

OCTOBER 2023

the Hummm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas



p.20 & 21
October's Events



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Arts-Giving Time!



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The Mudds Have a Clue



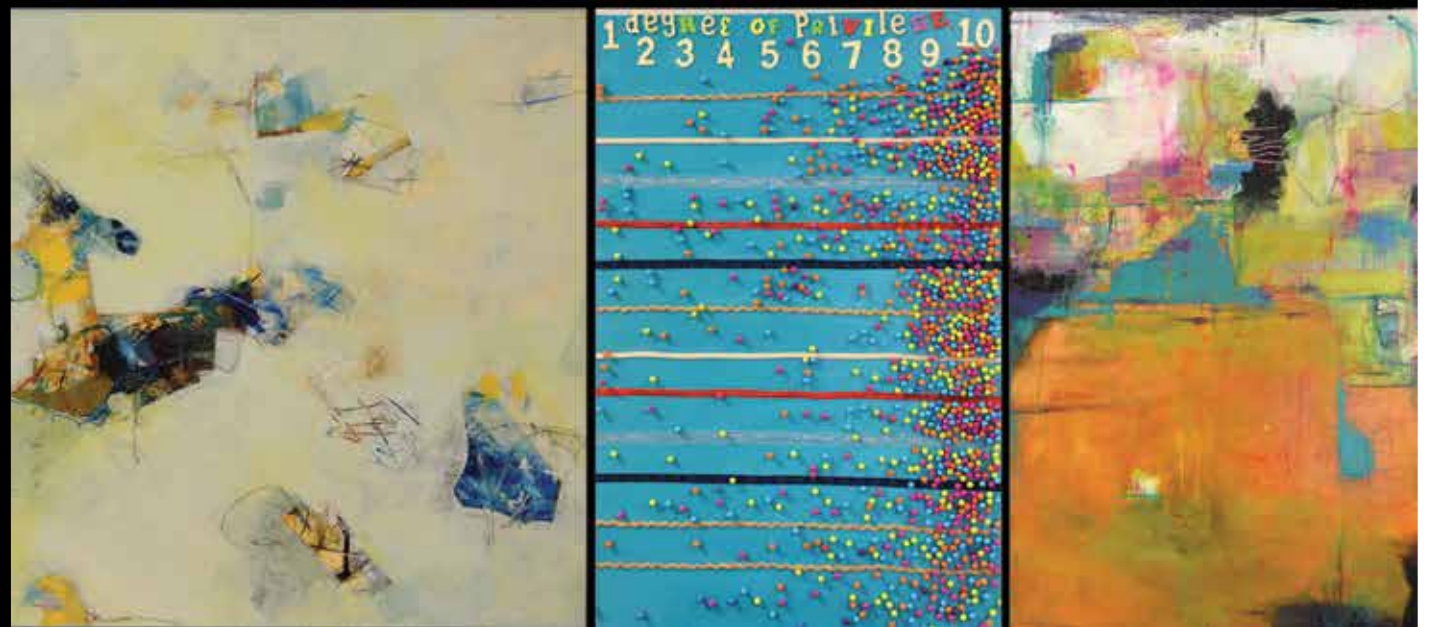
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Meet the New Hummster!



"Equal rights for
others does not mean
fewer rights for you.
Get not pie."
Jesse Williams

The Art of Bel Angeles p.3



Fall Colours

When the fall colours are at their most beautiful, artist studio tours will lure you out to the Ottawa Valley to admire gorgeous works of art as well. And when you realize that the Valley is irresistible, let me help you find the perfect home in the country!

- Pat's Picks: **Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour** <crowndpumpkin.com>
Perth Autumn Studio Tour <perthstudiotour.com>
Red Trillium Studio Tour <redtrilliumst.com>
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STILL DON'T PANIC!

In case you missed last month's notice, we have decided to make a slight change to our publication schedule. Instead of trying to bring our January 2024 issue out right after New Years when so many shops and tourist attractions are closed, we plan to publish a **Winter Issue** that will hit the streets in mid-January and take you through to the end of February. We will then return to our regular schedule of coming out at the beginning of each month.

If you currently subscribe to theHumm, we will still mail you 12 copies before your subscription is up for renewal. If you advertise in theHumm, we would love to hear from you as to how we can promote anything and everything you have going on in January and February — please give us a shout at <editor@thehumm.com> to discuss our new schedule. And thank you for your support!

If you read theHumm, we truly appreciate you too. If you have any feedback about this plan, feel free to give us a shout as well. Thank you!
— Kris & Rob Riendeau, Editors & Publishers



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

Submissions

By email or on disk.

Content Deadline:

20th of the month prior to publication

Advertising Deadline:

22nd of the month prior to publication

Subscriptions

cost \$40 (includes HST) for one year (11 issues). Send a cheque with your name and address to: theHumm: 237 Borden Road Mississippi Mills ON K7C 3P1

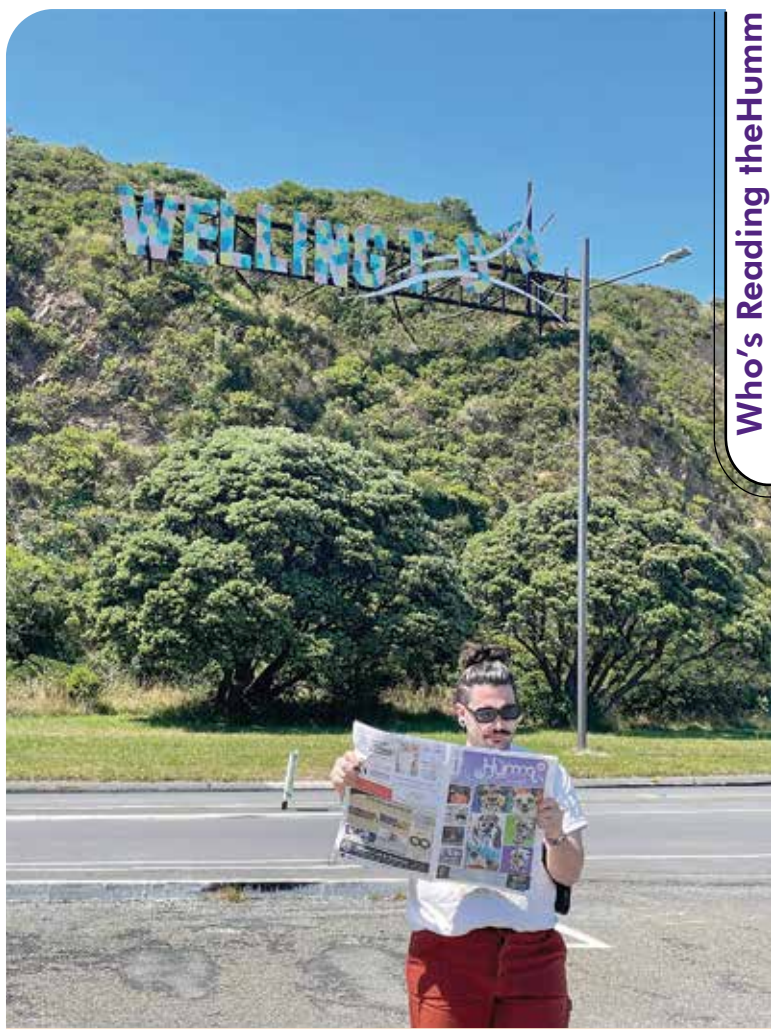
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theHumm's Up!

theHumm is thrilled to be bringing **Leanne Baker** on as an intern, and tasking her with helping make our 25-year-old arts paper relevant to a new generation. Meet her on page 6 of this issue.

But we also want to give a shout-out to two women of a slightly different vintage who have been contributing creatively and steadfastly to theHumm for almost a quarter-century. In this issue you'll find **Glenda Jones's** great column *The Reeve Report*, as well as an article about a new local film society. And **Sally Hansen** contributed not only the insightful Artist Profile, but also gorgeous photography to accompany three other pieces. Thanks so much to you both!



Who's Reading theHumm

In February of this year, **Stefan Kaleb** sent in this photo of him reading theHumm in Wellington, New Zealand, because theHumm's editor knew he was going and hounded him for a photo. Thanks, Stefan!

Humble Thought

Remember:
change happens slowly
and then all at once.

— Jennifer Rubin of the Washington Post

Congratulations to Rachel Houlton Rideau Artist of the Year

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<p>Jane Austen's Lady Susan presented by Studio Theatre Perth October 12-22</p>	<p>Fleetwood Mac Mania Premier tribute act Farrell Hall, Perth October 21</p>
<p>Taste of Autumn 4-course dinner at Stonefields Estate October 26</p>	<p>Perth Ghost Walks Led by local historian starting at the Perth Museum October 26, 27 & 28</p>
<p>Cooking Class with Chef Joe Thottungal Mill Street Books October 27</p>	<p>Clue presented by The Mississippi Mudds October 27-November 4</p>
<p>Rocky Horror Picture Show presented by Studio Theatre Perth October 28</p>	<p>Storms of Life presented by Almonte in Concert Almonte Old Town Hall October 28</p>
<p>The Magpies presented by Music at MERA October 29</p>	<p>Driving Madeleine presented by Mississippi Mills Film Society October 29</p>
<p>One Act Play Festival presented by Eastern Ontario Drama League November 3 & 4</p>	<p>Spinning Yarns The Millworkers' Musical Almonte Old Town Hall November 17-26</p>

SELLING TICKETS? Concerts · Plays · Festivals **WE CAN HELP!** Setup · Support · Promotion

Bel Angeles – Claiming Space, Sharing Space

A small woman with a huge appetite for social justice, Valley artist Bel Angeles' art aspires to conjoin her community life and advocacies with her creativity. She succeeds admirably. Her innovative and captivating art challenges us to examine our prejudices and stereotypes. Angeles deploys her artistic creativity in ways that delight us, challenge us, and open our eyes.

by Sally Hansen

Her goal is to create art that initiates a dialogue about structural inequalities, hoping thereby to strengthen empathy and solidarity. In her creative efforts to entice us into a fuller appreciation of what it means to be privileged, she dances effortlessly between overt and subtle, between accessible and unconventional. She invents artworks that challenge viewers to participate in rating themselves on a scale of privilege. She creates recto-verso (two-sided) displays that beguile and entice us into looking for the hidden/deeper meanings in her paintings.

Everyone has a story. Bel encourages you to look beyond the surface — to see that there is more. Her works are a call to empathy. When you look at the flipside of her recto-verso work there is an “ah-ha” moment when you get it. Bel's hope is that we'll keep her message in our consciousness, and it will open our eyes and hearts to ways in which we can make a difference for all those who live in the margins.

high-stress jobs in chronic emergency situations all over the world. Her first teacher was an exiled Karen refugee artist (the Karen are an ethnic nationality of an estimated six million people who primarily reside in Burma), and she continued to learn from practicing artists in the different countries where she worked and lived. Primarily self-taught, she starts intuitively, often gravitating towards mark-making, layering and texture.

Claiming Space, Sharing Space

In her own words: “I explore ways to ‘claim space and share space’, acknowledging my identity as a woman immigrant person of colour that gives me conditions of marginality but also privilege. I also explore the intersections of art and social justice, creating art based on reflections about structural inequalities.”

Personal privilege is associated with the distribution of wealth, opportunities, access and participation. Angeles was raised with her seven siblings by a well-educated and civic-minded family in Manilla where she enjoyed the privilege of earning a B.A. in Psychology at the University of the Philippines. After a decade of working in various jobs, she embarked on a challenging and highly rewarding career with postings around the world for international development and humanitarian work in the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Uganda, Rwanda, Jordan, Canada, Southeast Asia region and the East Africa region.

Along the way she garnered a Master of Arts in Development Studies at the International Institute for Social Studies at the Hague in the Netherlands. Her name (Maria Belen Angeles) appears in three publications, based on research commissioned by the FAO of the United Nations, and by UNESCO, for whom she did a study on trafficking of women in Africa. Her astonishing CV summarizes her work history by stating: “My main technical expertise is in gender, gender-based violence and working with refugees. I have extensive experience in senior-level management, board work, independent evaluations and organizational development. I am an active roster member of CARE International for Gender in Emergencies Advisor posts in humanitarian settings.”

A socially just society gives everyone equal access to wealth, opportunities and privileges. Angeles' interest in and fight for social justice has never waned. Since coming to Canada in 2012 with her Canadian husband, she continues to claim space for herself and all other marginalized persons.

Angeles shares space by amplifying voices. Her intriguing art is only one way in which she does so. She is rooted in community. Her actions reflect her



Art is also her recreation and her therapy. Many of her vibrant abstract paintings reflect the joie de vivre she has maintained throughout an astonishing career as an international humanitarian aid worker, working with refugees and internally displaced people. She started painting in 2006 as a form of therapy during



strong belief that it is important to participate in and contribute to the communities of which you are a part. Since moving near Perth she has volunteered with numerous charitable organizations and arts groups. She has been a board member and volunteer at Lanark County Interval House. After years of volunteering with The Table Community Food Centre <thetablecfc.org> in Perth, she has just joined them as their Operations Manager and Acting Volunteer Coordinator.

As always, her art continues to flourish and nourish her. She is a member of Arts Carleton Place and the Smiths Falls and District Arts Council. As a member of OMMA (Ottawa Mixed Media Artists Association) she displays mixed media pieces that include themes of housing insecurity and women, as well as a selection of glorious abstracts that reflect her love of life and her intrinsic, indomitable optimism.

Although her home is near Perth, she now works out of her studio at the recently opened Artisan Village at the Falls in Smiths Falls. The spacious and beautifully lit building features ten rooms of various sizes, several of which are leased by other local artists. Bel's works are beautifully displayed, her studio is spacious and comfortable, and she smiles when she tells me she has been able to reclaim two rooms in the house she shares with her husband, Kevin Malseed. The couple share their fervor for making the world a better place. He is the founder and still active with KHRG, a grassroots Karen-led human rights organization established in 1992 and now operating across rural southeast Burma/Myanmar. This is how and where Bel met her first refugee art instructor.

Perth Autumn Studio Tour

The weather forecast predicts this will be a fantastic Thanksgiving holiday opportunity to meet this gifted and dedicated artist/social justice defender/community advocate. Bel Angeles will be participating in the annual Perth Autumn Studio Tour on October 7 and 8 as one of seven regional artists at Studio 4 at 590 Brooke Valley Road <perthstudiotour.com>. Join her in her journey to claim space and share space, and enjoy her beautiful, original, inspiring art. Coordinates are on the back of her Artist Trading Card at the top of this page.

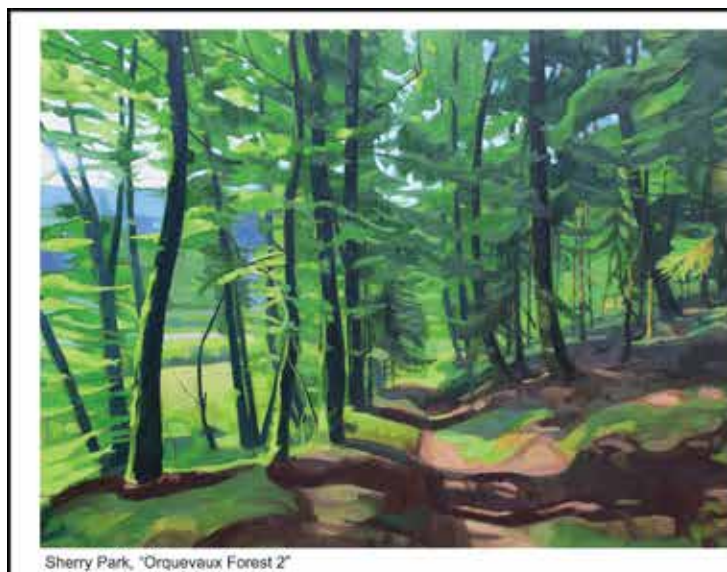
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WHO Bel Angeles

THE HUMM

WHAT Mixed-media Artist, Social Justice Proponent, Operations Manager at a local community food centre

WHERE Studio at Artisan Village at the Falls, 10 Maple Ave N, Smiths Falls, <belangeles.com> <artisanvillagesmithsfalls.com>, <instagram.com/theytoohavetheirstory>

WHEN Oct. 7-8, Perth Autumn Studio Tour, Studio 4 at 590 Brooke Valley Rd. <perthstudiotour.com>

WHY "Through abstract art and my community life, I explore themes of visibility and invisibility (forced and otherwise), marginalities, and stories hidden and untold.

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Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour Returns

It's fall, it's studio tour season, and the Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour is returning for its 27th year on Thanksgiving Weekend! Taking place on October 7 and 8 from 10AM to 4PM daily, the tour wends its way through Mississippi Mills' colourful fall scenery with 15 stops in Almonte, Clayton and the surrounding rural area. Over fifty artists and artisans are showcasing their fine art and craft, fine foods and beverages.

The tour returns to its popular studio-visit format, with nine locations welcoming visitors to workspaces, in addition to three group venues. Three artisanal businesses in Almonte will host guest artists: Hummingbird Chocolate Makers, Dairy Distillery (producers of Vodkow vodka), and Duffield Design at its new storefront on Mill Street.

Crown and Pumpkin is delighted to have the historic and picturesque Mill of Kintail as a new venue, with one artist in the Museum and six artists in the Gatehouse. Sarah's Kitchen, a familiar presence at the Almonte Farmer's Market, will be offering snacks and beverages as well as prepared frozen meals for take-away. The Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm will welcome six artists and there are five at Union Hall near Clayton. Each group stop is designed to offer a variety of creative work.

There will be demonstrations of various crafts, including glass blowing and bead making, basketry, felting, pottery, sculpture and special knitting techniques. Work includes photography, painting, pottery, jewellery, pewter, metal and woodwork, fibre arts and



This fall's Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour features fine local food, beverages, and of course art! The image above is by Sue Gibb of HazyDazyDragonflies.

leather work, as well as maple products, honey, natural beauty products and soaps. All the artists are eager to discuss their work and look forward to meeting art and craft lovers once again.

The new easy-to-navigate website has maps and more details, and offers easy access on both computers and mobile devices. Visit <crownandpumpkin.com> for details, and check out crownandpumpkin on Instagram and Facebook as well.

Fall Colours Walk at Blueberry Mountain

It's that time of year again — the air is getting chillier and the leaves are changing colour, which means it's a perfect time to trek out to cliffLAND in Lanark County to view the stunning fall colours atop Blueberry Mountain!

The Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust (MMLT) invites you to come out to Blueberry Mountain for the annual Fall Colours Walk on Saturday, October 14 (rain date October 15). Howard Clifford and his family generously host this special day of fundraising each year to celebrate and support MMLT's important

conservation work in the region. Stop by anytime from 10AM to 2PM to walk the trails, climb to the top of Blueberry Mountain, and immerse yourself in the glorious fall colours at this popular fall destination. They don't call Blueberry Mountain one of the Seven Wonders of Lanark County for nothing!

Directors and volunteers from MMLT will be onsite throughout the day to answer any and all questions. Whether you're curious about the land trust's current projects, migratory birds or rock exposures, they'll have experts on hand to share their knowledge. MMLT



The Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust invites everyone to come and view the stunning fall colours on Saturday, October 14

also invites visitors to pause at the Circle of Gratitude along the Blueberry Mountain trail, which is a series of posts with plaques that commemorate MMLT's generous and dedicated supporters. During the Walk, Howard Clifford will make a special presentation from 1-1:30PM to explain the significance of the Circle of Gratitude and give personal thanks to the listed donors.

Blueberry Mountain can be found at 502 Hills of Peace Road in Lanark, Ontario (K0G 1K0), and parking is available at the start of the trail. Please visit <mmlt.ca/events> to learn more about MMLT and this upcoming event on Saturday, October 14.

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Jane Austen's Lady Susan

Seduction, Scheming, and Lots of Laughs at Studio Theatre Perth

A comedy-drama that follows the fortunes of an attractive widow who uses her womanly wiles to seek financial security, *Jane Austen's Lady Susan* opens at the Studio Theatre on October 12.

The play comes from New York writer Rob Urbinati and is based on the famous author's novella. It tells the story of a thirty-something widow who leaves late 18th century high society in London for the country house owned by her brother-in-law Charles Vernon.

Given Lady Susan's reputation as a vamp, the lady of the house, Catherine Vernon, is rightly suspicious and not exactly thrilled at her arrival. Catherine's discomfort increases as her impressionable younger brother Reginald arrives and is immediately smitten by the new house guest. His arrival is quickly followed by that of Lady Susan's headstrong 16-year-old daughter Frederica. She is accompanied by Susan's confidante Alicia — certainly no fan of the country! Enter Sir James, already smitten by Susan and unaware that she is trying to palm him off on her daughter, and things get complicated (but very funny).

Jane Austen's Lady Susan is Annemarie Polis's first opportunity to be a director, having taken on the role of producer for *Tempting Providence* in June. Beginning as backstage support a few years ago, Annemarie has worked as box office director and also in front-of-house. "I wanted to know the various jobs before I took this role. Jane Stott, our Artistic Director, has been mentoring me for a year," Annemarie explains.

The show brings a few new actors to the Perth stage, along with some very familiar ones.



(l-r) David Bird, Mike Erion, Joanna Treffers and Olivia Swett in a scene from *Jane Austen's Lady Susan*, which opens in Perth on October 12

New to the Studio Theatre stage, Kelsey Smith plays Reginald. "He has enthusiastically jumped into the role and absorbs the ways of the theatre from those around him," notes Liz Theobald, the play's producer.

Olivia Swett, who plays Frederica, has appeared at the Station Theatre in Smiths Falls and was recommended by Lynda Daniluk, a frequent director of plays there. "She's an amazing find," enthuses Annemarie.

Taking on the femme fatale role of Lady Susan is Chrystine Williams. "She has been a fun character to play," notes Chrystine. "She's all over the place, but she comes out okay in the end. It wraps up quite nicely for her."

Joanna McAuley Treffers is back on the Perth stage after a short hiatus. She takes on the part of the long-suffering hostess Catherine. Her husband Charles is played by Mike Erion, most recently seen in *Scrooge*. Jen Perkin returns to the theatre in the role of Alicia.

Many Perth audiences will note the total contrast in roles for David Bird, whose most recent performances have included *Macbeth* and *Ebenezer Scrooge*. He has the role of Sir James, the bumbling but rich suitor of Lady Susan. He loves his part and the play. "It's a supporting role but it drives the story. It's a play of words — and so clever."

Given that the play is set in the Jane Austen era, the costumes are appropriately lavish and the men's outfits suitably dashing. "I thought it would be interesting to use a *Bridgerton* palette for this show," notes costume design manager Loree Tannett.

"All the women's dresses are original, sewn from an historic regency pattern produced by Laughing Moon Patterns. Also, I had a couple of saris in bright colours that I wanted to use. We managed to borrow a pair of RCMP boots from a contact and a few pieces from the Goulbourn Museum for the men."

There's a lot of work bringing this level of lavishness to the stage. Each character's ensemble would have between six and eight hours of sewing or acquisition work, Loree says.

Seduction, scheming, laughs and wonderful costumes. It's all here!

Jane Austen's Lady Susan opens on Thursday, October 12, and runs until October 22 with Thursday to Saturday performances at 7:30PM and Sunday matinées at 2PM. Tickets can be purchased from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) or at the door if available. For more information, please visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.

2nd Annual Rocky Horror Picture Show

Back for its second year, Studio Theatre presents the iconic *Rocky Horror Picture Show* on Saturday, October 28 on the big screen! Grab your friends and come sing along with Studio Theatre's very own rockstar MC "British Columbia" (Columbia's northern cousin, pictured below).

Rock out in the aisles to the tunes that are sure to make you shiver with antic...

...pation, such as *Science Fiction Double Feature*, *Toucha, Toucha, Touch Me*, *Time Warp* and *Sweet Transvestite*, just to name a few!

For this show, Studio Theatre is also proud to present the premiere of the horror film *The Warbling* — filmed in Perth and created by local filmmakers Justin and Paula Ferrant. Justin and Paula will introduce their film and talk about the making of *The Warbling* at 7:30PM, and then the 20-minute film will screen at 7:40. At 8PM, British Columbia kicks off the Rocky Horror fun!



Tickets are available from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) for \$15 plus fees, or at the door. Find more details at <studiotheatreperth.com>.

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Meet Leanne Baker!

By Leanne Baker

As someone who is passionate about arts and entertainment, and who was born and raised in Almonte and is now living in Carleton Place, I am very excited to be working for theHumm! Throughout the years my family and I picked up theHumm every month, looking forward to having intel on what would be going on in the Ottawa Valley for art, entertainment, opinions or ideas. I believe it is so important to have an easy, accessible source for things happening locally, as it provides opportunity for visitors or residents of all ages to not miss out on events and stories that they would be interested in or want to be involved in.

I lived and did my undergrad in Toronto, Ontario, and then moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia for a couple years after. During my time in these cities, I learned and experienced so much within the arts and entertainment communities, and had a general change in lifestyle. My passion for creativity, connecting with new people and places, and discovering more personal interests led me to move and travel during the seven years since I left Almonte. The Valley has grown so much with diversity, inclusivity and opportunities. Seeing that growth, I knew it was time to come home and be even more a part of it — also knowing it would be another new lifestyle compared to when I lived here before, because of that growth. I gained an extra appreciation for the Valley during my time away. The sacredness and quaintness of it is a special thing to experience, as it is becoming rarer to come across. I am eager to help enhance and encourage local artists, musicians, venues, organizations, and anything else that builds the livelihood, connection, and enhancement of the oVal towns and communities. I am thrilled and proud to be back to my roots and on theHumm team!

Social media has exploded for exposure and creativity for businesses and artists, providing insight with the tap of a screen on what's going on.



We are thrilled to welcome Leanne Baker to the Humm Team! We're tasking her with making this 25-year-old arts paper relevant to a new generation — no small feat!

It will show more of theHumm's insider details and frequent updates during each month of current and future events, organizations, activities, and more! Curated for all ages, all different preferences of media intake will be able to access theHumm's local buzz. While keeping the authentic monthly newspaper and website, theHumm social media accounts will enhance the local happenings in the art, entertainment and ideas community. Follow theHumm on Facebook at @thehummm, Instagram at @readthehummm and Tik-Tok at @readthehummm. Email me at <leanne@thehummm.com> to reach out with ideas, local intel or media.

It's Two Thumbs Up, Mr. Ebert!

Mississippi Mills Film Society's First Screening

By Glenda Jones

Thanks to an overwhelming show of support, the **Mississippi Mills Film Society** is on the cusp of inauguration. Organizers Marny McCook and Heather Loube, along with Wanda MacDonald, Dale and Elizabeth Dunning, have been liaising with the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) since February to bring top-rated films to the community on a monthly basis on Sunday afternoons. St. Andrew's United Church in Pakenham has become a cultural hub for Mississippi Mills. It is an ideal venue for showing films, with good acoustics and good viewing thanks to curved, cushioned seating. There is ample parking at the church with easy access into the building, and places to meet for lunch or ice cream prior to the movie.

What better time than a Sunday afternoon to enjoy a unique movie you will definitely not see on Netflix, Crave, Amazon Prime or Apple TV? Further, you'll be in the company of like-minded people who are eager to find new and stimulating entertainment.

The organizers have scheduled the first two movies for Sunday, October 29 and Sunday, November 26. Judging by the titles, they will be full house showings. Both films feature English subtitles, so none of the drama will be lost and those with hearing difficulties will not be disappointed.

The October 29 film is *Driving Madeleine*. If you enjoyed an earlier "driving" story, this French film will resonate and surprise as you make your way with Madeleine and Charles through sunny Paris. Perfect for an October afternoon!

The November 26 film, *To Kill a Tiger*, documents a Hindu family's campaign for justice to avenge a



The new Mississippi Mills Film Society will screen their first film on October 29 at 2PM at St. Andrew's United Church in Pakenham. *Driving Madeleine* stars Line Renaud and Dany Boon (above).

crime against their daughter. This powerful story of perseverance and hope won TIFF's Best Canadian Film in 2022 and Best Feature Length Documentary at the Canadian Screen Awards this year.

Building on the anticipated success of the fall season, the Film Society is already planning future Sunday afternoon showings once a month from February through April.

Show times will all be 2PM. Individual tickets for \$15 (fees included) will be available in advance through Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 495-6434). There will not be a series subscription this season. Be sure to check theHumm or subscribe to Hummail for previews.

Kudos to the organizers for their commitment to this novel and much-anticipated project. All proceeds will be directed to the Mississippi Mills Public Libraries in Almonte and Pakenham, as well as St. Andrew's, making the new Mississippi Mills Film Society a true win-win for our communities.



Housebound by the snow, an eclectic group of people, both potential victims and potential murderers, share Monkswell Manor until the third blind mouse is killed. Find out who done it at the Smiths Falls Community Theatre's October production of *The Mousetrap*!

Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*

Submitted by Smiths Falls Community Theatre

Friday the 13th! What a delicious day to open our fall murder mystery! And not just any old murder mystery. *The Mousetrap* opened in London's West End in 1952 and ran continuously until March 16, 2020, when the stage performances had to be temporarily discontinued. It then re-opened on May 17, 2021. The longest-running West End show, it has had by far the longest run of any play in the world. After the show it is always requested that the audience not reveal the murderer, so that future viewers can enjoy the game as well!

Director Katharine Coleman has an affinity for murder mysteries. They are what she reads in her down-time, and she finds that putting them on as plays is entertaining as well as challenging. The best way to put a great show together, Coleman feels, is to get a strong cast who can create defined characters capable of subtlety. There are so many clues that come out in what might seem like throw-away lines, but you have to listen closely and really pay attention to figure them out. And even then, she's pretty confident that you won't have guessed correctly!

Says Coleman "There are so many possible suspects in this story that although it makes perfect sense that one character might have done it... they didn't. That's what keeps it exciting!" With a brilliant set created by Bill Hamilton, and amazing sound managing by Tim Bisailon, there are a lot of elements combined to get you in the right frame of mind to be here, with us, at Monkswell Manor Guest House.

The story is as follows: Giles (Rich Croteau) and Mollie (Katharine Coleman) have been married for

a year. They are excited and a little nervous to open their home as a Guest House, wondering what type of guests to expect. What they get is a mish mash of characters, all very different from each other and *all* hiding secrets! We meet Christopher Wren (Matt Baker), an architect who shows more interest in being a chef; Mrs. Boyle (Liz Stienberg), a jurist who isn't pleased with anything; Major Metcalfe (Mike Adams), a retired Army major; Miss Casewell (Wendy Monagle), a secretive woman with a curious background; and Mr. Paravacini (Jesse Gibson), the unexpected guest.

As they are snowed in by inclement weather, all the guests are getting comfortable when Sergeant Trotter (Noel White) shows up on skis to warn them of a murderer who has their sights set on someone at Monkswell Manor. When one of the guests *is* murdered, it's up to the detective to figure out who did it, whilst all the remaining guests try desperately not to reveal their secrets before the third blind mouse is killed! Anyone could be the murderer, and all can be considered suspects. This is definitely a cat-and-mouse game that needs to be solved before the snow melts.

Performances take place on October 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21 at 7:30PM, with Sunday matinées on October 15 and 22 at 2PM. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$10 for students, and can be purchased at Special Greetings (8 Russell Street in Smiths Falls), online at <smithsfallstheatre.com> or by phone (283-0300) with credit card. If tickets are still available, they can be purchased a half-hour before showtime at the door, but please note that the matinées are already almost sold out.

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The Reever Report

The Big Purge

There's not a day goes by that someone doesn't tell me they're "downsizing". Maybe it's because we're all of a certain age, but I think we're tired of hauling around possessions we likely have forgotten we even owned.

A chance meeting on Facebook required me to open storage boxes to find pictures of my grandfather. What a treasure trove I discovered... completely reeking of mould! I managed to retrieve a couple, and then with not a speck of regret, fired the rest into the garbage.

by Glenda Jones

One box led to another: kids' books, some original Thornton Burgess books, *Treasure Island*, *Favourite Fairy Tales*, all beautifully illustrated. I set them out in the sun for a full day, but there was no denying that they too had to go. I doubt that box had been unsealed in forty years, considering that all our kids are now over 50. I'd harboured the notion we'd be reading them to grandchildren, but that wasn't the case, and instead of passing them along when we should have, they were ignored and rotted. The memories flooded back as I riffled the pages, recalling my Dad reading those very books to my sister and me, and us reading them to our kids. The memories will have to suffice, because the books were unsalvageable. Anyway, are they even relevant anymore? Do kids read fairy tales?

Under that box was another. Oh my goodness, Raggedy Ann and Andy, a plaid teddy bear, and a one-legged Barbie with a motley collection of dreadful clothes. All of it was a disaster. The toys were bedraggled, dirty, absolutely un-playable. Why I even kept them is beyond me, when they were obviously past their Best Before date when they were packed away. I suspect thirty years ago we simply shoved them in that box, sealed it up and forgot about it. It too was hauled to the curb.

The storage space led to file cabinets being emptied and taken away. Did we need the roster for the 1981 house league hockey team? I hope not, because it's gone with the other tonne of papers.

If it's not nailed down it's in line for disposal these days, and let me tell you, things are leaving the house like Elvis leaving the building. Alan's been out buying new clothes, knowing that if he doesn't, there'll be nothing in his closet next time he looks. Mine is getting

the same treatment. Garments not worn in over a year are out of there, and that includes the tuxedo and the sparkly New Year's Eve sweater. I can't imagine they'd fit or be in fashion anymore.

Even the dog toys are getting culled. If they aren't playing with them, why keep them? A couple have been squirreled away, so I guess they are the keepers. But if I don't see action with those, they might go too.

There are certain areas of the house I simply cannot touch — yet. We have a china cabinet full of cups and saucers, Wedgwood dinnerware and family heirlooms that I am certain none of the family is going to want. However, I open that cabinet, look at the stuff, and close it again. I'm making an effort to use the silverware and the dessert set any chance I get, but the rest sits unused. To free up space, I got rid of crystal that was *de rigueur* for any new married couple 60 years ago. We never entertained eight guests needing port, sherry, champagne or parfaits in the proper glass, but I could have done it. That one shelf sits pristinely empty; I love it!

Then there's my artwork that's stashed under the beds and at the back of the closet. I'm no Rembrandt, but maybe the kids will want that. It can't go yet because I change the wall décor from time to time.

I also have a trunk of my best sewing pieces from years ago, like a hand-stitched kilt and quilt blocks I created for a course I taught. I handle the fabric and remember the time I spent, and back it goes into the trunk. Maybe next month...

My plan is to rid ourselves of excess before we are forced to do it. I've seen many unhappy people mourning the loss of their possessions which have defined their very existence. Needs must, and they are forced to reduce themselves

to a mere handful of precious things while the rest of their lives is unceremoniously dumped. The decisions should be theirs to make, but that can't always be. Further, I don't want our family to be burdened with sorting through the remains of our days when we're no longer able to do it.

So here I go, sorting, tossing, and keeping very little except the memories, which in time might get sorted as well. I'm looking forward to seeing empty shelves and storage containers. I need to stop procrastinating and finish the job. One day when the weather's cold and my temper is as well, I'll fly at it and "git 'er done" the way I know it should be. It's a work in progress.



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Was it Professor Plum with a rope in the billiards room, or Miss Peacock with a candlestick in the conservatory? Come on out to the Mississippi Mudds' production of *Clue* and these fine folks will help you solve the mystery: (back row, l-r) Julia Coleman, Patti Lockhart, Andrew Hunter, John Lockhart, Keith Busher, Lucas Tennant; (front row, l-r) Meredith Millman, Grace Gilbert, Shawn Millman, Sandra Finnigan, Annie West; with Ian Guenette on piano.

Get a Clue... Ticket!

It is sure to be a dark and stormy night when six guests assemble at a remote mansion where they become isolated when the weather washes out the road. They are trapped there, when the unthinkable happens — murder! Come help the Mississippi Mudds figure out WHO did it, WHERE they were, and with WHAT weapon. Things are not always as they seem...

Directed by Adam Pelletier and produced by Cheryl Swackhammer, a small but dedicated cast has been working hard perfecting lines and timing for the hilarious murder mystery *Clue*. The cast and crew is a wonderful mix of experienced Mudds and people new to the organization.

Performances take place on October 27, 28 and 29, and November 2, 3 and 4. Tickets are \$25 (fees included) from Tickets Please on sale through Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).

EODL One Act Festival

North Grenville Community Theatre is proudly hosting the Eastern Ontario Drama League One Act Festival from November 3 to November 5 at the North Grenville Municipal Centre in Kemptville.

Eastern Ontario Drama League (EODL) is an organization that supports community theatre groups with new innovative ways, grants and student scholarships. To make it interesting for their membership, there are two festivals held every year by host groups. One of them is the festival of one act plays.

What is a one act play? According to EODL's guidelines, a one act play has no intermission and must not be longer than sixty minutes but no shorter than twenty-five minutes. Nine theatre plays is the maximum allowed for the festival. Being short in nature, three plays are performed on the Friday

evening, three at the Saturday matinée, and the last three on Saturday evening. Participating theatre groups are coming from as far away as Belleville.

This is an adjudicated festival, and on Sunday, November 5 the Awards Brunch will take place in the North Grenville Municipal Centre. After the brunch, the adjudicator awards trophies to deserving individuals or groups in various categories.

This festival is rewarding not only for being entertaining, but also as a learning process from the Public and Detailed Adjudications being made available to the public.

Tickets will be available at the door prior to each set of three plays, or from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). For more information on participating theatre groups and plays, please visit <NGCT.ca>.



Theatre Night in Merrickville will present *Making Friends* at the EODL One Act Festival

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Passionate Writer: Powerful Biography

An Interview with Charlotte Gray about her latest book: *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt*

During a pandemic lockdown, Charlotte Gray's long-time editor, Phyllis Bruce, told Gray about a remarkably interesting fact: that Jennie Jerome and Sara Delano were born in 1854 within 100 kilometers of each other in New York State. Gray, one of Canada's finest historians, was reasonably intrigued. So intrigued, in fact, that she decided to write a dual biography of the mothers of Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt, *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt*.

by John Pigeau

"I've always enjoyed writing about women, and not just the pioneers, like Susanna Moodie, or path-breakers, like Nellie McClung," Gray explains. "My very first book was *Mrs. King*, about the mother of William Lyon Mackenzie King. Phyllis had been thinking about my next project, and said, 'Why don't you come full circle?'"

Gray decided to.

"I was intrigued by the coincidence of their births," she says, "and then — as I read more widely — by the difference in their trajectories. But there were similarities too. Both shocked their parents with their choice of husbands. Both were widowed early. Each was, in her own way, a formidable woman, with many strong views and interests. So I wanted to see how, within the restrictions on women's roles during their lifetimes, both were able to exert a lot of agency."

When she began her research, Gray was challenged by the fact that the biographers of Churchill and FDR — who were almost all male — tended to denigrate both men's mothers and minimize their roles in their son's lives.

"They reflected the misogyny of the late nineteenth and twentieth century, and always emphasised Jennie's party-going and debts, and Sara's over-protective maternal style. I wanted to right the balance," Gray says. "My approach was to see what the women, and their contemporaries, had written about them, before both became overshadowed by their sons."

Initially, Gray had trouble accessing key primary sources.

"Covid lockdowns were *not* good for biographers; we couldn't access the raw materials in archives," she explains. "I was thankful that I had chosen subjects from famous families, so there were quite a lot of secondary sources — published memoirs, volumes of collected correspondence — from which I could draw."

When lockdowns ended, Gray was hugely relieved and travelled to Churchill College in Cambridge for "the Jennie material," and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in the Hudson Valley for "the Sara sources."

"I could touch the paper on which they had written to their sons," she notes. "I could check that I hadn't missed anything, or if previously-

published letters had been edited too rigorously. I could see the wild swirl of Jennie's handwriting, and the careful precision of Sara's cursive. I could go through their photo albums, and collections of dinner menus. I would love to have spent far longer in both places."

Still, she came away with reams of excellent material. In the hands of one of Canada's finest biographers, the book crackles with these fresh, fascinating, insightful and generous details.

Gray's hopes for readers of *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons* are multifold.

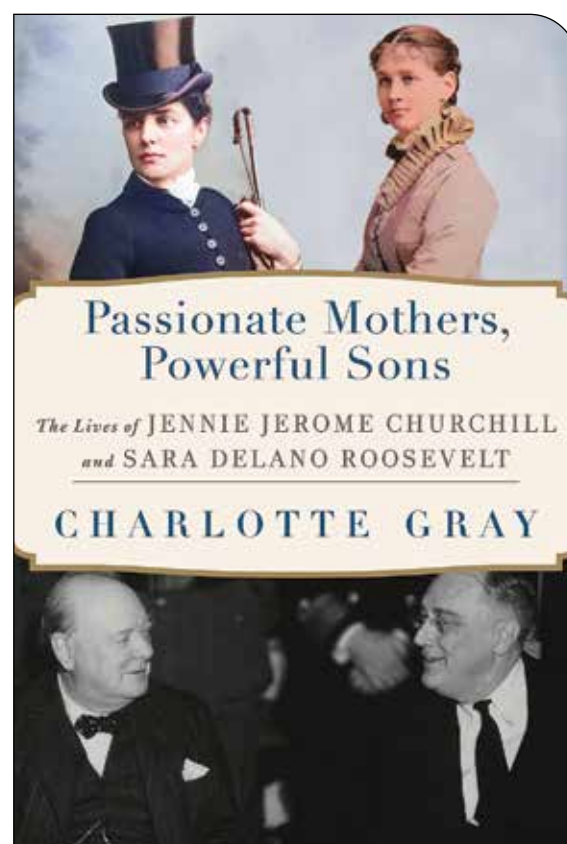
"I want readers of this book to enjoy seeing how two strong-willed women could shape their own lives, even within the restrictive gender assumptions of the nineteenth century," she says. "I expect that readers will also enjoy the social history and political context in which I embed the biographical details. I hope that a deep dive into these women's stories will allow readers to learn what has and hasn't changed in the pattern of women's lives."

"Exploring their complicated relationships with their sons proves that there is no cookie-cutter ideal way of raising a child," Gray adds. "However, in both families, the mother-son bond was super-strong, and both men emerged from their childhoods with rock-solid egos — an essential ingredient in political success."

The book, an instant bestseller in Canada, has been widely praised as "entirely original and brilliant," "magnetically written," deeply perceptive and superbly researched". I wholeheartedly agree with those assessments; *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons* is a luminously insightful examination of the lives and influence of two truly remarkable women. It reads like a fine novel (hums along at a good speed; its "characters" are thoroughly compelling) but as a dual biography that deftly weaves together the parallel and complicated lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt, it is a masterpiece.

Gray's latest belies the belief, still held in some circles, that historical non-fiction is boring. A skilled and shrewd historian, Gray is mindful of this.

"Historical non-fiction can be criminally boring, when it is just one damn thing after another," she admits. "If people want 'just the facts,' they can go to Wikipedia (although many facts are challenged these days). But great historical non-fiction should be a narrative that tells a story with insight and accuracy, while illuminating a larger context for the reader. I'm always asking myself, 'What does the past look/smell/sound/taste like? What was it like to stand on Fifth Avenue, in Manhattan, on an October Sunday in 1854?' I want to take readers into the past. I learned my writing skills by writing for magazines, in Canada and Britain. The editors taught me how to structure a story and bring it alive. The death of so many good magazines in Canada has meant that younger writers may not get that chance today."



Charlotte Gray will be reading from her new book at the Almonte Library on Tuesday, October 10

Gray confesses that writing *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons* was "very hard work," especially because she was essentially writing two biographies.

"There were times during writing the first draft when I felt crushed by the challenge I had set myself," she says. "The Covid lockdowns didn't help — in normal times I recharge my batteries by seeing friends, playing tennis, visiting libraries and archives, and meeting people. My husband was terrific at keeping my spirits up, and cooking delicious meals for us."

Still, writing the first draft wore her down.

"However, once I had completed the first draft, and the world began to open up," she is quick to add. "I started enjoying the reshaping, rephrasing and ruthless cutting that is part of the second draft. And I was starting to get positive feedback from my editors, so my confidence grew. Now, the fantastic reception that has greeted *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons* fills me with joy."

Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt is available at your local independent bookstore, and everywhere fine books are sold. Charlotte Gray will be reading from the book on Tuesday, October 10 at 6:30PM at the Almonte Branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library. That event is free, but registration is required at <missmillslibrary.com>.

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Love On Fire – Patrick John Mills is Back!

Last year, Renfrew artist and arts entrepreneur Patrick John Mills spent 52 days in a coma, 62 days on life support, and 99 days in hospital. He lost 86 pounds. He was not expected to live.

From October 7 to November 4, Mills is celebrating his extraordinary recovery with a solo exhibition titled *Love On Fire*. His exuberant paintings are his way of communicating the love, feelings, gratitude and spiritual energy relating to his incredible journey back to life.

For more than a year he was not able to paint in his artist studio space at the dauntingly ambitious Art Factory Warehouse. At a former derelict factory site located at 11 Bridge Street in Renfrew, Mills is creating an art venue that is propelling that town into the area's cultural orbit. After a year of forced inactivity, the renovation is proceeding with the same energy and passion that Mills brings to his art.

His recovery is remarkable. Suffering from cancer and unable to breathe, complicated by persistent pneumonia, on his fourth day in the ICU doctors told the love of his life, Tanja Kisslinger, that he had a ten percent chance of survival. In Patrick's words, "My Love Tanja Kisslinger pleaded for my life. Relentless — my Love Tanja was at my bedside 12 to 14 hours a day, every day for 99 days. I thank God for putting her in my life. She is the reason that I am alive today — it was her relentless effort to advocate for my life and healing. Love Always Wins." His Love is now also his wife.

His new body of work, titled *Life Is Beautiful*, is as incredible as his recovery. When he woke after 52 days in a medically induced coma, he was unable to hold a pencil. "My muscles, my whole body felt like a boiled spaghetti noodle that lay in a bed. I could not sit up, stand or walk. I could not talk or breathe on my own. The journey that was ahead of me was beyond anything I could comprehend... All my life force, emotions, energy were directed towards staying alive and healing. All my passion for life and love has exploded onto my canvas. I am so happy to be alive, and I feel that I am doing my most positive and significant work."

In addition to their undying (indeed!) gratitude to all the dedicated and compassionate medical personnel at the Queensway Carleton and Renfrew Victoria Hospitals who joined them in their refusal to admit defeat, Tanja wants to take this opportunity to "mention the significant presence that comforted me throughout some of the loneliest parts of this journey... and that was your (Patrick's) very own community. The community that loves you, Bubba, and the soul that you are. Some know you from the past, some know you from the Art Factory, and some simply know you from social media. But there were so many... hundreds of people

prayed for you, and for us. They read every one of my Facebook posts, they messaged me, and they constantly sent such love and encouragement. Honestly, at some points, this alone helped me to stand up and face one more of those 99 days. Even during the darkest parts of your ICU journey, my belief and hope were magnified and given back to me by this incredible and loving community of prayer. For each and every one of them, I am eternally grateful."



Patrick John Mills is celebrating his rather miraculous recovery with a solo art show called *Love On Fire*. It opens at The Art Factory in Renfrew on October 7 and runs until November 4.

The new works are powerful. Patrick has always been celebrated for the emotional intensity he is able to convey with his dynamic abstracts. He paints from his soul. In his poetic style he describes the intense emotional journey he embarks on as he completes a new work:

- "In the final stages of working on this painting, I feel like an egg. I feel like an egg being dropped from an airplane. Skydiving or suicide. I am completely alive. My heart is beating so passionately. I can feel the red blood pumping like a volcano.
- "I savour the moment. I am not in a rush, everything slows down, pay attention. I actively participate in this conversation with my canvas. I feel perfectly content. My heart grows. My blood warms.
- "I feel everything. I cut myself open. My soul is unzipped and my flesh is left on the ground like a snake skin. I keep bleeding and I keep believing.
- "I empty over fifty large tubes of paint in under two hours. It is a massive party. I have all the voices singing inside my head. It is a house party where all my friends celebrate creativity and we all drink, dance, and share love. There are no rules, only pure freedom...
- "I fall into the sky. My soul is open to everything. Thousands of butterflies are released. I am naked. I am completely vulnerable. All my senses are sensi-

tive. My nose smells the perfumed air like a lover that has blanketed herself over me. I am distilled, cocooned, nested in this perfect intimate moment.

- "I keep falling... the egg is falling and falling. This moment continues. And I hold this bliss. Then I have reached the summit of the mountain. I have reached the top of K2 in my creative mind. And then suddenly the egg hits the ground... And everything inside me has exploded on the blank canvas."

Patrick John Mills, Tanja Kisslinger, and innumerable friends and fans are delighted to invite you to celebrate Patrick's personal and artistic rebirth at his solo exhibition *Love On Fire*. Patrick writes, "After a year of not being able to paint in my studio. I am painting the with such colossal, epic, abundant passion, love and gratitude for life and love. I have been painting for over thirty years. My work is collected all over the world. I have won international awards. It is my pleasure to share my new series of paintings with you."

Opening night is October 7 from noon to 5PM at the Art Factory's Warehouse Gallery at 11 Bridge Street in Renfrew. Regular exhibition hours are Wednesday to Saturday from 10AM to 5PM until November 4. Admission to the exhibition is always free, and you can find details online at <liveloveartfactory.com>.

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Fall Literary Events



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An Evening with Charlotte Gray

Celebrating the release of *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons*. Register at missmillslibrary.com.



Friday October 27, 7:00PM

Cooking Class with Chef Joe Thottungal

Registration at ticketsplease.ca (\$20) includes a \$5 discount on one of Chef Thottungal's cookbooks: *Coconut Lagoon* or *My Thali*.



Save the Date!

Wednesday November 15, 6:30PM

An Evening with Lesley Choyce

Celebrating the launch of *The Untimely Resurrection of John Alexander MacNeil*.

Monday November 27, 7:00PM

An Evening with Brett Popplewell

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Blues at The Cove: the Tony D Band

Did you say Blues at... The Cove? Yes indeed! For 17 incredible years of music, laughter, community and overall great times, Blues on the Rideau has been one of the longest-running blues music series in Canada, but now the torch is passing to The Cove Inn.

Thanks to the team of James Doran, his wife Diane Leduc-Doran and their Choose the Blues Productions, thousands of ecstatic blues and live music fans have flocked to The Cove to enjoy evenings of dining

by Seamus Cowan

and dancing to Canada's greatest JUNO and Maple Blues Award-winning acts. We thank them for all those years of partnership, and honour them by dedicating the 2023/24 Series to them as we transition to Blues at The Cove, highlighting some of the best of the series over the years!

Since the new season starts on the evening of Friday, October 27 with the phenomenal Tony D Band, I thought I would reach out to Tony to ask him a bit about his music and influences.

Seamus Cowan: How did you get your start in music? Do you remember your first gigs?

Tony D: I was around 17 or 18 when I started gigging in my first blues band. It was a rocking 5-piece and we got a good following quite quickly. I hustled my ass off getting as many gigs as possible, playing the clubs in Ottawa and street dances or what have you. There were many places to play back then.

How would you say the music scene has changed over the years of your professional career?

There are many more bands out there and they are quite good. Social media has taken over as the promotion, which makes it easier and can be good, but you can also get lost in the mire. Before it used to be radio, TV (rare), and print. If you're talented and good you will get noticed, that remains the same.

You are one of the three members of the great Ottawa band MonkeyJunk. The dynamic has changed in that you all play in other groups now as well. Can you tell us about that?

MonkeyJunk comes from three guys who have always had an independent nature. In fact, MonkeyJunk comes more from our other groups first. It's just that MonkeyJunk is unique and we've written some fantastic tunes. We love going back and forth between MJ and our other groups.

Your latest record is called *Speak No Evil*, which makes sense as it is all instrumental. There are many styles you touch upon. Are there particular artists that you were influenced by when writing these songs?

Yes: Elmore James (*Blues Party*), Django Reinhardt / surf music (*Argentinian Surf Tango*, *Blue Gypsy*, *Turn Out The Lights*), Kenny Burrell (*Fat City Blues*), Jimi Hendrix (and his '70s Big Muff), T-Bone Walker and Stevie Ray Vaughan. So many others, but also different styles of music.



The new Blues at The Cove series kicks off with a performance by the Tony D Band. A member of the awesome Ottawa-based MonkeyJunk, Tony D (above) comes to Westport on Friday, October 27. Friday, November 17 features Rick Fines and Suzie Vinnick (at left).



You've shared stages with many legends over the years. What would you say you have learned from these experiences and incorporated into your own music?

I remember opening for Stevie Ray Vaughan in the '80s, and he taught me to allow all the influences of music and let them in and it will flow out of you in your own style. I also played with Buddy Guy, and [the trick] with him is to listen intently while you're on stage. You will add so much when you listen to everyone without getting in their way. MonkeyJunk is very good at this.

What can audiences look forward to when they attend your show at The Cove?

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Spinning Yarns about *Spinning Yarns*

By Susan Macaulay

Cathy Giles has a picture of her mom working at the Appleton mill when she was only fourteen. Still, she was delighted to spot a similar photograph on Facebook in a poster advertising ticket sales for *Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers' Musical*. "What the heck? Mom's on Facebook!" Giles laughed as she described her initial reaction to me over the phone. She had been a little more circumspect in an earlier email she sent to Kris Riendeau. "What a surprise I got when I saw the *Spinning Yarns* playbill on Facebook this morning," Giles wrote. "The young girl in the foreground is my mom working on one of the machines. She was fourteen years old at the time."

"The photograph was taken by Malak Karsh, a famous Canadian photographer of the day," Giles continued. "He also took a picture of my dad, who worked in the carding room. I had both images framed for my parents for Christmas a few years ago."

When Riendeau forwarded me the email my interest was piqued, just as it had been months ago when *Spinning Yarns*' producer Barb Dickson asked if I might like to help with publicity for Fern Martin's latest musical. "It's about the former textile industry in Almonte — the people, the players, the politics — that kind of thing," Dickson said. "It's full of intrigue, interesting stories and songs. Lots of songs."

Many small towns have big histories, and Almonte is among them. The woollen mill on Coleman Island was one of the largest in Canada in the late-1800s, and as such played an important role in the Canadian economy. The mill, which was established by an Irish immigrant who fled his home country after shooting someone amidst sectarian violence, attracted scores of others seeking employment and security. Some of their descendants live in the area to this day. Cathy Giles is herself descended from an Irishman who immigrated to Ontario. "My grandfather on my

father's side worked in the mills in Ireland before he immigrated to Canada to do the same," Giles told me when I got in touch to get more details about her family history.

"My grandmother on my mother's side wasn't an immigrant but she worked at the #1 mill on Coleman Island. Her name was Louella Coe. My parents worked together at the mill in Appleton, although they didn't get married until ten years after Karsh took their pictures there."

The region's rich history, particularly that of the Rosamond family, their woollen mill and the workers who laboured within its walls, proved fertile ground for playwright Fern Martin's creativity. Her two-hour musical *Spinning Yarns* spans over one hundred years. It includes a cast of more than thirty characters and a suite of fourteen sets of original lyrics sung to the tunes of old favourites such as *Downtown* (Petula Clark), *Proud Mary* (Tina Turner) and *Twist and Shout* (The Beatles).

There's also an original song in the play, composed by cast member Andy Williams. I heard Williams sing his tune during a spring rehearsal — there wasn't a dry eye in the room by the time he had finished. Bring tissues. Also be prepared to laugh spontaneously at the lighter side of this delightful production.

Martin, who was born in the Rosamond Memorial Hospital and raised on a dairy farm near Blakeney, began writing plays more than a decade ago. Since then she has become somewhat of a local celebrity, despite having moved to British Columbia in 2017. While her plays are mostly historical in nature, they tap into universal themes that appeal to audiences of all kinds. They are fun, funny, lively, touching, heartfelt and tender.

Tickets to *Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers' Musical* are \$25 for adults, \$15 for 18 and under, available from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).



Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers' Musical — a family-friendly musical play by Fern Martin — celebrates Mississippi Mills' bicentennial with a look back at the mill workers and founders

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“Music to Memories”

Ottawa Valley Memory Loss/Dementia Choir

Trinity St. Andrew's is an affirming faith community within the United Church of Canada, located in Renfrew. The music program at Trinity St. Andrew's is expanding in a new direction to provide a monthly community group singing program as an outlet for those in Renfrew County who are living with memory loss or any form of dementia. Entitled "Music to Memories", it is designed for those with memory loss or dementia to attend with their caregivers, and is also open to family and friends. Research is only scratching the surface of the impacts of music on the brain thus far, but we are aware that music has tremendous and noteworthy long-lasting and positive influences on brain function.

Trinity St. Andrew's is also inviting caregivers to send in their loved one's favourite songs in advance. A song binder will be compiled with the favourites for each attendee. The repertoire will include easy, light and familiar songs, to bring comfort and to offer a place of community through song. No experience is required.

Sessions will be held on the first Thursday of each month from 11AM to noon with an intended start date of October 5. They will correlate with The Dementia

Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County's monthly Renfrew Coffee Club, which coincidentally occur at the same time and location on the first Thursday of each month. Sessions will be guided by Trinity St. Andrew's Music Director and local music educator Danah-Lee Krieger.

"We are excited to expand our music offerings in this direction," Danah-Lee explains. "We know that music continues to stamp indelible and lasting impacts on people. We see that even when folks lose life memories, music has the potential to last. It is amazing. Monthly meetups are designed to uncover the true magnitude of music's power in the brain. We will take monthly song requests, and together we will accomplish something incredible. We hope folks will join us as we capture moments in time, through song!"

Caregivers are invited to register for this free program and to send in their loved one's favourite songs. They can do this by contacting Danah-Lee at <TSAmusicteam@gmail.com>. The program will launch on October 5 at 11AM in the chapel at Trinity St. Andrew's United Church at 291 Plaunt St. S. in Renfrew. The church is wheelchair accessible and there is an elevator available.

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The Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show is thrilled to be back again this year on November 4 and 5 from 10AM to 4PM each day in the upper hall of the John Levi Community Centre, located at 182 Bridge Street in Almonte. With over twenty artisans and crafters presenting their original creations in a relaxed, friendly and festive atmosphere, you are sure to find gifts with originality, quality and attention to detail. Forgo the gift cards, big box stores and stressful malls and make this your first holiday shopping destination.

The Valley Artisan Show always strives to bring in lots of new artistic talent as well as returning favourites to provide a wide variety of handcrafted items for those special people and pets on your shopping list. You'll find great items to put under the tree, add to gift baskets and fill stockings, plus a few things you'll want for yourself! Find gifts such as sun-catching fused glass, pottery in many forms, scented soaps and scrubs, beeswax candles and flavoured honey, repurposed silver-plated jewellery, silver crocheted wire with gems and lovely necklaces made with colourful beads.



This year's Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show takes place at the Almonte Arena on November 4 and 5



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For more details on participating vendors, please visit valleyartisanshow.blogspot.ca or follow the show on Facebook. Parking and admission are free, and you can enter a draw for a great door prize. The Lanark Animal Welfare Society lanarkanimals.ca will be selling raffle tickets, calendars and other items to raise money for their shelter.

There are plenty of other reasons to plan a daytrip to Almonte besides a visit to the Christmas in the Valley Show. Take a stroll down the main street with its boutiques, antique stores and restaurants, and enjoy the views along the winding Riverwalk pathway. For even more "handmade" shopping, there are several other crafts sales happening in town that same weekend!

Waste Not!

The Carleton Place Environmental Advisory Committee (CPEAC) in cooperation with the Carleton Place Chamber of Commerce, proudly presents Waste Not! Waste Reduction and Composting in your Home, Business and Community. Come and learn more about what we can do to reduce waste and create a healthier, more sustainable community.

This free presentation takes place on Friday, October 20 from 10-11:30AM at the CP Town Hall auditorium, located at 175 Bridge Street. Pre-registration is required at eventbrite.ca/e/723350289187. Three different groups will be presenting.

Environmental Consultant Peter Landry will speak on **Waste Reduction Strategies for Small Businesses and Organizations**. Peter will explore the benefits and challenges of Zero Waste for municipalities and businesses and offer practical tips on how to get started.

Peter is an environmental consultant with 29 years of experience as an auditor, trainer and business/systems analyst. He has been the director of his own company, Viridis Environmental Inc., since 1994 and is based in Ottawa. Peter has completed projects across Canada and has managed or personally completed over 800 waste audits encompassing all regulated sectors.

Peter is a certified Environmental Professional specializing in Waste Management and holds a master's Certificate in Business Analysis from the Schulich School of Business at York University and a Bachelor of Environment and Resource Studies from the University of Waterloo.

A panel of speakers from Climate Network Lanark, including Chair Scott Hortop and co-founder Susan Brandum, will speak about **Reducing Organic Waste in Our Community**. Scott and Susan will paint a picture of the extent of greenhouse gas emissions related to organic waste. They will suggest possible models for county-wide collaborative management of organics, and make the link to the positive benefits for soil health and carbon returned underground. There will be an open discussion around opportunities for

organics associated with the benefits from the shift to Extended Producer Responsibility for recyclables.

Just Good Compost offers a unique approach to community composting that is designed for smaller, rural municipalities. This new service picks up kitchen scraps from households and food service businesses every week and turns them into high quality compost for its customers. It is a social enterprise that employs local people with intellectual challenges.

It was founded by Dr. William Affleck, a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Ottawa, who, like his wife Kelley, grew up in farm country outside of Almonte. Moving back in 2021 to raise their family, they were surprised at the lack of composting options available in Lanark County. Just Good Compost was started to fill this gap. Having received great support in Almonte, they are excited to be coming to Carleton Place in October of 2023.

This October presentation is a perfect way to celebrate Circular Economy Month. Week three is Waste Reduction Week, and the 20th is Food Waste Friday!

For more information, contact Barbara Purdy at cpeac@townofcarletonplace.ca or find the event on Facebook at fb.me/e/1ljfTm6m6.



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Find fairy houses by potter Lis Allison, among works by many other artists, on the Red Trillium Studio Tour taking place on October 14 and 15

The Red Trillium Fall Studio Tour

On October 14 and 15, come out and enjoy a lovely day or two taking the self-guided Red Trillium Fall Studio Tour in rural West Ottawa, only 35 minutes from downtown Ottawa. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with artists in their studios where they create their work. Some will be hosting guest artists as well. There will be a warm welcome for you at all stops along the tour. You can visit the artists' studios, have lunch at local restaurants, and enjoy the beautiful countryside and stunning fall colours.

The Red Trillium Studio Tour was started by a group of talented local artists, all working alone in their rural studios, who wanted to collectively share

and bring awareness to the art and fine craft in their community. The tour is still organized by volunteer artists and has now been running for over 24 years!

When you visit artists in their studios, you enter their private worlds where they create honest, authentic and original works. You will discover the special places where the artists transform raw materials into original personal creations using the specialized tools and traditional practices of their craft and art.

On the Red Trillium website <redtrilliumst.com> you will find the tour map and brochure with studio locations and artisan and artist information. For more details, email <redtrilliumst@gmail.com>.

A Conversation with Frances Itani

The Merrickville Readers Book Club and Beth Donovan Hospice are hosting an afternoon discussion with Giller Prize finalist Frances Itani. Frances Itani, C.M., is an award-winning bestselling author who has published 18 books (novels, stories, poetry and children's work), as well as many reviews, articles and essays. She has travelled widely and has lived, worked and studied in seven Canadian provinces. She has also lived in England, U.S.A., Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Croatia and Cyprus. Her work has been translated and published in 18 countries. Her latest novel is *The Company We Keep*. Frances lives in Ottawa.

On Sunday, October 15 from 2-4PM at the Merrickville Legion (245 Main St. W), Itani will discuss *The Company We Keep* and invite questions from attendees on this and her other books. Admission is free but space is limited. To reserve your ticket, look for the event on <zeffy.com> or contact Beth Donovan Hospice at 258-9611 x2.

The organizers would like to thank the Canada Council of the Arts through the Writers Union of Canada for their assistance in sponsoring this event.



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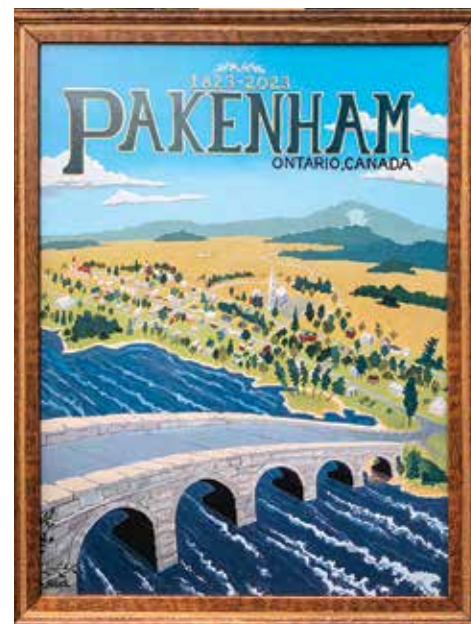
By Garwood Tripp

No one taking in the sights of Lanark County would miss a visit to the village of Pakenham. To call attention to Pakenham as a tourism destination and a peaceful retreat from the agitation of city life, the local Civitan Club has created a travel poster.

In the half-century before television, posters were a recognized art form and an important advertising medium. Travel posters — featuring tourist attractions and often sponsored by the railway or ocean liner that would take you there — were extremely popular. Now, understandably, poster art has become a preferred element of home décor. The Pakenham poster is ready for the space above your sofa (or in your kitchen, office, hallway or shop!).

“In our bicentennial year, we thought a poster would be a nice gift to the community”, explains Doris Rankin, Pakenham and District Civitan Club past-president. “Money collected from the sale of the posters stays here and helps people in times of need”. And, she adds, “Everyone loves the poster.”

Local artist James Hrkach created the poster, which features iconic landmarks and captures the feel of the village’s history and appeal. In the tradition of travel posters of the 19th and 20th centuries, the 18”x24” poster is hand-lettered and warmly welcoming. It is a beautiful piece of art.



The Pakenham Civitan Club is selling this wonderful poster by local artist James Hrkach as a fundraiser

The Pakenham poster is available at Nicholson’s store and at the 1840s General Store, both on the main street of Pakenham. It costs \$20 and, again, all funds raised go to support Pakenham and area residents who need a helping hand.

Creativity Celebrated Stone Manor Studios Announces Seasonal Workshops

This October, Stone Manor Studios aims to use Halloween and the holidays as a way to promote artistic engagement. Anchored in its core principles of immersion, creativity and nurturing, the studio is rolling out a captivating lineup of seasonal workshops, offering participants much more than mere skill development.

Adopting a long-held tradition to celebrate the holidays through artistic pursuits, Stone Manor Studios invites people looking to try new things to delve deep into its immersive experiences. The concept? Holidays, and particularly the allure of Halloween, are seen as a catalyst for creativity. Stone Manor Studios believes in the transformative power of such gatherings. Not only do they hone

skills and build community, but they also fortify mental wellbeing.

Leading the lineup of Stone Manor Studios’ workshops is stained glass artisan Diana Kemp of White Heather Glass Creations in nearby Newboro. Back by popular demand, Diana will help participants immerse themselves in the art of stained-glass crafting, designing a whimsical Halloween-themed pumpkin adorned with a witch’s hat light-catcher.

Following this luminous experience, the Studios welcome Westport’s own watercolourist Barb Wilson. With a rich history of 35 years in education, Wilson champions the joy inherent in the learning journey. Under her expert instruction, participants are set

to craft a detailed haunted house, bringing the spectral charm of Halloween to paper.

Lisa Paddle, fibre artist and owner of Wool and Paddle in Manotick, rounds out the studio’s diverse offerings by introducing a tactile exploration into felting. Enthusiasts will have the opportunity to shape robust Halloween pumpkins, employing natural fibres complemented by a variety of bespoke additions.

In essence, Stone Manor Studios offers more than a mere workshop experience this season. It promises a joyful experience learning art and crafting skills, all while fostering community ties and individual wellbeing. To step into Stone Manor Studios this season is to step into an immersive, joyful and nurturing realm where artistry thrives and connections are forged, one brushstroke, glass shard, and fibre at a time.



Stained glass artisan Diana Kemp works guides a participant at a workshop at Stone Manor Studios

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October at the Textile Museum

After a wildly successful Fibrefest event in September, the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum has more great events and exhibits coming up in October (and beyond).

Create a "Nature Narrative"

On Saturday, October 7 from 10AM to noon, create an evocative and exciting composition that combines the work of your hands with that of Mother Nature. Join *Among the Garbage and the Flowers* artist Alice Vander Vennen for "Nature Narratives", a \$50 workshop at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, and leave with a finished and framed artwork!

As fall arrives, allow the rich texture, brilliant colours and nuanced lines of stitched textiles to interact with the ancient beauty of autumn treasures: imprinted stone, the bending branch, the fragile leaf. Participants will create an assemblage by cutting, positioning and juxtaposing a variety of elements into a composition that tells a story. The finished art piece created from these treas-

ures, found through exploration or everyday encounters, is subtle and compelling as a new narrative emerges. The finished piece will be a framed composition that allows the elements of nature to become a part of this visual "poem".

The instructor will bring everything needed to create the finished product, including copper, textiles and all framing materials. There is a limit of 15 participants. Come and enjoy this workshop, taking place right in the gallery surrounded by the art of eleven incredible textile artists on the last day of the *Among the Garbage and the Flowers* exhibit. Please register at <mvtm.ca>.

Participants are invited to bring natural treasures: a leaf, a stone, a branch or a floating feather. It will also be helpful if participants bring a needle, threads and scissors, as well as a small assortment of a variety of textiles — found, precious, colourful or fascinating, if possible.

"Right in the exhibit space, this workshop is a great way to close *Among the Garbage and the Flowers*," says Michael Rikley-Lancaster, Executive Director/Curator. "Alice's work shows a great depth of understanding for composition, and I look forward to her sharing her expertise with our community."

A Lifetime of Collecting

A new exhibit is coming to the museum on October 21 — *A Lifetime of Collecting Part 1: Canadian Handwoven Jacquard Coverlets from the Dennis and Sylvia Mills Collection*, guest curated by Dr. Adrienne D. Hood. Coverlets from the MVTM's collection will be displayed at the Museum from October 21 to December 23, and

the exhibit opening will take place on October 21, from 2–4PM.

Dennis and the late Sylvia Mills can trace their roots to long-established Ontario families. Meeting when they were both secondary school teachers, they began a life of collecting together. Dennis had been a serious collector of Canadiana since his teen years, with a special fascination with handwoven textiles, while Sylvia's engagement with fabric had manifested in her own collection of vintage clothing and fashion accessories. Both of these avid collectors moved beyond simply acquiring objects and became committed to researching and showcasing them through conferences, seminars and special exhibitions. As Dennis says, "collecting is not about gathering (or hoarding) artifacts, but unveiling the stories within and around them."

Dennis Mills' collection of Canadian handweaving was inspired by the work of Royal Ontario Museum curators Dorothy and Harold Burnham, whose research on Canadian handweaving culminated in their seminal 1972 exhibit and publication of the same name, *Keep Me Warm One Night: Early Handweaving in Eastern Canada*. Recently, the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum acquired Dorothy Burnham's papers and a group of volunteers contacted Dennis to explore the possibility of borrowing some of his artifacts for an exhibition of Canadian handweaving related to the Burnham archive. This, in turn, led Dennis to consider donating his comprehensive and well-documented collection to the museum, beginning with the most spectacular examples — 19th-century jacquard coverlets. He chose these lovely tex-



Create a "Nature Narrative" (at left), and view a new exhibit of Canadian handwoven jacquard coverlets (above) at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum this month

tiles as the first part of his donation because they derived their patterns from a series of punched cards (in effect, an early computer) and thus "are a significant link between the handweaving cottage trade and the mechanized industrial mills of the late nineteenth century in the Ottawa Valley."

The exhibit is curated by Dr. Adrienne Hood, a professor emeritus of History at the University of Toronto and former curator of Canadian Textiles at the Royal Ontario Museum. Her books include: *The Weaver's Craft: Cloth, Commerce and Industry in Early Pennsylvania* and *Fashioning Fabric: The Arts of Spinning and Weaving in Early Canada*. This exhibit will showcase the first installment of the Dennis and Sylvia Mills collection and provide a preview of what is to come.

For details on these and other exhibits and events, visit <mvtm.ca>.





Stephanie Mols

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Autumn at the Heritage House Museum

As the colours brighten and the days grow shorter, the list of things to do at Heritage House Museum in Smiths Falls grows longer!

Fall Fest

Come out to the Museum for Fall Fest, taking place on Sunday, October 1 from 11AM to 2PM. There will be wagon rides (\$5 per person), a BBQ, bouncy castles, midway games, music, a vendor market and tons of fall activities. The museum will be open by donation.

Smiths Falls Ghost Tours

Tiptoe through the candlelit corridors of the Heritage House as a costumed interpreter leads you through tales of local ghost sightings, oral traditions and mysterious happenings of the Smiths Falls area and the

museum. Stories have been discreetly shared by local residents, carefully selected from local news articles or experienced by museum staff and volunteers working in this eerily beautiful 1860's home.

Tours take place on Wednesday, October 11 and Thursday, October 12, and run at 6PM, 7PM and 8PM. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth, and can be purchased in advance from <sfghosttours.eventbrite.ca>.

Friday the 13th Paranormal Investigation

Join the Nightwatchmen and GHOST Paranormal Investigation teams at the museum on Friday, October 13 to investigate the museum. The early investigation takes place from 6-10:30PM and costs \$50 per person. The late-night investigation is from 11PM to 3AM (yes, we're going to investigate until witching hour) and is \$60 per person. For both investigation times, the Nightwatchmen and GHOST will go over the basics of how to use the equipment, which you can then take through the house to investigate the museum for yourself. This event is for participants 18 years of age and over. Tickets are available from <Friday13investigation.eventbrite.ca>.

Haunted Heritage House

Are you prepared to go through the Heritage House 1860's home... at night? If you dare to enter the museum after hours, come out on October 20, 21, 27 and 28 for the Haunted Heritage House. After your tour, calm your nerves with some homemade apple cider and seasonal treats as you tour the grounds and vote for your favourite pumpkin in the Community



October's events at the Heritage House Museum in Smiths Falls have a decidedly spooky theme...

Pumpkin Carving Contest! Tour tickets are \$10 per person from <sfhauntedhouse.eventbrite.ca>. The Haunted Heritage House will be from 7-9PM. Drop in any time in-between this time frame — entry to the house is first-come, first-serve.

For more information about any of these events, contact the Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum at 283-6311 or <heritagehouse@smithsfalls.ca>.

HARVEST FARMERS' MARKET

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Lanark County Female First Responders Camp

Lanark County Paramedic Service (LCPS) is participating in the Lanark County Female First Responders Camp. This is a two-day immersive camp for self-identifying females aged 15 to 20 who reside in Lanark County. The camp will be held on the evening of October 13 and the full day on October 14.

"The goal is to provide a glimpse into firefighting, paramedics and law enforcement, and encourage

young women to see these as viable career opportunities," explains Paramedic Superintendent Amanda Taylor. "This is the first year we've been involved in the camp, and we are looking forward to the weekend."

The camps are led by the Lanark County Fire Departments in collaboration with Ontario Provincial Police, Smiths Falls Police Services and LCPS. Register at <perth.ca/lcffrc>.

Friends
of Mississippi Mills
Public Library

BOOK SALE

BOOK DROP OFF
October 1 - 19, 2023

BOOK SALE CASH ONLY
October 20 - 22, 2023

LOCATION
Rexall Mall, Former Joy of Beauty Store
430 Almonte St., Almonte

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
260 FINGERS
vendredi, samedi, dimanche

AN INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION OF CERAMIC ART
UNE EXPOSITION COLLECTIVE D'ARTISTES
CÉRAMISTES INVITÉS

NOVEMBER 10-12 NOVEMBRE 2023
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Opening party Friday
November 10th from 6 to 9 pm
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a good reason for a
day in Ottawa!**

This year's participants:

- Andrea Piller
- Andrea Vuletin
- Andrew Kellner
- Bill Reddick
- Carolynne Pynn Trudeau
- Chandler Swain
- Christopher Reid Flock
- Clement Hoeck
- Cynthia O'Brien
- Diane Black
- Don Goddard
- Erin Robertson
- Franciscus Van Boxel
- Heather Dynes Smit
- Ileana Tierney
- Jen Drysdale
- Jennifer Graham
- Kaitlyn Brennan
- Kathrin Von Dehn
- Lauren Blakey
- Lesley McNally
- Maria Moldovan
- Mary Philpott
- Michael Doxey
- Patti Normand
- Saskia Praamsma
- Teresa Wingar
- Vanessa Villarreal



Mossy Forest 2 will be featured in Sherry Park's solo exhibition at Sivarulrasa Gallery

The Forest as Sanctuary

From September 29 to November 3, Sivarulrasa Gallery is delighted to present *Sherry Park: Sanctuary*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by artist Sherry Park. The paintings are based on artist residencies she completed in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Nova Scotia (2019) and Chateau Orquevaux, France (2022). The works explore the forest as sanctuary, evoking the serenity of the natural environment unspoiled by human intervention. Working with oils and acrylics, her gaze is often drawn to dense woodlands steeped in shadow and mystery.

Born in South Korea, Sherry Park's studio is based in Alton, Ontario. She graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD), major-

ing in Fine Art, and also spent her fourth year in an off-campus program in Florence, Italy. "I paint what I see and witness in life around me", she says. "I have two series that I work on continuously, landscape series and portrait series." Her works have been shown in exhibitions in Canada and internationally. She is the winner of several awards, including the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant, and the Mary Pratt Crystal Award from the Society of Canadian Artists.

There will be a Meet the Artist reception on Saturday, October 14 from 2-4PM, and Sherry Park will be in attendance. Sivarulrasa Gallery <sivarulrasa.com> is located at 34 Mill Street in Almonte.

Annual Book Sale

Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library Sale Supports Ongoing Programming

The Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library (MMPL) annual book sale is happening in October, and organizers invite everyone to come out and buy books to help support library programming at the Almonte and Pakenham branches.



All books can be purchased — by donation, cash only — at the Rexall Mall, located at 430 Ottawa Street in Almonte (just follow the signs!). The sale takes place on Friday, October 20 from 4-8PM, Saturday, October 21 from 10AM to 4PM, and Sunday, October 22 from 11AM to 3PM.

Donate Your Books!

Members of the community are asked to donate their gently used books by dropping them off at the former Joy of Beauty store right next to the Rexall Drug Store. Books can be dropped off from October 1-19, any time the mall is open. Enter the mall at the Rexall end and simply follow the signs.

Please donate books that are in good condition and published within the last 5 years. Books for kids, young adults and adults, as well as French books are most welcome. The Friends cannot accept encyclopedias, textbooks, bibles, books that have been exposed to dampness, or old books.

Thanks so much for your generosity in supporting the library. Please contact the Friends at <friends@missmillslibrary.com> for general questions, and at <judithdfruscio@gmail.com> for book sale details.



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Dining Adventure OCTOBER 21

Proceeds to **The Hunger Stop**, Lanark County's Food Bank


Register as a couple: spouses, friends, etc.

Host one course: appetizer, entrée or dessert for 6 people (your couple plus 2 others)


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Minimum donation of \$30 per couple

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The Smiths Falls Community Theatre Presents

Agatha Christie's
THE MOUSETRAP



SUSPECT EVERYONE

Directed by Katharine Coleman

Presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatrical - October 2023

October 13, 14 & 19, 20, 21 at 7:30 pm
Sunday Matinees Oct 15 & 22 at 2:00 pm

• Adult \$22 • Student (with ID) \$10

Group rates available for 15 or more for same performance - call for details



THE STATION THEATRE

Tickets available at:

- Special Greetings, 8 Russell St. E., Smiths Falls (cash/debit/voucher)
- smithsfallstheatre.com (Visa/Mastercard/Paypal)
- By Phone - 613-283-0300 (Visa/Mastercard/voucher)
- At the Door - 1/2 hour before performance (cash/debit/voucher)

53 Victoria Avenue, Smiths Falls

EODL One Act Festival, Kempville, Nov 3-4
Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Almonte, Nov 4-5
Kanata Art Club \$200 & Under Sale, Kanata, Nov 4-5
Cheerfully Made Holiday Market, Almonte, Nov 4-5
Violet Femmes, Almonte, Nov 10
Feliz Naughty Dog Craft Sale, Arnprior, Nov 12
An Evening with Lesley Choyce, Almonte, Nov 15
Matilda – the Musical, Perth, Nov 16-19
Rick Fines & Suzie Vinnick Band, Westport, Nov 17
Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers' Musical, Almonte, Nov 17-26
Harvest Farmers' Market, Almonte, Nov 18
Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Sale, CP, Nov 18-19
An Evening with Brett Popplewell, Almonte, Nov 27
AiC Comfort and Joy, Almonte, Dec 2
The ABBA Christmas Show, Perth, Dec 2
Steve Marriner Band, Westport, Dec 8
Mudmen, Perth, Dec 30

2024

AiC Gryphons @ 30, Almonte, Jan 14
Jack De Keyzer Band, Westport, Jan 19-20
River City Junction, Westport, Feb 16
AiC Payadora, Almonte, Mar 9
Miss Emily, Westport, Mar 15
AiC Campbell, Fagan, Park Trio, Almonte, Apr 13
Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar, Westport, Apr 19

Literature

An Evening with Charlotte Gray, Oct 10, 6:30PM. Presented by Mill Street Books, celebrating the release of *Passionate Mothers*, *Powerful Sons*. Almonte Library. Free, register at missmilllibrary.com
A Conversation with Frances Itani, Oct 15, 2-4PM. Discussion with Giller Prize finalist Frances Itani. Free, register at 258-9611 x2. Merrickville Legion
Used Book Sale, Oct 20 (4-8PM); 21 (10AM-4PM); 22 (11AM-3PM). Gently used books. Cash only. Rexall Mall, Almonte. friends@missmilllibrary.com
In Conversation with Zoe Whittall and Emily Austin, Oct 21, 1PM. An intimate conversation with two celebrated authors. White Pine Books & Children's Boutique, Arnprior. \$10. whitepinebooks.ca

Local Food

Distillery Market, Oct 8, 9AM-2PM. Makers, artisans, growers, food vendors, beverage slingers, singers and more. Dairy Distillery, Almonte. dairydistillery.com
Cooking Class with Chef Joe Thottungal, Oct 27, 7PM. Owner of the restaurants Coconut Lagoon and Thali in Ottawa. Presented by Mill Street Books. Almonte United Church. \$20 from TicketsPlease.ca

Visual Arts

Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour, Oct 7-8, 10AM-4PM. Self-guided tour of artists' studios in Almonte, Clayton and Pakenham. crownandpumpkin.com
Expressions of Art, Oct 7 (8AM-4PM); 8 (10AM-4PM). Juried show featuring more than 30 artists. Carp Agricultural Hall. westcarletonartssociety.ca
Perth Autumn Studio Tour, Oct 7-8, 10AM-5PM. 34 artists showcasing their work at four stops, indoors and outdoors. Brooke Valley, Perth. perthstudiotour.com
Fine Batiks, Oct 7-8, 10AM-5PM. Indonesian scarves, tablecloths, woodenware. Maberly. finebatiks.ca
Vernissage: Love On Fire, Oct 7, 12-5PM. A solo exhibition by Patrick John Mills. Art Factory, Renfrew. Show runs until Nov 4. liveartfactory.com

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Fall in Love with Maple, Lanark County</p> <p>Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge</p> <p>Cameron Wyatt, The Cove</p>	<p>SF Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p> <p>Fall in Love with Maple, Lanark County</p> <p>Eric Uren, The Cove</p>	<p>Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society Meeting, Carleton Place</p> <p>Trivia Night, Bowie's</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge, Almonte</p> <p>Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</p> <p>Fall in Love with Maple, Lanark County</p> <p>Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>Fall in Love with Maple, Lanark County</p> <p>Jen Calder, The Cove</p> <p>Somerset Combo, Perth</p> <p>Open Stage, Bowie's</p> <p>Cashmen Ford, Waterfront Gastropub</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge, Perth</p>
<p>Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge</p> <p>Cameron Wyatt, The Cove</p>	<p>An Evening with Charlotte Gray, Almonte</p> <p>SF Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p> <p>Ashton Community Outreach Breakfast, Ashton</p> <p>Eric Uren, The Cove</p>	<p>Ghost Tours, Smiths Falls</p> <p>Trivia Night, Bowie's</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge, Almonte</p> <p>Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</p> <p>Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>Jane Austen's Lady Susan, Perth</p> <p>Open Stage, Bowie's</p> <p>Cashmen Ford, Waterfront Gastropub</p> <p>Somerset Combo, Perth</p> <p>Ghost Tours, Smiths Falls</p> <p>Gerald McGrath, The Cove</p> <p>Carleton Place Toastmasters Club, Praxxtrs, Sharbot Lake</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge, Perth</p>
<p>Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge</p> <p>Cameron Wyatt, The Cove</p> <p>Almonte Quilters Guild Meeting, Almonte</p>	<p>SF Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p> <p>Ashton Community Outreach Breakfast, Ashton</p> <p>The Co-Conspirators, The Cove</p>	<p>Trivia Night, Bowie's</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge, Almonte</p> <p>Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</p> <p>Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>Jane Austen's Lady Susan, Perth</p> <p>The Mousetrap, Smiths Falls</p> <p>Open Stage, Bowie's</p> <p>Cashmen Ford, Waterfront Gastropub</p> <p>Somerset Combo, Perth</p> <p>Matt Dickson, The Cove</p>
<p>Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge</p> <p>Cameron Wyatt, The Cove</p> <p>Almonte Horticultural: Best Varieties to Plant, Almonte</p>	<p>SF Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p> <p>Ashton Community Outreach Breakfast, Ashton</p> <p>Eric Uren, The Cove</p> <p>Lanark County Camera Club Meeting, Perth</p>	<p>Solar Powered Homes, Westport</p> <p>Trivia Night, Bowie's</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge, Almonte</p> <p>Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</p> <p>Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>Perth Ghost Walk, Perth</p> <p>The Miracle Club, Smiths Falls</p> <p>The Gooddamsels, The Cove</p> <p>Somerset Combo, Snow Road Station</p> <p>Open Stage, Bowie's</p> <p>Cashmen Ford, Waterfront Gastropub</p> <p>Carleton Place Toastmasters Club</p>
<p>Not-So-Spooky Stories, Carleton Place</p> <p>MMYC Haunted House, Almonte</p> <p>Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge</p> <p>Cameron Wyatt, The Cove</p>	<p>SF Bridge Club, Smiths Falls</p>	<p>Trivia Night, Bowie's</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge, Almonte</p> <p>Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</p>	<p>Clue, Carleton Place</p> <p>Big Brothers Big Sisters 50th Anniversary Gala, Carleton Place</p> <p>Open Stage, Bowie's</p> <p>Cashmen Ford, Waterfront Gastropub</p>

Nature Narrative Workshop, Oct 7, 10AM-12PM. Artist-led workshop on creating a natural composition, materials provided. Register at mvtm.ca. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. \$50
Red Trillium Studio Tour, Oct 14-15, 10AM-4PM. Visit some of West Ottawa's best artists and craftspeople in their studios. West Carleton area. Free. redtrilliumst.com
Meet Artist Sherry Park, Oct 14, 2-4PM. Reception for *Sherry Park: Sanctuary*. Exhibit runs until November 3. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. sivarulrasa.com
Almonte Quilters Guild Meeting, Oct 16, 7PM. Speaker Bridget O'Flaherty will share suggestions for making quilting more sustainable. Almonte Civitan Hall. Guests \$5. almontequiltersguild.ca
Lanark County Camera Club Meeting, Oct 24, 7PM. Improve your photographic skills. Algonquin College, Perth. Free. lccameraclub.com

Theatre

Are You There God? It's Me Margaret, Oct 6 & 7, 7PM. Film based on the Judy Blume novel. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$12. smithsfallstheatre.com

TIFF Film Club: The Inspection, Oct 6, 2 & 7PM. Studio Theatre Perth. \$12. studiotheatreperth.co
Jane Austen's Lady Susan, Oct 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 & 21 at 7:30PM; Oct 15 & 22 at 2PM. A period piece adapted by Rob Urbinati. Perth Studio Theatre. Adults \$24; Youth \$12 from TicketsPlease.ca
The Mousetrap, Oct 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 at 7:30PM; Oct 15 & 22 at 2PM. Presented by Smiths Falls Community Theatre. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. Adults \$22; Students \$10 (with ID). smithsfallstheatre.com
The Miracle Club, Oct 26, 2 & 7PM. A group of working-class women from Dublin on a pilgrimage to Lourdes in France. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$12. sffilmnight@gmail.com
Clue, Oct 27, 28, Nov 2, 3, 4 at 7:30PM; Oct 29 & Nov 4 at 2PM. Come figure out WHO did it, WHERE they were, and with WHAT weapon. Presented by the Mississippi Mudds. Carleton Place Town Hall. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca
The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Oct 28, 8PM. Pre-show screening of *The Warbling* at 7:30PM. Sing and dance along with rockstar MC British Columbia. Studio Theatre Perth. \$15 from TicketsPlease.ca

Driving Madeleine, Oct 29, 2PM. Starring Line Renaud and Dany Boon, directed by Christian Carion. St. Andrew's United Church, Pakenham. \$15 from TicketsPlease.ca

Youth

Beckwith Township Halloween Party, Oct 27, 6-8PM. Haunted house, graveyard and activity stations. Beckwith Park. Donations accepted. 257-1539
Trick or Treat Downtown Perth, Oct 28, 1-4PM. Dress up in costume and trick or treat at participating businesses. perth.ca/halloween
Spooky Stories, Oct 29, 4PM. Spooky stories for kids 6 to 12 at this fun, horror-themed café; after hours. Wear a costume. Deadly Grounds Café, Carleton Place. Free. carletonplacelibrary.ca
MMYC Haunted House, Oct 29 (3-4:30 for all ages; 5:30-9 for 10 & up), Oct 30 (5-9 all ages). \$10 for ages 10 & up, \$5 for ages 9 & under. Proceeds to the Mississippi Mills Youth Centre. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. \$10, \$5. facebook.com/MississippiMillsYouthCentre
Not-So-Spooky Stories, Oct 30, 10:30AM. Not-so-spooky stories for kids 2-5 at this fun, horror-themed café. Wear a costume.

Deadly Grounds Café, Carleton Place. Free. carletonplacelibrary.ca

Music

Somerset Combo, every Thursday 1827 Wine and Cheese Lounge, Perth. 1827wineandcheeselounge.com
Pranxtrs, Oct 12, 7:30-10PM. Live music. The Crossing Pub, Sharbot Lake. \$6. sharbotlakeinn.com
Harvest Barn Dance, Oct 14, 7-11PM. Enjoy live music by Healy & Orr, food, and drinks. Ecotay, Perth. \$28. ecotay.ca
Free Public Concert, Oct 15, 2PM. Perth Citizens' Band. Crystal Palace, Perth. perthband.ca
Tea Dance, Oct 15, 1:30-4PM. Dance to big band Standing Room Only. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$16 ea/\$30 couple. srobignband.weebly.com/tea-dances.html
Fleetwood Mac Mania, Oct 21, 8PM. Fleetwood Mac and Stevie Nicks tribute presented by Dream Rock Promotions. 19+. Cash bar. Farrell Hall, Perth. \$34 in advance/\$39 at the door. TicketsPlease.ca
A Tribute to Canadian Women in Song, Oct 21, 7PM. Featuring hit songs of the 70s, 80s and 90s. Elgin United Church. \$20. eventbrite.com

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TIFF Film Club: <i>The Inspection</i>, Perth Sam Wilson, The Cove Dave Balfour, Westport Brewing Co. <i>Are You There God? It's Me Margaret</i>, Smiths Falls Ken Armstrong, Waterfront Gastropub Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Fall in Love with Maple, Lanark County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Are You There God? It's Me Margaret</i>, Smiths Falls Book and Bake Sale, Perth Expressions of Art, Carp Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour, Almonte Perth Autumn Studio Tour Fine Batiks, Maberly Nature Narrative Workshop, Almonte Vernissage: <i>Love on Fire</i>, Renfrew Jon VW, Westport Brewing Co. Vicki Brittle, Urban Angus Steak & Wine Rob Kerr, Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub Fall in Love with Maple, Lanark County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob Peppin, Waterfront Gastropub Fall in Love with Maple, Lanark County Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh, The Cove Expressions of Art, Carp Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour, Almonte Perth Autumn Studio Tour Fine Batiks, Maberly Distillery Market, Almonte Ecotay Harvest Market, Perth Scott Owen, Westport Brewing Co. Thanksgiving Buffet Dinner, The Cove
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane Austen's <i>Lady Susan</i>, Perth The Mousetrap, Smiths Falls Birds of a Feather, The Cove Paranormal Investigation, Smiths Falls Ken Armstrong, Waterfront Gastropub Scottish Country Dancing, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall Colours Walk at Blueberry Mtn, Flower Station, Lanark Jane Austen's <i>Lady Susan</i>, Perth The Mousetrap, Smiths Falls Red Trillium Studio Tour, West Carleton Meet Artist Sherry Park, Almonte Fall Dinner & Dance, Almonte Old Fashioned Harvest Dinner & Dance, Almonte Harvest Barn Dance, Perth Wood Window Restoration Workshop, Carleton Place Michael & Ingrid, Westport Brewing Co. Rob Kerr, Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob Peppin, Waterfront Gastropub Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh, The Cove Jane Austen's <i>Lady Susan</i>, Perth The Mousetrap, Smiths Falls Red Trillium Studio Tour, West Carleton Tea Dance, Almonte A Conversation with Frances Itani, Merrickville Free Public Concert, Perth The Mousetrap, Smiths Falls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane Austen's <i>Lady Susan</i>, Perth The Mousetrap, Smiths Falls Waste Not!, Carleton Place Used Book Sale, Almonte Jeff Callery, The Cove Haunted Heritage House, Smiths Falls The Halloween Horror Comedy Show, Urban Angus Steak & Wine Ken Armstrong, Waterfront Gastropub Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Bridge Workshop, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane Austen's <i>Lady Susan</i>, Perth Fleetwood Mac Mania, Perth The Mousetrap, Smiths Falls Used Book Sale, Almonte Haunted Heritage House, Smiths Falls Tea and Bazaar, Almonte Apple Crisp Social, Pakenham In Conversation with Zoe Whittall and Emily Austin, Arnprior Spencer Scharf, Westport Brewing Co. Turkey Supper, Pakenham Euchre at Cedar Hill, Pakenham Kyle Felhaver, Urban Angus Steak & Wine A Tribute to Canadian Women in Song, Elgin Rob Kerr, Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob Peppin, Waterfront Gastropub Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh, The Cove Jane Austen's <i>Lady Susan</i>, Perth The Mousetrap, Smiths Falls Used Book Sale, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clue, Carleton Place Cooking Class with Chef Joe Thottungal, Almonte Perth Ghost Walk, Perth Tony D Band, The Cove Beckwith Township Halloween Party Spooky Trivia, Almonte Passage to Freedom, Almonte Cashmen Ford, Urban Angus Steak & Wine The Fugitives, Perth Ken Armstrong, Waterfront Gastropub Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Haunted Heritage House, Smiths Falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Perth Clue, Carleton Place Almonte in Concert: Storms of Life, Almonte Turpin's Trail, Carleton Place Perth Ghost Walk, Perth Trick or Treat Downtown Perth, Perth Perth Zombie Walk, Perth Jessica Rhaye and the Ramshackle Parade, Smiths Falls Halloween Hoedown, The Cove Haunted Heritage House, Smiths Falls Drag Show, Urban Angus Steak & Wine Rob Kerr, Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driving Madeleine, Pakenham Clue, Carleton Place Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh, The Cove The Magpies, McDonalds Corners MMYC Haunted House, Almonte Spooky Stories, Carleton Place Bob Peppin, Waterfront Gastropub

General Fine Craft presents new works by Alexi Hunter (blown glass), Mary Philpott (animal sculptures) and Lesley McNally (ceramics) <generalfinecraft.com>

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum presents Canadian Handwoven Jacquard Coverlets from the Dennis and Sylvia Mills Collection [from Oct. 21] <mvtm.ca>

Sivarulasa Gallery presents *The Seven Gifts* [to Oct. 20], *Sherry Park: Sanctuary* [from Sep. 29] <sivarulasa.com>

The Art Factory presents *Love On Fire*, a solo exhibit by Patrick John Mills [Oct. 7 to Nov. 4] <liveloveartfactory.com>

The Mill of Kintail Conservation Area presents the art of Diana Jackson [to Oct 9]

Somerset Combo, Oct 26, 7:30PM. Jazz combo playing everything from Brazilian sambas to the American Songbook. Snow Road Community Centre, Snow Road Station. \$15. snowroadcommunitycentre.com

The Fugitives, Oct 27, 7:30PM. Acoustic-folk roots. Studio Theatre Perth. Adults \$30; Youth \$20 from harmonyconcerts.ca

Almonte in Concert: Storms of Life, Oct 28, 7:30PM. Agne Radzeviciute, piano and Dmitri Levkovich, piano. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$44/\$190 series of 5 from TicketsPlease.ca

Jessica Rhaye and the Ramshackle Parade, Oct 28, 7:30PM. Celebrating the release of their new album *Sunshine Baby*. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$25 from Eventbrite. smithsfallstheatre.com

Turpin's Trail, Oct 28, 7PM. Original and traditional songs and tunes. Zion-Memorial United Church, Carleton Place. Adults \$25; Youth \$15 from TicketsPlease.ca

The Magpies, Oct 29, 2PM. Accomplished UK instrumentalist-vocalists with roots in the folk idiom. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca

Pub Listings

The Cove (Westport, 273-3636): 5-8PM unless noted; Mon Cameron Wyatt; Wed Wings 'n Tunes w/Shawn McCullough (5:30-8:30); Sun Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh

Oct 3 Eric Uren
 Oct 5 Jen Calder
 Oct 6 Sam Wilson
 Oct 10 Eric Uren
 Oct 12 Gerald McGrath
 Oct 13 Birds of a Feather
 Oct 17 The Co-Conspirators
 Oct 19 Matt Dickson
 Oct 20 Jeff Callery
 Oct 24 Eric Uren
 Oct 26 The Gooddamsels
 Oct 27 Tony D Band, 7PM., \$100
 Oct 28 Halloween Hoedown, 8-11PM., \$20

Urban Angus Steak & Wine (Arnprior, 558-5050)
 Oct 7 Vicki Brittle, 7PM.
 Oct 20 The Halloween Horror Comedy Show, 8:30PM.
 Oct 21 Kyle Felhaver, 7PM.
 Oct 27 Cashmen Ford, 7PM.
 Oct 28 Drag Show, 9PM.

Carp Masonic Lodge: Mon Carp Celtic Jam, 7PM, \$3

Bowie's (Smiths Falls): Wed Where is my Mind Trivia, 8-10PM (sign-up online); Thu Open Stage, 8PM (casual sign-up); Fri original live music 8:30 & 11:30PM

The Waterfront Gastropub (CP, 257-5755): Sat Rob Kerr, 3-6PM & Al Tambay, 9:30PM-12:30AM; Sun Bob Peppin, 3-6PM; Wed Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine, 8PM-12AM; Thu Cashmen Ford, 8PM-12AM; Fri Ken Armstrong, 8PM

Westport Brewing Co. (Westport, 273-2739): Tunes on Tap, 2-4PM
 Oct 6 Dave Balfour, 5-8PM.
 Oct 7 Jon VW, 2-4PM.
 Oct 8 Scott Owen, 2-4PM.
 Oct 14 Michael & Ingrid, 2-4PM.
 Oct 21 Spencer Scharf, 2-4PM.

Fall in Love with Maple, Sep 30-Oct 8, 10AM-4PM. Tours, learn about production, see fall colours. Local Syrup Producers, Lanark County. ontariomaple.com/fall-in-love-with-maple

Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society Meeting, Oct 4, 7PM. Ottawa Bonsai Society on bonsai for beginners. Zion-Memorial Church, Carleton Place. Membership \$15, Visitors \$5. cphorticulture.ca

Book and Bake Sale, Oct 7, 8AM-3PM. Gently used books and delicious home-baked goods. Perth Legion. cfuwperth.org

Ecotay Harvest Market, Oct 8, 10AM-3PM. Food & craft vendors. Ecotay, Perth. Free. ecotay.ca

Ashton Community Outreach Breakfast, every Tuesday, 9AM-12PM. Music by Dave Brown and friends. Ashton United Church. Freewill offering. 791-6246

Ghost Tours, Oct 11 & 12, 6PM. A costumed interpreter will share tales of ghost sightings and mysterious happenings in the Smiths Falls area. Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls. sfghosttours.eventbrite.ca

Carleton Place Toastmasters Club, Oct 12 & 26, 7PM. All welcome. via Zoom, contact for link. carletonplace.toastmastersclubs.org

Paranormal Investigation, Oct 13, 6PM-10:30PM; & 11PM-3AM. Join the paranormal investigation teams at the museum on Friday, October 13th to explore the museum. Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls. Friday13investigation.eventbrite.ca

Fall Dinner & Dance, Oct 14, 5:30PM. Music by Eddy & the Stingrays. Almonte Civitan Hall. \$60. sprescott@agh-fvm.com

Old Fashioned Harvest Dinner & Dance, Oct 14, 6PM. With live auction and 4H Square Dance demo. NLAS Almonte Agricultural Hall & Fairgrounds. \$40

Wood Window Restoration Workshop, Oct 14, 1-4PM. Jim Stinson of Algonquin College's Heritage Carpentry and Joinery Program discusses saving and protecting wood windows, and demonstrates techniques. Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum. cpbheritagemuseum.com

Fall Colours Walk at Blueberry Mtn, Oct 14. Hike the gently rising trail at your pace and enjoy one of the Seven Wonders of Lanark County. Blueberry Mountain at cliffLAND, Flower Station, Lanark. By donation. mmlt.ca

Haunted Heritage House, Oct 20, 21, 27, 28, 7-9PM. Experience eerie sights, sounds and characters. Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls. sphauntedhouse.eventbrite.ca

Bridge Workshop, Oct 20, 9AM-3PM. Increase your confidence in defensive play. Perth Legion. \$45. cfuwperth.org

Waste Not!, Oct 20, 10-11:30AM. A free presentation on waste reduction and composting in your home, business and community. Pre-register at eventbrite.ca/e/723350289187. Carleton Place Town Hall. 294-8255

Euchre at Cedar Hill, Oct 21, 7PM. Euchre for all at the historic schoolhouse. Cedar Hill Schoolhouse, Pakenham. \$10

Tea and Bazaar, Oct 21, 1-3PM. Tea room, baking, jewelry, purses and scarves. Almonte Civitan Hall. Tea room: \$10. 257-8660

Apple Crisp Social, Oct 21, 1-4PM. Enjoy delicious apple crisp and beverages, and celebrate fall at the one-room Cedar Hill Schoolhouse in Pakenham. Adults \$10, children \$5. stevens.kathryna@gmail.com

Turkey Supper, Oct 21, 4:30 and 5:45PM. In-house dining and take out. Must reserve ahead for both. St. Andrew's United Church, Pakenham. Adults \$25; Children \$15. standrewsunitedpakenham.org

Almonte Horticultural: Best Varieties to Plant, Oct 23, 7:30PM. Scott Sigurdson (Indian Creek). adhsmailbox@gmail.com. Cornerstone Community Church, Almonte. \$2; 1st mtg free

Solar Powered Homes presentation, Oct 25, 8-10:30AM. Experts speak on solar energy management and back-up power. \$20 includes breakfast. The Cove Inn, Westport. watercolourwestport.com/breakfastwithanexpert

Perth Ghost Walk, Oct 26-28, 7PM. Geared for adults; suitable for age 8+. Perth Museum. \$12 from TicketsPlease.ca

Spooky Trivia, Oct 27, 6:30PM. Costumes are highly encouraged. Bring your friends or test your knowledge solo. Dairy Distillery, Almonte. vodkow.com/collections/tours

Passage to Freedom, Oct 27, 7PM. Documentary about refugees who fled to Canada following the Vietnam War. Almonte Public Library. By donation. learningagainmonte.ca

Perth Zombie Walk, Oct 28, 5PM. Awards for funniest, scariest, and most creative costumes. Downtown Perth. perth.ca/Halloween

Big Brothers Big Sisters 50th Anniversary Gala, Nov 2, 6PM. Celebrating 50 years of mentoring in Lanark County. Live music, 3-course meal, special guest speaker. Grand Hotel, Carleton Place. \$50. lanark.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca



On October 14, Eddy & the Stingrays will play a fundraiser for the Almonte General Hospital Fairview Manor Foundation

Eddy & the Stingrays Return to Almonte

Canada's top '50s, '60s and '70s show band, Eddy & the Stingrays, is returning to Almonte on Saturday, October 14 at the Almonte Civitan Hall. Always a sellout, the dinner and dance event kicks off at 5:30PM. Tickets are \$60 per person, with proceeds benefiting the Almonte General Hospital Fairview Manor Foundation.

But that's not all... This year's organizers have added a new twist to the evening of great music, dancing and prizes! Two lucky winners will join Eddy and the Stingrays at the beautiful Grand Bavaro Princess Resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic from January 20–27, 2024. To get in on the draw, tickets are \$100 with only 250 being sold. The draw for the trip will take place at 9PM during the show in Almonte.

"What could be more fun than a whole plane of Canadians descending on a resort in the gorgeous Dominican Republic?" asks AGH-FVM Foundation board member Christine Deugo, who joined the charter earlier this year. "Eddy and the Stingrays performed several shows throughout our week's stay. Even in the tropical weather they donned their pink blazers and threw parties at the beach and the pool, and hosted a private event in the ballroom for those of us in the group. They never fail to entertain with their music that makes everyone want to dance. We had excellent service and enjoyed the many restaurants on-site. The beach is stunning, the weather was fantastic, and did we mention it's all-inclusive?"

Dance and raffle tickets are available at the Almonte General Hospital Gift Shop, Ridge Rock Brewery in Carp, Winchester Travel, Bean Chevrolet in Carleton Place, and Perth Brewery. All in-person sales are cash only.

To order tickets to the dinner and dance, or for more information, please call 256-2500 x2296.

"Fall" in Love with Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm

By Jessica Plager

Picture-perfect in every direction with lush colours, textures, and lots of history, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm is over 200 years old with many original features, including the house itself. Located on the Indian Creek near Pakenham, it has evolved over the years from a sheep farm to a berry farm and now a Christmas tree farm. The Martin family has taken this historic farm to the next level of Agritourism and were recognized as Ottawa's Best Winter Attraction by the 2023 Ottawa Awards.

Grant and Pam Martin (née Deugo), along with their four sons, sold their dairy farm in midwestern Ontario and bought Cedar Hill from the Ralph family in 2016. The Martins have continued to expand the farming operation and in 2021 they built another shop completely dedicated to creating wreaths, planters and centrepieces for the Christmas season.

In 2020, the farm was opened on weekends to allow folks to enjoy the spectacular fall season. The sugar maple trees lining the laneway leading up to the Hallmark-movie-famous covered bridge is the perfect backdrop for any photographer. There is also a fun array of pumpkins, gourds, squash, rainbow corn, straw bales and corn stalks grown at the farm and available to purchase.

Christmas at Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm is always magical, but the fall season here is simply glorious. Fall at the farm takes full advantage — maple, oak and birch trees wearing autumn's finest; pumpkins, gourds and squash in every shape, size and colour; rainbow corn to decorate your home; a straw bale fort and maze to explore and climb; a zipline for the kids to ride; refreshed playgrounds throughout the property; tractor-drawn wagon rides to see the farm. The grounds are perfect for leisurely walks and great pictures, Christmas trees are everywhere, and there's also the gift shop and farm market with their thoughtfully chosen wares to ooh and ahh over.

This year the gift shop has been revamped with an amazing mix of new items and favourite collectibles. There are gnomes, gnomes, and more gnomes — from itty-bitty to gi-gnome-ous! A delectable new line of candles, fun ornaments, snow globes galore, beautiful nutcrackers and so much more adorn the shop.

It is truly a one-stop-shop for all your entertaining and hosting needs with seasonal linens, pretty napkins and an expanded Ontario gourmet food section offering frozen and refrigerated food. You'll find homemade pies, Ontario cheeses and flavoured milk, Fulton's maple butter, Mennonite-made farmers' sausages and more. The pantry carries exclusive Christmas blends from Fluid Solar Roasted Coffee, jams, tree farm honey, a variety of ciders, cold and baked dip mixes,



One of the stops on this year's Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm also welcomes the public on weekends starting on October 7

and Fulton's gourmet food items. For those with a sweet tooth, you'll find hard and chewy candies, lots of fudge, so many hot drink mixes and a delightful selection of Christmas chocolates.

You can happily spend a few hours at Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm by yourself, with a group of friends or your family... and come back the next weekend to do it all again! It is a wonderful experience you don't want to miss in either the fall or Christmas season.

Crown & Pumpkin Time

The farm is proudly hosting a stop on the Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour on Thanksgiving weekend (October 7 and 8). Come out to visit seven talented local artisans featuring pottery, woodturning, jewelry, basketry, weaving and more.

Once you've worked up an appetite, stop by the café for delicious homemade food and treats as well as a nice selection of hot and cold drinks. Enjoy the outdoor dining area overlooking the creek and bridge.

Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm is open on weekends from 10AM to 4PM, from October 7 through to November 5, including Thanksgiving Monday. Starting on Saturday, November 11, the hours are Monday to Thursday from 10–6, Fridays from 10–8, Saturday and Sunday from 9–5. Please visit <cedarhillchristmastreefarm.com> for more information.

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Creative Recovery

Post-Covid Grants Help Two Local Arts Organizations to Carry On

The Covid-19 pandemic was challenging for many community sectors. Arts and Culture organizations, which were not deemed “essential services” during lockdowns, were hard hit when they had to close their doors.

The Perth and District Community Foundation (PDCF) recently helped two local arts organizations, MERA (McDonalds Corners and Elphin Recreation and Arts) and the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, adapt to the long-term impacts of the pandemic through grants it made to them from the Government of Canada’s Community Services Recovery Fund.

PDCF was one of over 100 community foundations across the country that was charged with awarding the federal money to local community service organizations whose projects aimed to improve internal systems and processes to recover from the impacts of Covid.

A Hub of Creativity

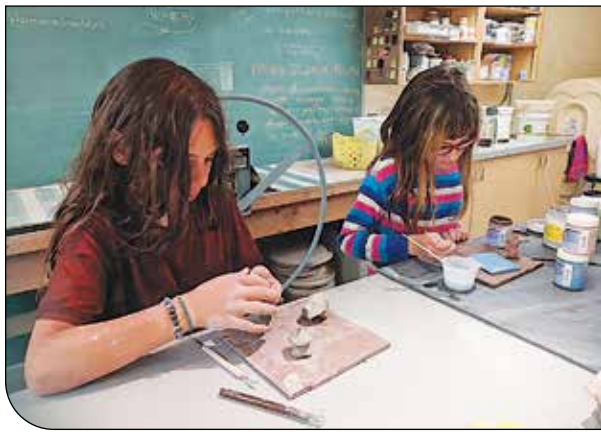
The MERA Schoolhouse has been a place for visual artists, musicians, potters, weavers and others involved in the arts community to gather, share their work, teach and learn for over two decades. When the pandemic hit, MERA was “practically shuttered”, according to board member Louise Ennis.

“We realized that, to keep the community engaged, we had to connect in new ways,” says Ennis. The organization quickly pivoted programming to offer an online book club, online gatherings and a virtual

speakers’ series. They were all popular and carried MERA through the lockdowns.

Coming out of that experience, the MERA board realized that it had to find new ways to strengthen, broaden and diversify communication with the communities it serves. They looked towards technology to do that. MERA applied for a CSRF grant to create a communications plan, update their website, develop an online registration system and provide training to volunteers once the technology is in place.

Using the CSRF grant, MERA has already drafted a communications workbook and hired a website designer. They are on track to launch their new website in time to announce their 25th anniversary celebrations, which will begin in June 2024. They also plan to have the online registration for the kids’ camp up and running for the summer. They hope that the new communication systems and tools will expand their reach and ease the administrative burden for volunteers so they can focus on creating arts-based programs that inspire and encourage people



of all ages and backgrounds to participate.

Diversity at the Museum

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, located in Almonte, tells the history of the woolen mills and the workers who laboured in them during the 19th century. It also brings together exhibitions and activities featuring local and global contemporary textile art for the public to enjoy.

Like MERA, that museum had to close its doors during the Covid lockdowns and was not able to count on fees for admissions and events or revenue from the gift shop. Covid also made fundraising difficult. Moving to online platforms while closed to the public, they expanded virtual engagement, but the programs did not raise enough revenue to support these new initiatives. The board realized that they needed to come up with a solid plan for the future. MVTM Executive Director Michael Rikley-Lancaster calls this a “post-Covid reboot.” They applied for a CSRF grant to do that.

With the grant, the museum hired a consultant to do an assessment of their current fundraising approaches and develop a new fundraising strategy which will become part of their overall strategic plan.

“Once the plan is solidified, fundraising tools will be developed and board members, staff and volunteers will be trained to use them. That way, there will be comfort and skill in using the tools across the organiza-



Grants distributed by the Perth & District Community Foundation have helped the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (above) and MERA (at left) rebound creatively since the pandemic

tion,” explains Rikley-Lancaster. “The aim of the project is increased resilience and long-term viability of the Museum so that we can continue to grow and appeal to more diverse communities.”

The Perth and District Community Foundation was delighted to be able to help these two local organizations with CSRF funding. Along with MERA and MVTM, grants were awarded to Youth Action Committee of Perth and District (YAK), Home Hospice North Lanark, Perth Enrichment Program for Older Adults (PEP), Climate Network Lanark, and Lanark County Community Justice. The CSRF grants committee was convened by PDCF and comprised of volunteers from across Lanark County who used criteria set out by the CSRF to review applications. The committee distributed a total of \$290,000 in CSRF grants.

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Bird Migration

May Your Journey Be Safe

Ornithologists have a special term: *zugunruhe*, from the German *zug* (meaning “move”) and *unruhe* (“restlessness”). It is a fairly obscure word used mainly in academic settings. But for everyday birders like us, the phenomenon is simply known as migration.

by Lise Balthazar

Migration might be a simpler word, but the phenomenon itself is complex. Birders and scientists alike have been studying the travel patterns of birds for hundreds of years. Ancient Greeks thought that some birds hibernated during the cold season, while others transformed into different species — for example, warblers turned into robins. But reality is more remarkable than those fictions!

We’re all familiar with the classic image of fall migration: Canada geese in their undulating V-shaped flocks, punctuating the sky like big arrows. But geese are only one of about 350 bird species which embark on this long and arduous voyage, from their summer homes to their winter grounds — and back again in the spring.

During its first migration, a bird creates a map in its brain which will allow it, on future journeys, to navigate with extreme precision over thousands of kilometers. That’s how more than half of songbirds make it back to the same territory every spring — like your backyard!

Migratory birds have an internal clock that tells them when it’s time to migrate — it’s triggered by lower temperatures and changes in day length. So don’t worry, a nectar feeder will not dissuade your hummingbirds from migrating.

There are three types of migrants: short-, medium- and long-distance. Short-distance migrants don’t go very far; for example, from higher to lower elevations. Medium-distance migrants cover distances of a few hundred miles. Long-distance migrants, the champions of migration, leave their breeding ranges in North America to reach their wintering grounds in Central and South America. Their migration patterns have evolved over thousands of years, and they have transmitted their migratory behavior to their brood.

Birds are masters of navigation and their skills aren’t fully understood; they have an inner compass. At night, some birds are able to navigate by the stars, apparently by watching the rotation of the entire sky.

Many birds rely on the sun to orient themselves. Scientists believe that birds can sense the “linear polarization” of skylight — another fancy term — and discern the sun’s position even on cloudy days. Birds might be using photomagnetic receptors, processed by the left side of the brain which has stronger ties with the right eyeball. In layman’s terms, birds can “see” the earth’s magnetic field in one eye, a strange concept to grasp to say the least. After more than 50 years of research, scientists are still not able to fully explain birds’ magnetic migratory sense.

Migrating birds fly thousands of miles every year, often following the same route. A lot of juveniles make



Photo by smHansen

The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) is hosting an event from October 2-8 to raise awareness about bird-building collisions and teach people how to create bird-friendlier homes and workplaces

their first migration on their own. No one knows how they find their winter home, even though they have never been there before; perhaps it’s an innate ability, or an instinct bestowed by their parents.

A long migratory journey presents countless dangers: lack of adequate food sources, bad weather, attacks by predators. Over recent decades, other threats have been added to the list: illuminated tall communication towers and structures, and brightly lit buildings. Many birds are attracted to those lights and millions of them are killed each year in collisions. The Fatal Light Awareness Program <flap.org>, based in Toronto, was created to offer options and solutions to alleviate this life-threatening situation. From October 2-8, FLAP is hosting their Global Bird Rescue annual event to raise awareness about bird-building collisions and how to create bird-friendlier homes and workplaces.

Next time a songbird visits your yard, take a few minutes to reflect on the perilous journey it has undertaken, over thousands of kilometers, using a brain weighing no more than a gram.

And that’s not fiction!

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Expressions of Art on Thanksgiving Weekend Juried Show at the Carp Agricultural Hall

The West Carleton Arts Society (WCAS) is delighted to announce that its signature show, Expressions of Art, is returning this fall! This exhibition and sale will showcase the creative talents of more than thirty top artists from the Ottawa region, all selected through a formal, independent jurying process. The show has been held annually for more than 25 years and is currently presented at the Carp Agricultural Hall.

It will be a fabulous show! Expect a high quality, vibrant display of images and colours with everything from landscapes and abstracts to photography and glass. There will be a variety of artwork and artistic media to please every taste.

Admission to the show is free and there is plenty of free parking. The venue is fully accessible. Cash donations to the West Carleton Secondary School Fine Arts bursary program are gratefully accepted.

Organizers are also hosting a Silent Auction of original art from participating artists. All pieces will be 12”x 12”, with bids beginning at \$50. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire a piece to begin, or add to, a collection of original art. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the WCAS bursary program that provides an award to a senior student from West Carleton High School who is going on to study art in a post-secondary setting.



Find art in a variety of media (including photography by Gilly Marston, above) at the Expressions of Art show

For more information and a preview of some of the artwork, please visit <westcarletonartsociety.ca/expressions-of-art>.

Leta and Don Cormier

Featured Artists at General Fine Craft

Among many of the new items on display this month at General Fine Craft in Almonte is the fine and functional pottery of Leta and Don Cormier. For nearly 50 years they have shared a life and a ceramics studio. Along the way they've become renowned specialists in high-fired stoneware/reduction atmosphere pottery, which has distinctive techniques and aesthetic qualities.

Leta and Don work independently on their own pieces, but share raw materials, glazes and kiln firings. Both create functional pottery; Don focuses on small forms like bowls and teabowls, while Leta loves the challenge of larger vessels. They often use traditional glazes like shino, celadon and temmoku, while also adapting and formulating new glazes.

Their work is based in the practices of twentieth century studio potteries influenced by the teachings of Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada. They've attended workshops with potters Tatsuzo Shimaoka, Lucie Rie, Mick Casson, Warren MacKenzie, Wayne Ngan, David Leach and Otto Heino, among others, and have taken numerous study trips to England, Japan and France.

Leta Cormier's introduction to clay began as a child, digging red earthenware clay out of the banks of the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia. She received formal training in ceramics at the Nova Scotia College of Art and the Vancouver School of Art.

"I've been making pottery in the Ottawa area since 1975," Leta says. "My pots can be used in the rituals of daily home life in the kitchen, at the table, in the garden. This chosen focus of the 'vessel' provides endless opportunity to investigate concept and structure, the intriguing relationships of idea, form, texture and surface. Traditional pottery of Japan, Korea, China, the Cycladic culture, African textiles and masks are rich sources of reference for my work."

Don Cormier is a retired architect who also had pottery training in the "Leach tradition". Many years of making and study have created a reservoir of ex-



Works by ceramic artists Leta and Don Cormier will be featured at General Fine Craft this month

perience and inspiration that helps inform the work he makes today.

"For me, the form of a pot represents its bones," he explains. "During a firing, the melting glazes drape and flow over that bone structure to help create the final look, feel and expression of the finished piece. No two pots are ever exactly the same. I strive to make pottery vessels that embody a natural quality of wholeness and beauty that people can use and enjoy in their everyday lives."

There are many qualities to admire in Leta and Don's work: attention to design, purity of balanced form, exquisitely beautiful glazes. Some liken the style to mid-century modern, but it is indeed a timeless aesthetic with a quiet strength that is visually arresting, contemplative and appreciated even more through touch and use.

General Fine Craft (located at 63 Mill Street in Almonte) has a generous selection of their work (and that of 70 other regional artists) available in the shop and online at <generalfinecraft.com>.

Prepare for a Scare!

Mississippi Mills Youth Centre Brings Haunted House to the Textile Museum

The Mississippi Mills Youth Centre (MMYC) is proud to partner with the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (MVTM) this October to host the 5th annual Haunted House Fundraiser! This highly anticipated annual fundraiser supports free and low-cost youth programs offered by MMYC all year long. Scaring the socks off Almonte since their first Haunted House at the youth centre in 2018, volunteers aged 10–18 have been dedicated to raising funds for the community organization, and are now excited to help and host at a new location — the Textile Museum.

The theme for this year's Haunted House will be a spooky sleepaway camp! It will take place on October 29 (3–4:30PM for all ages; 5:30–9PM for ages 10 and up), and October 30 (5–9PM for all ages). The cost is \$10 per person for ages 10 and up, and \$5 per person for ages 9 and under.

Since opening their doors in 2016, the Mississippi Mills Youth Centre has become a well-known community resource supporting youth, families and the greater community. MMYC offers a go-to location for youth aged 10–18 where they can "drop-in" in the evenings; during critical hours when important resources are often unavailable to youth. MMYC empowers youth by offering training and leadership opportunities where they learn life skills and use them to give back



to the community through volunteer opportunities, charitable fundraisers and youth-led projects. Over the course of the next few weeks local youth will be working tirelessly to make this year's Haunted House the biggest and best yet. From storytelling to prop creation, youth will be learning to work together and utilize their unique strengths in an effort to bring exceptional scares to Mississippi Mills.

As Canada's first Rainbow Registered museum and national historic site, the MVTM endeavours to weave a truly inclusive tapestry of local history with the stories of underrepresented communities. The youth centre appreciates the opportunity to partner with MVTM in their efforts to make MMYC, the Museum, and the greater community safe, welcoming and open to all.

Support the local Youth Centre, the Textile Museum, and the next generation of community leaders by attending the Haunted House, or let MMYC and MVTM know how awesome they are by donating online! Donations to MMYC can be made at <canadahelps.org>, and donations to the MVTM can be made at <mvtm.ca/donate>. If you'd like to volunteer for the Haunted House event, please email Lilli at <executivedirector@mmyc.ca> or call 256-5959, or email Michael at <m.rikley-lancaster@mvtm.ca>.

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Jane Austen's Lady Susan is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com
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studiotheatreperth.com



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Generous Helpings A Safari Dinner Fundraiser for The Lanark County Food Bank

By Denise Beaulne

It's time to prepare for a fun night out on the town, house-hopping for a Safari Dinner on the evening of Saturday, October 21. In a nutshell, this feast takes everyone from table to table on a 3-course journey through tasty trails in and around Almonte.

Here's the best part — you don't know who you are dining with until people arrive!

To participate, you need to:

- Register as a couple — join with your nephew, your spouse, your friend...
- Agree to host an appetizer, an entrée or a dessert for 6 people (2 of these being your couple)
- Donate a minimum of \$30 per couple; all proceeds go to The Hunger Stop

You will feast in three different homes over the course of the evening, all of which will be within a 15-minute drive from the Almonte Old Town Hall. Drop us a line at <saferidinner23@gmail.com> to get the full scoop and to register for this most amazing dining adventure.

In the meantime, share the word! Find a partner and look over your favourite recipes. Let's be generous and help the hungry through Generous Helpings. We can't wait to meet you on October 21!



Guatemala Stove Project Online Auction

The Guatemala Stove Project (GSP) is a charity run by local volunteers who raise funds to build safe, efficient masonry cookstoves in western Guatemala. Built by Guatemalan masons out of concrete, mortar and steel, the GSP-funded stoves greatly improve the lives of rural Maya families. The stoves include a metal chimney which removes toxic smoke from the home. The enclosed firebox shields children from open flames and greatly improves fuel efficiency. This saves the limited resources of Maya families and reduces deforestation. Over the past 23 years the GSP has funded the building of 7568 family cook stoves and 40 larger school stoves. These stoves have improved the health, life expectancy and overall wellbeing of over 46,000 Maya people!

Besides all the above benefits, efficient cookstoves reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere by an average of 2–3 tons per year. Over the lifespan of one stove, the reduction would more than offset the average carbon footprint of a typical Canadian (calculated at 14.2 tons in 2019). When considered collectively, GSP stoves will have offset over 190,000 tons of CO₂!

Although efficient cookstoves have always been the main focus of the GSP, the organization expanded

its mandate to respond to emergency situations and provide disaster relief (floods, crop failures, combating the debilitating financial effects of Covid) in western Guatemala. The GSP also funds microloans for small farmers and educational bursaries for rural students.

The GSP has organized annual exposure trips to Guatemala every February for volunteers from Canada and around the world. Although Covid has restricted in-person operations in Guatemala, the GSP is hoping to be able to resume trips again in the future.

This November the Guatemala Stove Project continues to support Maya families with two upcoming fundraising events. The first is their 4th annual online auction. Hosted at <32auctions.com/2023GSP>, supporters will have the chance to fund a stove, support a microloan, help a rural girl get an education or bid on a variety of interesting and useful items. The online auction opens November 1 and runs until November 6.

The GSP Perth Fundraising Dance is back on Saturday, November 18 at the Perth Civitan Hall. Get on your feet and move to the sounds of classic rock and country music! Visit them at <guatemalastoveproject.org> or on Facebook for details.

Fall Workshops at MERA — No Frills, New Skills!

This fall, MERA (McDonalds Corners and Elphin Recreation and Arts) will have the Schoolhouse bustling with all sorts of activities for people of all ages. Join them at 974 Dalhousie Concession 9A in McDonalds Corners to discover how you can bring more arts into your life!

Choose from one of five workshops on offer — or do them all! Workshops take place on Saturdays and include coffee or tea and great company. Please register by emailing MERA's friendly administrator at <meraschoolhouse@gmail.com>.

In **Glass Art with Judy Wall**, you'll learn the basics of working on glass art projects in this self-paced workshop. Students will learn what tools, supplies, equipment are required and how to use them. Judy will guide you through the process with safety tips to consider when handling glass. Learn techniques of cutting, grinding and shaping glass and work your way up to creating a design and laying out glass. The fee of \$75 for MERA members and \$85 for non-members includes glass, based on the MERA inventory. It takes place on September 30 from 10AM to 3PM.

Rose Moses is Ojibwe First Nations from Northern Ontario and is a textile artist who has been making dolls for over 30 years. In **Doll Making with Rose Moses**, she will guide you through the process of making a hand sewn doll. Choose from an array of different colours and fabrics to make yours unique. It takes place on October 14 from 10AM to 3PM (\$45/\$55).

Clowning can be the perfect way to connect to your creative power. In **Intro to Clowning and Your Creative Genius with Alexis Scott**, you will be guided through playful exercises to meet your clown and help you plant creative seeds. This workshop aims

to be a celebration of your uniqueness and a safe space for all to explore. "Clowns are not just acting out silly situations to make us laugh. They are reaching down into their own humanity, connecting with the thing we all fear the most." It takes place on October 21 from 10AM to 3PM (\$75/\$85).

In **Make a Handwoven Tray with Ankaret Dean**, MERA's own master basket maker will guide weavers of all levels through the process of making a handwoven tray with a wooden base. A braided border will be added to finish the piece. Adults and children over the age of twelve will enjoy creating and decorating the tray to their own liking. Some materials will be provided. It takes place on October 28 from 10AM to 3PM (\$75/\$85).

Amanda West Lewis is a writer, theatre creator, calligrapher, teaching artist and author of novels, picture books and crafts books. In the hands-on, collaborative workshop entitled **Writing from Memory with Amanda Lewis**, participants will start with the writing prompt: "What is your earliest memory?" Together, they will create a series of group poems that are specific and personal. They'll also look at examples of how this same memory prompt inspired Amanda's verse novel *These Are Not the Words*. This poetry writing workshop explores ways that our memories and dreams can spark ideas and springboard us into larger writing projects. It takes place on November 4 from 10AM to 12:30PM (\$45/\$55).

MERA is committed to facilitating and promoting activities and programs for all ages which help bring their rural community together, and to promoting awareness and understanding of the arts and wellbeing. For more information, please visit <meraschoolhouse.org>.

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Two Sisters

A critical component of growing vegetables is the development of strategies for dealing with wildlife. The previous two years saw racoons rampage through the patches of sweet corn being grown by the Blakeney Project of the Lanark County Food Bank (the Hunger Stop). Our two-acre garden measures about 200 feet by 600 feet and is on the edge of a 25-foot-deep ravine that serves as a four-lane highway for racoons. This year we were determined to win the battle.

by David Hinks

A bit of research suggested planting a patch of corn close to the ravine as a sacrificial decoy for the racoons, and then planting our main patch of corn as far away as possible and surrounding it with squash or pumpkins. This advice appeared consistent with descriptions of indigenous gardening practices. Gardening lore paints a rosy portrait of the historical gardening practices of Indigenous people featuring “the three sisters” — sustainable patches of corn, beans and squash with a fish buried for additional nutrients. Our Canadian Agricultural Museum has even named their educational hall on the Central Experimental Farm the Three Sisters Hall.

Many years ago, I tried this approach and ended up with a horrible tangled mess. When I tried to pick the beans and the corn I stepped on the squash plants, and it was difficult to find the beans in amongst the corn and the prickly squash vines. In hindsight it appears I made a few wrong assumptions. Rather than planting sweet corn and beans for picking fresh, it works a whole lot better if corn and bean varieties are chosen that are allowed to reach full maturity and that are then picked and stored as dry beans and corn. The prickly vines and leaves of the squash plants act as a deterrent to wildlife such as deer and racoons — as well as to humans!

Since we were planning to harvest fresh sweet corn at Blakeney we decided to go with only two sisters. A small patch of corn (about 500 square feet) was planted near the ravine as a decoy and a much larger main patch (about 5200 square feet) was planted on the opposite side of the garden. The small patch was not protected in any way; the larger patch comprised twenty 50-foot rows of corn surrounded on all sides by 70 hills of pumpkins. The pumpkins spread to form a 12-foot-wide barrier on all sides of the corn patch.

So, was it successful? The small patch was planted on May 18 with Revelation, an early 69-day corn. Incursions by the racoons began a couple of days before the corn was ripe. Cobs were ripped from the stalks and the patch was soon demolished. There appeared to be no interest in the large patch.

Half of the large patch was planted on May 25; the second half on May 30. We used a later 78-corn, Honey Select. A large pumpkin variety named Mustang was planted on May 26 and 30. Growth was very vigorous, benefitting from the frequent rains in mid-summer. The corn attained heights of eight feet with large well-filled cobs; many of the pumpkins weighed in at 35 to 45 pounds. The corn and pumpkins have been a huge hit with Food Bank



Photo by smihansen

Gardeners (and bird lovers) often have to go to great lengths to outsmart crafty critters...

clients. We were delighted that there was minimal damage from wildlife. In my mind I picture one very smart racoon who figured out a path through the pumpkins but was not willing to share his secret with the rest of the tribe.

Our success led me to further research — Indigenous knowledge about food security is incredibly complicated and regionally diverse depending on climate and other resources. The “three sisters” concept was more apt to be a model for agriculture in southwestern Ontario. While Indigenous people in our region collected and ate a large number of berries, nuts and other plants, I was surprised to learn that wild rice was a very important food staple.

Wild rice is Canada’s only native cereal. It is a wild grass that grows from seed, annually producing a very valuable grain that has been used by Indigenous people as food for thousands of years. The plants grow in shallow water in small lakes and slow-flowing streams; often only the flowering head of wild rice rises above the water. The grain is eaten by aquatic wildlife as well as by humans. It is often harvested by canoeing into a stand of plants, bending the ripe grain heads over the canoe and threshing the grain by beating it with wooden sticks.

If you want to help the community and learn much more about vegetable gardening (and try new exciting techniques!), might I suggest volunteering at the Blakeney Project of the Lanark County Food Bank (the Hunger Stop). This two-acre garden will be starting its fourth year in May 2024. In the first three years over 40,000 pounds of fresh organic produce was grown for Food Bank clients. Volunteers are asked to commit to a weekly 3-hour shift throughout the growing season. Experienced gardeners lead the work in a gorgeous rural setting. For more information, please contact Food Bank manager Tammy Parent at <lcfb.thehungerstop@gmail.com>.

How Can Worms Combat Climate Change?

By Geri Baker

Did you know that you can save money and help nature in a big way by the small effort of composting? Many people are still new to this idea, so here is a little guidance. Nature is both simple and complex, which makes it challenging and beautiful. The KISS (keep it sweet and simple) principle really applies to vermicomposting! A few worms in a container can convert all your raw kitchen scraps into beautiful nutrient-rich black earth to feed your plants. Also compostable indoors are floor sweepings, vacuum waste, hair, fur, feathers, string, thread, shavings and all paper products.

If you take your worms outside, the amount of biodegradable material converted to soil includes all

dead carbon-based material. The big picture always thrills me to realize that we do not need garbage dumps if we only created compost that can feed our hungry planet.

If you want help getting started or if you want a bit of hand-holding as you venture into creating a vermicomposting habitat, please contact me (the “Worm Lady”) by text at 613-583-7509 or by email at <worm.education@gmail.com>.

I will also demonstrate worm composting at the Perth Farmers’ Market Thanksgiving market on Saturday, October 7 from 8AM to 1PM <perthfarmers-market.ca>. There, I will help people get their indoor habitats and outside composters prepared for the winter.

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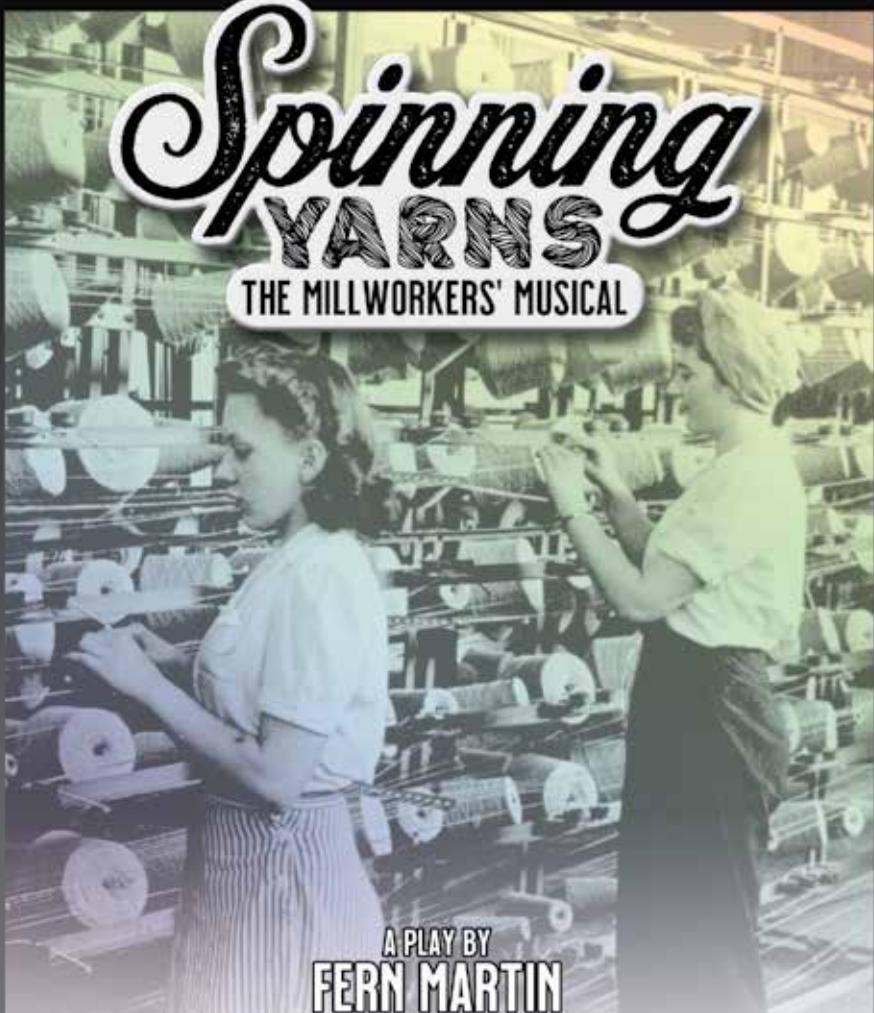
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