

# The Summer Institute in Grassroots Sustainability

Emergent Thinking • Personalist Practices • Local Democracy

Join Us from Wednesday July 19 - Saturday July 22, 2017

## DO YOU WORK IN COMMUNITY ?

Are you working in creative ways to support people while buffering bureaucracy? Do you find yourself reflecting on what it takes to balance grassroots community building and top-down systems thinking? Do you feel the pressure of trying to respond authentically to community, while also meeting funding requirements? Do you find it challenging to reconcile the rigidity of systems-world thinking with the complexity of the life-world?

## how do we...

offer sustainable, reliable resources that are agile and responsive to change?  
build structures without overdeveloping those structures?  
understand and foster local democracy in our community?



## AT THE WORKING CENTRE, WE HAVE BEEN ASKING THESE QUESTIONS FOR THIRTY YEARS

and they continue to inform our work every day. Through trial and error, we have built a grassroots organizational model that integrates the stability of the systems-world with the continual change and unpredictability of the life-world. We have learned how to build room for adaptability and response – on both day-to-day and long-term scales – into the very architecture of a sound administrative model that is accountable to funders. These practices are foundational to our ability to offer resources to our community that are useful, reliable and sustainable over the long term.

One part of serving community is providing tangible resources and focused supports. Another part, which is bound up in the first, is nurturing the spirit of local democracy: helping to foster a community where people support each other and find joy in connecting together. In our work, the way we respond to the people we serve is important to this community dynamic.

Are you interested in learning more about the practices that we have developed in emergent thinking, personalist practices and local democracy? Whether you are an individual or part of an organization, we invite you to join us in reflection and conversation at our second Summer Institute in Grassroots Sustainability.

The 2017 Summer Institute will take place at The Working Centre's Fresh Ground, located at 256 King St. E. in downtown Kitchener. Registration is \$250 per person. To register, please fill in the form on the back of this page or email Heather Montgomery at The Working Centre: [waterlooschool@theworkingcentre.org](mailto:waterlooschool@theworkingcentre.org).

July 19, 2017

## The Daily Circus

*A gathering to explore the continued significance of the thought of Ivan Illich*

Come join us for a day-long Illich-inspired convivial gathering of friends, with food, drink and clarification of thought. We invite you to contribute to this gathering by writing a short article which explores or applies an aspect of Illich's work. At this gathering you will have a chance to share your thoughts with others.

July 19 2017, 9am-5pm  
Fresh Ground  
256 King St E, Kitchener

Lunch will be catered by The Working Centre. Suggested payment is \$10/person.



## Institutional Inversion

*Ivan Illich's Institutional Vision and Its Misunderstandings*

Often misunderstood as being crassly anti-institutional, Illich in fact saw possibility in turning institutions inside-out and flipping them upside-down.

Join David Cayley from CBC Radio's IDEAS (now retired) for a presentation and discussion about Ivan Illich's thinking on institutions and their contemporary relevance.

This event will open both our Fermented Thoughts series and this year's Summer Institute.

July 19 2017, 7pm-9pm  
Fresh Ground, 256 King St E, Kitchener

Fermented Thoughts is our new forum for imaginative thought on social, economic and ecological issues. Join our guest speakers for discussion over wine and snacks.

Tickets are \$25 per evening, including food and a drink.

\* For Summer Institute participants, registration for Institutional Inversion is included – no need to purchase an extra ticket.



If you are interested in joining us for one or both of these events, please fill in the form on the back of this page or contact Isaiah at The Working Centre for details: [waterlooschool@theworkingcentre.org](mailto:waterlooschool@theworkingcentre.org) or (519) 743-1151 x 175.