

DECEMBER 2015

The Hummer

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas

free



The 2015 Gift Giving Guide



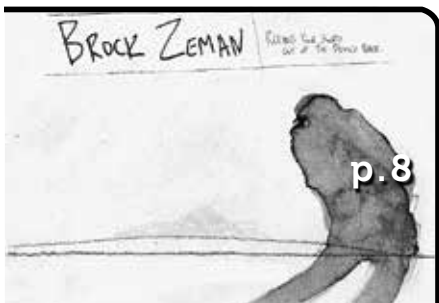
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December's Events



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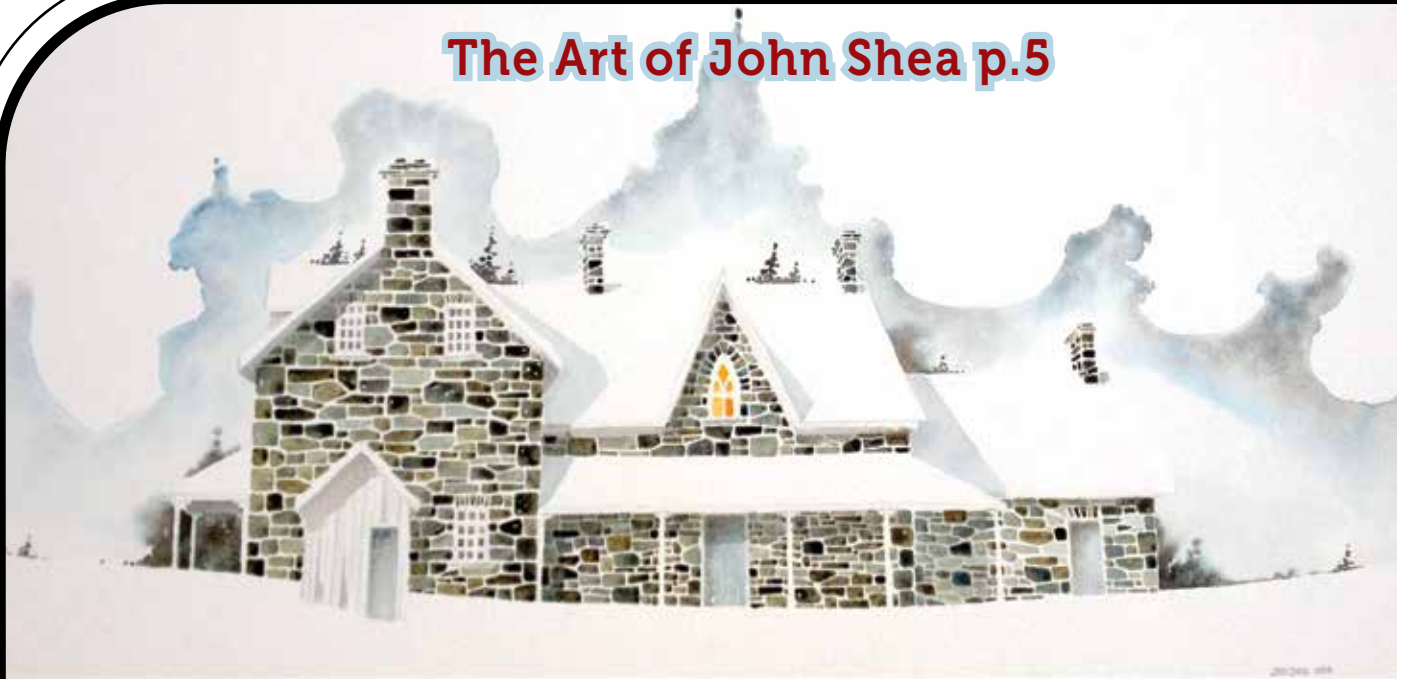
Great Local Reads



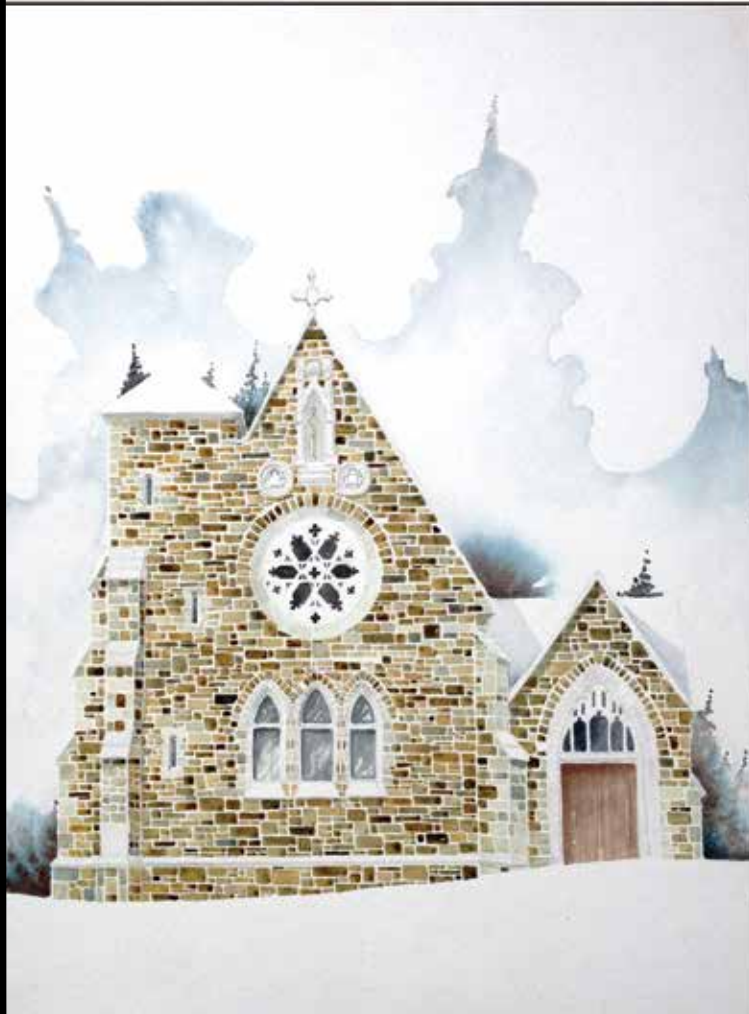
BROCK ZEMAN

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Tunes Under the Tree



The Art of John Shea p.5



Deck the halls with boughs of holly... fresh new paint...
Fa la la la la... la... la la laaaa!!

Happy Holidays from **Valley PAINT & COATINGS**

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"Whoops! I was wrong! Your mother DOES have a conscience!"

Readers Write

Where to Eat in...?

As sometime driver and sherpa for theHumm's roving arts reporter (the incomparable Ms. Hansen), I find myself at the mercy of chance encounters with the region's eateries — sometimes regrettably so, but on occasion pleurably. As illustrated by the following anecdote, a guide for non-natives could be provided as a service to the readers of your fine publication.

Thursday, November 5, 2015: on assignment, our destination somewhere miles from any village or town likely to host even a sandwich shop. Much driving is required, and your arts reporter has scheduled her interview for early afternoon.

Feeding is required and our vehicle lacks provisions. Route is via Smiths Falls, and there will be multiple opportunities to insult our gastrointestinal systems, but is there any other choice? Trip Advisor advises there are 54 restaurants in Smiths Falls — *yikes!* Some reading ensues and it appears there are multiple options that offer more promise than Tim's or Micky D's, but how to choose?

A brilliant thought occurs and we consult our list of theHumm's distribution points. Success! Just a small jog from our planned route and we are at **Main Street Bistro** (formerly the Good Life Bistro & Bakery, now located at 5 Main St. West, Smiths Falls), where we are greeted and seated by a very cheerful person who advises us that everything is made from scratch. Hungrily I inquire as to the supply of scratch, and am reassured.

We order and are promptly served an excellent vegetable soup, a falafel wrap(!) and quesadilla (all excellent and ample as to portions). The bakery case offers many temptations but restraint prevails, and I am still able to get behind the steering wheel. Prices very reasonable and ambience pleasant — altogether felt like it was a good choice and, should our travels bring us to Smiths Falls again, one which we will repeat. Certainly one to recommend — which brings me to the main point here; could there be a correlation between Humm distribution points and gastronomic quality? AND should this point be researched and documented? Some random evidence supports the thesis at least as far as where to eat in Almonte and Carleton Place, but clearly more work is needed.

— *Sebastian Weetabix*

PS. I wrote a review for Trip Advisor too, and am ready to be deployed should follow-up be needed...

Syrian Refugee Help

Since late summer, as the daily news brought more details of the terrible situation relentlessly unfolding, a number of groups in the community of Mississippi Mills have been forming to help the huge number of Syrian refugees fleeing war in their country.

Neighbours were talking to neighbours, church congregations were working with their ongoing refugee support programs, and individuals were looking to help if they could. Communities across Canada were swinging into action.

In order for our community to work more effectively, an umbrella group was formed with the help of Arnie Francis and Ingrid Kadoke: the **Syrian Refugee Committee of Mississippi Mills (SRCMM)**. The committee was created to keep everyone in the loop and help streamline the process, complete with a Facebook Group to organize the flow of information coming our way. It was agreed that up to five refugee families could be sponsored in Mississippi Mills.

Continued on p.35



Who's Reading theHumm

John Wilson from the Renfrew Rotary Club writes: "We were visiting Portugal in June (2013) for the Rotary International Convention. 25,000 Rotarians & family attended. This picture is of mother & daughter Kathy Lofthouse & Ashley Fontes from Dacre. The picture is in front of the Belem Tower, which once guarded the waterway into Lisbon, Portugal.

See More Online!

The biggest deal about theHumm's website this month has to be the online version of our Gift Giving Guide. Not only will you find hundreds of great gifts (all available from small, independent businesses, artists and growers in the Valley), but if you click on an item you'll be taken right to the business's directory listing! Read the "Happy Local Holidays" editorial over there on page 3 for more details.

But we've got a few extra treats for you at <thehummm.com>:

- This month's contributing librarian — Karen DeLuca from the Arnprior Library — has provided us with her **top holiday reading picks**.
- Rob Riendeau's Pub Crawling column (on page 8) has a lots of local musical gift ideas. Visit our website for listening samples and online purchase info. We've also got the link to the online ticketing site for the **K.E.W.T. and David Francey concert**, and the **Jimmy Tri-Tone Band's video** for their new single. There you will also find the link to the **Fundraiser for Barry** site.

And what happened then?

Why in Whoville, they say,

That the Grinch's small heart grew 3 sizes that day!

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theHumm is a monthly arts, entertainment and ideas newspaper delivered free to businesses and visitor attractions in Almonte, Perth, Carleton Place, Westport, Pakenham, Carp, Arnprior, Smiths Falls, Burnstown, White Lake, Balderson, and Ottawa. Our mandate is to connect and promote people and events in the small towns and rural communities of the Ottawa Valley — where the arts flourish and entertaining characters run amok!

Submissions

By email or on disk.

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Thanks this month to:

The cast, crew, and supporters of *Trashdance* who worked hard to raise almonte \$8000 for the Beautification Committee of Mississippi Mills.

Happy Local Holidays!

Here at theHumm we're big on local economies. The retail and service businesses in the small towns that we cover play a huge role in the cultural life of those towns. Each store, restaurant, or small enterprise attracts and serves a particular clientele — some inside the community, some from outside. Some businesses host their own special events; others join together with local festivals to make the whole experience more vibrant. Many provide support in cash or in kind to local initiatives. A healthy local economy is an essential component to a healthy community.

by Kris and Rob Riendeau

It is with this in mind that we once again bring you theHumm's annual **Gift Giving Guide**. Our hope is that you'll find two kinds of inspiration in the many lists that appear throughout this month's issue. As you peruse the "Gifts for Coffee & Tea Lovers", "Gifts for Environmentalists" and "Gifts for Funky People", we hope you'll discover the perfect gift for everyone on your list. But we also hope that you'll be inspired to investigate even more of the independent, locally owned and run businesses throughout our coverage area. In doing so, you're likely to encounter not only friends and neighbours, but also some old-fashioned small town peace and joy at this potentially hectic time.

If you've been reading theHumm for a while, none of this is news to you. You've been shopping locally

and feeling pretty good about it. So how about putting your mouth where your money is? When you find a local service or establishment or product that gives you joy, let your friends and neighbours know (and perhaps bestow a kind word upon the owner or employees as well!). That kind of investment is so much more powerful and useful than outrage and despair when a beloved business closes its doors.

The gifts we buy locally do double-duty by giving pleasure to the recipient and at the same time supporting the business of a friend or neighbour. If the gift happens to be fair-trade, environmentally-friendly or made by a local grower or artist, then it does triple-duty! We would like to thank the participating merchants for taking the time to send in their Gift Giving Guide suggestions, and to thank our readers for shopping locally and thereby supporting both the shops and our paper.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday season, and a local New Year!

See More Online!

Not only is this year's Gift Giving Guide available online at <thehummm.com> — it even links through to the directory listing for each participating business. So if you are intrigued by a particular gift suggestion — and who knew that you could find out-of-print book cover t-shirts, Celtic Star chainmaille kits, and lumps of real coal in the Ottawa Valley? — you can find the source with a click of your mouse!

Gifts for Funky People

- Intention silver charms for yoga by Sonja Picard**, Bittersweet\$45
- Haitian steel drum wall art**, Equator Coffee Roasters.....\$79.95-103.95
- Handmade glass lantern with candle**, Current Works of Glass.....\$45-70
- Molecul-R Kit for molecular cuisine & drinks**, Pêches et Poivre\$15 & up
- Crystal jewellery**, Soul Scents.....\$8-24
- Ukuleles!**, Mississippi Mill Musicworks.....\$36.95 & up
- "Yoda" silver dollar from New Zealand**, Alliance Coin & Banknote.....\$19.95
- Series pass to the 2016 season (4 concerts)**, Folkus Concert Series.....\$90
- Terrarium: a world unto itself contained in glass**, Acanthus Floral.....\$10-50
- Gabled house tall CD holder**, Homing Instinct.....\$18
- Blundstone winter boots**, Vamos Outdoors.....\$229
- Hand-knit alpaca boot toppers**, Ballintotas Alpacas.....\$30
- 60's retro mushroom lamp**, Glory Days.....\$35
- Beautiful cabochon bracelet with agate ring**, Maxine's Crystal Jewelry & Gift.....\$30

Gifts for Coffee & Tea Lovers

- English Tea Shop advent calendar**, Foodsmiths.....\$15.99
- "Tea for Two" & "Coffee Lovers" gift baskets**, Fulton's Pancake House.....\$40
- Loose-leaf tea glass**, Dandelion Foods.....\$22.95
- The Coffee Basket**, Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....\$78.95

Gift Giving Guide Shop Directory

Here's an alphabetical list of the shops that are participating in this year's Gift Giving Guide, followed by the town in which they are located and the page on which you can find their ad. Great gift suggestions can be found throughout this issue, organized in categories. Happy local shopping!

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- Alliance Coin & Banknote.....Almonte, p.19
- Almonte Antique Market.....Almonte, p.23
- Ballintotas Alpacas.....Braeside, p.15
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- Darlington Acupuncture & Massage..Carleton Place, p.9
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- Equator Coffee Roasters.....Almonte, p.8
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- Green Clean Plus.....Almonte, p.32
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- Kim Narraway, RMT.....Almonte, p.33
- L.G. Lee & Sons.....Almonte, p.17
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- Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....Online, p.34
- Pêches & Poivre from sweet to savory.....Almonte, p.21
- Reid Gardens.....Carleton Place, p.4
- Riverguild Fine Crafts.....Perth, p.4
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- Soul Scents.....Almonte, p.14
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- Textile Traditions.....Almonte, p.24
- Vamos Outdoors.....Almonte, p.7

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Check out page 11 for great
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PPAC's Chorale Concert

Just in time for the holidays, on Friday, December 11 at 7:30PM, PPAC is proud to present a Christmas concert by the **Nathaniel Dett Chorale**. Founder Brainerd Blyden-Taylor named the Chorale after internationally renowned African-Canadian composer R. Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943), a talented performer who appeared onstage at prestigious concert venues such as Carnegie Hall and Boston Symphony Hall. Dett was dedicated to the cause of Black music, and won the Bowdoin and Frances Boott prizes in 1920 from Harvard University in honour of his writings and compositions. Blyden-Taylor established the Chorale to draw attention not only to Dett's legacy, but also to the wealth of Afrocentric choral music of all styles, including classical, spiritual, gospel, jazz, folk, and blues.

Since its inception, the Chorale has honoured the memory of its namesake, performing extensively throughout North America and delighting national audiences in critically acclaimed tours to the Maritimes, Quebec, Manitoba, Western Canada, and the United States. The 21 classically trained, outstanding vocalists have shared the stage with artists such as Juno Award-winning jazz pianist Joe Sealy, opera star Kathleen Battle, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The Chorale also had the unique privilege of being the only Canadian ensemble invited to perform as part of the celebrations surrounding the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Tickets are available through Tickets Please at ticketsplease.ca or by calling 485-6434, and the performance will take place in the Mason Auditorium at PDCI.

Sing in the Season in CP

For the fifth year in a row, the Carleton Place and District Community Band will give a Christmas gift to the community. The Band will present *Sing in the Season* on Sunday, December 13 at 2PM at Zion-Memorial United Church in Carleton Place.

Come and spend an enjoyable hour or so singing carols and seasonal tunes, such as *Deck the Halls* and *Up on the Housetop*. And for a rest from singing, you can listen to the band play wonderful seasonal music, including *White Christmas*, *Sleigh Ride*, and *Carol of the Drum*. The band will also play Christmas favourites like *Christmas Time is Here* from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and the novelty song *Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer*.

This is a free presentation — there is no charge — but a contribution to the Food Bank (either a can or cash) would be most welcome. That way, everyone can share in the gift.

The band is a direct descendant of the Carleton Place Brass Band formed in the 1860s. The band, a group of volunteers from teens to much older, is under the direction of Graham Ingram and plays at many community events such as the recent Santa Claus Parade and Remembrance Day service.

Zion-Memorial United Church is located at 37 Franklin Street in Carleton Place. For more information about the concert, call Louise at 298-3953.



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John Shea — Landscapes Illustrate that Less Can Be More

In 1855, poet Robert Browning penned the phrase "less is more." In 2015, John Shea continues to demonstrate that Browning was right. Shea's compelling use of negative space in his architectural paintings contributes to his recognition throughout Ontario and beyond.

by Sally Hansen

Shea's original perspective on winter landscapes that feature local heritage buildings has just earned him an impressive honour. His works placed him among the top five sellers during the 25th annual Autumn Art Sale at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg a few weeks ago. In addition to his framed ribbon, his success guarantees him a prime spot at next year's prestigious event.

Painting with watercolours on paper, Shea renders striking architectural portraits of 19th century Eastern Ontario stone buildings. His gift for subtraction is the signature feature of his work that first-time viewers invariably note. The absence of distraction highlights the sculpture of the structures and adds to the serenity, and occasionally the drama, of the scene. On his website <john-shea.artistwebsites.com>, Shea quotes renowned 20th century artist Andrew Wyeth as saying, "What is important in a painting is what is not there."

Another Wyeth quote explains the sense of mystery that Shea's portraits often evoke: "I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape. Something waits beneath it; the whole story doesn't show." In a very real way, Shea's paintings speak to the Canadian experience of winter. The "bone structure" of heritage buildings isolated in rolling expanses of white snowdrifts suggests both the serenity and the underlying menace that Arctic temperatures and unpredictable weather pose. It seems fitting that his works are popular at the McMichael, where viewers come to celebrate the quintessentially Canadian landscapes of the Group of Seven.

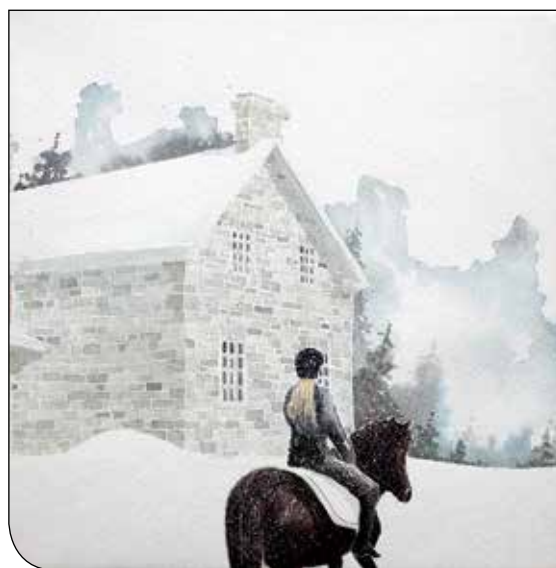
Learning to Subtract

When Shea was a kid growing up in Montreal, his high school math teacher told him, "Shea, you're never going to amount to anything if you keep skipping math class." Undaunted, Shea continued to spend all available time in the art room. After graduation he attended the School of Art and Design at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and won

a scholarship for his second year of studies. He remembers Dean Arthur Lismer strolling the classrooms, commenting on students' works.

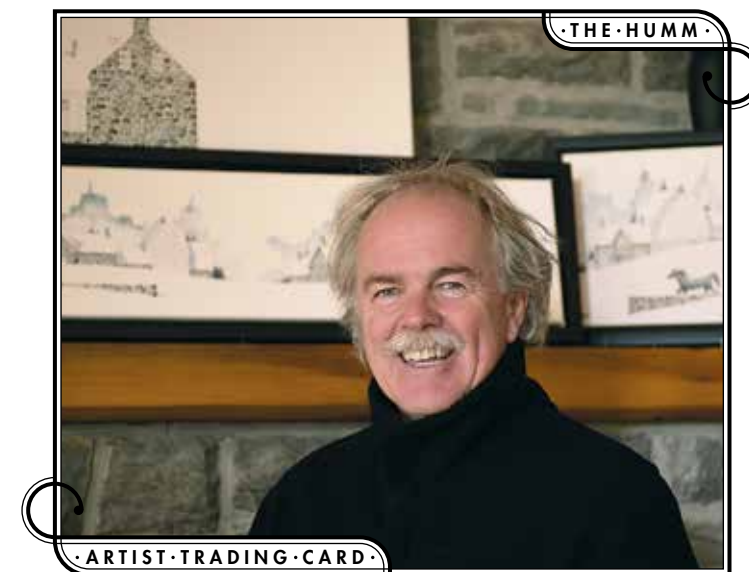
As a result of the 1970 FLQ October Crisis, Shea's parents moved to Perth, and John started making regular weekend visits. He bought an old, one-room schoolhouse in Bolingbroke (south of Maberly), and spent the next twelve years living in a constant state of renovation. Later he lived in a house on Farren Lake. After earning a diploma in interior design at Algonquin College, he joined the Ottawa firm of Saunders and MacFarlane, where he produced architectural renderings and presentation drawings for four years.

Despite (or maybe because of) the dire predictions of his math teacher, John had always wanted



to teach. He applied to Syracuse University and was accepted as a third-year student to acquire the prerequisite BFA degree, after which he earned his B.Ed. at Queen's University. He looks back with pleasure at his 25 years of teaching art at St. John Catholic High School in Perth. "I loved empowering them with the basic tools of art, especially perspective." He brought his guitar and banjo into his grade eleven interior design class, and serenaded students as they worked on models of significant projects such as condos and commercial structures.

In 1998, Shea moved to his present location at Rosal Bay on Newboro Lake. It is a stunning location and an amazing house. With his wife Karen and daughter Molly, they have created an oasis of beauty for all seasons. Karen is an accomplished gardener, and even in October the evidence of her



expertise and hard work is apparent. John creates his unique watercolour compositions at their dining room table overlooking a scene of breathtaking natural beauty. Gazing out at the magnificent view he enjoys, I sense the influence it exerts on his exceptional art.

Shea tells me that a major component of his work is his love for the integrity of the stone that he depicts. "Whether it's a simple wall, a bridge or an elaborate building, it's the permanence of the stone that makes my subjects timeless." He values composition, line and balance over colour and texture, presenting a traditional subject in a modern and highly original way.

Many people are surprised to learn that he paints with watercolours on paper that he wets, stretches on board and frames himself. He loves the spontaneity and the challenges his choice of medium provides: "With watercolour you can't go back, you can't cover mistakes, it's in the moment."

Less Is More

In 1947, architect Mies van der Rohe appropriated the phrase "less is more" as a fundamental precept for Minimalist design and architecture. Minimalism in visual art emerged in New York in the early 1960s, and the use of negative space became a key component. In design, negative space is the breathing room around the subject that draws your eye to it, and determines how appealing it looks. In John's paintings, composition is paramount, and he is a master of subtraction. With his selective use of emptiness he accomplishes two things. He invites us to examine his masterful capture of architectural subjects, and he creates a sense of mystery. We are intrigued by what is not there; we are seduced into providing our own interpretation of the blank spaces. As John puts it, "Where there is nothing, there is everything."

He began showing his works at art festivals in 2009, and discovered how much he enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow artists. He especially values the feedback he gets from the people who stop to look at and enquire about his paintings. He recalls a conversation one afternoon with a widow who was struggling to convert her husband's favourite room into a meditative space for herself. She showed up at 10:00 the next morning with tears in her eyes to tell him that she had had a dream about the painting she had been considering, and she bought it.

An online stop at John Shea's website is likely to result in a scenic drive to his spectacular setting at Newboro Lake to witness his mastery of the art of subtraction. Just check the back of his Trading Card and follow the links at <thehummm.com>.

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WHO John Shea
WHAT Watercolour Artist
WHERE By appointment at his beautiful home on Newboro Lake near Elgin (between Smiths Falls & Kingston), contact at <john-shea.artistwebsites.com>, <rosalbaystudio@hotmail.com>; Gallery on Gore, 92 Gore St E., Perth, <galleryongore.com>
WHEN Shea participates in studio tours and art exhibits across Ontario; check his website for dates and locations
WHY "I love witnessing how my art makes people feel."

ARTIST TRADING CARD



Holiday House Tour in CP

The "Christmas in Carleton Place House Tour" is back for its fourth consecutive year! Every year on the first weekend of December, the town welcomes hundreds of Christmas enthusiasts to their annual House Tour, which runs this year on Saturday, December 5 from 4:30PM to 9:30PM, and Sunday, December 6 from 10AM to 4PM.

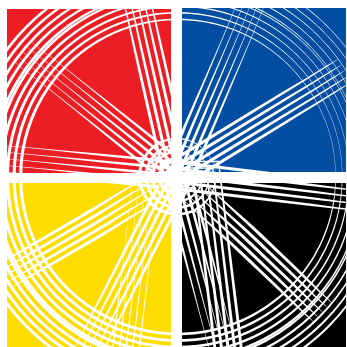
If you have a passion for Christmas and all things festive, you are invited to come and celebrate the magic of the holiday season! This wonderful event is sure to put everyone into the holiday spirit. Tour eight beautiful homes all decked out in holiday splendour. Each home offers cookies and hot apple cider to wet your whistle. Some homes will feature local musicians, and the homeowners are always present and engaging, because after all, it is their home and holiday traditions that they wish to share with you! There will also be themed trees and villages, Santas and snowmen, angels and reindeer, and nine wonderful prizes to be won. What also sets this tour apart from others is that you can tour by day on Sunday, and by evening on Saturday as well. There's something to be said for the twinkling of lights on a winter's eve to put one into the magical spirit of the holidays... You may even wish you could stay awhile!

As an added treat, visitors can also visit the Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum, which will be adorned for the holidays and open for the duration of the tour. The air will be filled with the welcoming scents of natural greenery, the familiar sounds of carollers, and the comforting scents of hot apple cider and homemade cookies! The Ginger Café in the old train station will also be all decked out for the holidays and open to welcome visitors for the duration of the tour. Owner Tiffany Nixon is offering a complementary hot beverage with the purchase of lunch. Come and enjoy a healthy-pay-per-weight vegetarian buffet, homemade soups, sandwiches and home-baked desserts!

Tickets are \$25, and are available in Carleton Place at the Carleton Place Nursery, the Hospital Gift Shoppe, Petals and Paint, and the Blossom Shop; in Almonte at Crush Marketplace; in Smiths Falls at Gemmell's Flowers; in Stittsville at Pretty Pots; in Kanata at Spectrum Kitchens, In Bloom, and Yarn Forward; and in Ottawa at Tinsel Town Emporium and Flowers Talk Tivoli. For further information please contact Jane Tunks at 257-9717, email <christmasincarletonplace@gmail.com>, or find them on Facebook.

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GRAND OPENING DECEMBER 5TH



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 Middleville

Meet the Author
Sunday
December 13
 3-4PM
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Available in selected local bookstores

For more information:
 cjsmith@magma.ca or
 613-256-1487

Gifts for Environmentalists

- Handmade glass nest with glass feathers, Current Works of Glass.....\$65-300
- Scarves by Violetta Veljkovic, using natural dyes, Riverguild Fine Crafts.....\$45-60
- Ontario-grown bouquets, arrangements in recycled glass, Acanthus Floral...\$25-100
- Tree-free journals & cards, Soul Scents.....\$3.95-60
- Double suet, Gilligallou Bird Inc.....\$50
- Felted alpaca dryer balls, Ballintotas Alpacas.....\$20
- Recycled seat belt bags, Glory Days.....\$100



While visions of Christmas books danced in their heads...

Terry, Debbie and Mary can help you make your wishes come true!

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A Christmas Weekend in Mississippi Mills

Nothing says "Christmas in the Valley" like Almonte's annual **Light Up the Night**, and on Friday, December 4, the iconic event is celebrating 25 years! A holiday cheer-filled evening of fantastic musical entertainment, late night shopping, fireworks, hot chocolate on twinkle-lit street and, of course, the much-anticipated arrival of Santa Claus is truly a heart-warming holiday experience to behold.

Wayne Rostad is back to host, and the show will feature a cast of favourites from over the years, including Voices of Praise Choir, Brea Lawrenson, Terry Tuffs, The Twinkle Fairies, The Cedar Hill Sunday School Choir and more surprises yet to be announced!

The festivities begin at 7PM on Mill Street in Almonte, and wrap up with a spectacular firework display high above the Mississippi River falls.

As a special souvenir, you can pick up your pewter 25th Anniversary Light Up the Night ornament for \$10 at Levi's Home Hardware, Almonte Old Town Hall, or Hello Yellow while they last. For more information about the event, visit <lightupthenightalmonte.com>.

Santa Claus Parades

Mississippi Mills is keeping Santa particularly busy that weekend, with two local appearances this year. On Saturday, December 5, he'll be in Pakenham for a "Beloved Christmas Tales and Stories" themed parade and festivities. Participants are asked to register by 12:30, and the parade gets underway at 1PM. The Pakenham Civitan Club will be accepting donations of food or money to the Lanark County Food Bank. Afterwards, free hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served compliments of Greater Ottawa Realty in the community centre, where the kids can meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy a free skate.



On Sunday, December 6, Almontonians will wait until nightfall for Santa's arrival on Mill Street. Recently Almonte shifted to an early evening start time of 5PM, which allows for a beautiful demonstration of Christmas cheer with brightly lit floats, making it an unforgettable evening holiday event. Like Pakenham, this year's theme is "Beloved Christmas Tales and Stories", and local businesses, churches, sports and community groups are encouraged to call and register so they can add their light to this what could be Almonte's longest parade yet. The 2nd Almonte Cubs, Scouts and Venturers will be collecting food along the parade route in support of the Lions Christmas Food Basket campaign. After the parade, the Almonte Lions Club will sponsor its annual "warm up" with hot dogs, hot chocolate and free public skating at the Almonte Community Centre. Both the Almonte Civitan Club and Lions Club are ready with awards to recognize the best use of theme, best music, best walking and the best overall float.

For more information about the parades, please contact the Town of Mississippi Mills Recreation and Culture Department at 256-1077.

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Pub Crawling

Tunes Under the Tree

I have a brilliant plan for all of you who dislike shopping malls, canned Christmas music, hurried food court meals, and screaming children. How would you like to get a bunch of your annual gift purchasing done while listening to some great live music, eating lovely pub fare and perhaps enjoying a pint or two? I thought so... Many of the talented musicians in this area have recorded some excellent CDs in the past few years and each of them is ready, willing and able to be your own personal Santa this year.

by Rob Riendeau

K.E.W.T. *Winter Light*

K.E.W.T. is the incomparable duo of pianist Kathryn Briggs and guitarist Terry Tufts. Their first CD, *Motherlode*, released earlier this year, is a beautiful collection of inspired, acoustic, instrumental compositions. Although the ink on the liner notes is barely dry on *Motherlode*, K.E.W.T. is back with a new offering just in time for the holiday season. *Winter Light* is a collection of traditional (*Silent Night, In the Bleak Midwinter*) and original (*Big Ol' Toboggan*) seasonal songs and it is simply beautiful. I guarantee that once this hits your CD player you will not want to change discs until New Year's Eve. If you can wait until then, you can pick up a copy on **December 20**, when Terry and Kathryn will join David Francey on stage at the **Almonte Old Town Hall** accompanied by bassist John Geggie. If you can't wait (and I don't think you should), visit Mill Street Books in Almonte to get your copy.

Peter Brown Quartet *Beautiful Love*

The Peter Brown Quartet — Peter Brown, piano; Glenn Robb, drums; Don Paterson, trumpet; and Dave Arthur, bass — has been providing great jazz music to packed houses in Carleton Place and beyond for several years now. It's no surprise that their shows are so well attended — these guys are veterans who have shared the stage with the likes of Benny Goodman, Mel Torme, Ella Fitzgerald, Cab Calloway, Dutch Mason and Mick Taylor. In 2014, they recorded *Beautiful Love*, a CD of standards and crowd favourites from their repertoire. By the time you read this, it may be too late to get a seat at their regular monthly gig at the **Queen's Hotel** in Carleton Place on **December 3** (but you should still see if you can get in). If you can't make it to the show, you can get a copy of the CD (along with Peter's two earlier discs: *Marie-Claude* and *Franklin Street*) at Mississippi Mills Musicworks in Almonte.

Most months, you can also catch Peter at the Waterfront Gastropub on the second Saturday of the month. This month, the excellent jazz pianist John Steele will be filling in for Peter on December 12, accompanied by drummer Glenn Robb and bassist Chris Breitner.

Brock Zeman

Pulling Your Sword Out of the Devil's Back

It might be a failure of imagination on my part, but I can not think of anyone who would not like a copy of Brock Zeman's eleventh CD release under the tree this year. This disc is one of his most mainstream recordings in a while featuring rockers, slow-burners, and some almost orchestral moments. My full review of *Pulling Your Sword...* from the April 2015 issue is available online but the short version is: you will win Christmas if you give this disc to the music lovers on your list this year. You can get a copy from the man himself, and enjoy a wonderful night out, at his regular Tuesday night gig at **O'Reilly's Pub** in Perth.

Stocking Stuffers

The **Jimmy Tri-Tone Band** has just released a video for their latest single *'Til the End* which will be part of their first full-length album to be released in the spring. In the meantime, you should catch up with them at the Valley Food & Drink Co. in Calabogie, Love That Barr in Pakenham, or The Barley Mow in Almonte (see our Pub Crawling listing on p.26 for dates and times) and grab a copy of their excellent EP, *Wanted*.

The **Ramblin' Valley Band** won't be playing any gigs in the area this month, but you can snag a copy of their *Farm Days* EP at Mississippi Mills Musicworks in Almonte. While you are there, you could also do yourself a favour and pick up *Otherworld*, one of the many fine CDs by **George Turcotte** (the owner of Musicworks).

A Time for Giving

Barry Buse has had a gig on the Humm's monthly calendar since we started the paper, whether as a supporter and driving force behind many blues jams throughout the area, or with one of the many bands he plays in. Recently, he was sidelined by a serious health issue and is resting comfortably at the Ottawa Heart Institute. We all wish him a speedy recovery, but it will be some time before he's able to teach and gig again.

This is the season for giving, and with that in mind, I would like you to consider helping out a stalwart of the local music scene. A website has been set up to receive donations, and they can be also be dropped off at SRC Music, 124 Moore St., Carleton Place.

See More Online!

Visit <theHumm.com/December2015> for the link to the online ticketing site for the K.E.W.T. and David Francey concert, and the Jimmy Tri-Tone Band's video for their new single. There you will also find the link to the Fundraiser for Barry site.

Gifts for Lovers of Vintage Treasures

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Motown Meets the Valley.. in Renfrew!

Hot on the heels of their smash hit *Here Comes the Train!*, which played to packed audiences throughout the Valley all summer, **Stone Fence Theatre** is getting ready to bring us a new Christmas musical: *Valley Vic and the Christmas Temptations*.

A Motown-style girl group is dispatched from Hell to ruin Christmas in the Ottawa Valley, as they've done elsewhere. What happens when the first person they encounter in their mission is Valley Vic, Stone Fence Theatre's iconic symbol of all things good about old-time Valley life? What happens when Vic's daughter, Alice, gets wind of what's going on?

Find out in Renfrew on December 5 and 6! *Valley Vic* is the brainchild of producer/playwright Ish Theilheimer, and is directed by Chantal Elie-Sernoskie. "A number of people helped me come up with the concept for the show," says Mr. Theilheimer. "One of the things that brings this company together is how fond we are of the Valley and its community-minded values. So the idea of a '60s-style girl group dispatched by the Devil to ruin things here struck us all as a hoot. It went from there."

Chantal Elie-Sernoskie is excited about the show and its cast. "If you want to laugh, listen to some Motown music sprinkled with Christmas cheer and be touched by the true values of the season, come out and see the show! This is a fantastic cast of actors and musicians and we are excited to introduce some wonderful new Stone Fencers in the mix. I am happy also to involve some very talented local youth in this production!"



Catch the latest offering by Stone Fence Theatre in Renfrew on December 5 and 6

Two veteran Stone Fence Theatre stars are featured in the show: "Valley Vic", otherwise known as Killaloe's Ambrose Mullin, and Fran Pinkerton, one of the Ottawa Valley's most popular vocalists.

The play features young Kaylee Garcia of Pembroke as Vic's daughter, Alice. Kaylee has appeared in Streetlight Theatre productions and in concert.

It also introduces Shirley Hill of Cobden as Vic's neighbour lady Wanda, who has her cap set for him.

The band features Schroeder Nordholt on keys, Bryan Walsh on guitar, Derek Tolhurst on bass, and Robin Pinkerton on drums, along with Musical Director Ish Theilheimer playing rhythm guitar and fiddle.

"Although I'm known for playing fiddle music, I grew up listening to the The Drifters, Sam and Dave, Aretha, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, The Supremes and all the other R&B and soul music greats of the late '60s," says Theilheimer. "The music is inspired by these geniuses and the unsung heroes who wrote the songs and accompanied them."

Ms. Elie-Sernoskie is also enthusiastic about the show's message. "Ish has a great gift for reinventing an age-old theme and making it pertinent to our area, our era and finding a different angle. This show is exactly that. It's relaying a message that the holiday season has been morphed into a giant artificial monster, and it's so important for us to always be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas."

Valley Vic and the Christmas Temptations plays at the Renfrew Recreation Centre on Saturday, December 5 at 7PM and Sunday afternoon, December 6, at 1PM. It is a one-act show, with pre-show seasonal music by the Nordholt Family.

Tickets for all performances are \$25, and are available by calling 628-6600 or toll free 1-866-310-1004, or online at <stonefence.ca/tickets>.

Motown meets the Ottawa Valley in a new musical comedy!

Valley Vic and The Christmas Temptations

Original Christmas musical comedy from Stone Fence Theatre

December 5 - Renfrew Recreation Centre
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Humm Bits

Christmas Gift & Bake Sale

L'Arche Arnprior sponsors a sale of one-of-a-kind Christmas items and homemade baking and preserves each year at The Kirkman Bed and Breakfast, located at 294 John Street North in Arnprior. Come on out to the **Gifts of Light Christmas Gift & Bake Sale** on Saturday, December 5, from 10AM to 2PM. The wares of local vendors are also featured in this gracious old home, which has been beautifully decorated for the season. L'Arche holds the sale at this time of year in celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3. Please do join them at this festive season to enjoy this lovely venue, browse their offerings and find a few items to brighten your holidays!

Light Up the Christmas Tree in Clayton!

On Friday, December 11 at 7PM, St. George's Anglican Church in Clayton will be holding a "Light up the Christmas Tree" night, with carols and traditional Christmas songs, followed by light refreshments in Grace Hall.

You can support their small congregation, helping to keep their 114-year-old building in good repair, by donating to the Steeple Repair Fund. Give \$5 for one light, \$10 for three lights, or \$20 for five. You can buy them "in memory of" or "in honour of" someone if you like; names will be read at time of lighting.

Contact Suzanne Jonsen (256-5499) by December 4 if possible. And don't forget to dress for the outdoors! Find further information at <stgeorgechurchclayton.webs.com>.

Trees for Hub Hospice

Hub Hospice Palliative Care, a registered charity providing home hospice palliative support to residents of Mississippi Mills, Carleton Place and North Lanark, is very pleased to announce the return of the annual tree sale. With the assistance of local horticultural experts Ed Lawrence, Al Potvin and Ron Ayling, they are offering a selection of shade, flowering and fruit trees suitable for our area at very reasonable prices.

By buying a tree through this campaign, you can beautify your property and the community, help the environment, and support your neighbours in need. Trees sized up to 10 feet tall are priced under \$100 and include fertilizer, mulch, and compost. Cleaner air, cooler buildings, better water quality, reduced soil erosion, and increased property value are just a few of many great reasons to plant trees.

Proceeds from the Trees for Hub Hospice campaign support Hub Hospice Palliative Care. For more information, please visit <hubhospice.com>.

Westport Christmas Farmers' Market

Looking for a unique handcrafted gift for that special someone on your Christmas list? Take the drive to Westport and stop by the annual Christmas Farmers' Market. This fun and festive event will take place on Saturday, December 5, from 9AM to 2PM at Rideau Vista Public School in Westport (9921 Country Road 42).

Be sure to visit <westportfarmersmarket.ca>, like them on Facebook, and follow them on Twitter!

Learning in Almonte

Two new series start in mid-January:

A User's Guide to Social Science Research
by Warren Thorngate, with a focus on Almonte
(starts Tuesday, January 12)

Aboriginal Art II by Jane Horner
In-depth studies of distinguished contemporary
Inuit and First Nations artists.
(starts Thursday, January 14)

These courses are six weeks in length.
Each comprises one two-hour lecture every week,
from 1:30-3:30 in the Almonte Public Library Classroom.
No final exam, but lots of discussion time! \$75 per course.

To register contact Don Wiles at 613-256-4376
or don.wiles@carleton.ca

The Reeve Report

Sing a Song of Sixpence

After many years of procrastination, I've done something very bold: I've joined a choir! Pangs of uncertainty about failing an audition have kept me from singing. You'd only have heard me if

by Glenda Jones

you'd been out in our woods in the depths of winter, when no one else is around. What if I sang out of tune? What if I forgot the words? What if, what if... But — what if I did it, and could return to an activity I loved in my halcyon days?

Have you ever heard yourself on a recording? Your own voice is so foreign, it's difficult to recognize yourself. My darling Mom thought she was a good singer, but in fact couldn't carry a tune in a bucket with the lid on. That didn't stop her trying though, and our Brownie troupe sounded totally different from any other! Mom sang all the time — everything from pop songs to folk songs, a soprano voice wandering through the scales. I had the fear I might end up singing an audition just like that, believing I was bang on key, but really being a trial for any choral leader.

It turned out the audition wasn't at all scary, simply a good time with my friend Cheryl, who only needed to know which part I was comfortable singing. I surprised myself by actually being able to sing in tune and follow her lead. She'd asked me to bring a favourite song, and when that question comes up, all I can think of is *Hark the Herald Angels Sing!* First off, although it's pleasant enough, it's not really a favourite. Secondly, in my misguided childhood, I believed the angels belonged to Harold, not unlike Charlie's Angels, and I spent

more time contemplating the two of them duking it out than on the actual song itself. More on this later.

The first practice went very well — not intimidating at all — and I realized there were many of us eager to blend our voices in the harmonious joy of singing. The new members were welcomed as equals, and we all left the rehearsal with smiles on our faces and tunes in our minds.

Singing is good for the soul, to say nothing of the lungs and good posture and all that. After only a month, I find I'm standing taller — likely only in my own mind. I have wonderful earworms of melody coursing through my

What if I sang out of tune? What if I forgot the words? What if, what if...

head at all hours of the day. I don't care if the words elude me as long as I can hear the tune. I can hum or whistle if I like, and have some semblance of the song always with me. I can stroll along with the rhythm drumming there too.

My songbooks represent a treasury of pleasure waiting to be discovered at every practice. Just standing next to a friend singing along together is a unifying experience. Sure, there are mistakes, but we sing out with gusto, help each other through the bad bits, and celebrate our success when it all comes together. The harmonies are positively glorious when they work (and positively spine-tingling when they don't!), but we persevere.

The second practice began with a nonsense exercise that had us all yodelling and flapping like German folk dancers, minus the dirndls and short pants. Laugh? You bet! But just what we needed to make our voices loose and ready to hit the high notes. We leafed through our music,

and the first piece we brought out was *Hark the Herald...* Now, when I've sung this before, it could get quite stringy in the high bits, but here was a rendition like no other. There are many parts, all blending to chords never expected, and so beautiful. It's entailed a bit of homework to get it right, but never again will I hesitate to say it's my favourite. The best part is when our esteemed director leads us through the grand finale, and then declares: "Beeautifulll"! We all exalt in the experience; a triumph when it sounds so good.

Cheryl is a paragon of patience, ingenuity, and professional wisdom, and she's pulling the best from all of us. Choir practice has become a cherished part of my schedule, and I know that this is something I plan to continue. It's a gift I never expected, and one for which I am truly thankful.

This community has become a hotbed of choirs: church choirs and community choirs of every ilk. Every one of them will make room on the risers for a new singer, and what a shame it would be for us to go any longer without raising our voices in something so uplifting as a choir. Make your way to **Light Up the Night** on December 4, and when Wayne Rostad launches into *Christmas in the Valley*, and sing along with gusto. Of course you know the words; we all do. Make this the start of your very Merry Christmas, and sing along to every familiar carol you hear.

To the many choir directors out there, thank you for the gift of song, thank you for encouraging us to sing, sing out loud, sing out strong. You add to our communal joy in more ways than you know — from what we learn, and from the pleasure it gives others when they hear us.

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A Choral Christmas Season

For many people, choral concerts are a staple of the holiday season. December just wouldn't be complete without a sonorous celebration of carols and festive music. Fortunately, choirs throughout the area have been hard at work ensuring that a tuneful time can be had by all. Here's what's on offer in our area.

Sing in the Joy

Join the **Tay Valley Community Choir** to "Sing in the Joy" of the Christmas Season. The choir's reputation for warm, good humour and a happy mix of new and familiar songs create a picture-perfect setting for this annual gathering of friends and neighbours. Fiddlers and Friends will join the choir on stage to complete the festive scene. Come for the music and the festive atmosphere, and stay for conversation and refreshments after the concert. The show takes place at Maberly Hall on Sunday, December 6, at 3PM. Admission is \$10 at the door. The choir wishes to thank their director Rebecca Worden and accompanist Yu Kwei Chen for an excellent fall session under their able and enthusiastic leadership.

An Evening in December

The **Valley Voices** have welcomed many new members this season, and all are looking forward to the Christmas concert — an "Evening in December" — on Sunday, December 13 at 7PM at the Almonte United Church. *Evening in December* is actually one of the beautiful songs to be performed. Another beauty is *Hanerot Halalu* — a hymn about the Hanukkah lights, lit to commemorate the Hanukkah miracles. The chorus loves singing the Scottish song *Hang the Holly*, as well as a very surprising song about *The Twelve Days After Christmas* that tells the story of the dreadful end to the four calling birds and the partridge... Tickets are \$7 in advance at Baker Bob's or from any Valley Voices member, or \$10 at the door.

Christmas Blessings

This year the Goulbourn Male Chorus, under the direction of Byron Hermann, is pleased to present their sixth annual Christmas concert, "Christmas Bless-

ings", at 2:30PM on Sunday December 13 at Trinity Presbyterian Church (1817 Richardson Side Road).

Besides the chorus, the Men of Note ensemble will perform several pieces and guest ensemble Interlude will participate as well. Interlude consists of Jackie Morris on violin, Sandra Allan on cello, and Bonnie MacDiarmid on piano.

Attendance at the concert has always been at capacity, and the audience has been treated to great performances from the Chorus, including some sing-along Christmas carols. Several members of the current chorus joined after they heard the group perform during last year's Christmas season. The group



There is a joyous profusion of choirs in this area (like the Tay Valley Community Choir, above), and they would all love to sing to you this season!

is a community-based choir and tries to get out into the community at this time of the year. As member Don Snyder states: "nothing brings the joy of Christmas better than vocal music... and the Goulbourn Male Choristers have a unique opportunity to share this gift of song at this special time of year through our Christmas concert and at a number of Community Sing-outs. It is hoped that many in our area will be able to participate, both by listening and in joining us for sing-a-long numbers. It is indeed a pleasure to be a part of this talented and dedicated group."

Tickets are \$15, available from Gaia Java and Brown's Independent in Stittsville, chorus members, online at <goulbournmalechorus.com>, and at the door. There will be a limited number of tickets available at the door, so purchase your tickets early to ensure a seat.

Christmas with Mozart

The **Goulbourn Jubilee Singers** are proud to present Christmas with Mozart this December, performing two concerts: on Saturday the 5th at 7PM and Sunday the 6th at 3PM. Both shows are at Glen Cairn United Church, 140 Abbeyhill Road in Kanata. Advance tickets are \$15 (\$10 for children or seniors), and available through any member or by contacting 816-1297 or <kamoore9@gmail.com>. Tickets at the door are \$20 (all ages).

The GJS will present a variety of pieces to celebrate the season. The centrepiece will be Mozart's *Missa Solemnis*, K337, the last complete mass that he composed. A *Missa Solemnis* is associated with special feast days and celebrations in the Church, and it takes the listener through a spectrum of emotion: from penitent and solemn to hopefulness and joy.

In addition to the *Missa*, you can hear a wide variety of Christmas pieces in several different languages. All three of the GJS ensembles will be featured on this programme: Children, Teen, and Adult choirs. The Singers will be accompanied by organ, piano, and string ensemble. This programme has some interesting and unique seasonal selections, and something for listeners of all ages to enjoy.

Celebrating 31 Years of Mellow Music

You won't want to miss the upcoming Fall Variety Show at Perth's Studio Theatre — at both 2PM and 7PM on Tuesday, December 8 — featuring the well-known **Rideau Mellowdears** male chorus, who are celebrating their 31st year of entertaining.

In January 1985, two Portland area men who enjoyed singing decided to start a men's choir. Ralph Zwiers and Jim Vanderschuit contacted several male friends and in no time their dream was a reality. Named the Rideau Mellowdears by their first conductor, the late Marina Kelly, the choir began monthly practices, supported by accompanist Joan Hutchison Kelly. The original 13-member group quickly grew to 28 men from the surrounding area, and soon the Mellowdears were able to share their music at retirement homes, seniors' groups, churches and other social events. All were treated to concerts of show tunes, popular favourites and spiritual songs.

In time, the conductor's baton was passed on to retired educator Ross Andrew, who had several capable accompanists during his tenure. Today the 20-plus men in the Rideau Mellowdears (including Bert Visser — the only member of the original group), are under the direction of Cam McKay, with Carol Husband at the keyboard. The singers come from many local communities such as Lombardy, Perth, Smiths Falls, Jasper, Elgin, Merrickville, Kemptville and Godfrey.

The Rideau Mellowdears always welcome new members who would enjoy the singing, fellowship and fun they experience at their weekly practices — every Tuesday evening at Portland United Church — and travelling to concerts. Contact conductor Cam McKay at 284-0216 for more information.

Tickets for their Fall Variety Show are only \$10 each for either performance. They are available from any member of the chorus or by calling 264-1277. The music is an eclectic mix of gospel, Broadway, and oldies, with both solos and chorus numbers. There will also be a few sing-a-long numbers for those who like to sing.

Gifts for People who are Stressed Out

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Badger Tension Soother, Worry Stones, Soul Scents.....	\$5-12.95
Easy knit scarf projects, Textile Traditions.....	\$15 & up
One hour of Swedish massage & gift pack, Hands on Healing.....	\$90.40
1-hour therapeutic massage, Kim Narraway, RMT.....	\$90
1.5-hour wellness massage, Body Poets Massage Therapy.....	\$125
45-min massage with free gift, Darlington Acupuncture & Massage.....	\$63
Jewellery-making class, Dragon's Lair Beads.....	\$20
Gift basket with 13 \$100 house cleaning gift cards, Green Clean Plus.....	\$1200
30-min one-on-one meditation session, Maxine's Crystal Jewelry & Gift.....	\$45

Gifts for Parents

Family Adventure for a family of 4 or 5, Fulton's Pancake House.....	\$60/\$70
Series pass to the 2016 season (4 concerts), Folkus Concert Series.....	\$90
Wind chimes, Reid Gardens.....	\$80
30-min therapeutic massage, Kim Narraway, RMT.....	\$50
Gift basket with 6 \$100 house cleaning gift cards, Green Clean Plus.....	\$600

The Perth Citizens' Band
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
 Guest performers: **The Redhawk Rhythmics**
 Tuesday, December 15, 7:30PM
 St. James Anglican Church, Perth
 \$5/person \$10/family
 More information at 256-4221 or www.perthband.ca

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Check out page 25 for great GIFTS FOR HUSBANDS



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Christmas in Merrickville

On Saturday, December 5, everyone is welcome to experience Christmas in Merrickville. The day starts with **Breakfast with Santa** at the Legion (from 8:30 to 10:30AM), then stroll on over to the Community Centre to select some yummy cookies as the Merrickville Day Care hosts the **Cookie Walk and Weigh** (9AM-1PM). The **Chilli Cook-off** tent will set up on St. Lawrence and Brock Streets (11AM-2PM and 4-7PM), and the annual **Santa Claus Parade** starts at 11AM and rolls along St. Lawrence Street, winding up at the Community Centre, where you can chat with Santa and munch on a hot dog.

St. Lawrence Street will be closed off at noon between Main and Lewis Streets. There, you will be able to roast marshmallows at the fire barrels, sip on some hot cocoa, and enjoy a variety of street entertainment. Then pose for a **photo** with the Jolly Old Elf outside Larkspur Lane from 12:30 to 4:30PM.

Need to have a rest? It's time to take the Village **tour** on a horse-drawn wagon! Check in at the Info Tent on St. Lawrence Street for pick-up and drop-off locations, as well as details about the entire goings on for the day.

After that relaxing interlude, get back to making the most of your day at Christmas in Merrickville. For many, shopping in our unusual and especially well-stocked stores is something to look forward to! Many merchants are involved with the **Shopping Spree Contest**, the **Scavenger Hunt** and the **Silent Auction**.

Not really a shopper? Then you may want to cheer on your team at the **broomball** game at the ice rink. The Village Staff are pitted against the Village Firefighters, starting at 2PM.

Kids will love the fire barrels, the petting zoo, Juice Jam at the Library, and — new this year — the Dr. Four Face Extravaganza! Taking place from 2 to 4PM at the Community Centre, this a fun show for school-aged kids.

And the best is still yet to come: the **Tree Lighting Ceremony** at 5PM is the highlight of the twilight hour. All are welcome to join in carol singing as many of the huge trees in Blockhouse Park are brought to life for the Christmas Season — something the whole family will enjoy.

For more details, please look for them on Facebook or visit <christmasinmerrickville.ca>.

Gifts for Teenagers

- Lump of real coal, Almonte Antique Market.....\$8
- "Movie Night In" gift basket, Fulton's Pancake House.....\$40
- "Snowflake" sterling silver bracelet with dangle, Kehla Jewellery Design.....\$130
- Ukuleles!, Mississippi Mill Musicworks.....\$36.95 & up
- Star Wars metal model kit, L.G. Lee & Sons.....\$12.95
- 30-min sports-recovery massage, Body Poets Massage Therapy.....\$50
- Konjac Sponge Co. facial cleansing sponge, Blush & Black.....\$16
- "I love you to the moon and back" necklace, Maxine's Crystal Jewelry & Gift.....\$20
- British Royal Post "Star Wars" stamps, Alliance Coin & Banknote.....\$20

Gifts for Readers

- Classic Christmas stories for all ages, The Book Nook.....\$9.99 & up
- Out-of-print book covers on T-shirts, Mill Street Books.....\$34.99

Gifts for Over \$100

- Heritage quality merino wool blanket by Klippan, Blackbird.....\$160
- Handcrafted Italian lamb leather handbag, Strévé Designs.....\$69-249
- Gift basket with 6 \$100 house cleaning gift cards, Green Clean Plus.....\$600



Eliane Saheurs, "Inside Out XX"



Deborah Arnold, "Amphibious IV"



Mary Wong, "Spring Zephyr" (detail)



Sanjeev Sivarulrasa, "Nightfall, Old Woman Bay"

SIVARULRASAS STUDIO & GALLERY

83 Little Bridge St, Almonte
613.293.2492 www.sivarulrasa.com
December Hours: Tues-Fri 11-5; Sat-Sun 10-6; closed Mondays

Featuring contemporary Canadian art by outstanding local and regional artists

Give the gift of original Canadian art!



Sivarulasa Studio & Gallery is celebrating their first anniversary in Almonte with a very special group show that continues until the end of December

Anniversary Art Show in Almonte

Sivarulasa Studio & Gallery in Almonte was the site of a major celebration on Saturday, November 14. Eight Canadian artists came together to celebrate the gallery's first anniversary in Almonte, and were joined by classical guitarists Steve Cowan and Adam Cicchillitti who gave a mesmerizing duo performance. *The Anniversary Show!* features paintings, collage, photographic works and sculpture by artists Deborah Arnold, Tami Galili

Ellis, Barbara Gamble, Joseph Pearce, Elaine Saheurs, Sanjeev Sivarulasa, Patrice Stanley, and Mary Wong. Gallery owner Sanjeev Sivarulasa describes Almonte as a "fantastic" place for an art gallery. "Everyone has been kind and welcoming," he says. "There is a genuine love of art and culture here."

The Anniversary Show! continues until December 31, and more details can be found at <sivarulasa.com>.

New Juried Artists' Co-op in Westport

Santa can't do all the work, so a group of local artists will be offering shoppers a chance to purchase unique, original works of art as gifts that will be remembered and appreciated for many years. The **Grist Mill Art Gallery** in Westport will be open on weekends — December 5-6, 12-13, and 19-20 — from 11AM to 4PM each day.

Works include new and exciting creations in fabric sculpture, alcohol ink paintings on tile, photography, jewellery, batiks on silk, and inspiring paintings in acrylics, watercolours, oils and mixed media. For the festive season, they have some wonderful Christmas art to trim your tree, give as hostess gifts, and help decorate your home for the holidays.

Located at 21 Main Street, the Grist Mill Art Gallery will officially open on



Selected works by ten local artists (including Christine Martin, above, and Jill Ferguson, below left), will be shown at the new Grist Mill Art Gallery in Westport

Saturday, December 5, and all visitors will be treated to hot apple cider, homemade Christmas baking and a feast for the eyes.

This unique shopping opportunity will only be available for six days, so mark your calendars and come and see all the wonderful gift ideas you thought you'd never find!

All works of art displayed have been jury selected. For more information about the artists and images of their work, visit the Grist Mill Art Gallery Facebook page or contact Sharon Benson, Co-op Chair, at 273-8295 or <sharshar@kingston.net>.




A sincere thank you to our clients past and present.

Our success in 2015 has been a result of your confidence in us.

Best wishes for comfort and joy in your homes for 2016!

Jennifer Kelly

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Patrick Kelly

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& Winter Solstice Party*
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Calling All Young Musicians!

Almonte in Concert Youth Music Club

What an opportunity! To perform in a concert hall with superlative acoustics and a 9-foot Steinway concert grand piano in a supportive, non-competitive environment aimed at helping young performers gain experience on the stage. Too good to be true? Hardly. That is exactly what Almonte in Concert's Youth Music Club has been giving to the community of Mississippi Mills for years.

The club meets three or four times a year and encourages young musicians to hone their performance skills as well as build new relationships with other musicians in the area. Meetings include a chance for members to perform one or two pieces. Special guests speak about and perform on their chosen instrument.

New to the format this year are jam sessions! The repertoire is not confined to just classical music — all genres have been represented at past meetings: jazz, folk, pop, rock... and most certainly, classical.

Members' parents are keenly aware of what a treasure the club is to the thriving young musical community in Almonte. Parent Jody Trant says: "Music Club is the perfect blend of informality and

structure — sometimes there are themes but you can always just play anything you want."

The young performers see the inherent value in it too. Fiddler Danny Albert explains: "not only did Music Club give me the opportunity to play in front of an audience for many years, it also introduced me to other young musicians. It also taught me to be an audience member as well as a performer." Member Max Donaldson adds: "it has exposed me to new music and diversified my knowledge of music."

On Sunday, December 6, Almonte in Concert's Youth Music Club kicks off its new season at the Almonte Old Town Hall (14 Bridge Street), starting at 1:30PM. Come to perform, watch or even join in on a jam session. The performers love an audience, so come for an afternoon of music! Admission is free but donations are always welcome.

Membership fees are \$20 a year for individuals, \$30 for families and \$7 for a drop-in. Snacks are provided. For information about future club dates and events, please visit <almonteinconcert.com/youth-music-club>. Or if you prefer speaking to a real person, please call Joy at 253-1454.

Gifts for Music Lovers

Harmonica for Beginners kit, The Book Nook.....	\$12.95
Adele's "25" on vinyl or CD, Mill Street Books.....	\$29.99/\$18.99
Ukuleles!, Mississippi Mill Musicworks.....	\$36.95 & up
Series pass to the 2016 season (4 concerts), Folkus Concert Series.....	\$90

Gifts for Do-It-Yourselfers

Furniture to refurbish, Almonte Antique Market.....	\$20 & up
Porlex hand-held stainless steel grinder, Equator Coffee Roasters.....	\$68
Gift certificate for glass fusing classes, Current Works of Glass.....	\$40-160
"365 Ways to Power Up Your Life", Mill Street Books.....	\$23
Needle felting kits by Wendo, MVTM Gift Shop.....	\$18-22
Quilt kits & knitting projects, Textile Traditions.....	\$30 & up
Kombucha starter kit, Dandelion Foods.....	\$31.75

And he will be called
Wonderful
Counselor


Mighty
God

Everlasting
Father

Prince of
Peace

Nine Lessons & Carols

St. James the Apostle Anglican Church
12 Harvey Street, Perth ~ 613-267-1163 ~ stjamesperth.ca



Sunday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.
Combined Choirs of
St. James' & St. Paul's United Church

Jazz in January Supports Local Hospitals

We all know the vital role local hospitals play in our community and family lives. JazzN.ca is thrilled to announce that, through the generous support of our corporate sponsors, the JazzNhouse concert on January 9 will be a fundraiser for the Almonte General Hospital/Fairview Manor and the Carleton Place District & Memorial Hospital.

JazzN.ca sponsor Keith Bean (Bean Chevrolet Buick) suggested the project with the intention of raising awareness as well as funds for our hospitals. The concert will take place in the Bean Car showroom. Guests will drive directly into the "Service Bay" where they will be provided with complimentary valet parking then be welcomed by representatives of both hospitals and seated inside the spacious showroom for a concert start-up time of 8PM.

Thanks to the generous support of CR Gamble Funeral Home (Almonte) and Rental Village (Carleton Place), guests will be offered a glass of wine and a relaxed setting to enjoy the evening mingling with friends and performers. As with all JazzNhouse concerts, guest are encouraged to bring their favourite beverages to enjoy during the performance and savouries or sweets to share during the interval.

Herbie's Hill will be the featured performers that evening. The band is composed of Michel Delage (drums), Richard Page (tenor sax), Vince Rimbach (tenor sax), Steve Boudreaux (keyboards) and Joe Hincke (bass).

Their music reflects the seminal talents of legendary American jazz artists Herbie Nichols and Andrew Hill. Although they never performed together, both men drew critical acclaim during their respective careers. In addition to being a highly original piano stylist, Herbie Nichols is well known for his compositions, most notably *Lady Sings the Blues*,



Hear Vince Rimbach and Herbie's Hill at the JazzNhouse concert on January 9

made famous by Billie Holiday. Andrew Hill's music defied categorization for over four decades with its enigmatic and sophisticated musical style. He was hailed by *The New York Times* as "one of the 1960s' jazz heroes" and was alternately referred to as a genius and a master by critics and colleagues alike.

The cost for the evening is \$35 per person, with all proceeds shared between the two hospitals. To reserve your place, visit <theHumm.com/December2015>. You will receive a receipt via email and your name will be added to the guest list.

Come on out for a wonderful evening of Jazz! And if you're having trouble coming up with unique Christmas gifts, this is a great opportunity to give a gift that celebrates live jazz and supports our hospitals!

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 Christmas Time is Ukulele Time!!
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 and
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Gifts for Kids

Adorable plush teddy bears, The Blossom Shop\$19.99 & up
 Family Pastimes co-op board games to stretch the imagination, Riverguild...\$7-30
 Adorable locally handknit hats for newborns to toddlers, Homing Instinct. \$15-22
 Tantrix & Risk Factor games, Mill Street Books under \$12

Gifts for Gardeners

Gift certificates, Reid Gardens.....various
 Fabric garden sculptures by Sharon Benson, Grist Mill Art Gallery.....\$100 & up
 Gorgeous exotic orchids, aromatic & easy to care for, Acanthus Floral.....\$25-75

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Gift certificates and gift baskets available!

Aromatherapy: Let There Be Peace & Quiet

Nut-free gingerbread kit

Holiday non-dairy beverages: Noq Coconut Milk Beverage, Mint Chocolate Coconut Milk Beverage

Loose-leaf tea glasses

facebook.com/dandelionfoods
 451 Ottawa Street, Almonte
 613-256-4545

New CD Showcases Music at St. Paul's

What started out in the fall of 2014 as a recording of a few pieces for two musicians playing piano and drums, has blossomed into a fifty-four minute professionally-produced CD involving about one hundred performers.

Brad Mills, Director of Music at St. Paul's United Church in Perth, discovered a business card in his mail slot advertising the recording services of Brian Lynch, who owns a home studio. Brad and his professional musician son Greg Upham-Mills had performed a number of hymn-based duets for piano and drums in church, and approached Brian about recording a few of their favourites.

That first session went so well that Brian expressed interest in recording more of the musical ensembles and individuals that contribute to the musical life of St. Paul's. By the spring of 2015, he had also

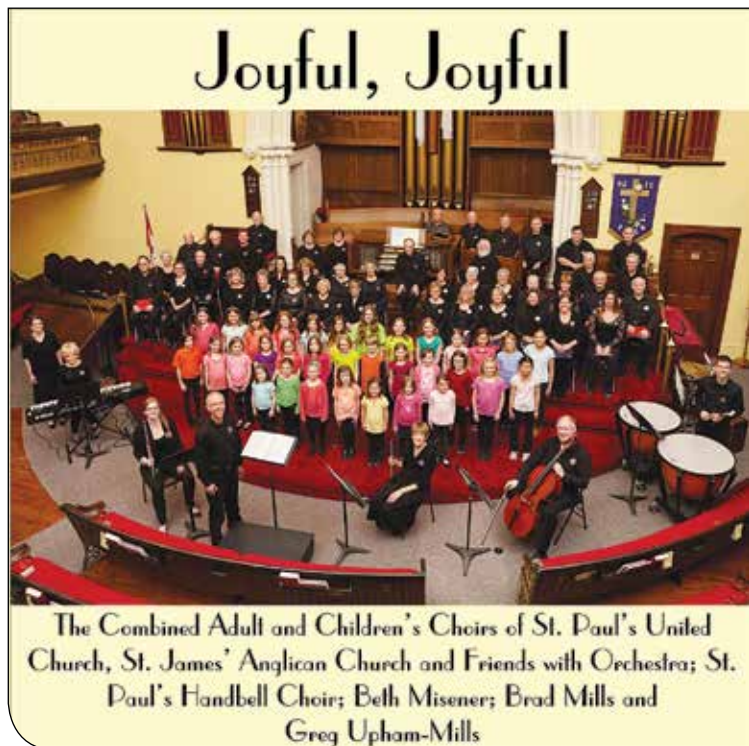
recorded The Bells of St. Paul's (the handbell choir directed by Ann McMahon), cellist Beth Misener, and the annual spring concert at St. Paul's, which always involves the two adult choirs of St. James Anglican Church (directed by Peter Woodwark), St. Paul's United Church and friends. The added element in this recording was a thirty-voice children's choir comprised of children from both churches and the community, directed by Rebecca Worden and Val Leavitt. A six-piece professional woodwind, string, keyboard and percussion ensemble accompanies a number of the selections.

The fifteen tracks are all pieces suitable for performance in church, including eight compositions

for choir by John Rutter (two of which are from his *Requiem*), four hymn-based pieces for piano and drums, two pieces for handbell choir and one cello solo featuring music from the movie *The Mission*.

The CDs are available for \$10 from the St. Paul's United Church office <stpauls-uc-perth.org>, 25 Gore Street West in Perth, Monday through Friday 9AM to 3PM or by contacting Brad Mills at <millham@sympatico.ca>.

Upcoming events at St. Paul's include the return of the Governor General's Foot Guards Band on Saturday, February 6 at 7:30PM. More details will be forthcoming in the January edition of theHumm.



Gifts for Chocolate Lovers

- "Twas the Night Before Christmas" book w/ chocolate mice, Blackbird.....\$14
- Ludwig Ratzinger single-origin noble-grade cocoa beans, Riverguild.....\$10-20
- "Just Chocolates", Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....\$79.95

Gifts for Art Lovers

- Paintings by Kathy Haycock, Johannes Veenstra, etc., Bittersweet.....\$65-1200
- "New Friends for Rover" Mr. Mustard print by Sam Toft, Blackbird.....\$55
- Framed river series prints by Jennifer Noxon, General Fine Craft.....\$350-400
- Wearable art: hats, brooches and bracelets, MVTM Gift Shop.....\$30 to 69
- 5x7 still nature photo on metallic paper, The Silver Shingle.....\$45.20
- Fine art photography by Barbara Jordan, Grist Mill Art Gallery.....\$100 & up
- Wood engraving by Larry Thompson, The Grotto.....\$90

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March 26

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online at folkusalmonite.com
and in person at Mill Street Books

'Tis the Season in Perth

When I owned a book-and-music shop in Perth, few things made me happier than helping people find that perfect gift for their loved ones. Might have been a book by Camilla Gibb or something written by a local author, a classic Beach Boys record, an Adele CD, or a beloved children's book — *Green Eggs and Ham*, let's say — it didn't matter. People's lists varied dramatically. What mattered to me was the delight I could sense, or even see in people: that their gift would be appreciated and enjoyed. It was a sheer pleasure to be on that

by John Pigeau

end of the joy of giving. When folks walked out happy, I was happy for them. It was a special feeling I will never forget and always treasure, almost like giving itself.

Christmas celebrates so many wonderful things — time with family, delicious food, beautiful lights, wonderful songs, decking the halls, an infectious cheerful spirit, and overwhelming feelings of gratitude — but giving might be at the top of the list for me. Well, no, it's second. Gratitude is first. But giving is lovely too.



House tours, arts shows, parades and fabulous shopping — find it all in Perth this month!

I think, even before we begin giving gifts to our loved ones, we should give to those less fortunate. So please keep in mind that a cash donation to a local charity, filling up the Food Basket at your local grocery store, or dropping off some nutritious food and treats at The Table Community Food Centre might be the best present you give this year. Every little bit helps and matters a great deal. If you can, please give generously.

With that in mind, when I give presents, I love to give very personal ones, and I like buying locally too. Perth is truly and charmingly a perfect spot for that. If you have a book lover on your list, say, you could not live in a better town. The bookshops of Perth — The Bookworm, The Book Nook, Backbeat Books & Music, The Word — will serve you well. Backbeat will hook you up for any vinyl record junkies on your list as well — to listen to Adele on vinyl is to know heavenly bliss! — and at The Book Nook you'll also find all sorts of wonderful art supplies.

Right across the street are two beautiful shops — Art & Class and Riverguild Fine Crafts — where you can find one-of-a-kind gifts made by local artisans; beautiful things to touch the heart and warm the home. Have a friend or family member who has always wanted to dabble with painting? Gift them a class or workshop at Art & Class and let them create and dazzle you!

There are so many charming little indie shops in Perth where you can find wonderful gifts. I can't possibly name the all. But with the "shop local, gift local" mantra in mind, I'll suggest a few more: Gal-

lery on Gore, Perth Picture Framing, Strévé, Shadowfax, Homing Instinct, Foodsmiths, the Sunflower Bake Shop, Dragon Moon, Burns Jewellers, Ground Waves.

Trust me on this one: avoid malls and big box stores. Shop local. It's not only good for the soul but for the local economy too. And wish all the Moms and Pops in the Mom-and-Pop shops a Merry Christmas! They'll be grateful you did.

Now on to what's happening in Perth in December. Short answer is: a whole lot! And most of it is festive.

Many kids dream of a white Christmas; big kids too. (I do!) You can experience that on December 3 at the Last Duel Campgrounds, when the grounds will be transformed into a **Winter Wonderland**, decked out in thousands of lights, with campsites decorated by people in the community. There will be horse and sleigh rides, a bonfire, warm cider, toasted marshmallows, Christmas music, and maybe — if you're really good — a visit from Old St. Nick. The magic all starts at 6PM. Call 267-1947 for more information.

The Christmas cheer shifts to the Crystal Palace on December 4 for the **Festival of the Lights**. Busy but ever jolly Old St. Nick will kick things off at 6PM with a bonfire and music followed by fireworks (at 6:30PM) and the lighting of the community Christmas trees. Ho Ho Ho!

The next day Old St. Nick will headline (he's like a rock star, this guy!) the annual **Santa Claus Parade**. All the beautiful floats, sparkly lights, colourful characters, and merry music makers will make their way down Wilson Street at 5PM sharp and jingle and juke their way through the old town. Don't miss out! For more information, please call 264-0123.

Earlier that day, in the relaxed atmosphere of Perth's elegant McMartin House, some of the finest local artisans will feature their unique and original creations at the 22nd annual **Nick of Time Christmas Artisan Show**. The show runs from 10AM to 4PM, and admission is free. The Lanark Grannies will be on hand this year, and cash donations will be gratefully accepted for Perth's Food Bank (The Table). For more information, please call 283-0775.

The **Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour** also takes place that weekend, featuring eight unique homes charmingly transformed to celebrate the holidays. Call 267-2270, for more details.

Be sure not to miss the family festive fun of "**All Is Calm, All Is Bright**" on December 12 at the Crystal Palace, or "**Jingle and Mingle**" on December 19 at the very same location. Both events, which run from 5-8PM, feature relaxing family fun: horse-drawn wagon rides, festive lights, seasonal music, refreshments, and a whole lot of Christmas and community spirit. What better time than the holidays to bring loved ones together on the Tay!

And what better time to bring Elvis to the Studio Theatre! Well, a magnificent Elvis tribute show, at any rate. "**Christmas with the King**" starring Gino Monopoli is a wonderful, family-friendly show, celebrating the uplifting songs of Elvis' favourite season, and is a great way to kick off the holidays. This high-energy show is on December 5 at 8PM. Tickets are available at Shadowfax.

There is one more lovely gift to unwrap: the **Rideau Mellowdears Male Chorus** will be performing at the Studio Theatre twice on December 8 — at 2PM, and later at 7PM. Their music includes an eclectic mix of gospel, Broadway and oldies, with solos and small group performances. Tickets are \$10. Please call 264-1277 for ticket information.

Merry Christmas, everyone! And may the New Year bring you peace and joy.

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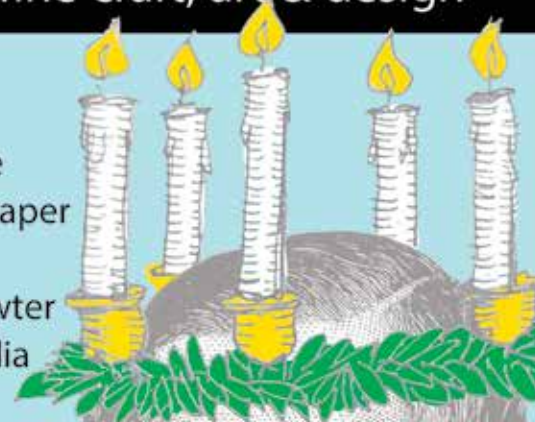
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December 1-31:

TREASURE BOXES small wonders in wood

JENNIFER NOXON Almonte's Mississippi:
Points of View

63 Mill Street in historic Almonte

generalfinecraft.com

Almonte is a destination for shoppers looking for both traditional gifts & services as well as unusual & well-curated one-of-a-kind finds. Working together to complement each other, our local shops, restaurants & services offer visitors a wonderful experience like no other. And we're not just saying that. Here, we are more than a beautiful small town. We're a community. Come see why people are saying:

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<p>Lola dot Studio</p>	<p>MISSISSIPPI VALLEY TEXTILE MUSEUM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE</p>	<p>EQUATOR COFFEE ROASTERS</p>	<p>Nine Lives ANTIQUES</p>
<p>Blush & Black ALMONTE'S ORGANIC BOUTIQUE SPA</p>	<p>Don's MEAT MARKET SINCE 1998</p>	<p>Visit the Info Centre at 14 Bridge St. for details about <i>Light Up the Night & Santa Claus Parades</i> Dec. 4, 5 & 6</p>	<p>PÊCHES & POIVRE from sweet to savoury</p>
<p>Kehla Jewellery Design</p>	<p>Current WORKS OF GLASS</p>	<p>BLACKBIRD</p>	<p>20 DOLLARS 2013 CANADA ALLIANCE COIN & BANKNOTE</p>
<p>MILL STREET BOOKS</p>	<p>BAKER BOB'S</p>	<p>JB ARTS</p>	<p>Café Postino</p>
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Visit www.ifounditinalmonte.com for details on holiday business hours, special shopping events, and fun things to do in town!

Making Merry in Mississippi Mills

The Christmas season in Mississippi Mills kicks off with a bang on the first weekend of December. Come to Almonte on Friday, December 4 to experience the classic, small-town feel of "Christmas in the Valley" at **Light Up the Night**, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary! The festivities begin at 7PM on Mill Street, and include performances by host Wayne Rostad and numerous musical guests, as well as fireworks, hot chocolate on the twinkle-lit street and, of course, the much-anticipated arrival of

by Miss Mills, Puppet Reporter

Santa Claus. Many shops are open late in case you want to pop in to warm up or sneak in some shopping. For more information about the event, visit <lightupthenightalmonte.com>.

Mississippi Mills is keeping Santa particularly busy that weekend: on Saturday, December 5, he'll be in Pakenham for his **parade** that starts at 1PM (and goes around twice!), and then on Sunday, December 6 he reappears on Bridge Street in Almonte at 5PM for the **Night Parade**. Both parades will be collecting donations of food or money for local food banks and baskets, and will be followed by more fun stuff like free skates and hot dogs. For more details, see the article on page 7 or contact the Town of Mississippi Mills Recreation and Culture Department at 256-1077.



Wondering where you can buy a pocket chainsaw for under the tree? In Almonte, at **L.G. Lee & Sons!**

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Whoever you are shopping for (even yourself — we won't tell), you can find great gifts here. Whether it's for someone who likes to go out (Folkus concert tickets) or stay in (Mill Street Books)... to create art (Almonte Potters Guild, Current Works of Glass, Dragon's Lair, JBArts, Musicworks, Textile Traditions) or buy it (General, MVTM, Sivarulrasa, Tony Mihok)... to dine in (specialty items at Baker Bob's, Dandelion, Don's, Pêches et Poivre) or dine out (gift certificates to Heirloom, Mill St. Crepe, Postino's)... to decorate their home (Keepsakes, Lola Dot, Tin Barn) or themselves (Blush & Black, doree's, Kehla)... to give to the young (Kentfield Kids) or buy

the old (Almonte Antiques, Nine Lives, The Hub, Divine Consign)... to walk in style (in footwear from Crush or Vamos) or in safety (with poles from Gilgallou)... or even to hug trees (Acanthus) or hug trees (Soul Scents) or decorate trees (Cedar Hill) or eat tree products (Fulton's)! And pretty much everything else you need is at L.G. Lee & Sons. No wonder I rarely feel the need to leave town! Especially during mall mob season — shudder.

Art and More!

Have you been to Almonte's expanded "arts district" yet? For the past few years, **Kehla Jewellery Design** has been a lone arts star on Queen Street (between the bridge and the LCBO), but now there is a veritable constellation! A few weeks ago, glass artist Jennifer Kelly opened her **Current Works of Glass** studio at 112 Queen Street (adjacent to the LCBO), and she was soon joined by her painter friend Strachan Johnston, who opened **Strachan Studio** next door at 108 Queen. In addition to brightening up that section of the street, both of them sell their artwork and also offer classes from their new studio spaces.

Jennifer, who was profiled in the October 2012 issue of theHumm (and has since started selling her wonderful glass art through the prestigious Cirque du Soleil gift shops), has found that her fused glass classes for adults have taken off much more quickly than she dared to hope they would. She offers a 4-week introductory class, as well as individual classes on specific techniques or projects (mosaic, Christmas ornaments, wind chimes, dishes...), and even party nights or afternoons for groups, with no previous experience necessary. Graduates of her introductory class are able to rent studio time to work on their own projects, and also take "post-introductory" classes on more advanced techniques. Her studio is open every weekend from 10AM to 4PM, and during the week by appointment or according to her class schedule. Find out more at <currentworksofglass.com>. From now until December 15, book a time to create a square glass ornament (\$5 of the \$20 fee goes to the food bank, and your gift boxed ornament is ready in a few days).

Strachan (pronounced "Strawn"), who was profiled in the May 2014 issue of theHumm, has known Jennifer for some time through their participation in Arts Carleton Place and area art shows. He admired her new location for its central location on a busy street in Almonte, and was delighted to find that her landlord had another space available right next door. He persuaded the landlord to redo the front windows, which are now full of Strachan's colourful, vibrant oil and acrylic paintings, and he will soon be offering landscape painting classes featuring plein air techniques. He has been teaching in Ottawa for some time, and is looking forward to expanding into the Valley. Gallery hours are by



Visit Almonte for ready-made or make-it-yourself art! Above, Jennifer Kelly's **Current Works of Glass** studio and Strachan Johnston's **Strachan Studio** are the newest kids on the block (and that block is located on Queen Street, between the LCBO and **Kehla Jewellery Design!**)

appointment or by chance on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and he can be reached at <strachan.johnston@gmail.com>.

Both Strachan and Jennifer welcome everyone to pop in and say "hi" any time they are in their studios!

What's in Store?

Live from Mississippi Mills, It's Saturday Night! That's the name of a variety show to be presented by the festivals and events of Mississippi Mills on Saturday, January 16, at 7:30PM at the Almonte Old Town Hall. According to organizer Kathryn Stevens, this special event will feature "performances and exhibits from our festivals, our community, our artists and musicians, and even our Town councillors! Expect puppets (maybe even Miss Mills?!), bagpipes, bicycles, fiddles, trumpets, a variety of great music, laughter, and yes, yarn will be involved. And pie!"

As a fundraiser for the Mississippi Mills Festival Consortium, it will be like a festival sampler and a community variety show all rolled up into one evening! Tickets are \$20 each, and are available at the Info Centre at the Almonte Old Town Hall, Baker Bob's in Almonte and Nicholson's Sundries in Pakenham. For more information, call 256-1077.

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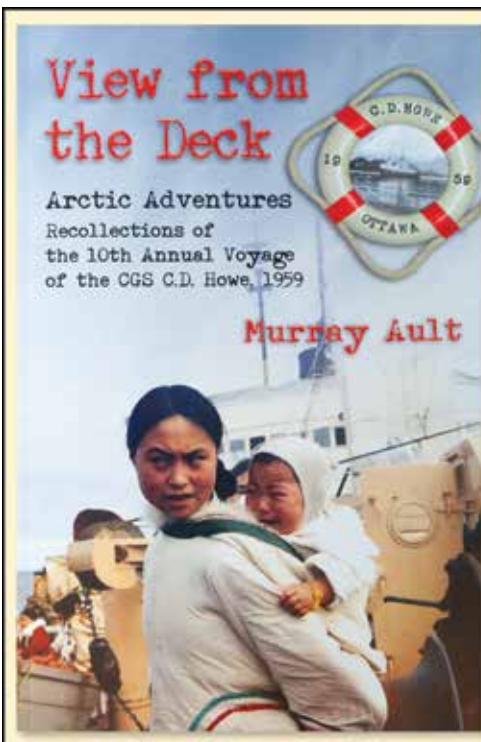
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View from the Deck

Arctic Adventures
Recollections of
the 10th Annual Voyage
of the CGS C.D. Howe, 1959

Murray Ault

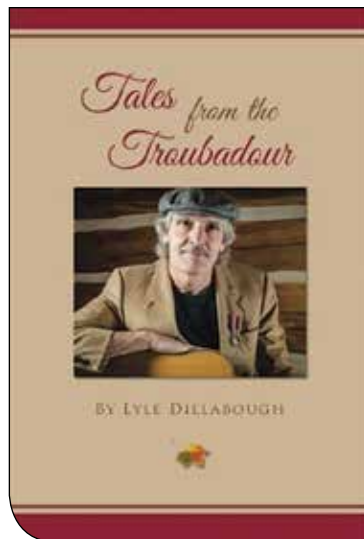
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The Gift of a Good (Local) Read

With all the talk of “buying local” buzzing around at this time of year, it seemed fitting to take some space to highlight some of the recently published books by local authors. When you think about it, these people who live in our communities took the time to share their personal stories, or to research topics that are dear to their hearts, or to create works of imagination — how much more “local” can you get? Here’s a quick round-up of the ones that have crossed our path over the past few weeks.

Tales from the Troubadour

Written by the Valley’s own troubadour, musician **Lyle Dillabough**, these tales span decades of living and music-making throughout this area. In each one, Lyle’s unique voice shines through — inquisitive, appreciative, humble and optimistic. Whether he’s talking about Hank Williams, Max Keeping or Carleton Place’s own Dale “Scoon” Scott, Lyle finds something to love about and learn from each of his subjects. Much like life



Just one of those factors
would be enough to cause grimy visors in any one of us.
my cd meds were my own ‘store-bought’ brand of glass cleaner;
the elbow grease comes inside each body-bag no charge.

— Janet Paterson, *A New Voice*

itself, you’ll find heartache here too, but from Lyle’s perspective it becomes something to learn from rather than something to be avoided. *Tales from the Troubadour* is available at Mill Street Books in Almonte, Temptations in Carleton Place, the Arnprior Book Shop, Shadowfax in Perth, or by emailing Lyle at <lyleproductions@gmail.com>.

A New Voice

Just before press time, Almonte resident and longtime Humm subscriber Janet Paterson contacted us about a book that she had just published. Entitled *A New Voice*, it is an entry point into the combined worlds of Parkinson’s Disease (PD) and clinical depression (CD), both of which Janet deals with daily. The book is a compendium of email messages that Janet has sent to an online support group — her “cyber-siblings”, as she calls them — taking the form of poetry, prose, and humorous quips. I really can’t imagine a more honest glimpse into those worlds. Janet is donating proceeds from sales of her book (available at Mill Street Books in Almonte) to Lark County Interval House, and will gladly loan a copy to anyone dealing with PD or CD. She has also donated copies to the Almonte Library.

View From the Deck

View from the Deck — *Arctic Adventures* is a personal account of the adventures of an eighteen-

year-old on the CGS C.D. Howe — a hospital ship equipped to meet the medical needs of the Inuit during an era defined by a high incidence of tuberculosis, the Cold War, and a changing way of life — and those who sailed with her during the summer of 1959. Generously illustrated with archival photographs taken by author Murray Ault, *View from the Deck* deftly captures a time of change — for both a young man and a people. It is available at Mill Street Books in Almonte, The Book Nook in Perth, or by emailing <arcticlibris59@rogers.com>.

Anything by Linda

In need of some cheering up? Try almost anything by the Queen of Carleton Place — Linda Secaspina. Linda is famous for having founded and run the iconic Flash Cadillac store on Ottawa’s Rideau Street from 1976-96, and more recently for having founded and populated the quirky Facebook page “The Tales of Carleton Place”. Her writing is like her awesome self: irreverent, insightful, sometimes intensely personal, and often hilarious. With titles like *Flashbacks of Little Miss Flash Cadillac*, *Menopausal Woman from the Corn*, and *Tilting The Kilt - Vintage Whispers from Carleton Place*, you can probably tell that you won’t be satisfied with just one... Linda’s books are available at Wisteria in Carleton Place and Mill Street Books in Almonte, and *Tilting the Kilt* is also at local museums.



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Barns: A Reflection of Changing Times

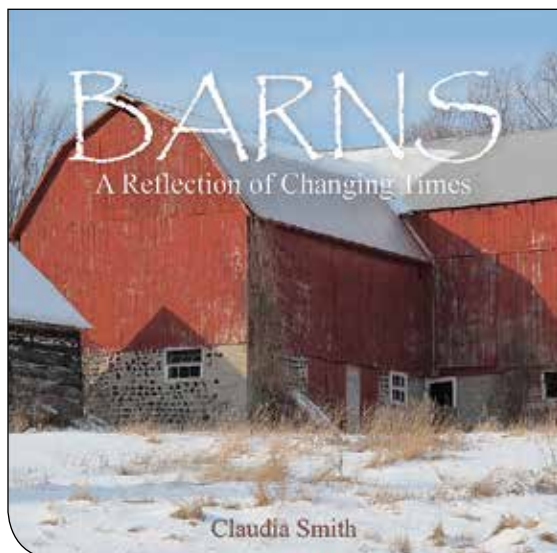
Barns have held a special place in Claudia Smith's heart since she was a young girl.

"Old barns have spoken to me since I was a child," says the popular local author and historian. "I remember going to the family cottage near Killaloe in Renfrew County and several times a week we would go to a farm to get our mail and eggs. While my grandparents passed the time of day with the postmistress, I ran to the line of old log barns and drank in the beauty of the logs and the golden colour of the pine sheathing

by John Pigeau

boards. The times when the heavy horses were in their stalls added to my delight. I remember those days because I always felt transported — like I had walked in another time."

Smith has captured many of those memories in her latest book *Barns: A Reflection of Changing Times*. Not only does the book capture those memories, and often enchantingly so, it comprehensively outlines how barns in Lanark County have evolved — "from the first log shanty barns of settlement, to the threshing barns of a grain economy, to the big timber-frame structures of the dairy



economy." Through photographs, family stories, farm histories and a wealth of researched material, Smith paints a colourful and often charming portrait of these key structures.

She refers to barns as "the heart of the farm" and "the backbone of agricultural communities." Smith feels a magical — almost spiritual — connection with heritage barns and their unique and fascinating histories.

"Since moving to Lanark County thirty-five years ago," she says, "that almost psychic sensitivity to rural history has led me to collecting oral histo-

ry. Over the years I have met many wonderful people, and sharing the gathered history is my passion."

From that passion came Claudia's latest book, which reflects the changes in farming in Lanark County over the years by examining the wealth of local barn histories. Smith skillfully examines the history of these heritage barns with a kind, keen eye, conveying the flavour of local customs and ways of life. By highlighting how Lanark County's barns were built and by whom, she records, for generations to come, the names of skilled professionals whose work and legacies might have otherwise been lost in the mists of time; and how the craft of building these barns — "which dominated landscapes, sheltered livestock, protected harvests, and gave families a sense of security" — has evolved over the years.

Right down to the tiniest detail, Smith is charmed by almost every aspect of these indispensable structures. "Every barn has a different atmosphere to it," she says, "whether from its design, the workmanship displayed in the doors, pens and latches, or the evidence of good planning for efficiency in the daily round of chores. I love to see what is hanging on hooks or put on windowsills to be saved for use on another day."

In *Barns: A Reflection of Changing Times*, Smith writes about windowless "low-down log barns," built in the 1860s by early settlers using round pine logs, their roofs made with bark slabs. "The settlers were glad of any advice they could get," she writes, "and helped each other get settled on their farms."

She offers these fascinating snippets from a carpenter's diary, from 1845, giving readers a glimpse into early barn history: "Boarding the sides of the threshing floor... Raising a stable for Widow Gorse... Hewing out lintels for doors and windows... It was last night that Samuel Todd's barn was burned."

Smith admittedly has a soft spot for these earliest barns, skillfully built by folks who were basically just getting the hang of it.

"The old log barns transport me to homesteading days," she says, "but I love the solidity of the timber frame barns where the magnificent skill of the timber framers is on display in the hay lofts. The modern hay barns that are often plastic-covered shells do not ignite my imagination like the older ones, but farming has changed and barn building has had to change as well. Thus the title of my book *Barns: A Reflection of Changing Times*."

Times changed, indeed. By the mid-1800s, more and more farmers were increasing grain production and a new style of barn was needed to store the harvests, thus: "English barns designed for sheaf and hay storage became common." In the book there are many photos of English barns, with their timber frames, double wagon doors, haylofts, and threshing floors.

Barns had to change continuously, of course, as agriculture did. Dairy farming necessitated a "step

up" for cows — log stables and cow byres were added to give cattle more protection during the harsh winters. Not long after, around the early 1900s, more cattle-friendly "Pennsylvania" bank barns were built. Expert barn builders, such as the McGill Brothers from Blakeney, held positions of high esteem in the community. For good reason, their craftsmanship was publicly praised.

Smith also writes about barn raisings, and you can all but see and hear and smell the scene: the women serving large, hearty meals while the hard-working men work almost ceaselessly, eating in relays — typically followed at nightfall by a dance with fiddles and whisky, "whirling bodies and flying feet."

The detail in this book is astounding; the anecdotes charming, telling, and historically important; and the photographs detailing the unique nature of every barn, including barn art and distinctive door hasps and weather vanes, absolutely compelling. You don't need to be a farmer to fall in love with this book. You just have to be curious about the heritage barns you still sometimes see along concession lines and the highways and roads of Lanark County. Thankfully Claudia Smith has preserved many of their histories for generations to come.

Barns: A Reflection of Changing Times is available now. Check with your local bookseller to see if they have it for sale, or give the author a shout at <cjsmith@magma.ca>. It would make an ideal Christmas present, and I cannot recommend it highly enough!

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Celtic Christmas Concert in Arnprior

The Arnprior Public Library is continuing its series of cultural events with a Celtic Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 12 at 7PM. It will feature a concert by the Heather Dale Band, and Yuletide readings to put you in the festive mood.

The *Vancouver Sun* says the music of Heather Dale is "powerful stuff, reminiscent of Loreena McKennitt and Sarah McLachlan but with a depth and resonance rooted in its mythic sources."

They will be rolling out their moveable shelves to create an amazing performance space in the middle of the library. Tickets are \$12 in advance (at the Library or brownpapertickets.com), and \$15 at the door. Proceeds from the concert will help the library purchase a portable screen for the launch of their film group in 2016.



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*On Christmas Night all Christians Sing,
To hear the news the Angels Bring*

— David Willcocks (1919–2015)

St. James the Apostle Anglican Church's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is based on the Christmas Eve service at Kings College Chapel in Cambridge, England, which is broadcast on radio and television around the world. "This year," says Peter Woodwark, Director of Music at St. James, "we celebrate the life and music of Sir David Willcocks, organist, choirmaster and composer who conducted the Cambridge Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for seventeen years." For many people, this service is the sound of Christmas, and it was David Willcocks who turned a Victorian invention into a landmark in the musical year, both in Cambridge and here in Perth.

On Sunday, December 20 at 7:30PM, this historic place of worship will resonate with joyful sound as St. James' Junior and Senior Choirs, St. Paul's United Church Choir, clergy and congregation once again join together in celebration and praise for the birth of Jesus Christ. The music will be directed by Peter Woodwark, Brad Mills (Musical Director at St. Paul's), and Val Leavitt (St James' Junior Choir Director).

The service follows a standard format, starting with the pure and beautiful sound of a soloist singing "Once in Royal David's City stood a lowly cattle shed", with the choir joining in the second verse as they process down the church to the chancel at the front.

In the words of the Bidding Prayer, the Reverend Kenneth Davis invites us "to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and... see the Babe lying in a manger." The Nine Lessons from the Bible follow, interspersed with both familiar and new Christmas hymns and carols. These include *Birthday Carol*, written and composed by David Willcocks, his arrangements of three traditional carols — *The Sussex Carol*, *Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day*, and a Basque Noel entitled *The Infant King*.

The services conclude on a more serious note with the reading of the mystery of the incarnation as told in the Gospel of John, and the choir processing out singing *O come, all ye faithful*.

St. James' Church is located on the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets in Perth. For more information, contact the church office at 267-1163 or check the website stjamesperth.ca

Learning in Almonte

Wondering what to do to fill your days after the holidays have come and gone? Learning in Almonte is offering two very interesting courses that will be starting in mid-January. Lectures take place in the Almonte Library classroom from 1:30 to 3:30PM over six weeks, and each course costs \$75. There are no textbooks or exams, but plenty of opportunity for dynamic discussion! To register, please email don.wiles@carleton.ca.

A User's Guide To Social Science Research

Every day we are flooded with information from news media about social science research: economic indicators, survey data, results of studies on social problems, educational experiments, causes of depression, aggression, prejudice, addictions, happiness and such. How is this research done? How should we interpret it? And how can we tell the good stuff from the bad? In this course, professor Warren Thorngate will address these three questions in a practical intro-

duction to social science research methods, designs, statistics and controversies.

In order to bring the course topics to life, the class will design, conduct, analyse and interpret a small survey of Almonte residents, and report the results to the Town Council.

This course begins on January 12.

Aboriginal Art II

After a brief introduction for newcomers, this second lecture series by Jane Horner will present in-depth studies of several of the most distinguished contemporary Inuit and First Nations artists from Eastern and Western Canada. The class will discuss their biographies and the evolution of their artwork as they rose to prominence in Canada and internationally. One class will be dedicated to an exhibit of works from participants' personal collections. A tour of Inuit and First Nations art at the National Gallery is also planned.

This course begins on January 14.

Puss in Boots Panto Comes to Smiths Falls

Puss in Boots, directed by Emily Duberville, is a fast-moving and extremely funny pantomime for the whole family. Panto is an inclusive, audience-driven comic escape into a fairy tale. Ben Crocker's play *Puss in Boots* is no exception.

Jack, the miller's son, has just inherited a cat. But this cat is no ordinary feline. With the help of a charming fairy, this very sassy cat develops the power of speech. Soon Puss helps our humble hero, Jack, on his way to fame and fortune. However, between Jack and fortune lies a terrible ogre, a wicked fairy, and Jack's bumbling, not-too-bright brothers, as well as some rather large rabbits, not to mention a King and Queen in search of a wealthy son-in-law. All of which makes for hilarity, hijinks and maybe just a little romance.

Smiths Falls Community Theatre (SFCT) is bringing the full pantomime experience to town this year with a huge cast of extremely talented actors. Kids of all ages will adore watching Puss help Master Jack become the Marquis of Carabas and win the hand of the lovely Princess Esmerelda. But keep your eyes open, because here comes Grimgrab the Ogre, and he plans to become the next king of the land.

There is nothing quite like a pantomime for offering fun for the entire audience, and SFCT has established a tradition of colourful, exciting pantomimes for the holiday season. Director Duberville does it again with a cast of seasoned veterans, as well as some new faces, taking the stage to deliver an exciting and fast-paced magical tale. Children will particularly enjoy the chance to meet the stars after the show and collect some "royal" autographs.

Everyone will delight in the way male and female principals switch gender roles. In the grand tradition of the British panto, the role of the Queen (the Dame), for example, is played by Mike Adams, a veteran of many SFCT productions. And the role of Jack Miller (the Principal Boy) is played by the 17-year-old Robin Magee. This is her first leading role, having gained past experience in several chorus parts in musicals. Lela Fox-Doran, age 15, who plays the part of Puss, recently appeared in *A Little Princess* and has been in the chorus in several pantomimes. Tim Bisailon, playing King Wally the Once, is another veteran performer, having appeared in a host of recent musical and dramatic productions.

Tickets for *Puss in Boots* are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students (with ID). They are on sale at Special Greetings, 8 Russell St. E., Smiths Falls (cash only), at <smithsfallstheatre.com> (Paypal or credit card), and by phone at 283-0300 (credit card). Tickets for the Christmas Panto sell quickly and many performances sell out. Get yours early! As this show is great for kids, the Saturday performances (on December 5 and 12) are now matinées that start at 2PM. As before, the Sunday shows are matinées as well: on December 6 and 13, at 2PM.



Lela Fox-Doran plays the lead role of Puss in the panto *Puss in Boots*, opening at the Station Theatre on December 3

The only evening performances are Thursday, December 3 and Friday, December 4 and 11.

Voucher Packages for Six 2016 Plays

Patrons can now purchase a season ticket in voucher form for six plays to be presented in 2016. The theatre is offering a "Six-Pack Flex Pack" for just \$99; patrons can select how they want to use their six vouchers to redeem tickets for any of the 2016 plays. The deal — which is available until February 28, 2016, the last day of the first play — offers savings of almost 20% compared to the regular adult ticket price. Go to <smithsfallstheatre.com> for detailed ordering instructions and information on the different ways the Six-Pack can be used throughout the season. One way to get vouchers without paying the \$5 convenience fee for purchase online or by phone is to buy them at a performance of *Puss in Boots* from December 3 to 13 (cash or cheque only). The voucher package makes a great Christmas gift. Don't miss out!

Quartetto Gelato

The SFCT has the opportunity of its relatively young lifetime: on the evening of December 18 it will offer a concert by the world famous Quartetto Gelato, thanks to sponsors Kilmarnock.ca, Enterprise, Andress' Independent Grocer, and Mike Fair Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac Ltd.

For nearly two decades, this dazzling ensemble of musicians has enchanted audiences and critics worldwide with their exotic blend of musical virtuosity, artistic passion and humour. Tickets for the concert, which starts at 8PM, are almost sold out. The few remaining tickets are available only at Special Greetings, 8 Russell St. E., Smiths Falls (cash only).

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Fri. Dec. 11

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"An Indigo Christmas"
NATHANIEL DETT CHORALE
Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30PM

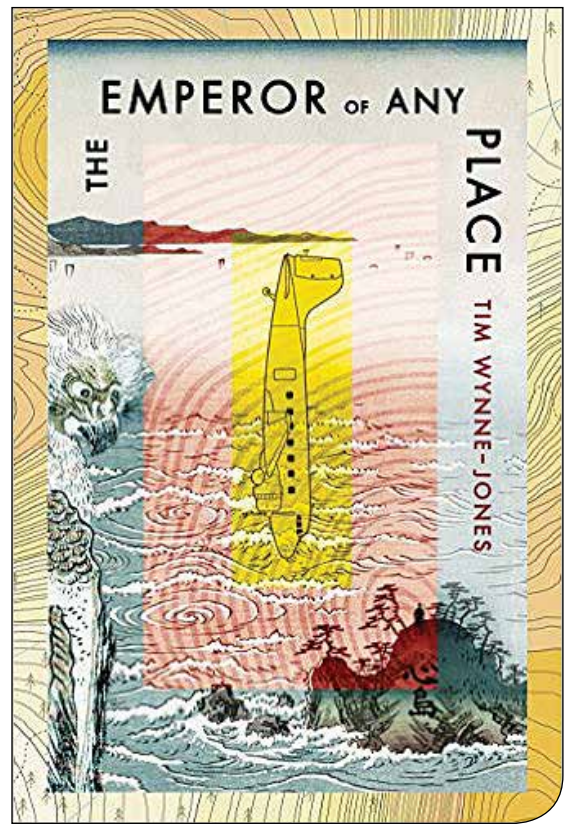
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Literature for All Ages at the Book Nook

The Book Nook in Perth is pleased to welcome two authors to the store in December. On Saturday, December 12, drop in from 1 to 3PM to meet Perth's own Governor General's Literary Award-winning author: **Tim Wynne-Jones**. He will be signing copies of his new novel for young adults, *The Emperor of Any Place*. Tim is well known for his gritty books that both challenge and reward intelligent young readers, and this new novel is no exception: "the ghosts of war reverberate across the generations in a riveting, time-shifting story within a story..." For more information about Tim and his books, visit <timwynne-jones.com>.

Then on Saturday, December 19, the store will host a book release by author **Anne Raina** from 1 to 3PM. Anne is the author of the acclaimed non-fiction book *Clara's Rib: A True Story of a Young Girl Growing Up in a Tuberculosis Hospital*, and has just published two children's books: *The Kangaroo with the Wooden Shoe* and *Things That Go Splat!* Anne and her husband live in Ottawa and enjoy spending time at their cottage on Black Lake, near Perth. For more information, visit <anneraina.ca>.

The Book Nook & Other Treasures is located at 60 Gore Street East in Perth. Contact them at 267-2350 or find them on Facebook.



Perth Citizens' Band

The Perth Citizens' Band will be holding its annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 15, starting at 7:30PM. 2015 marks the 23rd year of the event, which once again will be held at St. James Anglican Church, at the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets in Perth.

The long-standing tradition of the Christmas Concert at the church was revived in 1993 by conductor Brian Tackaberry. From the 1920s to '40s the band had previously played concerts for the Christmas season. Guests for this year's event will be Perth's Town Crier Brent McLaren, as well as The

Redhawk Rhythmics. The Redhawk Rhythmics is a vocal group comprised of Grade 9 to 12 students from Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute, under the direction of music teacher Kristine MacLaren. The group's mandate is to provide entertainment for local community events, and most recently they were guest performers at the Ottawa Capital City Chorus' holiday concert. The concert will feature a variety of sacred and popular tunes for all ages.

Admission for the evening is \$5 per person or \$10 for families. For more information visit <perthband.ca> or phone 256-4221.

Gifts for Animal Lovers

Made in Canada pewter pet tags, Blackbird.....	\$7.50
"Life-Size Birds" book, Mill Street Books.....	\$54.95
Canada Great Horned Owl 2015 1 oz silver coin, Alliance Coin & Banknote...	\$26.50
Metal animal tracking tool, The Silver Shingle.....	\$16.95
Elegant stallion or cat bracelet, Maxine's Crystal Jewelry & Gift.....	\$20

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CTF Announces Expanded 2016 Season

The Classic Theatre Festival in Perth is growing once more for its 7th summer season in Perth, with a third mainstage show and a longer season (June 24 to September 11, 2016). The professional company, which hires some of Canada's top theatrical talent, produces hits from the golden age of Broadway and the London Stage, while also running a youth theatre training project that will once again recreate characters and stories from

the town's past as Perth marks its 200th anniversary.

On the main stage at 54 Beckwith Street East, the CTF will continue to host eight performances a week (five matinées and three evening shows), with the addition of the hugely popular Pre-Shows Talks a half-hour before every show. First up will be Neil Simon's *I Ought to Be in Pictures* (June 24 to July 17), a heartfelt comedy about a father and daughter rebuilding their

relationship after years of disconnection; called "A mature, touching, memorable play that brings great joy to the season" (Clive Barnes, *New York Post*) and "Neil Simon's best play since *The Odd Couple*" (*Women's Wear Daily*).

Next is *Arms and the Man* (July 22 to August 14), George Bernard Shaw's delightfully witty comedy satirizing the futility of war that inspired the operetta *The Chocolate Soldier*. George Orwell called it "the wittiest play" Shaw ever



Hot on the heels of their very successful sixth season, Perth's **Classic Theatre Festival** announces an expanded season of 3 shows for 2016

wrote, and one whose message needs to be told so long as men insist on taking up arms against one another. The season closes with *An Inspector Calls* (August 19 to September 11), J.B. Priestley's nail-biter of a mystery in which a body has been found and everyone is suspect. Considered one of the true classics of mid-20th-century English theatre, it has received numerous revivals and adaptations, the latest a BBC-TV film slated for broadcast in 2016.

Also running throughout the summer will be new stories and themes for the Perth through the Ages historic theatrical walking tour (running five mornings a week beginning at 11AM at

the Perth Museum), as well as the Friday night Lonely Ghosts Walk, which this year will also start at the Museum at 7PM. Both are "plays that move", in which characters pop up and act out scenes linked by a common thread, presenting an entertaining, informative understanding of Perth history.

The Classic Theatre Festival's annual holiday sale is on until December 31, with savings of up to 30%-off regularly-priced tickets (with the option to enjoy ticket savings now while booking dates later on). Tickets and seats can now be ordered online at <classictheatre.ca> or by calling 1-877-283-1283.

Gifts for Husbands

Wooden parquetry boxes by David Solomon, General Fine Craft.....	\$120-300
"Gift of Cheese" club, Pêches et Poivre.....	\$47
Lanark Sheepskin slippers, in sizes up to 14, Riverguild Fine Crafts.....	\$88
Series pass to the 2016 season (4 concerts), Folkus Concert Series.....	\$90
Classic squirrel solution pole system bird feeder, Gilligallou Bird Inc.....	\$109.79
Anything Kuhl: shirts, sweaters, pants, Vamos Outdoors.....	\$49 & up
Custom 8x10 metal photo reproduction, The Silver Shingle.....	\$81.99
45-min therapeutic massage, Kim Narraway, RMT.....	\$70
Happy Spritz body spray "Rugged Gentleman", Blush & Black.....	\$28.50
30-min massage or acupuncture w/ gift, Darlington Acupuncture & Massage.....	\$50



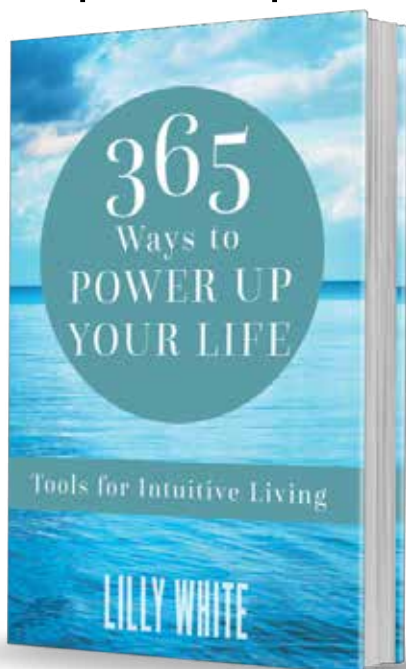
Please join Lilly White for her much anticipated **Book Launch & Celebration**

December 11 5:30pm-7:00pm



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Ottawa Valley Trivia Night

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Food Bank Fundraiser

Music by "People Collective" Friday, December 11
(Dinner at 6PM, music at 8PM)

Christmas with Gillan Rutz

Saturday, December 19, 7PM

New Year's Eve at the Valley

with "Low Mileage Band", tickets \$65 Thursday, December 31

OPEN Mic with The Jimmy Tri-Tone Band Wednesdays at 8PM

You be a Star... Karaoke, Thursdays at 8PM

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A Troubadour Comes Callin'

A true Canadian troubadour is coming to the area on Saturday, December 5!

Travelling minstrels have been around since the Middle Ages, travelling from town to town, reciting poetry or singing songs they'd written or heard elsewhere, often about happenings in surrounding areas they had travelled through. It's how people got their news and were entertained.

These days there are only a few of them left, and **Jay Aymar** has certainly earned the "Troubadour" moniker. Over the past twenty years he's been touring back and forth to cities, towns, hamlets and camp-



Jay Aymar and his trio present his *The Chicken Came First* CD and book at a house concert on Dec. 5

by Steve Tennant

fires, doing what he does best: singing his self-penned songs, telling captivating, often hilarious stories, and taking the time to sit down and chat with everyone he meets. These conversations often become fodder for new tunes. When you're on the road as often Jay is — a minimum of 250 to 300 days a year — it's the waitresses, bartenders, mechanics, hitchhikers and fellow road wanderers with whom you most often strike up conversations. It's a different life than most of us have experienced, and Jay has made the best of it, lonely as it can be. From playing cover tunes in rowdy bars, he's progressed to performing his own material in listening rooms, building a fan base across our fair land and gaining recognition from some of our best. When Canadian songwriting legend Ian Tyson heard the tune Jay wrote about Don Cherry having lost his wife Rose (*My Cherry-Coloured Rose*), Tyson arranged to record it on his own album. That says a lot to me about the quality of Jay's work.

Jay has a real narrative singing style. His stories catch your interest and keep it, leaving you looking for more. He's jovial, positive and insightful — one of those guys you meet once and feel you have as a lifelong friend. No ego; he's gentle and a great listener as well. We've spent many an enjoyable hour when he's crashed at our home after local shows — solving all the world's problems, comparing notes on the state of the music industry these days — deep into the wee hours, joyfully. I've grown to look forward to those times.

After six albums, a lifetime of playing in those outback regions most just fly over, Jay's ever increasing fan base suggested that he write blogs, so he did. Realizing the interest they generated, he's put them together into a book called *The Chicken Came First*, subtitled *and other half-truths from my life as a touring songwriter*. I really enjoyed reading the book as it gives such interesting perspectives from the eyes and pen of a travelling musician. Imagine playing on the tenth deck of a cruise ship on the Mediterranean — for a six-month contract — seven evenings a week. It's worth the cost of the book just to read about that. Also included is a CD that beautifully captured his recent live concert at Trinity Church in Scarborough, ON, backed by a full band.

On Saturday, December 5 at 7PM, Jay's "The Chicken Came First Tour" plays a house concert hosted by Ann Hawthorne in her beautiful home, between Franktown and Perth. Joining him will be Sahra Featherstone, a wonderful violin player, Lucas Gadke on stand-up bass, and Joe Ernewein on lead guitar. Come out to hear one of Canada's treasures. Call Ann at 485-6434 for reservations or go to <jayaymar.com> for more information.

Last week I had the opportunity to attend a small media event about a new book coming out soon called *The Beatles in Canada – the Origins of Beatlemania*, by Piers Hemmingsen. The book is a very detailed outline of how the Beatles' first album was pressed in Canada at the RCA plant in Smiths Falls in February of 1963. Capitol Records sub-contracted out to RCA to use their Smiths Falls pressing plant (where Cornelia Court is now, across from Garden Market). Many of the original staff at RCA were interviewed for the book, including Dennis Staples and Charlie Dalton, to name a few. The author calls Smiths Falls "the birthplace of The Beatles in North America". It was stated that the London mop-tops became stars in Canada about a year before they appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show in February 1964, which kick-started their appeal in the US.

Also in attendance at that event was Trudy Medcalf, who, at 14 years of age in 1963, saw the Beatles while in England at a seaside resort and, upon returning to her home in Toronto, wrote and gained permission to start the first Beatles Fan Club in Canada and in fact North America. The club's membership rose to over 100,000 fans. As a result, CHUM radio gave her a daily 15-minute radio show, and she met the Fab Four in both Toronto and New York. If you go to <thebeatlesinCanada.com>, you can order this unique book. Dennis Staples said a more official kick-off to the book will happen in the new year in Smiths Falls, and there are plans underway to create a historic site for the RCA plant that at one time employed over 300 employees. Quite a story.

The Christmas season is almost upon us, so don't forget, when buying gifts, to support our local artists. I'm looking forward to kickin' back with my family, enjoying some tunes. From my family to you and yours, enjoy a safe and joyous holiday!

Upcoming Events

On Saturday December 5 at 7PM, Jay Aymar and his trio present his *The Chicken Came First* CD and book at a house concert between Perth and Franktown. Tickets are available at Tickets Please (39 Foster Street in Perth, 485-6434).

Support live music everywhere!

Pub Crawling: November

Fiddleheads (Perth, 267-1304): Sunday Jazz Brunch, 12-3PM

Dec 6, 20 Clay Young (piano) & guest

Golden Arrow Pub (Perth, 267-4500): 9PM, Wed Karaoke

Dec 3, 10 Open Mic w/Ted Lalonde

Dec 4, 19 Shawn McCullough

Dec 11, 18 Riq Turner

Dec 12, 26, Jan 2 Jon Townsen

Dec 17 Open Mic w/Ted Lalonde

Dec 31 New Year's Celebration

The Cove (Westport, 273-3636): Wed Shawn McCullough 6-9PM

Dec 4 Jeff Callery, 6-9pm

Dec 5 A Country Xmas w/Brea Lawrenson Band, buffet/show, 7-11pm, \$45

Dec 11, 18 Head Over Heels, 6-9pm

Dec 12 A Rock & Roll Xmas w/Young Petty Stones, buffet/show, 7-11pm, \$40

Dec 19 A Turpin's Trail Xmas, buffet/show, 7-11pm, \$40

Dec 23 Xmas Eve Jazz Night w/Spencer Evans Trio feat. Emily Fennell, 9-11pm, \$5

Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party w/Spencer Evans Trio, 7pm-1am, \$150/couple

The Swan at Carp (Carp, 839-7926): Dec 11 Steve Barrette Trio, jazz, 7-10PM, no cover

The Royal Oak (Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, no cover, 2-5PM

Dec 6, 20 APEX Jazz Band

Dec 13, 27 Magnolia Rhythm Kings

Naismith Pub (Almonte, 256-6336): Wed Open Celtic Jam, 7:30-10PM

Carp Masonic Lodge: Mon Carp Celtic Jam, 7-9PM

Ashton Pub (Ashton, 257-4423): Sundays Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, 2-5PM

The Barley Mow (Almonte, 256-5669): Dec 10 Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone Band

Dec 13 Clever Mess Jazz Club, 2-5pm

Love That Barr (Pakenham, 624-2000): Thursdays Open Mic, 8PM

Dec 17 Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone Band

Dec 18 Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, 9PM

O'Reilly's Pub (Perth, 267-7994): Tues Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan 8:30pm;

Wed Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour

8pm, Fri/Sat Live music 8:30pm

Dec 4 Stephen Mark Fisher

Dec 11 Tom Watson

Dec 12 Smitty

Dec 18 Blues and Company

Alice's Village Café (Carp, 470-2233): Open Mic Thursdays (except Dec 24, 31), 7:30PM

John St. Pub (Arnprior, 623-8149): 9PM Dec 11+12, \$7 min donation, fundraiser for Families Helping Families

Dec 11 Danny Sylvestre Band

Dec 12 Spencer Scharf/The Static(s)

Dec 18 Anger Inc., \$10

Dec 19 Bryan Snider, no cover

Dec 23 Felhavers (ugly sweater party), \$6

Dec 26 The Process, \$7

Dec 31 Blitzkrieg Boys (Ramoness tribute), \$10

The Waterfront Gastropub (CP, 257-5755): Wed Open Jam 9PM; Thurs Karaoke 9PM; Fri Live Music 9PM; Acoustic Sat 3-6PM & 9PM; Sun Blues 3-6PM

Dec 12 Jazz w/Peter Brown Trio, 8-11PM

Dec 19 Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, 9PM

Queens Hotel (CP 257-7639) Dec 3 Jazz at the Queen's, 6-9PM

Valley Food and Drink Co. (613-752-2676x311): Wed Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone Band 8PM, Thurs Karaoke 8PM

Dec 11 Food Bank Fundraiser w/People Collective, 6PM dinner, 8PM music

Dec 19 Christmas with Gillan Rutz, 7PM

Dec 31 New Year's Eve w/Low Mileage Band, \$65

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- Chainsaw carvings by Dave Card, Gilligallou Bird Inc.....various
- Christmas tree spiders, Dragon's Lair Beads.....\$6
- Alcohol ink paintings on tile by Christine Martin, Grist Mill Art Gallery.....\$100 & up
- Footed pottery bowl by Kim Lulashnyk, The Grotto.....\$130

Arnprior Public Library presents the

Heather Dale Band
in concert
Saturday
December 12th
7pm

Arnprior Library
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Tickets: \$12
available in advance
at the Library or from
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(\$15 at the door if
seats still available)

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The Vacuous, the Unenlightening, and the Oscar-Worthy

December is upon us. For cinephiles, this is the real Christmas treat. This month, the “important” films, the heavy hitters with Oscar campaigns behind them, are going to be arriving at our theatres. Among them, we have Tarantino’s hotly anticipated western *The Hateful Eight*, Ron Howard’s *In the Heart of the Sea*, Tom Hooper’s *The Danish*

by Matt Roche

Girl, Oliver Stone’s *Snowden*, Charlie Kaufman’s *Anomalisa*, Stephen Fears’ Lance Armstrong biopic *The Program* and, obviously, the latest *Star Wars* installment, which has already broken pre-sale ticket records. The one I’m counting on most is Alejandro G. Iñárritu’s *The Revenant*. If it’s anything like its trailer, Iñárritu could expect another Oscar sweep like he did last February with *Birdman*. November brought some interesting films too, with a real mix of the good, the bad, and the unenlightening.

Baltasar Kormáku’s *Everest* failed to live up to expectations, mainly due to the misuse of a stellar cast; *Ant-Man* was finally released on DVD and it was a hell of a lot of fun. Who knew Paul Rudd (much like Colin Firth earlier this year with *Kingsmen*) could be such a capable super hero? *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* was a fun albeit unremarkable excursion, and Eli Roth’s double whammy — the cannibal flick *The Green Inferno* and the three-way-gone-bad *Knock Knock* — were utterly worthless and promptly disappeared from theatres. Spielberg’s *Bridge of Spies* was a particularly unfortunate disappointment. The film is masterfully executed, showcasing Spielberg’s typically bold lighting, lacquered veneer and deep cinematic craftsmanship. Yet, as with his last few films (*Lincoln*, *War Horse*, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*), they seem obdurate and vacuous. Impeccably made, yet lacking whatever the “soul” of the movie is. It’s as if Spielberg’s become a director-for-hire instead of the brilliant, genre-redefining practitioner he used to be. *Bridge of Spies* is dense and uninteresting, despite some solid

performances. The one redeeming factor is Mark Rylance’s understated performance as KGB spy Rudolf Abel. Rylance should expect a Supporting Actor nomination next month. In the meantime, for spy thrillers about bespectacled men in smoky offices talking a lot, go for *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* (2011), which is infinitely better and just as dense.

Spectre, the latest installment in the 007 franchise, was another fun, full-throttle action extravaganza, though not achieving the heights reached by *Skyfall* in 2012, which still remains the best Bond film since *Goldfinger* (1964).

A lot of documentaries were also released in November, and they range from the very fascinating (*Best of Enemies*, about the famous televised debates between William F. Buckley, Jr. and Gore Vidal in 1968) to the unenlightening (*Do I Sound*



Matt recommends the “profoundly heartbreaking” *Amy* as this year’s best documentary

Gay?). But it’s the profoundly heartbreaking documentary *Amy* that remains the best of the bunch. *Amy* is a superb, disarming film about the tumultuous personal and professional life of Amy Winehouse. In a year filled with films about tortured musicians — *Montage of Heck* (Kurt Cobain), *Love & Mercy* (Brian Wilson), *What Happened, Miss Simone?* (Nina Simone) — Asif Kapadia’s *Amy* is by far the best. A Best Documentary nomination, if not win, should be a lock.

Surprisingly enough, one of the finest films of the year comes to us from an online on-demand media provider. Netflix has been known for creat-

ing some truly amazing and original programming, such as *Bloodline*, *House of Cards* and *Lilyhammer*. Last month, they released their first ever feature film, *Beasts of No Nation*, written and directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga, and it is outstanding. You may know Fukunaga as the director of the brilliant first season of *True Detective*. His talent seems to escalate with each project he undertakes. His fluid, hazy lens and his predilection for intricate camera choreography really shine in *Beasts of No Nation*.

Beasts tells the tale of a young boy in an unnamed African country who falls into the hands of the domineering Commandant (Idris Elba from *Thor* and *The Wire*), the leader of a battalion of child soldiers. The young boy, Agu (a mesmerizing Abraham Attah in his acting debut), deals with his position as diligently as possible, despite his anger and confusion, the Commandant’s constant interference, and the fact that all this is really out of his control.

Idris Elba more than deserves a Supporting Actor nomination for his work here as the sociopathic Commandant with abnormal needs and desires. Some obvious similarities to John Huston’s *The Man Who Would Be King* (1975) will be made. Although vastly different films, both are thick with moral ambiguity and are unflinching in their depiction of disconcerting events. *Beasts of No Nation* is a brutal, passionate film and yes, you can get it on Netflix.

Italian filmmaker Paolo Sorrentino’s second English-language film *Youth*, starring Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel, already premiered at Cannes in May but has been under the radar since. It’s getting a proper release stateside this month and is well worth seeking out. *Youth* is filled with delightful images, sharp cynicism and nostalgia, a real sense of cinema, and more than one nod to Fellini. Caine (as a famous composer, now retired) and Keitel (as a famous filmmaker trying to complete his magnum opus) both give great performances here as old friends vacationing in the Swiss Alps. Rachel Weisz and Paul Dano impress as well in their supporting roles, but it’s Jane Fonda, who shows up for what could count as no more than a cameo (probably closer to ten minutes) as Keitel’s leading lady and bearer of bad news, who absolutely steals the show. It’s been a long time since Fonda has shown such power and faculty. And in such a small amount of time! A Supporting Actress nomination had better come her way. It would be her eighth nomination (she’s already won twice), and her first in 29 years. If Anthony Hopkins can win an Oscar for sixteen minutes of screen time, Fonda can for ten.

Now it’s onto December, when the big guns come out. Time to get prepared...

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- “View from the Deck: Arctic Adventures”, Mill Street Books.....\$20
- Trekking poles, Gilligallou Bird Inc.....\$54
- Biofreeze roll-on or gel for muscles & joints, Hands on Healing.....\$21
- Made in Canada Quartz Nature jackets, Vamos Outdoors.....\$419 & up
- Cozy hats and mitts, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....\$14.99-24.99
- Super-warm alpaca socks, Ballintotas Alpacas.....\$34
- The Pocket Chainsaw, L.G. Lee & Sons.....\$17.95
- 45-min leg massage, Body Poets Massage Therapy.....\$70
- 30-min massage or acupuncture w/ free gift, Darlington Acupuncture & Massage...\$50

Gifts for \$25 & Under

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- Two handmade glass pendant necklaces, Current Works of Glass.....\$20
- Fabulous wool brooches, MVTM Gift Shop.....\$20
- Smartwool Merino socks, Vamos Outdoors.....\$21.99
- Beautiful Christmas decorations, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....various

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Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Jazz Fundraiser for AGH/CPDMH, CP, Jan 9
 Variety Show, Almonte, Jan 16
 Pakenham Frost Festival, Jan 22-31
 BOTR: Steve Strongman Band, Westport, Jan 22-23
 Folkus: Harry Manx, Almonte, Jan 30
 Governor General's Foot Guards Band, Perth, Feb 6
 Fire and Ice (Perth 200th), Perth, Feb 13
 Folkus: Craig Cardiff w/Jennifer Noxon, Almonte, Feb 27
 Mid-Winter Milling, Almonte, Feb 27
 Ottawa Cape Breton Session Concert, CP, Feb 20
 200-Voice Jubilee Choir & Orchestra, Perth, Mar 19
 BOTR: Angel Forrest Band, Westport, Mar 25
 Folkus: Allison Lupton/KEWT, Almonte, Mar 26
 Maple Run Studio Tour, Pakenham, Apr 2-3
 PPAC: Toronto All-Star Big Band, Perth, Apr 15
 Folkus: Slow Leaves w/Jill Zmud, Almonte, Apr 23
 Town Crier Championships, Perth, May 21-22
 I Ought to Be in Pictures, Perth, Jun 24-Jul 17
 Almonte Celfest, Jul 8-10
 Stewart Park Festival, Perth, Jul 15-17
 Arms and the Man, Perth, Jul 22-Aug 14
 Puppets Up!, Almonte, Aug 5-7
 An Inspector Calls, Perth, Aug 19-Sept 11
 N. Lanark Highland Games, Almonte, Aug 27

Festivals



Festival of Lights, Dec 4, 6-8PM. Bonfire, fireworks, tree lighting. Crystal Palace, Perth
Light Up The Night, Dec 4, 7PM. Wayne Rostad, music, Santa, fireworks. Downtown Almonte, 256-1077. Free
Christmas in Merrickville, Dec 5, 8:30AM-7PM. From Breakfast w/Santa to Tree Lighting. christmasinmerrickville.ca
Santa Claus Parade, Dec 5, 1PM. After: skating, hot dogs, hot chocolate!, Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham. 256-1077
Santa Claus Parade of Lights, Dec 5, 5PM. Starts on Sunset Blvd., Perth
Christmas Night Parade, Dec 6, 5PM. After: skate, hotdogs, hot choc at arena. Downtown Almonte, 256-1077
Kintail Country Christmas, Dec 12, 11AM-3PM. Photos w/Santa, children-only giftshop, music, crafts, refreshments. Mill of Kintail, Almonte. 256-3610x2, \$15/vehicle

Visual Arts



Christmas on the Clyde Craft Show, Dec 5, 10AM-3PM. Fine crafters & artisans. 2144 Pine Grove Rd., Lanark. 302-6292
Nick of Time Artisan Show, Dec 5, 10AM-4PM. McMartin House, Perth. sites.google.com/site/nickoftimeinperth.
Grand Opening, Dec 5, 11AM-4PM. Grist Mill Art Gallery, 21 Main St., Westport.
Open Studio - Living Stones, Dec 5-6, 10AM-5PM. John Schweighardt's sculptures. Lanark. livingstonessculptures.ca
Vernissage: Jan Gilbert, Dec 10, 7-9PM. Through the Seasons, acrylic paintings. Fairview Manor, 75 Spring St., Almonte

30
 🎵 **Carp Celtic Jam**, Carp Masonic Lodge

7
 🎵 **A Christmas Carol Community Justice Fundraiser**, Perth
 🎵 **Carp Celtic Jam**, Carp Masonic Lodge

14
 📺 **4A Potluck**, Almonte
 🎵 **Carp Celtic Jam**, Carp Masonic Lodge

21
 🎵 **Bereavement Support Grp**, Almonte
 🎵 **Carp Celtic Jam**, Carp Masonic Lodge

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 🎵 **Carp Celtic Jam**, Carp Masonic Lodge

4-Hand Euchre, Perth
 🎵 **Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan**, O'Reilly's
 🎵 **Green Drinks**, Perth
 🎵 **Macnamara Field Naturalists' AGM**, Amprior
 🎵 **Town Singers Xmas Concert**, CP

🎵 **Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan**, O'Reilly's
 🎵 **Rideau Mellowdears Male Chorus**, Perth
 🎵 **W. Carleton Garden Club**, Carp
 🎵 **4-Hand Euchre**, Perth
 🎵 **Adult Bereavement Group**, Perth

🎵 **Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan**, O'Reilly's
 🎵 **Perth Citizens' Band Xmas Concert**, Perth
 🎵 **4-Hand Euchre**, Perth

🎵 **Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan**, O'Reilly's
 🎵 **4-Hand Euchre**, Perth

🎵 **Adult Bereavement Group**, SF
 🎵 **4-Hand Euchre**, Perth

🎵 **Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour**, O'Reilly's
 🎵 **CP Horticultural Society Mtg**, CP
 🎵 **Karaoke**, Golden Arrow
 🎵 **Open Celtic Jam**, Naismith Pub
 🎵 **Open Jam**, Waterfront Gastropub
 🎵 **Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone Band**, Valley Food & Drink Co.
 🎵 **Shawn McCullough**, The Cove

🎵 **Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour**, O'Reilly's
 🎵 **Karaoke**, Golden Arrow
 🎵 **Open Celtic Jam**, Naismith Pub
 🎵 **Open Jam**, Waterfront Gastropub
 🎵 **Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone Band**, Valley Food & Drink Co.
 🎵 **Shawn McCullough**, The Cove
 🎵 **The Story of Perth, Part 2**, Perth

🎵 **Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour**, O'Reilly's
 🎵 **Karaoke**, Golden Arrow
 🎵 **Open Celtic Jam**, Naismith Pub
 🎵 **Open Jam**, Waterfront Gastropub
 🎵 **Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone Band**, Valley Food & Drink Co.
 🎵 **Shawn McCullough**, The Cove

🎵 **Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour**, O'Reilly's
 🎵 **Jazz Night w/Spencer Evans Trio**, The Cove
 🎵 **Karaoke**, Golden Arrow
 🎵 **Merry Band of Felhavers**, John St. Pub
 🎵 **Open Celtic Jam**, Naismith Pub
 🎵 **Open Jam**, Waterfront Gastropub
 🎵 **Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone Band**, Valley Food & Drink Co.
 🎵 **Shawn McCullough**, The Cove

🎵 **Karaoke**, Golden Arrow
 🎵 **Open Celtic Jam**, Naismith Pub
 🎵 **Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone Band**, Valley Food & Drink Co.
 🎵 **Shawn McCullough**, The Cove

🎵 **Jazz at the Queen's**, Queen's Hotel
 🎵 **Karaoke**, Waterfront Gastropub
 🎵 **Karaoke**, Valley Food & Drink Co.
 🎵 **Musicians' Circle**, Bolingbroke
 🎵 **Open Mic**, Love That Barr
 🎵 **Open Mic**, Alice's Village Cafe
 🎵 **Open Mic**, Golden Arrow
 🎵 **Puss in Boots**, Smiths Falls
 🎵 **Snowed Under**, Perth
 🎵 **Duplicate Bridge**, Perth

🎵 **Karaoke**, Waterfront Gastropub
 🎵 **Karaoke**, Valley Food & Drink Co.
 🎵 **Musicians' Circle**, Bolingbroke
 🎵 **Open Mic**, Alice's Village Cafe
 🎵 **Open Mic**, Love That Barr
 🎵 **Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone Band**, The Barley Mow
 🎵 **Open Mic w/Ted Lalonde**, Golden Arrow
 📺 **Vernissage: Jan Gilbert**, Almonte
 🎵 **Duplicate Bridge**, Perth

🎵 **Karaoke**, Waterfront Gastropub
 🎵 **Karaoke**, Valley Food & Drink Co.
 🎵 **Musicians' Circle**, Bolingbroke
 🎵 **Open Mic**, Alice's Village Cafe
 🎵 **Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone Band**, Love That Barr
 🎵 **Open Mic w/Ted Lalonde**, Golden Arrow
 🎵 **Duplicate Bridge**, Perth

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🎵 **Blitzkrieg Boys (Ramones tribute)**, John St. Pub
 🎵 **New Year's Celebration**, Golden Arrow
 🎵 **New Year's Eve w/Spencer Evans Trio**, The Cove
 🎵 **NYE w/Low Mileage Band**, Valley Food & Drink Co.

Vernissage: Surface Fabrications, Dec 12, 2-4PM. Woven photography. Diane Laundry & Robin Laws Field. Miss. Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. 256-3754, mvtm.ca.

Almonte & Area Artists' Assoc Potluck, Dec 14, 6PM. Dinner; show & tell. Millfall Condos Meeting Room, 1 Rosamond St. E., Almonte. 4a-artists.ca. Free

Youth



Children's Christmas Crafts, Dec 5, 10AM-12PM or 1-3PM. Ages 5-11. Reserve 257-8503. N Lanark Reg Museum, \$10
Almonte in Concert's Youth Music Club, Dec 6, 1:30PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, 253-1454, almonteinconcert.com. \$7
Aladdin!, Dec 11-12, 7PM. Academy for Musical Theatre. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca. \$12

Book Signings: Tim Wynne-Jones, Dec 12, 1-3PM. New YA novel: *The Emperor of Any Place*. **Anne Raina**, Dec 19, 1-3PM. 2 new children's books The Book Nook, Perth. 267-2350

Theatre



Puss in Boots, Dec 3, 4, 11 at 7:30PM; Dec 5, 6, 12, 13 at 2PM. Panto. Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. 283-0300, smithsfallstheatre.com. \$20; \$10 students
Snowed Under, Dec 3-5, 8PM; Dec 6, 2PM. Farce. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 267-1884, \$22; \$20 adv; \$10 students
The People vs Mona, Dec 4, 5 (8PM); 6 (2PM); \$25 show. Dec 11, 12 (7PM); \$40 dinner+show. Mississippi Mudds. CP Town Hall, CP. mississippimudds.ca
Valley Vic and the Christmas Temptations, Dec 5, 7PM; Dec 6 1PM. Stone Fence Theatre Xmas musical. Renfrew Rec Center. 1-800-310-1004, stonefence.ca. \$25

A Christmas Carol Community Justice Fundraiser, Dec 7, 6:30PM. LCCJP fundraiser. Perth Civitan Hall. 1-888-264-1558, rina@commjustice.org. \$20
The Story of Perth, Part 2, Dec 9, 7:30PM. Documentary. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca. \$15/\$12.50
"Tonight on Our Stage" Variety Show, Dec 19, 7:30PM. CP Town Hall, 301-7554, toos.variety@gmail.com
Shaun the Sheep, Dec 20, 2:30PM. Animation. Presented by Hub Hospice. MVTM, Almonte. 256-1909, hubhospice.com. \$12; \$8 kids

Literature



Book Launch: Claudia Smith, *Barns: A Reflection of Changing Times*. Dec 5, 2-4PM (Middleville Community Ctr); Dec 13, 3-4PM (Mill Street Books, Almonte). 256-1487, cjsmith@magma.ca.

Book Launch: Lilly White, Dec 11, 5:30-7PM. *365 Ways to Power Up Your Life*, Mill Street Books, Almonte. 256-9090
Book Signing: Noreen Kruzich, Dec 12, 10AM-3PM. *The Ancestors are Arranging Things. A Sense of Country*, 169 Raglan St. S., Renfrew. noreenkruzich.com

Local Food



Carp Farmers' Christmas Market, Dec 4 (3-8PM), Dec 5 (8AM-2PM). Local produce, crafts & Xmas decor. Carp Fairgrounds, 786-1010, carpfarmersmarket.ca
Westport Xmas Farmers' Market, Dec 5, 9AM-2PM. Scholastic Book Fair. Rideau Vista School, Westport. 539-8048, westportfarmersmarket.ca
Almonte Farmers' Xmas Market, Dec 12, 9AM-3PM. All your favourites, plus guest vendors! Almonte Community Centre, almontefarmersmarket.ca

DECEMBER 2015

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Lectures: Landscaping, Almonte Carp Farmers' Christmas Market, Carp Festival of Lights, Perth Jeff Callery, The Cove Light Up The Night, Almonte Live Music, Waterfront Gastropub Puss in Boots, Smiths Falls Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Shawn McCullough, Golden Arrow Snowed Under, Perth Stephen Mark Fisher, O'Reilly's The People vs Mona, Carleton Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Studio, Lanark The People vs Mona, CP Snowed Under, Perth Trivia Night, Calabogie North Pole Express, SF Puss in Boots, SF House Tours, Perth, CP Jay Aymar, Perth Christmas Craft Shows, Lanark, Appleton, Perth, Arnprior Christmas Farmers' Markets, Carp, Westport Santa Claus Parades, Pakenham, Perth A Country Xmas w/Brea Lawrenson, The Cove Book Launch: Claudia Smith, Lanark Christmas in Merrickville, Merrickville Christmas with the King, Perth Downtown CP Open House, Carleton Place Valley Vic & the Christmas Temptations, Renfrew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puss in Boots, Smiths Falls The People vs Mona, CP Snowed Under, Perth Stairwell Carolers, Arnprior Almonte Christmas Night Parade, Almonte Almonte in Concert's Youth Music Club, Almonte Clay Young Duo Jazz Brunch, Fiddleheads House Tours, Perth, Carleton Place Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Open Studio - Living Stones, Lanark Pet Pics with Santa, Arnprior Sunday Blues, Waterfront Gastropub Tay Valley Community Choir Xmas, Maberly Valley Vic & the Christmas Temptations, Renfrew Victorian Family Christmas, Smiths Falls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aladdin!, Perth The People vs Mona, CP Book Launch: Lilly White, Almonte Danny Sylvestre Band, John St. Pub Head over Heels, The Cove Light Up the Christmas Tree, Clayton Live Music, Waterfront Gastropub People Collective/Food Bank, Valley Food & Drink Co. PPAC: Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Perth Puss in Boots, Smiths Falls Riq Turner, Golden Arrow Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp Tom Watson, O'Reilly's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aladdin!, Perth Puss in Boots, Smiths Falls Craft Sale, Lanark The People vs Mona, CP Jon Townsen, Golden Arrow Vernissage, Almonte Stairwell Carolers, CP Xmas Open House, CP All is Calm, All is Bright, Perth Smitty, O'Reilly's Book Signings: Renfrew, Perth Farmers' Xmas Market, Almonte Celtic Christmas Celebration, Arnprior Jazz w/Peter Brown Trio, Waterfront Gastropub Kintail Country Christmas, Almonte Spencer Scharf/The Static(s), John St. Pub 40 Plus Singles Dinner/Dance, Smiths Falls Rock & Roll Xmas w/Young Petty Stones, Cove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carols for Christmas, Pakenham Clever Mess Jazz Club, The Barley Mow Goulbourn Male Chorus Xmas Concert, Carp Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Meet the Author: Claudia Smith, Almonte Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Ottawa Valley Opry Xmas, Smiths Falls Outdoor, Twilight Lessons & Carols, Franktown Puss in Boots, Smiths Falls Singing in the Season, CP Sunday Blues, Waterfront Gastropub Valley Voices Christmas Concert, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anger Inc., John St. Pub Blues & Company, O'Reilly's Head over Heels, The Cove Live Music, Waterfront Gastropub Quartetto Gelato, Smiths Falls Riq Turner, Golden Arrow Scottish Country Dancing, Perth The Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, Love That Barr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Tonight on Our Stage" Variety Show, CP A Turpin's Trail Xmas, The Cove Acoustic Saturdays, Waterfront Gastropub Book Release: Anne Raina, Perth Bryan Snider, John St. Pub Christmas w/Gillan Rutz, Valley Food & Drink Co. Family Home Providers Info Session, CP Free Skate, Perth Jingle & Mingle, Perth Shawn McCullough, Golden Arrow The Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, Waterfront Gastropub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Clay Young Duo Jazz Brunch, Fiddleheads David Francey/KEWT Xmas Show/CD Release, Almonte Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Perth Shaun the Sheep, Almonte Sunday Blues, Waterfront Gastropub
<p>Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>Jon Townsen, Golden Arrow The Process, John St. Pub</p>	<p>Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CP & Beckwith Heritage Museum presents "Memories of the Eaton's Christmas Catalogue" <cpbheritagemuseum.com> Diefenbunker presents Group 6: The Canadian Forces Artists Program, 2012-2013 Equator Coffee Roasters presents "WILD" photographic exhibit by B.A. Relfe <equator.ca> Fairview Manor Lobby presents 4A's Mill St. Panorama [-Dec 7], Jan Gilbert's acrylic paintings [Dec 8-] General Fine Craft, Art & Design features wooden Treasure Boxes & Jennifer Noxon's paintings <generalfinecraft.com> Heritage House Museum presents Art Show & Sale <smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse> MVTM presents Surface Fabrications by Diane Laundry & Robin Laws Field <mvmtm.ca> [Dec 8-] Perth Museum presents Home for the Holidays holiday-themed exhibit Sivarulasa Studio & Gallery presents 8 Cdn artists in Anniversary Show <sivarulasa.com> The Mississippi Mills Chambers Gallery presents Jacquie Christiani's watercolour The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents the acrylic art of Dirk Mietzker 		

CP Horticultural Society Mtg, Dec 2, 6PM. Potluck & Butchart Gdns film. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Carleton Place. cphorticulture.ca. \$3 (\$10 annual)

Duplicate Bridge, Thursdays, 7PM. Perth Civitan Hall, Perth

Almonte Lectures: Landscaping, Dec 4, 7:30PM. Allan Goddard. Almonte United Church. almontelecures.net. free

Scottish Country Dancing, Fridays, 9:30AM. All levels welcome. McMartin House, Perth. 264-2787

Downtown CP Open House, Dec 5. Xmas specials, Santa, trolley rides. Bridge Street, CP. 257-8049, downtowncarleton-place.com

Gifts of Light Christmas Gift & Bake Sale, Dec 5, 10AM-2PM. Sponsored by L'Arche. Kirkman House, Arnprior. Free

Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour, Dec 5-6, 10:30AM-3:30PM. \$30 at Home Furniture (Perth), Crush (Alm), 267-7817, \$30

North Pole Express, Dec 5, 1-5PM. Trains, trees, Santa pics. Railway Museum of EON, Smiths Falls. 283-5696, rmeo.org. \$5

Pet Pics with Santa, Dec 5-6, 10AM-4PM. M Sullivan & Son Ltd, Arnprior. 623-0916, arnpriorhumanesociety.ca

Tea & Talent Sale, Dec 5, 1-4PM. Handmade gifts, decor. Trinity-St. Andrew's Church, Renfrew. 432-2285, office@tsarenfrew.ca

Valley Trivia Night, Dec 5, 8PM. Valley Food & Drink Co., Calabogie. 752-2676x311, info@valleyfoodanddrink.co.ca

Xmas in CP House Tour, Dec 5, 4:30-9:30PM; Dec 6, 10AM-4PM. \$25 at Blossom Shop, Crush, Gemmells Flowers. CP hosp fundraiser: Carleton Place. 257-9717

Victorian Family Christmas, Dec 6, 1-4PM. Artisan market. Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls. 283-6311

Adult Bereavement Group, Dec 8 (1-3PM, Com Home Support, Perth, 267-6400); Dec 29 (1-3PM, Smiths Falls Com Health Centre, 283-6745). Free.

W. Carleton Garden Club, Dec 8, 6:30PM. Potluck & silent auction. Memorial Hall, Carp. wgcg.ca. \$5 for non-members

Light Up the Christmas Tree, Dec 11, 7PM. Carols, snacks. St. George's Anglican Church, Clayton. 256-5499

Free Skate, Dec 12, 19, 7-8:30PM. Perth Community Centre

40 Plus Singles Dinner/Dance, Dec 12, 7PM, 8PM DJ dance. Smiths Falls Civitan Hall. 285-5557, jabet@live.ca., \$10

All is Calm, All is Bright, Dec 12, 5-8PM. Bonfire, entertainment, refreshments. Crystal Palace, Perth. 267-1947, perthtourism.ca

Christmas Craft Sale, Dec 12. Lanark Learning Centre, Lanark. 259-2207, grahamanne56@bell.net

Family Home Providers Info Sessions, Dec 12, 1PM, 25D Main St. W, SF and Dec. 19, 1PM, 390 Flora St., CP. clalanark.ca

Xmas Open House, Dec 12, 1-4PM. "Forever Young" exhibit, caroling, refreshments. CP & Beckwith Heritage Museum, Carleton Place. 253-7013. Free

Outdoor, Twilight Lessons & Carols, Dec 13, 4PM. St. James Anglican Church, Franktown

Jingle & Mingle, Dec 19, 5-8PM. Horse-drawn wagon rides, festive activities, etc., Crystal Palace, Perth. 267-3200, perth-chamber.com

Bereavement Support Group, Dec 21, 10:30AM-12PM. Hub Hospice's monthly group led by Barbara Carroll. Parish House, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Almonte. hub-hospice.com. Free

Merry Christmas!, Dec 25. Wherever you are!

Music



Town Singers Xmas Concert, Dec 1, 7PM. Tickets at Blossom Shop. St. Andrew's Church, CP. facebook.com/CpTownSingers

Musicians' Circle, Thursdays, 7PM. Musicians only - all ages. ABC Hall, 3166 County Rd. 36, Bolingbroke. 273-9005. \$5 for hall

Christmas Around the World, Dec 5 7PM, Dec 6 2:30PM. W. Ottawa Ladies Chorus. Tickets at Gaia Java. St. Paul's Anglican Church, Kanata. \$20/\$15

Christmas with the King, Dec 5, 8PM. Elvis tribute. Studio Theatre, Perth. 267-6817, shadowfax.ca. \$30

Goulbourn Jubilee Xmas Concert, Dec 5 7PM; Dec 6 2PM. Glen Cairn United Church, Kanata. 816-1297, \$20/\$15/\$10

Jay Aymar House Concert, Dec 5, 7PM. Chicken Came First Tour, music & book. 485-6434, jayaymar.com

Tay Valley Community Choir Xmas, Sun, Dec 6, 3PM. "Sing in the Joy". Maberly Community Hall, 172 Maberly Elphin Rd., Maberly. Info., \$10

The Stairwell Carolers, Dec 6, 2PM (Emmanuel Anglican Church, Arnprior, 864-6910); Dec 12, 7:30PM (St. James Anglican Church, CP, 257-3178). \$20

Rideau Mellowdears Male Chorus, Dec 8, 2 & 7PM. Studio Theatre, Perth. 264-1277. \$10

PPAC: Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Dec 11, 7:30PM. Afrocentric music of all styles. PDCI, Perth. 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca

Celtic Christmas Celebration, Dec 12, 7PM. Heather Dale Band & readings. Arnprior Library. brownpapertickets.com. \$15/\$12

Carols for Christmas, Dec 13, 7:30PM. St. Andrew's United Church, Pakenham. 624-5593, standrewsunitedpakenham.org. Freewill donation (\$ for food bank)

Goulbourn Male Chorus Xmas Concert, Dec 13, 2:30PM. W Men of Note & Interlude. Trinity Presbyterian Church, Carp. goulbournmalechorus.com. \$15

Ottawa Valley Opry Xmas, Dec 13, 3PM. Gallipeau Centre, Smiths Falls. 1-888-655-9090, gallipeaucentretheatre.com. \$20

Singing in the Season, Dec 13, 2PM. Carleton Place & District Community Band. Zion-Memorial United Church, CP. 298-3953. Donation to food bank.

Valley Voices Christmas Concert, Dec 13, 7PM. "Evening in December". \$10/ \$7adv at Baker Bob's. Almonte United Church

Perth Citizens' Band Xmas Concert, Dec 15, 7:30PM. W Redhawk Rhythms. St. James Anglican Church, Perth. 256-4221,

perthband.ca. \$5; \$10 family

Quartetto Gelato, Dec 18, 8PM. Xmas from around the world. Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. smithsfallstheatre.com. \$35

David Francey/KEWT Xmas Show, Dec 20, 7:30PM. Almonte Old Town Hall. davidfrancey.com

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Dec 20, 7:30PM. Choirs of St Paul's & St James. St. James Anglican Church, Perth. 267-1163, stjamesperth.ca

Community

4-Hand Euchre, Tuesdays, 2-4PM. Lots of parking, no stairs. Perth Legion, 264-5568

Green Drinks, Dec 1, 5:30PM. Informal meeting of environmental folk., Golden Arrow, Perth. GreenDrinks.org

Macnamara Field Naturalists' AGM, Dec 1, 7:30PM. Neonicotinoids and Their Effects on Amphibians. Arnprior Curling Club. mfnf.ca. Guests \$5, students free

Living the Good Life – Community Living's Family Home Program

A community is made of many different people with varying abilities, personalities and backgrounds. It is much more than a geographic location with houses, institutions, shops and places of employment. Caring, belonging and inclusion make a community truly special.

There is a very special program operated by Community Living Association that is based on caring, belonging and inclusion, which has been operating for more than twenty years. It helps families host people with intellectual disabilities in order to experience the true sense of family and community. Community Living Association's **Family Home Program** matches people with intellectual disabilities with families who want to connect with others to provide a caring environment where people feel valued and included in family and community life. Barbara Dillon and Gordie's story is a heart-

warming tale that exemplifies the most endearing and enduring Canadian values. Twenty years ago, Barbara moved into a townhouse in Almonte with her son and daughter, aged 10 and 12 years. Gordie Wilson lived in a group home next door.

"I remember it like it was yesterday, when my son first met Gordie. A great friendship soon bloomed and they are still friends to this day," remembers Barbara, with a great deal of fondness and comfort in that memory.

"My kids grew up with Gordie, recognizing his abilities and not limiting or defining their relationship by Gordie's disability. Gordie became part of the neighbourhood gang of boys. If they weren't playing hockey or other games, they were hanging out at my place. It was so heartwarming to witness all the kids accepting and including Gordie in their activities and to witness the joy that Gordie got from 'hanging out' with the boys," adds Barbara.

When Barbara bought her new home in 2006, Gordie was invited to join the Dillon family. Community Living Association was approached to facilitate the move and to help fund the additional cost of having Gordie become part of the family through its Host Family Program. Gordie was always an important part of the family, but this made it more official and formal with a third party committed to their success.

When Barbara's daughter and family moved out of the house into their own place, Gordie and Barbara were left alone.

"Soon he began expressing an interest in having a 'buddy' join our family," explains Barbara. "Gord and I waited a long time to find just the right person to invite into our family."

Gordie had become a part of the family, and having his approval was important. After meeting Julien Post and ensuring that he was a good fit for their family, Gordie and Barbara welcomed him with open arms in 2013. It has been a great fit, and Barbara, Gordie and Julien have truly become a family. Julien and Gordie have not only found a family, but they are also active and engaged in their community. Gordie is a regular visitor at the Almonte Arena and is an avid supporter of local hockey. He is also an active Civitan member. Ju-



CLAs **Family Home Program** matches people with intellectual disabilities with families who want to provide a caring environment

lien is very well connected in his community and has many friends.

Gordie, Julien and Barbara are truly a family; they like one another and enjoy spending time together and, like all families, they also have their differences. But their bonds and mutual trust and respect allow them to resolve their issues.

"I love living with Barbara and Gordie! I like living here rather than alone!" exclaims Julien. "This is home sweet home. I love Barbara — she is awesome," adds Gordie. "It is difficult sometimes, but I couldn't imagine living without either one of them," Barbara exclaims with obvious fondness.

Barbara Dillon has made a difference in these men's lives and has provided a real family for both Gordie and Julien. The Family Home Program has allowed two people with intellectual disabilities to experience family and become an important part of their community. Barbara will be the first one to tell you that she benefits as much or more from this relationship. She could not imagine her family without Gordie or Julien.

Community Living Association is currently recruiting homes for five to ten people with intellectual disabilities. If you want to make difference in some one's life and you believe that there is a fit for you, please call 257-8040x25 and speak to the Manager of Family Homes, or visit <clalanark.ca>.

BODY POETS MASSAGE THERAPY ALMONTE



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Ellen Symons, RMT
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Saturday hours
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Call 613-222-0465 Or book online: www.bodypoets.com

359 Ottawa Street #3, Almonte (at Patterson - with Kim Narraway, RMT)

COMMUNITY LIVING Association (Lanark County) Inspiring Possibilities

Wanted: Full Time Family Home Providers Required Immediately

We are currently looking for new home providers that will enable individuals to live as an integral part of the family setting.

About Family Home:

The Family Home Program is a flexible option that matches people with intellectual disabilities with individuals (families) who can provide a caring, stable home environment. The supports offered are tailored to each situation and take into consideration the unique qualities and needs of everyone involved.

Who are Family Home Providers?

Family Home Providers are people who have chosen to open their homes and their lives to a person with an intellectual disability. These individuals:

- Can be single, couples or families of all types.
- Have diverse experiences, backgrounds and lifestyles.
- Can provide a consistent, nurturing home life, and
- Are willing and capable of assisting another person in the areas of daily living as necessary.

Reimbursement:

Family Home Providers are compensated, tax-free, for services based on a daily rate.

For Further Information:

We will be hosting information sessions on December 12 at 1PM at 25D Main Street W, Smiths Falls, and December 19 at 1PM at 390 Flora Street Carleton Place. RVSP Alice-Anne Paterson Collinge, Manager of Family Home (613) 257-8040 ext 25, familyhome@clalanark.ca.

Visit our website at www.clalanark.ca

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“Tonight on Our Stage” in Carleton Place

Producers Greg Akeson and David Magladry miss the weekly variety shows that used to appear on television. From Ed Sullivan to Carol Burnett, Dean Martin to Sonny and Cher, they featured everyone from singers to jugglers to comedians and everything in between. The sole purpose of these shows was to entertain, and their success came from being both the same and different each week. They always adhered to a standard format, but each show was different from the last; it's a simple formula that the pair feel is more relevant than ever in today's fast-paced world.

“As we began to build the concept, our desire was to infuse our existing stage show with the look and feel of a television variety show taping,” explains Akeson. “Our audience will get to see what happens during the pre-show warm-up. Thus, our floor director and stage manager will be visible, making sure that the set and lighting are ready, something that in the traditional theatre world is always hidden from view.”

“All we are missing are the cameras,” adds Magladry. “In fact, that's our slogan: ‘a television variety show without the cameras.’”

Akeson, just back from seeing a taping of the new *CBS Late Show with Steven Colbert*, was amazed at both how much the home audience never sees and how friendly and welcoming it was. “My impression was that it would be fairly cold and regimented, but everyone from Colbert to the stage manager to the CBS pages at the door made us feel like we were the special guest. And that's exactly what we want to give our audience — a highly entertaining evening in a casual and relaxed setting. For us, it's all about the audience experience. They are our special guests; not just observers,” says Akeson.

The pair also wanted to have a unique place to kick off their venture, and with Akeson being a resident of Carleton Place, the Town Hall Auditorium seemed the perfect location. “With its renovated interior it has a very warm and inviting feel to it, and its history of having been home to the CFRA *Happy Wanderers* live radio broadcasts in the 1950s makes for a neat tie-in to what we are doing,” Akeson comments.

The December 19 (7:30PM) episode of *Tonight on Our Stage* promises to be a spectacular evening, with guest stars singer Rebecca

Noelle, actress Barbara Seabright-Moore, classical guitarist Andrew Mah, Northern Reflections barbershop quartet, as well as circus performers and fiddlers and a very special guest. And you!

Tickets available at Apple Cheeks at 55 Bridge Street in Carleton Place. Call 301-7554 or email <toos.variety@gmail.com> for information.

Singer Rebecca Noelle (right) joins other musicians, actors, and even circus performers at the “Tonight on Our Stage” variety show in Carleton Place



Gifts for \$100 & Under

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Portmanteau... A Fantabulous Idea (You Might Consider)

What do you think is the best advertising out there?

Chances are, when you think of advertising that appeals to you, it's got a big idea.

You like the ad. You remember it. But why exactly is it working for you — and working on you?

by Patrick Arbour

Insight sparks recognition. Much of the most memorable and effective advertising conveys insight. Insight into human nature... linked tightly to a brand. Insight reflecting universal truths. "It's funny because it's true." That kind of thing.

So what does this have to do with the portmanteau? And what is a portmanteau?

Here's an example, from a current McDonald's campaign: Sleepworking. Yes, a pun. A play on words. But more. I like to think of the portmanteau as the pun's older, wiser, cleverer brother.

Presenting the Portmanteau

For historical context, many words in common use today started out as a sometimes tentative, sometimes daring portmanteau word.

The term comes from the mind of Lewis Carroll, based on the idea of "two meanings packed up into one word," which in turn stems from the portmanteau — a large travelling case that opened into two compartments. (The portmanteau as a cloak carrier — from the French *porter* meaning to carry and *manteau* meaning cloak — goes back to the sixteenth century.)

Think of smog (smoke + fog), taxicab (taximeter + cabriolet), clasp (clutch + grasp), motel (motor + hotel), newscast (news + broadcast), brunch (breakfast + lunch). And a shipload of others, with newer portmanteaus — ranging from manbag and

mathlete to snowmageddon and sharknado — constantly arriving in our zeitgeist.

When you think about it, the portmanteau reflects the essence of what "creative" is: bringing two or more separate things together to create something new. It's like what Steve Jobs said: "Creativity is just connecting things."

Things being connected in distinctive, memorable ways happens all around us. For instance, there's that little device called the original iPhone, which first brought together a portable music player and a cell phone and a personal touchscreen computer linked to the internet. That bit of creative connecting has done pretty well.

Think also of food. Everything we eat — from your grandmother's age-old recipe for chicken soup to that modern morning smoothie — depends on bringing together ingredients creatively. Foodie culture, which has helped make chefs into celebrities and is served by oodles of food content on TV, in books, and online, is all about creative connections.

What's the Big Idea?

Which brings me back, folks, to the fun-with-food McDonald's campaign built on the big idea of "sleepworking." The premise — and promise — is clear and clever: to avoid the negative effects of "sleepworking" on an empty stomach, start your day off right with breakfast from McDonald's.

Very smart. A universal truth. An insightful strategy. Who can't relate to feeling groggy and unfocused some mornings? Enter McDonald's with a tasty solution. (Of course, unstated but integral to this proposition is a jolt of McDonald's coffee to go along with your breakfast choice. Would you like to make that a combo?)

Savvy marketers like McDonald's use the power of the portmanteau to form strong mnemonic connections.

So you're more likely to remember that when McDonald's came out with its new CBO (Chicken Bacon Onion) earlier this year, they married it to a portmanteau tag line: your new cravourite. You're more likely to remember General Mills positioning Cheerios as "the official cereal of dadhood." And you're more likely to remember a feel-good imperative like "Be Troptimistic" for Tropicana orange juice.

Certainly, not every pun achieves the exalted status of distinctive and memorable portmanteau. Many attempts are cheesy and lame and forced — or just tired and overworked clichés. Think of Halloween "spooktacular" promotions and... need I go on?

This past spring I saw a large online travel company focusing on "Spring-tacular" savings. So not all portmanteaus are gems.

Is Portmanteau the Way to Go?

The portmanteau can be like a form of campaign shorthand. Seeing or hearing that brief and memorable portmanteau reminds people of a campaign's specific message. And those distinctive and meaningful words can help form and maintain a positive general impression of the overall brand too.

When Lewis Carroll introduced the notion of portmanteau words in his 1871 novel *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*, he had Humpty Dumpty commenting on the nonsense poem *Jabberwocky*, saying: "Slithy' means 'lithe' and slimy'... You see it's like a portmanteau, there are two meanings packed up into one word."

While few of the nonsense words from the short *Jabberwocky* poem have entered our lexicon — notable exceptions being chortled (chuckled + snorted) and galumphing (galloping + triumphant) — Lewis Carroll might be heartened to see the playful and inventive use of portmanteau words becoming more prominent in today's expanding marketing communications universe. Being remembered for what you've expressed in words is as relevant in today's multi-dimensional media world as it was in Lewis Carroll's simpler times.

These days, finding the right people with the strategic insight and the creative chops to come up with exceptional portmanteau words to form parts of memorable campaigns is important to brand vitality. Just ask a company like McDonald's. Or better still, pay close attention to what and how they're communicating. By choosing — or creating — the right words, marketing campaigns can deliver excellent results.

In the spirit of the portmanteau, I'm inclined to say even fantabulous results.

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The Library Gave to Me...

The leaves have fallen; there's crispness in the air and of course the unmistakable rush of the season all around us. It's also the time of year that local public libraries become the institutions reminiscent of the libraries of yesteryear — we're entering our quiet season. The hush is back as everyone is caught up in the rushing around.

In this traditional slow time, librarians plan for the year ahead. Budgets will be tweaked, programs reassessed, and collections reviewed.

by Karen DeLuca, Librarian

Public libraries are funded by their local communities. It's a symbiotic relationship that strikes a balance between the unique needs of a community and the library that brings services to its patrons.

Without public support, both financial and in usage, libraries wouldn't be the vibrant community hubs they are today.

If you haven't discovered all that your local library has to offer, then make it your resolution for 2016 to get a membership card and explore the traditional services, innovative programming and community endeavours waiting for you!

And now, in the spirit of expressing gratitude for the patrons who continue to make libraries viable...

*On the first day of Christmas the library gave to me
A place to feel at home for free.*

*On the second day of Christmas the library gave to me
Current bestsellers, and a place to feel at home for free.*

*On the third day of Christmas the library gave to me
Unlimited eBook downloads... and a place to feel at home for free.*

*On the fourth day of Christmas, the library gave to me
Invaluable information... and a place to feel at home for free.*

*On the fifth day of Christmas, the library gave to me
Amazing children's programs!... and a place to feel at home for free.*

*On the sixth day of Christmas, the library gave to me
Computers for work and pleasure... and a place to feel at home for free.*

*On the seventh day of Christmas, the library gave to me
WiFi, apps and databases... and a place to feel at home for free.*

*On the eighth day of Christmas, the library gave to me
Quiet study corners... and a place to feel at home for free.*

*On the ninth day of Christmas, the library gave to me
Homebound delivery service... and a place to feel at home for free.*

*On the tenth day of Christmas, the library gave to me
Technology assistance... and a place to feel at home for free.*

*On the eleventh day of Christmas, the library gave to me
Wonderful entertainment... and a place to feel at home for free.*

*On the twelfth day of Christmas, the library gave to me
Our own cultural haven... and a place to feel at home for free!*

— Karen DeLuca is the Chief Librarian / CEO at the Arnprior Public Library

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 Fri Dec. 4 **Jeff Callery** (Folk/Rock, Brockville) 6-9
 Sat Dec. 5 A Country Christmas with **Brea Lawrenson** (Carleton Place) 7-11, buffet & show, \$45
 Fri Dec. 11 **Head Over Heels** (Guitar/Vocal Duo, Gananoque) 6-9
 Sat Dec. 12 A Rock & Roll Christmas with **Young Petty Stones** (Music of Neil Young, Tom Petty and The Rolling Stones, Local/Montreal), 7-11, buffet & show, \$40
 Fri Dec. 18 **Head Over Heels** (Guitar/Vocal Duo, Gananoque) 6-9
 Sat Dec. 19 **A Turpin's Trail** Christmas (East Coast Folk, Kingston) 7-11, buffet & show, \$40
 Wed Dec. 23 Christmas Eve **Jazz Night** with Spencer Evans Trio feat. Emily Fennell (Kingston), 9-11, \$5
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Check out page 16 for great
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Words From Westport

Introducing Joel Kimmel, Illustrator

The next time you are looking at one of the Canadian Collector Coins, you may well be looking at the work of Westport artist and illustrator Joel Kimmel. Wow! That is a bucket-full of kudos to

by Georgia Ferrell

Joel, who has now nine coin designs in the collector edition, the most recent of which is in support of women's FIFA World Cup Soccer. Congrats, Joel!

In addition, Joel has designed the 2015 Holiday Lenticular Coin, the Italian Campaign for WWII commemorative coin, and one celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir John A. MacDonald. Joel is rightfully proud of his work, exclaiming: "I get to see my artwork on a coin!"

Circulation coinage design is on Joel's wish list, and it hopefully won't be long now until that happens. It was so very interesting for me to see the process from design through to the finished coin. Be sure to take a look the next time you are in the post office.

Some of Joel's other accomplishments include portraits of well-known figures for *Time* magazine's Time 100. Joel did twenty-five of these portraits for the special *Summer 2015* edition.

A bit of his background shows a lifetime of drawing and creating his own comic book characters.



Illustrator Joel Kimmel works out of Papillon Press in Westport

His parents were very supportive of his artistic inclinations, and sent him to art classes from a young age. These experiences honed his talent and desire to be an illustrator. Joel graduated from Sheridan College in 2003 and subsequently worked at Wal-lack's in Ottawa, where he met Chantal. They moved to the Big Apple where Joel continued to learn and earn, and at the same time he became known in illustration circles.

A move to Sudbury — back home, as they say — was followed by practice, practice, practice, and concentrating full-time on illustration. Joel's skills led to his current work for the Canadian

Coin Collection, *Time* magazine, *Outdoor Life*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Men's Health*, *Playboy*, the *New York Times* and the *LA Times*, among other magazines, and even to designing a T-shirt for Nike — well done, Joel!

We heartily welcome this fine young illustrator to our village. You can find Joel at the former Canoe Factory, now the home of **Papillon Press**, on Spring Street. We hope he enjoys a long and happy life here with Chantal, and the two "kids" — Peanut and Pistache — two of the most adorable pups you will find. For more information about Joel's work, visit <joelkimmel.com> or <papillonletterpress.com>.

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- Gift baskets, Pêches et Poivre..... \$25 & up
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Syrian Refugee Help

Continued from p.2

A few initial meetings brought a variety of residents together to explore how to proceed. The task is complex but fortunately there are these experienced people to help us work through the issues that need addressing. As it stands, there are several groups well on the way to helping Syrian families come to this area:

A secular group is working through the Presbyterian Church's Sponsorship Agreement Holder, and is about to find out which family they will be supporting. Most of the funding required to sponsor a family for a year has been committed.

A group of neighbours and friends in Almonte have pulled together and have raised the needed funds (approximately \$30,000 and counting). This group is working with The Jewish Immigration Services in Ottawa to get their family to Ottawa.

Holy Name of Mary has a constituent group that has a family identified, application filed, and funds raised, and is now well on the way to preparing for them to get to Almonte.

A diverse group of individuals from Almonte, including members of St. Paul's Anglican Church and the Almonte United Church, are working jointly to form an effective constituent group to sponsor a refugee family.

So, amazingly, our little town is currently expecting four Syrian families, and if another sponsor-

ing group emerges, this could increase to five. Having the new federal government fast-tracking the process will be extremely helpful.

The families we are hoping to help have been in refugee camps in Lebanon for too long. The local teams working on this are turning to the community for help. There is a wish list of things needed to make our welcome of these traumatized people an effective effort.

The Wish List:

- Housing: The sponsoring group is responsible for the refugee family's welfare for a year. That generally means that a local family "adopts" the refugee family in their home for a few weeks to help them settle. After that, the refugee family is moved to their own accommodation. It is possible that within a short time the refugee family finds family or friends in another Canadian town or city and seeks to move on. Finding housing that may be short term or may be longer term (for at least a year) is a challenge. If there are available apartments, houses, or parts of houses — with at least two bedrooms — please let us know.
- Translation help: the owners of Almonte Pizzeria & Shawarma and Milano Pizza, as well as Dr. Naji Louis, are on board to help, however more

translators would be very helpful!

- Childcare, including help in acclimatizing the children to schools.
- Housewares and furniture.
- Storage for housewares and furniture — do you have a dry, clean space available?
- Employment opportunities.
- Donations of money. SRCMM will be setting up an account for general disbursement applications, and the churches which are sponsorship agreement holders can provide receipts for donations.
- Miscellaneous assistance with driving and helping to welcome these families: winter can be isolating even for Canadians. We will have to make sure these folks can deal with all the challenges of winter in the Ottawa Valley!

If you are able to help, this is the time to let the SRCMM know. High school students needing volunteer hours should contact us. Please send an email to Arnie <arnies_got_mail@yahoo.com> letting him know in what way you would like to help. Your offer will be directed to one or more of the constituent groups. In addition, please join the Facebook Group: Syrian Refugee Committee of Mississippi Mills <theHummm.com/December2015>. Thanks for being a part of this wonderful community story!

— Chandler Swain

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lightupthenightalmonte.com

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December 5, 2015, 1pm
Pakenham

Parade of Lights

December 6, 2015, 5pm
Almonte



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www.exploremississippimills.ca



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www.exploremississippimills.ca



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February 27, 2016
Almonte

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April 2 & 3, 2016
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Join us for this self-guided tour to celebrate Spring and enjoy the creativity of local artists. You'll find tasty lunches along the route, and Fulton's Maple Shoppe too. www.mapleruntour.ca



For more information, please contact Tiffany MacLaren at tmaclaren@mississippimills.ca or visit www.exploremississippimills.ca