



I am most looking forward to the relationships I'll see flourish as we work toward a vision of abundance locally. I hope to ready the ground and plant the seeds for collective land-based healing.

Ben Heywood-MacLeod

McGill University

A Road to Reconciliation: Negro Creek, Ontario, Canada

I'm working on reconciliation, antiracist organizing, and community bridging along Negro Creek Road in Grey County, Ontario. The initiative will build an accessible knowledge base on the area's rich Black history, encourage relationships between locals and knowledge keepers that counter histories of violent erasure, and empower a process of collectively reshaping the geography around a Black history site. I'm committed to an intersectional lens and a participatory methodology.

I grew up and spent most of my life a few kilometres from Negro Creek Road - it is the place I call home. In the small town way, I am only a few degrees of separation from other locals. In 2020, responding to the calls to action of the Black Lives Matter movement, I researched and then produced a short documentary film of my area's Black history. Through the film, I became connected with descendants of the original Black settlers of Negro Creek and the surrounding area. They taught me how we are our histories, intertwined.

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