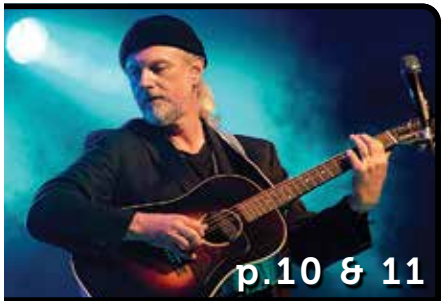


the Hummm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas

The Art of Grace Noël p.3



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January's Events

CLASSES

COURSES

LESSONS

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A Comi-Cal Murder in CP

p.18



A Community Hub



Creative Resolutions for 2017

Celebrate the New Year by enrolling in a class, course or lesson. This issue is full of great local suggestions, and if you end up needing a home studio or conservatory, just give me a call!



Patrick Kelly
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Pat's Picks Glass classes at Current Works of Glass <currentworksofglass.com>
for January: Art classes with Adrian Baker <adrianbakerart.com>
Fitness classes at Heritage Fitness <heritagefitness.ca>
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"I was impressed when you resolved not to text and drive, until you added 'so I can practice harmonica!'"

Our February Issue: All About Volunteers

In the February issue of theHumm we plan to run our eleventh annual "Get Involved, Get Connected" resource for organizations seeking volunteers (and volunteers seeking local organizations). If you are running a community organization or service club, festival, cultural event, museum, conservation area, arts or activities group within theHumm's catchment area, we'd like to hear from you! Send us 80 words (maximum) describing what your group does, what type of volunteer opportunities you offer, and how people can contact you, and we'll run them — free of charge! — in our February issue.

Due to space limitations, we can only offer **80 words per organization**, and can only include groups that serve our catchment area (Lanark County and parts of Renfrew County). We are not able to edit down longer entries or brochures, so please send the text as you wish it to appear. Please email all information or queries to <editor@thehummm.com>. All information must be received by January 20 for inclusion in the February issue. Here's a sample from last year:

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 can be built to suit an individual's interests and location, and include one-on-one mentoring, music, craft or sports programs, helping at events, in our thrift store, on a committee, or on our board. Visit <bigbrothersbigsisterslanark.ca> or call 283-0570 for more information.

Tell Us About a Volunteer Who Made a Difference

If you have a story about a special volunteer or volunteer organization that made a difference in your life, we'd love to hear from you! We'd like to help put some of those positive stories out into the world via the paper, theHumm's website, and our social media channels as we head into the new year. Send your stories to <editor@thehummm.com>.

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Who's Reading theHumm

Back in 2014, **Sandi & Dennis Jones** (former residents of Ferguson's Falls and Carleton Place) sent in the great photo above and wrote: "Thought I'd send you this photo for your "Who's Reading theHumm" space. It was taken on July 15, 2014 here at our home in White Point, Nova Scotia. Visitors are **Marny McCook, Bob McCook** (both of Almonte) and **Arlene McGee** (who has been your featured artist in the past). It was good to catch up with news of our old neighbourhoods!"

Also in 2014, **Joan & Greg Dunn** sent the lovely photo below with this note: "After sailing a 52-foot boat along the Croatian coastline we toured the hinterlands. We are perched high above the ancient city of Omis where in bygone days pirates were a constant threat."



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

Submissions

By email or on disk.

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Thanks this month to:

All of the wonderful Perth Performing Arts Committee volunteers who brought tremendous talent to this area for 34 years, and in particular to Theresa Phillips and Eric Wilson for being good friends to us here at theHumm. We will miss you.

Grace Noël — “Creatively Graceful” Surface Pattern Design

In this, our first issue in Canada’s 150th anniversary year of Confederation, we are delighted to introduce a new member of the ever-growing Almonte arts community. Grace Noël is one of those lucky people who discover their calling at an early age. She decided what she wanted to do when she was only twelve, and through talent, education and determination she is well on her way to success as a surface pattern designer at the tender age of twenty.

by Sally Hansen

What, you may ask, is surface pattern art? Basically, it is art that is designed to be printed on surfaces such as fabric, wallpaper and gift-wrap. Uses include clothing, quilts, curtains, shower curtains, pillows, upholstery, and other homewares. I love Grace’s characterization of it as “almost sneaky — it’s functional, so you can get your designs into people’s lives.”

Grace vividly remembers the moment she knew what she wanted her future to hold. Leafing through one of her mother’s home decorating magazines, she had an epiphany. A photograph of a gorgeously decorated room warmed her heart and lit her ambition — at the age of twelve! Perhaps she was inspired by her lovely name; regardless, she knew absolutely that her long-term goal was to make the world a more beautiful place, one small space at a time.

To do so, Grace honed her drawing and painting skills and was selling greeting cards by the time she was in Grade 9; she “lived in the art room” at Nepean High School in Ottawa. When she started exploring university options, her brother suggested Algonquin College’s Interior Decorating Program. During a visit to their Open House, her fate was sealed with one step into the student fabric sample room — “It was pure textile heaven!” She graduated this past spring with honours and is already an accomplished surface pattern designer, creating and producing art for everyday surfaces, to beautify and personalize wardrobes and homes.

With the ink on her diploma from Algonquin College barely dry, Noël has generated an impressive commercial presence via the Internet and social media. This enterprising young woman is the subject of a four-page feature article in the current winter

issue of the quarterly trade journal *Quilter’s Connection Magazine*.

The Fabric of Life

There is nothing rehearsed about Grace’s enthusiasm for her calling. Her ambition is to earn a living by working from her home studio doing what she loves — designing patterns for surfaces that surround us in our everyday lives. As she wrote in her blog in May 2014, “I will always adore fashion and interior decoration, but I’ve finally realized that it is truly the fabric behind it all that I love. It is the gorgeous, functional, versatile medium that easily transforms simple structures or is crafted into a shape of its own.”

Her second epiphany occurred when she was leafing through an issue of *Country Living* magazine when she was sixteen years old. She was captivated by a photo of a chair upholstered in a fabric printed from a photo of an old family letter dated from 1882. The headline read “Turn Memories into Material,” and Grace was hooked once she investigated <spoonflower.com>. The site lets you design and print your own original fabrics and papers, and she realized that the possibilities for personalization and creating designs with emotional significance were limitless.



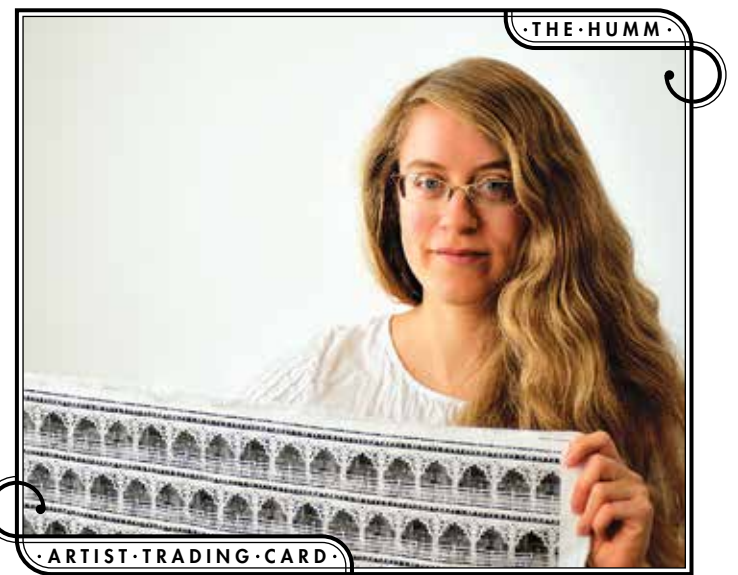
When she read about their weekly contests, she knew that she had found a thrilling new “hobby”. It has turned into much more than that. In addition to creating designs for her own uniquely decorated canvas shoes and fabrics for her sewing projects, Grace began entering the site’s weekly themed-design challenges.

When her design for “Prohibition Cocktails” won first place, her reward was the eye-catching chair that enjoys centre stage in the living room of the family’s new Almonte home. It is upholstered in a sophisticated architectural pattern that she designed.

When she read about their weekly contests, she knew that she had found a thrilling new “hobby”. It has turned into much more than that. In addition to creating designs for her own uniquely decorated canvas shoes and fabrics for her sewing projects, Grace began entering the site’s weekly themed-design challenges.

Happy Canada Day!

During her final semester in Algonquin’s Interior Decorating program, Grace was challenged with finding a company that would give her experience in



the interior decorating industry in exchange for unpaid work. When Trend-Tex Fabrics responded to her introductory email with an invitation to design a collection of cotton quilting fabrics in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary, she accepted eagerly. Working with the guidance of the design director at Moda Fabrics (where the final fabrics are produced), Grace went to work, researching, brainstorming, experimenting and designing.

As of this month her collection of celebratory fabric designs, titled “With Glowing Hearts,” is now available to Canadian quilters — of special interest to those competing in the 2017 Trend-Tex Fabrics Quilt Challenge. The fabrics are available at over 100 stores across Canada, including The Pickle Dish Quilt Shop in Carleton Place, The Running Stitch in Kanata, Sew Crafty in Rideau Ferry and Textile Traditions in Almonte. The two winning quilts for large and small projects will be displayed at the 2017 International Fall Quilt Market. For Noël, the possibility that her design may end up as “a drop in the bucket of Canadian history” is especially thrilling. She has also received invitations to speak to quilters’ clubs.

This past September, Grace was one of two featured artists at Almonte’s Mississippi Valley Textile Museum’s 21st annual Fibrefest Festival of Fibre Arts. With a flair for publicity that she attributes gratefully to her studies at Algonquin, she held a contest at her display booth to name her “Almonte Collection” of designs. One of my favourites is “Fretwork Fancy,” a pattern based on the gingerbread balcony overhanging the shops at 65 Mill Street. She is holding a swatch of her fabric design in her Artist Trading Card photo at the top of this page.

You can see a picture of the balcony at Grace Noël’s photographic tribute to her new home town at <creativelygraceful.blogspot.ca/2016/07/almonte-ontario-friendly-town.html>. The series demonstrates this young woman’s eclectic artistic talents. Her photography is outstanding, and she also creates watercolour and acrylic paintings as a diversion. The natural beauty that surrounds us is her inspiration; she believes that “The Creator is the best Artist,” and she works outdoors whenever she can.

Grace loves seeing her artwork reproduced on surfaces that others have chosen to enhance their own surroundings. Her coordinates are on the back of her Trading Card, and if you have an idea for a personalized design project, she would be happy to discuss it with you. We’re hoping her patterns make history this fall when the winners of the quilting competition are announced.

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WHO Grace Noël
WHAT Surface Pattern Designer, Interior Decorator
WHERE <spoonflower.com/profiles/graceful>;
 <creativelygraceful.blogspot.ca>;
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WHY "I want to make the world a more beautiful place
 — one small space at a time."

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HAPPY NEW YEAR
 from your friends at theHumm!

THE MESSENGER

Award-Winning "Hot Doc" Documentary Film



Thursday, January 19
 Almonte Old Town Hall
 7 PM
 Doors open 6:30 PM
 Admission \$5

Free admission MVFN members



Birds have something to tell us in this beautiful,
 provocative film by Canadian Director Su Rynard

PROCEEDS TO BIRD STUDIES CANADA



Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists / [Details mvfn.ca](http://Details.mvfn.ca)

Postcards from Perth

Love & Leafs in Perth

Last year I resolved to eat a chocolate chip cookie that was bigger than my head. I never did that. I'm not even sure I ate a chocolate chip cookie. Therefore, this year, I think I'll pass on the New Year's resolutions.

Life just happens anyhow. I mean, one day your family doctor tells you your cholesterol is high so you start eating lots of salmon and broccoli and blueberries, and the next thing you know, you start to like all that stuff and you get to feeling healthier too. Then boom — without noticing, you've lost a few pounds. Oh, well, now look at that! And

by John Pigeau

now that you've lost a few pounds, you suddenly feel like walking more. Then the walking high kicks in so you pick it up a notch until there is a doozy of an endorphin party in your brain and the cool air in your lungs feels fantastic, and all at once you've more energy, you're sleeping better, and soon you're nearly euphoric with newfound energy. Reading a book a week. Enjoying new music. Finding joy in good food and art, laughing more with family and friends, and being good and kind to everyone you meet. You're not planning on selling all your possessions and hiking around the world just yet, but, well, you see my point.

Life just happens. Sometimes joy just comes by happenstance.

Like marriage, actually — and for those of you fortunate enough to be planning a wedding in this shiny new year, there is a perfect little event you will want to attend at the Code's Mill building on January 7, namely, the **LOVE Wedding Expo**. Enjoy a glass of wine and hors d'oeuvres while admiring the latest exquisite gowns and talking to DJs, event planners, bakers, photographers, officiants, and anyone else you'll need to help plan your perfect day. Admission is free for brides- and grooms-to-be and \$10 for all others, and the expo runs from 11AM to 3PM. Oh, one lucky couple will also win their wedding! Someone else will pay for it, that is. And wouldn't that be lovely. If you would like more information, please contact Julia Foley at 250-0417.

Still feel like celebrating after the holiday season? Why, of course you do, and if so you very well may wish to attend the **Twelfth Night Wassail Evening of Song and Joy** at the MERA Schoolhouse on January 6. The good folks at MERA will be celebrating their 20th anniversary this year and Canada will

celebrate its 150th birthday — so, yes, two wonderful reasons to throw a party. There is no charge for this event (donations will be gratefully accepted) and people are asked to bring only their singing voices so they can join in on all the fun. Wassail desserts, wassail punch, and tea and coffee will be served. The celebrations run from 7 to 8:30PM.

Oh, and if you're like me and you're wondering what in the heck wassail is... well, I'll let a writer from Wikipedia explain: "Wassail is a beverage of hot mulled cider, traditionally drunk as an integral part of wassailing, a Medieval English drinking ritual intended to ensure a good cider apple harvest the following year."

Now I know there are a lot of Ottawa Senators fans in Perth, but I suspect there are also some die-hard Leafs fans too. Either way, hockey lovers are in for a treat when the Toronto **Maple Leaf Legends** come to town on January 15 to take on the Perth Blue Wings. The Leafs' alumni team includes Wendel Clark, Rick Vaive and Tiger Williams. Ticket packages might go quickly so please purchase them early to enjoy the game. You can buy a general admission ticket for \$50, or buy a \$150 ticket and you'll have access to the Leafs' dressing room for pictures and autographs between periods, while a \$250 gold level ticket includes all of that and a private dinner with Wendel Clark and teammates after the game. There are only fifty of those available. You can order your tickets online at <LeafsinPerth.com> or by calling Linda Bartlett at 1-800-267-2069. The game is at Blue Wings Arena. Hundred bucks says Tiger Williams goes for one of his infamous stick rides.

January is a lean month for events, it seems, but there is some live music happening this month too. **Al Lerman** plays the "Listening Room Series" at the Perth Tea Room on January 29 at 7PM. Tickets are \$20, and to purchase one in advance you can call 267-7902.

There is always music at O'Reilly's Ale House too, no matter the month. Every Tuesday night at 8:30PM **Brock Zeman and Blair Hogan** will entertain, and Wednesday nights Dave Balfour hosts an **Acoustic Jam** from 8-11PM — a great time to hear some wonderful music and perhaps to hop up on stage and play a song or two. All are welcome. In January O'Reilly's will also play host to **Tom Watson** (on the 13th), **Stephen Mark Fisher** (the 20th), and **River City Junction** (the 27th). Shows typically begin at 8:30PM.

Enjoy the music, everyone. And here's wishing you all a healthy, peaceful, joyful new year!

What's New at the Carleton Place Library?

The Carleton Place Public Library has entered into a partnership with the National Capital Commission to offer free passes to Gatineau Park cross-country ski trails, becoming one of only two Ontario libraries to offer the program.

"We are proud to partner with the National Capital Commission on this," says head librarian Meriah Caswell. "Gatineau Park is a beautiful place to visit. I know our library users will enjoy the opportunity to visit with a free pass."

Each pass will offer access to NCC winter trails in Gatineau Park for one person (aged 13 or over) for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or winter biking. Passes can be checked out from the library with a valid library card, and can be used for four days before they must be returned to the library.

The Carleton Place Public Library currently offers free passes to a number of other area attractions, including the Brockville Aquatorium and most Ottawa museums. "The Gatineau Park Ski Passes will certainly be a welcome addition our pass program," says Caswell.

To find out more about passes at the Carleton Place Library and to check availability of the Gatineau Park Ski Trail passes, visit <carletonplacelibrary.ca>.

Plot Your Novel

Are you interested in writing a novel, but have no idea where to start? Come to the Carleton Place Library on Tuesday, January 17 from 6 to 7PM, for a fun, free workshop to help you "Plot Your Novel". Registration begins January 3 — call 257-2702 for more details.

CLASSES COURSES LESSONS CLASSES COURSES LESSONS

Looking For Resolution Inspiration?

Look no further than theHumm for a wide variety of classes, courses and lessons to get you going in 2017.

Taught by talented local artists, musicians, dancers, movers and shakers — you're sure to find something to get you out and about during the chilly winter months!

The A-maize-ing Story of Corn

A cob of corn is more than a delicious meal. It's fuel, it's food, it's a wealth of products. The story of corn will be the focus of the Almonte Lecture on January 27, when local agriculturist Lana Reid, Senior Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, will describe how this small primitive plant has become a world-wide major crop. Lana, herself an avid gardener, heads the national research programme at the experimental farm, researching corn breeding and genetics. Corn is grown so extensively in this area that we take it for granted, enjoying it in season, with little regard for its past or its future development.

Lana has been researching plant pathology and biochemistry for many years, getting her PhD from McGill before being hired by AAFC to oversee their research project in 1991. Her lecture will delve into plant breeding and how corn has evolved over thousands of years. She will also give insight into the role that the Experimental Farm plays in the continuing expansion of corn acreage in Canada, and how this research benefits growers world-wide.

This lecture, one of the **Almonte Lecture Series**, will be held on Friday, January 27, at 7:30PM at the Almonte United Church Hall. It will be a golden opportunity to learn more about a crop we tend to overlook as simply part of the landscape in the summer.

What Are the Almonte Lectures?

The lecture series is for anyone who wants to spend a pleasant evening in the company of neighbours. Usually a lot of learning takes place quite by osmosis, but it is definitely not an intensely cerebral exercise. Knowledge is shared, questions are answered, and we all go home enlightened and most grateful that these lectures are supplied to us completely free of charge. What if you came and enjoyed it, what if you had a subject you'd like to share, what if you thought a small donation would help the cause...?

The parking is free, the lecture is free, the audience welcomes everyone. See you Friday, January 27 at the Almonte United Church!

— Glenda Jones

Words From Westport

A Double Challenge

As I write this column, December is nearly over, and January and a brand new year are just around the corner. That means a double challenge — one to renegotiate last year's resolutions and one to negotiate some new ones for 2017. We celebrate Janus, the Roman god who celebrated the past and also the future.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Confederation for this great country. I resolve to be a better citizen and to make a point of being awake and aware of all that our govern-

by Georgia Ferrell

ment is doing. And to take a stand when I believe it important. I hope many of you will join me in this effort. We can no longer afford to be asleep when it comes to the safekeeping of our land and liberties.

So what will we do for fun in 2017? For starters, we always have great goings on at The Cove Inn here in Westport.

January 20 will see **Angelique Francis** and **The Ben Racine Band** playing The Cove as part of the popular Blues on the Rideau series. Angelique has been named one of the top emerging female blues artists in the country. At 17 years of age she has already appeared at prestigious festivals like Ottawa Bluesfest, the Montreal International Jazz Festival and the Tremblant Blues Festival, and she also represented the Toronto Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. She not only has a fabulous voice and tremendous feel for a song — she also writes her own songs and plays multiple instruments, including guitar, upright bass, and harmonica. Ben Racine originally hails from Gatineau but now lives in Montreal. He and his very talented band were just nominated for the Maple Blues Award for Best New Artists this year. They play soul blues like the great



Catch Angelique Francis (above) with The Ben Racine Band at The Cove on January 20

R&B artists from the '60s — Junior Walker, Stevie Wonder and Clarence Carter. That's going to be a great night of entertainment, and you can find out more and reserve tickets at <bluesontherideau.ca>. For a full listing of all events taking place at The Cove in January (and beyond), visit <coveinn.com>.

We also have the wonderful **Skate the Lake Marathon** taking place in Portland Harbour on January 28 and 29. An international event, it is sure to be a very big celebration this coming year. With events like an Ice Stock Demo, helicopter rides, kids' curling, sleigh rides, fireworks and public skating, people of all ages will want to bundle up and come out and support the skaters! For more information, please visit <skatethelakeportland.com>.

I wish all you artists lots of wonderful new art stuff — paints and brushes and all sorts of goodies under your tree — and I also hope that 2017 is a very artful year. Take some classes and make one of those resolutions to be lots more creative in the coming year... YES you can, and YES you are creative! Let your 2017 motto be: "Yes, I *am* creative; yes, I *can* create; yes, I *will* create!"

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Learning in Almonte

Two new series start in mid-January:

Native Arts in the Southwest by Jane Horner

Explore ancient and contemporary works of the Pueblo, Hopi, Navajo and Apache peoples of the Four Corners region. (starts Tuesday, January 17)

Sex in Literature by Michael Gnarowski

From Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders* to John Glassco's *The English Governess* this course will examine sexuality becoming part of the fabric of literary discourse. (starts Thursday, January 19)

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

Birds Have Something to Tell Us

Canadian director Su Rynard's visionary documentary *The Messenger* will be showing for one night only in Almonte. Since its world première at Toronto's 2015 Hot Docs Film Festival, the film has impressed audiences around the world. This essential film has significant global implications and argues that the decline of songbirds signals an uncertain shift in an already fragile ecosystem, while warning that the uncertain fate of songbirds mirrors our own. The screening will start at 7PM on Thursday, January 19 at the Almonte Old Town Hall. Admission is \$5, with all proceeds to Bird Studies Canada. Hosted by the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, the screening will be followed by a Q and A discussion.

The film's director had noticed birds "disappearing" from around her family cottage northeast of Toronto. "For me, the first step was to simply stop, listen and see for myself what was going on in the skies above. The next step [was] this film," said Rynard. Indeed, according to Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, author of *Silence of the Songbirds*, "what we're seeing with these songbird declines is forty or fifty years in a row of the populations getting lower and lower. So we have only half the birds we did back in the 1960s."

Beautifully filmed in Canada (Toronto, Alberta's boreal forest, and elsewhere), Costa Rica, Germany, France, The Netherlands and the USA, *The Messenger* features an international panel of remarkable participants — expert scientists and artists whose insightful knowledge and passion movie-goers strongly connect with. To name a few: Dr. Bridget Stutchbury; the University of Saskatchewan's Dr. Christy Morrisey (the young eco-toxicologist whose research on impacts of new pesticides on prairie farmland and wetland birds is revealing vital clues to what's going wrong); German composer/DJ Dominik Eulberg whose contribution "reconciled his love of ornithology with his talent, skill and experience in techno music"; and Costa Rican ecologist Alejandra Martinez-Salinas, whose current work focuses on the role of birds in control of the coffee berry borer, an important coffee pest worldwide.

"Without a doubt, *The Messenger* is the most outstanding film I've seen on birds. The fact that it is so strongly science-based, so emotive in its pitch, so beautiful in its design, captivates me and everyone who has had a chance to see it," says Steven Price, President, Bird Studies Canada.

The Messenger also brings hope. Rynard explains: "In ancient times, to predict the future, humans looked to the flights and songs of birds. Today once



The award-winning documentary film *The Messenger* is coming to Almonte on January 19

more, the birds have something to tell us. [Ultimately] I believe people are compassionate, intelligent, and capable of change. Real change occurs when people begin to positively care, and you can feel this in the film... we have launched an impact campaign with Bird Studies Canada <birdscanada.org>. We aim to connect people who care with ways they can help."

For further details about the Almonte screening, visit <mvfn.ca>.

Art Lessons with Cathy Blake

January 24 to March 7/8 (8 weeks)

How to Use Colour

Colour theory and practice. Use colour to convey depth and distance, or express feelings in your choice of watercolour or acrylic paint. Wednesday afternoons or evenings.

Drawing for the Fun of It (some drawing skill required)

Explore various media, techniques, and approaches. Pencil, pen, sumi-e brushes, watercolour, oil pastels... some supplies provided. Tuesday afternoons.



Class locations will be in Almonte

Info: 613-256-0108 or catherine.blake7@gmail.com

The Almonte Potters Guild

Classes for all ages starting February 6

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Saturday, Feb. 11

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Stay posted for a new selection of workshops coming in the spring.

For details and registration visit www.marypfaff.ca or email marypfaffartist@gmail.com

A Birder's Eye View

Rules of Attraction

There are many ways to attract a number of different birds to your yard, and many avid birders have explored the bulk of them. We quickly set up squirrel-detering pole systems, then mount platform, tube and suet feeders, and fill them with the very best seed on the market for our local birds.

While this practice undoubtedly brings incredible results, some of us will go the distance to attract not only more birds, but also different species that we don't often see at our feeders. Creating natural habitat in our yards is one of the newest trends to sweep the birding world, and is one that not only brings more birds to us, but also improves the natural world all around us.

by Bob Volks

Another tactic that is often used to bring nearby birds out of heavy cover and into a more favourable viewing position is the art of pishing. This technique is not strictly reserved for your yard, but also does wonders when birding in the field.

What is Pishing?

Pishing requires no special equipment or know-how and is often used on a learn-as-you-go basis. In its simplest form, pishing is the act of making quaint and repetitive noises in an attempt to uncover small birds that might be in hiding, in heavy cover or up in a treetop. The most interesting part about pishing noises is that they often do not sound like bird sounds at all; rather, they are used to pique the interest of nearby birds, causing them to investigate the curious noises and giving birders an encounter they might not otherwise have.

There are many theories that attempt to explain this behaviour. Some believe

the sounds resemble something of a distress call, causing small flocks of birds to investigate, ready to flush an intruder. Others believe that the short and quiet sounds can trick birds into thinking there are insects nearby, causing the birds to attempt to locate their next meal.

Common pishing sounds often resemble the word itself, small and soft "pish", "psst" or "seep" type of noises.

Who Responds to Pishing?

Don't expect to be immediately bombarded by feathers (as fun as that would be!), because as with anything else, there are only a select few individuals that are curious enough to investigate these specific types of noises. This type of activity is often reserved for small songbirds including finches, chickadees, sparrows, nuthatches, warblers and wrens.

Ensure that you pish with care, because excessive pishing (or any repetitive noises) can easily backfire, scaring birds away. Give it a try but be careful not to overdo it — especially during the nesting season, as the risk of scaring a mother off her nest is just too high.

— Bob Volks can often be found at Gilligallou Bird, Inc. in Almonte's Heritage Court <gilligalloubird.com>.



Lighten Up with a Little Murder from the Mudds

Happiness in January is not easy to nail down. What is it? Where does it come from? Does it need others to share and become complete? Well the Mudds are not psychologists, but we do believe we have an answer to the January blahs — theatrical entertainment! Specifically, Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre!

Yes, we believe happiness is an evening of really good food and super entertainment, away from the cold. It comes from us, The Mudds, who have a track record of entertainment stretching back well into the last century. And Dinner Theatre means you can increase your happiness by booking a complete table of eight and inviting friends and family to enjoy the evening with you. So, what could make you even happier?

Well, knowing what we are trying to sell you, I suppose.

So, on January 27 and 28, The Mudds will offer a dinner entertainment called *A Comi-Cal Murder*. What is it about? I don't want to give too much away, but noting that many people enjoy dressing up as super heroes, comic characters and other unusual fictional characters, this murder mystery is based on "Cosplay", or costume playing to be more precise.

The cast will recreate famous characters from Marvel comics, movies and TV shows. Spoiler alert: you could see Wonder Woman and Captain Kirk rub shoulders with Harley Quinn and Spock! And many more surprises await you. You can create your own surprises too as we invite you, the audience, to come along dressed up as your favourite character. There will be a prize for the most/best/cleverest — whatever! — judged by the actors themselves.

Happiness for the actors is a hall full of smiling faces; happiness for the audience (we hope) is fine dining, fine entertainment, and fin(e)ally guessing whodunit!

A Comi-Cal Murder plays at the Carleton Place Town Hall on January 27 and 28. Tickets are \$45 each, and for that you get a buffet dinner from Leatherworks Catering (with vegetarian and gluten-free alternatives), a cash bar, eight seats per table. Doors open at 6:30PM for salad, with the play beginning at 7:15. Do call up Hallmark at 253-3000 straight away! Like the dinner, tickets will be hot items!

Thank you for reading this and thank you for your support.

— *Tony Scott, Director*



The Mississippi Mudds present *A Comi-Cal Murder* (murder mystery dinner theatre with a cosplay theme) on January 27 and 28. Above, Harley Quinn, Batgirl and Catwoman (really!) get into the spirit of things

Cathy Blake

The several art classes that I have taken with Cathy Blake have sharpened my visual perception, increased my ability to draw and developed my awareness of colour. I have really appreciated the encouraging way in which she helps her students to see the strengths in their work and to take the next step forward.

— Susie Tamas, Almonte

Adrian Baker

Adrian is a warm, encouraging, insightful art teacher whose classes are the highlight of my week. She's taken me from 'stick figures and happy faces' to portraits which I could never have imagined creating.

— Barb Moore, Carleton Place



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Music Matters

Saving Symphonies with Star Wars

My youngest son recently attended a performance of music from the various Star Wars films at the NAC, performed by the NAC Orchestra as part of their Pops Series. Like countless others in attendance, he came away impressed and inspired, especially because he plays trumpet and French horn, and those instruments feature prominently in that

certs is beneath them, and this is certainly part of the problem. I've run into these types of musicians many times. In my own experience, playing scores by John Williams and other contemporary film composers is also a lot of fun, and I don't always understand why their music isn't viewed seriously by some players.

Playing Beethoven and Brahms is wonderfully rewarding, but if seats are empty that model is not sustainable. If playing pops concerts brings people to the orchestra, the hope is that some of those people will come back for the more "serious" concerts. On a side note, corporate sponsors are very quick to come on board with pops programs.

by Tony Stuart

music. No doubt the fact that I am a John Williams fan has also rubbed off on him a little bit.

I tried to get a block of tickets to this performance so that I could bring a group of students, but was told that all shows had sold out in a matter of hours.

It is no surprise that many orchestras are struggling. Running a professional orchestra is an expensive proposition. Even stalwarts like the Toronto Symphony Orchestra are having to deal with deficits. A few years ago, many were saddened by news that the professional orchestra in London, Ontario (Orchestra London) had folded.

The reality for many of these organizations is that they make most of their money from pops concerts, and are often playing to half-empty halls when they perform their regular programs. This really is the elephant in the room, and many orchestras are being forced to acknowledge its presence. Are orchestras still relevant in 2017? Absolutely. Do they need to look at differentiating themselves? I believe the answer to this question is a resounding yes.

Orchestra musicians have spent many years training and auditioning at great cost (both financially and personally) to achieve their positions. It requires a tremendous amount of sacrifice even after you win a position. Top-level musicians are similar to top-level athletes — they exist in a reality that is different from that of the rest of us. This leads some musicians, including conductors, to feel that playing pops con-

As orchestras struggle to redefine themselves, the role of the conductor is also changing. Today's conductor needs to be not only musically brilliant, but also good with audiences, donors and sponsors, and the press. It is a more frequent occurrence to see conductors turning around and speaking with the audience during a program. I don't see this as a bad thing. In fact, I rather enjoy it. It is nice to see that the person leading the orchestra has a personality, and acknowledges the fact that the audience is an integral part of the performance.

If an orchestra is viewed as an important part of the community and manages to make people feel a sense of pride and ownership, all the while providing engaging programming and being perceived as approachable, their chances of success increase dramatically. People are still willing to attend orchestra performances in great numbers, as the recent Star Wars shows have proved. I'm willing to bet that many of the people in attendance were first-timers who would never have gone otherwise. If adding a bit of popular music helps our orchestras remain financially viable, I'm all for it.

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

Singers Wanted for "Bluegrass Mass"

The combined choirs of St. James' Anglican Church and St. Paul's United Church and Friends are presenting *The World Beloved — A Bluegrass Mass* on Sunday April 30, at 7:30PM at St. Paul's United Church in Perth.

The Mass, composed in 2008 by Carol Barnett, is scored for choir, soprano soloist and a bluegrass band consisting of fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar and bass. Barnett states that her goal was "to bring the solemnity of the classical-based Mass together with the down-home sparkle of bluegrass". Her highest hope "is that listeners coming from one tradition — classical or bluegrass — and perhaps dubious about the other, might discover something new and wonderful in the combination".

The Mass will occupy about one half of the program. The directors of the two church choirs, Brad Mills and Peter Woodwark, are in the process of choosing additional repertoire, some of which will reflect the upcoming sesquicentennial of Canada (150th anniversary of Confederation).

Extra Tuesday night rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, January 10, running from 7 to 9PM at St. Paul's, and will continue until the performance on April 30.

As usual, choral "Friends" are encouraged to join them for this special event. The expectation is that singers will attend most of the sixteen rehearsals (realizing that all good Canadians need to get away for some beach or ski time at some point through the winter!). Some of the "Friends" travel from all across the region to join in this annual event.

The World Beloved — A Bluegrass Mass continues the choral partnership between the two church choirs (and last year's Perth Bicentennial celebration with the Men and Women of the Tay) that has included performances before sold-out audiences of *Mass in C* by Schubert, the J.S. Bach *Mass in B Minor*, *Requiem* by Brahms and *Missa Gaia* by Hally and Winter.

Singers interested in joining the choirs as a "Friend" should contact Brad Mills at <millham@sympatico.ca> or 812-0871.

An Artist's Fairy Tale

Once upon a time there was a young girl who only ever wanted to draw and paint. She showed talent, her parents encouraged her and her teachers encouraged her, so she kept on painting and drawing. Eventually she went to art school, got an art degree, made art for a living, had her work represented in prestigious art galleries, and lived happily (and financially successfully) ever after.

It would be nice if that was how the storyline always goes, but it rarely does. Art school graduates, like many other graduates, discover the hard way that getting a degree and making good art doesn't guarantee success in one's field. Sadly, many give up art and pursue other jobs in order to make a living. In my case, the first half of the fairy tale is true – but the rest didn't come so easily. With a visual art degree, you learn a lot about making art, but not a lot about making a living!

After graduating from art school in Toronto, I worked as a graphic artist in that city for a few years. It was a job I loved, but I yearned to "get back to the country", so moved to Eastern Ontario. After several years hidden away in my studio painting on my own, I came to the realization that no matter how good your work is, nobody's going to come knocking on your door and discover you – you have to get out there and promote your own work.

Flash forward a couple of decades: as an established artist, how did I get to this point in my career? What's my advice to those starting out? To quote an art professor, "Art is 5% inspiration and 95% perspiration". In other words, be prepared to work hard! Develop your skills, learn new techniques, embrace new ideas, network, self-promote, advertise, diversify, take chances, work hard, persevere, put yourself out there! You also need online visibility, business cards and a professional CV. It also helps to have a thick skin, as you may well send out 50 submissions and receive 49 rejections before you have any luck. (Did I mention perseverance?)

I earn my living as a multi-faceted artist. For example, I didn't set out to be a portrait artist, but I took a chance, said yes to the first request, honed my skills, and have since had dozens of portrait commissions, including one of Pierre Trudeau and sons. I've also had success as a muralist; first by learning how to paint on a large scale, then bravely applying for mural commissions, first for private clients then for larger organizations as my confidence and skills improved.

Getting your work into galleries can sometimes involve luck, but also requires a lot of time, foot



Artist Adrian Baker at work on a piece that was featured at Winterlude in 2014

work, and networking. This includes hours of online research, going to openings, talking with other artists, and countless submissions. Starting slowly and locally, I've since exhibited all over Ontario, as well as in New York, Chicago, and Bermuda, and my paintings have been sold in many countries.

Why Bermuda? Well, always looking for new experiences, I applied to become artist-in-residence with the Bermuda Masterworks Museum. More hard work – actually three months of non-stop painting (not much time to enjoy the beaches!) – resulted in a very successful exhibit and many sales at the Masterworks gallery. And speaking of applications, I've also applied for and received government grants for art projects. The application process is long, complex, and exacting, but the grants are out there, and if you don't apply you can't get one!

It's been such a steep learning curve for some aspects of my career that I'm now able to do things that I would never have imagined. For example, it never fails to amaze me that I was able to set up my own website <adrianbakerart.com> and maintain it on my own, even though I started out as a complete Luddite! Another challenge I've embraced in the past few years is creating outdoor public art. Starting with a lot of research, a lot of practice at home working with new materials, and a lot of queries kindly answered by other sculptors, I took the big

step of applying for my first public art commission four years ago. Since then, along with the usual rejections, I've won five commissions to create public art in and around Ottawa.

And finally, being an art instructor was never part of the bigger plan, but this has turned out to be one of the most rewarding facets of my career. When teaching adults, I have to keep on top of things to stay relevant, and am continually learning alongside of my students. I'm constantly amazed and inspired by the talent and creativity shown by these adult students – beginners and experienced artists alike – who come to my studio to create their own unique art.

Now, many years into my art career, I can say that the fairy tale has more or less come true. It's a longer tale than I had expected – more like a novel – but it's shaping up to be a happy ending!
– Adrian Baker lives and creates art at her studio in Appleton

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Claiming Column

Scotland Road, Perth, Feb 2-12
 Soup for Thought, Almonte, Feb 4
 Hogtown Allstars, Westport, Feb 17
 7 Keys to Baldpate, Perth, Feb 17-26
 SRO Tea Dance, Almonte, Feb 19
 No Sex Please, We're British, SF, Feb 24-Mar 5
 Almonte Lecture Series, Feb 24
 Coco Love Alcorn, Almonte, Feb 25
 Mid-Winter Milling, Almonte, Feb 25
 Steve Boudreau Trio, Almonte, Feb 25
 AiC Youthful Music Club, Almonte, Feb 26
 Montreal Guitar Trio, Almonte, Mar 11
 SRO Tea Dance, Almonte, Mar 19
 BOTR: Danny Brooks & Memphis Bros, Westport, Mar 24
 Ragged Flowers, Almonte, Mar 25
 Petr Cancura Trio, Almonte, 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 Studio Tour, Pakenham, Apr 1-2
 The Tin Woman, Perth, Apr 17-26
 AiC Youthful Music Club, Almonte, Apr 20
 Jerome Godboo Band, Westport, Apr 21
 Folkus: Scott Merritt, Almonte, Apr 22
 The Chalk Garden, SF, Apr 28-May 7
 Almonte Lecture Series, Apr 28
 AiC: Paul Marleyn & Mauro Bertoli, Almonte, Apr 29
 Terry Gillespie Band, Westport, May 12
 Rob Frayne Quartet, Almonte, May 27
 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, SF, Jun 17
 Allison Au Quartet, Almonte, Jun 17
 Same Time Next Year, Perth, Jun 23-Jul 16
 Lysistrata, Perth, June
 Almonte Celtfest, Jul 7-9
 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
 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. Pakenham, Village. 256-1077, exploremississippimills.ca

Visual Arts

Almonte & Area Artists' Assoc, Jan 9, 7:30PM. Speaker: Michael Rikley-Lancaster, curator of the MVTM. Almonte Library, 155 High St. 256-5863, 4a-artists.ca. Free
Vernissage: Out of the Box, Jan 14, 2-4PM. Colour art by 60+ fibre artists. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St. E, Almonte. 256-3754, mvtm.ca
Almonte Quilters' Guild, Jan 16, 7PM. All welcome. Almonte Civitan Hall, 500 Almonte St. 257-8444, mfshurben@gmail.com, almontequiltersguild.com
Exhibition Launch: Valerie Nofle, Jan 27, 2-4PM. Photo exhibit: From Hand to Hand. The Diefenbunker, Carp. 839-0007, diefenbunker.ca. Free

WHAT'S ON IN

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

<p>☑ Diefenbunker presents CANEX 1977 canteen, <i>From Hand to Hand</i> photos by Valerie Nofle ☑ Fairview Manor Lobby presents <i>Past and Present</i>, paintings by Lily Swain ☑ MVTM [open from Jan 10] presents 1st Imani Artists Collective of Eldoret, Kenya, & Out of the Box's Colour Unboxed <mvmtm.ca> ☑ The Mississippi Mills Chambers Gallery presents Debra Tate Sears' watercolour/egg tempera ☑ The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents Paul Saindon's acrylics/urbanscapes</p>			
<p>2 🎵 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge 🎵 Duplicate Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>3 🎵 Duplicate Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>4 🎵 Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Duplicate Bridge Club, Almonte 🎵 Karaoke, Golden Arrow 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>5 🎵 Jazz at the Queens, Queens Hotel 🎵 Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co.</p>
<p>6 ☑ Almonte & Area Artists' Assoc, Almonte 🎵 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge 🎵 Duplicate Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>7 🎵 Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Duplicate Bridge Club, Smiths Falls 🎵 Women's Business Group of CP Mtg, CP</p>	<p>8 🎵 Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Duplicate Bridge Club, Almonte 🎵 Karaoke, Golden Arrow 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Shawn McCullough, The Cove 📖 Talk: Whiskey & Wickedness, CP</p>	<p>9 🎵 Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. 🎵 Mahjong, Bolingbroke 🎵 Talk: Healing Forest Project, Perth 🎵 Toastmasters, CP</p>
<p>10 ☑ Almonte Quilters' Guild, Almonte 🎵 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge 🎵 Duplicate Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>11 🎵 Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, O'Reilly's Pub 📖 Plot Your Novel Workshop, CP 🎵 Duplicate Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>12 🎵 Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Duplicate Bridge Club, Almonte 🎵 Karaoke, Golden Arrow 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>13 🎵 Bird Documentary: The Messenger, Almonte 🎵 Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. 🎵 Mahjong, Bolingbroke 🎵 Meditation Club, CP 🎵 Peter Brown Jazz Trio, Slackoni's</p>
<p>14 🎵 Auditions: The Tin Woman, Perth 🎵 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Lodge 🎵 Pakenham Frost Festival 🎵 Craft Club, CP 🎵 Bridge Club, SF</p>	<p>15 🎵 Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, O'Reilly's 🎵 Pakenham Frost Festival 🎵 Duplicate Bridge Club, SF</p>	<p>16 🎵 Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club, Almonte 🎵 Karaoke, Golden Arrow 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Our Little Sister, Perth 🎵 Pakenham Frost Festival 🎵 Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>17 🎵 Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. 🎵 Mahjong, Bolingbroke 🎵 Our Little Sister, Smiths Falls 🎵 Pakenham Frost Festival 🎵 Toastmasters, CP</p>
<p>18 🎵 Bridge Club, SF 🎵 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Lodge 🎵 Pakenham Frost Festival</p>	<p>19 🎵 Bridge Club, SF 🎵 Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub</p>	<p>20 🎵 Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club, Almonte 🎵 Karaoke, Golden Arrow 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Our Little Sister, Perth 🎵 Pakenham Frost Festival 🎵 Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>21 🎵 Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. 🎵 Mahjong, Bolingbroke 🎵 Our Little Sister, Smiths Falls 🎵 Pakenham Frost Festival 🎵 Toastmasters, CP</p>

Paint Night, Jan 27, 7PM. M3 Eatery, 106-116 Edward St. S., Arnprior. 791-0992, facebook.com/m3eatery. \$30

Theatre

Audition: HMS Pinafore, Jan 15, 2-6PM. No need to book time. Come sing your fave song. Ages 16-86. St. James Anglican Church, Carleton Place. 434-9249, mudd-smississippi@gmail.com
LiPS January Thaw-t Poetry Slam/ Open Mic, Jan 20, 7PM. Listen or participate. Open mic. Coult's Coffee, 57 Gore St. E., Perth. lanarklips@hotmail.com. \$5 (performers free)
The Dressmaker, Jan 20-21, 7PM. Kate Winslet, Liam Hemsworth, Judy Davis. 283-0300, smithsfallstheatre.com. \$10, \$5 students

Auditions: The Tin Woman, Jan 23, 7PM. Characters aged 20s-60s. Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St., Perth. 267-1884, barndoorproductions.ca

Film Night International presents *Our Little Sister*, Jan 25, 2 & 7PM (Full Circle Theatre, Perth); Jan 26, 7PM (Station Theatre, SF). \$10. filmnightinternational.blogspot.ca
A Comi-Cal Murder, Jan 27-28, 6:30PM. Mississippi Mudds dinner theatre. Cosplay. Veg/GF options. Tix: Hallmark. CP Town Hall. 250-2803. \$45

Literature

Talk: Whiskey & Wickedness, Jan 11, 7PM. Beer samples by Stalwart Brewing Co. Carleton Place & Beckwith Heritage Museum, 267 Edmund St., CP. 253-7013. \$5

Plot Your Novel Workshop, Jan 17, 6-7PM. Want to write a novel; no idea where to start? Register at 257-2702. Carleton Place Library, 101 Beckwith St. 257-2702

Music

Little Christmas Fiddle Concert, Jan 8, 2-5PM. Blue Skies Fiddle Orchestra & friends. Maberly Hall, 172 Maberly Elphin Rd. 278-2448, cindy.fiddlemusic.mccall@gmail.com. \$10; 12 & under free
Almonte Fair Winter Dance, Jan 14, 8PM-12AM. Ag Hall fundraiser with Glen Silverson Band. Almonte Civitan Hall, 500 Almonte St. 253-6516. \$15; \$12 adv
JazzNhouse: Betty Ann Bryanton Quartet, Jan 14, 8PM. Tix: jazzn.ca. TBD, Almonte. arnie@jazzn.ca, jazzn.ca. \$25

BOTR: Angelique Francis/Ben Racine Band, Jan 20, 7PM. Blues on the Rideau. Proceeds to Country Rds Health Ctr. The Cove Country Inn, Westport. 1-888-COVE-INN, bluesontherideau.ca. \$65+tx dinner & show. Call to reserve

Folkus: Garnet Rogers, Jan 21, 8PM. \$30 at Mill St Books, folkusalmonte.com, door. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St. 256-9090, folkusalmonte.com

Choral Evensong, Jan 22, 4PM. Church service; music by Willan, Moore & Tansley. St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, Perth. 267-1163, stjamesperth.ca

SRO Big Band Tea Dance, Jan 22, 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)

JANUARY 2017

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Bird Count, Head over Heels, The Cove Lanark Laughs, CP River City Junction, O'Reilly's Pub Shawn McCullough, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Turpin's Trail New Year's Eve, The Cove Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, The Barley Mow New Year's Eve Party w/The Brockolees, Golden Arrow NYE w/Alcoholica, John St. Pub 	<p>Happy New Year!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polar Bear Plunge, Perth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logan Brown, Golden Arrow Mississippi Blues Society Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub MVFN: Pub Night, Almonte Twelfth Night Wassail, McDonalds Corners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 Plus Singles Dinner/Dance, Smiths Falls Alison Faye & Riley, Valley Food & Drink Co. Head over Heels, The Cove LOVE Wedding Expo, Perth Poetic Justice, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blues w/Barry Buse & Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Little Christmas Fiddle Concert, Maberly Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beatle Juice, Golden Arrow Brad Scott, Waterfront Gastropub Karaoke, John St. Pub Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp The Rockerfellas, Valley Food & Drink Co. Tom Watson, O'Reilly's Pub Vicki Brittle & Chris McNally, M3 Eatery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80s Dance Party, John St. Pub Almonte Fair Winter Dance, Almonte Head over Heels, The Cove JazzNhouse: Betty Ann Bryant Quartet, Almonte Shawn McCullough, Golden Arrow Sneezy Waters, Valley Food & Drink Co. Vernissage: Out of the Box, Almonte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Audition: HMS Pinafore, CP Blues w/Barry Buse & Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOTR: Angelique Francis/Ben Racine Band, Westport Kitchen Party w/Peggy Williams, Valley Food & Drink Co. LiPS January Thaw-t Poetry Slam/Open Mic, Perth Poetic Justice, Golden Arrow Reckless, John St. Pub Stephen Fisher, O'Reilly's Pub The Dressmaker, Smiths Falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ali & Matt (Spinal Tap Night), Golden Arrow Caring for Aging Parents -What you need to know, CP Danny Sylvestre Band, John St. Pub Folkus: Garnet Rogers, Almonte Head over Heels, The Cove Kelly Sloan, Valley Food & Drink Co. Pakenham Frost Festival The Dressmaker, Smiths Falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blues w/Barry Buse & Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Choral Evensong, Perth Henry Norwood/Shawn McCullough/buffet, The Cove Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Pakenham Frost Festival Robbie Burns Scottish Tea, Almonte SRO Big Band Tea Dance, Almonte Trad Song Session, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Comi-Cal Murder, CP Almonte Lectures: Corn, Almonte Exhibition Launch: Valerie Nofle, Carp John Wilberforce, The Cove Paint Night, Arnprior Pakenham Frost Festival Casey's Country, Valley Food & Drink Co. River City Junction, O'Reilly's Pub Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Comi-Cal Murder, CP Brockolees, Golden Arrow Drew Nelson, Valley Food & Drink Co. Pakenham Frost Festival Shawn McCullough/buffet, The Cove Skate the Lake Marathon, Portland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AiC: Wolak Donnelly Duo, Almonte APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Blues w/Barry Buse & Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Listening Room Series: Al Lerman, Perth Pakenham Frost Festival Skate the Lake Marathon, Portland

Trad Song Session, Jan 22, 2-4PM. Join in. Anyone can lead. The Barley Mow, Almonte. 355-5552, dpbaril@gmail.com

AiC: Wolak Donnelly Duo, Jan 29, 2PM. Almonte in Concert. Clarinet/piano. Tix: online, Mill St Bks. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St. almonteinconcert.com. \$30/\$15; series available

Listening Room Series: Al Lerman, Jan 29, 7PM. Singer/songwriters. Perth Tea Room, 23 Gore St. W. 267-7902. \$20

Pub Listings
Valley Food and Drink Co. (Calabogie, 752-2676x311): Thurs Karaoke 8-11PM, Fri/Sat Live music, 8PM
 Jan 7 Alison Faye & Riley, \$15 (\$35 dinner+show)
 Jan 13 The Rockerfellas, \$10
 Jan 14 Sneezy Water, \$30 (\$50)

Jan 20 Kitchen Party w/Peggy Williams, by donation

Jan 21 Kelly Sloan, \$15 (\$35)
 Jan 27 Casey's Country, dinner+show \$20
 Jan 28 Drew Nelson, \$20 (\$40)

The Swan at Carp (Carp, 839-7926):
 Jan 13, 27 Steve Barrette Trio, jazz, 7-10PM

The Royal Oak (Kanata, 591-3895):
 jazz on Sun, 2-5PM
 Jan 8, 22 Magnolia Rhythm Kings
 Jan 15, 29 APEX Jazz Band

Golden Arrow Pub (Perth, 267-4500):
 9PM, Wed Karaoke.
 Jan 6 Logan Brown
 Jan 7, 20 Poetic Justice
 Jan 13 Beatle Juice
 Jan 14 Shawn McCullough
 Jan 21 Ali & Matt (Spinal Tap Night)
 Jan 28 Brockolees

The Cove (Westport, 273-3636):
 Wed Shawn McCullough, 7-10PM

Jan 7, 14, 21 Head over Heels, 6-9PM
 Jan 22 Henry Norwood & Shawn McCullough, 1-4PM, buffet&show \$65

Jan 27 John Wilberforce, 6-9PM
 Jan 28 Shawn McCullough, 6-9PM, w/ Chinese buffet \$25

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

Carp Masonic Lodge: Mon Carp Celtic Jam, 7-9PM
O'Reilly's Ale House (Perth, 267-7994):
 Tues Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan or Jimmy Tri-Tone Band 8:30PM; Wed Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour 8PM, Fri Live music 8:30PM
 Jan 13 Tom Watson
 Jan 20 Stephen Fisher
 Jan 27 River City Junction

John St. Pub (Arnprior, 623-8149):
 Jan 13 Karaoke, 9PM, \$5

Jan 14 80s Dance Party, 9PM, \$5
 Jan 20 Reckless, 9:45PM, \$5
 Jan 21 Danny Sylvestre Band, 9:45PM, \$6

The Waterfront Gastropub (CP, 257-5755): Sun Blues w/ Redneck Limousine 3-6PM

Jan 6 Mississippi Blues Society Jam, 8:30PM
 Jan 13 Brad Scott, 9PM

Queens Hotel (Carleton Place, 257-7639):
 Jan 5 Jazz at the Queens, 6-9PM

M3 Eatery (Arnprior, 791-0992):
 Jan 13 Vicki Brittle & Chris McNally, 7:30PM

Community

Polar Bear Plunge, Jan 1, 7:30AM. Breakfast then 10AM plunge for LCIH. Perth Legion, 26 Beckwith St E. LCIH.org

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

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

MVFN: Pub Night, Jan 6, 7-9PM. Drop in anytime & hang out with MVFN folks. The Barley Mow, 79 Little Bridge Street, Almonte. glbradley@icloud.com, mvfn.ca

Twelfth Night Wassail, Jan 6, 7-8:30PM. Sing, enjoy wassail desserts/punch. MERA Schoolhouse, 974 9th Concession A, McDonalds Corners. By donation

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

LOVE Wedding Expo, Jan 7, 11AM-3PM. Everything to plan your big day. Code's Mill, 17 Wilson St. E., Perth. 250-0417. \$10; free for brides/grooms

Women's Business Group of CP Mtg, Jan 10, 12PM. Networking meeting. RSVP at womensbusinessgroup@gmail.com. Carleton Place Terrace, 6 Arthur St., CP. \$5 membership, \$10 lunch

Mahjong, Thursdays from Jan 12, 1:30PM. ABC Hall, Bolingbroke, 273-2571. \$5

Toastmasters, Jan 12 & 26, 7PM. Guests free. Riverview Seniors Residence, 204 Lake Avenue, CP. 250-9282

Talk: Healing Forest Project, Jan 12, 6:30-7:30PM. Learn about it & how you can participate. Table Community Food Centre, 190 Gore St. E., Perth. ramsey@thetablecf.org

Bird Documentary: The Messenger, Jan 19, 7PM. Decline of songbirds. Q&A follows. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St. mvfn.ca. \$5

Meditation Club, Jan 19, 7PM. Carleton Place Library, 101 Beckwith St. 257-2702, czeeman@carletonplace.ca

Caring for Aging Parents -What you need to know, Jan 21, 2PM. Carleton Place Library, 101 Beckwith St. 257-2702, czeeman@carletonplace.ca

Robbie Burns Scottish Tea, Jan 22, 2-4PM. Tix at NLRM, Baker Bob's, Legion. Almonte Legion, 100 Bridge St. 257-8503, northlanarkregionalmuseum.com. \$10

Craft Club, Jan 23, 6:30PM. Carleton Place Library, 101 Beckwith St. 257-2702, czeeman@carletonplace.ca

Almonte Lectures: Corn, Jan 27, 7:30PM. Lana Reid, The A-Maize-ing Story of Corn. Almonte United Church, 106 Elgin St. almontelectures.net. free; donations accepted

Skate the Lake Marathon, Jan 28-29. Races, helicopter tours, fireworks, etc. Portland Harbour. skatethelakeportland.com



Enjoy a Little Christmas!

Prepare yourselves for a delightful afternoon of fiddles, friends, and Christmas cheer! Join the Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra for their 17th annual Little Christmas Concert from 2–5PM on Sunday, January 8 at the Maberly Hall.

The concert will feature the joint talents of the Prep Orchestra (who have only been playing together since October), the Intermediate Orchestra, the BSFO, and the always anticipated Lanark Fiddlers Guild. The Unspoken Rests, a talented youth ensemble group representing the BSFO, will also play a lively set of tunes.

Admission is only \$10 and refreshments are available. Be sure to arrive early, it's always a full house! Bring your family and friends to enjoy the Christmas spirit through music.

Humm Bits

More Mudds Auditions!

Auditions for the Mississippi Mudds' spring production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* will be held on Sunday, January 15, at St. James Church, 225 Edmund St. in Carleton Place, from 2–6PM.

Come on out and audition for one of the most popular musical comedies of all time, and share laughs and music with people like you, singing the memorable lyrics — “and we are his sisters and his cousins and his aunts”, “we sail the ocean blue”, “I polished up the handle on the big front door” — that are favourites of young and old alike. Every singer and actor aged 16 to 86 is welcome in the Mudds, Carleton Place's favourite amateur theatre group.

You don't need to book a time (just show up and sing your favourite song!), but if you want to, or you have further questions, leave a message at 434–9249, at the Mississippi Mudds Facebook page, or email <muddsmisissippi@gmail.com>. See you there!

Call for Artists and Artisans 2017

Are you a practicing fine artist or craftsperson interested in joining a successful studio tour? If so, organizers of the 21st **Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour** would like to hear from you. The tour will take place on Thanksgiving weekend (October 7–9) in Almonte, Clayton and the surrounding area. They always like to expand the range of offerings, and are particularly interested in professional-quality innovative work. Does this sound like your practice? If “yes”, they want to see your creations!

To apply, submit examples of recent work, and include a brief biography and artist's statement. Work is judged on originality of expression and concept, and quality of execution; new types of three-dimensional work will receive particular consideration. Deadline for submissions is May 1. Send your application, including electronic images of work and a link to your website (if applicable) via email to <barbara.mullally@gmail.com>. For information, call 256–3647.

Robbie Burns Scottish Tea

The North Lanark Regional Museum invites you to celebrate the life of Robbie Burns with fresh scones, tea, coffee and live music! Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 22, from 2–4PM at the Royal Canadian Legion in Almonte (100 Bridge Street).

Robbie Burns Day (actually January 25) celebrates the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns (1759–1796). Celebrate early at the Almonte Legion! It's a great excuse to recite such lines as “Wee, sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie... O, what a panic's in thy breastie!” and get your Scottish on.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the NLRM, Baker Bob's or the Legion. For more details, contact 257–8503 or <appletonmuseum@hotmail.com> or see <northlanarkregionalmuseum.com>.

Hopes and Dreams Gala

Fundraiser for AGH and Stellae Boreales

A very special fundraiser is being planned for the afternoon of February 12, featuring talent from both the city and the Ottawa Valley, and benefitting two great causes. The Hopes and Dreams Gala will take place from 12–3PM at Le Salon in the National Arts Centre. Guests will enjoy a sumptuous three-course plated lunch with wine and non-alcoholic beverages, and will be treated to both musical and visual entertainment. In addition to live music provided by the violin ensemble Stellae Boreales and their musical guests, there will be a fashion show created especially for the Gala by the renowned and highly acclaimed fashion designer Paddy Mann RCA (fellow). His Excellency Ambassador Suárez Salvia of Argentina will be the guest of honour, and CBC's Laurence Wall will be Master of Ceremonies. Silent and live auctions will round out the afternoon's enjoyment.

This rather interesting assembly came about after members of Stellae Boreales approached Pakenham-based clothing designer Paddy Mann last November about mounting a fundraising effort together. Paddy agreed, and has decided to work towards a contribution to the obstetrics program at the Almonte General Hospital, where her grandchildren were born. Proceeds from this event will be split between that program and an upcoming tour that Stellae Boreales will be taking to Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2017.

For this Gala, the very talented and dedicated young violinists of Stellae Boreales (the premiere violin ensemble of Ottawa Suzuki Strings music school) will be joined by mezzo-soprano Arminé Kassabian, as well as Judith Ginsburg on piano, Sara Mastrangelo on violin and Adam Cicchillitti on guitar.

The Almonte General Hospital is a 51-bed general hospital located in Almonte. The obstetrical department has two labour and delivery rooms, a whirlpool tub and showers, an operating room for Caesarean sections, and five postpartum beds. Care is provided by the Ottawa Valley Midwives, Almonte family physicians, and the highly trained obstetrical nursing



A fundraising gala on February 12 will feature a fashion show by Paddy Mann

staff. There are two obstetricians on staff: Dr. David Caloia, and the chief of obstetrics, Dr. Bahaa Awwad.

Patients come from as far away as Eganville, Arden, Perth, and Ottawa. There are regular public health visits for new mothers, and good collaboration between the department and the community. Historically, there have been up to 400 deliveries per year.

With a commitment to best practices, Almonte General Hospital's obstetrical department has the distinction of being Ontario's best performer in maternity care. It is Paddy Mann's hope to generate a substantial contribution towards this department, which is such an important part of the Ottawa Valley community.

Gala tickets are \$125 per person, and are available by contacting <admin@ottawasuzukistrings.ca> or 369–4376. Cheques payable to Ottawa Suzuki Strings can be mailed to 83 Beaver Ridge, Nepean, Ontario, K2E 6E5.

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Happy
New Year!





CLOTHING
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www.PaddyMann.com | 613.624.5201

MMLT Bench Design Competition

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust (MMLT) invites artisans to participate in a bench design competition, bringing together their skill and the beauty of nature to create unique, commemorative benches that will be carefully placed throughout nature reserves.

MMLT has developed many kilometres of trails on its conserved lands to encourage people to enjoy the physical, mental, and spiritual benefits that a walk in nature can provide. Equally beneficial is sitting in quiet contemplation, listening to frogs, watching birds, or finding inspiration to write a poem or paint a watercolour. The organization wants to offer nature lovers the choice of purchasing a handcrafted bench to pay tribute to a good friend or loved family member. And the creative community can help!

Artists, artisans, designers, furniture makers and students from all backgrounds are challenged to design unique, comfortable benches that can be used outdoors throughout MMLT nature reserves. The benches must be durable and help to create a unique sense of place. The call for design proposals is an open design competition, seeking "wide-open thinking" about what wilderness benches might look like and how they could contribute to the nature experience.

Design submissions must be inspired by nature, and multiple design submissions from the same person are allowed.

Six bench designs will be shortlisted by a selection panel. The person wishing to donate a commemorative bench will choose a preferred design from the shortlist, and MMLT will contract the artisan to



MMLT is inviting area artisans to submit bench designs

construct the bench for a payment of \$1,000. Donors may select the same shortlisted design, so multiple orders are possible. One artisan may be chosen for more than one design. The deadline for design submissions is March 10, 2017, and the jury panel will announce winners on March 31, 2017.

Visit mmlt.ca/commemorative-bench-design-contest for full details and design specifications, or contact admin@mmlt.ca.

Garnet Rogers Opens Folkus Concert Series in Almonte

Note: due to strong season's pass sales, only about fifty individual tickets will be available for each show. Don't miss your chance!

Garnet Rogers is a seasoned troubadour in Canadian and American folk circles, and a real road warrior. Fourteen albums into his career, he still takes time to care about the little guy. Celebrated both for his nimble guitar work (he brings a small van-full) and his warm baritone, Garnet is also a raconteur and a wit. The Folkus Concert Series is really excited to be able to bring him to Almonte to open their series on January 21 (and they gratefully acknowledge the support from the Ontario Arts Council and Heritage Canada that make it possible). Don't miss the chance to hear him at the acoustically excellent Almonte Old Town Hall!

Garnet will also be touring with his new book, *Night Drive Home* (published in 2016), which recounts his early days of touring with his brother (the late and much-lamented Stan Rogers). The book, 735 pages long, is filled with stories about "every stupid, inexplicable and bizarre thing that could happen to a pair of young idiots who were naive enough to think they could play folk music for a living back in the mid-70s and early '80s."

Garnet has asked that patrons consider supporting the Lanark County Food Bank — Folkus will have a donations bin for non-perishables and envelopes for folding contributions at the show. Please bring what you can.

Season's passes are still available online at folkusalmonte.com and at Mill Street Books in Almonte, and individual tickets will go on sale on Saturday, January 7.



Garnet Rogers kicks off the 2017 Folkus Concert Series with a show on Saturday, January 21 at the Almonte Old Town Hall

As always, doors open at 7:30PM, seating is first-come, first-served, and showtime is at 8PM. Folkus offers a cash-only bar with local beer, Ontario wine, and non-alcoholic beverages. Other shows in this year's series include Coco Love Alcorn (with opener Chris MacLean) on February 25, The Ragged Flowers (with Claire Hunter) on March 25, and Scott Merritt (with Ursula Schultz) on April 22.

COLOUR UNBOXED
by Out of the Box

Vernissage: Sat., Jan. 14, 2017 from 2-4PM
Exhibit: Dec. 20 - Feb. 25
Location: Mississippi Valley Textile Museum 3 Rosamond St. E. Almonte
Hours: 10AM-2PM, Tues.-Sat.

Glory to Thee!
St. James the Apostle Anglican Church
12 Harvey St. Perth 613-267-1163 stjamesperth.ca
Choral Evensong: Sunday, January 22, 4 pm

Music by Willan, Moore and Tansley

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Curtain Closes for the Perth Performing Arts Committee

After a grand 34-year history of presenting iconic singing stars, band concerts, live theatre, choirs, symphony orchestras, dance troupes, comedians and even the ballet, the Perth Performing Arts Committee (PPAC) has decided to disband the long-standing volunteer organization. At PPAC's recent Annual General Meeting, the membership sadly voted to wind down operations, citing higher production costs, escalating artist fees, increased competition and a changing entertainment scene.

The organization was originally formed in the early 1980s as an off-shoot of the Perth Community Choir. During 34 exciting seasons, patrons regularly packed the Mason Theatre at Perth & District Collegiate Institute to enjoy such stars as: Louise Pitre, Angela Hewitt, Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy, Rita MacNeil, Serena Ryder, Tommy Hunter, Michael Burgess, the Rankin Family, Natalie McMaster, the Leahy Family, Holly Cole, Valdy and Sylvia Tyson; comedians Lorne Elliott, Red Green, Don Harron and Second City; storyteller Stuart McLean & the Vinyl Café; the National Arts Centre Chamber Orchestra, Ballet Jorgen, and the Toronto Philharmonic; and even jazz impresarios Oliver Jones and Oscar Peterson. The line-up has also included international touring shows such as the Coro Nacional de Cuba.

Long-time Chair Theresa Phillips says it's a disappointment to be ending PPAC's efforts in the area arts scene, but their members are proud of the legacy of providing big-city entertainment in a small-town venue. Phillips states, "PPAC has always been a gracious host. We treated our performers royally, fed them well, and made them feel right at home. And we had very enthusiastic audiences. The artists would feed off that and put on some fantastic shows. They were always happy to come back to Perth."

In PPAC's inaugural years, the group was chaired by Joan Abbott, who started a tradition of serving



The marvellous Perth Performing Arts Committee, who brought everyone from the Gryphon Trio to Lorne Elliott to town, take their final curtain call

breakfast at the early morning meetings. Other chairs included Peter McMahon, Peggy Moxon, Liz Kyper, Sharon Davidson, Jocelyn Gordon, David Poole and Brian Perkin, aided by a long list of dedicated volunteers.

Sharon Davidson went on to represent PPAC proudly on the provincial front, scouting the Ontario Contact showcases for talent every year and eventually becoming a director of that board. Davidson was instrumental in establishing a provincial cultural organization designed to help smaller local arts groups bring in national touring shows. She was honoured by the Ontario Arts Council for her contributions.

PPAC put an emphasis on community outreach, arranging for touring artists to conduct free music workshops for local musicians and schools. The committee also funded annual bursaries for local high school students entering post-secondary performing arts or media-related programs.

One reason for the demise of PPAC has been the changing arts scene. Phillips says it's much tougher now to bring in larger, established acts. "It has been a struggle the last few years," she explains, adding that PPAC decided to discontinue the season-long subscription series model it had used for years.

"Thirty-four years ago, PPAC was practically the only game in town. With folks buying a subscription series, the larger, sure-fire shows would help subsidize the smaller, lesser-known acts. We had a strong base of loyal series subscribers to cover performers' fees and our basic operations. Other costs, like hall rentals, sound systems and publicity, were covered by sponsorships."

"Back then, it allowed us to present three, four or even five shows in a season. But there is a lot more choice now. People want to pick individual shows instead of a whole series, so the season series model becomes too hard to sell. Many of the other small arts groups across the province have faced the same situation."

And despite a call for fresh reinforcements, the group had little success in attracting new volunteers to help with ticket sales, backstage work, front-of-house, programming, artist bookings, advertising and preparations needed to mount each show.

Despite the difficult decision to wind down operations, PPAC members are keeping the spirit of the organization alive by donating the remainder of the financial reserves to other non-profit arts groups in the area, along with donations to the music programs of local schools.

Donations are being made to the Perth Studio Theatre, Stewart Park Festival, the Perth Community Choir and MERA's Schoolhouse concerts in McDonalds Corners. Schools receiving PPAC donations include Perth & District Collegiate Institute, St. John Catholic High School, St. John Elementary, Stewart School, Queen Elizabeth School, Glen Tay School, Port Elmsley School, Maple Grove School, Blessed Sacrament School, Brooke Valley School and Drummond Central School.

Theresa Phillips adds: "We also want to thank the entire community, our patrons, volunteers, ushers, tech staff and our generous sponsors for their support over the years. Our members have enjoyed bringing in top-notch entertainment for the area to enjoy. There have been some golden moments on stage that we'll remember and treasure forever."





JANUARY Sale

Celebrate the New Year with us, at The Emporium!

Every January we reflect on relationships built over the past year, and eagerly anticipate the new friendships to come. We can't think of a better way to celebrate than to have a month-long sale.



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Wool Gathering, Dithering, and House Cleaning

We're into January, that blessed "down time" after a hectic December. Most of our weekly obligations are in hiatus for a month or so, and we are left to entertain ourselves. We can spend our time reading, stoking the woodstove, brushing the dog, or whatever menial task or pleasure we want.

by Glenda Jones

Watching the snow fall like we're living in a snow globe, I begin to muse on projects I might take up, totally ignoring the projects I haven't finished yet — cue the sweater with only one sleeve, crying out to be completed! I wish I had the initiative to get out the shoeboxes and sort old photos, but instead I just think about that and wander through memories of times past. It's way too much work to actually do the task. There are two books begging to be read, a couple of CDs to hear, some Christmas shortbread lingering in the tin, but even that would take some effort, so I think it's easier to simply sit here and watch the snow fall, and contemplate the wool that I can definitely see gathering under the furniture! (The mythical maid is on her way-too-long vacation, and has declared she might not return until spring! Yikes!)

Now, I can't wool gather for too long before I start to prioritize all these things I think I should be doing in this month or two we have off. I dither about, not achieving much at all, but ah, I've got plans. Or I will have plans, if I can make a list. I'll think on that while I'm skiing through the gorgeous woodland. If I go for long enough, it'll be lunchtime, and the list will have to wait. That's a good plan, right there. The afternoon can be spent with one of those books, and once it's dark, it's time for supper, so another

day has slipped past with nothing achieved but a successful dither. Tomorrow is another day, and I can practically guarantee it's going to drift past in a similar fashion. Nothing will be done, but I'll have enjoyed a happy time outside with the dogs in tow. I'll assuage my conscience by calling that physical fitness time, which is really a laugh, since I don't ski fast enough to burn many calories.

Somewhere around mid-January, I'll begin to notice the potatoes stored downstairs are beginning to sprout. Did you know they do this at precisely the same time as the solstice happens, even if they are in complete darkness? When that happens, I know I can't rest on my fat laurels any longer, and I'll be consumed with the desire to "get at things." The first

I begin to muse on projects I might take up, totally ignoring the projects I haven't finished yet...

sunny day that I look at the dust settled here and there, the mess in the oven, the houseplants sagging, I will know I've had enough of inactivity. There's a perverse satisfaction in housecleaning, even if it's mundane. It sends Alan and the dogs running to a far corner, but that's all right; I can work around them. Papers go flying, floors get washed, cupboards get cleaned, stuff gets thrown out — my favourite activity, as I've mentioned many times!

But wait, it's still early on in January. I don't have to get all excited just yet. Soon enough it'll be time to "git 'er done"; the snow will go, the bugs will return, the garden will need doing... and on it goes. However, for the next week or so, I'm going to enjoy wool gathering, contemplation, and non-planning, and just settle in to the glorious winter we're having.

Healing Forests

As many of us know, trees and forests hold value well beyond their beauty. To many around the world, they are sources of inspiration, wonder, medicine and wisdom. In so many ways, forests are spaces in which to learn, grow, and potentially heal.

Come out to The Table Community Food Centre in Perth on Thursday, January 12 at 6:30PM, to meet Patricia Stirbys and Peter Croal and hear about a new initiative that is beginning to spark imaginations across the country. The **Healing Forest Project** invites Indigenous and settler communities alike to reflect deeply on the history and legacy of residential schools, to acknowledge and confront the devastation on the families and communities of hundreds of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and to begin a healing journey in the nurturing company of trees.

In 2015, Indigenous lawyer Patricia Stirbys and international environment and development advisor Peter Croal had a dream of planting a forest with 6000 trees representing the lives of each First Nation, Inuit and Métis child that was lost during their attendance at a Canadian residential school, and 1200 trees to represent the 1200 (plus) murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls in Canada. When Peter and Patricia shared their dream with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the dream took on a spirit of its own. It was determined that NCTR would host the National Healing Forest, but that the

dream needed to be set free for all to nurture and grow in their home communities and territories.

A Healing Forest is envisioned as a special place for families who lost their loved ones to reflect, heal and grow closer together as they seek strength and resilience. At the same time, it is a place for Canadians from all cultures to reflect, heal and regain balance in quiet solitude and meditation. From the dark shadows of the legacy of the residential schools, the violence that led to the loss of lives of Indigenous women and girls and the lack of understanding and respect for families and community that continues to result in thousands of Indigenous children being taken by the child welfare systems each year, will come a place of sharing, healing and re-building our strength and confidence in our communities: a place of reconciliation that is the National Healing Forest. The way the vision is transformed to a reality in each province, territory and community will come from the people who choose to take on the responsibility of creating and caring for a piece of the National Healing Forest in their home territory and community.

On Thursday, January 12, from 6:30 to 7:30PM, come out and hear more about the National Healing Forest and how you might become part of this inspiring and hopeful project. The Table is located at 190 Gore Street East in Perth. For more information, email <ramsey@thetablecfc.org>.

— Susie Osler

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Colour to be Unboxed at the Textile Museum

Colours to dazzle and challenge will be on display at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum until February 25, as the art group **Out of the Box** presents "Colour Unboxed". The exhibition features approximately 200 pieces from over sixty fibre artists, including 112 pieces showing interpretations of six colours of the colour wheel and black/white.

Out of the Box is a group of Ottawa and area artists who are passionate about creating innovative and thought-provoking works of art with fibre. They include machine and hand embroiderers, art quilters, weavers, felters, doll makers, embellishers, silk painters, dyers, as well as other needle workers

and mixed media and fine artists. They come from all walks of life but are drawn together by their love of texture, colour, and creation.

Come and revel in the shades, hues and tints, and let the vivid washes of colour brighten and invigorate the dreary months of winter. There will be a vernissage for the exhibit on January 14 from 2-4PM. For more information call the Museum at 256-3754.

While there you can also take in the exhibition of the 1st Imani Artists Collective of Eldoret, Kenya!

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is located at 3 Rosamond St. E. in Almonte.

Stop & Smell the Chocolate

It Takes Diff'rent Strokes to Move the World

I was reading a friend's Facebook post the other day, about how some people still haven't woken up to the fact that watching TV and spending time on social media make for meaningless lives, or something to that effect. Sure, she may be partly right, but she's also partly wrong. I have two main reasons: differences and truth.

"...not like the other"

When I was a kid, I assumed everyone was the same. For instance, their homes were heated with natural gas, they felt safe in their home,

cleared land being first inhabited by tiny vegetation, which gradually increases the soil and allows for small plants, which make the land more hospitable to larger plants, etc. He then stated: "of course, it's only a theory." Now, this theory had been taught to me several times over the years, as had many scientific and psychological theories... but until then I'd never put together that a "theory" is not a fact; it is just a theory. Just like "I don't like avocado" was a theory based on the disgusting look of the thing, but after tasting guacamole, I discovered the fact is I like avocado.

It seems to be an agreed-upon truth that getting out into nature is calming. I would like to dispute that. For myself, I do find peace in beautiful vistas, the sound of waves lapping, the sound of birds chirping (except for robins... I don't like jazz). But I've got to admit, I often prefer nature from the other side of a screened window (bug phobia). When it comes to gatherings, there are folks who thrive in the bustle and chatter of crowded get-togethers... I generally assume these folks come from large families; for me, hearing more than two conversations around me at one time is too much. So which is best? Big or small gatherings, an enclosed porch or eating no see-ums?

"I'm mad as hell..."

Where does this leave us with TV and social media? TV can be educational as well as a source of community and acceptance. I know I learned from shows such as *Donohue* and *Oprah*, as well as from comedies and drama. These days I learn some history from time-travel shows. And how many folks feel comfort, understanding and camaraderie when they see people like themselves being loved and accepted on TV; for example LGBT people who grew up in homophobic households, nature lovers who grew up in the city, fashionistas who grew up in conservative homes. TV can open our eyes to how other people live, both fictional and real. Unfortunately, with so many channels and everything based on selling to the viewers, there is also an awful lot of crap. Buyer beware.

As for social media, well, I really only use Facebook, so I don't claim to know much about the rest. I like to post rants, jokes, community events... For me it is a way to feel connected to friends and family near and far. For some, Facebook is an evil thing that is spying on you and revealing too much about your life to others. I think we are both right.

Just remember, in the immortal words of well-known and recently-passed TV dad and TV-themewriter Alan Thicke, "Now, the world don't move to the beat of just one drum, What might be right for you, may not be right for some... It takes Diff'rent Strokes to move the world!"

by Rona Fraser

they loved chocolate. First I discovered there were *other* forms of heat, then I learned the heartbreaking reality that many families do not feel safe, and in my life I've even met the odd person who does not like chocolate. Because guess what: we're all different! Between the different combinations of our genes, to our different upbringings, to the regions in which we've lived, how could we expect otherwise? There is no diet that is right for all bodies (although we can likely agree that the average North American diet is *wrong* for all bodies) — we react differently to meat and gluten and dairy etc. That goes for love too. And have you read *The 5 Love Languages* by Gary Chapman? He states that there are five ways in which people feel/express love, and you likely are stronger in a couple of them than the others. The five are: receiving/giving gifts, spending quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service (devotion), and physical touch. The fact that I am not a lover of hugs does not make me a freak (yes, I know you all think it does); it is simply that I value spending time together and acts of service much more. Don't tell me I'm great — words of affirmation don't do much for me; invite me out for a hot chocolate or let me do you a favour.

"You can't handle..."

Growing up, you believe the truth is the truth; there is one truth, and either you tell it or you don't. I'm not sure when one begins to question this... perhaps when we know enough to question alleged truths in our lives ("But how does Santa visit everyone in one day?"). Gradually (even without U.S. elections) we begin to realize that there may not be *one* truth. Google "truth vs perception" to find an interesting TED-ed video explaining how we establish our perception of the world around us.

One of my favourite truth-awakenings in my life was in Dr. Greene's biogeography class. He taught us about ecological succession, using the example of

Films for Winter Nights

The winter series of **Film Night International** (FiNI) gets underway this month. As usual, the line-up features a number of critically acclaimed and award-winning films.

On January 25 in Perth and January 26 in Smiths Falls, a film from Japan entitled *Our Little Sister* tells the tale of a shy orphan invited to live with her three half-sisters. *Denial*, a film based on the real life legal battle of Holocaust denier Clifford Irving, will screen on February 8 and 9, followed on February 22 and 23 by the popular film *Manchester by the Sea*, starring Casey Affleck and Michelle Williams. On March 8 and 9 *The Salesman* comes to town — an Iranian movie that has so far garnered six awards and eight nominations. On April 26 and 27, FiNI presents the biopic *Maudie*, about Canadian folk artist Maud Lewis. The UK film *I, Daniel Blake*, which took home the top prize at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, screens



Denial screens on February 8 and 9

on May 10 and 11, and on May 24 and 25 you can travel to *La La Land* with Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone. The features for March 22/23 and April 12/13 have yet to be announced.

“Thanks to our partnership with the Film Circuit, we are able to bring these wonderful films to our communities,” says FiNI founder Faye Cunningham. “And this is a real bonus to film lovers in the Perth and Smiths Falls areas who no longer have to drive into the city to see some of the best movies being made today.”

FiNI founder Faye Cunningham suggests checking filmnightinternational.blogspot.ca for updates to the schedule and trailers for each of the confirmed films. Passes to all nine films are \$75, and tickets at the door are \$10 each. Screenings in Perth take place at the Full Circle Theatre at 2PM and 7PM, and Smiths Falls shows take place at the Station Theatre at 7PM.

Film Night International is a non-profit group run entirely by volunteers in partnership with the Film Circuit, a division of the Toronto International Film Festival Group. The Film Circuit now has almost 200 locations across Canada screening Canadian and international films in communities that would otherwise not have the opportunity to see them. All of FiNI's profits, after expenses, are donated to the Perth and Smiths Falls public libraries.

For more information about how to purchase tickets for the FiNI winter series, call 267-1224 or email filmnightperth@gmail.com.

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Speaking Volumes

Resolute and True

When I realized that I was scheduled to write the January library column for theHumm, the first thing I resolved was that it would not be an article about resolutions. Then the issue became, if I am not going to use the “tried and true” topic, what does one discuss? It was actually one of the members of my team who helped me decide. She has been out talking to members of our community about what issues they would like the library to cover in 2017, and one topic has emerged time and again: how

by Kelly Thompson, Librarian

do I know what the truth is anymore? Considering the political world climate, the continued use (and misuse) of social media, and the way we interact with the world, this seems like a relevant and timely discussion to have.

When asked about why public libraries still exist (and I am asked this rather often), I have come up with a very simple answer: “we connect people”. Whether it is connecting them to resources, information, technology, or to each other, libraries are there to make the connections happen. A large part of our responsibility has always been to connect people to reliable information resources and then allow them to form their own opinions. Whether it is through our databases or print materials, a librarian's job is to teach you how to find your version of the truth, whatever that may be. I agree that in today's world, where everyone has an opinion and expresses it

loudly and regularly, interpreting what is true can definitely be a struggle.

Librarians are also playing more of an educational role when it comes to sourcing information. I am constantly reminding my fifteen-year-old daughter that just because it's online and looks official, doesn't mean it is. I was lucky enough to attend a talk by Paula Todd, author of the book *Extreme Mean: Trolls, Bullies and Predators Online*. She said, and I'm paraphrasing, that handing children a device with access to the internet is like buying a brand new car, going home, handing the keys to your five-year-old and telling them to take it out for a spin. We need to teach them how to surf safely and wisely. The problem is that many adults don't know how to do this themselves. The great news is that library staff can help you bridge this gap! We can teach you what to look at when determining the validity of a website. Then you can teach others and suddenly, in my perfect world, everyone starts to really question what they are reading before sharing misinformation on their Facebook or Twitter feeds.

I am now going to admit that I misguided you in the beginning of my article. I am going to ask you to make one resolution for 2017 and ask that you try hard to make it stick. Please don't just visit your local library, but also let the staff teach you how to find your truth this year.

I wish all of you a joyous New Year!
— Kelly Thompson is the Chief Librarian/CEO of the Renfrew Public Library

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Alice's Village Café — A Community Hub

Being of a certain age, Weetabix was nostalgically drawn to Alice's — for those of you too young to remember the song, the line "you can get anything you want" holds out an optimistic promise — and the food was good too! But wait — we are in Carp and it is not Alice's Restaurant but rather Alice's Village Café, so, intrigued and curious, we make our way in. The aroma of excellent coffee from Almonte's Equator Coffee Roasters and an

by Sebastian Weetabix

interesting selection of baked goods convince us that we should explore further... and we are also curious to discover why they call themselves a "hub".

The holidays over, January seems a good time to reflect on community, companionship and the role that a place can play in their development. Alice's was created with community in mind by the folks who own the Cheshire Cat pub in South Carp. A bit overwhelmed by their multiple endeavours in the hospitality business, and confronted by an opportunity that combined a willing buyer with a suitable steward, they sold Alice's to Todd and Melanie, thereby answering the question "where do old soldiers go?" Todd Hirtle is an about-to-retire Lt. Colonel with specific expertise in logistics (i.e. management of materials, people and scheduling); skill sets well suited to his chosen second career. Melanie Ruest is also a professional; her training in pharmacy familiarized her with the delivery of critical services. The still-young couple decided that Alice's would be an opportunity for them to integrate their professional lives with their community activities. They are succeeding admirably.

The concept of a hub fits well with the origin of the term restaurant — "restoration" as in give me your tired, your hungry (but not your poor!). The restaurateur's business is to provide food, beverages

and a place to consume them. This is different from offering prepared food-to-go. A social setting for consumption of sustenance becomes much more when location, design and the restaurateur engage to create a happy synergy that facilitates creation of community. For Todd, the decision to settle in Carp with his young family was, in part, driven by a desire to establish firm roots; life in the military involves frequent moves. Coaching hockey led to an accidental meeting with the owner of Alice's and thus a career change. His vision of his business is to integrate its operation with the life of the village — hence the "hub". The idea is simple, but in practice there are subtle interactions that, when they work, create value for both sides.

Allow me to elaborate on this point. While much of Weetabix's interest is related to food, the setting where it is offered and consumed plays an important role. A bit over a year into the adventure, there are many signs that their idea is working and that Alice's is becoming much more than a place to get fed. The restaurant truly has become a hub of local activities, which in turn benefit from a social venue that provides intangible but important facilitative amenities.

From time immemorial humans have shared food in multiple ways, ranging from simple pair-wise exchanges to complex and highly ritualized feasts. We still do — and along the continuum there are innumerable subtleties of interactions, including those related to group dynamics. Even in a public restaurant one seldom joins an established table uninvited, although community dining halls do make for forced and sometimes fortunate interactions. Both random and facilitated interactions are interesting components of dynamic communities; context matters. A conversation is more likely to arise in the comfortable setting at Alice's than in a waiting line at the license bureau! Free wi-fi, good coffee and comfortable tables make it an attractive work space. Inevitably comments are made and ideas exchanged. Among its amenities, Alice's is large enough to provide uncrowded intimacy — people need enough space for comfort and enough proximity for encouragement.

An interesting feature of Alice's is that it hosts both structured, community-related events such as the weekly open-mic night (Thursdays), and the informal group gatherings like the "Table of Knowledge" — an informal breakfast group of village elders who get together for exchange of news, views and solutions to the problems of the world. Their table is clearly marked by a flower box and "owned" by a group of regulars who float in and out for these regular breakfast sessions on weekdays. The combination



Lt. Colonel Todd Hirtle (left) is in the process of segueing from a career in the military to owning and running a popular café with his wife Melanie Ruest

of formal and informal events creates a dynamic community hub. In conversation with Weetabix, Todd described the daily rhythm of weekdays punctuated by somewhat chaotic weekends that are driven by traffic from the Carp Farmers' Market (across the street) and tours to the nearby Diefenbunker. Quiet evenings at Alice's are an opportunity for relaxed but elegant dining and that, dear readers, makes for an easy segue into some comments about the food.

Without food and drink, Alice's would be an empty room with tables and chairs; a meeting hall. No reason to go or stay except for organized events. A feature of social interactions is that humans are highly susceptible to "behavioral entrainment" (monkey see, monkey do). This is why laugh tracks work and why food ads show people happily consuming the products. A key point about Alice's is that the food is good and varied — good enough that it encourages imitative consumption, facilitates conversations and promotes social interaction through a feeling of shared wellbeing.

A coffee with an inappropriately named "big nasty" cinnamon bun is not just a caloric indulgence but a reminder that all might be well — at least in your world. Focus on the walnuts and sticky goodness and forget about the planet's worrisome condition. A bowl of fragrant and well-spiced soup will engender comfortable feelings of wellbeing. It may even promote a conversation with a neighbour starting with remarks about its quality of just-enough-heat-to-make-it-interesting. Sandwiches and other meal selections are posted next to a display of baked temptations, and the ordering is efficient with table-delivery by the cheerful staff. Alice's is licensed and offers a good variety of beers as well as other spirits.

Finally, it should be noted that Alice's has, in addition to its very competent kitchen, an in-house bakery with enough capacity to supply take-out and ancillary retail at selected locations. (Spoiler alert!) Alice's Café is not supported by the Canadian Diabetes Society and consumers are advised to eat with moderation. Pleasure can be hazardous to your health...

— Weetabix has a lifelong interest in food and things related thereto. We do not lack editorial point-of-view but we do not write negative reviews. If we do not like — we don't write. Our choice of topics and establishments is idiosyncratic.



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Have a Soul-Searching and Heart-Wrenching New Year!

During this busy holiday season of shopping and wrapping and shovelling, I hope most of you found some time to see a few good movies, because there were, and still are, plenty to choose from. *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *Doctor Strange* and *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find*

by Matt Roche

Them, which are all above-par entries in their respective franchises, got released last month among many others. I was unable (before deadline) to see such highly acclaimed and highly anticipated films as *La La Land* (Damien Chazelle's follow-up to his impressive debut *Whiplash*); *Silence* (Martin Scorsese's long-gestating passion project about Jesuit priests in 17th century Japan); or indie darling *Lion* (starring Nicole Kidman and Dev Patel). Also on my to-see list are the Denzel Washington-directed powerhouse acting extravaganza *Fences*, *Hidden Figures* (a film about the real brains behind NASA — the women), and the much buzzed-about *Nocturnal Animals*, which could net Amy Adams her sixth Oscar nomination (or maybe it will be *Arrival* that does it for her?). So many good films are ready for the watching. From what I have seen, though, a few stand out above the rest.

One of these movies is *American Honey*, the U.S. debut from British independent filmmaker Andrea Arnold, whose two previous films, *Red Road* (2006) and *Fish Tank* (2009), rank among some of Britain's finest exports.



American Honey is a soul-searching road trip movie — which has been done to death, but never like this. Andrea Arnold casts her film with unknowns and first-timers and only one established actor (Shia LaBeouf, who gives his best performance to date here), and it absolutely works to her benefit. It does feel like we are travelling with these people across America, drinking and partying with them, getting to know them (indeed, the film approaches the three-hour mark) and, even though it is slightly indulgent, you really become immersed in the film and with these characters who drive around selling stuff no one wants. We sense they are all filled with emptiness, but throughout the journey they find moments of peace and joy and, for a time, rebound from their adversity. A clearer picture is shown. Only Star (Sasha Lane, in her remarkable screen debut) truly wants to be free. She is the only one who attempts to permeate her hardship, even

though it leads her to situations that have the potential to be even worse. But she has choices now, she has freedom now, and that makes all the difference. Unlike the rest of the characters who seem trapped in their ways, Star, as her name elucidates, is brighter and desperately wants to cleanse herself. The end is ambiguous as to whether or not she will, but she is willing. And, as the man says, if you will it, it is no dream.

There is a lot to take in in this film, but it's worth tagging along. The characters are all fascinating in their own ways and the soundtrack is quite exceptional, using popular songs to a resounding result. Take a risk and join the journey that is *American Honey*.

Another film about a painful journey that, for me, is one of the best films of the year, is *Manchester by the Sea*. Currently playing at your local Cineplex as well as at Ottawa's Bytowne Cinema (January 27–31) and at the Station Theatre in Smiths Falls and Full Circle Theatre in Perth on February 22 and 23 respectively, *Manchester by the Sea* is a subjective film, as are all of writer/director Kenneth Lonergan's films. His two previous films, *You Can Count On Me* (2000) and *Margaret* (2011) are equally bleak and equally powerful slices of small-town life. And *Manchester* fittingly follows suit. But what make it Lonergan's finest film yet are his phenomenal screenplay (a strong Oscar contender) and the miraculous performance from Casey Affleck, whose movie this really is. As Lee, Affleck gives a brilliantly understated performance. The pain and tragedy seep from his pores, and are evident in every step he takes, every facial expression, every

body movement. I couldn't take my eyes off his hands all through the film. His posture and gait, the way he carries himself, is an astonishing feat of acting. We believe him implicitly and his pain is visceral. Casey Affleck deserves an Oscar for this performance.

Returning to his hometown after the death of his brother (the always impressive Kyle Chandler, from *Carol* and Netflix's *Bloodline*), Lee is forced into a world he wants no part of. And it seems most don't want him to be part of it either. It is made clear that Lee did something terrible a long time ago. With a brilliant use of flashbacks, Lonergan slowly explains to us what happened, why Lee is so withdrawn and why people speak of him in hushed tones and with accusatory glances. Only those closest to him seem to understand his pain. Once we do too, it comes as a shock. What happened could have happened to anyone, and that makes it worse. Lee's pain is always evident, and it seems to bruise the viewer too. I woke up the next day after seeing this film feeling depleted. What I saw was a tremendous emotional achievement for cinema. Depressing, yes, but some of the best films ever made are depressing, and most of the best performances given are painful ones. Look at Marlon Brando's wounded performance in *On the Waterfront* as down-and-out dockworker

Terry Malloy, or Robert De Niro's brilliant portrayal of troubled boxer Jake LaMotta in *Raging Bull*, or Daniel Day-Lewis's role as the tyrannical oil baron Daniel Plainview in *There Will Be Blood*. All of them are some of the finest acting you will ever set your eyes upon, and Casey Affleck's Lee Chandler ranks among them.

Among the very impressive supporting cast is Michelle Williams, who plays Randi, Lee's ex-wife. Together they share one of the most compelling scenes in recent film history, in which she tries to talk to Lee about their tragedy. Their emotions are palpable and heartbreaking. Other cast members include Gretchen Mol, Lucas Hedges (a real revelation here, giving an

impressively articulate and thoughtful performance for such a young actor), and the aforementioned Kyle Chandler, all giving noteworthy performances.

There's so much more I want to talk about, but there's only so much time and space. The sublime *Hell or High Water*, also one of the best films released this year, came out under the radar with Jeff Bridges and Ben Foster turning in amazing performances, and showcased a wonderful soundtrack, using songs from Gillian Welch and Townes Van Zant very effectively. The gentle Japanese family saga *Our Little Sister* is coming to the Station Theatre and Full Circle Theatre on January 25 and 26 too. So, the question is, what are you going to watch?




This month Matt recommends *American Honey* (left) and *Manchester by the Sea* (above). *Manchester* will be playing in Smiths Falls and Perth in February.

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Canadian Blues singer/songwriter | Saturday Jan. 28 |

Shows start at 8PM • Check Facebook for dinner & ticket price details
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