

NOVEMBER 2025

the Hum

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas



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November's Events



The 2025 Gift Giving Guide



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The Lion in Winter



p.17

Save Our College



The Art of Graham Mastersmith p.5



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Calling All Community Elves

It's that time of year again! The Lanark County Food Bank – The Hunger Stop is already preparing to put a little Christmas cheer in client's homes with its 17th annual Sandy Claus Stocking Drive.

"Collecting stockings begins right after Thanksgiving," explains LCFB manager Tammy Parent, "because with some clients only coming in once a month, we have to start distributing in mid-November to ensure everyone has a happy Christmas morning. We know how generous our community is and how this generosity puts a smile in someone's heart."

Stocking fillers can include toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, multi-blade razors, nail files, nail clippers, shaving cream, after-shave lotion, moisturizing lotion, loofas, hairbrushes, combs, dental floss, deodorant, and soaps of all kinds. Sweet treats are always popular too.

The Sandy Claus Stocking Drive began with Sandy Schappert 17 years ago. The idea sparked when her late husband Hank remarked while volunteering at the Food Bank that recipients often said: "this is the only gift I get to open Christmas morning."



If you'd like to donate a stocking full of toiletries and goodies, please mark them His, Hers or Either, and drop them off at the Food Bank Donations and Deliveries door at 84 Mill Street in Carleton Place from November 10 to December 15. Please come during business hours: Monday and Wednesday from 8AM to 1PM, Thursday from 6-8PM, and Sunday from 2-4PM. For more information, please contact Lynn at <lynnyounghusband@gmail.com>.

Who's Reading theHumm



Back in August of 2024, the late **Noreen Young** (holding theHumm) and several Puppets Up! organizers travelled to New York City to see "Like Water For Elephants" on Broadway. **Joshua Holden** (pictured above next to the Count) was Puppet Director for that show, and also invited the group to Queens to visit the studio where Sesame Street puppets are made and repaired. Puppeteer and performer **Ben Durocher** is pictured next to Cookie Monster. On page 7 of this issue, you can read about a terrific fundraiser for Puppets Up! and the new Noreen Young Award for the Arts, taking place in Almonte on November 15.



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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 Merrickville. 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 to editor@thehummm.com

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Subscribe to Hummail — it's Free!

Do you know about our weekly e-newsletter called "Hummail"? We use it to further promote independent local performers, creators, businesses and community initiatives. It's also a great reminder of what's coming up on the weekend, in case someone has stolen your copy of theHumm...

So far we have sent out over 250 editions of Hummail, and we have over 2000 subscribers.

We would love it if you would subscribe too, and we promise not to share your email address with anyone. You can subscribe at <thehummm.com>, or by emailing <kris@thehummm.com>.

TICKETS
Please

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- Nov 1

Read it Yourself Tarot Workshop
presented by Other Hand Tarot
Perth & District Union Public Library
- Nov 1

A Death in the Family
A Victorian Mourning Experience
Perth Museum
- Nov 1

Astrology & Numerology & Tarot
with Dr. Veena and the Artystyk Mystik
The Old Mill Manor, Almonte
- Nov 2

Messages from Heaven & Tarot
psychic medium reads and Tarot readings
The Old Mill Manor, Almonte
- Nov 4

Still Life in Colour
presented by Paint With Janet
Carleton Place Collective
- Nov 7

Texas King
with special guest Peter Van Helvoort
River House Winery, Tay Valley
- Nov 12

Nathan Smith
with special guest Kyle Kirkpatrick
Oakfield Rugby Park, Perth
- Nov 15

A Fall Chautauqua
presented by Puppets Up!
Almonte Old Town Hall
- Nov 20

JW Jones
Fundraising "Blues Bash"
ABC Hall, Maberly
- Nov 21

Songs of the War Years
presented by DFT Productions
Almonte Old Town Hall
- Nov 22

Bootleg Creedence
presented by Dream Rock Promotions
Farrell Hall, Perth
- Nov 23

From Bedclothes to Fine Art
with Flossie Peitsch
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
- Nov 26

Explorer and Author Adam Shoalts
presented by Mill Street Books
Almonte Old Town Hall
- Nov 27 to Dec 7

The Lion in Winter
presented by Studio Theatre Perth
Studio Theatre Perth
- Nov 27

The Plowboys
a musical harvest of classic country
Joshua Bates Centre, Athens
- Nov 28 to Dec 7

Annie
presented by the Mississippi Mudds
Carleton Place Town Hall
- Nov 29

Real Love
tribute to Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton
St. Paul's United Church, Perth

- Nov 1

Sing for Change!
raising voices for community justice
St. Paul's United Church, Perth
- Nov 1

Introduction to Mediumship
enhance your intuition
The Old Mill Manor, Almonte
- Nov 1

Kate Weekes' Rideau Roots
album release concert
Station Theatre, Smiths Falls
- Nov 4

Taking Charge of Your Health Care
presented by Learning Again in Almonte
Hillside Church, Almonte
- Nov 6

Watercolour: Landscapes and Trees
presented by Paint With Janet
Carleton Place Collective
- Nov 9

Amanda Rheume
presented by Music at MERA
McDonald's Corners
- Nov 13-16

Arsenic and Old Lace
presented by North Grenville Community Theatre
Urbandale Arts Centre, Kemptville
- Nov 16

Being Cyrano (Dans la peau de Cyrano)
presented by Mississippi Mills Film Society
The Almonte Legion
- Nov 21

Funky Holiday Card Creations
presented by Paint With Janet
North Lanark Regional Museum, Appleton
- Nov 22

Use Your Natural Senses to Craft Art
with Flossie Peitsch
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
- Nov 23

Vinta
presented by Music at MERA
McDonald's Corners
- Nov 23

Through the Mill Again
Artist talk with Flossie Peitsch
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
- Nov 27

Christmas in Paris
four-course dinner and music ** SOLD OUT **
Stonefields Estate
- Nov 27

Free Expression & The Public Library
presented by Learning Again in Almonte
Almonte Library
- Nov 27

Watercolour: Florals and Foliage
presented by Paint With Janet
Carleton Place Collective
- Nov 28

Funky Holiday Card Creations
presented by Paint With Janet
Carleton Place Collective
- Nov 30

Our Christmas to You
presented by Goulbourn Male Chorus
Trinity Presbyterian Church

Strengthening Our Local Economies

Here at theHumm we're big on local economies. In fact, on page 17 of this issue, you'll see an impassioned appeal to save a key component of our Ottawa Valley economy. In his article entitled *Save Our College*, Chris Hahn writes: "An article written in 2016 by James Fellows for *The Atlantic Magazine* commented on the '11 signs a community will succeed'. Included were whether the

by Kris and Rob Riendeau

community had several craft breweries, believe it or not (signifying entrepreneurship; check), its openness to diversity (signifying strength and resilience; check), whether it has a downtown (my goodness, we are blessed with a few; check) and whether it has a community college that the community cares about."

The retail and service businesses in the small towns that we cover play a huge role in the cultural life of our towns. Each store, restaurant, or small enterprise attracts and serves a particular clientele — some inside the community, some from outside. Some businesses host their own special events; others join together with local festivals to make the whole experience more vibrant. Many provide support in cash or in kind to local initiatives. All of them add their own particular flavour to the delicious mix that is small-town Ottawa Valley. A healthy local economy is an essential component to a healthy community.

It is with this in mind that we bring you theHumm's 25th annual **Gift Giving Guide** in both the November and December issues. Our hope is that you'll find two kinds of inspiration in the many lists that appear throughout these issues. As you peruse the various categories, we hope you'll discover the perfect present for everyone on your list. But we also hope that you'll be inspired to investigate even more of the independent, locally owned and run businesses throughout our coverage area. In doing so, you're likely to encounter not only friends and neighbours, but also some old-fashioned small town peace and joy —not to mention amazing customer service!

The gifts we buy locally do double-duty by giving pleasure to the recipient and at the same time supporting the business of a friend or neighbour. Many shops and galleries feature works by area creators and/or gifts that are eco-friendly. The money you spend in your community tends to circulate back into the local economy too, so you'll be contributing to a wonderful ripple effect.

We would like to thank the participating merchants for taking the time to send in their Gift Giving Guide suggestions, and thank our readers for shopping locally and thereby supporting both the shops and our paper. To see photos of many of these items, subscribe to our free weekly Hummail e-newsletter! Find details at <thehummm.com>, or send an email to <editor@thehummm.com>.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday season!

Gift Giving Guide Shop Directory

Here's an alphabetical list of the shops that are participating in the November Gift Giving Guide, followed by the town in which they are located and the page on which you can find their ad. Great gift suggestions can be found throughout this issue, organized in categories. Happy local shopping!

A Bunch of Whimsy.....Carleton Place, p.11

Acquisti Life.....Carleton Place, p.12

Alliance Coin & Banknote.....Almonte, p.35

Almonte Antiques & Collectibles.....Almonte, p.30

Almonte in Concert.....Almonte, p.17

Arts Carleton Place.....Carleton Place, p.17, 20

Black Tartan Kitchen.....Carleton Place, p.11

Carleton Place Gallery.....Carleton Place, p.25

Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....Pakenham, p.24

Dandelion Foods.....Almonte, p.21

Electric Catwalk Vintage.....Carleton Place, p.7

Fine Batiks.....Perth, p.8

Folkus Concert Series.....Almonte, p.31

Foodsmiths.....Perth, p.8

General Fine Craft.....Almonte, p.4

Home Hospice North Lanark.....online, p.33

JB Arts.....Almonte, p.6

Mariposa Design.....Perth, p.3

Meristem Massage Therapy.....Carp, p.16

Mill Street Books.....Almonte, p.36

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust.....Lanark County, p.23

MVTM Gift Shop.....Almonte, p.30

Natural Pet Foods (Cat's Paradise).....Carleton Place, p.16

Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....online, p.20

Pêches & Poivre.....Almonte, p.4

Riverguild Fine Crafts.....Perth, p.4

Sivarulrasa Gallery.....Almonte, p.5

Spark Books & Curios.....Perth, p.7

The Book Nook.....Perth, p.25

The Gift Boutique.....Almonte, p.22

The Granary.....Carleton Place, p.16

Under My Roof.....Amprior, p.11

Vamos Outdoors.....Almonte, p.7, 25

Gifts for Funky People

- Vinyl records**, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles.....\$5-25
- Christmas door mats**, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....\$27
- Vintage leather coats**, Electric Catwalk Vintage.....\$60 & under
- Series pass to 4 concerts**, Folkus Concert Series.....\$150
- Wonky pots**, JB Arts.....\$15
- Crochet necklaces by Hookk Creative Crochet**, MVTM Gift Shop.....\$25 & up
- "Silly Boy" by artist Marina Raike**, Sivarulrasa Gallery.....\$300
- Fun & funky socks for men and women**, The Book Nook.....\$10.99 & up

Handmade Gifts

- Comfortable and stylish Macarena slipper, handcrafted in Spain**, Acquisti Life \$89
- Handbound books with multi media papers by Trina Ganson**, Art Hub.....\$20-\$60
- Batik tulis cotton tablecloth 40" x 56"**, Fine Batiks.....\$75
- Thermohair therapeutic socks made in South Mountain**, Foodsmiths \$29.99-43.99
- Felted finger puppets, ornaments, birdhouses from Nepal**, Mill Street Books...\$17-50
- Embroidered bags, hats, pillowcases by Rashtidouzi Narsis**, MVTM Gift Shop..\$35 & up





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Annie is On Her Way to Carleton Place

Mississippi Mudds Bring Beloved Musical to the Stage

Get ready to tap your toes! The Mississippi Mudds are bringing the family favourite *Annie* to the Carleton Place Town Hall this fall, with performances running November 28 –30 and December 4–7.

Filled with classic songs such as *Tomorrow, Maybe*, and *Hard-Knock Life*, this heartwarming musical is sure to delight audiences of all ages. Set in 1930s New York City, it follows a spirited young orphan whose unwavering optimism and charm help her find a family and remind everyone that “the sun’ll come out tomorrow.”

“The talent right here in the Ottawa Valley is absolutely phenomenal,” says director Meredith Millman. “Our young lead captures the spirit of *Annie* perfectly, our seasoned performers light up the stage as Oliver Warbucks and Miss Hannigan, and our vibrant supporting cast ties it all together. It’s a production that truly celebrates the passion, creativity and dedication of our local theatre scene.”

The Mississippi Mudds’ production promises all the charm, energy, and spirit the community theatre group is known for. Expect lively choreography, adorable orphans, and plenty of feel-good moments in this timeless story of optimism and family.

Annie marks the start of an unforgettable 2025–2026 season for the Mississippi Mudds. In February, the troupe will present *Hadestown Teen Edition*, a powerful folk opera that reimagines the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice through intertwined tales of love, faith, and defiance. In March, they’ll showcase *Broadway Showstoppers*, a musical revue featuring well-known songs from *Les Misérables*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Wicked*, *Hamilton*, and more. The season will close in May with the smash-hit comedy *The Play That Goes Wrong* — a side-splitting farce that offers a hilarious glimpse into the absolute

Above, Oliver “Daddy” Warbucks (Will Richardson) in rehearsal with Annie (Aurelia Kemp)

worst-case scenarios that can unfold in the world of theatre.

Tickets for *Annie* are already going fast! Don’t miss the chance to see this talented local cast bring one of the world’s most loved musicals to life — it’s the feel-good hit we all need these days! Secure your seats today at <Mudds.TicketsPlease.ca> or by calling 485–6434.

Want to enjoy the full season? The Mississippi Mudds Season Pass (also available at TicketsPlease) gives you access to all four shows, advance seat selection, and a “skip the line” perk on show nights — perfect for theatre lovers who don’t want to miss a single curtain call.

Join the Mississippi Mudds for an unforgettable season of music, laughter, and community spirit — starting with *Annie*!

Gifts for Lovers of Cozy Spaces

- Luxurious and versatile alpaca throw by Pokoloko, Acquisti Life\$65
- 100% cotton tablecloths by April Cornell, Mariposa Design..... \$37.95-128.95
- Gift certificate: indoor sauna & soaking tub session for 2, Meristem Massage.... \$75
- Excellently curated new and second hand books, Spark Books & Curiosvarious
- Canadian-made sofas and sectionals, Under My Roof\$1399 & up

Gifts for Faraway Friends

- Sumptuous, soft silk Batik scarf, Fine Batiks\$50 & up
- MMLT baseball cap, Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust..... \$35
- Pop-up life-size flower bouquet in a mailing envelope, Spark Books & Curios\$18-22

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the Humm

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November 2025

Graham Mastersmith — Those Who Can, Do!

This exceptional Carp artist is celebrating his retirement after thirty years of teaching art (and biology, shop, and sometimes, less enthusiastically, even math) to high school students by fully investing in creating his own art. The results are superb. Original. Innovative. Mastersmith is combining his finely honed skills and extensive arts knowledge to explore mixed media. He is melding his talent as a painter with his photography expertise, and topping it off by experimenting with his experience as a printmaker. The results are extremely rewarding.

by Sally Hansen

Many of his current mixed media artworks are celebrations of his love of nature. Birds rate high among his many photographic interests, and his backyard is a major source of inspiration. His beautiful home on the Carp ridge backs onto 400 acres of protected habitat owned by Ducks Unlimited, and he has trained chickadees to take a special combination of bird seed and nuts from his hand on his back patio. In a current series of works he is using his expertise in printmaking to incorporate fascinating textures

composition. He has also been influenced and intrigued by the French Fauvism Movement, with its wild, non-naturalistic use of colour and simplified form to express emotion.

This is how he describes his current series on his eye-catching website at <mastersmith.ca> — “While birds and the natural world remain his favourite subjects, his recent work takes a non-traditional approach. His paintings and mixed-media creations transcend the boundaries of realism through layered colours, juxtaposed patterns, textures, and collaged objects. Each piece reflects his emotional connection to the subject rather than merely depicting their natural habitat. By placing each species in a reimagined environment, Graham invites viewers to see birds and the natural world in a creative and unique way.”

That is certainly how he sees them. His vision is supported by decades of study and summer holiday travel to many foreign cultural hotspots. He says, “I like to experiment! I want to invite the viewer to see the world in a different way.” He has spent his whole life immersed in teaching, creating, and appreciating art. His past three years of retirement have “been a blessing — a gift to finally have time to be an artist, be creative, travel, enjoy life fully. I love being inspired by seeing other cultures and going to galleries.”



Happy-Go-Lucky

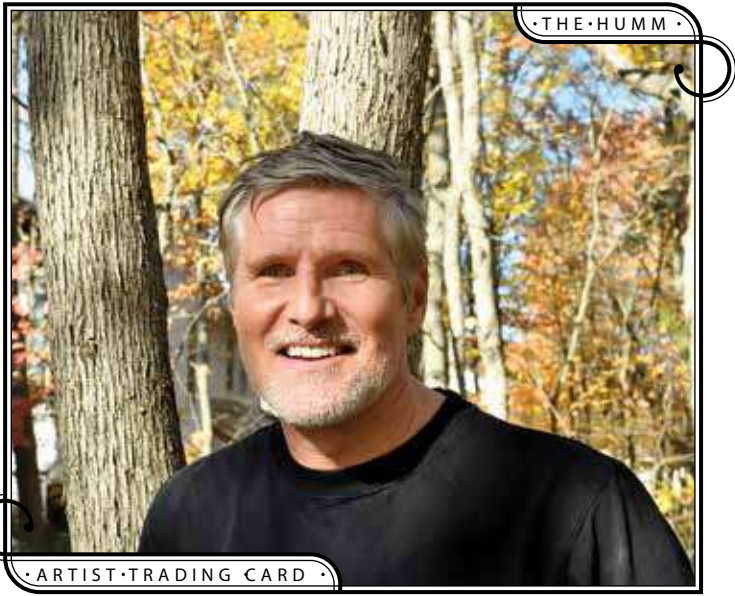
His artworks reflect his happiness. Graham Mastersmith considers himself a very lucky guy, and he truly appreciates his good fortune. He comes from a long line of creative people, and he knew he wanted to be an artist since he was a kid. His daughter, Kyla, is an artist; his partner, Jane Wharton, is an artist. Whitby artist and instructor David Wysotski is his cousin, and the list goes on. He is inspired by Jane’s talents and creativity and love of pattern, and he enjoys his daughter’s feedback. Kyla recently completed her B.F.A. in Fine Arts from Concordia University, and her art is on display at the Twin Muses Wine Bar and Dining Room in Carp.

Graham earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts with a minor in Biology so he would have two “teachables”.

His father was a history teacher, and like him, Graham loved teaching — inspiring kids and encouraging creativity, watching young people flourish. He began his career as a supply teacher in Ottawa, and taught for three decades for the Ottawa Catholic School Board. He eventually became a Creative Arts Consultant, working with teachers on curriculum development and procuring funding for arts projects. One of his most satisfying pursuits was working with “phenomenal Indigenous community partners.” He particularly enjoyed working

and patterns into the tree branches that shelter his feathered friends. His unique approach provides a fresh look at this popular scene.

Mastersmith credits his education in printmaking as a student in Fine Arts at Queen’s University with teaching him how to layer images and play with different marks and textures and imagery, juxtaposing realism with abstraction. He admires the work of Gustav Klimt, and readily admits the famous artist inspired him to add gold accents to an owl in a recent



with Algonquin Traditional Teacher Albert Dumont (Ottawa’s English Poet Laureate from April 2021 to April 2023) who was pivotal in the introduction of Indigenous literature and culture to OCDSB students.

Another truly rewarding experience was guiding students from All Saints Catholic High School on humanitarian trips to the Dominican Republic. The students brought clothing and other badly needed essentials, helped to build structures, and supported a tiny early education centre in a sugar plantation. The young teenagers were deeply moved by how other people survive despite extreme poverty and hardship, and how they find happiness by relying on community for support.

Throughout his career he has made full use of his summers off. In addition to his travels to experience foreign cultures and inspirational art galleries, he is an avid whitewater canoer. He continues to make trips to paddle the Spanish River and to other destinations in northern Quebec. While his buddies relax and play cards, Graham creates lovely plein air watercolour paintings of the rivers he’s paddled.

Nourishment for the Soul

Now that he is retired, Graham Mastersmith is finally fully investing in his own art career. As a member of Arts Carleton Place, his soul-refreshing art is frequently on display at the members-run Art Hub Gallery at 127 Bridge St. in Carleton Place, open seven days a week. On November 8 and 9 his smaller works will be on view at their annual **Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Show** at the Carleton Place Arena. As a member of the West Carleton Arts Society, he is participating in their holiday **Artistic Creations Sale**, held on November 28 and 29 at the Mess Hall at 2240 Craig Side Rd. in Carp.

Be sure to cut and keep (or copy and file) his Artist Trading Card at the top of this page for more details on how to explore and enjoy the highly original and upbeat artwork of this talented local artist!



DALE DUNNING

LOUIS THÉRIAULT

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HANNAH CRETEN

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11th ANNIVERSARY SHOW
NOV 15 - DEC 21, 2025

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Who

Graham Mastersmith

What

Painter, photographer, and mixed media artist

Where

Visit his website at <mastersmith.ca> or on Instagram @grahammastersmith; inquiries at <art@mastersmith.ca>

When

Nov. 8 & 9, 10AM–4:30PM, Arts Carleton Place Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Show, Carleton Place Arena, <artscarletonplace.com/art-shows>; Nov. 28 (3-8PM), Nov 29 (9AM-4PM), West Carleton Arts Society Artistic Creations Sale, Carp Mess Hall, <westcarletonartsociety.ca>

Why

"Creating art nourishes my soul, brings me joy, and lets me express my love for nature."

THE HUMM

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Joanne Beaton



Luxury living in Mill Run, Almonte. This modern 4-bed, 3-bath Midntosh bungalow (2019) sits on a large pie-shaped lot. An impressive tiled foyer with a feature barn door leads to a bright office. The open-concept hub features a Deslaurier kitchen with granite counters and premium appliances, flowing to a spacious dining/living area with barn-style hardwood and a gas fireplace. Oversized patio doors open to multi-level decks, a heated salt-water pool, a basketball area, mature gardens, and a handy shed — perfect for summer.

The main level includes a private primary suite with a walk-in closet and spa-inspired ensuite, two additional bedrooms, a sleek family bath, and a practical mudroom. The finished lower level offers a spacious family room, fourth bedroom, full bath, storage, and gym space. Parking is easy with a heated double garage and extended triple driveway. Enjoy peace and privacy just minutes from Almonte's vibrant shops and restaurants — stylish comfort with small-town charm.

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Through reenactments and unique archival images, this documentary tells the extraordinary story of 40,000 teenage girls who helped sustain the nation's food supply during World War II

We Lend a Hand

The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes

A largely forgotten chapter of Canadian history will be brought to light as the 50-min documentary film *We Lend a Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes* screens at Studio Theatre Perth on November 7 at 1PM and 5PM. The film has been selling out theatres across Ontario.

Created by director/producer Colin Field and historical producer Bonnie Sitter, the documentary tells the extraordinary story of 40,000 teenage girls who volunteered on Canadian farms during and after World War II and helped sustain the nation's food supply when young men left to fight overseas.

Bonnie Sitter, an author, was searching through old family photographs when she found a captivating image of a group of young women taken on her late husband's family farm near Thedford with a caption on the back that read: "Farmerettes 1946."

This led Bonnie to research the Farmerette story and publish an article in *The Rural Voice* asking for women who served as Farmerettes to get in touch with her. Shirleyan English, a retired London Free Press journalist, read the article and wrote a letter to the editor, explaining her own experience as a Farmerette, and how it remained the best summer of her life. Bonnie and Shirleyan would go on to co-author the book *Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz: Memories of Ontario Farmerettes* in 2019.

"We wanted to capture the story of how the Farmerettes helped win the Second World War by volunteering to aid farmers with food production,"

says Bonnie. "Most of these girls had never seen a farm. They came from all over Ontario as volunteers. They weren't conscripted. They chose to roll up their sleeves and do their part for Canada, and their efforts have largely been forgotten."

Director Colin Field first met Bonnie in 2019 and was inspired by her research and desire to bring this forgotten Canadian story to life. He proposed a documentary film, and Bonnie agreed to fundraise to bring the project alive. Colin interviewed 20 Farmerettes — now in their 90s — for the documentary, and after two years of work, and with the help of sponsors and generous donors, *We Lend a Hand* was finally completed.

"It has been a privilege to travel throughout the province and hear the stories of these surviving Farmerettes," Field said. "If it wasn't for these girls, the soldiers wouldn't have had food to eat and the economy would have ground to a halt."

The film will be screened at 1PM and 5PM with doors opening 30 minutes before the show. Admission is \$12 at the door. After the screening there will be a Q&A with the filmmakers and a chance to acquire autographed copies of *Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz: Memories of Ontario Farmerettes*, Shirleyan English and Bonnie Sitter's amazing book. Two local women who were featured in the film will be attending — Farmerette Mary Loucks from Westport and special guest Inge Moyer from Inverary.

Gifts for Outdoor Enthusiasts

Celebration maple tree, Home Hospice North Lanark.....\$85
Donation / membership in their name, Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust.....various
Patagonia down sweater, Vamos Outdoors\$349

Gifts for Parents & Grandparents

Secrid miniwallet, RFID card protector, Acquisti Life.....\$115 & up
"People & Events" custom birth year coin set, Alliance Coin.....\$24.95 & up
Two tickets to Almonte in Concert, Almonte in Concert.....\$88
Lunch Gift Cards, Black Tartan Kitchen.....\$50
Series pass to 4 concerts, Folkus Concert Series.....\$150
Limelight hydrangea, Home Hospice North Lanark\$100

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Local Talent Shines at Chautauqua

Puppets Up! Presents a Diverse and Hilarious Variety Show

What could 69-year-old retired public relations practitioner Susan (who can't carry a tune in a bucket), and 17-year-old student Maggie (who has the voice of an angel) possibly have in common?

Both live in Almonte, for one. And both will take to the stage for two shows (2PM and 7:30PM) at the upcoming Puppets Up! Chautauqua on Saturday, November 15 at the Almonte Old Town Hall.

But that's where the commonalities end. Despite her youth, Maggie Boughner is a seasoned performer; and despite her "seniority", this will be Susan Macaulay's first time on stage (as a community theatre publicist, she's normally behind the scenes).

"Maggie is an award-winning musical theatre performer and vocalist," says Chautauqua assistant director Hollie Maffenbeier. "Last year she starred as Wednesday Addams in the Mississippi Mudds' youth production of *The Addams Family*. This fall, in addition to the Chautauqua, she'll perform in *Songs of the War Years*, a fundraiser for the Almonte Legion, on November 21. Maggie is a delight, and everyone will be charmed by her range, energy, and powerful voice."

"Susan, on the other hand, is a writer, blogger, poet, and our eldest performer," adds Hollie. "She'll recite the Canadian classic *The Cremation of Sam McGee* by Robert Service. I was there during her audition, and I guarantee her interpretation will have you howling on the edge of your seat. It's really well done, and tons of fun."

Maggie and Susan are just two of a dozen acts in what promises to be a truly varied and wonderfully entertaining line-up.

The Rosemary Breman School of Dance in Carleton Place will bring highland dancers Dorothy Lockhart, Olivia Freeman, Emma Wiggins, Cameron Wiggins, Raven McIntyre and Talia McIntyre in full Gaelic regalia.

A cross-section of Jennifer Noxon's seventy-member-strong Rhythm & Song! Community Choir will be on hand to share a selection of their uplifting, upbeat and playful repertoire. This is a rare treat, as the choir does not usually perform in public. They're making an exception for the Puppets Up! Chautauqua.

Darren Brocklehurst, who played Bennett Rosamond in *Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers' Musical*, as well as Dorothy's father in *The Wizard is Odd...?*, is trading harmonies for punchlines in his stand-up comedy debut. Is Darren a little nervous? Sure. But after decades on stage, he's ready to laugh, learn, and maybe even bring the house down!

Almonte community theatre regulars Kristen Ritchie, Kathy Duncan and Zach Brown have collaborated on a two-person, one-puppet skit



Fans of barbershop won't want to miss their chance to hear Almonte's newest quartet — The Try Tones (l-r Andy Doré, James Torck, Andy Williams and Tony Bove) at the Chautauqua on November 15. Fans of other types of music... or comedy... or recitation... or puppetry... won't want to miss it either!

and are calling their newly formed group Zach and the RollerBabes. All three of them are kinda wacky in their own rights, and will undoubtedly deliver triple the trouble when teamed up. Hilarity will surely ensue.

Speaking of funny, stand-up comic Bobby Knauff and his puppet sidekick Andre the Alien are guaranteed to keep you in stitches. Bobby has performed on The Fresh Meat Showcase at The Second City, at the North by NorthEast Music & Comedy Fest, was a semi-finalist in SiriusXM Canada's Next Top Comic, won the 2012 Toronto Comedy Brawl, has had numerous appearances on Much Music and MTV Canada, and has toured across Canada headlining with Yuk Yuks.

Actor, singer/songwriter and playwright Kelly Torck will sing on her own (accompanying herself on keyboard), as well as being part of the six-member, world-renowned Jingle Belles whose five other members (Kris Riendeau, Amanda Becking, Gillian Mills, Sheila Craig and Bonnie Vallentyne) are also all accomplished vocalists. The multi-talented Bonnie Vallentyne wrote and arranged the lighthearted and whimsical jingles as musical tributes to Chautauqua sponsors Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm, 8008 Lingerie / Margaret's Closet, Ramsay Creek Garden Centre, and Vamos Outdoors.

Two other jingles, for Don's Meat Market and Moe's Shawarma, will be sung by The Try Tones, a recently formed barbershop quartet comprising Tony Bove, Andy Williams, James Torck and Andy Doré. This fabulous foursome will also perform a couple of songs from their own repertoire.

Last, but certainly not least, twenty-one-year-old puppeteer Liam Prince will travel from London, ON, to perform in Almonte on November 15. Liam fell in love with puppets at the age of six; he began making his own at 12. He created The Crumpits, a puppet troupe who have their own show on a London cable TV network. Liam was mentored by Noreen Young and was one of the street performers at the 2024 Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival.

Both shows will also feature the lively and talented Patti and Jon Lockhart as human hosts, along with Stephen Brathwaite, Jenny Sheffield and Zach Brown as a puppet peanut gallery. "Besides all this, we may even have a couple of surprise guests pop in," says Hollie. "It's going to be absolutely brilliant!"

Proceeds from the Chautauqua will support both the 2026 Puppets Up! Festival as well as the new Noreen Young Award for the Arts. Tickets are only \$25 plus fees at <TicketsPlease.ca> or 485-6434. Come on out, support terrific performers in your community, and help raise money for two great causes!



Ottawa comedian Bobby Knauff will be bringing his friend Andre the Alien, plus another special (very tall and hairy) guest to perform. Bobby won the 2012 Toronto Comedy Brawl, and has toured Canada headlining with Yuk Yuks.

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11th Anniversary Show at Sivarulrasa Gallery!

Sivarulrasa Gallery celebrates 11 years in Almonte with the opening of their 11th Anniversary Show on Saturday, November 15 from 2–5PM.

The Gallery’s largest exhibition of the year will feature works by 25 artists from across Canada — including artists based locally in Mississippi Mills, as well as from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta.

The 11th Anniversary Show will cover all exhibition spaces, including Galleries I, II, III and the Salon Room. New works include sculpture, paintings, drawings, watercolours, photography, and mixed media. Works range in size from small maquettes to large and immersive paintings, to suit all budgets and tastes. This is a perfect, festive time of the year to add original Canadian art to your collection or to start collecting!

Artists featured in this year’s show include Barbara Gamble, Carol Bajen-Gahm, Cathy Ross, Dale Dunning, Deborah Arnold, Elaine Carr, Elizabeth Desrosier, Eric Walker, Gayle Kells, George Horan, Hannah Cretien, Jane Irwin, Jenny McMaster, Jim Hake, Karen Haines, Louis Thériault, Marina Raike, Mary Pfaff, Michael Pittman, Peter Wood,



Vibrant Peppers by Alberta-based artist Karen Haines will be featured in the 11th Anniversary Show at Sivarulrasa Gallery

Sanjeev Sivarulrasa, Sarah Anderson, Sue Adams, Susan Tooke, and Wendy Robertson.

Meet them at the 11th Anniversary Vernissage and Artists Reception on Saturday, November 15 from 2–5PM. The show runs until December 21. The gallery is located at 34 Mill Street in Almonte, and you can find more information at <sivarulrasa.com>.

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JW-Jones at ABC Hall

On Thursday, November 20 at 7:30PM, catch the award-winning Ottawa blues artist JW-Jones featuring The Wind Chill Factor Horns on stage at the ABC Hall in Maberly. This high-energy show is also an important fundraiser for the treasured rural venue. For the third year in a row, JW-Jones will bring his “old style” blues sound with that contemporary twist to his blues-loving fans who fill the hall.

A gifted guitarist and singer/songwriter who is the epitome of an “old soul” blues man, JW-Jones is also an artist who truly engages with his audiences, bringing his warmth and humorous personality to the stage. As the renowned blues man Buddy Guy himself said, “this young man is one of the people who will keep the blues alive”.

Tickets are \$40 each plus fees at TicketsPlease (TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434).



Catch blues artist JW-Jones and The Wind Chill Factor Horns at the ABC Hall on November 20

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Reuse, Incineration, and Moving into the Modern Age

It was with great sadness that I learned of the closing of Rebound in Almonte recently.

Rebound was the furniture and household goods arm of The Hub, which, as everyone knows, or should know, is the grandmother of reuse in Lanark County. The Hub handles mainly clothing and small items, and returns more than \$50,000 to the community every year.

by Sue Brandum

Rebound was started a little less than 20 years ago, at about the same time as I was getting the REAL Deal Reuse Store going in Smiths Falls for the Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL).

Tweed Incineration Request

I was equally saddened (and frustrated) to learn that the municipality of Tweed, just down Highway 7, had sent out a request to colleague municipalities to endorse a motion to support waste incineration, or pyrolysis, for small town and rural municipalities.

I know I have too much gray hair, but I'm truly sick and tired of having to address this concept every few years. It's true, we face landfills and dumps filling up and big cities looking to create new monster landfills in rural areas in Ontario. The appeal used to sell the idea is often around the myth that they create much-needed electricity or energy. They don't. It has been accurately said that it would be far less expensive and less problematic to run around and change all the lightbulbs in our homes than to build an incineration plant — and produce the same amount of electricity.

The list of reasons to not use incineration is well known, and includes air pollution and human health effects, high amortization costs to the municipality, and negative impacts on better waste reduction efforts.

So, what then do we do?

North Elmsley runs another. The REAL Deal store is operated by the environmental non-profit REAL in Smiths Falls. Perth has a very tiny operation and is short of volunteers.

The municipality often provides the building — though not necessarily the heat! All of them are dependent on volunteers, and those volunteers are a hardy committed bunch, often sorting in the cold of winter.

I have often found this unconscionable. When so many companies can make good money off garbage, why should the Reuse component be left for the non-profit and volunteer sector to struggle with?

This gets back to the issue of serious intent. It would have been far better for Tweed to call for a substantive provincial and municipal government approach to Reuse to put it on a self-sustaining basis, rather than call for incineration. And now, with the closure of Rebound, Mississippi Mills will have to integrate more garbage into its management than it did before. Where will well-intentioned people with good stuff to donate take it now?

Climate Carbon Calculations

Many of us fail to understand that the carbon dioxide we have produced in making all these materials over the past 200+ years has simply been adding up in the atmosphere, creating the crisis we are in today. We really don't need to be "wasting" that embodied energy, the embodied carbon, and frankly all that embodied human skill and creativity.

When I was born, the carbon content of the atmosphere was 314 parts per million. Today it is 421ppm. Every time I fly, or use my gasoline mower, or buy something new, I am adding to the carbon content. It doesn't draw down, it doesn't reset to zero on January 1, it just keeps adding up. So the more we can reuse materials, the less new carbon we inject into the atmosphere.

While it's true that hardly anyone today wants to buy Grandma's huge china sideboard, it would be wonderful to think we would appreciate the wood, the skill that went into building it, and that we could reuse the materials in it at least! And not waste the carbon that was generated making it.

Finally, if there is another argument against incineration, it is this, from a colleague: "Serious diversion takes out organics and recyclables from the waste stream, in effect leaving just plastics as the main combustible residue, and that is why the international plastics industry (along with the main oil producers) are the main promoters of incineration — the same industry that has constantly put the brakes on the proposed treaty on plastics."

Aside from all those reasons, citizens don't want incinerators or

pyrolysis plants.

In this region alone, we have seen the expensive and wasteful failure of the Plasco Energy plant in Ottawa; and the citizen-led demise of similar proposals in Mississippi Mills, Burnstown, and Pontiac County across the river in Quebec. All of these were proposed or broadly suggested to handle the garbage from Lanark County.

Let's recommit to Reuse — to donating good materials and to buying them or getting them for free from the various municipal operations! And for municipalities to stop being swayed by the shiny object of incineration and instead get serious about Reuse.

A note to donors to reuse operations: Please, if you're donating, be kind to the volunteers — don't give them your wet, dirty, soiled bags of stuff. This happens far too often, I just heard of such an example again today. Please donate only materials that are truly reuseable.



We all know the answer: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. But we need to do this with serious, systemic intent.

Rebound was part of the Reuse piece in Almonte and area. The challenge for Rebound is that it couldn't afford the rent on the space it required. This is a common challenge for all reuse operations. (Clothing is the only reuse item that makes substantial money. And even though we have lots of clothing reuse options, often run by non-profit organizations, we still send approximately 85% of clothing and fabrics to landfill.)

All other reuse operations have support in some way from municipal governments. In this area, virtually every municipality has some sort of reuse option for furniture, other household goods, and often some building materials — in other words, for materials that aren't the easiest to put into the Reuse stream. Lanark Highlands and Tay Valley operate two of the best known and largest reuse operations; Drummond

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Two Tea Dances in November!

The classic big band Standing Room Only (SRO) with vocalist Saffron Bradbury will stage the first two Sunday afternoon Almonte “Tea Dances” in the 2025/26 season on November 2 and November 30. These dances feature a variety of music for ballroom and swing dancers including swing, waltzes, and Latin (cha chas, rumbas, tangos, etc.).

Tea dances are afternoon dances that were popular in the ’20s, ’30s, and ’40s, when big bands were king. They were held in hotels and, of course, featured a live band. As implied by “tea”, beverages were non-alcoholic.

These dances are held in the Auditorium on the third floor of the historic Almonte Old Town Hall at 14 Bridge Street — a beautifully preserved venue with a clean and spacious wooden dance floor, natural lighting, and wonderful acoustics.

SRO launched the popular dances in 2006. They give guests a chance to dance and listen to live big band music in a period atmosphere. They attract ballroom and swing dancers from the Ottawa area and as far away as Brockville and Deep River.

Doors open at 1PM and dancing is from 1:30–4PM. Admission is \$20 per person at the door, cash only. Reservations are not required. Light refreshments including delicious treats and a range of non-alcoholic beverages will be available at reasonable prices, cash only.

The five Sunday afternoon Almonte Tea Dances in the 2025–26 season are slated for November 2, November 30, January 18, March 1, and March 29.

For more information about SRO and its tea dances, please visit <srobighband.ca> or <facebook.com/srobighband>. To receive notifications of upcoming tea dances and other public performances, you can “like” SRO’s Facebook page. In addition, you can be added to SRO’s email distribution list for notification emails sent out about two weeks before each tea dance, by sending an email to <srobighband@bell.net> with the subject “Subscription Request”.

Dance with The Fabulous Heartbeats

On Saturday, November 8, The Fabulous Heartbeats will bring their musical talents to the Almonte Civitan Community Hall or a very special fundraising dance.

Make it a date night with your special someone, or grab your friends and have a fun night out dancing the night away to the nostalgic music of the ’50s and ’60s! Doors open at 7:30PM and music starts at 8.

Tickets are \$30 (including HST) and are available at Baker Bob’s in Almonte, Nicholson’s in Pakenham, Clayton General Store, and Burns Jewelers in Carleton Place. Or save yourself a trip and get your tickets from the comfort of your couch by visiting <almontecivitan.com/shop>.

All proceeds from the event go to support the Almonte Civitan Accessible Family Playground Project. It’s going to be a great night, so get your tickets soon before they sell out!

Fill Your Bowl for the Youth Centre!

Join the Mississippi Mills Youth Centre for their Charity Soup Bowl Fundraiser on Saturday, November 15, at the Almonte United Church (106 Elgin Street). This cozy community event warms the heart and the stomach. Guests choose a beautifully handcrafted bowl made by local potters, enjoy a variety of delicious soups prepared by local businesses, and take their bowl home as a keepsake of the day. Tickets must be purchased in advance, so be sure to get yours early at <mmyc.ca/store>.

A Season of Light and Love

The West Ottawa Ladies Chorus is tuning up for the holiday season with two festive performances of *A Season of Light and Love*. Concerts will take place on Friday, November 28 at 7PM and Saturday, November 29 at 3PM at Bells Corners United Church, located at 3955 Old Richmond Road in Nepean. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased through the Chorus website at <westottawaladieschorus.ca>. Advance tickets are available from Chorus members for \$20, and children under 12 are welcome to attend free of charge.

Under the direction of Allison Houston and accompanied by Peter Brown, the Chorus — comprising approximately 40 women singing in four-part harmony — promises a heartwarming program filled with the beauty and joy of the season. This year’s concerts will also feature special guest musician, actor, and singer Kenny Hayes.

The West Ottawa Ladies Chorus brings together singers from across the region. While many members hail from Stittsville and Kanata, the group also includes voices from Woodlawn, Carp, Dunrobin, Carleton Place, Fitzroy Harbour, Bells Corners, Nepean, and beyond. Even the accompanist joins from Lanark, making the ensemble a true representation of the musical spirit of Ottawa and the Valley.

History, Heritage, and a Global Spotlight

Arnprior & McNab/Braeside Archives to Host Volunteer Showcase

The Arnprior and McNab/Braeside Archives (AMBA) is opening its doors — and its vault — for a special Volunteer Showcase on Saturday, November 22 from 10AM to 1PM at the archives located inside the Arnprior Public Library. This free, drop-in event invites the public to explore the remarkable stories and collections, and to meet the people behind this award-winning community resource.

Visitors will have an opportunity to explore volunteer-led projects and see archival treasures including glass-plate negatives, photographs, maps, Renfrew County land records, scrapbooks, and other historical documents that bring the region’s past to life.

The Showcase will feature the launch of a new online exhibit, *Charles Macnamara: Arnprior’s Citizen Scientist*, spearheaded by volunteer Laurie Dougherty. A pioneering naturalist and photographer, the exhibit highlights Macnamara’s legacy and connection to the land, offering a window into both scientific exploration and local history.

Another highlight will be a presentation from AMBA’s archivist Janis Hernandez who recently returned from the International Archives Congress in Barcelona, Spain — an honour extended to only a few archival professionals from Canada. The trip was completely funded by a fundraising effort that saw local service organizations, businesses and individuals donate.

For those interested in genealogy, a collection of family histories will be accessible. Volunteers are



Girl at CNR Arnprior Station, 1920c / W.G. Davies fonds / Arnprior & McNab/Braeside Archives / 1993-0017

planning a demo of <Ancestry.ca> and will be available to provide advice, whether you’re just getting started on your family tree or are deep into your ancestral research.

“So much of what the Archives does happens quietly behind the scenes by a dedicated group of volunteers,” says Sara MacKenzie, President of the AMBA Board. “This event is a chance for the public to discover the incredible work our team does every day to preserve and make accessible local history. Whether you want to explore, ask a question, or just see what’s in the vault, we’d love to see you!”

Learn more about the archives, search the collections and see online exhibitions anytime at <adarchives.org>

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Three-Fifty Squares at Carleton Place Gallery

A Year of Firsts, A Season to Remember

Located at 210 Bridge Street, the Carleton Place Gallery has quickly become a vibrant centre for the arts since its opening on August 23, 2023. Under the passionate leadership of Ginny Fobert, who took sole ownership in January 2025, the gallery has been reimagined with bold direction, revitalized visuals and new programming, and has a growing reputation for having become a thriving centre for artistic expression.

A Year of Transformation

2025 has been a year of many firsts for the gallery, beginning with a dedicated space for solo guest exhibitions. In August, it launched the first-ever outdoor art show, Riverfront Artscape, which drew thousands to the north side of the bridge and marked a new chapter for the town's cultural scene. Ending a transformative year with a festive twist, the Carleton Place Gallery is proud to announce another brand-new event, *Three-Fifty Squares*. Celebrate the holiday season with this curated celebration featuring original 12x12 artworks and sculptures by talented Ottawa-area artists. Each piece is priced at \$350 (plus HST), offering collectors and gift-givers a unique opportunity to purchase high-quality, local fine art at an accessible price. A portion of each sale will be donated to the Carleton Place Youth Centre, with additional donations being accepted at the gallery.

From bold contemporary pieces to charming seasonal works, this exciting collection of approximately 150 pieces brings together creativity and community, all within a shared scale of 12x12 inches.



With the exhibition *Three-Fifty Squares*, the Carleton Place Gallery offers high quality art by Lorraine Nagy (above), Gina Bielinski (below left) and many others at an accessible price

"Art doesn't have to be intimidating or out of reach," explains Ginny. "This show celebrates creativity, connection, and community while making original art affordable and approachable."

The gallery's tag line is "Elevating the Everyday Through Art". With Ginny Fobert at the helm, you can always expect something new, bold, and exhilarating at the Carleton Place Gallery. Whether it's showcasing emerging artists, hosting dynamic workshops, music concerts, or planning community-centered art events, 2026 promises even more to look forward to.

Stay tuned. Stay inspired. Stay creative.

A Curated Holiday Art Exhibition

Three-Fifty Squares kicks off with an online Big Reveal Event running from 9PM on Friday, November 21 through to 5PM on Saturday, November 22. Be among the first to explore the collection at <cpgallery.ca>, where you will be able to reserve your favourite piece for pickup on Sunday morning (any reserved works not picked up by noon on Sunday will return to open availability). Then come out to the Meet the Artist Night on Thursday, November 27 from 5-8PM. Enjoy an evening of food, fun, and live music while mingling with the creators of the work. Get to know the people, stories, and techniques that bring each piece to life.

For more information, follow the Carleton Place Gallery on social media or visit <cpgallery.ca>.



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Merrickville Fine Arts and Christmas Show

As the holidays approach, Merrickville starts to sparkle with festive spirit. The heritage streets come alive with lights, laughter, and that wonderful mix of creativity and community that makes the village so special. It's the perfect backdrop for the Merrickville Arts Guild (MAG) Christmas Art and Fine Craft Show — a favourite local tradition that celebrates the talent and imagination of local artists.

Step inside the Merrickville Community Centre on November 22 and 23 and you'll find an amazing variety of work — silver jewellery that catches the light, colourful paintings, cozy textiles, fine woodwork, and beautiful mixed media pieces. Every item is handcrafted, one-of-a-kind, and full of heart. If you're hunting for that perfect gift (or just want to treat yourself!), this is the place to find something truly special.

MAG is thrilled to showcase the following talented artists at the show (with more to come!). Which ones catch your eye?

Joanne Anderson creates wildlife and pet portraits using coloured pencils or watercolours, capturing her subjects with striking detail. Brenda Barclay-Smith paints bold, nostalgic, whimsical, and architectural scenes that are instantly recognizable. Posy Bennett's hyper-realistic landscape oil paintings serve as windows into moments in nature, while John Chambers, an award-winning photographer, showcases wildlife and landscape images that could appear in any fine magazine.

Irene Chahley designs upcycled, rescued, and re-designed one-of-a-kind fashion pieces. Don Crowder transforms rough timber into artistic yet functional household items. Lorrane DeLangis's indoor and outdoor sculptures have been featured in local galleries. Dave Dunn blends abstract, expressionist,



This year's MAG Christmas Art and Fine Craft Show will feature works by Dave Dunn (above), Marje Fletcher (below left), and many others

and realist techniques in his wildlife paintings, and Katharine Fletcher's whimsical works interpret the magic and mystery found in nature.

Derrick Hewitt creates Mi'kmaq arts, including hair tufting, inukshuks, and painted drums. Darry Kicul builds fairie houses and other wood sculptures full of wonder and whimsy. Laura Kingsbury paints distinctive landscapes sought by international collectors. Kenna McCall crafts original silver art jewellery, featuring hand-cut rare gemstones, while Pamela Prince creates wearable art jewellery using silver wire and precious stones.

Lisa McShane uses fine threads and embellishments to embroider lush fabric landscapes. August Wormitt paints in watercolours, capturing emotion and timeless moments of place. These artists offer a rich mix of media and styles, each interpreting nature, form, and imagination in their own distinct way.

But the Merrickville show is about more than shopping — it's about connection. It's a chance to meet the makers, share stories, and enjoy the warmth of community. The Starving Artists Café adds to the experience with fresh coffee, homemade treats, and a cozy place to pause and chat with friends old and new.

And when you step back outside, the magic keeps going. Merrickville's streets are always a joy to wander, especially when the lights are twinkling and shop windows are decked out for the season. Pop into a few of local boutiques or galleries, grab a warm drink or a good meal at one of the cafés, and take your time soaking it all in. You'll head home with more than just art — you'll take a bit of Merrickville's holiday spirit with you.



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CLIENTS INCLUDE:

Home for the Holidays

The Lion in Winter – A Hilarious Medieval Melodrama

By Jane Stott

Henry, King of England, has invited his estranged wife Queen Eleanor to join him for Christmas at his castle in Chinon, France. Their three sons, John, Geoffrey and Richard, are home for the holidays. Princess Alais and her young brother Philip, King of France will be joining in the celebrations. The year is 1183. Sounds delightful. However, one only has to listen to the news or watch TV to see that royal families often have their own little problems. As audiences will soon discover, the delightfully witty and wicked comedy *The Lion in Winter* is a fast-paced play in which, according to Emmet F. Cameron (who plays Geoffrey), “a medieval royal family eats each other alive at Christmastime”.

Who better to describe the characters in this darkly comedic historical family drama than the actors themselves? I asked them to choose a line from the play that best describes their character. Grace Main as Eleanor chose “Is my hair in place? I’ve given up the looking glass. Quicksilver has no sense of taste.” Christian Glas as Philip quotes “I’m a king: I am no man’s boy.” Eric Staines as John likes “You know what I am? I’m the family nothing. Geoffrey’s shrewd and Richard’s brave and I’m not anything.” Michael Couchman says of Richard: “I’m a constant soldier and a sometime poet, and I will be king.” Henry is John Kenny’s



In rehearsal for Studio Theatre Perth’s upcoming show *The Lion in Winter* are (l-r): Michael Couchman as Richard, John Kenny as Henry, Emmet F. Cameron as Geoffrey and Christian Glas as Philip

character, and John chose: “Some of them are more canny folk than I, or more cruel or more ruthless or dishonest. But not all rolled into one. The priests write all the history these days and they’ll do me justice. Henry, they’ll say, was a master bastard.” Emmet F. Cameron, who plays Geoffrey, chose: “There’s a masterpiece. He isn’t flesh: he’s a device. He’s wheels and gears.” And Paige Hurley as Alais picked: “Kings, queens, knights everywhere you look and I am the only pawn. I haven’t got a thing to lose; that makes me — dangerous.”

Many well-known actors have taken on the roles of Eleanor and Henry since the play was written by James Goldman in 1964. Katherine Hepburn won an Academy Award in 1968 playing opposite Peter O’Toole. Stockard Channing starred opposite Laurence Fishburne on Broadway in 1999 and received a Tony nomination, and Glenn Close battled Sir Patrick Stewart in 2003 on TV. Studio Theatre Perth had Janet Rice and David Bird on stage for a stellar production in 2014, where I got to see it from a tech booth chair.

I have been to these latest rehearsals, directed by Chrystine Williams, and I can vouch for the amazing performances you will see with Grace Main and John Kenny’s interpretations of this medieval couple who love to hate each other.

Look for a lush set, stunning costuming, and a plot with so many twists and turns you will be discussing it for hours afterwards. Think of all the possibilities of any extended family getting together over the holidays — rivalries, hostilities, emotional manipulation, bargaining, maneuvering, petty bickering, and love.

The Lion in Winter opens on November 27 with special \$19 opening night tickets. For the remaining performances tickets are \$24 (\$12 for patrons under 30). Evening performances start at 7:30 on November 27 and 28 and December 4 and 5, matinées are at 2pm on November 29 and 30 and December 6 and 7. Tickets are available from TicketsPlease (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) or via email at <boxoffice@studiotheatreperth.com>. Tickets are also available at the door, subject to availability.

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- Niyama luxury therapeutic bath soaks, Dandelion Foods.....\$29.95
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Nancy Hazelwood's Heartwarming Journey to Publication

I don't remember my kindergarten teacher. My memories of kindergarten are few, actually: there was nap time, sometimes we played outside, and I seem to recall eating cookies. But that's about it.

by John Pigeau

On the other hand, children's book author Nancy Hazelwood, who grew up in Almonte and went to Naismith Public School, remembers her kindergarten teacher extremely well — and quite fondly.

Mrs. Young was her name. Mrs. Jane Young.

"I was terrified when I started kindergarten," Hazelwood says; she grew up in a very strict religious family. "I had already been taught to fear the world, especially those who seemed nice — 'a wolf in sheep's clothing,' as my father would say. But when I met Mrs. Young, I was mesmerized," she says. "I was captivated by her big hoop earrings, bright red lipstick, and beautiful and stylish clothes — all things I had been forbidden. I adored her. She was so gentle, kind and loving."

It was Mrs. Young's kind and gentle nature that made Hazelwood realize not everyone was to be feared.

"Raised in a strict religious sect, I was taught to fear anyone outside of it," Hazelwood recalls. "Mrs. Young was the first woman beyond those boundaries with whom I was able to spend time without my parents. Her warmth, kindness and vibrancy left an unforgettable mark on me. To me, she was proof that the world outside my upbringing

was not only safe, but beautiful. She sparked my curiosity and courage to imagine life beyond the religion."

When Hazelwood's children's book, *Exploring is NOT for Me!*, was published last November, the author — who writes under the pseudonym Nancy Jean — happily dedicated the book to her beloved kindergarten teacher: Her "# 1 champion since kindergarten!"

The book tells the thoroughly charming tale of George and Gemma, two chihuahuas who go on a weekend camping trip with their Mumzie. George, who loves the comfort of cozy blankets at home, isn't happy about any of this, while Gemma, always ready for adventure, is super excited. They meet a motley crew of animals in the mountains, and George even takes part in a scavenger hunt. The prize is a tent full of treats! Surely even the most homesick doggie would give in. George does.

"They both have fun but opposing personalities," Hazelwood explains. "George is very particular about everything. He prefers to stay indoors; he likes soft blankets, relaxing music, and home-cooked meals. Gemma is full of energy, ready to tackle any adventure with the biggest smile on her face. She encourages George in the funniest ways with her bossy personality."

"The idea for book one grew from my camping trips in the mountains," she adds. "George did not like any part of camping — none of it. Gemma absolutely loved every aspect of it — the insects, the campfires, sleeping in a camper, exploring the wilderness — all of it. I wanted this series to help kids understand how there are different per-

spectives on one experience. Kids love picking one character to cheer on as they are reading the book. It's relatable for kids and adults."

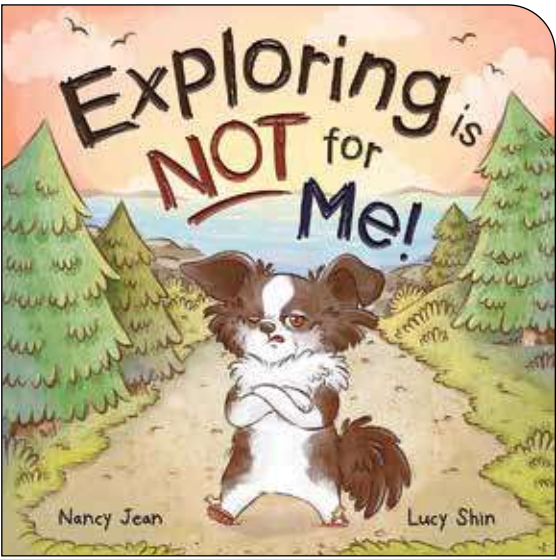
Does George eventually have some fun? Well, I won't spoil it for you. But the adventures of the two chihuahuas are sure to delight children with lots of laughs, plenty of heart, and maybe a lesson or two learned along the way. The book is beautifully, vividly illustrated by Lucy Shin.

Hazelwood was able to share both the story and the dedication with Mrs. Young.

"I began my career as an elementary teacher and later became a principal," Hazelwood says. "Then, just as the pandemic arrived, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Saying goodbye to my students — first due to the pandemic and then my illness — was heartbreaking. Around this time, I reconnected with Jane. We were both in cancer treatment. She followed along as I developed my characters and story for this book. Although she passed away before its publication, she followed my journey closely," says Hazelwood. "I miss her dearly."

As for George and Gemma, they aren't just fictional characters. No, they are both quite real, and, judging by their photos, rather adorable.

"My two chihuahuas became my daily comfort through surgery and cancer treatment," Hazelwood explains. "The pandemic was a lonely experience, but I found comfort in Georgie Mazda and Gemma Lucy. They



Newly-minted author Nancy Hazelwood has dedicated her first children's book to her former kindergarten teacher at Naismith Public School

would wait at the window each day for me to return from my treatments. Unable to return to work, I started writing about them to share with others the joy they were bringing me. They were the inspiration for a children's book series."

The next book in that series, *Decorating is NOT for Me!*, will be out in December. It can be pre-ordered now at The Book Nook in Perth and Treasures 'n' More in Carleton Place, or at the author's website: <georgeandgemma.com>.

Visit <thehummm.com> to read a longer interview, in which Nancy reminisces about her former neighbour Noreen Young.



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 7PM

Don't miss this heartwarming annual outdoor Christmas concert in downtown Almonte. Come early and enjoy food & drink from the many tasty vendors. Twinkle fairies, carols, stories and more! The evening ends with an appearance from Santa Claus and a spectacular fireworks show performed to 'Hallelujah'!



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CHRISTMAS EVENTS



SANTA CLAUS PARADE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 - 1PM

The Pakenham & District Civitan Club will be **collecting food donations** along the parade route and are also sponsoring **hot chocolate and hot dogs** at the Stewart Community Centre after the parade. Bring your skates for the **free public skate!**



CHRISTMAS PARADE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 - 5PM

The Almonte Scouts will be **collecting food donations** along the parade route. After the parade, head to the John Levi Community Centre for **hot chocolate and hot dogs** sponsored by the Almonte Lions Club. Bring your skates for the **free public skate!**



KINTAIL COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Saturday December 13, 2025
from 12pm-6pm

Mill of Kintail Conservation Area
2854 Ramsay Concession 8, Almonte

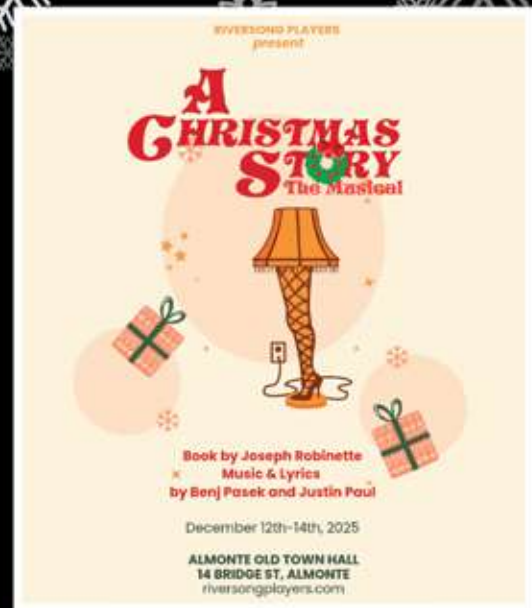


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Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show

Perth's Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show is back for 2025, and this year it's their 32nd anniversary! Come celebrate and find the perfect Christmas gift for all your special people on Saturday, December 6 from 10AM to 3:30PM in Perth's Crystal Palace, located downtown right beside the Tay Basin.

This year's show features a great lineup that includes both new and returning artists and artisans. Expect to find gourmet chocolate, fashion accessories, fine woodworking, unique pottery, jewellery, photography and much more. The show's philosophy is to keep the quality as high as possible by featuring original juried works from over twenty gifted artisans. Plan to enjoy sweet treats and home-cooked food while chatting with artisans and neighbours. Soak up the ambiance of the Christmas music and festive decorations adorning the Crystal Palace. Shop and know that you are supporting local artisans while buying some of the best work the area has to offer.



Find funky textiles by Dagmar's Designs and delicious treats from Fine Chocolate by Ludwig at this year's Nick of Time show in Perth

The show will once again be supporting Perth's food bank — The Table Community Food Centre. Cash donations would be greatly appreciated. Look for the donation box near the main entrance to the Crystal Palace. Please give what you can!

Mark December 6 on your calendar and plan to visit the 2025 Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show. Be sure to enter the free draw for a basket of fine gift items donated by participating artisans. Admission is free, and more information about the show can be found at <facebook.com/nickoftimePerth>. If you would like to be considered as a vendor at next year's show, follow on social media for more information.



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 Fine chocolate by **Ludwig (made in Maberly)**, Foodsmiths..... \$8.99-13.99
 Quilts by **Robert Pauly**, General Fine Craft..... \$350 & up
 Lavender Lane handcrafted lavender products, Mariposa Design..... \$28.95 & under
 MMLT walking stick crafted from fallen branches, Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust... \$30
 The Lanark County Sampler, Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets..... \$70.95
 Classic leather valet tray & coasters, The Gift Boutique \$42-75
 Windblest Apothecary tallow soaps, body butter, bath bombs, The Granary \$10-30

Gifts for \$25 & Under

Christmas dog & cat treats and toys, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm..... \$9-25
 Batik cosmetic bag/treasure keeper, Fine Batiks..... \$20
 Holiday mice ornaments, Foodsmiths..... \$13.99-16.99
 Various Art & Craft kits, JB Arts..... \$15-25
 Pewter Christmas ornaments made in Nova Scotia, Mariposa Design..... \$13.95
 Journals, pens, calendars, card decks, puzzles & games, Mill Street Books ...various
 Blank cards by Studio 3 Fibre Arts, MVTM Gift Shop..... \$8





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 341 Frank Davis St, Unit #3, Almonte

Save Our College!

By Chris Hahn

You may have noticed the words on a yellow or blue sign popping up across Lanark County. They refer to the Perth Campus of Algonquin College, which is currently up for sale with all its programs shifting from within our county borders into Ottawa.

The entire Ontario college system is experiencing financial challenges. Difficult decisions are being made. On February 24, one such decision was carried by the Algonquin College Board of Governors to “exit the Perth, Ontario campus by the end of August 2026 to realize an annual recurring net financial benefit between one and two million dollars, plus the one-time cash proceeds from a sale transaction of the Perth campus.”

But wait — this need not be the end of the story. We will dearly miss all the valuable programming in business, health, agriculture, social sciences and more, but there is an opportunity for a second life for the campus’ unique and nationally recognized heritage construction and skilled trades training.

In 2009, the federal and provincial governments committed nearly ten million dollars of taxpayers’ money to the Perth Campus. Local donors committed close to one million. These funds helped to modernize its facilities to ensure the campus’ leadership in heritage trades and green technology for years to come. The result is a purpose-built, one-of-a-kind facility in Canada to train talent to preserve, conserve, sustain, restore, renew, re-use, retrofit and revitalize our buildings. Nothing else exists like it and it’s right here! Let’s help keep it here doing what it does best. But how?

Over 200 people came to the Royal Canadian Legion in Perth on September 25 to

learn how. Attendees heard from life-long Perth resident and former Shopify Chief Operating Officer Toby Shannan, who spoke about transforming the campus into a new, locally managed, non-profit centre for heritage construction and skilled trades education. Called the “Perth Academy of Building Arts and Sciences,” it would be an internationally recognized centre for heritage restoration operating under a new sustainable business model, holding conferences and symposia on techniques such as masonry, timber framing, blacksmithing, craft carpentry and more by bringing visitors from all around North America and the world.

Consider the quote: “If you work with your hands, you are a labourer; if you work with your hands and your head, you’re a craftsperson; if you work with your hands, your head and your heart... you are an artist.” Lanark County is full of such talent.

This talent includes many students who passed through the campus but stayed, raised families, started businesses or continued their learning here. These talented artists make significant contributions to our built environment, whether it is hidden from view or on full display for all to see.

I am not sure we are fully aware of the significant contributions made to our community (let alone across Canada) by the graduates of all of Perth’s programs since it joined Algonquin College in 1970. In the case of its skilled trades training, if you have appreciated the beauty of a stone house, a timber frame or barn, a church or museum, a drystone wall, a log structure or an aesthetic addition or building conversion, then chances are you bore witness to the labours, the craft and the artistry of a

heritage graduate. ‘Tis all the better for our community, our economy and our culture.

Consider the quote, “The greenest building is... one that is already built.” As Carl Elefante writes, “Buildings represent enormous investments in energy, material, and financial resources... yet hundreds of thousands of viable buildings are destroyed every year in the name of progress... such wastefulness is especially troubling as the world confronts climate change, ecological collapse, and ever-increasing demand for essential resources.” We need to better appreciate and account for “the effectiveness of retrofit practices, and most importantly, to appreciate the crucial lessons embedded in built heritage.” Simply put, if we wish to save the world, we require kind of talent that the Perth Academy can help provide.

An article written in 2016 by James Fellows for *The Atlantic Magazine* commented on the “11 signs a community will succeed”. Included were whether the community had several craft breweries, believe it or not (signifying entrepreneurship; check), its openness to diversity (signifying strength and resilience; check), whether it has a downtown (my goodness, we are blessed with a few; check) and whether it has a local college that the community cares about. A vibrant community relies on talent. Talent can’t be taken for granted. It requires nurturing. The Perth Academy would see talent continue to be attracted here, to stay here, to thrive here.

I love theHumm for many reasons, but mostly for how its pages weave stories of tal-



A local group is mobilizing to transform the Perth Campus of Algonquin College into the “Perth Academy of Building Arts and Sciences”. Find out why, and how you can get involved!

ented practitioners of ideas, culture, music, arts and sciences. I have lost count of the number of times I have read one of these stories and recited the words “graduate of the Perth campus”. Like the sentiment expressed in the Christmas movie *It’s a Wonderful Life*, we must unfortunately ask ourselves “What will life be like without the Perth Campus?” Whatever the answer is, I know it will contain the word, “less”. Instead, it is time to ask, “What will life be like with the Perth Academy... and can I help bring it into being?” The answers are “more” and “yes”!

Please visit <saveperthcollege.ca> and make your voice heard regarding this integral part of our community and its vision for the future.

— Chris Hahn is a Campaign Advocate for Save our College

ALMONTE IN CONCERT

2025-2026

A PIANO FOR CHRISTMAS

Stéphane Aubin - piano
Marie Michèle Desrosiers - voice

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 7:30 PM

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An Evening with Merrickville Authors



Nick of Time

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Shop the Season: Holiday Markets & Shopping Events

Perth Harvest Farmers' Market (November 1)
Kris Kringle Craft Fair (November 2)
Holiday Baking and Knitting Sale (November 8)
Shop, Stamp & Win BIA Event (November 15-December 31)
Perth Farmers' Christmas Market (November 15)
The Children's Only Gift Shop (November 15)
Christmas Craft & Gift Sale (November 16)
Merry Market (November 20)
Once Upon a Christmas Downtown Perth Event (November 22)
Holly Jolly Art Show (November 29 and 30)
Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show (December 6)

Sounds of the Season: Concerts & Holiday Shows

PCC: Elf, The Musical (November 13-16)
The Lion in Winter (November 27-December 7)
CPKC Holiday Train (November 28)
Women & Men of the Tay: On This Winter's Night (December 3)
Festival of Lights Drone Light Show (December 5)
Christmas at the Palace (December 13)
Perth Citizens' Band Christmas Concert (December 14)
The Mudmen in Concert (December 27 & 28)

Santa's Stops: Where to See Him in Perth

Find him at Once Upon a Christmas (November 22)
Pet Photos with Santa (November 29)
Book your photoshoot with Spring Children (November 29)
Reserve your photo session with Michale Fyke Real Estate
& Perth Museum (December 7)
Santa Claus Parade of Lights (December 6)

Holiday Happenings: Extra Festive Fun in Perth!

Christmas Urn and Wreath Workshops (throughout the season)
Civitan Seniors Christmas Dinner (November 30)
Annual Perth Community Christmas Day Dinner (December 25)
Perth Civitan New Year's Eve Party (December 31)
Perth Legion New Year's Eve Dance (December 31)
Polar Bear Plunge (January 1)



Find all the details and more at
[PERTH.ca/HolidayEvents](https://perth.ca/HolidayEvents)



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 The Musical

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Advent to Christmas by Candlelight

According to Dr. Seuss, "Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!" Christmas is a special time at St. James Anglican Church in Perth, and again this year the choir will provide everyone with a beautiful opportunity to experience that "little bit more".

For many years, the people of Perth have enjoyed "9 Lessons and Carols" at St. James. This special celebration of the Christmas story now has a shorter format that will be sure to delight listeners of all ages. "Advent to Christmas by Candlelight" will take place on Sunday, December 7 at 4PM at St. James.

Peter Woodwark and Val Leavitt, music directors at St. James, are pleased to invite the people of Perth to hear the St. James Choir retell the Christmas story in song. Because most of us enjoy singing some of the old favourites ourselves, Christmas carols will alternate with readings to tell the story of Christ's birth.

Guest artists Sylvia Goodeve and Patrick Kline (piano and cello) will accompany most of the carols and anthems during the hour-long service. Brad Mills, organist at St. Paul's United Church and longtime friend and partner of St. James, will accompany two of the carols on organ.



The choir at St. James Anglican Church in Perth will be joined by other musical guests for an Advent to Christmas by Candlelight on December 7

All are welcome to experience that "little bit more" of Christmas in this warm and festive candlelight celebration. A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted at the door.

Perth Community Choir Presents *Elf the Musical*

Get ready for a festive holiday adventure with the Perth Community Choir's production of *Elf the Musical*! Based on the beloved film, this heartwarming and hilarious show features an unforgettable score by Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin. Filled with laughter, music and Christmas spirit, it's the perfect outing to kick off the holiday season.

Directed by David Bird, this year's production brings together a vibrant multi-age cast of local performers; a hallmark of the Perth Community Choir. Kristen Widenmaier adds her signature energy as choreographer, while Alex Guerin leads the music with support from Mary-Ellen Grigor and Leah Williams. Together, they create a joyful, high-energy production that will have audiences smiling from start to finish.

Brent Maguire stars as the cheerful and larger-than-life Buddy the Elf, with Chris Angel as his nonsense father Walter Hobbs, Kristy Tait-Angel as Emily Hobbs, and Addy Brown and Gaelan Cosens sharing the role of Michael Hobbs. Elli McKean Kerr

brings warmth and wit to the role of Jovie, while Brenda Noonan delights as Mrs. Claus.

Adding even more sparkle to the cast, Kristen Widenmaier also has an onstage role as Deb, the office assistant, joined by Duncan King and Guthrie Cleroux as Walter's office staff. Robert Del Grande steps into the role of Mr. Greenway, Walter's demanding boss, while Ron Cosens brings his trademark humour to the Store Manager, and Josh Gallant takes on the hilarious Store Santa, delivering laughs and a few surprises along the way.

The production features a large and talented ensemble, with both familiar and new faces bringing the North Pole and New York City to life.

Elf the Musical runs November 13-16 at the Mason Auditorium at PDCI. Showtimes are November 13-15 at 7PM and November 15 and 16 at 2PM.

Visit <perthcommunitychoir.com> to reserve your seats for this festive, laugh-out-loud musical — complete with twinkling lights, toe-tapping tunes, and an appearance by Santa himself!

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Lots On at Union Hall!

By Linda Camponi

Union Hall is now ready for year-round operation, thanks to a Trillium grant and the work of our tireless volunteers! We look forward to cozy gatherings all winter long, now that we have energy-efficient heat pumps and insulated walls and attic. The hall is a popular venue for family celebrations, as well as yoga classes, meetings, public events and craft sales. With year-round availability, the calendar is filling up with events and activities. And we now have high-speed Internet at the facility, thanks to Storm Internet Services.

To learn more about Union Hall and the surrounding community, or to rent the hall or the outdoor sign, go to our website at <union-hall.org>. We also have a Facebook page with all the latest news.

Union Hall volunteers continue to make and sell beautifully crafted hardwood cutting boards and one-of-a-kind fabric crafts. Because all the materials and labour are donated, 100% of the purchase price goes directly to Union Hall's Renovation Fund.

On Saturday, November 15, from 10AM until 2PM, we will be holding our annual **Community Builders' Craft Fair** at the hall, where we join with other charities and non-profit organizations to raise awareness and much-needed cash for important work in our community. Come and get an early start on your Christmas shopping! This year The Hub, the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, and Stir it Up Collective will be returning, along with one or two new organizations. A light lunch of homemade soup, biscuits and other goodies will be available for purchase, along with Stir It Up blend Equator coffee, tea and cold beverages.



Union Hall is abuzz with activity this fall and winter!

Our annual **Community Potluck** will be held this year on Saturday, November 22. Bring the family and meet your neighbours while enjoying the good cheer. We confidently predict a delicious meal!

Join us at the John Levi Community Centre on Saturday, November 29 for the **Almonte Farmers' Market's Christmas Market**, always lots of fun, with music and delicious food served up along with fall garden produce, wreaths and hand-crafted gifts.

The Union Hall Community Centre, constructed in 1857, is a Registered Charitable Organization which is maintained and operated by volunteers, with financial assistance from the Municipality of Mississippi Mills and The Hub, along with donations from private individuals who value the contribution of Union Hall to the community. Several local businesses (listed on our website) support us by providing discounts or even free services or products. For more information about the hall or any of the upcoming events, check out the website or contact Linda at <camponi@storm.ca> or 256-2277.

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Meet Marvin — A Heroic Master Mason

Marvin Vissoni is a real-life hero. Living in the highlands of western Guatemala, he grew up in a home where all meals were cooked over an open fire. The smoke filled the small shelter and adversely affected the health of everyone in the family, but especially Mom and the young kids who spent most of their day with their mother as she worked. Marvin vividly remembers the pervasive smoke and creosote-coated walls.

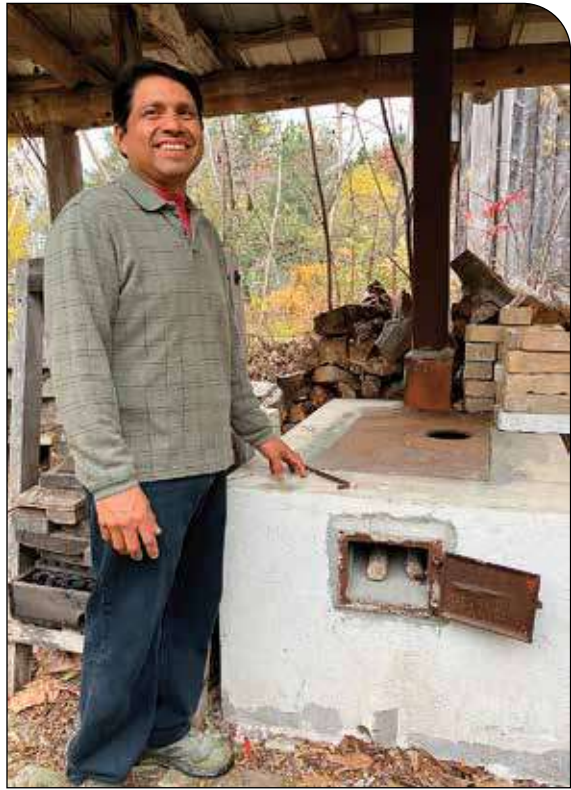
Living with indoor air pollution isn't what makes Marvin a hero. Many people in Guatemala (and in impoverished areas around the world) continue to cook over an open fire and are exposed to toxic smoke because they have no other choice. Marvin is a hero because he has personally built 1500 efficient masonry cookstoves with chimneys that take the harmful smoke outside and allow families to breathe clean air in their homes.

Each of those stoves serves a family consisting of an average of 6 people. This means Marvin has directly helped approximately 9000 fellow Mayans live healthier and therefore longer lives. That is what makes him a hero.

Marvin and several other masons are hired by three Guatemalan aid organizations funded by money raised right here in the Ottawa Valley through the local charity The Guatemala Stove Project. The GSP has raised enough money over the past 25 years to build over 8500 clean, efficient masonry cookstoves. Besides ridding homes of toxic indoor air pollution, the stoves also reduce the amount of fuel needed by half, which means the release of CO₂ from burning is also reduced by half. These stoves save lives and fight climate change — wow!

The Guatemala Stove Project also funds microloans and educational bursaries for rural girls who might not get the opportunity to complete an education past grade 5 or 6.

Perhaps you are a hero as well, having donated to the GSP or attended one of its fundraising events. If so, you have made a tangible difference in the lives of amazing people who are struggling in very difficult circumstances. The GSP sees all donors to this cause as heroes.



Meet Marvin Vissoni — a mason who has built 1500 masonry cookstoves in Guatemala — at the Guatemala Stove Project's dance on November 15!

This month you can help the GSP help others by participating in their online auction taking place from November 6–10 at 32auctions.com/2025gsp. When you log in you can donate a stove, microloan or educational bursary, or you can bid on an interesting item to start your holiday shopping.

The organization will also be holding a fundraising dance including a silent auction at the Perth Civitan on Saturday, November 15 featuring the music of the great local band, Open Road. If you come, you can meet Marvin, who is visiting his friends here in Lanark County!

Find out more about this great grassroots organization at guatemalastoveproject.org.

The Good Food Column Sweet Memories, and a Recipe for Scones

Welcome to The Good Food Column! When theHumm heard that Petra Graber was stepping back from The Good Food Co. — a café that we had been frequenting almost as long as we have been running the paper — we decided that a semi-regular column would be a perfect way for readers (and hungry GFC fans) to get a taste of Petra's signature dishes. If you have a particular hankering for one of her recipes, email editor@thehummm.com and we'll pass on the request!

by Petra Graber

When I opened my cafe in 1997, scones were not a common offering in the Ottawa Valley — “Texas-sized” muffins were all the rage. The Good Food Co. scones were really more of a tea biscuit recipe, with extra butter and buttermilk. We experimented a lot with different flavour combinations!



Sweet Scones

2 cups all-purpose flour
½ cup white sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup unsalted butter, cold
¾ cup sliced fruit
½ teaspoon extract/spices/citrus zest
1 cup buttermilk — approximate measure!

- Mix together flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and spices and/or zest if using
- Cut in or grate butter into flour mixture and toss with fork
- Mix in fruit
- Slowly add buttermilk while stirring with fork until dough starts to come together — turn out onto work surface and drizzle more buttermilk while mixing with your hands until a workable dough forms; *do not add too much buttermilk to start with or the dough will be too soft and wet* — the amount needed will vary depending on how wet your fruit is
- Form into circle approx. 1-½ inches thick
- Cut into 8 wedges (like a pie) and distribute evenly on silicone mat or lightly greased cookie sheet (dough can also be cut into smaller rounds with a biscuit cutter)
- Bake at 375°F for 12 to 15 minutes, depending on type of oven used

Flavour suggestions: blueberry + lemon zest; apple + cinnamon; strawberry + ginger; peach + vanilla + pecans; blackberry + orange; raspberry + cardamom. Enjoy!

Friends of the Library Christmas Book Sale

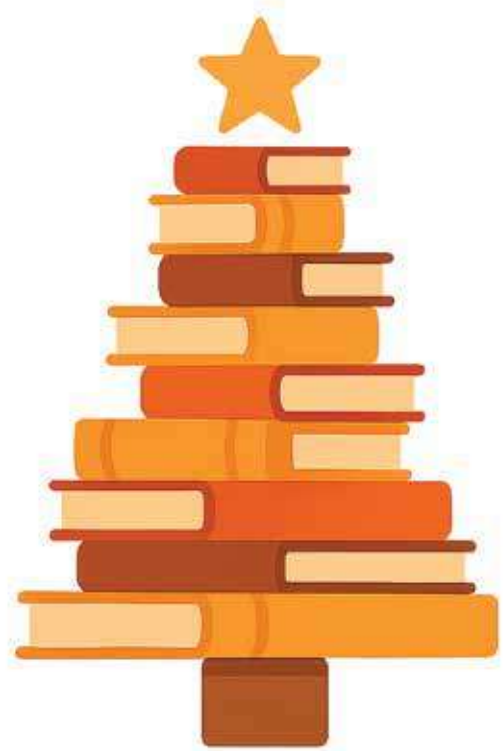
By Barbara Carroll

The Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library Christmas Book Sale started in 2024 as an experiment and was such a success we decided to do it again this year. Unlike our Fall Sale, this is not an opportunity to drop off books you want to pass on — it's a chance to do some Christmas shopping. We feature books of every genre in good to near-new condition, some sold individually, some sold in sets. Everything is individually priced, and many of the books and sets are wrapped and/or tied with a beautiful bow. They are ready to go. Easy peasy!

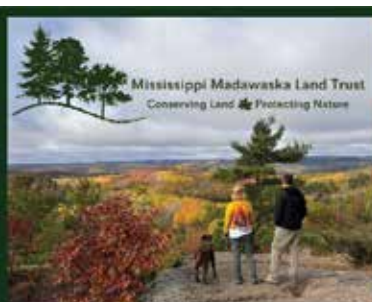
This sale will be held over one weekend in December at the Rexall Mall, 430 Ottawa St., in Almonte. The location is right beside Rexall Drugs. This year, the dates are Friday, December 5 from 12–5PM; Saturday, December 6 from 10AM–4PM; and Sunday, December 7 from 11AM–3PM.

We invite you to come, experience a holiday atmosphere with the Friends, purchase some wonderful Christmas gifts, and support our Library. We had already broken our record of annual donations to the library by the end of the summer... then came our Annual Fall Book Sale, and now our Christmas Book Sale. Help us blow it out of the water in 2025 so our Library can continue supporting the community in the style to which we have become accustomed!

For more details, find the Friends on Facebook.



Help the Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library support great local programming by buying gently used books at their Christmas Sale, taking place at the Rexall Mall from December 5–7





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Vintage board games, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles	\$10 & up
A ticket to an Almonte in Concert show, Almonte in Concert	\$44
Gift Cards, Black Tartan Kitchen	various
Series pass to 4 concerts, Folkus Concert Series	\$150
2-hour art workshops (pottery, glass, screen-printing, painting), JB Arts	\$25-85
Miniature DIY dollhouse room, wooden model kits, Spark Books & Curios	\$50-80
Games and puzzles for adults and kids, The Book Nook	various
Art House Music concert ticket, Carleton Place Gallery	\$40
Home theatre seating from Elran & Palliser, Under My Roof	\$1999 & up



An Evening With Merrickville Authors: A Panel Discussion

Merrickville and surroundings are home to many artists, including several very accomplished writers. This panel discussion will explore how these writers began their careers, challenges they faced and suggestions for those who wish to explore becoming a writer.

Thursday, November 13, 2025
Merrickville Legion, 2nd Floor
229 Main Street West, Merrickville
Doors open at 7:00 PM
Discussion from 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Moderator: Omar Simonyi

AUTHORS:
Dan Black | Brian Busby | Bill Galbraith | Vic Suthren | Carol Williams

This is a joint collaboration between the Merrickville Arts Guild (MAG) Conversations and the Merrickville Organization for Culture & the Arts (MOCA).

Admission: Free to MAG members or \$5 at the door

Updates | www.mag-artists.ca | Contact | ngrovisch@bell.net
MAG Artists | MOCA2025 | [merrickvilleartsguild](https://www.merrickvilleartsguild.com)



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STUDIO THEATRE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



THE LION IN WINTER

BY JAMES GOLDMAN
DIRECTED BY: CHRYSTINE WILLIAMS

SEE OUR ARTICLE IN THIS EDITION FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE LION IN WINTER IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, INC. WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM
Poster Credit: Melissa Baker Nguyen

The Studio Theatre
studiotheatreperth.com



63 Gore St. East
In historic Perth, Ontario

Shop Canadian at Holly Jolly 2025!

Just in time for Christmas! For one weekend only — November 29 and 30 from 10AM to 4PM — the Rideau Lakes Artists Association (RLAA) is presenting its holiday-themed Holly Jolly art show and sale. The show will feature a wide variety of original and affordable fine art, presented by more than 35 talented and accomplished artists.

Come immerse yourself in this beautifully curated display of fine art including original paintings, limited-edition prints and cards, handmade jewellery, pottery, fibre art, wearables and other unique gifts. Every item is one-of-a-kind, designed and created by a local RLAA artist. Plus, every item is affordably priced, with all artwork — even the largest pieces — priced under \$200 for affordable gift giving.

The show is being held at the Perth Legion, located at 26 Beckwith Street East, and both



Find felted art by Dayle VanAlstine (above), paintings by Donna Laroque (at left), and lots more at the Holly Jolly art show!

parking and admission are free. The 2025 Holly Jolly show and sale will be supporting the Table Community Food Centre (Perth Food Bank) with donations of cash and/or non-perishable food items.

Come treat yourself or someone you love to an original work of art this season! For more information on Rideau Lakes Artists' Association, visit <rideaulakesartists.com> or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

The 2025 Holly Jolly show is generously sponsored by Julia Scotland, an avid supporter of the art community and a Broker with Coldwell Banker Settlement Realty in Perth. Contact her at 390-0401 or <julia-scotland@coldwellbanker.ca>.



Westport Annual Shop 'n Hop A Gingerbread-Themed Weekend

The Village of Westport is set to sparkle once again as the annual Holiday Shop 'n Hop returns from November 21-23. This year's event features a gingerbread-themed weekend filled with festive activities, local shopping, and small-town holiday charm.

This community-wide celebration brings together local businesses, artisans and residents to kick off the holiday season. Visitors can enjoy extended shopping hours, live music, outdoor markets, family-friendly fun, and the ever-popular Lion's Club Santa Claus Parade.

Highlights of the weekend include a gingerbread house competition and viewing at Spy Rock Scoop Shoppe, a gingerbread s'mores campfire at Upper Rideau B&B, an outdoor holiday market at 38 Concession Street, artisans at the Watercolours Studio Tour, an ugliest sweater competition featuring participating local businesses, and a PJ Day and pet photos with Santa on Sunday.

Visitors can also take part in the Passport Shopping Program, collecting stamps from participating businesses for a chance to win one of three grand prizes filled with gifts and gift cards from local merchants.

"Shop 'n Hop is one of Westport's most anticipated weekends of the year," says Cynthia Pringle, event organizer and owner of Life is Good Westport. "It's about celebrating community spirit, supporting local businesses, and sharing in the joy of the season. Every year we see families return, new visitors discover Westport, and our village truly comes alive."

The Westport Holiday Shop 'n Hop is supported by local merchants and community volunteers. For more information, visit <whatsonwestport.ca> or follow @WhatsOnWestport or @Westport Holiday Shop and Hop on social media for updates and the full weekend schedule.



The Annual Westport Shop 'n Hop takes place from November 21-23

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Open Daily November 12 to December 24
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The Riversong Players

If you visited Almonte during the month of October, you might have encountered a melancholic Shakespearean character, been serenaded by a Creepy Choir or members of a Creepy Cabaret... or perhaps you were brave enough to join the Haunted Walk!

What you might not have noticed are the rehearsals that are in full swing at the Almonte Old Town Hall, as the Riversong Players prepare to delight audiences with *A Christmas Story: The Musical*. The intergenerational ensemble is hard at work!

Step into the holiday magic of *A Christmas Story*, the beloved tale of Ralphie Parker and his quest for the ultimate Christmas gift — a Red Ryder BB gun. Filled with warmth, laughter and nostalgia, this musical adaptation brings cherished memories to life with catchy songs, heartwarming humour, and a reminder of the joy and chaos of family holidays.

Performances will take place on December 12, 13 and 14 at the Almonte Old Town Hall, and tickets can be purchased through TicketsPlease (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). Delight your family this holiday season! Tickets are \$30 for general admission, \$25 for kids, plus fees. For more information, please visit their website at <riversonplayers.com>.



After an October filled with haunted walks and ghost choirs, Almonte's Riversong Players are gearing up for their December production of *A Christmas Story: The Musical*!

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613 461 2000
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The MERA Christmas Fair

The MERA Christmas Fair returns this year on Saturday November 8 from 9AM to 3PM. Come out to the MERA Schoolhouse in McDonald's Corners (974 Dalhousie Concession 9a) and start your holiday shopping by supporting local makers and creators. MERA has hosted this event since 2005, inviting local artisans to showcase unique items for sale. Another bonus is an art exhibition presented by the MERA Art Circle. A nutritious light lunch will be provided at the café, and there will also be a bake sale and a draw featuring donated items from vendors.

This year's Christmas Fair has thirteen vendors including Fine Chocolate by Ludwig, jewellery and sculptures by Ellen Fraser, vegan soaps by Mars Lil Shop, unique fabric creations by Carly's Cabin Creations, resin creations by Stationhouse Studio, woodworking by Tim Booth and Barry Russell, woodturning by Keith Johnson, wire-wrapped jewellery by PJ's Pretties, cards and artwork by Emily Wilson, handmade heritage weaving by the MERA Weavers, one-of-a-kind pottery by the MERA Pottery Studio, and art by the MERA Art Circle.



By shopping at the MERA Christmas Fair, you are also helping this local arts and recreation facility to hold more music events, workshops, community dinners and much more. For more information, please visit <meraschoolhouse.org>.

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Ben Caplan at The Cove

What makes music sound original? Sometimes it can be an unmistakable voice, or a tone unlike anyone else's. Halifax's Ben Caplan is a perfect example of someone whose sound is so distinctive that it's hard to compare him to other artists. Though I haven't seen him perform live yet, we are honoured to present this great Canadian folk artist at The Cove on Friday, November 28, as part of the Ontario Festival of Small Halls. Tickets for dinner and the show, or just the show, are available at <ontariosmallhalls.com>. I reached out to him in advance of the show to learn about his influences and what our audience has in store.

by Seamus Cowan

Seamus Cowan: Your voice is incredibly distinctive. Did it develop naturally, or were there key influences?

Ben Caplan: I wish I could say there was some grand plan behind it, but honestly, it's mostly the result of time and life. I was never trained formally as a singer, so I found my voice by trial, error, and necessity. I grew up listening to a lot of gravelly singers like Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen, even some Eastern European cantors. I absorbed a lot from that. There are some horn players who have been really influential for how I think about breath, phrasing, and timbre — especially Louis Armstrong and John Zorn. But more than influence, it's really about emotional truth. The thing I always strive for in my singing is honesty.

I can hear the old European folk traditions in your sound. Does that come from family roots?

My roots are in Ashkenazi Jewish culture, so I was surrounded by fragments of Eastern European melody and storytelling from an early age. That music has always carried both sorrow and defiance in equal measure, which feels like home to me. I'm drawn to old-world modes and rhythms because they bridge the sacred and the profane — they're both lament and celebration. I wouldn't say I'm recreating those traditions, but I'm definitely shaped by them. They show up in my writing whether I invite them or not.

With a nationwide Canadian tour happening this fall, it seems you have built quite an audience. What does this support mean for you as a creative force?

Touring has always been the most important thing for me. There's something deeply human and spiritual about gathering people in a room to share stories and songs — it's one of the oldest forms of connection

we have. After so many years of doing this, I still don't take that for granted.

It's a great modern luxury to be able to listen to music in any location, context, or setting. That said, for me, the true essence of music is human creativity, fallibility, and connection expressed as an ephemeral sculpture in time. Recorded music is an incredible artform, and I love making it, but playing live has a sacred fleeting impermanence that makes it truly and literally unique. Having the support to be able to sustain creating art in that way means the world to me.

You've worked with some amazing Montreal musicians — Pemi Paul, Joe Grass, Eric Hove, Andy King. How do you see the current state of Canada's creative scene?

Canada has a staggering amount of talent. What's remarkable to me is how collaborative and cross-pollinating the scene has become. Musicians like Pemi, Joe, Eric, Andy — they all bring a kind of generosity to the work. We have fewer venues than we used to, and the economics are tougher than ever, but there's still a spirit of creation that refuses to die. Artists are adapting, building community around small spaces, and re-imagining what sustainable art-making can look like. It's not easy, but it's real.

Your new album *The Flood* is powerful and deeply emotional. What's at its core?

The Flood is about surrender and transformation. It's about what happens when life washes everything away and you're forced to rebuild from the mud.



The Festival of Small Halls brings Ben Caplan to The Cove Inn on November 28

For me, it was born out of a few years of loss and upheaval — personally, creatively, and globally. The flood, in that sense, isn't destruction; it's renewal. The record wrestles with fear, faith, and the fragile hope that beauty can still emerge from chaos. I wanted it to sound like both the storm and the sunrise after it.

Get your tickets to Ben's upcoming show at <ontariosmallhalls.com>, learn more about him at <bencaplan.ca>, and find The Cove's other musical offerings at <coveinn.com/music>.

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Bluegrass Christmas with The Barrel Boys

On Saturday, December 6, celebrate the holiday season in Smiths Falls with one of Canada’s most beloved bluegrass bands, The Barrel Boys. Their enchanting melodies and heartwarming harmonies bring a delightful blend of folk, bluegrass and Americana to your seasonal festivities. From timeless carols to original compositions, their holiday show captures the season’s essence, infusing every note with warmth and memory. Join them for a magical Christmas show that will fill your heart with joy and leave you with cherished memories of the most wonderful time of the year.

Established in 2012, The Barrel Boys are a bluegrass powerhouse with soaring harmonies, blazing picking, and an infectious stage presence. Their music blends tradition and originality into a soulful roots experience that has earned the Boys a special place in the hearts of Canadian music fans from coast to coast. In June 2025 they released *Chicken in the Window*, their fourth full-length album of original music. Their

previous release, *Mainline*, earned them a nomination for Vocal Group of the Year at the 2021 Canadian Folk Music Awards.

Sasha Berndt of Hugh’s Room Live describes their music as: “... a blend of soul-soaked country and raw, indie bluegrass — nostalgic without being corny, emotional without feeling overdone. There’s grit in it, and comfort too. Like a familiar smell you haven’t noticed in years.”

The band is made up of Rob McLaren on banjo, Ben Wright on guitar, Tim O’Reilly on bass, and Smiths Falls resident Nathan Smith on fiddle. The concert takes place on Saturday, December 6 at 7:30PM at Trinity United Church, located at 41 Market St. N in Smiths Falls.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and \$10 for children under 13. Advance tickets can be purchased at <thebarrelboys.com/shows> or through Trinity United Church at 283–4444.



Celebrate the holidays bluegrass-style when The Barrel Boys play Smiths Falls on December 6

Mississippi Mills as an Abundant Community

Introducing the Mississippi Mills Community Fund

By Jeff Mills

As “Giving Tuesday” draws near on December 2, your gift to Mississippi Mills charities strengthens our community. Giving Tuesday is an opportunity to give back, and we encourage everyone in Mississippi Mills to give before the end of the year to realize any tax benefit.

As I reflect on the power of community, I recall having had the privilege of driving John McKnight on a four-day speaking tour across Eastern Ontario roughly 12 years ago. What I thought would be a simple job quickly became a master class in community development. John, who passed away in 2024, is fondly remembered as a professor at Northwestern University in Chicago, and more widely as the father of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD). His approach focuses on the strengths and resources a community already has, rather than on its needs or deficits.

He was well into his eighties when we spent this memorable time together. I drove and asked questions, and John shared his wisdom. During the civil rights era in the fifties and sixties he helped southern Black families who left the mechanized farms to find work in the factories around Chicago.

At one point he worked for the John F. Kennedy administration as one of the architects of the Affirmative Action Program. He was there, just a few rows back at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, when Martin Luther King gave his “I Have a Dream” speech.

As we drove shoulder to shoulder across Eastern Ontario, he taught me what community really means,

and how abundant life is when everyone shares their gifts. That government systems are well conceived, but the strength of a community is down in our neighbourhoods, on a personal level. Communities are safer when neighbours know neighbours, not simply when there are more police. They’re healthier when residents aren’t lonely, because hospitals can’t cure loneliness.

He defined the key aspects of ABCD as seeing that communities are often viewed through what they lack (needs, problems, deficits) — whereas ABCD starts

Communities are safer when neighbours know neighbours, not simply when there are more police. They’re healthier when residents aren’t lonely, because hospitals can’t cure loneliness.

with what people can do, what gifts and capacities they already have. These “assets” are the resources that already exist in the community — human talents, local associations, institutions, and physical places — all of which can be mobilized for positive change. “What do we have?” and “What can we do with what we already have?” are the questions it starts by asking. He reminded me that when we trust in a community’s gifts and its ability to act, that trust itself becomes a catalyst for change.

Here in Mississippi Mills, dedicated volunteers have come together to create the Mississippi Mills

Community Fund (MMCF). This fund has been created with these same principles in mind — that we are an abundant community, one that truly cares for and supports all its residents.

The MMCF is currently building an endowment — a fund where the capital is invested, offering a return that gets granted into community initiatives which in turn help the town to be the best it can be. The larger the endowment, the greater the impact for the community. MMCF receives back-office support from the long-standing Ottawa Community Foundation. They help by investing the endowment of the MMCF and offering charitable receipts to donors of our fund. Their volunteer investment team, consisting of leading Canadian economists, manage annual returns (up to 15% in recent years). It’s a partnership that gives us strong financial stewardship while keeping the focus local.

The MMCF complements the work of other community charities. Its objective is to build a new legacy endowment that will keep giving back for generations to come.

In September, The Hub (Almonte Community Coordinators) supported the MMCF endowment by committing an incredible \$25,000 — five thousand dollars a year over five years. This generous donation helps to kickstart our endowment and our current campaign goal of \$50,000.

In John McKnight’s spirit, we can see every day that Mississippi Mills is an abundant community.

The Mississippi Mills Community Fund rests on a simple belief: when neighbours share their gifts, the whole community thrives. Join us in building an endowment that will keep giving back to our community year after year. You can learn more and donate online today at <mmcommunityfund.ca>.

Gifts to Lift the Spirits

- A ticket to an Almonte in Concert show, Almonte in Concert\$44
- Festive porch signs, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm\$49-68
- Series pass to 4 concerts, Folkus Concert Series\$150
- Small paintings by gallery artists, General Fine Craft\$200-400
- We'll find the perfect book to warm your heart!, Mill Street Books.....\$15-40
- “Apple Blossoms” by artist Peter Wood, Sivarulrasa Gallery\$800
- All natural candles blended to match classic book titles, The Book Nook.....\$25
- Whimsical “birds” watercolours by Suzanne Empey, The Gift Boutique.....\$40-85
- Grooming and shaving products, The Granary\$10-60
- Functional Art - key ring holders by Therese Boisclair, Art Hub Gallery.....\$33-\$55

Gifts for \$100 & Under

- Ancient Umayyad silver dirham coin, A.D. 740 , Alliance Coin & Banknote.....\$99
- Pottery mugs by area artists, Carleton Place Gallery\$49
- Scarlet crabapple tree, Home Hospice North Lanark.....\$75
- Gift certificate: private sauna & soaking tub session, Meristem Massage Therapy....\$55
- Adult licorice, Pêches & Poivre\$17-60
- Two tickets to Almonte in Concert, Almonte in Concert.....\$88





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Men & Women of the Tay Concert, Dec 3, Perth
Light Up the Night, Dec 5,Almonte
Festival of Lights, Dec 5, Perth
Friends of the MM Library Book Sale, Dec 5–7,Almonte
AiC Christmas Concert, Dec 6,Almonte
Lanark Lit Awards Gala, Dec 6,Almonte
Santa Claus Parade, Dec 6, Perth
Perth Antiques Pop-Up Show, Dec 6
Nick of Time Craft Show, Dec 6, Perth
Santa Claus Parade, Dec 6, Pakenham
The Barrel Boys Bluegrass Christmas, Dec 6, Smiths Falls
Advent to Christmas by Candlelight, Dec 7, Perth
Christmas Parade, Dec 7, Almonte
A Christmas Story:The Musical,Dec 12–14, Almonte
Kintail Country Christmas, Dec 13, Mill of Kintail
Perth Citizen’s Band Christmas Concert, Dec 14,Perth
Community Christmas Day Dinner, Dec 25,Perth
Mudmen, Dec 27, 28, Perth
Civitan NYE Party, Dec 31, Perth
Legion NYE Dance, Dec 31, Perth

2026

Polar Bear Plunge Jan 1, Perth
Nathan Sloniowski & Friends, Jan 15, Union Hall
Elinor Frey, Jan 25,Almonte
Amos the Transparent, Jan 31,Almonte
Hadestown, Teen Edition, Feb 13–21, Carleton Place
The Weber Brothers, Feb 28,Almonte
Scandalous Romantics, Mar 7,Almonte
Broadway Showstoppers, Mar 20-22, Carleton Place
Old Man Luedecke, Mar 28,Almonte
Vnukowski/Odin Quintet,Apr 11,Almonte
Danny Michel,Apr 18,Almonte
The Play that Goes Wrong, Apr 30–May 3, Carleton Place

Festivals

Westport Holiday Shop ‘n Hop, Nov 21–23. A gingerbread-themed weekend. DowntownWestport.whatsonwestport.ca

Literature

An Evening With Merrickville Authors: A Panel Discussion, Nov 13, 7:30PM–9:30PM. A discussion of their journeys as authors.Merrickville Legion. Free for MAG members or \$5 at the door.mag-artists.ca
Book Club, Nov 24, 7PM. Email millstreet-books@gmail.com to join. Mill Street Books,Almonte. Free.millstreetbooks.com
An Evening with Author and Explorer Adam Shoalts, Nov 26, 7PM. Celebrating the launch of his latest book.Almonte Old Town Hall. TicketsPlease.ca

Local Food

Perth Farmers’ Christmas Market, Nov 15, 10-3. Home grown goodness. Crystal Palace, Perth. perthfarmersmarket.ca
Almonte Farmers Harvest Market, Nov 8, 9-1. Tasty treats and fine crafts. John Levi Centre. almontefarmersmarket.com
Food Sampling with ‘Black Garlic Dine & Bytes’, Nov 8 & 22, 11AM–1PM. A Bunch of Whimsy, CP.Free.abunchofwhimsy.com
Almonte Farmers Holiday Market, Nov 29, 9-1. Holiday treats, food and crafts. John Levi Centre. almontefarmersmarket.com

Visual Arts

Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Nov 1–2, 10AM–4PM. John Levi Centre, Almonte. valleyartisanshow.blogspot.ca
Rosemary Leach Open Studio, Nov 7 (5-7PM), 8 (10AM-3PM), & 9 (12-3PM). 255 William St.,Almonte. rosemarylach.com

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

The Rideau Environmental Action League presents a Fall Online Auction [Nov 12–22] <32auctions.com/REAL2025> or visit <REALaction.ca> General Fine Craft presents new works by Janet Keefe (stoneware vessels),Vanessa Uschy Coplan (patchworks), and James Schatz (furniture) <generalfinecraft.com> Mississippi Valley Textile Museum presents A Lifetime of Collecting Part 2: Canadian Handwoven Overshot Coverlets from the Dennis and Sylvia Mills Collection [from Oct 18] <mvtm.ca> Sivarulrasa Gallery presents their 11th Anniversary Show <sivarulrasa.com> The Corridor Gallery at the Almonte Library presents works by Anne Roxburgh [to Nov 29]			
3 Monday Music Residency - November with Jon Jones, The Cove	4	5 Nature Talks, Carp Wings N Tunes with Shane McCullough, The Cove	6 Simon Kempston, The Cove The Boojums, Neat Coffee Shop
10 Monday Music Residency - November with Jon Jones, The Cove	11 Roots Tuesdays - Tim Loten, The Cove	12 Nathan Smith, Perth Wings N Tunes with Shane McCullough, The Cove	13 Arsenic and Old Lace, Kemptville Elf the Musical, Perth An Evening With Merrickville Authors:A Panel Discussion, Merrickville Original Thursdays – The Mill Rights, The Cove Carleton Place Toastmasters Club, Carleton Place Yuk Yuks Comedy Special with AGT's Ahren Belisle, Carleton Place
17 Almonte Quilters Guild Meeting, Almonte Monday Music Residency - November with Jon Jones, The Cove	18 Roots Tuesdays - Jessica Volowich, The Cove	19 Song Healing Circle, Carp The Free Label, Neat Coffee Shop Wings N Tunes with Shane McCullough, The Cove	20 JW Jones Fundraising “Blues Bash”, Bolingbroke David James Allen, The Cove
24 Book Club, Almonte Monday Music Residency - November with Jon Jones, The Cove	25 Tea Time, Carp	26 An Evening with Author and Explorer Adam Shoalts, Almonte Wings N Tunes with Shane McCullough, The Cove	27 Holiday Night Market, Almonte Three-Fifty Squares - Meet the Artists, Carleton Place The Lion in Winter, Perth Free Expression & The Public Library, Almonte Carleton Place Toastmasters Club, Carleton Place Snow Road Music Night Concert, Snow Road Station Original Thursdays – Ron Leary, The Cove

Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Show, Nov 8–9, 10AM–4:30PM.Art \$200 & under: Carleton Place Arena. artscarletonplace.com
Fine Batiks Sale, Nov 15–23, 10AM–5PM. every Saturday & Sunday Batik cloth, tablecloths and other batik products. Fine Batiks, Maberly. finebatiks.ca
Meet the Artists - 11th Anniversary, Nov 15, 2–5PM.Works by 25 artists, to Dec. 21. Sivarulrasa Gallery,Almonte. sivarulrasa.com
Almonte Quilters Guild Meeting, Nov 17, 7PM. Host: Bonnie Ranki. Almonte Civitan Hall. \$5 for guests. almontequiltersguild.ca
Art & Fine Crafts Christmas Show, Nov 22–23, 10AM–4PM. 20+ artists, café. Merrickville Com. Centre. Free. mag-artists.ca
Three-Fifty Squares - Meet the Artists, Nov 27, 5–8PM. Food, fun, and live music. Show runs to Jan 6. Carleton Place Gallery. cpgallery.ca
Artistic Creations, Nov 28 (3-8PM), 29 (9AM-4PM). Art & crafts \$200 and under. Mess Hall, Carp. westcarletonartssociety.ca
Christmas Sale, Nov 29, 10AM–4PM. Almonte Potters Guild. almontepottersguild.com
Holly Jolly Art Sale, Nov 29–30, 10AM–4PM. Art, gifts, jewellery & wearables all under \$200. Perth Legion. Free admission.

Theatre

A Death in the Family:A Victorian Mourning Experience, Nov 1, 1–4PM. Mystery, history, and heritage. Ages 19+. Perth Museum. \$125 at ticketsplease.ca
We Lend a Hand:The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes, Nov 7, 1 & 5PM. Documentary. Studio Theatre Perth. \$12 at the door.studiotheatreperth.com
EODL One Act Festival, Nov 7–9. Nine companies, nine plays. Merrickville Community Centre. \$20/session, \$50/three sessions, \$35 brunch. merrickvilletheatre.org
YukYuks Comedy Special, Nov 13, 7:30PM. W/Ahren Belisle. Final Score Sports Bar, CP. \$30. yukyuks.com/carletonplace
Arsenic and Old Lace, Nov 13–15, 7:30PM; Nov 16, 1PM.UrbandaleArts Centre,Kemptville. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca.
Elf the Musical, Nov 13–16. Perth Community Choir: PDCI Perth & District Collegiate Institute. perthcommunitychoir.com
Movie Weekend: The Life of Chuck, Nov 14–15, 7PM. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$12 at door. smithsfallstheatre.com
Puppets Up! Chautauqua, Nov 15, 2 & 7:30PM. An old-style variety show reinvented for today! Almonte Old Town Hall. \$25 available through TicketsPlease.ca

Being Cyrano, Nov 16, 2PM. French film with subtitles. Mississippi Mills Film Society. Almonte Legion. \$15 from TicketsPlease.ca
Songs of the War Years, Nov 21, 7:30PM. Almonte Legion fundraiser. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$30 at TicketsPlease.ca
YukYuks Comedy, Nov 22, 7PM. With Rick Currie. Final Score Sports Bar, Carleton Place. \$22.50 yukyuks.com/carletonplace
The Lion in Winter, Nov 27, 28, Dec 4 & 5 at 7:30PM, Nov 29, 30, Dec 6 & 7 at 2PM. Dramatic comedy set in 1183. Studio Theatre Perth. \$12 - \$24 at TicketsPlease.ca
Annie, Nov 28, Dec 4 & 5 (7:30PM); Nov 20, 30, Dec 6 & 7 (2PM). Musical by the Mississippi Mudds. Carleton Place Town Hall. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca

Youth

Mini Maker Craft Fair, Nov 8, 10AM–1PM. Crochet, baking, artwork, pottery and more. Carleton Place Public Library. carletonplacelibrary.ca
Children’s Christmas Gift Shop, Nov 22, 10AM–2PM. Kids come and find a free gift for family and friends! Almonte Baptist Church. almontebaptistchurch.ca

Music

The Zone: Jazz Trio, Nov 1, 7PM. Jazz trio starring Roxy Swan, Peter Brown, and Chris Breitner.St.Andrew’s United Church, Pakenham. \$20 at the Door: standrewsunit-edpakenham.org
Sing for Change!, Nov 1, 5PM. Local vocal groups are coming together to raise their voices for change. St. Paul’s United, Perth. \$20 at ticketsplease.ca
Rideau Roots Kate Weekes Album Release Concert, Nov 1, 2PM. Kate Weekes and friends. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$30 at TicketsPlease.ca
SRO Tea Dance, Nov 2 & 30, 1:30–4PM. Dance to big band Standing Room Only. Entry & snacks cash only. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$20. facebook.com/srobigband
Texas King, Nov 7, 8PM. Soaring vocals, gritty guitars, and undeniable stage presence. River House Vineyard and Winery, Maberly. \$25 (+HST) from TicketsPlease.ca
The Fabulous Heartbeats, Nov 8, 7:30PM. Civitan Club Fall Dance fundraiser: Almonte Civitan Hall. \$30. almontecivitan.com/shop

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31 Halloween Party with The Ramblers, CC's on the Rideau Jesse Roper, Neat Coffee Shop	1 Rideau Roots Kate Weekes Album Release Concert, Smiths Falls Sing for Change!, Perth Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Almonte A Death in the Family: A Victorian Mourning Experience, Perth Field Trip, The Cove The Zone: Jazz Trio, Pakenham Barney Bentall, Neat Coffee Shop	2 Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Almonte Feliz Naughty Dog, Arnprior SRO Tea Dance, Almonte Annual "Hunters' Dinner", Lanark Kris Kringle Craft Fair, Perth Barney Bentall, Neat Coffee Shop Sundays with Eric and Meghan, The Cove
7 We Lend a Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes, Perth EODL One Act Festival, Merrickville Rosemary Leack Open Studio, Almonte Original Thursdays – Kent Nicholson, The Cove Texas King, Maberly	8 EODL One Act Festival, Merrickville Almonte Farmers Market Harvest Market, Almonte Rosemary Leack Open Studio, Almonte MERA Christmas Fair, McDonalds Corners Friends of the Library Bake Sale, Perth Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Show, Carleton Place Mini Maker Craft Fair, Carleton Place Food Sampling with 'Black Garlic Dine & Bytes', Carleton Place Jeff Callery, The Cove The Fabulous Heartbeats, Almonte Lowest Of The Low, Neat Coffee Shop	9 EODL One Act Festival, Merrickville Rosemary Leack Open Studio, Almonte Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Show, Carleton Place Civitan Club of Perth Monthly Jamboree, Perth 1775: Canada Invaded!, Appleton Amanda Rheahme, McDonalds Corners Jason Blaine, Neat Coffee Shop Sundays with Eric and Meghan, The Cove
14 Arsenic and Old Lace, Kemptville Elf the Musical, Perth Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar, The Cove Movie Weekend: The Life of Chuck, Smiths Falls	15 Puppets Up! Chautauqua, Almonte Meet the Artists - 11th Anniversary, Almonte Arsenic and Old Lace, Kemptville Elf the Musical, Perth Perth Farmers' Christmas Market, Perth Movie Weekend: The Life of Chuck, Smiths Falls Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon, Carleton Place Fall Trails Talk, Merrickville Community Builders' Craft Fair, Almonte Fine Batiks Sale, Maberly Charity Soup Bowl, Almonte Matt Dickson, The Cove Dance and Silent Auction, Perth	16 Elf the Musical, Perth Arsenic and Old Lace, Kemptville Fine Batiks Sale, Maberly Christmas Craft & Gift Sale, Perth Christmas Craft Show, Arnprior Sundays with Eric and Meghan, The Cove Sunday Funday Chicken Pickin' Matinee Band, The Cove Being Cyrano (Dans la peau de Cyrano), Almonte The Macc Lads, Neat Coffee Shop
21 Songs of the War Years, Almonte Westport Holiday Shop 'n Hop, Westport Reuben And The Dark, Neat Coffee Shop	22 Westport Holiday Shop 'n Hop, Westport Once Upon a Christmas, Perth Art & Fine Crafts Christmas Show, Merrickville Coins & Strings, Almonte Fine Batiks Sale, Maberly Children's Christmas Gift Shop, Almonte Food Sampling with 'Black Garlic Dine & Bytes', Carleton Place Santa Claus Parade Hoedown, The Cove Cashmen Ford, Urban Angus Steak & Wine Yuk Yuks Comedy with Rick Currie, Carleton Place Bootleg Creedence, Perth Volunteer Showcase, Arnprior Community Potluck, Almonte	23 Westport Holiday Shop 'n Hop, Westport Art & Fine Crafts Christmas Show, Merrickville Come see Santa, Pakenham Victorian Christmas, Middleville 100WWCLC "Cheers to Giving" Open House, Perth Sundays with Eric and Meghan, The Cove Fine Batiks Sale, Maberly Vinta, McDonalds Corners Corb Lund, Carleton Place Junkhouse, Carp
28 The Lion in Winter, Perth Annie, Carleton Place Artistic Creations, Carp Ben Caplan, The Cove A Season of Light and Love, Bells Corners Hawksley Workman, Lanark	29 Annie, Carleton Place The Lion in Winter, Perth Almonte Farmers Market Holiday Market, Almonte Artistic Creations, Carp Christmas Craft Show Christmas Sale, Almonte Holly Jolly Art Sale, Perth A Season of Light and Love, Bells Corners Kenny and Dolly: Real Love, Perth Community Dance & Auction with The Glen Silverson Band, Pakenham Ben Caplan, Almonte	30 Annie, Carleton Place Holly Jolly Art Sale, Perth The Lion in Winter, Perth Civitan Seniors Christmas Dinner, Perth Sunday Funday Chicken Pickin' Matinee Band, The Cove SRO Tea Dance, Almonte Our Christmas to You, Carp Sundays with Eric and Meghan, The Cove

Civitan Club of Perth Monthly Jamboree, Nov 9, 1–6PM. Dancing & dinner. Perth Civitan Club & Hall. \$20 per person for dinner and dance. [civitanclubofperth.com](#)

Amanda Rheahme, Nov 9, 2PM. Songs of resistance and resilience of the Métis Nation. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. \$15, \$35 from [TicketsPlease.ca](#)

Nathan Smith, Nov 12, 7:30PM. Local trad music hero and fiddling phenom. Oakfield Rugby Park, Perth. \$25 from [TicketsPlease.ca](#)

JW Jones Fundraising "Blues Bash", Nov 20, 7:30. Live music, fundraiser for the Hall. Althorpe Bolingbroke Community (ABC) Hall. \$40 from [TicketsPlease.ca](#)

Bootleg Creedence, Nov 22, 8. Tribute to the legendary Creedence Clearwater Revival (CCR). Farrell Hall, Perth. \$35 (plus fees) from [TicketsPlease.ca](#)

Corb Lund, Nov 23. Live Music. Carleton Place Arena. \$60 (+HST and fees). [ontariosmallhalls.com](#)

Junkhouse, Nov 23. Live Music. Carp Agricultural Hall. \$50 (+HST and fees). [ontariosmallhalls.com](#)

Vinta, Nov 23, 2PM. Dynamic folk chamber quartet. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. \$15, \$35 from [TicketsPlease.ca](#)

Snow Road Music Night Concert, Nov 27, 7PM. Featuring "LeVolume" aka Joey Wright, Jenny Whiteley and Julian Brown. Snow Road Community Centre, Snow Road Station. \$20. [snowroadcommunitycentre.com](#)

Hawksley Workman, Nov 28. Live Music. Watsons Corners Community Centre, Lanark. \$40 (+HST and fees). [ontariosmallhalls.com](#)

A Season of Light and Love, Nov 28, 7PM; Nov 29, 3PM. West Ottawa Ladies Chorus. Bell's Corners United Church, Ottawa. \$25. [westottawaladieschorus.ca](#)

Ben Caplan, Nov 29. Live Music. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$40 (+HST and fees). [ontariosmallhalls.com](#)

Community Dance & Auction with The Glen Silverson Band, Nov 29, 8PM. Live music, auction, and lunch. Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham. \$20 at Nicholson's and 1840 General Store. [standrewsunited-pakenham.org](#)

Kenny and Dolly: Real Love, Nov 29, 7:30PM. A Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton tribute. St. Paul's United, Perth. \$39 (plus fees) from [TicketsPlease.ca](#)

Our Christmas to You, Nov 30, 3PM. Presented by the Goulbourn Male Chorus. Trinity Presbyterian Church, Carp. \$15, \$25 from [TicketsPlease.ca](#)

Pub Listings

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

Nov 1 Field Trip

Nov 6 Simon Kempston, \$10

Nov 7 Original Thursdays – Kent Nicholson,

Nov 8 Jeff Callery

Nov 11 Tim Loten

Nov 13 Original Thursdays – The Mill Rights, 6–9PM, \$10

Nov 14 Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar, 7–11PM, \$95

Nov 15 Matt Dickson,

Nov 16 Sunday Funday Chicken Pickin' Matinee Band, 1–4PM

Nov 18 Jessica Volowich

Nov 20 David James Allen

Nov 22 Santa Claus Parade Hoedown, 5–9PM, \$15

Nov 27 Original Thursdays – Ron Leary

Nov 28 Ben Caplan, 6–10PM, \$40 (+HST and fees)

Nov 30 Sunday Funday Chicken Pickin' Matinee Band, 1–4PM.

Urban Angus Steak & Wine (Arnprior, 558-5050)

Nov 22 Cashmen Ford, 7–10PM

CC's on the Rideau (Rideau Ferry, 267-6060)

Oct 31 Halloween Party with The Ramblers, 7PM., \$10.00 cover charge

Neat Coffee Shop (Burnstown, 433-9960): 8PM

Oct 31 Jesse Roper, \$35

Nov 1 Barney Bentall, \$50

Nov 6 The Boojums, \$30

Nov 8 Lowest Of The Low, \$50

Nov 9 Jason Blaine, \$50

Nov 16 The Macc Lads, \$35

Nov 19 The Free Label, \$30

Nov 21 Reuben And The Dark, \$50

Community

Annual "Hunters' Dinner", Nov 2, 4–6:30PM. Roast beef dinner. Watsons Corners Community Centre, Lanark. Adults \$25, Children 6-14 \$10, Under 5 Free. 259-5454

Feliz Naughty Dog, Nov 2, 10AM–3PM. 5th Annual Craft and Bake Sale, fundraiser for the Arnprior Humae Society. Nick Smith Centre, Arnprior

Kris Kringle Craft Fair, Nov 2. Downtown Perth. [perth.ca/holidayevents](#)

Nature Talks, Nov 5, 10–11AM. Ninth Wave Arts, Carp. Free registration. [ninthwavearts.ca/offerings](#)

Friends of the Perth Library Bake Sale, Nov 8, 10AM. Goodies, knitted items. Get a head start on your Christmas shopping. Perth Library. [perthunionlibrary.ca](#)

MERA Christmas Fair, Nov 8, 9AM–3PM. Christmas arts & crafts fair. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. [meraschoolhouse.org](#)

1775: Canada Invaded!, Nov 9, 2PM. Live and Zoom presentation by researcher Brian Tackaberry. North Lanark Regional Museum (Appleton Museum). 257-8503

Carleton Place Toastmasters Club, Nov 13 & 27, 7PM. Learn how to improve your public speaking and leadership skills. [carletonplace.toastmastersclubs.org](#)

Dance and Silent Auction, Nov 15. Guatemala Stove Project Fundraising event. E-transfer \$25 to [info@guatemalastove-project.org](#) (mention GSP Dance) or cash at Shadowfax in Perth. Perth Civitan Club & Hall. [guatemalastoveproject.org](#)

Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon, Nov 15, 10AM–2PM. Plan to stay for a delicious lunch! Zion-Memorial United Church, Carleton Place. [zion-memorial.ca](#)

Charity Soup Bowl, Nov 15, 11:30AM & 1:30PM. A heartwarming community event with a variety of delicious soups, fundraiser for the MM Youth Centre. Almonte United Church. \$30. [mmyc.ca/store](#)

Fall Trails Talk, Nov 15, 10AM. A presentation by Donald Telford. The Pews, Merrickville. Free. [merrickvilledistricttrailsociety.org](#)

Community Builders' Craft Fair, Nov 15, 10AM–2PM. Join with charities and non-profit organizations to raise awareness and much-needed cash. Union Hall, Almonte. [union-hall.org](#)

Christmas Craft & Gift Sale, Nov 16, 10AM–3:30PM. Unique handcrafted items from local artisans along with a special selection of gift items. Perth Civitan Hall. Free admission. [civitanclubofperth.com](#)

Christmas Craft Show, Nov 16, 10AM–2PM. Free entry, door prizes, raffles and bake table. Nick Smith Centre, Arnprior.

Song Healing Circle, Nov 19, 1–2PM. Ninth Wave Arts, Carp. Free registration. [ninthwavearts.ca/offerings](#)

Coins & Strings, Nov 22, 3–6PM. A display of silver bullion coin and new inventory with musical guests. Free. Alliance Coin & Banknote, Almonte. [alliancecoin.com](#)

Volunteer Showcase, Nov 22. The Arnprior and McNab/Braeside Archives is opening its doors and the vault. Arnprior Public Library. Free. [adarchives.org](#)

Community Potluck, Nov 22. Bring the family and meet your neighbours while enjoying the good cheer! Union Hall, Almonte. [union-hall.org](#)

Once Upon a Christmas, Nov 22, 10AM–4PM. Maker's Market, live music, carriage rides, children's activities, Mr. & Mrs. Claus. Downtown Perth. Free. [downtownperth-bia.ca](#)

Victorian Christmas, Nov 23, 12–3PM. Family fun at Middleville and District Museum. \$5 for adults, free for youth under 12. [middlevillemuseum.org](#)

100WWCLC "Cheers to Giving" Open House, Nov 23, 1–4PM. Celebrate a year of generosity, community spirit and shared purpose with 100 Women Who Care Lanark County. Oakfield Rugby Park, Perth. [100womenlanark.ca](#)

Tea Time, Nov 25, 10–11:30AM. Ninth Wave Arts, Carp. Free. [ninthwavearts.ca/offerings](#)

Free Expression & The Public Library, Nov 27, 7–9PM. Discussion on the commitment to intellectual freedom in order to support freedom of expression, critical thinking, and democracy. Almonte Library. [TicketsPlease.ca](#). [learningagainmonte.ca](#)

Holiday Night Market, Nov 27, 5–8PM. On Mill Street. Downtown Almonte. [destinationmonte.com](#)

Christmas Craft Show, Nov 29, 10AM–3PM. 50+ Exhibitors. Cash and Food donations will be collected for the Lanark County Food Bank. Beckwith Recreational Complex. Free. 435-8929

Civitan Seniors Christmas Dinner, Nov 30, 1 & 5PM. Full turkey dinner. Perth Civitan Hall. By donation. [civitanclubofperth.com](#)

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WCAS Artistic Creations

By Kat McClure

The West Carleton Arts Society (WCAS) is delighted to announce that its holiday sale “Artistic Creations” will return this fall! This exhibition and sale will showcase the creative talents of 21 artists from the Ottawa region. There will be photography, paintings, hand bound books, wood burning, ornaments, wood carvings and more, all priced at \$200 and under.

This annual show is again being held at the Carp Mess Hall, located at 2240 Craig Side Road, just past the Diefenbunker, 1.6km north-west of the Carp Fairgrounds. It takes place on Friday, November 28 from 3–8PM, and Saturday the 29th from 9AM to 4PM. The venue is fully accessible (no stairs).

WCAS supports local young artists with a bursary to the West Carleton High School Arts Program. Each year this money goes to a student, chosen by the art teacher, who has done outstanding work in the program. Students from West Carleton also volunteer their time to help out at the show.

We welcome everyone to come and spend time chatting with our artists, to enjoy their wonderful artworks, and perhaps to pick up some gifts for the holiday season. Admission and parking are free.



The watercolour above is by WCAS member Brenda Beattie

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Being Cyrano

Check your calendar. Are you busy on Sunday, November 16 at 2PM? No? Here’s a great idea for a special way to spend the afternoon.

The Mississippi Mills Film Society presents *Being Cyrano* (*Dans la peau de Cyrano*) upstairs at the Almonte Legion. No driving into the city, and proceeds go to the Mississippi Mills Public Library for special programming — a great way to support the library while enjoying the company of film buffs in the community.

After his parents’ divorce, Colin, a 14-year-old boy, moves with his mother to her father’s hometown, far from where his father lives. The start of the school year is a source of anxiety for him, as he fears being bullied by his new classmates because of his difficulty with speaking.

Encouraged by his budding friendship with Maxence, a queer student, his growing feelings for his cousin Adélaïde, and the infectious passion of his French teacher, Mr. Devarseau, Colin joins the theatre workshop led by the teacher. Without his mother’s knowledge — she is intent on protecting him — he sets out to audition for a role in the group’s production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*.



Olivia Levy of *La Presse* had this to say about this lovely movie: “Colin’s (Joachim Arseguel) story is universal. His stutter is difficult for a teenager to live with; shame, fear of others’ opinions, and mockery affect his self-esteem. The director sensitively explores very contemporary themes: gender identity, parental divorce, difference, family, and returning to one’s roots.”

The film won five awards, including Best Film, at the Montreal International Children’s Film Festival, and was enjoyed by children and adults alike!

Tickets are only \$15 from <TicketsPlease.ca>, or by calling 485–6434.

“Cheers to Giving” Open House on Nov. 23

100 Women Who Care Lanark County (100WWCLC) is a local giving circle that has raised more than \$230,000 for 32 local charities over the past eight years. To celebrate this incredible milestone, the group will host its final giving meeting of 2025 as a festive Open House at Oakfield Rugby Park.

The “Cheers to Giving” Open House will take place on Sunday, November 23, from 1–4PM, offering members and guests an opportunity to toast a year of generosity, community spirit and shared purpose. Set amid the picturesque surroundings of Oakfield Park, the event promises a warm and welcoming afternoon filled with holiday cheer, delicious treats and good company.

This celebration is also an open invitation for anyone curious about joining 100 Women Who Care Lanark County. Guests are encouraged to bring a

friend who might be interested in learning how the group harnesses the power of collective giving to make a difference close to home.

Over the years, members have supported dozens of local initiatives, from community health programs to youth services. Their most recent donation enabled Christie Lake Kids Camp to replace a failed industrial stove — an essential upgrade that will allow the camp to open for its upcoming 2026 summer season.

“Our goal is to spread the word about the work we do, so we can continue to grow our membership and, in turn, raise even more for local charities,” says Vanessa Simmons, Chair of 100WWCLC. “This event is both a thank-you celebration and a chance to share the joy of giving with others.”

The public is welcome to attend and can register online at <100womenlanark.ca>.



Members of 100 Women Who Care Lanark County present a cheque to Christie Lake Kids Camp

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Danah-Lee's *Social Justice*

A Bold, Hope-Filled Soundtrack for Change

Award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter, music educator, and church music director Danah-Lee announces the launch of *Social Justice*, a powerful new album blending pop-inflected songwriting with faith-rooted, LGBTQ2S+-affirming themes. Now available on all global platforms, the record invites listeners to reflect and take heart, pairing anthemic choruses with lyrics that champion belonging, compassion, and courageous love.

The album opens with haunting pedal steel, bell-like piano, and the signature picking of Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Famer Jon Park Wheeler. Then come Danah-Lee's honeyed, crystal-clear vocals:

*In the shadow lands where hope feels thin
I pray Your name like oxygen
Steady on
Every scar is a sacred map
It points me where you had my back
Steady on*

The theme is simple but powerful: "Steady On." The act of pushing forward in faith as a queer Christian



is one Danah-Lee knows intimately, having wrestled with her own identity in the context of faith.

"I wrote *Social Justice* for anyone who's ever felt on the margins — of church, of community, or of their own story," she says. "These songs are honest struggles of faith. They are prayers. You can dance to some, others you can sing as protest anthems, and all of them are reminders that our best worship sounds like justice, kindness, and joy."

Recorded at More Than A Song Studios and crafted with Danah-Lee's signature attention to melody and message, *Social Justice* channels the energy of modern pop while staying grounded in the intimacy of singer-songwriter storytelling. The album's sonic palette blends piano-driven hooks, luminous harmonies, heart-wrenching pedal steel and shimmering guitars, supporting narratives of faith, reconciliation, radical welcome and everyday hope.

The first single, *Even Angels*, has already spent four weeks in the Top 10 of Pride Radio Canada's The New Queer Canada Music Chart and is currently holding strong at #3 nationally.

Find more details at <danahleemusic.com>.



Pictured above is the cast of *Art for Bertie's Sake* by Ian Bell, Theatre Night in Merrickville's entry into the upcoming EODL One-Act Festival

EODL One-Acts in Merrickville

This November, the charming village of Merrickville will transform into a vibrant hub of theatrical talent as it hosts an unforgettable weekend of drama, comedy and creativity. From November 7–9, nine theatre groups from across Eastern Ontario will gather to perform nine different one-act plays during the highly anticipated Eastern Ontario Drama League (EODL) One-Act Festival, proudly hosted by Theatre Night in Merrickville (TNIM).

This year is particularly special, as TNIM is celebrating its 50th anniversary — a milestone that speaks to the organization's enduring passion for community theatre. "Theatre Night in Merrickville is honoured to welcome the troupes to our historic village," says Helen Steenburgh, festival chair and TNIM past president. "We hope that they will have a successful and fun competition."

Tickets are just \$20 per session, or \$50 for a weekend pass. Tickets for the Awards Brunch are \$35. For tickets and full festival details, please visit <merrickvilletheatre.org>.

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Arsenic and Old Lace

North Grenville Community Theatre is performing the devastatingly funny comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace* from November 13–16 at the Urbandale Arts Centre in Kemptville. Kemptville's beloved community theatre group last performed this play in 1986. That performance — 39 years ago — was in Parish Hall in the Kemptville Campus. This time it will be in the Urbandale Arts Centre, right next to the hockey arena. What else has changed? Maybe not as much as one might expect. For one thing, in 1986 local media reported that rehearsals were invigorated by the bugle-tooting efforts of George Lamacraft, who was playing Teddy Brewster. It seems George's sounds never did reach pure musicality. Fast-forward to now — and this year's Teddy is once again bringing a real edge to the bugle playing.

Lee Gaw, who played Martha Brewster last time, has decided to do it again. No one else in the cast was in the 1986 show, which might seem to put them at a disadvantage, but they are all outstanding actors. The 2025 crew has built windows and platforms and stairs — and the costume department has dressed everyone to suit the era perfectly. It is going to be an unforgettable experience, and tickets have been selling well.

This play was originally going to be a dark and dreary drama based on some horrible crimes that took place in Connecticut over a hundred years ago. But in 1939 the producers looked at the original script and decided that people wouldn't want to watch such a dismal story. So they told the author to make it funny, and he did — by changing just about everything. It is now perfect for family entertainment around Hallowe'en.

Arsenic and Old Lace does have some scary moments — and the body count gets up around a dozen. In fact, if you count brother Jonathan's contributions, it would be a couple of dozen. No matter, we can guarantee that there is a happy ending, for the survivors.



Abby Brewster (at right, played by Cathie Raina) and Martha Brewster (played by Lee Gaw) chat over a cuppa

Another way of looking at this play is as a sweet romance. Our boy Mortimer eventually falls in love with the beautiful girl next door — the very persistent Elaine. He can't do much about that love stuff for a while, because his busy career as a drama critic makes him grumpy most of the time. Finally he asks Elaine to marry him, and she says yes! Joy abounds and the lovers share some cheery moments together in the cemetery before — later the same day — complications ensue...

There will be evening performances on November 13, 14 and 15 at 7:30PM, and a matinee on Sunday, November 16 at 1PM. All performances are at the Urbandale Arts Centre in Kemptville. Tickets are available online at <NGCT.ca>, and paper tickets are sold at B&H Your Community Grocer in Kemptville.

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The magnificent Mudmen take to the stage in Perth on December 27 and 28

A Double Dose in December

Red Plaid Productions are bringing Canada's Celtic rock warriors back to Studio Theatre Perth for two concerts this year —an evening show on Saturday, December 27, and a matinée on Sunday the 28th. Mudmen are no strangers to the area, having sold out at Studio Theatre for the past two years, as well as appearing at the Hollyrood Country Jamboree with Jason Blaine, guesting with Johnny Reid at several local shows, and headlining numerous theatres, Legion halls, and fairs. Mudmen have guested and opened for The Guess Who, ZZ Top, George Canyon, Gord Banford, Johnny Reid, Loverboy, Glass Tiger, 54-40, Honeymoon Suite, Natalie MacMaster and Sarah McLachlan, to name a few.

Career highlights include meeting and performing for Queen Elizabeth, playing at a dozen Canada's Walk of Fame ceremonies, performing at the Edmonton Oilers '84 Stanley Cup reunion gala as well as seven Grey Cups, an appearance on Bob & Doug McKenzie's *Two Four Anniversary* on CBC, as well as many others.

Their distinctive mix of Celtic, country and rock has led to commercial success for the band. Their music has been featured on Hockey Night in Canada, HBO's *Shameless*, NBC's *The Black Donnellys*, and

even WWE Wrestling. But they have a particular fondness for their live music fans, explains founding member Robby Campbell. "The small towns and farming communities have really kept Mudmen alive," Robby says, "and we Mudmen will never forget that. We have an original song called *Old Plaid Shirt* that goes over well, with fans show up wearing their own plaid shirts. It's great to see a sea of fan support with the audience singing along to well-known Mudmen songs."

In their 27 years together, Mudmen have played over 3000 shows in eight different countries, building a legion of fans from young to old. They have been described as some the last of the stubborn survivors — the band that just keeps going. Johnny Reid has described them as "Canada's best kept secret", Don Cherry called them "good Canadian boys", and Ron MacLean says "Mudmen — we love 'em!"

Their Perth concerts will feature music from their 11 albums, with a few new songs thrown in that will most likely show up on the next one! Tickets are only \$35 from TicketsPlease (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). This is a non-LLBO Mudmen Inc. event. For more about the band, please visit <mudmen.ca>.

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theHumm Interview

The Light Between Layers

I met John Martin at his home in Westport on an afternoon when the sun, gold and luminous, seemed made for stained glass. His brick heritage home, which he shares with his wife Krista, a novelist, is filled with art and sculpture from family and friends. I'm already inspired. Out back, he leads me to his studio, which he renovated himself. Two large

by Kimberly Lulashnyk

workbenches anchor the space, along with a drafting table, a light table, and a tall light easel where, he says, he finds the best inspiration. This is Solar Temple Studio, a reminder of how remarkable talent often thrives in quiet, unexpected places.

This is a place to behold, where beauty courts peril and light itself becomes the artist's most dangerous, dazzling medium.

Kim Lulashnyk: John, you describe yourself as a classical stained glass artist, specifically, a glass painter. For those unfamiliar, what does that mean?

John Martin: When people hear "stained glass," they often think of craft pieces like sun catchers, copper-foiled panels, or colourful window decorations. But what I do is traditional painted stained glass, a discipline that goes back centuries. I paint directly onto glass using finely ground pigments, things like bistre, silver stain, or grisaille, mixed with water, vinegar, or oils such as lavender or clove. The whole studio ends up smelling like Christmas.

The paint is fired in a kiln so it fuses permanently to the surface. You're not just adding colour, you're modulating light, creating line, tone, and texture. Even bad stained glass will hold your imagination because you're looking through the image as much as at it. It's an incredibly powerful medium.



Can you walk us through the process, from design to finished piece?

It starts with a full-size drawing called a cartoon — that's the blueprint for everything. From that, I create a cutline pattern for the glass and a leadline pattern showing how the pieces will be joined.

Then comes the cutting, painting, and firing; sometimes a single piece might go through five or six firings. Flesh tones, drapery, background texture, each layer builds the image. Once everything's fired, it's assembled like a jigsaw puzzle, only instead of cardboard, you're using malleable lead cane to frame each piece. You vary the widths of the lead to add rhythm and weight to the design.

Lead has a kind of gravitas. It's the backbone of the window. There are safety considerations when working with it, of course, but once the panel's finished and sealed, it's completely stable.

How did you find your way into this world?

It was a winding road. I'd always drawn and painted; I even did tattooing in the early '90s for a while. But I hit a point when I was about 30 years old where I thought, what am I really going to focus on?

One day, when I was working as a bike courier, I made a delivery to Old City Hall in Toronto, and there was this enormous stained glass window by



Westport stained glass artist John Martin

McCausland Studio, a masterful piece. I looked up, and it was like getting struck by lightning. I know it sounds so cliché, but I knew instantly: This is it. This is the medium that brings everything together.

It combined drawing, painting, symbolism, narrative, all the things I loved, with light itself as part of the work. That was my epiphany moment.

Once you had that revelation, how did you actually learn the art?

That was the hard part. Back then, glass painting in Canada was a closed shop, people guarded their techniques like trade secrets. It took me a year and a half to find someone willing to teach me.

Eventually, I connected with a studio in Etobicoke called Fantasy in Glass. I took a beginner stained glass class, then studied painting with a few wonderful teachers, Lorena Diaz and Judi Waymark. Judi had actually been one of Canada's first female tattoo artists back in the day. She saw my interest right away and took me under her wing.

From there, it was a long stretch of self-teaching and experimentation and then, in 2019, I began working with Mark Thompson, one of the top stained glass artists and conservators in Canada, on the Parliament restoration project. That was a huge education.

You're also a teacher yourself now. What's your approach to passing on these skills?

I've taught close to eighty students by now, everything from absolute beginners to emerging artists. I run classes in Hamilton and at Wink Studio, which is run by Jennifer Stearns, a real powerhouse in glass education.

When I'm teaching, it's not about self-expression right away — it's about materials. I provide the design so students can focus on technique: how to mix paint, how to fire it, how to control values. Once they understand the language of glass, they can speak it fluently in their own way.

And I keep classes small, three people max at my studio, six at Wink, because I remember how long it took me to find someone to teach me. I want to make sure nobody else has to wait that long. I love teaching and am always looking for new students here in Westport.

What do you hope people take away when they see your work?

I think most people have seen stained glass, but few understand how it works, how light passes through a painted surface and turns it into something living. For me, it's about that alchemy, taking earth and metal and fire, and making light visible. It's both technical and spiritual.

Even when I'm frustrated with a piece, or tearing it apart to fix something, I never stop being amazed that a handful of sand and minerals can hold a story in light.

Contact John at <solartemplestudio@gmail.com>, and read a longer version of this interview at <thehummm.com>.

And Here Is November!

Hasn't it been a glorious fall? Isn't the colour the best you've ever seen? Aren't the maples absolutely beautiful? We say this every year, and yes, we mean it. I must have a hundred pictures of our woods in full splendour. When it's bleak mid-winter, I open my gallery and look at the colour, and know it'll happen again.

At least once a month, Alan and I do a Jones Mystery Tour. It starts out as a route to somewhere, and always ends up on country sideroads that invariably lead us to Perth, from whence we have to come home on a crowded highway. We always say

we've ever done, this one stands out, not only because we were with our good friends, but also because it was history we had never encountered. It's not one we could ever duplicate either, since who now owns a cassette recorder, one built into the car for goodness sakes?

One summer we followed the footsteps of the Sisters of the Wilderness from Peterborough to the scrappy country where those poor settlers thought they could eke out a living, two women with children doing what they could to survive. It made us so thankful for our easy living. The road trip was close to home for us, but for them it was so far away that we realized the hardships they endured. We're very lucky.

So here we are in November, and the road trips are behind us for now. We might make it all the way to Arnprior or Fitzroy Harbour, but that'll likely be the full extent of our travels. However, we'll have the memories of the past trips to tide us over. In fact, we look forward to November, the woodstove crackling and the Vodka chilled. We know there will be many good fall days to set off on one of our mystery tours again, but for now are content to be at home.

In November there's an exciting anticipation. The outside world is put to bed — the garden, the weeds, the bugs — and we're waiting for winter. I've organized the snow shovels, the sand and salt, the winter boots, the winter tires. It's dark before supper and



Above, a painting that Glenda Jones painted "from some unknown spot on one of our mystery tours"

by Glenda Jones

we'll remember this, but we never do. Further, going and coming are two entirely different views, and while we're busy gawking at the scenery, we miss the turnoff we should have taken, and find all sorts of wonderful sights. When we get to a crossroad we think recognize, our favourite saying is, "Oh, we're right here. Now we know where we are." Of course we know: right here is always where you are!

Driving to McDonald's Corners on a fall day takes twice as long as it should because the scenery deserves a good look. As you round the corner and go over a bridge, there's a restaurant that served us a lovely Thanksgiving lunch many years ago. For a long time we couldn't find this place again, and then one sunny afternoon we came across the bridge, and there was the building exactly as we remembered it as if in a delightful dream.

Friends have cottages where invitations are sincerely handed out, but we are pretty sure we'd start driving, get completely lost in our own reveries, and end up fumbling around with no cell-phone contact, no proper GPS, and having to come back home. We'd have had an adventure and a nice trip, but we'd have missed the cottage for sure. Best to stick to known roads!

When we first heard of Ompah it became a must for a road trip. Oh, the back roads of Lanark! Hopetown is well-named. We hoped we'd find our way back there! We drove and drove, and then nearly missed Ompah, but we did find the llama farm, bought a cute little hand-painted watering can, and visited a proper general store. We never go anywhere but there isn't something we love to see.

In the before times (before Covid) we took a road trip with Ron and Terri Caron up the Opeongo Line through Wilno, Barry's Bay, Siberia (yes!), Killaloe, and places beyond. The trip was narrated with a cassette tape describing the history as we went along. For two days we enjoyed the scenery, the history, the music, and all the beautiful art and culture, to say nothing of the fabulous food that area affords. Of all the road trips

the house is cozy. The dogs know evening playtime has become evening snooze time, and we've settled into new routines.

Feet up, slippers on, road trips will wait for next summer. For now, it's cocoon time. Happy November!

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- Custom handcrafted cups from your favourite bookstore**, Mill Street Books...\$35-45
- The Coffee Basket**, Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....\$83.95
- Canadian-made Readers' Tea, blended to match book titles**, The Book Nook...\$8.99
- Beautifully boxed art mugs**, The Gift Boutique.....\$20-55



Help us Celebrate Our 25th Anniversary!



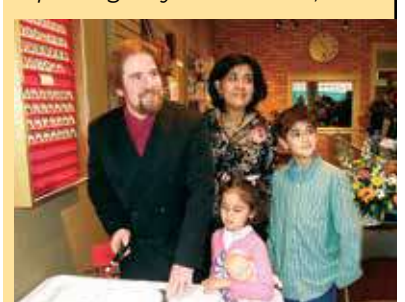
Please join us for our
Coins & Strings
Open House
Saturday November 22
3:00 to 6:00PM

Featuring:
"A Celebration of the Canadian Silver Maple Leaf"
A display representing 37 years of the world's most popular Silver Bullion Coin
Enjoy our live musical guests
New Canadian & World inventory to be unveiled!

Our family looks forward to welcoming you to our gallery as we mark the founding of Alliance Coin & Banknote in 2000.



Opening day in Almonte, 2004



Grand Opening at 88 Mill, 2008



Sean Isaacs
Member of the Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers,
Royal Canadian Numismatic Association



Alliance Coin & Banknote
Member: Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers, Royal Canadian Numismatic Association
88 Mill St., Almonte 613-256-6785 / 613-558-2895

"Where the World's Coins are Bought & Sold"
www.alliancecoin.com

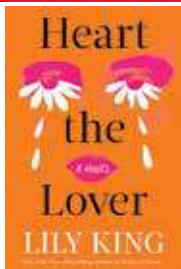


Mill Street Books

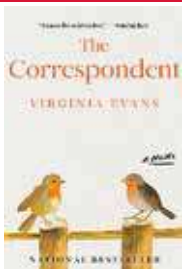


Your guide to Holiday shopping for all the Book Lovers in your life.
Drop by and we will help you find the perfect gift.

The Season's Best New Literary Fiction



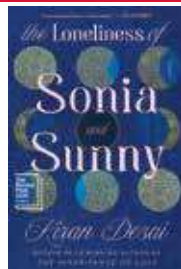
Heart the Lover
Lily King



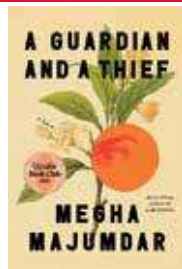
The Correspondent
Virginia Evans



Queen Esther
John Irving



The Loneliness of
Sonia and Sunny
Kiran Desai



A Guardian
and a Thief
Megha Majumdar



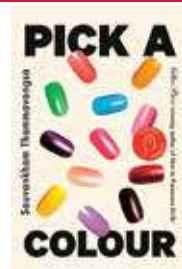
We Love You,
Bunny
Mona Awad



The Marionette
Terry Fallis



The Paris
Express
Emma Donoghue

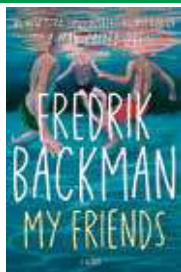


Pick a Colour
Souvankham
Thammavongsa

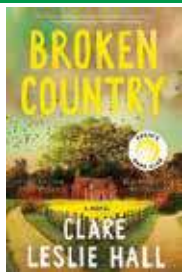


Flesh
David Szalay

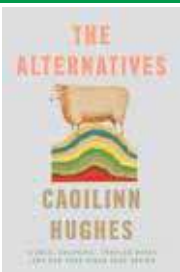
A Few of Our 2025 Shop Favourites



My Friends
Fredrik Backman



Broken Country
Clare Leslie Hall



The Alternatives
Caoilinn Hughes



One Golden
Summer
Carley Fortune



Onyx Storm
Rebecca Yarros

Cozy and Spicy Holiday Romance



The Christmas
Cure
Kristine Winters



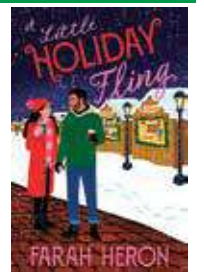
Good Spirits
B.K. Borison



You Make it Feel
Like Christmas
Sophie Sullivan

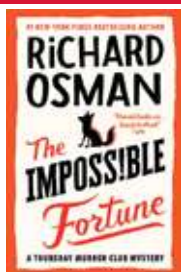


I'll be Home
for Christmas
Jenny Bayliss



A Little Holiday
Fling
Farah Heron

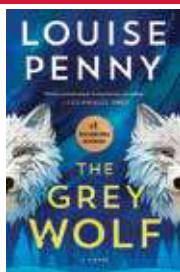
Mysteries and Thrillers



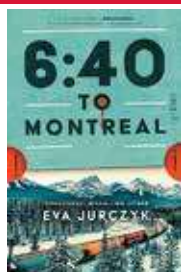
The Impossible
Fortune
Richard Osman



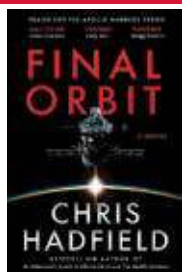
The Killing
Stones
Ann Cleeves



The Grey Wolf
Louise Penny



6:40 To Montreal
Eva Jurczyk



Final Orbit
Chris Hadfield



Murder by
Cheesecake
R.E. Courage



How to Seal
Your Own Fate
Kristen Perrin



Miss Winter in the
Library with a Knife
Martin Edwards

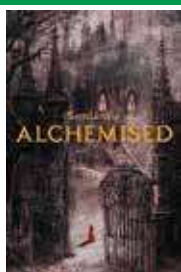


A Season
for Spies
Iona Whishaw



The In Crowd
Charlotte Vassell

Science Fiction/Fantasy



Alchemised
SenLinYu



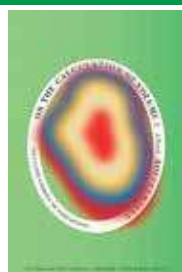
Katabasis
R.F. Kuang



What We
Can Know
Ian McEwan



The Tainted Cup
Robert Jackson
Bennet



On the Calculation
of Volume (Book 1)
Solvej Baile



Brimstone
Callie Hart



The Knight
and the Moth
Rachel Gillig



Accomplice to the
Villain
H.N. Maehrer



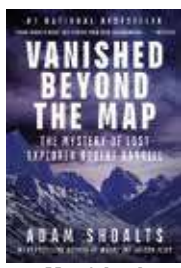
Dire Bound
Sable Sorensen



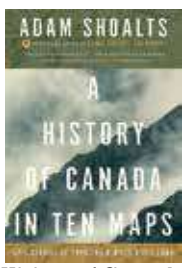
Brigands
& Breadknives
Travis Baldree

Adam Shoalts Collection

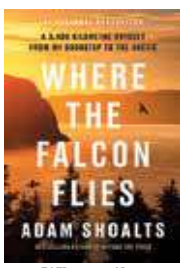
Get tickets to our November 26 event with Adam at www.ticketsplease.ca



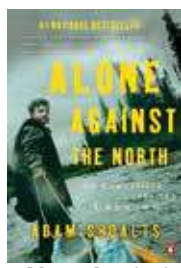
Vanished
Beyond the Map



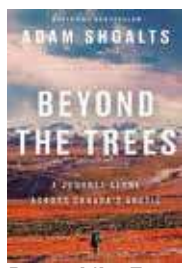
History of Canada
in Ten Maps



Where the
Falcon Flies

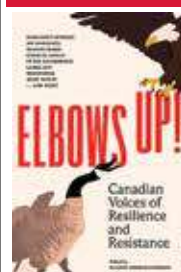


Alone Against
the North



Beyond the Trees

Celebrating Our Canadian Identity



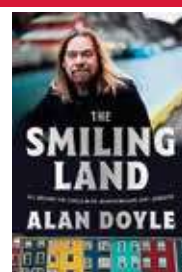
Elbows Up
Elamin
Abdelmahmoud



The Eh Team
Charles Demers



Maple Syrup
Peter
Kuitenbrouwer

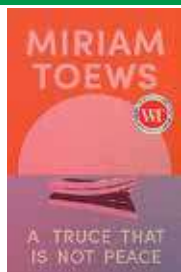


The Smiling Land
Alan Doyle



Sorry, Not Sorry
Mark Critch

Great Canadian Memoirs and Biographies



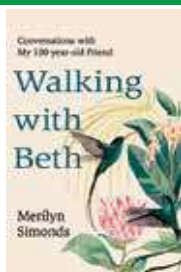
A Truce that
is Not Peace
Miriam Toews



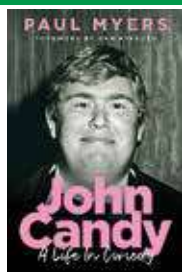
Future Boy
Michael J. Fox



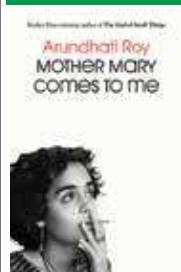
How to Survive
a Bear Attack
Claire Cameron



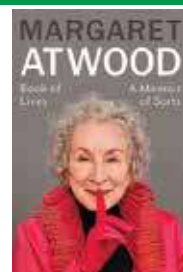
Walking with Beth
Marilyn Simonds



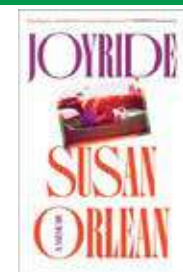
John Candy:
A Life in Comedy
Paul Myers



Mother Mary
Comes to Me
Arundhati Roy



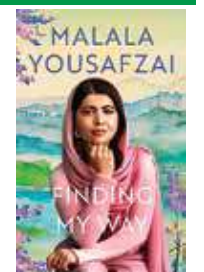
Book of Lives:
A Memoir of Sorts
Margaret Atwood



Joyride: A Memoir
Susan Orlean



Bread of Angels
Patti Smith



Finding My Way
Malala Yousafzai

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