

DECEMBER 2019

the Hummm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas



The 2019 Gift Giving Guide



p.28 & 29

December's Events



p.31

An Artful Weekend



p.19

Holiday Happiness!



The Art of Miriam Mas p.5



HOLIDAY SHOWDOWN



Who Stole Christmas From **MM.COM**

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"I liked it better when 'Peace on Earth' was at least a remote possibility!"

Readers Write

Dear Editor,

What a joy to read the tribute to Reva Dolgoy by the Seiler sisters in the last issue of the Humm. In an age and under a provincial government which believes that education means job training, how we desperately miss the humanistic influences of people like Reva and Len.

I first met Reva after I gave a little talk at the opening of an historical exhibit in Carleton Place, a talk in which I stressed the role of the workers and labourers who were so often forgotten by history. Reva came up to me afterwards, thrilled to meet a fellow "radical". She talked of her political experiences in eastern Europe and after they came to Canada. What a life she led. As Sonja and Monika said, Reva had a way of gathering you into the embrace of things that really mattered. I know that her identification with the striving of all to realize their full humanity informed her art — and her talk. We became friends and associates in a number of historical and political endeavours (mine). She is grievously missed.

Yours,
Bill Cox from Carleton Place

Humble Thought

And what happened then?
Well, in Whoville they say
That the Grinch's
small heart
grew **THREE** sizes
that day!

— Dr. Seuss



Who's Reading the Humm

Our final WRTH from 2017 comes from **Martina Flanagan**, who writes: "Here is a photo that my daughter took while I was visiting her in Berlin, Germany (September 2017). I have attached one that I thought was a fair shot of our fun that day getting a good shot of the Humm (and an acceptable one of me). It was the highlight of our time together, as we both were committed to joining forces to find the right place, time and angle for the picture. Thanks for providing the opportunity to do this.

Thank you Martina for sending in this lovely photo!



And in early 2018, **Fran Bryerton** from Almonte wrote: "The first issue of 2018 travelled to Barbados. I took it all over the Island and is here with a sign for Banks Beer. I would encourage travellers who may visit Barbados to make a point of going to "Hastings Farmers' Market" in Christ Church. It has many talented local vendors who offer handmade and unique items that make fantastic gifts to bring back for family and friends. My favourite booth is "Magic Happens", operated by a gifted artist named Helen Morgan. Her pieces are inspirational and reasonably priced. A must if you travel to this magical island!" We love to see that Humm readers are supporting local artisans around the world!



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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!

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Thumm's up this month to:

All of the good folks who organize fundraisers, collect for charitable organizations, and otherwise try to make the holidays happier for everybody else. That's the spirit!

Who Stole Christmas from Mississippi Mills?

OVER 80% SOLD OUT!

WhoStoleChristmasFromMM.com

Happy Local Holidays!

Here at theHummm 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 bring you the Hummm's 19th 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 present 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 theHummm 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!

Gifts for Coffee & Tea Lovers

- Hand-crafted mugs by dozens of gallery potters, General Fine Craft.....\$30-55
- Tea pots, coffee makers, cozies, infusers - and tea! , Pêches & Poivre\$10-120
- Fluid locally & solar roasted coffee, Foodsmiths.....\$4.99/100g
- The Coffee Basket, Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....\$79.95

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.35
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- Vamos Outdoors.....Almonte, p.7 & 16

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CP Band's 9th Annual Food Bank Fundraiser

For the ninth consecutive year, 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 8 at 2PM in Zion-Memorial United Church in Carleton Place.

This is always an enjoyable way to spend some time on a Sunday afternoon before Christmas. Come, relax, and get in the spirit of the season. Listen to the band play such tunes as *White Christmas* and the calypso *Mary's Boy Child*. Enjoy hearing soprano and band member April Norris sing the well-loved *Ave Maria*, accompanied by the band. And join the band to sing a few familiar seasonal songs.

This year, the band's special guest artist will be organist Ian Guenette. Ian is a young, talented Carleton Place musician and music

teacher. He is music director at one of the Carleton Place churches and is a frequent accompanist for Mississippi Mudds shows. He will play a couple of numbers as part of the afternoon — there may be a surprise tune as well.

This is a free presentation, but a contribution to the Food Bank (either a can or cash) would be welcome. That way everyone can share in the gift. Come and bring your family and neighbours — the band would love to see you. The band would also like to acknowledge Zion-Memorial United Church's gift of providing the concert space at no charge.

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

New Jewel's Store in Carleton Place Funding Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lanark County recently opened their third Jewel's Gently Used Clothing Store — this one in Carleton Place.

Jewel's offers modestly priced, gently used clothing for the residents of Carleton Place and surrounding areas. Net proceeds for all three Jewel's stores go towards funding programs and activities for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lanark County. Jewel's clean, brightly lit store is laid out so you can browse happily and find just what you are looking for! They have a broad selection of women's, men's and children's clothing in all sizes, along with costume jewellery, shoes and purses.

Jewel's relies on volunteers to operate their non-profit stores. Big Brothers Big Sisters recently showed their grati-

tude with a Volunteer Appreciation Tea. Jewel's gladly accepts donations of clean gently used clothing during store hours, which are Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10AM to 3PM. The Jewel's store in Carleton Place is located at 210 Bridge Street, beside The Foundry Bookstore operated by Community Living. There is lots of free parking beside the store. Watch Jewel's Carleton Place Facebook page for weekly specials and check out their toonie rack.

Jewel's invites the community to visit their store, shop locally and share the magic of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Their other stores are located at the Metro Mall in Perth (48 Wilson St. West) and 18 William St. E in Smiths Falls. Find more details at <lanark.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca>.

Gifts for Grandparents

- A subscription to the Cheese Club, Pêches & Poivre\$48 & up
- 4 music lessons, Mississippi Mills Musicworks\$100
- Owl magnifying glass pendant, The Kilted Goat.....\$24 / \$28
- Premium ice grippers (free for folks 65 & older), Get A Grip.....\$25
- Gift certificates for a shopping spree!, Mill Street Books.....various

Gifts for Hosts & Hostesses

- Tea towels, napkins, gadgets, cheese etc. Pêches & Poivre.....\$7-30
- Caramels with fleur de sel, Hummingbird Chocolate.....\$20.99
- Refillable 1-L bottle in a seasonal flavour, Artizen Kombucha....\$15
- Perth Soap products, Cashmere & Rose\$10.95-19.95
- KIN Chardonnay, Kin Vineyards\$29.95
- Reusable metal gift tag, The Silver Shingle.....\$6-20
- Christmas Block gift sets, The Kilted Goat.....\$21.95



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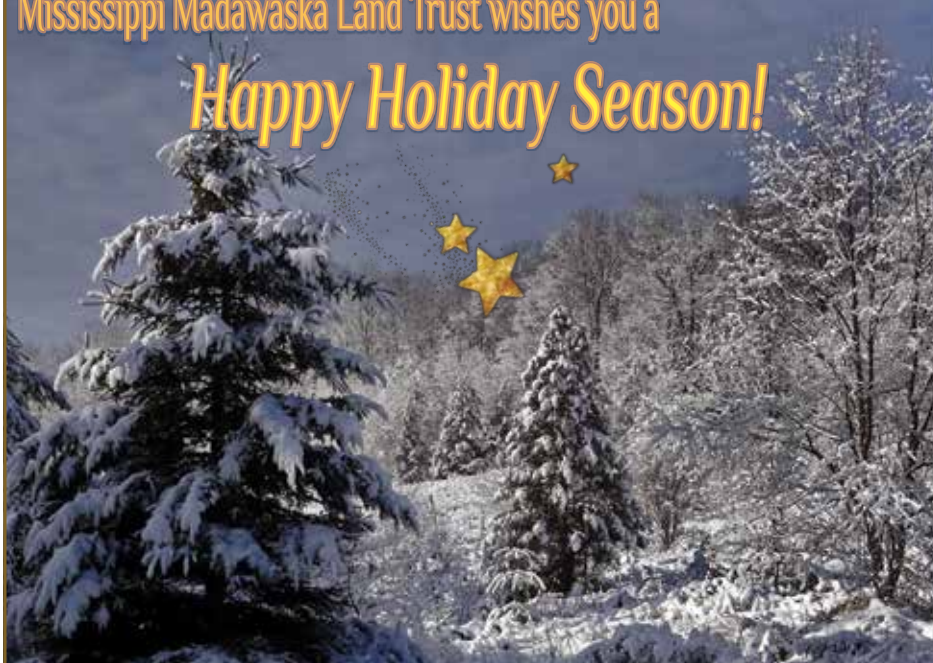


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Miriam Mas – Embodying the Spirit of Christmas

It has taken both luck and pluck (as in “spirited and determined courage”) for artist Miriam Mas to reach this point in her life. This gifted self-taught artist is reaping the well-got gains of a decidedly anti-Grinch-like life, and it really brightens this reporter’s spirits at a time when a dose of cheer is particularly welcome. (We at theHumm are quite concerned regarding the trending rumour that a certain mean, green grump has been spotted lurking around Mississippi Mills!)

by Sally Hansen

Through no fault of her own, Mas has burst into the Valley arts limelight. That’s not strictly true. It is her fault that she paints irresistibly heartwarming paintings of familiar and beloved creatures and objects. Her paintings transform her modest home into a welcoming oasis of beauty and serenity. Each canvas celebrates our connection to the natural world and the other living creatures with whom we share this Mother Earth. From a chickadee on a snow-sprinkled branch to a quartet of cows munching contentedly, Mas renders their images with a palpable enjoyment of their existence. Her paintings of dogs bear genuine witness to the key role they continue to play in her life. Whether it’s a little girl with her doll or a chocolate cupcake on a plate, Mas’ tender portraits make your heart smile.

We have choices, and Mas chooses to use her paintings to express her gratitude and joy for being alive, for being in Canada, and for arriving at a point where she is doing what she loves. She loves beauty — “the kind of beauty that touches one’s heart.” She has always loved painting since her parents gave her a basic oil painting kit many years ago, but she only started painting seriously in 2015 while recuperating from a severe work-related back injury. She began posting photos of her small works on Facebook, and stopped giving them away for free when viewers started asking how much they cost. Miriam signed up for a local Christmas craft show, and shortly after that was invited to join the North Grenville Arts Guild by former president and now good friend Reinder Kuntz. At their 2018 show, visitors chose her as their favourite artist. (I notice that one of her paintings appears on the Guild’s November Newsletter.)

Mas is particularly grateful for the generous support she has received from fellow Guild member

Carole Malcolm. She credits Malcolm with teaching her how to navigate the business side of being an artist, and for introducing her to Studio 87 in Perth, leading to a successful vernissage this past summer. Again, I notice on their website that Mas’ paintings are selling very well. I’m certain that their appeal is the direct consequence of what drives her to paint: “...painting has a strange magic. It is like a beautiful poem or rhyme that you can always look at and that never tires you. I love the excitement I feel every single time I am about to start a new painting. Sometimes I feel the same anticipation as a child waiting to get up on Christmas morning.” Each of her paintings is a gift that keeps on giving.

The Backstory

Born in Barcelona, Spain, the youngest of five children, Miriam came to Canada in 1988. After completing an ESL course (English as a Second Language, although it was Miriam’s third — after Catalan and Spanish), she landed a job in the HR department of Canada Post and was handed a large stack of résumés to assess. Although she did not have the prerequisite



qualifications, she persuaded an Algonquin professor to let her enroll in his Interactive Multimedia class. Next, a wonderful Human Resources manager at Nortel hired her as a graphics designer, even though Mas disclosed that she was three months pregnant.

She worked for Nortel as a telecommuter while raising her first two children, but her near-death experience due to disseminated intravascular coagulation when delivering her third child changed her life. “The team at the Civic Hospital saved my life. The experience left me feeling that there was still something important left for me to do in this life.” So in 2001 she founded a charity to provide service



dogs for people with mobility-related disabilities. These service dogs help people in wheelchairs in a multitude of practical ways — by retrieving objects out of reach, opening and closing doors, taking socks off, barking for help, etc. — that provide a better quality of life by promoting independence. Perhaps the dogs’ biggest accomplishment is growing hearts bigger through their companionship and unconditional love.

After her 23-year marriage ended in divorce, Miriam renewed acquaintance with someone with whom she had shared a special connection more than thirty years earlier. She sponsored Peter Vaz to come to Canada in 2013, but he had to return to Barcelona for medical reasons in 2015, and it took until early 2019 for his permanent residency to be approved. Fortunately he is now by her side, incredibly supportive, and available to ensure that she doesn’t impair her own health by staying up all night to paint.

After fifteen years of dedicating her life to helping people with mobility challenges, her back injury in 2015 forced her to take a break. In a very real way, her passion for art helped her overcome her own mobility issues, and continues to guide her into a future replete with oil paintings and — you guessed it — dogs!

There is no mistaking her special relationship with dogs. Miriam Mas’ paintings of “Man’s” best friend are illuminated by her love of the incredible animals that she continues to work with. Mas has just been nominated a finalist for CNIB Foundation’s 2019 Employee of the Year award. Her full-time job as Lead of the Buddy Dog Program entails preparing and placing Buddy Dogs with visually impaired children between the ages of 7 and 16. In April she led CNIB’s launch of its Buddy Dog program, and today there are seven children living with sight loss across Canada whose lives are enriched daily by a furry friend. She is also the administrator for the entire CNIB Guide Dogs Team. Their website states “...she ensures all of our programs run smoothly.”

Thinking back over Mas’ successes in forging a new life for herself in Canada, I ask her how she did it. Her response rings true: “If I believe that something is really right for me, I visualize it and life directs me towards how it can become a reality.” Watching her in her home with the two dogs she is training to be Buddy Dogs is a great example. When I showed up to take her photo, the loving portrait of two of the puppies in the CNIB Guide Dog program that she was working on took my breath away (I think it was my heart expanding). Once the painting is completed she will donate it to CNIB Guide Dogs for a Gala Fundraiser in Regina taking place in January.

Watch out grumpy green thing — you’re up against a formidable opponent if you show up in Kemptville!

5th ANNIVERSARY SHOW, Installation Views at Sivarulrasa Gallery

Our biggest show of the year continues to end of December!

Featuring works by more than 20 artists from Almonte, Eastern Ontario and across Canada

5th ANNIVERSARY SHOW, Installation Views at Sivarulrasa Gallery

5TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW
NOV 22 - DEC 29, 2019

Featured artists: Sue Adams, Sarah Anderson, Deborah Arnold, Carol Bajen-Gahm, Adrienne Dagg, Dale Dunning, Barbara Gamble, Catherine Gutsche, Karen Haines, Jim Hake, George Horan, Jane Irwin, Caroline JI, David Kearn, Gayle Kells, Susan Low-Beer, Michael Pittman, Jeremy Price, Sanjeev Sivarulrasa, Susan Tooke, Eric Walker, Gillian Willians, Mirana Zuger

34 Mill St, Almonte ON
info@sivarulrasa.com
sivarulrasa.com
613.256.8033

WHO Miriam Mas
WHAT Oil Painter, Lead of Buddy Dog program and Team Administrator at CNIB Guide Dogs
WHERE Kemptville, <miriammas.com>, 809-1076, <miriam.mas@gmail.com>; Gallery 87, 87 Gore St. E., Perth, <galleryongore.com>
WHY "When you feel yourself surrounded by beauty in the simplest of things, the question becomes not 'what to paint,' but 'what not to paint'."

ARTIST TRADING CARD

Splash'N Boots: Heart for the Holidays

It's the most yellow and blue time of the year — and it's time for the third annual Splash'N Boots BIG yellow and blue holiday show: **JINGLE BOOTS — The Big Heart Holiday Show!**

This year, this dynamic duo promises the show will be a blast — and also an experience with a big HEART.

These energetic Juno-nominated children's entertainers (also known as Perth native Taes Leavitt, along with Nick Adams) do what they do because they love to create a space for families and friends to connect with each other. There is just no better time of year to be together as a family and community than the holiday season. A Splash'N Boots show isn't just entertainment — it's a place for you to create happy moments and new memories, together.

Join the Big Yellow Boot Family as they celebrate the holidays. Get dressed up in your favourite festive attire and get ready to sing and dance along in this Big Yellow Boot Holiday extravaganza! The shows take place on Saturday, December 21 at 1PM and again at 4PM at the Studio Theatre (63 Gore Street East in Perth). For tickets or information, please call 485-6434 or visit <splashnboots.com>.



Photo by Ashley Ivin

SplashN Boots will be in Perth for two shows on Saturday, December 21

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Leather bags & purses by Michael Rowland , Riverguild Fine Crafts.....	\$50-200
Lamb leather handbag , Strévé Design.....	\$69-250
Dawn Walker Design stationery , Carriageway Studios.....	\$5-25
Jewellery, art, cards, and knits by local artists , 8008 Lingerie	\$15-850
Reid's Dairy eggnog , Foodsmiths	\$2.79
The Lanark County Sampler , Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....	\$65.95



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www.almontehospitalfoundation.com/holidaytribute

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Funny Lady

Cabaret and Comedy Workshop Coming at You!

It's time for a Cabaret my friends! Comedian and award-winning clown Rachele Elie is back in Almonte to host another fabulous event — and this time it's a Cabaret! The **Almost New Years Rag Bag Cabaret** will be held on Saturday, December 28 at 8PM at the lovely Almonte Old Town Hall. This one will be hosted by Rachele's alter ego "Susan", and will feature comedian Cathy Boyd, burlesque trio The Rougettes, international touring musician David Celia and local storyteller Daniel K. L. Grégoire. More fabulous acts to be announced!

The cash bar opens at 7PM so come early for pre-show cocktails. Tickets are \$25 in advance on Eventbrite and at Mill Street Books in Almonte. Snoozers pay \$35 at the door. Fabulous dress attire is encouraged! You may even win a door prize from 8008 Lingerie, Gilligallou Bird or Crush Marketplace. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Association of Stand-Up Comedians. For more information about this and other upcoming shows, visit <crowningmonkey.com>.

Then in January, Rachele will be teaching a seven-week workshop exploring the **Art of Stand-up Comedy** at Curious and Kind. Do you love making people laugh? Always writing jokes in your head? Friends say you're funny (looking)? Come learn how to structure and perform all that clever stuff that you think about but wouldn't ever say out loud... *and* make people laugh while doing it. All levels of comics are welcome! This class is designed to work with each individual, with the goal of taking their comedy to the next level. On the



Rachele Elie will be bringing her alter ego Susan (above) to host the Almonte New Years Rag Bag Cabaret on December 28 at the Almonte Old Town Hall. Susan will be joined by a host of other wonderful comedians and performers!

last day students will perform a short routine in front of a live audience.

Rachele's teaching is influenced by her twenty-five years of comedy performance experience and personal study of stand-up comedy. The focus of this class will be on guiding students in the discovery of their own comedic voice and point of view. This workshop is suitable for performers and non-performers, beginner and seasoned stand-up comedians. It needs a minimum number of students in order to run, so the organizers will confirm ten days before the start date.

Classes will take place from 7-9:30PM on Mondays from January 6 to February 10, with a performance on Monday, February 17. The venue is Curious & Kind, located at 12B Mill Street in Almonte (in the Heritage Mall). The cost is \$400 plus HST, and a \$150 deposit is required to secure your spot. But there's an early bird special — register before December 17 and pay only \$350 + HST! To sign up, please contact Daniel K. L. Grégoire on Facebook or email her at <curiousandkindalmonte@gmail.com>.





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Perth Community Christmas Day Dinner

Christmas isn't what it used to be.

Humbug to that! It is at the annual Perth Community Christmas Day Dinner at Code's Mill in downtown Perth.

During the dinner's almost 30-year history, celebrating Christmas has morphed from pot-luck with a few friends to a tradition that welcomes the whole community. Last year we served more than 320 dinners in the Banquet Hall and delivered 120 more to those who couldn't join us.

This is a real community event — funded and organized by the community, for the community. We are a not-for-profit with the sole purpose of organizing this event. It's special because it takes place on Christmas Day, and it's where friends, volunteers, and guests all enjoy a traditional sit-down turkey dinner (yes, and ham, potatoes, all the trimmings and far too much dessert) with each other in a festive mood. Dress up, dress down, come as you are, everyone is welcome. And it's free.

There is no need to register; our doors will open at 11:30AM, with the sit-down meal served at noon. Please note, there is only one sitting. Do register if you wish to volunteer, would like a ride (we'll pick you up and deliver you safely home), or would like a meal delivered.

Visit perthcommunitychristmasdinner.org to register, or call us at 326-8365. It's that simple.



Grace and Santa would like to invite everyone to this year's Christmas Day Dinner at Code's Mill!

Is there a Santa Claus? As long as there's a spirit of community and fellowship, there'll be Christmas at Code's Mill. Come and join us. See Santa for yourselves!

Share the cheer with us at Code's Mill — 17 Wilson St. E. in Perth — on Christmas Day.

— Bill Lowe

Gifts for \$25 & Under

- Hand-crafted glass or ceramic ornaments, General Fine Craft.....\$20-24
- Premium ice grippers (free for folks 65 & older), Get A Grip.....\$25
- TheraBand foot roller, Hands on Healing.....\$20
- Candy Cane bark, Hummingbird Chocolate.....\$9.49
- Miniature quilted items by Nadine Sculland, MVTM Gift Shop.....\$2-7
- Beautiful handmade soaps and bath products, The Granary.....\$5-12
- One-hour spa visit (tubs, Finnish/NIR/FAR Infra-red sauna), Circa 1894 Spa.....\$25



SAVE THE DATE!

Kintail Country Christmas

Saturday, December 14, 2019
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Mill of Kintail Conservation Area
\$10/vehicle

For more information contact Stephanie Kolsters:
skolstersemvc.on.ca | 613-256-3610 ext. 2



Nine Lessons & Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. All are welcome to join us at St. James the Apostle Anglican Church in Perth on Sunday, December 22 at 7:30PM for this much-loved service. The joint choirs of St. Paul's United Church and St. James', directed by Brad Mills and Peter Woodwark, will lead the singing. Special guests this year are River Resonance, a new chamber choir led by Nicola Oddy, and The Valley Horns, led by Mark Bailey.

The evening starts with a prelude by The Valley Horns, playing seasonal music arranged by Mark including *Bethlehem Down* and *Bring a Torch*. Val Leavitt, St. James' Assistant Choir Director, will accompany on organ. This is followed by *Once in Royal David's City* as the choirs process down the aisle. The Reverend Kenneth Davis then bids the congregation to "hear the message of the angels and, in heart and mind to go unto Bethlehem and see the babe lying in a manger", and "to pray to God for the needs of the whole world and all his people; and for peace upon the earth".



The Christmas story is told in nine Scripture readings from both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, interspersed with song, and including Christmas favourites such as *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *Away in the Manger* and *Joy to the World*, some accompanied by the brass. Carols from the joint choirs include *And the Glory of the Lord* from Handel's *Messiah* and two carols by John Rutter — *Angel Tidings* and *What Sweeter Music*. From the Gallery at the back of the church River Resonance will sing *The Lamb*, a setting of William Blake's famous poem by Sir John Tavener.

We recommend you come early to hear the prelude — and to get a good seat. St. James' Church is located on the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets in Perth. Travelling west on Highway 7, turn left at the first traffic light as you enter Perth. For more information visit <stjamesperth.ca>, contact the church office at 267-1163 or email <stjamesperth@gmail.com>. — Hilary Barrett

Gifts for Health & Wellbeing

Premium ice grippers (free for folks 65 & older), Get A Grip	\$25
One-hour massage, Hands on Healing	\$91
60-minute massage, Heritage Fitness	\$95
Discover Skiing or Snowboarding package, Mount Pakenham	\$60
Lavender Lane drawer sachets, pillows, wraps, MVTM Gift Shop	\$6-20
Gift certificate for yoga classes, Surya Daya Yoga	various
Little Mississippi Juice Co. juices, shots, gift cert., Carriageway Studios	\$4 & up
100% cotton wireless "Comfy Bra" from Royce Lingerie, 8008 Lingerie	\$75
30-minute therapeutic massage, Kim Narraway, RMT	\$55
Turmeric Zinger stubby, Artizen Kombucha	\$4.75
Garneau sheepskin slippers (wonderful for diabetics), Crush Marketplace	\$110

Gifts for Food Lovers & Cooks

"Let's Drink Wine and Judge People" wine glass, Crush Marketplace	\$15.99
KIN Pinot Noir, Kin Vineyards	\$34.95
Wild Blueberry Grape stubby, Artizen Kombucha	\$4.75
4- or 7-course Blind Tasting (wine pairings avail.), Black Tartan Kitchen	\$59-139
Spiced Balsam Fir syrup, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm	\$8
Walker's Glenfiddich highland whisky cake, Foodsmiths	\$19.99
Royal Gala apple tree, Home Hospice North Lanark	\$55
Chocolate Salami - perfect for entertaining!, Hummingbird Chocolate	\$26.99
Funky fish fused glass serving platters, MonSky Creations	\$100 & up
Abeego reusable beeswax food wraps (plastic-free!), The Granary	\$16
The Gourmet Basket, Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets	\$83.95
Gift certificate for walking food tour of Almonte or CP, The Good Food Tour	\$65

Gifts for Outdoor Enthusiasts

Gift Card for lessons, lift tickets, tubing, equipment, Mount Pakenham	\$50
Anupaya blankets designs inspired by Canada's wild spaces, Bittersweet	\$129
Christmas Tree Mist, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm	\$10
Alpaca socks, Crush Marketplace	\$18.50-35
Vineyard Taste & Tour packages, Kin Vineyards	\$25 & up
Sassafras door mat and inserts, Reid Gardens	\$9.99-19.99
OBOZ hikers, Vamos Outdoors	\$179 & up
Traumacare pain relief cream, Hands on Healing	\$24

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See page 14 for great gifts for
FUNKY PEOPLE

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

WHAT:

Draft flood hazard mapping for the lower Mississippi River system

WHEN & WHERE:

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

MVCA Conservation Centre

10970 Highway 7, Carleton Place

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Stewart Community Centre (upstairs)

112 MacFarlane Street, Pakenham

MVCA has updated floodplain mapping for the Mississippi River, downstream of the Highway 7 bridge in Carleton Place to the Ottawa River, including the Indian River, Cody Creek and Clayton and Taylor Lakes.

The public is invited to attend the open house and provide comment. The draft mapping is available online at www.mvc.on.ca.

For more information call **613-253-0006** or email jprice@mvc.on.ca



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7:30pm**

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**Tickets: \$15
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arnpriorlibrary.ca**

**(\$20 at the door if
seats still available)**



Join Us!

AGH Patient & Family Advisory Committee Seeks Members

Bonnie Lowry Bagshaw was born and raised in the local area and likes to give back to the community. As the first Chair of Almonte General Hospital's Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC), she is doing just that. "AGH is a valued resource and I want to make an impact on the care that is provided there every day," says Bonnie. "Over the past two years, the PFAC has been involved in many projects and is truly making a difference."

The Patient and Family Advisory Committee provides feedback and ideas on all aspects of care, helping to improve quality and safety for all patients. Advisors reflect on their own experiences, or those of their family members, to offer input on everything from hospital policies and processes to building-related topics such as signage. Committee members may also be asked to review patient brochures or to sit on hospital committees.

This past year, the PFAC has been involved in many projects, including discussion regarding post-discharge follow-up calls to patients and the Accreditation survey which involved a review of every aspect of Almonte General Hospital and Fairview Manor.

Bonnie is an Occupational Therapist and has recently started to work with the Patient Experience Team at CHEO. She has used the services at AGH for herself and her family, as well as for her parents and relatives. "I have a great interest in patient and family-centred care and I want to have a greater influence within my home community. AGH provides quality care and the PFAC helps to integrate the voice of patients and families."

The PFAC is looking for new community members to get involved. "We know that the patients and families are the experts in their own care and their voice is extremely important," explains Joyce Rolph, Interim Integrated Vice President, Patient and Resident Care. "They are a vital part of the health care team and we want and need to hear from them."

Patients or family members with recent experience in the hospital (within the last two years) are invited to apply to join the PFAC. "The ideas that our patients and family members provide help to shape the care that is delivered," adds Joyce Rolph. "This committee is a key part of our quality and safety program — and another way we are connecting with our local communities."

To learn more, call 256-2514 x2235.

The Perth Citizens' Band CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Guest performers: **The Perth Town Crier**

Tuesday, December 17, 7:30PM
St. James Anglican Church, Perth
\$5/person \$10/family

More information at 256-4221 or www.perthband.ca

New Name for Hospice

Hub Hospice Palliative Care Becomes Home Hospice North Lanark

We are fortunate to live in a part of the world where there is still a strong tradition of neighbours looking out for each other. One example of that tradition began in early 2012, when members of Almonte Community Coordinators (The Hub) recognized that a home-based palliative care support service was lacking in the Almonte area. By October 2012, a steering committee had raised over \$100,000 and, soon thereafter, a registered nurse had been hired to initiate the development of the program. The new organization, separately incorporated in March 2013, was named Hub Hospice Palliative Care. As the organization evolved, their mission became clear: "We seek to ensure that individuals and their caregivers are well supported through the end-of-life experience; and that, where possible and when the individual so wishes, is able to die at home. We believe that palliative support of those dying, and their caregivers, is an integral part of a healthy community life."

Over time the area served has expanded to include clients within North Lanark, including Almonte, Carleton Place, Pakenham, Clayton, Blakeney, Appleton and the surrounding areas. Furthermore, "home" now truly encompasses wherever the client lives. This can, and does, include long-term care homes

and hospitals as needs and resources allow. To reflect the growth of the organization and the expansion of services a new name has been selected: Home Hospice North Lanark (HHNL). Services include:

- Visiting Volunteers — over twenty trained volunteers visit with clients, under the direction of two part-time Registered Nurses
- Bereavement Support
- Advance Care Planning

The organization, which continues to be governed by a 12-person board of directors now under the direction of Nancy Deschenes, remains committed to carrying out their mission to support those with an advanced, progressive illness and their caregivers.

"[We] have spent the last several years thinking beyond the physical needs and getting to know the spirit of each person [we] visit. It is in the spirit that the beauty of life remains even at the end of life's journey," explains Visiting Volunteer coordinator Allison Griffith.

It is with respect and appreciation of their history and the support of the community that the organization looks to the future. "We look forward to working every day to do what we can to ensure that every person in our community at the end of their life may live in dignity, respect and comfort and not feel alone."

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Winter is Coming to the Station Theatre

The Station Theatre is proud to welcome Lynn Miles for the final concert of their 2019 music series. This Canadian musician is bringing her *Winter* concert, along with the Crusty Mittens String Quartet. Check her out at <lynnmilesmusic.com>.

Lynn Miles was born in Cowansville, Quebec to a father who was a harmonica player and jazz fan and a mother who listened to opera and country music. Miles learned to play the violin, guitar, piano and flute during her school years. She began composing songs at the age of ten and started performing at sixteen.

Miles is one of Canada's most accomplished singer/songwriters. With twelve albums to her credit, she has won multiple Canadian Folk Music awards (including 2011 English Songwriter of the Year) and a 2003 Juno award for Roots and Traditional Solo Album of the Year. Through a career that has seen her move from Ottawa to Los Angeles and back again (with stops in Nashville and Austin), and a healthy touring schedule that regularly takes her through the US, Europe and across Canada, she has always created and performed music with unbridled feeling and vulnerability.

Other accolades include her song *Three Chords and the Truth* being chosen as the closing song on the popular BBC TV series *Case Histories*. Her composition *Remembrance Day* became part of a nationally televised video created by the Canadian Armed Forces. Miles' 1996 album *Slightly Haunted* received favourable reviews in the *New York Times* and was a Billboard Top Ten Pick of the Year. Lynn has continued to grow and bloom as a singer/songwriter over a decades-long career.

A wonderful way to welcome *Winter*, Lynn and her string ensemble will certainly warm you. The show starts at 8PM on Friday, December 13. Tickets are on sale at Special Greetings (8 Russell Street in Smiths Falls, cash only) and can be picked up a half-hour before the start of show at the box office at 53 Victoria Avenue (subject to availability). Online and telephone orders are available too. Tickets for this show are \$35. For more details please call The Station Theatre at 283-0300 or visit them at <smithsfallstheatre.com>. They are winding down their 2019 season, but are very excited to move into 2020, when they will be celebrating ten years



Lynn Miles brings her *Winter* concert to the Station Theatre in Smiths Falls on Friday, December 13

of entertaining in The Station Theatre with a variety of plays and music. The new roster of plays will be announced very soon, at which time passes will go on sale for the upcoming season. They look forward to entertaining you throughout 2020 and thank you for your support!

Gifts for Hosts & Hostesses

Tea towels, napkins, funky gadgets, cheese & more, Pêches & Poivre.....	\$7-30
Caramels with fleur de sel, Hummingbird Chocolate.....	\$20.99
Refillable 1-litre bottle in a seasonal flavour, Artizen Kombucha.....	\$15
Perth Soap products, Cashmere & Rose.....	\$10.95-19.95
KIN Chardonnay, Kin Vineyards.....	\$29.95
Reusable metal gift tag or metal photo coaster, The Silver Shingle.....	\$6-20
Christmas Block gift sets, The Killed Goat.....	\$21.95

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Preserving Wilderness for Today and the Future

At the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust, we believe that wilderness in our region is precious and that its protection is essential to the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Thanks to the help of our donors and volunteers, our eight properties (2,600 acres) are thriving.

This year, volunteer property managers and their teams maintained the properties, groomed trails and diligently monitored habitat health. More Blanding's turtles than ever were seen nesting on four properties, dozens of species of lichen were identified at cliffLAND, and sandhill cranes were spotted at Keddy Nature Sanctuary for the first time. Three of the properties were sites for entomological and botanical studies by several federal agencies, universities and non-governmental groups.

2020 brings fresh opportunities; we are currently considering four additional properties for protection. A host of new Discover the Wild nature walks, the spring and fall hikes at Blueberry Mountain, and the Festival of the Wild Child in August are already being planned to ensure that members and guests have rewarding experiences when visiting our properties.

As a volunteer-driven organization, MMLT receives no direct government funding, and we are eternally grateful to our donors and volunteers. Every donation and hour given is valued and makes a difference in the work we do for today and for future generations.

If you would like more information about the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust or how you can lend a hand by volunteering or making a donation, please visit <mmlt.ca> or call 253-2722.

— Carolyn Piche



Old Guardian of the Forest, Keddy Nature Sanctuary, by Simon Lunn

Gifts for Kids

Holiday ski or snowboard lessons, Mount Pakenham.....	\$99 & up
Their photo on a custom metal ornament or coaster, The Silver Shingle.....	\$28
Happy Face ukulele, Mississippi Mills Musicworks.....	\$35

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Solve the Mystery! Save Christmas!

So I've seen the November 24 rehearsal of *Who Stole Christmas from Mississippi Mills* and I can tell you this: Theodor Robert Geisel will chuckle in his grave to think we will see his creations on Almonte's Main Street. In fact, every last one of us MissMillians will be chuckling at Rob and Kris Riendeau's hilarious millennial repurposing of Geisel's original bad boys, namely, Thing One, Thing Two and the infamous Grinch channelling that wantonly destructive child we all carry within: the Cat in the Hat.

More than 60 years after Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, published *The Cat in the Hat* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, writer Rob Riendeau has written the almost-impossible: an even funnier Dr. Seuss aimed at boomers, gen a, b, c and x, y and z and every insta- and inter-person in between. Imagine Seuss on Red Bull writing for SNL and you'll have some idea of Rob's comedy.

This hour has 22 laughs a minute!

A great script is one thing, but bringing that script to life on stage is a whole other thing. And that's where Rob's creative and peripatetic purple-haired partner Kris comes into play. All I can say is Kris (and her hair) shines in her role as co-conspirator and hands-on director of Rob's comedic brilliance; she even joined the dancers on stage during the big heel-and-toe number to show them how it's done!

Then there's the cast — Noreen Young's puppets working hand-in-hand with humans wearing Ingrid Hamster's creations — and the behind-the-scenes movers and

shakers, a "who's who-ville" of Mississippi Mills, every one unveiling comedic talent most of us wouldn't have a clue about otherwise. For more about that, see Heather Phaneuf's rollicking article in the November issue of theHumm.

Believe it or not, the script is Rob's first attempt at writing comedy, springing *ex nihilo* out of thin air, taking both Rob and Kris by surprise with its chaotic hilarity.

"Rob's a very funny guy, but even I had no idea he could sit down and turn out a full-length script," explains Kris. "He did take a Learning in Almonte writing course called 'Good Idea to a Good Read,' which helped him get going with this project. And over the spring and summer we workshopped some of the early scenes with many of the actors who are in the show, so that helped with some of the character development. But mostly it was a truly hidden talent!"

True to the spirit of Geisel's times and iconoclasm (Geisel was a political cartoonist before he turned to kidlit) the irrepressible Riendeau One and Riendeau Two have married social commentary and political satire to create a mix bubbling over with ribald fun.

"This is the first show that Rob and I are producing all on our own with no outside funding," Kris tells me. "We are fronting all the costs and hoping we won't lose money, so we are relying on good ticket sales. The show is light-hearted and funny, but it's also our love letter to this community that we have called home for thirty years."



(l-r) Ed Lawrence, Noreen Young, Ed Lawrence, Margaret Duncan and Stephen Brathwaite join forces in *Who Stole Christmas from Mississippi Mills?*

Ed Lawrence (who plays a special role I've promised not to reveal and also adds his impressive baritone to the show) says, "I've been especially bowled over by the musicians. One third of the Arrogant Worms (the inimitable Mike McCormick), one half of the Ragged Flowers, and every one of the pitch-perfect Jingle Belles. They all make this show hum. This kind of talent should make the heart of our community grow two sizes bigger!"

Tove Hunding, cast member and a regular on the Almonte Town Hall stage, agrees. "It takes a community to support local talent and keep local live theatre alive. Our very own Jingle Belles singing Bonnie Vallentyne's wonderfully loony lyrics promote local businesses who in turn are generously supporting

United Way East Ontario. By supporting us, our audience is supporting those in need. Together, we're delivering Rob's and Kris's first on-stage 'baby,' a Christmas gift that will keep on giving!"

I've read the script and watched the cast live it on stage and I kid you not, if *Who Stole Christmas from Mississippi Mills* doesn't get you chuckling, then your funny bone must be at least two sizes too small.

"Bring a box of tissues," advises Ed. "You'll be laughing so hard you'll be crying."

But don't take our word for it. Marvin K. Mooney and the rest of you **will you please go now** and get your tickets before the Grinch stuffs every last one into his sack!
— Heather Atkinson

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Dates to Save in Perth (and Beyond!)

Grab your holiday calendar and a red or green pen, and make room for some or all of these upcoming events in Perth.

On Sunday, December 15, Artizen Kombucha will be holding a **Festive Kombucha Workshop** at their brewery at 12 Gore Street East. They will wear holiday sweaters, have sweet treats and a tea ceremony, and then delve into kombucha making with the participants. You can register and find out more at <artizenkombucha.ca>. And don't forget that Artizen shares space with the Perth Pie Company <perthpieco.ca>, so you can stock up on solid as well as liquid deliciousness while you're there!

The **Perth Citizens' Band** will be holding its annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 17 starting at 7:30PM. This year marks the 27th year of this event, which once again will be held at St. James'



Catch the Perth Citizen's Band on Tuesday, December 17

Anglican Church, at the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets in Perth. From the 1920s to 1940s the band played concerts during the holiday season, and the long-standing tradition of holding a Christmas Concert at the church was revived in 1993 by conductor Brian Tackaberry. The annual Christmas Concert will feature a variety of sacred and popular tunes familiar to guests of all ages, and this year's special guest will be Perth's Town Crier Brent McLaren. The program will also include a sing-along for the audience to join in on several carols and songs. Admission for the evening is \$5 per person or \$10 for families. For more information, visit <perthband.ca> or phone 256-4221.

And you know the date of New Year's Eve, but you should probably contact the **Perth Manor** right away to reserve your spot for their delectable six-course dinner, accompanied by the talented Valerie Leavitt on piano. Gather your friends to dine together and toast the dawning of 2020 with champagne at midnight! You can find out more and reserve your spot by visiting <perthmanor.com> or calling 264-0050 x2.

This next event isn't taking place in Perth, and it isn't happening until June, but we at theHumm

thought you would want to know well in advance about the 21st annual **Stratford Festival Tour!**

Heidi Stepanek and Peter Dixon from Perth's Academy for Musical Theatre invite everyone to register early to join them for three days of some of the best theatre in the world, luxury coach transportation, two nights' accommodation in the Arden Park Hotel, and special meet & greet with theatre professionals — an experience of a lifetime for all ages! This is a marvellous opportunity to have an exciting and rollicking time with other theatre-lovers, but this trip can sell out very quickly, so please register early to avoid disappointment. Find out all about it at <musictheatre.ca/stratford>.

There are a few more dates you're going to want to mark down in December, but you'll need to flip some pages: the **Ennis Sisters Christmas Show** takes place on December 13 (see page 23); Splash'N Boots bring **Jingle Boots — The Big Heart Holiday Show** to the Studio Theatre on December 21 (page 6); the musically lovely Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols takes place on the 22nd (page 9); and the very special Perth Community Christmas Day Dinner is at Code's Mill on December 25 (page 8). Happy December!



Gifts for Funky People

- "Donkey butt" pewter earrings, The Killed Goat\$19.50
- Inner Voice bangles, Crush Marketplace\$22
- Series pass to the 2019 season (4 concerts), Folkus Concert Series.....\$90
- "Cordova Negróni" by Jeremy Price, Sivarulrasa Gallery\$350
- Fairy outfits & fairy chairs, The Queen's Crafters.....\$20-50
- 2 oz .999 Silver Alien Head, Alliance Coin.....\$60

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A Dog's Life...

"Look closely and you will find that people are happy because they are grateful. The opposite of gratefulness is just taking everything for granted." — David Steindl-Rast

No matter the season, most every evening after dinner you'll find Peter and me hunched over PJ and Ellie like orangutans, patiently picking sharp brown burrs and little bits of sticks out of their tangled chests and tails, brushing

and digging a hole to China in the yard by the garage. There will come a time much sooner than either of us would like to admit or care to imagine when the living room rug will no longer smell like wet dog, the yard will be free of holes, and our hardwood floors and hand-knit sweaters will be depressingly void of muddy paw prints and tufts of yellow fur. That's how things go, much as we'd like it to be otherwise.

Until then, though, these two smiley, smelly golden dogs of ours will keep jolting us awake in the morning with a cold, wet nose to the face and a low woof-of-an invitation to join them outside where they will prance and leap like baby goats at the sight of the indifferent cows across the way and roll in the snow with all of the gusto of a kid on Christmas morning, grinding the smell of the ground and air and God-knows-what-else into the core of their being. It's like they are doing what they can to capture the moment before heading back inside for a cup of coffee (us), a bowl of kibble (them), and the tasks of the day.

A few hours later, they will look for and find Peter and me bleary-eyed and hunch-shouldered in front of our computer screens; a sight that prompts them to thump their tails and tug at our sleeves. They might ask us to wander next door to say "hello" to the neighbours (the ones with the roll-worthy garden), or toss the ball around for a bit, or even say "good-bye-for-now" to the geese as they fly low and honk loud overhead on their way out of town.



Sometimes, though, if we are very, very lucky, they will ask us to just sit quietly with them for a while so that we can see what they see — the ordinary, sacred stuff of life that is too easy to take for granted: angels stomping snow out of the clouds, the sound of the water meeting the sky, and the sheer joy of having a coat full of burrs, a carpet

smudged with dirt, and yellow tufts of fur floating in the air.

— Angie Arendt is the Director at Big Stone House: a Center for Courageous Living. PJ and Ellie can be found there, too. You can find them on Instagram: #yellowdogsofthebigstonehouse. Find out more at <bigstonehouse.ca>.

by Angie Arendt

pounds of black dirt out of their bellies, backs and butts — souvenirs from a day spent sniffing out chipmunks hiding in the woodpile, rolling in the neighbour's garden,



Gifts for Long Distance Friends

Smartwool socks , Vamos Outdoors	\$22 & up
Almonte coasters , The Kilted Goat.....	4/\$14.99
Donation in their name , United Way East Ontario	various



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See page 33 for great gifts for
PEOPLE WHO ARE STRESSED

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Celtic Spark in Arnprior

What can we give you in this busy season? How about a pause to really relax. An evening with no pressure, no stress, no expectations. Just come and enjoy a beautiful Yuletide concert with us, to celebrate the turning of the year in the ambiance of the Arnprior Public Library, when Heather Dale brings her moving "Celtic Spark" concert to town on Saturday, December 14.

The Heather Dale Band offers a mix of sweet, ethereal and joyful Renaissance music, mixed seamlessly with your favourite Celtic ballads. Music is performed in many different languages — Irish Gaelic, Welsh/Cymraeg, French, English, Latin, German and even the Native Canadian Huron/Wendat language — and performers use a wide variety of interesting instruments, from Medieval percussion and hammered dulcimer to the more familiar guitar, piano, fiddle and Irish flute.

Limited advance tickets are only \$15 and include refreshments. Purchase yours now at the Arnprior Library, 21 Madawaska Street, or online at <arnpriorlibrary.ca>. Tickets cost \$20 at the door. Come and find your own Celtic Spark this holiday season — we promise you'll leave smiling!

— Karen DeLuca



Warm up your holidays with The Heather Dale Bands "Celtic Spark" concert on December 14

Gifts for Parents

- "Christmas in Mariposa" by Jamie Lamb (20% off!), Mill Street Books.....\$15.96
- "People & Events" coin set from their year of birth, Alliance Coin..... \$15 & up
- Gift cards, Black Tartan Kitchen.....various
- Customizable family ornaments, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm..... \$10-22
- Premium ice grippers (free for folks 65 & older), Get A Grip..... \$25
- Gift certificates for personal training, Heritage Fitness..... Various
- Brandywine Maple tree, Home Hospice North Lanark.....\$85
- Woodstock chimes, Reid Gardens.....\$45 & up
- Gift certificate for walking food tour of Almonte or CP, The Good Food Tour....\$65
- Donation in their name, United Way East Ontario.....various

Orchard View

BY THE MISSISSIPPI
ALMONTE

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

SAT. DECEMBER 7TH 1:00-3:00PM

- Visit with Santa
Card Making Workshop &
Sleigh Rides
Fun Games
- Craft Bazaar
9:00am-3:00pm
- Food Bank
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and Town Homes

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219 Paterson Street, Almonte ON. Facebook/orchardviewmississippi



Almonte-based sculptors Dale Dunning, Sue Adams and Deborah Arnold (with gallery owner Sanjeev Sivarulrasa) are represented by Sivarulrasa Gallery, along with many other artists from across Canada

Anniversary Celebration at Sivarulrasa Gallery

Sivarulrasa Gallery is celebrating an important milestone in Almonte with an incredible 5th Anniversary Show that runs until December 29. The show was installed over a period of six days and fills all three exhibition spaces in the gallery with sculpture, paintings, drawings and photographic works by artists based in Almonte, Eastern Ontario, and across Canada. From its humble beginnings in the Thoburn Mill, the gallery expanded to its

present location at 34 Mill Street in 2016. "A small town like Almonte is a great place to launch a contemporary art gallery," notes owner Sanjeev Sivarulrasa. "There is a great vibe here and a true appreciation for the arts, and from here we are able to draw on local stars as well as talent from across the country". For more information about the gallery and the show, please visit <sivarulrasa.com>.

Gifts for Husbands

- Wine & Dine Wednesday (two 6-oz steaks & wine), Black Tartan\$69/couple
- 45-min therapeutic massage, Kim Narraway, RMT\$75
- Lanark Sheepskin slippers, in sizes up to 14, Riverguild Fine Crafts.....\$95
- "Moncton Yard, Small Version" by Eric Walker, Sivarulrasa Gallery\$750
- Gift certificate for walking food tour of Almonte or CP, The Good Food Tour....\$65
- Sports jerseys and memorabilia, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles\$5 & up
- Donation in their name, United Way East Ontariovarious

“Twas not long before Christmas”
 thought the family and spouse,
 we need greens, wreaths and
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Almonte in Concert

5 Soundsational Concerts for our 40th Season

Join us for another outstanding performance of our 2019-2020 series. Enjoy the intimate atmosphere at the acoustically-stellar Almonte Old Town Hall.

Concert 2 Home for the Holidays

- Jacqueline Woodley | soprano
- Yehonatan Berick | violin
- Frédéric Lacroix | piano

December 21 | Saturday | 7:30pm

Tickets	Adult	Student
Mini Series of 3 Concerts	\$ 96	\$ 38
Single Concert	\$ 35	\$ 15

Full details | Purchase tickets at almonteinconcert.com

See page 9 for great gifts for **FOOD LOVERS & COOKS**

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Fun Folkus Facts

Almonte's Folkus Concert Series presents four shows a season, and we're proud to be heading into our 19th year of great music. If you buy a season's pass, you get all four shows for the price of three. Plus you have the assurance of knowing you'll be getting in to all those great shows, as most sell out in advance.

People do get excited about the "name" acts, but for me the chance to see undiscovered talent on their way up is always a treat. We've been listening to great music on your behalf, and it's a thrill to share these acts with you. You can't hear their music in this article, but we hope you'll check out some of the videos on our website. Instead, here are a few things you may not already know about the artists coming this season:

- Ian Sherwood got his start as a saxophonist
- Evangeline Gentle is descended from the Codona circus family
- Campbell Woods has been a professional house painter
- Kate Weekes has been a professional dog musher
- The Pairs include a pair of twins
- A Leverage for Mountains includes a pair of Jeremys
- A member of The Space Between had her first appearance on our stage in a dance recital
- The Good Lovelies were supposed to play Folkus as a breakout group in 2010. They played a little show called *The Vinyl Café* instead. And the rest is history!



To recap our lineup: January 18 brings The Good Lovelies with special guests The Space Between; February 29 includes a leap day double bill with Campbell Woods and Kate Weekes; March 28 features Ian Sherwood with special guest Evangeline Gentle; and April 25 has another double bill with A Leverage for Mountains and The Pairs.

Season's passes are on sale at <folkusalmonte.com> and at Mill Street Books. Single tickets will go on sale the first week of January in the same places. The ticket packages make a beautiful gift — and include a matching envelope. Online orders received by December 12 will be sent to you by mail — Canada Post says they'll make it in time to fit in a stocking or under the tree. We hope to see you there!

— Sandy Irvin



Here's a fun fact: if you buy a Folkus season's pass, you get to see 4 shows (including Evangeline Gentle, above, and The Good Lovelies) for the price of 3

Gifts for Music Lovers

- Series pass to the 2019 season (4 concerts), Folkus Concert Series.....\$90
- Sheryl Crow's "Threads" on vinyl, Mill Street Books.....\$31.99
- Vinyl records, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles.....\$5-25
- Gift certificates, Mississippi Mills Musicworks \$25, 50 or 100

Gifts for Environmentalists

- Stainless steel storage containers with leak-proof seals, The Granary..... \$12-40
- Brandon Elm tree, Home Hospice North Lanark..... \$75
- Patagonia wear, Vamos Outdoors.....\$60 & up
- "Daniela" earrings: sterling silver and recycled glass, Kehla Design.....\$460

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WEEKEND IN MISSISSIPPI MILLS - DECEMBER 6th, 7th & 8th

Light up the Night

Downtown Almonte - Friday December 6th

Join us on Mill Street in Almonte for a wintery open air celebration featuring live music and a breathtaking fireworks display. Hosted by Tracey Prescott Brown with Jordan McIntosh, Alison Postma, Vicki Brittle, Voices of Praise and Cedar Hill Sunday School Choirs. We can't forget our extra special guests: the Christmas puppets, the Twinkle Fairies, the Snow Queen and of course Santa Claus himself!



Call 613-256-1077 for information

Pakenham Santa Claus Parade

Saturday December 7th

Our traditional Christmas parade leaves from the Stewart Community Centre parking lot at 1:00^{PM}



Sunday December 8th

Our parade of lights leaves from the Almonte Community Centre parking lot at 5:00^{PM}
Make sure your float is well lit! Music is encouraged!
Almonte Scouts will collect for the food bank along the route

Almonte Christmas Night Parade

Our 2019 Theme is "Parade of Christmas Trees" for both parades. Fill your float with outrageous, fun, & colourful Christmas Trees! Remember Almonte is a night parade so make sure they are well lit!

Holiday Happiness in Mississippi Mills!

Almonte and Pakenham really sparkle in December — and not just from twinkly festive lights. It's as if they pour all of their small-town heart and soul into filling the month with ways for friends and families to enjoy being together. Here are just some of the events that lead up to the holidays...

by Miss Mills

On Friday, December 6, you can share warm fuzzy feelings with a few thousand neighbours and friends at **Light Up the Night** — taking place from 7–10PM in downtown Almonte. Head down to Mill Street and be delighted by a variety of



Celebrate a "Kintail Country Christmas" on December 14 - fun for all ages!

performers providing open-air entertainment for all ages, not to mention glorious fireworks and a visit from Santa! This year's host is the delightful Tracey Prescott Brown, who will be joined by country recording artist Jordan McIntosh, the Rock the Arts Christmas puppets, and many other fine performers. Weather notwithstanding, this is one of the warmest and most welcoming events in the Valley.

Santa returns on Saturday, December 7 for the **Pakenham Santa Claus Parade**. Pack a thermos of hot chocolate and head downtown at 1PM for an old-fashioned festive parade (so good it goes around twice!), followed by hot chocolate, hot dogs and public skating at the arena. This year's theme is "Parade of Christmas Trees". Santa — and the trees — will be touring Almonte the very next evening in the **Almonte Christmas Night Parade**. It leaves the Community Centre at 5PM, and the Almonte Scouts will be collecting for the Food Bank along the route. For more details, call 256-1077.

This year's **Almonte Farmers' Market Holiday Market** takes place at the Almonte Community Centre on December 7 from 9AM to 2PM. All your favourite vendors (plus special invited guests) will be there to help with your holiday entertaining and gift-giving! You can expect to find delicious baked goods galore, some winter gems from the garden, all the accompaniments you'll need for your Christmas party platters, plus wonderful gifts from local artisans.

Then on Saturday, December 14 the highly anticipated **Kintail Country Christmas** is back for its 13th season. Family favourites such as arts and crafts, homemade snacks and the children's-only gift shop will make a return, along with stories by the fire, live music and pictures with Santa. Take advantage of the walking trails the site has to offer or hitch a ride on Santa's sleigh! Admission is just \$10 per vehicle, and you can find more details at <mvc.on.ca> or by calling Stephanie at 256-3610 x2.

Now if you happen to miss seeing Santa at any of the aforementioned events, you can catch him (and a wild, free-range Christmas tree, if you're lucky) at **Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm**. The jolly fellow will be there on December 1 and 8 (from 12–2PM) and on the 15th from 1–3PM.

On Sunday, December 15 the **Valley Voices Community Choir** cordially invites you to come warm up with beautiful music for the whole family. Their annual Christmas concert takes place at the Almonte United Church (106 Elgin Street) at 7PM. Choir members look forward to singing for you and telling Christmas stories. Tickets are available at Baker Bob's (\$10) or at the door (\$12).

Almonte in Concert invites you to come **Home for the Holidays** on Saturday, December 21. The acoustically magnificent



Country recording artist (and the Ottawa Valley's own) Jordan McIntosh will join host Tracey Prescott Brown at this year's Light Up the Night in Almonte on Friday, December 6

auditorium in the Almonte Old Town Hall will ring with the seasonal sounds of soprano Jacqueline Woodley, violinist Yehonatan Berick and pianist Frédéric Lacroix. This musical celebration of the holidays begins at 7:30PM, and will include sacred and secular works as well as famous Yuletide tunes. You can find more details at <almonteinconcert.com>.

Finally, on New Year's Eve you can head over to mighty **Mount Pakenham** for an afternoon of family fun and activities, with fireworks to boot (ski boot, that is). Enjoy live music with Skylar and Jerry Papousek from 5-9PM, with a New Year's Eve countdown and fireworks at 6PM.

What a wonderful month!

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Mississippi
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Thursday, December 12 | 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 13 | 7:30 p.m. | SOLD OUT

Saturday, December 14 | 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 15 | 2:00 p.m.

Tickets available online & in Almonte at:
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Mill Street Books | 52 Mill Street

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WhoStoleChristmasFromMM.COM

Giving the Gift of Real Estate

Buy Wild Land for your Friends and Relatives!

Starting to think about Christmas shopping? This year keep it simple — give the gift of life. Be the first person to give your friend or family member a home for a wild turtle, frog or songbird!

Here are three local initiatives where you can give the gift of land — and a fourth if you would like your gift to be somewhere warm with even more birds:

1. Help **Ontario Nature** buy a new nature reserve near Gananoque, Ontario. This reserve will protect rare species like Cerulean warblers, flooded jellyskin lichen and gray ratsnakes. And as a bonus, this land expands a corridor used by wolves and moose. The cost is \$375 for one acre, \$190 for half an acre <ontarionature.org/gananoque>.
2. Help the **Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust** protect wild land in perpetuity. MMLT is protecting wild land in eastern Ontario. Their properties provide wild places for species including Blanding's turtles, scarlet tanagers, gray tree frogs and flying squirrels. More properties will be added soon. The MMLT Sustainability Fund provides money to protect existing acreage, while the Land Acquisition Fund provides money for, well, land acquisition. Help them get started on a new property. If you have land you would like to see preserved in a wild state forever, consider getting in touch with MMLT and discussing a direct donation or an conservation easement on the property <mmlt.ca>.

3. Help the **Nature Conservancy of Canada** buy a new nature reserve in Prince Edward County on the north shore of Lake Ontario. This reserve at Ostrander Point will protect rare coastal habitats including alvars as well as nesting areas for whip-poor-wills and many migratory birds. The cost is \$184 for 1000 square feet <nature-conservancy.ca>.

4. Help the **Rainforest Trust** buy Montane Cloud Forest in South America. Expand the El Dorado nature reserve on the Caribbean shore of Columbia. It has large numbers of rare species including a small rodent called the Santa Marta Toro and the Santa Marta harlequin frog. Rainforest Trust protects land through designations, purchases and land titling to local conservation groups and indigenous communities. Every project is tailored to the needs of that site. Their cost is \$77 per acre <rainforesttrust.org>. This year give a wild home for a wild creature!

— Cathy Keddy



A beautiful Blanding's turtle suns itself on a warm spring day at Keddy Nature Sanctuary, protected in perpetuity by the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust (photo by C. Keddy)

**Can't Decide What to Give?
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Visit our website for one-stop shopping for friends and family this Christmas.

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Gifts for Gardeners

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Gift card, Reid Gardens.....	various
Hydroponic grow kit, Cashmere & Rose.....	\$24.95
Biofreeze Cold Therapy pain relief - roll-on or gel, Hands on Healing.....	\$21
"Spring Buds" earrings: sterling silver, gold, green garnets, Kehla Design.....	\$925
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Kanata Choral Society

Sing, My Soul of Christmas

The title of the upcoming Christmas concert by the Kanata Choral Society was influenced by the major work that was chosen for this performance; namely *The Magnificat* by Francesco Durante (1684-1755). This lovely work will be performed by the choir with Susan Lopez (soprano), Kati Eichelberger Auchinleck (alto), Yanik Gosselin (tenor) and Hyung Song (bass).

Under the direction of Scott Auchinleck, the choir will be accompanied by Jackie Morris and Lisa Taras on strings and by Eliana Kurilov de Castro on piano and organ.

Also on the programme are carols by Rutter, Willcocks, Gjeilo and Lauridsen, as well as lighter popular songs for this season. There will be also a chance for the audience to get into the spirit and to join in a sing-along. The event will be hosted by Marianne Wilkinson. There will be a Silent Auction (cash or cheque only) and a reception following the performance.

The concert will take place on Saturday December 14 at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 20 Young Road,



The Kanata Choral Society will perform with guest soloists and strings on December 14

Kanata, beginning at 7:30PM. Tickets are available by emailing <kanatachoralsociety@hotmail.com>, by phoning 592-1991, or at the door (adults \$20 at the door, \$18 in advance; seniors \$15; students 13 and up \$10; children are free).



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Just a reminder that the deadline for the January issue of *theHumm* is Friday, December 20

Gifts for Wives

- \$100 gift certificate for \$80, 8008 Lingerie**.....\$80
- Jewellery designs by Anne-Marie Chagnon & others, Bittersweet**..... \$30-300
- Thursday Date Night (shared app & dessert, 2 mains), Black Tartan**.....\$79/couple
- Freshwater pearl necklace, Cashmere & Rose**.....\$44
- Overnight B&B stay, including use of Spa facility, Circa 1894 B&B/Spa**..... \$160
- Barefoot Venus mustard bath, Foodsmiths**.....\$18.99
- Yoga membership, Heritage Fitness**.....\$69/month
- "Tiara" ring: sterling silver, 18k yellow gold and rubies, Kehla Design**.....\$1820
- 75-min therapeutic massage, Kim Narraway, RMT**.....\$115
- Artisan semiprecious stone and sterling silver necklaces, Strévé Design**....\$59-225
- Relaxation and Renewal workshop certificate, Surya Daya Yoga**.....\$55
- Wedding photo on custom metal Christmas tree ornament, Silver Shingle**.....\$28
- Gift certificate for walking food tour of Almonte or CP, The Good Food Tour**....\$65
- Donation in their name, United Way East Ontario**.....various

Book your Christmas Party!
Spots are filling up!

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Special Menu!
Reservations recommended.



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Purchase a \$50 Gift Certificate in December and receive a \$15 Gift Certificate to redeem in January, February and March 2020.
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CFUW Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour

Located at 177 Allan's Mill Road, the beautiful house above is a thoroughly modern home in a heritage setting. Next to the intriguing "ghost town" of Allan's Mill, the home is surrounded by a beautifully crafted sheep fence, and provides views of the open fields of Tay Valley. Built just four years ago, this elegant and spacious home was designed with attention to detail. Luxurious principal rooms are well suited to formal entertaining or intimate dinners. Eye-catching features include cathedral ceilings, oversize windows, a two-sided floor-to-ceiling fireplace, and a spacious state-of-the-art kitchen with custom cherry cabinets. Enjoy a drive by Allan's Mill on

the way, and imagine the bustling little town over a century ago!

This is just one of eight lovely homes all decorated for the festive season by local decorators and florists. It is a wonderful community-supported fundraising event, with proceeds going to the field of education through the CFUW Education Awards, libraries, literacy, art and music programs, in addition to other donations within the educational field.

Visit <cfuwperthanddistrict.wordpress.com> for full 2019 house tour details and a list of the ticket vendors — make a weekend of it and enjoy the beautiful homes!

Gifts for Lovers of Vintage Treasures

British Victorian large pennies, Alliance Coin..... \$1
Estate jewellery, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles..... various



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The Ennis Sisters will perform in Perth on December 13 as part of their annual Christmas tour. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Stewart Park Festival.

Ennis Sisters Set to Return to Perth

With the holiday season on its way, one of the area's favourite Christmas traditions is set to return to Perth.

On Friday, December 13, Newfoundland's Juno award-winning Ennis Sisters will take the stage as part of their annual Christmas tour. The sisters, Maureen, Karen and Teresa, deliver one of the finest family Christmas shows in the country and this show is sure to once again be a sell-out.

The trio combine original songs, holiday classics, humorous recitations and Irish step-dancing to create an evening that's sure to ignite the true holiday spirit. While their tightly-woven harmonies produce a sound that only siblings can achieve, the multi-award-winning sisters move audiences to laughter and tears with their hilarious banter and poignant seasonal sentiments.

The Ennis Sisters were born and raised on Irish Newfoundland tunes. Throughout their childhood, if their parents weren't making music, it was coming through the radio — particularly the Irish radio shows that aired on Saturday and Sunday mornings. There was no escaping the traditional music all around them. "When we first began singing for an audience, these were the songs we sang. It's what came easiest and most natural, and still does," says Karen.

Some say it's in their bones to sing, that their beautiful harmonies and powerful voices reflect the very strength of the Atlantic itself. "That's all we knew growing up," explains Maureen. "Newfoundland is a unique province, and because of this we have a different perspective of our surroundings."

With multiple accolades — a Juno Award, SOCAN Award and multiple East Coast Music Awards — the Ennis Sisters have proven themselves as gifted musicians. Maureen is a guitarist, Karen plays the tin whistle and flute, and Teresa plays the bodhran. Their Christmas tour has been an annual event for the sisters since their album *Christmas on Ennis Road* landed them their own Christmas special on CBC television.

Their 2018 album, *Keeping Time*, was produced by Alan Doyle of Great Big Sea. It was part homage and part celebration of life, honouring their father whom they had recently lost.

A portion of the proceeds from the Perth show will go towards Stewart Park Festival, a free community festival held each July in Perth. "It's a great feeling knowing we're helping to make a difference to communities across the province, especially this time of year," says Karen. "It's always amazing to see people come together in the true spirit of Christmas."

The Ennis Sisters Christmas Show will take place in Perth on December 13 at St. Paul's United Church, beginning at 7:30PM. The show is sponsored by Magenta Mortgage Investment Corporation. Tickets are \$35, taxes & fees included, and are available at <ticketsplease.ca>, the Visitor Centre at the Perth Museum, or by phoning 485-6434.

This show is a wonderful way to greet the holiday season, and a Christmas tradition you won't want to miss!

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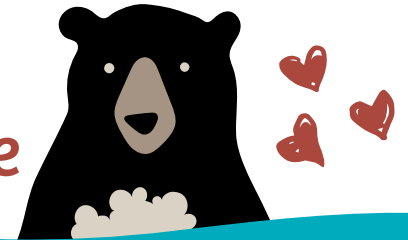
Gift certificates available at Carousel in downtown Carleton Place at 149 Bridge Street, open Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 5:00

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- Sewing machine aprons by Pat Reid, The Queen's Crafters.....\$8

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Photo by DeSo Photography

Light Up the Night

December 6, 2019, 7pm
Almonte

Celebrate 28 years of this iconic Christmas kick-off event. Join Tracey Prescott Brown & Friends and a crowd of several thousand people sharing the holiday spirit on Mill Street in the heart of Downtown Almonte.

lightupthenightalmonte.com

SANTA CLAUS PARADE

December 7, 2019, 1pm
Pakenham

Parade of Lights

December 8, 2019, 5pm
Almonte



FREE skating, hot dogs, hot chocolate and visits with Santa. This year's theme is Parade of Christmas Trees. Enjoy floats filled with colourful, themed or outrageous Christmas trees!

www.exploremississippimills.ca



December 12-15, 2019
Almonte

A hilarious holiday musical parody featuring CBC's Ed Lawrence, Mike McCormick from the Arrogant Worms, and a host of other talented puppets and people!

whostolechristmasfrommm.com

Kintail Country Christmas

December 14, 2019,
11am-3pm
Mill of Kintail



Visit the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area for music, crafts, stories, refreshments, Father Christmas and more!

Call 613-256-3610 x 2 for details. www.mvc.on.ca



Pakenham Frost Festival

January 2020
Pakenham

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www.exploremississippimills.ca

Mid-Winter Milling

February 22, 2019
Almonte



Explore the delightful shops and cafés along Mill Street in Downtown Almonte and sign up for some mini-treatments and self-awareness sessions. www.midwintermilling.ca

For more information, please contact The Mississippi Mills Recreation Department at 613-256-1077, info@mississippimills.ca or visit www.exploremississippimills.ca

'Tis the Season!

Over the past several months there have been many changes at the Lanark Highlands Public Library. We have several new staff members, including a new CEO, and with that a number of new developments.

Most notably is the reorganization of the library and its collections. We have improved access to the collection physically with a designated teen area as well as re-labelling with larger fonts and themed labels. Along with this are changes in our online catalog that improve the customer experience in locating materials.

by Amanda Robinson

We are very excited about the recent purchase of a new multi-function copier/printer. We can now print or photocopy in high-quality colour up to 11"x17" in size. You can even print to or from your phone or USB stick as well as scan directly to USB or email. In the future we will be offering banner printing (up to 42" in length). This is a great feature for anyone wanting banners for baby showers, fundraisers, anniversary parties, etc.

On display in December will be several wood-working projects created by Bob Mezzatesta. Bob spent 35 years in the construction/renovation business throughout Ontario. Upon retirement, wood-turning and other smaller wood projects became his new passion. He uses both local and exotic woods

to create bowls, pens, rings, cutting boards, pepper grinders and more. He is a member of the Ottawa Valley Woodturners and the American Association of Woodturners. If you are looking for local, hand-crafted items in time for the holidays, be sure to check out his collection.

Throughout the month of December we will have ongoing holiday-themed crafts and activities for children as well as two scheduled programs, described below.

Merry Grinchmas!

On Tuesday, December 17 from 6-8PM, come dressed in your Grinch-themed PJs (or any comfortable PJs) and join us for Grinch Christmas ball decorating while we watch Dr. Suess's *The Grinch* Christmas movie. There will be Christmas treats, popcorn and refreshments.

Library Holiday Party

Then on Saturday, December 21 come dressed in festive colours and join us from 11AM to 12:30PM for some cookie decorating, face painting, crafts, story time and a visit with Father Christmas.

Follow our Facebook page at Lanark Highlands Public Library for up-to-date news or visit us at 75 George Street in Lanark. You can also phone 259-3068 for information.

— Amanda Robinson is the CEO of the Lanark Highlands Public Library

Gifts for \$100 & Under

Tri-metallic "space shuttle" coin from Royal Canadian Mint, Alliance Coin.....	\$40
Series pass to the 2019 season (4 concerts), Folkus Concert Series.....	\$90
Fresh floral arrangement, Cashmere & Rose.....	\$65
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Winter Cleanse + Yoga workshop certificate (Jan. 10), Surya Daya Yoga.....	\$35

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Mississippi Mills Public Library

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— Mississippi Mills Public Library Board and staff

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David Taylor, Quilter

“Love What You Do and Be Willing to Learn”

David Taylor is a quilter, just a quilter. That’s what he calls himself... but when you look at his work and talk to those who learn from him, it’s clear he’s not “just a quilter.”

He’s fun, sharp, sarcastic (wickedly so), addresses everyone by “Sister”, is passionate about his job, and makes money by quilting.

Not many people do. Early on, quilting was not something he liked or even wanted to do. But when he found out how much quilts could sell for, he settled in, developed a unique David Taylor style, and quilting became his job.

The money, it seems, is well deserved — before he even finishes a quilt, it’s sold. He can’t keep his quilts, they go quickly. “They usually sell before I’m done with them... because I’m kind of popular,” he says, grinning unapologetically. “People love my work. I’ve done quite well... I must say,” he grins again, blue eyes snapping. This from a man who said he’d never hand-appliqué, but finds that’s all he does.

Ten women have come to his recent workshop in North Gower. They set up their machines, two to a station, and for five days listen, learn and appliqué. The workshop isn’t cheap — Taylor’s reputation is wide reaching — but not one hesitated when it came to paying, according to Lynn Mills, who invited Taylor to present the workshop. Once accepted, each quilter submitted a picture to Taylor. He blew

them up, large grayscale, and then began his magic; on each picture — some dogs, some birds, a cat, an owl — he drew shapes. The shapes matched the structure of the animal.

“I don’t draw by colour, I draw by the structure in the body of the bird or horse. I pat the horse, know how that horse feels. As you pet and follow the muscles and bones in the horse, that’s the way I draw the lines — by the way that feels to me. Then the viewer will know how it feels.”

Does he catch the bird or squirrel to pet it? He scoffs a bit. “Just the picture, sister! I can just pet that picture to know how that feels! I want to be that bird, know what he ate, where he’s going, what he’s doing. If I don’t know that, how’s the viewer going to know it? I know it because I know that little bird. That’s my story.”

Silence. He looks at you, making his point... and then emphasizes his point. “It’s more than art. It’s art to feel.”

Taylor is 56; he started sewing at eight and started making his own clothes at 10. He loves fabric, and urges his students to buy, buy, buy.

The first quilt he worked on sold at a charity auction for \$25,000; his inclination from that point



David Taylor’s quilts (like *Cock of the Walk*, above) often sell before he even finishes them

was to approach quilting from the business end... and he has. He calls his style “jigsaw puzzle appliqué” and his classes are pictorial appliqué classes.

The piecework the students in his workshop do is painstakingly small. One participant’s quilt has 310 pieces; others have 180 and 260 pieces. But Taylor has no doubt that the quilters will finish. “This is expensive. If they put the money in, they’ll finish it.”

Two other things Taylor is certain of: love what you do and be willing to learn, and you don’t have to know how to draw (but you have to want to).

Taylor will not be back in Canada for a while, but avid quilters might be able to find workshops in nearby States. Events and dates are on his website at <dauidtaylorquilts.com>.

— Sally Smith

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Gallery gift certificates, Sivarulrasa Gallery.....	\$100
Original paintings by local artists, Strévé Design.....	\$150-3900

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The Girl and the Prickly Green Bush

Once upon a time a young girl went out on a fine morning from the village of her parents, and grandparents, and the grandparents of her grandparents, and wandered into the rocky hills beyond the village, admiring the Sun and singing to the Chickadees. She was familiar with the nooks and crannies of the tumbling landscape, and she walked and walked, losing herself in the beauty of the late autumn landscape. But as morning became noon, and the afternoon grew longer, a mist seeped in and around her steps, cloaking her close in thick silvery gauze. Afternoon slid towards evening as she kept wandering this

by Susie Osler

way and that, now unable to see far ahead. Finally she stopped, finding herself alone atop a big bald Rock, no longer able to make out the landmarks around her.

The mist clutched ever closer. She shivered, anxious and cold. How would she find her way back home?



The Girl sat down upon the bald Rock to try to make a plan. Would anyone hear if she howled or screamed for help? She shouted out mightily, but the louder she cried the heavier the mist seemed to become — muffling her sounds like a thick felt blanket. Feeling panic creeping in, she began singing to herself in an attempt to lift her spirits and fend off her fears.

A soft rustling to her side startled her. Out of the mist emerged feathered apparitions. Grouse, first Mr. and then Mrs., fluffed and strutted their way slowly over to the Girl's side. "What, oh what, are *you*, creature? And *what* are you doing here in this land? We have not seen your kind before. But a sweet voice you have indeed!"

Taking heart that she now had some company, the Girl perked up. "I am a Girl. I walked out from my village this morning and am now lost and cold and can't find my way home in this mist."

"Well, Girl!", said Mr. Grouse, "perhaps we could all make some music together to pass the time until morning comes. Your lovely voice will complement our beats nicely!" And so, the three of them set about singing and thrumming and prancing around together in the thick, still, misty darkness.

But eventually, as Cold dropped down for the night to rest in his bed on the bald Rock, the Girl

began to shiver. "Mr and Mrs. Grouse", she said, "I have no feathers to keep me warm and cannot sleep out on this rock all night long or Cold will seep into my bones. What shall I do?"

"Come," said Mrs. Grouse. "There is room for us all under the prickly green bushes where we rest each night. It will be a fine place for you to sleep until the Sun rises again." And so, one by one, the Grouses carefully led the way down the face of the bald Rock to a swale. "This Bush will keep you covered from the mist and the cold. Her prickles will ward off the night creatures that lurk about, and the soft mattress of moss underneath her boughs will keep your bones from the cold Rock." And with that, they all nestled down into the moss, under the protective boughs of the prickly green Bush — the Grouses curling around the Girl, fluffing their downy feathers to keep her warm for the night.

And the Girl fell into a deep sleep. And dreamed. She dreamed of a great wall of ice that grew and grew until it began to slide across the Land, scouring and scaring away everything that had adorned it. And when at last many thousands of moons

had passed, the great wall of ice retreated, leaving in its wake a land of beaten, barren rock, rubble and water. The Rock, lonely and naked, rumbled out a moan that reverberated around the earth; calling to the winged beings, begging them to return with their songs and colours to help him paint the landscape back into being. And slowly they came, bearing gifts of spores, berries and seeds that they spilled onto Rock's ancient face, where they settled into his wrinkles and began to bring colour back to his grey face again.

The Girl awoke with a start to Raven croaking from a pine branch that stretched above her hideaway. Enchanted by his sounds the Girl took her leave from the Grouses, thanking them for their warm company as she rolled out from under their wings, and from under the prickly green

bush, into the bright morning sun.

Raven croaked, and chuckled, and gurgled. The Girl laughed, saying "Raven are you hungry? Your gurgle sounds like my belly!" Looking around for something to soften her hunger, she noticed a clutch of small blue berries on the branches of the prickly green Bush. "Oh Bush, would you mind if I took some of your berries to eat? I am lost, I have no food, and I am so very hungry!"

The branches swayed and nodded, reaching out to her and tickling her hand with their prickly green tips. "Yes, Girl, you may. But take only the darkest berries as they have had time to mature and are the sweetest. They will keep you grounded. Be careful to avoid my pointy needles though! They are prickly but they do protect my berries from greedy mouths. And, Girl... perhaps you could return the favour by taking a few berries from each of us, to drop into the wrinkles of Rock's face as you go along your journey?" The Girl agreed, thanked the Bush, and picked a pocket full of dark blue berries.

"Here you go Raven!" she offered, placing the berries on the rock close to her. "If you are hungry, please share these lovely berries with me. If you come down for some breakfast, I can admire your beautiful iridescent cloak and listen to your wild voice."

Raven cocked his head then preened a wing... looked down at the Girl... then preened his other wing... and then to the Girl's surprise, down Raven came.

Hopping forward, with one eye on her and the other on the berries, Raven plucked one and then another from the rock and swallowed them down his hatch with a shiver of neck feathers. "Raven, I am lost," said the Girl. "Can you, with your great perspective, tell me which way to turn to set me on my path once again?"

"I am sorry Girl, but I hear my mate calling me and I must join her. But take heart, you are not lost. Your feet are at home on Rock like my wings are at home in Air. Trust them to find your true home." And with that Raven swallowed a berry and croaked his way off into the sky until he was a distant speck.

The Girl began to eat the berries. They were pungent, spicy and *just* sweet enough to give her a bit of energy. Trusting her feet as Raven had advised she began to walk, moving from bush to bush, sustained by their berries. Along the way, she dropped to the ground and placed little berries into the wrinkles of old Rock's face as she'd promised the prickly green Bush. Gradually, her walking slowed, and slowed some more. And in time, her toes grew long and woody, spreading ever so slowly across the rocky land; and her arms became prickly green branches that protected families of Grouse, colonies of Moss, and the Rock itself from harsh weather. And over the years, in her weaving wake, the animals and trees and plants and birds grew up and thrived. And this is how Juniper found her way home.

For more on Juniper; follow @pineoakyarrow on Instagram

December Pub Listings

- The Cove** (Westport, 273-3636): Sun Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, 1-4PM
Nov 29 John Wilberforce, 6-9PM
Nov 30 Tony Silvestri Band, 7-11PM, buffet+show \$50
Dec 6 Jeff Callery, 6-9PM
Dec 13 Claudio Valentini: Sounds of the Holidays, 11:30AM-3PM
Dec 14 80s Euff feat. Pat Murphy, 7-11PM, trad. hol. buffet+show \$50
Dec 20 doubleBack feat. Shawn McCullough, 7-11PM, trad. hol. buffet+show \$50
Dec 21 Healy & Orr, 7-11PM, trad. hol. buffet+show \$45
Dec 27 Benni Vander, 6-9PM
Dec 28 Jazz w/Spencer Evans Trio, 8-10PM
Dec 31 New Year's Eve w/Turpin's Trail, 7PM holiday buffet, 9PM-1AM show, party firs, shot, \$60
- Almonte Lobby Bar** @Riverside Inn (Almonte, 461-2745):
Dec 1 Jazz w/The Brindled Cats, 7-10PM
Dec 3, 10, 17 Tue Music Trivia, 8PM
- Ashton Pub** (Ashton, 257-4423): Sun Open Mic, 2-5PM
- Bowie's** (Smiths Falls): Wed Trivia Night, 8-10PM; Thu Open Stage, 8-11PM; Fri New Music, \$5-10 sugg'd cover, 8-11PM
Nov 29 Little Nerves
Dec 6 Pat Johnson & Eric Widzinski
Dec 13 Mountain Head & Ken Workman
Dec 20 My Father's Son & Grumpy Old Men
Dec 22 Songwriter Series: Ambre McLean & Zachary Lucky, 8-11PM, \$20/\$15adv
- Carp Masonic Lodge**: Mon Carp Celtic Jam, 7-9PM
- Cheshire Cat** (Carp, 831-2183): Mon Trivia, 8-10PM
Dec 7 Me & Him, 8:30PM
- O'Reilly's Ale House** (Perth, 267-7994):
Nov 29 Blair Hogan, 8:30PM
Dec 20 Steve Stacey & the Stump Splitters, 8:45PM
Dec 27 The Godfrey's, 8:45PM
- Fiddleheads** (Perth, 267-1304): 8PM, Thu Open Mic w/Kevin Choffe
Dec 6 Ramblin' Valley Band
Dec 13 Henry Norwood
Dec 20 Loaded SixString
Dec 27 Morgan Ryder
- Golden Arrow Pub** (Perth, 267-4500): 9PM, Wed Karaoke (excl Dec 25)
Nov 29 Nolan Hubbard
- Juke Joint Soul Kitchen** (Carp, 470-8888): 7PM, Mon Open Mic w/Bill Martin
Dec 7 Emily Burgess & the Emburys
Dec 14 Tyree Lush & Dana Arrowsmith
Dec 21 Me & Him
Dec 28 Nelson Colt
- Lee Tavern** (Smiths Falls, 283-2266): 10PM
Dec 6 Poetic Justice Band
- Neat Coffee Shop** (Burnstown, 433-9960): 8PM
Dec 7 Jack DeKeyser, \$35
Dec 11, 12 MonkeyJunk, \$40
Dec 14 A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, \$15
Dec 20 LMJ — A Christmas Celebration, \$12.50
Dec 21 Jack Clemons, \$50
Dec 27 Brock Zeman, \$20
Dec 28 Comedy Night, \$25
- Ridge Rock Brewing Co.** (Carp, 470-2337): 8PM.
Nov 29, Dec 20 Valley Mountain
Nov 30 Jordan Debeau
Dec 7 John Mathieu
Dec 13 Eastbound of Bytown
Dec 14 Chris Strang
Dec 21 Zach Martin
- The Royal Oak** (Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, 2-5PM
Dec 1, 15, 29 APEX Jazz Band
Dec 8, 22 Magnolia Rhythm Kings
- The Swan at Carp** (Carp, 839-7926):
Dec 6 Steve Barrette Trio, jazz, 7-10PM
- Waterfront Gastropub** (CP, 257-5755):
Wed Open Jam 9PM; Thurs Karaoke 9PM;
Sun Blues w/Redneck Limousine 3-6PM
Dec 6 Mississippi Blues Society Jam, 8:30PM
Dec 31 New Year's Eve w/Redneck Limousine, 9PM-1AM

Claiming Column

Twelfth Night Wassail, McD Crnrs, Jan 4
Out of Sight, Out of Murder, Perth, Jan 16-26
 BOTR: Jack de Keyzer, Westport, Jan 17-18
 The Good Lovelies, Almonte, Jan 18
 Casino Night, Perth, Jan 25
 Inspired by Virtuosos, Almonte, Jan 26
 Bill Durst Band, Westport, Feb 21
 Mid-Winter Milling, Almonte, Feb 22
 Marion Bridge, Perth, Feb 27-Mar 8
 Wood & Weekes, Almonte, Feb 29
 Percussive Encounter, Almonte, Mar 7
 BOTR: David Gogo, Westport, Mar 20
 Ian Sherwood, Almonte, Mar 28
 BOTR: Miss Emily, Westport, Apr 17
 AiC: Beyond Borders, Almonte, Apr 18
 Tempting Providence, Perth, Apr 23-May 3
 A Leverage for Mountains & The Pairs, Almonte, Apr 25
 BOTR: David Vest, Westport, May 8
 This Year Next Year, Perth, May 28-Jun 7

Festivals

Pakenham Country Christmas, Nov 30, 10AM, Vendors, kids' stuff, Clausx2. Pakenham
Festival of Lights, Dec 6, 6PM, Fireworks! Crystal Palace, Perth
Light Up The Night, Dec 6, 7PM, Tracey Prescott Brown, music, fireworks. Downtown Almonte. 256-1077, lightupthenight-almonte.com. Free
Santa Claus Parade, Dec 7, 1PM. Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham. 256-1077, exploremississippimills.ca
Santa Claus Parade of Lights, Dec 7, 5PM. Downtown Perth. 264-0123
Almonte Night Parade, Dec 8, 5PM, w/food bank collection. Downtown Almonte. 256-1077, exploremississippimills.ca
Kintail Country Christmas, Dec 14, 11AM-3PM, Crafts, rides, Santa. Mill of Kintail, Almonte. 256-3610x2, mvc.on.ca. \$10 per vehicle

Literature

Charlotte Gray: Murdered Midas, Dec 1, 1:30PM, Meet the author. Almonte Old Town Hall. 256-9090, millstreetbooks.com. \$10; \$36 incl book
Book Signing: David Chernushenko, Dec 7, 1-3PM, New novel: *Burning Souls*. Arnprior Book Shop
Book Readings: Carson & Bassett, Dec 14, 1-4PM. Poetry & short stories. The Bookworm, Perth. 264-7257, bookworm-perth.com

Visual Arts

Vernissage & Fashion Show, Nov 30, 11AM-4PM, Exhibition: RED. Strévé Design, Perth. 267-0230
Vernissage: 5th Anniversary Show, Nov 30, 3-6PM, 22 Cdn artists. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. 256-8033, sivarulrasa.com
Artists' Xmas Sale, Dec 1 & 8, 11AM-4PM. Wood, fabric, furniture. 7 Thom St., Perth
\$100 & Under Sale, Dec 6 (2-8PM), Dec 7 (9AM-4PM), Dec 8 (11AM-4PM). St. Paul's Church, Carp. westcarletonartssociety.ca
Nick of Time Artisan Show, Dec 7, 10AM-3:30PM, Food bank donation welcome. McMartin House, Perth. sites.google.com/site/nickoftimeinperth
Open Studio: Living Stones, Dec 7, 10AM-4PM, 20% off John Schweighardt's sculptures. John Schweighardt Studio, Lanark. living-stonessculptures.ca
Carriageway Studios Open House, Dec 14, 11AM-4PM. 65 Mill St., Almonte
Lanark Co. Camera Club Mtg, Dec 17, 7-9PM, All skill levels. Rm 104. Algonquin College, Perth

WHAT'S ON IN

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

Fairview Manor Lobby presents Sarah Moffat's multi-media *Roots & Rhythm* [to Dec 9], and Meed Barnett's *MixedMEEDia* [from Dec 11]
 Heritage House Museum presents 38th annual Art Show & Sale <smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse> [to Dec 15]
 Lanark Highlands Public Library presents Bob Mezzatesta's woodworking <lanarklibrary.ca>
 Mississippi Valley Textile Museum presents *Spirit Seeds*, A celebration of Indigenous Beadwork <mvtm.ca> [to Dec 14]
 Perth Museum presents *Home for the Holidays* [except Dec 25-27]
 Sivarulrasa Gallery presents their 5th Anniversary Show <sivarulrasa.com> [to Dec 29]
 The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents Brian Ling [from Dec 2]

Cancer Support Group, Almonte
Carp Celtic Jam, Masonic Lodge
Open Mic w/Bill Martin, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen
Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club
Trivia Night, Cheshire Cat Pub
Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub
Hackberry Men's Shed, Carleton Place
Music Trivia, Almonte Lobby Bar
MVCA Open House re Floodplain, Carleton Place
Olde Time Bingo, Carleton Place
Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club
Town Singers Xmas Concert, Carleton Place
Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club
CP Hort: Potluck, Carleton Place
Karaoke, Golden Arrow
Meditation & Associated Processes, Perth
Men & Women of the Tay Concert, Perth
MVCA Open House re Floodplain, Pakenham
Open Jam w/Lanark County Revival, Waterfront Gastropub
Where Is My Mind Trivia Night, Bowie's
Writing for Kids, Almonte
Karaoke, Waterfront Gastropub
Little Red Riding Hood, Perth
Naismith Men's Shed, Almonte
Open Mic w/Kevin Choffe, Fiddleheads
Open Stage, Bowie's
Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood, Smiths Falls

Cancer Support Group, Almonte
Carp Celtic Jam, Masonic Lodge
Hackberry Men's Shed, Carleton Place
Open Mic w/Bill Martin, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen
Public Skating, Perth
Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club
Trivia Night, Cheshire Cat Pub
Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub
Music Trivia, Almonte Lobby Bar
Olde Time Bingo, Carleton Place
Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club
Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club
Karaoke, Golden Arrow
MonkeyJunk, Neat Coffee Shop
Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub
Where Is My Mind Trivia Night, Bowie's
Writing for Kids, Almonte
Board Game Night, Almonte
Karaoke, Waterfront Gastropub
Little Red Riding Hood, Perth
Men's Night Sip & Shop, Almonte
MonkeyJunk, Neat Coffee Shop
Naismith Men's Shed, Almonte
Open Mic w/Kevin Choffe, Fiddleheads
Open Stage, Bowie's
Toastmasters, Carleton Place
Who Stole Xmas from Mississippi Mills, Almonte

Cancer Support Group, Almonte
Carp Celtic Jam, Masonic Lodge
Open Mic w/Bill Martin, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen
Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club
Trivia Night, Cheshire Cat Pub
Breakfast & Bake Sale, Ashton
Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub
By-Donation Gift Wrapping, Almonte
Dr. Seuss's The Grinch & Crafts, Lanark
Hackberry Men's Shed, Carleton Place
Lanark Co. Camera Club Mtg, Perth
Music Trivia, Almonte Lobby Bar
Olde Time Bingo, Carleton Place
Perth Citizens' Band Xmas Concert
Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club
Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club
Karaoke, Golden Arrow
Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub
Scott Woods' Old Time Country Christmas, Smiths Falls
Where Is My Mind Trivia Night, Bowie's
Coffee: Brew It Right, Almonte
Community Meal, Almonte
Karaoke, Waterfront Gastropub
Naismith Men's Shed, Almonte
Open Mic w/Kevin Choffe, Fiddleheads
Open Stage, Bowie's
Perth Breast Cancer Support Group -Dinner

Carp Celtic Jam, Masonic Lodge
Hackberry Men's Shed, CP
Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge
Open Mic, Juke Joint
Trivia Night, Cheshire Cat
Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club
Cancer Support Group, Almonte
Open Mic, Juke Joint
Carp Celtic Jam, Masonic Lodge
Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge
Trivia Night, Cheshire Cat Pub
Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club
New Year's Eve Dinner/Music, Perth
New Year's Eve w/Turpin's Trail, The Cove
New Year's Celebrations, Everywhere!
Merry Christmas!
Perth Community Xmas Day Dinner
Open Mic w/Kevin Choffe, Fiddleheads
Open Stage, Bowie's

Chocolate Party, Nov 30, 10AM-3PM. Choc Alley Bistro, more. The Granary, Carleton Place. 257-5986, granary.com
Perth Farmers' Christmas Market, Dec 1, 10AM-3PM. Food items, gifts. Crystal Palace, Perth. perthfarmersmarket.ca
Carp Farmers' Christmas Market, Dec 6 (3-8PM), Dec 7 (8AM-2PM). Local produce & crafts. Carp Fairgrounds. 786-1010, carpfarmersmarket.ca
Almonte Farmers' Market Xmas Market, Dec 7, 9AM-2PM. Food, craft, gifts, hot food. Almonte Community Centre, Almonte. almontefarmersmarket.com.
Kombucha Workshop, Dec 15, 1-3PM. Tix: artizenkombucha.ca Artizen Kombucha, Perth. \$55
Coffee: Brew It Right, Dec 19, 7PM. Freshness, quality, brewing. Equator Coffee, Almonte. equator.ca. \$35

Lanark Laughs, Nov 29 & Dec. 27, 8:30-10PM. Stand-up comedy. Waterfront Gastropub, Carleton Place. facebook.com/LanarkLaughs/
Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood: Nov 29, Dec 5-6 at 7:30PM; Nov 30, Dec 1, 7-8 at 2PM. Panto. Station Theatre, SF smiths-fallstheatre.com, 283-0300. \$20/\$10
Little Red Riding Hood, Nov 29, Dec 5-6, 12-13 at 7:30PM; Nov 30, Dec 1, 7-8, 14-15 at 2PM. BarnDoor Prod'ns. Panto. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 267-1884. \$22; \$20 reserved
Auditions: Mamma Mia!, Dec 7, 9AM-4PM. Details: jsx4@rogers.com, 250-2803. Mitchell's Independent, Carleton Place. 250-2803, mississippimudds.ca
Adventure In Your Ear LIVE!, Dec 8, 7-8:30PM. Live scripted comedic series. Curious & Kind, Almonte. curiousandkind.ca. \$10

Who Stole Xmas from Mississippi Mills, Dec 12-14, 7:30PM; Dec 14-15, 2PM. Musical parody. Almonte Old Town Hall. whostolechristmasfrommm.com. \$28
The Man Who Invented Christmas, Dec 20, 7PM, Film. Studio Theatre, Perth. 267-7469, ticketsplease.ca. \$10 (\$12 adv)
Rag Bag Cabaret, Dec 28, 8PM, Tix: Mill St. Books, eventbrite.ca. Almonte Old Town Hall, Almonte. eventbrite.ca. \$35; \$25 adv
Deck the Small Halls, ontariosmallhalls.com
 Nov 29 Fortunate Ones, Almonte Old Town Hall, 7:30PM, \$30
 Dec 1 Fortunate Ones, Merrickville United, 3PM, \$30
 Dec 8 Coïg, St Andrew's United, Pakenham, 3PM, \$25
Goulbourn Male Chorus Xmas Concert, Nov 30, 2PM, "1st Lights of Xmas". Trinity Presbyterian Church, Carp. , goulbournmalechorus.com. \$15

The Algonquin Ensemble, Dec 1, 7:30PM. Almonte United Church, 612-0623, brownpapertickets.com. \$40; \$35 adv
Candlelight Advent Carol Service, Dec 1, 4PM. St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, Perth. 267-1163, stjamesperth.ca
Town Singers Xmas Concert, Dec 1 & 3, 7PM. All Nations Church, Carleton Place., cptownsingers.com. \$15
Men & Women of the Tay, Dec 4, 7:30PM. St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, Perth., musicofthetay.org. By donation
West Ottawa Ladies Chorus, Dec 6 7PM, Dec 7 2:30PM. St. Paul's Anglican Church, Kanata. westottawaladieschorus.ca. \$20
Trio Corvanto, Dec 7, 7PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. mera-schoolhouse.org. \$27.50
Sing-in the Season, Dec 8, 2PM. CP Community Band w/Ian Guenette. Zion-Memorial United Church, Carleton Place
BOTR: MonkeyJunk, Dec 13, 7-11PM. Blues on the Rideau. The Cove, Westport. blues-ontherideau.ca. \$70 buffet/show/dancing

DECEMBER 2019

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Lectures: Media Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub Fortunate Ones, Almonte Old Town Hall Henry Norwood, Fiddleheads John Wilberforce, The Cove Julian Taylor Band, Neat Coffee Shop Lanark Laughs, Carleton Place Little Nerves, Bowie's Little Red Riding Hood, Perth Nolan Hubbard, Golden Arrow Public Skating, Perth Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood, Smiths Falls Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Valley Mountain, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carp Farmers' Christmas Market Festival of Lights, Perth Jeff Callery, The Cove Light Up The Night, Almonte Little Red Riding Hood, Perth Mississippi Blues Society, Waterfront Gastropub Pat Johnson & Eric Widzinski, Bowie's Poetic Justice Band, Lee Tavern Ramblin' Valley Band, Fiddleheads Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood, Smiths Falls Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp WCAS's Xmas \$100 & Under Sale, Carp West Ottawa Ladies Chorus, Kanata 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOTR: MonkeyJunk, Westport Claudio Valentini: Sounds of the Holidays, The Cove Eastbound of Bytown, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. Ennis Sisters Xmas Show, Perth Henry Norwood, Fiddleheads Little Red Riding Hood, Perth Lynn Miles, Smiths Falls Mountain Head & Ken Workman, Bowie's Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Who Stole Xmas from Mississippi Mills, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> doubleBack feat. Shawn McCullough, The Cove Holiday Open Mic, Almonte LMJ - A Christmas Celebration, Neat Coffee Shop Loaded SixString, Fiddleheads My Father's Son & Grumpy Old Men, Bowie's Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Steve Stacey & the Stump Splitters, O'Reilly's Pub The Man Who Invented Christmas, Perth Valley Mountain, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benni Vander, The Cove Brock Zeman, Neat Coffee Shop Lanark Laughs, Carleton Place Live Music in the Lounge, Pakenham Morgan Ryder, Fiddleheads The Godfrey's, O'Reilly's Pub 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pakenham Country Christmas Beckwith Christmas Craft Show Chocolate Party, Carleton Place Christmas in the Rideau Craft Sale, Smiths Falls Festival of Good Cheer, Perth Goulbourn Male Chorus Xmas Concert, Carp Indigenous Artists Fundraiser, Almonte Jordan Debeau, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. Little Red Riding Hood, Perth Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood, Smiths Falls St. Andrews Day Party, Carleton Place Tony Silvestri Band, The Cove Trivia Night for the Riverwalk, Almonte Vernissage & Fashion Show, Perth Vernissage: 5th Anniversary Show, Almonte Matt Dickson, Golden Arrow Funk Yeah!, Bowie's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Village, Almonte Little Red Riding Hood, Perth Almonte & Carp Farmers' Xmas Markets Auditions: Mamma Mia!, Carleton Place Book Signing: David Chernushenko, Arnprior Christmas on the Clyde Craft Sale, Lanark Emily Burgess & the Emburys, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen Christmas House Tours, Perth & Carleton Place Jack DeKeyser, Neat Coffee Shop Nick of Time Artisan Show, Perth Open Studio: Living Stones, Lanark Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood, Smiths Falls Santa Claus Parade, Pakenham & Perth Trio Corvencano, McDonalds Corners WCAS's Xmas \$100 & Under Sale, Carp West Ottawa Ladies Chorus, Kanata 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80s Enuff feat. Pat Murphy, The Cove A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Neat ABBA Tribute, SF Book Readings: Carson & Bassett, Perth Celtic Spark: Heather Dale Band, Arnprior Chris Strang, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. Jon Van Wingerden, CC's on the Rideau Kanata Choral Society Concert, Kanata Kintail Country Christmas, Almonte Lanark Co. Genealogical Potluck, Beckwith Little Red Riding Hood, Perth Smiths Falls Christmas Market Carriageway Studios Open House, Almonte Tyree Lush & Dana Arrowsmith, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen Who Stole Xmas from Mississippi Mills, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AiC: Home for the Holidays, Almonte Healy & Orr, The Cove Jack Clemons, Neat Coffee Shop Jingle Boots: Big Heart Holiday Show, Perth Library Holiday Party, Lanark Me & Him, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen Public Skating, Perth Zach Martin, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comedy Night, Neat Coffee Shop End-of-a-Decade Jazz w/Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove Nelson Colt, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen Public Skating, Perth Rag Bag Cabaret, Almonte 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APEX Jazz Band, Royal Oak Coins & Strings, Almonte Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub The Algonquin Ensemble, Almonte Candlelight Advent Carol Service, Perth Charlotte Gray: Murdered Midas, Almonte Fortunate Ones, Merrickville United Church Indonesian Batik & More, Perth Little Red Riding Hood, Perth Meet Santa!, Pakenham Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Perth Farmers' Christmas Market Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood, Smiths Falls The Biggest Little Christmas Market, Lanark The Brindled Cats, Almonte Lobby Bar Town Singers Xmas Concert, Carleton Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists' Xmas Sale, Perth Adventure In Your Ear LIVE!, Almonte Almonte Night Parade Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Coig, St. Andrew's United Church Children's Christmas Gift Shop, Lanark Children's Shopping Day, Almonte Christmas House Tours, Perth & Carleton Place Little Red Riding Hood, Perth Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Meet Santa!, Pakenham Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood, Smiths Falls Sing-in the Season, Carleton Place WCAS's Xmas \$100 & Under Sale, Carp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who Stole Xmas from Mississippi Mills, Almonte Valley Voices Christmas Concert, Almonte APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Kombucha Workshop, Perth Little Red Riding Hood, Perth Meet Santa!, Pakenham MERA Christmas Party, McDonalds Corners Old Time Christmas Concert, potluck, Lanark Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Public Skating, Perth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Christmas Music Sunday, Pakenham Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, Perth Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Public Skating, Perth Songwriter Series: Ambre Mclean & Zachary Lucky, Bowie's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Public Skating, Perth Trad Song Pub Session, Almonte 	

Public Skating, Dec 1, 9, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29. Perth Arena

Hackberry Men's Shed: Dec 3, 17, 31, 7:30AM, breakfast, Gourmet Restaurant, CP; Dec 9, 23, 7PM, meeting, Shed opposite 98 Donald St., CP. 461-0013. Mtgs free

MVCA Open House re Floodplain, Dec 3, 4:30-7PM. 10970 Hwy 7, CP; Dec 4, 4:30-7PM at Stewart Community Ctr, Pakenham

Naismith Men's Shed: Dec 5, 19, 8AM, breakfast, Superior Restaurant, Almonte; Dec 12, 9AM, meeting, Mill of Kintail gatehouse. 461-0013. Mtgs free

Almonte Lectures: Media, Nov 29, 7:30PM. Edith Cody-Rice & Brent Eades. Almonte United Church. almontelecures.net. free

Beckwith Christmas Craft Show, Nov 30, 10AM-3PM. 60+ exhibitors, cafe. Beckwith Recreational Complex. 435-8929

Christmas in the Rideau Craft Sale, Nov 30, 9AM-1PM. Fundraiser. Gallipeau Centre, Smiths Falls. 978-0447

Festival of Good Cheer, Nov 30, 10AM-5PM, Swag bag. Crystal Palace, Perth

Indigenous Artists Fundraiser, Nov 30, 5:30PM. For Odawa Native Friendship Ctr. Curious & Kind, Almonte. curiousandkind.ca

St. Andrews Day Party, Nov 30, 1-3PM. Carleton Place & Beckwith Heritage Museum, Carleton Place. 253-7013

Trivia Night for the Riverwalk, Nov 30, 7PM. w/Julian. Almonte Old Town Hall

Coins & Strings, Dec 1, 3-6PM. From Away & error coins. Alliance Coin & Banknote, Almonte. 256-6785. alliancecoin.com

The Biggest Little Christmas Market, Dec 1, 9AM-4PM. 25+ vendors, photo w/ Santa. Foy Hall, Lanark. free admission

CP Hort: Potluck, Dec 4, 6PM. Zion-Memorial United Church, Carleton Place. 257-4101. \$3 entry; \$10 annual

Meditation & Associated Processes, Dec 4, 1:30-3PM. Perth Library, Perth. 225-4675. By donation

Christmas on the Clyde Craft Sale, Dec 7, 10AM-3PM. Canteen & bar too. Lanark & District Civitan Club, Lanark. 285-6184

Christmas Village, Dec 7, 9AM-3PM. Artisans, 1-3PM Santa & sleigh rides. Orchard View, Almonte

Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour, Dec 7-8, 10AM-3:30PM. 8 homes. facebook.com/heritageperthchristmashousetour

Xmas in CP House Tour, Dec 7, 3-9PM; Dec 8, 10AM-4PM. Tour decorated homes. CP, Carleton Place. 257-9717. \$25

Board Game Night, Dec 12, 5:30-7:30PM. All ages. Almonte Library. missmilllibrary.com

Men's Night Sip & Shop, Dec 12, 4-8PM. With cocktails by Dairy Distillery. Judy Joannou Designs, Almonte. judyjoannoudesigns.ca

Toastmasters, Dec 12, 7-8:30PM. Riverview Seniors' Residence, Carleton Place. 250-9282

Lanark Co. Genealogical Potluck, Dec 14, 12:30PM. Lunch & speakers. All welcome. Brunton Hall, Beckwith. Free

Smiths Falls Christmas Market, Dec 14, 5-9PM. Games, entertainment. Settlers Ridge Centre, Smiths Falls. smithsfalls.ca

MERA Christmas Party, Dec 15, 3-5PM. Snacks, crafts, Santa. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners

Old Time Christmas Concert & potluck, Dec 15, 2:30PM. Foy Hall, Lanark. By donation

Breakfast & Bake Sale, Dec 17, 8AM-12PM. Breakfast by donation. Ashton United Church, Ashton

By-Donation Gift Wrapping, Dec 17, 4-6PM. No set price. Mississippi Mills Youth Centre, Almonte. 256-5959

Community Meal, Dec 19, 5-7PM. Register: 256-5959. Mississippi Mills Youth Centre, Almonte. 256-5959

Perth Breast Cancer Support Group, Dec 19, 5:30PM. Monthly mtg. Michael's Table, Perth. 812-4474

Perth Community Xmas Day Dinner, Dec 25, 12PM. Turkey dinner with trimmings. Code's Mill, Perth. 326-8365. perthcommunitychristmasdaydinner.org. Free

New Year's Eve Family Fun & Fireworks, Dec 31, 4PM crafts/activities, 5-9PM music, 6PM fireworks. Mount Pakenham. 624-5290, mountpakenham.com

Ennis Sisters Xmas Show, Dec 13, 7:30PM. St. Paul's United Church, Perth. 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca. \$35

Lynn Miles, Dec 13, 8PM, with the Crusty Mittens Strings. smithsfallstheatre.com, Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$35

ABBA Tribute, Dec 14, 8PM. ABBA Revisited. Gallipeau Centre, Smiths Falls. 284-9916, gallipeaucentretheatre.com. \$39.50

Celtic Spark: Heather Dale Band, Dec 14, 7:30PM. Celtic music. Arnprior Library. arnpriorlibrary.ca. \$20; \$15 adv

Kanata Choral Society Concert, Dec 14, 7:30PM. St. Paul's Anglican Church, Kanata. kanatachoralsociety.ca

Valley Voices Christmas Concert, Dec 15, 7PM. Almonte United Church. \$12 at door, \$10 from Baker Bob's

Perth Citizens' Band Xmas Concert, Dec 17, 7:30PM. St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, Perth. perthband.ca. \$5

Scott Woods' Old Time Country Christmas, Dec 18, 7PM. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Smiths Falls. \$30

Holiday Open Mic, Dec 20, 6-8:30PM. Xmas-themed music. All ages. Equator Coffee, Almonte. mmmusicworks.com. Free

AiC: Home for the Holidays, Dec 21, 7:30PM. Almonte in Concert. almonteinconcert.com. Almonte Old Town Hall

Christmas Music Sunday, Dec 22, 11AM. Carols instead of sermon. St. Andrew's United Church, Pakenham

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, Dec 22, 7:30PM. St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, Perth. 267-1163, stjamesperth.ca

Live Music in the Lounge, Dec 27, 6-9PM. Mount Pakenham. 624-5290, mountpakenham.com

Trad Song Pub Session, Dec 29, 2-4PM. Anyone can lead. Barley Mow, Almonte. www.shantyman.ca/almonte-trad-songs

New Year's Eve Dinner/Music, Dec 31, 8PM-12:30AM. Ltd seating. Perth Manor. 264-0050x2, perthmanor.com. \$85

New Year's Eve w/Canada Rockz, Dec 31, 7:30PM. Farrell Hall, Perth. 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca/NYE.html

Pub Crawling p.27

Youth

Meet Santa!, Dec 1, 8, 12-2PM; Dec 15, 1-3PM. & cut a tree/shop. Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm, Pakenham. 256-3029, cedarhillchristmastreefarm.com

Writing for Kids, Dec 4 & 11, 4:15-5:30PM. Child-led workshop. Curious & Kind, Almonte. curiousandkind.ca

Children's Christmas Gift Shop, Dec 8, 10AM-4PM. Used items. Foy Hall, Lanark

Children's Shopping Day, Dec 8, 10AM-1PM. Ages 13 & under choose gifts under \$2. The Hub, Almonte. facebook.com/TheHubAlmonte

The Christmas Palace, Dec 14, 10AM-12PM. Photos w/Santa, while Perth school choirs perform. Crystal Palace, Perth. perth.ca

Dr. Seuss's The Grinch & Crafts, Dec 17, 6-8PM. Wear pjs, watch film, decorate ball. Lanark Library, Lanark. 259-3068

Jingle Boots: Big Heart Holiday Show, Dec 21, 1PM & 4PM. Dress festive! Studio Theatre, Perth. 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca. \$24.50-\$43.50

Library Holiday Party, Dec 21, 11AM-12:30PM. Xmas crafts & Father Xmas. Lanark Library, Lanark. 259-3068

Community

Cancer Support Group, Mon 10-11AM (except Dec 23). Patients & survivors. Almonte Library. 726-8040. Free

SF Bridge Club, Mon 7PM, Tue 1PM. 256-4747. SF Legion

Olde Time Bingo, Tue 7PM. Held by CP Civitans in CP Arena upper hall

Almonte Bridge Club, Wed 7PM (not Dec 25, Jan 1). 256-4747. Almonte Legion

Scottish Country Dancing, Fri, 9:30AM. All levels. McMartin House, Perth. 264-2767

Indonesian Batik & More, Dec 1, 7-8, 10AM-6PM. 5% sales to The Table. 5 Burchell Blvd., Perth

A Puppy for Christmas

"Ah", you think, "she's going to write about getting a puppy from Santa, how cute it was with its little red bow, how it played in the gift wrap, and snuggled with the toys." No, she's not!

We are living in chaos most of the time, with doggy toys scattered everywhere, and no end in sight for any sort of home décor that resembles *House and Garden*. Not only that, little Miss Diva is an escape artist whose idea of spending time in her crate consists of working the zipper loose and getting out as soon as possible. It's supposed to be a restful spot for her, since we know dogs need eighteen hours of sleep and rest daily. She is surviving on less than ten, and we are hardly surviving at all!

by Glenda Jones

So here comes December, and I fear for our Christmas decorations. We endured the cat climbing the tree last year and didn't place any ornaments on the lower branches; however, except for sleeping peacefully there, she caused no further trouble. But two Sheltie puppies can cause no end of damage in very short order. One swift run through the house and papers go flying and furniture can be overturned. Our door mats are always scrunched at the entrances, a lovely welcome for anyone.

I decided to put up the decorations slowly, one a day, so as not to arouse suspicion. I managed to get the countertop centerpiece in place, and that lasted all of four hours. The cat discovered the feathers in it and gnawed on them until they were bedraggled and garbage fodder. There had been little bells tucked into the centerpiece, but those were knocked down for the dogs to chase. All fun and games, until I found one chewed to a flat disk. At least the puppies didn't swallow them. So the centerpiece is now minus the feathers, minus the bells, and not looking as pretty as it should.

There should be greenery on the coffee table, but I eschewed that in favour a basket of tiny teddy bears. Yes, they do look like dog toys,

No, they aren't... but they are now, I guess. Saves me having to buy new toys for presents, right?

Diva is a barking crazy dog when new things appear. She is the pro of Sheltie spins, a feat you'd have to see to believe. When we started to assemble the Christmas tree she threw herself into a frenzy that defied description, grabbing the branches, hurling



Nope — this isn't a cool PhotoShop effect — she's just blurry due to constantly being in motion!

herself into the decorations, and doing her best to undo everything we were trying to accomplish. Once the tree was up, she stood back like she'd orchestrated the whole affair. We, on the other hand, began to question our sanity in even trying to put up the tree.

Will the tree survive the season of mirth and merriment, or will it fall victim to mayhem at puppy playtime? Diva's choice diversion is to chase the cat. Can you see where this is going? Cat up the tree; Diva hauling it over; Brandi helping; Bonnie, wise dog she is, watching in disgust. What do we do with the menagerie if we're leaving them alone for any length of time? We're considering putting the tree

in the dog's X-pen. It won't win us a place on the house tour, but it might be safer that way.

Out of respect for visitors, we're dutifully training the puppies to keep their noses out of food left on the low table: the expensive cheese, the home-made crackers. It is so uncouth when company comes to have a dog helping itself before guests are served. It's probably the reason we don't entertain people who don't own dogs themselves. So far, we've lost an excellent piece of cheese and some very good shortbread. The dogs never go for the carrot sticks, and blessedly leave the olives alone. Diva, however, would love to sample the wine if she could. Ah yes, a puppy around at Christmas is eye-popping!

The outdoor lights have also caused major concern for Diva. The first time she saw them, she attacked the back door as if they were a hundred little eyes coming after her. We thought that would only happen once, but no, every time she looks out there, she's off again to defend the troops from the invading hordes, whatever they are.

Maybe by next year all this silliness will have disappeared and we will have a normal Sheltie like the other two. But for this year, we have a crazed little Dervish who can't get enough of the Christmas spirit. No five-year-old begging for a magic toy could be as eager and excited as Diva is. So we're just going to enjoy all these puppy antics — "she said with trepidation" — and remember that these three dogs that light up our life are family too.

Do you want a puppy at Christmas? I'm thinking likely not. And if in your moment of folly you tumble into the puppy trap, come on over and meet ours first. Rationality will surface, and you'll wait for spring.

I wish you all a snow-covered, dazzling Christmas with family, kids and pets. However if you also have a puppy in your midst, I will add that I wish you one extra glass of wine to soothe the angst.

 *Sing, My Soul of Christmas*
The Kanata Choral Society
 with instrumentalists and soloists
 Scott Auchinleck, conductor

Celebrate the great music of Christmas, the **Magnificat by Francesco Durante** and other favourites by **Gjeilo, Lauridsen, Rutter, Willcocks** and others, annual sing-a-long and silent auction

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 7:30 pm
St. Paul's Anglican Church
20 Young Road, Kanata

For information email kanatachoralsociety@hotmail.com or visit www.kanatachoralsociety.ca

Gifts for Animal Lovers

Dog & cat Christmas stockings, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm..... \$18
Chandler Swain's animal-decorated pottery, General Fine Craft..... \$55-475
Cat paraphernalia galore (some for dog lovers too), Pêches & Poivre..... \$7 & up
Adorable stuffed cats by Jacquelin Spark, Riverguild Fine Crafts..... \$25-40
Metal animal tracking tool of local animal tracks, The Silver Shingle..... \$15

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Every Sun. **Wings 'n Tunes + Open Mic** with **Shawn McCullough** 1-4
 Fri. Dec.6 **Jeff Callery** (Folk/Rock/Country, Brockville) 6-9 Traditional Holiday Buffet Available!
 Fri. Dec.13 **Claudio Valentini**: Sounds of the Holidays (Classical Guitar, Ardoch) 11:30-3
 Blues on the Rideau with **MonkeyJunk** (Ottawa) 7-11, \$70 + HST Buffet + Show
 Sat. Dec.14 **80s Enuff** feat. Pat Murphy (The Best in 80s Music! Kingston) 7-11 \$50 with Traditional Holiday Buffet + Show
 Fri. Dec.20 **doubleBack** feat. **Shawn McCullough** (The Best in Country! Westport/Ottawa/Perth) 7-11 \$50 Traditional Holiday Buffet + Show
 Sat. Dec.21 **Healy & Orr** (The Best in Classic Rock & Country! Brockville) 7-11 \$45 Traditional Holiday Buffet + Show
 Fri. Dec.27 **Benni Vander** (Classic Rock Keys, Picton) 6-9
 Sat. Dec.28 End of a Decade **Jazz Night!!!** feat. **Spencer Evans Trio** (Every style of music that you can think of! Westport/Kingston) 8-10
 Tue. Dec.31 **New Year's Eve** with **Turpin's Trail** (The Best in East Coast/Celtic Folk, Kingston) 7-9 Buffet, Show 9-1AM \$60 + HST Holiday Buffet, Party Favours, + Shot

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One Artful Weekend...

If you take a look at the calendar spread in this issue, you may find it a wee bit difficult to make out all of the listings on December 6, 7 and 8. There is so much going on that we thought we would include a round-up of some of the many art shows and tours taking place that weekend. Here they be!

The West Carleton Arts Society's **\$100 and Under Show and Sale** brings together more than 25 local artists and artisans at St. Paul's United Church in Carp, from Friday, December 6 to Sunday the 8th. You'll find handmade, reasonably priced gifts and free admission! Find out more at <westcarletonartsociety.ca>.

Stone sculptor John Schweighardt will host the **Living Stones Christmas Sale** on December 7 from 10AM to 4PM at his studio situated just northwest of the



Don't miss the Nick of Time show (above), the \$100 & Under sale (at left), and the Living Stones open studio — all in early December!



village of Lanark. A renovated century-old log horse stable, it will be open for one day only as he offers his customers 20% off any stone sculpture they purchase that day, as well as delicious refreshments. Find details and directions at <livingstonessculptures.ca>.

Perth's longstanding **Nick of Time** artisan show is also taking place on Saturday, December 7 from 10AM to 3:30PM in the historic McMartin House, located at 125 Gore Street East. This juried show features a wide variety of media (including chocolate!) and supports both The Table and the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Admission is free, and you can find details at <facebook.com/nickoftimePerth/>.

Handmade Gifts

- Beadstacker silver earrings with interchangeable beads, Judy Joannou.....\$36
- "Grinch Feet" Christmas ornaments/name tags, MonSky Creations.....\$25 & up
- Shawls, scarves, table runners by Weavers' Unlimited, MVTM Gift Shop.....\$80-200
- Stunning silk or wool scarf, Strévé Design.....\$60-79
- L'atelier weaving studio tissage woven scarves, Carriageway Studios.....\$65-145
- Silk batik scarves by Anne Suzuki, Bittersweet.....\$50-60

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See page 4 for great gifts for **HOSTS & HOSTESSES**

My Christmas List

- Housing programs for at-risk youth to address homelessness
- 24/7 crisis lines that offer immediate emotional support and coping strategies
- Services for local seniors aimed at reducing loneliness and isolation
- increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities and promote inclusive and accessible workplaces

Help to build strong, healthy, safe communities for all in Prescott-Russell, Ottawa, Lanark County and Renfrew County by giving to United Way East Ontario this season.

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Museums, Markets & Music in Smiths Falls

December is the time of year for goodwill, good cheer and good books, delicious hot chocolate and brisk walks in the wintery air — and maybe some Christmas spirit too. It's also the only month when it's ostensibly acceptable to put reindeer antlers on your dog, or to adorn your cat in a Santa hat and scarf. There is, indeed, much merriment to be had. Toasts to be rendered. Eggnog to be glugged. Snow angels to be made. And lots and lots of entertaining and festive things to see and do around town.

If you're looking for something merry and bright to do outdoors, take a walk through or a drive by Centennial Park

by John Pigeau

and take in Smiths Fall's **Celebration of Lights** — the park will be beautifully lit with decorated Christmas Trees until December 23. It's really a nice way to spend part of an evening, when the snow is falling gently, when the kids are possibly a bit bored, and everyone's spirits need a good lift.

This year, all the Christmas trees on display are from Campbell's Tree Farms, and the lights locally purchased, with corporate sponsors each putting their own unique decorating touches on their trees. There is a wonderful new wrinkle this year, too, in keeping with the true spirit of Christmas — after December 23, all the trees will be given to a family in need of one for the holiday season.

If you would like to sponsor a tree, you can still do so by emailing <recreation@smithsfalls.ca> or calling the recreation department at 283-4124. Enjoy the lights, everyone!

A reminder, too, that the **Heritage House Museum** will be fully decorated for the Christmas season right up until December 20. The lovely décor will give you an idea of how people celebrated Christmas in the 1860s. While you're there, you may wish to buy some art too, or at least enjoy some, as the museum will be hosting Smiths Falls' 38th annual **Art Show & Sale** until December 15. The show and sale celebrate the work — a wide variety of it — of over 25 local artists and artisans. Maybe you'll find that ideal gift for a friend or a family member. For details, please call the Museum at 283-6311. There is a small fee to tour the museum, although admission to the art sale is free. Still, donations to the museum are always appreciated.

On December 13 the Station Theatre welcomes Lynn Miles for the fourth and final concert of their 2019 music series. You can find out more about that show on page 11 of this issue.

There's another exciting show happening on December 14 at the Gallipeau Centre Theatre — featuring ABBA songs! Billed as **The ABBA Holiday Show**, one of North America's finest tribute bands, ABBA Revisited, promises to put on a dazzling show of the band's greatest hits, with a few Christmas classics sprinkled in for good measure.

ABBA Revisited recreates the magic of the iconic band with authentic costumes, spectacular harmonies and note-perfect musicianship. A great tribute band can take their audiences on a musical journey back in time. ABBA Revisited is said to do just that — with audiences of all ages dancing in the aisles! Tickets are \$34.50 in advance and are available online at <gallipeaucentretheatre.com>, by calling 284-9916, or in person at the Gallipeau Centre Theatre (361 Queen Street). If they're still available, they will be \$39.50 at the door. The show begins at 8PM and doors open at 7:30.

Santa Claus is coming to town on December 14. At press time we don't have all the details just yet, but you can find updates and details at <downtownsmithsfalls.ca>. Following the Parade, the Chamber of

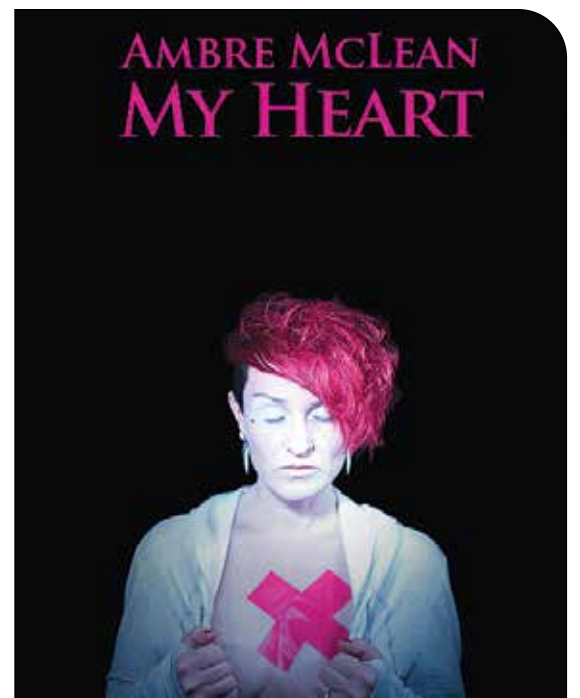
Commerce will be hosting a **Christmas Market** at Settler's Ridge from 5-9PM. There will be lots of wonderful gift items for sale, as well as games and entertainment. Find details at <smithsfalls.ca>.

On Wednesday, December 18, join Scott Woods and his multi-talented band at the Westminster Presbyterian Church for an **Old Time Country Christmas**. This promises to be an uplifting, family-friendly, foot-stompin' good time of a show, featuring classic Christmas carols, fiddle tunes, and some traditional country and gospel songs as well.

There will be some impressive talent on display: Woods with his trick fiddling, the smooth vocals and yodelling of "Canada's Yodelin' Cowgirl" Naomi Bristow, with fifteen-year-old Leo Stock (also known as "Spaghetti Legs") demonstrating his sensational step dancing, and Scott's sister Kendra Woods Norris adding honey-voiced harmonies, and some levity too.

Tickets can be purchased at Special Greetings Card Shop, Rideau River Music, Mark's Cobbler Shop, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, or by calling Beverly at 283-6987. Tickets are \$30 for adults, and \$15 for children ages 6-12; children five and under get in for free. The show begins at 7PM at the Westminster Presbyterian Church (11 Church Street West), with doors opening at 6.

Bowie's continues its impressive line-up of live entertainment this month with Pat Johnson and Eric Widzinski on December 6, Mountain Head and Ken Workman on the 13th, My Father's Son with Grumpy Old Men on the 20th, and their Songwriter Series featuring Ambre McLean and Zachary Lucky on Sunday,



Bowie's has a full line-up in December, including their Songwriter Series on the 22nd featuring Ambre McLean and Zachary Lucky

December 22. This in addition to weekly events like their Funk & Soul Playlist, Music Trivia, "Quit Your Day Job" open stage, and lots more. Bowie's is located at 20 Russell St E., and you can find a full line-up with all details at <bowiesmithsfalls.com>.

Happy holidays, everyone!

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Ageless Migration Fund

Building on the success of the Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (CARR) project, the Perth and District Community Foundation (PDCF), has established the Ageless Migration Fund, in cooperation with the CARR. The success of the project is a tribute to the hard work of volunteers, donors and the local community, and the new Ageless Migration Fund is being launched in their honour. To recognize these efforts, fibre artist Robynne Cole has gifted her award-winning artwork entitled *Ageless Migration* to the Perth and District Community Foundation and through them to the Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement.

The piece won Best in Show at the Art Gallery of Burlington in 2018 based on the theme "The Journey", and is on display at the Perth and District Union Library. "*Ageless Migration* was inspired by various aerial images of refugees leaving life jackets behind on the rocky shores, and walking on farm paths towards city streets," the artist explains. "Beads and sari silk yarns represent the flow of people who have travelled great distances to escape war, poverty and disease. The sculpted copper pipe hanger conveys their desire for a roof overhead and the joy that awaits them in that home and being embraced by humanity."

"Migration is an ongoing and timeless process which will continue into the future," says Jean Dunning, President of the PDCF. Ann Munroe, Chair of CARR, notes that: "the Fund has been established with an initial contribution from the CARR and will provide assistance to support refugees or immigrants who come to reside in our community and are in need of assistance to integrate successfully."

For the first five donations of \$1,000 or greater, donors will receive a signed framed vignette of the artwork from the artist. Robynne Cole says:



Robynne Cole with her piece *Ageless Migration*

"I am humbled to be included in this effort, and in the pride you all must feel in the efforts you are continuing to make to provide assistance to those in need." Donations to the Ageless Migration Fund can be made to the Perth and District Community Foundation. The artwork is on display at the Perth and District Union Library.

For further information, please contact Lynn McIntyre (Executive Director of the Perth and District Community Foundation) at <pdcf@bellnet.ca> or 326-0295, or visit <pdcf.ca>.

Gifts for People who are Stressed Out

- Full-day spa visit (tubs, saunas, lunch & high tea), Circa 1894 B&B/Spa.....\$75
- Series pass to the 2019 season (4 concerts), Folkus Concert Series.....\$90
- Fitness membership, Heritage Fitness.....\$44/month
- 1-hour therapeutic massage, Kim Narraway, RMT.....\$95
- Vintage board games, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles.....\$10 & up
- Snow tubing & nature discovery snowshoeing, Mount Pakenham.....\$22
- "Wild Flowers and Glowing Light" by Karen Haines, Sivarulrasa Gallery.....\$380
- Mindful Movement and Meditation 5-class pass, Surya Daya Yoga.....\$78
- Glerup slippers, Vamos Outdoors.....\$90

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pudding the Spirit into the Holidays

Weetabix, always vigilant in matters of food, recently learned of a threat to Mississippi Mills' holiday food supplies. Additional research and some original development work in the deservedly obscure Weetabix test kitchen may have yielded countermeasures, as yet largely untested. The help of his loyal readers is requested. With what and how will become clear. This article delves into details that can be sticky. Our readers must pull their weight — or at least their puddings!

by Sebastian Weetabix

"Puddings? Weight?!", the Editor asks. And so to the plot: A certain green being has been the victim of fake news, disinformation, social media trolling and just plain xenophobia. For years, a fat guy with a red suit has taken all the credit for the generous spirit of the Holiday Season; but are not the traditional colours red AND green? Time to duct tape facts together! The essential clue (or perhaps a clew) that ties

things together may be an emaciated figure searching cupboards and finding only a can of "Who Hash". Better than nothing, but hardly festive. So why Mississippi Mills? And what can be done? Is it possible that part of the problem is simply malnutrition and that the growth of hearts is just a matter of properly presented calories?

A solution to antisocial behavior is supported by some evidence:

Punitive justice is not an efficient mechanism for behavior modification. Puddings, on the other hand, have a tradition of producing somewhat anergic contentment and feelings of well-being. They are part of many festive traditions and play an important and underappreciated role in caulking draughty gaps in our social interactions. That is one of the reasons the other hand (the one holding pudding) is sticky. We press on. Antisocial behavior may be a cry of distress caused by inadequate nutrition. Weetabix advises the residents of Mississippi Mills to take prompt remedial action which can deliver significant benefits in many other ways. Make puddings! Distribute puddings! Eat puddings!

But wait — what is a pudding and what are the properties that distinguish puddings? Wikipedia disappoints: "a type of food that can be either a dessert or a savoury dish that is part of the main meal". Pudding as savoury dishes brings on memories of boudin blanc served in a traditional Christmas feast in France. Boudin blanc may also provide the root word for pudding. This brings us to the greatest savoury pudding of all and one that is part of the rich ethnic history of the Ottawa Valley.

Yes, dear reader, we have arrived at the ultimate in savoury puddings, subject of jokes and of reverence. To Weetabix' knowledge, the only pudding to be celebrated in verse and ceremonial slicing. The star dish of supper on Robert Burns Day (January 25 in 2020) is haggis. Burns' *Ode to a Haggis* says it all: "... Great chieftain o the puddin'-race! Aboon them a' ye tak your place." Skeptics may become converts if they can manage to get a taste of a well-made haggis. Haggis may not be calming, particularly if accompanied by the sounds of bagpipes; maybe it is the meat. Diligent sleuthing by Weetabix has found a recipe for vegan haggis for those tempted to apostasy: <bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/vegan-haggis>. We await reports from survivors.

So, what is it about sweet puddings that sets them apart from cakes, pies, cookies, and other food forms? In a word: texture. More accurately, organoleptic properties. Puddings are defined by the sensory space between soft, viscous and sticky, with flavours

that are reminiscent of our earliest memories of food-derived pleasure. Just as colours have multiple dimensions, mouth-feel needs to be viewed in multiple dimensions. It is actually distinct from taste. Nobody confuses cake with pudding. There are many varieties of pudding-cake; but no matter how well crafted, a delicate confection with refined flavours and crunch does not have pudding's soul-satisfying capacity to induce feelings of well-being.

Recipes are devoted to the transformation of bread into puddings — all add significant amounts of sugar and fat. Some incorporate fruits or jams — but all avoid a greasy texture while loading as much sugar and fat as possible into the smallest space. Puddings are not light!

And so, back to our green marauder — clearly what he kneads is a pudding. It has been said that he subsists on "sawdust and potatoes". Taking a trusty rip-saw in hand, Weetabix set to making sawdust from a block of parmesan cheese and went in search guidance for a potato pudding. The simplest required a bit of butter and an egg as well. A boiled and mashed potato with butter and egg plus parmesan sawdust is not bad... but lacks a true pudding feel. Push the boundaries further. Add a bit more butter, sugar, flour, eggs and cream to the potato base, whip it and flavour with some vanilla, and a more generous amount of parmesan sawdust. Bake until it sets and cool so the Green One will not burn his fingers. Top with maple syrup, leave in plain sight... and watch his heart grow.

Happy New Year!



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The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now. (Chinese proverb)



Congratulations!

Kudos to Chef Ian Carswell of Black Tartan Kitchen in Carleton Place <blacktartankitchen.com>, who recently won the Ottawa edition of Canada's Great Kitchen Party, the event known in past years as Gold Medal Plates. Haggis fans take note: the Black Tartan dinner menu lists "Scott-ish" pie as an appetizer...



Heather Loube: Ancient Greeks Behaving Badly
 6 Tuesdays, beginning January 7, 2019, from 1:30 - 3:30 pm
'Digging the dirt' on the ancients through their art, artefacts, history, mythology and religion.

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What was it really like to share city streets with animals that weighed half a ton and did not always do as they were told?

To register, please email Claire <cmapsimon@gmail.com> stating the course(s) you wish to attend. The fee is \$75.00 by cheque to "Learning in Almonte" or cash only, payable on the first day of the course. As capacity is limited, we will operate on a First come, first served basis.

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Spirit Seeds

A Celebration of Indigenous Beadwork

Long before the Scots, French and English fur traders arrived in the St. Lawrence, Great Lakes and Hudson Bay areas, the Eastern Woodlands women of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples were embroidering and beading storied and useful items. The women fabricated their designs with moosehair, porcupine quills, bits of shell, seeds; whatever was at hand to tell the story, whatever would be useful in celebration, thanksgiving, and trade with others. *Spirit Seeds*, the new exhibition at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, displays a good lot of this continuing history and beauty in eight display cases.

When the Europeans arrived they were looking for wealth, especially for valuable furs much in demand in Europe. As a medium of exchange, the Europeans brought buckets of glass beads to trade for fur.

Were glass beads a valuable commodity in the Woodlands? Yes, very much so. Not only is glass light-refractive and colourful, beads have holes — perfect for threading. What could be more wonderful! From the earliest days of the fur trade, curator Naomi Smith notes, glass beads have been called “spirit seeds.” So are they today in a number of indigenous languages.

The exhibition includes a display of a number of purses, satchels and bags. In one case are thirteen embroidered caps, of the sort known in the 19th century as “smoking caps” or even as “thinking caps.” Some of the caps are small enough for a child’s head. In Victorian times, they were popular indoor wear to keep a man’s or boy’s head warm. The ones shown here were made for sale by the Mohawk, Seneca, and Tuscarora between 1840 and 1890.

Women of the 19th century, both indigenous and non-indigenous, spent many hours sewing. A pincushion was always useful to have at hand. Pincushions stuffed with emery sand and sawdust kept needles sharp, and were popular sale items, too. Often enough, there was something more to their design — a bit of talismanic grace. In the exhibition we see a number of beaded strawberry emeries. The



indigenous women who made these pincushions knew of the strawberry’s use as a medicinal plant. Others may have known this lore, too. The strawberry grows on both continents.

From time immemorial, design, shape and colour have encoded stories. In *Spirit Seeds*, we are privileged to see the “Haienwahta’ Belt of the Five Nations.” It is the record of a revered treaty. In this display, it is accompanied by a text explaining its importance to the Haudenosaunee peoples: the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca. Treaties are records of agreement and obligation for all parties as Chief Jacob Thomas, Cayuga elder and scholar, makes clear in his writing.

Traditionally, beading and embroidery among the Woodlands peoples were the work of women. Today, both men and women do this work. A short film entitled *Going on Dreams* accompanies the exhibition and tells us a few of the stories of contemporary indigenous artists working today in this medium. We see several examples of contemporary work in the large, centred exhibition case.

Contemporary artist Samuel Thomas, for example, made the wood and leather travelling trunk to honour the memory of his mother. Its beaded panels of flowers and hummingbirds encase her writings within. Thomas also made the two white moccasins with trailing strings and crystal beads to “wash away the tears we shed.” Graham Paradis worked long and hard to create an elegant ensemble of a man’s vest, bandolier and satchel. Paradis’ work displays his hard-won knowledge and respect for his heritage.

In Ottawa currently are two major exhibitions of contemporary indigenous art: *Ābadakone* at the National Gallery of Canada, and *Inaabiwin* at the Ottawa Art Gallery. Now add *Spirit Seeds* at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum in downtown Almonte. This important exhibition, curated by Naomi Smith, continues until December 14. Find more details at <mvtn.ca>.

— Maureen Korp is a writer, historian and lecturer

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