

SEPTEMBER 2025

# the Hummer

Arts,  
Entertainment  
& Ideas

free



p.28 & 29

September's Events



p.11

Merrickville Studio Tour



p.4 & 5

Reconciliation Through Art



p.14

Seniors for Climate



p.3



## Local bookkeeping and payroll services

We offer comprehensive, tailored solutions that save you time, ensure accuracy, and support your business at every stage of growth. Local financial solutions for local businesses!



### Heritage Accounting & Tax Services

Serving Perth, Almonte, Carleton Place, Smiths Falls and Eastern Ontario

[heritageaccounting.haskinsfinancialgroup.com](http://heritageaccounting.haskinsfinancialgroup.com)

#### Almonte Office:

Suite 101, 56 Mill Street  
Box 643  
Almonte, ON  
K0A 1A0  
613-256-3152

#### Perth Office:

54A North St.  
Perth, ON  
K7H 2M7  
613-267-6788



# This Community Engages!!

On page 17 of this issue, a letter from three Almonte residents outlines their concerns about the closing of the Rebound Centre. In it, they write: "TheHumm is filled with events and opportunities that depend on hundreds of volunteers. With all this volunteer spirit, working together with Municipality, County and community structures, let's try to imagine how our community can meet the ongoing need for effective recycling and reuse, and the need for more affordable goods for those going through financial hard times."

Reading that sentence about theHumm as I was laying out this issue heightened my awareness of just how many articles reflect a truly inspiring level of community engagement. Check out the impressive efforts of the volunteers bringing Reconciliation Through Art back to Almonte this month (pages 4 & 5), or the Civitan Club of Perth volunteers who are celebrating that organization's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being of service (p. 31). Volunteers are combatting the Climate Crisis (see *Seniors for Climate* on page 14, as well as Climate Network Lanark's column on page 27), and helping care for neglected animals (check out the ponies and cat on p. 8).

Citizens are also seeking input on local causes such as the Almonte Alameda (p. 26), as well as the fate of the R. Tait McKenzie and Dr. James Naismith collections at the Mill of Kintail (p. 18). Youth are making music to fundraise for good causes (p. 15), and older folks are making musical opportunities for youth (p. 25). And of course, countless volunteers are creating cultural, artistic, and community events for everyone.

So if you are feeling disconnected, uninspired, or dispirited about the state of the world, I heartily encourage you to engage with the good folks, organizations and events taking place throughout the Ottawa Valley this September. It'll do you good!

—Kris Riendeau

Who's Reading theHumm



After a long-awaited two years, a group of good friends set out on a very unique adventure in October of 2022. They wrote: "Organized by a trusted local travel agent, Emma Moxley of **Travel by Emma**, we set off to cruise the Aegean Sea in Turkey. A typical day involved swimming in crystal clear turquoise waters, kayaking and hiking to see ruins on mountain outcrops. While eating fresh local authentic Turkish dishes three times a day, we felt very fortunate. Learning about the Turkish culture and lifestyle was part of our daily routine with Captain Cengiz. Canadian-born Eileen Scatterty, co-owner of Med Sea Yachts, brought a sense of comfort and charm to the experience." Sounds amazing!!



237 Borden Road  
Mississippi Mills ON K7C 3P1  
Phone: (613) 256-5081

## Editor:

Kris Riendeau  
editor@thehummm.com

## Layout and Design:

Rob Riendeau  
rob@thehummm.com

## Advertising/Promotions:

Kris Riendeau: (613) 256-5081  
kris@thehummm.com

## Calendar Submissions:

D'Arcy Riendeau  
calendar@thehummm.com

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

## Content Deadline:

20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication

## Advertising Deadline:

22<sup>nd</sup> of the month prior to publication

Opinions and information published in theHumm in letters, press releases, or individual columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper.

All writing, artwork, and photographs published in theHumm are copyright to the author, or to theHumm in the case where no author is specified. Reprinting any content without permission violates copyright and is prohibited. If you enjoy something, let us know and we'll pass it on to the author or artist though!

## 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

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT  
TICKETSPLEASE.CA



Sept  
&  
Oct

**Workshops & Creative Classes**  
presented by  
**CP Gallery, Carleton Place**

Sept  
&  
Oct

**High Times at the Heart Institute**  
presented by Stone Fence Theatre  
**Rankin Culture Centre, Pembroke**

Sept  
6&7

**Fibrefest**  
A celebration of the fibre arts  
**Mississippi Valley Textile Museum**

Sept  
13

**Alexandra Whittingham**  
presented by Culture 22  
**Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte**

Sept  
18-28

**You Can't Take It With You**  
presented by  
**Studio Theatre Perth**

Sept  
21

**Mark Ferguson Jazz Quartet**  
presented by Music at MERA  
**McDonalds Corners**

Sept  
27

**Something for Everyone**  
multi-genre benefit concert  
**Almonte Old Town Hall**

Sept  
28

**Reiki, Gaia and the Cosmos**  
healing, movement and cosmic connection  
**Perth Legion**

Oct  
4

**My Own Private Shakespeare**  
presented by Music at MERA  
**McDonalds Corners**

Oct  
6

**Why Does My Voice Wobble?**  
with Dr. Mark Wilkinson  
**Learning Again in Almonte**

Sept  
2-12

**Fibrefest Workshops**  
Small group instruction  
**Almonte**

Sept  
5

**Flavours of India Dinner**  
with live music  
**Stonefields Estate**

Sept  
8&9

**Crystal Journey**  
Sonic concert with David Hickey  
**Union Hall, Almonte**

Sept  
14

**Penguin Lessons**  
presented by  
**Mississippi Mills Film Society**

Sept  
20

**Concert for Willow Creek Stables**  
featuring Jebb's Creek Collective  
**ABC Hall, Maberly**

Sept  
24

**Can We Talk?**  
with Phil Jenkins  
**Learning Again in Almonte**

Sept  
27

**Fleetwood Mac Mania**  
tribute to Fleetwood Mac  
**Farrell Hall, Perth**

Sept  
28-30

**Reconciliation Through Art**  
Indigenous art, teachings & performance  
**Almonte**

Oct  
4&18

**A Death in the Family**  
A Victorian mourning experience  
**Perth Museum**

Oct  
10

**The Piano Men**  
tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel  
**St. Paul's, Perth**

Plus many more events online!

SELLING TICKETS?  
Concerts • Plays • Festivals

WE CAN HELP!  
Setup • Support • Promotion



# Zoë Lianga — Doing What Comes Naturally!

Ten years ago, theHumm's cover featured fibre artist, felter and designer Zoë Lianga. I wrote "A well-known adage claims that when you follow your heart you find your peace, you ignite your passion, and you discover your purpose..." and based on her love of felting and fashion design, I predicted "And it is the reason I predict this young woman is going to make a mark for herself in the fashion world."

by Sally Hansen

### Nature's Ally

Yes and no. Today Zoë Lianga is the founder and director and catalyst responsible for The Cordwood Folk School based in Brooke Valley, about fifteen minutes down Highway 7 west of Perth. She is following her heart. She is doing what comes naturally, in every sense of the phrase. She is Nature's Ally from the way she and her family live and work and run their homestead. She is still a felter and instructor, but a fashion career is on indefinite and questionable hold while she raises two daughters with her husband, Ben Hendry. In addition to being a restoration stone mason in and around Ottawa, Ben is an instructor at The Cordwood Folk School.



Above, pottery by Hyla Nemy will be at Cordwood during the Perth Autumn Studio Tour. On the cover, top row (l-r): Graham van Houton bladesmithing, Danielle Prophet & Willa Murray fanny packs; bottom row (l-r): Zoë Lianga homestead products, Sarah Wright basketry

### Doing What Comes Naturally

A trip to New Zealand in 2013 proved to be a pivotal experience for the couple. They spent time working on farms through the WWOOF organization (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms). Zoë realized that although the farming and hands-on learning were fruitful, the deeper lesson of this trip for her was that everywhere you go there is a unique community and we all have a part to play in that. This constantly brought her mind back to her roots in Brooke Valley, and the uniqueness of the community in which she grew up. It seems almost preordained that Zoë's heart changed its direction and guided her back to her roots.

A quick check online encapsulates Brooke Valley's history in a paragraph: "The area represents a fascinating chapter in Canadian social history, showcasing how a group of American draft dodgers and like-minded individuals created an alternative community in rural Ontario during a period of significant social change." Today is also a period of significant social change. Many of us dread facing the daily onslaught of announcements regarding rapidly changing political, environmental and technical events. Experiencing the alternative lifestyle Zoë and Ben have created at Cordwood, even for just an afternoon, made a profound impression on me.

Her love for living with her family as homesteaders in the heart of Brooke Valley radiates from every pore of her sun-bronzed and barefooted body on this perfect August afternoon. The sweet potato tattoo on her right shoulder emphasizes her determination to live as sustainably and self-sufficiently and thriftily as possible. Returning to her roots was a life-changing experience. "It's the community," she tells me. "I didn't know what I was missing until I came back!" Zoë's mother was one of the first teachers at the one-room/one teacher Brooke Valley School. This fall, Zoë and Ben's two daughters will enroll in junior kindergarten and first grade in the same parent-run, not-for-profit school. While I was speaking with Zoë, Ben was taking part in a work bee to prepare the school for the coming year, readying it to welcome its first kindergarteners.

### The Cordwood Folk School

Lianga's mission for the Cordwood Folk School is, in her own words, is "to reflect the values and initiatives that brought those back-to-the-landers to this beautiful, secluded and undeveloped land in the mid-70s: community building, experiential learning, self-reliance, sharing time and space with others, working on and with the land, and finding love, passion and purpose." Her initial goal was to give participants an opportunity to learn traditional crafts, practical skills and folk arts from passionate and experienced teachers. Willa Murray, a leatherworker and one of Cordwood's popular repeat instructors, epitomizes the enthusiasm of the craftspeople sharing their skills when she says she teaches her traditional craft because: "I love the opportunity to share the craft and the excitement and inspiration of working with your hands and learning something new." Zoë quickly realized that on top of this, participants are given a chance to build relationships and community. Spurred by a chosen craft, they are able to unplug in a nurturing environment, feel at home and taken care of while they focus on the class they are taking, and be nourished by the bounty of the homestead. She has discovered that "the instructors we bring in and the courses we curate are high quality, but it's also the personal touches, homestead setting and human connections that make these experiences more meaningful and keep people coming back." To find out more about the school's involvement in the community, a look at their website at <thecordwoodstudio.com> provides information about their annual fundraisers to support their



bursary fund, as well as information about their Youth Camps during March Break and the summer.

### Perth Autumn Studio Tour

Ten years ago Zoë presented her felt art works and embellished fashions during the annual Perth Autumn Studio Tour. This year she is a member of the Tour's organizing team, and Cordwood is participating on the popular tour for its sixth time, this year as Studio 5. She will be hosting six other area artisans, three of whom are repeat instructors at Cordwood this year: Willa Murray will be displaying her leatherwork, Danielle Prophet her natural tanning products, and Graham van Houton his ironworks. Studio 5 will also feature Annabella Duthie's jewellery, Hyla Nemy's functional stoneware ceramics, and Sarah Wright's ink prints. Several of the artisans will be demonstrating their skills and techniques during the tour. In addition, Zoë will have homestead products for sale. Based on the sampling of potato salad and beet salad I was treated to during our interview, I highly recommend her incredibly fresh and flavourful organic products. It seems only fair to warn you, however — exposure to the wholesome, natural, supportive, self-sufficient community and environment that Zoë Lianga is such an integral part of could be life-changing. At the very least, it will be eye-opening and a refreshing reminder that life exists beyond our screens...

Saturdays From Farm to Table

May 10Oct 11

Perth Farmers Market

8 am1 pm

Crystal Palace on the Tay Basin

perthfarmersmarket.ca

Marina Raike, "Forgiven", 2025

MARINA RAIKE

Signals

September 20 - October 24, 2025

Artist Reception: Saturday Sept. 20, 2pm-4pm

SIVARULRASA

GALLERY

34 Mill St, Almonte ON

info@sivarulrasa.com

sivarulrasa.com

613.256.8033

Marina Raike, "Witness (Minerals)", 2025



Who

Zoë Lianga

What

Founder and Director of the community-based Cordwood Folk School

Where

The Cordwood Folk School, 590 Brooke Valley Rd. (just 20 minutes west of Perth off Hwy 7); <thecordwoodstudio.com>; Instagram & Facebook: @thecordwoodstudio; 464-2105

When

Thanksgiving Weekend (Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>), 10AM – 5PM, Perth Autumn Studio Tour, Studio 5, 590 Brooke Valley Rd., The Cordwood Studio

Why

“To provide a space where meaningful community can flourish — connecting people, plants, and place through traditional trades, practical skills and folk art.”

THE HUMM

ARTIST TRADING CARD

Need 'em... need 'em... got 'em...  
Clip and save the Artist Trading Card  
All the cool kids do it!

A Sale of Native Plants  
& Pottery in a Woodland Setting

Natives  
& Clay

Plants by Ottawa Valley Native Plants  
Pottery by Pine Ridge Studio

September 6 - 7  
10am - 4pm

6114 Carp Road, Kinburn  
beauxarbres.ca pine-ridge.ca

Joanne Beaton

Welcome to 372 Stonehome Crescent – a high-ranch bungalow in Greystone Estates custom-built in 2003.

This family home features three bedrooms and two bathrooms on the main level, plus a fourth bedroom and full bath on the walk-out lower level—ideal for guests or extended family.

The main floor offers maple flooring, vaulted ceilings, and a bright living room with a large window. The open kitchen/dining area includes ample cabinetry, a breakfast bar, and bay window. Patio doors lead to a deck, perfect for outdoor gatherings. A laundry/mudroom connects directly to the garage.

The primary suite boasts deck access and a private ensuite with walk-in tiled shower. Additional bedrooms share a stylish family bath.

The lower level provides a spacious rec room, fourth bedroom, full bath, and storage. The extra-deep double garage allows parking plus space for hobbies.

Just minutes from Almonte with quick highway access, this home combines peaceful neighbourhood living with convenient access to shops and amenities.

Call Joanne - 613-407-4309 to book your showing now.

Need a Realtor in 2025?  
Let's Connect!

JOANNE BEATON

Sales Representative

613 407 4309

joanne@joannebeaton.ca

# Our Voices in Song

On Monday, September 29, the amazing team behind Reconciliation Through Art presents a very special concert at the Almonte Old Town Hall. Hand-clapping, body-grooving, lyrics to fill your heart and music to lift your spirit... what a way to celebrate Reconciliation Through Art!

Our Voices in Song opens with **Aurora Jade** and her band, hailing from Ottawa. With a remarkable old-soul voice that channels the power of Mother Earth, Aurora brings depth and grace to every note she sings. A classically trained pianist, she makes the keyboard more than just accompaniment — it becomes a second voice. Whether interpreting a well-loved song or sharing an original piece, Aurora draws us in with lyrics that reflect contemporary life, open-hearted living, and the search for deep connection. Her music lifts our spirits and gives voice to hope for the future.

Sharing the stage is her father and bandmate, **David Finkle** of Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory — a one-man orchestra and a master of sound. A multi-instrumentalist with a gift for layering strings, drums, winds, and percussion, David uses looping pedals to craft rich, textured soundscapes. From elk-skin drum to triple flute, rainstick to natural percussive tools, his music rises and falls like a tide — breath and rhythm weaving through Aurora's songs. He is the steady pulse beneath her melodies, grounding them with ancestral power and creative brilliance.

Hailing from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, **Jennifer E. Brant** is sure to capture your heart with her warm country style and the smooth harmonies of accompanist **Kieran Edwards**. Jennifer's songs speak to the resilience of Indigenous peoples — through colonization, through ongoing traumas — and still carry a powerful message of healing. At the core of her music is a call for respect — for the land, and for one another. She leaves listeners not only moved, but uplifted, offering a sense of hope for our relationships and the path ahead.

Raising the volume a little — or a lot — will be **Kevin Schofield**. Kevin's whole being shouts, "I am

Part of this year's Reconciliation Through Art event, *Our Voices in Song* features Amanda Rheume (above), Kevin Schofield (below), and other fantastic performers

here — let's play!" And playing music is something Kevin excels at. Affectionally known as The Tennessee Cree, Kevin, on guitar, plays and sings old school powwow songs with classical violin and some Tennessee Cree twang. Kevin is a survivor of the Residential School debacle. Raised by his grandparents on a trapline in northern Ontario, he suffered a debilitating stroke that nearly stole the use of his strumming arm. But his unstoppable spirit refuses to be diminished, and his dynamic energy can't help but raise yours.

Headlining the night is none other than **Amanda Rheume** and her incredible band. Reconciliation Through Art is honoured to present this multi-award winning musical ambassador of the Métis people. She has been a powerful voice for reconciliation among Métis communities across Canada. Travelling its breadth, Amanda has listened to the stories of Métis people and reflected them through song — capturing both their past and present struggles, as well as their enduring strength. Rheume has released six full-length albums, winning the Capital Music Awards' 2023 Album of the Year. On top of creating music and touring world-wide, Amanda is also building the foundation of the Indigenous musical scene; the co-founder of Ishkode Records, as well as of the International Indigenous Music Summit, she was a founding board member of the Indigenous Music Office. When she isn't giving with her guitar and voice to audiences around the world, she is giving with her heart and her head to her Indigenous relations right here at home. Organizers couldn't be more thrilled to have her performing at Reconciliation Through Art!

*Our Voices in Song* takes place on Monday, September 29 from 7–10:30PM at the Almonte Old Town Hall. Doors open at 6:30PM, and tickets are only \$25 (including all fees) from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).

# Curtains Up for Kids

The Perth Youth Players (PYP) invite young people aged 10 to 17 to join their fall theatre workshops at the Studio Theatre. Running Saturday mornings from 9:30AM to 12:30PM, the series offers a creative and supportive space for youth to learn new skills, build confidence, and make friends.

Founded three years ago by Studio Theatre's Community Outreach Coordinator Marilyn Nicholas-Dahan, the program has become a cornerstone of community outreach. "The growth in self-confidence and joy is wonderful to see," says Nicholas-Dahan.

This fall's sessions workshops include Zombie Apocalypse (special effects makeup), Radio Play (voice and sound effects), Song and Dance, On-Camera Commercial, Acting Tips and Secrets, and Mystery Play Gone Wrong, to name a few

The series concludes with a December Showcase Evening featuring performances and awards. Registration takes place at the Studio Theatre Lobby, 63 Gore St. East, on September 11 (6–7:30PM) or September 20 (10–11AM). Fees are \$75 for new participants, \$65 for returning youth.

In the spring session, Perth Youth Players learned to make muppet-style puppets

4 the Humm

www.thehummm.com

September 2025



# Reconciliation Through Art 2025

Building on the joyous success of the inaugural 2024 event, Reconciliation Through Art returns to Almonte for a second year with a three-day event that features workshops, a film screening and discussion, and a fabulous multi-performer concert. All events take place from Sunday, September 28 through Tuesday, September 30, and tickets and registration can be found at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).

Lead organizer and Métis Elder, rights leader and activist Tony Belcourt says: “Nothing excites me more than to hear the vibrant sound of the fiddle playing traditional Métis tunes, hearing the amazing voices of our singer-songwriters telling our stories and seeing those stories told in such a compelling way through our storytellers, visual artists and dance performers. And nothing pleases me more than to share that creativity with the public at large as we embrace the spirit and intent of reconciliation.”

## Film

Come out for an unforgettable afternoon as Reconciliation Through Art 2025 opens with a special screening of *Inendi*, the acclaimed documentary by Sarain Fox, Canadian Screen Award nominee and one of Canada’s leading Indigenous voices.

*Inendi* (She is Absent) is an intimate portrait of Sarain’s great-aunt, Mary Bell — a Residential School survivor, Truth and Reconciliation Commission contributor, and the eldest matriarch in her family. In this powerful and deeply personal film, Mary shares her stories, wisdom, and unshakable spirit in the face of generational trauma and loss.

This event offers a rare opportunity to hear from Sarain Fox and her family in person, reflecting on the making of the film and the vital role of storytelling in Truth and Reconciliation. It takes place on Sunday, September 28 from 2-5PM at the Almonte United Church Sanctuary, and donations at the door are encouraged and gratefully accepted.

Don’t miss this moving start to Reconciliation Through Art — a chance to witness history, honour survivors, and move forward together.

## Music

A concert featuring multiple performers entitled *Our Voices in Song* takes place on Monday, September 29 from 7-10:30PM at the Almonte Old Town Hall. Doors open at 6:30PM, and tickets are only \$25 (including all fees) from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). Read more about it on the facing page.

## Workshops

There are six different workshops being offered on Tuesday, September 30 upstairs at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. Some information is listed below, and registration and more details can be found at <TicketsPlease.ca>.

From 11-11:40AM, learn about **Ontario Métis Facts: Culture, History, and Meeting the Challenges of Today** with Mitch Case and Zac Thiffault. Discover the depth, diversity, and ongoing strength of the Métis People within Ontario in this compelling workshop led by two of Ontario’s most respected Métis voices. Together, they weave a powerful story of living, evolving Métis people and their communities — deeply rooted in history, actively asserting rights today, and fighting for a future defined by justice and self-determination. Whether you’re new to Métis history or looking to deepen your understanding, this workshop offers an unforgettable opportunity to hear directly from those living and leading the Métis experience every day.

Then from 12-12:40PM, experience the **Rhythms of the Drum** with Inuk Elder David Serkoak. In this interactive workshop, David invites you to learn the sacred traditions of Inuit drum dancing and drum making. Through movement, rhythm, and storytelling, you’ll explore the powerful role of the drum in Inuit culture — as both a form of celebration and a symbol of survival. Whether you’re dancing for the first time or reconnecting with Indigenous ways of knowing, this is a rare opportunity to learn from a master and carrier of tradition whose spirit and skill have inspired audiences around the world.



Tony Belcourt — Métis elder and knowledge keeper, Officer of the Order of Canada, and one of the organizers of Reconciliation Through Art — will give a workshop on Dispelling Myths of Métis Origins



Building on the wonderful reception of last year’s event, Reconciliation Through Art returns to Almonte from September 28-30. Events include a screening of the documentary *Inendi* by Canadian Screen Award nominee Sarain Fox (above), a series of workshops, a concert and an art exhibition.

From 1-1:40PM, Dan Kohoko will speak about **The Life and Times of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan**. Dan Kohoko is a respected Algonquin hunter, fisher, knowledge keeper and former Councilor of the Pikwakanagan First Nation, who will shed light on the complexities of the Algonquin land claim — not as an abstract legal negotiation, but as a living issue that affects families, ecosystems, and cultural identity. He offers insight into what has been lost, what is at stake, and what possibilities lie ahead, making this long-standing process accessible and real to those who may feel distant from it. His reflections help non-Indigenous audiences understand the emotional and historical weight of the claim, while offering a powerful call to engage with it meaningfully.

Learn about **The Power of Breath: Inuit Throat Singing** from 2-2:40PM. Join Inuk performer and storyteller Crystal Martin for an unforgettable exploration of this ancient art form rooted in rhythm, resilience, and deep connection to the land. This interactive workshop invites participants to listen, learn, and witness the embodied power of Inuit throat singing through live performance and guided practice. Crystal’s approach honours the traditional roots of this unique vocal style while encouraging reflection on cultural revitalization, Indigenous storytelling, and the breath as a source of strength and identity. Whether you’re new to throat singing or simply curious, this session offers a profound encounter with an Indigenous art form that continues to shape and sustain Inuit life today.

Elder Tony Belcourt will speak from 3-3:40PM on the topic of **Dispelling Myths of Métis Origins**. Join Tony — lifelong advocate, political leader, and knowledge keeper — for a powerful exploration of Métis identity beyond the familiar Red River narrative. A driving force behind the constitutional recognition of the Métis in 1982 and a representative in UN negotiations on Indigenous rights, Tony is also an Officer of the Order of Canada and a recipient of the National Aboriginal Achievement Award. In this thought-provoking session, Tony weaves together personal and ancestral history to challenge the widely held belief that all Métis communities stem from Red River migrations. Focusing on Lac Ste. Anne and drawing connections to other long-standing Métis communities from Ontario to the Northwest Territories, he reveals a broader, deeper story of Métis ethnogenesis — one rooted in place, kinship, and Indigenous continuity.

And then from 4-4:40PM, Amanda Fox will present **Healing in Motion: Jingle Dress Dancing**. In this powerful workshop, Amanda will introduce you to the jingle dress dance — a sacred and healing tradition in many Anishinaabe communities. She’ll share the history and teachings behind the dance, explain the significance of the jingle dress and its songs, and guide you through its graceful and purposeful movements. Whether you’re dancing along or simply learning through observation, Amanda creates a welcoming and respectful space for everyone. You’ll leave this workshop not only moved by the power of the jingle dress, but also inspired by Amanda’s deep commitment to cultural sharing and community healing. All are welcome—no experience required.

## Water Walk and Art Exhibition

Also taking place on September 30 are a Water Walk and an Indigenous Art Exhibition. The Water Walk begins at 8AM at the Almonte Old Town Hall and ends at Metcalfe Geoheritage Park with an Offering to the Water.

Throughout the day, local and Indigenous artists from across Ontario will be featured in the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum’s Gallery. They will be selling their art, explaining and demonstrating their craft, and telling stories and significance behind their pieces. Leticia Rangel, artist/performer liaison with Reconciliation Through Art, says: “It has been inspiring to see the spirit of collaboration and brotherhood among our Indigenous artists, performers and vendors. Along with the Almonte community, the Reconciliation Through Art exhibit created a unique and united atmosphere of true friendship. I believe it was a noteworthy artistic step toward reconciliation.”

For details about all these events, bios of the performers and artists, and information about how you can support this tremendous undertaking, please visit <reconciliationthroughart.ca>.

Sweater Weather is here!

ZAKET & PLOVER





INDVEVA

Denim for men & women



DU/ER



KUT



Blundstone

TASMANIA AUSTRALIA 1970

Summer fashions up to 70% off!

TOAD&CO

INDVEVA

VAMOS OUTDOORS

14 Mill Street, Almonte 613.461.2000 open 7 days a week



September  
in Mississippi Mills

SEPT. 5-7

ALMONTE  
FALL FAIR  
A COMPLETE COUNTRY FAIR EXPERIENCE

SEPT. 6-7

Fibrefest

SEPT. 10

MISSISSIPPI MILLS

Community  
OPEN HOUSE

Discover programs, hobbies, sports, clubs & more!

6-8PM

SEPT. 25

Fall

DESTINATION ALMONTE

NIGHT MARKET

5-8PM

SEPT. 28

Mississippi Mills  
DOORS  
OPEN  
ONTARIO  
ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

Sites include:  
Almonte Old Town Hall • MM Fire Department  
MM Waste Water Treatment Plant • The Old Mill Manor  
St. Peter Celestine Church

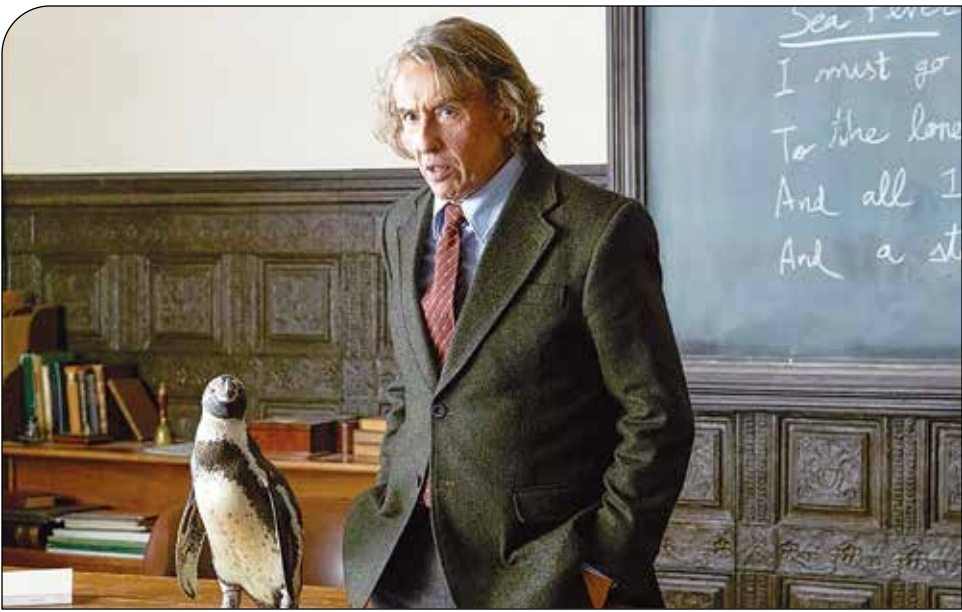
SEPT. 28-30

RECONCILIATION THROUGH ART

SEPT. 30

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMUNITY VIGIL

For information about these events visit:  
mississippimills.ca/events



The fall season kicks off with a screening of *The Penguin Lessons* on September 14

# Back to the Big Screen

## Miss Mills Film Society's Fall Season

By Glenda Jones

We might be in the last throes of summer, but it's not too early to pencil in September, October, and November dates for the fall season of films. The Mississippi Mills Film Society has obtained a stellar list of movies to tempt you away from the TV for a Sunday afternoon of entertainment.

The season begins on September 14 with the much talked-about film *The Penguin Lessons*, which is based on the true story of an English teacher who finds himself the custodian of a penguin. Who could resist the appeal of a penguin when caught in the political chaos of the 1970's in Argentina?

October 19's offering is entirely different. A light-hearted rom-com, *Jane Austen Wrecked my Life* was released in May 2025, and reviews indicate that it sets itself apart with a quiet, subdued approach to romantic comedy. "Well-directed and well-acted", say the critics, which make it the perfect way to spend an afternoon in October. On to November 16 for the dramatic musical film

*Being Cyrano*. The story will be familiar, but the presentation as a musical will be unique.

Starting from a kernel of imagination over a casual coffee, The Film Society is now in its fourth year, attesting to its success as audience numbers continue to grow. The notion to partner with the library was always in the equation, and it's been especially helpful, since funds raised go to the library for special programming. According to Chief Librarian Christine Row, over the course of the past year the library has been able to offer a variety of programming for all ages thanks to the generosity of the Film Society.

The Film Society comprises Elizabeth and Dale Dunning, Marny McCook, Wanda MacDonald and Heather Loube, who work together to ensure that audiences can enjoy the latest and the best films the Toronto international Film Festival has to offer.

All films are screened at the Almonte Legion, at 2PM on the appointed Sunday afternoons, with tickets available for \$15 from <TicketsPlease.ca> or 485-6434.

# Join the Fun this Fall at MERA!

Submitted by MERA volunteers

This fall, MERA (McDonalds Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts) has plenty of fun activities for all ages. Join us at 974 Dalhousie Concession 9A in McDonalds Corners to stay connected to your community.

The Music at MERA Fall Concert Series is has some new offerings for young music lovers! Thanks to the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council, we are able to offer a \$20 discount to those 30 years and under, and if they wish, an additional \$20 discount for their "guest" of any age. We have one more great deal for young families — free childcare is now available at concerts! Bring your child to a concert, and the same wonderful folks who have been running children's activities at the MERA Café and the Children's Summer Art Camp will keep your little one(s) busy while you enjoy the performance. Music at MERA tickets are available through Tickets Please (Tickets-Please.ca, 485-6434). See page 20 for details.

You are also invited to our Fall Open House at the Schoolhouse on Sunday, September 14 from 11AM to 3PM. Come and learn about all the activities MERA has to offer and how to join in! The Open House will be a great opportunity to discover what

programs happen regularly, and to meet members of the community. With displays, demonstrations, great conversations and presentations, you can find out more about MERA's diverse arts programs, exhibits, concert series, camps, events, history, workshops and so much more. Enjoy a wonderful afternoon with refreshments and fun.

This month, the Board of Directors is stepping out from behind their desks to showcase their art. The show offers wide array of media, including pottery, acrylics, jewellery, stained glass, woodwork and photography. Meet the artists and see the show at the Open House on September 14. This show is on display until the end of September.

MERA's regular programming includes art circle, fibre arts, heritage weaving, pottery and quilting. We always have a lot going on! Join our newsletter to stay in touch and learn about our regular programs as well as upcoming events and workshops.

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





Downtown Smiths Falls fills up with live music on Saturday, September 13

# Downtown Music Festival in Smiths Falls

## Featuring Road Apples — Canada’s Ultimate Tragically Hip Tribute

The countdown is on. The 2025 Downtown Music Festival is set to bring the heart of Smiths Falls alive on Saturday, September 13, with a dynamic day of live music and community celebration.

Headlining the inaugural year of the festival on the Main Street West stage is none other than Road Apples — Canada’s premier tribute to The Tragically Hip. Known for their authentic sound and high-energy performances, Road Apples promise a fitting and unforgettable finale to a full day of music downtown.

“We’re thrilled to host an incredible lineup of local and regional talent throughout downtown Smiths Falls, and we look forward to welcoming Hip fans for the finale with Road Apples,” says DSFBA Coordinator Megan McIlvenna.

The evening concert on Main Street West is a 19+ ticketed event. Gates open at 5PM, and The One-Eyed Dawgs take to the stage at 6PM, followed by Road Apples at 8PM. Tickets are available online at <downtownsf.ca>, and limited pre-sale tickets can also be purchased in person at Beautiful Full Figure

Boutique (7 Russell Street West), The Lockmaster’s Taphouse & Patio (32 Beckwith Street South), and Impression Printing (51 Abbott Street North).

### Free All-Ages Live Music Downtown

In addition to the ticketed evening event, the entire downtown core will feature free, all-ages performances throughout the afternoon. These include Green House Revival at 1PM at Town Square, Claude Munson at 2:30PM at Russell Street East Stage, and River City Junction at 4PM at Davidson Courtyard.

Whether you’re a long-time fan of The Tragically Hip or simply looking to enjoy an exciting day of live music, food, and community in the heart of town, the Downtown Music Festival is not to be missed.

The festival is made possible thanks to the support of generous sponsors: Canopy Growth Corporation, Puroclean Smiths Falls, Royal Lepage Advantage Real Estate, Repair Kings Automotive, Denoco Energy Systems Ltd., Gemmell’s Garden Centre, Holly Kinch, Leisure Days, Coca-Cola, The Lockmaster’s Taphouse, and Impression Printing.

# Mudds Seeking Teens for *Hadestown*

The Mississippi Mudds of Carleton Place will be presenting *Hadestown — Teen Edition* in February of 2026, and are holding auditions on Sunday, September 14. This production of the haunting, jazz-inflected folk opera will be led by Bobby Martin, Director, and Heather Kozuska, Musical Director.

Written by Anaïs Mitchell, *Hadestown* intertwines two Greek mythology tales — that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and Queen Persephone — as it invites you

on an unforgettable journey to the underworld and back.

The Mudds are calling all talented teens aged 13 to 19 (as of February 2026 ) to audition to be part of this exciting production! Find character descriptions, registration forms and additional information at <mississippimudds.ca>. You will find a detailed outline of the audition and rehearsal schedule, as well as information regarding the level of commitment required to make this production a success.

142 Bridge Street  
Carleton Place, ON  
613-253-5333

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
10am to 5pm  
www.abunchofwhimsy.com

Crafts, Antiques, Collectibles, Snacks, and more

It's almost time for Christmas shopping - Come be a vendor today!

30<sup>th</sup>  
Almonte  
**Fibrefest**

September 6 - 7, 2025

A festival of fibre arts! Vendors, a sheep to shawl competition, auction, raffles, workshops, and more.  
\$5 admission / day

Learn more at [mvtm.ca/whats-on/fibrefest/](http://mvtm.ca/whats-on/fibrefest/)

general  
FINE CRAFT

outstanding craftsmanship  
by Canadian artists

MARY PHILPOTT

ROGER MATTIUZ

SAYWARD JOHNSON

CARMELLA KARIJO ROTHER

Shop hours: Tues.- Sat., 11-5 / Sun. 11-4

63 Mill St., Almonte ON tel: 613-461-3463  
[www.generalfinecraft.com](http://www.generalfinecraft.com)



Step into history at **The Wilton Mill**, Lennox & Addington’s antique treasure trove! Housed in a charming 1784 mill, this isn’t your average antique shop. It’s an emporium packed with character and charm. Every corner is brimming with surprises. From vintage tin lunch boxes and quirky radios, to mid-century modern décor, nautical finds, toys, and movie props, there’s something here to delight every visitor. Whether you’re hunting for a unique piece to decorate your cottage, a collectible to add to your shelves, or simply a fun outing, The Wilton Mill promises an experience as memorable as the treasures inside.

**The Wilton Mill**  
*Your destination for Antiques and much more!*

308 Simmons Road, Wilton  
**613.386.7575**  
Wed-Sun 10AM to 3:30PM



**IDEAS**  
**BOOKS**

**Spark**  
BOOKS & CURIOS  
FOR THE CURIOUS MIND

(613) 466-0555  
spark.perth@gmail.com  
sparkperth.ca

# Willow Creek Stables Benefit Concert

On Saturday, September 20, a very special benefit concert will support a very special local sanctuary while the owner undergoes cancer treatment. Located just outside of Perth, Willow Creek Stables <willowcreekstables.ca> is a not-for-profit rescue sanctuary for 23 critically endangered Newfoundland ponies who have been abandoned, neglected and/or abused.

All of the stables, camps, and other public onsite activities that help to cover the costs of caring for these endangered ponies will be halted as of August 9, while Korrine Jordon, the stable's owner, goes through treatment.

Doors open at 6:30 and the fun starts at 7PM at the ABC Hall in Maberly <abchall.ca>. Fabulous live music will be provided by Jebb's Creek Collective, playing your favourite hits from the past. All monies paid and donations collected will go directly to helping pay for the ongoing costs of running this wonderful, well known and well-loved local animal rescue. Tickets are \$20 in advance at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) or \$25 at the door if not sold out.

Please come and enjoy a great night of music while helping support Willow Creek Stables through this difficult time. If you can't make it to the concert but would like to support them, you'll find a direct link to a Go Fund Me page for the stables on the Tickets Please site.

## About Willow Creek Stables

Willow Creek provides abandoned, neglected and abused Newfoundland ponies with a safe home so that they can heal and thrive physically and emotionally. There they are given everything they need — time, care, nutritional support, and a lot of love.



Come out to a fundraising concert featuring Jebb's Creek Collective, and help support a local not-for-profit rescue sanctuary for critically endangered Newfoundland ponies

They are normally open for farm visits 7 days a week, by appointment only, so they can safely limit the number of people visiting at one time. They don't charge a fixed fee for farm visits, but donations to their rescue program are greatly appreciated.

At this time, all of their regular programs and visits are suspended.

**CROWN & PUMPKIN**  
STUDIO TOUR

**ALMONTE CLAYTON PAKENHAM**  
October 11 & 12, 2025  
10:00-4:00 DAILY

crownandpumpkin.com

# Arnprior & District Humane Society Events

By Lynda Duffy

Have you got two feet or four paws? If so, you are most cordially invited to the annual Arnprior & District Humane Society Walk-A-Thon! This year's event will be held at the Robert Simpson Park in Arnprior on Sunday, September 21. Registration starts at 11AM and the walk begins at noon. Participants can choose a 2K or 5K route, and you'll find live entertainment, vendors and food, and prizes to be won! You can download the pledge sheet in advance from <arnpriorhumanesociety.ca> and help raise much needed funds for this important local organization.

At the Humane Society we provide a safe haven for lost, abandoned and neglected cats and dogs in our community. We ensure that all animals in our care are provided with shelter, food, veterinary attention and lots of TLC.

We are not funded by government. The operation costs of the shelter are dependent on the generosity of individuals, business sponsorships, and many fundraising events throughout the year.

We are thrilled that so many wonderful independent fundraisers have been put on recently by youngsters in our community — fun events such as bake, yard sales, and birthday gifts donated to help our animals. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed in the aftermath of our devastating flood in March.

If you have a bit of time and interest, we always need volunteers. Please visit <arnpriorhumanesociety.ca> for more information.



**Need an INTERVENTION? Seek Help from the Furniture Pros!**

**The Destination Furniture Store**  
**UNDER MY ROOF**

- Top Canadian brands fully customized for you!
- Stunning, historic three story showroom
- Professional, no pressure sales & design services
- Exceptional customer service and **FREE delivery\***

\*within our free delivery zone

137 John St. N, Arnprior, ON  
www.undermyroof.ca Phone 613-623-6108

GOOGLE RATING ★★★★★



# Kingston WritersFest Set to Make a Glittering Return

Back in January, Kingston WritersFest announced it was folding due to “mounting financial pressures.” That was the sad part.

And now for the happy bit: this September, rather remarkably, the beloved literary festival is set to make a rousing return.

by John Pigeau

Much of the credit for the festival’s astonishing turnaround goes to its original director, author Marilyn Simonds. She was the one who pulled it together, according to Margaret Atwood, who was happy to take the stage at a sold-out festival fundraiser at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts in late August. Still, Simonds is quick to note, a community of likeminded, passionate people have banded together to help revive the KWF.

“As the founder, the news of its demise hit me hard,” Simonds explains. “I mourned for a bit, then called my co-founder Jan Walter and we thought: if it has to pass, let it at least go with dignity. So we gathered a small group and together we raised the money to pay off a very large deficit, including payments to all the authors of WritersFest 2024. In the process, people were so enthusiastic about the festival, so determined

of Wilder Penfield and William Cone. And Ira Wells on book banning. There is such a feast of literature in those four days: mystery, fashion, short fiction and long, biography, memoir. We believe that all reading is important — genre doesn’t matter, words do.”

“Oh, and Anne Collins, one of Canada’s top editors and Executive Editor at Random House Canada, will be here on Sunday morning to talk about editing writers around the world,” Simonds adds. “It seems like a miracle to have such diverse and talented voices within these few WritersFest days.”

This year’s festival theme comes from Margaret Atwood’s poem *Spelling* — “A word after a word after a word is power.”

“We live in challenging times,” Simonds points out, “as Atwood herself has said, never has free speech been as imperiled as it is today. This quote became our wordmark and our watchword as we programmed the festival, choosing powerful voices not only exploring important issues — freedom of expression, migration, war, every sort of ism — but doing so in innovative, interesting, inspiring ways. Attendees can expect to be moved, provoked, delighted — and to go home with a reading list for the year!”

Also featured at the four-day festival are talented poets Paul Vermeersch, Callista Markovitch, Terese Mason Pierre, and Kingston’s Sarah Tsiang and Jason Heroux. Writers Catherine Bush, Deepa Rajagopalan, and Jamal Saeed will take part in an event called “Bushwhacked by Inspiration,” and Sarah Tsiang will read from *Sacred Rage: Selected Stories*, a posthumous collection by Steven Heighton. “I simply wrote stories,” Heighton once said, “whenever I am bushwhacked by inspiration.” This event honours that sentiment, and Heighton’s prodigious talents.

Other highlights include author onstage events featuring Maria Reva, whose novel *Endling* was nominated for the Booker Prize, Indigenous YA writer David A. Robertson, Giller Prize winner Ian Williams, and best-selling mystery novelist Nita Prose.

Simonds says she was thrilled when recently news came that Maria Reva’s *Endling* was long-listed for this year’s Booker Prize.

“All the credit goes to Jan Walter, a former publisher who can spot a

winner a mile away,” she says. “We were worried at first when *Endling* didn’t seem to catch the attention of reviewers or must-read lists. Then came the Booker nomination and we felt vindicated. It is an astonishing novel: structurally impressive, bizarre in its plot twists. A scientist who funds her research by working for the bride trade in a Ukraine poised on the brink of war? Impossible to put this book down.”

“What I love about this festival is that there is something for every reading taste and habit,” Simonds adds. “Helping to prepare the program has expanded my own reading list, and I hope people will come and sample events they never thought they’d be interested in. The program is smaller, but that means we have only one conflicting set of events. Otherwise, you can go to all of them! And there are three free events — Poetry2Go, where poets will write a poem for you on the spot; Literary Trivia Night with great prizes; and Authors Al Fresco, a free reading by Writers Studio authors in the south courtyard of Market Square.”

Highlighting a particular event isn’t so easy, Simonds admits; that’s “like writing books or having children: how can you choose a favourite to promote? Everything about Kingston WritersFest is wonderful.”

Tickets for all events are on sale now at <kingston-writersfest.ca>. The full festival program — which includes a complete list of events, as well as author and presenter biographies — is also on the KWF site.

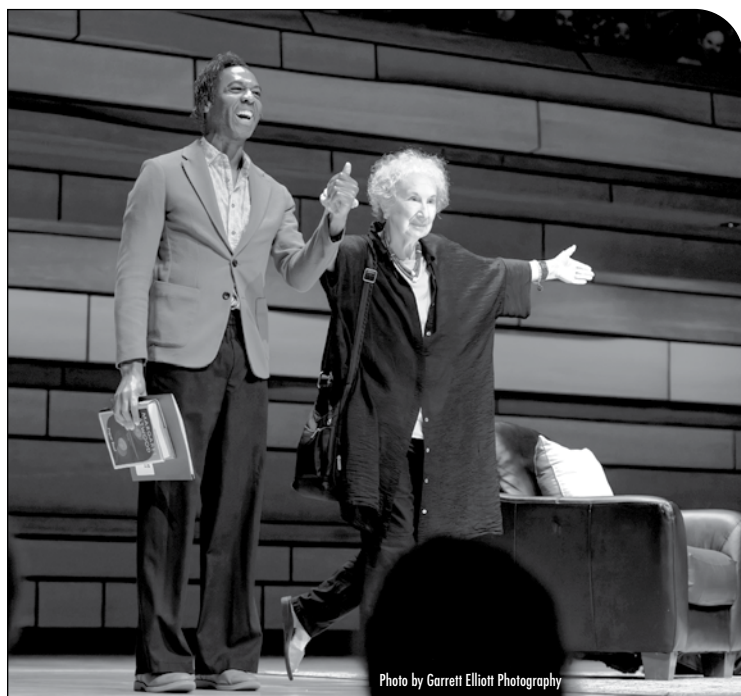


Photo by Garrett Elliott Photography


Margaret Atwood and Ian Williams at an August fundraiser for the Kingston WritersFest, which returns triumphantly this fall!

to see it survive, that we decided to build a new Board with strong financial, legal, and governance skills, and when that was in place, we gathered a volunteer Festival Committee of amazingly committed and talented people, much as we’d done in 2009, and now here we are, with the 17<sup>th</sup> edition glittering before us!”


With a note of caution, she points out that this is “a transition year and in many ways an experiment: is there still a strong audience for a readers and writers festival? Does this community want it and support it? Can a model be forged that is sustainable over the long term? We think so, but it remains to be seen if we are right.”

KWF will take place from September 18–21 at the Kingston Marriott. And though the number of events may be pared down from previous years, this year’s lineup of visiting authors is mighty impressive. Is Simonds excited about the literary talent appearing this year?

“Goodness, yes!” she says. “Madeleine Thien and Canisia Lubrin — two of the most insightful and innovative writers in Canada — on stage together: I can’t wait to hear that conversation. And Otoniya Otok Bitek’s debut novel *We, The Kindling* is unforgettable, filled with grace and hope despite its dark story. Jack Wang is a bright light that will only grow brighter, I feel sure. I am excited to hear Eric Andrew-Gee, author of *The Mind Mappers*, tell his fascinating story of obsession and the tortured behind-the-scenes friendship



**Drywall & Renovations**  
Fully Insured  
Licensed Carpenter  
**Duncan Campbell**  
613-880-3788  
campbell.carpenter@gmail.com  
[www.campbellrenovations.com](http://www.campbellrenovations.com)




**WELCOME TO OUR 24<sup>TH</sup> SEASON**  
Lisette Canton

**HANDEL: ODE FOR ST. CECILIA'S DAY**  
PURCELL: Welcome to all the Pleasures  
HAYDN: Missa Cellensis  
with Ensemble Caprice baroque orchestra  
Ellen Wieser, soprano Owen McCausland, tenor  
Nicholas Burns, countertenor  
and more  
Saturday, November 22, 2025 • 7:30 PM  
St. François d'Assise Church • 20 Fairmont Avenue • Ottawa

**BACH: ST. JOHN PASSION, BWV 245**  
with Theatre of Early Music baroque orchestra  
with international soloists, including  
Daniel Taylor, countertenor Nicholas Burns, countertenor  
Charles Daniels, tenor & Evangelist  
and more  
Saturday, March 14, 2026 • 7:30 PM  
Christ Church Cathedral • 414 Sparks Street • Ottawa

**SACRED AND PROFANE**  
MARTIN: Mass for Double Choir  
Songs on texts by Shakespeare  
by Vaughan Williams, Mäntyjärvi, Perrie, Tavener  
and more  
Saturday, May 9, 2026 • 7:30 PM  
Knox Presbyterian Church • 120 Lisgar Street • Ottawa

[ottawabachchoir.ca](http://ottawabachchoir.ca)  @ottawabachchoir  
Ottawa 613.270.1015  
Ontario CENTRAL PRECAST MAKING YOUR VISION CONCRETE The Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation



**2025 FALL SERIES**  
**Music at MERA**

**The Mark Ferguson Jazz Quartet**  
September 21 - Interpretations of classics by Gordon Lightfoot, Leonard Cohen & Joni Mitchell

**My Own Private Shakespeare**  
October 5 - A one-act play. A Shakespearean actor finds his world collapsing around him.

**Jeffery Straker**  
October 26 - Contemporary Folk Singer of the Year- 2025 Canadian Folk Music Awards

**Amanda Rheume**  
November 9 - Songs of resistance and resilience of the Métis Nation

**Vinta**  
November 23 - Dynamic folk chamber quartet

All performances Sunday at 2:00 pm  
Tickets available at [TICKETSPLEASE.ca](http://TICKETSPLEASE.ca)  
Discount for those 30 years & under!  
<https://meraschoolhouse.org>

We would like to acknowledge funding support from the Ontario Arts Council and the Government of Ontario.



# Humm Bits

## Perth Writers Fest

The Perth Farmers Market is delighted to present the Perth Writers Fest on Saturday, September 6 from 9AM to 12PM at the Crystal Palace on the Tay Basin. This free community event will showcase the work of twelve published local authors who will have their books on display and available for purchase. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the authors, learn about their stories, and enjoy mini-presentations in which writers will share insights into their creative process. The festival will take place both inside and outside the Crystal Palace, creating a vibrant literary atmosphere. Hosted by the Perth Farmers Market and facilitated by the Perth and District Union Public Library, the event promises to be an inspiring celebration of local talent. For more information, please visit <perthfarmersmarket.com/events>.

## Puppets Up! Volunteers – Thanks Much!

Have you been, or are you, a volunteer for Puppets Up!? Well then, thanks much! Please mark your calendars and come out after dinner for a Puppets Up! Volunteer Appreciation evening in your honour. The festivities take place on Wednesday, September 24 from 7–9PM at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum.

There's a great time to be had with sweets, a cash bar, great conversations and memories to share — along with an opportunity to explore the exhibits and boutique at the museum. Rumour has it that puppets have been invited too and just may have door prizes to share — bespoke items created by some of our volunteers and supporters! What's not to love?

RSVP by email to <volunteers@puppetsup.com> and let the fun begin.

## The Friends of MMPL Book Sale is Back!

By Barbara Carroll

Book lovers, rejoice — our biggest sale of the year is almost here! Clear your shelves, make room for new favourites, and help support the Mississippi Mills Public Library by donating your gently used books this October.

The Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library will be accepting book donations from October 1–16 at the Rexall Mall, Ottawa Street, Almonte.

Please donate gently used paperbacks and hardcovers only — no magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias, damaged kids' books, or anything musty, moldy or marked. A full list of items we cannot accept will be posted at the drop-off location.

The book sale runs October 17–19 and 24–25, featuring thousands of great reads donated by local book lovers. Thank you for supporting your local library!

## Offbeet at CP Gallery

The Carleton Place Gallery is pleased to be able to present Offbeet in concert on Thursday, October 23, with food and beverages being offered by Blue Spoon Atelier. Doors open at 6:30PM, music begins at 7, and tickets are available from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).

Offbeet is an instrumental trio based in Ottawa composed of Jim Gamo, Paul Migneault and Fabio Katz. Blending electric guitar, bass, and drums with live-triggered keyboards and on-the-fly loops, they create a layered sound that often feels like more than three players. Drawing from rock, classical, world, and TV themes, the group brings deep musical roots and a love of arrangement to every performance. From thoughtful originals to unexpected covers, Offbeet's concerts offer a rich experience with a personal touch.

## Sing for Change!

Local vocal groups are coming together to raise their voices for change. This community event will be a positive Voice, bringing awareness to social justice. The first performance will be held on November 1 at 5-9PM at St. Paul's Church, in Perth.

So far, the list of participating vocal groups includes: Rubies in the Rough, River Resonance, Tay Valley Community Choir, St. Paul's Choir, St. James Choir, and High Octane. Each will bring their own unique style and energy to this choral extravaganza!

All these beautiful voices will come together to perform a powerful new anthem created by Dave Tilson and Linda Grenier just for this event. Come on out, enjoy the music, and maybe sing along to *We Can Rise Above*.

This first performance will be held on November 1 from 5-9PM at St. Paul's Church in Perth. Funds raised will support Lanark County Community Justice <commjustice.org>, an organization that is celebrating 25 years of delivering restorative justice programs for youth and adults, parents and families, and educators. Community Justice provides and promotes the use of restorative practices, brings people together to repair the harm from conflict and crime, builds community, and strengthens relationships.

Get your tickets for *Sing for Change!* today at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).



One of the highlights of the upcoming Almonte in Concert season will be a family-friendly show by accordionist Michel Bridge and clarinetist Kornel Wolak (above), co-written with CBC's Tom Allen

# Almonte in Concert Celebrates 45<sup>th</sup> Season

By Maureen Nevins

A new season of music is just around the corner! Almonte in Concert is thrilled to bring you an array of amazing performers and unforgettable performances in the superb acoustics of the intimate Ron Caron Auditorium in Almonte Old Town Hall.

**Percussiano3**, comprised of the Bergmann Duo and percussionist extraordinaire Rod Thomas Squance, will kick off the series on October 25. This performance is guaranteed to be full of intensity, with solo percussion selections, piano ensemble gems, and percussion/piano duets.

Pianists Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann have been performing as a duo since 1989. Their recitals and concerts with orchestra have taken them throughout North America, Europe and to China. They have been broadcast on CBC Radio, ARD (Germany) and National Public Radio and have recorded on the Cord-Aria, Arktos, Koch International Classics, Naxos, ARS and Brilliant Classics labels.

One of Canada's most exciting rising musicians, Rod Thomas Squance is very active as a solo artist and freelance percussionist in chamber, orchestral, jazz and world music settings. He has performed with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project, clarinetist Paquito de Rivera, Japanese shakuhachi player Kojiro Umezaki, Korean percussionist Dong-Won Kim, and North Indian tabla player Sandeep Das.

We usher in the holiday season on December 6 with the magnificent voice of **Marie Michèle Desrosiers**, the brilliant pianist and arranger **Stéphane Aubin** and a talented string ensemble as they offer a fresh take on cherished holiday classics in a style inspired by the legendary André Gagnon.

Before pursuing a solo career, Marie Michèle Desrosiers was a singer, songwriter and keyboardist for the influential rock group Beau Dommage. In addition to her career in music, she has concurrently pursued an acting career in theatre and on television. As a soloist, she has recorded four albums of original songs and two Christmas albums, and has toured extensively. Featured every year since 1996, her Christmas shows remain an unmissable event.

Stéphane Aubin has worked in the musical world since 1995, and his many talents make him a sought-after musician. He has enjoyed a very successful career as a pianist, composer, arranger, and music director. As an accompanist, he has worked with artists including the beloved French singer and songwriter Charles Aznavour (1924–2018). Aubin is a regular collaborator of Luc Plamondon (lyricist and co-writer of several iconic French-language rock operas) and also appears on Céline Dion's album *Sans attendre*.

What better way to spend a winter afternoon than immersed in the rich, warm sound of the cello? On Sunday, January 25, join **Elinor Frey** in a recital highlighting the beautiful melodies of Dall'Abaco, Bach, Sainte Colombe, Tartini and more. In her quest to

perform eclectic selections on the ideal instruments, Frey has commissioned several of the latter from her favourite makers, including internationally renowned Quebec luthier Francis Beaulieu, who made for her a five-string cello and a viola da gamba.

On March 7, the globe-trotting duo of accordionist Michel Bridge and clarinetist Kornel Wolak presents *Scandalous Romantics*, a family-friendly show co-written with CBC's Tom Allen, of stories around some of the greatest music ever written. Bridge & Wolak have been twisting up classical, folk music, and improv comedy for over ten years and invite you join them on their slightly unruly musical adventures, wherever they might lead. Equally dedicated to education, in 2020 they founded the Bridge & Wolak Music Mentorship Program — an online program for high school students to explore careers in the arts.

The season concludes on April 11 with a performance by the **Vnukowski/Odin Quintet**. This program includes Schumann's Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 44, one of composer's most successful compositions that remains a jewel of chamber music. They will also perform Canadian composer Simon Bertrand's *Imprecise Memories*, a deeply personal work inspired by Bertrand's mother's experience with Alzheimer's disease. As her memory faded, she would still sit at the piano and play fragments of Schumann — those fleeting, musical moments became the heart of this piece.

Daniel Vnukowski has performed to large audiences in prestigious concert halls throughout Europe, North America, South America and Asia, and as the founder of Piano Six — New Generation initiative has given recitals for youth in remote communities throughout Canada. He is the founder and Artistic Director of the Collingwood Music Festival. Since 2021, Vnukowski has been the announcer on the show *Classical Jukebox* on The New Classical FM, the only full-time classical radio station in English-speaking Canada.

Formed in 2015, the Toronto-based Odin Quartet represents the diversity and the promise of youth in Canada. Named after the Norse god who is a seeker of knowledge and holder of the wisdom of the world, the Odin Quartet explores the role of classical music in modern-day storytelling. Committed to broadening the reach of this genre, this ensemble champions modern Canadian compositions alongside classical masterpieces, offering audiences a diverse and enriching musical experience. The Odin Quartet has recorded many film scores and collaborated with acclaimed artists including AHI, David Usher (Moist), Ellen Reid (Crash Test Dummies), Thompson Egbo-Egbo, Joey Niceforo, and Tenzin Choegyal.

Season passes and single tickets are available online at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). We look forward to seeing you!

— Maureen Nevins is Almonte in Concert's Artistic Director





Taking place on September 27 & 28, this year's MAG Studio Tour features works by Marje Fletcher (above) and many other fine artists and craftspeople

# 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Merrickville Artists Studio (MAG) Tour

Plans are well under way for the 40<sup>th</sup> annual MAG Studio Tour on September 27 and 28, with 27 tour artists participating this year. These talented artists are eager to welcome you to their studios and galleries where you will find paintings in various media, print-making, pottery and ceramics, jewellery, sculpture (in glass, in cloth, in metal), hand blown glass, fibre art, woodworking and woodturning.

So mark your calendars and tell your friends and family not to miss this opportunity to discover Merrickville and area's nationally and internationally renowned

artists and craftspeople in their own studios and galleries. Watch them create and discuss their processes, buy directly from them, and leave with your original work of art with its own story to tell!

Pick up our tour pamphlets at local businesses in and around the village or go to [mag-artists.ca/blog/2025-studio-tour](http://mag-artists.ca/blog/2025-studio-tour) to download the brochure and plan your own self-guided tour for the last weekend in September.

A beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century village... A lovely autumn weekend... What better time and place to discover the MAG Studio Tour?

## Call for Artists and Artisans

Hey creative people — here's your chance to participate in a one-of-a-kind artisan and artist sale for the festive season! Arts Carleton Place is seeking 55 vendors for their annual Itty Bitty Artisan and Artist Sale who produce original paintings (in all media), fibre art, photographs, jewellery, pottery, blown glass, fused glass or works of wood or metal as well as books or other original creative pieces. Let's encourage people to look at original Canadian art as affordable and within everyone's reach at this time of year.

Taking place on November 8 and 9 at the Carleton Place Arena, there is plenty of free parking for visitors. A wide variety of promotional activities will be undertaken in the hopes of reaching 3,000 visitors.

All works must be priced no higher than \$200, but there is no size limit. Vendor acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis with some potential category limits to ensure vendor balance and optimal buyer choice.

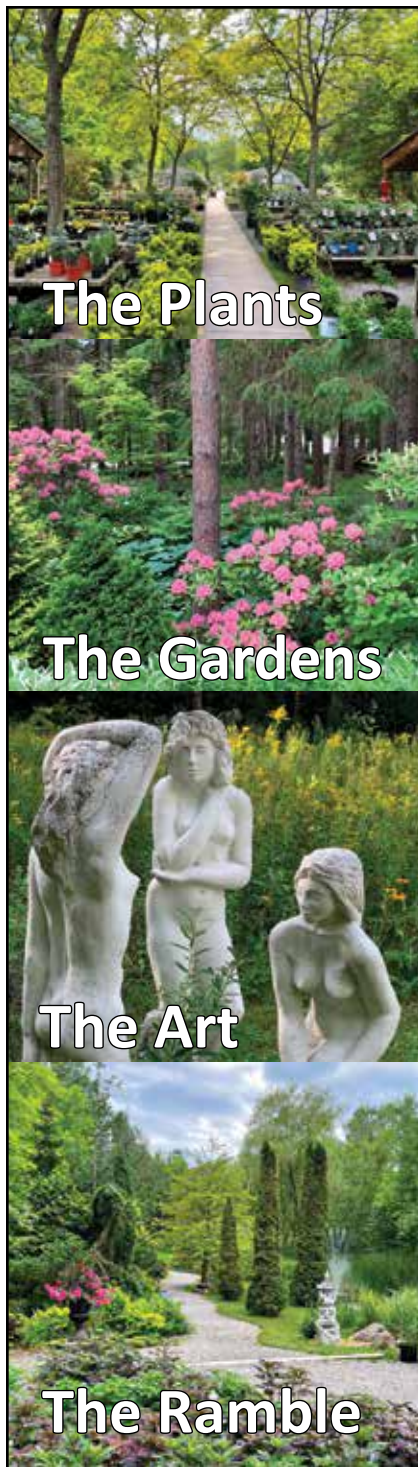
Please register by midnight on September 15. Your application is deemed complete when both the registration form and full payment have been received. You must be a member of Arts Carleton Place to participate. Only online registrations and e-transfer of booth fees will be accepted. The

registration form, as well as more details, can be found at [artscarletonplace.com](http://artscarletonplace.com).

This show is presented by Arts Carleton Place and the Town of Carleton Place. A percentage of sales supports emerging art students through the ACP Bursary Program. The show coordinator, Suzanne Deschênes, can be reached at [smdeschenes1951@gmail.com](mailto:smdeschenes1951@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



This year's Itty Bitty Artisan and Artist Sale will feature works by Arts Carleton Place members like Cathy Rivoire (above)



Garden Centre  
Open Every Day

9am-5pm to October 30  
7210 Burritt's Rapids Rd.  
Merrickville, Ontario  
613-258-3797

[rideauwoodlandramble.com](http://rideauwoodlandramble.com)

**FALL SALE**  
Starting August 29  
**35% OFF**  
all plants

## IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING HIGHLAND LINE PIT PROPOSAL

Please join us in attending a  
Lanark Highlands Township Meeting  
to address

**Precedent Setting Decisions  
about Gravel Pit Development  
on Barbers Lake**

**Help us protect the region's sensitive  
forests, wetlands and lakes!**

Decisions made could establish precedent in allowing below-water table aggregate extraction. What's at stake? Our values about land use, air and water quality, effects of climate change, the local eco-tourist economy, endangered species, and human health and well being.

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 11, 6PM

**WHERE:** McDonalds Corners  
Agricultural Hall  
194 Camerons Road,  
McDonalds Corners, ON

There is strength in numbers.

**FRIENDS OF THE LANARK HIGHLANDS**

For more information: [friendsoflanarkhighlands.org](http://friendsoflanarkhighlands.org)





**“WILLOW CREEK STABLES”  
BENEFIT CONCERT**  
at the  
**ABC HALL**  
Maberly ON  
**\*Sept 20th\***  
Featuring  
**“JEBB’S CREEK COLLECTIVE”**  
Playing  
**YOUR FAVOURITE HITS FROM THE PAST**  
Tickets \$20.00 at:  
[ticketsplease.ca](https://ticketsplease.ca)  
or \$25.00 at the door if not sold out.  
info at : [abchall.ca](https://abchall.ca)  
**Doors open 6:30**  
**Music 7:00**  
**A NOSTALGIC JOURNEY THROUGH POPULAR MUSIC**  
**3166 Bolingbroke Rd**  
**Maberly On**



**CEDAR HILL  
CHRISTMAS TREE FARM**

**Fall Season**

**Open Weekends 10AM—4PM  
from September 13 to October 26**

- Stroll around our beautiful farm and enjoy spectacular fall colours
- Pick your own pumpkins & gourds and choose from our selection of decorative corn, straw bales, corn stalks and chrysanthemums
- Take a tractor-drawn wagon ride around the farm (\$5 per person)
- Browse the gift shop and farm store for fall & Christmas gifts, décor and Ontario-grown gourmet foods
- Enjoy some homemade food and fresh baked goods overlooking our Hallmark-movie-famous covered bridge

**951 8<sup>th</sup> Concession South, Pakenham, Ontario**  
**[www.cedarhillchristmastreefarm.com](https://www.cedarhillchristmastreefarm.com)**  



Join the big end-of-summer celebration in Perth on Saturday, September 13

## Perth Night Market

### Come for an Evening of Artisans, Magic and Music

Perth is once again preparing to host its signature end-of-summer celebration as the Perth Night Market returns on Saturday, September 13 from 5–10PM. Set against the backdrop of Perth’s historic downtown, this free event invites visitors to experience an evening filled with art, entertainment, and the unique charm of a small town with big spirit.

More than 120 vendors will line the streets with handcrafted goods and artisanal creations, while the downtown shops stay open late to welcome the thousands of guests who pour into Perth each year for this magical night. Visitors can expect a vibrant mix of live music, family-friendly performances, and street entertainment that brings the town to life after dark. From interactive magic and street performers to local musical talent and more, there’s something to enchant all ages.

“The Night Market is one of those events that really shows off what makes Perth special,” says Kathryn Jamieson, Manager of Tourism and Culture. “It brings together the creativity of our artisans, the talent of our performers, and the warmth of our local businesses. Whether you’re visiting for the first time or returning for another year, there’s something magical about seeing our downtown lit up and alive with people.”

Guests are encouraged to explore Perth’s restaurants and pubs or grab takeout to enjoy in nearby Stewart Park. To make getting downtown as convenient as possible, a free shuttle will run from 2:30–10:30PM, with pickups from designated parking areas around town. Road closures will be in place to allow for pedestrian access and ensure a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

For full event details and updates, please visit [perth.ca/nightmarket](https://perth.ca/nightmarket).

## Introducing the Riversong Players

### Auditions, New Shows and School Theatre Program

A new theatre company is taking root in Mississippi Mills! Riversong Players, led by Artistic Director Beth Anne Robertson, is launching its first season with auditions now open for a bold and exciting lineup of shows.

This year’s productions include: *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, *The Strings of the Violin* (an original play inspired by Jewish folklore and the resilience of children during WWII), the uplifting *Godspell*, and a re-imagined acoustic version of *The Who’s Tommy*.

Auditions will take place on Tuesday, September 16 from 5:30–8:30PM at Union Hall, and are open to performers ages 10 and up, with opportunities both on stage and behind the scenes. “We welcome everyone, from seasoned performers to those stepping onto the stage for the first time,” says Robertson.

Riversong Players is also introducing a Lunch Hour Theatre Program for intermediate and high school students, offering workshops in acting, singing, and storytelling during the school day, culminating in live performances. “This program is about more than performance — it’s about giving young people a safe space to explore creativity, gain confidence, and connect with others,” says Robertson.

The company also invites local businesses, schools, and community organizations to collaborate on productions, themed events, and fundraising performances. Opportunities are available for sponsorship, guest artist workshops, and creative partnerships.

To audition or learn more, please email [info@riversongplayers.com](mailto:info@riversongplayers.com) or visit [riversongplayers.com](https://riversongplayers.com). Follow @riversongplayers for audition details, program updates, and season announcements.



A new theatre company is holding auditions on September 16 at Union Hall for a whole slate of upcoming shows!





Rehearsal in full swing! The large and talented cast of *You Can't Take It with You* bring the eccentric Sycamores and the buttoned-up Kirbys to life at Studio Theatre Perth.

# You Can't Take It with You

## It's a Mad World, but All Ends Well for Alice & Tony

By Ben Bennett

The upcoming comedy from Perth's Studio Theatre has it all: fireworks, snakes, crazy people, stuffy people, and lots of laughs.

*You Can't Take It with You*, which is Studio Theatre's entry for this fall's Eastern Ontario Drama League Festival, was written by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. It features a large cast, and audiences will recognize some regulars as well as some new faces. It's directed by Grace Main, Studio Theatre's artistic director, with Emmet F Cameron. The producer is Liz Krivonosov, with Mike Erion.

The action takes place in the large house of a very eccentric New York City family. The many and splendid characters in the Vanderhof-Sycamore-Carmichael clan are led by Grandpa Vanderhof, played by local favourite Rob Glas, last seen on stage here in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. His character has never paid taxes and likes to keep snakes as pets. His daughter Penelope (Leigh Gibson) is a playwright and is married to Paul Sycamore, played by Rob Millard, whose hobby is making fireworks in the basement. What could possibly go wrong?

Adding to the mayhem are Mr. De Pinna (Joseph Nieforth), who helps Paul; Essie Sycamore Carmichael, played by Alexis Scott, an untalented but would-be ballerina with a sweet tooth; and her husband Ed (Riley Friedlein), a xylophone-playing amateur printer. And let's not forget Rheba, a maid (Lara Klymko), who is dating Donald, a trumpet-playing handyman, played by Mark Bailey. To complete the craziness, we have Boris Kolenkhov (John Kenny), Essie's Russian ballet instructor.

Penny's sister Alice Sycamore, played by Marrisona Barry, appears to be the one "normal" family member. Having a regular job in an office, her family's eccentricities put her in a difficult position when she falls in love with a co-worker, Tony Kirby (Marc Laferriere). Tony just happens to be the boss' son, with a family as prim and proper as they come, albeit somewhat lacking in the joie de vivre department.

Alice is waiting for Tony to pick her up and everyone is looking forward to meeting him. When the

doorbell rings however, the man on the threshold is Mr. Henderson (Mason Bingley), who works for the government. He is looking for Grandpa, and 24 years' worth of back taxes. But when he sees the pet snakes, he exits in a hurry.

As the play develops we also meet actress Gay Wellington (Marilyn Nicholas-Dahan), who has come by to read over Penny's latest play, but becomes very drunk. She catches sight of an escaped snake (you knew that was coming...) and promptly passes out on the living room couch. It turns out that we weren't quite done with the craziness.

Tony arrives, charms the family, and he and Alice manage to make their escape, but not before Mr. Kolenkhov makes an appearance and, well, see the last line of the previous paragraph.

A few days later Tony's stuffy parents (Mike Erion and Katherine Hooton) are expected for dinner to meet Alice's distinctly unstuffy family... and the difference in their lifestyles becomes very apparent very quickly. It does not go well.

At some point three government agents (Dave Shaw, David Bird and Zach Moriarity) show up to question Ed about inflammatory statements he has made in some of his recent pamphlets. They soon discover large quantities of gunpowder in the basement, and after some very loud bangs, everyone is hauled off to jail.

By the end of the final act everything has sorted itself out and it's happy families all round, and Tony and Alice are engaged. Dinner is being prepared by the Grand Duchess (Sheila Jasiak), a friend of Mr. Kolenkhov — one final dose of crazy to complete the picture. The Kirbys are guests of honour, and by now they are a little less stuffy, having learned the moral of the play.

*You Can't Take It with You* opens September 18 and runs until September 28 with Thursday and Friday performances starting at 7:30PM, and Saturday and Sunday matinées beginning at 2PM Tickets can be purchased at the door or online from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). For more information, please visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.

# Come Sing with Us!

Join us as our new season begins  
Tuesday, September 2 at 7PM.

Rehearsals are weekly at  
St. James Anglican Church,  
Carleton Place.

Share your voice & your heart this Christmas!

Learn more at: <https://www.facebook.com/CpTownSingers>

**Autumn Fantasy Weekend**  
September 20- 21

Fall Decor | Straw Maze  
Discounts | Free Giveaway

7164 County Rd 29, Carleton Place  
613-257-8175  
[www.carletonplacenursery.com](http://www.carletonplacenursery.com)

**NORTH FRONTENAC**

**NORTH FRONTENAC  
BACK ROADS STUDIO TOUR**

**ORIGINAL HANDMADE ARTS & CRAFTS**

**LOCAL ARTISTS & ARTISANS**  
September 27 & 28, 2025 • 10-4 PM

View artist & artisan profiles and download  
a printable route map online.

**FRONTENAC**

[NorthFrontenacBackRoadsStudioTour.com](http://NorthFrontenacBackRoadsStudioTour.com)

**Leaves. Light. Growth.**  
Plant for spring in  
this cool crisp air,  
*Next year's beauty  
will be waiting there.*

From mums to bulbs, fall décor,  
planting supplies and so much more  
**FALL CLEARANCE on now!**  
142 Pick Rd, Carleton Place • 613-253-3467 • [ReidGardens.ca](http://ReidGardens.ca)



# Seniors for Climate: Thinking Globally, Act Locally, Drawing the Line on Sept. 19

Last year, Seniors for Climate, a coalition of Canadian seniors' climate organizations, held 76 events across Canada on National Seniors Day, October 1. Events were also held this year during Earth Week, and are continuing through the fall.

This year Seniors for Climate is joining 350.org, Fridays for Future, and many other organizations in a global mobilization to Draw the Line for people, for peace, for the planet. From September 19–21 people around the world will participate in rallies, gatherings and marches to draw attention to the urgent need for action on the climate crisis and associated pressing issues.

### Perth Event

Join us on Friday, September 19 from 11:45AM to 1:15PM at the corner of Hwy 7 and Wilson St in Perth. On October 1, 2024 we had a great turnout. Let's do better this year! You are encouraged to wear bright clothes and perhaps a safety vest or life jacket and hat. Please park away from the site. Bring your own sign or pick one up on site at the red Equinox EV. We will be there rain or shine.

### Ottawa Event

You are highly encouraged to attend the march in Ottawa on Saturday, September 20. This is Canada's flagship event! Gather at the Prime Minister's Office at 80 Wellington Street (at Elgin St.) at 11AM. Another gathering spot will be at Maison du Citoyen, 25 rue Laurier in Gatineau. Marchers will head to the American Embassy, and then to the Senate of Canada. The march will end at the Canadian Tribute to Human Rights

Monument. There will be speakers, performers, and more.

The theme is Draw the Line – for People. For Peace. For the Planet. The demands include: ending the era of fossil fuels; putting people over corporate profit; upholding indigenous sovereignty; achieving justice for immigrants; and ending the war machine. For more information on these demands or to sign up for the march, go to <drawtheline.world/canada>.

### Carpooling to Ottawa

Seniors for Climate Perth encourages carpooling in electric vehicles (EVs). If you would like to get a ride or offer a ride, please email <seniorsforclimateperth@gmail.com>. Let us know which meeting spot works for you: Almonte, Carleton Place, Perth, or Smiths Falls. We will share meeting times and locations with those who respond.

### Kingston

For those who are closer to Kingston, on September 20 you can assemble at 1:30PM at Victoria Park (487 Brock Street). Kingston's fossil fuel free parade welcomes quiet contraptions that don't fry the planet. Feet. Cycles. Skateboards. Mobility devices. Stilts. All ages, costumes and puppets welcome. The parade will be a joyous celebration to support a better future for all of us. From Victoria Park the parade will wind its way to McBurney Park (Skeleton Park), taking about an hour at a fairly slow pace, and arriving at McBurney Park at around 3PM. There you can mingle, listen to a few short speeches, and enjoy a musician or two.



Seniors for Climate invite concerned citizens of all ages to join them in a global mobilization to Draw the Line for people, for peace, and for the planet. Later is too late!

## September 9 Webinar with John Vaillant, author of *Fire Weather*

We are in a climate crisis! The extreme heat events, the droughts, and the wildfires this summer surpass what humanity has yet experienced. Please join Seniors for Climate for a powerful webinar with award-winning author and journalist John Vaillant.

It will take place online on September 9 at 6:30PM. The Zoom link will be provided upon registration, and you can register at <seniorsforclimate.org>.

In a 30-minute presentation followed by live Q&A, Vaillant will speak about his most recent work, *Fire Weather* — a #1 national bestseller and one of *The New York Times*' 10 Best Books of 2023. Drawing on the devastating Fort McMurray wildfire, *Fire Weather* explores how fossil fuels and a rapidly warming climate are reshaping life on Earth.

FALL INTO  
*Luxury*

JOIN US FOR A TOUR AND LEARN ABOUT OUR LIMITED-TIME FALL OFFERS

240 GORE ST E., PERTH

INFO@LANARKLIFESTYLES.CA    613-898-6606    LANARKLIFESTYLES.CA

BOOK YOUR PERSONALIZED TOUR TODAY!



# Musical Fundraiser with Local Young Performers

You are cordially invited to an uplifting evening of music in support of area youth, taking place at Almonte's Old Town Hall beginning at 6PM on Saturday, September 27. Entitled "**Something for Everyone**", it will feature rising music stars Andrew Jahn, Landon Bedor, and special guests. 100% of ticket sales will benefit The Lanark County Food Bank — The Hunger Stop <lanarkcountyfoodbank.ca>.

Andrew Jahn <8vamusic.net> is a gifted young musician from Almonte; a multi-genre singer-songwriter who sings regularly at the National Arts Centre with the Ewashko singers. Musically, Andrew produces high-quality, moral content with the aim to express the goodness, beauty and love within each human. His ambition is to teach young people the value of being good by producing visual content that highlights the beauty of everyday, ordinary life. As a Developmental Service Worker, Andrew lives out his mission by sharing his music with clients, close friends and family. He will also be singing in the NAC's production of *Tosca* from September 9–11.

Landon Bedor is a 19-year-old singer, songwriter, producer and guitar instructor from a small town in Ontario. His sound blends country roots with a soulful, rock edge — and it's been turning heads since he was discovered by award-winning musicians at just 12 years of age. Since then, Landon's been in the studio, building a sound that's entirely his own. He recently completed the Music Business Fundamentals Certification Program through Berklee School of Music, giving him a solid foundation not just as an artist, but as a music professional. He's had the chance



Almonte musician Andrew Jahn (above), along with Landon Bedor (left) and other special guests, will present a concert on September 27 with all proceeds going to The Lanark County Food Bank!

to share the stage with Jason Blaine at the Jason Blaine Annual Charity Golf Classic in 2022, and he was invited back for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual golf classic in 2024.

### Paying It Forward

Andrew Jahn has a heart for young people "struggling to thrive" and believes in giving back to the community. In 2024, he organized a food drive, netting 1,800 pounds of food, for Ottawa's Shepherds of Good Hope. In recognition, in June 2025, he was titled "Knight of the Year" by The Knights of Columbus Volodymyr The Great Council.

Likewise, Landon Bedor recently partnered with Yak Youth Services to raise funds for counselling sessions for local youth who cannot otherwise access mental/emotional health services.

Please support these rising young stars who are leading the way by giving back! Early bird tickets (\$10 plus fees) are available from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). General admission (\$15 — cash only) will be available at the door. Donations will be gratefully accepted.



## Reconciliation Through Art is Back!

Three days of Indigenous art, music, fashion, film, food, ceremony, and teachings for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

**Sept. 28, 2-5 PM**  
Screening & Discussion: Inendi by Sarain Fox  
Topic: Residential Schools:  
A Family's Trauma & Truth  
Almonte United Church Sanctuary  
Cash donation

**Sept. 29, 6:30- 10:00 PM**  
Our Voices in Song:  
Indigenous Stars on Stage  
Almonte Old Town Hall

**Sept. 30 All Day!**  
Indigenous Art Showcase, Raffle & Food.  
Cash only (Mississippi Valley Textile Museum)  
8-9 AM: Water Walk & Offering (Almonte Old Town Hall to Metcalfe Geoheritage Park)  
10 AM-5 PM: Indigenous Art Showcase, Raffle (cash only), Food & Teachings  
11 AM-5 PM: Six Teachings (2nd Floor.)  
Entry by cash donation

Street parking only  
Tickets & registration:  
[ReconciliationThroughArt.ca](https://ReconciliationThroughArt.ca)

## Carleton Place Farmers' Market Harvest Festival 2025

# September 20

### Open 8:30AM to 12:30PM every Saturday

At noon, please join us for the unveiling of a **Memorial Bench** in honour of Merle Bowes, co-founder of the Carleton Place Farmers' Market. Bill Weir will also be recognized for his dedicated support. We hope you'll be there to help celebrate Merle's spirit and the community journey that brought the Market to its home at Beckwith and Lake.

All contests have prizes and please follow us on Facebook for details on entering the contests.

## BOOK SALE

**DONATIONS:**  
Drop off at Rexall Mall  
October 1-16

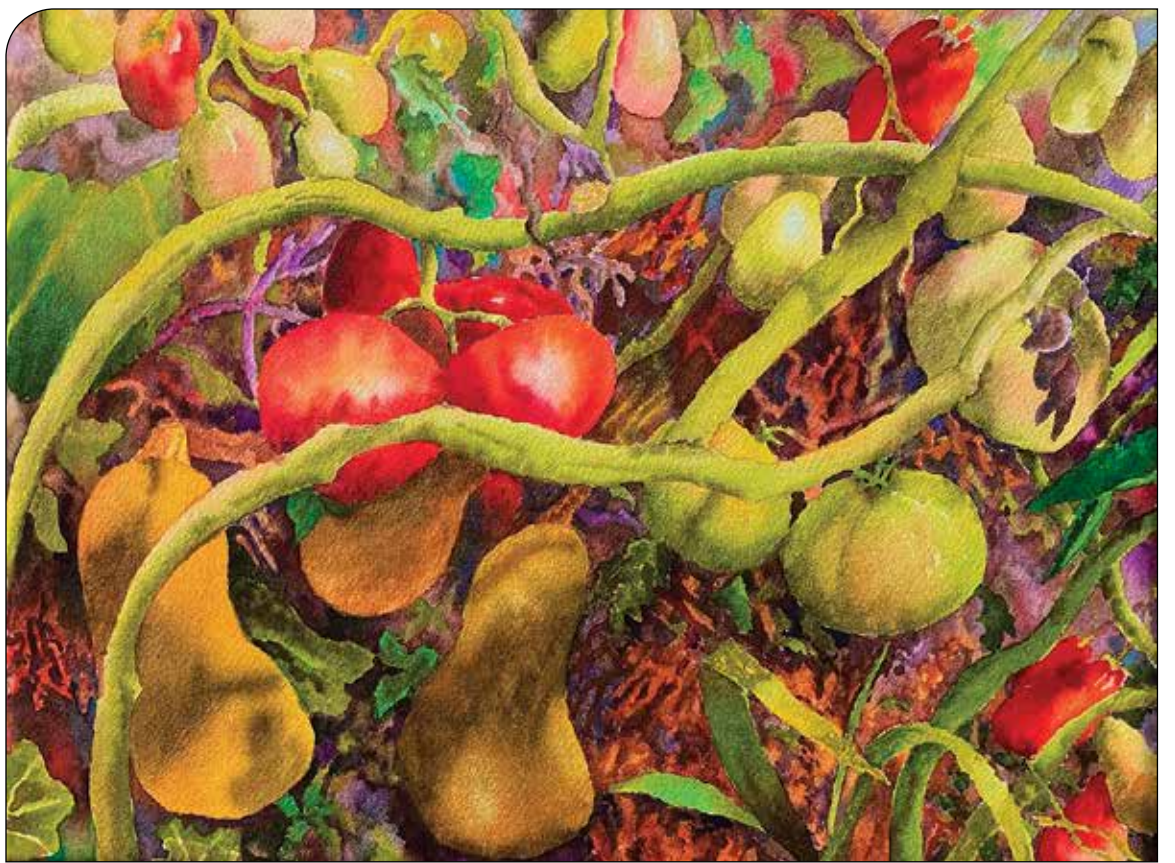
**SALE DATES:**  
October 17 12PM-6PM  
October 18 10AM-4PM  
October 19 11AM-3PM  
October 24 12PM-6PM  
October 25 10AM-4PM

## Madawaska Valley STUDIO TOUR

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Tour | October 4 & 5  
10am - 5pm

[madawaskastudiotour.com](https://madawaskastudiotour.com)





This fall's Back Roads Studio Tour will feature works by local artists like Linda Rush (above), as well as stunning fall foliage in beautiful North Frontenac

# 2025 North Frontenac Back Roads Studio Tour

*By Wendy Clement*

The Township of North Frontenac is known for many things. It's one of the best spots in the province to stargaze away from the glare of the city lights. It offers a variety of activities for outdoor enthusiasts all year round. It boasts spectacular landscapes and beautiful lakes, rivers and streams.

It also has a thriving community of artists, artisans and fine craftspeople who call this hidden gem in Eastern Ontario home. Each September for the past several years these talented individuals have welcomed visitors into their creative spaces for the North Frontenac Back Roads Studio Tour, and we once again invite you to join us this fall. Mark your calendar for the weekend of September 27 and 28 (from 10AM-4PM each day) and come out to enjoy the artistry and talent that is found in North Frontenac!

This year's tour boasts 37 local and guest artists and fine craftspeople — a mixture of old favourites and soon-to-be new ones — located at 20 different studio stops. We are thrilled to have nine new artists and four new studios join us this year — another testament to the talent and creativity ready to be discovered in our part of the world.

Featuring photography, mixed media, glasswork, painting, jewellery, pottery, woodworking, textile and fibre arts, metalwork, artisan cheese-making, natural products and much, much more, the studio tour offers visitors the opportunity to explore a rich variety of

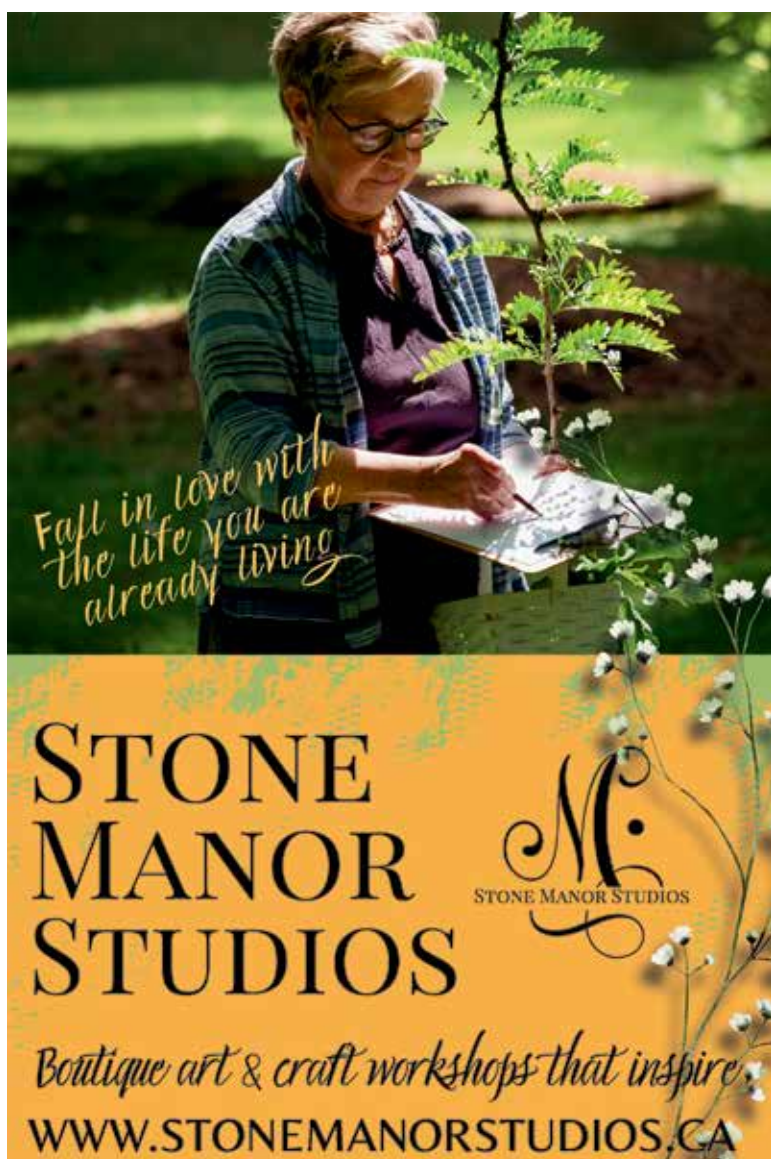
artistic media and creative processes and to hear the story behind each piece from the artists themselves. All artwork is unique, original, and handmade.

We invite you to check out the online brochure and plan your visit. Come for the morning, the afternoon, the day, or the weekend! Start at the first studio, the last, or right in the middle. Jump around or visit the studio stops in order. We guarantee that you will meet passionate and creative people who love what they do, whatever the route! Many of the studios are clustered together or have multiple artists at one stop. All are ready to welcome you.

While you are with us, we hope you will enjoy the colours of autumn. North Frontenac in the fall is breathtaking. The beauty of the region is often touted as the inspiration behind the work of many local artists, and it is certainly something that should not be missed.

We invite you to visit our website to find the brochure and map and to learn more about this year's artists: [northfrontenacbackroadsstudiotour.com](http://northfrontenacbackroadsstudiotour.com). The website also includes information about available washroom facilities or other places of interest along the way. We encourage you to stop in and enjoy some of our local eateries and businesses while on the tour. Our community is special, and we are so pleased to share it with you.

We look forward to seeing you on the 2025 North Frontenac Back Roads Studio Tour! Come join us!



merrickville arts guild

# 2025 Studio Tour

September 27 & 28  
10am to 5pm

[www.mag-artists.ca](http://www.mag-artists.ca)

Follow MAG Artists on Facebook and  
@merrickvilleartsguild on Instagram



# “Natives & Clay” Annual Fall Sale

If you're interested in gardening with native plants, you won't want to miss Natives & Clay!

Pine Ridge Studio, just north of Carp, will be hosting a sale of nursery-propagated native plants, some native to the Ottawa Valley, and some from further afield in eastern North America. Many of the plants will be unusual and hard to otherwise source. Trish Murphy, formerly of Beaux Arbres Native Plants, will be bringing her plants, and Lis Allison of Pine Ridge Studio will have some of her wildflower-inspired pottery for sale.

Native plant grower Trish Murphy has more than 25 years of experience growing and studying Ontario's native plants. She has a wealth of knowledge of plants' ecological connections — which plants feed butterfly caterpillars, which are the most attractive to hummingbirds, and many other wildlife considerations. She will be at the native plant sale table, happy to share with you which plants she has observed have proved heat- and drought-resistant this very difficult summer.

This summer's drought has been very hard on gardens throughout the area. Looking for a silver lining, this summer has shown very starkly which plants are tough and can survive very challenging conditions! One of the great attractions of this September sale, over two days, is that it is a much more leisurely occasion than the hectic spring sales. There is time to chat about what has done well and what new plants might suit your garden. Fall is also a great time to plant — still plenty of time for small plants to establish strong root systems, without the heat of summer of contend with.



You'll find native plants and wildflower-inspired pottery at Natives & Clay

Lis's pottery is a wonderful complement to the wildflowers. Her sturdy, microwave-safe tableware is hand-painted, often in botanical themes: ferns, wildflowers, or traditional garden flowers. Treat yourself to something beautiful or shop for unique gifts for your gardening friends.

The sale takes place on Saturday, September 6 and Sunday, September 7 at Pine Ridge Studio, located at 6114 Carp Road. The studio is not visible from the road — slow down and look carefully for the sandwich board sign at the driveway! Find more details at [facebook.com/PineRidgeStudio](https://facebook.com/PineRidgeStudio).

# After Rebound...

## Meeting the Community's Needs

*By Robert Lowe Barnett, Jeff Mills, and Lloyd Strachan*

We are concerned to hear that Rebound in Almonte is closing. Its function of recycling/reusing household items, rather than having them sent to the landfill, is a loss for the larger community and for the environment.

Like so many other Canadians, we are concerned for the health of planet Earth and the ravages of climate change. The haze of smoke from wildfires, and our persistent drought, have been a constant reminder this summer of the critical phase in the Climate Crisis we have reached. We realize that we must Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (Triple-R) to help the earth recover from over-exploitation. We have seen the Hub and Rebound as key pieces in the town's Triple-R strategy.

We would like to express our deep appreciation for the work of the Hub Board, the staff and the many volunteers who have, for over 50 years, met these needs. We have come to understand that with increasing rents, Rebound was no longer viable and was costing more than it was contributing to the many community needs that the Hub supports. We thank the Board for keeping Rebound going as long as it has and for making the hard decisions involved to keep The Hub going strong. But we will dearly miss Rebound!

Rebound has been legendary for providing alternatives for those not able to afford to buy new. With the inflation of the last years and the ongoing global trade fluctuations, families are in great need of what the Hub and Rebound have been able to provide.

Rebound was often the first stop for both young and old looking for everything from used pliers to a wooden dining table. Equally important, it represented an option for people downsizing or generally letting

go of still useable articles. Taking them to Rebound meant that someone else could use them. Reuse is key to gaining ground in our Climate Crisis.

Anyone who has spent any time in Almonte knows the miracle of all that volunteers accomplish.

TheHumm is filled with events and opportunities that depend on hundreds of volunteers. With all of this volunteer spirit, working together with Municipality, County and community structures, let's try to imagine how our community can meet the ongoing need for effective recycling and reuse, and the need for more affordable goods for those going through financial hard times.

If these concerns are close to your heart, please join the conversation by approaching any of the three authors of this article, or contact us with your ideas at <After.Rebound@gmail.com> and we will connect you with other interested individuals.



Citizens are seeking ways to continue to divert goods from landfill and meet community needs as Rebound closes



# DOWNTOWN Music FESTIVAL

## SEPTEMBER 13, 2025



### ROAD APPLES

8:00 pm – Main St. W. Stage | Pre-sale tickets available at select locations or online!  
 \*licensed event below: no re entry – no back packs – rain or shine

— WITH SPECIAL GUESTS —

 <b>GREEN HOUSE REVIVAL</b>	 <b>Claude Monson</b>	 <b>DAVIDSON COURTYARD</b>	 <b>ONE EYED DAWGS</b>
1:00 pm Town Square FREE ADMISSION	2:30 pm Russell St.E. Stage FREE ADMISSION	4:00 pm Davidson Courtyard FREE ADMISSION	6:00 pm OPENER Main St.W. Stage Ticketed stage

**FOR FULL FESTIVAL SCHEDULE AND TICKETS, VISIT [DOWNTOWNSF.CA](http://DOWNTOWNSF.CA)**



**Thank you to our Festival Sponsors!**





















# Learning Again in Almonte

## Fall Lectures & Courses



**Can We Talk?**  
Inside stories on interviews with renowned authors with **Phil Jenkins**

**Why Does My Voice Wobble?**  
A workshop for maintaining a healthy, robust voice with **Mark Wilkinson**

**Growing Friendly**  
Creating and preserving communities that work with **Angus Affleck**

**Free Expression & The Public Library**  
A conversation with **Christine Row & Sonia Bebbington**

**Horns High Notes & Heroes**  
A neophytes guide to opera with baritone **Mark Wilkinson**

**Navigating Health Care in Ontario**  
Understanding the system, embracing change and empowering yourself as a patient **Sherryl Smith & guests**

Photo: Trevor Johnston Photography

Register at [www.learningagaininalmonte.ca](http://www.learningagaininalmonte.ca)





# The Mill of Kintail Museum

## At the Confluence of Heritage and the Environment

By Kris Riendeau

The Mill of Kintail, located just outside Almonte, is more than a scenic heritage site. It houses two significant collections: the works of R. Tait McKenzie, an internationally recognized sculptor, physician, and pioneer in physical fitness and rehabilitation; and the legacy of Dr. James Naismith, the Canadian-born inventor of basketball. Together, their contributions resonate locally, nationally, and internationally.

Yet despite their importance, the museum that safeguards their legacy is facing a critical juncture. Recent changes to provincial legislation have left the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), which owns and operates the Mill of Kintail, grappling with the challenge of securing sustainable funding for the museum.

### Shifting Provincial Rules

In 2019, the Province of Ontario clarified the mandate of conservation authorities, defining “Category 1” mandatory programs and services, and ruling that certain other activities would no longer qualify for support through the municipal levy. Unfortunately for the Mill of Kintail, the museum falls into “Category 3.”

That ruling created what MVCA describes as a sustainability crisis. According to Scott Lawryk, Property Manager with MVCA, “Without eligibility for the municipal levy, it becomes a financial sustainability problem. MVCA doesn’t have sustainable funding.”

Recognizing the value of the site, all 11 municipalities within the MVCA’s jurisdiction signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding effective January 1, 2024. This transitional agreement ensures temporary funding support for the museum while the MVCA explores long-term solutions.

### Financial Uncertainty

The MVCA is required to maintain a five-year strategic plan in order to continue receiving provincial museum funding. However, as they updated the plan this year, one issue kept surfacing, according to Lawryk.

“After this year, we’d have a new five-year plan but only three years of secured funding,” he explains. “That gap is the issue. We’ve gone down numerous roads and tried to open numerous doors to solve the problem, and we just haven’t been able to come up with a firm solution yet.”

This financial uncertainty prompted the MVCA to explore difficult options, including the potential divestment of the R. Tait McKenzie and James Naismith collections.

In July, the MVCA tabled a report updating the museum’s strategic plan that raised the possibility of divesting. This development, however, was not preceded by meaningful consultation with local leadership, according to the office of Mississippi Mills Mayor Christa Lowry, which states that “Mississippi Mills Council has not been given an opportunity for meaningful discussion with the MVCA about their plans.”

### Past Collaboration

This lack of consultation contrasts with earlier efforts. In anticipation of the provincial changes, the MVCA convened a Special Advisory Committee from 2019 to 2021 to examine potential options for the museum. The committee, co-chaired by Mayor Lowry, was marked by active collaboration.

“There was robust engagement and communication,” notes Mayor Lowry, “and the result was three recommendations tabled by the Board in 2021 that kept the collections in place at the Mill of Kintail.” Once the legislative changes were finalized, municipalities agreed to five-year funding agreements, demonstrating their shared commitment to the museum. “This doesn’t seem to be a legislative problem,” adds Mayor Lowry. “So what has changed?”

### Future Solutions

In an interview with theHumm, Scott Lawryk emphasized that no decision can be made unilaterally by MVCA staff: “All of our member municipalities sit on our Board of Directors, so any overarching, major decision is not something staff can make without Board approval. For example, if we were to go down the road of divesting the collection — which is by no means a sure thing at this point — we can’t do that as staff without Board approval.”

He also underscored that the matter is not about undervaluing the historic figures, but about the practicalities of sustainable funding. “This is squarely about funding. If someone has a line on a sustainable funding model for the foreseeable future, that could help us reevaluate the approach we’re taking with the museum. We’re all ears. This isn’t about disrespecting the two gentlemen whose legacies are represented in the museum. We recognize that they’re important locally, nationally, and internationally.”

Lawryk acknowledged the passion the community holds for both men and their legacy, stressing that the Authority is not shutting the door on solutions.



Concerned about the future of the Dr. James Naismith and R. Tait McKenzie collections currently housed at the Mill of Kintail? Send your feedback to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority!

“We’re not closing the door to anyone. We understand the passion people have for these two figures and for the museum. We understand the history and the community’s passion, and we’re hoping we can steer that passion into an action-able solution.”

Mayor Christa Lowry has urged the MVCA to slow down and reconsider the course of action. “I urge the MVCA to pause the current process and engage in open dialogue to explore alternative solutions that protect the legacy we’ve inherited, not dismantle it,” she writes. “Solutions can always be found when we look for them.”

She emphasizes the broader cultural and historical importance of the museum and collections. “While the contributions of Dr. R. Tait McKenzie and Dr. James Naismith are deeply woven into our local history and cultural identity, these contributions are of substantial national and international importance and impact.”

The Mayor plans to make a presentation to the MVCA Board on September 8, highlighting the significance of the Mill of Kintail, its collections and its land, in the hopes of working collectively to find a solution that is satisfactory to all concerned. “My hope is that this presentation will open the door to meaningful conversations with the MVCA Board,” she notes, “and guide towards thoughtful decisions that will honour and preserve the legacy of these two remarkable Canadians.”

### How the Public Can Help

The MVCA is currently conducting public consultations through an online survey. While the survey provides an important avenue for feedback, some community members have noted that it does not explicitly ask whether the collections should remain at the Mill of Kintail. When asked how concerned individuals can provide additional feedback about the issue, Lawryk advised: “I’d encourage people to use the contact information on our website. Those messages go into our general info account. We’re logging all responses. We’ve had various emails outside the survey, and we’re logging all of those ideas and feedback as part of the overall public consultation.”

Community members who wish to see the collections preserved are encouraged to complete the survey at <mvc.on.ca/mill-of-kintail-strategic-plan-update> and also to submit written feedback via the MVCA’s contact page at <mvc.on.ca/contact-us>.

### Preserving a Legacy

At its core, this is a story about legacy — not only for Mississippi Mills, but for Canada and the world. The contributions of R. Tait McKenzie and James Naismith are irreplaceable, and their collections deserve a sustainable future.

The MVCA has made clear that they are “all ears” for solutions. Now is the moment for the public, municipal leaders, and partners to channel passion into practical proposals.

By completing the survey and sharing additional feedback directly with the MVCA, residents can help ensure that the voices of the community are heard, and that the Mill of Kintail remains a vital steward of Canadian history for generations to come.



# ITTY BITTY

2025 ARTISAN & ART SHOW

## Call to Artists



All works \$200 and under

SATURDAY SUNDAY  
NOV 8-9 2025  
10:00AM - 4:30PM

CARLETON PLACE ARENA

## PERTH AUTUMN STUDIO TOUR

5 Stops  
30 Artists



October 11 & 12, 10am-5pm  
(Sat & Sun of Thanksgiving weekend)

www.perthstudiotour.com

Instagram and Facebook @perthstudiotour







# Turn Off That Tap!

It never rains, but it pours. Oh, don't we wish it would do exactly that! We're surviving a drought like the 2012 season when we were in fear of our well running dry. Being previous city people, we had taken our water for granted, ran the dishwasher, had a shower, watered the garden, and washed the car. You don't do that if you're on a well.

During the drought in 2012 we were getting sand in our water system. Long before the rain barrel ran dry we'd stopped watering the garden, and the poor lawn never did see the sprinkler. Everything survived and so did we, but we hoped that wouldn't happen again. Little did we know!

by Glenda Jones

So here we go again. But this time maybe we're a little better prepared. We're adapting. Our dishwasher — Alan and I — only operate once a day in a little sink of minimum water. I can scoop it out and use it on the plants. Soapy water should keep the bugs at bay, and the container plants are okay with this. If we have ice cubes in our afternoon drinks, we put the remainders in the flowerpots. I think that's the regime for orchids anyway, so they're not complaining either.

The lilies and poppies seem to be taking the heat in stride, sending out a beautiful display while other things are fading too fast. I know we're not alone, but it's discouraging at times. There have been a few days when the whole thing bent me backwards, and I went full-blown crazy garden lady, taking on Mother Nature and giving her a severe whacking. I slapped on the sun-screen, the dark glasses, my hat and gloves, and no matter how hot it was, the wheelbarrow got hauled out and I was in machete mode.

For an hour at a time, I slashed down every plant that looked sickly. The tall grass went first. Then the phlox that couldn't put forth even one bloom. The cucumbers had succumbed, so they were dumped. The spindly tomato plant that refused to stand up straight was reefed out of the pot, along with basil

that was a wilting mess. (I will say it's doing all right shoved in a glass of water on the windowsill.)

The upside of this frenzy is that I will have less to do in a month or so when fall cleanup starts in earnest. Also, I now have a clear view of the weeds that of course have not died like the rest. The drought has meant the mower is idle. No use in mowing crispy non-grass. Less gas used, and apparently the Japanese beetles are not too happy trying to nest in dry hardpan. That's got to be a plus.

I'm nearly compulsive about washing my hands, so the water shortage is causing me angst. I reach for the tap without a thought until I hear the water running, and then I remember and reach for the hand sanitizer instead. I figure if I can save even a couple of washings in a day, I can enjoy a shower. Okay, it'll be European fashion: turn on water, turn off water, soap up, turn on water, rinse, and turn off water. The end. I'm glad we don't have teenagers, or I'd be a total basket case of nagging.

When you live in the city, water is a given without thought of where it originates. No one ever mentioned that the Ottawa River would dry up, and even if water restrictions were in place, it never seemed severe. Everyone murmured about it, but many would sneak out after dark to water their lawns or wash their precious cars. A green lawn was expected, and you'd be considered a negligent homeowner if your yard didn't look decent.


Come the drought in the country and all that changes. No one waters the lawn, and none of us give it a second thought. We're all too preoccupied with sympathizing with farmers whose crops are decimated, whose cattle might be dehydrated. If our little potted

plants go to ruin, that's not an issue compared to the devastation our agricultural neighbours are facing. If denying myself running the tap for an extra cold drink of water would help a farmer, I'll do it. Short of taking to the field and doing a fancy rain dance, what can we do? Years ago, the farmers had a weather mantra: every day of drought brings us one day closer to the day it rains. For their sake, and ours too, we can only hope that day comes soon. When it does, stand out in the rain with your face tipped up, and be ever so thankful for that moisture.



[www.AlmonteCondoForSale.com](http://www.AlmonteCondoForSale.com)

Take in the view! 2 bdrm 1069 sq. ft. light-filled loft condo for sale in beautiful downtown Almonte.




CAPITAL CHAMBER CHOIR

with the River Resonance Chamber Choir

*A Day in Perth*

Saturday, October 4, 2025 - 3:00pm  
St. Paul's United Church, 25 Gore St W. Perth, ON K7H 2L9  
[www.capitalchamberchoir.ca](http://www.capitalchamberchoir.ca) @capitalchamberchoir



## 2025 GEM STORM

### 54th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

OCT. 17 - FRI. 5pm - 9pm  
OCT. 18 - SAT. 10am - 5pm  
OCT. 19 - SUN. 10am - 5pm

EVENT CENTRE,  
ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE  
100 Portsmouth Ave., Kingston, ON

Show & Sale Featuring Riches from the Earth & Much More

- Unique Jewellery
- Crystal Treasures
- Minerals, Gemstones
- Children's Mine
- Lapidary & Other Demonstrations
- Exotic Fossils
- Gemstone Carvings
- Jewellery Workshop
- Gemstone Identification
- Hourly Door Prizes

\$5 ADMISSION PER PERSON  
Children Under 12 Free with a paying adult

SPONSORED BY THE  
Kingston Lapidary & Mineral Club  
[www.mineralclub.ca](http://www.mineralclub.ca)

  Follow us on Facebook & Instagram  
@kingstonlapidarymineralclub





37 Artists in the Gallery Including ...

ART HUB GALLERY



Gilly Marston



Roxanne Ward



Laurel Onfrichuk



Jane Languedoc



Tamara Campbell



Paintings, Photography, Jewellery, Pottery, Greeting Cards and Art Supplies

127 Bridge St, Carleton Place  
[ARTSCARLETONPLACE.COM](http://ARTSCARLETONPLACE.COM)






Susan Warner Keene:  
Paper / Practice

August 9, 2025 -  
September 27, 2025

www.mvtm.ca



Mississippi Valley  
Textile Museum








**black tartan kitchen**



132 Bridge St. Carleton Place, ON



(613) 492-0860

[www.blacktartankitchen.com](http://www.blacktartankitchen.com)








**ACQUISTI LIFE**

apparel | footwear | gifts

515 McNeely Ave., Carleton Place

[www.acquistilife.ca](http://www.acquistilife.ca)



This fall, MERA has a musical line-up that includes Amanda Rheame, Jeffrey Straker (above), and even a theatrical performance entitled *My Own Private Shakespeare* (below)

# The MERA Stage Comes Alive this Fall

By Tom Shoebridge

Music at MERA is presenting a wide range of music treats this fall, with an exciting piece of theatre added to our stellar lineup.

First off, on September 21, is the renowned Mark Ferguson Jazz Quartet, comprised of Mark Ferguson (piano and trombone), Mike Tremblay (saxophones and flute), John Geggie (double bass) and Jamie Holmes (drums). This stellar ensemble will perform original arrangements of classics from the songbooks of Canadian folk icons Gordon Lightfoot, Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell.

On October 5 we present our first ever theatrical performance, *My Own Private Shakespeare*, written and performed by Justin Hay. His play has earned critical and audience acclaim after successful runs in Toronto, New York and the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The 55-minute performance is recommended for ages 14+, and contains themes of mental health, suicide and trauma.

October 26 sees Jeffrey Straker's Great Big Sky Tour gracing our stage. An engaging entertainer, Jeffery is a talented and effervescent singer-songwriter pianist whose performances often draw comparisons with some of the finest musicians of that genre such as Harry Chapin, Murray McLauchlan, Billy Joel and Elton John.

On November 9, the talented Amanda Rheame brings her vibrant music and stories to MERA. With curiosity and empathy, Rheame has become a bearer of history, unearthing and preserving Métis stories in song. In her gutsy guitar-driven style, punctuated with lively Métis fiddle, Rheame's heartland rock is built to last, resolute in rhythm and unswerving in purpose

Our final offering on November 23 is Vinta, a "chamber folk quartet" consisting of Nathan Smith,

Emilyn Stam, John David Williams and Robert Alan Mackie. Vinta's musical inspiration starts with cherry-picked gems from European traditional music, breathing new energy into top tunes as well as their own compositions with creative, dynamic ensemble arrangements and brilliant musicianship.

All tickets are available from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) with discounts offered for audience members under 30 thanks to support from the Ontario Arts Council and the Province of Ontario. Free babysitting is on offer, too. All the events run on Sunday afternoons, beginning at 2PM. Find more details at <meraschoolhouse.org>.





**Represent yourself in family court ...with help**

At the Family Law Advisor, our lawyers provide targeted legal advice and coaching to people in Ontario like you who:

- want to self-represent in family court
- are smart, self-sufficient and want to save money
- have questions an experienced family lawyer can answer

Find out more at







Organizers Bill Pope and Patti Griffin-Pope (above) are bringing live music to the porches of downtown Carleton Place on Saturday, September 13

# Inaugural Carleton Place Porchfest

## Music, Community, and Local Spirit

A whole town will become a stage on Saturday, September 13 from 1-4PM as Carleton Place hosts its first annual Porchfest — an afternoon of free live music performed on porches, driveways, lawns and front yards.

Residents and visitors are invited to stroll, cycle or dance their way through neighbourhood streets to enjoy everything from folk and country to blues, jazz, rock and more.

Part of a growing grassroots movement now seen in towns and cities across North America, Porchfest brings live music quite literally to community doorsteps, while encouraging neighbours to meet, mingle, and celebrate local talent. For Ottawa visitors, it's a perfect small-town getaway with big heart, just 45 minutes from the city.

**Music with a Purpose**

While Carleton Place Porchfest is completely free, it is adding a community-giving twist. Guests are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items or donations to support the Lanark County Food Bank — The Hunger Stop. Collection points will be set up across the route.

**How It Works**

Musicians (solo, duo, or full bands) sign up to perform from their own porch, or borrow a host's porch to play on. Hosts can offer their porch, driveway or lawn as a stage for

musicians who may range from established recording artists to first-timers playing for their family and friends. Audiences simply consult the Carleton Place Porchfest map on their phones, choose a route, and wander between performances at their own pace. As you wander from porch to porch, don't forget to stop downtown to shop, grab a bite, and support the businesses that make the community thrive.

**Call for Performers and Volunteers**

Carleton Place Porchfest organizer Bill Pope is welcoming musicians, porch hosts, and volunteers. Pope and his wife Patti Griffin-Pope are frequent hosts in the Ottawa Valley open mic scene and perform across the region. It's easy to sign up at <carleton-placeporchfest.ca> and secure a time slot. Performers will be featured on the official Carleton Place Porchfest online map.

"Porchfest is about more than just music," explains Pope. "It's about neighbours meeting neighbours, artists sharing their gifts, and an entire community coming together — not only to enjoy a great day, but to make a difference for our local food bank."

Mark your calendars for September 13 — the rain date is same time on September 20. This event is made possible in part by the Carleton Place Community Enrichment Program.

# Art Hub Happenings

Located right downtown at 127 Bridge Street, the Art Hub Gallery in Carleton Place features the work of 37 artists. There you'll find paintings, photography, jewellery, pottery and greeting cards, as well as art supplies. Andrea Gerolin, who is new to the gallery,

has created a series of beautiful small coloured pencil drawings of cats with little butterflies. They are presented in shadow boxes and are absolutely adorable. Andrea also draws highly detailed larger works in a variety of subjects, and some of her original drawings are also for sale.

Andrea is an Ottawa Valley Artist specializing in coloured pencil with a particular love for capturing the beauty and personality of animals. She earned a Fine Arts degree in 1993, working in many different media but preferring graphite at that time. Life took her in other directions for a while, and her art was put on hold until 2023, when she discovered the vibrant potential of coloured pencils.

Today, she mainly focuses on animal portraiture and is honoured to create custom pieces for clients across North America. Pet commissions are a large part of her work, allowing her to blend technical precision with emotional storytelling in every piece she creates.



Stop in to see works by Andrea Gerolin!

# YOU WILL LOVE CRUISING IN THIS BABY !

SAVE \$500.00

**\$1999**

Slick, powerful 650 Watt motor that has the power when you need it. Comfortable seat and well balanced for a safe ride.

## THE EASY

**FREE DELIVERY** Locally

**SCOOTER VILLAGE** Malcolm Travis 613 324 5551

**SCOOTER VILLAGE CANADA LTD.** www.scootervillage.ca 130 Industrial Ave, Unit 505, Carleton Place / ON

**Stephanie Mols** REALTOR®

613.812.5510 stephanie-mols@coldwellbanker.ca

2024 CB Canada Wide

1st & 2nd Quarter 2023

187 York Ontario Realty

2024 & 2023

16 York Ontario Realty

**COLDWELL BANKER**

FIRST OTTAWA REALTY BROKERAGE

Independently Owned and Operated

Office: 613.694.4400

## HIDDEN GARDEN SANCTUARY ON BIG RIDEAU LAKE

When you walk thru the front gate, you are greeted by enchanting gardens. Sparkling 2002 home offers open flex spaces. Gardening shed. Big workshop. Clear waterfront on the Big Rideau with screened-in gazebo and dock. Just 35 mins to Carleton Place. \$789,000 MLS X12306683

## 12 ACRE OASIS OVERLOOKING RIDEAU LAKE

**SOLD**

Park-like 12 acres overlooking bay on Upper Rideau Lake. Charming 3 bed, 2 full bath bungalow with sunroom. New 2023 heat pump for heat & cooling. Garage-workshop has 100 amps. Charming Bunkie/studio. Walking trails. 30 mins to Smiths Falls or Perth. Listed for \$779,900

f ...going the **EXTRA** mile to deliver exquisite service!

Almonte | Carleton Place | Perth | Smiths Falls | Mississippi Mills | Arnprior | Lanark Highlands | Ottawa and The Valley | Eastern Ontario





WATERCOLOUR  
WESTPORT, ON



## PHASE 3 LOT RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2025

PREMIUM WALKOUT & GREEN SPACE  
BACKING LOTS AVAILABLE.

BUNGALOW TOWNS FROM \$599,900  
DETACHED BUNGALOWS FROM \$700'S



## New Move-In Ready Homes available NOW.

First Year Maintenance  
Package included.

*\*snow removal, window cleaning 2x,  
lawn cutting and ERV service.*

MODEL HOME OPEN DAILY  
148 Hearthside Drive  
Westport

Call Victoria 613-519-4346  
WATERCOLOURWESTPORT.COM



This year's Madawaska Valley Studio Tour features works and demonstrations by renowned artists and craftspeople. The photo above shows Tanya Lyons flameworking a bee.

## Madawaska Valley Studio Tour

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tour Celebrates  
Canadian Artists and Artisans

This October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> marks the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Madawaska Valley Studio Tour. Seventeen studios from Barry's Bay to Eganville, and from Quadeville to Killaloe, are participating in this free self-directed tour. Visitors will have the chance to observe live demonstrations by renowned artists, meet emerging artists, and purchase one-of-a-kind art and fine craft. This is a unique chance to see artists and makers in their studios as they transform materials like leather, wood, clay, fabric, glass, wool and metal to meet their artistic vision.

Plan your route ahead or let whimsy be your guide as you hit the road discovering art and the inspiration behind it. Meet the artists and drive the winding roads while

taking in the gorgeous fall colours of the beautiful Madawaska Valley. It is easy to see why so many artists and artisans find inspiration here.

Artists open their studio doors to visitors from 10AM to 5PM on both Saturday and Sunday. Watch for the red maple leaf signs on the way and outside each studio. Pick up a brochure with a map at local businesses and tourist bureaus, visit <madawaskastudiotour.com> for more details, or follow the tour on Facebook and Instagram.

Are you an artist in the area of the Madawaska Valley Studio Tour? Member applications for the 2026 season are now open! Apply at <madawaskastudiotour.com> by November 1, 2025.

## Popcorn with Purpose Film Club Fridays Support Perth Library

Studio Theatre Perth has donated nearly \$18,000 to the Perth Union Library through its popular Film Club Fridays, which began in September 2023. Funds are raised through ticket sales and the efforts of dedicated volunteers who manage everything from concessions to projection.

The donations have had a significant impact. Contributions from 2023 and 2024 funded upgrades to the library's Common Room, including improved lighting, new cabinetry, and hybrid meeting technology. The latest donation, made in 2025, will support renovations to the upstairs kitchenette, enhancing the functionality of the large meeting room used for community programs and events.

Library CEO Erika Heeson expressed appreciation for the theatre's ongoing support, emphasizing how valuable the partnership is to both the library and the broader community.

Film Club Fridays will return on September 5 for a fourth season of Toronto International Film Festival selections. Screenings take place on select Fridays at 2PM and 7PM at Studio Theatre, 63 Gore Street East. Admission is \$12, with film passes available at the library or the theatre box office.



(l-r) Studio Theatre President Robert FeDuke; Perth Library CEO Erika Heeson; Film Club Fridays Coordinator Kat Watring-Ellis; and Library Specialist Emily Fournier





Join the team of volunteers that ensures new artworks are acquired, repaired if needed, and hung for residents and visitors to appreciate!

# Art in the Manor

## Volunteers Brighten the Walls of AGH-FVM

By Renate Seiler

Where does the art on the walls of the Almonte General Hospital and the Fairview Manor come from, and who decides where and how it should be displayed? Did you know there must be art on the walls before a long-term care home can even open?

Admittedly, all this never really crossed my mind until I came upon a booth at last September's Mississippi Mills at a Glance event showcasing the Art in the Manor (AIM) Committee hosted by two very friendly volunteers. I was surprised to learn that this committee, founded in 2007, and entirely run by volunteers, is responsible for the entire collection and everything to do with it! The AIM collection currently consists of over 550 pieces of art, including numerous local artists; many are original paintings, plus photographs, limited edition prints, and multimedia pieces. The art is spread through the hallways, dining rooms, corridor gallery and the great room of Fairview Manor, as well as administration areas, and the Medical-Surgical and Rosamond wings of the Almonte General Hospital.

Committee members are responsible for acquiring new artwork, almost exclusively from local donations, and keeping a detailed database of where the art came from and where in the facility it hangs. They also repair damaged frames and art, as needed, and

then hang the art where it would show to the best advantage in terms of suitability or aesthetics or where it would fit thematically.

This intrigued me: I like art, I enjoy meeting new people and I like learning new things, so I signed up to join the AIM committee.

So far, I have learned how to review and assess new donations, how to "intake" or access a painting into the collection, and have also had the opportunity to hang several pictures over the past few months. We work in teams of 2-3 people, which makes it more fun and personal, as do the interactions with the residents of Fairview Manor especially, who are always interested in what we are doing and what new pictures we are hanging.

We schedule our meetings as needed and work them around our personal schedules. Due to the nature of the various tasks, we don't all need to attend all the meetings. In addition to managing the art collection, we oversee the small gallery space between the Almonte Hospital and the Fairview Manor where we mount rotating shows. I am really enjoying my work on the AIM Committee, and, if all this interests you and intrigues you as well, I will be one of the friendly volunteers waiting to greet you at the AIM booth of this year's Mississippi Mills Community Open House from 6-8PM on Wednesday, September 10.

64 Mill Street, Almonte  
613-256-9198  
jbarts.ca

## BACK TO (ART) SCHOOL

ART COURSES for KIDS - TEENS - ADULTS

Weekly Classes available in:

Pottery, Printmaking, Painting, Drawing,  
Glass Fusing, Cartooning, Mixed Media

Cat's Paradise  
Spa & Boarding Retreat

## The Ultimate Kitty Getaway!

Visit us at  
 /CatsParadiseSpa or [www.catsparadise.ca](http://www.catsparadise.ca)

Cats have their own luxury rooms with soft beds, individual outdoor terrace, hammocks to lounge, a cozy fireplace, a HUGE kitty park, staff that cater to their every need, and of course some paparazzi to capture some candid shots for their paw'rents! We also offer a range of products purr-fect for your feline friends and amazing gifts for the pet lover!

659 John Kennedy Way, Almonte (613) 256-8833

**Lanark County Mansions**  
Spectacular Homes and Fascinating Families  
Arlene Stafford-Wilson

## BOOK LAUNCH

### Lanark County Mansions

A New Release from  
**ARLENE STAFFORD-WILSON**

**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 20  
12-3PM**

**The Book Nook**  
& Other Treasures  
Where imagination & creativity meet  
Books • Arts & Crafts • Games & Puzzles • Unique Gifts  
60 Gore St., East, Perth 613-267-2350

destination  
**ALMONTE**  
mississippi mills

# FALL NIGHT MARKET

JOIN US ON MILL STREET  
September 25 5-8PM

[www.DestinationAlmonte.com](http://www.DestinationAlmonte.com)





NEWLY EXPANDED  
STORE BURSTING  
WITH BRIGHT, BOLD  
& FUN VINTAGE  
CLOTHING

**ELECTRIC  
CATWALK  
VINTAGE**

Your new favorite vintage clothing store

**VISIT US**

**56 VICTORIA ST  
CARLETON PLACE.ON**

**ELECTRICCATWALK@GMAIL.COM**






**WESTPORT  
SOME KIND OF  
CHOIR**

**REGISTRATION OPEN**

September 15 - November 23, 2025  
practices: 2 - 4 pm - SUNDAYS  
Knox Presbyterian Church, Westport

**\$75 registration - form is available  
westportartscouncil.com**

**QUESTIONS? email us at  
westportartscouncil@gmail.com  
or call 613-273-9195**

*no auditions*

*love to sing in a choir?  
give us a try!*





**FULL SERVICE DELI**



**LOCAL, ORGANIC & ONTARIO FOOD**



**FILL STATION & BULK BINS**



**HUGE HEALTH & BEAUTY SECTION**



**HUGE CHEESE SECTION**



**REWARDS PROGRAM & SALE FLYER**

FANTASTIC  
SALE FLYER ON  
OUR WEBSITE

**Foodsmiths**  
THE GOOD FOOD STORE

FREE COFFEE  
SATURDAY  
& SUNDAY

Your Local, Canadian, Natural Health Food Store and so much more!

106 WILSON ST. W. PERTH, ON 613.267.5409 foodsmiths.com

# The Music of What Happens

## Finn MacCool — Stories from Ancient Ireland

Three is a magic number! This is the third year that summer's end will bring listeners and tellers to Wildwood Farm for a splendid, extended storytelling adventure — an adventure in listening, imagining, and deep feeling. This year's stories focus on Ireland's Finn MacCool, the most renowned captain of the Fianna, that glorious band of heroes who, in days gone by, rode out to protect the green isle whenever danger threatened.

Finn's story begins deep in the forest, where two good women shelter him from those who would deny him his place as the leader of the Fianna. As he grows, he acquires the skills of the hunter and the hunted, the wisdom of the poet, and the heart of a musician. When he comes to his manhood, he goes forth to explore the world of men and that other world of the old people who live beneath the hills. With courage, cunning, and deeds of strength, he struggles to win his rightful place as leader of the Fianna.

When Finn and his companions gather around a fireside in the deep woods or meet in the feasting hall of a king after a long hunt, magic shimmers and shifts about them. Love and jealousy, loyalty and betrayal, transformation and trickery are never very far away. Live for a time in Finn's world: run with the great hunting dogs, meet the people of the Shee, laugh at impossible delusions and weep as it all comes to its inevitable end. Be there to discover what "the finest music in all the world" might be.

This is a precious opportunity, in these times of soundbites and manipulated stories, to immerse yourself in the richness of this ancient world where words carry power and images are many-layered.

Five fine tellers — Jennifer Cayley, Kim Kilpatrick, Jo Kuyvenhoven, Marie Robertson, and Anne Schmitz of Ottawa Storytellers — will lead you into this remarkable world. If you listen, really listen,



Immerse yourself in the tales of old Ireland at Wildwood Farm on Sunday, September 14

as well as discovering an astonishing assemblage of mythic Irish heroes and heroines, you may also find something of yourself. The stories are further enlivened by original music, created and performed by Kluane Takhini.

Light refreshments will be available, but we encourage you to bring whatever you need to keep yourself sustained for this very full afternoon. When the telling is over, we invite you to join the tellers and all the other listeners in a potluck supper — a chance to eat together as we talk and wonder about all that the afternoon has brought us. (Please keep in mind that the telling takes place in an uninsulated barn loft. It may be cool or hot depending on the weather.)

*The Music of What Happens: Stories of the Great Irish Hero Finn MacCool* takes place on Sunday, September 14 from 1 –5PM at Wildwood Farm (2501 Old Brooke Road in Maberly). Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for students, and are available from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434). For more information, email <cayleyjennifer@gmail.com>.

# For the Love of Lists

By Jessie Carson

Who doesn't love a list? At first glance, a written list might seem incredibly mundane. A tool we only use for our most basic daily tasks. I make a list daily and always have more than one working list at any time. Right now, I am tracking what we need to buy at the local grocers and have another list to remind us what to buy at Costco. I have an annotated list of chapters I have yet to write for my work-in-progress novel and another reminding me which have been drafted but need more work. I could go on, but you get the idea. Lists are common and may not be the first approach that comes to mind when we think about crafting a story. A list's straightforwardness is also an effective way to structure creative writing.

In creative writing, lists can do much heavy lifting, giving order to chaos, condensing and prioritizing large swaths of information, aligning our purpose, giving boundaries to what we want to share with our readers, providing a starting point, and making us feel a sense of accomplishment. For many aspiring writers or novelists, it is overwhelming when we have a story to tell, yet don't know where to start. Our imaginings can be like the tangle of fishing lines that, as children, we had to pick apart before we learned to cast around that big oak tree hanging over the dock at the lake. Before we caught the fish. Before we cared much at all about the order of lists. Often, once we begin to write that "big" story that has been nagging at us for gosh knows how long, it initially comes out muddled, meandering and disconnected. A knot looks bigger before we completely untangle it. This is ok, to begin with, but then if we want others to connect with our story, we need to find some kind of structure. I wasn't always enthralled with structure. It felt like something that stifled creativity and would limit a story. Thanks to some stellar teachers and studying the craft of writing, I came around to the idea of giving stories scaffolding, creating a stronger narrative. Using list-structures made writing a novel-length project or a chapter more accessible.



Almonte Readers & Writers organizer Jessie Carson is offering a six-week workshop this fall

Some of the best poems, stories and books I have read recently use the structure of a list. Sometimes the tool of using a list in creative writing can be overt. Other times, it is embedded as a story within a story. A list can also be ninja-like: readers may not always pick up on the fact that they are reading a list. A list structure is one of the containers that holds space for a good story and sometimes, as a writer, a container is all we need to know how to begin.

Beginning on Thursday, September 18, I will be starting a 6-week writing workshop called "For the Love of Lists". This series is for any level of writer. We will be reading examples of published writing as well as creating new work. What I love about studying structure is that, as writers, it gives us or reminds us of different ways of approaching our stories. And finding new ways to tell stories and surprising ourselves with our writing is where the delight comes in.

The workshop takes place from 6–8PM on September 18 and 25, and October 2, 9, 16 and 23 at the Almonte Old Town Hall. The cost is \$240, and you can sign up at <jessicarson.com>. If you have questions, email <jesscarson@gmail.com>.



# Stage R!ot — All-Ages Rock Concerts

Stage R!ot Productions is a passionate new initiative brought to life by Alycia and Tyler in Carleton Place. Combining Tyler's decades-long experience as a musician with Alycia's dedication to youth from years in outdoor education, Stage R!ot creates safe, inclusive, pay-what-you-can, all-ages rock shows. These events offer a crucial space for teens to experience live music without needing to sneak into bars

by Rob Riendeau

or break the bank. It's a community-driven effort complete with sober security, volunteer opportunities, and a mission to keep creativity and accessibility front and centre. theHumm reached out to them to find out more about their vision.

**What moment or experience inspired you to launch Stage R!ot in Carleton Place — was there a specific show, memory,**

**or gap in the community that sparked this idea?**

Tyler King: All-ages shows were incredibly important to me growing up. Being a misfit myself, it provided an exciting inclusive community and filled my head with aspirations to write and perform music. Now, being parents to a teenager, we were seeing that there weren't the same number of opportunities for kids these days. Concerts are either terribly expensive, or licensed events for 19+ they can't attend. So the solution was easy — set up my PA system, book some bands, and have a good time!

**Walk us through how each of you contributes — you with the music and connections, Alycia with youth engagement, and your son Connor's all-important honest feedback. How does it function as a family endeavour?**

Having played and worked in the Ottawa music scene for a couple of decades, I still have a connection or two that has helped bring out some great bands, and I'm very familiar with what's needed to run a safe and fun show. Alycia's years of working with kids and communicating with parents has made her a natural representative to the community, and her social media skills are incredibly helpful. Connor is always there to provide a "cringe check". We're well aware that parents aren't always on top of what's cool these days, so we defer to his opinion on all sorts of matters before presenting to the public.

**Are there any challenges you have faced in creating safe**

**and sober events that run on a "pay-what-you-can" model? Have you had good support and engagement from the community?**

The engagement from the community has been nothing short of overwhelming. In fact, the original concept was to have a small show in a coffee shop maybe, but it's grown so quickly into much more. Countless parents have offered to volunteer, and we absolutely could not pull it off without them. The pay-what-you-can model has been going really well. We don't want finances to be a barrier for anyone who wants to see local music. Attendees have been great at supporting the bands, and we keep costs low because it's all volunteer-run. I can honestly say we haven't had a single problem yet with the events. Hiring professional security ensures that we keep shenanigans to a minimum. We want everyone leaving happy and healthy at the end of the night. We've also had some generous donations, some of which will be given away at our next big event on September 27.

**Tell us more about the big event you have planned for later this month.**

On September 27 we are returning to the Royal Canadian Legion at 177 George Street for a jumbo-sized outdoor show starting at 2PM and featuring eight bands, along with food, drinks, prizes and more. We really hope people bring their kids for some fun and stick around into the evening. We have other events already lined up in different venues around town that will be announced very soon.



Alycia and Tyler (above), with help from their teenage son Connor, have been building a safe, inclusive all-ages concert scene in Carleton Place

**What are your hopes for the future of this endeavour, and how can people stay up-to-date or get involved, whether it's coming to a show or volunteering?**

Our goal will always be to give kids a stage to perform on and gain experience, while delivering the most exciting shows possible. We are also exploring other roles for youth to try, such as lighting, sound production, photography and promotional art. I would sincerely like to keep doing this for years to come, and when I'm all worn out, to pass the torch on to someone who would like to continue creating all-ages shows for the kids. We are easy to find on Facebook and Instagram @stage.riot for all show updates, or people can reach out to us at <stageriotproductions@gmail.com>. Hope to see you in the pit soon!



A FESTIVAL FOR READERS AND WRITERS  
Sept 18—21, 2025 | Kingston Marriot

**13 ONSTAGE EVENTS**

Writers of every genre take to the WritersFest stage to delight, inform, and provoke. Tickets: \$30

**#1 RESISTANCE AND REFUGE**  
**Thursday, Sept 18**  
Madeleine Thien & Canisia Lubrin with Eric Friesen

**#4 YOU CAN'T READ THAT!**  
**Friday, Sept 19**  
Ira Wells with David Moscrop

**#7 MYSTERY AT THE MARRIOTT**  
**Saturday, Sept 20**  
Nita Prose & Kate Hilton with Wayne Grady

**#9 THE MIND MAPPERS**  
**Saturday, Sept 20**  
Eric Andrew-Gee with Anne Collins

...AND MORE!

**A WORD AFTER A WORD AFTER A WORD IS POWER.**

*Margaret Atwood*

**14 WRITERS STUDIOS**

Whether you are just starting out or already published, there is a master class designed to propel you forward!

**#WS6 TACKLING YOUR MEMOIR**  
**Friday, Sept 19**  
with Beth Kaplan  
90 minutes, \$50

**#WS10 LEAVE THEM HANGING**  
**Saturday, Sept 20**  
Suspense writing with Howard Shrier  
90 minutes, \$50

**NEW: READERS SALONS!**

Join a vibrant group of avid readers to celebrate the joy and art of reading poetry, translation, and more!

**PLUS: ?? LITERARY TRIVIA!**

**Thursday, Sept 18**  
9PM at Something in the Water Brewery

See the full event roster!  
kingstonwritersfest.ca

#KWF2025  
@writersfestygk  
@kingstonwritersfest



# Alameda in the Public Realm

## An Opportunity for Creative Engagement

Submitted by Alameda Volunteers  
We need your input.

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills has begun a new project to develop a Public Realm Plan for Downtown Almonte and Ottawa Street. The objective is to develop long-term policies for the use of and the long-term maintenance of public spaces. A first draft of the plan is targeted for early fall this year.

The Alameda is one of the places to be included in Almonte's Public Realm planning. The locally conceived and created Almonte Alameda is the treelined section on the rail trail running through the centre of town alongside the Library and Reserve Street. It is part of the larger Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail (OVRT).

We have an opportunity to contribute to the Public Realm plan as it relates to the Alameda. An informal group of active volunteers who have worked to develop and maintain this unique space are looking for views from Alameda users and Almonte citizens on the future of this special place, which had its beginnings as an idea followed with action by the people in the community.

### Origins: A Community Place Rises

When use of a span of Canadian Pacific Railway track was discontinued in January 2010, Lanark County, Renfrew County and the Township of Papineau acquired the rail corridor, removed the rails and ties, and reserved the 296 kilometers from Mattawa to Smith Falls for recreational use. In the early summer of 2020, an ad hoc gathering of Almonte citizens saw an opportunity, raised money and planted 102 sugar maple trees

along a stretch in the centre of Almonte. An Alameda, meaning a public walk shaded with trees, was born. The name was also a tribute to the Mexican (Spanish) origins of Almonte's name. A spontaneous and fluid group of volunteers continued to oversee the health of the trees, watering them with pails carried from the Mississippi River as needed, even as a drought threatened their survival.

Gradually and organically, the Almonte Alameda emerged as a hub of activity cherished by residents and a draw for visitors. Benches for resting were installed with quotations and small sculptures honouring well-known members of the community (their stories recorded online). Historical plaques were erected and picnic tables added. Equipment for the Almonte Wellness Trail and a bicycle repair stand became included. A garden was planted and tended at Bridge Street, framed with stones pulled from the earth during the replacement of aging infrastructure on Mill Street. A bust of the beloved Gloria (from CBC's *Under the Umbrella Tree*), and the *Alameda Greenman* by sculptor Dale Dunning, appeared by the trees. ATVs shared the trail with pedestrians.

Supporting multiple interests and ages, the space over time developed for the whole community. The Farmers' Market, Puppets Up! and the Halloween Pumpkin Harvest found their natural place along the Alameda. The Youth Centre has run events for the young with pizzas cooked in the nearby outdoor oven and movies shown on the Alameda lawns, powered by newly installed electrical lines. Recently, wooden sculptures created by Naismith school children formed a summer exhibit. Six years on, our trees are

reaching across the path and beginning to deliver their promised shade, and Almonte has a beautiful, green place that nourishes and honours the spirit of the community in the town core.

### Ideas to Spark Our Imagination

Through the Public Realm plan, we have an opportunity to ensure this community-made spot, by the Old Town Hall, the Riverwalk, the Horticultural Society Garden and Mill Street, thrives and grows as a place for everyone to enjoy, as a destination that reminds everyone of the creative, welcoming spirit of Almonte. Let us know your thoughts on these ideas for continuing this as a special space for our community as well as any other ideas for the Alameda you may have.

Below are just a few possibilities:

- 3 Tiny Forests – preserving/enhancing the existing 3 copses of trees
- Group picnic space with accessible tables
- Lighting – This one is half-way to being realized. Underground cables are in place. Twenty white stones of local marble are ready to receive special insets that will gently wash the ground path with light for evening use that won't disturb clear skies.
- Improved grasses, improved tree wells
- Imagine Wall – whimsy sculpture/structure with puppet worthy use, made with rescued Dungarvon stone
- Adopt-a Garden
- Outdoor chess table with stool
- Concrete table tennis table
- Multi-directional foot traffic – connecting access paths from Reserve Street up to the Alameda and through to the Horticultural Society Garden



By August of 2022, the Almonte Alameda trees were already taller than stilt-walking jugglers! A group of engaged citizens wants you to share your ideas for continuing to realize the potential of this lovely public space.

- Gazebo
- Pop-Up art display platforms and plinths
- Children's reading nook
- Children's clambering challenges
- Improved Reserve Street parking boundary/interface with grass field
- Preserved parking overflow for the Fairgrounds
- More public art selected through new public art policies

Please share your ideas for continuing to realize the promise of our Alameda! Send your ideas with Alameda in the subject line to Alameda volunteer Scott Hortop at <f.r.scott.hortop@gmail.com>. We will include and transmit your comments in our Public Realm conversations. Thank you for contributing!

# The Alliance Coin & Banknote Fall Expo Sale!

A diverse offering by auction of more than 500 lots of Coins, Banknotes, Medals and Tokens.

Available now for advance bidding on our iCollector Auction Site.

Live Sale broadcast from the Toronto Coin Expo, starting at 5:30 on

## Thursday October 2



An extremely rare Queen Victoria Half Dollar with "brockage" error (Queen on both sides)



A scarce 1920 Hudson's Bay Company Service Medal in 15 karat gold



An astounding 1924 Five Note of Queen Mary with serial #000002



Sean Isaacs  
Serving Collectors and Institutions since 1988  
Member: CAND, RCNA, ONA (Life)



A delightful 1937-D United States "3 Legged Buffalo" Five Cents



A classic Canadian 1948 Silver Dollar in uncirculated condition



A remarkable Ancient Judae Prutah Coin of Pontius Pilate, AD 26-36

Scan here for a DIRECT LINK to our sale!



Auction Sneak Preview at the Ottawa Coin Show,  
Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00–2:00, Westboro Legion, 389 Richmond Road

## 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](http://www.alliancecoin.com)



# It's Not Too Late!

## Local Actions to Save the Birds — and Humans — from the Climate Crisis

Two months ago, I wrote an article about how people weren't paying much attention to the climate crisis, but perhaps did care about the birds.

Well, things have certainly changed, haven't they?

Nothing like the whole country being on fire; like one extreme heat wave after another (21 days over 30 degrees instead of the average 12 per summer); like grass, vegetable and flower gardens going dry — or worst case,

by Sue Brandum

wells going dry! And horror stories of heat and fires out of Europe and ocean surface temperatures broaching 40 degrees Celsius. And a new report about the decimation of birds from extreme heat. All those brought the climate crisis to the fore!

### What Can You Do?

First things first: every molecule of greenhouse gas counts, every fraction of a degree counts. So don't fall sway to the notion that it's too late, that there's nothing you can do. Everything we all do means we keep things from getting worse.

The key steps are to stop emitting greenhouse gases. I know that this will sound like a record stuck on skip, but do we ever need repetition these days because the messages still don't seem to be getting through. It certainly seems to me that many individuals get it — especially the woman who contacted me about her well going dry — but not enough of our government and business leaders get it.

We must stop, or plan to stop in the near term, burning any and all of the fossil fuels (gasoline, diesel, natural gas/methane, and oil) which emit carbon dioxide. And we must cut emissions from the other five greenhouse gases: methane, nitrous oxide (a byproduct of nitrogen fertilizer), hydro-fluorocarbons (refrigerants), perfluorocarbons (refrigerants, solvents), and sulfur hexafluoride (an electrical insulator).

Every molecule of greenhouse gas counts, every fraction of a degree counts. So don't fall sway to the notion that it's too late, that there's nothing you can do.

### Compost

The least expensive and easiest action you can take is to compost! There's still far too much organic material — materials that originate as animal or plant materials, including paper products — going into our landfills, where it rots and produces methane. Methane has a warming effect 80 times greater, in the short term, than carbon dioxide. Given how critical our situation is now, cutting methane right now gives us a little more time to cut more of the carbon dioxide emissions.

Most municipalities provide backyard composters at a subsidized price for residents. Mississippi Mills and Carleton Place are partially supporting Just Good Compost, a kitchen compost pick-up service. Perth has a Green Bin program which picks up compostable items from the curb. More restaurants in the area are finding ways to divert their organic waste, and Climate Network Lanark's organic waste diversion program at the Stewart Park Festival has truly caught on after three years and has influenced other local organizations to adopt similar festival practices. These are all important steps because methane released from our local landfills can be the third largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Lanark County and Smiths Falls.

### Transportation

The single largest source of global warming emissions in our area comes from the burning of gasoline and diesel in our cars, trucks and commercial vehicles. One of the most critical things we can do is develop a public transportation network that will replace fossil fuel vehicles with electric vehicles. Lanark County

and the Town of Smiths Falls are conducting a Rural Transit Feasibility Study to explore options for improving public transit in the region.

Contributors to the public consultations (held across the County just recently) included Climate Network Lanark and various municipalities. We called for the public transit program that comes out of this to be fully electric, and to provide service like that now provided in North Grenville. That service provides a curb-to-curb, on-demand service throughout the whole municipality, the urban centre of Kemptville and the rural areas outside. Imagine: you could schedule, through an app or a phone call, a pick-up at your home, a drop-off where you want, and the time, within moderation. Increasingly, small urban and rural municipalities exactly like ours are adopting this smart public transit system. Making it electric means cutting the emissions dramatically.

Of course, switching to an Electric Vehicle drops personal greenhouse gases dramatically after the first two years of ownership. And despite all the misleading information out there, more Canadians are choosing EVs and more want to. While I appreciate this is not a scientific measurement, I was very surprised to get the response I did to a post on social media about a way to access lower-cost EVs. Some 160 people endorsed my post, saying how much they wanted to switch to an EV, if they were more reasonably priced. From everything I'm reading and hearing, it appears the Canadian automotive sector is in for some disruption, and we will get less expensive EVs sooner rather than later.

And always, kudos to the many efforts across the County to bring in more active transportation options — from the Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month and paved shoulders being added to all local highways to Perth's Active Transportation Plan and all municipal and community efforts in-between.

### Buildings

The third largest source of emissions in our area is buildings. Quite frankly there has never been a better time to get financial, technical and social help cutting your emissions. I have been involved for more than 25 years in programs to cut such emissions, and I have never seen the richness of programs that exist now. One might ask why? Basically, it's because there is a broad consensus that we must cut greenhouse gas emissions, and there is a need to free up electricity on the grid as we make more demands with growing adoption of EVs and heat pumps.

There are at least seven major funding programs locally that aid with everything from insulation and air sealing to new heat pumps, windows, rooftop solar systems, back-up battery (Tesla Wall) systems, new fridges, freezers, dehumidifiers, electrical panel upgrades, EV chargers, sump pumps, basement waterproofing, water heaters, and other goodies. These programs include the brand-new Better Homes Lanark which is basically a low-interest loan program from our local municipalities that supports your energy efficiency and retrofit needs. BHL also provides some grants for specific achievements. You can find more about them at <lanarkcounty.ca/government/environmental-initiatives/better-homes-lanark>.

While all these programs apply to homeowners, two of them also apply to tenants. And while eligibility can be income-dependent, income levels can be relatively high (for example, \$66,595 for two people or \$47,090 for one in one program). And, depending, you might be eligible for a free heat pump and replacement appliances!

Climate Network Lanark is launching a new round of Neighbourhood Climate Concierge groups in September. We continue to get accolades for this amazing program largely because we bring experts in to talk to groups of a dozen or so homeowners, and because the process of working with the experts and neighbours in similar situations greatly improves your confidence. Your trust grows in your own abilities to make the right decisions and choose the right equipment and tradespeople.

The new groups will start as they fill up in Almonte, Carleton Place, Lanark Village, Perth, Smiths Falls,



Curious about heat pumps? Climate Network Lanark is starting up their popular neighbourhood "Climate Concierge" program this fall!

and a virtual group. To sign up or to receive more information on the groups and schedule simply go to <climatenetworklanark.ca>. There is a small fee of \$25 for the whole program which runs for one 2-hour meeting a month for six months.

### Act Now!

There is no reason now for anyone to say they can't act on the climate crisis, can't help to keep things from getting worse. We can all take actions, and work to create a planet where our kids and grandkids and nature herself, including the birds, will struggle — hopefully — just a little less.

One more thing — there's a massive effort underway to mobilize seniors across Canada for climate action on September 19 and 20. See page 14 of this issue for more information!



**FIONA MACINTYRE DESIGN**

Metalsmithing Workshops are back this fall!  
Register online at [fionamacintyre.ca](http://fionamacintyre.ca)  
Contemporary Jewellery & Custom Design

141 St Lawrence St., Merrickville  
Open Tue-Sun 613-269-3070



**Lanark Lit**  
WRITING COMPETITION

**Celebrating works of original writing by local literary artists of all ages**

Accepting  
**SHORT WORKS OF CREATIVE NON-FICTION**  
Prizes available  
Two categories - 17 & under, Adults 18+

**Submission deadline SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**







[www.almontereadersandwriters.org](http://www.almontereadersandwriters.org)



*My Own Private Shakespeare*, Oct 4, McDonalds Corners  
**Capital Chamber Choir**, Oct 4, Perth  
**Madawaska Valley Studio Tour**, Oct 4-5  
**A Death in the Family**, Oct 4 & 18, Perth  
**The Piano Men**, Oct 10, Perth  
**ADHS 150 Celebration**, Almonte, Oct 11  
**Crown & Pumpkim Studio Tour**, Mississippi Mills, Oct 11-12  
**Perth Autumn Studio Tour**, Oct 11-12  
**FoMMPL Book Sale**, Oct 17-25, Almonte  
**MMLT Fall Colours Walk**, Oct 18, Blueberry Mountain  
**Offbeet**, Oct 23, Carleton Place  
**Percussiano3**, Oct 25, Almonte  
**PDCF Trivia Night**, Oct 25, Perth  
**Jeffrey Straker**, Oct 26, McDonalds Corners  
**Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show**, Almonte, Nov 1-2  
**Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Show**, Carleton Place, Nov 8-9  
**Amanda Rheume**, Nov 9, McDonalds Corners  
**Puppets Up! Chautauqua**, Nov 15, Almonte  
**Vinta**, Nov 23, McDonalds Corners  
**AiC Christmas Concert**, Dec 6, Almonte  
**Elinor Frey**, Jan 25, Almonte  
**Scandalous Romantics**, Mar 7, Almonte  
**Vnukowski/Odin Quintet**, Apr 11, Almonte

Festivals

**Perth Fair**, Sep 1, 9AM–4PM. Competitions, rides, food, vendors & entertainment. Perth Fairgrounds. perthfair.com  
**Almonte Fair**, Sep 5–7. Midway, agricultural shows & displays and live entertainment. Kids under 36” tall get in free. Almonte Fairgrounds. \$20/day; \$40 all shows & rides; \$90 weekend pass. almontefair.weebly.com  
**Fibrefest**, Sep 6–7. Vendors, demos, workshops. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. \$5 from TicketsPlease.ca. mvtm.ca  
**Middleville Fair**, Sep 13. Heritage machinery, entertainment, food, demos, competitions. Middleville Fairgrounds. Admission \$7, Turkey dinner \$25. middlevillefair.ca  
**Lanark County Ukrainian Fest**, Sep 13, 12–8PM. Riverside Park, Carleton Place. 621-1261  
**Carleton Place Farmers’ Market Harvest Festival**, Sep 20, 8:30AM-12:30PM. Market Square Pavilion. carletonplacefarmersmarket.ca  
**Carp Fair**, Sep 25–28. Family fun, great music and amazing shows. Carp Fair. carpfair.ca  
**Reconciliation Through Art**, Sep 28–30. Documentary screening, workshops, WaterWalk, Indigenous musical showcase, art exhibit and more. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. Register at TicketsPlease.ca. ReconciliationThroughArt.ca

Theatre

**High Times at the Heart Institute**, Sep 13, 7PM, Sep 14, 2PM, Sep 20 & 27, 6PM, Sep 21 & 28, 1PM. A musical comedy tribute to Canada’s health care system. Rankin Culture and Recreation Centre, Pembroke. \$45 (plus HST) from TicketsPlease.ca  
**Drag Bingo!**, Sep 13, 7:30PM. The Pews, Merrickville. \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door. thepews.ca  
**Penguin Lessons**, Sep 14, 7:30PM. Mississippi Mills Film Society, at the Almonte Legion. \$15 from TicketsPlease.ca  
**The Music of What Happens: Stories of Finn MacCool**, Sep 14, 1–5PM. Storytelling with music at Wildwood Farm, Maberly. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca  
**Puppets Up! Chautauqua Auditions**, Sep 14 (1-4PM) & 15 (7-9PM). Strut your stuff at the variety show in November. Book an audition time at volunteersignup.org/B3bfh. Almonte Library  
**Riversong Players Auditions**, Sep 16, 5:30–8:30PM. Ensemble auditions for 2025/26 season. Open to ages 10 and up, with opportunities both on stage and behind the scenes. Union Hall, Almonte.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1 🌟 <b>Perth Fair</b> , Perth 🎵 <b>Julia Finnegan</b> , The Cove 📺 <b>Summer Plein Air Sessions</b> , Arnprior	2 🎵 <b>Tuesdays with Eric and Meghan</b> , The Cove	3 🌿 <b>Nature Talks</b> , Carp 🚲 <b>Bike Night on Beckwith</b> , Smiths Falls 🎵 <b>Wings N Tunes with Shane McCullough</b> , The Cove 🌿 <b>Summer Special Bingo</b> , Perth 📺 <b>Lanark County Camera Club Meeting</b> , Perth	4 🎵 <b>Country Josh</b> , The Cove 🎵 <b>Songwriters Showcase with Lynn Miles</b> , Merrickville
8 🎵 <b>Crystal Journey</b> , Almonte 🎵 <b>Julia Finnegan</b> , The Cove 📺 <b>Summer Plein Air Sessions</b> , Arnprior	9 🌿 <b>Seniors for Climate</b> , contact for link 🎵 <b>Crystal Journey</b> , Almonte 🎵 <b>Tuesdays with Eric and Meghan</b> , The Cove	10 🌿 <b>Community Open House</b> , Almonte 🎵 <b>Wings N Tunes with Shane McCullough</b> , The Cove 🌿 <b>Summer Special Bingo</b> , Perth	11 🌿 <b>Lanark Highlands Township Meeting</b> , McDonalds Corners 🎵 <b>Perth Youth Players</b> , Perth 🎵 <b>Cameron Wyatt</b> , The Cove 🌿 <b>Carleton Place Toastmasters Club</b> , contact for link
15 🎭 <b>Puppets Up! Chautauqua Auditions</b> , Almonte 🎵 <b>Zach Teal</b> , The Cove 📺 <b>Summer Plein Air Sessions</b> , Arnprior	16 🎭 <b>Riversong Players Auditions</b> , Almonte 🎵 <b>Henry Norwood</b> , The Cove	17 🌿 <b>Song Healing Circle</b> , Carp 🌿 <b>Seed Saving</b> , Pakenham 🎵 <b>Wings N Tunes with Shane McCullough</b> , The Cove 🌿 <b>Summer Special Bingo</b> , Perth	18 🎭 <b>You Can’t Take It With You - Opening Night</b> , Perth 🎵 <b>Kevin Head</b> , The Cove
22 🎵 <b>Julia Finnegan</b> , The Cove 🌿 <b>Almonte &amp; District Horticultural Monthly Meeting</b> , Almonte 📺 <b>Summer Plein Air Sessions</b> , Arnprior	23 🌿 <b>Ashton United Church Community Breakfast</b> , Ashton 🌿 <b>Tea Time</b> , Carp 🎵 <b>Tuesdays with Eric and Meghan</b> , The Cove	24 🌿 <b>Can We Talk? with Phil Jenkins</b> , Almonte 🎵 <b>Wings N Tunes with Shane McCullough</b> , The Cove 🌿 <b>Summer Special Bingo</b> , Perth 📺 <b>Silent Book Club</b> , Perth	25 🌿 <b>Almonte Fall Night Market</b> , Almonte 🎭 <b>You Can’t Take It With You</b> , Perth 🎵 <b>Umbrelune</b> , The Cove 🌿 <b>Carleton Place Toastmasters Club</b> , contact for link 🎵 <b>Snow Road Music Night Concert with Shenanigans</b> , Snow Road Station 🎵 <b>The Dirty Nil</b> , Neat Coffee Shop 🌿 <b>Carp Fair</b> , Carp
29 🌟 <b>Reconciliation Through Art</b> , Almonte 🎵 <b>Our Voices in Song</b> , Almonte 🎵 <b>Julia Finnegan</b> , The Cove 📖 <b>Sherman Downey</b> , Perth 📺 <b>Book Club</b> , Almonte 📺 <b>Summer Plein Air Sessions</b> , Arnprior	30 🌟 <b>Reconciliation Through Art</b> , Almonte 🎵 <b>Tuesdays with Eric and Meghan</b> , The Cove	1 🎵 <b>Wings N Tunes with Shane McCullough</b> , The Cove	2

riversongplayers.com  
**You Can’t Take It With You**, Sep 18–28, Thur & Fri at 7:30PM, Sat & Sun at 2PM. Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy by George S. Kaufman & Moss Hart. Studio Theatre Perth. \$24 (plus fees) from TicketsPlease.ca  
**Inendi** documentary screening, Sep 28, 2PM. Part of Reconciliation Through Art. Register at TicketsPlease.ca, entry by donation at the door. Almonte United Church  
**Literature**  
**Perth Writers Fest**, Sep 6, 9AM–12PM. Perth Farmers’ Market. Free. perthfarmersmarket.com/events  
**Democracy & Political Landscapes**: a conversation with Andrew Coyne and John Ibbitson, Sep 14, 1PM. Arnprior Public Library. Free event, registration required. arnpriorlibrary.ca  
**Book Launch for Arlene Stafford-Wilson**, Sep 20, 12–3PM. Launch and signing of *Lanark County Mansions*. The Book Nook, Perth. thebooknookperth.com  
**Silent Book Club**, Sep 24, 6–8PM. Welcome to introvert happy hour. Bridge Masters Brewing Company, Perth. Please RSVP at sbcperth.ticketleap.com. bridgemastersbrewing.com/events

**Book Club**, Sep 29, 7PM. New members welcome, email millstreetbooks@gmail.com to join. Mill Street Books, Almonte. Free. millstreetbooks.com  
**Visual Arts**  
**Summer Plein Air Sessions**, 10AM–12PM. Mondays. Hosted by the Arnprior Library and the Arnprior Art Loft. Robert Simpson Park, Arnprior. Free. arnpriorlibrary.ca  
**Lanark County Camera Club Meeting**, Sep 3, 7PM. Improve your photographic skills. St. Paul’s United Perth. Free. lccameraclub.com  
**Lanark Highlands Basketry Museum Workshop**, Sep 6, 10AM–3:30PM. Includes information on collecting, storing, preparation and appropriate techniques for each material. McDonalds Corners. lanarkhighlandsbasketrymuseum.ca/learn  
**Natives & Clay**, Sep 6–7, 10AM–4PM. A sale of native plants and pottery in a woodland setting. Pine Ridge Studio, Carp. pine-ridge.ca  
**Artists Reception**, Sep 20, 2–4PM. Meet Marina Raika and Hannah Cretien. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. sivarulrasa.com

**Quilts in a Small Town**, Sep 26–27, 10AM–4PM. Show & sale by Almonte Quilters Guild. Almonte Civitan Hall. Admission is \$10, children under 12 are free. almontequiltersguild.ca  
**Merrickville Arts Guild 2025 Studio Tour**, Sep 27–28, 10AM–5PM. Free. Merrickville. mag-artists.ca  
**N. Frontenac Back Roads Studio Tour**, Sep 27–28, 10AM–4PM. 13 studios in the Elphin-Plevna-Ardoch region. northfrontenacbackroadsstudiotour.com  
**Youth**  
**Perth Youth Players Registration**, Sep 11, 6–7:30PM & Sep 20, 10AM–11PM. Youth aged 10-17 register for 10 workshops on various aspects of community theatre. Studio Theatre Perth. \$75 for new participants, \$65 for returning youth. studiotheatreperth.com  
**Hadestown – Teen Edition Auditions**, Sep 14. Mississippi Mudds. Visit mississippimudds.ca for details and an audition time  
**Stage R!ot** presents an all-ages outdoor concert with 8 bands. Sep 27, 2–9PM. Carleton Place Legion. Pay what you can. Facebook

**Music**  
**Songwriters Showcase with Lynn Miles**, Sep 4, 7:30PM. This month, Lynn is joined by Joey Wright and Jenny Whiteley. The Pews, Merrickville. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. thepews.ca  
**Rock the Pantry**, Sep 6, 1–5PM. Fundraiser for the Lanark County Food Bank. Rain or shine. All ages. Carleton Place Legion. \$10.  
**Vicki Brittle**, Sep 6, 1–2:30PM. Smiths Falls Town Square Bandstand. Free admission. downtownsmithsfalls.ca  
**The Perth Citizen’s Band**, Sep 7, 2PM. Crystal Palace in Downtown Perth. Free. perthband.ca  
**Crystal Journey**, Sep 8–9, 7PM. A musical odyssey with crystal bowls, Paste gongs and more. Union Hall, Almonte. \$35 (plus fees) from TicketsPlease.ca  
**Alexandra Whittingham**, Sep 13, 7:30PM. U.K.-based guitar soloist. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. \$52 (plus HST) from TicketsPlease.ca  
**Carleton Place Porchfest**, Sep 13, 1–4PM. An afternoon of free live music performed on porches and yards. Bring donations for the Lanark County Food Bank. Downtown Carleton Place. carletonplaceporchfest.ca



Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>5</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Fibrefest, Almonte</div></div><div><div><div>Almonte Fair, Almonte</div><div>Natives &amp; Clay, Carp</div></div></div><div><div><div>Perth Writers Fest, Perth</div><div>Parkinson SuperWalk, Perth</div></div></div><div><div><div>Lanark Highlands Basketry Museum Workshop, McDonalds Corners</div><div>Rock the Pantry, Carleton Place</div><div>Vicki Brittle, Smiths Falls</div><div>Dave Balfour, Westport Brewing Co.</div><div>Mikhail Laxton, The Cove</div><div>Whiskey River Fever, Urban Angus Steak &amp; Wine</div><div>Amos The Transparent, Neat Coffee Shop</div></div></div></div></div></div>	<div>6</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Perth Night Market, Perth</div></div><div><div><div>Downtown Music Festival, Smiths Falls</div><div>Penguin Lessons, Almonte</div></div></div><div><div><div>Lanark County Ukrainian Fest, Carleton Place</div><div>Carleton Place Porchfest, Carleton Place</div><div>Harvest Hop Dance, Carleton Place</div><div>River City Junction, Smiths Falls</div><div>Jason Kent of Young Petty Stones, The Cove</div><div>Jon VW, CC's on the Rideau</div><div>High Times at the Heart Institute, Pembroke</div><div>Alexandra Whittingham, Almonte</div><div>Drag Bingol, Merrickville</div><div>Middleville Fair, Middleville</div></div></div></div></div></div>	<div>7</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Fibrefest, Almonte</div></div><div><div><div>Almonte Fair, Almonte</div><div>Natives &amp; Clay, Carp</div></div></div><div><div><div>The Perth Citizen's Band, Downtown Perth</div><div>Head over Heels on the Patio, The Cove</div></div></div></div></div></div>
<div>12</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>"Half Way to St. Paddy's" with The Celtic Kitchen Party, The Cove</div></div><div><div><div>Brock Zeman, St. James Gate</div><div>Scottish Country Dancing, Perth</div></div></div></div></div></div>	<div>13</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>You Can't Take It With You, Perth</div></div><div><div><div>High Times at the Heart Institute, Pembroke</div><div>Jebb's Creek Collective Benefit Concert, Bolingbroke</div></div></div><div><div><div>Perth Youth Players, Perth</div><div>Carleton Place Farmers' Market Harvest Festival</div><div>Artists Reception, Almonte</div><div>Westporch Festival 2025, The Cove</div><div>Book Launch for Arlene Stafford-Wilson, Perth</div><div>Tay Cleanup Day, Perth</div><div>Jon VW, Westport Brewing Co.</div><div>Nolan Hubbard Band, The Cove</div><div>Harvest Moonlight, CC's on the Rideau</div><div>Skydiggers, Neat Coffee Shop</div><div>A&amp;DHS Fall Plant Sale, Almonte</div><div>Autumn Fantasy Weekend, Carleton Place</div></div></div></div></div></div>	<div>14</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>The Music of What Happens: Stories of Finn MacCool, Maberly</div></div><div><div><div>Puppets Up! Chautauqua Auditions, Almonte</div><div>Penguin Lessons, Almonte</div></div></div><div><div><div>High Times at the Heart Institute, Pembroke</div><div>MERA Open House, McDonalds Corners</div><div>Hadestown - Teen Edition Auditions, Carleton Place</div><div>Head over Heels on the Patio, The Cove</div><div>Democracy &amp; Political Landscapes: a conversation with Andrew Coyne and John Ibbitson, Arnprior</div><div>Civitan Club of Perth Monthly Jamboree, Perth</div></div></div></div></div></div>
<div>19</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Seniors for Climate Protest, Lanark County &amp; Smiths Falls</div></div><div><div><div>You Can't Take It With You, Perth</div><div>Westporch Festival Kick Off Party with Dead Root Party, The Cove</div></div></div><div><div><div>Wade Barras, St. James Gate</div></div></div></div></div></div>	<div>20</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>You Can't Take It With You, Perth</div></div><div><div><div>High Times at the Heart Institute, Pembroke</div><div>Jebb's Creek Collective Benefit Concert, Bolingbroke</div></div></div><div><div><div>Perth Youth Players, Perth</div><div>Carleton Place Farmers' Market Harvest Festival</div><div>Artists Reception, Almonte</div><div>Westporch Festival 2025, The Cove</div><div>Book Launch for Arlene Stafford-Wilson, Perth</div><div>Tay Cleanup Day, Perth</div><div>Jon VW, Westport Brewing Co.</div><div>Nolan Hubbard Band, The Cove</div><div>Harvest Moonlight, CC's on the Rideau</div><div>Skydiggers, Neat Coffee Shop</div><div>A&amp;DHS Fall Plant Sale, Almonte</div><div>Autumn Fantasy Weekend, Carleton Place</div></div></div></div></div></div>	<div>21</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Humane Society Walk-A-Thon, Arnprior</div></div><div><div><div>The Mark Ferguson Jazz Quartet, McDonalds Corners</div><div>You Can't Take It With You, Perth</div></div></div><div><div><div>High Times at the Heart Institute, Pembroke</div><div>Head over Heels on the Patio, The Cove</div><div>Autumn Fantasy Weekend, Carleton Place</div></div></div></div></div></div>
<div>26</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>You Can't Take It With You, Perth</div></div><div><div><div>Carp Fair, Carp</div><div>Quilts in a Small Town, Almonte</div></div></div><div><div><div>Amanda Keeley Trio, The Cove</div><div>Spencer Scharf, St. James Gate</div><div>Brooks &amp; Bowskill, Neat Coffee Shop</div></div></div></div></div></div>	<div>27</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Merrickville Arts Guild 2025 Studio Tour, Merrickville</div></div><div><div><div>N. Frontenac Back Roads Studio Tour, North Frontenac</div></div></div><div><div><div>Fleetwood Mac Mania, Perth</div><div>Something for Everyone, Almonte</div></div></div><div><div><div>You Can't Take It With You, Perth</div><div>High Times at the Heart Institute, Pembroke</div></div></div><div><div><div>Stage Riot All-ages Concert, Carleton Place</div><div>Carp Fair, Carp</div><div>Quilts in a Small Town, Almonte</div><div>The Family Name, The Cove</div><div>The Roger Plant Trio, CC's on the Rideau</div><div>The Grapes of Wrath, Neat Coffee Shop</div></div></div></div></div></div>	<div>28</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Reconciliation Through Art, Almonte</div></div><div><div><div>Inendi, Almonte</div><div>Merrickville Arts Guild 2025 Studio Tour, Merrickville</div></div></div><div><div><div>N. Frontenac Back Roads Studio Tour, North Frontenac</div></div></div><div><div><div>Doors Open Mississippi Mills, Almonte</div><div>You Can't Take It With You, Perth</div></div></div><div><div><div>High Times at the Heart Institute, Pembroke</div><div>Carp Fair, Carp</div><div>British Home Child Recognition Day, Middleville</div><div>Head over Heels on the Patio, The Cove</div><div>Reiki, Gaia and the Cosmos, Perth</div></div></div></div></div></div>
<div>29</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>General Fine Craft presents new works by Kathy McNenly (still life paintings), Mary Philpott (animal sculptures), and Carmella Karijo Rother (textile works) &lt;generalfinecraft.com&gt;</div></div><div><div><div>Mississippi Valley Textile Museum presents Susan Warner Keene: Paper / Practice &lt;mvtm.ca&gt;</div><div>Sivarulrasa Gallery presents Marina Raika: Signals, and Hannah Cretien: Porosit� &lt;sivarulrasa.com&gt;</div><div>The Arts CP Art Hub presents the group show Shooting Stars, featuring 37 artists [to Sep 7]</div></div></div></div></div></div>		

**Green House Revival**, Sep 13, 1PM. Smiths Falls Town Square Bandstand. Free admission. [downtownsmithsfalls.ca](#)

**Downtown Smiths Falls presents Claude Munson** (Sep 13, 2:30PM, free); **River City Junction** (Sep 13, 4PM, free); **The Road Apples with openers The One Eyed Dawgs** (Sep 13, doors open at 5PM. Tickets available at [downtownsf.ca](#)).

**Civitan Club of Perth Monthly Jamboree**, Sep 14, 1–6PM. Dancing to live bands followed by a delicious dinner. Perth Civitan Club & Hall. \$20 per person for dinner and dance. [civitanclubofperth.com](#)

**Jebb's Creek Collective Benefit Concert**, Sep 20, 7PM. In support of Willow Creek Stables. Althorpe Bolingbroke Community (ABC) Hall. \$20 (plus fees) from TicketsPlease.ca

**The Mark Ferguson Jazz Quartet**, Sep 21, 2PM. Mark Ferguson, Mike Tremblay, John Geggie and Jamie Holmes. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. \$15-35 (plus fees) at TicketsPlease.ca.

**Snow Road Music Night Concert with Shenanigans**, Sep 25, 7PM. An evening of Celtic trad music with folk duo Anne Archer (flutes and whistles) and Jon McLurg (vocals and guitar). Snow Road Community

Centre, Snow Road Station. \$15. [snow-roadcommunitycentre.com](#)

**Fleetwood Mac Mania**, Sep 27, 7:30PM. The ultimate tribute band. Farrell Hall, Perth. \$39 in advance from [TicketsPlease.ca](#), \$44 at the door

**Something for Everyone**, Sep 27, 6PM. A benefit concert to raise funds for the Lanark County Foodbank-Hunger Stop. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$10 (plus fees) from TicketsPlease.ca

**Our Voices in Song**, Sep 29, 6:30PM. Indigenous musical showcase with Amanda Rheume, Kevin Schofield, Aurora Jade and others. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca

**Sherman Downey**, Sep 29, 6:30PM. Newfoundland singer/songwriter/storyteller, winner of CBC's Searchlight Competition. Oakfield Rugby Park, Perth. 267-7902

Pub Listings

St. James Gate (Carleton Place, [stjames-gatecp.com](#)): 7–10PM

Sep 5 Cait Porteous

Sep 12 Brock Zeman

Sep 19 Wade Barras

Sep 26 Spencer Scharf

**The Cove** (Westport, 273-3636): 5-8PM unless noted; Mon Julia Finnegan; Wed Wings 'n Tunes w/Shawn McCullough (5:30-8:30); Sun Head Over Heels on the patio

Sep 1 Julia Finnegan

Sep 2 Eric and Meghan

Sep 3 Shane McCullough

Sep 4 Country Josh

Sep 5 Vicki Brittle

Sep 6 Mikhail Laxton, \$10

Sep 7 Head over Heels Live

Sep 11 Cameron Wyatt

Sep 12 "Half Way to St. Paddy's" with The Celtic Kitchen Party, 7–10PM.

Sep 13 Jason Kent of Young Petty Stones

Sep 15 Zach Teal

Sep 16 Henry Norwood, 7–9PM

Sep 18 Kevin Head

Sep 19 Westporch Festival Kick Off Party with Dead Root Party, 6–9PM, \$25

Sep 20 Nolan Hubbard Band

Sep 23 Eric and Meghan

Sep 25 Umlerlune

Sep 26 Amanda Keeley Trio

Sep 27 The Family Name (folk duo)

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

Sep 13 Jon VW, 6:30PM

Sep 20 Harvest Moonlight, 5PM

Sep 27 The Roger Plant Trio, 6:30PM

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

Sep 6 Amos The Transparent, \$35

Sep 20 Skydiggers, \$70

Sep 25 The Dirty Nil, \$48

Sep 26 Brooks & Bowskill, \$40

Sep 27 The Grapes of Wrath, \$55

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

Sep 6 Whiskey River Fever, 8–11PM.

**Westport Brewing Co.** (Westport, 273-2739): Tunes on Tap, 2-4PM

Sep 6 Dave Balfour

Sep 20 Jon VW

Community

**Bike Night on Beckwith**, Sep 3, 5–9PM. An epic evening of bikes, music, and community vibes on Beckwith Street. Downtown Smiths Falls. [downtownsmithsfalls.ca](#)

**Nature Talks**, Sep 3, 10–11AM. Ninth Wave Arts, Carp. Free registration. [ninthwavearts.ca/offerings](#)

**Summer Special Bingo**, Wednesdays, 7PM (doors at 5PM). Weekly in-house Bingo featuring BBQ hamburgs, hot dogs and fries! Join us for an evening of fun. Perth Civitan Club & Hall. [civitanclubofperth.com](#)

**Parkinson SuperWalk**, Sep 6, 9:30AM–12PM. Conlon Farm, Perth.

**Seniors for Climate**, Sep 9, 6:30PM. A webinar with *Fire Weather* author and journalist John Vaillant. The Zoom link will be provided upon registration; register at [seniorsforclimate.org](#)

**Mississippi Mills Community Open House**, Sep 10, 6–8PM. Learn about & register for activities, volunteer opportunities and more. John Levi Community Centre, Almonte. [mississippimills.ca](#)

**Lanark Highlands Township Meeting**, Sep 11, 6PM. Precedent-setting decisions on gravel pit development on Barbers Lake. Agricultural Hall, McDonalds Corners. [friendsoflanarkhighlands.org](#)

**Carleton Place Toastmasters Club**, Sep 11 & 25, 7PM. Improve public speaking and leadership skills. via Zoom. Free. [carleton-place.toastmastersclubs.org](#)

**Scottish Country Dancing**, Sep 12, 9:30–11:30AM. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Annual membership \$30. Contact Simone at 264-2767 for details. McMartin House, Perth. \$30 per year. 613-264-2767

**Perth Night Market**, Sep 13, 5–10PM. Over 90 artisans, crafters and makers, restaurants and shops open late. Downtown Perth. [perth.ca/nightmarket](#)

**MERA Open House**, Sep 14, 11AM–3PM. Find out about MERA's fall activities and how you can join. McDonalds Corners. [meraschoolhouse.org](#)

**Harvest Hop Dance**, Sep 13, 3:30–7:30PM. Featuring the Earthtones, playing your favourite country and pop tunes. Zion-Memorial United Church, Carleton Place. \$15. [zion-memorial.ca](#)

**Seed Saving**, Sep 17, 7:30PM. By the Pakenham Horticultural Society. St. Andrew's United Church, Pakenham. [gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/51](#)

**Song Healing Circle**, Sep 17, 1–2PM. Ninth Wave Arts, Carp. Free registration. [ninthwavearts.ca/offerings](#)

**Seniors for Climate Protest**, Sep 19, 11:45AM–1:15PM. Draw the Line for people, for peace, for the planet. Wear bright clothes, please park away from the site. All are invited to gather along Highway 7 at Wilson Street in Perth. [seniorsforclimate.org](#)

**ADHS Fall Plant Sale**, Sep 20, 8:30–10:30AM. Behind the Mississippi Mills Public Library, Almonte. [adhsmailbox@gmail.com](#)

**Tay Cleanup Day**, Sep 20, 1–4PM. Volunteers are welcome to help clean up the area between Glen Tay and Last Duel Park. Perth Legion. [taywatershed.ca](#)

**Autumn Fantasy Weekend**, Sep 20–21. Discounts. Fall Decor. Straw Maze. Free giveaway. Carleton Place Nursery. [carleton-placenursery.com](#)

**Arnprior Humane Society Walk-A-Thon**, Sep 21, 11AM. Reg. 11am, walk 12pm. Pledge form: [arnpriorhumanesociety.ca](#). Arnprior & District Humane Society. [arnpriorhumanesociety.ca](#)

**Almonte & District Horticultural Monthly Meeting**, Sep 22, 7:30PM. Healthy Delights Right in Your Own Backyard. Cornerstone Community Church, Almonte. [adhsmailbox@gmail.com](#)

**Ashton United Church Community Breakfast**, Sep 23, 9–11:30AM. Breakfast, music, and friends. Ashton United Church. Free will offering. 791-6246

**Tea Time**, Sep 23, 10–11:30AM. Ninth Wave Arts, Carp. Free. [ninthwavearts.ca/offerings](#)

**Can We Talk? with Phil Jenkins**, Sep 24, 2–4PM. Hillside Reformed Presbyterian Church, Almonte. Pay What You Can through TicketsPlease.ca. [learningagain-almonte.ca](#)

**Almonte Fall Night Market**, Sep 25, 5–8PM. Food, drink, entertainment, specials. Shops open late. Downtown Almonte

**Doors Open Mississippi Mills**, Sep 28. Free access to select iconic and historical locations, modern amenities and more in Mississippi Mills. [doorsopenontario.on.ca/pages/events/mississippi-mills](#)

**Reiki, Gaia and the Cosmos**, Sep 28, 10AM–4:30PM. Healing, movement & cosmic connection. \$150 from TicketsPlease.ca. Perth Legion.

**British Home Child Recognition Day**, Sep 28, 12–4PM. Learn about the lives of British Home Children who lived in the Middleville area. Middleville & District Museum. Adults: \$5, children 12 and under free. [middlevillemuseum.org](#)





Taking place on Thanksgiving weekend, the Crown & Pumpkin tour features work by Linda Banfalvi (above) and many others

# Save the Date!

The Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour returns for its 29<sup>th</sup> year on October 11 and 12, over Thanksgiving Weekend. It's a great way to enjoy fall colours and cooler weather while exploring 14 tour stops in Almonte, Clayton and Pakenham.

This year's tour showcases more than 40 area artists and guests, including six new participants. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet the artists in person and enjoy a wide variety of fine art, craft, and culinary delights across nine studios, two group venues (Union Hall and Cedar Hill Tree Farm), and three host businesses: Hummingbird Chocolate, Dairy Distillery, and Duffield Design.

Tour folders will be available at supporting businesses and venues throughout the region. Find details at <crownpumpkin.com> and follow along on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

For more information, call 256-3647.

# Signals and Porosit  at Sivarulrasa Gallery

Two new exhibitions will run from September 20 to October 24 at Sivarulrasa Gallery in Almonte, and everyone is invited to a combined Vernissage/Artists Reception on Saturday, September 20 from 2-4PM.

*Marina Raike: Signals* will be featured in Gallery I. This solo exhibition of new sculpture and paintings by Almonte-based artist Marina Raike explores the transience and mystery of life. "Signals come to us through time," she says. Inspired by ravens, skulls, minerals and materials from the Earth, her works showcase versatility and vision, moving between representations of skulls and abstract forms influenced by geology and the natural world. Raike holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Ontario College of Art and Design University (2006), and her work has been exhibited widely in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and internationally. Her pieces are held in private collections in Canada, the United States, and Japan.

In Gallery II, *Hannah Cretien: Porosit * marks the first solo exhibition of Montreal-based artist Hannah Isabelle Cretien. Through a series of abstract works, the artist investigates the concept of porosity in relation to consciousness, and how this relationship fuels creativity. "I approach each artwork as an exploration of different media and varied techniques," she says. "My methodology is raw and is a manifestation of personal expression and emotional processing." Originally from Appleton,



*In Stride* by artist Hannah Cretien is featured in her show *Porosit * at Sivarulrasa Gallery

Ontario, Cretien began her fine art studies at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick.

Meet artists Marina Raike and Hannah Cretien at the combined Vernissage/Artists Reception on Saturday, September 20 from 2-4PM. Sivarulrasa Gallery is located at 34 Mill Street in Almonte. For more information, visit <sivarulrasa.com>.

*Celebrating the love of art and the joy of giving.*

Our upscale boutique has been thoughtfully curated to serve you. Whether you are searching for a heartwarming keepsake, a distinctive gift for someone special, or a little something lovely "just because," you will find it here.

**Hours:** Mon-Wed by appt | Thursday 10-5 | Friday 10-5 | Saturday 10-4  
Follow us on [Facebook.com/thegiftboutiquealmonte](https://www.facebook.com/thegiftboutiquealmonte).

**NEW!** Paintings: Watercolour & Abstracts • Jewelry • Fused, Blown & Stained Glass • Photography • Leatherworks • Pyrography • Art Cards • Pottery ... and more

**The Gift Boutique**

348 Honeyborne St., Almonte  
613-921-6001    [yharrington@xplornet.ca](mailto:yharrington@xplornet.ca)

# Quilts in a Small Town

The Almonte Quilters Guild is hosting a quilt show in September. This will be an opportunity to see a collection of creative work from members of the community. Guild members have been working hard on their projects and are thrilled to be able to share them with everyone. They gather each month at the Almonte Civitan Hall to share information, hear from experts in the field, and socialize with a community of quilters. They have a library of quilting books and tools that members are free to borrow, there are always challenges and projects going on throughout the year, and at most meetings there's an opportunity for a little shopping at a local store that brings their "Shop on Showcase" to the meeting. New members and visitors are always welcome!

This year, for the first time in five years, the guild will present a quilt show at the Almonte Civitan Hall. You will have an opportunity to see the wonderful quilts, vote for your favourite, check out quilting demonstrations, and enjoy lunch or a snack at the canteen. There will be vendors selling all manner of quilting & sewing necessities, and a

display of the community projects that the Almonte Quilters Guild produces to support local needs.

Quilts in a Small Town will be presented on Friday, September 26 and Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>, from 10AM to 4PM each day at the Almonte Civitan Hall. Admission is \$10, children under 12 are free. More information about the show and about the guild can be found at <almontequiltersguild.ca>.



**Almonte Curling Club**

Online Registration Starts  
September 10, 8PM  
[almontecurling.ca](http://almontecurling.ca)

**LEARN2CURL PROGRAM**  
Leagues for All Levels

For more information visit  
[almontecurling.ca](http://almontecurling.ca)

Perth and District  
**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** | Community Granting Fund

**\*TRIVIA Night\***  
fundraiser

WITH THE ECOTAY QUIZMASTERS

**all proceeds from this event go towards PDCF's Community Granting Fund**  
In 2025, the PDCF awarded over \$300,000 in Community Grants to 29 local organizations.  
Learn more at [www.pdcf.ca/grants](http://www.pdcf.ca/grants)

**Saturday**  
*Oct 25*  
at the  
**Perth Civitan Hall**  
doors: 6:00pm  
trivia: 7:00pm  
**\$150/table**  
max 10 people/table  
[www.pdcf.ca](http://www.pdcf.ca)



# Happy Anniversary, Perth Civitan Club!

In honour of the Civitan Club of Perth's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, theHumm visited their lovely location and spoke with Civitans Judy, Karen, Wendy, and Bill about why they are so passionate about this longstanding organization. The answers below are a composite from those members.

**theHumm: For readers who aren't familiar with Civitan Clubs, what's is your mandate?**

Perth Civitan: Civitan exists to help our communities — especially people with disabilities and those less fortunate. That was our focus when our Perth club was chartered, and it still is today.

by Kris Riendeau

**What does that look like in practice?**

A mix of direct donations, in-kind support, and community programs. From 2015–2023 we provided almost \$100,000 worth of donated hall rentals for community causes. Last year alone we donated \$36,650 in cash plus \$17,400 in donated rentals; this fiscal year we're at \$26,607 in cash donations and about \$14,400 in donated rentals so far.

Specifics include funding an all-terrain wheelchair and disaster relief, a \$20,000 contribution to Parkinson's initiatives, and supplying a sled at the arena so people with disabilities can skate with their families. We also fund five \$1,000 student bursaries every year at local schools.

**What are "donated rentals"?**

If someone is holding a community fundraiser, we often donate the use of our hall. We also donate the hall for celebration-of-life events and funeral luncheons.

**What other services do you provide?**

Our medical equipment bank, which provides free rentals of wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, etc., is well used. During the derecho, folks came here for water. We try to be there when short-term needs pop up.

**Give us a bit of history. How old is the club?**

We were chartered June 16, 1965, so this is our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The clubhouse came a few years after charter; the very first event held here was a New Year's Eve party. We've upgraded the building — new ceiling, lighting, and sound system about two years ago — and even built a safe catwalk on the roof. Our grounds include soccer fields that local teams use several nights a week.

**Do you collaborate with other clubs?**

Yes — five area Civitan clubs run weekly radio bingo together. Together we've also purchased two therapy

horses for the local therapeutic riding program that serves children and adults with disabilities.

**What are your signature events?**

The CHEO Breakfast is an annual fundraiser — the club matches door donations up to \$5,000 and this year's gift will top \$9,000. Our Seniors' Christmas Dinner takes place on the first Sunday in December and offers by-donation turkey dinners. We hold a Monthly Jamboree dinner-and-dance which is a great social time for seniors especially, and there's also our lively Wednesday Night Bingo. We also host an antique show on the first weekend in July and Monday Night Car Shows from May through October, with a huge memorial show in August.

**How do you raise all the funds you donate?**

The weekly Bingo is our biggest fundraiser. We also run a December turkey draw, as well as raffles — those run under our license so all proceeds have to go to charities. And of course our hall rentals and in-house catering, which are all completely run and staffed by volunteers.

**Speaking of volunteers — who are they, and what kind of commitment are you looking for?**

We have about 56–60 people on the roster, with a core of about 35 who are very active. Ages run from late-30s to mid-80s. People contribute what they can: kitchen crews, bingo teams, bar shifts, maintenance, social media, membership... you name it. Some members lead projects; others show up and help where needed. We also have members with special needs who play key roles — for instance, assembling new-member kits or creating a scrapbook for the outgoing president each year.

**What are some of your favourite reasons for volunteering with Civitan?**

It makes me feel good to be able to give back to my community. I enjoy the social aspect, helping along with wonderful like-minded members. Being able to see the joy in people while helping at events feels like a nice way to spend my extra time. I have met some wonderful friends through my volunteering that I otherwise would not have met.

**Any shout-outs to long-time stalwarts?**

Emil Roy (57 years a member) still works Bingo and says grace at dinners — he taught school here for years and brings a wicked sense of humour. Bill Kelford and Pete McTavish are long-timers who oversaw the hall's major lighting/sound upgrades and seem to be forever fixing things behind the scenes.

**What moments feel most rewarding?**

Watching a roomful of seniors light up at the Jamboree. Serving hundreds at the Seniors' Christmas Dinner. Seeing the same faces at Bingo week after week — that's community in action. And the quiet wins, like getting someone the medical gear they need that same day.

**What would you say the club's biggest challenges are?**

Awareness and volunteers. Many locals still ask, "What's Civitan?" We run an information booth at Maple Fest, an April open house (during Civitan Awareness Month), and lots of outreach, but there's room to grow. If folks knew more about the services, events, and the hall itself, we'd be able to help even more people.

**Finally — how can someone pitch in?**

If you want to help your community and enjoy working on a team, you'll fit right in. Do a little or a lot; just do something. Come to Bingo, the Jamboree,



For the past 60 years, volunteers like these fine folks have allowed the Civitan Club of Perth to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to great local causes and run countless events that bring people together. If you're looking to have fun, meet new friends and help others all at the same time, they would love to hear from you!

or an open house and say hello — or ask about joining when you rent the hall. If you have an idea for a new project, we welcome that input as well. We'd love to meet you — joining Civitan is such a great way to get to know people in the area!

**To join these fun folks or find out more about the organization, visit <civitanclubofperth.com> or contact Civitan Karen Burton at <membership@civitanclubofperth.com>**



The hall and stage at the Civitan Club of Perth



# Book Offer Feeds the Soul and the Community

The Lanark County Food Bank received a unique request from Rev. Gertrude (Trudy) Hardy as she set about to publish a book of catchy rap poems: “help me take this from spiritual feeding to physical feeding”. And that’s how it came to be that all the royalties from the sale of her recently published book *Salvation History* would end up as donations to the food bank.

Through rhythmic rhyme, Hardy covers the full span of Jesus Christ’s earthly life as observed in the Liturgical Calendar.

“The hope is that while fed with the Word of God, those who are in need of physical food will be fed by purchases of this book,” says Rev. Hardy. “That’s the thinking behind offering 100% of the royalties directly to The Lanark County Food Bank — The Hunger Stop.”

“We’ve never received this sort of donation,” says Karen Lomas-Wood, Chair of the Board of the LCFB. “But while the uniqueness of the offer made us pause and see how we could best accept such generosity, we knew it was just another example of the amazing support we see on an ongoing basis from our community.”

While growing up in Spaniard’s Bay Newfoundland, Hardy has sweet memories of being well fed with lots of homemade bread and other traditional food. Her favourite pastime is cooking and baking — she is passionate about feeding others, and this book contributes to that passion.

Today she and her husband Randy live in Clayton, where she is the Rector of Grace Anglican Church in The Anglican Diocese of Canada. Together they have three children and seven grandchildren.

The Lanark County Food Bank is a non-denominational, non-political organization sustained solely by private donations. It is a needs-based food bank; providing food to everyone who comes to the door asking for help. It does not receive support from any level of government.

The food bank is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors, a paid full-time manager, a part-time manager and approximately 160 dedicated volunteers who provide frontline service to clients, keep food bank gardens producing, and support the infrastructure that makes the food bank work. The food bank also provides a delivery service to families who are unable to shop for themselves or do not have access to transportation.

Copies of *Salvation History* can be purchased at <amazon.ca>.

# The Ottawa Bach Choir

## 24<sup>th</sup> Season of Magnificent Choral Music!

By Hannah Lim

The JUNO award-winning Ottawa Bach Choir (OBC) is set to embark on its 24<sup>th</sup> season, showcasing an impressive lineup of choral performances that promise to dazzle and inspire. The professional ensemble has travelled the world, received national and international recognition, and also won a JUNO for Best Classical Album of the Year: Vocal or Choral for their album *Handel: Dixit Dominus, Bach & Schütz: Motets*. Under the leadership of Founder and Artistic Director Lisette Canton, the choir continues to uphold its tradition of delivering outstanding musical experiences. This season, the OBC presents three subscription concerts, including Handel’s *Ode for St. Cecilia’s Day* on November 22; Bach’s *St. John Passion* on March 14, 2026; and a concert of *Sacred and Profane* music on May 9, 2026. With its reputation for excellence and collaboration with leading local, national and international musicians and ensembles, the OBC remains a cornerstone of the cultural landscape of the region.

The season begins with a jubilant performance of Handel’s *Ode for St. Cecilia’s Day*, HWV 76, on Saturday, November 22 at 7:30PM, at St. François d’Assise Church. Written in 1739 to John Dryden’s poem in honour of the name day of the patron saint of music, Saint Cecilia, we also include Purcell’s *Welcome to all the Pleasures (Ode for St. Cecilia’s Day)*, Z. 339, and Haydn’s *Missa Cellensis*, Hob. XXII:8, with Ensemble Caprice baroque orchestra and soloists, including soprano Ellen Wieser, tenor Owen McCausland and countertenor Nicholas Burns. A festive celebration of music you won’t want to miss!

The second concert, Bach’s *Johannes-Passion (St. John Passion)*, BWV 245, on March 14, 2026 at 7:30PM at Christ Church Cathedral, features Bach’s dramatic Passion-Oratorio, composed in 1724 in Leipzig. The performance of the Passion was the outstanding musical event of the year in Leipzig, and this setting



Tickets for the Ottawa Bach Choir 2025–26 season are now on sale

of John’s Gospel is Bach’s most theatrical. With the Theatre of Early Music baroque orchestra and international soloists, including countertenors Daniel Taylor and Nicholas Burns, British tenor Charles Daniels and more, this performance is not to be missed!

The season culminates with *Sacred and Profane* on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 7:30PM at Knox Presbyterian Church, including Frank Martin’s moving *Mass for Double Choir*, along with delightful music on texts by Shakespeare by Vaughan Williams, Mäntyjärvi, Perrie, Tavener, and much more. Don’t miss this enchanting spring celebration!

Early bird season subscriptions (at a 15% discount) are on sale until September 1, 2025, via the OBC website at <ottawabachchoir.ca>. Regular season subscriptions (at a 10% discount) and individual tickets will be available after September 1. For more information, visit <ottawabachchoir.ca>, email us at <info@ottawabachchoir.ca>, or phone 270–1015. We can also be found on social media @ottawabachchoir.

Don’t miss the chance to share our passion and experience the best that choral music has to offer! — Hannah Lim is the General Manager of the Ottawa Bach Choir



## Going going new homes almost gone

Last homes in Phase 1 are almost sold out in Weavers Way. Because they start from the high-\$300s and include design incentives worth thousands. Don't miss out on attainable new homes. Sign up for updates, special offers and to be the first to hear about the next lot release.

**MintoWeaversWay.com**

Built by Minto. Helping families find their forever home for 70 years.



Sales Centre | 380 Huntmar Drive, Kanata



# Falling for Fall Fairs

Are fall fairs still an important part of our local culture? Are they just midway rides, beer tents, demolition derbies and cotton candy, or is there something more important going on? In my way of thinking, fall fairs are more important than ever. The gap between country folks and city folk is becoming ever larger. The number of farmers is shrinking, and city folks' knowledge of how and where their food is produced is becoming miniscule.

by David Hinks

Fall fairs can help bridge the gap, and help us to connect with our neighbours. From time to time, I like to turn to the writings of Richard Wagamese, an Ojibway from Northwestern Ontario, who is recognized as one of Canada's foremost First Nations authors. His short book of meditations, titled *Embers*, contains much wisdom and insights. I love his thoughts on "all my relations". For him, all my relations means "every person, just as it means every rock, mineral, blade of grass and creature". He believes that only if we embrace this level of consciousness can we hope to heal our planet.

Fall fairs have many ingredients that are not part of everyday life. They are a celebration of country living that can help to connect in profound ways. For me, seeing the sweat and tears of 4-H members who have worked long and hard to prepare for the fair connects me with my roots. Having grown up on a dairy farm in southwestern Ontario and having shown my Holstein heifer at the local fair as a 4-H club member, I take a special interest in what the farm kids are going through at fair time. I have been intrigued by the sheep shows at the Middleville Fair — those docile creatures seem so much more trainable than my stubborn Holstein ever was!

The **Middleville Fair** is very much a traditional agricultural-based fair that is preparing to celebrate its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. The theme this year is "Blue Jeans and Country Dreaming". The President's Message notes that the fair "celebrates the spirit of country living and the deep roots of our agricultural community". Highlights include displays of heritage machinery and demonstrations of their operation, live entertainment, homemade lunch and a turkey dinner (always a highlight for me!), a food booth, games and activities for young and old, as well as horticulture, homecraft, woodworking and antique competitions. Gates open at 10AM on Saturday, September 13. Ad-

mission is \$7 with children six and under getting in free. The turkey dinner is \$25 for adults. Get your tickets early — they sell out fast! You'll find information at <middlevillefair.ca>.

The **Almonte Fair** bills itself as "A Complete Country Fair Experience" with the aim of preserving and promoting agricultural excellence in our community. Running from September 5–7, the gates are open on Friday from 2–10PM, on Saturday from 9AM to 10PM, and on Sunday from 10AM to 5PM. Admission is \$20 for entrance only. If you want "the



full Monty" the cost is \$40 daily, which includes all shows, entertainment and midway rides.

This fair features a wide range of attractions and events including livestock exhibits, horse shows, a midway with rides and games, live entertainment, and a variety of food vendors. There is also educational programming for children and adults, providing opportunities to learn more about agriculture, horticulture, and other related topics. Find out more at <almontefair.weebly.com>.

Got some energy left after visiting the fair? Head on over to the 30<sup>th</sup> annual **Fibrefest**. No, this is not a celebration of Bran Flakes — it's a celebration of the fibre arts that takes place on September 6 and 7 in Almonte. Local guilds demonstrate spinning, knitting, weaving, rug hooking, lacemaking, smocking and quilting. Finished fibre goods and other textile related supplies from 80 vendors across the province will be available. Thirty workshops will be held. For more details check out the website of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum at <mvtm.ca>.

One of the largest fairs in our area is the **Carp Fair**, which takes place from September 25–28. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Best". This fair "celebrates the vibrant spirit of our community and creates a space

for agricultural learning and education". It aims to be a platform for local artisans, farmers, and businesses to showcase their work and for attendees to enjoy a weekend full of family fun, great music and amazing shows. Highlights for me are the many displays of operating antique machinery and the Heavy Horse shows. For more information visit <carpfair.ca>.

In Ontario, Agricultural Societies are governed by the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act, which established the Ontario Agricultural Fairs Association. It represents over 210 agricultural societies across the province. Agricultural societies are community organizations mandated with preserving and celebrating the rural way of life in Ontario. To maintain their status under the Act, they must provide the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs with an annual return. In that return they must show how they encouraged interest and improvement in agriculture.

Most fall fairs are run by Agricultural Societies. For example, the Almonte Fair is run by the North Lanark Agricultural Society, and the Middleville Fair by the Middleville Agricultural Society. An annual fair is often the major activity for Agricultural Societies. Each fair is different, and in order to guarantee their survival they must attract paying customers. Many fairs place more and more reliance on demolition derbies, tractor pulls, midways, beer tents and big-name entertainers to pull in customers. Others try to stay closer to their mandate and roots emphasizing local agriculture, activities of 4-H members, antique shows featuring farm equipment from early farm days, horse shows, flower and vegetable shows and educational activities for young visitors. There is a lot of choice, and a lot of fairs locally within easy driving distance. See you at the fair!

## DINE.STAY.REVEL.

Call 613-273-3636 or visit [www.coveinn.com](http://www.coveinn.com)

<p>SAT. SEPT. 6</p> <p><b>Mikhail Laxton</b> Retro Soul/Americana Ottawa/Australia 5-8pm</p>	<p>FRI. SEPT. 12</p> <p><b>The Celtic Kitchen Party</b> Traditional Celtic Kingston, ON 7-10pm</p>	<p>FRI. SEPT. 19</p> <p><b>Westporch Kick Off</b> —Dead Root Revival— Blues/Retro-Rock Kingston, ON 6-9pm</p>
--	--	---

Aurora Jade

Amanda Rheame

Digging Roots

Kevin Schofield

Jennifer E. Brant

Nimkii Osawamick

David Finkle

One night. One Stage. Indigenous.

# Our Voices In Song

**\$25**

September 29, 2025  
6:30-10:00 PM  
(Doors at 6:00 PM)  
Almonte Old Town Hall

ReconciliationThroughArt.ca

STUDIO THEATRE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

BY: MOSS HART AND GEORGE F. KAUFMAN  
DIRECTED BY: GRACE MAIN

**SEE OUR ARTICLE IN THIS EDITION FOR MORE INFORMATION**





## DANCERS WANTED

### SINGLE OR COUPLES

**Join the fun with Mississippi Squares**

Learn modern square dancing  
Great for your physical, social and mental health

Basic and Mainstream sessions start September 16, 7:30PM

New Brunton Community Hall  
2022 Beckwith Park Lane, Carleton Place

First two weeks free trial. Then \$85.00 per term.

[www.mississippisquares.ca](http://www.mississippisquares.ca)



# Logos, Print, & Web Design

LOGOS AND BRANDING  
E-COMMERCE  
FORMS AND DATA COLLECTING  
WEB DESIGN

Schedule a free call with Auni or Dagne today!



**Sumack Loft**  
sumackloft.ca  
613-256-0378



**foilmedia**  
foilmedia.ca  
613-250-0160

BRAND & PRINT DESIGN | WEB DEVELOPMENT

# Audition for the Puppets Up! Chautauqua

Want to sing? Want to dance? Want to pour seltzer down a puppet's pants? If you've got an act — or an idea for an act — Puppets Up! wants YOU to audition for their brand-new, old-timey, modern-day variety show: The Puppets Up! Chautauqua!

They're flinging the stage doors wide open and welcoming musicians, poets, actors, jugglers, comedians, puppeteers, magicians, kazoo orchestras, interpretive dancers, and anyone else brave enough to step into the spotlight. Directors Kris Riendeau and Hollie Maffenbeier will work with you to help make your act sparkle and shine.

The Puppets Up! Chautauqua takes place on Saturday, November 15 at the Almonte Old Town Hall, with both a marvelous matinée and an evening extravaganza (because why stop at just one when you can delight people twice in a single day?). Tickets will be on sale soon through Tickets Please, so tell your friends, your neighbours, and maybe even that one weird friend who is always trying out their stand-up comedy at inopportune moments.

### Pick me! Pick me!

Auditions are scheduled for Sunday, September 14 from 1–4PM and Monday, September 15 from 7–9PM in the conference room at the Almonte Library. Sign up for your slot at <volunteersignup.org/B3bfh>. Your act can be up to 7 minutes long, and don't worry — it doesn't need to be Broadway-ready yet. They just need to see that you've got something good cookin'. Think of auditions as the "taste test" before the grand banquet of variety goodness.

Got questions? Can't make the audition date but still want to perform? Send a note to producer Jane



Calling all poets, musicians, comedians, puppeteers, interpretive dancers... Puppets Up! wants YOU to audition for their community variety show!

Torrance at <chair@puppetsup.com>. Performers must be available for a run-through on Friday, November 14, and both shows on Saturday, November 15. A few extra rehearsals may sneak onto the calendar as well.

So what are you waiting for?! Come strut, stomp, sing, shimmy, juggle, joke, and joyfully contribute your talents to a one-of-a-kind evening of entertainment. Best of all, you'll be helping raise funds for the 2026 International Puppet Festival — which means more puppets, more parades, more joyful community spirit!

# PDCF Launches Monthly Giving Campaign

The Perth and District Community Foundation (PDCF) is gearing up for another season of Community Granting. Last year PDCF granted over \$300,000 to local organizations in their catchment area of Perth, and the townships of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley and Drummond North/Elmsley.

"We are expecting more requests this fall than we received last year," says Executive Director Victoria Gibb-Carsley. "In the face of government cutbacks, community foundations across the country are stepping in to fill the gaps. We are so glad to be in a position to help community groups that would otherwise struggle."

The PDCF, founded in 2001 by a group of local citizens, has granted over three million dollars to the community in the past 24 years.

To bolster their Community Granting Fund, the PDCF is launching "Monthly Giving, Lasting Impact" in October. This campaign to bring monthly donors on board is a piece of their larger fundraising strategy: From the Ground Up: Your Community, Your Legacy.

"A foundation is different from other charities," explains Jordan Kennie, chair of the PDCF Fundraising Committee. "We invest the total amount donated and it stays in the Foundation's endowment forever. Donations are invested responsibly, and it is the interest gained on the principal investment that is used for granting. This means that a donor's initial gift only grows and grows over the years. Donors leave a legacy."

Under CRA rules, the Foundation grants at least 5% of its total endowment to the community each year. The Monthly Giving, Lasting Impact campaign aims to grow the number of monthly donors substantially so that more and bigger grants can be made.

"Monthly donations mean a predictable donation base that will continue to

grow," adds Kennie. "This helps with planning our Community Grants each year."

Greg Anderson, one of the founders of PDCF, has given monthly for years. He says, "If you plan to donate to PDCF, I highly recommend setting up automatic monthly transfers. By changing to monthly donations, there was no annual deliberation and the monthly hit was less than many other monthly payments coming out of my account."

### Upcoming Events

In addition to their "Monthly Giving, Lasting Impact" campaign, PDCF is holding a Trivia Night on October 25 at the Perth Civitan Club to support the Community Granting Fund. To help local organizations best apply for PDCF Community Grants and access other sources of funding, they are hosting a Grant Writing Workshop on September 12 with Youssef Sawan, chair of the PDCF Grants Committee and Sharon Proulx, Regional Development Advisor with the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Applications for PDCF Community Grants open on September 15 and close on October 31.

For more information, please visit <pdcf.ca>.



Watson's Corners Hall in Lanark Highlands bought window coverings and new chairs with their PDCF Community Grant



# Tom Savage & Dead Root Revival

I've known Tom Savage since my early days in Westport, and he has always struck me as an artist who forges his own path. That sense of individuality has long inspired me. His music is rooted in the blues and great songwriters, while also embracing an experimental and soulful edge to rock 'n' roll. In the early days, he even taught me my first bass licks. To this day, he still plays his trusty Gibson Nighthawk — a sign of his loyalty to his tools and his craft.

by Seamus Cowan

His latest project, Dead Root Revival, feels like a culmination of his musical journey — focused, authentic, and powerful. As Kim Mitchell might say, “he’s just doing his rock ‘n’ roll duty.” We’re thrilled to welcome Dead Root Revival for an atmospheric rock ‘n’ roll session on Friday, September 19 from 6 to 9PM on The Cove patio stage, under the stars as we kick off the Westporch Festival.

**Seamus Cowan: You’ve always had a strong connection to guitar-driven rock and roll. With your skill as a player, it must be rewarding to lead from the front. But beyond individual talent, finding the right group of musicians — people who share your vision — can be just as important. Would you agree?**

Tom Savage: Yes. I totally agree. Dead Root Revival grew out of the Tony Silvestri Band (which was a high calibre cover band), so this group of musicians has been performing together for over a decade. There’s a familiarity and cohesiveness that comes from that. But yes, ultimately it is important, particularly with original music, for each member to have a similar vision of where they want the music to go. A musical mission statement.

DRR is without a doubt the best band I have had the pleasure of working with over my thirty year career. Every member of this band brings everything they have, every single time we play. The energy is palpable. And we have so much fun!

**You’ve stayed true to your artistic identity over the years, while also exploring many different directions. That combination is inspiring. Do you feel like there**

**are new musical paths waiting for you just around the corner?**

Thank you, Seamus. I appreciate those kind words. Music is my calling. Creating art is a way of life for me. I will always wear my capital “A” artist badge proudly!

Musically, I do like to mix it up a bit. It keeps things interesting. Coming up this October, I will be releasing a Savage Family Band album (my son Benji plays bass, Bonz on drums, Tony on keys), and while it is not new material (recorded a couple of years ago), it is very much a different side to my songwriting: jazz, soul, and mostly instrumental. I’m also collaborating with a Kingston band, The Mill-Rights, on some new material that is looking like it will probably become an album... at some point. I also have a solo acoustic record that has been simmering.

And of course there is Dead Root Revival. We have introduced some new songs into the set list that look to be the beginnings of a second album. But we will exercise patience with this, as I feel we would want any new release to measure up to *The Controller’s Exam*. We may have set a tall order for ourselves there.

**We’re excited to have you back at The Cove on September 19 to launch the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Westporch Festival. Grassroots community events like this seem to align well with your own musical ethos. Do you feel there’s enough support out there to help sustain the next generation of musicians?**

There is a slow burning crisis in terms of music venues. We’re losing them in mid-sized and larger cities, mostly to real estate developers. It makes it difficult to tour if there is nowhere to perform. It makes it difficult to develop performance skills if unable to play a show locally.

Music doesn’t really fit into this hyper-capitalist society we find ourselves in, even though it can offer significant economic impact on a local level, and generally benefit society as a whole. Real estate development can make bigger dollars for a small percentage of society, and unfortunately this balance is askew.

I’ve long believed that municipalities need to devote funds from their tourism (and even healthcare) budgets towards ensuring a living wage for working musicians.



Tom Savage and Dead Root Revival play The Cove Inn on September 19 as part of the Westporch Kick-Off Party

This could be achieved through subsidizing venues so they could raise musician wages to reflect cost of living increases without compromising their business’s financial well-being; more (or any at all) geared-to-income artist housing co-ops; a significant increase in public performance funding, etc.

I feel if we continue with the status quo then there will not be enough support for musicians in the future. In this digital age, it is imperative we strengthen the in-person connectivity of our local communities, and music is an essential tool for bringing people together.

And for goodness’ sake, people need to stop scoffing at a \$20 cover charge at the local bar, when they’ll gladly lay down \$700 to see Springsteen while sitting in the nosebleeds of the Scotiabank Arena. The impact we make when we support independent artists is far more significant. Your ticket or merchandise purchase is helping to pay rent, buy groceries, or gas up the tour van.

**Catch Tom Savage and Dead Root Revival at The Cove’s Westporch Kick-Off Party on September 19 from 8–11PM.** — Seamus Cowan is the owner of The Cove Inn in Westport

# Union Hall Receives Trillium Grant!

By Linda Camponi

We are excited to announce that the Union Hall Community Centre has been successful in its application for a Capital Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The funds will be used to complete an improvement project begun several years ago when we began modernizing the facility and moving toward year-round operation. The \$28,300 grant will be used to insulate the hall and install an energy-efficient heating system, which will also provide air-conditioning in the summer months. Don’t worry — the trusty woodstove will still be in place to provide that old-time country feeling on chilly days, in the building that has been serving the community since 1857.

Other improvements will enhance our storage to make room for people to park their winter clothes and boots during cold-weather events. We will be expanding our programming to include a more diverse variety of activities for older adults, young families, and everyone in between. The hall is already a sought-after venue for family parties and celebrations and is host to yoga classes and musical events. Line dancing

is on the horizon for fall. We look forward to hearing from more local groups who are looking for a comfortable and affordable place to meet.

Thanks to the financial support of Mississippi Mills, The Hub/Rebound and private donors, our dedicated volunteers continue to preserve and maintain this historic landmark that has touched the lives of so many. With these improvements, along with WiFi provided by Storm Internet, we are ready to expand our operation to serve the community twelve months of the year.

To learn more, or to book the hall or sign, check out <union-hall.org>!



# FLYER SALE!

## HOT DEALS!

45<sup>97</sup>

460g powder

16<sup>97</sup>

300g

37<sup>97</sup>

150 softgels

30<sup>47</sup>

600g

451 Ottawa Street, Almonte  
256-4545

[www.dandelionfoods.ca](http://www.dandelionfoods.ca)  
 dandelionfoods

FLYER SALE ENDS SEPTEMBER 30, 2025





# DENTISTRY @ *almonte*



**We Look Forward to Serving You!**

Eden, Akshay, Meagan, Dr. Ghai, Courtney, Melanie, & Kelly

**WE OFFER DIRECT BILLING  
VALID CREDIT CARD REQUIRED  
WISDOM TEETH REMOVAL  
MOLAR ROOT CANALS  
DENTAL IMPLANTS  
FULL & PARTIAL DENTURES**



**CANADIAN DENTAL  
CARE PLAN  
ACCEPTED HERE**

**APPLY  
ONLINE**  
**Canada**  
CANADA.CA/DENTAL

451 Ottawa Street, Almonte  
Located Beside Equator Coffee

**613.667.2356**