

Annual Gathering on the Green celebration Saturday, organized by Old South Community Organization



By Joe Belanger, The London Free Press
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Sofia Perez-Montoya and Caitly Quinn star in Nomad Theatre Project's *Within and Without, The Flood*, written by Quinn. It's on the main stage at Theatre on the Green Friday and Saturday as part of the annual Gathering on the Green celebration Saturday, organized by Old South Community Organization. (Paul Witmer/Special to QMI Agency)

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Music, food, fun and games for the kids and even a little theatre.

Yes, it's time for the annual Gathering on the Green in London's Wortley Village — the 40th anniversary of the Old South Community Organization and the 30th gathering.

While the main celebration is Saturday, the event kicks off Friday with a new initiative, Family Theatre on the Green, featuring three original productions: *Within and Without, The Flood* by Caity Quinn of Nomad Theatre Project; selections from *Songs for a New World* by Musical Theatre Productions; and *Piper* by Kim Sterk.

Quinn's play will also be staged Saturday night after the day-long fun in the park.

"The signs of impending environmental catastrophe are everywhere, and no less alarming are the signs of breakdown in our children, families and communities," Quinn said.

"Our bodies are made up of water, as is our planet, and both are suffering. In this play I ask the question, how do we protect our two most vulnerable and valuable resources: our children and the water that sustains them? In this play, I strove to create characters that feel real, that express what kids are really thinking about and dealing with today, and in so doing, create a fun and thought-provoking piece of family entertainment that people of all ages can enjoy."

Saturday, there's no shortage of fun.

The day gets underway at 10 a.m. and continues until 5 p.m. with live musical entertainment, kids activities, including mini-golf, face painting, games, a dunk tank, an all-day barbecue, and Charlotte's Tea Garden. There will also be plant and craft vendors and community displays.

The theatre and day-long activities are free.

Over the past 10 years, Gathering on the Green has donated more than \$45,000 to 28 different projects and organizations in Old South, including OSCO's Back to Normal Task Force to protect the Normal School Building and Village Green, as well as playground equipment and greening projects at local schools, community meal programs at area churches, St. John Ambulance, and programs at the Boys and Girls Club of London.

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