

# the Hummm

free

Arts,  
Entertainment  
& Ideas



p. 16 & 17

February's Events

**GET INVOLVED GET CONNECTED**

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Leaving Your Own Legacy



p. 5

After the March



The Art of Paddy Mann p.3



Patrick Kelly  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

## ♥ Celebrate With Your Sweetie

Celebrate Valentine's Day right here in the Valley at one of the many area restaurants that are offering special menus on February 14<sup>th</sup>. If things go really well and you wind up needing more bedrooms, just give me a call!

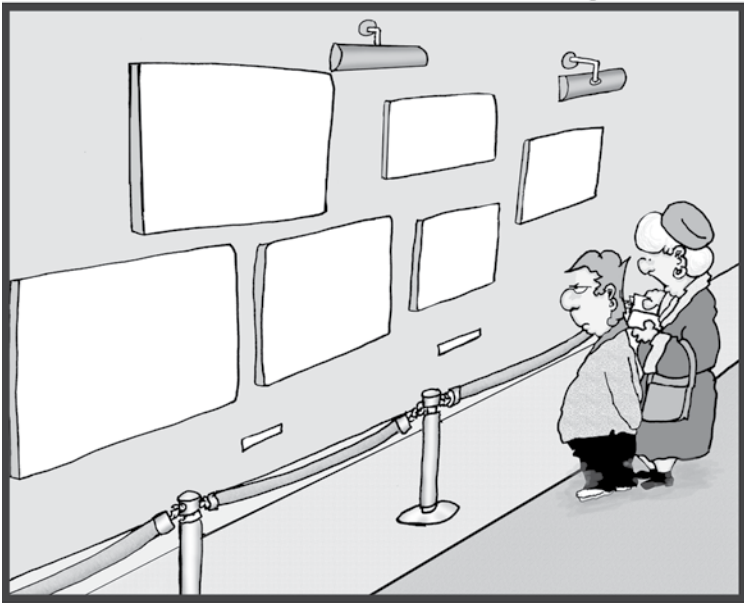
**Pat's Picks** Valley Food and Drink Co. — Feb. 11 sweetheart dinner with Tony D!  
**for February:** The Black Tartan in Carleton Place <[blacktartankitchen.com](http://blacktartankitchen.com)>  
Heirloom Café and Bistro in Almonte <[heirloomcafe.ca](http://heirloomcafe.ca)>  
The Redneck Bistro in Calabogie <[redneckbistro.ca](http://redneckbistro.ca)>

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"Next is his series of six exquisitely evocative canvases entitled simply 'Ottawa Valley Winter'."



Who's Reading the Humm

Back in October of 2014, friends **Mary Pfaff** (Carleton Place), **Penny Skelton** (Almonte) and **Triona White** (Ottawa) enjoyed a trip to Tuscany. This photo of Mary and Penny was taken (presumably by Triona!) in Montelupo, a large centre for Italian pottery and ceramics.



Mary & Terry  
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Humble Thought

**Welcoming** is the initial and ongoing interactions with people and environment that result in a feeling of **belonging** and a willingness to **engage**. Research shows that people who feel like they belong are more likely to **engage** with others, **give** their time, and **participate** in their communities. By focusing on welcoming, we are building the hidden capacity of our **community** without relying on grants, government assistance, or outside experts.

— Bruce Anderson (submitted by Jeff Mills)



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

**Submissions**  
By email or on disk.

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## February Pub Listings

- Valley Food and Drink Co.** (Calabogie, 752-2676x311): 8PM, Thurs Karaoke (see FB for dinner+show \$)  
Feb 4 Kelly Prescott  
Feb 11 Tony D  
Feb 17 Music Trivia Night, 8PM  
Feb 18 The Mud Boys  
Feb 25 Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo
- The Cove** (Westport, 273-3636): Wed Shawn McCullough, 6-9PM  
Feb 3 Chris Murphy, 6-9PM  
Feb 4 John Wilberforce, 6-9PM  
Feb 10 Logan Brown & Taylor Angus, 6-9PM  
Feb 11 Valentine's Dinner w/Head over Heels, 6-9PM, \$50  
Feb 18 Head over Heels, 6-9PM  
Feb 19 McCullough & Norwood, 4-8PM  
Feb 24 Weber Brothers Trio, 7-10PM, \$10  
Feb 25 Eric Uren, 6-10PM
- Golden Arrow Pub** (Perth, 267-4500): 9PM, Wed Karaoke.
- The Swan at Carp** (Carp, 839-7926): Feb 10, 24 Steve Barrette Trio, jazz, 7-10PM
- The Royal Oak** (Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, 2-5PM  
Feb 5, 19 Magnolia Rhythm Kings  
Feb 12, 26 APEX Jazz Band
- Naismith Pub** (Almonte, 256-6336): Wed Open Celtic Jam, 7:30-10PM
- Carp Masonic Lodge:** Mon Carp Celtic Jam, 7-9PM
- Ashton Pub** (Ashton, 257-4423): Sun Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, 2-5PM
- The Barley Mow** (Almonte, 256-5669): Thurs Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, 8PM  
Feb 23 Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone, 8PM
- O'Reilly's Ale House** (Perth, 267-7994): Tues Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan 8:30PM; Wed Open Jam w/Dave Balfour 8PM  
Feb 10 Tom Watson, 8:30PM  
Feb 17 Stephen Fisher, 8:30PM  
Feb 24 River City Junction, 9PM
- Alice's Village Café** (Carp, 470-2233): Open Mic Thurs, 7:30PM
- The Waterfront Gastropub** (CP, 257-5755): Sun Blues w/ Redneck Limousine 3-6PM  
Feb 3 Mississippi Blues Society Jam, 8:30PM
- Black Donald's Pub** (Calabogie Peaks, 800-669-4861): Open Mic w/Kevin Lentz, Fridays, 6-10PM; Sat/Sun apres ski music 3PM  
Feb 4 Barry Buse & Redneck Limousine  
Feb 11 Huntley Slim  
Feb 18 Brea Lawrenson  
Feb 19 Dale Schultz  
Feb 25 One Night Stand
- Queens Hotel** (Carleton Place, 257-7639): Feb 9 Jazz at the Queens, 6-9PM
- Sharbot Lake Inn** (279-2198): Feb 10 Tim Moxam & Liz Stringer, 8PM, \$15  
Feb 19 Harry Manx, 7PM, \$70  
Feb 22 Shanneyganock, 7PM, \$70
- The 2 Grands** (Arnprior, 623-7969): Feb 10 DanahKae, 6PM
- John St. Pub** (Arnprior, 623-8149): 9:45PM  
Feb 3 Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, \$5  
Feb 4 Holy Sabbath, \$10  
Feb 10 Skyler Radmore, \$5  
Feb 11 80s Glam Night, \$7  
Feb 18 Sidepipe, \$5  
Feb 24 80s Dance Party w/DJ, 9PM, \$5  
Feb 25 Bone! (Classic rock), \$6

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**Thanks this month to:**  
Our friend **Ron Caron**, for so many years of helpful support, volunteer assistance, and — best of all — wonderful hugs and a welcoming smile, every single time we saw him.  
We miss you so much, Ron.

# Paddy Mann — Speaking the Language of Clothing

Pakenham is best known for its historic five-span stone bridge spanning the Mississippi River, but discerning women throughout the region and around the world know it is home to Paddy Mann Clothing — where fashion is redefined for each customer. A single glance around the small showroom confirms the reputation for excellence Mann has built since she opened her design business in 1978.

by Sally Hansen

The clothing on display is elegant in every respect, but her success is based on what is not on display. Paddy designs each custom-made garment herself, working with her talented long-term team to create made-to-measure clothing that fits your body as perfectly as it fits your personality.

Mann is fluent in the language of clothing. She fully understands the impact appearance makes. “People will treat you the way you dress,” she points out. “Think about the person you want to be and how you want to be treated.” Each Paddy Mann original makes a clear statement that the person wearing it has an impeccable fashion sensibility, exquisite taste, a love of quality and an appreciation of superb workmanship.

## It Takes a Mann Date

Maybe it's because she grew up in Newfoundland. Paddy knows how to relate to people, how to win their trust and how to help them discover and reveal facets of their personality they didn't know existed. A client contemplating a subdued, understated business suit may completely change her mind after looking at the colourful feast of natural fabrics spilling from nooks and crannies throughout the two-storey shop and workrooms.

Or not. There is no pressure; Paddy likes nothing better than to develop a relationship over time. She loves to have people drop in, take a look, and think about the possibilities. Once a client books an appointment to discuss an idea for a custom garment, the process becomes one of mutual discovery. Mann has posted a poem on her website, written for her by a repeat client that says it much more eloquently than I can. The last lines read: “You think you're getting a gown or a cloak and then you discover yourself.”

## A Mann for All Seasons

It is easy to see why Paddy Mann Clothing enjoys many return customers. When a garment is made-to-

measure and designed to reflect your personality, it is comfortable both physically and emotionally. Custom wedding gowns are followed over the years by Mother-of-the-Bride garments, interspersed by outfits for special events. Women return years later to have items altered and even remade. Mann is an avid believer in quality and an advocate for the environment. She uses only natural fibres (cotton, wool, cashmere, silk, linen, hemp, leather, suede) and sources the finest fabrics from around the world. Although they are expensive, they outlast the cheaper synthetics, pollute less, are less allergenic, and are beautiful. She worries that most of us are totally unaware of the harm done to our aquifers and waterways by the vast amount of microplastic pollution that results from producing and washing fabrics made of polyester and other synthetics.

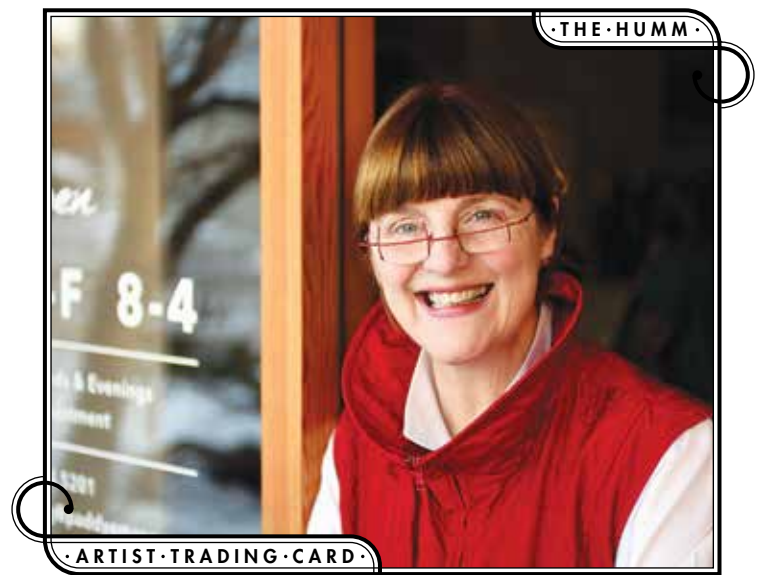


## The Proof Is in the Detail

Mann told me, “I like slow clothes; we take the time to do it perfectly.” Buttonholes stitched by hand are meticulously perfect. Zippers, seams, closures, trim, pockets — all are perfect. The attention to detail is more than a hallmark of Paddy Mann Clothing; it is one of the cornerstones of her success. Another is her conviction that “clothing should be made by people who love their work and are treated fairly.” Her core team has been working with her for three decades, and their comfort and wellbeing guided the major renovations she made to her studio and workshops, located minutes from the famous Pakenham bridge. As she puts it, “When a person works eight hours a day it should feel good.” It does. She describes herself as a happy person, living the dream, excited about going to work every day.

## You Can Take the Girl Out of Newfoundland

But you can't take Newfoundland out of the girl. Born and raised there, Paddy Mann values and personifies the friendliness, resilience, resourcefulness and



generosity she acquired from her upbringing. After her father moved his medical practice to Arnprior, she attended Seneca College and then York University, studying Liberal Arts. The day she rode her bike into Pakenham in 1973, she “knew I could make a home there — it's like Newfoundland.” After her son was born and she didn't want to drive into town, she began making clothes for friends. By 1979 she had opened her own studio, and in 1983 she won the Clairol Award for Top Canadian Designer.

It was a remarkable achievement for a largely self-made fashion designer. Mann credits her Maritime mentors with her ability to learn from and teach others. “In Newfoundland, everybody teaches everybody. You can learn how to set traps, gut fish, sew... I was knitting at four and machine sewing when I was nine or ten.” When she was travelling in Texas she stopped in on a whim at a clothing shop and ended up bringing the woman to Pakenham to teach her and her staff the finer points of flat patterns and draping. She describes the process by which she designs as “almost on another plane.” She draws freehand and has “an intuitive sense of what the garment should look like.”

Now her bio lists a myriad of teaching activities, professional memberships, lectures, shows, publications and awards. In 2004 she became an Elected Fellow of the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts. She is the only clothes designer among that elite membership, and treasures that recognition of her artistry.

## Nourishing Roots

Mann fully appreciates the power of community — when we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can include and support people in a way we couldn't as individuals. Her gifts to her communities are too numerous to fit into available space, but one in particular is of special interest to regional readers. On February 12, Paddy Mann is presenting her fashions at the **Hopes & Dreams Afternoon Gala Fundraiser** at Le Salon at the National Arts Centre, from 12 to 3PM. Men's clothing by E. R. Fisher is also featured at the event, and Laurence Wall of CBC is the Master of Ceremonies during the plated luncheon and auction. Also performing is the violin performance ensemble Stellae Boreales of the Ottawa Suzuki Strings music school. Funds will be donated to the Almonte General Hospital, and to support the ensemble's travel to Buenos Aires in March, where the 12-to-17-year-old violinists will bring the gift of music along with instruments and school supplies for children in impoverished areas.

Links to her website and blog appear on the back of her Trading Card. Don't miss a look at the marvelous fashion photos taken by Robin Andrew of Unposed Photography!

The three little words she's hoping for...

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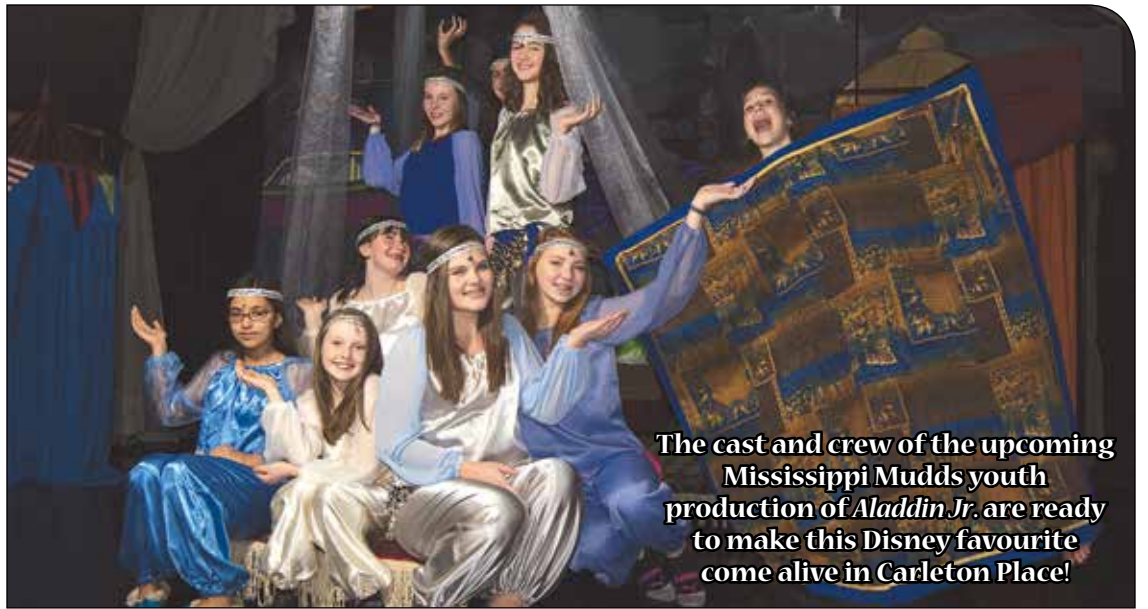




[foodsmiths.com](http://foodsmiths.com)

**WHO** Paddy Mann  
**WHAT** Fashion Designer  
**WHERE** Paddy Mann Clothing, 156 Macfarlane St., Pakenham, <paddyemann.com>, <clothing@paddyemann.com>, 624-5201  
**WHEN** February 12, "Hopes & Dreams Afternoon Gala Fundraiser," National Arts Centre — Le Salon, 12-3PM, in support of Almonte General Hospital and Ottawa Suzuki Strings ensemble Stellae Boreales  
**WHY** "I love having people leave here feeling better about themselves than when they came in."

· ARTIST · TRADING · CARD ·



The cast and crew of the upcoming Mississippi Mudds youth production of *Aladdin Jr.* are ready to make this Disney favourite come alive in Carleton Place!

Need 'em... need 'em... got 'em...  
 Clip and save the Artist Trading Card  
 All the cool kids do it!

# The Mudds' Aladdin Jr. — It Takes a Team!

You see an ad in the paper or a banner on Bridge Street, letting you know that the Mississippi Mudds youth are putting on a play. That seems nice. What you don't realize, perhaps, is that those kids, aged nine to eighteen, have been practicing for six months. There is a team of adult and youth volunteers who have been putting the show together for almost a year.

This year, the "Mudds kids", as they are lovingly called, are presenting Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* The show is a funny, romantic, toe-tapping adventure through the ancient streets of Agrabah. You are all familiar with the story and songs, but what you may not know is how we get to a full-fledged show. The Mudds are famous for their elaborate costumes. To put on a show like *Aladdin*, we have a team of only four or five women who sew, gather, borrow and alter to outfit a cast of forty. These ladies know their way through a thrift store. Some of the costumes can take hours each to create! These women make the marketplace come to life with bright colours and (fictional) historical period accuracy.

Now, is the cast just standing around the stage? No, they need to dance and move — it is a musical after all. This year, we are lucky to have two people doing our choreography. One is a high school student herself, who has been at every rehearsal and stands in front of forty of her peers and dances alone to teach them the steps. If you've ever been a teenager, you can imagine how difficult it is to put yourself out there like that. The other part of our dance team is a local volunteer, who is teaching the harem girls of the cast to bellydance. The girls are so excited by learning this new skill, and what a great life experience for them.

The next major task is turning a one-hundred-year-old theatre into a two-thousand-year-old market place. The transformation takes place over one or two weekends. This time a team of about twelve volunteers built, painted, glue-gunned and created the whole set. This takes two full weekends, but has been in the works for months, with ideas floated back and forth to create special effects, different settings, and a certain amount of awe. I'm sure you've guessed that these people also know their way around a thrift store.

This is only about half of the team of volunteers, though we do have some that overlap. The others who must be mentioned are the photographers, the lighting and sound team, the people who sell tickets and run the canteen, the music director, artistic director, the stage management team and the producers. Behind the very talented cast up is a whole bunch of people who believe in this opportunity and in these kids who give up time, sweat and sometimes even tears, to create a successful production.

Here is the very important part: how can you help? We are always happy to meet new volunteers, but the easiest thing you can do is come and watch the show! Performances take place at the Carleton Place Town Hall, with shows on February 17, 23 and 24 at 7PM, and matinées on February 18, 19 and 25 at 2PM.

Tickets are available at Hallmark at 438 McNeely Avenue in Carleton Place. All performances are \$10 except Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is \$5. Call 253-3000 for tickets, or visit <mississippimudds.ca> for more details.

— Kate Cooney, *Aladdin Jr.* Co-Director

## Call for Artists and Artisans

The semi annual **Red Trillium Studio & Garden Tour** will take place on **Saturday June 3 and Sunday June 4, 2017**

This will be our 18<sup>th</sup> year and 36<sup>th</sup> Tour.

We are a juried event that showcases the talented Arts & Craftspeople of West Carleton with Gardens in the spring.

If you have a Studio or Garden in our area or would like to join us as a guest artist, we would love to hear from you!

Our deadline for applications is **February 20, 2017.**

Contact Lynda Soper 613-623-6498.  
 Jsoper@xplornet.com



Like us: /RedTrilliumTour

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# After the March...

Like many others, I was awed and inspired by the actions that took place around the world on Saturday, January 21. I found them to be a restorative antidote to the events of Friday, January 20, not least because they offered hope that collective action can still effect change in our world. The words of cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead ring as true to me today as ever: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

by Kris Riendeau

As the following week progressed and more bad news issued forth from the White House, it became increasingly clear to me that more action is required from people who hold civil liberties such as freedom of expression and association dear. I intend this editorial as one small drop in that ocean; an incomplete but well-intentioned place to start if you are looking to take further action after the march.



A busload of Valley folks travelled from Perth and Almonte to march in Ottawa on Saturday, January 21.

Thanks to Jane Torrance for sending in the photo!

## Thinking Globally

Fortunately, there are numerous well-organized groups that have a longstanding track record of working to protect human rights, all of which are tracking and responding to recent events, and all of which would greatly appreciate your support. From the website of the **American Civil Liberties Union** <aclu.org>: "Protecting free speech means protecting a free press, the democratic process, diversity of thought, and so much more. The ACLU has worked since 1920 to ensure that freedom of speech is protected for everyone."

The **International Planned Parenthood Federation** <ippf.org> was founded in 1952, and, sixty years later, works in 172 countries, running 65,000 service points worldwide. Their vision is that: "All people are free to make choices about their sexuality and well-being, in a world free of discrimination," and they believe in "social inclusion with a demonstrated commitment to enable the rights of the most

under-served" as well as in "diversity, respecting all regardless of their age, gender, status, identity, sexual orientation or expression".

**Amnesty International** <amnesty.org>, which was sparked by an outraged letter that was written in 1961 (and reprinted in free press around the world), is "a global movement of more than seven million people in over 150 countries and territories who campaign to end abuses of human rights."

The more recently formed **Women's March on Washington** group <womensmarch.com> has set their sights on a "10 Actions for the first 100 Days" campaign, with a mission that states "We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families — recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country."

## Acting Locally

This issue of theHumm is bursting at the seams with opportunities to volunteer for a plethora of events, organizations and causes, but I would like to draw your attention to some that work specifically on behalf of marginalized groups.

In addition to staffing their shelter, **Lanark County Interval House** <lcih.org> provides transitional support, outreach and public education programs, and relies heavily on local volunteers and donors to do so. In fact, LCIH is "not a member of a national umbrella organization... we are a small, local charity providing intense, critical services for women of all walks of life in every type of neighbourhood of Lanark County". In Renfrew County, the **Women's Sexual Assault Centre** <wsac.ca> has been providing services since 1993 to "women over the age of 16 who have experienced or are experiencing some form of sexual violence".

Several other local groups are doing a great job of advocating for and supporting youth, seniors, members of the LGBTQ community, Indigenous peoples and others. **The Mills Community Support** supports seniors, transitional-aged youth and people with intellectual disabilities, and undertakes "community development initiatives that bring people together to build better communities". **Lanark County Neighbours for Truth and Reconciliation** is a network of aboriginal and non-aboriginal neighbours in Algonquin territory who support aboriginal rights. **Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth** is the accredited child and youth mental health centre delivering service throughout Lanark County. The mission of the **LGBTB Lanark County Civitan Club** is "to foster the development of a proud, visible, diverse, integrated community in Lanark County by providing support to the LGBT community and increasing acceptance and reducing homophobia and transphobia." And **Lanark Action for Social Change** offers workshops on nonviolent action, including civil disobedience as well as creative protest.

These are just some of many groups active in our area. If you know of others that you would like us to include in future issues, please send an email to <editor@thehummm.com>. Happy thinking and acting!

**GET OUT AND ENJOY THE SNOW FOR LESS**

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Like us on for further details.

Reservations highly recommended.

*Mill Street Crepe Co.*

14 Mill Street Almonte • 613-461-2737 • www.millstreetcrepecompany.com  
Lunch: Mon. - Fri. 11am-2:30pm • Sat. - Sun. 10am-3pm • Dinner: Thursday - Saturday 5pm-8pm

# For Whom the Bell Tolls...

On the eve of the Millennium, Alan and I had dinner with Ron Caron at the Heirloom Bistro Café in Almonte. We counted down to midnight, and then wonder of wonders! Our treasured town clock was ringing in the new century. We all cheered, and stood to honour Ron Caron, our faithful clock keeper, who sat there grinning from ear to ear.

by Glenda Jones

*Bong! Bong!* How we'd miss that clock if it weren't there! Twice a week, year after year, Ron climbed the 77 steps to the aerie clock tower to clean, calibrate, and wind the mechanism, so the rest of us could look up daily and be sure that we were on time. If we were lucky, we'd be invited to climb up there too, and stand by the five-foot-high faces and watch the hands move. We'd get our names in Ron's book, and be able to dine out on the experience for a long time.

*Bong! Bong!* Ron did this job voluntarily because he loved the idea of keeping heritage alive for everyone to enjoy. He took great pride in the clock, the same way he did in the town hall. As a founding member of the Valley Players, Ron recognized that, although the play's the thing, if there wasn't decent lighting and sound, it wasn't going to happen. He cobbled together a professional array of lights, invented a board to operate them, and then taught a few people how to make it work.



Mississippi Mills is mourning the loss of a great friend and one of the most tireless volunteers this area has ever known. Ron Caron, who literally kept the town clock running and the lights on in the Old Town Hall, passed away on January 14.

No one worked *for* Ron; we all worked *with* him, including his dear wife Terry, and he was always willing to pass on his extensive knowledge. Organized and efficient, Ron couldn't abide people messing with his equipment, so he showed us how to coil cables and secure them with little ties, how to stack flats so they could be found easily, how to label things so plugs were easy to locate. To this day, those little ties are still there.

*Bong! Bong!* Ron wasn't afraid of heights, and to say he rose to the top would be an understatement. We helped him erect scaffolding so those massive curtains could be hung in the auditorium, even over the windows at the back. Have a look some time: would you have wanted to stand on that platform? Not I, but I watched him do it. Would you want to climb a ladder hooked to a pipe and adjust the lights? Ron did it, because he had installed the pipe and knew it was safe.

Ron was definitely the son of the Mother of Invention. Once he constructed a bubble machine, a little contraption that worked by dipping a spoon into suds and using a fan to blow the bubbles. Great fun to watch, greater fun to see Ron's face as it worked perfectly! He could make anything, and his workshop attested to his ingenuity. As you would expect, all neat and tidy, tools in proper order and little projects in the works.

## The Man Who Gave So Much

I first met Ron Caron when we were paired up to volunteer together at Puppets Up nearly ten years ago. Within a few hours it became abundantly clear to a fourteen-year-old Adrian that Ron was a force to be reckoned with. From that point on, I made sure to do my best to learn anything and everything he had to teach. The intricacies of stage lighting design and the scope of a lighting board would have been overwhelming if not for his innate ability and desire to support others. There are several qualities Ron exhibited on a daily basis which he taught me in the world of stage lighting; qualities I respect to this day and strive to incorporate into my daily life.

First and foremost, that nothing is worth doing if you are not doing it to the fullness of your ability. Secondly, that the show must go on. That means that some days you must run, some days you must crawl and that other days you may get to sit and have a beer before a show without a care in the world. Finally, regardless of whether you had to crawl, walk or run to get to the perfection you sought — you stand proud of the results. No one needs to see the mess behind the back curtain — they're there for the show, you're there to facilitate their journey. Oh, and always wear a black shirt and pants. Button-up, with a collar I might add; lighting guys are classy!

Few people have had the impact on my life that Ron did. His teaching helped shape me into the person I am: a proud citizen and volunteer of Almonte.

From this point forward the show will go on, as it must. It will be done right every time, in a black button-up because it's not worth doing it unless the pursuit of perfection is upheld. Like many others, I will think of Ron often and take comfort in the fact that I can always look down the hill to the old town hall and the clock tower. Those two places where he dedicated thousands of hours will forever remain a silent tribute to a man who gave so much and asked for so little.

— Adrian Schut

*Bong! Bong!* Ron was an artist, but such a modest one that he gave his time to the art association in the form of showing off others' work before his own. At every opening, Ron would be there in his Greek captain's cap extolling the work of others, but take a look up: his art made it so their art shone, literally. The light grid and the panels for Art in the Attic had the stamp of "Ron Caron" writ large. Not only did he build that, but he installed it and got others to help him set it up so the show would always go on.

He moved on to lighting in the Textile Museum as well, making sure they were positioned to best display the exhibitions. "Let there be light" could have been Ron's tagline!

Ron was one of the first people recruited for Puppets Up. There were to be tents, lights, sound, and wires, and no one could do a better job than Ron. Again, he assembled a little crew, and showed them how to do it, treating everyone as equals, and smiling through the whole weekend. He rode around in the golf cart like a king! He and his puppet were front and centre in the parades as well.

*Bong! Bong!* Ron used to say he couldn't sing, but he could make a fiddle sing, no doubt there, and the joy he gave and got from his fiddling groups was evident at every performance. He considered himself an amateur while the rest of us marvelled at his ability. He never turned down a gig — too much fun!

None of Ron's activities garnered monetary pay, but pay comes in many forms; and good times, sharing knowledge, making a difference to your community and giving pleasure for its own sake are more than enough for a volunteer. Ron received the Community Volunteer award, a high accolade on its own, and then saw the Town Hall Auditorium named in his honour. He was humble in his acceptance of both these achievements, surprised that he would be so recognized.

*Bong! Bong!* It's not often that someone of Ron's calibre comes around, and he should never be taken for granted, nor should his considerable contributions go unsung. There never was a more dedicated volunteer to every aspect of the culture of our town. To emulate his dedication would be a fitting way to honour his spirit of volunteerism, to live up to such a high standard would be difficult, but oh, so satisfying to even come close.

As the last notes of the bell faded into the new millennium, we rose as one to thank Ron for all he has done for us. It is a privilege to have been blessed with Ron's friendship. When he would greet me with "Well hello, Glenda", he made me feel as if I were the queen of the world for that shining moment. Thank you, Ron.

## Learning in Almonte

Two new series start in early spring:

### "Oh Dear, What Can the Matter Be?" by Peter Watson

Explore the intricacies of matter along with a smattering of layman-termed quantum mechanics. (Starts Tuesday, February 28)

**The Magic of Cinema** by Tom Shoebridge  
A history of film and the film industry with clips from classic movies. (Starts Thursday, March 2)

These courses are six weeks in length.

Each comprises one two-hour lecture every week, from 1:30–3:30 in the Almonte Public Library Classroom.

**No final exam, but lots of discussion time! \$75 per course.**

To register contact Don Wiles at  
don.wiles@carleton.ca or (613) 963-1736

## The Perth Community Choir

is inviting proposals for  
**2017–2018 Shows**

Proposal forms  
available from  
perthcommunitychoir@gmail.com

Deadline for proposals is  
**Friday, March 24, 2017**

Proposals to be sent to  
8 Glenview Cres.,  
Perth, Ontario K7H 2L1  
or emailed to  
perthcommunitychoir@gmail.com

# How to Get What You Want

## If what you want is to become more connected and involved with your community:

Start reading the descriptions of organizations and events seeking volunteers (they go from page 7-9 and from 22-24), and don't stop until you've found the perfect match for your interests and availability. We guarantee it will be here somewhere!

## If what you want is to help spread the work (and fun) around so that you can keep some balance (and free time) in your life:

Pass this issue of *theHumm* on to a new neighbour or someone who has recently retired or moved to the community. Why not bring them cookies too!

## And last, but not least:

If what you want is to continue to live in a community where folks volunteer to coach your children (or you), sort your used stuff and re-direct it from landfills, care for you when you get older and have trouble moving around, figure out how to be good stewards of the land and water on which we rely, preserve and celebrate our cultural heritage, raise money for good causes, and put on events that are tons of fun...

## THANK A VOLUNTEER!



# New Courses for Learning in Almonte

The third session of Learning in Almonte, that afternoon of education that beats the winter blahs, gets underway on February 28 when Peter Watson, physicist and mathematician, returns with his new series: "Oh dear, What can the matter be". Peter will explain the intricacies of matter, along with a smattering of layman-termed quantum mechanics and the Higgs boson. How proud you will be to dine out on conversations including your knowledge of quantum mechanics! Professor Watson is an entertaining and edifying lecturer who captivates his audience with his wit and wisdom. This course runs on Tuesdays from February 28 to April 11, from 1:30 to 3:30PM at the Almonte library.

The second course will begin on March 2, with Tom Shoebridge presenting "The Magic of Cinema". Tom comes to us from the National Film Board, and has extensive knowledge of film. His lectures will include clips that will no doubt take his audience down memory lane, and instil a better understanding of the film industry and the films themselves. What a great way to spend Thursday afternoons! Spoiler alert: there will not be popcorn... This course will run March 2 to April 13, from 1:30 to 3:30PM at the Almonte library.

Each course costs \$75 and will include lots of great discussions and absolutely no exams. It is necessary to register for the course of your choice by contacting <donwiles@cunet.carleton.ca>, with payment due at the first day of the course.

— Glenda Jones

February 2017

# Volunteer Opportunities

If you're looking to get more involved in and connected with your community, look no further! Below and on many more pages in this issue you'll find a "one-stop-shopping" index of events, groups and organizations throughout Lanark and Renfrew Counties that rely on the wonderful work of volunteers. Our hope is that no matter what your interests and availability, you'll find the perfect match.

Don't see your event or organization listed on these pages? Contact <editor@thehummm.com> to be listed in future issues.

# Arts & Activities Organizations

The mandate of the **Almonte and Area Artists' Association (4As)** is to encourage visual artists of all ages and skill levels to improve their talents through inspirational monthly speakers and by providing affordable venues in which to showcase work. Our main show, Art In The Attic, is held in May and we also have smaller venues throughout the year. We meet the second Monday of the month at 7:30PM in the Almonte Library and visitors are welcome. <4a-artists.ca>, 256-5863.

The **Almonte Skatepark Committee** is a volunteer group supported by the Municipality of Mississippi Mills. We are seeking volunteers to assist with fundraising initiatives, grant writing, events and co-ordination of youth involvement. Be part of this great project for youth and the young at heart in our town! Contact Sarah Robertson at 447-2362, or Calvin Murphy at 256-1077. Info: <almonteskatepark.ca>.

The **Almonte Trad Song** session meets the fourth Sunday of the month upstairs at the Barley Mow. Anyone is welcome. We revive the days when people gathered informally in a local pub to sing for their own pleasure. Most songs are from the British and North American traditions, including sea shanties, old gospel tunes and anything with a good chorus, so that everyone can join in. For more info, see <shantyman.ca/TradSing> or call David Baril at 355-5552.

**Arts Carleton Place** is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes the arts and culture in our community. We are run by volunteers and need your support in 2017. The Arts Carleton Place Show & Sale is coming up in May. Many hands will be required from set-up to tear down. The Board of Directors is seeking new members to get involved with our organization. To volunteer for an artsy experience, email us at <artscp@bell.net>.



**Camp Lau-Ren** <camplau-ren.com> is a children's residential summer camp of the United Church of Canada, drawing campers from Renfrew and Lanark Counties and beyond. The Camp Lau-Ren Board seeks enthusiastic volunteer board members and leaders as well as people willing to help with camp renovations and repairs in the spring. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this non-profit camp and help keep

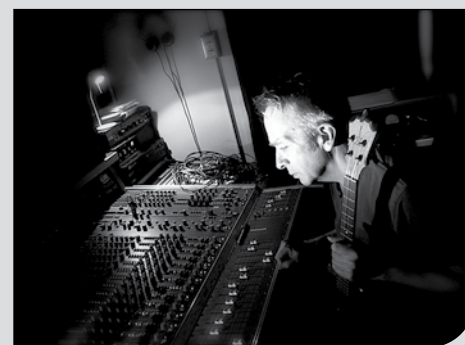
camper fees low. For information on how you can help, contact Bruce Patterson at <privacyofficer@sympatico.ca> or 621-1299.

The **Carleton Place Community Labyrinth** offers a special place for people to come together to enjoy a meditative walk, or to simply take time out of a busy day. Consider becoming a volunteer labyrinth keeper and help with set-up and hosting at special events in 2017. No previous labyrinth experience is needed; orientation will be provided. Contact Debby at 257-1014, and visit us on Facebook or check out our blog at <carletonplacecommunitylabyrinth.blogspot.ca>.

**Classic Theatre Festival**, Ottawa Valley's professional summer theatre, presents classics from the golden age of Broadway and London Stage in Perth. 2017 summer season (June 23-Sept. 10): Bernard Slade's comedy *Same Time, Next Year*, Shaw's comedy *Candida*, Peter Colley's mystery *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*, plus ghost walks and historic walking plays. Opportunities: ushering, operating concessions, set construction, painting, billeting, and community outreach. A great opportunity to work with some of Canada's top theatre professionals! 264-8088, <info@classictheatre.ca>, <classictheatre.ca>.

**Fieldwork** is a volunteer-run outdoor public art project near Perth. We are seeking volunteers to help us present another great year of creative public art programming. If you are interested in participating in trail-making work bees, helping artists install work, or helping out in preparing for our events, please contact us at <fieldworkproject@gmail.com>. Information can be found at <fieldwork.com>. We are also on Facebook and Twitter. Join us in our efforts to make this creative artspace even more successful!

**Folkus Concert Series** has been saving you the drive to the city since 2002. We have a mandate to present local and Canadian folk and acoustic talent to a local audience, and our venue is the acoustically superb Almonte Old Town Hall. New volunteers with skills in promotion, writing, social media and web design, as well as day-of-show skills like set-up and tending bar, are welcome. You don't necessarily have to be on the board to be a part! <info@folkusalmonte.com>.



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the  
**Humm**

7

GET INVOLVED / GET CONNECTED

# GET INVOLVED / GET CONNECTED

**MERA** is 20 years old this year! This vibrant community arts organization in an 1860s schoolhouse in McDonalds Corners is open year-round with dancers, fibre artists, musicians, weavers, potters and more. A community supper, dance and lantern parade will take place on August 5 to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>. We offer interesting workshops and, in warmer months, there is the Farmers' Market, Arts Camp for Kids, festivals and community events. For more information visit <merachoolhouse.org>.

The **Mississippi Mudds** Theatre Group is always looking for new volunteers, both backstage and on stage. You could also volunteer by manning our Nevada table at Giant Tiger for a few hours per year. Another season of live theatre in Carleton Place is underway with plans for some major productions: Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* Feb. 17-25, *H.M.S. Pinafore* April 28-May 6, and *Assassins* coming June 2017. For more info, visit <mississippimudds.ca> or email <info@mississippimudds.ca>.



For the 2017 season (our 25<sup>th</sup>), the **Ottawa Valley Music Festival (OVMF)** is planning one final concert in September in Arnprior to celebrate 25 years of bringing wonderful music to the Ottawa Valley. As always, the OVMF is in need of volunteers to serve on the Board, help out at concerts and fundraisers, and sing in the chorus. If you have time and/or talent to share please visit our website at <ottawavalleymusicfestival.ca> for details.

The **Perth Community Choir** is excitedly preparing for the 2017 fall production. The call for show proposals has gone out, and we are excited to see what ideas our community has to offer. This year we are seeking a show that will allow people of all ages to perform in and enjoy the show. Keep watching for some fun new mid-year events to help enjoy PCC year-round. For more information, "like" our Facebook Page, visit <perthcommunitychoir.com> or email <perthcommunitychoir@gmail.com>.



The **Studio Theatre** is a fully accessible 197-seat venue known for its great acoustics and warm, intimate atmosphere. It's also the only theatre in Perth run 100% by volunteers. Great opportunities abound for anyone interested in the thrilling world of theatre, and our volunteers see great plays and concerts for free! We currently need set builders, actors, stage crew, publicity writers, front-of-house people and more. Visit <studiotheatreperth.com> for details or call 326-1976.

The **Tay Valley Cross-Country Ski Club** maintains 20km of groomed and track-set cross-country ski trails at Murphys Point Provincial Park near Perth from December through March. We organize a popular, annual Ski Loppet and provide adult clinics and weekly skiing lessons to children ages 3 and up. A membership gives you free access to the park's winter trails. For information on volunteering, maps, memberships and to register for the loppet or other programs, visit <tayvalleyskiclub.wordpress.com>. Like us on Facebook, too!

The **West Carleton Arts Society** is always looking for creative, energetic members to join us in planning and executing some fun events this year. We need an organized individual to lead our "Art on the Grass" show this summer, and some enthusiastic volunteers to help with shows, display opportunities and other exciting activities, particularly celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Come join us and make some new art friends! Contact us at <westcarletonartsociety.ca>!



## Community Organizations & Services

The **Almonte Civitan Club** is a busy club that needs volunteer help. Civitans work to support the community through service or by donating funds raised. We lend medical equipment and tents, host or rent the hall for events, have a licensed bar and catering facilities, operate the Eastern Ontario Events Centre and more. We have almost 100 members, but more help is needed. Join the Civitan Family of volunteers! Please call 256-6234. Leave a message for President Mike Keffer.

Join the **Almonte & District Horticultural Society** for monthly speakers and gardening tips. Enter your blooms, vegetables and creative arrangements in our shows. Mount your best shots for our photo competitions. Lend a hand tending our gardens around Almonte. Sample dishes at our "Culinary Feast From The Garden" potluck. We meet the fourth Monday of every month, except July and December, at Cornerstone Community Church at 7:30PM. \$10 annual membership. Contact Carol Kenward at 256-5594 or visit <gardenontario.org/site.php/Almonte>.

**Almonte General Hospital and Fairview Manor** are always looking for new volunteers to fill a variety of roles. Our volunteers work closely with patients, residents and staff in physiotherapy, hairdressing, recreation, clerical and the gift shop. If you are interested in meeting new people while giving back to your community, please don't hesitate to call us. For more information on our volunteer program, please contact Kelly Bowles at 256-2514 x2226, or <volunteers@agh-fvm.com>.



**As Good As New Store:** our volunteer-run Lanark County Interval House thrift store at 33 Bridge Street in Carleton Place needs you! Always looking for positive and enthusiastic volunteers. We have opportunities selling/customer service or sorting clothing donations and small housewares to support LCIH programming for women and children. Join our team! Contact Lanark County Interval House at 257-3469 or visit <lcih.org> for more information and applications.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** of Lanark County is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that provides mentoring programs to children throughout the County. Volunteer opportunities are varied, and can be built to suit an individual's interests and location. Programs include one-on-one mentoring, music, craft or sports programs, and so much more. Other opportunities include helping at events, in our thrift store, on a committee, or on our board. Visit <bigbrothersbigsisterslanark.ca> or call 283-0570 for more information.

Throughout Lanark County, the **Canadian Red Cross** provides emergency assistance – food, clothing, shelter – to people affected by personal disasters like house fires. The Red Cross also prepares to assist our community during large-scale disasters like ice storms, forest fires and floods. If you would like to be part of a dynamic group of Red Cross volunteers and help during times of disaster, contact us at 1-844-818-2155 or <vrs@redcross.ca>.

# Soup Up Those Winter Blahs!

## MVTM's Soup for Thought

Mark the date Saturday, March 4 on your calendar now, because you won't want to miss this year's **Soup for Thought** luncheon fundraiser at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. There's nothing like a nice hot bowl of soup to warm you up on these chilly days — and what soups they are!

Food and museum lovers attending this popular event will enjoy gourmet soup from the best restaurants in Almonte and the Valley, and will take home the beautiful handmade stoneware bowl it was served in, courtesy of the Almonte Potters' Guild.

The event takes place at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, and again this year there are two seatings. The first is from 11:30AM to 1PM, and the second is from 1:30PM to 3PM.

Sarah Robertson of Prior Engagements will be donating additional dishes and utensils, Patrice's Independent Grocer will be providing coffee and rolls, and Rental Village will be donating beverage containers. And the Friends of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum will be providing tasty desserts.

Tickets are \$25 each, and children under 12 are free (but the only get soup; no bowl to take home). Tickets will be available at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Baker Bob's, and Pêches et Poivre. Be sure to get your tickets in advance, as only 150 tickets will be sold for each seating. For more information about this event and the Textile Museum, call 256-3754 x7, visit <mvmtm.ca>, or drop in during museum hours at 3 Rosamond Street East in Almonte.



You can have your bowl and eat your soup too at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum's annual Soup for Thought event, taking place on Saturday, March 4

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# GET INVOLVED / GET CONNECTED

The 2017 **Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society** season starts in March, and with flower shows, a plant sale and planting around downtown Carleton Place. We are always in need of volunteers. Our Society is a registered charity and funds raised by us are donated to local schools, bursaries for horticultural students, also to local communities. For more information see our Facebook page.

**CFUW Perth & District** is committed to the improvement of the status of women, the pursuit of knowledge and the promotion of education. Since 2005 our annual Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour has raised over \$150,000, which has been distributed through our Education Awards, donations to libraries, schools, literacy and arts programs and other education-related grants in Perth and surrounding areas. We support programs that benefit women and girls. We welcome new members – please visit <cfuw-perth-district.com> for detailed information.

**Community Home Support Lanark County** is a volunteer-based agency for seniors, adults with physical disabilities, and people who have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness and/or palliative diagnosis. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels, transportation, diners clubs, friendly visiting, security/reassurance and hospice-palliative care. Phone 267-6400, email <info@chslc.ca> or visit <chslc.ca>.

**Connections** is a community-based program serving families in Lanark County. Our goal is to provide support to families who are pregnant or have children aged 0-6. Volunteers are needed in our playgroups for young children in Carleton Place, Smiths Falls and Perth, as well as our Birth Companion program supporting young women in the community during pregnancy, labour and delivery. Free training will be provided. For more information, please call 257-2779 x3104 or email <Maureen@connectionsprogram.ca>.

Located in Ottawa, the **Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre** is a non-profit, residential and community-based agency that is dedicated to helping youth (13-21) and families overcome substance abuse and related issues. We are currently seeking volunteers at the **Carleton Place** residence: Mon-Fri from 3:30-5PM or 6-7:30PM, and weekend afternoons. Specific activities: running, music, arts, crafts, sports, playing board games. For more information, visit <davesmithcentre.org> and look for the volunteer application form, or call 594-8333 x2202.



Consider volunteering for the **Friends of Augusta Street Park**. We need help with two great park projects. The first is our annual 5 Wednesdays in July music concert series. Consider helping with its planning or at the event. The other is a small children's splash pad. We have a great plan and some money. We'll need a bit more. To share your time, talent and treasure, contact Jeff at <jmills@themills.on.ca>.

The **Guatemala Stove Project** works with indigenous Maya families in Guatemala's Western Highlands. Our core activity is building masonry cookstoves for impoverished households in Maya villages.

We are also involved in education, micro loans, emergency aid and nutrition. Our goal is to alleviate poverty for the Maya. Volunteers plan fundraising events and presentations, culminating in the annual volunteer trip to Guatemala in February. Meetings are every six weeks in Perth and Ottawa – Drop in! Please "like" our Facebook page.



Interested in being part of the **Habitat for Humanity Perth Chapter**? Be part of the leadership and volunteer team to build a home for a family in need. Of particular need is help with fundraising and family support, but any willingness to help is greatly appreciated. Contact Sandra Oey at <chapter@habitatgo.com> or 749-9950 x257, or Chris Hahn, Dean for the Perth Campus of Algonquin College at <hahnc@algonquincollege.com> or 267-2859 x5622.

The **Hospice Palliative Care Services** of Community Home Support Lanark County needs more volunteers! Trained volunteers support people living with a life-limiting illness and those at end-of-life in their home and hospital. Volunteers offer their time in the Home Visiting, Day Hospice and Bereavement Programs. If you live in Lanark County and have some time to spare, come out and join a dedicated team of caring volunteers! Phone 267-6400; email <info@chslc.ca>; visit <chslc.ca> or find @CHSLanarkCounty on Facebook.

Located in the heart of Almonte, **The Hub** is a Canadian not-for-profit registered charity supporting Mississippi Mills. Shop or donate gently used family fashions, accessories, housewares, books, games and toys. All funds raised stay in the community, and support scholarships, health needs, sports teams, special events, seniors' travel, Christmas baskets, and so much more. New volunteers welcomed – visit <thehubalmonte.com> or contact <info@thehubalmonte.com>.

**Hub Hospice Palliative Care** is a not-for-profit registered Canadian charity funded through donations and fundraising initiatives. We are a "hospice without walls," providing in-home palliative care support for adult clients and their families. Visiting services are available in North Lanark, which includes Carleton Place and the municipality of Mississippi Mills (Almonte, Pakenham, Blakeney, Appleton and Clayton). You can volunteer and make a difference. For more information, visit <hubhospice.com> or contact the volunteer coordinator, Allison Griffith RN, at <info@hubhospice.com> or 406-7020.

**Lanark Animal Welfare Society (LAWS)** is a no-kill animal shelter dedicated to promoting the wellbeing of animals, serving Lanark County and surrounding areas. LAWS depends on the generous help of volunteers, in- and out-of-shelter. Volunteer opportunities include: cat care attendants, bakers for fundraisers, dog walkers and many more. For more information, call the shelter at 283-9308 or email <shelter@lanarkanimals.ca>.



**Lanark County Interval House** needs you! Are you interested in lending a hand to an organization that supports local women and children? Various volunteer options to choose from: events, driving, shift support, committees and more. Do you have a talent or service to offer residents for free? Let us know. Visit <lich.org> for more information.

**Lanark County Genealogical Society** is a charity and non-profit volunteer organization that provides volunteer opportunities to learn about our heritage, help with such things as researching, recording historical data, responding to inquiries, editing, blogging, creative designs, and helping at events. Students – we offer community involvement hours according to UCDSB and the Ministry of Education. Current project: Ontario Lanark County Memorable People publication. Meetings are free and membership opportunities available. Visit <lanarkgenealogy.com> or call 793-6335 for more information.

**Continued on page 22...**



## Travelogue: Trekking in Peru

Whether you're interested in travel, hiking, nature, or geography, you'll want to mark Thursday, February 2 at 7PM on your calendars, and come to the Almonte Branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library for a virtual trip to Peru. Rick Scholes will present photographs from his travels in Peru last May. The trip was based around three treks: a four-day Salkantay to Machu Picchu, a Colca Canyon trek, and the Santa Cruz trek in the Cordillera Blanca.

The Salkantay and Santa Cruz routes required acclimatization to altitudes above 4500 metres (15,000 feet). In between treks Rick toured, mostly self-guided and on foot, the cities of Lima, Cusco, Puno, Arequipa, and Huaraz. Other highlights included travelling by train through the altiplano on the exotic Andean Explorer, condor spotting at Cruz del Condor, and visiting an Eco-Inn and NGO run by Canadian ex-pats near Huaraz.

Check out the library website for more information on upcoming talks at <missmillslibrary.com/travelogue-series>. For information, or if you would like to share your stories as part of the series, please contact Katherine at 624-5306. This event is free.

**Almonte ANTIQUE MARKET**  
26 Mill Street 613-256-1511

**Almonte Seedy Saturday**  
Heirloom, organic, open-pollinated seeds & plants  
Seed & Garden Supplies Exchange  
Workshops for beginners to advanced-level gardeners  
**February 11, 9AM-4PM**  
**Almonte Civitan Hall**  
500 Almonte Road  
Brought to you by: Beyond the Garden Gate  
**Free Admission with this ad! (reg. \$2)**

# Humm Bits

## Toy and Collectible Show & Sale

United Way Lanark County is hosting the annual Toy and Collectible Show and Sale at the Almonte Civitan Hall on Saturday, February 4 from 10AM to 2PM. Over thirty vendors and exhibitors will be on hand with: die cast and tin toys, cars, tractors, trucks and trains, dolls and bears, ship models, comic books, action figures, electronic game cartridges, and so much more! There truly is something for every member of the family.

Admission is \$5 at the door, with children under 12 free. Want to have early access to find the best deals? Come for 9AM and pay \$10 for this advantage! Funds raised from the show will fund programs that fall under the All That Kids Can Be focus area, which helps children and youth reach their full potential.

There will be door prize draws throughout the day for attendees, and the Almonte Civitan Club will have their canteen open for the event. Make it a family affair, stay for lunch, and share memories of your childhood with the next generation! For more information, visit <lanarkunitedway.com>.

## Celebrating Canada 150 in Lanark

Join the Lanark Museum in "Celebrating Canada 150" in story, music and dance! On Sunday, February 5 from 1:30 to 3:30, local dancers, cloggers, musicians and storytellers will be on hand at the Lanark Civitan Hall to entertain you. Many items describing some of the history of the Lanark Highlands over the past 150 years will be on display, and the event will also feature refreshments and a silent auction. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and will be available at the door or by calling Jeannie Kelso at 278-1391. Proceeds from this event will go towards hiring a summer student and enhancing the displays at the Lanark Museum.

## Fire and Ice and Music and Dance

Perth Tourism is pleased to present the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Fire and Ice event planned for Saturday, February 18.

Families are invited to a free swim at the Perth Indoor Pool from 1 to 3PM and a free skate at the Perth Arena from 6 to 8PM. They are also invited to visit the Perth Outfitters' new Wooded Skate Trail — visit <perthoutfitters.com> for more details.

After an invigorating day of outdoor play, the enchantment continues at 8PM at the Crystal Palace as things heat up with an evening ice bar featuring Perth Brewery and Top Shelf Distilleries, an outdoor bonfire and dancing with music by Riq Turner Band — welcoming everyone 19 years of age and up! Watch a professional fire dancer at 9PM, followed by fireworks lighting up the sky over the Tay Basin at 9:30PM. Music and dancing will continue until midnight.

Tickets (\$10 in person, \$12 online) are on sale now at the Perth Tourism Centre, 11 Gore Street East. For details, call 267-1947 or visit <ticketsplease.ca>. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment as this event sold out last year!

## Family Weekend Book Sale

Attention all book lovers and bargain hunters! The Friends of the Perth Union Library will hold their next semi-annual Book Sale on Saturday, February 18, as part of the Family Day weekend. Doors open at the library at 10AM and there will be a large variety of fiction, non-fiction and children's books available, with many treasures to be found. All sales are by donation only.

The Friends of the Perth Union Library was formed in 1993 as a volunteer advocacy group to promote awareness and appreciation of our local library. The Friends raise funds to support improvements to the library's collections and services, and promote the library, its resources and upcoming programs at community outreach events. In addition, the Friends have advocated on behalf of the library to local policy makers and community members.

Over the past five years, the Friends of the Library have raised more than \$17,000 for the Library through book sales, bake sales and raffles. The money raised has gone to support the library's Summer Literacy Program, furnishings for the Children's section, author readings, and prizes for various library contests. More recently, the Friends of the Library have been able to assist in funding the new signage as part of the library's December 2016 renovations.

If you would like to support the book sale by donating your well-loved books, you may bring them to the library from now until February 17, during library hours. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Library, please contact Martina Flanagan at 267-4494 or <friendspertlibrary@gmail.com>.

# Scotland Road – A Thriller with Titanic Implications

Picture this: A young woman is found floating on an iceberg off the coast of Iceland. Cold and hungry, dressed in early 20<sup>th</sup> century clothing, she utters a single word: "Titanic." Surely this poor soul is a survivor of the disaster that took so many lives on that horrifying night in 1912.

There's just one startling problem with that conclusion: the year of her rescue is 1990.

Jeffrey Hatcher's thought-provoking thriller *Scotland Road* has it all: a tantalising premise, a torn-from-the-headlines mystery, and enough twists and turns to keep us on a knife-edge of suspense throughout. Seasoned actor Jerry Logan stars as John, a mysterious man obsessed with the 100-year-old Titanic tragedy. John transports the young woman, played by Mary Ann Majaury, to an undisclosed observation room where, to save his own sanity, he must expose what can only be an elaborate hoax. Together with a reclusive last survivor of the Titanic's sinking, and a doctor who has taken the young woman under her wing (played respectively by talented newcomers Jane Stott and Roberta Peets), John struggles with his own obsession to peel back the layers of mystery. What he discovers leaves him with searing doubt, and a world of unanswered questions.

Veteran actor Joanna McCauley Treffers directs *Scotland Road*, and says that producing the play has been a challenging and hugely satisfying experience.

"One of the wonderful things about Jeffrey Hatcher's script is that it doesn't provide pat answers to the mystery; it leaves room for our own interpretations. Everyone in the cast has their own take on their role, and on the ultimate meaning of the play."

In a life-imitates-art twist, McAuley Treffers' says that one of the stars of *Scotland Road* is a lifelong Titanic fanatic.

"Jerry Logan, who plays John, lives and breathes Titanic lore — always has — so he brings his own obsessions to the role. The story is so fascinating that our cast is often more energized at the end of rehearsal than at the beginning. It's been quite a journey, and we can't wait to take our audiences on this journey."

Why is a play that revolves around the Titanic disaster called *Scotland Road*? The title actually provides an intriguing insight: there was a central corridor that ran the entire length of the ship, allowing crew members to pass from first class to steerage. That passageway was called "Scotland Road"...



Jerry Logan and Mary Ann Majaury rehearse a scene from *Scotland Road*, opening at the Studio Theatre on February 2. The production also stars Roberta Peets and Jane Stott. Visit <studiotheatreperth.com> for details.

*Scotland Road* opens at the Studio Theatre on Thursday, February 2 for seven shows: February 2, 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 7:30PM, and February 5 and 12 at 2PM. Tickets are \$22 at the Book Nook (60 Gore St. E., cash only) and \$22 plus convenience fee at Shadowfax (67 Foster St., 267-6817, shadowfax.on.ca) and Tickets Please (in Matheson House Museum Visitor Centre, 11 Gore St. E., 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca), both of which accept in-store, phone, online and credit card purchases. Tickets are \$24 at the door, and \$10 at the door for students with ID. Attend opening night and save \$5! For complete show details, dates, and ticket information please visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.

Don't miss your chance to see *Scotland Road*, enhanced by exciting new technology at the Studio Theatre. You'll agree, it is a theatre experience with Titanic implications...

— Paul Joyce



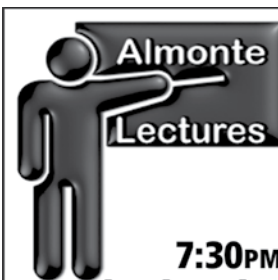
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# Eat Local Support a CSA!

Do the grey winter days have you dreaming about the greens of spring and summer? Why not ensure a steady supply of those greens (as well as lots of other delicious produce) by investing in a local CSA?

CSA stands for Community Shared Agriculture (also known as Community Supported Agriculture), which is essentially a partnership between growers and eaters. By purchasing a CSA “share”, eaters enter an agreement with farmers who then supply them with a season’s worth of vegetables — with a full share usually feeding a family of four. Typically, some or all of the cost of the subscription is paid up front, which helps the farmer with financing for the year. It also provides a secure market, allowing farmers to do what they do best — grow nutritious, great-tasting food. In Lanark County, many farms (such as the ones listed on this page) begin selling CSA shares as early as January, so contact them early to reserve your spot!

## The Benefits

One of the advantages of participating in a CSA is that you get to deal directly with the farmer who grew the food. You can ask questions about the growing conditions or find out how to best prepare an unfamiliar vegetable. Knowing what kind of produce you’ll be getting in a given week enables you to plan meals, which is a great way to reduce both wasted food and extra trips to the grocery store.

Supporting small-scale, local farms means voting with your dollars for the option that is easier on the planet than large, monocrop industrial farms. You will also feel like you’re doing something good for your health and the health of your family. Local growers are proud of what they sell, and their primary goal is to produce vegetables, fruit and meat that taste great and are full of nutrients. You will be dealing with a local expert, someone who spends a good deal of time on the many tasks related to turning soil, sunlight and water into delicious food. The farmers then sustain the local economy by making local purchases, resulting in a win-win situation!

**Most CSAs sell out well before Spring, so call now to book your share!**



## Local CSAs

### Funny Duck Farms Whole Farm CSA

RR#3, Jasper  
info@funnyduckfarms.com  
www.funnyduckfarms.com

Our certified organic farm offers a very unique year-round CSA program that delivers to your door. Customize your weekly food baskets based on your individual family needs. We offer a wide range of pasture-raised meats as well as vegetables, eggs, herbs, dry goods, honey, maple syrup, and value-added foods. Home delivery to most areas in Ottawa, or pick up at the farm gate. We have limited shares available for the 2017 season.

### Indian Creek Orchard Gardens

919 Sugar Bush Road, Pakenham  
Contact Scott:  
613-914-7444  
scott@indiancreekorchard.ca  
www.indiancreekorchard.ca

Offering 16 & 20 week veggie farm shares. Indian Creek Orchard Gardens is an organic micro farm, nestled on five acres between Pakenham and Almonte. We employ a hybrid of regenerative, agroforestry and organic farming techniques. Our vegetables are sown between rows of fruit trees, bush fruits and aisles of grape vines. Pick-up locations in Carleton Place, Almonte, and at farm. Delivery option also available.

### Miller’s Bay Farm

65 Rideau Ferry Road, Lombardy  
Contact Robert & Shannon Miller:  
613-283-0205  
millersfarmfresh@gmail.com  
www.millersbayfarm.com

Miller’s Bay Farm is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation family farm that is home to the “Bountiful Basket” Program, now gearing up for its fifth season. Our weekly baskets contain conventionally, sustainably grown produce only — and *everything* we sell is produced right here at the farm. The 15-week program runs from late June through Thanksgiving, with pick-up options in Perth, Smiths Falls and at the farm. Program registration will begin in early March. Visit our website to sign up for our “Farm Fresh Alerts” and be among the first to be notified.

### Path Back Farms

798 Rae Road, Mississippi Mills  
Contact John Sandberg:  
613-794-7334  
facebook.com/pathbackfarms

16-week CSA beginning the second week in June. Pick-up at the farm, or Dwyer Hill at Hwy 7. A large variety of vegetables, with eggs and meat available on request. Also available: jams, jellies, preserves and maple syrup. Also visit us at the Carleton Place Farmers’ Market.

### Rock-N-Horse Farm

1267 Rae Road, Almonte  
Contact Arlee & Diane:  
613-256-6117  
am.sheets@hotmail.com  
www.rocknhorsefarm.ca

Our CSA is 14 weeks beginning end of June. Weekly pickup at the farm. We also have beef, pork, lamb, chicken, turkey, eggs, maple syrup, honey, bread, flour, preserves, sweets and more to add to your veggies.

### Stony Brae Farm

111 Rutherford Side Road, Perth  
Contact Greg Farrow:  
613-264-8015  
farrowgreg@hotmail.com  
www.facebook.com/StonyBraeFarm

Stony Brae Farm has beautiful ecologically grown vegetables and fruit. We offer full season (32 weeks) and half season (16 weeks) harvest boxes. These are available in full share (family) and half share (single or couple) sizes. Pick up or delivery in the Perth area.

### Two Rivers Local Food Basket

361 Queen St. Unit 5000, Smiths Falls  
Contact Bruce or Sally:  
613-205-1338  
info@tworiversfoodhub.com  
tworiversfoodhub.com

The Two Rivers Food Hub, a not-for-profit social enterprise supporting area farmers, offers a multi-farm basket with product from several small, diverse farms from throughout the region. Support your community while enjoying 18 weeks of fresh produce! All products are local and source identified. Small, large and “giving back” basket options available, as well as grocery add-ons through our online ordering platform.

**For more information about local food, farm-gate sales and CSAs, visit  
lanarklocalflavour.ca**

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## Wild Cats in Eastern Ontario



These magnificent creatures – Canada Lynx, Bobcat and Cougar – are elusive. What do we know about them? Are they found in our area?

Sue Morse – renowned photographer and wildlife ecologist specializing in big cats – will lead tracking workshops and an evening presentation:

- Saturday February 18 and Sunday February 19, 8:30AM (space is limited to 15 each).
- *An Evening with Wildcats*, presentation and social featuring Sue Morse, Saturday February 18, 7:00PM, Perth Civitan

For more information and tickets, visit the Lanark Stewardship Council website:  
[lanarkstewardshipcouncil.ca](http://lanarkstewardshipcouncil.ca)

See pages 7 & 8 to volunteer for  
**ARTS ORGANIZATIONS!**

The Smiths Falls Community Theatre Presents

**No Sex Please,  
We're British**

Directed by Nancy Keech

by Anthony Marriot & Alistair Foot

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc. - Feb/Mar 2017

**Feb 24, 25 & March 2,3,4 at 7:30 pm**  
**Sunday Matinees**  
**Feb 26 & March 5 at 2:00 pm**

• Adult \$20 • Student (with ID) \$10  
Group rates available for 15 or more for same performance - call for details

Tickets available at:  
• Special Greetings, 8 Russell St. E., Smiths Falls (cash only)  
• [smithsfallstheatre.com](http://smithsfallstheatre.com) (Paypal/Visa/Mastercard)  
• By Phone - 613-283-0300 (Visa/Mastercard)  
• At the Door - 1/2 hour before performance (cash only)  
53 Victoria Avenue, Smiths Falls

THE STATION THEATRE

## Music Matters

# Making a Difference Behind the Scenes

Since theHumm is devoting this issue to volunteerism, I thought that I would jump on board as well, but with a slightly different twist. High school band programs like mine rely heavily on the efforts of volunteers, and I would like to shed some light on the behind-the-scenes workings of a busy music program.

by Tony Stuart

I am in a very fortunate situation in that I have a fellow staff member (our wonderful librarian) who kindly offered a few years ago to help with the administration for all of our bands. She collects student fees, helps organize our annual band tour by acting as a liaison between myself and our tour company, coordinates fundraising, and puts together packages of forms that need to go home. I can't stress how much easier this makes my job, because tracking paperwork is pretty low on my list of my strengths, whereas librarians tend to be very organized people. This leaves me free to do what I do best, which is waving my arms and helping kids to sound good on stage.

The point of the above example is that a volunteer with a useful skill set is helping to make a difference for our band students. If all of these tasks were exclusively left up to me, it would be a disaster, but her efforts keep the machine running smoothly.

Running a successful band program is not a solo venture. Parents are another very important part of the volunteer team. Every time that we put on a concert, we have a team of parents who help with concessions, ticket sales, and in-house fundraising. We also have volunteers who help us transport instruments and equipment when we do a show off-

site. These individuals don't get a lot of recognition, but I always try to make sure that they understand how important their contributions are. If any of you are reading this, please accept my thanks.

There is no shortage of volunteer opportunities for students, either. I am constantly relying on volunteers to help sort music, plan social events for our bands, set up chairs for concerts, and help with teardown after each performance. Again, these efforts are behind the scenes, but critically important.

This past summer I was fortunate enough to perform at the Stewart Park Festival in Perth. This festival is completely run by volunteers, and I think they have it down to a science. I've mentioned in past columns about how well they treat their musicians, and

**I** think that when we look after one another, we help create a more gracious, caring society, and that is something that we need to keep on doing in light of recent political developments. When we take time to volunteer, everybody wins.

this summer was no exception. From the moment I arrived I felt an amazing sense of positive energy. They do an exceptional job of making their performers feel welcomed, which is why musicians keep coming back.

We all know that volunteering makes you feel good, whether your work is up front or in the background. Actions speak much louder than words do. I think that when we look after one another, we help create a more gracious, caring society, and that is something that we need to keep on doing in light of recent political developments. When we take time to volunteer, everybody wins.

— Tony Stuart is the Music Director at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Carleton Place, and a freelance professional musician.

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# SchoolBOX Brings Educational Empowerment Home to Canada

As celebrations get underway for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the local charity SchoolBOX is bringing its model of educational empowerment in Nicaragua home to Canada. Working in partnership with Indigenous youth leaders, SchoolBOX has big plans to install its first library in a reserve community in Northern Ontario in 2017. The new program is simply called "SchoolBOX Canada".

SchoolBOX was founded in Almonte ten years ago with the desire to empower some of the world's most vulnerable children through education. With the help of an amazing network of volunteers and friends in Canada and beyond, SchoolBOX has built 83 classrooms, 54 libraries, and supports more than 17,000 children in 96 communities in Nicaragua annually with school supplies.

## The Vision

SchoolBOX's Executive Director Sarah Kerr created the IYES (Indigenous Youth Empowering Students) program in 2009 in collaboration with Danielle Ogen, a young Wet'suwet'en woman from British Columbia who had volunteered with SchoolBOX the previous year. The IYES program was based on SchoolBOX's existing volunteer model, but specifically brought together a team of First Nations and Inuit youth from across Canada to help build a school in Nicaragua and share their culture with the kids.

"Both Danielle and I had experienced how transformative SchoolBOX builds could be," explains Sarah. "For this group of Indigenous youth, it was the first

time they had the opportunity to really delve into aspects of their own culture, and share it with others in an empowering way." Many of these IYES alumni are now incredible leaders in their home communities and are deeply committed to learning and sharing their cultures and languages. Inspired by these amazing IYES volunteers, and recognizing the barriers that Indigenous children still face to access education in their own communities, Kerr dreamed of expanding this program to include an initiative on Canadian soil.

After an IYES trip in 2012, an Anishinaabe volunteer named Terri Meekis shared that her own community on Wabauskang First Nations Reserve in Northern Ontario lacked a library and primary school. Her children were forced to travel outside of their community to access education. According to Kerr, "we saw the power of education to transform lives and re-shape communities in Nicaragua, and couldn't help but ask, why can't we use SchoolBOX's model to empower our own communities here in Canada?" With Terri's story in mind, the idea for SchoolBOX Canada was born.



## Building Libraries and Empowering Indigenous Leaders

The first project for SchoolBOX Canada will be to install a library in Treaty 3 territory, where Wabauskang First Nations Reserve is located. The community, which is about 500 kilometres northwest of Thunder Bay, reported that 30% of its schools do not have libraries and that 70% of its libraries suffer from outdated



The new SchoolBOX Canada initiative grew out of their Indigenous Youth Empowering Students program, where Canadian students like Terri Meekis (above) and Alex Terbasket (left) volunteered in Nicaragua

books and lack of trained personnel. With guidance from IYES alumni and in partnership with the Chief and Grand Council of Treaty 3, SchoolBOX will deliver a library consisting of culturally relevant books for primary school grades 1 to 6.

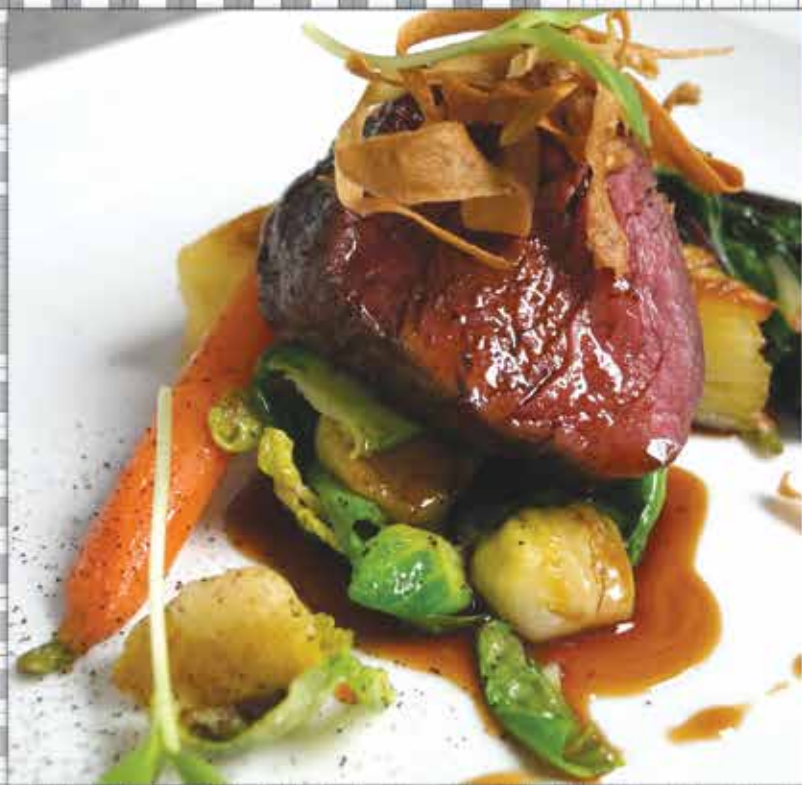
"Investing in local leadership is the key," says Kerr. Having Indigenous youth leaders on the ground to identify needs in their home communities is paving the way for SchoolBOX Canada's first project to be a success. "In the same way that Ronald and Jazmin (SchoolBOX Director and Programs Manager in Nicaragua) have taken over leadership of SchoolBOX in Nicaragua," she adds, "we are creating a model that can be led by Indigenous youth here at home into the future."

## Get Involved!

New or gently used books for grade 1 to 6 reading levels, as well as financial donations, are greatly appreciated to kickstart the first SchoolBOX Canada library project. As donations of books are received, volunteers will also be needed in order to sort and catalogue books by genre and grade level. Help is also appreciated to recruit Indigenous youth volunteers for the upcoming IYES trip to Nicaragua in summer 2017. This is an opportunity for self-identified First Nations, Metis and Inuit young people to empower Nicaraguan children by building a new classroom and participating in a cultural exchange.

Prospective volunteers are kindly invited to contact <Stephanie@schoolbox.ca> for information on how to get involved. — Stephanie Rudyk Toepfer

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# Leaving Your Own Legacy

If you have ever been drawn to journaling but had trouble getting started, or were daunted by the commitment required to put your thoughts into writing on a regular basis, one of Heather Tucker's **Legacy Journal Workshops** might just be the enticement you have been waiting for. As you can see from the images on this page, her take on journaling involves so much more than writing — it incorporates the author's own words as well as favourite quotes and sayings, but also includes art, whimsy and good old-fashioned play.

Heather describes the Legacy Journal Workshop as "a hands-on, playful experience where participants discover how to capture their unique essence and lifetime of wisdom for generations to come." She adds that "the only skill required is the ability to pick up a pen and the willingness to have some fun. Using colour and collage, wisdom and whimsy, collected quotes and simple strokes anyone can create a legacy journal.



Resources, prompts and imaginative ideas will start participants on this meaningful journey."

As part of the Canada 150 celebrations, Heather will be offering workshops in both Carleton Place and Almonte, and they are free of charge! The first one will take place from 2–4PM on Wednesday, February 22 at the Almonte Library (please RSVP to them at 256–1037 if you would like to attend), and the second will be from 6–8PM on Wednesday, March 1 at the Carleton Place Library (RSVP at 257–2702).

## "The Fire of Letting Go"

It was actually her own experience with more traditional journal writing that led Heather to develop this new take on the activity. She explains: "For years, journaling was my Prozac. Scratching a pen across the blank page helped me navigate some very dark roads. I had boxes of spiral-bound notebooks squirreled away with post-it notes atop: *If I'm dead and you*

*are cleaning out my office, please don't read these, burn them.* My husband remarked, 'Well, there's an invitation for people to brew a pot of coffee, clean their eyeglasses and find a comfy chair.'

"Lucky, lucky day when my 'note to self' became: *You are alive. You are ready to let go of the whining and despair. Now, what story do you want to tell about your life?*

"The day I set a match to my old journals was liberating, life defining... After savouring the fire of letting go, I purchased an empty book, plotted out the year ahead, got out my crayons, scissors and glue and began filling pages with inspiration, hope, gratitude, joy, play..."

Heather now believes that creating a legacy journal is "an activity that benefits mind, body and soul. Journaling helps us process feelings and make sense of our lives. Play reduces stress, makes us smarter and slows dementia. And recording for posterity our thoughts, joys, accomplishments, challenges, gratitudes... fosters purpose and our sense of self-worth." Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to find out more about it!

## The Clay Girl

In addition to journaling, Heather has also been drawn to writing after retiring from her first career in the health sciences. She has won many prose and short story writing competitions, and her stories have appeared in anthologies and literary journals. Her first novel, *The Clay Girl*, is a beautiful tour de force about a child sculpted by kindness, cruelty, and the extraordinary power of im-



Author Heather Tucker will be offering free journaling workshops at the Carleton Place and Almonte Libraries, and will lead a discussion about her first novel *The Clay Girl*. As evidenced by the two pages shown here — inspired by a visit to the Real Wool Shop in CP (above), and to Almonte Celtfest (below left) — her journaling style is distinctive and inspirational!

agination, and her families — the one she's born in to and the one she creates. It has received rave reviews so far — *The Toronto Star* enthuses that it will take your breath away — and is available at independent bookstores and from <ecwpress.com>. At 7PM on Wednesday, February 22, Heather will attend a **discussion of her book** at the Almonte Library — Mill Street Books invites anyone who has read her book to join in. Please RSVP to the bookstore at 256–9090 if you would like to attend. For more information about Heather, her workshops and her writing, visit <heathertucker.ca>.



## Join us for an all-inclusive excursion to the Shaw and Stratford Festivals

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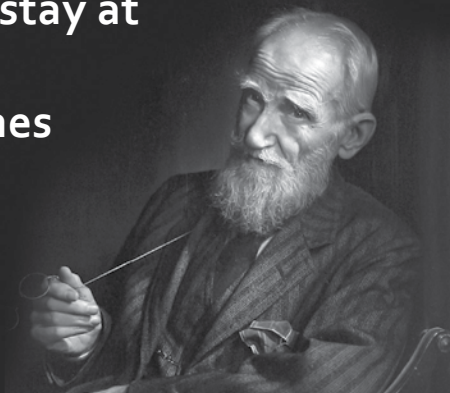
1.866.686.1288

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With Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*, Molière's *Tartuffe*, Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, Frank Loesser's *Guys and Dolls*, Noel Gay's *Me and My Girl*, Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* and Liz Lochhead's *Dracula*.

In Stratford we see one operetta and three plays, take an historical tour by horse-drawn carriage, experience the region's best restaurants and stay at the Arden Park Hotel. In Niagara-on-the-Lake we attend three performances at the renowned Shaw Festival, enjoy world-class wines and stay at the elegant Prince of Wales Hotel. All are welcome, regardless of age or mobility level.

For tour details, email us at [info@ariatours.com](mailto:info@ariatours.com) or call us toll-free.



# Signals in the Noise

In the InstaSnapTwitFace-app-ified world we all currently live in, we here at theHumm like to think of ourselves as the original social media. We try to provide content that is local, timely and relevant to our readers. Ideally, our signal to noise ratio is quite high. For example, when you read an article or spot a calendar entry that piques your interest, you can be certain that it is happening in theHumm's coverage area which is also hopefully close to where you are.

by Rob Riendeau

Now imagine that you are visiting a town without a publication like theHumm. What do you do to find out what's happening locally? You probably turn to Google and online social media but, unless you are very lucky, you will face a great deal of frustration and effort sorting the wheat from the chaff. What's a live music lover to do?

## BandsInTown to the Rescue!

BandsInTown is a free app that cuts right to the chase of helping you find local live music. It can scan your music collection (and your Spotify, last.fm, etc. accounts) to figure out which bands you like and then, based on your location, it recommends live concerts you might enjoy. There are a couple of easy settings that you can adjust to control the recommendations that you see. You can also ask to see all of the concerts happening in your area, which is a great way to discover cool new bands.

Once it is set up on your device, you will also be notified (if you so choose) when bands you like announce new shows in your area. According to Julien Mittelberg, CEO of BandsInTown: "Today, people are expecting to hear about concerts by receiving information, not going to look for information." It is one of the few apps on my phone that I allow to send me notifications because I find them to be high-value and relevant. For example, I was delighted when I received an alert that David Wilcox had announced a show this summer in Kemptville.

For you musicians, BandsInTown makes it easy to enter your gig information in one place and have it sync Facebook, Twitter, and your website or blog. It also handles sending reminders to all your friends and fans who are tracking you in the app. It's a win-win for bands and fans.

I encourage you all to spend the zero dollars it costs to check out this excellent app. Bands — let

your fans know that they should track you (and send me a quick email). Fans — tell your bands to start posting their shows to this cool platform. More music lovers and music makers will just make it better!

## Rocking the Brave New World

So, while we're discussing the intersection of the digital world and the real world, let me tell you about another cool crossover. **Red Heaven** is a project of Almonte musician Corey Tamas, who performs a unique blend of experimental rock, ambient ballads, and a whole lot of diverse, textured music. And, while live shows in bricks-and-mortar establishments like the Black Sheep Inn in Wakefield are definitely part of what the band does, you can also catch a show from the comfort of your desk chair by checking out one of the frequent live-streaming shows Corey puts on. Simply by visiting <redheaven.ca/stream> you can tune in and hear the concert. Visit the website or follow Red Heaven on Facebook </redheavenlive> to find out about upcoming shows online and offline.

## The Naked Composer

We frequently get press releases here at theHumm, but seldom do we get a release as intriguing as the one that came in recently: "New music needs to get written and shared. [I am] happy to announce some new music out there in the inter-ether for you all to listen to and share. New tunes are YouTube accessible under the Glorius Frump or The Naked Composer Channel, or from the home website. Here are a couple YouTube links of the last 2 releases to get you started:

- Your Skin* — seriously sweet love song
- Knockin* — deep bass, slow funk"

Needless to say, I checked them out and they are good! Which is hardly surprising given the composer's background: "Alan Marsden, aka The Naked Composer, is an Almonte, Ontario based musician, raised by woodpeckers, wind, and several generations of St. Bernard in the rolling hills of the Gatineau Park near Hull, Quebec. He writes music for classical guitar, techno, pop, folk, and anything his hungry little creative mind gets attached to. All releases are carefully crafted and mixed arrangements, unique to themselves, but fitting together stylistically somehow... if you use your imagination a whole bunch. His website is <thenakedcomposer.com> which serves as a blog for his creative output."


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# Claiming Column

Soup for Thought, Almonte, Mar 4  
 AiC: Montreal Guitar Trio, Almonte, Mar 11  
 Silver Creek, Calabogie, Mar 18  
 SRO Tea Dance, Almonte, Mar 19  
 BOTR: Danny Brooks & Memphis Bros, Westport, Mar 24  
 Folkus: Ragged Flowers, Almonte, Mar 25  
 JazzN: Petr Cancura Trio, Almonte, Mar 25  
 Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo, Calabogie, Mar 25  
 AiC Youthful Music Club, Almonte, Mar 26  
*Wrong for Each Other*, Perth, Mar 30-Apr 9  
 Almonte Lecture Series, Mar 31  
 Maple Run Tour, Pakenham, Apr 1-2  
*The Tin Woman*, Perth, Apr 17-26  
 AiC Youthful Music Club, Almonte, Apr 20  
 BOTR: Jerome Godboo Band, Westport, Apr 21  
 Folkus: Scott Merritt, Almonte, Apr 22  
*H.M.S. Pinafore*, CP, Apr 28-May 6  
*The Chalk Garden*, SF, Apr 28-May 7  
 Almonte Lecture Series, Apr 28  
 AiC: Paul Marleyn & Mauro Bertoli, Almonte, Apr 29  
 Quilting in the Valley Quilt Show, Arnprior, Apr 29-30  
 Perth Regional Heritage Fair, May 11  
 BOTR: Terry Gillespie Band, Westport, May 12  
 Art in the Attic, Almonte, May 12-14  
 ArtsCP Show & Sale, CP, May 27-28  
 JazzN: Rob Frayne Quartet, Almonte, May 27  
*Assassins*, CP, June  
*The Spitfire Grill*, Perth, Jun 1-11  
*The Decorator*, Perth, June  
*Waiting for Godot*, Perth, June  
*Bare Bear Bones*, SF, Jun 16-25  
 Healthy Living Festival, Smiths Falls, Jun 17  
 Allison Au Quartet Almonte, Jun 17  
*Same Time, Next Year*, Perth, Jun 23-Jul 16  
 Perth Kilt Run, June 24  
*Lysistrata*, Perth, June  
 Almonte Celtfest, Jul 7-9  
 Stewart Park Festival, July 14-16  
 Almonte Fair, July 14-16  
*Candida*, Perth, Jul 23-Aug 13  
 Puppets Up!, Almonte, Aug 11-13  
*Fort Hemlock*, SF, Aug 18-27  
*I'll Be Back Before Midnight*, Perth, Aug 18-Sep 10  
 Art on the Grass, Carp, Aug 19  
 Maberly Fair, Aug 26  
 Lanark County Harvest Festival, Sep 10  
 Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour, Mississippi Mills, Oct 7-9  
*Who Dunit*, SF, Oct 13-27  
 Panto: *Aladdin*, SF, Dec 8-17

## Festivals

**Pakenham Frost Festival**, Jan 21-30. Indoor & outdoor activities. 256-1077, exploremississippimills.ca  
**Fire & Ice at Crystal Palace**, Feb 18, 8PM, Riq Turner Band, fire dancer, ice bar, bonfire, fireworks. Crystal Palace, 63 Gore St. E., Perth. 267-1947, ticketsplease.ca. \$10/\$12  
**Carleton Place Winter Carnival**, Feb 25, 10AM-9PM, Kids' activities, merchant market, and more, cpwintercarnival.com

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</li> <li>🎵 <b>Pakenham Frost Festival</b>, Pakenham</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> </ul>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman &amp; Blair Hogan</b>, O'Reilly's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Jimmy Tri-Tone</b>, The Barley Mow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li>🎵 <b>Mahjong</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li>🎵 <b>Lanark County Rail Trail Open House</b>, CP</li> <li>🎵 <b>MMPL Travelogue: Trekking in Peru</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Neighbourhood Tomato Community Potluck</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Scotland Road</b>, Perth</li> </ul>
<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> </ul>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman &amp; Blair Hogan</b>, O'Reilly's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Green Drinks</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Denial</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Denial</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li>🎵 <b>Jazz at the Queens</b>, Queens Hotel</li> <li>🎵 <b>Jimmy Tri-Tone</b>, The Barley Mow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li>🎵 <b>Mahjong</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li>🎵 <b>Toastmasters</b>, CP</li> </ul>
<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte &amp; Area Artists' Assoc</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman &amp; Blair Hogan</b>, O'Reilly's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Perth Horticultural Soc.</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>W. Carleton Garden: Designing a Lot</b>, Carp</li> <li>🎵 <b>Women's Business Group Breakfast</b>, CP</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Pakenham Hort Soc Mtg</b>, Pakenham</li> <li>🎵 <b>Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Jimmy Tri-Tone</b>, The Barley Mow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li>🎵 <b>Mahjong</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li>🎵 <b>Meditation Club</b>, CP</li> <li>🎵 <b>Lanark County Rail Trail Open House</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>MVFN: Nature Talk</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Peter Brown Jazz Trio</b>, Perth</li> </ul>
<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Quilters' Guild</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman &amp; Blair Hogan</b>, O'Reilly's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> </ul>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Legacy Journal Workshop</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Manchester by the Sea</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>MSB Book Club: Clay Girl</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Shanneyganock</b>, Sharbot Lake Country Inn</li> <li>🎵 <b>Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>7 Keys to Baldpate</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>Aladdin Jr.</b>, CP</li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li>🎵 <b>Mahjong</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li>🎵 <b>Manchester by the Sea</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Jimmy Tri-Tone</b>, The Barley Mow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Toastmasters</b>, CP</li> </ul>
<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</li> <li>🎵 <b>Craft Club</b>, CP</li> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Horticultural Soc.</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman &amp; Blair Hogan</b>, O'Reilly's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>CP Hort: Shade Gardens</b>, CP</li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Legacy Journal Workshop</b>, CP</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Jimmy Tri-Tone</b>, The Barley Mow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li>🎵 <b>Mahjong</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li>🎵 <b>No Sex Please... We're British</b>, Smiths Falls</li> </ul>

## Visual Arts

**Art Opening: Out of the Woods**, Feb 5, 2PM-4PM, Dean, McDonald and Kotze. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. meraschoolhouse.org  
**Almonte & Area Artists' Assoc**, Feb 13, 7:30PM, Speaker: Jessica Plager, Lanark Community Support Services Almonte Library, 155 High St., Almonte. 256-5863, 4a-artists.ca. Free  
**Almonte Quilters' Guild**, Feb 20, 7PM, Monthly mtg. All welcome. Civitan Hall. almontequiltersguild.com

## Theatre

**Scotland Road**, Feb 2-4, 10-11, 7:30PM; Feb 5 & 12, 2PM. Play: woman found floating on iceberg in 1990. Studio Theatre, Perth. studiotheatreperth.com. \$24, \$10 students

Film Night International presents **Denial**: Feb 8, 2 & 7PM (Full Circle Theatre, Perth); Feb 9, 7PM (Station Theatre, SF). **Manchester by the Sea**: Feb 22, 2 & 7PM (Full Circle Theatre, Perth); Feb 23, 7PM (Station Theatre, SF). \$10. filmnightinternational.blogspot.ca  
**7 Keys to Baldpate**, Feb 17-18, 23-25, 8PM; Feb 19, 26, 2PM. BarnDoor Prod'ns. Mystery. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 267-1884. \$22; \$10 students  
**Deepwater Horizon**, Feb 17, 18, 7PM. Mark Wahlberg, Kurt Russell. 283-0300, smithsfallstheatre.com. \$10, \$5 students  
**LIPS Competitive Poetry Slam**, Feb 17, 7PM. Listen or participate. Couatts Coffee, 57 Gore St E., Perth., lanarklips@hotmail.com. \$5 (performers free)  
**Lanark Laughs**, Feb 24, 8-10PM. Stand-up comedy. Waterfront Gastropub, 12 Bell St., Carleton Place.

**No Sex Please, We're British**: Feb 24-25, Mar 2-4 at 7:30PM; Feb 26, Mar 5 at 2PM. Farce. Station Theatre, SF. 283-0300. \$20/\$10

## Literature

**Book Sale Fundraiser**, Feb 18, 10AM. Sales by donation to Perth Library. 30 Herriott St., Perth. 267-4494, friendsperthlibrary@gmail.com  
**Legacy Journal Workshop**, Feb 22, 2-4PM. Almonte Library, RSVP 256-1037; Mar 1, 6-8PM, CP Library, RSVP 257-2702. Learn to journal w/colour & collage. Free  
**MSB Book Club: The Clay Girl**, Feb 22, 7PM. Author will attend. Almonte Library. 256-9090, millstreetbooks.com

## Music

**Terry Tufts & Band House Concert**, Feb 4, 8PM. Music, dancing. Call for details. 256-2830. \$20 sugg donation  
**Sarah MacDougall**, Feb 10, 8PM. Swedish Cdn singer/songwriter living in Whitehorse, Yukon. Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St., Perth. 267-6817. \$25  
**Garth Bowes & Top Shelf**, Feb 12, 2-6PM. Classic country band. Light luncheon. Westport Legion, 10099 Perth Rd., Westport. 273-8390, irwinfl@hotmail.com. \$10  
**Peter Brown Jazz Trio**, Feb 16, 6-9PM. Slackoni's, 82 Peter St., Perth  
**BOTR: Hogtown Allstars**, Feb 17, 7PM. Blues on the Rideau. The Cove Country Inn, 2 Bedford St., Westport. 1-888-COVE-INN, bluesontherideau.ca. \$65+tx dinner & show. Call to reserve



# FEBRUARY 2017

## Friday

## Saturday

## Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Murphy, The Cove</li> <li>Jimmy Tri-Tone, John St. Pub</li> <li>Mississippi Blues Society Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Open Mic w/Kevin Lentz, Black Donald's Pub</li> <li>Scotland Road, Perth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 Plus Singles Dinner/Dance, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Redneck Limousine, Black Donald's Pub</li> <li>Holy Sabbath, John St. Pub</li> <li>iPads for Beginners, CP</li> <li>John Wilberforce, The Cove</li> <li>Kelly Prescott, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li>Lanark Co. Genealogical Meeting, CP</li> <li>Scotland Road, Perth</li> <li>Terry Tufts &amp; Band House Concert, Toy &amp; Collectible Show &amp; Sale, Almonte</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art Opening: Out of the Woods, McDonalds Corners</li> <li>Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Celebrating Canada 150, Lanark</li> <li>Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak</li> <li>Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub</li> <li>Scotland Road, Perth</li> <li>Valley Singles Lunch, Renfrew</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DanahKae, The 2 Grands</li> <li>Logan Brown &amp; Taylor Angus, The Cove</li> <li>Open Mic w/Kevin Lentz, Black Donald's Pub</li> <li>Sarah MacDougall, Perth</li> <li>Scotland Road, Perth</li> <li>Skyler Radmore, John St. Pub</li> <li>Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp</li> <li>Tim Moxam &amp; Liz Stringer, Sharbot Lake Country Inn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80s Glam Night, John St. Pub</li> <li>Huntley Slim, Black Donald's Pub</li> <li>Scotland Road, Perth</li> <li>Seedy Saturday, Almonte</li> <li>Tony D, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li>Valentine's Dinner w/Head over Heels, The Cove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak</li> <li>Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Garth Bowes &amp; Top Shelf, Westport</li> <li>Hopes &amp; Dreams (AGH/Stellae Boreales) Gala Fundraiser, Ottawa</li> <li>Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub</li> <li>Scotland Road, Perth</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Keys to Baldpate, Perth</li> <li>Aladdin Jr., CP</li> <li>BOTR: Hogtown Allstars, Westport</li> <li>Canada 150 Music Trivia Night, Valley Food &amp; Drink</li> <li>Deepwater Horizon, Smiths Falls</li> <li>LiPS Competitive Poetry Slam, Perth</li> <li>Open Mic w/Kevin Lentz, Black Donald's Pub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Keys to Baldpate, Perth</li> <li>Aladdin Jr., CP</li> <li>An Evening with Wildcats, Perth</li> <li>Book Sale Fundraiser, Perth</li> <li>Brea Lawrenson, Black Donald's Pub</li> <li>Deepwater Horizon, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Fire &amp; Ice at Crystal Palace, Perth</li> <li>Fulton's Pancake House Opening Day, Pakenham</li> <li>Head over Heels, The Cove</li> <li>Sidepipe, John St. Pub</li> <li>Surviving and Thriving as a Caregiver, CP</li> <li>The Mud Boys, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li>Tracking Workshop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Keys to Baldpate, Perth</li> <li>Aladdin Jr., CP</li> <li>Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Choral Evensong, Perth</li> <li>Dale Schultz, Black Donald's Pub</li> <li>Harry Manx, Sharbot Lake Country Inn</li> <li>Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak</li> <li>Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub</li> <li>Shawn McCullough &amp; Henry Norwood, The Cove</li> <li>Snow Angel Making Party, Lanark Highlands</li> <li>SRO Big Band Tea Dance, Almonte</li> <li>Tracking Workshop</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Keys to Baldpate, Perth</li> <li>80s Dance Party, John St. Pub</li> <li>Aladdin Jr., CP</li> <li>Almonte Lectures: Nuclear Waste Disposal</li> <li>Lanark Laughs, CP</li> <li>NLHS Heritage Dinner, Almonte</li> <li>No Sex Please... We're British, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Open Mic w/Kevin Lentz, Black Donald's Pub</li> <li>Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp</li> <li>Weber Brothers Trio, The Cove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Keys to Baldpate, Perth</li> <li>Aladdin Jr., CP</li> <li>Bone!, John St. Pub</li> <li>Carleton Place Winter Carnival</li> <li>Eric Uren, The Cove</li> <li>Folkus: Coco Love Alcorn, Almonte</li> <li>JazzNhouse: Steve Boudreau Trio, Almonte</li> <li>Mid-Winter Milling, Almonte</li> <li>Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo, Valley Food &amp; Drink</li> <li>No Sex Please... We're British, Smiths Falls</li> <li>One Night Stand, Black Donald's Pub</li> <li>Seed Swap, McDonalds Corners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Keys to Baldpate, Perth</li> <li>Almonte in Concert's Youthful Music Club</li> <li>APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak</li> <li>Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Listening Room Series: Turpin's Trail, Perth</li> <li>No Sex Please... We're British, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub</li> <li>Trad Song Session, Almonte</li> </ul>

- Alliance Coin presents private collection of love tokens <alliancecoin.com>
- Arnprior and District Museum presents travelling exhibit *My Story, My Tattoo* [from Feb 14]
- Diefenbunker presents CANEX 1977 canteen, *From Hand to Hand* photos by Valerie Noflre
- Fairview Manor Lobby presents *Past and Present*, paintings by Lily Swain [to Feb 14]
- MERA Schoolhouse presents Ankaret Dean, Greta McDonald and Rosemary Kotze <meraschoolhouse.org>
- Mississippi Valley Textile Museum 1<sup>st</sup> Imani Artists Collective of Eldoret, Kenya [to Feb 10] & *Out of the Box's Colour Unboxed* [to Feb 25] <mvtm.ca>
- Sivarulrasa Studio & Gallery presents David Kearn, Sue Adams, Deborah Arnold & more <sivarulrasa.com>
- The Mississippi Mills Chambers Gallery presents Alan Mirabelli's photography
- The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents Debra Tate Sears' watercolour/egg tempera

**Choral Evensong**, Feb 19, 4PM. Church service; prelude/postlude by cellist/pianist. St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, 12 Harvey St. cnr Drummond, Perth. 267-1163, stjamesperth.ca

**SRO Big Band Tea Dance**, Feb 19, 1-4PM. Standing Room Only 14-pc Big Band. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St. 692-5380, sroteadances.org. \$14; \$25 couple (cash only)

**Folkus: Coco Love Alcorn**, Feb 25, 8PM. w/Chris MacLean. \$30 at Mill St Books. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St., Almonte. 256-9090, folkusalmonte.com

**JazzNhouse: Steve Boudreau Trio**, Feb 25, 8PM. Tix: jazzn.ca. Almonte. JazzN.ca. \$25

**Listening Room Series: Turpin's Trail**, Feb 26, 7PM. Celtic/folk quintet. Perth Tea Room, 23 Gore St. W., Perth. 267-7902. \$20

**Trad Song Session**, Feb 26, 2-4PM. Join in. Anyone can lead. The Barley Mow, 79 Little Bridge Street, Almonte. 355-5552, shantyman.ca/TradSing

## Pub Listings p.2 Community

**Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club**, Mondays 7PM, Tuesdays 12:45PM. 256-4747. SF Legion

**Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club**, Wednesdays 7PM. 256-4747. Almonte Legion

**Mahjong**, Thursdays, 1:30PM. ABC Hall, Bolingbroke, 273-2571. \$5 donation

**Toastmasters**, Feb 9 & 23, 7-8:30PM. Guests free. Riverview Seniors Residence, 204 Lake Avenue, CP. 250-9282

**Lanark County Rail Trail Open House**, Feb 2, 6:30-8:30PM (CP Arena); Feb 16, 6:30-8:30PM (Almonte Old Town Hall). Info/input on future use of rail bed

**MMPL Travelogue: Trekking in Peru**, Feb 2, 7PM. Rick Scholes. Almonte Library, 155 High St. Almonte. 624-5306, missmillslibrary.com/travelogue-series. Free

**Neighbourhood Tomato Community Potluck**, Feb 2, 5:30PM. Everyone welcome, bring own plate & cutlery. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St., Almonte

**40 Plus Singles Dinner/Dance**, Feb 4, 7PM. New DJ. Casual dress, no jeans. Civitan Hall, 12468 Hwy 15 N., Smiths Falls. 285-5557, 40plussinglesdanceclub@gmail.com. \$10

**iPads for Beginners**, Feb 4, 2PM. Carleton Place Library, 101 Beckwith St. 257-2702, czeeman@carletonplace.ca

**Lanark Co. Genealogical Meeting**, Feb 4, 1:30PM. Chris Anstead re John Wilson of the last duel & his family. Council Chambers, 1702 9<sup>th</sup> Line Beckwith, CP. lcginfo34@gmail.com. Free

**Toy & Collectible Show & Sale**, Feb 4, 9AM-2PM. Civitan Hall, 500 Almonte St., Almonte. 253-9074, lanarkunitedway.com. \$10 9AM; \$5 after 10AM; under 12 free

**Celebrating Canada 150**, Feb 5, 1:30-3:30PM. Music, stories and displays. Lanark & District Civitan Club, 2144 Pine Grove Rd., Lanark. 278-1391. \$10; \$5 kids

**Valley Singles Lunch**, Feb 5, 1PM. Singles lunch, all welcome. Santa Fe Southwestern Grill, 168 Raglan St. S., Renfrew. 622-5693

**Green Drinks**, Feb 7, 5:30PM. Informal meeting of environmental folk. Golden Arrow, 71 Foster St., Perth. GreenDrinks.org

**Seedy Saturday**, Feb 11, 9AM-4PM. Seed & garden supply swap, workshops, vendors. Free entry w/ad in this paper! Civitan Hall, Almonte. johvi.leeck@hotmail.ca. \$2

**Hopes & Dreams Gala Fundraiser**, Feb 12, 12-3PM. Supports: Stella Boreales violin ensemble & Almonte Hospital. National Arts Centre - Le Salon, 1 Elgin St, Ottawa. 369-4376, admin@ottawasuzukistrings.ca. \$125 (\$40 tax receipt)

**Perth Hort Soc mtg**, Feb 14, 7-9PM. Organic Vegetable Gardening. St. Paul's United, 25 Gore St. W., Perth. 253-5690, perthhortsocty.com. \$5 non-members

**W. Carleton Garden: Designing a Lot**, Feb 14, 7:30PM. With Welwyn Wong. Memorial Hall, 3739 Carp Rd., Carp. wgc.ca. \$5 for non-members

**Women's Business Group Breakfast**, Feb 14, 8AM. Networking meeting. RSVP at womensbusinessgroup@gmail.com. The Gourmet Restaurant, Hwy 7 at Hwy 15, CP

**Pakenham Hort Soc Mtg**, Feb 15, 7:30PM. Tropical houseplants. Jamie Roy of Ancthus. Plant exchange. St. Andrew's United, Pakenham. gardenontario.org/site.php/pakenham

**Meditation Club**, Feb 16, 7PM. Carleton Place Library, 101 Beckwith St. 257-2702, czeeman@carletonplace.ca

**MVFN: Nature Talk**, Feb 16, 7:30PM. Morphogenesis: Amphibians. Almonte United Church, 106 Elgin St., Almonte. mvfn.ca. \$5 non-members

**An Evening with Wildcats**, Feb 18, 7PM. Presentation, snacks, cash bar, auction. Perth Civitan Hall, 6787 County Rd 43. lanarkstewardshipcouncil.ca. \$45

**Surviving and Thriving as a Caregiver**, Feb 18, 2PM. Carleton Place Library, 101 Beckwith St. 257-2702, czeeman@carletonplace.ca

**Tracking Workshop**, Feb 18 or 19, 8:30AM. Renowned wild cat expert. lanarkstewardshipcouncil.ca. \$30

**Snow Angel Making Party**, Feb 19, 1-4PM. All welcome. Wear hood, snowpants; bring snowshoes, cross-country skis. 4381 Wolf Grove Rd., Lanark Highlands. Free

**Almonte Lectures: Nuclear Waste Disposal**, Feb 24, 7:30PM. Don Wiles, Almonte United Church, 106 Elgin St. almontelecures.net.free; donations accepted

**NLHS Heritage Dinner**, Feb 24, 6PM. N. Lanark Historical Society. Speaker, silent auction. Almonte Legion, 100 Bridge St. 257-8503, northlanarkregionalmuseum.com. \$30

**Mid-Winter Milling**, Feb 25, 10AM-5PM. Tarot, numerology, psychics, crafts. Downtown Almonte. midwintermilling.ca. Varied \$

**Seed Swap**, Feb 25, 10AM-1PM. Bring your labeled seeds. Discussion. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. 278-1226, meraschoolhouse.org. Free

**Craft Club**, Feb 27, 6:30PM. Carleton Place Library, 101 Beckwith St. 257-2702, czeeman@carletonplace.ca

**Almonte Hort: Sq. Ft. Gardening**, Feb 27, 7:30PM. Carolyn Klickermann. Cornerstone Community Church, Almonte. \$2 entry

**CP Hort: Shade Gardens**, Mar 1, 7PM. David Dunn & Rob Caron (Rideau Woodland Ramble). St. Andrew's Presbyterian, 39 Bridge St., Carleton Place. 257-4101, cphorticulture.ca. \$3 entry

**Youth**  
**Aladdin Jr.**, Feb 17, 23, 24 (7PM), Feb 18, 19, 25 (2PM). Youth cast. Mississippi Mudds. Town Hall, 175 Bridge St., CP. 253-3000, mississippimudds.ca. \$10 (\$5 Feb 23)

**Almonte in Concert's Youthful Music Club**, Feb 26, 1PM. Youth perform; adults perform for/with youth. Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St., Almonte. almonteinconcert.com/youth-music-club

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# Wander, Experience and Indulge at Maple Run Tour

Wander, experience and indulge — this is the mantra of the Maple Run Tour. Taking place on April 1 and 2, from 10AM to 5PM each day, this year's tour gives you many great reasons to wander up to Pakenham, just a short drive from Ottawa off of Highway 417. While you're there, you can experience great art, crafts, a working maple syrup bush and fascinating local history. Indulge your taste buds by discovering delicious and locally-crafted maple syrup, food, coffee and beer. It's a perfect way to celebrate the Lanark County maple syrup season! Start with a visit to Fulton's Pancake House and Sugar Bush, and then make your way towards Pakenham, stopping along the way to meet the artists presenting their creativity, and the food vendors with their delectable fare. Pick up a Maple Run brochure and follow this popular self-guided tour in and around the quaint village of Pakenham and the surrounding area. Brochures with map and vendor information can be found at any stop on the tour (look for the green maple leaf), at Fulton's Sugar Bush, the Pakenham General Store, or online at <mapleruntour.com>.



Artists, crafters, maple producers and brewers are preparing for this year's Maple Run Tour in and around Pakenham. Featured above is a jacket by local weaver Heather Sherratt.

Handmade arts and crafts are always a big part of the Maple Run Tour, and this year is no exception. Many of the stops feature multiple vendors, working in a variety of media. You'll find works by new and returning artists, including pottery (both functional and decorative), photography (framed, in puzzles and as cards), exquisite clothing, fine jewellery to brighten up your spring outfits, and glass manipulated in a blazing furnace (there will be demonstrations!). Also on offer will be leather belts, birdhouses, woodworking in many forms, miniature quilts, scented soaps and lotions, and much more. You'll also have the opportunity to linger over locally produced maple syrup, craft beer, sweet confections and freshly roasted coffee.

No need to pack a lunch — there will be several designated food stops, all noted on the map, many of which will feature maple-inspired items. Make sure you pick up a tour passport at your first stop and have it stamped at each location, so you will be eligible for one of three \$50 gift certificates (towards a purchase from one of the participating artists). If you have your passport stamped from all tour locations, your name is entered twice for an extra chance to win! Enjoy meeting the people who have created what they are selling, and find out what makes them so passionate about their creations. More detailed information about the tour, artists, food vendors and map can be found at <mapleruntour.com> and on Facebook.

**\$1,000 AWARD FOR A LOCAL ARTIST**

APPLY FOR THE  
2017 MERA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN FINE ARTS AND FINE CRAFTS

MERA (McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts) recognizes a local artist with the MERA Award of Excellence in the Fine Arts and Fine Crafts. The winner is chosen on the basis of their artwork. Eligible artists must submit their applications by **April 30, 2017** and be citizens or permanent residents of Canada and live in the Township of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Central Frontenac, North Frontenac or the Town of Perth.

For more information and applications forms check MERA's website at [www.meraschoolhouse.org](http://www.meraschoolhouse.org)

McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts (MERA) is a non-profit community arts organization. This award is funded in large part by the generous donation to the Perth and District Community Foundation (PDCF) made by Chris and David Dodge, who conceived the Award.

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# Smiths Falls Community Theatre Opens Their 2017 Season with a Roaring Farce

Start with a script that played on the London stage for eight years, then add an all-star cast that loves to work together. You have a formula that virtually guarantees an enjoyable theatre experience.

*No Sex Please, We're British*, by Anthony Marriot and Alistair Foot, directed by Nancy Keech, opens at The Station Theatre in Smiths Falls on February 24 and runs until March 5. It is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc.

With farces, it's not often the plot summary that matters most; in this case, however, it is an intriguing one. When a postal accident lands boxes of Scandinavian naughty pictures in the living room of newlyweds Peter (Jamie Schoular) and Frances (Katharine Coleman), they must do everything they can to get rid of them before Peter's mother (Liz Steinberg) shows up, not to mention his uptight boss at the bank (Mike Adams). Add in a bumbling best friend (played by Robert Del Grande), a policeman (Dave Snider), a bank inspector (Rob Glas), and two "ladies of the evening," and this day becomes one the happy couple will not soon forget!

Director Nancy Keech said in a recent interview: "we are about one month into rehearsals and the laughs won't stop. Veteran cast members Jamie Schoular and Robert Del Grande, Liz Steinberg, and Katharine Coleman have welcomed some new faces

to the Station Theatre to put on this rollicking farce. The cleverly designed set by Noel White keeps the cast hopping through seven doorways at breakneck speed — not to mention an occasional window! When the rehearsals are this much fun, you know the audience is in for a treat."

Nancy's connection to the theatre began at age fifteen, when she was cast as Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*. Since then, she hasn't been able to say no to the stage. She has lived in Smiths Falls for twenty-five years, and throughout that time has directed many shows at SFDCL, including children's theatre, murder mysteries and musicals. Twice before, Nancy directed for the Smiths Falls Community Theatre, doing productions of *Waiting for the Parade* and *The Odd Couple*, but this is the first show she has done with an adult cast since the Station Theatre building was completed. She has an excellent vehicle for her polished directing skills: a very funny play and a highly talented cast and crew.

*No Sex Please, We're British* runs late February to early March: evening performances are at 7:30PM on February 24 and 25, and March 2 through 4; and matinees at 2PM on February 26 and March 5. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and are available at Special Greetings (8 Russell St. E. in Smiths Falls, cash only), at <smithsfallstheatre.com> or 283-0300 (credit cards). The website has all the details.



Katharine Coleman, Robert Del Grande and Jamie Schoular, starring in three of the leading roles, rehearse a scene from *No Sex Please... We're British*. The rollicking farce plays at the Smiths Falls Station Theatre from February 24 to March 5.

The Smiths Falls Community Theatre's 2017 play season continues in April with a classic psychological drama, followed by a comedy, the world premiere of a play of local historical interest, a mystery, and a British-style Christmas pantomime — in that order. It promises to be a stunning year on the Station Theatre stage.

The theatre is offering patrons an opportunity to attend all six plays for just \$99. This season ticket comes in the form of a

"Six-Pack Flex Pack". Patrons can select how they want to use their six vouchers to purchase tickets to any of the six shows in the 2017 season. The deal — which offers a savings of almost 20% compared to the regular adult ticket price — begins now and will be on sale until the last day of the first play, March 5. For details, please visit <smithsfallstheatre.com>.

— Submitted by the Smiths Falls Community Theatre



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# The Wildcats of Eastern Ontario

Our wildcats — Canada lynx, bobcat and cougar — are magnificent and elusive creatures. It was thought that cougars had vanished from this area, but sightings have been reported and some claim that cougars are attempting to recolonize former habitat. On Saturday, February 18, the Lanark County Stewardship Council will bring Sue Morse to Lanark to conduct tracking workshops and provide an evening presentation on wildcats in Eastern Ontario. Sue Morse is a renowned expert on wildcats and heads up Keeping Track — an organization that helps people discover, document and conserve key wildlife habitats across North America.



Renowned wildcat expert Sue Morse will lead tracking workshops on February 18 and 19, and also present at **An Evening with Wildcats** on the 18<sup>th</sup> at the Perth Civitan Club

The cougar, also known as mountain lion and puma, is Canada's largest and most powerful wildcat. Males can reach up to two metres in length and weigh over 60 kilograms. Adult cougars have short fur that is brown or greyish (sometimes reddish) over most of the body, with a white chest and belly. They have a long, black-tipped tail and black markings on the ears and muzzle. Kittens have spotted coats until they are about six months old.

In Ontario, it is believed that cougars live in northern Ontario because of the remoteness of the habitat. However, there have been many reports from the southern part of the province. Cougars found in Ontario may be escaped or released pets, animals dispersing from western North America, native animals, or a combination of these.

Sue will lead two **tracking workshops**. Each one begins with a slideshow presentation on Sue's recent research on scent-marking behaviors. Afterwards the group heads out to experience first-hand how Sue applies this knowledge in the field. The workshops take place on Saturday, February 18 and Sunday, February 19, starting at 8:30AM. The cost is \$30 per person, and space is limited to fifteen participants per workshop.

At 7PM on February 18, Sue will also participate in a presentation and social at the Perth Civitan Club entitled **An Evening with Wildcats**. Sue will present a magnificently illustrated introduction to cougar biology and ecology in a broad diversity of habitats. She'll provide the latest on cougar sightings in the east. Her presentation will also focus on Canada lynx and bobcats. Tickets are \$45, and the evening will also feature an auction, finger foods and a cash bar. For more information and tickets, visit [lanarkstewardshipcouncil.ca](http://lanarkstewardshipcouncil.ca).

This conservation fundraiser is sponsored by Lanark County Stewardship Council, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters — Zone E, and Watersheds Canada.

**Scotland Road**  
 Written by Jeffrey Hatcher  
 Directed by Joanna McAuley Treffers

*A woman is found floating on an iceberg. Her story has Titanic implications...*

Opening night February 2  
 February 2, 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 7:30 pm  
 February 5 and 12 at 2:00 pm

See our article this edition or visit [studiotheatreperth.com](http://studiotheatreperth.com)

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# Voice Your Thoughts on the Rail Trail

A local citizens' group, "Friends of OVRT", is speaking to community leaders about their vision for a non-motorized recreational trail from Pakenham, through Almonte, to Carleton Place. A non-motorized trail encourages greater choices of physical activities, which will have the greatest health impact on local residents — who make up 70% of trail users. Equally important, by promoting the non-motorized trail as "a new asset" in the region, the communities will maximize the trail's future tourism and economic potential.

"There is a need for a recreational, non-motorized trail in our area," states Chris George, Friends of OVRT spokesperson. "We would like to see the rail trail developed as a new attraction for the downtown cores of Mississippi Mills and Carleton Place communities. It has great tourism potential,

and the trail will provide safe commuting for students, runners, and those who wish to cycle or hike between the communities."

Mr. George points out that Lanark County boasts extensive snowmobile trails and off-road routes for ATVs, quads and trail bikes, including the use of County roads. "We are fortunate to have a great trail infrastructure already in place for snowmobiles and ATVs. With the rail trail, we are interested in developing another tourism and economic offering. It's not either-or for our communities, but the opportunity for us to have both."

## Numerous Benefits

The development of a recreational, non-motorized trail will have tremendous economic and social benefits, like similar trails have in Ottawa, Gatineau, Niagara, along the St. Lawrence Seaway, and in western Québec.

The trail, between and in Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills, establishes a new circuit route for cycle tourism from the National Capital Region because it can close loops with existing Ottawa cycling trails from the TransCanada Trail and West Carleton.

Friends of OVRT have concerns about a shared trail model that allows motorized use. Research shows that when a trail system allows motorized vehicles on it, other activities decrease by 50% — or stop altogether. Motor-

ized use of a trail does not mix with seniors and children who will be walking on the path. Those with mobility constraints do not feel safe sharing trails with fast-moving, noisy motorized vehicles. Friends of OVRT is advocating for a friendly path that provides a safe route for all recreational users, from 8 to 80 years old.

Landowners are worried about their property values, as studies indicate a motorized trail can decrease adjacent land values by 13%; whereas, properties near a non-motorized trail see an increase of 15% in property values — that's a potential 28% swing in property values!

## Have Your Say

Friends of OVRT encourages residents and community groups to attend the open houses and speak out on how the new trail will be developed. Mr. George observes, "It's running through the heart of our communities — and it is a great asset that connects our urban areas to those of the west end of Ottawa. It should be developed for all residents."

Visit <rail-trail.ca> to learn more about Friends of the OVRT.



Lanark County is hosting public open houses to engage, inform and seek input from residents on the future use of the old CP rail bed. There are two open houses set for Mississippi Mills and Carleton Place to feature proposed plans for the development of the trail between the communities.

## Lanark County Rail Trail Open Houses

Find out more, and voice your opinion at one of the upcoming community open house meetings:

- Carleton Place Arena (Upstairs Hall), Thursday, Feb. 2, 6:30–8:30PM
- Almonte Old Town Hall, Thursday, Feb. 16, 6:30–8:30PM



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# GET INVOLVED / GET CONNECTED

... Continued from page 9

The **Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program** offers specialized riding lessons to people with physical and/or developmental disabilities. Would you like to volunteer during weekly lessons to lead the horses, or walk beside the riders to give them support and encouragement? No experience is required and training sessions will be held in the spring, with lessons beginning in May in Beckwith and Smiths Falls/Perth area. Great exercise and great people! Contact <therapeuticriding.ca> or 257-7121 x3238.



The **Lanark and District Civitan Club** was established in 1973 and serves the Township of Lanark Highlands as well as portions of the surrounding Townships of Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley. This community organization fundraises for and hosts a wide variety of activities. Volunteers are always welcome. Find out more at <lanarkcivitan.com> or <facebook.com/lanarkcivitan>.

Make a difference in the life of a senior in your community – share your time and talents! **Mills Community Support** has volunteer opportunities in Almonte, Carleton Place and Pakenham. Our biggest need is for drivers for escorted transportation, Meals on Wheels, and for outings in our accessible bus. We also need volunteers for our Friends and Fun program. For more information, call Jan at 256-1031 x39 or visit our Volunteers page at <mills.on.ca>.



The **Mississippi Mills Beautification Committee** is looking for interested volunteers to assist with tree maintenance, pruning, watering and planting. We are also always in need of gardeners – no experience necessary, just the desire to get a little dirty. Please contact Tiffany MacLaren at 256-1077 x22 or <tmaclaren@mississippimills.ca>.

The **Mississippi Mills Public Library** needs you! Our volunteer opportunities are varied and include fundraising, programming support, helping at Library or Board events, tech support, early literacy tutoring, courier help, fundraising, library duties such as shelf reading, book repair, watering plants/gardening, assisting with our Visiting Library Service, and more. We are just getting underway with our volunteer programme. All you need to get started is passion and a criminal record check! Drop by or call 256-1037 for more information.

The **Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardens** have community gardens in Mississippi Mills, Carleton Place, West Carleton (Carp) and Beckwith. We grow, we teach, we share, we celebrate local food. This year we are launching the "Friendship Oven Project." We are building two wood-fired community ovens; one in Almonte and one in Carleton Place. We'll need volunteers to help build, fund, and manage this project. Let's do it! To share your time, talent and treasure, contact Jeff at <jmills@themills.on.ca>.



The **Pakenham Horticultural Society** is a local garden club that holds monthly meetings, a plant sale, maintains public gardens, and hosts flower and vegetable shows. We are always looking for new members and volunteers who enjoy pitching in with a little extra gardening, as well as new volunteers for various committees. We currently are also looking for a President: a position supported by the Board of Directors and various committees. Please consider helping us out by contacting <pakenhamhort@gmail.com>.

**Perth & District Union Public Library** accepts teen and adult volunteers to work on a variety of special projects. Currently, the library is seeking volunteers to help with various technology-related needs and with delivery of library materials to homebound patrons. Volunteers can work on an ongoing regular schedule or on limited-term assignments. Please visit <perthunionlibrary.ca> to learn more about the library's programs and services. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact library CEO Erika Heesen at 267-1224 or <eheesen@perthunionlibrary.ca>.

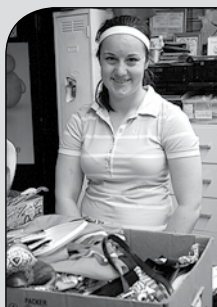
The **REAL Deal Reuse Store** in Smiths Falls accept and sells quality reusable household goods, furniture, and home improvement materials to keep them out of landfills. Funds raised through sales support REAL's community environmental projects. REAL welcomes new volunteers to sort and price incoming donations, test appliances, work at the checkout, and use their handyperson skills. The store is open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, as well as Sunday afternoons April through December. <REALaction.ca>

**Rebound** was established by the Hub in Almonte to provide a convenient drop-off and a shopping location for gently used home furnishings and décor, small appliances, computers and electronics. Rebound also acts as an OES eWaste Depot in partnership with Robin Hood Recycling. Like the Hub, all funds raised support initiatives and events in the local community. New volunteers are welcome at any time – please contact <info@thehubalmonte.com>.

The **Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL)** is looking for energetic people who want to protect our local environment. Volunteers are needed in many facets of our Smiths Falls-based organization. Writing, photography, organizing, repurposing, coordinating membership and representing REAL at public events are just some of the ways you could be involved. Visit <REALaction.ca> for details.

Celebrating 30 years of "Service Above Self", the **Rotary Club of Arnprior** meets Mondays at 7PM at P.J.'s Restaurant. Donations to hospital, library, schools and seniors' programs are met through cake sales, Duck Race and other fundraising. Initiatives include walking trails, downtown benches and blood donor clinics. Contributions overseas include a medical clinic in Kenya, emergency shelter in disaster areas, water projects, and Polio Eradication Campaign. Fellowship, fun, opportunities to help others await new members, men and women! 623-6019.

The Mississippi-Rideau Lakes **Salvation Army** serves Lanark County from offices in Perth and Smiths Falls by providing emergency food hampers, clothing, help with utilities and much more. In order to provide these services we need the help of volunteers. Thrift Store clerks, cashiers and stockers, along with lunch program workers and receptionists, are some of the positions that need to be filled. If you are interested in helping your community, please call Debbie at 283-3563.



Coco Love Alcorn plays the Almonte Old Town Hall on February 25, with opener Chris MacLean

## A Present to Your Ears

Folkus presents **Coco Love Alcorn**

*"Coco is the ultimate musical spark plug... an electrical connector through which the creative energy flows. In my thirty years of touring around the world, I have never seen another performer able to bring people together like Coco does."*

— James Keelaghan, Summerfolk Artist Director, and renowned Canadian singer/songwriter

Serendipity occasionally plays a role in the Folkus Concert series. Coco Love Alcorn came to us at the recommendation of local singer-songwriter and choral leader Jennifer Noxon, who was singing one of Coco's songs with her choir. Trusting Jen's ears, we immediately checked out Coco's music and saw a good fit for our hall and audience. Great voice? Check. Tight backing band? Check. Good sense of fun? Double check.

Coco Love Alcorn is a warm, big-voiced singer, at ease with both choral groups and vocal loops. She sings protest songs, love songs, songs about bicycles. Her new album, *Wonderland*, is upbeat and energetic, but also moving.

Opening for Coco Love Alcorn will be **Chris MacLean**, a charming Wakefield singer-songwriter. Chris is well known through the Ottawa and Gatineau valleys for her songwriting and guitar playing. And what do you know? Her song was also part of the Jennifer's choir repertoire last year.

Single tickets for the February 25 show are available online at <folkusalmonte.com> and at Mill Street Books in Almonte.

As always, doors open at 7:30PM and seating is first-come, first-served. Showtime is at 8PM. Folkus offers a cash-only bar with local beer, Ontario wine, and non-alcoholic beverages. Note: Due to strong season's pass sales, only about 50 individual tickets will be available for each show this season. Don't miss your chance!

— Sandy Irvin

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412 CHURCHILL AVE N

# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Angel Making Party

Come and celebrate winter at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Snow Angel Making Party at Highlands Gate, 4381 Wolf Grove Road in Lanark Highlands, on Sunday, February 19 from 1 to 4PM. This is a fun party that is open to everyone who wants to fall backwards in the snow and flail around to make works of art. Make your own unique impression and see who else shares the joy of play. Make one or make many — the record was set by a young girl who made 54 one winter — our goal is to fill the field with a plethora of snowy winged angels. The invitation is open to everyone, so bring your friends and family. There is a play structure with a curly slide, horses to feed carrots to, sliding hills, and 85 acres of fields and forest to snowshoe and cross-country ski. There will be a campfire with hot cider and good cheer, and you are welcome to bring something to cook over the fire or a treat to share. Dress for the weather and wear a coat with a hood so you don't get snow down your neck when you are creating your angel. It's fun, it's free, and everyone is welcome, so spread the word and we will see if we can break the record.

To get there, take exit 155 from the 417 (the Carp/Almonte turn-off), and continue on to Highway 49 towards Almonte. Continue on this road all the way to the farm for 40km — there are no turns. When you get to Almonte you will continue on Almonte Street, through the lights at the ESSO station where it turns in the Wolf Grove Road, drive another 20km through the flashing yellow light in Middleville and then look for the second laneway on your left (4381 Wolf Grove Road) after the flashing yellow light in Middleville.

— Susan Cressy



## GET INVOLVED / GET CONNECTED



**SchoolBOX** is an Almonte-based charity that helps children access primary education in Nicaragua. Our community is united in love and believes that education can defeat poverty. SchoolBOX distributes school supplies and works with the local community to build classrooms, washrooms, and libraries. Volunteer opportunities include trips to work alongside students, teachers and parents in the construction of a new school in Nicaragua. We welcome you to join our family of over 600 international volunteers! Please contact <volunteer@schoolbox.ca> or visit <schoolbox.ca/volunteer>.

The **Two Rivers Food Hub** is a not-for-profit social enterprise dedicated to supporting local producers and to making local fresh food available to everyone! In the summer season (May to October) we welcome extra hands for packing our Local Food Baskets. We also welcome volunteers to help with special events and office work. Find us at <tworiversfoodhub.com> or call 205-1338.

## Festivals & Events

**Almonte Celtfest**, a 3-day festival of Celtic music and dance, celebrates Canada's Celtic heritage with its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary, July 7-8-9. Volunteers aged 16+ can have a blast helping on stage, at admission gates, with Little Celtz or Seniors, parking, at fundraising and other events. Meet new people, network with the community, hone skills, and enjoy the full Celtic arts experience! For information and to Get Involved: <almonteceltfest.com>, or contact Trish at 256-9765 or <tin\_ceilings@yahoo.ca>.



**NLAS Almonte Fair** (July 14-16) is looking for enthusiastic volunteers of all ages to join the Fair team. Volunteers needed: grounds/building maintenance, flea market, truck & tractor pull, fair setup, livestock & homecraft committees, education tent, fair entertainment and beer garden. If it weren't for the countless hours our volunteers contribute, we wouldn't be able to do everything we do! We would love to hear from you; please call 256-6263 or visit <almontefair.ca> to volunteer your time.

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual **Carleton Place Winter Carnival** (Chilly's Birthday Party) is scheduled for February 25, 2017. This volunteer-organized and -run event is designed to be a unique celebration of the winter season and a legacy event that will continue for years to come. As a free community event, volunteers are needed to help on-site on February 25 at the various children's activity stations. For details, visit <cpwintercarnival.com> or contact Sarah Cavanagh at <arizaconsulting1@gmail.com>.

The **Fall 400 Dragon Boat Festival** is run by an independent group of volunteers who founded and run the festival. This annual event takes place the second Saturday in September at Riverside Park in Carleton Place. All proceeds from the event are donated back to the community. For details or to volunteer, please visit <fall400.com>.

The two-day **Fibrefest** celebration of textiles and fibre arts has been running for two decades. Run by the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (MVTM), the event takes place in multiple locations in Almonte. The MVTM is seeking a volunteer festival coordinator as well as enthusiastic volunteers to join the Fibrefest committee, assist with admissions, set up and take down, and assist the Friends of the MVTM with food for the tea room during the event. Please contact 256-3754 or <info@mvtm.ca>.

Looking to tempt your taste buds or rub shoulders with the folks that grow your food? Why not spend the day with us at the annual **Lanark County Harvest Festival**? Traditionally held the first Sunday after Labour Day weekend (Sept. 10, 2017), we're looking for volunteers to help set up and take down displays, put up decorations, oversee parking, assist with demonstrations and more! To sign up or for details, contact Lanark County Tourism at 1-888-452-6275.

**Maberly Agricultural Society** needs members and volunteers! Rural fairs promote local agriculture as well as our farming history. A wide range of volunteer tasks to fit your interests are available: fundraising events 2017, Ham & Bean dinner (Feb 18), Pancake Brunch (Apr 15), Pie In the Sky (July 1), Thursday fairgrounds work parties over the summer, and the annual fair on August 26, 2017. Contact Rosetta McInnes at 268-2548 or <rosettamcinnnes57@hotmail.com>.



Interested in living in a bicycle-friendly community? Help "roll" out another exciting event this June. **Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month** runs on the time, talent and treasure in our community and varies each year depending on what citizens bring to the table. Interested in planning bicycle-themed events, volunteering for an existing event, being a sponsor? We need people to help keep our books, do web updates, and record and tell the good news that is MMBM. Contact Rob Riendeau at <rob@thehummm.com>.

Mills Community Support is seeking volunteers to help with our 7<sup>th</sup> annual **North Lanark Seniors Expo**, to be held in early September. The Expo attracts a wide variety of exhibitors offering information on supports and services for seniors. We have various volunteer opportunities, from pre-planning to volunteering on Expo day. For more information, please contact Jan Watson at 256-1031 x39 if you would like to volunteer.

The **Perth Regional Heritage Fair** committee invites supporters of quality history programming in our area elementary schools — especially retired teachers and those involved in visual arts, drama, writing and genealogical research — to volunteer for judging and workshop positions at this year's 2017 Fair. The date is Thursday morning, May 11, in Perth. View our website at <prhf.org> for updated information, or call directly at 326-1976.

Looking for a fun and social way to interact with folks of all ages? From August 11-13, Almonte's **Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival** <puppetsup.ca> has lots of fun jobs to choose from: ticket sellers, theatre hosts, parade marshals, stagehands, kids' craft tent helpers and more. Volunteers get festival T-shirts and festival passes. Contact Kris Riendeau at 256-0315 or <volunteer@puppetsup.ca>. It's a great way for youth to get community volunteer hours. We'd love to have you join our team!



This year will mark the 26<sup>th</sup> year for **Stewart Park Festival** in Perth. The Festival will take place on July 14, 15 and 16 featuring world-class music, a market and a licenced patio. Volunteers are needed to help with various facets, including the workshops, children's activities, after-hours venues, backstage, pancake breakfast, etc. Interested individuals should contact Kari Clarke, Coordinator, Perth BIA at 267-3311 x2251 or <bia@perth.ca>.



Pay us a visit in February to view our exhibit of one of Canada's finest private collections of "Love Tokens" (a popular 19<sup>th</sup> century tradition of engraved coinage)

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## The Almonte Potters Guild

Classes for all ages starting February 6

- Workshops for adults, teens & kids
- After school classes for kids
- We host special events & parties

**March Break Classes** for children 6-12, March 13-17

Register now at 613-256-5556

95 Bridge Street, Almonte

www.almontepottersguild.com

# GET INVOLVED / GET CONNECTED

## Museums & Conservation Areas

**Archives Lanark** is located in Drummond Centre, 1920 Concession 7 Road, Perth. Local historians and genealogists, families, church groups and school children use the Archives. The Archives relies on volunteers to assist visitors, organize the holdings, make photocopies and keyboard information into our database. Call 256-3130 or 267-2232 if you enjoy dealing with the public and working with adults in a comfortable office environment on Fridays and Saturdays.



Join us and celebrate the heritage and culture of the Arnprior area at the **Arnprior and District Museum**. The museum is undergoing exciting exhibit renovations so we can host two travelling exhibits this year. We seek volunteer team members of all skills and abilities to: research, develop exhibits, document artifacts, conserve textiles, assist with children's programs and greet visitors. Join us weekly, or for special events and programs. Students welcome! Contact us at 623-4902 or at <abrown@arnprior.ca>.

The **Arnprior McNab/Braeside Archives** is seeking volunteers to serve the public one afternoon per week. As a new volunteer, you will start out by job shadowing an experienced volunteer. Basic computer expertise is required. Experience conducting family history or academic research is an asset. If you are a detail-oriented person who enjoys serving the public, please consider joining our volunteer organization. Check out our Facebook page and website at <adarchives.org>. Contact Laurie Dougherty at 623-0001.

The **Carleton Place & Beckwith Heritage Museum's** collection of artifacts, photographs and archival materials chronicles the history of Carleton Place and Beckwith Township. We are planning our summer exhibits and have opportunities for volunteer expertise and assistance in: cataloguing artifacts, scanning photos, and creating indexes of photo albums and scrapbooks. If you have an appreciation of history, love to create order from chaos, and would enjoy learning about your community, please contact Jennifer at 253-7013 or <cpbheritagemuseum@bellnet.ca>.



The **Friends of the Arnprior and District Museum** are a group of history-loving volunteers dedicated to growing and supporting the Arnprior Museum through fundraising and community outreach. For enquiries or to become a "Friend", contact us through 623-4902 with messages left for "Friends", on Facebook or at <arnpriormuseumfriends@gmail.com>.

The **Friends of Murphys Point Park** <friendsofmurphyspoint.ca> enhance natural heritage education about Murphys Point Provincial Park by increasing awareness and providing education about the park's history, geology, archaeology, culture and natural resources. We are always looking for volunteers for educational programs, special events, fundraising, social media communications and Board of Director positions. We can train you – and it's fun! Contact us at <friendsofmurphyspointpark@yahoo.ca> or 267-5060 x231. Be sure to

like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

The Smiths Falls **Heritage House Museum** is a bustling cultural facility offering an exciting opportunity to socialize and support the area's rich heritage. We're seeking help with baking, exhibit planning, special events, visitor services, educational programs, gardening, collections assistance, promotions, housekeeping and maintenance. Opportunities are tailored to suit the skills, needs or abilities of our dedicated volunteers. Please contact 283-6311, <heritagehouse@smithsfalls.ca> or drop by 11 Old Sly's Road (10:30AM-4:30PM, Monday to Friday). We can't wait to meet you!

Do you enjoy reminiscing? Have a love for local history? **Lanark & District Museum** has a fun team of volunteers who are dedicated to preserving the history of Lanark Highlands and Drummond Townships. We offer a great social atmosphere for you to get involved in the community, research local heritage, work with artifacts, design exhibits and special events. We would love to meet you! Contact us for more details at 259-2575 or <lanarkanddistrictmuseum@gmail.com>.

Love nature? The **Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust** is a charitable organization that offers volunteer opportunities to help steward and preserve wilderness lands in eastern Ontario. As a volunteer, you can help care for our properties by maintaining trails; undertaking biological assessments/monitoring; introducing nature to the community through guided hikes/creativity events; assisting with communications, whether graphics, writing or photography; helping strengthen MMLT through fundraising and event planning. Occasional or ongoing volunteers are all welcome. Contact <admin@mmlt.ca> for information.



**Mississippi Valley Textile Museum** is a National Heritage Site and an outstanding showcase for fibre artists. Our volunteers help at exciting events like Fibrefest, learn about and contribute to local history, work with national and international artists, and have lots of fun doing it. We need many talents, from writers to researchers. Opportunities can be tailored to your interests, strengths and availability. We'd love you to join us. Visit <mvtm.ca>, contact 256-3754 or <info@mvtm.ca>, or contact Barb at <laubar@sympatico.ca>.



# Help Shape Future Health Care

Strategic Plans help to answer one simple question: "What are the big things we have to get right over the next few years to ensure continued success?"

Almonte General Hospital (AGH) and Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) are each developing new strategic plans and are looking for community input to help answer this question.

To share your feedback, there are two online surveys — one for each hospital. The survey process is being managed by a consulting team, and all responses will remain anonymous. Each survey takes about fifteen minutes and asks for your input on hospital roles, visions, challenges and opportunities. The survey also asks about key priorities and how the hospitals might improve their connections with patients and community partners.

Access the surveys online on each hospital's website: <cpdmh.ca> and <almontegeneral.com>. The deadline for completing the survey is February 10, 2017.

The new plans will set the direction for health care in our region for the next three to five years and ensure alignment between the two hospitals as partners in the Mississippi River Health Alliance.

### Acceptance, Love & Compassion in Meditation:

A Daylong Retreat with Daryl Lynn Ross, Guiding Teacher, True North Insight Meditation.

Sat 4 March, 11AM to 5PM at The Yoga Connection, Perth.  
info: truenorthinsight.org

### Mary Pfaff Workshop - Change in Date!

Correction: the date Mary Pfaff's Monoprinting Workshop advertised in last month's Humm has been changed to Sunday, February 12. For more information, visit marypfaff.ca



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# Volunteering — In a Kilt!

In 2009, during a visit to Perth, Scotland, for that city's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mary Stewart and her husband Terry hatched an idea — to hold a kilt run through historic Perth (Ontario). Back home in Canada, they organized a seven-member planning committee, brought together a much larger team of enthusiastic volunteers, and that summer put on the very first Perth Kilt Run in 2010 as a "one-time event."

by John Pigeau

That June's race was an enormous success. Precisely 1,089 people finished the run, setting a new Guinness World Record. Mary knew they were on to something, although she didn't know how big that something was. "The sprawling part wasn't planned," she says. "It just happened."

This summer, on June 24, the town will host the 8<sup>th</sup> annual **Perth's World Record Kilt Run**. Fittingly, given that the run continues to draw more and more people to Perth each year, the Town has hired Mary Stewart as a Planning Consultant to oversee the race details. It's a transition she welcomes.

"It's a new venture really — a challenge that I look forward to," she says. "It comes with more responsibility but a well thought out plan is in place — and seven years' experience. We have a great committee with a town staff member who offers much assistance."

The theme for 2017 is "All Things Maple," which ties in to Lanark County's claim of being the Maple Syrup Capital of Ontario.

"I hope to work closely with the Lanark County maple producers and see how we can add county value to this year's run," Mary says. "We also pay great attention to the finishers' swag — it always has a Scottish theme. First year was the kilt, then the socks, then the flask. 2014 was The Year of the Spurtle, and last year featured locally handmade pottery whisky mugs. 2017's swag will be just as special and sweet!"

This year's event will also proudly promote Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. Mary notes that in 1867, a Dominion Day was held in Perth with a parade, regatta, fireworks, and a foot race. Perth's

World Record Kilt Run 2017 is also officially being welcomed as "An 1867 Dominion of Canada 'All Things Maple' Celebration."

In fact, this year's planning is well underway with the wee Lads and Lassies runs (for kids aged 2–6) already set for June 24 at 4PM, followed by the Lads And Lassies 1k over the Rainbow Bridge and through Stewart Park. The Warrior Division will continue this year, Mary says, for those who run 5 miles with sword and shield and participate in Scottish highland style challenges.

Registration is also now open for the 8k and the Royal Mile at <perthkiltrun.ca>. There will be much more information about all race activities and non-race activities — including free live music in Stewart Park ("with better shade"), face painting, shortbread competition, and the Canadian Haggis Toss Championship — available soon on the Kilt Run's website.

From its earliest surprising success to last year's run that filled up the whole downtown with close to 5,000 people participating, easily setting the Guinness World Record for most people running in kilts at one time, Mary says the key to Kilt Run's ongoing success has been its many volunteers.

"Volunteers are the backbone of this event," she says. "Last year saw over 200 volunteers helping with sorting and labelling kilts — think of it: waist sizes from 20–54, male and female, coupled with thousands of t-shirts to be labelled and sorted and then matched with the corresponding kilt — to curbside traffic control to the obstacle race to organizing the wee lads and lassies..."

"I would say the volunteers cannot get enough of helping with the Kilt Run — it's like the clans are in their blood," she adds. "People flocked to my door to offer assistance." She says Perth's Firefighters, who set up a truck on race day and hose runners off with cool water, are also wonderful volunteers and a favourite of participants and onlookers alike.

"A huge thank you," she adds, "to the massive number of east-end neighbours who provide water sprinklers, music and song along the route!"

Knowing very well the key role volunteers play in ensuring the races and activities go on each year without a hitch, Mary is counting on the community to help with this summer's run.



Mary Stewart, who initiated the Perth Kilt Run back in 2010, has been hired by the Town of Perth as a planning consultant to oversee details of the 2017 race, which will officially be welcomed as: "An 1867 Dominion of Canada 'All Things Maple' Celebration"

"We continually recruit new volunteers," she says. "Yes, many are the same from year-to-year, but recruiting is a must. It is similar to the way you must never stop promoting your event — it doesn't happen by osmosis."

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the 2017 Perth's World Record Kilt Run can contact Mary at <therunninggoat@cogeco.net>.

"It will take about 150 volunteers to complete this year's race," Mary says. "Every volunteer receives a tech t-shirt and a lunch voucher for the day."

A Perth Kilt Run booth to sign up volunteers will also be at the Festival of the Maples."

During her seven years as a key volunteer on the organizing committee, Mary says the rewards were plenty. "The very best reward was in providing training to those who wanted to don a kilt but had not run since high school," she says. "Those grandmas and grandpas who dedicated themselves to the training required to complete the event, and seeing their amazing delight once they realized they could do it and then to see them succeed!"

Once again, this year's Kilt Run is a fundraiser for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. If you wish to make a donation, whether you are running in their races or not, you can do so on the Perth Kilt Run website at <perthkiltrun.ca>.

# Seedy Days Are Here Again

There are two key activities that get me through this bleak time of year: stepping outside on sunny days and planning my garden. Actually, I spend more time *planning* my garden than actually *working* in my garden... but with every winter comes that renewed dream of planting and maintaining a thriving oasis of crispy vegetables, abundant fruit, colourful flowers, and insects who happily pollinate without bothering the produce or the gardener. And just in time to seed our spring dreams: Seedy days and swaps! Peruse the seeds, learn tips and

by Rona Fraser

tricks, and talk with like-minded folk. Expand your gardening knowledge and resources:

## Almonte Seedy Saturday

This event takes place on February 11, from 9AM to 4PM at the Civitan Hall (500 Almonte St.). Vendors signed up so far include growers as local as Carleton Place and Upper Dwyer Hill and further afield, as well as purveyors of healthy-living products (for you and your dog!) and food (for meat lovers, tea lovers, and everyone in between). It's been a while since the farmers' market — how's your supply of local garlic?

In addition to having the opportunity to talk to the good folks of Canadian Organic Growers, Seeds of Diversity, the Horticultural Society, the Seed Lending Library and the Community Gardens, there will be two interesting talks. Bonita Ford aims to help you create greater harmony while doing less work with "The Why & How of Some Permaculture Strategies in the Garden". Master Gardener Rebecca Last will present "Gardening with Edibles". Gone are the days of planting vegetables in straight rows, kept separate from flowers... no matter *what* my dad tries to tell you! Seminars are in a side room with limited seating, so come in early to get a good spot. After all, their first Seedy Saturday (last year) drew more than 400 guests! Admission is still \$2 per person... but the ad on page 9 of theHumm gets you in for free! No charge for kids under 3.

## MERA Seed Swap

Different from a Seedy Saturday, this event (scheduled for February 25, from 10AM to 1PM at MERA in McDonald's Corners) requires more participation and less cash! For the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the McDonald's Corners Farmers' Market invites you to bring seeds and friends to their annual Seed Swap — and take home different seeds and new friendships.

Here's how it works: you bring the seeds you saved from last year's garden or the leftovers (commercial

or saved) that you didn't plant. Bring containers (small bottles or envelopes, plus labels and markers) for the new-to-you seeds that you'll take home. The focus is on vegetable seeds, but herb and flowers are also welcome. Please bring your seeds pre-packaged (or in a container so folks can take a few), labelled, and include whatever of the following you can: a photo, age of the seeds, growing instructions, etc. There will also be plenty of discussion relating to seed saving, bugs, weeds, soil, and more. And don't worry — the Farmers' Market folks won't let you go hungry! For more information, please visit the McDonald's Corners Farmers' Market page on Facebook, or <meraschoolhouse.org>, or contact Kristine Swaren (278-1226, kristine.swaren@gmail.com).

## Perth Seedy Sunday

Taking place on March 5, from 10AM to 3PM at the Perth Legion, (26 Beckwith St. E.), there will be many vendors, as well as some great information. It is still a month away, so for the fullest information, see the Perth Farmers' Market Facebook page for the event. Talks are free and are first-come, first-seated upstairs at the Legion hall. There will be a talk on Vermicomposting (11AM) and Edible Food Forests (2PM), as well as likely a talk on Backyard Chickens and an Intro to Beekeeping. The Lanark County Master Gardeners and the Perth and District Horticulture Society will also be on hand to answer questions, and local groups will be on hand to tell you about their programs, including the Perth Community Allotment Gardens, Table Community Food Centre, Rare Breeds Canada, and Canadian Organic Growers.

There will, of course, be seed sellers, as well as farmers (selling cheese, wool, sunflower oil, goat milk soap, preserves, honey). Lunch and snacks are also on offer, so make a day of it!

# Humm Bits

## Beauty Out of the Woods at MERA

This month, Dean Hall in the MERA Schoolhouse will be featuring the art of Ankaret Dean, Greta McDonald and Rosemary Kotze, as they come together with “Out of the Woods”. Come and meet these artists at the Opening on Sunday, February 5, from 2 to 4PM. There will be light refreshments and good conversation.

Here is what these talented artists have to say about themselves and the chosen medium they use for their work.

Ankaret Dean: “Living in beautiful Lanark Highlands, surrounded by trees, I was drawn to their individual shapes and characteristics. Using materials found in the woods and various basketry techniques, these wall pieces represent both realistic and abstract images of trees. This is a new venture for me.”

Rosemary Kotze: “I love working with wool, I love the feel of the fleece, and I love seeing it and feeling it take form. It’s kinda magical. Needle felting is an amazing process, allowing one to both sculpt and paint with fleece. My needle felting is inspired by the local fauna, and also by pictures of birds and animals.”

Greta McDonald: “Three things I like — staring endlessly at birds, insects and plants, putting paint on wood, and watching colours move and mingle in nature — came together happily as I made these paintings.”

## Organic Vegetable Gardening

Are you beginning to look through your newly arrived seed catalogues and thinking about what to do in your vegetable patch in May? Have you wanted to try organic gardening but worried it would be too time consuming or unreliable? If so, join the Perth & District Horticultural Society (PDHS) on Tuesday, February 14 when Max Wood will present “Our Organic Gardens: How Max and Janette Grow Together”, a discussion of the principles and procedures Max believes to be important in building and maintaining an organic vegetable garden.

Max has no formal training in horticulture, but has been involved in organic vegetable growing since he could walk. Max and Janette have had an organic vegetable garden of their own for the past 48 years, and grow enough fresh produce for most of their use year-round. Max is a Patent Agent by profession, now partially retired. While you are thinking about organic gardening, plan to visit the upcoming Seedy Sunday on March 5 at the Perth Legion, where numerous local growers will have more growing tips and organic seeds available for vegetable and ornamental gardening.

PDHS meets at St Paul’s United Church, 25 Gore Street West at the corner of D’Arcy in Perth. Please use the D’Arcy Street side door to access the basement meeting room; doors open at 6:30 with the meeting beginning at 7PM. The PDHS annual membership fee is \$15 and visitors pay \$5; all are welcome.

## A Travelling Exhibit on Tattoos

From February 14 to April 25, the Arnprior and District Museum is hosting a travelling exhibit from the Wellington County Museum and Archives. Tattoos are living images that reveal important stories. **My Story, My Tattoo** features 32 photographs and stories of people and their amazing tattoos. The exhibit includes four audio stations (with eight audio interviews), six videos and thirty text panels.

Participants represent every walk of life — everyone from a cancer survivor to teachers and their students, a firefighter and a farmer. The participants range in age from 26 to 89 and live throughout Wellington County.

All of the individuals were open and honest, and their stories and personalities are represented through this series of thought-provoking and colourful images. Chris Piccinetti, a Guelph photographer and graphic designer for the County of Wellington, photographed these inspiring images.

The Arnprior and District Museum us open from 11AM to 4PM, Tuesday through Saturday.

## Morphogenesis

Join the **Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists** for the next natural history talk in their series “Wild Creature Close-ups”. The speaker is Peter B. Mills — an Algonquin Park Naturalist, an expert on at-risk salamanders, and the author and artist illustrator of the new book *Morphogenesis: Ontario’s Amphibians at all Stages of Development*. Come out to the Almonte United Church at 7:30PM on February 16 for: “Morphogenesis. Changing the way we look at Amphibians.” Everyone is welcome. Entry is \$5; free for MVFN members. Refreshments will be available.



Musical Musings

## Turpin’s Trail at Perth’s Listening Room

Though I was born and grew older (“grew up” just doesn’t seem appropriate, my friends say) in west-end Toronto, I left the city in 1974, only to return there for specific events like work or volunteer-related meetings, conferences, family or friend gatherings, etc. From ’78 on I lived far enough away (North Bay and Perth) that accommodations were necessary, leaving many available hours for searching out live music. While most of my fellow attendees crashed in their rooms, off

by Steve Tennant

I’d go exploring. As I wrote a recent article about the sudden closing of the doors of Toronto’s Hugh’s Room, it made me think back on some of the other “go-to” music clubs I’d found welcoming in the GTA over the years.

Way back when I was a music snob — something I regret now, my 35 years in Lanark County having certainly broadened my interests. Blues was then my favourite genre, so that affected where I attended, as well as locales being easily accessible via public transport, the subway, bus or streetcars. It was the Colonial Tavern on Yonge where I saw Stan Getz, Raasaam Roland Kirk, T-Bone Walker and many others; but Albert’s Hall, located above the Brunswick House on Bloor Street West, became a place I could always count on to present top quality international blues players, inexpensively. I quickly learned there to order a jug of draft and put a glass of tomato juice in it, reducing the chance anyone would “borrow” a glass or two when I headed to the washroom. Chance arrivals saw me enjoy Etta James, Sunnyland Slim and harmonica king Paul Butterfield, to name a few. Both clubs are long gone but still bring back good memories. There is still hope for Hugh’s Room, I’m hearing. I’m continuing to keep my fingers crossed, as I don’t want to lose another favourite musical haunt. The Cameron House on Queen Street West has become my current go-to Toronto oasis of musical satisfaction.

Locally, Celtic and folk-styled music will be the flavour of the month for the **Listening Room Series** as the wonderful Turpin’s Trail hits the stage at The Perth Tea Room (Perth Restaurant) on Sunday, February 26 at 7PM. This Kingston quintet — made up of veterans Brian Flynn, Steve Kennedy, Jon McLurg, Chris Murphy and Noah St. Amand — bring their multi-instrumental skills, along with their sweet harmonies, channelled through their self-penned and traditional tunes that will have you tastin’ sea salt. They’ve successfully toured several times to Canada’s East Coast, as well as throughout this area, thrilling crowds as they go. This year they have been chosen as the headliner for Fogo Island’s Brimstone Head Folk Festival.

Their high energy and synergy captivate crowds, and they have shared the stage with David Francey, Sarah Harmer, the late Ron Hynes, Leahy and others. We are so thrilled to be finally bringing Turpin’s Trail to Perth. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Perth Tea Room (and by calling 267-3170 to make dinner reservations beforehand) or by calling 267-7902 for ticket reservations. A portion of the proceeds will go to Perth’s “His House – Hub & Drop-In Centre” who do such good things locally. Hope to see you come out and support these hard workin’ musicians.

Support live music everywhere!

## Upcoming Events

- Friday, February 10, 8PM: **Tim Moxam & Liz Stringer** at Sharbot Lake Inn. Toronto’s Tim Moxam brings his alt/folk/country stylings together with Australia’s Liz Stringer’s folk/roots stylings for a wonderful warm up to Valentine’s Day. \$15. Call Sandra at 279-2198 for reservations.
- Friday, February 10, 8PM: the wonderful **Sarah MacDougall** at Full Circle Theatre in Perth. Sarah is creating quite a stir in the folk world and this will be your opportunity to check her out locally. Tickets are \$25 in advance, available at Shadowfax or by calling 267-6817.
- Friday, February 17, 7PM: Toronto’s own **Hogtown Allstars** at The Cove in Westport for one of their Blues On the Rideau series. A dinner and show experience you’ll enjoy. \$65. Call 273-3636 for necessary reservations.
- Saturday, February 18, 7PM: the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Fire & Ice” Dance, bonfire and fireworks with music by the **Riq Turner Band** at the Crystal Palace in Perth. Tickets at 267-1947.
- Sunday, February 19, 7PM: **Harry Manx** at Sharbot Lake Country Inn. Come hear this blues/slide player offer his unique stylings. You’ll love him! Seven Maple Blues Awards speak for themselves as to the quality he offers. \$70 dinner and show. Call Sandra at 279-2198 for reservations.
- Wednesday, February 22, 8PM: Calling all Newfoundlanders or anyone who has attended or wanted to attend a Kitchen Party in Newfoundland. **Shanneyganock** rarely perform off the island, but Sharbot Lake Country Inn have them booked, so call Sandra at 279-2198 for reservations. \$20.
- Friday, February 24, 7PM: **The Weber Brothers Trio** will have the The Cove in Westport hoppin’. Peterborough’s rock & roll masters will be shakin’ the place. Call 273-3636 for more details.
- Sunday, February 26, 7PM: **Turpin’s Trail** at The Listening Room (Perth Tea Room). See above for more details.

# And the Award Goes To...

February: Oscar month. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, the 89<sup>th</sup> Academy Award ceremonies will commence. On January 24 at 5AM PST, the Oscar nominations were released. The results were, as usual, filled with a healthy mix of sure bets and shockers. Naturally, most of my favourite films of the year were completely ignored (*The Witch*, anyone?). But on the bright side, many excellent films I figured would be ignored by the Academy got some serious recognition.

by Matt Roche

One of the best films of the year, *Arrival*, made a phenomenal impression on me, and apparently on the Academy too, tallying up an impressive eight nominations, including those for Best Picture, Best Director for Denis Villeneuve — a Québec native — and Best Adapted Screenplay.

A few records were made this year as well. Meryl Streep made history (for about the sixth time) by receiving her 19<sup>th</sup> competitive nomination for her stellar performance in *Florence Foster Jenkins* (her co-star Hugh Grant, who gave his best performance to date in the film, sadly failed to garner a nomination). The musical *La La Land* received 14 nominations, the most for any film ever, tied only with *All About Eve* (1950) and *Titanic* (1997). The spectacular stop-motion film *Kubo and the Two Strings* became the second animated film ever to be nominated for Best Visual Effects. Amazon, the internet company, made history this year by becoming the first ever streaming-video company to receive a Best Picture nomination for *Manchester by the Sea*. Mel Gibson returned to the Oscar circuit after a 20-year hiatus with his second nomination for Best Director for *Hacksaw Ridge*, having won the first time around with *Braveheart* (1995).

It's the independent films, though, that seem to have pleasantly reverberated through the voters, and the nominations are indicative of that fact. Independent darlings such as *Lion*, *Moonlight* and *Manchester by the Sea* all received worthy acknowledgement. Indeed, each of the 24 categories has a very tight race. And, knowing the Academy, it could be any one of the nominees.

The Best Picture race (with nine films nominated this year out of a possible ten) is one of the most solid of recent years. Yet I can't help but wonder, why not ten? I can think of a handful of films that could have fit into that slot. Still, the race is on. Most people's money will be on *La La Land* taking home the top honour, with a Best Director win for its mastermind, Damien Chazelle. Its stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone both received nominations as well. But the wins in the acting categories will be varied. Casey Affleck, for me, anyways, has an absolute lock on the Best Actor statuette. His truly brilliant performance in *Manchester by the Sea* deserves the award and so much more. Yet, fellow nominees Andrew Garfield (*Hacksaw Ridge*), Denzel Washington (*Fences*), Viggo Mortensen (*Captain Fantastic*) and Ryan Gosling (*La La Land*) all gave tremendous performances. So, who knows? But mark my word, Affleck is going to bring home the gold.

The Best Actress race is even tighter. My money has been on Isabelle Huppert, one of the finest and most courageous actors working today, for her stun-

ning performance in *Elle* (which should have received a Best Foreign Film nomination too), and she does seem to be the frontrunner, having just won the Golden Globe and a slew of other awards for the film. Yet, her competition is intense. Natalie Portman has received rave reviews for her eloquent performance as Jackie Onassis in *Jackie*; Ruth Negga gave a tender, understated performance in *Loving*; and Emma Stone and Meryl Streep both have strong support. The Supporting Actor and Actress categories are filled with great performances too. Will Jeff Bridges win a second Oscar for his acute performance in *Hell or High Water*? Or will newcomers Mahershala Ali (*Moonlight*) or Lucas Hedges (*Manchester by the Sea*) steal the spotlight? A big surprise for me would be seeing Michael Shannon win for his excellent, laconic work in *Nocturnal Animals*. One of my favourite working actors, Shannon has been terribly underrated and his work in the film (alongside Aaron Taylor-Johnson, whose name was sorely missed on nomination morning) could make him the dark horse winner. The Supporting Actress category has many worthy nominees but this is going to be Viola Davis' year. Her work in *Fences* is heartbreaking and powerful; Oscar fodder if I ever saw it. Her performance is a masterclass of acting and will finally bring her the statuette.

I'm also thrilled Ava DuVernay got a nomination for her masterful documentary *13<sup>th</sup>* and should be a lock to win. Fellow documentaries *I Am Not Your Negro*, *O.J.: Made in America*, *Fire at Sea*, and *Life, Animated* are all great too. But I was very disappointed to see the omission of *Weiner*, a documentary about former Republican Anthony Weiner's run for mayor of New York when his sex scandal broke out. The film is quite something, yet it seems like no one has seen it.

Many other films and actors were overlooked as well. Annette Bening gave a brave performance in *20<sup>th</sup> Century Women*

but failed to get a nomination. Ben Foster was terrific in *Hell or High Water*, as was Amy Adams in both *Arrival* and *Nocturnal Animals*, respectively, yet no nominations for either. The biggest sin of omission was the lack of a nomination for Ralph Fiennes' bravura performance in *A Bigger Splash*. Fiennes seems to have reinvented himself as a comedian, giving hilarious, scene-stealing performances in *In Bruges*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (in which he got snubbed for a nomination as well) and *Hail, Caesar!*. Why the Academy didn't appreciate his performance in *A Bigger Splash* is beyond me. Even Martin Scorsese's long-gestating passion project *Silence*, about Jesuit priests in 17<sup>th</sup> century Japan, got completely ignored save for a single Best Cinematography nomination. And the fantastic *Love & Friendship* failed to receive any recognition whatsoever.

But this is how it goes. Every year. Whatever the case may be, it's still exciting as hell and I cannot wait to see who wins (I've got my ballot printed out already, with my guesses highlighted). The show will be great, as it always is. I really hope Jimmy Kimmel brings it as host. The Academy needs edgier hosts and they have tried to incorporate more flavours to the ceremonies in the last few years, but nothing has really stuck. Maybe this year will be different? Either way, I can't wait. And, luckily, almost all of these films are readily available at your local theatres and Cineplex. Go see them, and prepare yourself for the big night!



# Evensong at St. James

Choral Evensong at St. James' Anglican Church in Perth is both a contemplative service and a celebration of sacred music and song, at which local musicians volunteer their services by playing a prelude and postlude. This month, cellist Beth Misener and pianist Val Leavitt play two movements of the Beethoven *Sonata for Cello* Opus 5 no.2, and two movements of J.C. Bach's *Cello Concerto in C minor*. The service is on Sunday, February 19 at 4PM but the prelude starts at 3:45, so come early!

As February is Volunteer Month, it should be noted that churches and other religious organizations rely heavily on volunteers to reach out to others in their own community and beyond, wherever help is needed. In this article, we salute those who bring joy to worship, and the lives of others, through the art of music.

Beth Misener is a Grade 11 student at Perth and District Collegiate Institute who has been playing the cello for 13 years and enjoys performing. "Playing the cello is a very different experience from studying," says Beth, "and a welcome break. I am excited to play with other musicians at church services, dinners and other charitable events."

St. James' Liturgical Choir is very active and an exciting place to be these days, with an amazing group of people; largely thanks to the leadership of musical directors Peter Woodwark and Val Leavitt. Below is what a few of the choristers have to say about why they make the commitment to show up for practices and services regularly, and work on new or difficult pieces at home.

Jane Hartin, an alto, sang as a child in an Anglican church choir, and she describes being in St. James' choir as: "a wonderful and uplifting experience — and a great opportunity for discovery and growth in so many areas — musically, physically and spiritually. It is also a magical, safe and loving environment — and it's not all work — we have great parties!"

Mike Else, a bass who also sings with the Men of the Tay, has some physical disabilities. "Sometimes I am so tired and fed up I can hardly drag myself out of the house for choir practice," he observes, "but invariably afterwards I feel great — singing is uplifting physically and spiritually, and gives me energy."

Alan Preston, a tenor, also finds singing to be spiritually uplifting. "Poetry and music are both ways of expressing love, and singing combines these two artistic expressions into a wonderful experience." Alan is a retired physician who has found that "music is one of the finest ways of helping people deal with anxiety and to shift their thinking away from negative thoughts".

Carol Rigby's parents met in a choir, so it is no surprise that music has been a major part of her life since she was very young — at the age of six she sang a duet with her four-year-old sister in church. A soprano, Carol has had professional voice training, and in addition to singing in choirs most of her life, was the official soloist at First Baptist Church and St. James United Church in Ottawa. Later she was the choir director at St. Jude's Anglican Cathedral in Iqaluit, where she and her family lived for many years. "I enjoy singing church music, and it is wonderful being at St. James all year since my husband and I moved to this area. I like to memorize the music when I can, as this allows me to take it into my heart. I believe singing is a gift from God — which I can give back to other people."

While being in a choir is a good experience, we can all enjoy singing — so just try it — especially if you have been led to believe you cannot sing. If you can talk, you can sing! And what better way to brighten up a dreary winter day?


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, contact the church office at 267-1163 or check the website <stjamesperth.ca>. — Hilary Barrett

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# Not Just for Rednecks!

TheHumm serves a large and diverse area and it is Weetabix' pleasure to go on touristic rural rambles. The country landscapes of Eastern Ontario are varied and subject to stark seasonal changes. Historic aspects offer scope for additional entertainment. Some resort destinations take advantage of natural features, and one such is Calabogie, a village allegedly named for a spruce beer from Newfoundland (callabogus), that grew up around a

by Sebastian Weetabix

graphite mine which is now submerged by a reservoir. There also can be found a non-bogus restaurant and meeting place with a slightly odd name: **The Redneck Bistro**. Rumours of this establishment had, it must be admitted, reached Weetabix and influenced our choice of route. On a late fall day this is what we found.

But first, a note about rednecks. Do not be put off by a term which has, in recent use, moved down market to the somewhat pejorative. Word of this has not reached Calabogie yet. There it is simply a term to designate "real country" as opposed to "city slicker", and still implies virtues like self-sufficiency, competence and tolerant acceptance of neighbours — be they ever so odd. Or at least that is what Weetabix was told by one of the proprietors who stated that his father was proud to have been known as "The Calabogie Redneck". Not entirely convinced, Weetabix did some sleuthing and found the following support for the term as an honorific: <youtube.com/watch?v=KQ7mi-h\_PiQ>. Even if you do not like the name, don't let your prejudices get in the way of visiting the Bistro.

Weetabix visited off-season and off-peak. You, dear reader, might want to phone ahead and book

a table, since the invitingly decorated room is spacious but not large. Décor is "country casual" with a large bar along one wall and lots of windows making for a bright open atmosphere. No tablecloths, pine flooring and some weathered barn board trim are all consistent with the casual laid-back vibe and country theme. Shortly after being seated, we were given menus, water and a basket of something to nibble on — an immediate message that this was not just a country pit stop. The water carafes came with lemon slices and the nibbles immediately got our full attention; pork rinds are not generally considered gourmet fare, but properly seasoned and deep-fried to perfection of texture, the basket put us on notice that we should pay attention to the food.

Although sympathetic to vegetarianism, Weetabix has profound carnivore instincts. Deep-fried foods are on the dietary equivalent of the Index Librorum Prohibitorum; but we are at the Redneck Bistro, which is the creation of Nick White — trained butcher. This is definitely a meeting place and, never one to shrink from duty, Weetabix is persuaded. Caution to the winds, and food fascisti be damned, it is full speed ahead to a bowl of excellent beef-vegetable soup with a more-than-adequate amount of beef, followed by a bowl of bison chili, more of the pork rinds and a smoked meat sandwich — all ample portions and truth-be-told all shared with my boon companion and photographer. The (house) smoked meat sandwich came with some tasty fries, and the bison chili with a side salad. Good coffee accompanied both — and a selection of craft beers was on offer but not sampled.

It is risky to write about food on the basis of a single visit, and Calabogie is somewhat outside Weetabix's normal coverage area; however a con-



With events like Pairing Dinners and a special Valentine's Day menu, Calabogie's Redneck Bistro is definitely not just for rednecks!

versation with Nick and one of his partners provided some reassuring background. Careful reading of both the regular menu and a supplement for an event (their December 11 Pairing Dinner) convinced Weetabix that this is an establishment to note and follow.

The Pairing Dinner is an evening entertainment built around a menu featuring both dishes and beverages that complement them. The menu showcases the capabilities of a kitchen that can deliver solid basic items as well as more refined offerings such as a poached-pear-brie-spinach salad enhanced with pine nuts and strawberries. Wisely, the main offering is a grilled veal chop on a wild mushroom risotto — a simple, delicious and robust offering. Weetabix is impressed with the evidence of careful forethought and asks for a Valentine's Day menu. It too has been well thought out and looks like the basis for a very pleasant evening.

All up, the Redneck Bistro has made a promising start on establishing itself as a destination as well as a pillar of the local establishment. Nick still offers retail butcher service and there is a chalkboard listing items available; take-out of restaurant items is also available. We left with a package of his house-made sausages and some supplies for our onward journey. The odds of returning to Calabogie have been increased. The Bistro has recently opened for breakfasts — good news for locals, and worth noting if you are en route.

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# Mississippi Milling Fun Facts About Mississippi Mills

First fact: we love to gather together and share food. Many years ago my good buddy Joy Stratford started a tradition of inviting the whole darn community over for dinner at the Almonte Old Town Hall. At the time Joy was heading up the former youth centre (TYPs), and lots of local young folk got loads of

Neighbourhood Tomato group (see their volunteer listing on page 22 to find out more about them). It being a bit cold to hold it on Mill Street, it will be back in the Almonte Old Town on Thursday, February 2, with doors opening at 5:30PM and supper starting at 6. Needless to say, everyone is welcome, so come on out of hibernation and break bread (or gluten-free biscuits, if that's your preference) with your friends and neighbours! Please bring a dish or two, as well as your own plate, cup and cutlery.

by Miss Mills

community service hours by helping to run community potluck suppers there. Everyone was invited, and somehow everyone got fed. What good times were had!

Lately, my other good buddy Jeff Mills has been helping to keep the tradition alive. This past summer featured the second annual Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month community potluck, right in the middle of Mill Street (fortunately it was closed to car traffic). Jeff dropped in just at deadline time for this month's issue (he can get away with that — he volunteers an awful lot around here!) to tell us about another **community potluck** — this one being organized by the



Make a friendship bowl at the Potters Guild!

Second fact: we love our downtowns. One of the ways we show the love for downtown Almonte is to hold the awesome **Mid-Winter Milling** event every February, and this year is no exception. On Saturday, February 25 from 10AM to 5PM, you can wander up and down Mill Street (and adjacent Bridge and Queen Streets), visiting all of the charming and funky shops and eateries, and partaking in some spiritual and self-awareness sessions with area practitioners. You can indulge in Reiki, reflexology, mindfulness meditation and massage, and visit with an astrologer, Tarot card reader and even an intuitive empath!

All sessions must be booked that day, so it's a good idea to plan to arrive right around 10AM for the best selection. And if you have some time in between sessions, shopping and dining, you can express your creative side too! Drop in and make a clay mandala plaque or friendship bowl at Almonte Potters Guild (\$20, 95 Bridge St.), a chakra bracelet at Dragon's Lair Beads (\$7.50 +HST, 10 Mill St.),

or a fused glass pendant at Current Works of Glass (\$10, 112 Queen St.). For more information about participating shops and practitioners, please visit <midwintermilling.com> or find them on Facebook.

Third fact: we enjoy a good night — or day — out. If you take a look through the rest of this issue, you'll find more about the **Folkus concert** with Coco Love Alcorn on the evening of February 25 (see more on page 22), and the terrific **Seedy Saturday** event taking place at the Civitan Hall on February 11 (see page 25). If you've always wanted to give curling a try, the Almonte Curling Club will be hosting another of their wildly popular **Hopsiels** on Friday, February 10. This event matches delicious beer-inspired food with a local microbrewery, and pairs novices with seasoned curlers who can show you the ropes (or rather the rocks). The cost is only \$25 per person, and for more information you can email my good buddy <rob@thehummm.com>.

Fourth fact: we are proud of our history! So proud, in fact, that a group of locals has pulled together **365 Facts About Mississippi Mills** — one for each day of Canada's sesquicentennial year. These fascinating tidbits range from aspects of local history and culture to information about local organizations and well-known individuals. Anyone can sign up to receive weekly fact emails — just drop a note to Tiffany at <tmaclaren@mississippimills.ca> and she'll add you to the list! Here is a small sampling...



Fact: at this year's **Mid-Winter Milling** event in Almonte you can visit great shops, meet with practitioners (above), and indulge your creative side (below left)!

- White Whale (Beluga) found in Pakenham in 1906: A whale skeleton, an inhabitant of the Champlain Sea 30 to 40 thousand years ago, was found when digging a well on a Pakenham farm in 1906. The discovery consisted of a nearly perfect skull (with only a few of the teeth missing) and one of the tympanic bones, with most of the cervical vertebrae and three of the dorsals.
- Our Forgotten Flying Ace: Kenneth Burns Conn is Almonte's forgotten flying ace. This WWI veteran was credited with twenty victories and was a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross On October 18, when raiding enemy troops in retreat, Kenneth descended to 300 feet and attacked three companies of infantry with machine-gun fire, inflicting casualties. So vigorous was his attack that the troops dispersed. Lt. Conn then attacked various other targets, displaying conspicuous skill and initiative.

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. ...when you volunteer, you vote every day for the kind of community you want to live in."

Marjorie Moore

Volunteers are the *heart* of Mississippi Mills

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Contact: Tiffany MacLaren  
Community Economic & Cultural Coordinator  
tmaclaren@mississippimills.ca  
613-256-1077 (x 22)



Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St. E., Almonte, Ontario

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Val Leavitt: Piano  
 Beth Misener: Cello  
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 Sat. Feb. 4 **John Wilberforce** (Country/Rock, Kemptville) 6-9  
 Fri. Feb. 10 **Logan Brown & Taylor Angus** (Acoustic Soul, Kingston) 6-9  
 Sat. Feb. 11 **Valentine's Dinner** 3 Course Meal with Music by **Head Over Heels** 6-9, \$50/person  
 Fri. Feb. 17 Blues on the Rideau Presents: **The Hogtown Allstars** feat. members of the Downchild Blues Band (Toronto/Hamilton) 7-11, \$65 Buffet & Show  
 Sat. Feb. 18 **Head Over Heels** (Guitar/Vocal Duo, Gananoque) 6-9  
 Sun. Feb. 19 **Westport Winter Carnival After Party** with **Shawn McCullough & Henry Norwood** 4-8  
 Fri. Feb. 24 **Weber Brothers Trio** Ronnie Hawkins' former band (Folk/Rock, Peterborough) 7-10, \$10  
 Sat. Feb. 25 Westport Rideaus Jr. B **Elimination \$500 Draw!** with music by **Eric Uren** 6-10

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Speaking Volumes

# The Dog Ate It! (A Puppy Parable)

One of the most amusing things we encounter in a public library is listening to people's reasons why their materials are late and/or damaged. But particularly funny is looking at the titles people are returning as they hand over their items with the corners gnawed to pieces or sometimes even in shreds. More often than not they are things like *What to Expect When Your Baby is Teething* or *Dog Training for Dummies!* Oh the things that happen to other people!

by Pam Harris, Librarian

Imagine my surprise as I lay in bed one night reading and I heard funny rustling sounds; upon investigation there was not one but both my cats quite happily chowing down on the corner of one of several library books strewn across my bed! Despite this early warning sign, for some reason I got it into my head that what I needed was a dog — a puppy to be exact. A companion who would be overjoyed to see me every time I walked through the door. Now, I used to have an Australian Shepherd — a high-energy breed — so I was confident I wasn't coming at this totally cold. I knew a thing or two about what to expect — or did I? So began my journey to finding, getting, living with and loving a puppy. Finn is a beautiful six-month-old standard poodle "blue". He is funny, mischievous, oh so smart and energetic. He is a gate hopper. He can be a handful. My life is transformed! It revolves around Finn, and he knows it!

Life with a dog is a little bit zany. It's just like having a baby, except maybe trickier — you are tied to a routine, you can't go far for too long as the dog will have to go out; you have to plan ahead as most places won't allow a dog. It's a question of manners — learning how to train your puppy so they know how to greet people and training people so they know how to greet a dog! There are a remarkable number of people who are afraid of dogs. That's tricky. Then there is the comedy of the dog park — now that is definitely tricky! It's like the first few days of kindergarten, where you nervously watch as your youngster saddles up to a group of kids — will they be playmates? So too the dog park, as your puppy bounds and hops across the field — will the other dogs, young and old, accept him? The trickiest part of the dog park though is not the dogs but the owners! People can be blunt in their advice and oblivious to their own dog's foibles. In our family we call it DDD (doggie delusional disorder: the condition of believing that your dog alone can do no wrong!).

So much to learn when living with a dog — what to feed them? How to train? What to do so they won't get bored — we need a Baby Einstein for dogs! Dogs and cats in the same house... the vet... all those poopy bags. It's a good thing I work in a public library so I can pop over to the dog section and peruse the written word on dogs any time. Our relationship with dogs is so intense; it touches the human spirit

in profound ways. Some of our best stories, our best books, are efforts to capture this heartfelt, deep-seated relationship that somehow holds our very essence, and keeps us humble and inspired. And has given multiple generations of kids (and library patrons) the best reason ever for not getting their homework done: the dog ate it!

## Books About Dogs

Don't forget — if your local library doesn't have what you are looking for more than likely you can get it through inter-library loan — just ask!

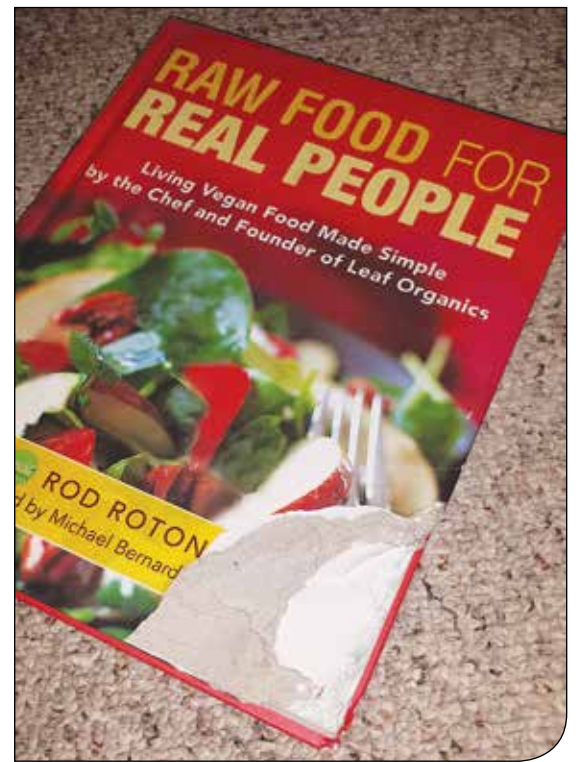
**The classics:** *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls, *The Dog Who Wouldn't Be* by Farley Mowat, *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson, *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford, *Lassie Come Home* by Eric Knight, *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London.

**Popular fiction:** *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein, *Lady: My Life as a Bitch* by Melvin Burgess, *Marley and Me* by John Grogan, *Fifteen Dogs* by André Alexis.

**For Kids:** *Dog Heaven* by Cynthia Rylant, *Henry and Mudge* series by Cynthia Rylant, *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo, *Dogsbody* by Diane Wynne Jones, *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster, *Rin Tin Tin*, *The Life and The Legend* by Susan Orlean.

**Non-fiction:** *Off the Leash: A Year at the Dog Park* by Matthew Gilbert, *You Bake 'em Dog Biscuits* by Janine Adams, *Bones Would Rain from the Sky: Deepening Our Relationships with Dogs* by Suzanne Clothier, *Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know* by Alexandra Horowitz.

— Pam Harris is the CEO/Chief Librarian at the Almonte Library



Even a librarian's puppy occasionally finds library books delicious...

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# In the Spring a Young Bird's Fancy Turns To...

It might be safe to say that most of us are at least getting somewhat more optimistic about the possibility of an early spring. A sure sign of spring, as February and March sneak up on us, is the mating rituals of ravens, crows and owls. While we certainly cannot predict the

by Bob Volks

weather patterns we will experience over the next month or so, we *do* know one thing for certain: spring is on its way, it is only a matter of how long we actually have to wait to experience it.

With that in mind, the birding community is getting antsy in anticipation of the spring migration and the return of our spring and summer birds. As the temperatures (hopefully) begin to rise, we get closer and closer to those wonderful spring mornings when the air is filled with the sweet songs of some of our favourite species.

What is surprising to some folks is that some birds are actually in the nest-building phase or may be moving into it very soon. There have been reports of gray jays nest-building up in Algonquin Park, and many others are beginning to follow suit as well. Here is a quick list of some popular species that might already be busy building nests, or will soon begin construction.

## Owls

Many owl species begin to build their nests as early as January. Great horned owls begin their nest-building toward the end



of January, and their fledglings will be ready to take their first flight within a month or two. Barred owls and eastern screech owls will begin to construct their nests during the month of March, and you can expect their fledglings to take flight at some point in the month of May.

## Hairy Woodpeckers

While many other woodpeckers will not begin the nest-building process until April, the hairy woodpecker often gets a head start on both the nest-building and breeding season.

## Cardinals

One of our favourite winter birds, the cardinal, is another species that begins to build their nests during the month of March.

## Hawks & Eagles

Many large raptors, such as hawks and eagles, are often early nesters as well. The bald eagles will have built their nests during the middle of February for the most part, and are tending to their eggs this time of year.

## Crows & Ravens

Generally speaking, crows and ravens are some of the earliest nesters in the bird world. A general rule of thumb: if you see other birds nesting in your area, you can bet the crows and ravens are well ahead of them! — Bob Volks can often be found at Gilligallou Bird, Inc. in Almonte's Heritage Court <gilligalloubird.com>.



Photos by smHansen

## Call for Artists and Artisans

Register now for the Arts Carleton Place Spring Art Show & Sale, to be held May 27 and 28 at the Carleton Place Canoe Club. The fee to participate is \$75; if you are not already a member of ArtsCP, you will need to join, with a \$20 membership fee. Applications are available at Surrounding Memories, 77 Bridge Street in Carleton Place. For more information, email <smdeschenes1951@gmail.com>.

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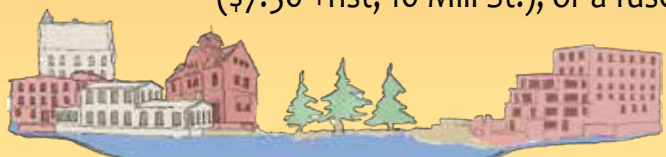
Feb 25 10-5

# Mid-Winter Milling

Explore the delightful shops and cafés along Mill Street in Downtown Almonte and sign up for spiritual and self-awareness sessions with local practitioners.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Elizabeth Radmore</b> .....<br>Tarot Card Reader                     | <b>Dragon's Lair Beads</b> - 10 Mill St.<br>Full service bead store  |
| <b>Lori Rowsell</b> .....<br>Mindfulness Meditation                     | <b>Acanthus</b> - 14 Mill St.<br>Flowers, tropical plants & floral design                                      |
| <b>Suzanne Winlove-Smith</b> .....<br>Numerology                        | <b>Crush Marketplace</b> - 14 Mill St.<br>Shoes, decor, accessories and more                                   |
| <b>Lynda Brooks</b> .....<br>Integrated Energy Healer                   | <b>Gillagallou Bird Inc.</b> - 14 Mill St.<br>Eastern Ontario's specialty backyard birding store               |
| <b>Joanne MacLaren</b> .....<br>Osho Zen and Regular Cards              | <b>Vamos Outdoors</b> - 14 Mill St.<br>Outdoor apparel, footwear & accessories                                 |
| <b>Linda Rawn</b> .....<br>Reflexology                                  | <b>Quilting Quarters</b> - 24 Mill St.<br>Fabrics, notions, sewing machines & classes                          |
| <b>Wanda Quinn</b> .....<br>Angel Therapy                               | <b>L.G. Lee &amp; Sons</b> - 36 Mill St.<br>Merchandise for the home, garden and workshop                      |
| <b>Shelley Irvine Killoran</b> .....<br>Astrology                       | <b>Soul Scents</b> - 42 Mill St.<br>Fairtrade & organic products to lift the spirit                            |
| <b>Mary Willemsen</b> .....<br>Angel Messenger and Fairyologist         | <b>Mill Street Books</b> - 52 Mill St.<br>Books, puzzles, CDs, games and other fun stuff                       |
| <b>Yesim Gumus</b> .....<br>Turkish Coffee Reading                      | <b>General Fine Craft, Art &amp; Design</b> - 63 Mill St.<br>Outstanding craftsmanship by Canadian artists     |
| <b>&amp; Maureen Sullivan</b> .....<br>Reiki and Reflexology            | <b>Carriageway Studio</b> - between 63 & 65 Mill St.<br>Artist-run studio space, exhibition space and boutique |
| <b>&amp; Monika Tinneburg</b> .....<br>Body Work/Body Reader            |  |
| <b>Nancy Browman</b> .....<br>Soul Glimpse Readings                     | <b>doree's habit</b> - 65 Mill St.<br>Unique apparel. distinct accessories. authentic atmosphere               |
| <b>Dilek Akman Cimentepe</b> .....<br>Numerology                        | <b>Baker Bob's</b> - 75 Little Bridge St.<br>Breads, cakes, pastries, confections & fine foods                 |
| <b>Jennifer Hoy</b> .....<br>Reiki and Rune Stones                      | <b>Cheerfully Made Goods + Markets</b> - 72 Mill St.<br>Beautifully curated, North American made goods         |
| <b>Nancy Kerr-Wilson</b> .....<br>Spiritual Intuitive Readings          | <b>Palms-The Coffee Shop</b> - 78 Mill St.<br>Baked goods, lunches, desserts, espresso bar, tea                |
| <b>&amp; Kim MacLeod</b> .....<br>Psychic, Medium, Energy Healer        | <b>Blackbird</b> - 79 Mill St.<br>Home decor, candles, gifts   |
| <b>&amp; Penny Samek</b> .....<br>Psychic, Medium, Energy Healer        |  |
| <b>Suzanne Ritchie</b> .....<br>Lenormand Card Reader/Quantum Touch     | <b>Brenda's New To You</b> - 80 Mill St.<br>Antiques, new & used furniture, china, housewares, and gifts       |
| <b>Denise Smeaton</b> .....<br>Intuitive Medium                         | <b>Textile Traditions</b> - 87 Mill St.<br>Fabric, yarn, quilting & sewing supplies                            |
| <b>Ken McRitchie</b> .....<br>Astrology                                 | <b>Alliance Coin &amp; Banknote</b> - 88 Mill St.<br>Coins, banknotes & collector supplies                     |
| <b>Donna Kinniburgh</b> .....<br>Deep Trance Medium & Tarot Card Reader | <b>Pêches &amp; Poivre</b> - 89 Mill St.<br>Quality fine food, fun & artful kitchen & dining ware              |
| <b>Leanne Dwyer</b> .....<br>Intuitive Empath Indigo                    | <b>Keepsakes</b> - 102 Mill St.<br>Gifts, flowers, gift baskets, fun stuff                                     |
| <b>Chrissie Young</b> .....<br>Mythic Tarot Readings                    | <b>Almonte Potters' Guild</b> - 95 Bridge St.<br>Adult & children's classes, studio rentals, birthday parties  |

Express your creative side in between sessions and shopping! Drop in and make a clay mandala plaque or friendship bowl at **Almonte Potters Guild** (\$20, 95 Bridge St.), a chakra bracelet at **Dragon's Lair Beads** (\$7.50 +hst, 10 Mill St.), or a fused glass pendant at **Current Works of Glass** (\$10, 112 Queen St.).



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Sign-up sheets will be available on the day.

For up-to-date details, visit

[www.midwintermilling.com](http://www.midwintermilling.com)