

GAMES

A number of games will be played at the gathering. Games of physical and mental prowess will be of primary focus and the winners of such games may be recognized by the Giftstool at *symbol*. Some notable games will be Tug-O-War, Archery, Kubb, Axe Throwing and Hunker-Down. Tafl and Nine Men's Morris will also surely bring out our competitive spirits.

CHILDREN'S GAMES

Children, being the future of our people, will get opportunities to express their mental and physical prowess as well by playing child-friendly versions of the adult games. These would include scaled down Kubb, Tug-O-War, as well as memory games. Crafts will also be a great entertainment to the children as the grown-ups get lost in the thralls of Heathen discussions.

VENDING

Vending is permitted and encouraged. We ask that vendors provide items of a Heathen theme to the attending folks. There are no additional costs for vendors. There are particular rules and regulations regarding vending at Raven's Knoll, which include a requirement to be covered by insurance. (To learn more please write ravensknoll@rogers.com.)



Raven's Knoll

10441 Highway 60
Near Eganville, Ontario

The Hail and Horn Gathering will take place at Raven's Knoll, a campground and event centre located near Eganville, Ontario, Canada. This beautiful, natural 100 acre property is located on the Bonnechere River, between Golden Lake and Eganville.

REGISTRATION

The pre-registration prices to attend this three day camping gathering will be \$120 (\$106.20 plus HST) for adults and \$60 (\$53.10 plus HST) for youth aged 7 to 17, while children 6 and under are free. The late registration price will be \$145 (\$128.32 plus HST) for adults, after June 1, 2012 and on-site.

Indoor spaces and electrical hook-ups are available at an additional cost. (Preference is given to Elders and people with medical conditions, with regard to indoor space. To ensure you get some of the limited indoor space, you must pre-register.)

This year the 'High Seat Council' (a fancy name for the organizers) has instituted what is called the "Draupnir Benefit." Just as Draupnir multiplied after nine days, for every ninth adult registered under a 'banner' the folk of that banner will have the value of one registration fee returned to them when they arrive at the event!

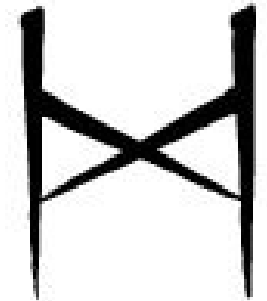
Please complete the registration form at www.ravensknoll.ca/?p=HHG. For questions please contact ravensknoll@rogers.com. For more information, or come visit the Facebook group for "Hail and Horn Gathering."

HAIL AND HORN GATHERING

June 29 to July 2, 2012

hosted at

Raven's Knoll



www.ravensknoll.ca/?p=HHG

ravensknoll@rogers.com

(613) 867-6346

HAIL!

Hail and Horn Gathering is a weekend-long event that aims to deepen the spiritual experience of modern Heathens; those people who honour the ancient religious custom, Gods and Goddesses of the pre-Christian Scandinavian and Germanic tribes. It is a chance for Heathens to come together and interact in a fashion, with each other and our Gods, that closely resembles the society of historical Heathens.

Held on Canada Day weekend 2012, this gathering will focus on the aspects of 'Hail' and 'Horn', the well-being of our Heathen communities and the interconnectedness that we share, specifically at *blót* and at *symbel*. We will feast and break ground on a permanent holy vé, a sacred enclosure, for communal Heathen worship.

BANNERS

This gathering is community-oriented; created and organized by Heathens for Heathens. Our emphasis is on Heathen groups coming together in *frith* to promote the ever growing dynamic of modern Heathendom among those attending to experience together and grow together. These groups will be organized, on their own terms, into 'banners.' These banners might be kindreds, hearths, study circles, or other groups, such as Raven's Knoll volunteers. We look forward to all banners and individual attendees participating in HHG as a distinct people amongst a greater folk. Those who do not belong to a Heathen group are invited to come out and meet new people and hopefully in time will be fostered by a present banner for mutual support.

HIGH SEAT COUNCIL

Each complete banner will put forward, on their own terms, a member of their folk to sit upon the High Seat Council. This body of Redesmen and/or Redeswomen, effectively councillors, will be responsible for the 'steering' of the community experience during much of HHG. The Redesfolk are to be the direct contact between the Council and their banner. At *symbel*, they will oversee the protocol of the ritual and assist in the awarding of gifts and words of praise to those displaying high merit: skalds, speakers, gifters and more.

SYMBEL

We raise the horn! The *symbol* or *sumbel* will be a 'High Symbol,' meaning that only those Gods known to have been honoured by historical Heathen peoples will be honoured. (Loki may be honoured at *symbol*, due to the lore set down in *Lokasenna*). The *symbol* will be built upon the foundation of Stephen Pollington's work, the 'Meadhall'. Hence it will closely echo ancient Anglo-Saxon *symbol* in our modern world. Some notable features of the *symbol* will be the absence of a three-round structured 'American Sumbel' format. The *symbol* space will be laid out in the seating pattern of a meadhall ... so no circle. Various ceremonial attendants will facilitate the ritual such as the *byrele* (Cup/Horn Bearer), *thyle* (Orator and Hall Challenger) as well as the *door-thane* (Door Keeper). A *giftstool* will be made up of the High Seat Council which will gift the folk on behalf of the people attending this *samningar* (gathering).



GOD-POLE

Hail the Gods! The primary ritual will be that of the Raising of the God-Pole. This is the 'planting' of a carved pole, an idol, to represent the God being specifically honoured this year at the gathering. The account in the *Risala* of Ibn Fadlan will inspire the ritual so that we can approach the Gods in a manner relevant to ancient Heathens, here specifically the Rus. Offerings of food and drink will be made to the God in a *blót* ritual which will link directly to the main feast. To our knowledge this will be the first time a permanent holy vé, a sacred enclosure with idols, will be established for communal Heathen worship in Canada.

FEAST

The *blót* feast will consist of those foods offered to the God-Pole to be prepared and shared among the gathered. This preparation will be consistent with the ancient cooking techniques of the Germanic tribes to best reflect the Heathen experience of elder days. This is in accordance with the concept of the *blót* as a sacred meal shared between humanity and the Gods. The first portion of the meal will be ritually exchanged with the God at their God-Pole. The rest will be shared in community in a state of joviality and abundant frith before the *symbol*.

WORKSHOPS

A select number of quality workshops are being organized. They will be focused exclusively on Heathen specific subject matter and will range from beginner level to advanced, from strictly religious lore to cultural customs.