic has to teach us about resilience, imagination, reconciliation, and our relationship with the land. Dr. Raffan will be joining us at Wall Street United Church for his speaking engagement on Friday October 16th at 7:00 PM. Following his presentation and a Q+A period, attendees will be invited to a reception to meet Dr. Raffan and enjoy a chat with him.

When asked about his desire to explore the northernmost regions of our country, he humbly said "I just wanted to meet my neighbours". He will encourage all of us to see our country and ourselves with fresh eyes, curiosity, humour, and a deeper sense of connection.



Pitching in: Tragically Hip tribute honours Gord Downie's calls for reconciliation

Article by Paul Waldie published in the Globe and Mail July 10, 2026

Wayne Kaulbach, 64, plays in a Tragically Hip cover band in Vancouver and has embarked on a cross-country, one-man tribute show to raise money for the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund. SUPPLIED The organizer: Wayne Kaulbach/ The pitch: Raising \$10,000/ The cause: The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund

Wayne Kaulbach is a such big fan of the Tragically Hip that he's seen the band perform 10 times and sings in a tribute act called Bobcaygeon. He's been hooked on the Hip since the group's first album, *Up to Here*, came out in 1989. "I think Gord was just the best front man of all time," he said. "They are the ultimate Canadian rock band." Mr. Kaulbach was also touched by Mr. Downie's Indigenous activism and his call for reconciliation. "He wanted a better Canada for all of us and it really inspired me," he said.

Last year Mr. Kaulbach, a 64-year-old retired photographer from Vancouver, started thinking about taking a trip across Canada. He also wanted to do something to honour Mr. Downie, who died in 2017. He came up with the idea of performing a one-man Tragically Hip show in bars and clubs along the way.

He set out in his 24-year-old Volkswagen Eurovan last April and played his first gigs in B.C., Yukon and the Northwest Territories. He then headed east and plans to visit each province and Nunavut before returning to Vancouver in October. He's played 15 shows so far and has several more booked.

He's donating half of whatever he's paid, plus tips, to the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund, which promotes cultural understanding. He's raised around \$5,000 so far and hopes to hit \$10,000 by October. He's also asking people, "What does reconciliation mean to you?" and compiling responses on a Google doc.

The trip hasn't been without a few hitches, including a van breakdown that cost \$5,500 to repair. But Mr. Kaulbach has been overwhelmed by the generosity of the people he has met, including the family in Smithers, B.C., who put him up for a few nights while the van was being fixed.

"It's just been an amazing trip," he said during a stop in Ontario. "It's kind of blown my mind how kind and wonderful people have been."



Two Opportunities to Support Northern Ontario Indigenous Neighbours:

1. *Together for Nature Promotional Tour*. Ramon, Tristan, Mike, Rick and others from Treaty 9 are going on the road across Ontario this September, sharing their plea to protect Attawapiskat for the next seven generations. See [the promo video](#). Please help spread the word so *everyone* in Ontario can hear their commitment and how they can support this justice work. Links and more info are below in this email.

Links for the Ontario Tour of Treaty 9:

- Webpage: [Together for Nature Tour](#)
- Ottawa ticket page: [Together for Nature Tour \(Ottawa\)](#)
- Toronto ticket page: [Together For Nature Tour \(Toronto\)](#)
- Kitchener ticket page: [Together For Nature Tour \(Kitchener\)](#)
- London ticket page: [Together For Nature Tour \(London\)](#)
- Poster: [Together for Nature Tour Poster](#)
- Promo Video: [Together for Nature Video](#)

Links to the organizations:

- Okiniwak (Instagram, Facebook) Here We Stand
- Friends of the Attawapiskat River
- Legal Advocates for Nature's Defence
- Ontario Nature

2. The injustices done to **Grassy Narrows** have not been resolved. Join a purpose-packed bus from Kingston to participate in the **River Run Rally in Toronto for Grassy Narrows justice on Wed. Sept 23, 2026**. [Here's the link to register for the bus](#) Space is limited, so register today! And please share this invite. The people of Grassy Narrows are making a two day trip to get to T.O. (and another two to get home). So let's fill their hearts with our solidarity. [Note: we'll stop to pick up people in Tyendinaga/PEC, too, so share with friends there, too.] Bus leaves Kingston Centre at 8 am sharp and returns that evening. If you want to help fund the bus, please do! (Click on the registration for donation info). But you don't need money to come. Just get on the bus!



Pow Wow Guide ... it includes

- Pow Wow etiquette — what's expected, and what to avoid
- What to wear (and what *not* to wear) as a guest
- A breakdown of the major dance styles and what to watch for
- The history and meaning behind the songs, the drum, and the circle

The sale of every copy sold goes straight back into keeping PowWows.com running — the calendar, the live streams, the history newsletter, all of it. Thirty years in, we're still here because people like you decide it's worth it. For a limited time, it's **25% off** with the code **POWWOW25**:

Get the Pow Wow Guide — 25% Off



A Three-Part Portrait of John Olthuis: *The Settler Lawyer Who Was Told to Dismantle*
by Kip Ip kip.ip@queensu.ca

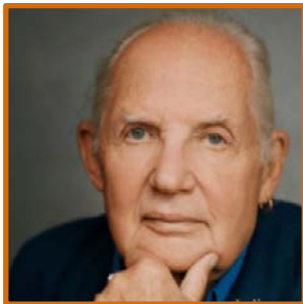
Kip Ip, our regular contributor and coordinator of our digital library has prepared a three-part portrait of John Olthuis to help readers prepare for his visit to the region in September.

1. Triple Portrait of John A. Olthuis: *The Settler Lawyer Who Was Told to Dismantle* (**attached**)
2. Triple Portrait of John A. Olthuis: *Fifty Years of Change on the Land*
3. Triple Portrait of John A. Olthuis: *The Bigger Fight and the Road Ahead*

Click here to access all three parts: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-U8xQ6hu3rCQEzEA2LZtfyBk8jU4A-AI> or scan the QR code:

John A. Olthuis

SCAN TO READ



Check out True North Aid

True North Aid is a Canadian registered charity with a mandate to provide practical humanitarian assistance through initiatives established on eight foundational stones of support. These include self-determination, reconciliation, water, food, health, housing, culture and education.

Its activities are designed to help inspire and empower Indigenous peoples to pursue their dreams and, in turn, empower their communities. Through reconciliation and educational activities, TNA raises awareness and promotes a nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, acknowledging the past wrongs and finding ways to engage in a path forward.

TNA is guided by the Indigenous Advisory Committee and Elders, who provide direction and leadership in how it engages with their people, understanding that every community is different. At its core, True North Aid respects the diversity of belief and conviction found with the people and organizations it supports and the people and organizations who support it.

See <https://truenorthaid.ca/about/>



JTRAG's Online Reading and Audio Resource List

JTRAG has replaced its physical library with an annotated reading and audio resource list. The list includes a wide range of reading and audio resources to support your self-education efforts. Our goal is to provide practical, widely available resources that support learning, reflection, and group discussion. The list is updated monthly. Where available, it includes links that you can use to access the resources. Thanks to JTRAG's volunteer Library Coordinator, Kip Ip. If you have any questions about this book list, please get in touch with Kip at (kip.ip@queensu.ca). This August list prepares JTRAG for John Olthuis's Kingston visit from September 24 to 29, 2026, and for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. It opens with Olthuis's *On Dismantling Settler Colonialism* and Chief Robert Joseph's short video *Namwayut: We Are All One*. Together, they connect Survivor testimony, shared humanity, Indigenous jurisdiction, land, law, and structural change. The book remains the sole Book of the Month. Click here to access:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zRninff0svLBSYcHHeb1cSGj10TFsxbi?usp=sharing?>

PLEASE share this information in your networks so that it is available to a wide range of interested individuals and groups. Kip also welcomes your suggestions of other print or audio resources that should be added to the list.

Let us know what you think

We invite/need your comments and suggestions. We welcome material from our readers and are pleased to include comments and reflection pieces here as catalysts for more reflection and dialogue. The submissions we include do not represent any official position by JTRAG members or our readers.