



Hail & Horn 2025

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Cover Art: The Norns Urðr, Verðandi, and Skuld beneath the world tree Yggdrasil (1882) by Ludwig Burger

A Message from the Witan

Hail and Welcome!

Our communities have come together to hold another amazing Heathen spiritual gathering; this time, in honour of Yggdrasil. Under promise of friðr do we meet now to honour the Gods, Ancestors, and our Inclusive Heathen community.

Yggdrasil is one of the names for the Old Norse “World-Tree”. This is an ancient layer of Heathen religion shared with the pre-agricultural, shamanic peoples of Northern Europe and Asia. Yggdrasil literally means “The-Terrifying-Steed”.

Yggdrasil is poetically viewed as a mythic tree whose branches and roots join all of the ‘worlds’ of Old Norse cosmology; Yggdrasil is the mythic tree that represents all holy groves. Yet, Yggdrasil is also the wisdom of its poetic kennings; the mast of the ship which carries the gods, the corpse carried on the backs of four pallbearers, ‘The-Slippery-One’ who is Odin’s eight-legged steed Sleipnir, the navigator within the eight-fold compass rose, the Heathen within the Vé, or Odin hanging from the World-Tree to gain the runes. It is by Yggdrasil that Heathens travel to mystical realms. It is by Yggdrasil that we find what is holy. It is by Yggdrasil that we can live beyond death in mythic time.

We encourage everyone to participate in the blót, húsel feast, and sumbel (symbol) because they are linked rituals. At blót we will set new Vé-posts to represent the Old Norse cosmos, give offerings to the World-Tree, and restring the Vé-bond rope that makes the Vé holy. At a pot-luck húsel we will share in hall-joy. At sumbel we raise the horn to speak good words in boast, toast, or gift. There will be workshops on lore, craft, and games, and additional esoteric ceremonies.

Remember that folx who are attending volunteer to put on this event, so fortify yourself and gain some honour by joining the shield-wall to help cook, clean, serve, tote, grunt, burn, etc. If you want to vote for the God-pole we raise next year, attend the Rede Moot. May the Gods favour you.

In frith, til Alf ok Van, all my relations,

The Witan of the Hail and Horn Gathering

Dr. Maryanne (MA) Pearce

Chantal Layoun

Austin (Auz) Lawrence

Schedule

Freya's Day (Friday)

All day! Registration

If you are all set up, feel free to ask RK staff if there is anything left to do. Otherwise, hang out, swim, relax in Hammock Ville and await the arrival of kin and kith.

9 pm Welcoming Ritual (The Witan)

Join us at the fire pit for a short welcoming ritual to set our intentions for the weekend. We will also review the Esoteric ritual outline and answer any questions.

10 pm–2 am Welcome Fire & Skald Open Mic (Basil)

As people from farther afield arrive into the evening, we sit in conversation around the fire reacquainting ourselves with those who we have not seen for a while and making new connections with our friends. We will start the fire by chatting about the program and what to expect from the weekend, talking about the Gods raised already in the Vé, and hear a story or two, if Folx are moved to perform.

Washing Day (Saturday)

9-10 am Coffee Chat (Alex & Tina)

Shuffle by the YAG and grab a free cup of fresh coffee or tea! You are welcome to wake up and chat with others about your plans for the day or grab your coffee in sleepy silence. Please bring your own cup to reduce our waste!

10 am-12 pm Prepare the Vé for Blót (Chad) @ the Vé ... and the Prepare the Posts @ the Hall (Auz)

The magic of refreshing the Vé requires some preparation, much as our traditional HHG Blóts.

Chad will use the magical skid steer to auger the eight holes, the logic being our ancient ancestors would have used a skid steer if they had one. Safety-conscious people can participate at a safe distance. The posts themselves will require charring – using a flame thrower! Same philosophy; there are 8 to do. (Its not really a flame thrower but MA likes to call it that.) That will occur at the Standing Stone fire pit.

12-1 pm Lunch & Group Swim (Folx)

Time to refresh yourself after the hot work in the Vé! Time to eat something, take a nap, or go for a swim! Bring your lunch to the Standing Stone hall!

12-1 Esoteric Ritual Meeting (Arums, Ellen and Gwynne)

For everyone with a speaking role, drumming, helping to set up and the After-Care team, please bring your lunch to the Hall and join the Esoteric team in going over what is going to happen, the order, etc.

1-3 pm Carving the Posts (Blót Carvers, with Lorne & Nat)

The eight carvers will carve their bind runes into the Vé posts. Experienced carvers Lorne and Nat will be on hand to provide any guidance, if necessary. Everyone is welcome! We will use a leaf blower to get rid of chips before feast. It will be easier on people's back – and in the shade – to carve and watch.

1-3 pm Nine Worlds Lore (Auz)

While the carvers carve, Auz will talk about the lore surrounding the Nine Worlds, and why we only have eight posts in the Vé. And wherever else his mind wanders or the discussion takes us!

3-4 pm Storytelling for Leadership and Research (Bridget)

Storytelling is part of the broader tradition of oral history, found across the world since time immemorial. In this workshop, we will be discussing the importance of story and who / where / why / how to tell them. We will

explore how story can be used to share knowledge and why it's valuable. Oral histories are an important resource for accurate historical re-enactment and for preserving the knowledge of an organization. The session is informed by Indigenous storytelling scholars such as Jo-ann Archibald. I am gearing the content to bards/archivists, historical researchers, and/or leaders from beginner to advanced. All levels of interest are welcome and encouraged.

4-5 pm Both Feet Planted in Midgard: Grounding & Centering for Self-Care at Esoterics (Tristan/Tris)

Many of us carry unresolved emotions – anger, grief, doubt, and more. While Esoteric can be a powerful place to confront what holds us back, if all parts of us are not in alignment beforehand the experience can be diminished, difficult to connect to, or even retraumatizing. Although the folks at Aftercare are always glad to provide support, perhaps there can be a better way. After all, an ounce of prevention is worth an hour (or night, or month) of slow & painful recovery from the unexpected.

Let's talk a bit about neuroscience, a bit about disassociation, and a lot about the surprisingly large set of techniques that overlap between modern paganism and cutting-edge trauma therapy. You'll have a chance to assess your existing ability to get rooted in the Here & Now of Midgard, and practice skills to sink those roots deeper whenever you need to, so that if the power of Esoteric threatens to sweep you off to another realm - you can relax and enjoy the ride. By the end of this class, attendee should be coming away with an understanding of how to tell a story, the importance and ethics of story, and how to use story in persona development/research.

5-6 pm Tree Cults in Ancient Germanic Heathenry (Erik)

In this workshop Erik will share aspects of tree focused religiosity within the greater ancient Germanic Heathen cult practices. Whether Yggdrasil, Barnstock, Mimis Holt or the Irminsul... or the Ash tree in your back yard, there is a wealth of sacred ways we can interact with trees. The practices, if not so much the beliefs can be seen continuing far past the age of conversion and into the modern age. Erik will help you through the basics and guide you in developing your own tree cult practice.

6-9 pm Dinner & Wellness check on self and community (Folx)

Today has encompassed physical, ritual and intellectual experiences. Time to take the time to rest, eat and prepare for the Esoteric ritual. You are welcome to do so at the Standing Stone or in your own campsite. Also, you should probably drink some water now. Check on others to make sure they've taken care of themselves, too. The fire will be started at some point during this period too.

9-11 pm Esoteric: Journey of the Tree (Arums, Ellen and Gwynne)

In 2025, we honour Yggdrasil, the Tree that holds the cosmos, and at its root, the Well and its Guardians. This esoteric ritual will be a journey down Yggdrasil to commune with Norns and spinners, weavers and makers, to discover the threads within ourselves that weave together to build our community. The ritual will be in the main fire pit.

After Esoteric Esoteric After Care (Tristan & Ewan)

Building on the principles learned earlier today, Tristan and Ewan will sit around a brazier with you and talk about your experience. This will be held at the Birch Grove, near the main fire pit.

9 pm – 2 am Folx Fire (Folx)...

At this laid-back fire, we will raise a horn or two, chat with Folx newly met or long-time companions. There will be the opportunity for anyone to share a few myths or stories, poems or songs, as well. For those not attending the esoteric, you may stay at the fire.

Sunna's Day (Sunday)

9-10 am Coffee Chat (Alex & Tina)

Shuffle by the YAG and grab a free cup of fresh coffee or tea! You are welcome to wake up and chat with others about your plans for the day or grab your coffee in sleepy silence. Please bring your own cup to reduce our waste!

10 am – 12 pm Yggdrasil Blót (Auz & Blót Team) @ the Vé

Gather in the Aesir Vé. Yggdrasil is the World-Tree in Old Norse religion. The format of the Blót is different this year because we are erecting eight Vé-bond posts and a Vé-bond rope. These are the elements of the shrine that divide the holy space from the mundane, they link the Æsir Vé with all of the Nine Worlds. At the ritual, officiants will send offerings into the post hole for each world, install a rune-carved stave-post, and attach an iron ring. The folk will then weave the Vé-bond rope as both it and all who touch the rope are aspersed with the water of the Sacred Well. Finally, the folk will lay their own personal offerings for the World-Tree upon the hörgr altar.

12-1 pm Lunch & Group Swim (Folx)

Time to refresh yourself after the hot work in the Vé! Time to eat something, take a nap, or go for a swim! Bring your lunch to the Standing Stone hall!

1-3 pm Banners (Chad)

See and Be Seen in the mead hall...We are happy to host the folk to paint banners for display in the mead hall! We have all the basics but if you want to bring anything to add please feel free. There will be 24 banners available, kindreds and groups are encouraged to work together and we will yield to children.

1-2 pm Unofficial Sleipnir Fan Club! (Tristan)

Appreciators unite! Tongue-in-cheek aside, let's talk serious lore, share our favourite spider-horse memes, and chat about the big questions like: Why eight legs in the first place? Does Sleipnir count as a deity, by either historical or modern standards? Are we sure what Sleipnir's pronouns are? Is it weird that Odin keeps his own nephew*/relative as a steed? And importantly – how can we build frith with this powerful, category-defying figure?

I'll lead in with my tale of 'The Fortification of Asgard and Conception of Sleipnir', and from there this will be a facilitated/supported discussion – I invite your knowledge, perspectives, and friendly injections of chaos. Children age 13+ are welcome with the accompaniment of a responsible adult.

(*While I lean towards viewing Odin & Loki as blood-brothers, I cheerfully acknowledge this pantheon as a genealogist's post-modern nightmare.)

2-3 pm Symbol 101 (Barb)

If you have never been to a symbol (aka sumbel) at HHG, even if you have done others, it is good to attend this workshop. If you have never been to a sumbel (aka symbol), you really should come. Sumbel is one of the three basic ceremonials of Heathenry. Learn about what to expect and how to conduct yourself at a "high" symbol. Feel free to ask questions. And if you have been before, please feel free to attend as well. Feel free to continue making your banners as you listen in.

3-4:30 pm Introduction to Tablet Weaving (Gwynne)

Tablet – or card – weaving has a long history, crossing time and cultures. It was widely practised during the Migration Period, and used to trim clothes and cloaks, as well as decorate bags and household fabrics. This workshop will describe a few of the significant period finds and demonstrate the basic steps of tablet weaving. You will also have the opportunity to give it a try on a demo set. If you're already a weaver, please bring your tools, finished pieces, or works in progress to share and discuss!

5-6 pm Húsel Set Up (Chantal)

Get your feast gear together and find your spot the Chamberlain assigned to finalize your seating around the Hall. Don't forget to dress in your best!

6-7:30 pm Community Húsel Feast, Drawing of Lots, and Skaldry (Basil)

As it is said in the Hávamál: "With half a loaf and an empty cup, I found myself a friend." In that spirit, we will enjoy a pot-luck feast inspired by health and wellness, gorging upon our finest fare. With the tremendous work behind us, bring food for yourselves to Standing Stone. Although this year the feast is commensality (individual meals at a shared table), the HHG staples, apple-flesh, cinderfolx flesh and switchel, are provided. Perhaps the Skalds among us will entertain the masses with their may talents. The drawing of lots will take place between the courses. May the Norns favour you.

7:30-8:30 pm Clean Up & Comfort Break (Folx)

After the last course is done, we clean our own dishes and sitting area, and prepare for Symbol. If you can, offer to help with the feast dishes so we can all sit down for Symbol.

8:30 pm High Symbol (Chad, Rowan & Christina)

Hail one and all! Grab a bench in the hall! May the horn be not a burden to the holder and wise words be spoken into the Well. Speak good words We begin right at 8:30.

After Symbol Folx Fire (Folx)

At this laid-back fire, we will raise a horn or two to celebrate community members volunteering at HHG. Chat with Folx newly met or long-time companions.

Mani's Day (Monday)

9-10 am Coffee Chat (Alex & Tina)

Shuffle by the YAG and grab a free cup of fresh coffee or tea! You are welcome to wake up and chat with others about your plans for the day or grab your coffee in sleepy silence. Please bring your own cup to reduce our waste!

10 am – 12 pm Lunch, Swim & Pack Up (Folx)

Eat something and go for a dip before we meet at the hall again for the voting and Rede Moot. As many people are going to take advantage of the Tuesday Canada Day holiday, this could be a lovely, restful morning.

12 – 1 pm Rede Moot (Folx)

We will do the voting first, followed by a simplified Rede Moot introduced in 2024, where we share and brainstorm about the ways we will organize the 2026 HHG. Criticism and complaints can be provided at registration or by email; the Rede Moot is not the place for it.

After Rede Moot Farewell Blessing

Let us thank one and other for the times we've had. May the wind be at our backs and good tidings before us all. Please feel free to stay as long as you like! Raven's Knoll's motto is "come when you can, leave when you must".

After Blessing Witan Debrief

The Witan will sit down and compare notes from the Rede Moot, rewrite things legibly, etc. in order to be able to provide a 2026 experience that is what the Folx want.

List of Volunteer Positions

Apple-Flesh and Cinderfolk-Flesh: Chantal Layoun

Blót: Austin (Auz) Lawrence, Brynja Chleirich, Tristan Fassel, David O'Reilly, Jaime Darrigade, Shae Silk, Adam McLaughlin, Ellen Cotter, Barb Davy, Harry Weaver and Arums Bradley

Byrele: Rowan Janiszewski and Christina Graham

Carvers: Tristan Fassel, David O'Reilly, Jaime Darrigade, Shae Silk, Adam McLaughlin, Ellen Cotter, Barb Davy, and Harry Weaver

Carving Mentors: Lorne "Claymore" Cooper and Nat Gardiner

Decorating the Hall: Chantal Layoun

Esoteric Aftercare: Tristan Fassel and Ewan Peredhel

Esoteric Ritual: Arums Bradley, Ellen Cotter, and Gwynne Gray

Feast Hall Chamberlain: Chantal Layoun

Firekeepers: Darien Beaulne and T Beaulne

Housecarls: Nat Gardiner, Darien Beaulne, T Beaulne, Jaime Darrigade

Kenari: Austin (Auz) Lawrence, Tristan Fassel, Bridget Liang, Erik Lacharity, Chad Giroux, Gwynne Gray, Barb Davy, Alex, Tina

Key: Maryanne (MA) Pearce

Lintel Carver: Nat Gardiner

Medics: Basil Gardiner, Jaime Darrigade, and T Beaulne

Program: Maryanne (MA) Pearce and Austin (Auz) Lawrence

Reeve: Chantal Layoun

Seneschal: Christina Graham and Dave Darrigade

Skald: Basil Gardiner

Switchel Maker: Austin (Auz) Lawrence

Symbol: Chad Giroux

Witan: Maryanne (MA) Pearce, Austin (Auz) Lawrence & Chantal Layoun

Biographies

Adam McLaughlin has a passion for music, performance & mental wellness. He has been in recovery seven years and just this year got the opportunity to start some recovery meetup events in Toronto including, of course, a karaoke night. He's had a strong connection to Bragi since beginning his journey and engages in a mix of Heathen & Eclectic practices. His connection with grounded and earthly magical practices called him to carve the Midgard pole for this year's renewal.

Austin (Auz) Lawrence is one of the Stewards of Raven's Knoll. Auz (short for "Austin") directly assists with running a number of events at Raven's Knoll, including: the Hail and Horn Gathering; the Kaleidoscope Gathering (Canada's largest Pagan festival); and the KornuKopia Gathering (a pan-Pagan harvest festival). Auz is an Ásatrúar who is an oathed Goði since 2008 and is the keeper of the Raven's Knoll Aesir Vé. Auz is interested in martial arts, historical cooking, growing alf-wort, and all things Old Norse. Auz is also a former Stag King of the Kaleidoscope Gathering. Auz is married to Maryanne Pearce (a.k.a. MA), with children Joven and Kadri. They currently have two dogs (Ketil Black and Erland the Mellow) and two cats (Grimm and Doug-Roscoe). Auz and MA will welcome their first grandchild in November. (He/Him or They/Them)

Barb Davy is the author of *Wyrd Ecology: Heathen Ritual and Gifting Relations*, a new book that describes inclusive Heathen traditions in Ontario, including at Raven's Knoll. She lives in Ottawa. (She/Her)

Basil Gardiner of the Raven's Knoll banner AKA Beef Castle Basil AKA Basil Bragi'sbro AKA Lil' Baby Lindwurm AKA The Fresh Prince of Valhalla is a rap, poetry, and hip hop enthusiast. He is known for mixing Norse overtones into freestyle rhyming verse. When he isn't rocking the mic at a skaldry performance, you can find him on Bogside, where he serves his Raven's Knoll community as the official, unofficial, unelected forever-mayor. (He/Him)

Bridget Liang is a mixed race, queer, transfeminine, neurodiverse, disabled, fat fangirl. They're a PhD candidate in the Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies Program at York University, a community researcher, workshop and group facilitator, performance artist, and fiction writer. Much of their work revolves around autistic trans folks' experiences and using storytelling in research.

Brynja Chleirich is a regular presence around the Knoll as a Gythia, gathering organizer, and friend. She can be found raising God-poles, embarking on journeys of personal self-evolution, or consuming copious volumes of coffee. Our friendly neighbourhood rock-licker has just graduated with a B.Sc. Honours, majoring in Earth Science and will be embarking on her Masters journey in geochemistry in the fall. (She/Her)

Chad Giroux, Hearth of the Open Water in Hamilton, Ontario; member of the Raven's Knoll community for going on 10 years now and a lifelong ambassador for Inclusive Heathenry. (He/Him or They/Them)

Chantal Layoun is a longstanding member of the Ottawa-area Heathen community, the Lady of Erikhê and a Steward of Rúnatýr Kindred. Member of the Heathen Confederation of Canada. Co-founder of Moss Ridge Hunt Camp, an inclusive hunt camp. She is a mother to two young ladies. Her spiritual traditions are comprised equally of Heathen and First Nations traditions. She has worked in fast paced restaurant and service industries since her teenage years. Presently working with vulnerable folx of Ottawa. With a get-er-done attitude and no messing around style, her feast-prep skills are renowned. (She/Her/Elle)

Christina Graham has been volunteering for over a decade in a variety of roles to assist the Pagan and Raven's Knoll community. When she is not volunteering, she enjoys adventuring and travelling Canada's beautiful backcountry with her Subi. (She/Her)

Darien Beaulne is a man who lurks in the shadows of fire by night and internal financial management by day. This is his first HHG and he joins us as fire keeper. He acts as a fire keeper at KG and other RK events, and is a co-lead of the Firemongers weekend.

Dave Darrigade is better known as "Everyone Loves Dave" or "Jaime's Dave". Since he arrived at Raven's Knoll, he has embraced the land and community and never stops doing everything, even if he should just stop! He also keeps the over-used RK vehicles going!

David O'Reilly is a Germanic Polytheist and Northern Animist that focuses on honouring Bear. Wanderer of the Knoll since 2017, he enjoys reading, bushcrafting, fountain pens, and collecting vinyl. He is a high school teacher and the holder of a SSHRC award, currently completing a Masters of Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa.

Ellen Cotter is a polyamorous Heathen who currently lives in Ottawa with her husband and two teenage kids and with her long-term partner in Carleton Place. A Navy spouse, she has lived in various places across Canada. She has identified as a pagan or Heathen for most of her adult life and has been an enthusiastic participant in the Raven's Knoll's community since 2018. While working as a technical editor, she spends her spare time journaling, writing obscene poetry, and stitching sacred embroidery. Ellen brings distracted squirrel energy to everything she does! (She/Her)

Erik Lacharity has been a Heathen since 2007. In 2008 he co-founded Rúnatýr Kindred, which serves local Heathens in Ottawa, Ont. In 2012, along with Austin Lawrence, Erik – along with and supported by members of Rúnatýr Kindred – founded Hail and Horn Gathering (HHG). In 2016, he founded Thia Frankisk Aldsido, a Frankish Heathen tradition which renovates and continues the polytheism of 3-5th century Merovingian Gaul. Erik is also the co-founder of Courir le loup-garou (with Morriane Feu), which communicates and promotes the traditional witchcraft of French Canadians. In 2020, Erik co-founded the Heathen Confederation of Canada, which represents the interests of Inclusive Heathens in Canada. He was elected the National Representative two years later. Erik has accomplished many things over the years, due in large part to the love and support of his amazing wife Chantal, their two wonderful daughters and his partner Janine. (He/Him)

Ewan Peredhel is a Heathen Gothar of Vindisir Kindred. His home is in the Forest City at Antler River, or Deshkan Zibi (also known as London, Ontario) on traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Attawandaron peoples. He was raised by witches and began attending Pagan gatherings as an infant. Thereby, he had exposure to, and experience with, a wide variety of spiritual paths and practices before settling into his own. Ewan is proud, steadfast, and optimistic. He is a fairy godmother by trade and loves his craft. He realizes the importance of interconnectedness and takes care with his relationships with others and the worlds around us. (He/Fae/They)

Gwynne Gray is a Heathen-adjacent eclectic pagan with a scholarly interest in the role of religion in the creation of community. They have a kinship with horses, a passion for tea, a devotion to chosen family, and a knack for setting things on fire. (She/Her or They/Them)

Harry Weaver has been honouring the Æsir and Vanir since 2012 and has been charring God Poles since 2016. He is a member of Vindisir Kindred and a founding member of North Star Kindred. His practice is informed by his Latvian heritage and an interest in Baltic paganism. His master's thesis examined the ritual sites at Raven's Knoll as part of a broader analysis on the material culture of polytheist communities. He enjoys lending a hand wherever one is needed.

Jaime Darrigade is a Gythia of Raven's Knoll and has been an active member of the greater Montreal pagan community for over 25 years. During that time, she has worn many hats, from Gythia of Golden Birch Kindred, to regional rep of ADF and the Troth, to leading public rituals and workshops. Jaime is married to the majestic Dave and together they raise various children and a couple of noisy little dogs, that are Hel-bent on global domination. (She/Her/Elle)

Lorne "Claymore" Cooper is also known as 'that big dude with the beard'. Almost a senior citizen but still a child at their soul. A tinker and a troll who has come later in life to the pagan way. Claymore, born and raised on the east coast a stone's throw from the ocean has always had a deep connection to the water and their current passion of scuba diving has only cemented that bond. Njörðr has been a natural connection to intertwine both love of friends and found family and help move forward from the past. (He/Him)

Maryanne (MA) Pearce is one of the Stewards of Raven's Knoll. She is usually known as MA (or Auntie M, if you are a dog or small child). MA runs/organizes a number of events at Raven's Knoll, including: the Hail and Horn Gathering; the Kaleidoscope Gathering (Canada's largest Pagan festival); and, the KornuKopia Gathering (a pan-Pagan harvest festival). MA's spirituality draws from her mixed Celtic, Germanic, and Mohawk heritage; and, is deeply grounded in Mother Earth. She volunteers as the "Tax Lady" for women's shelters and Indigenous centres in Ottawa, has worked extensively in animal rescue, as well as on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. MA is married to Auz Lawrence, with children Joven and Kadri. They currently have two dogs (Ketil Black and Erland the Mellow) and two cats (Grimm and Doug-Roscoe). She and Auz are looking forward to welcoming their first grandchild in November. (She/Her)

Nemesis Nat Gardiner is a practicing heathen whose favourite deities are Hel and Loki. She is a problem-solver by nature, and strives to embrace the general chaos of life. She loves taxidermy, true crime, all animals,

and works as a tattoo artist with a specialization in fine lines, pointillism, and neo-traditional Heathen art. (She/Her)

Rowan Janiszewski hails from the southern shore of Lake Ontario and the north end of the Genesee River. They are 32 years old and have been holding cups for almost all of those years. From the mighty mead horn, to the silliest of sippy cups, their dexterous hands have held a wide variety of drinking vessels. They look forward to putting all of these years of practice to the ultimate test.

Shae is a creature fueled by coffee, crochet, and chaos. They can often be found experimenting with mead, wrangling their offspring, or spending time in the Ironwood. (They/Them).

T Beaulne is mother to the goofy Dobby the Big Dog. She and Darien live in Sudbury where they do muggle things, but when at RK, they tend to do all the things. For HHG, T is a medic-monkey-shuttle driver.

Tina (she/they) and **Alex** (he/they) may appear like functional people, but are secretly twelve red squirrels in a people suit who enjoy tasty coffee. They invite you to join them on their quest to wake up and greet the day.

Tristan/Tris is a registered social worker, accidental trauma therapist, fae-touched forest creature, occasional shapeshifter, advocate for neurodiversity and other stigmatized ways of being, walker of memories, wannabe bird of prey, biweekly paladin of Saranrae, bardic apprentice, a lover of cedars, and more. Despite being raised in an eclectic Pagan household, they felt weird about taking the whole Norse thing too seriously – at least until Loki trashed their back windshield to get them to wise up and pay attention. Six months later, they made it to Hail & Horn 2019 and were absolutely transported by both the Knoll and the welcome of its Folk – in other words, you, dear reader. (They/Them)

Rules for the Æsir Vé

The Æsir Vé is a holy place. Heathens treat it like a home for the Old Norse Gods in Midgard. To enter the Vé, these three rules should be followed as a sign of respect for the holy powers and the community of Heathen believers.

1. Honour the Æsir

- Allowed: A) Æsir and Vanir Gods, like Thor, Frigg, Frey, Freya; B) their clear allies, like Aegir and Ran; and, C) blood-oath kin, namely Loki.
- Not Allowed: A) Jötnar from the Children of Bergelmir, which are the ‘ice’ and ‘rock giants’, such as Thiazi, Hrungrir, or Angrboða; and, B) Loki’s children, who are Fenrir, Hel, Jormungandr. They are honoured in the Jötnar Vé.
- Not Allowed: Deities of other pantheons, such as Diana, Yaweh, Hecate, Allah, Cernunnos, Jesus, etc.
- Instruction: Tuck non-Heathen religious symbols (clothes, jewelry) away. (Tattoos are OK.)

2. Keep Frith

- Allowed: A) Maintain good relations in your speech and deeds; B) do not insult people or Gods within the Vé, even in jest.
- Instruction: Leave weapons outside the Vé.
- Exception: Required ritual tools, maintenance tools, recording tools, etc. Announce your intent at the Vé gate, watch for omens. If good, proceed.
- Instruction: Turn off electronic devices not required in the Vé. Leave outside the Vé.
- Exception: Medical devices are always okay in the Vé. This includes scooters, mobility equipment, etc.

3. Keep Clean

- Not Allowed: Human feces or urine, as well as human blood created by violence.
- Exception: Pets, the very young, medical necessity, nosebleeds, menstrual blood, etc. Just clean-up well.
- Instruction: Refrain from personal self-care, like spitting, applying sunscreen or bug spray. Simply leave the Vé to do so, if you are able. If caring for others (young, pets, Elders, etc.) and it is necessary for their wellbeing, it is acceptable.
- Instruction: Leave only biodegradable, mineral, or metal offerings. No plastics please.
- Instruction: Leave all offerings on the hørgr, the rock-pile altar.

It is preferred that people are oathed into the Vé on an iron ring by someone previously oathed in. It does not mean that you are becoming Heathen or forsaking your own Gods. It simply means that you will abide for these rules. However, it is not always feasible to have someone do so. In that case, your entrance to the Vé, having read these rules, will act as an oath to do so.

If your conscience will not allow you to follow these taboos within the confines of the Vé, please do not enter the enclosure.

It is entirely permissible to view what takes place inside of the Vé from outside of the Vé-bond rope, so long as you do not disrupt the activities taking place within.

The rules were simplified in 2025.

Inclusivity Statement

The Hail and Horn Gathering is an open, spiritual retreat for the exclusive practice of modern Heathen spirituality. The gathering is also a socially inclusive place. Those attending the event are expected to express frith and grith in their interactions with others while at the event, both in word and deed. The Folk at the gathering are expected to be good guests and to be non-discriminatory to one another and the wider society.

The Ontario's Human Rights Code itemizes the areas where discrimination is not tolerated, which are the same as those at the gathering. These protected grounds are: age; ancestry, colour, or race; citizenship; ethnic origin; place of origin; creed; disability; family status; relationship status; gender identity or gender expression; receipt of public assistance; sex (including pregnancy and breastfeeding); and, sexual orientation.

Those not conforming to these expectations may be asked to leave the event without refund, at the discretion of the event organizers.

The Witan of Hail and Horn Gathering endorse the Canadian Pagan Declaration on Intolerance and Declaration 127.