

the Hummm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas

Art Inspired by Canada p.3



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July's Events



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Stewart Park Festival



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Song Cycle Street Party



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Black Tartan Tantalizes

July is Festival Season

After the fireworks on Canada Day, there's still a lot of celebrating going on this month — this area abounds with popular festivals! And if you want to reserve a perfect parking spot by buying the house it comes with, just give me a call!

Pat's Picks Almonte Celtfest • July 7-9 <almonteceltfest.com>

for July: Pigstock, Smiths Falls • July 8 <pigstock.wordpress.com>

Perth's Stewart Park Festival • July 14-16 <stewartparkfestival.com>

Midsummer Herbfest, White Lake • July 30 <midsummerherbfest.ca>



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"NOT what I meant when I said 'Cool it!'"

Readers Write

Dear Canada...

Vast is Your Heart

*I am writing this tribute, sincere and loving
Not just because your special day is coming
Showing your compassionate and kind face
You are giving us future and peaceful space*

*Your body is immense, white, blue and green
Your beauty is breathtaking, pure and pristine
I cannot see and touch it all despite my trying
Yet in my dreams, I am over your land flying*

*Though we came to admire your wilderness
We have found a community and gentleness
The caring people are your greatest treasure
It's the creative potential one can't measure*

*Canada, you are now home for all of us
To sing today your birthday song let us
Vast is the Heart of this wondrous Land
It's a joy and privilege by Thee to stand*

— Kamila Lastovka

Kamila Lastovka and her husband Martin are originally from the Czech Republic. She writes: "We moved to Canada permanently in 2009. We just love Almonte and all the wonderful people here — it really IS the friendliest place in the world."



Who's Reading theHumm

Back in 2015, Pat Patterson sent in the awesome photo above and wrote: "I am forwarding to you two pictures of myself and my friends reading theHumm in very cold water of the Arctic Circle (l-r: Jackie Lord, Dale Peckett, Pat Patterson, Joan O'Farrell). We like to say our feet did the Polar Plunge! This past August we experienced the trip of a lifetime. We traversed the Northwest Passage on a scientific research vessel. It was most amazing! We saw many polar bears, walrus, whales, seals, numerous ocean birds and some of the most stunning scenery this world has to offer. I carried theHumm from Perth and we had fun taking our picture reading it in different places across the Arctic. We liked this one on the Arctic Circle the best. I enjoy your publication and read it from cover to cover each month!"

Fundraiser for Pakenham Library

Two creative local powerhouses are joining forces to raise money for the rebuilding of the Pakenham branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library. Award-winning clothing designer Paddy Mann (from Pakenham) and master goldsmith Michaela Wolfert (from Kehla Jewellery Design Studio in Almonte) are contributing the fruits of their creative labours to a very special raffle. The first prize is a Paddy Mann jacket made to your style and measurements, at a value of \$2100;



second prize is a Sterling silver Leaf pendant by Kehla Design, valued at \$460; and third prize is an Olbrish bag, available exclusively at Paddy Mann Designs, and valued at up to \$750.

Tickets are only \$10 each, and there are only 500 available, so hurry and get yours soon from the Almonte or Pakenham libraries; Kehla Jewellery Design in Almonte; or Paddy Mann Clothing, Nicholson's Sundries or Bridges Bar and Grill in Pakenham. The draw will take place on August 31 at Bridges Bar and Grill at 8PM.



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theHummm 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:
Jeff Mills, Sarah Lickley, and everyone else who pitched in to make June an awesome Bicycle Month in Mississippi Mills. We also really appreciate the Rotary Trail and the courteous drivers along Concession 8 — especially when we're pulling our puppy in her bike trailer!

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Art... and Soul

Not Quite 150 Years, but Over 200 Valley Artists!

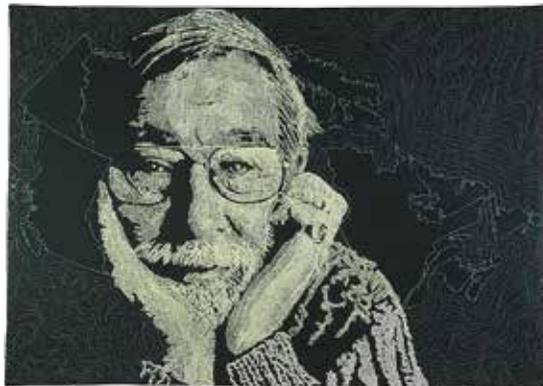
In the nineteen years since *theHumm's* inaugural issue of December 1998, the paper has featured more than 225 Ottawa Valley visual artists — writing about their diverse and fascinating lives, and drawing attention to their wonderful art. Our covers and this column showcase jewellers, painters, sculptors, weavers, photographers, carvers, glass artists, potters, fabric artists, puppeteers and other creative innovators who turn found objects or computer-generated patterns or almost any imaginable “medium” into art that evokes an emotional response.

by Sally Hansen

During the 200-plus artist interviews I personally have conducted since April of 2000, I have challenged each artist with the same question: “WHY? — Why do you create art?” Last week my two youngest granddaughters were busily creating Father’s Day cards at my kitchen table. They were obviously enjoying themselves, and on a whim, I asked them why they liked to make art. The nine-year-old instantly replied, “It lets me express my imagination.” The five-year-old said, “I like learning how to do things.” In a way, those responses encapsulate the vast majority of the answers the artists provided. Mastering an art form requires discipline and dedication. Some artists spend decades studying and researching, and many work as apprentices to learn and hone their technical skills. All artists experiment and explore. All artists express their imaginations.

Canada’s sesquicentennial celebrations remind us of the vast privileges we enjoy in this marvelous country. Many of the artists I have interviewed have

told me how coming to Canada and/or being in Canada influences their art. Born in Germany, goldsmith Michaela Wolfert explains how immi-



grating to the Ottawa Valley changed her outlook and expanded her jewellery-making horizons. Etcher/printmaker Frank van Oort was born and trained in Holland. He moved to the Valley in 1985, and today his website states: “Happy in his newly adopted country, Franc enjoyed the open spaces, relaxed atmosphere, and ready subject matter.”

It has been a privilege and a joy to become acquainted with so many talented artists living in theHumm’s locale. I am looking forward to introducing our readers to many more. For this Canada Day edition, I’d like to close by quoting from nature photographer Bill Pratt’s website: “Canada’s magnificent, rugged landscape and harsh climate have shaped us as a people and instilled in us the values and the principles that we stand for. I hope that the images of Canada presented here will remind you of the greatness of our country, and inspire your desire to keep it whole.”



About the Art

The images on this page and the front cover represent a small sample of the works that we felt were quintessentially Canadian. Most were created by artists we have profiled in past issues, and a few are by artists we hope to profile in the future.

On the front cover, clockwise from the top:

- Polar bear photograph by **Bill Pratt** <billprattphoto.com>
- Canoe by **Brent Kirkham** <kirkscanoes.com>
- *Joyful*, oil & mixed media by **Angèle Desjardins** <galerieangeledesjardins.com>
- *Lawren Harris* guitar by **Linda Manzer** <manzer.com>, created for *The Group of Seven Guitar Project*, currently on display at the McMichael Gallery <mcmichael.com> (photo by David Wren)

On this page, from top left to bottom:

- *A Winter's Solitude*, painting by **John Shea** <john-shea.pixels.com>
- Clay relief piece by **Richard Gill** <burnstown.ca/bittersweet>, depicting Canadian sculptor **Bill Reid** <billreidgallery.ca> at work on the sculpture that Reid created for the Museum of Civilization
- *Morning Conversations*, textile art by **Mary Pal** <marypaldesigns.com>
- *Early Autumn on Tranquility Bay*, painting by **Pat Purdy** <fineartamerica.com/profiles/1-pat-purdy.html>

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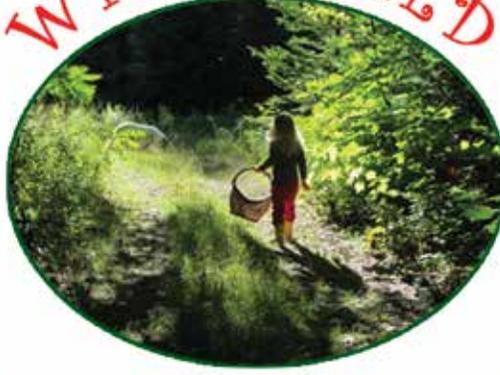
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or call 613-253-2722

Where the Wild Things Are

On July 29 and 30 at High Lonesome Nature Reserve, Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust (MMLT) is holding a **Festival of the Wild Child**. Open to the public from 10AM to 4PM, this event will give children and their families an opportunity to play in nature and experience the wilderness of High Lonesome. There will be “stations” around the Nature Reserve that will be both interpretive and interactive. Activities will include a Pond Play station, Beaver Activity Station, Trees and Meadows, and a Rocks station. At each of these, knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to interact with visitors.

There will also be special events such as a Soundscaping station, where nature’s sounds are amplified. Using headphones, children will experience forest sounds not usually heard with the human ear, and, using underwater microphones, they will hear the surprising sounds of pond life. Rideau Search and Rescue will also be holding “Hug a Tree” programs to help children learn what to do if they get lost.

The new Welcome Centre will have some “Forest Art” suggestions to encourage unrestricted thinking and creativity. No plastic toys or computer games — rather, working with natural materials found in the forest and meadows of High Lonesome. Children will use their own limitless creativity to make art, jewellery, mobiles, magic wands, headdresses... the list is endless! Essentially, the plan for the day is to



Play in nature on July 29 & 30 at the MMLT **Festival of the Wild Child!**

offer nature experiences, woodland games, crafts and skills for the wild child in all of us.

Admission is \$10 per person or \$20 per family. Dependent children are free.

High Lonesome is located at 867 Carbine Road in Pakenham. Take County Road 29 to Pakenham, turn on Waba Road and continue west for 2.9km. Turn left on Barr Side Road and travel for 1.6km. Take the first left at Carbine Road and drive 4km to 867 Carbine Road. For more details, visit mmlt.ca.

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Small Halls: 2017 Line-up

A household name in Cape Breton fiddling, folk darlings, and some fun and fiery returning musicians join other quality names in the line-up for the Ontario Festival of Small Halls this fall.

The festival recently revealed the internationally-renowned musicians who will be raising the rafters with incredible sound in cherished rural community spaces across Eastern Ontario and the Ottawa Valley from September 14 to October 1.

This year’s line-up will see the Festival of Small Halls ignite local stages with a mix of big-name familiar faces and boundary-pushing roots, folk, pop, soul and bluegrass-inspired musical acts. Now in its fourth year, the festival is again expanding its scope — this year to include more than thirty unique gathering spaces with history and heart.

Some of the artists include **Ashley MacIsaac** (a household name in Cape Breton fiddling), Halifax’s **Jenn Grant**, Charlottetown’s **Rose Cousins** and Montreal’s **Leif Vollebekk**. **The Abrams Brothers** will make the trek from Kingston again after an explosive performance last year. Another favourite, **Old Man Luedecke**, who performed in the festival’s inaugural year, will return after recently taking home the 2017 East Coast Music Award for Album of the Year.

The Festival of Small Halls continues to offer a unique concert experience: seeing your favourite artists



The Outside Track (above) will be playing the Delta Old Town Hall and the Maberly Community Hall as part of this year’s Festival of Small Halls

in a venue that allows you to relish the music and connect with the local community. Organizers are thrilled to announce the ambitious line-up of musicians who will be welcomed at small halls across the region. For full details, visit thefestivalofsmallhalls.com.

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Sept 30 - Oct 1
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madawaskastudiotour.com

It's Stewart Park Festival Time!

The Stewart Park Festival has released its 2017 line-up, and the talent set to hit the stage this summer is a solid mix that'll once again draw thousands to the park from July 14-16.

The three-day festival in downtown Perth will showcase performers from across Canada, including much-loved Juno award winners Sue Foley and Valdy, as well as up-and-coming artists such as The Wooden Sky, The O'Pears and Lindi Ortega.

This summer's festival is Artistic Director Joel LeBlanc's last time putting the line-up together, and it is nothing short of memorable. "Joel scoped out the entire music industry and crafted a line-up that truly has something for everyone," says SPF Chair John McKenty.

The variety of musical styles is tremendous this year. Other performers include harmonica virtuoso Mike Stevens, Aboriginal Female Entertainer of the Year and Juno award winner Leela Gilday, the Winnipeg folk trio Red Moon Road, and Maple Hill (who play traditional and original bluegrass music). If you're looking for high-energy performances, check out the New Orleans-inspired brass rock of Turbo Street Funk; the flavourful mix of blues, country, bluegrass and rock and roll that is the Ramblin' Valley Band; the irresistible stagecraft and stellar vocals of Coco Love Alcorn; and the fabulous fusion of tribal roots sounds by Tribe of One.

Audiences of all ages will enjoy "storytelling concerts" by Andrew Queen & The Campfire Crew, as well as performances by the very colourful Magoo. And you won't want to miss local favourites the EvenSong Ensemble, King of Swingers, and the young performers of the Academy for Musical Theatre!

If that's not eclectic enough for you, check out the Belgian band WÖR — their tagline is "Back to the 1780s", and they pride themselves on bringing new energy to 18th century tunes from Belgium. How's that for "something for everyone"?!

All shows in Stewart Park are admission by donation at the gate, and some of the artists will also perform at the After Hours venues on Friday and Saturday nights. These venues include the Crystal Palace, The Perth Tea Room and the Studio Theatre. Bracelets are \$10 per person per night, and they give you access to all three venues! Bracelets can be purchased at the festival's information tent or at the door.

One Weekend — Endless Possibilities

In addition to three days of awesome music, Stewart Park Festival offers the full experience for a weekend in Perth. Whether you're looking to explore the area by canoe, bring the kids, experience holistic healing or enjoy a cold pint by the water, you'll find it here! Check out <stewartparkfestival.com> for more details.

Kids' Programming

The kids' program includes activities and shows that will spark your child's imagination while they're surrounded by beautiful parkland. Tayside Community Options will host activities including a scavenger



Two-time CCMA Roots Artist of the Year award-winner Lindi Ortega is just one of the fantastic artists playing this year's festival

hunt, parachute games, water games and even popsicle stick harmonicas. Workshops will include a Humanettes program (presented by Puppets Up!) from 1-4PM on Saturday and Sunday, and Valdy will host a kids' show on the Saturday. There will also be face painting, stilt walkers, and children's shows in the Studio Theatre at 11AM on both days.

Pancake Breakfast

Everyone is welcome to the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning from 8:30-11:30AM. For just \$6 per person or \$20 per family (kids under six eat free), it's a meal that you won't want to miss. The breakfast will be hosted by Law & Orders Restaurant with Temple's maple syrup. The King of Swingers will provide live entertainment, and there will also be children's activities and crafts so that mom and dad can hopefully finish their pancakes. Then you can head to over to the Studio Theatre for 11AM for Andrew McQueen & the Campfire Crew's show (it's free!).

Discover Perth by Boat or Bike

Looking to explore the historic Town of Perth or the Tay River? Join a canoe excursion or bike tour, both of which take place on Saturday and Sunday at 1PM and 3PM. The Canoe Tours leave from the Legacy Bridge behind the main stage, while the Bike Tours will depart from the bike corral near the Crystal Palace. Individuals taking part must sign a waiver and (unless using their own bike) must leave a credit card number on file for the bike tour. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the festival's Information Tent. In addition, a free supervised parking area for bikes will be located in the Perth Basin behind Coutts Coffee, with access from both Gore and Drummond Streets. This area is managed by Heritage Bikes & Rentals.

Ready for the festival? Plan out your time in Perth and at Stewart Park Festival by visiting <stewartparkfestival.com>!

Happy Birthday



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A Picture is Worth 1000 Words

The children of St. Edward Catholic School and Rideau Vista Public School in Westport have been very busy honing their art skills. In celebration of Canada's 150th birthday, they have created beautiful banners that were recently unveiled at the Westport Town Hall. The banners now hang in various locations around Westport to welcome all the visitors to our wonderful village. I hope other villages might do the same!

There are 53 banners in all, a few of which are pictured here. This terrific event was funded by a Canada 150 grant, and our artistic kids have really stepped up to the plate and painted delightful, amusing, and creative banners to welcome visitors.

My heartfelt thanks go out to all of the children who did such a fantastic job! To see more, please plan a visit to our village this summer, throughout 2017, and in the future.

— Georgia Ferrell



Music & Beyond Comes to the Valley

Upcoming Shows in Perth and Carp

A classical music "good luck charm" is coming to Perth this summer.

Valley music lovers are set to benefit as the 8th annual Music & Beyond festival flexes its creative muscles beyond the confines of the nation's capital, with world-class performances slated for Perth, Brockville, and the Diefenbunker Museum in Carp.

The "charm" is the Auryn Quartet from Germany, one of the most sought-after and respected ensembles on stage today.

"We have so many definitions of 'beyond.' The Music & Beyond mandate is to include other elements, art forms and cultural disciplines," explains Julian Armour, the festival's artistic and executive director. "Beyond" also looks at the future of music, and at involving, immersing and educating the next generation. The final piece of the puzzle is a geographical aspect, taking performances literally 'beyond' into nearby smaller communities."

Pronounced "Au" (as in wow!) and "reen" (rhymes with queen), the Auryn Quartet musicians play on world-class Italian instruments: violins, a viola and a cello.

With a sparkling career spanning 36 years, the ensemble spends half of its working time travelling. Even with a demanding schedule, Matthias Lingenfelder, Jens Oppermann, Stewart Eaton and Andreas Arndt have worked diligently to share their wealth of experience with younger musicians.

You will have two chances to see the Auryn Quartet perform on July 8. Following the two o'clock matinée concert at the Studio Theatre in Perth, the group will head to the Diefenbunker Museum in Carp, joining a host of other performers in taking over all four levels of the bunker from 6PM until 9PM for the Music & Beyond multi-discipline event: Beyond the Bomb: Music of the Cold War.

"We're filling the bunker with over one hundred short concerts featuring different types of wartime and Cold War music," says Julian. "There will be Japanese, Korean and Russian, Cuban music to commemorate the Cuban Missile Crisis, and a jazz band



Photo by Manfred Esser

Music & Beyond brings Germany's Auryn Quartet to the Valley this month

complete with a zither player performing standards from spy movies. There's even a saxophone soloist performing in the blast tunnel!"

Another event takes place outside the city limits that week: the Vienna Piano Trio from Austria is slated to perform an evening concert on July 7 at the Brockville Arts Centre.

The Music & Beyond festival will also take over Cumberland Heritage Village Museum on Sunday, July 9. The family-themed event, running from 11AM until 3PM, will feature live concerts, activities and food, all matched to the era of the historical site.

In total, Music & Beyond offers 78 concerts from July 4 through 17. For more information, visit <musicandbeyond.ca>.

Phew! We Made It!



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The Riverguild Turns 40!

Some of us will remember forty years ago. If you can, take yourself back to the mid-'70s and remember how different that time was. The Vietnam War had ended at last, and although many progressive movements still flourished, the shine of idealism on the hippie movement was beginning to tarnish. One movement that was still strong, however, was the "back to the land" movement. Many young adults raised in the city thought that we were more likely to foster the values of simplicity and anti-materialism if we left the urban centres and tried to set ourselves up in the country. Property was relatively cheap, but we still had to make a living.

Riverguild Fine Crafts in Perth (affectionately known as the Riverguild) was born from this movement. The "back to the landers" wanted to work differently. The emphasis would be on quality, not quantity. We would work from our own places, be creative, work with our hands, do work we could find fulfilling.

The store opened in Perth in 1977 as a cooperatively owned and managed gift shop displaying the work of the original thirteen members. Forty years later not that much has changed. The membership is smaller (presently eight), but we also carry a lot of work by craftspeople who are not members. All the work in the store is Canadian, and we try to emphasize local. Over the past four decades, members have come and gone, and the group has had ups and downs, but we are very proud to have weathered the storms and to continue to exist with such a beautiful store.

Many days, the person behind the desk at the Riverguild will be a member who has their own work displayed there. When you go in, ask if they are a member. We love to talk about our work.

Craftspeople from the area often bring work in to see if they can sell in the store. We welcome this because one main purpose we have is to encourage local crafts. Obviously, we can't

take everyone for a variety of reasons. Turning down an applicant is very hard.

The modern retail climate, with online shopping, de-



Etching by Riverguild member Franc van Oort



Riverguild Fine Crafts in Perth — one of Canada's oldest artists' cooperatives — turns 40 this year! The store will be holding a day of celebration on July 29, so come out, meet the artists, and say "Happy Birthday!"

clining American tourism and the challenges of selling in a small town create more hurdles for the Riverguild. However, there is a strong positive energy in the membership these days and a determination to preserve a special and different kind of store in our town.

Whether you are familiar with the Riverguild or not, come on in to 51 Gore St. E. and check the place out. There is original artwork that will amaze you, created by people who might be your neighbours. There is an excellent variety of pottery, woodwork, jewellery, clothing and accessories, as well as an abundance of items that will make you say "How did they ever think of that?"

Starting in May, we began featuring monthly "meet the maker" days. We also have plans for demonstrations, historic displays and other events that showcase our talented artists. The store will be holding a day of celebration on the 29th of July. All day long you can meet different artists, some of whom were with us from the beginning. There will be special displays, and we will pay the tax on any purchase all day! Check out <riverguild.com> for a detailed calendar of events.

Forty years ago, it was not uncommon to find locally focussed craft co-ops. But forty years is a long time, and the Riverguild is one of very few that still remains true to its original aims. Perth is a historic town and the Riverguild has earned a place in that history.

Come celebrate with us this summer!
— Stephen Clark

A Company of Fools Presents...

As Canada is gearing up for her 150th anniversary, a Company of Fools is preparing to celebrate its own milestone. This year's presentation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* marks the 15th anniversary of the Fools' Torchlight Shakespeare Series that brings theatre to parks across the city. And this year's season includes five performances within the Humm's coverage area!

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Helena loves Demetrius. Demetrius loves Hermia. Hermia loves Lysander. Throw into this mix an enchanted forest, a mischievous fairy, and a feuding king and queen, and you have a recipe for a hilarious, magical, love-filled summer night.

The production will time-travel back to a mystical era reminiscent of the Victorian age, while mashing it up with some more familiar elements of the 21st century (it is Canada 150 after all). Filled with love, mischief, mistaken identity, hilarity, slapstick and physical comedy, the combination of intricate design elements and beloved Ottawa theatre professionals will delight audiences of all ages.

The Fools' approach to Shakespeare's famous plays is to add a fun, physical, and interactive twist. Each actor plays multiple roles, making for a hilarious, fast-paced, and highly physical audience experience. The goal is not only to entertain, but to make theatre accessible to anyone and everyone who can get to a local park. By condensing the shows into 90-minute performances and by engaging and interacting with their audience, the actors are able to create a fun and energetic environment for everyone in attendance. Admission to the performances is on a pass-the-hat payment system (the suggested donation is \$20), further ensuring that area audiences have access to professional theatre and that price is not a barrier.

Performances in the Ottawa Valley include a special Canada Day Preview on July 1 at the Merrickville Fairgrounds (beginning at 6PM), and 7PM shows on July 15 (Alexander Grove in Stittsville), July 20 (at MERA Schoolhouse in McDonalds Corners), August 16 (at the Herb Garden near Almonte), and August 18 (at Kin Vineyards in Carp). For further information as well as the show schedule, please visit <fools.ca> or contact Lisa Thibodeau at <media@fools.ca> with further inquiries.



Photo by Justin Van Leeuwen

Coffee builds another school!

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Tea on the Lawn — A Summer Tradition

The Ramsay Women's Institute has been serving Tea on the Lawn at the Mill of Kintail for almost sixty years. Their 2017 season starts on July 1 and continues every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon in July and August, from 2 to 4PM.

Institute members invite you to enjoy a relaxing time with friends and family on the grounds beside the museum. The tables are set under the shady maple trees with views of the Indian River. They serve delicious homemade teabreads and a pot of tea (in fancy teacups!) or refreshing lemonade.

Plan your outing to the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area, which is located ten minutes from Almonte. It is home to the R. Tait McKenzie Museum, James Naismith Museum, a playground and hiking trails. For further information, please call 256-8547.

Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre for Flood Relief

Rural Root Theatre Company <ruralroot.org> is excited to present a special production in Carp in July, to benefit Flood Relief in the West Carleton region. In partnership with Lakeside Players, Rural Root will bring *Murder at Café Noir* — an evening of murder and dinner theatre — to the stage. Written by David Landau and Nikki Stern, directed by Greg Giesler, *Murder at Café Noir* will entertain you while you enjoy a catered meal.

This 1940s detective-story-come-to-life features Rick Archer, P.I., out to find a curvaceous runaway on the forgotten island of Mustique, a place stuck in a black-and-white era. The owner of the Café Noir has washed ashore, murdered, and Rick's quarry was the last person seen with him. Rick employs his hard-boiled talents to find the killer. Was it the French madame and club manager, the voodoo priestess, the shyster British attorney, the black marketeer, or the femme fatale? The audience votes twice on what they want Rick to do next, and these decisions change the flow of this comic tribute to the Bogart era.

The script has been described as "Aptly tongue in cheek [with] clever punchlines and occasional song interludes," by the *Washington Times*, and the *Boston Herald* says "It's as close as you'll ever get to stepping into Bogey's shoes at the Blue Parrot."

Murder at Café Noir, staged by Rural Root Theatre Company at the Carp Agricultural Hall, will run on July 7, 8 and 9. Doors open at 6:30PM on Friday and Saturday, with the show starting at 7:15. For the Sunday lunch show, doors open at 1PM and the show starts at 1:30. Tickets are \$40 each and include a three-course meal and the show. All proceeds go to Flood Relief. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at <ruralroot.org/tickets> or by phone at 618-9789.

That's Entertainment!

Studio Theatre Season Passes On Sale Now

The Studio Theatre's new season is more than just six funny, dramatic, romantic plays by some of the world's greatest playwrights. It's also a whole year of reasons to get out of the house, take in dinner with friends, and enjoy a fantastic theatre experience right here in Perth. Season Passes are now on sale, and you won't believe how little it costs for a whole year of outstanding live theatre.

This season is shaping up to be one of the Studio Theatre's best ever. Here's what's coming:

The 2017-2018 season begins on September 28 with Anne Chislett's *The Tomorrow Box*, a funny, heart-warming family comedy-drama about an old married farm couple who still have a thing or two to learn about each other. Ultimately, they discover that finding their own road is the best way to stay together for life. *The Tomorrow Box* is directed by Carolee Mason.

Next, it's the 2017 edition of **An Evening of One-Act Plays** — two bite-size plays in one evening of fun, beginning with Alison Williams' *Hamlette*, directed by Laurie Reesor. To laugh or not to laugh? No question! *Hamlette* takes the Bard's classic play, throws it in a blender, and shakes it up into a side-splitting comedy told in under an hour with just five actors. The second one-act of the evening is *Virtual Reality* by the great Alan Arkin — a wacky, deeply funny tribute to the conjuring powers of theatre. *Virtual Reality* is ably directed by Jane Stott.

Opening on November 30 is *A Christmas Story*, a holiday comedy adapted by Philip Grecian from Jean Shepherd's classic stories about growing up in the American Midwest of the 1940s. All nine-year-old Ralphie Parker wants under the Christmas tree is a genuine Red Ryder BB gun. What happens next is pure family fun, and a story that has become a holiday staple for millions. *A Christmas Story* is directed by Patricia Parry.

The new year begins on February 1 with Norm Foster's *On a First Name Basis*, the delightful story of a successful but cantankerous novelist who suddenly discovers that he knows nothing about his maid of 28 years. She, on the other hand, knows absolutely everything about him! It's a love story and a mystery, wrapped in witty dialogue and vivid imagery, with revelations that are surprising, funny, and moving. Veteran director Jeremy Dutton helms this charming comedy by Canada's most-produced playwright.

Next, opening on April 5, it's Michael Healey's *The Drawer Boy*. This poignant drama replays the

adventures of a young Toronto actor who visits the rural Ontario home of two elderly bachelor farmers, Morgan and Angus, to "research" farm life for a new play. Along the way, art becomes life as the young actor's play awakens Angus's memories of the past. Roberta Peets directs this play about the power of storytelling to transform lives.

Finally, in keeping with the Studio Theatre's tradition of finishing the season on a musical high note, it's *The Bridges of Madison County*, *The Musical*, opening on May 24 and directed by C. Lee Bates. Francesca is a dedicated Iowa housewife, living a simple yet dispassionate life. When her family goes away to the State Fair in Indianapolis, she meets a handsome National Geographic photographer named Robert, who asks her for directions to the covered bridges of Madison County. The two begin an emotional four-day love affair that has repercussions long after it ends. Based on the bestselling novel by Robert James Waller, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *The Musical*, features a lush Tony award-

This season is shaping up to be one of the Studio Theatre's best ever!

winning score by Jason Robert Brown, played live on stage by some of this area's finest musicians.

It's going to be an amazing season! And when you purchase a Studio Theatre Season Pass to all six plays you'll pay just \$109, a saving of \$35 over the regular price. Going south for the winter? The flexible "Mini" Season Pass lets you choose any four plays, including the musical, for just \$79. And for even more savings, the Studio Theatre's Opening Night Season Pass lets you see all six plays on opening nights for just \$79, or choose four opening night performances for just \$59.

Season ticket packages are available at the Studio Theatre box office (63 Gore St. E.), on Saturday mornings between 10AM and noon all summer, and an hour before each performance. They can also be purchased at Shadowfax, located at 67 Foster Street in Perth, either in-store, by phone or online (shadowfax.on.ca; 267-6817). Shadowfax accepts credit cards and charges a modest service fee.

Mark these great shows on your calendar, and remember to take advantage of Season Pass savings on a whole year of quality live theatre at Perth's Studio Theatre. For details anytime, please visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.

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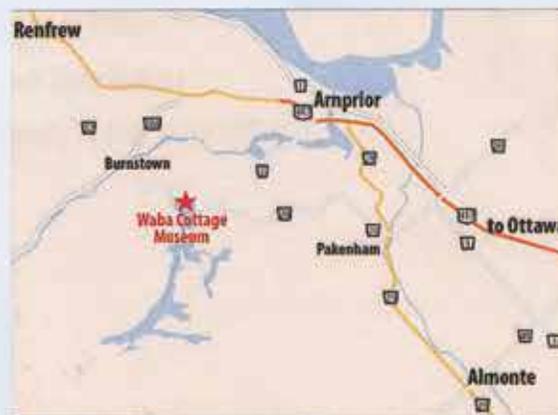
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jbg

A Full Month of Fun in Perth!

Perth is a town of many festivals. It seems apt then that long after the fireworks from Canada Day festivities have flickered out in early July, there will still be lots of celebrating in the good old town.

But before I get to the two big festivals, let's talk about some other summer fun. I've never actually tried

by John Pigeau

this but it looks like oodles of fun: stand-up paddleboarding. If you've never tried it but have wanted to, you're in luck: beginning on July 3, **Perth Outfitters** is offering SUP yoga classes every Monday at 6PM, throughout the month of July. The classes are great for beginners and yoga pros alike and are led by registered yoga teacher Melanie Ireton. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes your paddleboard rental. If you think you might like to give this zen-on-the-water activity a go, give Melanie a call at 812-1410.

Before all the big-name talent arrives at Stewart Park for the big Festival — or if those big crowds aren't for you — the **Perth Citizens' Band** continues its Summer Pops Series in the bandstand behind Perth Town Hall on July 6 and July 20. As always, these wonderful concerts are free to the public. They start at 7:30PM. All you need to do is show up with a lawn chair, maybe a friend or two, and enjoy the band's sweet summer sounds.

There is some theatre on the docket too. BarnDoor Productions moves into its summer "swing shift" on July 7 with

Trifles, Tea & Tapes, a trio of one-act plays about small things that might seem inconsequential but add up to a compelling and varied show. *Trifles* is a mystery starring Barb Guthrie and Janice Jacklin, as well as veteran performers Greg Morris, Brian Atterbury and Scott Duncan. *Tea Cups* is a tiny yet delightful musical comedy that runs about fifteen minutes, featuring David and Sheila Kroetsch. The third of the plays is *Krapps' Last Tape*, a unique "one-man/one tape recorder" show, written by Samuel Beckett. Part comedy, part tragedy, this fascinating play stars David Jacklin.

Trifles, Tea & Tape runs July 7-9 and 20-23 at the Full Circle Theatre, located at 26 Craig Street in Perth, near Last Duel Park. For tickets or information on show times and such, please call 267-1884 or go to <barndoorproductions.ca>.

On page 5 of this issue, there is a detailed article about this year's **Stewart Park Festival**, which takes place from July 14-16. Please read it to find out all about this year's stellar line-up and dates and times and such.

The Table at Ribfest

Now on to the — arguably — more tasty festival: the **Perth Ribfest**. This is the one that's difficult for me to write about because of the severe cravings I get while doing so. That said, the Ribfest, now in its third year and organized by the Rotary Club of Perth, is an absolutely wonderful weekend to spend at the Perth Fairgrounds with friends, family, maybe even on your own — it's just that yummy. And it's fun too!

Throughout the weekend of July 28-30, three excellent ribbers will be cooking up award-winning and mouth-watering ribs. There will also be food and non-food vendors on hand, including some offering vegetarian options, a beer garden hosted by the Perth Brewery, a wine bar, live entertainment featuring a slew of fantastic local talent, car shows on both Saturday and Sunday, door prizes, and a kids' zone (open from 12-8PM daily) featuring face painting, kids' slides and a climbing wall. Admission is by donation; all donations are hugely appreciated by the Rotary Club of Perth and go towards local community projects.

The Perth Ribfest has been such a smashing community success in its first two years, due in large part to the many volunteers from the Rotary Club of Perth. But as the event has grown, more volunteers are needed, so this year the Rotary Club is teaming up with **The Table** in the hopes that The Table will recruit more helpers for this year's festival. This a win-win-win scenario for all involved, as The Table will receive a share of the overall proceeds and run a concession booth at the festival, where they will be offering some healthy alternatives and additions to the standard Ribfest fare.

If you are interested in volunteering for this outstanding community event, The Table is recruiting enthusiastic, energetic folks who are 18 or over and enjoy working with the public. Specifically, they are looking for a main gate greeter, service gate greeter, cleaning and maintenance assistants, and car show monitors. The volunteer posi-



Caitlyn Dean enthusiastically partook in a past Ribfest event, organized by the Rotary Club in Perth

tions can accommodate people of different physical abilities. Volunteers are also needed for some set-up and tear-down activities; some moderate lifting would be involved. It's easy to volunteer for a shift or two, and you can choose the time slots and positions of interest to you. Just visit <perthribfest.com> and click on the "Sign Up" button.

If you would like more information about volunteering in any capacity at this year's Perth Ribfest, please call Wendy at The Table at 267-6428 ext. 3, or contact her at <wendy@thetablefc.org>. The festival runs on July 28 and 29 from 11AM to 10PM, and on July 30 from 11AM to 7PM. You can visit <perthribfest.com> for much more information, including a full schedule of events, more about the car shows, ribbers, and vendors. A great time will be had by all — enjoy!

And happy 150th birthday, Canada!


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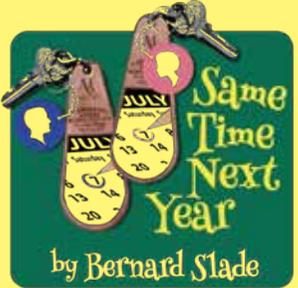
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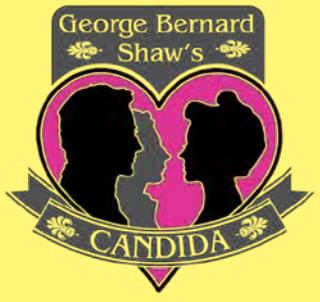
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Moon Over the Brewery

Intoxicating Play Shines with a Bright New Face

At thirteen years of age, most kids are playing video games, babysitting, maybe delivering papers. But one young area teenager is reaching for the stars as the lead actress in a major local stage production.

Grade 7 student Samantha Salter started earning her acting chops early. She has appeared in productions of *Pollyanna*, *Railway Children*, and *Bridge to Terabithia* at the Station Theatre in her hometown of Smiths Falls, and in Classic Theatre's production of *Wait Until Dark*. This summer, the Studio Theatre in Perth is thrilled to welcome Samantha to their stage for the first time, taking a lead role in Bruce Graham's humorous, heart-warming coming-of-age story *Moon Over the Brewery*, opening on July 20.

In the play, Samantha plays Amanda Waslyk, the precocious daughter (with an IQ of 160!) of an unmarried Pennsylvania waitress. Amanda's mom waits tables by day, but fulfills her creative passions by painting at night, when moonlight softens and transforms the stark mining landscape of the Keystone State. Amanda is bent on driving away her mother's prospective suitors, and does so with the help of a mischievous imaginary friend named Randolph. But Amanda finally meets her match when her mom introduces her to mailman Warren Zimmerman, who brings Amanda back to reality, and may even be the father and husband both women are longing for.

The character of Amanda is a big role for a little girl, but as the director of *Moon Over the Brewery*, I could tell that young Samantha Salter really has her act together. She learns her roles by running lines with her grandmother, who supports everything she does. In fact, her Nanny went to every performance of Samantha's first play, and knew all the lines herself. "She's my number one fan!" says Samantha.

And the theatre is clearly a family affair with the Salters: mother Julie Salter drives her daughter to rehearsal three times a week, and will act as prompter for the show once the actors are "off-book". Julie has even agreed to be part of our backstage crew — the folk she cleverly calls "ninjas" because they're clad in black from head to toe.

"Being involved in theatre is a great experience for a young person," says Julie. "It builds confidence, and teaches creativity, responsibility, and strong study habits. Samantha absolutely loves it — when she's on stage I see the pure joy on her face, and it makes everything worthwhile".

Julie tells me that five years ago she took Samantha and her sister Emily to see a play in which their cousin had the lead role. Sammy loved every bit of it, and asked, "Mommy, can I do this someday?" Julie said sure, and the rest is history. For Julie Salter, juggling full-time work, Sammy's rehearsal schedule, and Emily's karate practices can be a challenge, but it's a challenge they all enjoy.

Of course, Samantha doesn't have the stage all to herself in *Moon Over the Brewery*. She works with three adult actors, and says: "it's a lot of fun because I get to make good friends. It can be a little awkward at first, but now we're best buds!" For the older actors, Samantha's youth and enthusiasm are a tonic that brings freshness and energy to the show. Tracy Noonan portrays Miriam Waslyk, Amanda's mom, who is described as a "flake" by Randolph (Amanda's charismatic imaginary friend and scheming cohort, played by Lucas Tennant), but as an "eccentric free spirit" by her daughter. Carleton Place actor Grey Masson plays Warren Zimmerman, the mailman, who is attracted to Miriam because she is "colourful" and "different".



Photo by Bruce Babby

In rehearsal (l-r): Grey Masson, Lucas Tennant, Tracy Noonan, and 13-year-old Samantha Salter star in *Moon Over the Brewery*, opening on July 20 at the Studio Theatre

Audiences are bound to find the entire play that way — colourful, different, funny, and charming.

Moon Over the Brewery opens at the Studio Theatre on Thursday, July 20, for seven performances: July 20, 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 7:30PM, and July 23 and 30 at 2PM. Tickets are \$22 at the Book Nook (60 Gore St. E., cash only), and \$22 plus convenience fee at Shadowfax (67 Foster St., 267-6817, shadowfax.on.ca) and Tickets Please (in the Matheson House Museum Visitor Centre, 11 Gore St. E., 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca), both of which accept in-store, phone, online and credit card purchases. Tickets are \$24 at the door, and \$10 at the door for students with ID. Attend opening night and save \$5! And this summer the Studio Theatre is part of our town's Perth Passport program: as a Passport holder you can receive \$5 off one ticket to each of our summer plays, *Moon Over the Brewery* and *Romantic Comedy*, at the door only. (One ticket per Passport per play. Offer cannot be combined with other discounts.) For further details about all the benefits of the Perth Passport, visit <perth.ca> and search on "passport".

Don't miss *Moon Over the Brewery* at the Studio Theatre, featuring our newest star, 13-year-old Samantha Salter. It's a great way to see a young actress on her way up, like the moon on a summer night... — Jane Stott (with Paul Joyce)



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MidSummer HerbFest in White Lake

For the second consecutive year, the annual MidSummer HerbFest will take place on the lovely grounds of the Waba Cottage Museum and Gardens in White Lake. This year's event — scheduled for Sunday, July 30, from 9AM to 5PM, rain or shine — will be the 22nd annual celebration of growing and using herbs to help develop healthy lifestyles.

Presented by the Ottawa Valley Herb Association in partnership with the Township of McNab/Braeside, organizers explain that: "Our goal is to generate enthusiasm for the roles that herbs play in our lives. The venue will include vendors, displays, demonstrations, music, craft, food vendors and children's activities."

Waba Cottage Museum and Gardens is a historic museum nestled in eight acres of lovely gardens on the shores of scenic White Lake. On the beautiful and scenic site, you will also find eleven themed gardens, five historic buildings, a picnic grove, a boat launch, and mobility access.

Admission to MidSummer HerbFest is \$2 per person or \$5 per family, and parking is being arranged with a free shuttle that will be available from a secondary parking lot. For up-to-date information, visit <MidSummerHerbfest.ca>, find them on Facebook, or contact McNab/Braeside Recreation Programmer Karla Blemkie at <kblemkie@mcnabbraeside.com> or 623-5756 x232.



A panoramic view of the new HerbFest home on the shores of beautiful White Lake

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Favourites Return to the Classic Theatre Festival

When the Classic Theatre Festival's mainstage season opened in June with the legendary Bernard Slade comedy *Same Time, Next Year* (sponsored by CogecoTV), audience members may have thought that lead actors Scott Clarkson and Lana Sugarman looked somewhat familiar. In fact, the performers who play George and Doris (a couple who get together for an annual weekend despite the fact that they are each married to other people) have both been on the CTF stage in recent years.

The longest running Canadian comedy in Broadway history, *Same Time, Next Year* is the brainchild of a Canadian writer who, in addition to penning many a CBC show during the 1950s and '60s, also created the TV series *The Flying Nun* and *The Partridge Family*.

Clarkson says his character is "the same mass of walking contradictions that we all are. He describes his life as a mess, but he became an accountant because figures don't lie, and he takes comfort in that."



Photo by Jean-Denis Labelle

Scott Clarkson and Lana Sugarman, who played in last year's award-winning *Arms and the Man*, return to star in the Classic Theatre Festival's opening show, the popular Bernard Slade comedy *Same Time, Next Year*

Clarkson notes that among George's conflicted feelings is the fact that "he considers himself happily married, but falls in love with Doris and carries on a yearly tryst with her for decades. He feels terrible guilt, but doesn't want to stop. He alternates between self-centred obliviousness and being aware enough to know when he's made a mistake, and to apologize for it."

The veteran CTF performer — now appearing in his seventh consecutive summer season — explains that "the scope of playing a person over the span of a quarter-century is what makes it tricky. Each scene is set in a distinct era, five years apart, and George and Doris clearly reflect the changes of the society in which they live. Lana and I can't play symbols though, and Slade walks the line between letting the characters suggest the times outside their never-changing hotel room, and being the messy human beings in love that they are."

Playing George makes Clarkson recall his first role at the CTF in the Jan de Hartog play *The Fourposter*, which similarly charts a marriage's ups and downs over forty years. "Though written a generation apart, I remember being so impressed with how *The Fourposter* felt fresh and true, and that's also true of *Same Time, Next Year*."

Being on stage the whole time is a challenge that Clarkson likens to running a marathon: while testing his endurance, he benefits from the fact that "there's really no opportunity to let your guard down, to be distracted backstage as you wait for fifteen minutes for your next scene. You get to live in the world you've helped create, for the duration of the show."

While the play and film of *Same Time, Next Year* (with Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn) were hugely popular with baby boomers, Clarkson notes that "the characters are actually older than boomers, so if anything, this is an opportunity for a boomer to get a glimpse of what life may have been like for their parents. But for all that, Slade doesn't write Doris and George as bland 1950s stereotypes."

"Slade made his name as a TV writer in the '60s, but this play allowed him to go so much deeper than a sitcom would," Clarkson continues. "It's kind of the best of both worlds to me: there's a rhythm to the writing that calls to mind all the great sitcoms I watched from the '60s and '70s (like *Barney Miller*), but the story has depth and we get to see these characters develop over more than the twenty-two minutes a sitcom would afford. The foibles of these characters, the mix of neuroses and heart, will probably feel familiar to anyone who's seen a Neil Simon play or even watched *Seinfeld*."

Same Time, Next Year runs until July 16, Tuesday through Sunday at 2PM, with 8PM shows on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It will be followed by the Shaw comedy *Candida* and the Peter Colley thriller *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*. They all can be seen at 54 Beckwith Street East (at Harvey) in Perth.

Historic walking plays are also running seven times a week, with Perth through the Ages' Confederation-themed story from Wednesday through Sunday at 11AM (meeting at the Perth Museum) and the Thursday and Friday evening ghost walk (an 1867-meets-Expo67 time-travel comedic romp) begins at 7PM.

For tickets to any of the 2017 summer season shows, call 1-877-283-1283 or visit <classictheatre.ca>.

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Naismith 3-on-3 Basketball Festival

August 12, Almonte

A full-day 3-on-3 basketball tournament that welcomes elementary, high school and adult, male and female teams.

www.naismithbasketball.ca

Pakenham Fair

August 19, Pakenham

Animal, craft and horticultural shows, local food and fun for all ages.

Featuring: **waterways**

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34th NORTH LANARK HIGHLAND GAMES

August 26, Almonte

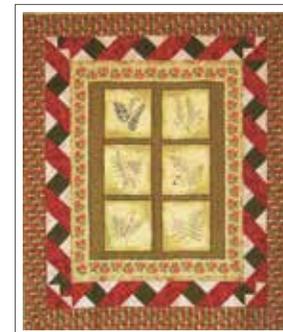


Celebrate Scottish culture and the heritage of the Ottawa Valley with pipe bands, dancers and athletes.

www.almontehighlandgames.com

FIBREFEST

September 9 & 10,
Almonte



A fabulous two-day festival of the fibre arts that includes demonstrations, vendors, performances, quilt exhibits and much more.

www.mvtm.ca

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

Almonte's Song Cycle Street Party!

Almonte — the friendly town known for textiles, a bike-friendly culture, community potlucks, and... opera?! Well, if you follow the threads of this story carefully, you'll see how that last item could certainly be added to the list this month.

Our story starts back in the late 1800s, when there were so many textile mills operating here that the town developed a reputation as the "Manchester of North America". Today, the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is located in the beautiful heritage annex of the former Rosamond Woolen Company. Another gorgeous building from the same era is the Almonte Old Town Hall, which for decades has hosted live musical performances organized by Almonte in Concert, among other groups.

Fast-forward to 2010, when Canadian chamber music ensemble The Gryphon Trio chose to launch their "Listen Up!" artistic outreach program in Almonte, with support from Almonte in Concert. That partnership led to a deepening of the connection between the trio and the concert series organizers. So when Ottawa Chamberfest Artistic Director (and Gryphon Trio cellist) Roman Borys was seeking the perfect locale for a bicycling opera company to perform an opera about the global garment industry... well, you can see how they are all going to end up in Almonte, can't you?!

Did You Say a Cycling Opera Company?

Trust us — we wouldn't make this up. According to <bicycleopera.com>: "The Bicycle Opera Project is the only opera company that tours by bicycle. Designed to bring contemporary Canadian music to smaller communities where there is little opportunity to hear it, our company closes the gap between audiences and singers by performing in intimate spaces. We perform new Canadian works that focus on current issues." In this case, they will do so by performing *Sweat* — an a cappella opera about the global garment industry, by Juliet Palmer and Anna Chatterton.

Also from <bicycleopera.com>: "Scored for chorus and four soloists performing in English as well as Cantonese, Ukrainian, Spanish, and Hungarian, *Sweat* seeks to bring the audience into the heart of a contemporary sweatshop. What do these workers dream of while sewing sleeves all day? Was life better in the village left behind? Plunging headfirst into the ethical conundrums of the garment trade, this opera offers a window into the lives of the workers who clothe us." *Sweat* premiered in New York City last October, and this July marks its Canadian premiere.

The Almonte show will take place "in the round" on the second floor of Almonte's Mississippi Valley Textile

Museum — and MVTM curator Michael Rikley-Lancaster couldn't be happier to host it there. He says: "the Textile Museum is absolutely thrilled to be presenting *Sweat* at 2PM on Sunday, July 23. This 'mill-workers-themed' production could not find a more appropriate venue than the former Rosamond No. 1 Woolen Mill, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. The museum is partnering with the Ottawa Chamberfest, Mills Community Support and Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month to bring this opera group to our area. Tickets will be \$25 and only 150 will be printed. So hurry to the museum to get yours!" Tickets will also be available from Baker Bob's in Almonte, online at <chamberfest.com>, and by phone at 234-6306.

Cycle, Eat, and Party in the Street...

Since opera companies don't bike to town every day (even in Almonte), the Sunday performance of *Sweat* will be preceded by a full day celebration of art and sport on Saturday, July 22. The full schedule of events is listed in the sidebar on this page, but in a nutshell, everyone is invited to join the world-class opera performers of the Bicycle Opera Project for a four-hour bike ride from Ottawa to Almonte. There will be stops for snacks and short performances in Carp, some "Welcome to Almonte" festivities in the afternoon, and a community potluck dinner in the parking lot of the Almonte Old Town Hall. The potluck will be hosted by Mills Community Support's Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardens, and will include free performances by both the Bicycle Opera Project and the Juno Award-winning Stretch Orchestra (featuring percussionist Jesse Stewart, guitarist Kevin Breit and cellist Matt Brubeck).

Participants are encouraged to stay overnight in Almonte on Saturday night, and to linger after the performance of *Sweat* on Sunday for a pub dinner and screening of the film *Breaking Away*.

This weekend-long community celebration of cycling and music will officially launch the 2017 edition of Ottawa Chamberfest. Roman Borys explains that he was excited to bring the event to Almonte because: "I know something of the fabric of this town — the great way people work together, and the way that positive energy draws creative people to the area". His sentiments are echoed by Jeff Mills, who works for Mills Community Support and is also the heart and soul of bike month. Jeff explains that: "For years, Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month has run on the premise that bicycles are first and foremost pieces of art; machines for social change. We are excited that young opera singers who travel by bike have chosen to ride to, and then perform in



On July 22 and 23, Ottawa Chamberfest is partnering with local organizations to bring the Bicycle Opera Project to Almonte. Ride with them from Ottawa, join them for a potluck dinner, and get tickets to their performance at the Textile Museum!

our town that has a growing reputation as a place that embraces art, culture, and active lifestyles. This event is a marriage made in heaven."

It's also the latest in a series of initiatives Chamberfest has taken to push arts engagement and education to the forefront in Ottawa, and part of Chamberfest's long history of biking and music. For more details about the Almonte Song Cycle Street Party and other 2017 Chamberfest events, visit <chamberfest.com>.

— Kris Riendeau

Song Cycle Street Party Schedule:

Saturday, July 22

- **9AM:** Cycling group, led by the Bicycle Opera Project, departs from Ottawa's Parkdale Park
- **11AM:** Cycling group arrives in Carp
- **11-11:45AM:** Eat and drink break for cyclists; Bicycle Opera Project sets up for performance
- **11:45AM:** Bicycle Opera Project performs two arias and a sneak-peek of the a cappella opera *Sweat*
- **1:15PM:** Departure from Carp; en route to Almonte
- **3PM:** Cycling group arrives in Almonte; "Welcome to Almonte" festivities
- **3-5:30PM:** Rest time for cyclists along Almonte's main street
- **5:30PM:** Cyclists and Almonte residents reconvene in the parking lot of the AOTH for a town potluck; performances from Bicycle Opera Project, and Stretch Orchestra

Sunday, July 23

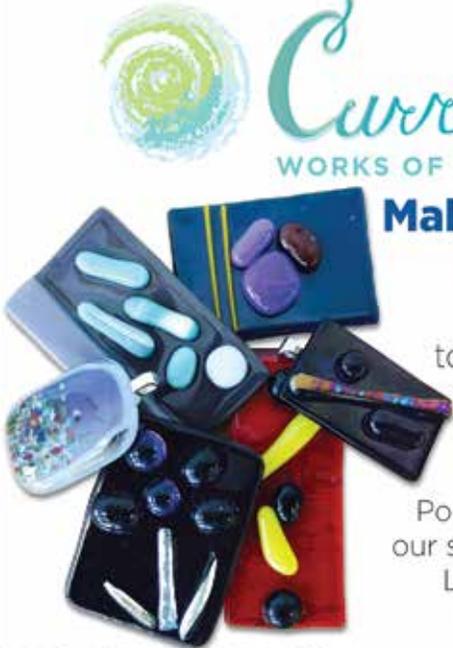
- **2PM:** The Bicycle Opera Project performs *Sweat* at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum; tickets available for \$25 (HST included)
- **6PM:** Chamberfest pub dinner in Almonte's Barley Mow Restaurant
- **9PM:** Screening of film *Breaking Away*



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CHAMBERFEST

The Bicycle Opera Project in Almonte:
Sweat
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
July 23 at 2 pm

\$25

Tickets on sale now at
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
and Baker Bob's



613.234.6306

chamberfest.com

Part of the Almonte Song Cycle Street Party



5 Wednesdays in July

Celebrating a Summer of Love in Almonte's Lovely Augusta Street Park

If it's a Wednesday and it's July, put down whatever you're doing and come to the park. Augusta Street Park, that is! The little park that could. Where have the years gone? This free music celebration, now in its fifth season, is rolling out its offerings for 2017. Musicians share their talents for free, taking the music to the people, and everyone gathers to eat, listen, and even dance together. This year, Almonte's Friends of Augusta Street Park play host to four free shows from talented local musicians.

On Wednesday, July 5, you'll hear The Denis Sisters and the Tammy Jones Band (while the Almonte Civitan Club hosts a BBQ); July 12 brings Greg Kelly as well as The Rapids (bring something for the table to add to the community potluck dinner); on July 19 Ali McCormick plays first, followed by the Ragged Flowers (with a Civitan BBQ); and July 26 will feature a special tribute to Leonard Cohen called "If it Be Your Will", with Judge a Book, and then the Ramblin' Valley Band takes it home! That night features another community potluck.

It's all so simple! Wednesday nights in July. Concerts and dinner start at 6PM and

wind up after 8. Bring a chair (I doubt you'll need an umbrella, but you might want to look at the sky before you leave for the park). On the first and third Wednesdays, the Civitan Club provides a BBQ. On the second and fourth, bring your favourite food for the potluck dinner along with a plate, cutlery, and a cup.

Volunteers with the Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardens offer tours of Augusta St. Park's wonderful (and edible!) garden each week.

The Mississippi Mills Family Bicycle Club will bring their "smoothie bike" some nights.

Your neighbours will be there and wonder where you are if you're not. We run on the principle that we are better together. We welcome everyone, so just come. Did you know that the summer of 2017 has been proclaimed a summer of love?

Yup! We're having a party, and it's happening every Wednesday in July in August Street Park in Almonte. For more information, find the Friends of Augusta Street Park on Facebook.

— Jeff Mills

Madawaska Valley Summer Studio Tour

Have you ever wondered how metals are forged into unique designs or how molten glass is manipulated into a one-of-a-kind sparkling form? Or how oil- and water-based pigments are applied to canvas and wooden panels, how porcelain is shaped and fired, how animal sculptures are shaped from stone and bone, or how fabric is woven and dyed?

During the Madawaska Valley Studio Tour, taking place on July 22 and 23, you can enter the personal studios and chat directly with the artists who create these and other works of art. You can ask questions and watch demonstrations on the creation of jewellery, clay vessels, metal fabricated knives, forged iron, woven fabrics, tie-dying, religious icons, soapstone carvings, hooked rugs, photographs, wood-turned bowls and fanciful Fairy Firkins. And at every studio you can browse and purchase original hand-made creations inspired by the Madawaska Valley's own natural surroundings. It's a perfect opportunity to get to know artists, learn more about their inspiration — and take home something special.

Artists and artisans will be located at nineteen studios in Eganville, Killaloe, Barry's Bay, Wilno, Quadville, Golden Lake and Purdy. New artists, guests and popular returning artists continue to draw visitors back to the Valley year after year. A new studio, OV-CAOS (Ottawa Valley Community Art Open Studio) will offer a new theme, engaging the public in art-making. All participants have been selected by jury to ensure quality and variety for the visitor.



Find works by Beverly Lewis (above) and many other artists on the Madawaska Valley Studio Tour

New this year are a Found Art treasure hunt, and a draw for a \$50 gift certificate good at any studio on the tour. Enter your name at each studio you visit and increase your chances to win the draw!

Pick up a tour brochure at Tourist Information Centres and businesses throughout the Ottawa Valley. The tour is free and self-directed. Each studio is numbered on the map to make it very easy to find. Start anywhere, follow the map and watch for the red maple leaf signs that will help guide you to each studio.

For additional information, biographies of artists and pictures of their work, please visit <madawaskastudiotour.com>. There you will also find helpful information about where to stay and dine, local services, recreational opportunities, nearby communities, plus a downloadable map. Or phone Studio Tour coordinator Tanya Lyons at 633-6902.

The Summer Madawaska Valley Studio Tour takes place on July 22 and 23 from 10AM to 5PM both days.

5 WEDNESDAYS IN JULY

Free Outdoor Live Music Concerts in Almonte's Augusta Street Park

July 5th	6:00	Denis Sisters
	7:00	Tammy Jones Band
		Civitan Barbeque
July 12th	6:00	Greg Kelly
	7:00	The Rapids
		Community Pot Luck
July 19th	6:00	Ali McCormick
	7:00	Ragged Flowers
		Civitan Barbeque
July 26th	6:00	"If it Be Your Will," Leonard Cohen Tribute with Judge a Book
	7:00	Ramblin Valley Band
		Community Pot Luck

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FriendsOfAugustaStreetPark



Choose Your Own Adventure!

I was inspired to write this month's column after reading one of those fun books where you create your own story by choosing which page to turn to. No matter what you decide, though, I can guarantee a month full of fun summer happenings in Mississippi Mills, and of course a happy ending!

by Miss Mills, puppet reporter

First question: Did you pick this issue up before **Canada Day**? If so, put it down, grab a June issue (quickly!), and go to pages 37 and 40 to find out about all of the terrific events taking place in Almonte and Pakenham all weekend long. Then come back to our story...

Question #2: Do you enjoy Celtic music? If you like listening to it, then of course you'll want to attend all the wonderful performances in the lovely amphitheatre of Almonte's Gemmill Park during **Celtfest** weekend (July 7-9). If you like playing it, then you'll also want to turn to page 21 to read about all of the amazing courses you can take at **Celtfest College!**



Celtfest, ClaytonFest, the Almonte Fair (above) and so much more — adventure awaits in Miss Mills!

The third question is a more personal one. Do you stand for justice, impartiality, and not butting in line? If so, you might want to attend the **Almonte Fair** (get it?). It takes place the weekend after Celtfest — July 14, 15 and 16 — and this year's theme is "Oh, Canada: 150 years". All the standard fair fare will be there, like the Carter Shows midway, an interactive farm animals tent with livestock shows (on Saturday and Sunday), and a Demolition Derby (on Sunday

at 2PM). New this year is a Classic Championship Wrestling Show at 7PM on Friday night, followed by The Derringers in the entertainment tent. Saturday Night the grandstand show starts at 7PM and features the MacLeod Fiddlers, Jamie McMunn with guests Jim Simpson and Unwound, followed by The Riq Turner Band in the entertainment tent. For more info please visit <almontefair.ca>. Sound fair? See you there!

The fourth question is multiple-choice. Do you enjoy A) cycling; B) parties; C) pot-lucks or D) opera? If you answered "yes" to any or all of the above, you got it right! And you can collect your reward on July 22 and 23 by attending the **Almonte Song Cycle Street Party!** Turn to page 15 to read all about it — you'll be so glad you did.

Question #5: have you ever been to **ClaytonFest**? Gotcha — that was a trick question, because the first annual ClaytonFest event is scheduled for Saturday, July 22. Local musicians, crafters and artisans are all converging at the Clayton Community Centre from 2-9PM, where you'll find kids' games and prizes, a beer tent, and refreshments provided by the Legion. I hear that Puppets Up Presents is even sponsoring a show by the wonderful folks at Rock The Arts at 4:30PM. All this for just \$10 per person (kids under twelve get in for free), and money raised will go towards a new community gazebo in the park. Tickets are available at Baker Bob's, Nicholson's, and the Clayton General Store, and if you want more details email <paulwatters1949@gmail.com>.

Question #6: what's the "natural" thing to do on July 29 and 30? Why, attend the **Festival of the Wild Child**, of course. Turn to page 4 to find out more; then grab a friend and head outdoors!

And my final question — what about all of the weekdays, or the events that happen after the end of July? Well, my friends, I've got you covered there too. Turn to page 8 to read about **Tea on the Lawn** at the Mill of Kintail, then leap to page 16 and find out what you can do on **5 Wednesdays in July** (even though there are only four this year), and then jump back to page 14 for a list of other **Summer Festivals**. Mississippi Mills is hopping this summer!

Meet the Landlady!

If you are planning to go away this summer, and would like the peace of mind of knowing you're leaving your home, pets, or rental property in responsible hands, Shelagh Gorham is the lady to call. Located in the Almonte area, Shelagh offers services as a rental property manager, and also to homeowners who may be required by their insurance companies to have someone look in on a regular basis. And she'll even visit with pets!

Shelagh created her business — The Landlady Home and Property Management — after a move to Clayton with her husband (a general contractor) and their new baby. After several years as a real estate agent, she wanted to apply her talents and interests in a way that would allow her to better schedule

her time around her family. She provides no-cost consultations, and can be reached at 601-9458 or <gorhamsh@gmail.com>.



Almonte CELTFEST

July 7, 8 & 9 • Gemmill Park Main Stage

ADMISSION BY DONATION AT THE DOOR • PLEASE NO PETS

Performances by:

- Anna Ludlow • Bang On The Ear • Branches of Silver
- Bytowne Highland Dancers • Chad Wolfe Step Dancers
- Clan Hannigan • De Temps Antan • Ecosse
- Fiddlehead Musical Theatre • Fiddlehead Soup
- Kyle Felhaver • Louis Schryer Trio
- MacIsaac and MacKenzie • Monday Night Fiddlers
- Moore & McGregor • Occasional Pudding
- Ottawa Celtic Choir • Salty Dog • Searson • The Ryans
- The Trousers • Triple Trouble & Alex George

Please visit our website for schedule and details.

THANK YOU



CELT FEST COLLEGE

SATURDAY, JULY 8th

The Celtic College workshops teach you new skills and hone the skills you have. Pick up valuable tips from experienced performers that will improve your playing — and maybe learn a new tune or two. The workshops will run from 10:00am to 11:30am on Saturday, July 8, 2017, at the Almonte Old Town Hall. **Registration is \$25.**

Anna Ludlow - Beginner fiddle

You should have knowledge of the instrument, including how to play in the keys of D and G, and should have a few tunes under your belt. If you want to learn a few new tunes and be sure you're on the right path in terms of technique, this is the workshop for you!

Stéafán Hannigan - Beginner Whistle

Using the whistle, the workshop will cover basic fingering, breathing and blowing technique, scales and scale exercises, and work on a couple of simple tunes to get you started. Participants will also get a demonstration on playing the Irish flute (bring one if you have one), pointing out not only their differences, but importantly the similarities between flute and whistle for those interested in pursuing that path.

Arthur McGregor

Beginner/Intermediate guitar accompaniment

Using the guitar to back up fiddle, whistle and other single-note melody instruments. We'll work with standard and altered tunings, different rhythms and other ideas. For beginner to intermediate guitarists.

(Guitarists should be comfortable playing chords)

Graham Lindsey - Beginner bodhran

You'll learn the basics of the bodhran, including holding the tipper, and basic jig and reel patterns. Graham will demonstrate different playing styles, how the bodhran player interact with a session (etiquette and how to fit in)

(Students must bring an instrument, for beginners)

Celtfest Camping

Limited spots and registration is required.

Please visit our website for further details. This will be more like group camping than individual sites, so be prepared to like your neighbours!

Bingo in the park has been cancelled for July 4 and 6

Please visit our website for up-to-date announcements

almonteceltfest.com

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Bridge St. Summer Fest

A Fresh Take on a Carleton Place Tradition

On Saturday, August 5, everyone is invited to Meet on the Mississippi in downtown Carleton Place! Hosted by Downtown Carleton Place, the much-anticipated **Bridge St. Summer Fest** (previously Bridge Street Bazaar) is sure to become a new summer favourite.

From 9AM to 3PM, Bridge Street will be closed to vehicles from Lake Avenue to the Town Hall, but wide open for pedestrians, strollers, shoppers, musicians and more! You'll find wonderful boutique shopping, maker and vendor markets, so plan to spend the day wandering and browsing. The Carleton Place Farmers' Market will also be open at the Market Square (Beckwith Street at Lake Avenue) from 8:30AM to 12:30PM, offering locally-grown produce and plants, prepared foods, arts and crafts, as well as a Hometown Hearts Kidz Zone for the younger set.

Special Summer Fest events include Wally's Classic: National Log Lifting Competition, a Hula Fun Zone with Scarlet Black and Lucy Loop, and a Stalwart Beer Garden (for ages 19+, opening at 11AM). Live entertainment will be provided by a Beatles tribute band as well as local favourites Redneck Limousine.



Don't miss Bridge St. Summer Fest (formerly Bridge Street Bazaar), taking place on August 5 in the heart of downtown Carleton Place!

"Bridge St. Summer Fest is the flagship event of Downtown Carleton Place," says Kate Murray, Downtown Carleton Place BIA Coordinator. "This event promotes our vibrant downtown, its incredible merchants and our fabulous town as a whole." Best of all, admission to the entire event is free! For more information, visit <downtowncarletonplace.com> or call 306-216-2511.

Roots on the Clyde

A Day-long Music Festival in Lanark

A line-up of the Ottawa Valley's best talent, great food and drink, and on-site camping — what more could you want in a country music festival? Roots on the Clyde music festival, sponsored by the fine folks at J.B. Garage, is taking place on August 19 at Medicine Bird Healing Centre in Lanark, located along the banks of the Clyde River (gates open at noon). The festival features musical performances by Silver Creek, The Ramblin' Valley Band, Unwound, Jamie & Brendan McMunn, Jim Simpson, Judi Moffat & Barry Munro, Kyle Felhaver, Hayley Paul, and Cheryl Adrain. Tickets are \$20 per person (kids 12 and under are free), and are available at Medicine Bird Healing Centre, The Perth Brewery, J.B. Garage, and Fieldhouse in Perth. Tickets will be limited to 300 this year, so please don't wait until the last minute!

Wet your whistles and dazzle your taste buds with food provided by Fieldhouse Perth and beverages available through the Perth Brewery. Musical performances will commence at 1PM on the main stage and continue on until 11PM. The fun doesn't have to

stop there, as camping is available on site! Campers must pre-register, and set up prior to 10AM on festival day. The cost is \$20 per tent and \$40 per RV. However, no campers will be permitted after 10AM on festival day. For further camping details and/or to pre-register, please contact Medicine Bird Healing Centre at <medicinebirdhealingcentre@gmail.com> or 259-3000.

In addition to the main sponsor, J.B. Garage, Roots on the Clyde would also like to thank the following community businesses and members for their contribution to ensuring this year's success: Urban Hearth, Jeff's Auto Glass, MCA Heating & Cooling, Dyke & Murphy, and JMM Electric. If you would like to sign on as a sponsor and have your business name recognized at the festival and in print, please contact the Healing Centre (details above).

Organizers are looking forward to some fabulous music, great food and drink, dancing and laughter, and basking in the sun with all of you!

Studio Theatre Productions
 presents

The 2017-18 Playbill

September 28, 29, 30,
October 1, 6, 7, 8, 2017
The Tomorrow Box
 by Anne Chislett
 A heart-warming comedy-drama by one of Canada's leading playwrights

November 30, December 1,
2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 2017
 Jean Shepherd's
A Christmas Story
 by Philip Grecian
 All Ralpie wants for Christmas is a Red Ryder BB gun. A hilarious bull's-eye of a Holiday play!

April 5, 6, 7, 8, 13,
14, 15, 2018
The Drawer Boy
 by Michael Healey
 A touching drama about the power of storytelling to transform lives

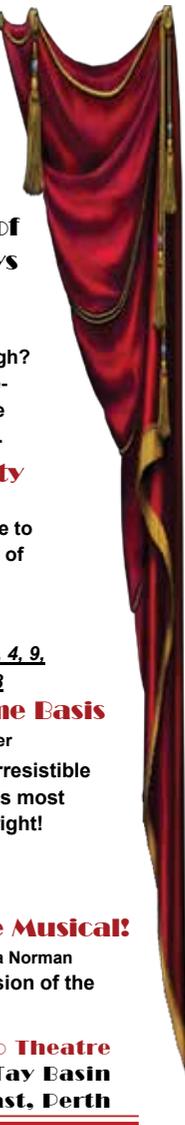
May 24, 25, 26, 27, 31
June 1, 2, 3, 2018
The Bridges of Madison County-The Musical!
 Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown; Book by Marsha Norman
 Fall in love again with the Broadway musical version of the romantic classic

October 26, 27,
28, 29, 2017
An Evening of One Act Plays
Hamlette
 by Alison Williams
 To laugh or not to laugh? No question! A side-splitting take on the Bard's classic play.

Virtual Reality
 by Alan Arkin
 Deeply funny...a tribute to the conjuring powers of theatre

February 1, 2, 3, 4, 9,
10, 11, 2018
On A First Name Basis
 by Norm Foster
 Love, mystery and irresistible wit, from Canada's most beloved playwright!

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Eclipse in Almonte

The word “eclipse” can evoke many things: celestial events in the sky or personal events in our lives. A solar eclipse, when the moon passes between the Sun and the Earth (as in the partial solar eclipse that will be visible on August 21), can have astronomical and/or mystical meanings depending on your point of view. In celebration of this upcoming event, Sivarulrasa Gallery presents a group exhibition, entitled *Eclipse*, that includes works by five talented artists: three sculptors, a photographer, and a painter. Featured artists are Deborah Arnold, Dale Dunning, Marina Malvada, Susan Low-Ber and Sanjeev Sivarulrasa, and you can meet them at the Vernissage on Saturday, July 22 from 3–6PM. The show runs from July 21 to August 27, and the gallery is located in Almonte at 34 Mill Street <sivarulrasa.com>.

And on Monday, August 21 from 12–4PM, everyone is invited to attend a special **Solar Eclipse Viewing**. This free community event is hosted by the Town of Mississippi Mills and Sivarulrasa Gallery. Gather on Almonte’s historic Mill Street, across from the Gallery, to view the solar eclipse through specialized telescopes and safe solar filters!



Force of the Moon's Shell #1 by Susan Low-Ber, at Sivarulrasa Gallery

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Downtown CARLETON PLACE

Music Matters

Do We Still Need the CBC?

As we collectively get over our post-150th birthday hangover, I have no doubt that this question is going to be asked. For a variety of reasons, I think that the answer is still, and perhaps more than ever, yes.

by Tony Stuart

The notion of having a broadcaster entirely supported by taxpayer money is seen by many as a waste, when so many private broadcasters need to rely on advertising dollars to carve out their niche in a very crowded landscape.

It is precisely because this landscape is so crowded that I think the CBC remains important. I am certainly not a fan of every decision they make, and there have been some less than stellar moments in their history, but they are striving to represent a wide cross-section of Canadian society. I have spoken to a few recording artists, and they say that the CBC has definitely helped push their career forward, through radio play and/or interviews.

I am going to draw a comparison with the school system, since I am wrapping up year twenty-one in this profession. In those years, we have seen many swings of the pendulum in education, and some of them have been disastrous. For instance, two major trends took hold recently (and still persist), which dictate that students shouldn't be required to memorize times tables anymore, and that spelling isn't something that we should be overly concerned with. In our “instant-everything” society, we have lost sight of why we taught those skills in the first place. It wasn't just about memorizing multiplication facts or spell-

ing correctly — it was about attention to detail and being able to use those skills in other settings. The expression about “not being able to see the forest for the trees” is precisely what happened in education.

The broadcasting industry has gone through a process that is similar. Radio and television stations come and go because all they care about is how much revenue they are generating from advertising. When numbers matter above all else, there is a real risk of being blinded by the next big trend in music, or the next big show on television. Unfortunately, when you just try to leap on the next bandwagon, the race to the bottom begins.

A public broadcaster is able to stay outside of all of this, and thus has considerable freedom to explore what exactly “being Canadian” means. I think they are trying (and for the most part succeeding) in this mission. The CBC has increased its focus on Indigenous music, and on the music of the different cultures that make up this wonderful mosaic that we call Canada. It makes for fascinating listening.

Certainly there will always be those voices that say that public-sponsored entities like the CBC are “elitist”, but I think careful examination of their programming proves this statement to be false. They offer glimpses into our musical traditions, and also show us where we are going. There are compelling interviews that force us to think on a deeper level than you get from a Facebook headline or a twenty-second sound bite. And here's the rub, folks: as Canada enters our next 150 years, there has never been a time when critical thinking about who we want to be as a society is more important.

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Briggs & Tufts: *Sonic Palette*

The Algonquin Ensemble at the McMichael in July

With the February thermometer dipped low and sunlight streaming through the windows of their off-the-grid Lanark Highlands home, music veterans Kathryn Briggs and Terry Tufts contemplated a detailed storyboard of images about the life and times of quintessential Canadian painter Tom Thomson.

One of Canada's most revered artists, Thomson directly influenced a group of landscape painters that would come to be known as the Group of Seven.

Knowing 2017 would mark both the 100th anniversary of his mysterious death at the age of 39 on Canoe Lake in Algonquin Park, and also the 150th anniversary of Canada's birth, the husband and wife team set out on a musical quest to capture the essence of the Canadiana they hear — and hope to share across the country and beyond — in Thomson's canvases.

Their musical project, called *Sonic Palette*, has been an 18-month obsession that has already attracted the promise of airplay on CBC radio stations across Canada. Along the way, long-time friend and musical collaborator, double-bassist John Geggie, lent his compositional talent to the project. Another friend, world-renowned luthier Linda Manzer, also got on board.

She marshalled support from the Canada Council to build a one-of-a-kind 50-string instrument — designed in collaboration with Tufts — called the Manzer Palette, in her Almonte workshop. This new instrument emulates the tonal characteristics of five

different instruments of the early 20th century including guitar, cittern, zither, bass harp and grand harp.

Almonte producer Ken Friesen opened his studio for several *Sonic Palette* preview recordings that include a full sextet, with Briggs, Tufts and Geggie joined by Laura Nerenberg on violin, Lisa Moody on viola and Margaret Tobolowska on cello. Together they are The Algonquin Ensemble.

As the instigator of the Group of Seven Guitar Project that is exhibiting at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection this summer and fall, Manzer opened doors for Briggs and Tufts to the Kleinburg gallery that houses the world's largest collection of works by Thomson and the painters he influenced <mcmichael.com>.

As a result, on Saturday, July 8, the exact day of the 100th anniversary of Thomson's death, Briggs and Tufts have been invited by the McMichael to play at a tribute to Thomson. The 5PM event will include a talk by the McMichael's Executive Director, Ian DeJardin, and readings by *Murdoch Mysteries'* Yannick Bisson.

The next day (Sunday, July 9) is even more exciting. At 2PM Briggs and Tufts will lead The Algonquin Ensemble in a world première performance of *Sonic Palette – Tom Thomson's Voice through Music 100 Years Later*. It's an immersive musical celebration capturing the spirit of his landscapes through original new music. (On this day Sara Mastrangelo is filling in for Laura Nerenberg.)



Photo by Shawn De Salvo, DeSa Photography

Members of the Algonquin Ensemble (l-r): Margaret Tobolowska (cello), Lisa Moody (viola), Kathryn Briggs (piano), Laura Nerenberg (violin), John Geggie (double bass) and Terry Tufts (guitar). Terry holds a one-of-a-kind 50-string instrument built by luthier Linda Manzer.

This very special July musical weekend in one of the nation's most respected art galleries is a dream come true for Briggs and Tufts. "We wanted to tell the story of Thomson's amazing artistic journey the way we see it, and especially hear it as musicians," explains Briggs. "The anniversary of his death inspired us to focus on his life, and all he accomplished to help paint the foundation of the Canadian identity," adds Tufts. "We are honoured to première this music at the McMichael."

To learn more about The Algonquin Ensemble and support their ambitious artistic vision for a future CD and nationwide tour of the *Sonic Palette* project, Briggs and Tufts have created an IndieGoGo campaign offering a series of imaginative musical "perks" in exchange for financial support. So far over \$2,800 has been pledged online, and several independent donors have also contacted them to anonymously support their new music.

— Nathan Rudyk

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Almonte Celtfest: Come to Celtic College!

Almonte Celtfest is known for many things. It's a fun weekend of Ottawa Valley and Celtic entertainment performed in the natural amphitheatre of Gemmill Park. It features a market of artisans and vendors (all with a Celtic flair). There are kids' activities in the Lil' Celtz Zone; buskers on the streets of Almonte; and, of course, appearances by Celtfest's mascot Liam the Leprechaun. But for many keen local music students (of all ages), the highlight of the festival is Celtic College.

Celtic College is a set of Celtic music workshops, led by mainstage performers from the festival, that run on the Saturday of the festival (July 8) from 10–11:30AM. According to College director Graham Lindsey: "the general purpose of the College is to bring people of all levels, who want to improve, together with artists from the festival. Whether you want to learn different ornaments, new tunes, or even start a new instrument from scratch — we have learning opportunities for you." The list of workshops is indeed extensive.

Nova Scotia-born, Ottawa-based **Anna Ludlow** is a fiddler whose credits include nominations for an

East Coast Music Award and a Juno Award. She will teach Beginner Fiddle for those looking to improve their technique with a few new tunes.

Steáfán Hannigan is an award-winning multi-instrumentalist who has played with an incredible range of musical acts including The Chieftains, Il Divo, Björk, Depeche Mode and Loreena McKennitt. He will be leading a Beginner Whistle workshop where participants will learn basic fingering, breathing and blowing technique, scales and scale exercises, and work on a couple of simple tunes. Hannigan will also demonstrate playing the Irish flute (bring one if you have one), pointing out the similarities and differences between flute and whistle for those interested in pursuing that path.

Ottawa-area folk musicians know **Arthur MacGregor** as the founder of the Ottawa Folklore Centre. They may not know that Arthur also sings, plays guitar, autoharp, Appalachian dulcimer, bodhran, clawhammer-style banjo, djembe and mandolin. He has been awarded "The Unsung Hero" Award from the Canadian Folk Music Awards, The Estelle Klein Award

from Folkmusic Ontario and the Helen Verger Award from the Ottawa Folk Festival for his work in the world of folk music. For Celtic College, he will be teaching beginner and intermediate guitarists how to use the guitar to back up fiddle, whistle and other single-note melody instruments. Participants will work with standard and altered tunings, different rhythms and other concepts.

Graham Lindsey is not only the director of the Celtic College — he is also an adept multi-instrumentalist who participates as a session player and band member in a variety of outfits. Join him for a Beginner Bodhran workshop where you will learn the basics of the bodhran, including holding the tipper, and basic jig and reel patterns. Graham will also demonstrate different playing styles, and how the bodhran player should interact with other musicians in a session.



Want to take a guitar workshop from the founder of the Ottawa Folklore Centre (Arthur MacGregor, above) or learn beginner whistle from someone who has played with The Chieftains, Björk, Depeche Mode and Loreena McKennitt? Register for Celtic College at Almonte Celtfest!

Building Continuity

According to Graham, "bringing in mainstage musicians as teachers definitely creates a connection that encourages students to stay and enjoy the festival performances." It seems only reasonable that after spending an in-depth morning with the likes of Steáfán Hannigan or Arthur MacGregor, workshop participants would get a little something extra out of seeing The Clan Hannigan or Moore & MacGregor on the big stage.

So if you are a local musician of any level who would like to add a little Celtic flair to your playing, you should definitely visit <almonteceltfest.com> and check out the Celtic College's offerings. Registration for the workshop of your choice is \$25.

Planting the Seed

Horticultural Societies

Secret societies? Mysterious handshakes with green thumbs? An inner circle that speaks Latin? Not so much! These gardening groups can be somewhat intimidating to the novice but are generally very welcoming to newcomers.

Do horticultural societies have a role with respect to food security? I have been a member of several and have found the focus to be largely on growing ornamentals, beautifying their local community, and encouraging members to enter their flowers and designs

by David Hinks

in flower shows and local agricultural fairs. I must admit that at times I have tried to nudge members in the direction of community gardens and growing vegetables — generally with what I have felt to be limited success.

However after sober second thought, I have changed my mind. It's not us and them! It's not flower growers versus vegetable gardeners! There are a lot of similar skills — if you can grow a Rudbeckia you can grow a tomato!

So, just what are these mysterious societies? The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) was created by the Province of Ontario in 1906 via an Act in the Ontario Legislature, which split the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies into the Ontario Agricultural Fairs Association and the OHA. The OHA, directly or through local horticultural societies, promotes education about horticulture and greater community involvement in local beautification. It is divided into 19 districts with 270 autonomous local societies and over 30,000 members. Local societies are part of District 2, which includes 19 societies in central and western Ottawa as well as Lanark and Renfrew counties.

Many horticultural societies have a close working relationship with agricultural societies; for example, the Pakenham group is very involved in the Pakenham Fair. Although OHA members love a flower show, far more of their time is spent working on community beautification projects, planning and implementing sustainable environment projects, and monthly educational and entertaining speakers.

There are many other gardening groups, such as the Corkery Gardening Club, Almonte and Carleton

Place Gardeners, and the Almonte Hoop Housers, that choose to remain relatively informal. Why would a gardening group choose to take the more formal route and join the OHA? Part of it is belonging to a larger group, tapping into expertise and having established governance that helps groups avoid conflict — perhaps the biggest incentive is that \$1000 cheque from the Ontario Ministry if you have a minimum of 50 members and if you file all the appropriate reports and forms.

Where would I find a local society? What is amazing to me is the sheer number of societies that are within easy driving distance. Within a fifteen-minute drive from the Almonte Old Town Hall there are four societies to be found; if one is willing to drive 45 minutes, one has a choice of an additional ten societies. Generally if you belong to one society you can attend meetings of any other society free of charge. Society membership often brings other perks, such as discounts at local garden centres. Visit <gardenontario.org> to find the society nearest you.

But back to our theme of food security! Within their broad mandate from the governing body, I am seeing many more local initiatives involving community gardens and veggie growing education. In mid-June I toured the new Community Garden in Stittsville, which has been taken under the wing of the Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society; locally the Almonte and District Horticultural Society is helping students at Naismith Public School grow veggies for the Food Bank; a youth group at Pakenham Hort. learns serious food-growing skills; and the Perth Society runs a massive school educational gardening program.

Three of our local societies are hosting a not-to-be-missed event on Saturday, August 12 — this is the 2017 District 2 **Flower and Edibles Show**. The show theme is Canada 150, and it is being hosted by the Almonte, Carleton Place and Pakenham Horticultural Societies. It is open to the public from 1–4PM and admission is free. There will be a Tea Room as well as a Silent Auction. The venue is the Almonte Civitan Hall, located at 500 Almonte Street (Wolfgrove Road) in Almonte.

The show features much more than just flowers — it includes many design categories, veggies, and of course afternoon tea. What more could you want on a summer afternoon?

So, stop and smell the roses — come and learn more about what horticultural societies are all about!

July Pub Listings

The Cove (Westport, 273-3636): Wed Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, 7-10PM; Thurs Jazz Night w/Spencer Evans Trio, 9-11PM, \$5; Sun Head over Heels on the Patio, 12:30-3:30PM
Jun 30 Pre-Canada Day Party w/Turpin's Trail, 7-11PM, \$10

Jul 1, 22 Head over Heels, 6-9PM
Jul 3 Rueben DeGroot w/Greg Ball, 12:30-3:30PM
Jul 7 Grant Fullerton, 7-11PM, \$10
Jul 8 Dave Balfour, 6-9PM
Jul 14 Young Petty Stones, buffet & show, 7-11PM, \$50
Jul 15 Strung Out To Dry, 6-9PM
Jul 21 MonkeyJunk, buffet & show, 7-11PM, \$60
Jul 28 Taylor Angus & Logan Brown, 6-9PM
Jul 29 Honey + Rust, 6-9PM

Valley Food and Drink Co. (Calabogie, 752-2676x311): 8PM, Thurs Karaoke
The 2 Grands (Arnprior, 558-5050): Fri/Sat Dueling Pianos, 7PM
Jul 22 Le Noir - dining/music in darkness

The Swan at Carp (Carp, 839-7926): Jul 14, 28 Steve Barrette Trio, jazz, 7-10PM

Chesswood (CP, 492-4377): Jul 7, 21 The Somerset Combo/cocktail tasting, 9-11PM, \$15

Fall River Restaurant (Maberly, 268-2197): Jul 2, 16, 22, 30 Classical guitar, 6:30PM

The Royal Oak (Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, 2-5PM

Jul 2, 16, 30 APEX Jazz Band
Jul 9, 23 Magnolia Rhythm Kings
Naismith Pub (Almonte, 256-6336): Wed Open Celtic Jam, 7:30-10PM

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

Golden Arrow Pub (Perth, 267-4500): 9PM
Jul 7 Ted Lalonde
Jul 15 Taylor Angus
Jul 21 Dougout Boys

O'Reilly's Ale House (Perth, 267-7994): Tues Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan 8:30PM; Wed Open Jam w/Dave Balfour 8PM, Acoustic Sundays (excl 23) 1PM
Jul 7 Samantha Rutherford Duo, 8:45PM
Jul 8 Jesse Stone, 8:30PM
Jul 14 Tom Watson, 8:30PM
Jul 15 Ken Workman, 8:45PM
Jul 21 Stephen Fisher, 8:30PM
Jul 28 River City Junction, 9PM

Alice's Village Café (Carp, 470-2233): Open Mic Thurs, 7:30PM

The Waterfront Gastropub (CP, 257-5755): Sun Blues w/ Redneck Limousine 3-6PM
Jul 7 Mississippi Blues Society Jam, 8:30PM

Neat Coffee Shop (Burnstown, 433-9960): 8PM
Jul 21 Donnell Leahy, \$65
Jul 28 The Matinee, \$20

Movies in the Park, Almonte, Thurs in Aug
Bridge St. Summer Fest, CP, Aug 5
Lysistrata, Perth, Aug 11-20
Naismith 3-on-3 Basketball Festival, Almonte, Aug 12
Perth Garlic Festival, Aug 12-13
Carp Garlic Festival, Aug 12-13
Front Yard Shindig, Smiths Falls, Aug 17
Fort Hemlock, SE, Aug 18-27
I'll Be Back Before Midnight, Perth, Aug 18-Sep 10
Reconciliation & the Birch Bark Canoe, Almonte, Aug 18-19
Art on the Grass, Carp, Aug 19
Roots on the Clyde Music Festival, Lanark, Aug 19
Pakenham Fair, Aug 19
Water Ways, Pakenham, Aug 19
North Lanark Highland Games, Almonte, Aug 26
Barns, Farms & Wicked Chefs, Ecotay, Aug 26
Maberly Fair, Aug 26
Sundance Artisan Show, Maberly, Sep 2-4
Fibrefest, Almonte, Sep 9-10
Mississippi River Run/Walk, Almonte, Sep 9
Lanark County Harvest Festival, Sep 10
Festival of Small Halls, Sep 14-Oct 1
PDCI 60th Reunion, Perth, Sep 22-24
Madawaska Valley Studio Tour, Sep 30-Oct 1
Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour, Mississippi Mills, Oct 7-9

Festivals

Canada Day Eve Celebrations, Jun 30, 5PM. Parade, BBQ, music & family fun 'til fireworks. Downtown Pakenham. 624-5593
Canada Day at Conlon Farm, Jul 1, 5-11 PM. Kids' activities, music, fireworks. Conlon Farm, Perth. perth.ca/canada150
Canada Day at Riverside Park, Jul 1, noon-10:30PM. Games, crafts, live music, air bouncers, petting zoos, children's shows, vendors and exhibits. Fireworks at 10PM. Riverside Park, CP. 257-1704, carletonplace.ca/cpcanada150.php. Free
Canada Day in Gemmill Park, Jul 1, from 3PM. Concert, food, kids' fun, fireworks. Gemmill Park, behind Community Ctr, Almonte. <exploremississippimills.ca>
Canada Day in Lower Reach Park, Jul 1, 1-8PM. Magic show, River City Junction, Maria Hawkins, Andy Mason, Canada 150 Youth Choir. Parade. Lower Reach Park, Smiths Falls. 283-4124, smithsfalls.ca
Canada Day at McCreary's Beach, Jul 1, 9AM-10PM. Fireworks boat cruise, BBQ, entertainment, games on beach. McCreary's Beach Resort, Perth. 267-1270, mccrearys-beach.com. \$10/\$25 carload of 5
Almonte Celfest, Jul 7-9. Fri 6-9PM, Sat 12-10PM, Sun 12-6PM. Celtic music/dance in Gemmill Park. Sat 10AM workshops (Old Town Hall). Sun 10:30AM Fiddle Mass (Holy Name). Gemmill Park, Almonte. almontecelfest.com. By donation
Almonte Fair, Jul 14 (4PM-1AM), 15 (10AM-1AM), 16 (10AM-4PM). Midway, displays, wrestling (Fri 7PM), Demo Derby (Sun 2PM). Almonte Fairgrounds. almontefair.ca. \$10 (13+); +midway
Stewart Park Festival, Jul 14 (1PM), Jul 15 (12PM), Jul 16 (8:30AM pancakes, 12PM festival). Live music, kids stuff. Full schedule: stewartparkfestival.com. Stewart Park, Perth. By donation

WHAT'S ON IN

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

Bittersweet Gallery presents Anne-Marie Chagnon's paintings & jewellery <burnstown.ca/bittersweet>
Carriageway Studios presents Magical Thinking, Susan Rennick Jolliffe's mixed-media sculptures <carriagewaystudios.ca>
Fairview Manor Lobby presents *Duo*, paintings by Amelia Ah You & Catherine Walsh
Fall River Restaurant presents Catherine Orfald's oils & mixed media <fallriverrestaurant.ca> [to Jul 16]
FIELDWORK presents Soundwork <fieldworkproject.com>
General Fine Craft features *Florescence: Spring to Summer*, Andrea Vuletin's porcelain pottery & Mary Pfaff's paintings <generalfinecraft.com> [to Jul 30]
Heritage House Museum presents *Our Town: Smiths Falls in 1867 Canada* <smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse>
MVTM presents William Hodge's tapestries, Weavers Unlimited's shawls & Vanessa Coplan's contemporary patchwork <mvtm.ca>
Sivarulrasa Gallery presents Adrienne Dagg's paintings [to July 9] & *Eclipse* group show [from Jul 21] <sivarulrasa.com>
The Mississippi Mills Chambers Gallery presents Monika Seidenbusch's Acrylic Figurative
The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents Edwina Wood's acrylics

<p>Bridge Club, Amprior Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Rueben DeGroot w/Greg Ball, The Cove Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>4-Hand Euchre, Bolingbroke Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub Green Drinks, Perth Same Time, Next Year, Perth Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>Tammy Jones Band w/Denis Sisters, Augusta St. Park A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub Bridge Club, Almonte Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Same Time, Next Year, Perth Tea on the Lawn, Almonte</p>	<p>A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Bridge Club, Amprior Jazz Night w/Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. Lonely Ghosts Walk, Perth Mahjong, Bolingbroke Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe Perth Citizens' Band Outdoor Concert, Perth Same Time, Next Year, Perth</p>
<p>Bridge Club, Amprior Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>4-Hand Euchre, Bolingbroke Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub Same Time, Next Year, Perth Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>The Rapids w/Greg Kelly, Augusta St. Park A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Acoustic Stage, O'Reilly's Pub Bridge Club, Almonte Seniors' Potluck, Bolingbroke Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Same Time, Next Year, Perth Tea on the Lawn, Almonte</p>	<p>A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Bridge Club, Amprior Jazz Night w/Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. Lonely Ghosts Walk, Perth Mahjong, Bolingbroke Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe Same Time, Next Year, Perth</p>
<p>Bridge Club, Amprior Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>4-Hand Euchre, Bolingbroke Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>Ragged Flowers w/Ali McCormick, Augusta St. Park A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub Bridge Club, Almonte Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Tea on the Lawn, Almonte</p>	<p>3 plays: <i>Trifles, Tea & Tape</i>, Perth A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Bridge Club, Amprior A Midsummer Night's Dream, McDonalds Corners Jazz Night, The Cove Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. Lonely Ghosts Walk, Perth Mahjong, Bolingbroke Moon Over the Brewery, Perth Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe Perth Citizens' Band, Perth</p>
<p>Bridge Club, Amprior Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>4-Hand Euchre, Bolingbroke Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub Candida, Perth Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>Ramblin' Valley Band w/Judge a Book Cohen Tribute, Augusta St. Park A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub Bridge Club, Almonte Candida, Perth Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Tea on the Lawn, Almonte</p>	<p>A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Bridge Club, Amprior Candida, Perth Jazz Night w/Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. Kelly Sloan, Cheshire Cat Pub Lonely Ghosts Walk, Perth Mahjong, Bolingbroke Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe</p>

ClaytonFest, Jul 22, 2-9PM. Local crafters, artisans, kids games, and prizes, local musicians, beer tent & refreshments. Clayton Community Centre, 147 Linn Bower Lane, Clayton. \$10 (under 12s free)
Perth Ribfest, Jul 28 (11AM-10PM); Jul 29 (11AM-10PM w/Car Show); Jul 30 (11AM-7PM w/Car Show). Ribs, beer garden, vendors, kids' fun. Perth Fairgrounds. perthribfest.com. By donation
Festival of the Wild Child, Jul 29 & 30, 10AM-4PM, Woodland games, info, crafts for youth/families. High Lonesome Nature Reserve, 867 Carbine Rd., Pakenham. mmlt.ca. \$10; \$20 family; dependent kids free
MidSummer HerbFest, Jul 30, 9AM-5PM. Demos, vendors, entertainment. Rain or shine. Waba Cottage Museum, 24 Museum Rd., White Lake. 623-5756x232. \$2; \$5 per family

Visual Arts
Rideau Lakes Studio & Garden Tour Jul 1-2, 10AM-5PM. Art for home & garden. Rideau Lakes area. 359-5947, rideaulakesstudioandgardentour.com.
Meet the Artist: Catherine Orfald, Jul 8, 4PM. Oil & mixed media (wax & pigments). Fall River Restaurant, Maberly.
Paint the Summer, Jul 15-16, 10AM-4PM. Rideau Lakes Artists' show/sale. Fundraiser: Habitat for Humanity. Algonquin College, Perth. rideaulakesartists.com. Free
Madawaska Valley Studio Tour, Jul 22-23, 10AM-5PM. 19 studios. Maple leaf signs. Eganville, Killaloe, Barry's Bay, Wilno. 633-6902, madawaskastudiotour.com
Vernissage: Eclipse, Jul 22, 3-6PM. Meet artists: D. Arnold, D. Dunning, M. Malvada, S. Low-Beer, S. Sivarulrasa. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. 293-2492, sivarulrasa.com. Free

Meet the Artist: Riverguild turns 40, Jul 29. Many makers on site. Riverguild Fine Crafts, 51 Gore St. E., Perth. riverguild.com
Theatre
Lanark Laughs, Jun 30, Jul 28, 8-10PM. Stand-up comedy. Waterfront Gastropub, 12 Bell St., Carleton Place
Company of Fools: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Jul 1 (6PM, Merrickville Fairgrounds); Jul 15 (7PM, Alexandre Grove Park, Stittsville); Jul 20 (7PM, MERA, McDonalds Corners). Shakespeare w/a modern/comedic twist. fools.ca. \$20 sugg. donation
A Nation Lost & Found, Wed-Sun, 11AM. Theatrical historic walking tour. Classic Theatre Festival. Meet at Matheson House, Perth. 1-877-283-1283, classictheatre.ca. \$15 (under 12s 50% off)
Same Time, Next Year, to Jul 16: Wed, Sat 8PM; Tues-Sun 2PM. Pre-show talk 30 min

before. Classic Theatre. St. James Anglican Church, Perth. classictheatre.ca. \$30; under 30 \$21; \$4 fee
Lonely Ghosts Walk, Thurs & Fri, 7PM. Theatrical historic walking tour. Classic Theatre. Meet at Matheson House, Perth. 1-877-283-1283, classictheatre.ca. \$15 (under 12s 50% off)
3 plays: Trifles, Tea & Tape, Jul 7-8, 20-22, 7:30PM; Jul 9, 23, 1:30PM. BarnDoor Prod'ns. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 267-1884. \$22; \$10 stud
Murder at Café Noir, Jul 7-8, 6:30PM; Jul 9, 1PM. Dinner theatre fundraiser for Flood Relief in West Carl. Rural Root Theatre. Carp Ag Hall. 618-9789. Tix: ruralroot.org \$40
Moon Over the Brewery, Jul 20-22, 28-29 at 7:30PM; Jul 23, 30 at 2PM. Heart-warming coming-of-age story. Studio Theatre, Perth. <studiotheatreperth.com>. \$24, \$10 stud, \$22 adv.

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Party by the Basin, Perth Steel City Rovers, SF A Nation Lost & Found, Lonely Ghosts Walk, Perth Canada Day Eve Celebrations, Pakenham Dance w/DoubleBack, Carleton Place Dueling Pianos, The 2 Grands Lanark Laughs, Carleton Place Pre-Canada Day Party w/Turpin's Trail, The Cove Rick Leben & Low Mileage Band, Valley Food & Drink River City Junction, O'Reilly's Pub Same Time, Next Year, Perth Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp Bridge Club, Arnprior Brea Lawrenson, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Day... Everywhere! Etsy Market & Antique Car Show, Almonte A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Head over Heels, The Cove Paddle for AGH, Almonte Perth Antique Show & Sale, Perth Pie in the Sky, Maberly Rideau Lakes Studio & Garden Tour Tea on the Lawn, Almonte Dueling Pianos, The 2 Grands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Acoustic Sundays, O'Reilly's Pub APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Classical Guitar, Fall River Restaurant Family Fun in Pakenham, Pakenham Head over Heels (Patio), The Cove Heartbeats, Robert Simpson Park Perth Antique Show & Sale, Perth Rideau Lakes Studio & Garden Tour Same Time, Next Year, Perth Strawberry Social, Pakenham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 plays: Trifles, Tea & Tape, Perth A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Almonte Celtfest, Almonte Bridge Club, Arnprior Dueling Pianos, The 2 Grands Grant Fullerton, The Cove Lonely Ghosts Walk, Perth Mississippi Blues Society Jam, Waterfront Gastropub Murder at Café Noir for Flood Relief, Carp Samantha Rutherford Duo, O'Reilly's Pub Same Time, Next Year, Perth Ted Lalonde, Golden Arrow The Somerset Combo, Chesswood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Celtfest, Almonte Pigstock, Smiths Falls Bazaar, Perth Tea on the Lawn, Almonte Dave Balfour, The Cove Jesse Stone, O'Reilly's Pub 3 plays: Trifles, Tea & Tape, Perth A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Beyond the Bomb: Music of the Cold War, Carp Dueling Pianos, The 2 Grands Fish Fry Fundraiser, Bolingbroke Meet the Artist: Catherine Orford, Maberly Murder at Café Noir for Flood Relief, Carp Music & Beyond: Auryr Quartet, Perth Perth Farmers' Market 25th, Perth Same Time, Next Year, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Celtfest, Almonte 3 plays: Trifles, Tea & Tape, Perth A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Acoustic Sundays, O'Reilly's Pub Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Danny Sylvester, Robert Simpson Park Head over Heels (Patio), The Cove Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Murder at Café Noir for Flood Relief, Carp Same Time, Next Year, Perth Valley Singles Lunch, CP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Fair, Almonte Stewart Park Festival, Perth A Nation Lost & Found, Perth All You Can Eat Fish Fry, White Lake Bridge Club, Arnprior Dueling Pianos, The 2 Grands Lonely Ghosts Walk, Perth Same Time, Next Year, Perth Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp Tom Watson, O'Reilly's Pub Young Petty Stones, The Cove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewart Park Festival, Perth Almonte Fair, Almonte A Midsummer Night's Dream, Stittsville Dueling Pianos, The 2 Grands Jazz w/Peter Brown Quartet, Perth Ken Workman, O'Reilly's Pub Paint the Summer, Perth Same Time, Next Year, Perth Strung Out To Dry, The Cove Taylor Angus, Golden Arrow Tea on the Lawn, Almonte A Nation Lost & Found, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewart Park Festival, Perth Almonte Fair, Almonte A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Acoustic Sundays, O'Reilly's Pub APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Classical Guitar, Fall River Restaurant Debenham Brothers, Robert Simpson Park Head over Heels (Patio), The Cove Paint the Summer, Perth Same Time, Next Year, Perth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 plays: Trifles, Tea & Tape, Perth A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Bridge Club, Arnprior Candida, Perth Donnell Leahy, Neat Coffee Shop Dougout Boys, Golden Arrow Dueling Pianos, The 2 Grands LIPS: Poetry on the Patio, Perth Lonely Ghosts Walk, Perth MonkeyJunk, The Cove Moon Over the Brewery, Perth Stephen Fisher, O'Reilly's Pub The Somerset Combo, Chesswood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ClaytonFest, Clayton Candida, Perth 3 plays: Trifles, Tea & Tape, Perth A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Bicycle Opera Project Sneak Peak, Almonte Classical Guitar, Fall River Restaurant Community Potluck, Almonte Giant Book Sale, Perth Head over Heels, The Cove Le Noir, The 2 Grands Madawaska Valley Studio Tour Moon Over the Brewery, Perth Tea on the Lawn, Almonte Vernissage: Eclipse, Almonte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 plays: Trifles, Tea & Tape, Perth A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Bicycle Opera Project: Sweat, Almonte Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Candida, Perth Head over Heels (Patio), The Cove Madawaska Valley Studio Tour Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Moon Over the Brewery, Perth Running Naked, Robert Simpson Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perth Ribfest, Perth A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Bridge Club, Arnprior Candida, Perth Dueling Pianos, The 2 Grands Lanark Laughs, Carleton Place Lonely Ghosts Walk, Perth Moon Over the Brewery, Perth River City Junction, O'Reilly's Pub Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp Taylor Angus & Logan Brown, The Cove The Matinee, Neat Coffee Shop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perth Ribfest w/Car Show, Perth A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Candida, Perth Dueling Pianos, The 2 Grands Festival of the Wild Child, Pakenham Honey + Rust, The Cove Meet the Artist: Riverguild turns 40, Perth Moon Over the Brewery, Perth Tea on the Lawn, Almonte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festival of the Wild Child, Pakenham MidSummer HerbFest, White Lake Perth Ribfest w/Car Show, Perth Head over Heels (Patio), The Cove Simon Clarke, Robert Simpson Park A Nation Lost & Found, Perth Moon Over the Brewery, Perth Acoustic Sundays, O'Reilly's Pub APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Candida, Perth Classical Guitar, Fall River Restaurant

Community

- Arnprior Bridge Club**, Mon-Thu-Fri 1PM. 447-7526. priorbridgeclub.ca
- SF Bridge Club**, Mon 7PM, Tues 1PM. 256-4747. SF Legion
- 4-Hand Euchre**, Tue 7PM. Lunch first. ABC Hall, Bolingbroke. 279-1106
- Almonte Bridge Club**, Wed 7PM. 256-4747. Almonte Legion
- Tea on the Lawn**, Wed & Sat, 2-4PM. Ramsay WI serve baked goods, Mill of Kintail, Almonte, 256-3610
- Mahjong**, Thurs 1:30PM, ABC Hall, Bolingbroke, 268-2548. \$5 donation
- Canada Day Pancake Breakfast**, Jul 1, 7-11AM. With Lindsay's maple syrup & sausages. Pakenham Fire Hall, cnr Jeanie & MacFarlane Sts, Pakenham. 624-5593
- Paddle for AGH**, Jul 1, 7:30AM-12PM. Register 256-2500x2296. Almonte Fairgrounds. almontehospitalfoundation.com. \$10 & fundraise \$75
- Etsy Market & Antique Car Show**, Jul 1, 10AM-3PM (10-2 handmade goods; 11-3 cars/trucks); shops. Mill St., Almonte
- Perth Antique Show & Sale**, Jul 1-2, 10AM-4PM. QC/ON antique dealers. Perth Civitan Hall, 6787 County Rd 43, Perth. 283-5270, perthantiqueshow.com. \$7
- Pie in the Sky**, Jul 1, 8AM-1PM. Pies, market, look thru telescope. Fair fundraiser. Maberly Fairgrounds. maberly-fair.ca
- Family Fun in Pakenham**, Jul 2, 1PM. Stewart Community Centre, 112 MacFarland St., Pakenham. 624-5303
- Green Drinks**, Jul 4, 5:30PM. Informal meeting of environmental folk. Golden Arrow, 71 Foster St., Perth. perthgreendrinks@gmail.com
- Bazaar**, Jul 8, 12-2PM. 3rd annual Bazaar in support of Camp Ooch. Vendors, BBQ, boat rides, watercraft rentals, ice cream and much more. McCreary's Beach Resort, Perth. 267-1270, mcrearysbeach.com
- Fish Fry Fundraiser**, Jul 8, 5:30PM. Hall fundraiser. 2 sittings. ABC Hall, 3166 County Rd. 36, Bolingbroke. 273-3781, \$15/\$7
- Valley Singles Lunch**, Jul 9, 1PM. Singles lunch, all welcome. The Gourmet Restaurant, Hwy 7 at Hwy 15, CP 622-5693
- All You Can Eat Fish Fry**, Jul 14, 4:30-7:30PM. White Lake United Church, 3 Burnstown Rd., White Lake. \$15; \$7 ages 5-10; under 5 free
- Community Potluck**, Jul 22, 5:30PM. Bring item & plate/cutlery. Bicycle Opera Project & Stretch Orchestra perform. Almonte Old Town Hall

Candida, from Jul 21: Wed, Sat 8PM; Tues-Sun 2PM. Pre-show talk 30 min before. Classic Theatre. St. James Anglican Church, Perth. classictheatre.ca. \$30; under 30 \$21; \$4 fee

LIPS: Poetry on the Patio, Jul 21, 7-9PM. Team fundraiser: poetry and music open night. Coutts Coffee, Perth. \$5

Literature

Giant Book Sale, Jul 22, 8AM-1PM. Sales by donation; proceeds to Perth Library. Crystal Palace, 63 Gore St. E., Perth.

Music

Dance w/DoubleBack, Jun 30, 8PM. CP Arena, Carleton Place. 257-1704, carleton-place.ca/cpcanada150.php. \$5

Party by the Basin, Jun 30, 7PM. Keith Glass Band, JW-Jones, MonkeyJunk; food & drinks. Gates open 5PM, music 7PM. Crystal Palace, Perth., ticketsplease.ca. \$25

Steel City Rovers, Jun 30, 8PM. Celtibilly band. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. 283-0300, smithsfallstheatre.com. \$30

Robert Simpson Park (Arnprior): Sunday concerts, 2-4PM, free

- Jul 2 Heartbeats
- Jul 9 Danny Sylvester
- Jul 16 Debenham Brothers
- Jul 23 Running Naked
- Jul 30 Simon Clarke

5 Wed in July (Augusta St. Park, Almonte): Free music with potlucks or BBQs, 6-8:30PM

- Jul 5 Denis Sisters, Tammy Jones Band, BBQ
- Jul 12 Greg Kelly, The Rapids, potluck
- Jul 19 Ali McCormick + George Turcotte, Ragged Flowers, BBQ
- Jul 26 Leonard Cohen Tribute w/ Judge a Book etc., Ramblin Valley Band, potluck

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

Perth Citizens' Band Outdoor Concert, Jul 6 & 20, 7:30PM. Bring lawn chair or stroll park. Stewart Park, Perth. 256-4221, perthband.ca

Music & Beyond: Auryr Quartet, Jul 8, 2PM. German string quartet. Studio Theatre, 63 Gore St. E., Perth., musicandbeyond.ca

Beyond the Bomb: Music of the Cold War, Jul 8, 6-9PM. 100+ short concerts of wartime music. The Diefenbunker, Carp

Jazz w/Peter Brown Quartet, Jul 15, 2-5PM. P. Brown, P. Newsom, G. Robb, J. Richard. Slackoni's, 82 Peter St., Perth. 257-2657, peterbrown.ca

Bicycle Opera Project Sneak Peak, Jul 22, 11:45AM. 2 arias & part of opera: Sweat. Carp. bicycleopera.com

Bicycle Opera Project: Sweat, Jul 23, 2PM. A capella sweatshop opera in the round. Tix: MVTM, Baker Bob's, 234-6306. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. 234-6306, bicycleopera.com. \$25

Pub Listings p. 21

Local Food

Strawberry Social, Jul 2, 1-4PM. GF opt. Berries, whipped/ice cream, cake. Cedar Hill Schoolhouse, 270 Cedar Hill Side Rd., Pakenham. \$6

Perth Farmers' Market 25th Anniv., Jul 8, 1-3PM Live music, kids games, cake. Crystal Palace, Perth. perthfarmersmarket.ca

Pigstock, Jul 8, 3-8PM. Music, local food, bar, locally-sourced BBQd whole pig. Gallipeau Centre, SF. tworiversfoodhub.com. \$45

Black Tartan Tantalizes

“Vaut le voyage” is an accolade awarded sparingly by the redoubtable Guide Michelin. Weetabix can truthfully state that Carleton Place is now worthy of a visit for gastronomic reasons. Be sure to make reservations at the Black Tartan Kitchen (even if we have none about recommending it) since this is an intimate venue with limited seating.

Named for the cocktail and with a nod to the Scottish heritage of Carleton Place, the Black Tartan Kitchen is the creation of Chef Ian Carswell and his wife Tessa. Her design talents created the display of photos from the early days of Carleton Place; a good look is recommended. The space is casual, as is

by Sebastian Weetabix

attire; service is friendly, relaxed and competent and the table setting (Oneida flatware, Black Tartan napkins with a functional service folding, white Williams china and comfortable seating) is both attractive and functional. A carafe of still water and menus arrive as we are seated.

The menu is short but covers a wide range of temptations. The wine and beverages list is well chosen and accessible and the dessert menu is presented separately. Weetabix notes several items of interest on the main menu, as well as appropriate wines. After a moment of sober reflection on cocktails (and the consequences of combining a Black Tartan with wine), a choice is made in favour of wine. Back to the menu, where a carrot and brie salad, the charcuterie plate, a vegetarian house-made tagliatelle and a seared duck breast are ordered. Portions are ample and it should be noted that Weetabix was accompanied and that all items were shared. Also noted is a line in the menu under the bread offering (a very good house-made sourdough) pointing out that all proceeds from this item go to a local charity for Autism Spectrum Disorder Services.

During the brief wait for our food, we had time to discuss some background information Weetabix assembled from the usual and eclectic mix of sources — including Ian Carswell, who answered a few questions with friendly good humour. Ian grew up in Petawawa and originally planned a career in civil engineering, for which he did not develop a taste; some part-time jobs in restaurants convinced

him that his heart led to his stomach and a career in the hospitality industry. Chef’s training at George Brown College in Toronto was followed by wide-ranging travel and experience in a variety of kitchens, including some of the world’s most prestigious. The Black Tartan’s website <blacktartankitchen.com> is informative. On his return to Canada he worked at a number of Ottawa establishments and became the Executive Chef at the National Gallery. The decision to open his own place is supported by his family — both emotionally and with contributions of labour and talent. He and his wife (a gifted architect and an illustrator) scouted a number of locations and decided that Carleton Place offered the right mix for them — they bought the building and did the renovations and decoration themselves. After recruiting their core staff and, notably, sous-chef Chris Lessard, they opened for business in November of 2016. Word of mouth has generated a successful base, and operations appear to be running smoothly. Ian has the energy, enthusiasm and skill set needed, and Weetabix looks forward to repeat visits.

As a new business person in an old town that is undergoing fundamental changes, Ian has become engaged in a number of community-focused initiatives in addition to his support of local charities. He has developed a close symbiosis with suppliers and is devoted to supporting local ingredients. A relationship with Stalwart Brewing Co. <stalwartbrewing.ca> is giving rise to a joint event, a Pig Roast, planned for the Labour Day Weekend. Weetabix hears that the number of tickets is limited, so best sign up or risk paying extortionate rates to scalpers! And Ian’s relationship to his suppliers includes segregating his vegetable scraps for recycling as pig feed — voilà, a virtuous cycle (unless you are the pig).

Food arrives and merits more than a few comments, but space is limited so Weetabix shall exhibit restraint. Charcuterie, according to the Culinary Institute of America (the important CIA), is the branch of cooking devoted to prepared meat products, such as bacon, ham, sausage, terrines, galantines, ballotines, pâtés, and confit, primarily from pork. A selection of items gives an establishment the opportunity to reveal a great deal in a simple setting. Like small music ensembles, there is nowhere to hide and each part can be examined in detail; small imperfections are magnified by isolation and yet the whole must also



Weetabix calls Chef Ian Carswell an “emerging major talent” in this area’s culinary scene

pass muster for integrity and clarity of presentation. Ian’s mastery of charcuterie is deliciously displayed and “ramped” by a presentation that offers visual treats and some vegetable surprises, including this small and spicy local item from the allium family. His pâté is extraordinary — light and unctuous — and just in case you are jaded and require evidence that molecular gastronomy is within striking distance, a small and delectable portion of powdered foie gras will bring you back to proper focus on the fundamental strength of this kitchen.

The duck breast was seared and cooked precisely — accompanied by a selection of local vegetables and berry accents. It was plated with some deliciously herbed whipped potatoes, a satisfying and simple dish done as well as can be and presented with elegant simplicity. Suffice to say that the salad and the tagliatelle were also remarkable for their quality, and that everything showed evidence of first-rate execution. Do not forget to check out the desert offerings — Weetabix particularly recommends the intensely-flavoured sorbets.

This is a small kitchen — no brigades to fall back — and Ian’s dedication and skill translate to your plate. Although the Black Tartan Kitchen is still young, there are no start-up glitches in evidence. It is truly a pleasure to report on an emerging major talent and Weetabix eagerly anticipates future visits. “Vaut le voyage.”



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Where Do All the Goldfinches Go?

The colours of spring (now officially summer) are vibrant and give us a renewed sense of wellbeing as we watch the ecosystem around us transform into lush vegetation and new life. In addition to the greens and myriad other colours found in wooded areas and in our gardens, we are also treated to the spirited colouring of some of our favourite birds.

by Bob Volks

From the deep red hue of the male Northern Cardinal to the deep yet calming blue of the indigo buntings and eastern bluebirds, none seem to catch our eyes as prominently at this time of year as the yellow-coloured American goldfinch.

The transition from the pale green-brown colouring they have sported through the winter to an energetic lemon-gold plumage is certainly one of the most breathtaking transformations in the birding world. As we continue to make our way toward the month of July, however, the common sightings around our feeders, wooded edges and open weedy spaces seem to be dramatically decreasing.



Photo by smHansen

But why? Where have all the American goldfinches gone?

First off, there is no reason to fret — this is typical behaviour that perhaps catches some birders off guard. For those of you who might be new to the birding game, or simply never noticed before, here are a couple of the main reasons these flashy little birds seemingly disappear this time of year.

Migration

That's right — for some species, there is still some migrating left to do. Here in Eastern Ontario, some of these small birds will often head north into the boreal forest to continue to forage and prepare for their nesting season, so we lose some of our volume of local birds. Which brings up reason number two...

They Are Late-Nesting Birds

As many of our birds here in the Ottawa area are well past the nesting season (hello, fledglings!), the American goldfinch is only just beginning their preparation. Time to watch for the bright yellow males battling in mid air for their rights to a mate. This is a spectacular sight as the males will often start off lower to the ground and spiral their way up in air, all the while combatting their rival. These birds typically begin to nest well into the middle of July, and in some cases as late as August. The reason being, they are awaiting some of their favourite small thistle and weed and grass seeds to fully mature, to ensure they have ample food to provide their forthcoming brood of chicks.

After raising their young, these birds will return to our region just as many of our other spring and summer residents are ready to flee.

What To Do in the Meantime

If you, like us, have many tube feeders dedicated to finches, filled with small seed such as nyjer, this is a great time to bring a couple of them in for some routine maintenance. We would always recommend leaving feeders up and full of fresh seed, as there are many American goldfinches that do nest in our area and these local finches will use your feeders to teach their young the ropes. Give your feeders a thorough cleaning and be sure to store your seed — as long as it has not succumbed to any moisture, it should be fine when the masses return in a few months. We have several videos on our Gilligallou Bird YouTube channel that deal with cleaning feeders, as well as what makes some finch feeders better than others, so feel free to subscribe to see those and future updates. You can reach them from <gilligalloubird.com>, or go to YouTube and search "where do all the American goldfinch go" to see a companion video to this article.

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Every Sunday afternoon, **Head Over Heels on the Patio** (Guitar/Vocal Duo, Gananoque) 12:30-3:30
Sat. July 1 **Happy 150th Canada! Head Over Heels** (Acoustic Folk, Gananoque) 6-9
Mon. July 3 **Rueben DeGroot** "Leaving on a Rocket, Last Show in Ontario!" with guest **Greg Ball** (Folk/Rock, Kingston) 12:30-3:30
Fri. July 7 **Grant Fullerton** (Formerly of **Lighthouse**, Rock, Toronto) 7-11, \$10
Sat. July 8 **Dave Balfour** (Folk/Rock, Westport) 6-9
Fri. July 14 **Young Petty Stones** (Classic Rock of Eagles, Neil Young, Tom Petty, Rolling Stones from Montreal/Westport) Buffet & Show 7-11, \$50 + hst
Sat. July 15 **Strung Out To Dry** with Chris Morris and Friends (Folk/Rock, Kingston) 6-9
Fri. July 21 **Monkeyjunk** (Blues/Rock, Ottawa) 7-11, \$60 Buffet & Show
Sat. July 22 **Head Over Heels** (Folk/Jazz/Blues, Gananoque) 6-9
Fri. July 28 **Taylor Angus + Logan Brown** (Acoustic Soul, Kingston) 6-9
Sat. July 29 **Honey & Rust** (Folk/Rock, Ottawa) 6-9

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Where Will You Be?

Cast your mind back. No, I mean really back, farther than 1967. How about to 1947? Do you think in that year, the government was planning that twenty years hence they would throw a massive birthday party for the country? Were they starting to hoard the funds to put on a mega-show for the nation? Were they garnering sponsors, build-

by Glenda Jones

ing LRT tunnels, refurbishing arenas and arts centres? Not likely, since in the wake of the Great War that didn't end all wars, they were too busy putting men through university, finding school spaces for the influx of children, and coming to terms with a new economic era that signalled peace and prosperity.

In 1948, my father built us a cottage — “the cabin” — on Kootenay Lake, all accomplished with \$500 and back-breaking work by three men with hand tools. (That cottage still stands to this day, a tribute to good construction by a master ship builder.) We were in seventh heaven. None of us sat around contemplating where we would be in 2017, but wouldn't it have been interesting to have a time capsule of our future plans?

At six years old, I looked no further into my future than Grade Two. The word “plan” extended to the end of the month only. By Grade Eight I thought I'd be a teacher, didn't think how that was going to come about or

that I'd have to leave home for four years, or where I would go when I was finished. By Grade Twelve, I figured I'd likely go to Victoria to study, but I didn't know I'd be living with an elderly Scottish couple, who, in retrospect were younger than I am now!

About that time, my scope was widening, and I could see that there could be marriage in the works before too many years went by. However, a “plan” wasn't really formulated. I didn't look down the long road, and foresee the grand adventure that lay ahead. But then who does that? Ask your teenager where they will be in twenty years, write down the answer and keep it. It will make a good comedy sketch if nothing else.

The Centennial Year was still three years away when we got married, but for us that was the **BIGGEST THING** ever! For sure, the wedding was well thought-out and planned, right down to the reception in the church hall. We made plans to move, but had no idea where we would be in Victoria. Our first little apartment was perfect, and we planned to stay there for a while, but ah, you know what plans are: God's way of laughing!

You are getting the picture — even after all those years, I still didn't plan past the end of the month. Before Centennial Year blew the final horn of 1967, we had two little boys running around our household. Had we set up a savings account to get ourselves a

bigger house? No! But fate dropped one in our lap, and we were on our way to bigger things...

...Until an opportunity to move to Halifax came up, and all plans were once again out the window, and we set off for new



“The cabin” on Kootenay Lake

challenges, the opportunities, the happy times, the not-so-happy times. And anyway, if we could have seen the future, what could we have done to shape it? The banks will tell you to invest your young years' saving for your old years, but they mustn't have children involved in sports or music or a multitude of other wallet-emptying pursuits. We have been blessed with just the right amount of resources to get us through, although there were many times my sewing machine worked overtime to make up the difference.

So here we are with fifty-three years under our married belts. We still don't plan too far ahead. Perhaps if we made plans we'd feel hidebound to see them through; perhaps letting life come along with all its surprises is our way of coping with what lies ahead. My Dad used to say it's best not to waste a good worry, but rather to save your strength for when you need it. We must have a lot saved up, because we don't worry about very much.

We'll be in Gemmill Park in Almonte for the July 1st fireworks. It'll be BIG for us, as it is every year, and we'll say what we say every year: “Those were the best fireworks ever!” I often feel our whole married life has been fireworks, with oohs and ahhs at the marvellous things that we have seen and done in our 53 years together. Massive sparklers, huge sprays of dancing lights, and audible applause: it's all good!

Massive sparklers, huge sprays of dancing lights, and audible applause: it's all good!

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New MOOsical – Laughs with Veterinarians

Stone Fence Theatre's latest original musical comedy presents some tricky situations.

What happens when a young male veterinarian from the city gets his first job in the Ottawa Valley and encounters lonely middle-aged farm women, resentful colleagues, skeptical farmers and a profession going through lots of changes?

Stick Out Your Tongue and Say MOO – Making the rounds with the Amorous Veterinarian addresses these situations in musical romantic-comedy fashion. Stone Fence Theatre producer Ish Theilheimer interviewed veterinarians and veterinary workers to learn about the ups and downs of their work, and he tried to bring out their experiences.

Given the number of shows that Stone Fence completely sold out last year, the fact that there will be fewer performances this year, and the intriguing subject matter, Theilheimer says he is not surprised that there is already a big demand for tickets. "There are a lot of animal lovers out there, and most of them love their vets. As an animal lover myself, it was fun for me to be able to get to know a few vets a little by meeting up with them."

The show features eleven new songs that attempt to capture some of what he learned from them about the hard work, the pressure, the wacky clients, and the sense of doing something important.

The show, under the direction of Chantal Elie-Sernoskie, features Danielle Bissonnette, Evan Burgess, Chantal Elie-Sernoskie, Shirley Hill, Cathy Lyons, Ambrose Mullin, and Derek Tolhurst, with support from Fran Pinkerton and Lesley Sneddon. The band includes Peter Brown on keys, John Doddridge on guitar, Derek Tolhurst on bass and Ish Theilheimer, also the show's musical director, on fiddle.

Although the details about modern veterinary practice and agriculture are based on interviews, the plot is pure fiction: young veterinarian Robert finds himself repeatedly accosted by lonely clients, much to the annoyance of female colleagues in a clinic that reflects the current trend of young women far outnumbering young men in the profession.

"I heard some very funny stories while doing research for this show," explains Theilheimer, "and also very moving ones. It's not an easy job; there's a lot of pressure. I hope the show will strike a chord, especially with rural residents and pet owners from everywhere."

Due to construction at the recent summer home of Stone Fence Theatre in Eganville, performances this summer will be at the Rankin Culture & Recreation Centre, about fifteen minutes north of Eganville. The first performance is on July 19, with more shows on July 20, 26, 27, and August 2, 3, and 9. There will also be a show in Barry's Bay on August 10 at the Paul J. Yakabuski Community Centre. In the fall, Stone Fence Theatre returns to the Eganville Community Centre for performances on September 16, 23 and 30, and October 14. On October 20 and 21, the show will be in Pembroke at the Knights of Columbus Hall, with the final performance on Sunday afternoon, October 29, at St Andrew's Parish Hall in Killaloe.

Also, on August 1, Stone Fence Theatre will present a real East Coast Ceilidh in Rankin with some of Cape Breton's finest talent — Andrea Beaton

(fiddle/piano) and Troy MacGillivray (fiddle/piano), Matt MacIsaac (pipes/whistles) and Nathan Bishop (vocals/guitar). Each member is an outstanding talent in their own right, and collectively will make the evening a real Down East treat.

Tickets for all shows are available at <stonefence.ca> or by phone at 1-866-310-1004.



Stick Out Your Tongue and Say MOO is the latest musical by Stone Fence Theatre

ALPACA 101

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ECLIPSE

July 21 - Aug 27, 2017

Special Event: Solar Eclipse Viewing, Monday Aug 21, Noon-4pm
A free community event hosted by the Town of Mississippi Mills and Sivarulrasa Gallery - join us on Almonte's historic Mill Street, across from the Gallery, to view the solar eclipse of Aug 21, 2017 through specialized telescopes and safe solar filters!

Featured artists: Deborah Arnold, Dale Dunning, Marina Malvada, Susan Low-Beer, Sanjeev Sivarulrasa

Vernissage/Meet the Artists: Saturday July 22, 3pm-6pm

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