

MAY 2016

the Hummm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas



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May's Events



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Hear Ye, Hear Ye



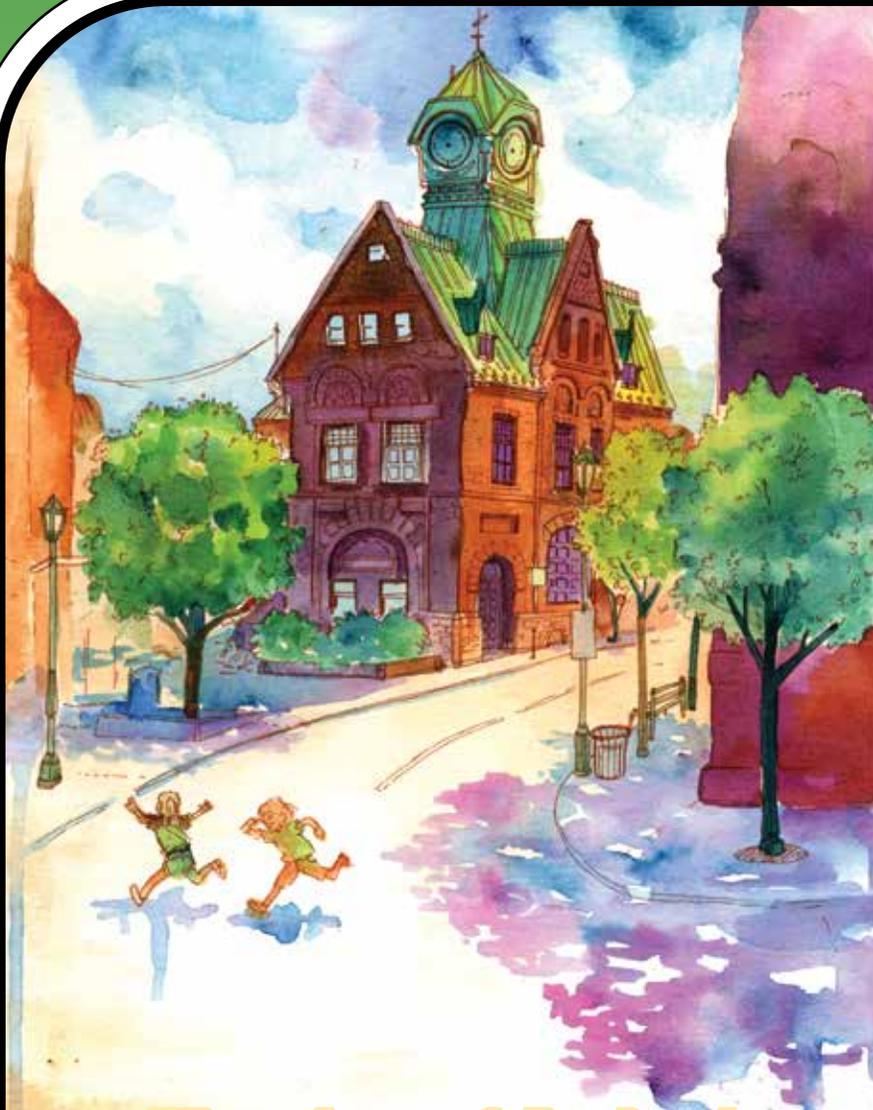
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Fabulous Farmers' Markets

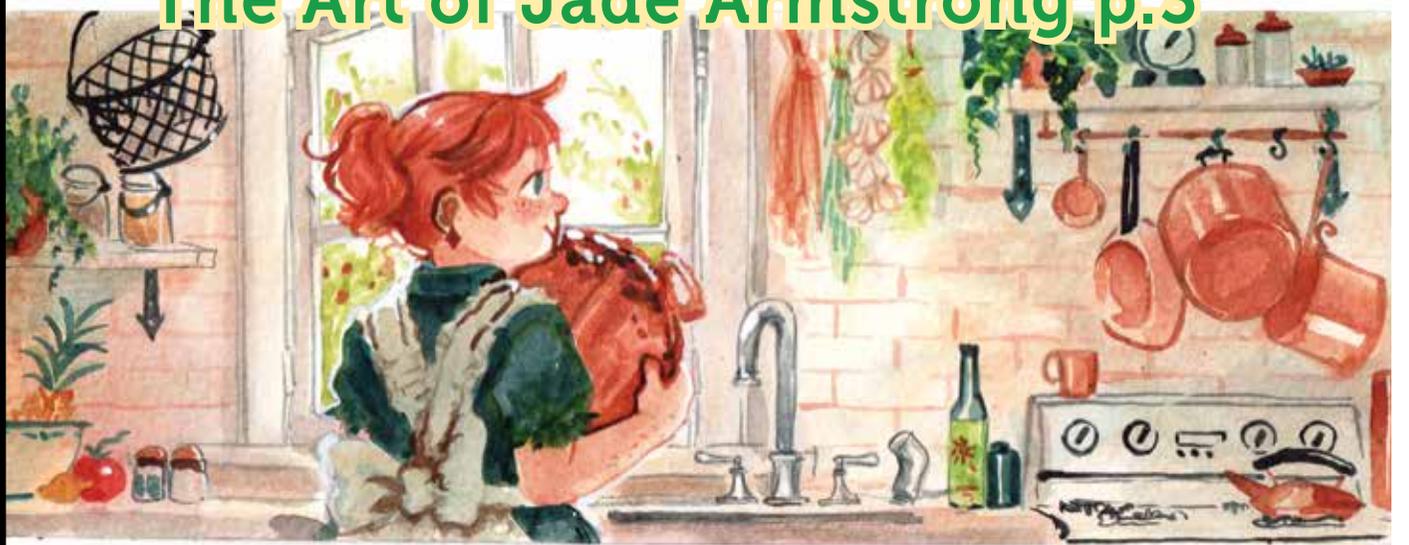


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A Brew in Review



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Who's Reading theHum

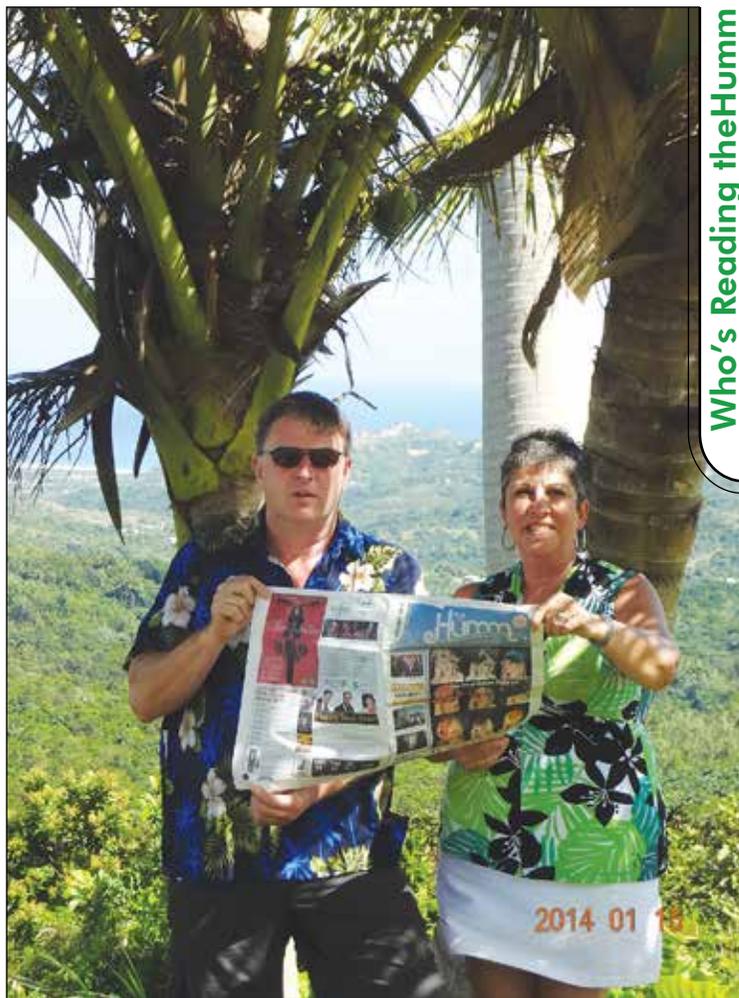
Back in early 2014, **Karen Bretzlaff** wrote: As I read your paper, I noticed people were submitting pictures taken while travelling, so I brought the January edition with me to Portugal. This photo was taken in Praca do Comercio, the main square of Lisbon. My husband and I are enjoying a few weeks' holiday here in Europe before we open Wes' Chips in March.

Editor's Note: Yum!!

Humble Thought

As the biocentric view suggests, the garden prospers when control is balanced by equal measures of humility and benevolence. A balance is struck. Control, servitude, respect, imagination, pragmatism, an ecological conscience, compliance, and a certain measure of mysticism and altruism all meld together to provide nurturance. Try to separate the various aspects into their constituent parts - grant any one of them the status of fundamental gardening definition - and one soon skews the entire process. Put them back together again in the service of the two-way street called nurturance, and we express the state of grace called gardening.

— Jim Nollman, *Why We Garden: Cultivating a Sense of Place*



Who's Reading theHum

Ron and Mary Clare Adams moved to Almonte in July of 2011 from Whitehorse, Yukon. They travelled with the Humm to Barbados in January 2014, and are pictured here with the paper on the east coast of the island. We would like to thank them very much for sending along the lovely photo!

Make a Difference, Be a Hospice Volunteer!

The volunteer hospice visitors of Community Home Support Lanark County have heart! Clients often refer to their hospice volunteers as "friends" or "family members". A client's daughter wrote: "You actually sent an angel to me who so kindly volunteered to visit my mother, without fail, every Thursday until she passed away. The volunteer's visits to my mother gave me that needed break which I so appreciated. I used that free time to go to Kingston with friends for a movie and dinner or to visit my daughter and her family in Kingston, or simply have a day on my own to do just as I pleased. The volunteer's visits served a double purpose — they not only helped me, but were also especially beneficial for my mother who loved the volunteer and always looked forward to her weekly visit. Mom often commented on what a wonderful person she is, so natural and down to earth. 'She is one of us,' mom would so often say."

Beryl explains: "I count it a privilege and a blessing to be a volunteer. I have met wonderful people who have opened their lives to me at a time in their life that is difficult, to say the least, so that I might journey with them. This is an enriching human experience. Being a volunteer gives life a purpose that I enjoy greatly. When I worked full time I had some wonderful volunteers who came along with me and were there to support both me and the people I ministered to. I learned from them the value of a volunteer to those going through rough times in life, and I wanted to personally be the voice of compassion and offer a caring hand to others. It is for me a rewarding and challenging opportunity. Not only have I met people who have touched my heart as clients, but it is good to be involved with other volunteers and staff at Community Home Support who are like-minded and committed to helping others."

Volunteer hospice visitors are needed in Perth, Lanark, Carleton Place, Smiths Falls and surrounding areas to support people living with a life-limiting illness and those receiving end-of-life care. Volunteers provide confidential and non-judgmental support, often in the form of a weekly visit up to four hours in length. If you are a sensitive and caring person with some time to spare, come out and join a compassionate team of volunteers! One of the benefits of being a hospice volunteer is six days of free palliative care training. The next training session starts on in Perth on Friday, May 13. If you are interested, please contact Rebecca Bowie at 267-6400 or <rebeccab@chslc.ca>.

www.thehummm.com



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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:

Everyone out here in the Ottawa Valley who has worked hard to welcome Syrian refugees to the area and help them adapt to their new communities!

The Animated Facets of Jade Armstrong

What's in a name? Wikipedia describes "Jade" as, among others, an ornamental stone, a colour, a plant, the name of several musical groups, songs, places and technologies. Relevant to May's featured artist, it adds that "Jade is a fictional character from the Mortal Kombat fighting game series by Midway Games."

Jade Armstrong is a very young (19), very real and very talented art student enter-

by Sally Hansen

ing her third year in the internationally renowned animation program at Sheridan College. She is back home this summer at the family farm near Clayton, enjoying a magnificent view of Indian River from the sundeck of a small second-floor studio. An exuberant, productive, entrepreneurial young artist, she is living life to the fullest and making the most of every moment. Animation comes naturally to her.

Fresh, invigorating, occasionally heart-warmingly cute — Jade's illustrations and commissions are remarkable for their energy and their expressiveness. Her comic characters are much edgier and often very animated, reflecting strong anime and manga influences. The growth in these styles is frequently overlooked by art lovers in my age cohort, but their popularity worldwide has been increasing since World War II when Japanese artists were exposed to American cartoons and comics. A prime example of their incursion into North American markets is the extent of both English-dubbed and non-Japanese productions available on Netflix.

According to Wikipedia, anime "consists of an ideal story-telling mechanism, combining graphic art, characterization, cinematography, and other forms of imaginative and individualistic techniques. The production of anime focuses less on the animation of movement and more on the realism of settings as well as the use of camera effects, including panning, zooming, and angle shots. Being hand-drawn, anime is separated from reality by a crucial gap of fiction that provides an ideal path for escapism that audiences can immerse themselves into with relative ease."

Listening to Jade's account of her artistic evolution, there is no doubt that anime is partly responsible for her career choice. An inveterate doodler and sketcher from the age of five onward, she experienced a brief bout of doubt in high school when she considered pursuing a more conventional field of study in university. Doubt vanished in Grade

10 when she came across a listing of academic programs that included a degree in animation. As she puts it, destiny struck when she googled "best school to go to for animation" and found that one of the top five schools in the world was only five hours away at Sheridan College.

After two years of study, Jade is vacillating between becoming a layout artist or creating comics. I'm guessing she will do both. Layout artists create the environment in which the animation takes place, setting the scene for the characters, and creating the background for the story. When she shows me her comics, I see that some of them contain very little dialogue, thereby inviting her readers to develop their own stories based on the world she creates with background and character illustrations.

Her enthusiastic description of how much she learned during her "layout" course with instructor Piotr Bielicki last semester convinces me that she thrives on the challenge of creating environments that encourage viewers to "participate in inventing



their own stories." She credits Bielicki with getting his students "excited about drawing difficult things and becoming a better craftsman to tell a story." Assignments included multiple detailed drawings of a 1600s Spanish Galleon, and a stagecoach drawn by six horses, rendered from different angles and perspectives.

It occurs to me that anime/comics are an extension of the analogy of books to movies. Most movies provide the characters, the settings, the dialogue and the story. When you read a book, you have to imagine what the characters and their environments look like. Alternatively, in Jade's anime-style illustrations and comics you sometimes have to imagine what the characters are doing and saying



based on clues in their environments. This indeed provides "an ideal path for escapism" where viewers can enter her world and develop their own stories.

The collection of books, paintings, prints, posters and commissioned works she has created while thriving on a demanding course load at Sheridan is just another example of the creative energy that got her into their prestigious animation program in the first place. When she graduated from Notre Dame Catholic High School in 2014, Jade received the Arts Carleton Place Student Bursary, the Da-Vinci Award, and the Ferguson's Graphics Award.

That same summer she started an ongoing illustration commission business with funding from the Summer Company program that is part of Ontario's Youth Jobs Strategy. Working from photographs, she continues to execute her commissioned portraits using watercolours and acrylic inks to achieve bold colours. Her years of cartooning and caricature drawing have given her an exceptional ability to capture the essence and personality of each client, and her portraits are fresh and captivating. She also does promotional work, creating emblematic characters to represent businesses, organizations and individuals. If your organizational identity needs an update, Jade Armstrong has the imagination and artistic talent to create your new attention-getting icon.

Jade produced her first illustration book (*Road to Bree's House*) after high school graduation and released her second, a comic book titled *Confessions of a First Year Animation Student*, a year later in May 2015. She is a founding member and now vice-president of the Comic Making Club at Sheridan, and Treasurer of the Animation Student Council. This summer her work will be on display at two of the biggest conventions for independent comic publishers in Toronto and Bethesda, MD, and at the Ottawa Comiccon 2016 show May 13-15 at the EY Centre at 4899 Uplands Drive <ottawacomicon.com>.

Closer to home, she and her works will be at the **Art in the Attic Show** at the Almonte Old Town Hall during the Mother's Day weekend, May 6-8. On Saturday, from noon to 5PM, she will be demonstrating her character drawing skills; volunteer subjects are welcomed!

Her website at <jelajade.com> provides a great glimpse into the varied activities that occupy her "spare" time when she isn't involved in schoolwork. The back of her Trading Card contains all of the information you need to keep up with her artistic appearances and to contact her for a truly original commissioned portrait. Pets may apply.

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WHO Jade Armstrong

WHAT Illustrator/Comics Creator/Animation Arts Student

WHERE Clayton area during the summer, Sheridan College the rest of the year; <jelajade.com>, <ms.jelajade@gmail.com>

WHEN May 6-8, Art in the Attic, Almonte Old Town Hall, <4a-artists.ca>; May 13-15, Ottawa Comiccon 2016, <ottawacomicon.com>; May 14-15, Toronto Comic Arts Festival, Toronto Reference Library, <torontocomics.com>

WHY "I want my drawings to capture the little narratives of life, and invite viewers to enter my world and find their own stories."

THE HUMM

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Colourful and Striking

The large, bright windows of **General Fine Craft** in Almonte are always dazzling and inviting. Come in to see our feature exhibitions for spring 2016, as well as the work of over 90 artists and craftspeople from Ontario and Quebec.

Paper and Glass

Showing until May 15 are works on paper by Alex Taves, and blown glass by Rob Raeside.

Alex Taves' enigmatic digital works on paper are equally influenced by fine art and graphic design practices. He's a graduate of Ryerson and Concordia Universities and has been working with creative digital technologies for nearly twenty years. His latest series are bold and striking androgynous portraits with a wonderful sense of colour, line and pattern. He composes fragmented sections of mixed-media digital collage similar to the way a DJ seamlessly works in tracks to create a new sound. Visually playful, you may see glimpses of Picasso or Hockney in his style.

Rob Raeside is a glass object maker who has been working with the medium since 2012. He studied glass blowing at Sir Sanford Fleming College, Sheridan College School of Craft and has apprenticed with some of Ontario's best in glass. Subtlety, simplicity and a love of the making process are the driving forces in his work. As an emerging artist, he is constantly striving to improve his eye for design and his hand for glass. Raeside's colourful spiral cups, "bubble" bowls and Scandinavian-influenced bottle forms are sophisticated and delightful. You'll marvel at his masterful control of the intricate art of glass blowing.



Pottery and Jewellery

From May 17 to July 3, come in to see porcelain pottery by Maureen Marcotte and fine jewellery by Barbara Mullally.

Maureen Marcotte is well known in eastern Canada for her use of incredibly detailed patterning and translucent glazes. Over a 35-year career, she has maintained a steady evolution of designs and techniques. Her pottery is wheel-thrown, moulded or slipcast using a fine porcelain clay that's strong and white. She makes a wide range of functional items for daily food service: wonderful cups, mugs, bowls, plates, and vases for the display of fresh cut flowers. Using a wax-resist technique, Marcotte combines intricate geometric designs with compositions of leaves, flowers or insects. Much of her inspiration comes from complicated textile and carpet designs of the British Isles, the Middle East and elsewhere.

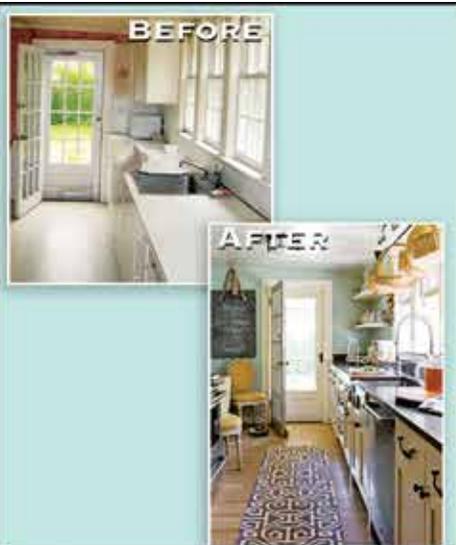
Barbara Mullally is as passionate about creative challenges as she is about the technical challenges of working in metal. In her words, "I am seduced by fire, by the tools, the malleability and transformational qualities of metalworking." Her jewellery is playful, thoughtfully designed and labour-intensive. Her earrings, bracelets, brooches and pendant/necklaces are fabricated from combinations of sterling silver, copper, semi-precious gems, pearls, bone and interesting cuts of stones. Mullally's "Critter" series captures moon-faced creatures inspired by Celtic transformation myths. Nostalgia and a sense of humour infuse other series based on popular stories, limericks and slogans. Never assume that tongue was not firmly in-cheek when she came up with some of her ideas!

Please celebrate the opening of this exhibition with us and meet the artists on Sunday, May 22 from 1 to 3PM at 63 Mill Street in Almonte. For more details, visit <generalfinecraft.com>.

— Richard Skrobecki



Four artists will be featured at General Fine Craft in May, including Barbara Mullally (above) and Rob Raeside (above right)



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Kelly Sloan's Big Deal

Kelly Sloan is a young veteran of the local music scene. She has been performing in the area almost her whole life and currently has two CDs to her name. This summer, she recorded number three, entitled *Big Deal*, at the Echo Chamber recording studio in Halifax, and I thought now would be a good time to catch up with her to discuss the new album and the experience of recording it.

"It's kind of a strange thing," Kelly begins, "because it's been five years since my last album and then, in the end, I recorded and mixed the new one in six days. Which is kind of crazy! But, I feel that a lot of that time — even though it

by Rob Riendeau

seems like dead air between the albums — was important to making sure that everything fell into place, that I got the right players and people involved. So the planning took a long time."

When asked about who the right people were, Kelly gave me the rundown: "I got Mike O'Neill from The Inbreds to produce. He's a good friend of mine and he knows me well. Curtis Chaffey came out with me. I also got the drummer and bass player from this Halifax psychedelic pop band that I had been listening to called Walrus. They're young, energetic guys and they just love to play."

It turns out that having the right people around was critical, because they were an intimate part of the creative process on this project. "The day before I went into the studio I got together with Mike and we went through about twenty-five little snippets and songs. He picked the ones that appealed to him the most and that would work together as a unit. The only problem with that was that, for maybe four or five of the ones he picked, I only had a verse. So, I picked Curtis up from the bus station and said "These are the songs we're doing tomorrow morning and I've got to write them now!"

And from that energetic start, it sounds like things only ramped up. "We would go into the studio at 10AM and leave at about 1AM. Afterwards, Curtis and I would go to this apartment that I had rented and workshop the songs until about 3AM. And then do it all again the next day. I lost about ten pounds! But, it was really fun!"

And, in the end, Kelly is really thrilled with the result. "It doesn't always happen that you put something together so quickly and it works out so well. It has a really good energy to it because there was no time to over-think things too much."

Kelly has released a few acoustic versions of some of the songs from *Big Deal* on her Facebook page and they are beautifully done. Her pure voice and tender delivery are reminiscent of some of Canada's finest female folk singers. After hearing the story of its creation, I can't wait to hear the new album.

Hear It Here!

Of course, a great new album means a great album release show! Kelly's *Big Deal* show is scheduled for Friday, May 13, at the Almonte Old Town Hall. Tickets (suggested donation of \$20) are available at Baker Bob's in Almonte and at the door. Doors open at 7:30PM. And if you are one of the growing legion of vinyl revivalists, you will be thrilled to learn that Kelly will have both CD and vinyl versions of the new album for sale. Kelly will be joined by a full band for this show and local troubadour Adam Puddington will open. It is going to be a great night not to be missed.

If you can't make it to the hometown show, Kelly is doing another album release show in Ottawa at St. Alban's Church on May 14. Visit her website <kellysloan.ca> for ticket info.



Catch Kelly Sloan's CD release concert on May 13 in Almonte!

Brock Zeman Songwriting Silver

I would like to take a moment to congratulate Brock Zeman on placing second in the International Songwriting Competition (ISC) in the Americana category with the song *Walking in the Dark* from his recent CD, *Pulling Your Sword Out of the Devil's Back*. The ISC is an annual song contest for amateur and professional songwriters that features one of the most prestigious panels of judges anywhere — the current roster of judges includes Tom Waits, Kesha, Pat Metheny, Lorde, and Moby among other notables. Brock also received an honourable mention for the title track from his latest release in the Folk/Singer-songwriter category. Well done, Brock!

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Part of it is certainly the support for local farmers. Supporting small-scale, market farms means voting with your dollars for the option that is easier on the planet than large, mono-crop industrial farms. Part of the equation is also that the market is not always convenient. Having to plan the trip to the market means planning meals, which is a great way to reduce both wasted food and extra trips to the grocery store. Another significant aspect is

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that you feel like you're doing something good for your health and the health of your family. Growers at the market are proud of what they sell and their main goal is to produce vegetables, fruits and meat that taste great and are full of nutrients, instead of stuff that needs to survive a trip across an ocean and most of a country in a shipping container.

This month, we put out a call to all of the Farmers' Markets in our catchment area. Here's what they have to say about the start of the season!

Almonte

The opening day for the Almonte Farmers' Market is May 21, and they welcome patrons every Saturday from 8:30AM to 12:30PM in the parking lot of the Almonte Library. This year there will be knife sharpening available on opening day, as well as lots of wonderful baking, breads, plants, syrup, honey, hopefully some fresh green things, Amanda's famous Pad Thai, pottery, and much more. For more information, please visit almontefarmersmarket.com.

Carleton Place

Everyone is invited to the Carleton Place Farmers Market each Saturday morning from 8:30AM to 12:30PM, beginning on May 14. Besides purchasing fresh produce, baked goods (with gluten-free options), and homemade crafts for yourself or as gifts, you can feel good about supporting local growers and producers. It's also fun to meet your friends at the market and munch on a homemade snack while listening to some live music and catching up on the past week.

Come on out and cultivate a relationship with your local producers! Remember, becoming part of the Carleton Place Farmer's Market will make you part of a special place that is creating community around food. Find them on Facebook or check out cpfarmersmarket.wordpress.com for more details.



Carp

The 2016 market season takes place at the Carp Fairgrounds on Saturdays from 8AM to 1PM, from May 7 through October 29. Complementing the primary meat and produce producers, the market also features bakers and other prepared food vendors, as well as a range of juried craft products of the highest quality. Remember to take time for breakfast or lunch, as the food court will have just what you fancy. Drop by the opening on May 7, and make it a habit through the summer and fall! Something fresh and new is sprouting up in Carp this year — The Carp Herb Festival will take place on Sunday, June 26, from 10AM to 3PM. For more details, visit carpfarmersmarket.ca.

McDonald's Corners

The McDonald's Corners Farmers' Market opens for the season on May 21 and runs until October 8, each Saturday from 9AM to 1PM. Visitors can enjoy artisan pizza from the outdoor wood-fired oven, and relax with a coffee and pastries in the beautiful setting at the café while listening to live musicians. Fresh fruit and vegetables, meats and baking are available, along with plants and original art and handcrafts.

For more information, email mcdonaldscornersfarmersmarket@hotmail.com, or find them on Facebook.

McNab/Braeside

The McNab/Braeside Market is getting ready for its second year of operation. They are located in the Perneel Building on Russett Drive (at the corner of Highway 17 and Calabogie Road) across from the Township Offices. The market opens on Saturday, May 21 and runs through Saturday, October 8; the hours are from 8AM to noon. New vendors are most welcome, and may contact Rachel at 623-0950 or rachel.dupuis@me.com.

Perth

The Perth market will be opening for its 24th season on Saturday, May 7. Located on the Tay Basin at the Crystal Palace, the market is open Saturdays — rain or shine — from 8AM to 1PM, right through to Thanksgiving weekend. Over forty vendors will be selling fresh local veggies, plants and flowers, frozen meats, honeys and syrups, handmade crafts and fine art. Enjoy delicious prepared food while you listen to music and relax at the café by the water.

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Feature of the Month!

Each month you will enjoy local music, cooking demonstrations, workshops and community events. Some of the highlights this year include a chili cookoff, kids' cooking, the Town Crier Championships, a strawberry social, Watershed Discovery Day and so much more! For detailed information, visit the market's brand new website at <perthfarmersmarket.ca> or like them on Facebook!

Renfrew

The Renfrew Farmers' Market starts its 46th season on Saturday, May 7 at the Renfrew Fairgrounds (115 Veterans Memorial Blvd.). The hours are 8AM to noon; May through Thanksgiving. All products are locally grown, raised and produced by vendors within a 100km radius. Vendors will have a large assortment of freshly-picked fruits and vegetables to serve on your table or preserve for winter. Also featured will be locally grown bedding plants (flowers and started vegetables for your garden), a variety of baking (fresh fruit pies, cake breads, squares, etc.), specialty jams, preserves and pickling, fresh honey and maple syrup. You'll find local meats, crafts and skin care products, as well as other surprises this year. Find out more at <renfrewfarmersmarket.com>.

Sharbot Lake

Come to Sharbot Lake's Oso Beach on Saturday, May 21 from 9AM to 1PM for the Sharbot Lake Farmers' Market Opening Day and Plant Sale. You'll find new and returning vendors offering local products from within a 100km radius. Food items include fresh baking (some gluten-free), fair trade organic coffee and herbal tea, breakfast snacks, maple syrup, preserves, grass-fed and heritage beef, pastured pork, goat, and organically grown produce in season. Crafts include quilts, fine yarns and crocheting, rustic furniture, tie-dye clothing and more. Also on offer are potted plants, perennials, scissor sharpening and shiatsu massage. For more information, please visit <sharbotlakefarmersmarket.ca>.



Photo by Dawn Walker

Great Veggie Grow-Off "Sprouts" County-Wide

The Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardens launched their Great Veggie Grow-Off community challenge two years ago with great success. Year one, more than 2800 pounds of healthy local vegetables were grown by gardeners in Mississippi Mills, Carleton Place and Beckwith for the Lanark County Food Bank, which all three communities benefit from. The challenge struck a chord, and last year's total weighed in at 4071 pounds of food — more than two tons of healthy, fresh, and local food.

Interest in the challenge and growing food in general continues to build. There are now Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardens in Mississippi Mills, Carp and Carleton Place, with other communities expressing interest. With two successful Great Veggie Grow-Off seasons under their belt, the Neighbourhood Tomato is issuing the challenge across the county of Lanark. Staff at all

four food banks in Lanark County (located in Carleton Place, Smiths Falls, Perth and Lanark Village) have been called and are keen to promote the challenge with their boards and communities. They see this friendly challenge as a way to increase healthy donations at their food banks, and to provide a wider variety of healthy options for their users, while shining a light on the cost of food and the great opportunities we have to grow our own.

The challenge will launch at noon on May 1 at the Lanark County Food Bank at 5 Allan Street in Carleton Place. All are welcome! The final weigh-in is on Thanksgiving Weekend when two winning communities will be crowned: the town with the greatest amount of grown food donated, and the town with the highest number of pounds of food per person donated (this one levels the playing field for Lanark towns with smaller populations). Ready, set, hoe!

"Transplant" Saturday in CP

The Carleton Place Farmers' Market is planning a Transplant Saturday for June 4, and is expanding the concept beyond land use and vegetable transplants to include the "transplanting" of businesses and residents to the community. Market vendors will be selling vegetables and flowers for transplanting, and local floral and nursery businesses who sell transplants will also participate in the sale. Chamber of Commerce members, including realtors and hospitality businesses, as well as the Economic Development staff from the Town will participate in encouraging visitors to consider moving to or perhaps relocating a business to Carleton Place.

The event will include live entertainment, as well as a workshop on transplanting conducted by Trish Darlington. The goal is to have people experience and appreciate what the market has to offer, get to know the community, and be proud to be living in Carleton Place — or want to locate there!

Compost

(produced from local leaves)

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HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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The Benefits of Rain Barrels

They help you maintain a healthy garden, they contribute to a healthy environment, and the Ottawa Valley Food Co-op hopes rain barrels will also help with their financial health, as they launch a rain barrel sale to raise funds to offset the co-op's operational costs.

There are a number of benefits to maximizing the use of rainwater in growing your garden. When captured before it hits the ground, rainwater is free of the pesticides, pollutants and chemicals it often gathers when running across streets, sidewalks and lawns. Rainwater also has the benefit of being a similar temperature as the air, and does not shock plants' roots like tap water does. Overall, rainwater is a healthier option for plants.

Making sure your plants are predominantly watered by rain can require some advance planning, especially with unpredictable weather. Rain barrels allow people to collect water through the rainy season for use during dry summer months. Water from a rain barrel can be used to wash vehicles or water lawns, and the water can be used to clean floors and do laundry. As well, having a source of stored water can be beneficial if an emergency ever arises.

Local residents can keep their gardens healthy and well-nourished by ordering a rain barrel in advance of the Sunday, May 29, pick-up date at the Rankin Culture and Community Centre. Orders can be placed at <RainBarrel.ca/OVFC>. Rainwater can help reduce the pollution and balance the pH in your plants' soil, and prevent damage caused by cold water. If you are committed to ensuring your lawn or garden is as healthy as it can be, use more rainwater in your gardening.

Make a day of it! As well as picking up your rain barrel, other events are planned for May 29 at the Rankin Culture and Community Centre (10AM to 3PM) — join the OVFC for gardening presentations, an East Indian cooking workshop, a pop-up farmers market and more!

The Ottawa Valley Food Co-Op, is a not for profit online local food ordering system serving the Ottawa Valley. For more information, contact Cheryl, <cherylovfc@gmail.com>

About RainBarrel.ca

RainBarrel.ca reclaims food grade barrels and repurposes them as rain barrels. Once used to transport fruits and vegetables, they now offer years of reliable service as rain barrels. Partnering with various non-profit organizations, RainBarrel.ca helps stage truckload fundraisers in communities across Canada with new communities added each week. For more information, please contact Larry Pomerantz at <Larry@RainBarrel.ca> or 905-545-5577, or visit <RainBarrel.ca>.

World Labyrinth Day Walk in Carleton Place

Come to the Carleton Place Community Labyrinth on Saturday, May 7, for their first public event of 2016 and "Walk as One at 1" in celebration of World Labyrinth Day. If you are new to the labyrinth experience, this Saturday walk will be a perfect introduction for you. Information about the history, benefits and unique aspects of the labyrinth will be available on site.

World Labyrinth Day, declared in 1998 by The Labyrinth Society, brings people together globally to recognize the labyrinth as a symbol and tool for healing and peace. This will be the 8th year, as the CP group joins individuals or groups from around the globe who will walk their labyrinths at 1PM in their local time zones. This world-wide event included walks in over twenty countries last year, and it is estimated that more than 5,000 people participated.

Walking a labyrinth rediscovers an ancient tradition that is still relevant today. Unlike a maze, it is designed as a single path. There are no dead-ends or tricks. The path on which you enter is the same path on which you exit. A walker is free to focus on a thought or a prayer, or to simply enjoy the energy of the walk itself. Many walkers find that the circular pattern holds them in a type of walking meditation long enough to let their problems and worries fall away. In a busy world, walking a labyrinth can



Celebrate World Labyrinth Day on May 7

provide an opportunity to foster connection, support healing, and promote wellbeing.

The Community Labyrinth is located at the corner of George and Baines Streets, beside the Carleton Place & Beckwith Heritage Museum. The stone-bordered grassy path is the focal point for Labyrinth Park, a peaceful garden filled with ornamental grasses, native trees, benches for sitting, and a wheelchair-accessible contemplation ring that encircles the labyrinth. The labyrinth was built starting in 2010, and construction was made possible by the Town of Carleton Place, individual, business and community sponsors, and a Trillium Foundation grant.

For more information, call Debby at 257-1014, or find the group on Facebook.

Tick-Proofing Your Property

The Perth and District Horticultural Society (PDHS) is pleased that Dr. Elaine Riddick will give a digital presentation on how to tick-proof your property at their next General Meeting on Tuesday, May 10 at 7PM. Now that the daytime temperatures are rising and ticks once again become more active, we cannot ignore this very important topic especially as the tick population increases in this area every year.

Knowing that prevention is the cornerstone of infectious disease management, Dr. Riddick began her research into the subject and now shares her findings with all who will listen. Learn how to avoid contracting Lyme disease, as well as how it has spread. By understanding why there is an increase

in ticks, we can protect ourselves and our families from tick-borne diseases.

Join PDHS for this very important and timely presentation by Dr. Elaine Riddick on Tuesday, May 10 at 7PM at St Paul's United Church, 25 Gore Street West in Perth. Please use the Darcy Street side entrance to access the basement meeting room.

Society members who would like to participate in the May judged Flower Show should check their 2016 Yearbook for the schedule. Entries should be in place on the back table by 7PM when judging begins.

All are welcome to attend these General Meetings; visitors pay \$3 while a year's membership is only \$10.

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May, Moms and Merriment in Perth

These days, I equate May with Mother's Day. Seeing the Mother's Day cards pop up on the pharmacy shelves in April is a rather strong clue. Still, I have to look up the date or, more often than not, ask someone, typically a female cashier at the pharmacy who looks like she might be a mom: "I know it's in May, but when precisely is Mother's Day?"

Sunday, May 8, is the answer.

by John Pigeau

Now, my mom is not one for classical music but perhaps yours is, and if so, you might very well wish to treat her to a concert at the Perth Manor that Sunday when the **Limestone String Trio** takes the stage as part of the Music at the Manor series. The Limestone String Trio — Lisa Draper and Danielle Lennon on violin, with Jeff Hamacher on cello — are all members of the Kingston Symphony and they will be performing pleasing arrangements by the likes of Bach, Pachelbel, Dvořák, and others.

You and mom (or perhaps you are the mom!) can enjoy a glass of wine and some hors d'oeuvres from the Perth Manor kitchen at a post-concert reception with the musicians — all of that is included in the ticket price. I have it on good authority that these particular musicians enjoy chatting it up with audience members, so that would make for a nice treat as well. Tickets are \$35 each and are available by calling the Perth Manor at 264-0050, or by dropping by in person. The concert begins at 2PM.

Perhaps the mom in your life is a patient woman. If she is and she's a **Blue Rodeo** fan, oh boy — you have a chance to delight and surprise her to no end with tickets to the July 23 Blue Rodeo concert at the Perth Fairgrounds. It's a few months off, of course, but seeing Blue Rodeo at an outdoor venue will be quite worth it, I think. They're an outstanding band but even better live, and even better outdoors and in the summer. But chop, chop, as they say — there are only 3,500 tickets available for this concert and they should go quickly, so you'll want to make quick work of that. You can do so by visiting Tickets Please at 39 Foster Street and online at <ticketsplease.ca>. General admission tickets are \$39.50. A limited number of VIP tickets are available as well, and what a treat those would be! With those you get the "fancy pants" treatment, including pretty much everything but Jim Cuddy personally serenading you. Or your mom. And who knows? It could happen to you...

Late in May, there is a wonderful fundraiser happening at the Perth Legion. The **Shelterbox Charity Fundraising Benefit Concert** on Saturday, May 28, will feature music by The Riq Turner Band and give you a chance to contribute to buying shelter for families in need. The Shelterbox program provides emergency shelter and vital supplies to support communities around the world overwhelmed by disaster and humanitarian crises. All proceeds from this event go directly to helping families in desperate need. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. You can also purchase tickets at Clarith Collectibles, Laura Jane's Pet Food & Supplies, and the Blueberry Creek Veterinary Hospital. In addition to the music of The Riq Turner Band — a high energy mix of country, classic rock and modern hits — there will be a 50/50 draw, a silent auction, and a cash bar and food courtesy of Mex & Co. The show itself begins at 8PM. Hopefully a mom will win the 50/50 draw.



Stars of Camelot — students of the Perth School of Dance: Arts in Motion are enthusiastically preparing for their year-end show, taking place from May 26-28

The always-delightful MERA Schoolhouse music series ends its spring season the following afternoon with a show by **Fireweed**. Widely known for their heartfelt and intimate acoustic live shows, Fireweed is Jamie Campbell, Gary William Rasberry, and Rob Unger. The trio has performed at the Ottawa Music Festival, Summerfolk, Stewart Park Music Festival, Blue Skies, and other esteemed festivals. Fireweed will take the stage at 2PM. Tickets are \$24 and available at Tickets Please at 39 Foster Street, <ticketsplease.ca> or 485-6434.

Studio Theatre Productions won't be staging a play this month but they are holding auditions for an upcoming production of Neil Simon's *London Suite*. On Tuesday, May 3 and Thursday, May 5 at 7PM at the Studio Theatre, director David Parry and company will be looking for talented folks to fill out the cast for this comedy, including three males and three females, with the possibility of actors playing multiple roles. Want to get your hands on a perusal script? They will be available for a 48-hour loan from Roberta Peets, who can be reached by calling 267-5250 or by emailing <Roberta@rideau.net>. *London Suite* will be staged in late July.

Also late in May, the Perth School of Dance and Arts in Motion presents **Stars of Camelot**, its annual year-end show, under the proud and watchful eye of Artistic Director Svetlana Timtsenko. The recitals, which celebrate the hard work, dedication, and talent of the Perth School of Dance's countless stalwart dancers, take place May 26 to May 28 at 7PM at the Mason Theatre (PDCI). Undoubtedly, there will be many proud mothers in the audience. Dominic Marando will once again serve as Master of Ceremonies. After 23 years, this will mark Marando's last recital as MC.

Enjoy the merry month of May, and to all the moms out there, Happy Mother's Day!

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Seeking Volunteer Band Director!

The Carleton Place and District Community Band is looking for a volunteer Band Director. The band is a group of approximately 20 to 25 musicians of varied skill levels and ages who rehearse on Monday evenings, perform at community events, and present an annual concert or two. The band website is <cpadcb.googlepages.com>. For further information or to join the band, contact Mike Peckett at <mpeckett@sympatico.ca> or 721-8661.

Antarctica with Donna Healey

Not everyone would literally travel to the ends of the earth, but when you ask Donna Healey about her choice of destination she has a simple response: "Antarctica has been described as the coldest, windiest, driest place on earth. Why would I want to go there? Penguins, penguins, penguins!"

Join Donna on Thursday, May 5 at 7PM, for the next in the Mississippi Mills Library's Travelogue Series — this event is free and takes place in the Almonte Branch Meeting Room. For more information, or if you would like to share your stories as part of the series, please contact Katherine Pillsworth at 624-5306.

Baby You Can Drive My Car... to Pakenham!

If you are of the baby boomer generation, you probably find it difficult to imagine a time as a young adult or teeny bopper without the influence of the British invasion. The Beatles had a profound impact not only on the music we listened and danced to, but also on our hairstyles, clothing, behaviour — the entire youth culture.

Since the night Ed Sullivan first introduced us to Beatlemania in 1964, we continue to be entertained, over fifty years later, by the music they created throughout that decade. Subsequent generations cannot dispute the musical genius that enabled the Fab Four to turn out hit after hit, so many of which are now considered classics.

In what should prove a popular addition to their concert series, St. Andrew's United Church in Pakenham invites one and all to an evening of Beatles music on Saturday, May 14, at 7PM. If you were boppin' to Beatles music in the '60s and '70s, come out and relive the good old days. If you are a new devotee, you'll love hearing great arrangements of some of your favourite tunes. The concert will feature performances from special guests including Michael Ryan, Tony Stuart and Ric Denis of the Somerset Combo, the ND Blues Combo, Kerron Lamb and the St. Andrew's Choir.

Don't miss this great event! Tickets at the door are \$10. For more details, call Rhonda Tees at 624-5593.

Preserve the Past for the Future

On May 30, Patrick's Family History Group is hosting "Preserving Your Family History Through FamilySearch" with Shirley-Ann Pyefinch. The event will be held from 7-8PM at the Arnprior Public Library, 21 Madawaska St. Admission is \$5 for non-members. For more information, call 623-0001.

Learn how to preserve your family history for future generations, and about the tools and resources available through <FamilySearch.org>. FamilySearch mobile apps, as well as the assistance available at Family History Centres, will also be discussed.

Shirley-Ann Pyefinch has served since 2005 as the Director of the Ottawa Family History Centre of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She has lectured throughout the province on the topics of family history and preservation at a variety of conferences, historical and genealogical societies. She also works full time as a Records Manager for the Government of Canada.

Patrick's Family History Group, named after late Patrick Wohler, a long-time volunteer at the Arnprior & McNab/Braeside Archives, was established in 2014. Meetings are on the fourth Monday monthly except during July and August. The group is dedicated to learning, sharing and contributing in the knowledge, practice and publication of family history research. Membership is \$20 per person annually and revenue is used to off-set costs.

Catch Lobster in Almonte

Love East Coast lobster but can't afford the plane fare, or the time, to go get one for yourself? No worries! It will soon be time for the Almonte Civitan's 34th annual Lobsterfest and/or Steak Dinner: Saturday, June 11. You must buy your tickets by June 6, so give them a call at 256-6234 x4. As of time of printing, the Civitan folks are still waiting to hear how the lobster fishing is going... so they don't yet know the price.

Rural Root Presents *The Affections of May*

Rural Root Theatre Company <ruralroot.org> kicks off their 2016 season with a spring production of a delightful comedy by Norm Foster. Under the experienced direction of Helen Weeden, the dedicated cast of *The Affections of May* is working hard to bring Foster's wonderful characters to life.

Norm Foster is a renowned Canadian playwright whose plays are beloved across the country. In fact, he has been the most produced playwright in Canada every year for the past twenty years. His plays receive an average of one hundred and fifty productions annually, making him by far the most produced playwright in the history of this country. *The Globe and Mail* has enthused: "Norm Foster has a knack for creating winning characters and situations that make audiences respond with affection." *The Affections of May* is no exception.

When May and her husband Brian move out to the country to run a B&B, May hopes that their marriage will get back on track in the quaint, friendly setting. The trouble is, Brian doesn't like country life and has found himself another woman back in the city. The scoundrel leaves, but not before a big breakfast. May is left alone in this small town (where everyone knows everyone else's affairs) to continue running the business. Now a "single" woman, it doesn't take long for the suitors to appear at her door.

The Affections of May proves that courting can be both awkward and hilarious, as well as hot and spicy; all over a game of Scrabble. May is certainly finding out a lot about single life, but at the same time, will she find herself? And who will win the affections of May?

"This is one of those shows that make you feel like you're a voyeur into someone's life," explains Weeden. "Norm Foster does a wonderful job of re-



Catch *The Affections of May* at the Constance and Buckham's Bay Community Centre from May 10-14

vealing the depth of the characters as the scenes play out."

The Affections of May, staged by Rural Root Theatre Company at the Constance and Buckham's Bay Community Centre, will run from May 10 to 14. Curtains open at 7:30PM each night. A matinee is offered on Saturday, May 14 at 2PM. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased online at <ruralroot.org/tickets> or by phone at 832-1070.

Speaking Volumes

Reading is Good for You!

How many times have you sat down with a book only to feel guilty? Instead of enjoying that new mystery from your favourite author, you tell yourself that you should be cutting the grass, vacuuming the house or washing your windows. I am here to tell you not to feel guilty anymore! Reading is good for you, and we all know that the dust and dirt will still be there in a few hours.

by Karen Schecter, Librarian

I remember reading an article a few years ago in *The New Yorker* titled "Can reading make you happier?". It discussed the author's experience when she received a session with a bibliotherapist as a gift. Reading about her experience with bibliotherapy (the practice of encouraging reading for therapeutic effect) made me realize that reading has made me happier, or at least that I have benefited from reading, throughout my life.

One benefit I keep seeing in magazine and newspaper articles is that reading is the most effective way to reduce stress levels — by up to 68%. I decided to track down the study to see what the researchers found. Dr. David Lewis of Mindlab International led a study that showed reading for as little as six minutes is enough to lower stress levels by 60%, slowing your heart beat, reducing muscle tension and altering your state of mind. I have noticed in my library that people working in high-

stress jobs are often prolific readers. Personally, I know that reading helps me sleep. After a stressful day, I sometimes find that my mind is racing and it prevents me from falling asleep. Reading for as little as twenty minutes can help me clear my mind of everything that happened during the day.

Many studies have touted the cognitive benefits of reading. I know that reading has helped me increase my vocabulary and allowed me to be more empathetic as I learn more about people who are different from me. I truly believe that reading has made me smarter. Do you need any other excuses to sit down and spend some time with a good book?

They say that laughter is the best medicine, so here is a list of books that make laugh and forget about all the problems and headaches I face every day:

- *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole
- *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams
- The Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich
- *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?* by Mindy Kaling
- *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* by Maria Semple
- *Let's Pretend This Never Happened* by Jenny Lawson
- *Something Fresh: Blandings Castle* by P.G. Wodehouse

— Karen Schecter is the CEO/Chief Librarian at the Smiths Falls Public Library

Taste of the County 2016!

The Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program would like to invite you to our 11th annual **For a Taste of the County** Food and Wine Gala on Monday, June 6, at the beautiful Stonefields Heritage Farm in Beckwith. This is a very exciting, fresh new venue for the event, which is shaping up to be the best one yet!

Stonefields is an outdoor wedding and event destination located at 1985 9th Line, Beckwith. The historic property boasts an old stone farmhouse, country gardens, log cabins and rustic barns, plus acres and acres of rolling farmland. The 2016 For a Taste of the County will be hosted at Stonefields' incredible new state-of-the-art event barn, which includes a beautiful outdoor terrace.

This food and wine tasting event is immensely popular with supporters and typically draws between 200 and 250 people. In addition to the \$15 entry, gala goers purchase \$1 coupons, and each vendor will price their tasters between \$1 and \$6 so that you have the opportunity to sample many different appetizers, main courses and desserts.

Between the main courses and dessert, gala-goers are encouraged to bid on our fabulous huge silent auction. All of the items are donated by local artists, artisans, businesses and individuals, with the proceeds going to the Riding Program.

The Therapeutic Riding Program is celebrating 31 years of providing therapeutic riding lessons in Lanark County. All of our funds are raised through



This year's food & wine gala fundraiser for the Therapeutic Riding Association takes place at Stonefields Heritage Farm in Beckwith on June 6

grants, fundraising activities, donations and the generosity of the world's best volunteers! Come and share a toast with us at our 11th annual food and wine gala — and support a terrific cause — as we kick off another decade of excellence!

For a Taste of the County runs from 6 to 9PM, and tickets are \$15 each (available at Mill Street Books in Almonte, Lanark Community Programs in Carleton Place, or by reserving in advance). Come out with your friends to celebrate spring and treat yourself to a delicious evening. For more information or to hold some tickets at the door, contact 257-7121 x238 or <aboath@lcp-home.com>. Find more details at <therapeuticriding.ca>.

— Amy Booth

Stairwell Carollers at Almonte United Church

The popular choral group The Stairwell Carollers <stairwellcarollers.com> will be performing a spring concert at the Almonte United Church. The show takes place on Saturday, May 28 beginning at 7:30PM (doors open at 7PM), and features a delightful combination of very old madrigals and sacred music, including some modern sacred pieces along with Renaissance and medieval pieces.

An Ottawa-based a cappella choir of about twenty-eight voices, The Stairwell Carollers group was formed in 1977 by Pierre Massie. Over the years, the ensemble has earned the distinction of being ranked among the best of Ottawa choirs by local choral critics, as well as winning First Place

in the 2013 Ontario Music Festivals Association provincial competition! Since their inception, they have managed to donate \$113,319 to various charities in the National Capital Region, and have also given out \$15,000 since 2004 through the Stairwell Carollers annual scholarship (for local students going into a Bachelor of Music Program at a Canadian university). All of the funds they have raised have been through performing concerts and selling CDs. They are a not-for-profit organization with CRA-designated charitable status. Tickets to the May 28 concert are \$20 at the door or \$15 in advance at Baker Bob's or by calling Eleanor 257-3692 or the Church office at 256-1355. Children twelve and under get in for free.

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A Birder's Eye View

Gardening That's Really For the Birds

Spring migration is in full swing — a fun time of year for sure. However, we cannot go forward without stepping backward for a bit. How about "finchfest 2016"? Now that was a blast. Pine siskins, common red polls and purple finches were all over the region. The real phenomenon was the sheer number — primarily of siskins — and day after day people from all over the region came into the store telling of the hundreds of siskins in their yards. We found the same at



Find out how to incorporate bird-friendly practices into your gardening and landscaping projects

by Bob Volks

home, and at times we estimated between 150-200 finches invading all of our feeders, including three Nyjer seed silos, all of which had to be filled at least every other day.

There are a number of variables that probably contributed to these staggering numbers. All of these finches are boreal forest birds that come down to the south in different numbers each year based on their northern food sources, snow cover, etc. The extreme weather swings in February and the more wintry weather of March may have had them bunching together, causing them to descend southward. Regardless, it sure was a fun experience.

Early-arriving ducks such as buffleheads, common golden eyes and common mergansers are also fun to see. Here on the Ottawa River we spotted lesser and greater scaups, as well as several ring-necked ducks. It is a springtime ritual of ours to make sure we see them going through to their northern nesting sites. Higher numbers of the elegant male hooded merganser and wood duck were also registered and seen surfing the area looking for nesting cavities. No matter how many times it happens, I always smile when I see ducks in a tree. We can help these ducks and other species of birds with habitat creation projects that include nesting boxes around our yards, gardens and ponds. Should you have any questions about types of nesting boxes and or where to install them, feel free to contact me.

Habitat creation is very important, and having just celebrated Earth Day 2016 I feel we all need to think a little differently about our landscaping projects. Many mainstream products being offered are non-native plants, grasses and shrubs. For instance, Kentucky bluegrass is widely used in sod and as a grass seed, but it doesn't grow very well in this cli-

mate, and as a result weeds dominate and take over. Then we spray herbicides and reseed with more grass seed, which then gets taken over by weeds again. It's things like this that we all can address to make change and support mother nature.

We're creating a test plot in our yard this year with native Ontario meadow grasses, shrubs and berry-producing small trees. Our objective here is to create more bird- and wildlife-friendly habitat using native plants that provide food and shelter in both summer and winter. If you look at native Ontario meadows, it is interesting how they can be vibrant ecosystems year-round. One of the greatest features of these meadows is that snow cover doesn't flatten them. This means that they provide a living environment under the snow that includes food sources for everything from bugs to foxes, owls and more.

We can create this in our yards regardless of their size — the small urban yard can incorporate the same materials as the rural 100-acre plot. At the Gilligallou Bird's YouTube channel we're creating a series on this topic, showing the material used, and the types of grasses, shrubs and trees being planted, based on native Ontario grasslands.

As part of our research, I looked at several websites, and I particularly recommend these three: <ontariograsses.com>, <landscapeontario.com> and <tallgrassontario.org>. Do feel free to visit us at <gilligalloubird.com>, find us on Facebook, and/or subscribe to our YouTube channel!

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

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Oyez – Let the Crying Begin!

While we don't usually encourage crying in public spaces, we're going to set that preference aside for the **Ontario Provincial Town Crier Championships**. Taking place in downtown Perth on May 21 and 22, the event will welcome town criers from across the region for the 2016 Ontario Guild of Town Crier Championships. It's a free event, and we encourage the public to come check out the three cries that will happen over the two-day period.

Perth's very own Town Crier, Brent McLaren, will welcome the criers to his hometown. He'll play host for the weekend, and as such, he won't be competing.

Wait... what exactly is it that a town crier does? Oyez! You're in for a little history lesson, my friend.

A bellman or town crier could well be described as the original "historical news broadcaster". In many early settlements and towns, such as Perth, they were the travelling anchormen for the nightly news: a source of daily information and entertainment. Another traditional term, "beadle", was also a bellman and crier, but usually attached to a parish, a court, or a specific judge. Here in Perth, we actually had "criers of the court" who were "criers of the council" (later called "messengers of the council") and who also served as public criers.

Two Days, Three Cries

The event officially gets underway on Saturday, May 21 at 9:45AM, when the town criers and their escorts gather at the Best

Western Plus Parkside Inn and Spa on Peter Street. They'll make their way to Crystal Palace via a short **Crier's Walk**, launching the weekend's festivities!

Then at 10:30AM, you can hear all of the criers give a **Hometown Cry** at the Crystal Palace. Their task will be to bring greetings from their hometown or organization to the "The Military Settlement at Perth". They have been challenged to include our area's interesting elements in their cry, including agriculture, the Rideau Canal, and historic components. Humour is always appreciated, too!

Throughout the morning and especially during the first cry, a team of judges will be observing and adjudicating the escorts based on how they assist their crier and interact with the public. The criteria for the "Best Escort" award goes far beyond simply "best dressed", and will be determined by the judges, whose decision shall be final. The award will be presented at the end of this round.

The cries will occur as the Perth Farmers' Market will be buzzing with business. Local producers and crafters will set up that morning to sell their wares. From fresh produce to home-baked goods to gorgeous flower arrangements, the Perth Farmers' Market is a hub of activity on Saturdays from 8AM to 1PM. Find out more at <perthfarmersmarket.ca>.

After lunch, head on over to Stewart Park for the **Promotional Cry**, taking place at 2PM. The public is encouraged to

bring a lawn chair and enjoy the shade and trees that are part of this beautiful, expansive park, located just behind the Town Hall.

About six weeks before the Championships, a special draw paired each crier with a local business or organization. The objective of the Promotional Cry is to promote the business or group, proving that Perth is truly Aged to Perfection. Criers will be encouraged to use a prop associated with that business or organization. This cry is also being watched by a special judge who is adjudicating the crier's use of wit and humour. No pressure, criers.

The third cry takes place on Sunday, May 22 at 1:30PM at the Crystal Palace, and the criers will have had to do their research for this one! They've been handed a range of resources documenting our area's vast history, and they have been asked to turn it into a **Historic Cry**.

Their task will be to bring some element of the local past to light, by telling the story or acting as if they were at an event that occurred over these past two hundred years. We're envisioning cries about last duels, cheese, whiskey and more. It will be interesting to see where their interest lies in our history. Let's be honest: we're probably going to learn something about our own community upon hearing these cries!

Following the third and final cry, the scoring will be added up to determine the winners from the weekend. The judging panel will consist of a variety of com-



Perth mayor John Fenik (centre) will welcome town criers and their escorts to the **Ontario Provincial Town Crier Championships**, taking place in Perth on May 21 and 22

munity members, ranging from theatre producers to historians to artists. They'll use their expertise and good judgement to mark up the score sheets that weekend.

Join In!

The weekend is expected to be filled with entertainment, laughter, skill and a demonstration of how our 200-year-old community once got its news. Join us in downtown Perth for the two-day Championships. The weekend will also include a host of historically-themed events, including the Settlers' Trek and William Morris Plaque Dedication. Learn more at <perth200.ca>.

— Cathy James

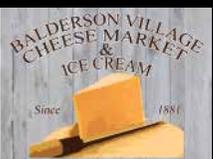






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The Town Singers Present "A Sacred Spring"

The Town Singers are preparing for their 10th spring concert. This group of singers continues to push the envelope this season with their program entitled "A Sacred Spring". With special guest and local soprano Colleen Hochgeschurz, the group will present selections from Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Schubert's *Mass in G*, as well as well-known pieces by W.A. Mozart, J.S. Bach, Giovanni Palestrina and contemporary composer John Rutter.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (39 Bridge Street in Carleton Place) offers the perfect setting and acoustics for this spectacular program, which takes place on June 5 and 7 at 7PM.

Tickets are \$10 and available at Bonanza Kids and The Floral Boutique in Carleton Place, and at Mill Street Books in Almonte. Avoid disappointment — get your tickets today!

Wilderness Games at Blueberry Mountain

On Sunday, May 8, take a guided hike up Blueberry Mountain — always a treat for all ages. It's Mother's Day, so you can either give Mom a break and take the kids for a morning hike, or bring Mom along for a lovely outing and an opportunity to see the spectacular view from the lookout. The Blueberry Mountain lookout attracts over one thousand visitors every year.

This annual spring nature walk will take a new twist this year. In keeping with Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust's "Wild Child Initiative", Grey Owl will materialize to tell tales from the wild. Short stories picked from his vast wilderness adventures will be sure to capture the interest and imagination of children. Following this ten-minute storytelling session, Grey Owl will lead youngsters in play that is fun while deepening their bond with nature.

These activities have no age restrictions and have no "best before" or expiry date. Parents and grandparents are invited to join in. Amazingly, these activities challenge the skill level of all ages — they cannot be outgrown. Best of all they bond us to nature and to each other. Twenty minutes can only whet the appetite. But whetting the appetite is what the call of nature is all about. It is one of many beginning steps that creates a life-long love affair with nature.

Registration begins at 10AM and the activities will begin at 10:30 at the tipi. Following these activities we'll walk to the highest lookout in Lanark County — the always beautiful and inspiring Blueberry Mountain. What better way than this to celebrate Mother's Day?! It's about a 45-minute hike to the lookout — a gradual slope with only one short steep climb near the top. After the hike, refreshments will be served and certificates handed out to children who have climbed the mountain. Admission is a donation of \$10, but children 12 and under are free.

The Annual Spring Nature Walk on Blueberry Mountain is a fundraising event for the MMLT, whose mandate is not only to protect these special natural places but also to foster engagement with wilderness. To this end MMLT has launched a "Wild Child Initiative" in an effort to engage youth

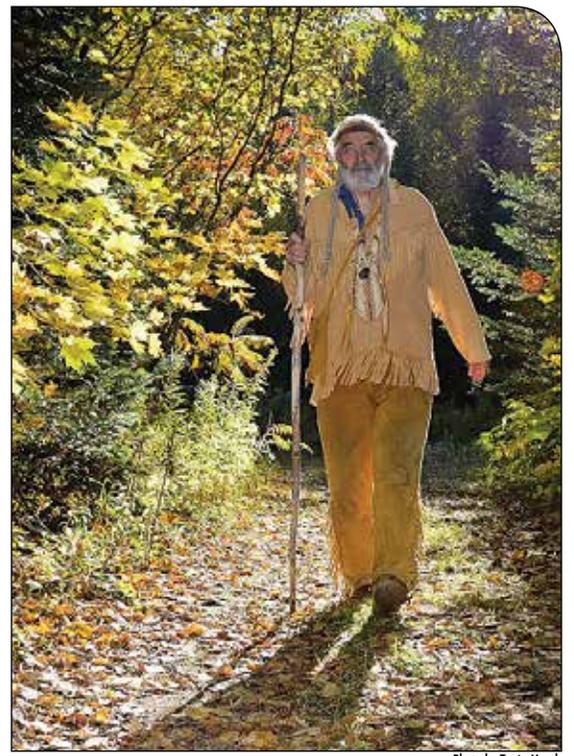


Photo by Tania Marsh

Grey Owl (aka Howard Clifford) will tell tales of the wild at Blueberry Mountain on May 8

in nature education activities. In this era of electronic devices and highly structured supervised sports, many youth don't have enough opportunities to explore the beauty of the wilderness freely. MMLT believes that this early experience is essential if we want children to grow into adults who will learn to love nature and care for our environment.

Blueberry Mountain is at 502 Hills of Peace Road, near Flower Station in Lanark Highlands. From Hopetown, travel northwest on Highway 511 for 6km. Turn left on to French Line Road, which becomes Lavant Darling Road, for a total 13.3km. Turn right onto Flower Station Road and travel 6.2km. Turn right onto Hills of Peace Road and travel 1.8km to end of road. For a map with directions, visit mmlt.ca/events.

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Chocolate-Covered Almonte

As I sit here, sipping one of my favourite indulgences necessities of life — a **Palms** hot chocolate with a dash of cinnamon (making it a digestive aid, as well as a source of antioxidants and calcium) — it occurs to me that I have not mentioned chocolate much in this column lately... so I think it is time to, well, stop and smell the chocolate... and taste it too. I plan to seek out chocolate delights throughout the Valley and give you my recommendations and finds. I also encourage you to let me know of any of your favourite local chocolate treats, at <rona@thehummm.com>.

by Rona Fraser

Of course, this idea comes to me late in the month, so I will start with what I know best — Almonte-area chocolate — and search further afield in future columns (so please, I'm not just being polite, I really want you to send me your recommendations).

If you are at all into chocolate, you already know that Almonte is home to a world-recognized chocolatier: **Hummingbird Chocolate Maker**. Located at 9 Houston Drive, they welcome you to visit their tasting room (Tuesday to Saturday, 10AM to 5PM) or to register for a tour (Saturday/Sunday). Hummingbird creates chocolate bars from single-origin cacao beans, meaning the beans are harvested from the same region, so that the subtle

flavours of that bean come through. They also ensure the cacao is ethically sourced, with rules such as “farmer receives better than Fair Trade prices”, “cacao is grown sustainably”, “no child labour” and, my favourite: “do the right thing”. Talk about guilt-free chocolate! There are plain chocolate bars (which do not *taste* “plain”), as well as those flavoured with some of chocolate’s best friends (peanut butter, ginger, fleur de sel) and some unlikely pairings (lavender!). For me, the beauty of this chocolate is that its dark rich flavour goes a long way — it only takes a couple of squares to sate your craving (though for how long, I cannot say...). You can also find their products at Equator, Pêches & Poivre and Dandelion Foods in Almonte, as well as Rosie Yumski’s in Westport, Mrs. McGarrigle’s in Merrickville, and many other shops throughout Ottawa and beyond. See their website <hummingbird-chocolate.com> for more details.

For those of you who prefer a sweeter chocolate, might I recommend you visit **Pêches & Poivre** on Mill Street for a treat from Ma’s Kitchen: Handcrafted Chocolatey Buttercrunch with Nuts. This maker is not so local (Markham), but the melt-in-your-mouth combination of chocolate, caramel and nuts is simply divine. Pick up a bar and open it with friends... because you will not be able to stop eating it once opened. If you are in doubt as to which of the three bars to buy, ask Sandra and Lise for a sample first. They also have many

other indulgences, including Templeman’s Toffees (from Port Perry) and Carolina’s Dulce de Leche (I actually prefer the non-chocolate variety, but it is so good I need to recommend it in this article anyway — eat it on a spoon...).



A chocolate cheesecake (with coconut, pecan and caramel) from Heirloom Café was just one of Rona’s finds this month!

Chocolate is not only to be found as a treat/gift item. Might I recommend a **Baker Bob’s** chocolate croissant (aka pain au chocolat) for breakfast? I haven’t sampled one in years (stupid gluten allergy) but I can still recall the experience of biting into the buttery soft/crisp pastry to reach the dark chocolate centre... If you eat gluten and have not yet tried one, DO IT! And if you are gluten-free like myself, then how about one of **SweetCheeks’** Nanaimo bars, found in Baker Bob’s fridge, as well as at **Equator’s** counter and in Dandelion Foods’ freezer (in bulk!). Speaking of **Dandelion**, they are a great source of organic and Fair Trade chocolate (so good for the planet I bet the calories don’t count).

Now that breakfast is taken care of, how about lunch? Might I suggest the **Mill Street Crepe Co**? Sure, you can have one of their filling main course crepes... Or you could plan ahead! Start with one of their delicious homemade soups... perhaps a healthy salad... and then when your friends are all “oh I’m too full for dessert” you give them one of those “amateurs!” looks and order a Nutella Crepe (with roasted hazelnuts, caramel, and whipped cream)! Or perhaps a Dark Chocolate Crepe (with berries, ‘cause ya needs your vitamin C) — won’t they feel stupid when THEY have scurvy and YOU have a satisfied look on your face?!

Is it hot out (or is it you)? Actually, I don’t care if you are chilled to the bone, you *must* stop in at **Café Postino** to try Piccolo Grande’s Chocolate and Hazelnut Gelato. Creamy, chocolatey, rich, refreshing...

Last, but not least, at **Heirloom Café** you are bound to find a fine example of elegant chocolate decadence on the menu. Today? A chocolate cheesecake with coconut, pecan and caramel. Chef Brandi tells me it was inspired by German Chocolate Cake; it has that delicious coconut-pecan topping. Plus some berries; take that, scurvy!

Note: In these overindulging, *Supersize Me*, increased-airplane-seat times, I am not encouraging you to eat sweets non-stop (like I have, for research purposes...). Instead, I am pointing you towards some treats with high bliss-to-calorie ratios. Enjoy responsibly!

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Claiming Column

9 to 5 the Musical, Perth, Jun 2-12
 Miss Mills Bicycle Month, June
 MMBM Street Party, Almonte, Jun 4
 Festival of the Choirs, Eganville, Jun 5
 Town Singers, CP, Jun 5 & 7
 For a Taste of the County, Beckwith, Jun 6
 Perth Kilt Run, Jun 25
 Vintage Bicycle Show, Almonte, Jun 25
 Marinoni & SPIN, Almonte, Jun 25
 Almonte Celtfest, Jul 8-10
 Art in the Barn, Lombardy, Jul 8-10
 Stewart Park Festival, Perth, Jul 15-17
 Art in the Park, Renfrew, Jul 16-17
 Blue Rodeo, Perth, Jul 23
 Puppets Up!, Almonte, Aug 5-7
 OVMF: Bel Canto Wind Quintet, Arnprior, Aug 7
 Framework: Words on the Land, Maberly, Aug 21
 Highland Games, Almonte, Aug 27
 Barns, Farms and Wicked Chefs, Perth, Aug 27
 Food & Drink Show, Almonte, Sep 10

Visual Arts

Art in the Attic, May 6 (7-9), 7 (10-7) & 8 (10-4). Almonte Old Town Hall. almonteartinthattic.wordpress.com. Free

Mississippi Wood Carvers Mtg, May 6 & 20, 1-4PM. Coffee, cookies & carving. Almonte Library. mwcarvers@gmail.com

Cheerfully Made Craft Show, May 7 & 8 (10-4). Dif vendors each day. Ag Hall, Almonte Fairgrounds. [\\$2](http://cheerfullymade.com)

Fieldwork Exhibition Opening, May 7, 2-4PM. 5 new installations. 2501 Old Brooke Rd., Maberly. fieldworkproject.com. Free

Meet the Artists: Metal Weavers, May 7, 2-4PM. Fran Solar & Sayward Johnson. Textile Museum, Almonte. 256-3754. mvtm.ca

Quilts in the Church, May 7, 10AM-4PM. (lunch 11AM-1PM). \$6. St Paul's Church, Perth. 267-2688. \$5

Red Trillium Studio Tour, May 7-8, 10AM-5PM. 26 artists in 10 locations in West Carleton. 839-2793. redtrilliumst.com. Free

Paint Nite, Tuesdays, 7PM. No experience req'd. Waterfront Gastropub, CP. 257-5755. \$45

Art Journey Art Show & Sale, May 14-15, 10AM-4PM. Smiths Falls Com Centre. artjourneysmithsfalls.com

Meet the Artists, May 21, 11AM-4PM. Season opening. 15 artists. Grist Mill Art Gallery, Westport. gristmillgallery.com

R. Tait McKenzie & Naismith Museum Opens, May 21, 10:30AM-4:30PM. Mill of Kintail, Almonte. 256-3610, \$6/vehicle

Vernissage: Margaret B. Martin, May 21, 11AM-1PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. meraschoolhouse.org

Meet the Artists: Maureen Marcotte, Barbara Mullally, May 22, 1-3PM. General Fine Craft, Almonte. 461-3463

Lanark County Quilters Guild, May 24, 7PM. Guild Challenge. Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds. \$3 guests

Arts CP Art Show & Sale, May 28, 10AM-4PM. St. James Anglican Church, CP. 257-4266. artscarletonplace.com

Studio Opening, May 29, 1-4PM. Mary Pfaff Studio, 15 Bridge St., Almonte

Theatre

Auditions: London Suite, May 3 & 5, 7PM. 3 men, 3 women. Neil Simon play. Studio Theatre, Perth. studiotheatreperth.com

Film Night International presents **Coming Home** May 4, 2 & 7PM (Full Circle, Perth); May 5, 7PM (Station Theatre, SF); **The Lady in the Van** May 18, 2 & 7PM (Full Circle,

WHAT'S ON IN

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

Diefenbunker presents CANEX 1977 canteen; The Cold War: Causes, History, Impact [from May 19]
Fairview Manor Lobby presents Greta McDonald's *Feather, Flight, Song* acrylic paintings
FIELDWORK presents new works by Jolie Bird, Janine Miedzik, Marco D'Andrea, Chris Turnbull, RSSY collective & Brooke Valley School <fieldworkproject.com> [from May 7]
General Fine Craft, Art & Design features Rob Raeside's blown glass & Alex Taves' works on paper [to May 15], Maureen Marcotte's porcelain pottery and Barbara Mullally's fine jewellery [from May 17] <generalfinecraft.com>
MVTM presents Copper & Textile Fabrications [from May 3]
Sivarulrasa Studio & Gallery presents *Bloom* w/Deborah Arnold, Barbara Gamble, Susan Tooke, Mary Wong <sivarulrasa.com> [to May 29]
 The **Mississippi Mills Chambers Gallery** presents Amelia Ah You's mixed media & Cathy Walsh's acrylics
 The **Almonte Library Corridor Gallery** presents Nancy Young's acrylics/landscape

<p>Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge CP & Beckwith Historical Soc AGM, CP Scott Woods Fiddle Concert, CP Duplicate Bridge, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>4-Hand Euchre, Perth 4-Hand Euchre, Bolingbroke Auditions: London Suite, Perth Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub Green Drinks, Perth Duplicate Bridge, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>Acoustic Stage, O'Reilly's Pub Duplicate Bridge, Almonte Coming Home, Perth CP Hort: Members' Choice Mini Show, CP Karaoke, Golden Arrow Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Mic, Waterfront Gastropub Shawn McCullough, The Cove Spring Fling Fashion Show/Fundraiser, Bolingbroke</p>	<p>Auditions: London Suite, Perth Coming Home, Smiths Falls George Turcotte & Band, Barley Mow Jazz at the Queen's, Queen's Hotel Karaoke, Waterfront Gastropub Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. Travelogue: Antarctica, Almonte Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe Open Mic, Golden Arrow</p>
<p>Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Duplicate Bridge, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>4-Hand Euchre, Perth 4-Hand Euchre, Bolingbroke Adult Bereavement Group, Perth Kelly Sloan, O'Reilly's Pub Paint Nite, Carleton Place Perth Hort: Tick-Proofing, Perth Duplicate Bridge, Smiths Falls The Affections of May, Constance Bay W. Carleton Garden Club, Carp</p>	<p>Acoustic Stage, O'Reilly's Pub Duplicate Bridge, Almonte Karaoke, Golden Arrow Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Mic, Waterfront Gastropub Shawn McCullough, The Cove Silence of the Bees, Perth The Affections of May, Constance Bay</p>	<p>Heritage Day Dinner, Carleton Place Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. Karaoke, Waterfront Gastropub Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe Open Mic, Golden Arrow The Affections of May, Constance Bay Toastmasters, CP</p>
<p>Almonte Hort: Talk/Flower Show, Almonte Bereavement Support Group, Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Duplicate Bridge, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>4-Hand Euchre, Perth 4-Hand Euchre, Bolingbroke Ali McCormick, O'Reilly's Pub Paint Nite, Carleton Place Duplicate Bridge, Smiths Falls WCGC: Evening with Mark Cullen, Carp</p>	<p>Acoustic Stage, O'Reilly's Pub Duplicate Bridge, Almonte Karaoke, Golden Arrow Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Mic, Waterfront Gastropub Pakenham Hort Soc., Pakenham SF Community Theatre Foundation AGM, Smiths Falls Shawn McCullough, The Cove Spaghetti Dinner School Fundraiser, Lanark The Lady in the Van, Perth</p>	<p>CP & Beckwith Music Festival Gala Concert, CP George Turcotte & Band, Barley Mow Jazz Night w/Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. Karaoke, Waterfront Gastropub Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe Open Mic, Golden Arrow The Lady in the Van, Smiths Falls</p>
<p>Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Duplicate Bridge, SF Duplicate Bridge, SF Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Preserving Your Family History, Arnprior</p>	<p>4-Hand Euchre, Perth, Bolingbroke Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub Quilters Guild, Perth Duplicate Bridge, SF Paint Nite, CP Duplicate Bridge, SF Brock & Blair, O'Reilly's Adult Bereavement Group, SF 4-Hand Euchre, Perth, Bolingbroke</p>	<p>Acoustic Stage, O'Reilly's Pub Duplicate Bridge, Almonte Karaoke, Golden Arrow Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Mic, Waterfront Gastropub Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>Lanark Laughs, Carleton Place Jazz Night w/Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove Karaoke, Valley Food & Drink Co. Karaoke, Waterfront Gastropub Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe Open Mic, Golden Arrow Perth School of Dance Show, Perth Toastmasters, CP</p>

Perth); May 19, 7PM (Station Theatre, SF). \$10. filmmightinternational.blogspot.ca

Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night, May 6, 8-10PM. Celtfest fundraiser. Almonte Legion. 868-7529, \$25

The Affections of May, May 10-14, 7:30PM; May 14, 2PM. Constance & Buckham's Bay Com Centre. 832-1070, ruralroot.org/tickets. \$15

SF Community Theatre Foundation AGM, May 18, 7PM. Station Theatre, SF. 283-0300, smithsfallstheatre.com

Lanark Laughs, May 26, 8:30-10PM. Stand-up comedy. Waterfront Gastropub, CP. facebook.com/LanarkLaughs

A Royal Night Out, May 27-28, 7:30PM. British PG film. Station Theatre, SF. 283-0300, [\\$10 \(cash\)](http://smithsfallstheatre.com)

An Evening w/Puppeteer Ronnie Burkett, May 27, 7:30PM. Tix: Baker Bob's, Mill St. Books. Almonte Old Town Hall. 256-9090. \$25

Literature

Book Signing: James Bartleman, May 28, 1-2:30PM. Memoirs of Aboriginal Lieutenant Gov. The Book Nook, Perth. 267-2350

Local Food

Farmers' Market Opening Days:
Carp: May 7, 8AM-1PM, Carp Fairgrounds, carpfarmersmarket.ca
Perth: May 7, 8AM-1PM, Crystal Palace, perthfarmersmarket.ca
Renfrew: May 7, 8AM-noon, Renfrew Fairgrounds, renfrewfarmersmarket.com
Carleton Place: May 14, 8:30AM-12:30PM, 7 Beckwith St., cpfarmersmarket.wordpress.com
Almonte: May 21, 8:30AM-12:30PM, Almonte Library, almontefarmersmarket.ca
McDonalds Corners: May 21, 9AM-

1PM, MERA, meraschoolhouse.org
McNab/Braeside: May 21, 8AM-noon, Hwy 17 at Calabogie Rd. 623-0950
Sharbot Lake: May 21, 9AM-1PM, Oso Beach, sharbotlakefarmersmarket.ca

Youth

Perth School of Dance Show, May 26-28, 7PM. Year-end recital. PDCI, 13 Victoria St., Perth

Music

Scott Woods Fiddle Concert, May 2, 7PM. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 39 Bridge St., CP. \$25, 12 & under \$10

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

Zombie Dance, May 6, 9PM-1AM. Live DJ. 19+. Dress up or get make-up on-site.

Almonte Fairgrounds. 862-3750. \$8/\$10

Jazzhouse: Ken Harper Trio, May 7, 8PM. Almonte area. jazzn.ca

The Limestone String Trio, May 8, 2PM. Seating is limited. Perth Manor, 23 Drummond St. W., Perth. 264-0050. \$35

BOTR: Harrison Kennedy Band, May 13, 7-11PM. The Covee, Westport. 1-888-COVE-INN, [\\$65+tax dinner & show. Call to reserve](http://bluesontherideau.ca)

Kelly Sloan Album Release, May 13, 7:30-10PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, kellysloan.ca. suggested donation \$20

Sean McCann, May 13, 8PM. From Great Big Sea. Station Theatre, SF. 279-2198, [\\$30](http://smithsfallstheatre.com)

Almonte Fair Spring Dance, May 14, 8PM. Mike Fahey, Peter Dawson & Classic Country Re-vu. 256-3879. Ag Hall, Almonte Fairgrounds. \$12/\$15

Evening of Beatles Music, May 14, 7PM. Somerset & ND Blues Combo, etc. St. An-

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Lectures, Almonte Astronomy Night, Almonte Lanark Laughs, Carleton Place Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure, Carleton Place River City Junction, O'Reilly's Pub Songwriters Circle, The Cove Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ali McCormick & Matt McKechnie, O'Reilly's Pub Almonte in Concert: Spirit & Spring, Almonte Authors for Indies Day, Almonte, Perth Diefenbaker Classic, Carp Empty Bowls, Festival of the Maples, Perth Human Library, Lanark County JazzNhouse: Roddy Elias Trio, Almonte Jean Pinel, Waterfront Gastropub Open Studios, Lanark Pat Temple w/Spencer Evans, The Cove Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure, Carleton Place Theresa Doyle, Valley Food & Drink Co. West Ottawa Ladies Chorus, Kanata 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Creativity Blitz, Pakenham Fiddler's Friends Concert, Almonte Goulbourn Male Chorus, Carp Hike For Hospice, Perth Hike For Hub Hospice, Almonte Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Open Studio -Capitanio, Lanark Open Studio -Living Stones, Lanark Roast Beef Dinner, Pakenham Valley Singles Lunch, Arnprior
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art in the Attic, Almonte Carlos Del Junco, Sharbot Lake Inn Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night, Almonte Danny Sylvestre Band - Fundraiser, John St. Pub Doug Barr, Golden Arrow Head over Heels, The Cove Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, Love That Barr Mississippi Blues Society Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub Mississippi Wood Carvers Mtg, Almonte Smitty, O'Reilly's Pub Steve Stacey, The Barley Mow Zombie Dance, Almonte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers' Mkt Opens, Carp, Perth, Renfrew Art in the Attic, Cheerfully Made, Almonte Almonte Hort Plant Sale, Almonte Mothers Tea, Appleton Bluegrass Jcnctn, Queen's Fieldwork Exhibition Opening, Maberly Free Comic Book Day, Almonte Home & Living Expo, Smiths Falls Long Sault Trio, Valley Food & Drink Co. Red Trillium Studio Tour, West Carleton World Labyrinth Day Walk, Carleton Place Genealogical Mtg, Perth Metal Weavers, Almonte Brocolees, Golden Arrow Riq Turner, O'Reilly's Pub Quilts in the Church, Perth Petunia Trio, The Cove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Art in the Attic, Almonte Blueberry Mtn Nature Walk, Lanark Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Cheerfully Made Craft Show, Almonte Home & Living Expo, Smiths Falls Mother's Day Brunch, Valley Food & Drink Co. Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Red Trillium Studio Tour, West Carleton The Limestone String Trio, Perth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOTR: Harrison Kennedy Band, Westport Kelly Sloan Album Release, Almonte Sean McCann, Smiths Falls Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp Texas Tuxedo, Golden Arrow The Affections of May, Constance Bay Tom Watson, O'Reilly's Pub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers' Mkt Opens, Carleton Place Plant Sales, Carp, Carleton Place Allison Brown & Dan Henshall, Branch Restaurant Almonte Fair Spring Dance, Almonte Art Journey Art Show & Sale, Smiths Falls Brea Lawrenson, Golden Arrow Colleen Brown & Elijah Abrams, The Cove Evening of Beatles Music, Pakenham Great Scott AC/DC Cover, John St. Pub Barry Buse & Marc Rochon, Love That Barr Marc Audet, Valley Food & Drink Co. The Affections of May, Constance Bay Under The Covers, O'Reilly's Pub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant Sale, Carleton Place Allison Brown & Uncle Dan Henshall, The Cove Art Journey Art Show & Sale, Smiths Falls Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blues & Company, Golden Arrow Eastern Ontario Bluegrass Festival, Smiths Falls Karaoke, John St. Pub Mississippi Wood Carvers Mtg, Almonte Stephen Fisher, O'Reilly's Pub Stringtease, The Cove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers' Mkt, Almonte, McDonalds Cms, McNab, Sharbot Lk Plant Sales, Perth, Carleton Place Museums Open, CP, Mill of Kintail 40 Plus Singles Dinner/Dance, Smiths Falls Beatles Tribute, John St. Pub Eastern Ontario Bluegrass Festival, Smiths Falls Jazz at the Waterfront, Waterfront Gastropub Meet the Artists of Grist Mill, Westport ON Town Crier Championships, Perth Retro Dance, Valley Food & Drink Co. Train Rides at RMEO, Smiths Falls John Wilberforce, The Cove Vernissage, MERA Open Mic Night, Perth The Tritones, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the Artists, Almonte Plant Sale, CP APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Eastern Ontario Bluegrass Festival, Smiths Falls Head over Heels, Jordan Galloway, The Cove Matt Dickson, Golden Arrow ON Town Crier Championships, Perth Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Opening Tea & Barns, Middleville Queen's Royal Tea, Appleton The NightCrawlers, Generations Inn Trad Song Session, Almonte Train Rides at RMEO, Smiths Falls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Royal Night Out, Smiths Falls An Evening w/Ronnie Burkett, Almonte Doug Barr (duo), The Barley Mow George Reynolds, Golden Arrow Harp Concert, Maberly Lynne Hanson, The Cove Perth School of Dance Show, Perth River City Junction, O'Reilly's Pub Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Royal Night Out, SF A Very Frozen Musical, SF Gospel Sing-Along, Perth MVTM AGM, Almonte Arts CP Art Show & Sale, Carleton Place Book Signing: James Bartleman, Perth CP Hort Plant Sale, Carleton Place Franktown Lilac Festival, Franktown Head over Heels, The Cove Humane Society Yard Sale, Arnprior Jeff Leeson, Golden Arrow Perth School of Dance Show, Perth Riq Turner Band -Shelterbox Fundraiser, Perth Riverthieves, Valley Food & Drink Co. The Stairwell Carollers, Almonte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub Fireweed, McDonalds Corners Head over Heels (Patio), The Cove Indigenous Perspectives on Perth's 200th, Perth Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Studio Opening, Almonte The Pie Plates, O'Reilly's Pub Westport Legion 30th Anniversary, Westport

3412, mmlt.ca. \$10

Adult Bereavement Group, May 10 (1-3PM, Com. Home Support, Perth, 267-6400); May 31 (1-3PM), SF Com. Health Centre, 283-6745. Free

Perth Hort: Tick-Proofing, May 10, 7PM. St Paul's Church, Perth. perthhortsociety.com. \$3; \$10/yr

W. Carleton Garden Club, May 10, 7:30PM. Perennials/grasses; mini flower show. Memorial Hall, Carp. wgc.ca. \$5

Silence of the Bees, May 11, 6:30PM. Film, discussion, 4:30PM dinner. Table Community Food Centre, Perth. 326-8593, thetablecfc.org. Free

Heritage Day Dinner, May 12, 6:30PM. CP & Beckwith Heritage Museum, CP. 253-7013, cpbheritagemuseum.com. \$50

Toastmasters, May 12 & 26, 7-9PM. Free workshop series. Riverview Seniors' Residence, CP, mastermindtoastmasters.com

W. Carleton Plant Sale, May 14, 8AM-1PM. W. Carleton Garden Club, Carp Fairgrounds. wgc.ca

Yuko's Plant Sale, May 14, 15, 21, 22, 8AM-2PM. 202 Arklan Rd. CP. yuko@yuko.ca, 253-0787

Almonte Hort Mtg, May 16, 7:30PM. "Reviving a Tired Garden". Cornerstone Com Church, Almonte. 256-5594

Bereavement Support Group, May 16, 10:30AM-12PM. Led by Barbara Carroll. Mills Community Support, Almonte. 883-6646, com, hubhospice.com. Free

WCGC: Evening with Mark Cullen, May 17, PM. Tix: Home Hardwares. Carp Fairgrounds. 839-7355, wgc.ca. \$12; \$10 adv

Pakenham Hort Mtg, May 18, 7PM. Beauties of the Burnt Lands. St. Andrew's Church, Pakenham

Spaghetti Dinner School Fundraiser, May 18, 5-7:30PM. Lanark Civitan Club, Lanark. jasonwilkinson@bell.net. \$4; \$15/family

40 Plus Singles Dinner/Dance, May 21, 7PM, 8PM DJ dance. Cash bar. Casual dress-no jeans. SF Civitan Hall. 285-5557. \$10

CP & Beckwith Heritage Museum Opens, May 21, 10AM-4PM. 267 Edmund St., CP. 253-7013, Free

ON Town Crier Championships, May 21-22. Crystal Palace, Stewart Park, Perth. Perth200.ca

Perth Hort Plant Sale, May 21, 8:30-10AM. The Stewart Public School, Perth. perthhortsociety.com

Train Rides at RMEO, May 21-22, 11AM-3PM. 90 William St. W., SF. 283-5696, rmeo.org. \$6; ages 2-6 \$3; under 2 free

Opening Tea & Barns, May 22, 11AM-3PM. Video presentation & book signing (1-3PM). Middleville Museum. 259-5462

Queen's Royal Tea, May 22, 2-4PM. Tea, treats & fascinators. N Lanark Reg Museum, Appleton. 257-8503, \$10

Franktown Lilac Festival, May 28, 8AM-7PM. Kids' bike parade, music, supper. Centennial Hall, Franktown. 257-1539

CP Hort Plant Sale, May 28, 8:30-11:30AM. Perennials & vegetables. Victoria School Garden, 267 Edmund St., CP

Humane Society Yard Sale, May 28, 8AM-2PM. Arnprior Humane Society, 490 Didak Dr. arnpriorhumanesociety.ca

MVTM AGM, May 28, 2PM. "Workers' History Museum". Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. 256-3754, mvtm.ca

Indigenous Perspectives on Perth's 200th, May 29, 2PM. Former co-chiefs of Ardoch Algonquin First Nation. Table Com Food Centre, Perth

Upper Rideau Westport Legion 30th Anniversary, May 29, 2-5PM. Incl. dedication of Jean Merkle Accessible Entrance. Westport Legion, 273-7017. Free

Preserving Your Family History, May 30, 7-8PM. Arnprior Library. 623-0001, adarchives.org/resources/patricks-family-history-group/. \$5 non-members; \$20

drew's Church, Pakenham. 624-5593. \$10

CP & Beckwith Music Festival Gala Concert, May 19, 7PM. Top competitors (amateur pianists, HS bands). CP Town Hall, cpmusicsociety.com. \$10

Eastern Ontario Bluegrass Festival, May 20 (5-11PM), 21 (10AM-11PM), 22 (10AM-4PM). The Northern Sons, Maple Hill, CR5, Pie Plates & more. Lombardy Fairgrounds, SF. eobluegrass.com

Open Mic Night, May 21, 7-10PM. Share your creativity. Table Com Food Centre, Perth. 326-8593, thetablecfc.org. Free

Trad Song Session, May 22, 2-4PM. Join in traditional songs w/choruses. Barley Mow, Almonte. 355-5552, dpbaril@gmail.com

Harp Concert, May 27, 6-9PM. W German cuisine. \$35 + donations to artist for dinner; \$20 for concert only. Fall River Restaurant, Maberly. 268-2197

A Very Frozen Musical, May 28, 1 & 4PM. Based on *The Snow Queen*. Gallipeau Centre,

SF.gallipeaucentretheatre.com. \$25/\$35VIP

Gospel Sing-Along, May 28, 7PM. St. Andrew's Church, Perth. Freewill offering

Riq Turner Band -Shelterbox Fundraiser, May 28, 6:30PM. Tix: Clarith Collectibles, Laura Jane's Pet Food. Perth Legion. \$10/\$15

The Stairwell Carollers, May 28, 7:30PM. \$20; \$15 adv at Baker Bob's, 257-3692. Almonte United Church. 257-3692

Fireweed, May 29, 2PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca. \$24

Pub Listings: p. 23

Community

CP & Beckwith Hist Soc AGM, May 2, 7PM. CP & Beckwith Heritage Museum, CP. 253-7013, cpbheritagemuseum.com

Duplicate Bridge, Mondays 7PM, Tuesdays

1PM. Smiths Falls Legion. 256-4747

4-Hand Euchre, Tuesdays, 1-4PM. Parking, no stairs. Perth Legion. 264-5568.

4-Hand Euchre, Tuesdays, 7PM. ABC Hall, 3166 Cty Rd. 36, Bolingbroke. 273-4832.

Green Drinks, May 3, 5:30PM. Mtg of environmental folk. Golden Arrow, Perth. GreenDrinks.org

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

CP Hort: Members' Choice Mini Show, May 4, 7PM. St. Andrew's Church, CP. cphorticulture.ca. \$3 entry; \$10 annual

Spring Fling Fashion Show/Fundraiser, May 4, 5-7:30PM. ABC Hall, 3166 Cty Rd. 36, Bolingbroke. 273-8834. \$15

Travelogue: Antarctica, May 5, 7PM. Almonte Library. 624-5306, missmilllibrary.com/travelogue-series. Free

Free Comic Book Day & Mother's Day Vendor Market, May 7, 12-4PM. Dress as superhero. Scavenger Hunt

downtown. Almonte Fairgrounds. 862-3750

Almonte Hort Plant Sale, May 7, 9AM-12PM. Almonte Library. 257-7155.

Celebrating Mothers Tea, May 7, 2-4PM. Tea & treats. N Lanark Reg Museum, Appleton. 257-8503, \$5

Home & Living Expo, May 7 (10-6), 8 (10-4). 70+ vendors. County Fair Mall, Smiths Falls. smithsfallshomelivingexpo.com

Lanark Co. Genealogical Mtg, May 7, 1:30PM. Kay Rogers. Drummond Centre Community Hall, Perth. lcginfo34@gmail.com. Free

World Labyrinth Day Walk, May 7, 1PM. CP & Beckwith Heritage Museum, CP. 257-1014

Blueberry Mtn Nature Walk, May 8, 10AM-2PM. Games & guided hike. Blueberry Mountain, Clifford Property, Lanark. 259-



Art Journey Show & Sale

May 14 & 15, 2016 - 10 am - 4 pm

Carvings - Jewelry - Pottery - Pyrography
Fused Glass Work - Photography - Woodwork
Glass Lampwork - Paintings - Pencil Art

Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre
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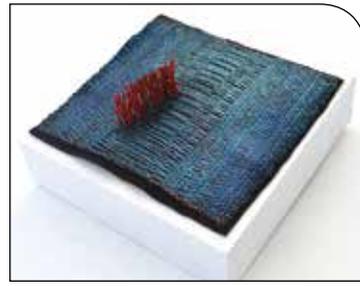
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Hanging Around the Valley

Art is Springing Up...

Weaving in Metal

Fran Solar and Sayward Johnson are weavers. But their primary medium is not cotton, wool or silk — it's metal. Both artists combine textile techniques to create unique woven canvasses and sculptures, and both will be exhibiting at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum as of May 3.



Find works in woven metal by Fran Solar (left) and Sayward Johnson (above) at the Textile Museum

You won't want to miss the work of these outstanding textile artists. The exhibition opens on May 3 and runs until July 16. Come to the official opening event on May 7 from 2 to 4PM, where you'll have a chance to meet them both and learn more about their work. The Textile Museum is located at 3 Rosamond Street East in Almonte. Find out more at mvmtm.ca or 256-3754.

by Miss Cellaneous

Currently living in Squamish, British Columbia, Fran Solar studied interior design at the University of Manitoba, and her interest in textiles and design soon found its expression in weaving. For many years she used traditional techniques and fibres to produce clothing and textiles. In the nineties, she began experimenting with basketry, and through workshops at Basket Focus conferences, delved into working with metals. Today she combines metal with such textile techniques as loom weaving, basketry and

quilting to produce unique woven sculptures and wall hangings. Copper, brass and stainless steel wires and sheets, along with any interesting bits and pieces of hardware and industrial surplus, are altered with heat and chemicals to produce various patinas and then "woven" into what Fran calls vessels and wall art.

Sayward Johnson has been weaving for about fifteen years, and discovered weaving with wire when she was studying at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. She considers herself first and foremost a textile artist, and uses wire to explore various techniques. She too uses patina processes to alter the colour and texture of the wire, and this is often her favourite part of the process. It can take weeks, and the outcome is often surprising, which can completely change her vision. Her 12-harness Leclerc loom takes up most of the space in her Ottawa studio, which is in an old bread factory converted into the art collective Enriched Bread Artists. After weaving a piece, she embellishes with embroidery or further chemical solutions. A former forestry worker, Sayward draws much of her inspiration from natural forms, lichens, stone and the Canadian boreal forest. For example, her Defense Mechanism series started as studies of tree bark.



Grist Mill Art Gallery Opens May 21

If you love art and day trips, then the Grist Mill Gallery offers the perfect opportunity for you to come to Westport, tour the newly opened gallery, stop for lunch, and browse a few of the unique shops in town.

Grist Mill is an artists' co-op, exhibiting original works produced by fifteen local artists. There are two showrooms in the gallery displaying wonderful paintings in acrylic, oil, watercolour, mixed media and ink, sculptures, glasswork, photography, fibre art, batik, wood carvings and more. When you visit the gallery you will be greeted by one of the artists and have the opportunity to take a guided tour or simply browse on your own time. The artists will be available to answer your questions and to speak with you about the artwork.

In celebration of their season opening, visitors to the gallery on May 21 will be offered refreshments and have the chance to meet with all fifteen artists.

The gallery will be open week-ends from 11AM to 4PM and holiday Mondays over the summer until Labour Day. The gallery is located at 21 Main Street on the lakeside, just before the bridge at the north end of town. For more information, visit gristmillgallery.com or find them on Facebook.

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Check Out These Great Reasons!

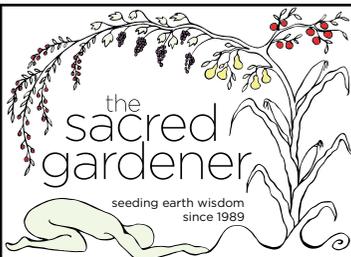
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Summer 2016: June-end of July

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All Over the Valley!

Red Trillium Studio & Garden Tour

On the weekend of May 7 and 8, you are invited to visit twenty-six artists in ten studios and gardens in the lovely rural setting of West Carleton. This free, self-directed tour features a variety of media, including paintings and drawings, pottery, glass, woodwork, fibre art, Santa dolls, toys, quilts, metal work, women's clothing, and jewellery.

Some of the artists new to the tour include Judy Joannou, who designs and makes classically-styled women's clothing with a twist; Catherine Schissel, who uses vivid colours and layers to express

the passion she feels for the landscape; and Judy McGrath, who displays her local landscape photography as cards, matted photos, puzzles and books. This year you'll also find handcrafted wood-turned items by John Chamney, shadow box and bell jar butterfly dioramas by Ray Renton, as well as custom fitted bracelets and necklaces by Cheryl Green that incorporate Spanish leather, natural stones, crystal and silver-plated hardware.

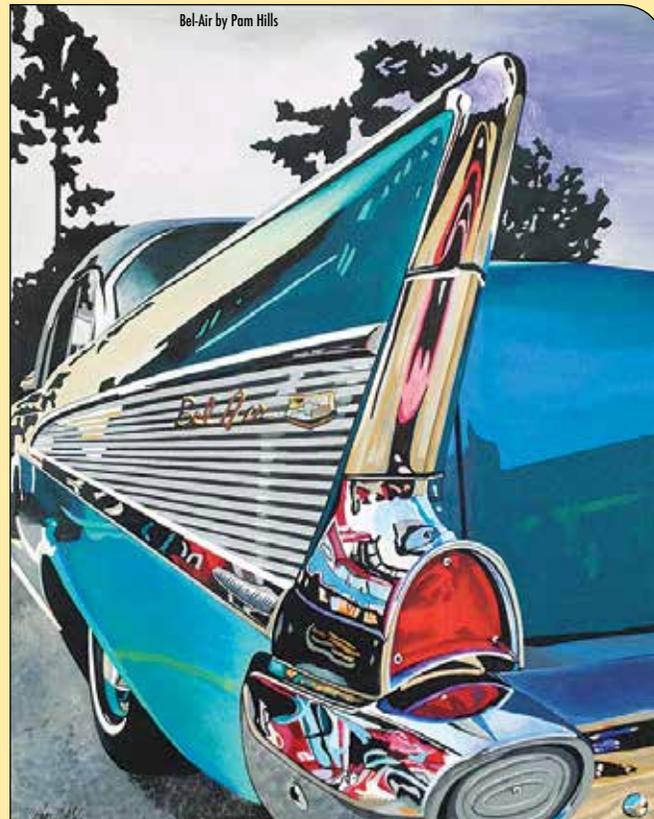
Enjoy the spring beauty of 23 mature perennial beds on a one-acre property owned by Phil and Carole Reilly, and delight in the rustic charm of mature perennial gardens and beautiful vistas surrounding Donna Christie's heritage home. Discover miniature faery garden accents made by Denise Burnham throughout Donna's garden. Gardening advice will be offered by local gardening club members along the way!

Again this year, the St. Mary's Church Ladies will be serving a delicious lunch, and there are many delightful restaurants and cafés along the route as well.

Brochures and maps are available at many locations, as well as at <redtrilliumst.com> or by calling Catharine at 839-2793. Studios are open from 10AM to 5PM each day.



Find jewellery by Mary Teasdale, and works by many other artists, at this year's Red Trillium Tour!



Celebrate Spring at Arts Carleton Place Show & Sale

The second Arts Carleton Place Art Show & Sale takes place on Saturday, May 28, from 10AM to 4PM. Artists will showcase their work at St. James Parish Hall, located at 225 Edmund Street in Carleton Place. Original creations in oils, watercolour, acrylics, fused glass, photography, soapstone, wood, fibre, batik and more will highlight the talented artists. Drop in, enjoy the art, and indulge in yummy treats and sweets that will be offered by the Women's Council.

A short half-block walk away are the Window Art Murals, a historical arts project funded by the community and created by three Arts CP artists in 2015. The murals are located on the back wall of the Carleton Place & District Heritage Museum.

Spend a day and support the arts! For more information, call 257-4266 or visit <artscarletonplace.com>

Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre Holistic Summer Camp

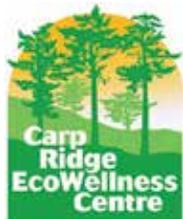
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Ages 6-12

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Learn More at: Ecowellness.com/events

Spraying our roadsides with non-selective herbicide won't just kill wild parsnip.



Protect our rural roadside plants for pollinators ... request a NO SPRAY sign!

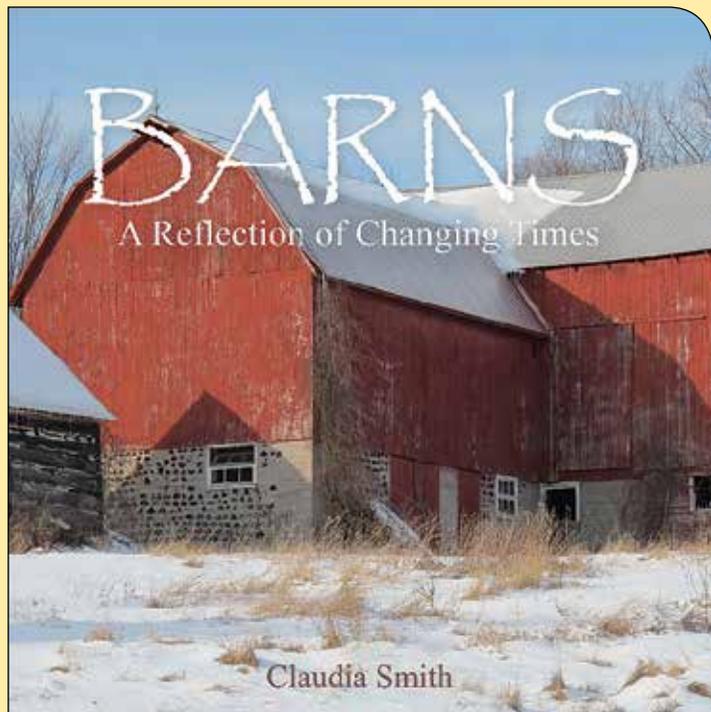
Here are a few of the other casualties:

milkweed
wild strawberry
red clover
wild rose
buttercup
chicory
brown-eyed Susan
thistles
bloodroot
burdock
dandelion
mallow
hawk weed
lamb's quarters
hawk's beard
ox-eye daisy
wild sage
chamomile
tansy
buckwheat
toadflax
wild oats
evening-primrose
knapweed
shepherd's purse
bottle gentian
wild mustard
wild caraway
yellow foxtail
wild willow
cinquefoil
Canada anemone
New England aster
sweet white violet
wild columbine
wild sarsaparilla

Official "NO SPRAY" signs may be obtained from Lanark County Public Works (613-267-4200 x 3190) for your property bordering a County road.

Signs will tell sprayers: Please do not spray non-selective herbicide here!!

Simply mow/cut wild parsnip before it goes to seed. Avoid skin contact (as with poison ivy)



Local Barns at Union Hall AGM

If you are fascinated by old barns or want to relive memories of time spent in them, you won't want to miss Claudia Smith's presentation at Union Hall on Thursday, May 26, at 7PM. Claudia's latest book, *Barns — A Reflection of Changing Times*, documents the changes in agricultural life over the decades from early settlements to the 1950s. She will share some farm histories and anecdotes collected over the past twenty-five years, as well as photographs that celebrate and honour the heritage barns in the area.

At 8PM, following Claudia's talk, the Union Hall Annual General Meeting will take place, providing an opportunity for community members to hear about the past year's activities and provide input on future projects. This is the time when the group ushers in the volunteers who will direct the activities to keep the hall going in the coming year.

Since 1857, Union Hall has been in continuous operation as the hub of the community that bears its name. The hall is owned and maintained by local residents, with support from the Municipality of Mississippi Mills. It is located eight kilometres west of Almonte at 1984 Wolf Grove Road (at the corner of Tatlock Road).

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A Brew in Review

Whitewater's Classy "Class V" Brew

Welcome to the second edition of *A Brew in Review*, a column dedicated to the true pursuit of happiness: enjoying a good pint of beer! I have to tell you that this "beer-in-review" writing gig certainly isn't as easy as it sounds. "What? A tear in my beer," you say? Only in the sense that I found it very challenging to narrow my focus to just one beer

by John Scime

when there are so many fine examples to sample from. I suppose it is a testament to the health and vibrancy of craft brewing here in Ontario, when one of the burdens in your life is choosing which terrific beer to sample while kicking back on the weekend! I'm happy to report that I truly enjoyed the research phase.

In the end, I decided to continue exploring beers from the Pale Ale family, with a review of **Whitewater Brewing Company's Class V IPA**. Located "up the valley" in Foresters Falls, Ontario, the Whitewater Brewing Company was established in 2011 by a group of friends wanting to share great locally-made beers with their friends and neighbours. According to brewmaster Sean Goddard, the brewery started out on a very small "nano-brewery" scale, and steadily expanded to their current operation, which includes an on-site brewpub. Plans are currently underway to expand again, with the construction of a larger micro-brewery facility in Cobden, to allow the company to produce as much as 3500 hectolitres (350,000 litres) of beer per batch.

Initially, the company's focus was marketing to local pubs and eateries in the Ottawa Valley, while selling growlers (2-litre glass jugs) direct to the public. I first came across their beers through the Folkus Concert Series in Almonte, which has been supporting Whitewater products for three years. Yet in my experience it is only in the last year or so that Whitewater's products have been available commercially through local outlets of the LCBO and the Beer Store. Goddard says that the addition of a canning line a couple of years ago enabled Whitewater to expand their reach significantly, and I'm happy to report that I purchased my sample right here in Almonte. These beers are also available at the local ski hill and at least one fine dining establishment on the Mississippi.

Interestingly, the first thing that strikes me about Class V IPA is the artwork. Clearly, Whitewater has

taken pains to continue the craft brewing tradition of developing striking artwork to market their product, in this case evoking the tradition of paddling through whitewater rapids in a canoe or kayak.

Once poured into a pint glass, Class V IPA is a crystal clear deep amber-to-copper colour with a shock of light, frothy foam on top. While generally a cagey and secretive bunch when asked to divulge the intimate details of their beer recipes, Goddard was graciously open to spilling the beans on this one.

The prominent hop aroma and flavour of the beer, he says, is achieved through the use of Cascade and Centennial hops in three additions during the boil — "bittering hops" are added at or near the beginning of boil in large quantities, establishing

the beer's bitterness, but with little to no impact on the flavour or aroma (these aspects are boiled off). "Flavour hops" are added to the boil for the last 10–15 minutes of the boil, while "aroma hops" are added when the boil is finished, just prior to the wort (unfermented beer) being chilled to 72°F for fermentation. The result here is a glorious bouquet of citrus and flowers, with bitterness reaching a staggering 72 IBUs.

Class V IPA is true-to-style for an American IPA — a recognizably hoppy and bitter, moderately-strong pale ale brewed with North American malts and hops (as opposed to using traditional British ingredients). It is decidedly well balanced, with plenty of malt character and body. To my taste, the real charm of this beer is its simplicity, achieved through the use of a simple malt bill comprised of only two malts: "Two Row"

Pale Ale and Crystal 20. For the real beer-geeks out there, the brewmaster confirms that this beer is fermented with "California ale yeast", a yeast renowned for its clean, balanced fermentation. Combined, the malts provide a malty sweetness with subtle hints of caramel and bready toast flavours, while the balanced, citrusy hops and clean fermenting yeast provide Class V IPA's truly refreshing finish. Bottoms up!

Monthly Brewing Term: IBUs (International Bitterness Units) — a recognized scale used by brewers to measure the bitterness of a beer as derived from the "alpha acids" extracted from hops during the boil. In general, beers with fewer than 20 IBUs have little or no hops presence, while beers with 20 to 45 IBUs are the most common and have mild to pronounced hops presence. Beers with more than 45 IBUs are considered heavily hopped.



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Much Ado (and To Do) in May!

May is coming in like a lion (a really friendly, performing circus lion) as far as events in Almonte are concerned. Last month I mentioned several things happening on Mother's Day weekend, and there's so much fun to be had that I thought I would take the liberty of planning your schedule.

by Miss Mills

First stop: shamble on over to the **Zombie Dance** taking place on Friday, May 6 from 9PM to 1AM at the big red barn at the Almonte Fairgrounds! You can dress up in advance or get your make-up done on-site (the undead really think of everything). Tickets are \$10 at the door or \$8 in advance from Cathy (862-3750).

Friday night also marks the opening of the annual **Art in the Attic** show at the Almonte Old Town Hall, where you'll find gorgeous art from May 6 to 8. From that central location you can easily saunter over to beautiful downtown Almonte (via the Riverwalk, to catch a glimpse of the falls in their spring glory), but don't forget to also head upstream to the Agricultural Hall at the (now zombie-free) Almonte Fairgrounds, where the **Cheer-**

fully Made Markets craft show (formerly Handmade Harvest) is hanging out on May 7 and 8 <cheerfullymade.com>.

That very same weekend, **Free Comic Book Day** is also coming to town! Things kick off at noon on May 7 at the Almonte fairgrounds and run until 4PM. People of all ages are welcome to dress up in their best superhero costumes and partake in a scavenger hunt downtown, meet and greet some comic book characters, and return to the fairgrounds for kids' activities. Also on the fairgrounds that day will be a **Mother's Day Vendor Market**. How's that for getting your money's worth out of one weekend?

Special-Teas

The North Lanark Regional Museum invites you to celebrate some special ladies in your life this month, as they present a **Celebrating Mothers Tea** and a **Queen's Royal Tea**. On May 7, celebrate the mothers in your life with an afternoon of tea and treats. Then on May 22, celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in style with tea, treats and fascinators! Both events take place from 2 to 4PM at the museum, which is located at 647 River Road in Appleton. Please call 257-8503 or email <apletonmuseum@hotmail.com> for more information.

Pre-Festival Fun

Festival season in Mississippi Mills is still a month or so away, but you can support some of your favourites by attending two special events this month!

Almonte Celtfest invites you to laugh it up with them on Friday, May 6 at their **Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night**, taking place from 8 to 10PM at the Almonte Legion. Headliner Bryan Hatt will be joined by Mark Hatfield, Greg Schroder and Don Kelly, and together they will tickle your funny-bone while helping to raise money for Celtfest's 20th anniversary. Tickets are \$25, and can be purchased in advance at 868-7529 or <almonteceltfest@hotmail.com>, or at the door if still available. There will be a cash bar, so patrons must be 19 or older. And mark your calendar now so you don't miss this year's three-day celebration of all things Celtic — Almonte Celtfest takes place from July 8-10 <almonteceltfest.com>.

Later on in the month, I most enthusiastically invite you to **An Evening with Internationally Acclaimed Ronnie Burkett**. I'm so excited! A famous puppeteer is coming to Almonte on May 27! Ronnie Burkett is an outstanding Canadian marionette artist based in Toronto, who travels the world with his beautiful puppet characters and his one-



Photo by Alejandro Santiago

From art and craft shows (and a zombie dance, natch) on Mother's Day weekend, to an evening with internationally-acclaimed puppeteer **Ronnie Burkett** (above) at the month's end, May is brimming over with fun stuff to do in Almonte and area!

man puppet shows for adults... and I do mean adults. He's also my great friend and I can hardly wait to see him here in my hometown and show him around. Ronnie is a very funny guy and an unbelievably gifted performer. What can I say? He's a born entertainer! If you have any interest in puppetry or just want a really fun night out, come to the Almonte Old Town Hall on May 27 at 7:30PM to see him demonstrate his incredibly beautiful marionettes and hear fascinating stories about his amazing career. He will guide us through an illustrated evening of his characters, his inspirations and his work past, present and future. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at Baker Bob's (in person only) and Mill Street Books (in person or by telephone at 256-9090). And while you've got that calendar out, set the weekend of August 5-7 aside for the Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival <puppetsup.ca>.

Bike Month is Coming!

There's one more important thing to do in May: get your bike tuned up! June brings the eighth annual **Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month** to the area, with tons of two-wheeled events planned for cyclists of all ages and abilities. The annual **Silver Chain Challenge** starts on June 1, so log onto <silverchainchallenge.ca> and start logging those kilometres (biked or hiked!). New events are being added all the time at <mmbm.ca>, and the June issue of theHumm will have more details, but in the meantime please clear off your schedule on Saturday, June 25. That day starts with a **Vintage Bicycle Show** at the Almonte Arena (from 10AM to 4PM), includes a 5PM screening of the superb film **Marinoni: The Fire in the Frame** at the Almonte Old Town Hall, and ends with an evening performance of **SPIN**, a song cycle and performance piece by Evalyn Parry (which was a huge hit when it was performed at a previous Bicycle Month). Happy biking!



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 Every Thursday starting May 19 **Jazz Night** with **Spencer Evans Trio** (Westport/Kingston) 9-11
 Every Sunday starting May 22 **Head Over Heels** on the Patio (Guitar/Vocal Duo, Gananoque) 12:30-3:30
 Fri. May 6 & Sat. May 28 **Head Over Heels** (Guitar/Vocal Duo, Gananoque) 6-9
 Sat. May 7 **Petunia Trio** (Americana/Roots, Vancouver) with opener **Ali McCormick**, 7-10, \$10
 Fri. May 13 Blues on the Rideau with **Harrison Kennedy Band** (Hamilton) 7-11, \$65 Buffet & Show
 Sat. May 14 **Colleen Brown & Elijah Abrams** (Folk/Pop, Edmonton) 7-10, \$10
 Sun. May 15 **Allison Brown & Uncle Dan Henshall** (Folk, London) 1-4
 Fri. May 20 **Stringtease** (Folk/Jazz/Blues, Westport) 6-9
 Sat. May 21 **John Wilberforce** (Folk/Rock, Kemptville) 7-10
 Sun. May 22 **Jordan Galloway** (Acoustic Folk/Pop, Toronto) 6-9
 Fri. May 27 **Lynne Hanson** (Folk, Ottawa) 6-9



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Riverthieves

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Mother's Day Sunday Brunch, May 8, 10–2

Victoria Day Sunday Brunch, May 22, 10–2

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An Ode to Nature at Bittersweet Gallery

Burnstown's Bittersweet Gallery is hosting their annual spring open house on June 4 with the launch of the 2016 Collection of Montreal jewellery artist/designer Anne Marie Chagnon. Chagnon describes her latest collection: "a universe of volcanic gentleness — an ode to nature: hand-sculpted pewter, gold or bronze layered swirling pools at times evoking a sense of an aurora borealis. Charcoal relief, black soot, exploding stars and reflecting lakes of enamelled metals as well as dusk-inspired shades combine with volcanic landscapes. The force of the elements."

This open house marks the fifth annual event which, while launching the latest Chagnon line, also helps raise awareness of ovarian cancer. Ovarian cancer is Canada's most fatal women's cancer. It is often overlooked and under-diagnosed and there is no screening test. It is often diagnosed in late stages, resulting in five-year survival rates of less than 30%. Ten to fifteen percent of the most common type of ovarian cancer is hereditary due to mutations in the genes passed down through either the father's or mother's side.

Gallery owner Cheryl Babineau donates ten percent of Chagnon sales to Ovarian Cancer Canada, a charity she has chosen to support because the daughters of Cheryl's husband, sculptor Richard Gill, are genetically at high risk.

Richard will also have his studio open; visitors can preview some intriguing current works in progress for his show in the fall. It's also a good opportunity to discuss custom work or sign up for a workshop in clay relief.

Refreshments will be served and live music will provide an ambient yet lively vibe throughout the day. There will also be draws to win a necklace donated by Chagnon, as well as a relief sculpture provided by Richard Gill.

While the launch of the entire collection takes place on June 4, Cheryl is offering a sneak preview of the new line in time for Mothers' Day, beginning on May 1.

Bittersweet Fine Craft and Art is located at 5 Leckie Lane in Burnstown. For more details, call 432-5254 or 433-9990, or visit burnstown.ca/bittersweet.

Safari-Style Supper Supports Schools

The Young Awards Foundation is pleased to announce that our second **Eat for the Arts** event will take place on the evening of May 28. This "safari-style" dinner supports dynamic arts programs in the schools of Mississippi Mills.

In addition to raising funds for a very worthwhile cause, this event is also a fun way to meet people in your community. You participate with a partner (friend, spouse, neighbour...). You prepare one course (appetizer, main or dessert) and serve it to two other couples at your home. The other two courses will be served to you, by other participants, in their homes. Each course has a different group of couples, but you and your partner always travel together. You receive instructions about your itinerary at the end of each course; however, you will get plenty of notice about which course you are preparing!

Best of all, Eat for the Arts costs only \$20 per couple. Sign up or get more information



Students from R. Tait McKenzie took part in an animation project led by J.B. Arts, and funded by the Young Awards Foundation

by emailing eatforthearts@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

— Jody Trant

Home Cookin' Bluegrass Comes to Perth

In spite of some of the scary political squabbling leaking over Canada's southern border from the U.S. lately, there has, over time, also been a pleasing musical genre called "bluegrass" that's been willingly accepted north of the border. It has even been given a Canadian touch by musicians who love the harmonies and sweet instrumentation they get to work with. On Sunday, May 29 at 7PM, the **Sunday Listening Series** at O'Reilly's Ale House will host The Pie Plates — original bluegrass at its best, all the way from the Brockville area.

by Steve Tennant

Traditional bluegrass, a kissin' cousin of country music, evolved from English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish folk and traditional music, which was brought to the Appalachian Region (eastern U.S.) by early settlers seeking jobs in the mining, railway and lumber industries. Ballad singers, often accompanied by fiddle, with an infused blend of blues from the black community, created a sound unique to the area. As acoustic guitars, mandolins, banjos, washboards, dobro and stand-up bass were added to the mix, the complexity of vocal harmonies and instrumental dexterity further developed the sound into the music we hear today.

It's generally agreed that bluegrass first evolved more formally in the 1930s and '40s. Known as "hillbilly music" and later labelled "country & western", it was more appropriately classified as "bluegrass" in the late '50s. Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys of the late '40s exemplified the traditional bluegrass styling, utilizing acoustic instruments and multi-part vocal harmonies. Monroe once described bluegrass as "Scottish bagpipes and old time fiddlin'. It's Methodist, Holiness and Baptist. It's blues and jazz and a high lonesome sound." I also think of the Stanley Brothers, Doc Watson or Flatt & Scruggs, who each put their own stamp on the genre. Younger players such as Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Jerry Douglas, Allison Krauss, David Grisman and the Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia have carried it on, as have Toronto's Foggy Hogtown Boys.

Progressive bluegrass (sometimes called "newgrass") is another style, utilizing more electrified instruments, combining rock and roll and other styles with bluegrass, while still retaining its musical instrumentation and complexity. "Jamgrass" is another term used for jamming with bluegrass stylings. For jazz-infused bluegrass, I think of Bela Fleck & The Flecktones, Railroad Earth, or the Punch Brothers.

Bluegrass gospel is much the same as traditional, but employs Christian lyrics for its message. As music does feed from itself, variations continue with a lot of fusion between genres. The 2000 movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou* had a Canadian connection via singer/songwriter and music producer Colin Linden (of Blackie & Rodeo Kings), who worked with T-Bone Burnett to develop the film's soundtrack, which helped re-establish bluegrass with a broader audience.

The Pie Plates are talented, veteran musicians: Nellie Holmes (guitar, lead vocalist, songwriter), Lucien Geroux (guitar, lead vocals), Perth's own Gary Barr (double bass, vocals), Rick Hare (mandolin), Ray Desjardins (fiddle), and Bob Webb (dobro, banjo). They've just put out their second CD *Another Slice Please*, and, as a group, have been performing at house concerts, bar gigs, fundraisers and festivals (including the upcoming Eastern Ontario Bluegrass Festival being held at the Lombardy Fairgrounds May 20–22). We're thrilled to have



From the **Pie Plates** (above) in Perth to an **Eastern Ontario Bluegrass Festival** in Lombardy, May is unofficially bluegrass month in this area!

them play O'Reilly's Listening Room Series, where there are no screens and no gabbin' — just great original music to take you away.

O'Reilly's kitchen closes at 6PM that night so as not to compete with the music, so book early to catch some of their lovely fare.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, May 7, 4–8PM: **Bluegrass Junction**, featuring Country Music Hall of Famer Peter Dawson on fiddle, at the Queen's Hotel, 142 Bridge Street Carleton Place. No cover charge.
- Friday, May 6: **Carlos Del Junco** at Sharbot Lake Country Inn. Dinner and show \$55. This eight-time winner of the Maple Blues Award for harmonica will amaze with his intricate playing and musicianship. I love his shows. Call Sandra at 279-2198 for reservations.
- Saturday, May 7, 7PM: **Petunia Trio** at The Cove in Westport, with Ali McCormick opening. Petunia's music — described by some as Hank Williams on acid — is a truly unique presentation that will bring vaudeville, yodelling, swing and quirky tunes to a creative, unforgettable performance.
- Friday, May 13, 7–11PM: **Harrison Kennedy** at The Cove; part of the Blues on the Rideau series. Harrison's latest CD just won the 2016 Juno for Blues Album of the Year. \$65 dinner and show. Reserve early at 1-888-COVE-INN
- Sunday, May 15, 1–4PM: **Allison Brown and "Uncle" Dan Henshall** at The Cove. They'll impress you with their songwriter skills, their solid musical presentation and just downright good fun.
- Friday, May 20, 6–9PM: **StringTease** bring their gypsy folk and blues to The Cove. Always a listenin' good time.
- May 20–22: **Eastern Ontario Bluegrass Festival** in Lombardy. 3 days of bluegrass, indoors at the Lombardy Fairgrounds. Rough camping on site from May 19–23, with lots of pickin' join-ins. The Northern Sons, Maple Hill, CR5, Pie Plates, to name a few. Tickets available for the full weekend, or day passes at: Rideau River Music (Smiths Falls), Shadowfax (Perth), SRC (Carleton Place). For more information, go to <eobluegrass.com>. Get out and support this first-time venture!
- Saturday, May 28, 6:30PM: **Riq Turner Band** at the Perth Legion; a Shelterbox Canada fundraiser. Always a fun band to dance yer socks off to, and all for a good cause. \$10.
- Sunday, May 29, 2PM: **Fireweed** at MERA in McDonalds Corners (part of the Sunday School-house series). This trio finds strength in their vocal harmonies, sweet instrumentation and original material. Jamie Campbell, Rob Unger and Gary Rasberry are always a solid show to catch, unfortunately too rare. Tickets are \$24 at Tickets Please, 485-6434.

May Pub Listings

Golden Arrow Pub (Perth, 267-4500): 9PM, Wed Karaoke. Thurs Open Mic.

May 6 Doug Barr
May 7 Brocolees
May 13 Texas Tuxedo
May 14 Brea Lawrenson
May 20 Blues & Company
May 21 The Tritones
May 22 Matt Dickson
May 27 George Reynolds
May 28 Jeff Leeson

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

May 6, 28 Head over Heels, 6-9PM
May 7 Petunia Trio, 7-10PM, \$10
May 14 Colleen Brown & Elijah Abrams, 7-10PM, \$10
May 15 Allison Brown & Uncle Dan Henshall, 1-4PM
May 19, 26 Jazz Night w/Spencer Evans Trio, 9-11PM
May 20 Stringtease, 6-9PM
May 21 John Wilberforce, 7-10PM
May 22 Jordan Galloway, 6-9PM
May 22, 29 Head over Heels on the Patio, 12:30-3:30PM
May 27 Lynne Hanson, 6-9PM

The Swan at Carp (Carp, 839-7926):

May 13, 27 Steve Barrette Trio, 7-10PM

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

May 1, 15, 29 Magnolia Rhythm Kings
May 8, 22 APEX Jazz Band

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

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

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

The Barley Mow (Almonte, 256-5669):

May 5, 19 George Turcotte & his Band, 8PM

May 6, Steve Stacey, 9PM
May 27 Doug Barr duo, 9PM

Love That Barr (Pakenham, 624-2000):

May 6 Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, 9PM
May 14 Love the Blues w/Barry Buse & Marc Rochon, 7-10PM

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

O'Reilly's Ale House (Perth, 267-7994): Wed Acoustic Stage w/Dave

Balfour 8PM
May 3, 24, 31 Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, 8:30PM
May 6 Smitty
May 7 Riq Turner
May 10 Kelly Sloan
May 13 Tom Watson
May 14 Under the Covers
May 17 Ali McCormick
May 20 Stephen Fisher
May 27 River City Junction
May 29 The Pie Plates, 7PM

John St. Pub (Arnprior, 623-8149): 9:40PM

May 6 Danny Sylvestre Band (fund-raiser), \$7 donation
May 7 Pearl Jam & Foos Tribute Bands, \$10
May 14 Great Scott AC/DC Cover, \$12
May 20 Karaoke, \$5
May 21 Capital Beatles, \$10

Generations Inn (CP, 253-5253):

May 22 The NightCrawlers acoustic blues, 6-9PM

The Waterfront Gastropub (CP, 257-5755): Wed Open Mic w/Blues & Company's Kevin Ficzer 9PM; Thurs Karaoke, 10PM-2AM; Sun Blues w/ Redneck

Limousine 3-6PM
May 6 Mississippi Blues Society Open Jam, 8:30PM

May 21 Jazz at the Waterfront, 8-11PM

Valley Food and Drink Co. (Calabogie, 752-2676x311): Thurs Karaoke 8PM

May 7 Long Sault Trio, 8-11:30PM

May 8 Mother's Day Brunch w/Pierre Desmarais, 10AM-2PM

May 14 Marc Audet, 8-11:30PM

May 21 Retro Dance, 8PM-1AM, \$10

May 28 Riverthieves, 8:30PM-12AM, \$10

Queens Hotel (CP, 257-7639)

May 5 Jazz at the Queen's, 6-9PM
May 7 Bluegrass Junction, 4-8PM

Sharbot Lake Inn (279-2198):

May 6 Carlos Del Junco, \$55 dinner & show

The Branch (258-3737, Kemptonville):

May 14 Allison Brown & Uncle Dan Henshall, \$5, 9PM

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Taking Care of the Farm

What could be more relaxing than spending some time farm-sitting in the quiet countryside, enjoying the shiny beauty of winter? Just what I needed.

I arrived with two small dogs, Charlie and Molly, and a van filled with books to be read, food to be enjoyed, and of course a truckload of electronic paraphernalia. The resident hound, abandoned by her people who had selfishly taken a much needed vacation south, received us with wild enthusiasm — friendly, full of joy and dying to play. Her name is Lollie. As I attempted to unload the van and round up the dogs into the house, I discovered Rule Number 1 of dog-sitting: never take on dogs with similar sounding names, particularly if one of them is deaf and timid. Calling very loudly for Molly to come into the house only elicited a wildly enthusiastic response from Lollie, a much larger canine who bounded joyfully through the doorway, sending Molly streaking off towards the barn. Not good. Concentrate on one thing at a time. Unload vehicle. Then round up three dogs who had now gone madly off in all directions. Oh yes, and check the chickens before going back into the house.

So into the clucking barn I went — my first time chicken-sitting. Unfortunately, Molly had run for cover just beside the barn and slipped in behind me... to be followed by Lollie who was in hot pursuit... and of course Charlie eager for some fun. Three dogs, five chickens and a hysterical woman of a certain age with bad knees, contained in a small chicken coop. Not an auspicious start. So Rule Number 2: always close the barn door after you. Seems to me there is some wise saying about closing the barn door.

Only solution to chaos: a cup of tea. That at least went off without incident. However, it was getting cold in the house. No visible thermostat. Then I remembered — it's a wood furnace. Off to the woodpile to build new fire. Oh, the blessing of good dry wood. The heat is rising... and rising. It is now becoming a sweat lodge experience. Luckily my long-term memory kicked in about how to control woodstove fires so you don't burn the house down — a useful skill. And finally a loud fan began distributing a more modest heat for our enjoyment.

Rule Number 3: remember that homes in the rurals have many unique sounds with fans and pumps and banging and creaking and cracking. Do not panic when water seems to be pouring through the house. It is merely the sump pump working hard to save you from total immersion. Even though it's minus 10. My city dogs aren't used to all these noises and feel the need to bark each time water rushes loudly through the pipes... which elicits a barking competition and all three canines get thrown out into the night. Not content with disrupting the quiet inside the house, they then began a heated discussion among themselves about who owned the fresh deer bone lying in the driveway. Only one fairly small bone, but some poor deer must be wandering the bush looking for its missing bits. At least it kept the canines occupied.

It seemed like a good moment to check the chickens one last time before bed. Rule Number 4: know your livestock (that's a farming term). With flashlight on head — always come prepared — I ventured into the barn. No sound of clucking. Not a whit or jot of even a murmur. The dog invasion had obviously frightened the chickens to death. I've heard about birds dying of shock. How could I manage to kill them off, and how do I inform the homeowners of my egregious mistake? And it's only my first night! Well for those well-versed in the habits of chickens — a subject I somehow omitted from my well-rounded education — chickens fly up and roost at night. And make no sound. Who knew? Well obviously I didn't, or the cold sweat that I was experi-

encing would have ceased to be. But the flashlight revealed the little dearies up on their perch, warm and toasty and very much alive. Crisis averted.

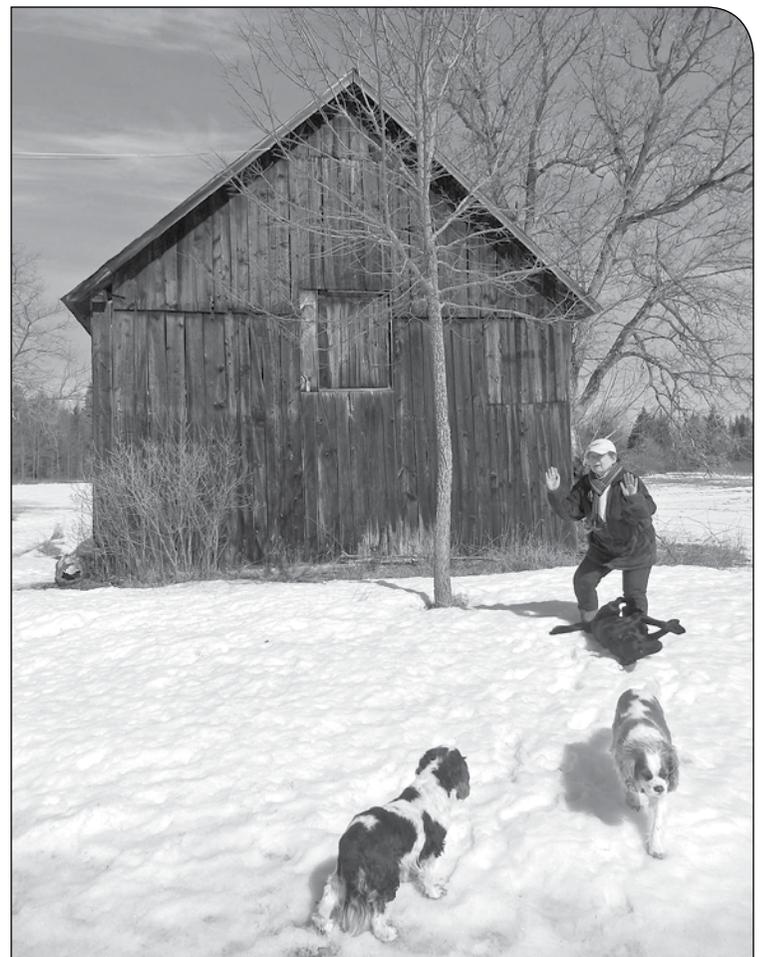
As we all tromped into the house, I felt the need to reach out and touch someone, so my handy dandy tablet was duly powered up... but refused to connect me. Now if there is one thing that puts me into the category of lunatic, it is computer technology, especially when it doesn't work. Why on earth, if computers are so smart, can they not fix themselves? They operate with a logic that is illogical. I have absorbed the odd bit of computer savvy over the years and so the first thing I did was call the internet service technician. From his far-off place, he was able to tell me I had no power to the tree where the thingy was picking up the internet signal and bringing it into the house. In the rurals they stick technology at the top of trees. It blends very well with the environment. Find the line into the house, he said. So having crawled around the four computers in the house — logical place to look I thought — and found nothing, I surveyed all the ceilings and found the missing other thingy on top of a kitchen cupboard. Of course. That is logical. Rule Number 5: always know where the electronic technology thingies are located when you are house-sitting. That way you will not inadvertently unplug the power source to the thingy on top of the kitchen cupboard in order to plug in your coffee maker on the kitchen counter. So much to learn.

Just my first day and finally, mercifully, bedtime arrived. It has always been my habit to sleep with dogs, and now that I live alone it is no different. I have Molly and Charlie and we tolerate each other's snoring. Normally they just join me in bed. But this night, Molly was hiding her little deaf self so I had to shout loudly to bring her to bed. Remember Rule Number 1 — don't house-sit with dogs that have similar-sounding names. A large, gangly black beast with tongue hanging came flying into the room and face-planted on top of me. It was game time. Have you ever tried to remove a velcroed dog that has you pinned to the mattress while you laugh hysterically? It is very, very difficult. Probably best to follow the wilderness rule and play dead. Alas, it doesn't work with a black lab. Moving or not moving, they will have their way with you. And their way is a vigorous wrestling match onto the floor.

Meanwhile, the aforementioned Molly crept onto the bed and settled in. Rest at last. Book open, reading time. Zoom. What on earth was dive-bombing me? The reading light was bright but I couldn't see what — OUCH! I had always been told they were gentle creatures, colourful and benign. But here I was being used as a landing strip by absolutely gazillions of fierce biting ladybugs. Well, maybe not gazillions, but they were in the bed, on the bed, and on me. And they were biting. A few energetic minutes later, the room was filled with that lovely smell of squished ladybugs, and the dogs were leaping about enjoying this unexpected game, totally awake and ready for fun. And I was totally knackered, ready for my own house in my own bed, free from nature's bounty.

And so ended my first day in the rurals. Hardly the restful experience I had hoped for. But in the days to follow, as we all settled into our routine, I found new and unexpected pleasures. A warm brown egg from a generous, obviously undamaged hen. The fun of watching dogs chasing each other in happy play while sliding all over the ice. The little red squirrels so brilliant at out-manuevering the raggedy pack of dogs trying to catch it. The big sky that you don't see in town. The reassuring sound of the sump pump keeping us dry. The lovely smell of wood as the furnace gets ready for the night.

— Anne Mason



Anne Mason recounts her recent adventures in farm-, dog- and chicken-sitting...



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Indigenous Perspectives on 200 Years of European Settlement

Most residents of Perth and the neighbouring townships will, by now, be very aware that 2016 is the 200th anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement, Beckwith, Drummond/North Elmsley, and Tay Valley. Their founding marked a significant growth in the European colonization of this part of what is now Ontario. A myriad of events are being planned in commemoration of the anniversaries, but an important part of the story has been under-represented to date — the history of the Algonquin people who were here first, indeed, for over 8,000 years, and who continue to live here despite over two centuries of racist and discriminatory practices and government policies.

Unfortunately, absence of indigenous people from the public history is not unique to the 200th celebrations. Historical plaques in the region celebrate William Bell, The Perth Road, Perth Military Settlement, Summit House, and others, but none speak of Algonquin history or Algonquin experiences with settlement in the region. The anniversary celebrations could provide an opportunity to begin to address this significant gap in our public history.

On Sunday, May 29, indigenous perspectives on the 200th will be shared by Paula Sherman and Mireille Lapointe — both members of and former co-chiefs of the Ardoch Algonquin First Nation. The presentation will be at 2PM at The Table Community Food Centre at 190 Gore St. E. in Perth. Sherman is a professor at Trent University and Lapointe teaches at Perth's St. John's Catholic High School. Among other publications, Sherman contributed a chapter on Algonquin history to *At Home in Tay Valley*, which was published for the 200th. The intent of the presentation is to increase the understanding of our history, in the spirit of reconciliation and improving relationships for the sharing of the land we now all call home.

A crucial starting point for understanding our history is the fact that when Europeans arrived to this area it was not an empty wilderness "completely devoid of any kind of social networks", as it was described in a February 25 200th anniversary publication. This land was, and continues to be, part of the Algonquin Nation territory, which ex-

tends throughout the Ottawa River watershed and includes such tributaries as the Rideau, Tay and Mississippi Rivers. At the time of European contact and settlement, the Algonquin people had complex social and political structures designed to maintain their relationships with the natural world and neighbouring nations. Algonquin people continue to have relationships and responsibilities in these lands and waterscapes that define their culture and identity.

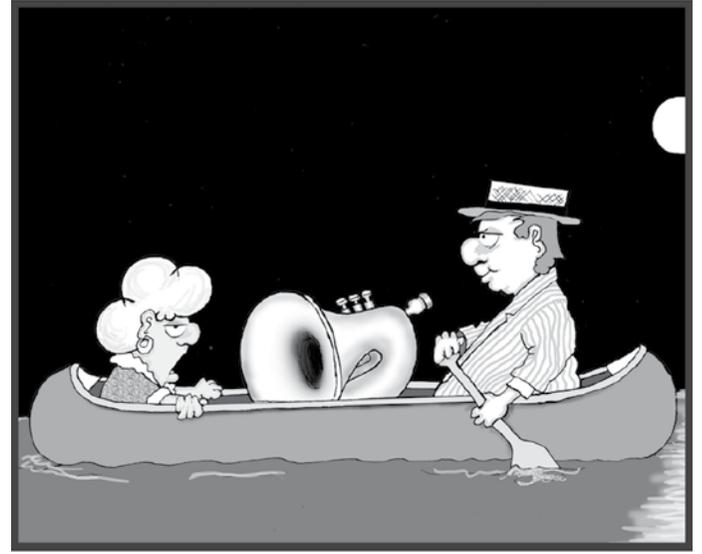
The lands for the initial settlement and subsequent allotments to colonists were given away by the Colonial Office in contradiction to the Royal Proclamation of 1763. Under the Proclamation, lands were not to be settled or otherwise disturbed without a treaty between the English Crown and indigenous peoples. In response to complaints from Algonquin communities about the encroachments into their territory, British Official Sir John Johnson signed a copy of the Proclamation, guaranteeing that the lands would always be protected and reserved for the Algonquin people. To date, no agreement to cede the Algonquin homeland to the Crown has been made.

The presentation is being organized by an ad hoc group of residents (settlers, recent immigrants and indigenous people) who are concerned about the under-representation of indigenous stories in the 200th anniversary. In addition to this event, they have presented to Perth, Tay Valley, and Drummond/North Elmsley Municipal Councils seeking a greater commitment to recognizing this part of our history during the 200th and beyond. They are also planning other events during National Aboriginal Week in June. The group is urging individuals who would like to learn more about the area's very long history to inform themselves by reading works by Algonquin authors, such as *Fractured Homeland* by Bonita Lawrence, and Lynn Gehl's *The Truth that Wampum Tells*. For more information about the group's activities, please contact Maureen Bostock at <maureenbostock@hotmail.com> and visit the Lanark County Neighbours for Truth and Reconciliation on Facebook.

— Submitted by Ramsey Hart on behalf of Lanark County Neighbours for Truth and Reconciliation

ARTBEAT

by Bill Buttle



"This had better be good!"

Never Fear – Artbeat is Here!

If you're like many readers, the first place you turn to in each issue of theHumm is page 2, to get your monthly dose of Artbeat (and to see who was reading the paper three or so years ago). We employed a dastardly scare tactic this month to draw your attention to the fact that Bill Buttle, cartoonist extraordinaire, is releasing his second collection, aptly entitled *More Artbeat, and Passing Scenery*.

Bill, who grew up in this area and now lives in Arnprior, honed his keen sense of humour by working first as a dentist and then as a schoolbus driver, and keeps his musical skills sharp by playing banjo and bass with the bluegrass group Corduroy Road. He began drawing Artbeats when theHumm was but a fledgling publication, and has contributed to the paper every month for the past fifteen years. We can't begin to express our appreciation of his skills, his generosity, and his ability to poke gentle fun at artistic undertakings of all sorts.

So whether you want to keep your own collection of chuckles close by (yes, the bathroom is a perfectly acceptable resting place), or share Artbeat with someone who doesn't have the good fortune of living in the Ottawa Valley area, may we most humbly recommend that you dash right out and pick up a few copies of *More Artbeat*. They are available at The Book Nook in Perth, The Book Gallery in Carleton Place, Mill Street Books in Almonte and the Arnprior Book Store (you can guess which town that one's in).

And thanks, Bill, for fifteen funny years (so far!)
— Kris Riendeau

P.S. Naturally, the Artbeat cartoon will return to its rightful place on page 2 again next month...

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Surprising Statistics

I believe that I am like a lot of people. I see so many statistics that I tend to ignore them.

But while working away last month, a statistic came across my desk. Now, to be fair, I knew this statistic would be high. However, I was quite surprised that it was higher than I thought. Much higher. The statistic is 65%. That is, 65% of Canadians do not have a will. Now, for full disclosure I will say I am a lawyer, so I already knew it was a high number. I had believed the statistic was 50%, and I was shocked to see what it really was.

Being an inquisitive sort of person (it comes naturally to lawyers), I then started to ask: why? What is it about making a will that is perhaps so difficult for people to do? Being somewhat technically savvy, I went onto my Twitter account and posed the question. If you are one of the 65% of adults, why do you not have a will? Somewhat predictably I got no answer at all. Too many people tweeting about award shows. Undaunted, I went off and launched onto the Facebook account, asking the same question. This time I got answers. Interesting ones. The first one was “making the time” and the second was “the cost”. The third objection was that it’s an awkward discussion. Now *that* I have to agree with. It is a bit of a bizarre discussion. No one likes to look forward to what our own eventual realities are on this planet. However, not wanting something is one thing, but actively trying to ignore that reality, particularly when you have children to provide for, is another thing entirely. Although it is important for your health to balance your life by being involved in music, art and culture, I would argue that part of balancing your life is also making sure that, should your life end before you plan, or even when you do plan, your family will not be left in a mess.

So instead of ranting about the statistic, I decided to try and explain to folks what will happen if you don’t have a will. Let me take a common situation of parents with children. Let’s say the parents live common-law (meaning they’re not married). You may be surprised to hear this, but if you are not married and you die, your common-law spouse — brace yourself — inherits nothing.

Many people believe that it makes no difference whether you are common-law or married. However, when it comes to inheriting, the only way your spouse can do that is with a will. What happens if you are married? I will save that for another time. Back to the not married situation. If you don’t have a will, the court will select someone who will administer your estate. Your surviving family has to apply to the court to get that done and the provincial legislation says who gets your estate.

In that situation, your estate may face a claim in court from your spouse. On top of that, the money that would be going to your children would be held by a government agency until your child turns 18. If the parent of your child wants to access any money for them before that, they have to apply to the agency. Another interesting point is that your children will get their share of their inheritance when they turn 18. Whether that is a wise choice or not is for you to consider. If you do make a will, you get to pick a different age. But if you don’t, 18 is the law.

So when you know those few points and you think about the objection of time and money, the cost of a small flat-screen TV as opposed to what would happen with all of your assets? Well, it appears minor. And the time? About an hour talking to a lawyer. From where I sit, that statistic should not be as high as it is. A properly done will can help reduce the amount of taxes that may be payable on the money you leave behind. It can also give you peace of mind, and that’s always a good thing.

— Elizabeth Swarbrick is a lawyer and mediator at Swarbrick Law Barristers & Solicitors in Almonte

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The Reeve Report

Now We’ve Done It! — Part II

We’ve been enjoying the new TV/sound system for a month now. Our cat, uniquely called “Cat”, has decided the best place to explore is behind the TV, daintily tripping over the rats’ nest of wires back there. Twice she’s unplugged the sound bar, leaving Alan poking buttons to no avail. There’s something enticing about the slight hum the set emits. I guess she can’t electrocute herself, but she sure could get trapped.

by Glenda Jones

Finally we’re getting the big picture, so to speak, and thanks to the PVR we’re freeing ourselves from the monotony of car commercials. We record our favourites, watch at our leisure, and ignore the dross we don’t like. Ah, the excitement of modern technology.

Could we just be satisfied with this bit of progress? No. I knew something better was looming over the horizon: Wi-Fi! You’d have thought we were re-inventing the wheel it took me so long to get up the gumption to call our service provider and “have a chat” about the advantages of this whole new hook up. Not enough we simply talk on the phone. I wanted someone to come to the house, look at what we have, and make a suggestion. This was going to be life altering, I was very sure.

Young people who have to deal with senior “know so littles” have the patience of Job. However, they were born with this valuable knowledge and it’s their particular burden to have to share it. To us, our latest guru, Graham, was a paragon of technical wizardry. Not only did he overlook the dust on the nest of wires under our computer, but also he was like a dentist describing the procedure with professional aplomb. He walked us through the advantages, the cost, the hook up. “This plugs in here, and we connect this to this router, and after a minute it’ll light up, and BOOM, there you go”, all done painlessly. Further, he was able to identify the mystery box that lurks under the desk,

knowing immediately it was the “sub-woofer.” I love that — it sounds like mini-puppy.

Next he gave us a whole lesson on how to use the TV Smart Features. He was a whiz with the control, although he admitted he hadn’t used that particular one before. (Where do they get this knowledge?) In a split second he had set up the apps — techy, eh? — and found Netflix. He showed us how to access Google right there on the big screen. But then came the best part: he noticed our picture was off-centre, and with one deft move, found the proper setting to correct the picture size. He even got me to use the control myself to retrace what he had done. I did it a few times so I hopefully will remember, but I’m sure the first time it’s going to be disaster. I have Graham on speed dial, and he promised he’d come back if I run into problems.

Here’s the funny bit: while he wrote out the invoice, I wrote out a cheque for him. He was disappointed, because he wanted to use his new little credit card reader! The faster I go, the behinder I get.

So now we’re all set. My next excursion will be into the land of Netflix, which I am told is the be-all

Could we just be satisfied with this bit of progress? No. I knew something better was looming over the horizon: Wi-Fi!

and end-all of TV enjoyment. It’s like going to the beach when you don’t know how deep the water is. You can bet we’ll only be wading in up to our ankles for the first while.

Since January I’ve learned the following: how to do a banking e-transfer, how to fill and send a PDF form electronically, how to add a signature to a document (although it looks pretty squiggly). I can work on the computer and listen to music at the same time, and I’ve nearly tamed my picture programme. I’ve managed the PVR, the new TV controls, and now I’m starting down the Smart TV route. I hope all this doesn’t make me want a Smart phone or a tablet. There are limits here. My little old cell phone is ample connectivity for me. All this tech stuff will give me a headache, I just know it!

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May Movies – Cannes Do!

May is going to be an exciting month for movie watchers. The Cannes Film Festival will begin on the 11th, starting off the film season with some of the most anticipated films of the year. Débuting on the French Riviera this month will be films from seriously talented filmmakers such as Pedro Almodóvar (*Julieta*), Nicolas Winding Refn (*The Neon Demon*), Woody Allen (*Café Society*), the supposedly retired Ken Loach (*I, Daniel Blake*), Jim Jarmusch (*Paterson*), Sean Penn (*The Last Face*), Olivier

by Matt Roche

Assayas (*Personal Shopper*), Park Chan-wook (*The Handmaiden*), Paul Verhoeven (*Elle*), the Dardenne Brothers (*The Unknown Girl*) and Quebec wunderkind Xavier Dolan (*It's Only the End of the World*). But while we wait months to see these films, we have some excellent films in nearby theatres and in our rental stores to pass the time.



This month, Matt recommends *Midnight Special* (above) and *The Witch*, among others

Currently in our mega-theatres, Disney's *The Jungle Book*, Richard Linklater's *Everybody Wants Some!* and *Deadpool* are all great choices, for different reasons. But, while it lasts in theatres, I highly suggest seeking out *Midnight Special*, a thrilling, fascinating film from one of the most talented, articulate filmmakers working today. Writer/director Jeff Nichols' fourth film is yet another addition to an already flawless résumé (while creating a masterpiece, *Mud* (2012), in the process).

Midnight Special is an exhilarating film, very much in the vein of such classic sci-fi fare as Spielberg's *E.T.* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, as well as John Carpenter's *Starman*. Exceptionally well paced, the film delivers not a dull moment. We get roped into this mysterious journey as we follow

Lucas, Sarah and Roy (Joel Edgerton, Kirsten Dunst and Nichols' staple Michael Shannon) as they follow Roy and Sarah's young son Alton (Jaeden Lieberher), who leads them to a specific place at a specific time. Why Alton needs to go there is beyond anyone. All we know is that he's special. They can only travel at night, because daylight activates something in Alton that shoots blinding white light out of his eyes. On this magical journey, the family's faith, beliefs, endurance and humanity are all tested. Filled with unique insight, a great score from David Wingo and wonderful performances all around, *Midnight Special* is simply not the kind of movie they make anymore. Like what J.J. Abrams did a few years ago with *Super 8*, Nichols is paying homage to the great films of earlier times, when character, emotional substance and a sense of irony was still valued over sound and spectacle. *Midnight Special* is one of the best films so far this year, and deserves to be seen.

Although currently done its run in the theatre, coming this month to DVD is another exceptional film: the unsettling slow-burner *The Witch*. This film is best described as psychological horror, which it is, but it is more complex than that.

The film opens in pre-Salem-witch-trials New England (though by only a decade or two), where a hardcore Puritan Christian family is exiled from their community and must start a new life on the edge of town, building a homestead near a rather ominous-looking forest. The reason for the exile is unclear, though it did apparently include "prideful conceit". Now on their own, the family stands vigil in their beliefs.

Soon after planting their new roots, things start to go very wrong. In a truly remarkable early scene, their young infant disappears, stolen by a witch that lives in the very woods by which they chose to settle. That event begins the decline. The crops start to die, the children insist that their family goat Black Philip speaks to them, the youngest two children accuse the eldest daughter, Thomasin, of being a witch (they may even be right), and their son Caleb becomes frightfully ill. The family depends heavily on their religion, yet all that Christian compassion (one daughter is even named Mercy) quickly dissipates. A sickness has spread over the family, and they begin to accuse one another of evil doings and turn on each other in their time of need. Suspicion and paranoia has enveloped them. The more things get weird (and it gets weird, with scenes that will haunt and terrify you), the more it fuels the madness. Whether this is all the witch's doing, or whether she just planted the seeds, is ambiguous at best. The witch herself is only glimpsed in small snippets onscreen. But what

you experience here is psychological horror at its finest, which happily seems to be a current trend, with such equally impressive films as *The Babadook*, *It Follows* and *Goodnight Mommy* bringing the same slow burn. As Hitchcock said, it's the suspense — not the surprise — that is important. Indeed, I believe Hitchcock would have loved this film.

Written and directed by first-time filmmaker Robert Eggers, and starring a great mix of seasoned thespians (especially Ralph Ineson as the father, William) and newcomers (Anya Taylor-Joy as Thomasin and Harvey Scrimshaw as Caleb particularly stand out), *The Witch* is a film that is not particularly scary, but that will chill you to the bone. And that is a rare feat these days.

These wonderful films, and many others, are ready for consumption. Smiths Falls' Station Theatre and Perth's Full Circle Theatre will be showing the Chinese saga *Coming Home*, the latest from Yimou Zhang (*Raise the Red Lantern*, *Hero*) on May 4 and 5, as well as the delightful *The Lady in the Van*, starring Maggie Smith, on May 18 and 19. All these films are well worth your time.

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Working with your hands is one of the Algonquin College Perth Campus' signature offerings — and these offerings will soon be available to the greater community.

This summer, the campus will launch its Summer Heritage Institute, a two-tiered continuing education foundation. Some courses will be geared to the general public, while others will be more specialized, for professional development purposes.

These courses will provide students the opportunity to learn about heritage trades, as well as how these trades can still play a role in our everyday lives. From building a drystone wall to crafting tools through blacksmithing, their Summer Heritage Institute courses offer the opportunity to delve into the past, while at the same time learning new concepts.

"We're offering courses that go back to a time when things were built with your hands, your head and your heart," says dean Chris Hahn. "We want you to bring your ideas to life through these courses in carpentry, blacksmithing, canoe building, and more."

By focusing on the heritage trades and arts, the Algonquin College Perth Campus will address a desire many of us feel, to return to our roots and continue to utilize these centuries-old crafts.

The course line-up includes the Art du Trait – Stereotomy workshops, which consist of two five-day courses taught by Patrick Moore this May and June. An accomplished carpenter who has studied in France, Moore brings a rare skill to North America. In his workshops, participants will learn the basics of roof and timber roof structures in the style of the European "compagnons". Through hands-on learning, participants will learn to build complex roof structures that can be incorporated in all types of buildings. This course is indispensable to the carpenter, architect, designer, engineer, and builder, but is also accessible to the young woodworker. The second course will see participants adopt their knowledge to build a gazebo for the campus' outdoor use. These courses are each limited to twelve participants.

Other courses on offer this summer include Build a Drystone Wall, Blacksmithing, Fibre Arts, and Canoe Building Techniques.

Algonquin College Perth Campus

The small, friendly campus is located in the historic Town of Perth. This setting enhances their unique heritage trades programs, which draw students from the local community and from across the world. Perth was awarded the Prince of Wales Prize for its continued commitment to preserving its rich architectural heritage, and the Algonquin Heritage Institute was recognized as integral to the community's success. Masonry and carpentry projects completed by students can be found throughout Perth and the surrounding Lanark County.

To learn more about the Summer Heritage Institute, visit <algonquincollege.com/perth>. To register, contact Cheryl Giff at <giffc@algonquincollege.com> or 267-2859.

Opinion Ate It...

On the Road Again

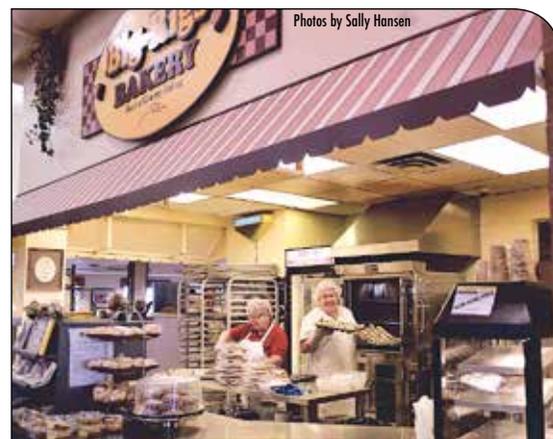
According to Matt Groening's Jeff and Akbar, food at airports is to be avoided. In fact, the motto of their Airport Snack Bar is: "When you're stuck at the airport, you're stuck with us". As a frequent traveller, I generally agree that food "en route" suffers from the combination of lack of time and transient clientele. Logical, if you do not expect to see most of your customers more than once.

by Sebastian Weetabix

But what if a class of travellers could visit frequently? And what if they had special needs? And what if they were united by shared problems, and shared experiences? These are the factors that make for a stable clientele and a following that can be almost cult-like. These are factors that create some of the world's great and notable eateries! And these are factors that create truck stops.

The *Michelin Guide*, bible of gourmets, food snobs and those sincerely seeking superior dining experiences, has a ranking system based on its origin as an aid to motorists: "a good place to stop", "worth a detour", and "worth a special journey". A good truck stop can claim that it satisfies all three of these conditions and be truthful, but what about the food? Deciding that the tagline "Best cuisine on the 417" should not be taken literally (road-kill recipes may be the subject of another article), and further deciding that there is no need to actually do a comparison along the route, Weetabix has been persuaded to visit the **Antrim Truck Stop**. Parking will probably not be a problem.

For anybody not familiar with the trucking industry, a visit to the Antrim Truck Stop is recommended as an educational excursion — take a look around their excellent website first <antrimtruckstop.com>. Our society lives on the infrastructure of trucking, and most of us give insufficient thought to consequences of this fact. Our largely urbanized lives and all that they require exist in complete dependence on a steady and reliable flow of goods that are in large part transported by trucks. Bulk commodities may be moved overland by pipes or trains, but sooner or later just about everything we consume will make its way on and off a truck. 24 hours a day and 7 days a week trucks move — and if they don't, pretty soon things grind to a halt because, in most of our cities and even small towns, we no longer keep much inventory of essentials.



The Antrim Truck Stop near Arnprior is something of a local cult classic

Similar to electric power, trucking is pervasive and essential to our lifestyle; like electricity it is also taken for granted — as long as it is working.

Weetabix is tasked to write about food and so, having tested the Worthy Editor's tolerance for digression, now returns to the main, nay central, issue at hand. Specifically, if you are not a trucker, and if you are not already driving past Arnprior on Route 417, should you consider eating at the Antrim Truck Stop? Spoiler alert — the answer is yes.

Finding the venue is easy, and the restaurant "The Hangar" is a conspicuous part of a large complex of buildings and equipment that is obviously central to the needs of this establishment's client base. Feeling a bit out of place in a vehicle dwarfed by most of those parked here, Weetabix finds a parking place close to the entrance and makes his way to a table in a large well-lit room. Looking around at the crowd, it is clear that either The Hangar serves a broad client base or that the truckers have become more diverse; a number of children and elderly people suggest the broad client base explanation. As usual, Weetabix makes a visual survey of fellow patrons' plates as well as a careful examination of the menu. As expected, most plates are well-presented offerings of conventional fare — nothing wrong with that — popular selections are exactly that because people like them. This is a restaurant that knows its clients and is frequented by clients who know its restaurant. Prices are very fair — and the fare is better than fair. Dinner specials are offered and recommended as delivering quality, quantity and price and, if you don't want a full dinner, there is always a burger or, at the other end and for a very reasonable price, a steak dinner with full trimmings. The turkey is freshly roasted each day — making the club sandwich a special treat.

It is easy to understand why the restaurant draws in the truckers and how this base has created a local following... and that's before you get to the "Big Rig" and its offerings of a variety of baked goods of sufficient diversity and quality to cause one to violate parole and throw dietary caution to the winds: a nice piece of butterscotch pie paired with an excellent and ample piece of chocolate cake. Weetabix does not hold back and feels adequately sated.

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Farewell Artemisia, Hello Spring!

Spring has finally sprung, and it provides a perfect opportunity to get out to see and support the many artists in and around Westport!

I am taking a small break from interviewing our local artists, although there are a few more on the agenda. I thought a few words welcoming spring again would in-

by Georgia Ferrell

still in all of us the desire to get out and explore the beauty of these balmy days.

The warmer months offer a number of destinations and studio tours for day-trippers to this great region of artists. From Kingston to Perth, from Sharbot Lake to Ottawa, the area abounds with wonderful artists and works for all tastes. Some highlights include the Grist Mill Gallery in Westport <gristmillgallery.com>, the Stewart Park Festival in Perth <stewart-parkfestival.com>, heritage museums and community theatres in many of our towns <lanarkcountytourism.com>, and the studios of many local artists that will be open seasonally or participating in studio tours. The Humm's calendar is a great source for lots more to see and do, and proves that art is alive and well in the land of the Rideau Lakes and Westport, as well as in the entire Humm coverage area!

Given that art is such a large part of our communities, it was most interest-

ing to be part of the Teeny Tiny Summit that was held in Seeley's Bay a couple weeks ago. A lot of great ideas (to bring sparkle and life to our towns) were suggested in a most remarkable keynote presentation by Doug Griffiths, a former Alberta MLA who was responsible for rural development. Thanks, Doug, for a great talk, and for all the good ideas for capitalizing on the wonderful art and artists in our area.

Here in my town, Westport In Bloom is preparing to beautify things with lovely flowering baskets that hang around town with colourful cheer to welcome our visitors. The Visitor Centre beside the Post Office is also preparing for another great season of providing tourists to our entire area with brochures and information so that they can have the best visit possible.

Here at home — no longer Artemisia Art Gallery anymore — I am getting packed and ready to move, hopefully to Chaffey's Lock so that I can paddle my canoe every day that is dry and not too windy. I spent nine days at Bearwood Canoe near Parry Sound building my beautiful wood and canvas canoe, and I certainly consider it to be a work of art. It was an amazing experience to go from steaming and bending the ribs to filling the canvas, sanding her down and finishing with the most beautiful shiny colour green. I call her Dulcinea, as I, too,

often tilt at windmills. It astounds me, really, to think that from where I will be living, I could paddle her all the way to Ottawa, or all the way to Kingston. In any case, I sure am looking forward to this summer, and even spring if it decides to stick around this time.

So long until next time — give a wave when you see me and my canoe on the water!



Choral Delights in Eganville

The Ottawa Valley Music Festival begins its 2016 season on Sunday, June 5 in Eganville with the third annual Festival of Choirs. Choral Delights will present the Deep River Choral Group and the Ottawa Valley Music Festival Chorus in an afternoon of glorious singing, with something to suit every musical taste, as the two groups perform jazz, gospel, folk, classical, and Broadway melodies.

Where else can you expect to hear a programme so varied it includes music by George Gershwin, Kurt Weill, Cole Porter, Paul Simon, Arnold Schoenberg and Carl Nygard Jr.?

Choral Delights takes place on Sunday, June 5 at Grace Lutheran Church, 14 Bonnechere Street West in Eganville at 3PM. Tickets are \$25, \$10 for young adults (under 30), \$5 for students, and free for children 12 and under. For more information or to buy tickets, please visit <ottawavalleymusicfestival.ca> or call 649-2429.

Season tickets are also available. Other concerts this season include Wondrous Winds (featuring the Bel Canto Quintet) on August 7 in Arnprior, and Classicism Par Excellence on September 18 in Pembroke.

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Fielding New Work for Spring Fieldwork Welcomes Five New Art Installations

On Saturday, May 7, **Fieldwork** invites the public to celebrate the opening of its ninth season with five new art installations featuring eight internationally-acclaimed artists.

Marco D'Andrea (of Hamilton) has driven a 1971 Cadillac Coupe de Ville out to rest in the field like so many other outdated pieces of machinery. Inside his *Dreamcar*, a customized audio system will play a mix of music samples and natural sounds. Marco grew up in a rural Ontario community when big cars and loud music ruled.

Jolie Bird (Calgary) nests a series of recognizable objects wrapped in gold thread along a treed path. While affirming the familiar realm, these objects undergo a metaphysical transformation, becoming both precious and objects of curiosity.

Structures reminiscent of road signs but with no advertisements or traffic instructions stand out against the backdrop of a forested lane thanks to their bold colours and striped patterns. This installation by Janine Miedzik (Toronto) plays with the ideas of the context of display and reshaping visual information.

On a large erratic boulder at the edge of the field, Chris Turnbull (Kemptonville), author of two books of poetry, inscribes the surface of the rock with a poem designed to change with the seasons and the weather.

A large tripod and theodolite towers in the middle of the field, beside a vertically-mounted map, to draw attention to surveying as a means of articulating the landscape. Addressing the 200th anniversary of settlement in the Perth area, this installation alludes to our history of transitioning a forested ecosystem to one impacted by our current grid-centric view of the world. The four members

of the RSSY collective — Reinhard Reitzenstein, Jerrard and Diana Smith, and Gayle Young — have collaborated on this piece. All interdisciplinary artists, they have participated in a variety of outdoor installations and performances, many in collaboration with Canadian composer R. Murray Shafer.

Fieldwork is also pleased to have an installation by young students from the local Brooke Valley School. *Nowspot* will explore notions of time and space. Many continuing artworks from past years also adorn the territory.

Fieldwork is a dynamic and vibrant destination for the creation and experience of site-specific artwork. It's a place for all ages to explore art as they experience nature. Paths through the forest lead to some eye-opening surprises.

Taking place from 2 to 4PM, the Fieldwork opening offers the public a chance to hear the new artists discuss their work (beginning at 2:30). This year storyteller Jennifer Cayley will also tell a story as a taste of what's to come at STORYWORK, a Fieldwork event in collaboration with 2 women productions, scheduled for September 24. Stay tuned.

Fieldwork gratefully acknowledges the Ontario Arts Council and National Bank Financial for their support.

The opening takes place in the field across from 2501 Old Brooke Road, in Maberly. Find more information at <fieldworkproject.com> or on Facebook. Fieldwork is open 365 days a year and is free of charge (including parking). Please remember it is a natural setting complete with bugs, and be sure to dress accordingly.

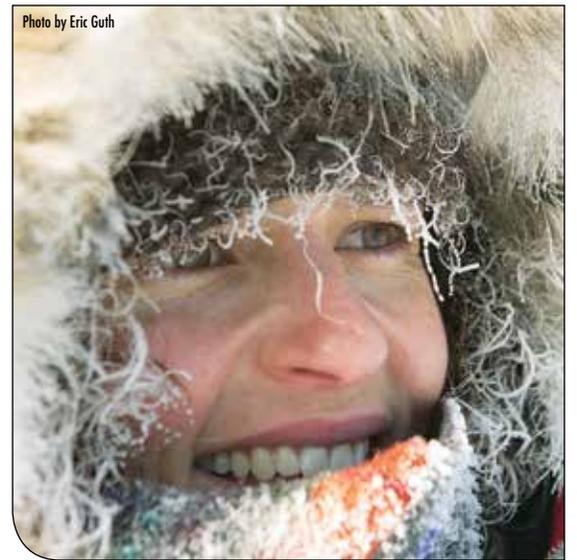
“Meet the North” with Jennifer Kingsley

The Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, a local member of the Ontario Nature Network, will hold their seventh annual Spring Gathering on May 19 at the Almonte Civitan Community Hall. The evening will feature a banquet and a keynote presentation by award-winning naturalist and journalist Jennifer Kingsley.

Jennifer Kingsley first met the north on long canoe trips, and is the author of *Paddlenorth: Adventure, Resilience, and Renewal in the Arctic Wild*, winner of a top prize at the 2015 National Outdoor Book Awards. Her work as a broadcast journalist has been recognized by the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. In 2015 Jennifer Kingsley founded the “Meet the North” project, and during the past year, as field correspondent for Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic she has undertaken a remarkable journey — from home in Ottawa, to Europe, Svalbard (an Norwegian archipelago), Iceland, Greenland and towns in the Canadian Arctic — to understand the ecology, the culture, and most importantly the people of remote and northern lands increasingly the focus of global attention.

In her presentation “Meet the North: Life in the Arctic, One Introduction at a Time”, Kingsley will take us on a journey around the top of the world with stories you won't find in any newspaper! With a small project team, “Meet the North” gets its direction from the people of the north. “Their ideas set our path; we listen, and we follow their lead. By meeting one person at a time, and by asking that person to introduce us to someone new, we are getting to know the Arctic community, and we are sharing our journey.” Kingsley provides regular updates at <meetthenorth.org>.

Come out on May 19 as Jennifer Kingsley travels south to share stories and spectacular images,



Author, naturalist and adventurer Jennifer Kingsley will speak on May 19 in Almonte

going beyond the headlines and into the lives of those who call the Arctic their home. For naturalists and travellers alike, it is an unexpected Arctic that Kingsley will share.

Spring Gathering 2016 begins at 5:30PM with a reception and chance to share a drink and bid in the silent auction to benefit Environmental Education. Dinner begins at 6:30PM, and then you can sit back and enjoy the journey. Tickets (\$40) must be purchased or reserved in advance by Friday, May 13, and are available in Almonte at Gilligalou Bird Store, at The Blossom Shop in Carleton Place, and in Perth at The Office. For more information or to reserve your tickets for pick up at the venue, please contact MVFN's Brenda Boyd at <bjboyd@mvfn.ca> or 256-2706.

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A Taste of Music City, U.S.A.

This month's column comes to you from my hotel room in Nashville, Tennessee, also known as "Music City". I have been here for the past three days on a band tour with members of two of my high school bands. Anyone who has ever been here before knows that "Music City" is a very fitting nickname.

by Tony Stuart

Our journey to Nashville started with an idea tossed out by our bus driver last year when we toured another great music town — Cleveland, Ohio. As many of you know, the Town of Carleton Place has a sister city in Franklin, Tennessee. Franklin just happens to be a half-hour drive away from Nashville. The puzzle pieces were all fitting together nicely.

It seemed like a great idea to head down to Nashville and at the same time act as ambassadors by paying a visit to our sister city. We performed at a middle school in Franklin in front of a very large student audience. I'm proud to announce that our student musicians did an excellent job in their performance, and the music director at this school commented that my students were really good at watching the baton as they were playing, and that her students noticed this as well. As a high school conductor, that is certainly nice to hear, because I sometimes feel like a broken record when talking about the importance of looking up while performing. We're always trying to avoid having any "accidental soloists".

Our time in Nashville has been eye-opening. We attended a Grand Ole Opry show at the famous Ryman Auditorium. The Ryman is known as the "mother church of country music", and it is considered to be one of the highest honours to be invited to perform there. We witnessed this, as several of the evening's performers were newcomers to that stage, despite being established country artists. Their excitement and gratitude were pal-

pable, and it was very cute to see Marty Brown's mother standing up and clapping excitedly while her son performed. The Ryman is also famous for its acoustic properties and, during our show, every word and every nuance from the instruments was crystal clear. The sense of tradition is everywhere at the Ryman, and it is worth taking in a show if you have the opportunity.

A visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame is a must when visiting here. Besides the long list of country artists, you will also find exhibits on Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash, two musicians who blurred the lines between rock and roll, blues, and country music. It offers a fascinating glimpse into this musical city.

No trip to Nashville would be complete without a visit to "Honky Tonk Row". This is a strip along Broadway Street where there are countless music clubs. As you walk along the street you hear a different band playing at each venue. Every single one of these bands sounds fantastic, and these are highly polished performers. I was fortunate enough to catch a set by Ottawa native Trevor Finlay. Trevor has been in Nashville for eight years. I had the chance to speak with him after his set, and he says the decision to come down to Nashville was well worth it. He also gave me some insight into life as a Nashville-based musician. What struck me most was how hard these folks work. They perform four-hour sets without any breaks, and it is not uncommon to do three sets a day. It explains why every single band along Honky Tonk Row is so tight with both their instrumentals and vocals. In 2015, Trevor played 303 gigs, both in Nashville and on tour, and his passion for his craft is obvious.

I will admit that I wasn't sure how much I would enjoy my visit to Nashville, as I am not a country music fan. Of course, you will hear other types of music in Nashville, but country is king. What I can tell you is that I thoroughly enjoyed every performance that I took in, and I have a newfound appreciation for why so many people enjoy this type of music. There is an honesty in these songs that is different from anything else. The musicians seem very aware of their roots, and take great pride in continuing to build on that legacy.

I certainly intend on doing another band trip down here at some point before I retire, and I also look forward to visiting this city again on my own. Music City has rekindled a fire in me, and reminded me again that as musicians we are so lucky to be able to do what we love.

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



Music teacher Tony Stuart recently took members of the Notre Dame Catholic High School bands to Nashville, and he somehow found time to write this column from his hotel room!

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