

Save The Date: Racialized Rural Ontario Workshop, May 8-9 2025

PEOPLE'S ARCHIVE OF RURAL ONTARIO

RACIALIZED RURAL ONTARIO WORKSHOP

**Save
The date!**

MAY 8-9, 2025
@ UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH



<https://www.ruralontario.org/>

[Registration opens soon](#) and is free! To learn more about the workshop, click [here](#).

Featured stories

The Bottom Billion: Nicole Flynn's Leadership Story

".... I could go in so many directions. I just can't be too narrow...."

Read about Nicole, an emerging entrepreneur, a photographer, and the president of the Council of [Community Living Ontario](#). She has a unique story about thriving with Down syndrome in spite of stigma.

Read [more](#) of our women-centered stories



"It's a ruralization of the urbanization": reclaiming rural agricultural traditions through backyard urban farming

Having spent much of his early life on his grandparent's farm in Freelton, Ontario, Steven Taylor discusses how his childhood experiences of agriculture and rural life have inspired his decision to practice urban farming.



People

Farewell & Best Wishes to Karli Longthorne

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell and thanks to Karli as she embarks on an exciting new chapter in her graduate career. Karli was an enthusiastic and deeply engaged Co-ordinator for PARO, contributing to every facet of the project from onboarding new story curators to social media engagement and event planning. We wish her all the best on this next journey!



"I took great pleasure in having the opportunity to connect with some familiar rural faces, while learning from those who have such interesting stories to tell in connection with rural Ontario. Working at PARO has sparked creativity, joy, and connection, and has in many ways, re-connected me to my rural roots."

-Karli, PhD candidate in Population Medicine, University of Guelph

Welcome Aimi Shimada, our new Co-ordinator

Hi everyone, I am Aimi Shimada. I mainly provide support for story curators and social media strategies.

I was raised in Tokyo, Japan, and I used to work for the Metropolitan Government of Tokyo as a civil servant. After getting married to my Canadian husband, I moved to Canada. I have now lived in Ontario for 3 years. This includes a year in which I lived on a farm with my husband's family in rural Ontario (Goderich). As a person who was raised in a concrete jungle, moving to a vast green field where I could see the horizon was pretty shocking but exciting. Through rural living, I could hear stories from locals, such as farmers and planners, and this developed my interest in rural living. I graduated with an MSc in Rural Planning and Development at the University of Guelph in 2024.

I am very excited to work for PARO to share powerful stories with the world to amplify rural voices. As a person who loves eating and travelling (I have travelled to Thailand, Taiwan, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, France, Poland, etc.), I am always looking for exciting stories about food and trips. My favourite travelling story is when my husband was trying to eat raw ground pork in Thailand, and even the locals were shocked (and indirectly stopped him). It was hilarious to see my husband's unlimited passion for eating. Please feel free to reach out to me with your stories!

How to get involved

There are several opportunities for you to engage with and contribute to PARO. Check them out at www.ruralontario.org. Feel free to email us at paro@uoguelph.ca