

DECEMBER 2010

# the Hummm

free

Arts,  
Entertainment  
& Ideas



p.28 & 29

December's Events



p.30

Brock Zeman Ain't Crazy



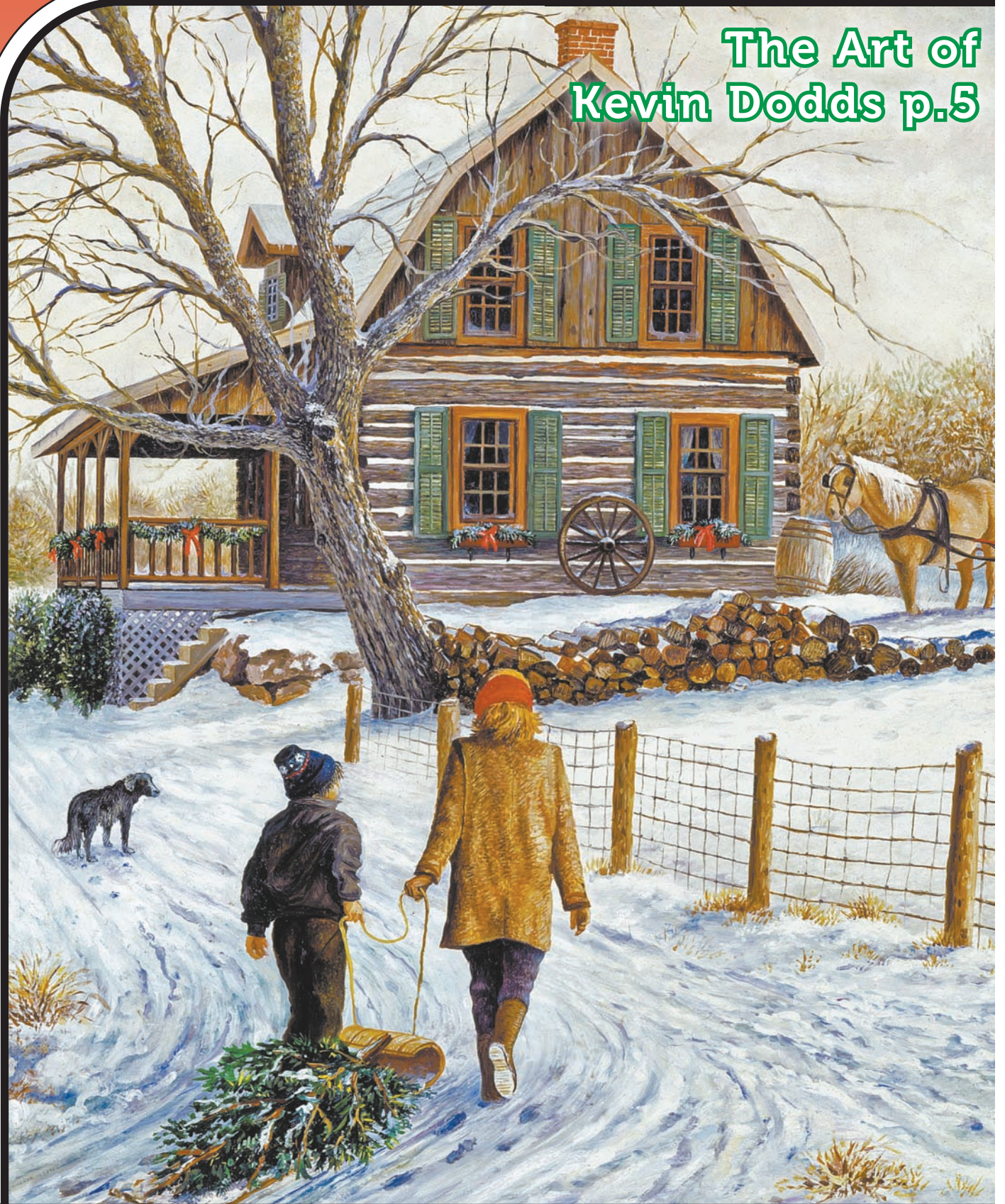
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A Kintail Country Christmas



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Seasonal Theatre Fare



The Art of  
Kevin Dodds p.5



Let's Join Hands to Save Our Planet



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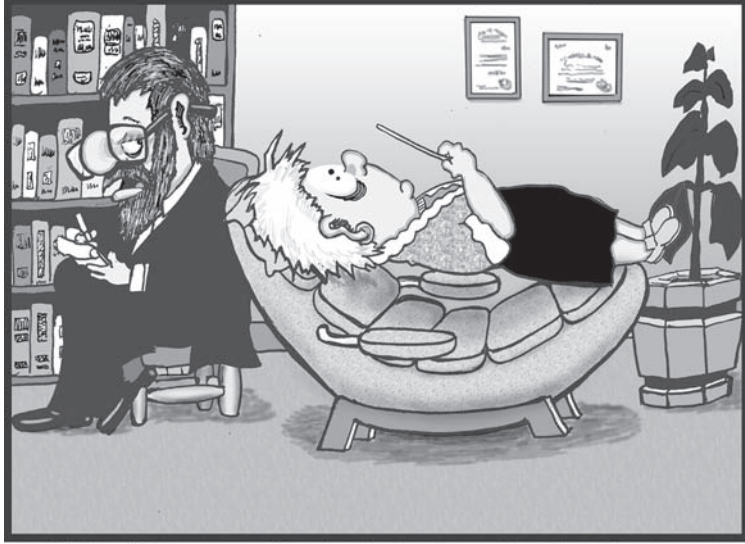
22 Lake Avenue East, Carleton Place

257-1197



**ARTBEAT**

by Bill Buttle



“OK – You agreed to start a junior school orchestra... then what?”

**Correction**

**Please note:**

On page 16 of the November issue of *theHumm*, photographer Bev Relfe’s surname was incorrectly spelled “Relph”. Her work will be on display at Palms in Almonte until December 20 as part of the Photography Matters show.

**Humble Thought**

**In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season;  
the Christians called it “Christmas” and went to church;  
the Jews called it “Hanukkah” and went to synagogue;  
the atheists went to parties and drank.  
People passing each other on the street would say “Merry Christmas!” or “Happy Hanukkah!” or (to the atheists) “Look out for the wall!”**

— from Dave Barry’s *Christmas Shopping: A Survivor’s Guide*



**Who’s Reading theHummm**

Here’s one with a good story:

Several years ago, **Catherine Clark** and **Ehoud Alon** posed with theHummm near the Wailing Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem. Cathy says she sent us the photo and never saw it run in the paper, although we don’t recall seeing it before. However, just last month Cathy got a call from a librarian at the Almonte Library, who had identified her in the “bookmark” someone had left in a returned library book. The bookmark was of course the picture above, although the name of the book and the person who returned it remain a mystery...

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

**Submissions**

By email or on disk.

**Deadline**

is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month prior to publication. December 18<sup>th</sup> for the January issue.

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**Thanks this month to:**

nice people. They really do make the world a better place!

**Special deadline for our January issue!**

The deadline for receiving ads and content for the January issue of *theHummm* is **Saturday, Dec. 18**

**Christmas Exhibition** featuring original works by

**Artists’ Reception**  
December 4, 2-4PM

The gallery will also be featuring fine art prints in association with  
**The Heirloom Café & Bistro**, 7 Mill Street and  
**The Village Idiot**, 14 Mill Street

**Philip K. Wood Gallery** 7 Mill St., Almonte 613-292-4406

**Valerie Roos Webster**  
**Sue Adams**  
**John Webster**  
**Mitsugi Kikuchi**  
**Rod MacIvor**  
**Deb Treusch**  
**Angèle Desjardins**  
**Art Horton**  
**Bob Boisvert**  
**Ken Charron**



# Gift Giving Guide Shop Directory

Here's an alphabetical list of the shops that are participating in this year's Gift Giving Guide, followed by the town in which they are located and the page on which you can find their ad. Great gift suggestions can be found throughout this issue, organized in categories like "Gifts for Music Lovers" (found on page 8), "Gifts Made in the Valley (page 30), or the ever-popular "Gifts for People Who Are Stressed" (page 7). No matter who's on your list, we're sure that you will find a great gift — and have fun doing so — right here in the small, independent shops of the lovely Ottawa Valley area. Happy local shopping!

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## The Night Before The Night Before Christmas

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

a fundraiser for the Perth  
and District Food Bank

Saturday, December 18th  
7:30pm at the Perth Legion

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# A Merry Local Christmas!

Here at *theHumm* we're big on local economies. The retail and service businesses in the small towns that we cover play a large role in the cultural life of those towns. Each store, restaurant, or small enterprise attracts and serves a particular client-

by Kris & Rob Riendeau

tele; some inside the community, some from outside. Some businesses host their own special events; others join together with local festivals to make the whole experience more vibrant. Many provide support in cash or in kind to local arts and culture or sports initiatives. A healthy local economy is an essential component to a healthy community.

It is with this in mind that we once again bring you *theHumm's* annual Gift Giving Guide. Our hope is that you'll find two kinds of inspiration in the many lists that appear throughout this month's issue. As you peruse the "Gifts for Students," "Gifts for Neo-Hippies" and "Gifts for Funky People", we hope you'll discover the perfect gift for that certain someone on

your holiday shopping list. But we also hope that you'll be inspired to investigate even more of the independent, locally owned businesses throughout *theHumm's* distribution area. In doing so, you're likely to encounter not only friends and neighbours, but also some old-fashioned small town peace and joy at this potentially hectic time. And when you find a local service or establishment or product that gives you joy, let your friends and neighbours know (and perhaps bestow a kind word upon the owner or employees as well!).

The gifts we buy locally do double-duty by giving pleasure to the recipient and at the same time supporting the business of a friend or neighbour. If the gift happens to be fair-trade, environmentally-friendly or made by a local artisan, then it does triple-duty! We would like to thank the participating merchants for taking the time to send in their Gift Giving Guide suggestions, and to thank our readers for shopping locally and thereby supporting both the shops and our paper.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday season, and a local New Year!

## Gifts for Food Lovers

<b>500 Best Value Wines in the LCBO</b> , Read's Book Shop.....	\$19.95
<b>Dips &amp; Compote by Petite Maison</b> , Sisters.....	\$3.99-\$9.99
<b>Food Sensitivity Testing</b> , Carp Ridge Natural Health.....	\$130
<b>Gift Baskets</b> , Foodsmiths.....	\$21.95 & up
<b>Major Craig's Chutneys</b> , CP Station.....	\$6.50
<b>Maple Salsa</b> , Fulton's.....	\$7.99
<b>Palms Gift Certificates</b> , Palms.....	\$10 & \$20

## Gifts for Funky People

<b>"Fashion For a Furnace" Scarves</b> , Mississippi Valley Textile Museum.....	\$45
<b>Hadaki Neoprene 11" Notebook Sleeve/Tote</b> , Ground Waves.....	\$34.99
<b>Musical Jewellery</b> , Mississippi Mills Musicworks.....	\$6.95 & up
<b>One-of-a-kind Glass Pendant by Craig Angus</b> , CP Station.....	\$10
<b>Trendy Vases</b> , The Blossom Shop.....	\$10 & up

## Gifts for Kids 6-10

<b>All Natural Cookie Baking Kit</b> , Shadowfax.....	\$21.95
<b>Caves and Claws Cooperative Game</b> , Riverguild.....	\$15
<b>Complete Set of Canadian Pennies 1937-52</b> , Alliance Coin.....	\$9.95
<b>Djeco Artists Series (Ages 3-15)</b> , Robin's Paper Thin.....	\$20-\$40
<b>Magic Sets</b> , Kentfield Kids.....	\$19.99-\$44.99
<b>Manhattan Toy's Fraggles Rock "Red" Plush Toy</b> , Ground Waves.....	\$27.99
<b>Nancy Drew &amp; Hardy Boys Books</b> , Curiosities.....	\$5
<b>Wooden Train Whistle</b> , CP Station.....	\$9.95




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# Kevin Dodds — Paintings Worth A Thousand Thoughts

Artist Kevin Dodds is an Arnprior native with family roots that extend deep into his community over many generations. For more than two decades this internationally

by Sally Hansen

renowned artist has conveyed his love of his rural surroundings in traditional paintings depicting scenes of bygone days. His horse-drawn sleighs and country images evoke nostalgic yearnings for a simpler time, a slower pace, a more connected community populated by families who worked and socialized together.

In researching the phrase "A picture is worth a thousand words," I came across a research paper that claimed that markings (non-verbal communications like drawings, diagrams, sketches, etc.) are important not because they report the state of the world, but because of their affect — the way that they influence the thoughts of the perceiver. Kevin Dodds' art is important.

His talent for creating evocative images of country life has been widely recognized in the Ottawa Valley for many years.

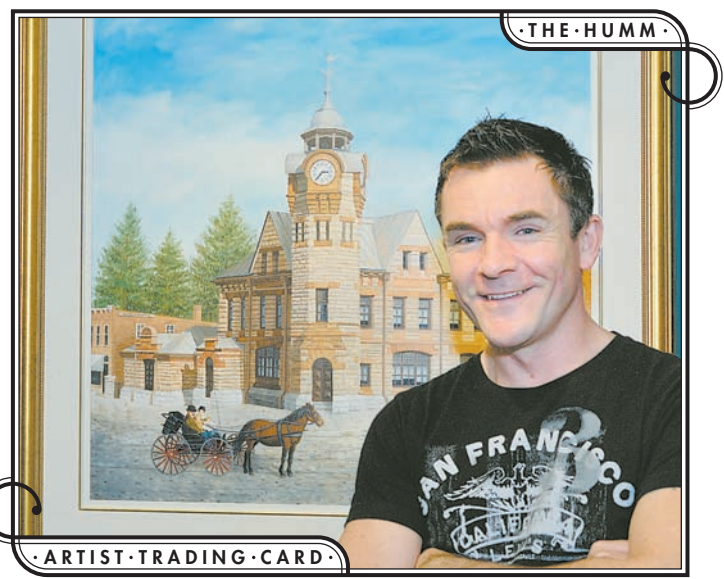
His bucolic paintings adorn many walls in the region, and he has been featured in several PBS broadcasts. His works have appeared in the McCord Museum in Montreal, the Plattsburg Museum of Art in New York, the Dulles State Office Building in Watertown, the Parliament of Canada Hall of Honour and the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

This year Dodds marks the achievement of a long-term personal goal. He has joined the ranks of popular American artists like Marjolein Bastin, Susan Winget and Ned Young by being selected as the creator of the Lang Company's 2011 *Four Seasons* Calendar <[www.lang.com/artists/kevin\\_dodds](http://www.lang.com/artists/kevin_dodds)>. This means that many thousands of Americans will gaze nostalgically at reproductions of Dodds' heart-warming Canadian scenes on calendars, puzzles and greeting cards. It also means that products featuring Dodds' art will be sold at hundreds of Target stores and Barnes & Noble stores throughout the U.S., as well as by many thousands of local giftware stores worldwide.

Kevin and his Arnprior gallery are housed in his great-grandparents' original family home at 47 John St. North, built before 1860. Not only is this charming old building Kevin's birthplace, it is the perfect venue for his traditional art. As the former proprietor of an Arnprior antique shop, he has placed on display some of his favourite artifacts: a gorgeous hanging lamp, a rare mantelpiece clock, and exquisite items of cranberry glass. With painstaking care and an astonishing amount of difficult and dirty work, he removed multiple generations of paint, wallpaper, plaster and varnish from the walls and floor in the Gallery's small washroom to reveal the building's original log and wide plank construction.

In addition to studying Museum Technology and working in restoration for the Museum of Nature, Dodds acquired the necessary skills through many years of restoring a log house he owned in Cobden. He transformed it into the quintessential log home that features prominently in many of his paintings, as do his Cobden neighbours, their barns, livestock, pets and children.

His Arnprior homestead also serves as the venue for his complementary career as an art teacher. Again, he is continuing an Arnprior tradition. His own love for art stems back to very early days when his mother would entertain him by sketching trains during his father's Sunday School lessons. Kevin started adding cars to the train, and continued his artistic pursuits with encouragement from his aunt, Jackie Scheel. He spent every summer at John and Jackie's farm in Glasgow Station, just west of Arnprior, where he developed an enduring love of country life.



His passion for art was nurtured by another Arnprior icon, Stan Tourangeau, at evening art classes at the Arnprior High School. Stan was the Fire Chief and taught palette knife painting. According to Kevin, "everybody in the Valley has a Tourangeau painting." Dodds also remembers with pleasure his long walks up to Bill and Dorothy Whittall's Arnprior home to take art lessons. Now, artists of all ages can take classes at Dodds' Gallery and learn how to perpetuate this heart-warming traditional Valley art.

## A Change of P(l)ace

In addition, Dodds invites art students to partake of his recent "imaginative exploration into colour and texture." This modern new dimension of his art reflects his decision a few years ago to pull up roots, just for a while, and experience the energy and complexity of southern Florida. There he began experimenting with pure colours and shapes, intentionally eschewing realism to create an exciting three-dimensional experience for the viewer. In his contemporary art classes he shares the inspirational technique he developed whereby colour is added to a blank canvas in squares and rectangles, and then further broken down into complex "non-shapes." He has created a website at <[www.kevindodds.com](http://www.kevindodds.com)> to showcase his exciting foray into contemporary art.

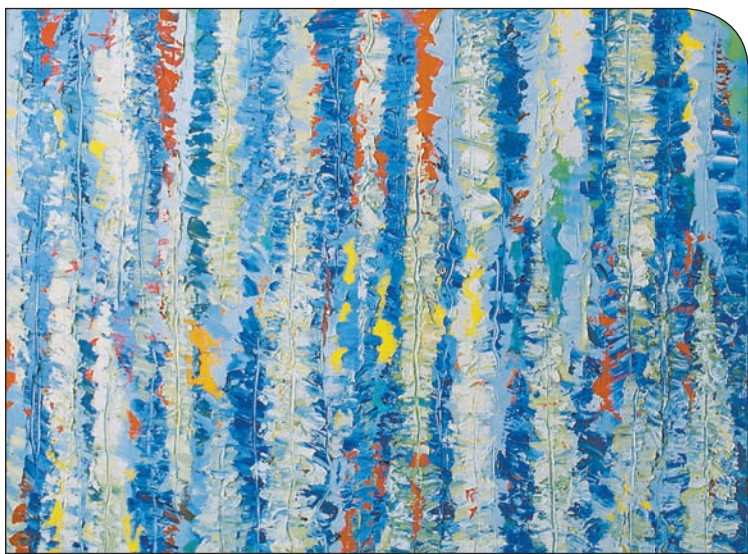
These powerful new works are on display in Ottawa at the Snap-

dragon Gallery at 791 Bank Street. As Snapdragon proprietor and curator Richard Banister wrote in his introduction to Kevin's exhibit, "This Canadian premiere of Dodds' new work is sure to surprise his longstanding fans; I am equally sure that it will earn him new ones."

Dodds specializes in custom design and commissions and has created many treasures for his followers, working from faded, dog-eared photos to capture and preserve precious memories. For his modern pieces, he encourages interested parties to contact him to arrange a colour consultation as a first step in creating a unique and personal work of art. He recently installed a large modern piece commissioned by The Hair Loft Salon in Ottawa.

Kevin Dodds Gallery will be open every day until Christmas from 10AM to 6PM, and after Christmas on Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11AM to 5PM or by appointment (call 286-8512, or email him at [kevin@kevindoddsart.com](mailto:kevin@kevindoddsart.com)).

On Saturday, December 11, you are invited to enjoy a walk back in time when Kevin will be signing his *Four Seasons* Lang Calendars at The Pakenham General Store located at 2524 County Rd 29. Built in 1840, the store maintains its charm with wood floors, old wooden counters and antiques used by the original owners — another perfect venue for Kevin's lovely country paintings.



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**WHO** Kevin Dodds  
**WHAT** Artist, Art Teacher, Gallery Proprietor  
**WHERE** Kevin Dodds Gallery, 47 John St. North, Arnprior, 623-9820, <kevin@kevindoddsart.com>, <www.kevindoddsart.com>; Pakenham General Store, 2524 County Road 29, Pakenham, 624-5280; Snapdragon Gallery, 791 Bank St., Ottawa  
**WHEN** December 11 Calendar signing at Pakenham General Store  
**WHY** "I love to paint, and I paint what I love."

ARTIST TRADING CARD

**Find local gift suggestions for HUSBANDS on page 25**

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**Experience a Kintail Country Christmas!**

Discover winter magic at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area this holiday season on Saturday, December 11, from 10AM to 4PM.

Bring the whole family out for a Kintail Country Christmas and step into the wonderful world of holidays past. From Father Christmas to the Valley Voices, experience the simpler side of the season with music, laughter and the great outdoors. Take a stroll or sleigh ride through the site, or strap on your blades and go for a spin around the outdoor skating rink (weather permitting, of course!). Enjoy stories by the fire and a children-only gift shop, complete with wrapping elves. Father Christmas will also be visiting the festivities, and you can visit him in the museum gallery where each family will receive a free photograph. There's hot apple cider and home baking too.

Hosted by Mississippi Valley Conservation at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area, the event has something for all ages. "We are so excited to host this event again this year. Kintail Country Christmas is a way to share the beauty of the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area beyond the summer season. We encourage family and friends to step back from their hectic lives and enjoy the holiday traditions of a simpler time," says museum curator Stephanie Kolsters.

It is truly a community event and has a wonderful group of supporters: the Leatherworks Pub & Restaurant, Mill of Kintail Museum Committee, Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, Mississippi Mills' museums, Valley Voices, Ramsay Women's

Institute, Tuesday Moms and Tots, ORMG, and many volunteers from the community.

"Family and friends are what this magical season is all about. We invite you to enjoy all the traditions of the holiday season and spend time with your loved ones, surrounded by the beauty of the conservation area," says Kolsters.

The festivities run from 10AM to 4PM on Saturday, December 11. Admission is only \$15 per vehicle. For more information call Stephanie at 256-3610 ext. 2 or visit <www.mvc.on.ca> for a detailed schedule of events and site map.



Experience the magic of holidays past at the Kintail Country Christmas on December 11

**Gifts for People You Don't Know**

- "People & Events" Historical Trivia & Coin Set, Alliance Coin..... \$15 & up
- Hostess Gifts for All Occasions, Robin's Paper Thin..... \$5.95-\$25.95
- Intro to Essential Oils Kit, Yoga and Tea..... \$30
- Linen Tea Towels, Vintage Wear / Ware..... \$10-\$18
- Peanut Brittle & Decorations, Three Yellow Tulips..... \$6.50-\$10

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# Cape Breton Meets the Ottawa Valley

On December 12 at 7PM, Almonte's Old Town Hall will resonate with the great traditions of two of Canada's most musical regions: Cape Breton and the Ottawa Valley.

A fundraiser for **Almonte Celtfest** and the **Festival Park** project, this concert will delight audiences with performances by Andrea Beaton, Glenn Graham and Kate Quinn, members of the renowned *Cape Breton Live on Tour* show that Natalie MacMaster assembled a few years back. The Valley's own Barley Shakers will open this great evening.

One of Cape Breton's finest traditional fiddlers, **Glenn Graham's** roots go deep in the traditional music of Cape Breton. Glenn's lineage boasts such household names as Buddy MacMaster, Natalie MacMaster, Betty Beaton, Gaelic-style fiddler Alex Francis MacKay, and Cape Breton's most recognized composer, Dan R. MacDonald. Glenn continues to perform and teach fiddle throughout the Maritimes, Canada, the north-eastern US and the UK. His book entitled *The Cape Breton Fiddle: Making and Maintaining Tradition*, was published by CBU Press and released in October of 2006.

One of Cape Breton's most promising young fiddlers, **Andrea Beaton** comes by her music honestly. Her father Kinnon is one of today's most influential

Cape Breton fiddlers, and you can hear some of his timing in Andrea's playing. Her mother, Betty Beaton, is one of the great piano accompanists of her generation, contributing to that remarkable Beaton timing. Her uncle, Buddy



Andrea Beaton is just one of many talented Celtic artists who will grace the stage of the Almonte Old Town Hall on December 12

MacMaster, is the most revered fiddler on Cape Breton Island. Her cousin, Natalie MacMaster, is an enormously popular entertainer. Like her father and grandfather, Andrea is a composer in the tradition, adding fine new music to the island's repertoire.

**Kate Quinn** is an extraordinarily gifted young talent who was

part of *Cape Breton Live on Tour*. Her spellbinding and emotional opening song of this talented ensemble's concert transports audiences to Cape Breton and coastal shores. She too is linked to the MacMaster family, as cousin to Natalie, and this musical tradition has been gifted to Kate in her voice and interpretations of the wonderful music from this part of Canada.

Opening for these Cape Breton guests are the Ottawa Valley's **Barley Shakers**, this region's pre-eminent Celtic "orchestra". The Shakers will be proudly launching their second CD on this night. These talented and dedicated musicians from communities around the Valley bring great joy to audiences wherever they play. In particular, they give generously of their time in order to bring the music of the Valley to seniors' residences, hospitals, and community fundraising events, which is a true gift.

The *Cape Breton Meets the Valley Christmas Gathering* provides a glimpse into the kitchen parties that were held in both of these musical regions at this special celebratory time of year. For more info, please see <[www.almonteceltfest.com](http://www.almonteceltfest.com)>. Tickets are \$20 and available at Mississippi Mills Musicworks, Baker Bob's and Couples Corner in Almonte.

## Gifts for People Who Are Stressed

- 1-Hour Massage, The Massage Therapy Clinic.....\$82
- 50-min Consult with Naturopathic Doctor, Carp Ridge Natural Health.....\$150
- Gift Certificate for 1.5 hr Massage, Janice Aiken Massage Therapy.....\$115
- Gift Certificates for Yoga and Products, Yoga and Tea.....\$25-\$200
- Handcrafted Hammock by Malcolm Williams, Riverguild.....\$149 & up
- Hot Stone Massage, Hands On Healing Centre.....\$90
- Gift Certificate for 1-hour Massage Therapy, Kim Naraway, RMT.....\$80
- Knuckle Bopper Hand Puppets by Trish Leeper, Bittersweet Gallery.....\$70
- Maple Luscious Milk Bath, Fulton's.....\$8.99
- Nanodots (Fun With Magnets), Mill Street Books.....\$29.95
- Relaxation Massage, Carmelized.....\$60
- Rocking Chairs, Lachapelle Antiques.....\$40 & up
- Ten Yoga Classes, Yoga Station.....\$129
- Relaxation in Front of a Beautiful Fire, Rideau Valley Hearth & Home.....priceless!
- Zen Gardens, Shadowfax.....\$9.95-\$14.95
- Zenergy Chimes, Mississippi Mills Musicworks.....\$24.95

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Find local gift suggestions for **GARDENERS** on page 27

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# Choral Cheer for the Holiday Season

OK — I admit it: I'm a complete sucker for Christmas carols. Not the ones you hear (over and over and over again) piped through sub-par indoor sound systems. Not the slickly produced wailings of popular stars. Not even (apologies to my teenage daughter) the hyper-energetic choreographic masterpieces that will feature on the holiday episode of *Glee*. Nope. I hunger for the real thing — the sound of natural human voices raised in harmony, elated by the joy of singing in fellowship at this significant time of year.

As I write this, I'm in hurry-up deadline mode, in the hopes that I can get the December issue out in time to catch the Valley Voices *Sing We Now of Christmas* concert on November 28. However, if you miss that concert, or if it simply whets your appetite for more, I'm pleased to announce that there are several holiday concerts still to come in various locations around the Valley. Luckily for me (and you), many of the organizers were good enough to send in press releases. So here they are below, in chronological order.

Have a very merry, musical Christmas!  
— Kris Riendeau

## Tay Valley's Fruitcake

Do you have a favourite fruitcake recipe? Why not try fruitcake served up by the Tay Valley Community Choir? The *Fruitcake* song will be part of the choir's Christmas concert. The evening is always a wonderful experience as a warm and delightful community atmosphere is created.

The **Tay Valley Community Choir** is a group of accomplished

singers who joyfully create beautiful music together. Under the leadership of Ann McMahon, the choir will present an eclectic, upbeat, cheerful evening of song, including *Fruitcake*.

The Choir will share the evening with the **Hummdingers** (St. Paul's United Church's Handbell Choir). The choirs have shared concerts before and they are always amazing events. Each choir will play or sing pieces from their Christmas repertoire, and the audience is in for a special treat when the two choirs join to perform several songs. Together, the voices and bells produce an extraordinary sound. The audience will also be invited to get into the act as they sing along with familiar carols.

The concert will be held at Maberly Hall on Saturday, December 4, at 7:30PM. Admission is by donation, at the door. Food Bank donations are welcome. Refreshments will be served following the concert as audience and artists mingle to share this celebration of music and community.

## Sing Noël in Arnprior

Join the **Arnprior Community Choir** as they celebrate their twentieth musical season! The choir will present their annual *Sing Noël* program on Sunday, December 12 at 2PM in Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church. Enjoy seasonal favourites, Christmas gospel, a few fun surprises and a wonderful reception featuring holiday goodies. Several songs will feature flute accompaniment by one of the choir members, Louise van den Berg. For many years, Louise has been travelling

from Manotick to sing with the choir, and her talented instrumental playing is an asset to the concert. The dedication and enthusiasm from all members has led to the choir's long success in the community. With over fifty members from the local area and "beyond" — Almonte, Renfrew, Pakenham, Kinburn, Manotick — this community choir is thriving and creating wonderful music together. *Sing Noël* is an annual tradition in Arnprior for many supportive followers and kicks off the Christmas season with festive, holiday music.

This year the concert will feature special guests **Four Strong Winds**, an inspiring vocal quartet from St. Joseph High School in Renfrew. Under the musical direction of Mr. Kevin McSheffrey, these talented young women will present a captivating program that will fill the church with Christmas cheer.

Support your community choir and join in the twentieth anniversary celebration this Christmas season. Tickets for *Sing Noël* can be purchased at the Arnprior Book Shop at 152 John Street North, from any choir member, or at the door: \$15 each or \$10 for children under 12. Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church is located at 116 Baskin Drive West in Arnprior.

## Hallelujah & Holly

**The Town Singers**, directed by Kristine MacLaren and accompanied by pianist Peter Brown, are pleased to present their fourth annual Christmas concert: *Hallelujah & Holly*. It will feature Handel's beloved *Christmas Messiah*, with talented soloists from the choir, as well as some seasonal selections, and will conclude with a sing-along for the audience. The sixty-voice community choir, based in Carleton Place and now

in its fourth year, has been steadily gaining in size and experience, and the choristers are excited to present this program for the holiday season.

They are also excited to be offering two performances of the concert: a matinée on Sunday, December 12 at 2PM, and an evening performance on Tuesday, December 14 at 7PM. The snow date for the Tuesday evening is December 21 and, as past attendees may recall, a snow date is a necessity!

Both performances will take place at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 39 Bridge Street in Carleton Place. Tickets are \$10 (no charge for children under 12) and can be obtained from choir members or by calling Gloria at 257-7196. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. A portion of the concert proceeds will be donated to the Carleton Place Christmas Basket Program.

## Gifts for Music Lovers

<b>Flight of the Bumblebee Painting by K. Phillips-Curran</b> , Bittersweet Gallery.....	\$525
<b>Austria 1-oz Silver Philharmonic Coin</b> , Alliance Coin & Banknote.....	\$32
<b>Musical Theme Pillow Case</b> , Textile Traditions .....	\$14.99
<b>Putumayo World Music CDs</b> , Appleton Gift & Basket .....	\$14.99
<b>Rock &amp; Roll Calendars and Jigsaw Puzzles</b> , Shadowfax.....	\$16.95-\$19.95
<b>Sleigh Bells</b> , Lachapelle Antiques.....	\$95
<b>Terry Tufts' The Better Fight</b> , Mississippi Mills Musicworks.....	\$19.95

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and Kilmaurs Side Roads)

**December 12, 7PM**  
(Snow date Dec. 19)

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Flavour of the Month

## Windblest Farm

Located close to Ferguson's Falls, Windblest Farm sits overlooking a small lake in lovely, open countryside between Perth and Carleton Place. Janice and Bryan Lever bought this farm in 1994 when they decided to move from northern Ontario back to the "south" to be closer to family. At

by Susie Osler

the time they had no intention of farming — fixing up a farmhouse that had been vacant for a few years seemed like a big enough project to tackle, but... when you find yourself with a hundred acres of land, it is not surprising that eventually the mind begins to wander to the fields and barns and, well, all the potential... So the business card which might have said "Teachers" a decade ago now says "Shepherds", and the farm is home to some forty Leicester sheep, a few dogs, a blossoming market garden, and a wool products shop.

If you have never seen a Leicester sheep, you should take a trip out to Windblest just for an introduction. Originally from England, the breed was introduced to Canada by English settlers. Leicesters were a good homestead sheep, producing quality meat and a high volume of good wool. Back in those days wool actually had value and could be sold or processed for home use.

Leicesters are a long hair breed known for the quality and quantity of their fleece. They are sheared twice a year — spring and fall — while most other breeds are sheared once in spring. Windblest Farm actually raises three breeds: Leicester, Blue-faced Leicester (quite rare), and Border Leicester; the wool from which ranges in colour from dark brown through grey-brown, to white. It seems strange to select a breed for its wool these days when prices are fetching less than what it costs to shear a sheep; but it provides insight into the values with which Janice and Bryan approach their work. "Our focus is on maximizing the productivity of our flock by using the whole animal... Our goal is to produce high quality on the small, sustainable scale of a family farm."



A holistic farm philosophy has informed the choices that they've made, concerning everything from sheep rearing to setting up water catchment systems that benefit the garden. It is their priority to use as much of what

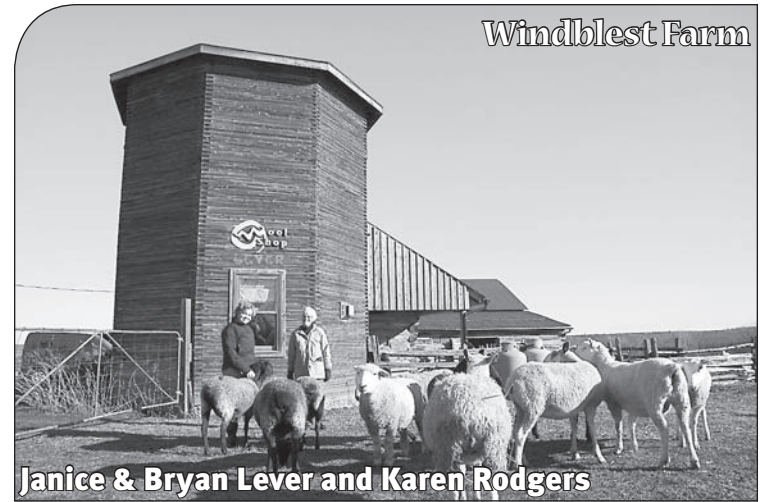
is available to them wisely and to waste as little as possible. Rather than sell raw wool for next to nothing, they have found niche markets for value-added wool products (like hand-dyed wool, specialty yarns, wool blankets, and skins). Currently, a knitting revival is dovetailing with "local fever", and appreciation for local, hand-made, well-made, and home-made is growing. For the knitters and crafty folk on your Christmas list, the farm's wool shop, located in a fabulous retrofitted wood plank silo, is worth a visit.

When lambs are butchered, the skins (usually discarded) as well as the meat are returned to the farm. Janice and Bryan salt and dry the skins then mail them to Quebec to be processed. When the sheep are sheared the best wool (lamb's) gets carefully cleaned, carded and dyed by Janice before being sent to southwestern Ontario to be turned into high quality knitting yarn. Wool from older sheep gets sent to PEI to be made into beautiful blankets (it takes the fleece of about two sheep to make one blanket). All the products are returned to the farm to be sold through the shop or at market. Janice, who is

an avid knitter, uses some of the wool to make the knitted items sold in the shop. Other sellers in the area, like Janie H. Knits near Perth and La Ferme Ouellette in Middleville, sell her hand-dyed yarn.

Janice's daughter Karen, who moved to the farm several years ago to join the team, has put her interest in gardening to work. This year's market garden is the latest addition to the farm's diverse offerings, and is something that Karen wants to develop further in years to come. Workshops organized by the Canadian Organic Growers <www.cog.ca/Ottawa>, and the National Farmers Union's New Farm Project <www.newfarmproject.ca> have been invaluable resources for everyone at Windblest.

Lots of projects usually translate into lots of work, but well-



Janice & Bryan Lever and Karen Rodgers

### Who They Are

Windblest Farm  
Janice and Bryan Lever and Karen Rodgers  
1821 Ferguson's Falls Road, Lanark, 259-5484  
<shepherds@windblestfarm.ca>, <www.windblestfarm.ca>

### What They Offer

Lamb freezer orders by the whole or half (order by June for July and August pick up), lamb pieces (ground, sausages, kebab), fleece, rovings for spinners, knitting yarn, knitted hats, blankets, skins. Breeding stock: Leicester, Border Leicester, Blue-faced Leicester sheep. Vegetables in season at market.

### Where They Sell

The Main Farmers' Market (Ottawa, May to October), direct sales at the farm by appointment or by chance, the farm store at La Ferme Ouellette (Middleville).

### Shepherd's Pie

3 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
1 small onion, chopped  
½ tsp. minced garlic  
1 lb minced lamb  
¾ tsp. cinnamon  
1 tsp. dried mint (or 3 tsp. minced fresh)  
¾ tsp. dried oregano  
¼ tsp. allspice  
19oz. can diced tomatoes, juice reserved  
1 Tbsp. tomato paste  
1½ lb potatoes  
½ cup grated parmesan cheese  
1 Tbsp. unsalted butter  
¼ lb feta cheese

In large pan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion, stirring until softened. Add garlic and lamb and cook until brown. Drain excess fat. Add cinnamon, oregano, mint and allspice and cook for 1 minute. Add tomatoes (extra if more juice is required), tomato paste, and salt and pepper to taste. Cook for 15 minutes then transfer to baking dish.

Topping: peel potatoes and cut into 1-inch pieces. Cover with water and bring to a boil. Drain and mash lightly. Add parmesan, butter, feta, salt and pepper to taste. Mix well. Spoon potato mixture over lamb in baking dish and bake at 400°F for 35-40 minutes or until lightly browned. Serves 4.

designed systems go a long way in supporting such projects and in reducing inefficiencies and labour. Bryan is a master at this, it seems. Renovations to the old farmhouse, water catchment ponds and irrigation systems, the vegetable prep station, barn renovations, shed construction, and

even the cozy home-on-wheels that houses Karen are the results of Bryan's remarkable design and building skills. It is great to see how the diverse talents and unique strengths of each person have contributed to Windblest farm's capacity to deliver such a variety of offerings.



## Harvest Moon Orchard

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# On Stage For Kids

## More Than an Intro to Theatre and the Arts

When I first moved to Almonte over three years ago, one of the first faces to greet me was that of a perky little child, grinning over some colourful letters on a bright yellow brochure that I received with my weekly paper. "On Stage For Kids," the brochure read. "Introduce your child to the wonders of the theatre and the arts."

"Ahh..." I thought to myself, "I certainly picked the right town to move to."

That fall, the perky brochure boy seemed to pop up quite a bit, reminding me to check out this novel organization that brings mainstream performing arts to my small town. His cheeky smile convinced me to buy my family of five a season's pass, and when the first show arrived, I was thrilled with what I saw. Not only was the performance great, but an entire community of parents like me, with children like mine, gathered in the Naismith Memorial Public

School gymnasium, sat together for an hour, and laughed, sang, clapped and tapped. Some of us even danced. Afterwards, some families stayed behind to help clean up, catching up and reminiscing about other good times. "What an experience," I thought to myself. "What a nice town..."

Since that first show I attended on a chilly November Sunday three years ago, I have become a volunteer member of the On Stage For Kids committee, which really feels more like a little family of its own. Each of us has our own roles and duties and does our part, not because it is a chore, but because we love the organization and what it brings to the children of Mississippi Mills: dance, drama, music and comedy, geared to kids of all ages. And it's soft on the parents' wallets, too, thanks to the generous donations of local businesses.

They tell me that On Stage For Kids has been around for over

twenty years, which easily explains why the non-profit organization runs so efficiently and, more importantly, why it will be given the prestigious Mississippi Mills Cultural Volunteerism Award at the Young Awards Gala on February 19. On Stage For Kids is also the proud recipient of an Ontario Arts Council grant.

Singer/songwriter Chris Patterson's *Small Potatoes* opened the 2010/11 series on November 21 with a fantastic show. Kids and their parents can expect another great season this year with performer Jim Dalling's *Loki's Big Dream* on January 30, Junkyard Symphony on February 27, and Infititus performing everything from Handel to hip-hop on March 27. Held at Naismith Memorial Public School, each show costs \$9 at the door, or you can purchase tickets in advance for \$8 from Kentfield Kids in Almonte and Read's Book Shop in Carleton



Junkyard Symphony will be bringing their trademark collection of eclectic percussive cool stuff to Almonte as part of this year's On Stage For Kids season

Place. You can still get the amazing savings that I did three years ago with the series pass — all four shows for only \$75 for a family of four or more, or the single series pass for only \$22. If you attended the first show and enjoyed your experience, On Stage For Kids will gladly put your initial admission payment towards the purchase of the series pass of your choice.

Looking back now, after attending nearly a dozen shows and volunteering at over half of them, that little smiling face peeking over the letters on the brochure was not only inviting my kids to a great performance, it was welcoming me to the community. Be sure to look for your flyer, and just maybe, the little face will convince you too!

— Cynthia Verboven

## Prelude to Christmas Concert to Benefit REAL

The Central Band of the Canadian Forces will be doing their part for the environment by performing a benefit concert for the **Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL)** on Wednesday, December 8, at 7PM. This *Prelude to Christmas* concert by one of Canada's internationally celebrated musical ensembles will take place at the Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute, on Percy Street.

"Each and every year, I have thoroughly enjoyed it... Hearing a big brass band really is special. It warms the heart and makes you proud to be Canadian," commented one concert enthusiast.

The members of the **Central Band of the Canadian Forces** are musical ambassadors of Canada, representing and supporting all elements of the Forces and contributing to Canadian culture both at home and abroad. For seventy years, the Central Band has brought their robust performances to concerts, parades and festivals around the world, and has performed for royalty, world heads of state, popes, prime ministers and governor generals.

"We are quite honoured that the band is performing for us for the twelfth year," commented Barb Hicks, REAL President.

This much anticipated concert on December 8, conducted by Captain Peter Archibald, Commanding Officer and Director of Music, will be a real treat for music lovers in this area. Their *Tribute to Veterans*, diverse selection of seasonal music, vocalist and soloists will be a great kickoff to the festive season. Local radio personality Wayne Cavanaugh will be the Master of Ceremonies and will bring his unique brand of commentary to the evening.

This special evening of musical celebration is a major fundraiser for REAL, the region's local environmental organization, which marked its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary this year. REAL is best known for its Well Aware and ecoENERGY programs, as well as the REAL Deal Reuse Store it operates in Smiths Falls.

Tickets for the concert are \$10 each or \$25 for a family of four, and are available in Smiths Falls at the Kiosk in Country Fair Mall, Modern Thymes and The REAL Deal store, and at both the Perth and Smiths Falls branches of The Royal Canadian Legion.

For more information, please call 283-9819 or see <www.REALaction.ca>.

### Gifts for Athletes

- 1-Hour Massage, The Massage Therapy Clinic.....\$82
- Fitness Apparel, Yoga Station.....\$10-\$99
- Gift Certificate for 1 hr Therapeutic Sports Massage, Debra Jackson, RMT.....\$78
- Gift Certificate for 30-min Infrared Sauna Session, Pauline's Massage.....\$35
- Sports Enthusiast's Massage Gift Pack, Hands On Healing Centre.....\$85
- Yoga Mat & Accessories, Yoga and Tea.....\$25 & up

### Gifts for Readers

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# MERA Award of Excellence 2011

**Deadline for Application Jan. 31**

Are you a local artist, proud of your abilities and achievements, but striving constantly to do even better? If so, you are invited to apply for the MERA Award of Excellence in the Fine Arts and Fine Crafts 2011, awarded by the McDonalds Corners/Elphin Recreation and Arts (MERA) organization. The award is a cash prize of \$1000, and an opportunity for the winner and runners-up to present their artwork during a presentation ceremony. You can also nominate someone else for this award, so consider doing this for your favourite self-effacing artist!

All applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of Canada living in one of the following Eastern Ontario municipalities: the Townships of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Central Frontenac and Northern Frontenac, or the Town of Perth.

An assessment committee of recognized experts in the fields of fine arts and fine crafts will judge the applications. The award is based on a single work of art made by

the applicant in the one-year period before the application deadline. Judges will be looking for innovative artwork that: demonstrates conceptual, formal, material and technical mastery; expands the boundaries of materiality and technique; and shows knowledge of contemporary and historical context and tradition.

The Award was created in 2008 to recognize excellent works of fine art and fine craft, to celebrate local area visual artists, and in recognition that artists are essential to the vitality and well-being of the communities in which they live and create. Though MERA administers the award, it is made possible by a generous donation to the Perth and District Community Foundation by Chris and David Dodge.

All applications must be complete, and must be post-marked on or before January 31, 2011, or stamped by a courier as being received on or before January 31, 2011. For more information and for instructions on how to apply, please visit <[www.meraschoolhouse.org](http://www.meraschoolhouse.org)>.

Pageful of Poetry

# A Partial Page of Poetry

I want to begin by wishing everyone a brilliant and sparkling festive season. As this is December and *theHumm* is full up, I'll keep this edition brief — like a haiku. Well, not quite that short, but close.

by Danielle Grégoire

On December 6, LiPS is presenting their third slam of this season. As it is taking place on that particular date, there will be a moment to recognize the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women with a brief tribute to

the fourteen women who were slain at the Ecole Polytechnique as well as all of the women murdered in Ontario over the past several decades.

This will be the last slam of the year, and the perfect chance for you to put your poetry into action. I know there are plenty of poets in and around the valley, and we would love to hear your work. If you're not sure that your work is meant for a slam, well, the only rules are that it be under three minutes, with no props or musical accompaniment. Bring two pieces in case you end up in the second round of competition. The rest

is all you. We're looking for new voices in Lanark County, to be a part of a growing national spoken word scene.

Show up on December 6 and catch the final slam of 2010, where a wonderful Carleton Place-based band, Professor LeStrange and His Band of Degenerates, will be featured. Music and poetry. Only \$5 at the door. Free if you decide to perform on the open mic, or slam. Head down to the Carleton Place Cinemas where the doors open at 6:30PM and the slam starts at 7PM. The LiPS slam happens the first Monday of every month. Hope to see you there!

## Gifts for Neo-Hippies

<b>Chakra Pendulum Bracelet, Nordic Star</b> .....	\$35
<b>Chemical-Free Incense &amp; Smudges, Soul Scents</b> .....	\$3-\$17
<b>Easy Sprout Container or Hemp Sprout Bag, The Granary</b> .....	\$15.99
<b>Hand Knit Socks, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum</b> .....	\$35
<b>Kiss My Face Peace Soaps &amp; Candles, Foodsmiths</b> .....	under \$20
<b>Mabel &amp; Gwen Clothing &amp; Home Décor (Repurposed Fabric), Art &amp; Class</b> .....	\$2-65
<b>Original Purse by Textile Artist Jo-ann Zorzi, CP Station</b> .....	\$30

## Hummbits

### Story Contest: Best Holiday Ever

Before you throw down your paper in disgust at yet another early mention of Christmas, stop and think for a minute about the best, weirdest, or most challenging family holiday you've ever had. Savour it for a few minutes and then write that story down.

Soon enough you'll be caught up with all the chores and festivities of the season. Your special memory might settle your nerves of an evening or remind you of why you continue to work so hard to put together this celebration.

Then, why not email a copy of your story to Carolyn Stewart from the Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra. Three stories will be read at their yearly *Little Christmas* concert, and food baskets will be awarded to the chosen authors.

The deadline for entries is December 15 and the concert will be held on January 9. Email them to <[cstewart@storm.ca](mailto:cstewart@storm.ca)> with a subject line of "Best Ever".

### Christmas Celtic Jam

A Celtic Jam is a fun gathering of musicians who play Celtic music. Come on out to one at the Middleville Community Centre on Saturday, December 18, where good music, Christmas desserts, coffee and tea will be served. There will be fiddles, harps, whistles, accordions, guitars, a piano and other instruments, with the musicians arranged in a semi-circle in front of the audience. They will take turns choosing a piece of music they like and then all join in. This time of year, the bulk of the music will be Christmas pieces mixed in with familiar Celtic music. The audience will be invited to join in the singing at times.

All are welcome, musicians and audience, to join in the fun at any time between 1 and 4PM, for a very small sum. For further information call Margo at 256-5474.

INDEPENDENT CONCERT PRODUCTIONS

Great Celtic Christmas Gift!

# The Magic of Ireland



**Traditional Irish Dance & Song**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2011, 8PM**

Perth & District Collegiate Institute, Perth

Tickets available at Tickets Please (at Jo's Clothes) 39 Foster St., Perth

613-485-6434 or [www.ticketsplease.ca](http://www.ticketsplease.ca)



# Mission: Christmas Season 2010

Here is your mission, should you choose to accept it: get through the next month without having a mental or physical breakdown.

You know you can do it — you do it every year. But do you *have* to? It seems like many of us want to enjoy the Christmas season so badly that we fit way too much into

by Rona Fraser

a month which is really no bigger than the others. You probably don't even have time to read this article, do you? So here is my plan: to have a plan. Well, what I mean is, consciously decide what I will and will not do. And stick to it.

## December To Dos

OK. Optimally, this December, I would like to send out all my Christmas cards, so that they actually arrive at their destinations before the 25<sup>th</sup>. I believe I have only accomplished this once in the last twenty years, and they arrived on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I would like to buy thoughtful presents, without rushing or stressing, and have them all wrapped and ready to go well in advance of the day

I plan to give them. No more of this staying up 'til midnight on Christmas Eve. I would like to decorate my house for Christmas, instead of last year's "It's too late now as I haven't even got it clean yet — forget it!" I would like to enjoy watching every televised Christmas special (no, I don't have kids... why do you ask?) and my favourite old Christmas movies. I want to make Christmas cookies with my friends. I want to create homemade Christmas presents that friends and family will appreciate. And that's it! I want to spend Christmas Eve at home, in my clean and festive living room, watching holiday classics and eating holiday fare and simply enjoying the season! Yup — that's the dream. The reality is generally: me, late Christmas Eve, looking for a clear spot to wrap presents and looking at my cards thinking "At least I'll get them out by New Year's..." Sigh.

So. How to reach the goal of a calm Christmas prep-time? I mean, even looking at my list, I see it is crazy. I have a hard enough time getting day-to-day things done during regular months!

Now, I must interrupt myself here to let you know that that is as

far as I got, back on October 31, when I began writing this piece. Perhaps I did not have an answer for myself then. But I have one now. Well two, actually.

## Reduce Expectations

I am not saying to expect crap. I just mean that it might be helpful to stop and consider our mental images of the upcoming Christmas season, and realize that most Christmas movies are not actually close to reality. Ya know... expect *Christmas Vacation* rather than *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*. I can illustrate this best with the classic Christmas family photo of a young family and their pets. You will likely want to get a picture with all smiles, all good behaviour, and no blinking. Seriously — how challenging is that gonna be? Come on — that's exactly what Photoshop is for! If you are completely set on having the picture-perfect Christmas, where everyone behaves well and helps each other and loves your gifts and gives you just the perfect present... simply live the reality, without stress, and photoshop it in your mind later. Reality, shmeality. If it is only affecting the memories in your own mind, where's the harm?

## Prioritize

Better to thoroughly enjoy a few things than stress through many. I tell you what. As my Christmas gift to you, I will write you a To Do list. Yes, just for you. Cut it out and put it on your fridge.

### Christmas To Dos:

- Take care of yourself. (Get enough sleep and eat enough healthy food to keep you strong.)
- Take care of your home. (Your cozy, tidy home will be your safe haven.)
- Take care of your finances. (Your loved ones enjoy your presents but wouldn't want you to be in debt, so don't go overboard.)
- Remember that the cost of your gift does not reflect your amount of love for the person (...and hope that they realize this too. "It's the thought that counts," is a saying for a reason.)
- Remember that you *are* allowed to say "no" to some invites. (The calendar gets filled quickly — perhaps you should take a moment now to pencil in a night or two at home.)
- Shop (locally, if possible) for joyful gifts, knowing that they don't have to be "the perfect thing".
- Enjoy yourself!

## A Shout Out

Before I close for the month (nay, year!), I would like to give a little shout out to any of you who are single. This can be a harsh time for us single folk, when it seems we are surrounded by couples walking hand-in-hand, families playing together, etc. Now, this may be mainly the fault of marketers, for in reality there is plenty of discord as well, but still, it may sometimes feel like you are surrounded by these happy groups. Well, let me help you see the cup half full. You do not have to coordinate multiple Christmas meals with your family and your parents and your in-laws. You do not have to shop for your in-laws. You can watch all the sports or movies you can handle. You can eat leftover stuffing for breakfast (or the After Eights someone gave you). You can sing along to your favourite Christmas songs with no one giving you weird looks. So chin up, single friends! Hollywood may brainwash us to view single-hood as something to be fixed, especially at this time of year, but we are not broken! Just different! And if you still feel crappy, have some chocolate and know that somewhere, I am having some too. Merry Christmas!!

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## Kelly Sloan

CD Release Concert  
Almonte Old Town Hall  
Dec. 30. 2010. 8pm  
Tickets \$15 @ Baker Bobs or call 256.5181

## Gifts for Wives

Cottage on the Lake Oil by Gordon Harrison, Gallery Perth.....	\$750
A Bouquet of Christmas Roses, The Blossom Shop.....	\$55 & up
Facial, Carmelized.....	\$60
Bath Salts & Bodywashes, Soul Scents.....	\$8.95-\$19.95
Art Jewellery by Anne-Marie Chagnon, Bittersweet Gallery.....	\$25-\$175
Facial Rejuvenation Acupuncture, Hands On Healing Centre.....	\$145
Gift Certificate for 40-min Reflexology Treatment, Pauline's Massage.....	\$42
Exceptional Jewellery, The Village Idiot.....	\$40 & up
Lotus Ultrasonic Aromatherapy Diffuser, Yoga and Tea.....	\$120
Maple Luscious Body Lotion, Fulton's.....	\$17.99
MSM for Clothing She Will Actually Like!, Mill Street Money.....	\$100
Purses & Bags by ESPE, Sisters.....	\$49.99-\$69.99
Gift Certificate for 45 min Massage Therapy, Kim Narraway, RMT.....	\$63
Regutherm, Carp Ridge Natural Health.....	\$155
Rocky Mountain Soap Co. Foot Butter, Watt's Cooking & Gift Shop.....	\$12.95
Ten Yoga Classes, Yoga Station.....	\$129
Top Quality Tools For All Her Painting Needs, Valley Design Co.....	\$1.99 & up
Gift Certificate for 90-min Hot Stone Massage, Debra Jackson, RMT.....	\$120
Wraps and Pashminas, Nordic Star.....	\$25-\$60
Gift Certificate for 1 hr Massage, Janice Aiken Massage Therapy.....	\$80

## Gifts for Kids 5 & under

Melissa & Doug Wooden Cutting Food Set, Kentfield Kids.....	\$26.99
Raggedy Ann Doll, Vintage Wear / Ware.....	\$12
Badger Organic Baby Bodycare, Soul Scents.....	\$7-\$38



# Wife Happy = Man Happy It Really Is That Simple

My father didn't like shopping, my father's father didn't like shopping, my father's father's father didn't like shopping (okay, I can't prove this beyond a reasonable doubt but I strongly suspect it's true), and I'm pretty sure my mother's father and mother's father's father felt the same way (although, my great, great, great grandfather is said to have liked shopping... we don't talk about him much). I carry

by Steve Scanlon

the same anti-shopping gene. I come by it honestly. I do not like shopping. I especially don't like shopping during the Christmas season — nothing against the season. The sad reality is, I can't get away from it. Why? Because I'm married. Being married comes with some responsibilities — to love and respect your partner, to be honest and faithful, and to buy a present filled with deep meaning for anniversaries, birthdays, Valentine's Day, and of course Christmas. It's in the small print that nobody tells you about until after the ceremony when everything is signed, sealed and delivered. Here's the thing: I'm a dude and, as a dude, shopping is the very last thing I want to do... ever (okay, it's up there with poking myself in the eye with a sharp stick). However, as a husband or "significant other" (which is simply denial) wishing to survive said occasions, one must shop. Sad, but true.

So, as an experienced special occasion shopper I cannot, and will not spend any

more than ten minutes in any given store at any given time. This is precisely why Westport is simply the best town to go shopping in. First, the vast majority of the stores are owner-operated; the owners have a stake in how you feel about the shopping experience — no big box stores in sight. Second, the people working in the stores want to have fun almost as much as you do. Third, if you need help (as much as I do) they will gladly give it to you.

As a dude I also happen to be a creature of habit, and I always go to the stores where I have succeeded in the past; the stores where I've had the most fun getting the most help and walking away with the most appropriate gift (see — most hugs on Christmas morning for the least effort). The first store I go to is **Chris Reynolds Designs** on Church Street. I have never walked into this store looking for a gift and walked out without one that my lovely and talented wife would love... that's the bottom line. All I have to do is walk in, look at any staff member and say the following: "Help! It's Christmas Eve and I'm married..." Works like a charm. The fact that my wife also loves the clothing is just one great big ol' bonus for me.

The second store is right next door, and it's called **Pinecone**. This store is filled with unique and interesting gifts that I will not likely find anywhere else. Last year it was a simple heart-shaped stone that my wife

can bury in her purse — it pops up every now and then to remind her that I love her (beat that for romantic gesture of the year). I bought two, one for my wife and one for my daughter to carry in her pocket. Here's how I came to get these charms. I said: "I need something romantic that will make me look like a hero..." Simple, and they get it. It's impossible to go into this store and



Lynn Steele (l) and owner Deborah Wadell welcome you to Pinecone in Westport!

not find something that will absolutely fit somebody's taste; it's just that kind of store.

The third store I love is right next door to Pinecone (how convenient). **Far Visions** is a nice little boutique with a lovely selection of artwork, from handmade jewellery to pottery and carvings. This is another shop where the help and suggestions are well thought out and ever so helpful. This is where I shop for my mother-in-law, who, it seems, passed on her "difficult

to buy for" gene to her daughter (another thing they don't mention until after the ceremony — gift giving to mother-in-law is your responsibility). I picked up a lovely little brooch that my mother-in-law wears every time I see her, which isn't nearly as often as it should be (hey, you can never be too careful).

This is just a sampling of the shopping potential of Westport. Looking for toys? **Lower Mountain Mercantile** has a yearly toy sale with great prices and selection. Looking for something for the cottager? Go to **Lake Effects** for mugs, maps or hats with the local lakes emblazoned thereon, or colourful deck chairs. Artwork? Visit one of our two galleries, **Artemisia** or **Gallery on Main**. Check out **Jake by the Lake** for hip stuff. **Murphy's Sport Shop** for fishing stuff. **Latimer Soap Works** for... you guessed it, soap stuff. You could of course shop **The Village Green** where they have one of everything, or **Cottage**

**Country** where they have everything else. Westport is a great place to visit. Stop for a coffee or hot chocolate, have lunch... you don't need to be like me, you can make the trip an event — it's well worth it. It takes a guy who doesn't like to shop to know where to make it happen with no pain.

So, to recap... let's do the math: I'm a dude. Dudes need help. Westport shops are helpful. Man gets help. Wife happy. Man happy. It's that simple. Time for a beer.

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# Come Join the Bag Ladies!





# Three (sided) Bags Full!



An enterprising trio of business owners from Almonte and Pakenham has come up with a special treat for their customers: eye-catching, eco-friendly, and thoroughly funky three-sided shopping bags. These colourful totes will brighten up your holiday shopping ensemble, and they make great gifts themselves! With inserts that keep them from flopping over and handles that you can slip over your shoulders, they are not only beautiful, but practical too. And they do double environmental duty because they take the place of plastic bags and are made from recycled water bottles.

## The Bag Ladies

The project is a joint effort by Paddy Mann (of Paddy Mann Clothing in Pakenham), Robin Singleton (of Robin's Paper Thin in Almonte) and Cynthia Stuart (of Appleton Gift & Basket in Almonte). Together, they happily refer to themselves as "the bag ladies". They have purchased 3000 of the distinctive bags (which were designed by Paddy with assistance from Colin White), and their goal is to see them on shoulders all over the area. They will be available at all three shops for \$2.99 each, and are free with a purchase of \$29.99 or more. Happy (funky) shopping!

## Gifts for Environmentalists

- Harmony: A New Way of Looking at Our World*, Read's Book Shop.....\$33.99
- The Global Forest* by Diana Beresford-Kroeger, Mill Street Books.....\$32.50
- Eco-Cup with Cup Coat*, Equator Café.....\$19.95
- Fraser Fir Diffuser*, Watt's Cooking & Gift Shop.....\$64.95
- Handwoven, Fair Trade African Baskets*, The Granary.....\$45.99
- Harrowsmith Living In The Country Essays*, Nature Lover's Bookshop.....\$29.95
- MSM to Encourage Shopping Locally!*, Mill Street Money.....\$50
- No VOC / No Odour Paints*, Valley Design Co.....\$38 / gallon
- High Efficiency Wood Stove*, Rideau Valley Hearth & Home.....\$1632 & up
- Post-Consumer Glass & Reclaimed Silver Jewellery*, Kehla Design.....\$100-480
- Screen Shopping Bag Kit*, Textile Traditions.....\$25 & up
- Wine Planks & Platters from Wine Barrels*, Art & Class.....\$35-\$90

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to register, or for more information: (613) 839-5241  
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Find local gift suggestions for  
**STUDENTS** on page 32



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# Perth Citizens' Band Christmas Concert

The Perth Citizens' Band, Canada's oldest continuing band, will be holding its annual Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:30PM in St. James Anglican Church, at the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets in Perth. The event continues the long tradition of Christmas concerts in this church, a tradition started by the band in the mid-1920s. This year's performance will also feature Perth's Town Crier, Brent McLaren, and the Women of the Tay choir under the direction of Mary Ellen Grigor. The program will include a variety of popular and sacred Christmas music from over the years, and the audience is always invited to sing along with their favourites.

A highlight of the evening will be the performance of *Canadian Patrol*, an arrangement composed one hundred years ago by Captain John Slatter of the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Regiment. This piece was inspired by the sounds of a

sleighing party of the times, and features a blend of patriotic and popular songs of the day. It is from the band's archives and was performed frequently by the Perth Citizens' Band from the 1920s to 1940s. Admission to the concert is \$5 per person or \$10 for families at the door. For further information, please visit [www.perthband.ca](http://www.perthband.ca) or phone 256-4221.



**Gifts for \$100 & under**

- Gift Certificate for 1 hr Massage, Debra Jackson, RMT ..... \$78
- Christmas Centrepieces with Candles, The Blossom Shop ..... various
- Gift Certificate for 30 min Massage Therapy, Kim Naraway, RMT ..... \$46
- Gift Cards, Foodsmiths ..... \$10 & up
- Gift Certificate for 60-min Therapeutic Massage, Pauline's Massage ..... \$60

**Gifts for Do-It-Yourselfers**

- "Build a Ukulele" Kit, Mississippi Mills Musicworks ..... \$69.95
- Carving Course or Gift Certificates, Black Duck Studio ..... \$95 & up
- Make-Your-Own Jewellery Classes, Nordic Star ..... \$40 + kit fee
- Room Painting Kit with Tools, Valley Design Co. .... \$80 & up

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# A Christmas Weekend in Mississippi Mills

The big weekend gets under way on Friday, December 3, with **Light Up The Night**. Festivities begin at 7PM in downtown Almonte, when Mississippi Mills resident and entertainer Wayne Rostad and his wife, broadcaster Leanne Cusack, host the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this cherished Christmas celebration.

Light Up The Night features holiday music presented by well-known Ottawa Valley and Canadian performers, a special appearance by Santa Claus, and a spectacular fireworks display. This year's entertainers are Tracey Brown with Randall Prescott and Barry Brown, Voices of Praise, Town Crier Daniel Richer, singer/songwriter Braiden Turner, Brea Lawrenson, Robin Averill, *Almonte's Got Talent* winners Amanda Roi and Claire Hunter, Johnny Spinks, Arlene Quinn and the SRC Choral Express, the Noreen Young Puppets, the Twinkle Fairies, and the Snow Queen. To find out more about this year's performers, visit <www.lightupthenight-almonte.com>.

Another feature this year is a fundraising taste testing at the Almonte LCBO, from 6 to 8PM, accompanied by snacks supplied by JR's Family Restaurant.

Organizers are expecting about five thousand people to attend this year's celebration. Organizing committee chair

Nancy Fulton is very excited about the event's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. "We can hardly wait," says Nancy. "There is a fabulous line-up of musicians, and Wayne Rostad and Leanne Cusack are running the on-stage activities. We can't thank Wayne enough for his commitment to Light Up The Night. He's the best!"

Other members of the organizing committee are Scott Newton, Calvin Murphy, Don Willey, Yvonne Stewart, Robin Moir and Gerry Huddleston. The committee is supported by local businesses, the Town of Mississippi Mills, local carpenters, sound and light experts and other volunteers who make the evening a success. "It is a total team effort with several fundraising events happening throughout the year," says Nancy.

If you miss Santa Claus on Friday night, you have two more chances to see him during a Christmas Weekend in Mississippi Mills — the Santa Claus Parades in Pakenham and Almonte.

**Pakenham's Santa Claus Parade** gets underway Saturday, December 4 at 1PM. The parade begins and ends at the Stewart Community Centre, 112 MacFarlane Street. This year's theme is *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and there are cash prizes for the best floats. Participants are asked to register at noon.

After the parade, free hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served, courtesy of Mississippi Munchies Canteens, and the kids can meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. Afterwards there is a free skate at the Stewart Community Centre.

**Almonte's Santa Claus Parade** is the very next day: Sunday, December 5 at 1:30PM. The route begins and ends at the Almonte Community Centre, 182 Bridge Street. Along the way, the Almonte Scouts will be collecting food for the Lions Club Christmas Hamper Campaign.

The theme for the Almonte parade is also *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Registration for participants begins at 12:30PM. There are cash prizes and a Lions Club trophy for best overall float. After the parade, enjoy free hot dogs and hot chocolate, courtesy of the Almonte Lions Club. The kids will also be able to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and go for a public skate. Organizers would like to thank the Almonte Civitan Club for providing transportation for Mr. and Mrs. Claus and for assisting with traffic control.

For further details about any of these events, or to register a float in one of the parades, contact the Mississippi Mills Recreation and Culture Department at 256-1077, ext. 22.



Perennial favourites Wayne Rostad and Leanne Cusack will host this year's **Light Up The Night** event in downtown Almonte on Friday, December 3. The evening will include performances by numerous musicians, a spectacular fireworks display, and a special appearance by a jolly fellow in red...

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How late are shops open in the evening?  
Where's a good place to stop for a bite while we're shopping?  
What else can we do when we come for a visit?

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*Upcoming Events*

Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> — *Light Up the Night*  
Psychic readings with Nancy Kerr-Wilson, 5–10PM

Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> — *Men's Night*  
Free Classic Japanese Incense Sampler for that special someone with a minimum purchase of \$20

Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>  
*Customer Appreciation Winter Solstice Party*  
• 15% off everything in the store  
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• Psychic readings with Nancy Kerr-Wilson, 10–5PM



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**Money Does Grow on Trees (in Almonte)!**

Shoppers in Downtown Almonte will be doing a double-take when they notice that a veritable money tree has popped up in the window of the Heritage Court, at the bottom of Mill Street. The dazzling conifer, decorated in not-so-legal tender, is a reminder that Mill Street Money (MSM) is once again the currency that matters most in Almonte during the holiday season.



Annually, Mainstreet Almonte Attraction and Promotion (MAAP) ensures that the festive bills, in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$25, are available for gift giving. Employees, your kooky cousins from Ottawa, a favourite teacher and, of course, friends and family will be delighted when they receive a gift

Now in its fourth year of existence, the popular Mill Street Money is available in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$25, and is accepted at over 35 shops in downtown Almonte!

of MSM, giving them buying power in the shops of the downtown core.

"Our goal is to keep those Christmas dollars in Almonte," explains MAAP President Cynthia Stuart. "This year we have added the Mill Street Money Tree that people can win by completing a ballot form. It doesn't cost anything, and you could win up to \$600 in MSM." Ballots can be found in participating stores and can be submitted until noon on December 23. The winning ticket will be drawn at 2PM that day. The generosity of Downtown Almonte business owners made this year's MSM Money Tree possible.

MSM works like a gift certificate and is redeemable in nearly

forty stores and services around town. The currency can be purchased at Nordic Star and Don's Meat Market.

Bulk orders should be phoned in to 256-0461 a day in advance so the gift certificates can be properly prepared. Each set of MSM comes in a gift envelope, ready for giving. This year, the bills feature Downtown Almonte's Art of Living logo and have been sized to better fit into your wallet.

Mill Street Money is just one of the many joys of shopping in Almonte. Come for the MSM and stay for the friendly owner-operators and staff, free parking, quality service, great prices, wonderful variety and easy walking!

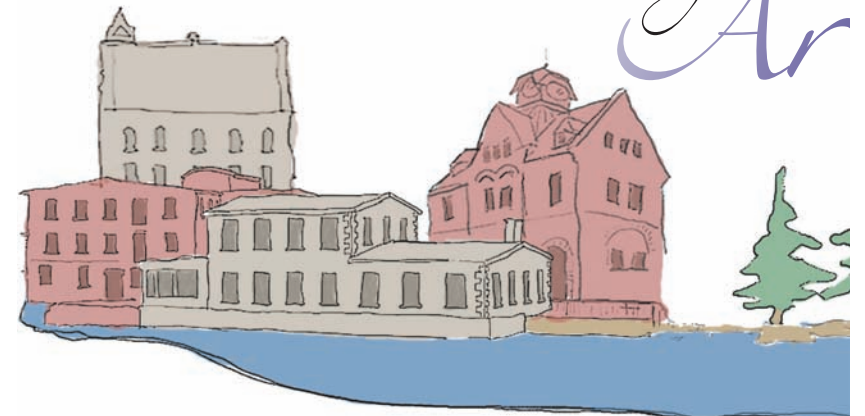


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# g in Downtown Almonte!

## Extra Hours, Special Events, Holiday Cheer!

Every year the holiday season ushers in special joys and pleasures, but it also brings a few added responsibilities and pressures. To help emphasize the former and alleviate the latter, the merchants of downtown Almonte are offering a sleigh full of special events and extended shopping hours throughout the month of December. From helpful shopping nights for kids and gentlemen to special brunches and stops for weary shoppers, they are looking forward to helping you keep your Christmas merry!

### After Hours

Most shops in town are offering extended hours of operation for the month. At press time, the following have committed to staying open every Thursday and Friday until at least 7PM: Mill Street Books, Appleton Gift & Basket, Kentfield Kids, Sisters, Alliance Coin & Banknote, and Foodies Fine Foods. All are located within easy walking distance of each other on Mill Street, where parking is always free.

### Important Dates to Remember

Every Thursday and Friday: extended hours downtown  
 Thursday, Dec. 9 & 16: Kids Only Shopping Nights  
 Friday, Dec. 17: Men's Shopping Night

### Special Events

Men can get some extra assistance (and refreshments!) on the evening of Friday, December 17 at several shops in town, including Sisters, Mill Street Books, Soul Scents and Blackbird. Many of the stores even have "wish lists" where your special someone might just have left you a hint...

This year, Blackbird has expanded their hugely popular "Kids Only" shopping night to two nights: Thursday, December 9 and Thursday, December 16 from 5PM to 9PM. As in previous years, kids (ages 3 to 15) will be greeted at the door by Blackbird's head elf, who will ask them a few questions about who they're buying for and what their budget is. While the kids shop, parents are invited to enjoy a warm beverage at Palms across the street... courtesy of Blackbird! When the gifts are wrapped and tagged and ready for Christmas morning, kids will be escorted back to their parents by their very own elf!

Since the shops of downtown Almonte offer such a wide variety of great gifts (just see *theHumm's* Gift Giving Guide for specific suggestions), you'll probably want to take a whole day to explore them all. And then, of course, you'll need sustenance! If you're looking for a very classy end to your day, plan to dine at the Heirloom Café Bistro on December 10 and indulge in their Christmas/Anniversary Spectacular. This \$40 three-course dinner will feature fabulous food from the Cordon Bleu chefs, as well as music by Katie Stevens from 7-10PM.

For lighter fare, Foodies Fine Foods will be offering Saturday brunches on December 4, 11 and 18 from 10AM to 2PM, with different crêpe, quiche and soup specials each day to enhance your downtown shopping day!

*Have yourself a cozy little Christmas*



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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!**  
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*"It's the Most Wonderful time of the Year"*  
 With all the great gift ideas we have available you are sure to find something that will keep people you care about happy for years to come.  
 Hope to see you all Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> for "Light Up the Night"  
**Sisters**  
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 www.sistersinalmonte.com  
 613-256-1515  
**Holiday Hours - December 6-23:**  
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# Christmas is Coming!

"Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, please put a penny in the old man's hat." The tune is running through my mind nearly every day now, so I know it is time to get in the mood and start thinking of Christmas gifts for my nearest and dearest. Every year it is getting to be more of a problem to find the right

by Eulalie Lark-spur

gifts for my beloved old friends, you know — the ones with whom I have been exchanging gifts for decades. Why not just give up at this point, isn't Christmas for kids, and so on? Well, no! I love the choosing, and the being chosen for. Before I fret over a formal list, I am taking a new approach this year and heading for Mill Street in Almonte. First I will pile up an environmentally responsible selection of cloth bags, and then set out to fill them from the bottom of the street to the top. No worrying over what will do for whom — there may be some surprises in store!

The first place to stop is at **The Village Idiot**, the store opened by Patrick Arbour in Gordon Pike's new **Heritage Court** at the foot

of Mill Street. There is plenty of parking, both on the street and in the generous space at the back. Some months ago I talked to Patrick about his vision for the place, and it is brilliant to see how well it has come into being. There are beautifully finished antique pieces — a mix of restorations and reproductions scattered about the space — and the walls are covered with vibrant and attractive paintings, many by local artists such as **Rosemary Leach**. Soon, **Phil Wood** will be offering his services from this site and prints will also be offered then. I was especially drawn to the maquettes of local sculptor **Dale Dunning** and the sculptures of **Deborah Arnold**, who causes stone to say such remarkable things to us.

This was the point at which I was so tempted to start shopping for myself. The selection of jewellery from Thailand and from local artisans is amazing — I love the triple necklaces! Patrick will continue to seek local and Ontario artisans to supply unusual pieces to his shop. The prices are really reasonable for such quality. This new shop is well worth a stop and offers hearty doses of temptation. This opening venue is so attractive; I can hardly wait to see what the next shops will bring!

As I walked up the street I noticed all the places to browse and antique shops to poke about in. Gift stores on both sides of the street can yield uncommon treats for good friends, and also chocolates and other yummys to keep up the strength of the shopper.

Then up to **North of 44**, a favourite of mine. There is so much to see in here and lots to offer the Christmas shopper. I love to pop in just to see the wonderful photographs covering the walls. The birds are amazing! Every year on a spring morning, friends of mine are visited by an indigo bunting at their feeder. I'm sure the awesome picture of this vibrantly coloured bird on the wall at North of 44 would make an ideal gift for my friends.

As well, there are many beautiful photos of Almonte and the area. For many years these were almost impossible to find, but now you can find cards, photos or fridge magnets as keepsakes for yourself or friends who may have visited here. And, even better, their photographs can be made into unique and stunning Christmas cards. There is something warm and personal in a card like this to remind your friends of where you are living.



The newest addition to downtown Almonte's eclectic mix of shops, **The Village Idiot** (aaahhh... the jokes fairly write themselves, don't they?) recently opened in the Heritage Court at the foot of Mill Street. Above, owner Patrick Arbour poses with staff member Nancy Reside alongside some lovely art.

Conveniently located right next door is **Nordic Star**, where owner Tammy Connors uses precious stones and sterling silver to create stunning necklaces, bracelets and earrings. I am thinking perhaps that beautiful amethyst beaded necklace for my sister, and a chakra bracelet for her daughter who could use a little extra balance. Oh — and that garnet necklace would look great with my Christmas outfit! But if you are afraid to choose something that your finicky friend may not like, you can get her a gift certificate so she can come

back on her own to find something that speaks to her... or even have Tammy create something especially for her.

This has been just a teeny sampling of the many wonderful shops that provide such a fabulous selection of art, food, handmade goodies and gifts in Mississippi Mills — you'll just have to come for a visit and discover your own favourites!

Cousin Euphemia joins me in wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and joy in all you do.



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Although log homes have traditionally been known for their natural beauty, Paul explains that recent technology and new products now make them highly energy-efficient as well. Modern joinery techniques, air-tight gaskets and mature logs have allowed his company to gain energy star approval for their homes. One of Paul's long-term goals is to help develop more self-sustaining log and timber communities.

Paul and his partners appreciate the support that they have received from the business community in Mississippi Mills, and note that the Royal Bank in Pakenham has made a particular effort to nurture small local enterprises. These efforts create a caring atmosphere where businesses like theirs can flourish!



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### December 15 Mixer

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# Songs From the Valley

If you love great country and bluegrass, searing guitar mastery and fabulous fiddle work, the concert series you've been dreaming about is coming in the new year.

*Songs From The Valley* is a collaboration between the Studio Theatre — a well-known concert and live theatre venue in Perth — and The Friends of the Stewart Park Festival, the people who bring you Perth's much-loved annual outdoor music festival. For the first time, these two organizations have come together to create a series of three fabulous concerts, highlighting local musicians whose varied sounds spring from the rich musical traditions of the Ottawa Valley.

On January 21, Valley native **Wade Foster** brings his fiddle virtuosity to the stage of the Studio Theatre, blending traditional, country, contemporary, and Celtic rock, and playing cuts from his debut CD *Sounds Like Home*.

On March 25 it's multiple Canadian Country Music Association Guitar Player of the Year award-winner **Steve Pittico** in concert. The mere mention of Steve and his Telecaster guitar draws comments from industry peers such as "He's from another planet!" and "It should be against the law to play like that!" This is a concert that fans of great guitar playing simply can't miss.

Finally, on May 20 you'll hear **Neville Wells, John Richard** and **Bytown Bluegrass**, a band that has been creating great bluegrass, country and folk music for more than thirty-five years. Bytown Bluegrass brings together five veteran performers who deliver solid traditional favourites and contemporary ballads in the inimitable Bytown style.

And if you need one more tantalizing reason to put this concert series on your must-attend list, consider that each of these three great acts has been asked to invite guest performers to join them on stage. Who will their special guests be? Given the quality of the headliners, you can only imagine who might show up...

With Christmas coming, a three-concert pass to this incredible series is a gift that will make you a star. The price is just \$50 for the series, or \$20 per concert, available in person or by phone at Tickets Please, 39 Foster Street in Perth, 485-6434, or online at <www.ticketsplease.ca> (a convenience fee applies). All concerts begin at 8PM and take place at the Studio Theatre, 63 Gore Street East in Perth, overlooking the Tay Basin.

Three incredible performances, one amazing price — don't miss *Songs From The Valley* in 2011!



The new music series brings Wade Foster, Steve Pittico (left) and Bytown Bluegrass to Perth

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# Presenting Perfect Presents in Perth!

I would rather eat a loaf of moldy bread than go to the mall in December. Seriously. The frenzy of the parking lot, the endless line-ups, the tinny-sounding Christmas muzak. No, thanks. I'd rather do the dishes, or shave every morning, or watch back-to-back-to-back reruns of *Cake Boss* — with commercials — than wade through that madness.

by John Pigeau

Luckily, I live in a lovely small town where I can get fine gifts for everyone on my Christmas wish list right downtown. I don't have to break the bank either; parking is free this holiday season until December 31, and I like the feeling of finding neat things in one-of-a-kind indie shops.

Speaking of which, one of my personal favourites is **Riverguild Fine Crafts**, a store owned by fifteen local artisans and dedicated to selling only the finest of Canadian crafts. If you've been there, you'll know that this is a wonderful shop where you can get almost anything for the art lover on your list, from salt-glazed pottery, batik artwork and leather goods to fine wood carvings and sculptures, cooperative games, pewter lanterns and much, much more. If you'd like to take a peek at what Riverguild has to offer — and at their impressive "Gallery of Artisans" — before setting out, please check out [www.riverguild.com](http://www.riverguild.com). The store is located at 51 Gore Street East, near the beautiful Tay Basin.

A trip into **Art & Class Studio Boutique** would also seem in or-

der, not only since it's next door to Riverguild but because this is an ideal spot for a very original gift — art and craft classes! Have a relative who has always wanted to paint using watercolours? A little one who might be artfully inclined and interested in the basics of sketching? Or a good friend who might even be "unartistic" (like me, always colouring *outside* the lines) but still searches for something new to try? Well, Art & Class has you covered, offering a vast array of classes for beginners and seasoned art-lovers alike. They also have a well-stocked boutique filled with supplies to keep your creative side flowing, and even offer a delicious holiday class in gingerbread (*mmmm... gingerbread...*) house decoration, which might be a nice gift for yourself if you're planning to impress some holiday guests! For more information about their many classes, you can call 466-0622, check them out online at [www.artandclass.ca](http://www.artandclass.ca), or visit them in person at 53 Gore Street East.

Okay, from artsy we now move on to fun and funky and, well, sure, still sort of artsy, as we amble on over to 67 Foster Street and visit delightful **Shadowfax** [www.shadowfax.on.ca](http://www.shadowfax.on.ca). If you've someone on your list who likes jewellery, then you've come to the right spot. Shadowfax stocks a varied and extensive selection of shiny, pretty, semi-precious stones in pendants, earrings, bracelets and rings, and boasts one of the largest selections of sterling silver jewellery in the Ottawa Valley.

But Shadowfax has much more than jewellery. Their clothing runs the gamut from funky

to timeless, and they are the only store I know of in Perth that stocks a wide variety of CDs. (This is the bit where my family and friends, *ahem*, might wish to pay special attention. *Ahem!*) Whatever your musical tastes, there's a good chance Shadowfax has what you want in stock, and if they don't they will be more than happy to order it in for you at no extra charge — with most orders received within one week. The shop also sells books, games, toys

plastic dinosaurs by a frenzied mob. Just sayin'.

In keeping with the indie shop theme, let's next head on down to the Code's Mill building (17 Wilson Street East) and visit **Ground Waves**, a "fun, fine, one-of-a-kind" shop specializing in all things home and garden — and trust me when I say, a whole lot more! The theme at Ground Waves seems to be a blend of fun, "Made in Canada" and organic and, for me, it's the ideal spot

Dr. Seuss: "If you never did, you should. These things are fun, and fun is good." And Ground Waves is filled with all sorts of fun items "for kids of all ages." Give them a call at 267-3322, visit their website at [www.groundwaves.ca](http://www.groundwaves.ca), or better yet, drop in to see if they have what you're looking for this Christmas season. I'm guessing you won't leave empty-handed.

While you're at the Code's Mill building, I'd also highly suggest you stop in at **Gallery Perth's** newest satellite location. They advertise "beautiful art in a superb setting," and wow, do they follow through on that. Wonderful artwork by some of the region's most prestigious artists is set against a backdrop of exposed brick walls and bathed in a warm, inviting light, which makes for a breathtaking combination. If you have art lovers on your list, a visit to Gallery Perth is a must. The gallery also specializes in custom conservation framing and matting, creative designing and colour consultation, laminating, plaque mounting, repairs, and other services that can be found on their website at [www.galleryperth.com](http://www.galleryperth.com).

In scenic downtown Perth, all within a few blocks and maybe even in one afternoon, folks could conceivably get all their Christmas shopping done while supporting small local businesses and avoiding the lunacy of the mall (for a full list of all the great shops in town, please visit [www.beautifulperth.com](http://www.beautifulperth.com)). Personally, in lieu of eating a loaf of moldy bread, I think I'll do just that. And maybe I'll hit a chip truck along the way!



A positive plethora of presents can be found — all within easy walking distance — in downtown Perth. The above shot was taken at the eclectically enticing **Ground Waves** in Code's Mill.

and music for children, as well as some fun kids' clothing. They also stock exotic fair trade gifts from Guatemala, Afghanistan, Nicaragua and the Philippines, including puzzles, playing cards, coasters, mugs, glasses, affirmation flags, ambience lighting, glass paperweights, tarot cards and truly much, much more. Shadowfax is like a mall in one hip, edgy shop! And you won't lose your children there or get pushed into a bin of

to find something lovely to wrap up for my mother, my fiancée and my sister. The store is chock full of items to please even the most discerning person on your yuletide list: art glass, home décor, pottery, cards, candles, fine art, metalwork, bath and body products, jewellery and tasty goodies to wine and dine. Owner Jude Pearson says the shop's Christmas themes are "fun, and embracing the joys of the season." She quotes

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# The Night Before The Night Before...

## Annual Perth Christmas Food Bank Fundraiser Set for December 18

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual The Night Before The Night Before Christmas fundraising dance will take place on Saturday, December 18 at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, 26 Beckwith Street in Perth, beginning at 7:30PM. This popular annual tradition features great local entertainment and is a must-attend holiday event for music lovers and supporters of the Perth and District Food Bank.

Hosted this year by well-known local band Tell Mama and managed by local businesses OnCouRSS Web Solutions and Zen Healing and Restoration Clinic, the theme of this year's dance is "Local Sustainability".

"So many people generously support this event, including many Perth-area artists and musicians," explains organizer and Tell Mama frontwoman Shelley Montreuil. "Thanks to everyone's contributions, the true spirit of Christmas really shines through — during the holidays and all year long."

The holiday season can be a particularly difficult time for low-income families and individuals. Statistics show that the majority of food bank users are children and the elderly. "Funds collected by the Perth Food Bank

at Christmas time must sustain the facility for the entire year," says board president Ted Miller. "In addition to donations of non-perishable items, cash is needed to purchase fresh food to supplement a family's weekly allotment." To make it easier to support the

will give the donor free access to this year's dance (a \$20 value). Regular monthly giving allows the food bank to budget to meet the community's needs in a more reliable and consistent fashion.

### Tell Mama and Friends

Event host Tell Mama was named Festivals and Events Ontario Best Original Act for 2009, received an Honourable Mention in the Billboard Song Contest and was a runner-up in the International Songwriter's Competition' jazz category. Jeremiah Sutherland wrote in the March 7, 2009 *Bullfrog Music Reviews* that Tell Mama's debut album is: "Definitely Juno material with not a weak song on the CD. Buy this one while you can."

Joining Tell Mama onstage this year is local rock band The Commuters and possibly a few surprise guests. For updates on who is appearing, visit the website: <[www.thenightbeforethenight-beforexmas.com](http://www.thenightbeforethenight-beforexmas.com)>.

Tickets, which are available at Shadowfax in Perth, are \$20 each plus a donation of food or cash to the Perth Food Bank. Without a donation, tickets are

\$25 each. Pledge \$10 a month and get in for free plus a donation of food or \$5 at the door. Pledge \$15 or more a month and get in for free with no extra donation at the door. Pledges can be made online at the event and the Food Bank websites, in person at Shadowfax (67 Foster Street) or at the door.

Sponsorships are also available, ranging from a one-star (\$125) performer sponsorship to a five-star (\$1200) event sponsorship. If you can't attend the event but would like to help, tickets and other sponsorship opportunities can be arranged by contacting Shelley at 812-3187 or <[shelley@oncourss.com](mailto:shelley@oncourss.com)>.



Tell Mama (above) will be joined by The Commuters at this year's event

Perth Food Bank, Montreuil donated the design and development of an e-commerce website, <[www.perthfoodbank.com](http://www.perthfoodbank.com)>, to the organization in 2007, permitting online donations.

This year, event-goers are encouraged to commit to a regular monthly gift to the food bank. A pledge of \$10 or more a month



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Find local gift suggestions for  
**FUNKY PEOPLE** on page 4

**Christmas ornaments**  
 (for her)



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# Downtown Perth is Back in Business!

It's been a long seven months, but the Town of Perth can finally get back to business.

Since April, one of its two major arteries from Highway 7 to the town centre has been under construction. The widening and repaving of Wilson Street has definitely been felt by Perth's downtown retailers, but the town can breathe a collective sigh of relief now that construc-

tion is completed and the road is open to traffic again.

To celebrate the end of construction and to usher in the holiday season (and the shoppers that go along with that), the Town of Perth, along with the Perth and District Chamber of Commerce, is waiving parking fees at its meters and municipal lots from November 27 through to the end of the year. Parking at the meters and in the lots will be free from

9AM to 5PM on weekdays, and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. The Town is also waiving the cost of monthly parking permits for the entire month of December.

Jill Campbell of the Chamber of Commerce said she was pleased that the Town and the Chamber were able to work together to offer free parking just in time for holiday shopping because it's been "a challenging year for downtown merchants."

# A Bridge of Song

## From Perth, Canada to Perth, Scotland

Come out to the Perth Museum on Monday, December 6 at 4:30PM for the launch of the multimedia presentation entitled *A Bridge of Song*. This special event has its inaugural viewing the same day in Perth's twin city — Perth, Scotland, as part of an exhibit celebrating the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that city's incorporation.

The presentation features Margaret Bennett, a distinguished Scottish folklorist and singer who came to Canada in August to conduct a Celtic Song workshop at Ecotay Education Centre on the Upper Scotch Line — a property first settled by Scottish emigrants, the Ritchies, in 1816.

Margaret, with her gentle nature and lilting Scottish burr, brought the stories of her people to the Canadian group in a captivating manner. In regards to Margaret's enchanting appeal, it was noted by one of the choristers that "we were all like moths to a flame".

The DVD captures the essence of the workshop and the participants' experiences in learning and singing traditional Gaelic folk songs. The Saturday night Ceilidh, a highlight of the weekend, featured a welcome by Perth's Town Crier, many colourful choral performances, Highland



The multimedia presentation *A Bridge of Song*, features footage from a recent trip to Perth by Margaret Bennett (centre)

dancing and musical interludes on the harp, flute and guitar.

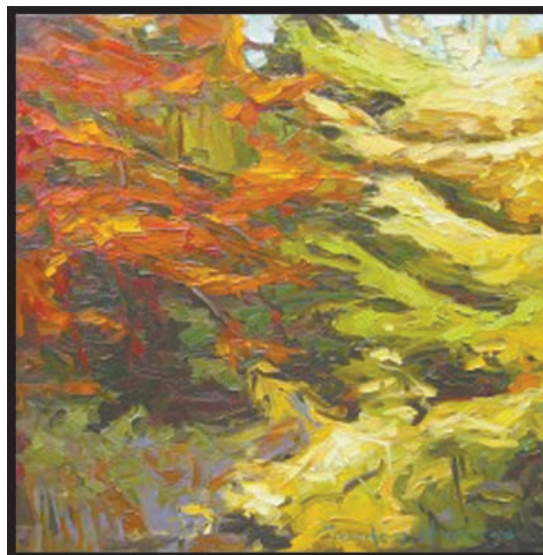
The workshop and its documentation were conceived by Ecotay's Michael Glover, and through the generous support of the Town of Perth the documentary became a reality. It was filmed and produced by Ralph Willsey, local photo-journalist and author of the book *This Fair Town: Perth in Photographs*.

The documentary, which includes footage from the record-breaking Kilt Run in August, also shows Margaret's arrival in town as well as her visit with 103 year-old Lanark Lodge resident Edith

Currie, who reminisced in Gaelic through both song and the spoken word.

The documentary joins Perth Museum's current exhibit entitled *The Emigrant's Kist* — a chest full of Scottish emigrant's belongings brought from the early 1800s.

*A Bridge of Song* will be simultaneously on view at Perth, Scotland's anniversary exhibit, which includes some of Margaret Bennett's rich collection of their local songs, folklore and stories. The twinned exhibits between the shared cultures run until December 24. For more information, call the Museum at 267-3311.



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# The Seasonal Scene in Smiths Falls

'Tis the season, and to help you stay in good cheer over the next few weeks Smiths Falls has a line-up of festive events you will not want to miss. A few local elves have also been busy setting up some new arts and culture venues to ensure that 2011 will be even more interesting and entertaining than 2010 has been.

by Joffre Ducharme

Now, you probably thought that you'd missed your last chance to visit the Farmers' Market for this year. Not so, since a special **Christmas Farmers' Market** will be held on Saturday, December 4. From 9AM to 2PM, you are invited to the Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario on William Street West, where seasonal delights await.

From meats and sausages, pickles and salsa, to jams, jellies, maple syrup, honey and more, you will find what you need to impress all your holiday guests. I know, calories, calories. Why not burn some off on the spot as you participate in the many workshops, including Christmas baking, wreath making and Christmas basket weaving. Make a big basket — you'll be leaving with lots of goodies. And, of course, the gift shop will be open, as will the Railway Museum itself, featuring its most recent acquisition, the rarely seen **Snow Plow Locomotive**. It's big. It's red. It plows through snow. Santa, are you listening? For further information, see <smithsfallfarmersmarket.com> or call 283-9404 or 283-0001.

Get a good night's sleep because on the morrow, Sunday, December 5, we've planned another special day. The annual **Victorian Christmas Tea** will be served from 1 to 4PM at the Heritage House Museum, which has been decorated from top to bottom in true traditional style in anticipation of a visit from the jolly ol' soul himself. The enchantment includes a local quartet singing carols by the grand piano, while you and your family gather around the traditionally decorated tree in the lavishly appointed parlour. Sip a cup of tea or hot apple cider. Crunch or dunk a homemade Christmas cookie. Aaahhh! Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3.50



Michele's New Life Photos (above) opens in Smiths Falls just in time for the holidays!

for children. Call 283-8560 or email <cmiller@smithsfalls.ca> for information.

Of course, no yuletide is complete without honouring the tradition of the Christmas tree. This year, as in the past, the Civitan **Festival of Trees** provides us with a four-day event to celebrate this most iconic of Christmas symbols. Activities run every day from 11AM to 9PM, from Tuesday, December 7, through Friday, December 10.

Whether you wish to set up and decorate a tree on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup>, attend the Gala Dinner on Wednesday evening (the 8<sup>th</sup>), check out the decorated trees on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup>, or come out and bid on your favourite tree on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>, you are sure to remember your time spent at the Festival of Trees for a long time to come — at least until next year when you return to enjoy it again. You can find them at 12468 Highway 15 North. Call 284-2042 or email <ltrendesign@yahoo.ca> to register.

OK, just two weeks to go. While you're at home working on those last-minute preparations, several local entrepreneurs (elves) will be busy putting the final touches on a few arts and culture projects.

**Michele's New Life Photos**, located at 14 Winnifred Street, opens its doors on December 4 with an entertaining vernissage. From 10AM to 4PM, your host and shop owner, Michele Baitley, will welcome you to her beautifully decorated studio. Browse leisurely as you take in Michele's own photographic works of art which reflect her passion for the natural world, be it flora or fauna. Also on display will be works by respected local photographer, Keith Allen. Keith passed away in 2005, but his memory is exquisitely preserved through the many showings of his work throughout the region. As a counterpoint, emerging photographer Amie Brown (Adell Photos) will present some of her images which focus on horses and children. Michele will also be hosting Judy Rodgers and her very original Vintage Hat Racks as well as Crafty Candles, a line of Canadian-made scented candles. A lo-

cal guitarist will provide musical accompaniment to add a touch of listening pleasure to your visit.

From then on, winter hours are 5PM to 9PM on Thursday and Friday, 10AM to 4PM on Saturdays, and other times by appointment. For further information, contact Michele at 284-0192 or see <michelesnewlifephotos.com>.

A few blocks away at 47 Main Street East, Leah Hicks and Louis Tremblay just finished wrapping up **Compositions**, the town's newest art gallery. They welcome you to a world of contrast, texture and colour where various forms of art, including painting, photography and sculpture, are tastefully exhibited for your viewing pleasure and artistic appreciation.

Leah's own work has been shown in juried exhibitions by the Ottawa Artisans Guild, Ottawa Art Expo, and others. Several of her canvasses were recently on display at Smiths Falls' own Davidson's Courtyard. You can reach

Leah and Louis at 205-1258 or see <www.lhstudios.ca>.

On a different cultural note, the **Smiths Falls Toastmasters Club** is being launched as we speak by Robert Rodine, Doctor of Chiropractic and co-owner of the Restorative Health clinic, and by yours truly. Toastmasters International is a highly respected organization dedicated to helping people master the art of public speaking and the science of leadership in a non-threatening, supportive club format.

On the heels of our recent inaugural event, held at the local Lions Club, highlighting international speaker/author Gary Mull, with snacks and refreshments graciously provided by Chuckles Jack restaurant, we are busy recruiting new members and planning regular meetings. To learn more about Toastmasters International, you can contact Rob <Rrodine@restorativehealth.ca> or myself at <cjoffrecare@yahoo.ca> or 283-8565, or visit the website: <www.toastmasters.org>.



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Carving Course or Gift Certificates, Black Duck Studio.....	\$95 & up
Weekend Meditation Retreat, Carp Ridge Natural Health.....	\$240
Gift Certificate for 45 min Massage Therapy, Kim Narraway, RMT.....	\$63
Harley-Davidson Memorabilia, Shadowfax.....	\$12.95-\$39.95
Interesting Watches, Kehla Design.....	\$265-385
Maple BBQ Sauce, Fulton's.....	\$9.99
Sheepskin Slippers by Lanark Sheepskin, Riverguild.....	\$85
Tree-Free Leather Journals, Soul Scents.....	\$7-\$50



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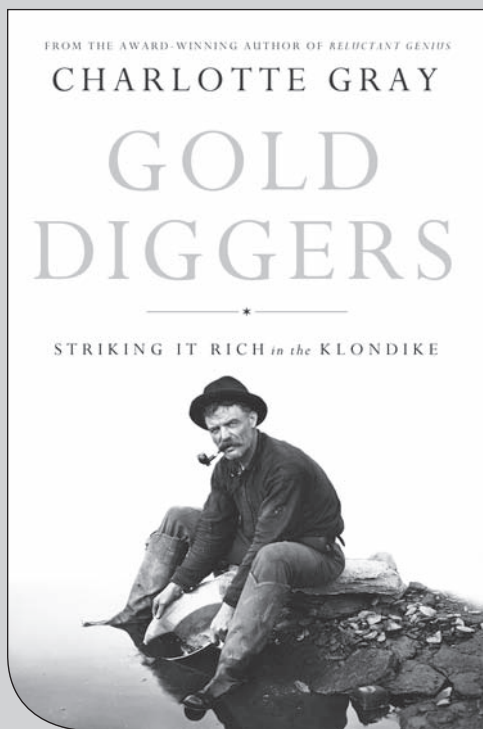
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## Digging for Gold in Perth

Canadian author of note Charlotte Gray is coming to Perth on Friday, December 10 for a Kiwanis Gold Rush Day fundraiser. Charlotte will read from her latest book, *Gold Diggers*, which is about the Klondike gold rush. She will also talk about writing, answer questions, sign and sell books. The event begins at 5PM at The Factory Grind Coffee Lounge, 1 Sherbrooke St. in Perth, and Charlotte will arrive at 5:30PM. The coffee lounge will offer supper fare in addition to the regular menu of beverages and snacks.

The Kiwanis Club of Perth on Tay is sponsoring the event to raise funds for their projects for children and youth in the area and overseas. Every year they award 2400 school-age children for being good citizens, award scholarships to deserving local high school students, and contribute to youth groups in Perth and Lanark. Internationally they donate towards vaccines for HIV-positive mothers in the Caribbean in order to inoculate their babies against the disease, and towards Sleeping Children, which provides bed kits for children in Africa.

Admission to this event is free. Donations of broken or unwanted gold or sterling jewellery (with or without gem stones) is requested, or a monetary donation of your choice. Chains that have broken, single earrings, wedding or engagement rings from a previous relationships are all possibilities. Items will be taken by Perth Kiwanis to Howard Manufacturing Jewellers in Ottawa, a most reputable establishment, for reimbursement. Donors can be given charitable tax receipts from the Perth Kiwanis Foundation after evaluation, if they wish.

Come out of the dark and cold on Friday December 10 for a hot supper in good company, see and talk to an iconic Canadian author of biography and history, and clean out your jewellery box to help Perth Kiwanians "serve the children of the world".

# The Christmas Mysteries

## A Pageant Six Centuries in the Making

BarnDoor Productions, Perth's original community theatre, and St. Paul's United Church are joining together to present the Christmas season's most original and yet most traditional entertainment.

*The Christmas Mysteries* is a re-telling of the Nativity story based on Christmas plays found in the 14<sup>th</sup> century Wakefield Mystery Cycle. Cycle plays were religious dramas created in medieval times to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, which falls between the end of May and mid-June. These pageants were held outdoors, often staged on wagons which moved from place to place within the town, and told stories from the Bible, ranging from Adam and Eve to Revelations. The Wakefield Cycle is one of the few surviving ones, and contains forty-eight plays altogether.

**BarnDoor Productions** has translated and woven together the Christmas portions of the Wakefield Cycle (*The Offering of the Magi*, *The Second Shepherd's Play* and *The Flight into Egypt*) to create an all-new version of the Christmas story that is both familiar and startlingly new. Performed in the sanctuary at St. Paul's, the new script will be presented as a staged reading. It offers lots of music, lots of comedy and a refreshing take on the characters and events of Christmas, humanizing the story and making it come alive.

The remarkable thing about this show is that in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the plays' original author (anonymous and known only as "The Master of Wakefield") approached his religious subject with hu-

mour and a bit of irreverence. For instance, there is the character of King Herod, whose task is to rage and shriek and generally frighten the children (in a fun way, of course). Mary and Joseph are a young couple not above a bit of bickering. The shepherds are rough farmers who take the time to complain about weather, taxes and families, while dealing with a sheep-stealer and his wife. The kings have all managed to get thoroughly lost as they follow the star. All of these are elements from the original plays, which make the new adaptation exciting, interesting and surprising for a modern audience.

The production is a dual fundraiser to benefit both St. Paul's Church and the new Full Circle Theatre, which BarnDoor Productions is building in Perth. The show will run for two performances only: December 10 and 11 at 7:30PM at St. Paul's, 25 Gore Street West in Perth.

*The Christmas Mysteries* is a thoroughly modern, thoroughly traditional Christmas offering; one that presents the well-known — perhaps too familiar — tale in a way that makes us see the characters involved as real people, and which makes the story all the more significant. It has comedy, drama, music and is sure to be one of the region's most memorable Christmas events this year.

Tickets for *The Christmas Mysteries* are \$20 for adults, \$12 for students and children, and will be available in person at the St. Paul's United Church office during their regular hours or by calling BarnDoor Productions at 267-1884 any time.

### Gifts for \$25 & under

Juggling Balls, Kentfield Kids.....	\$7.99
Handmade Porcelain Pendants, Art & Class.....	\$24
Introductory Special 2 Yoga Classes, Yoga Station.....	\$18
Scented Ornaments & Greenery Decorations, 3 Yellow Tulips.....	\$2-\$25
Specialty Baked Goods, Palms.....	\$4 & up
Sterling Spoons, Curiosities.....	\$10-\$24
Wasgij — The Backwards Puzzle, Mill Street Books.....	\$23.99

### Gifts for Art Lovers

"Coins of the Ancient Greek World" Art Poster, Alliance Coin.....	\$24.95
Grand Canal Venice Giclee by David Zimmerly, Gallery Perth.....	\$185
A Piece of Nature, Black Duck Studio.....	\$50 & up
Art Class Gift Certificates, Art & Class.....	\$25-130
Rosemary Leach Original Painting!, The Village Idiot.....	\$600 & up
Fair Trade Steel Drum Art, Equator Café.....	\$35.75-\$95
Inspirational Wall Art, Sisters.....	\$29.99
Quilt Kits, Textile Traditions.....	\$24.99 & up
Richard Round Brushes 5/8"-11/8", Valley Design Co.....	\$8.50 & up
Works by Local Artists, Three Yellow Tulips.....	\$80-\$1200
Your Little Artist Deluxe Paint & Easel Set, Kentfield Kids.....	\$32.99

### Gifts for Chocolate Lovers

Barkleys All Natural Chocolate (6 Flavours), Foodsmiths.....	2 for \$3
Handmade Artisan Truffles, Appleton Gift & Basket.....	\$2
Saxon Chocolate's Molten Chocolate Cake Mix, Ground Waves.....	\$13.99

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# We're Still Doin' Fine...

In the sixties, an Ottawa band known as **The Townsmen** was one of Canada's top one hundred bands. That was at a time when there were no Juno Awards, no star maker machinery and very little label support. Nevertheless they had six top ten songs, including *We're Doin' Fine* and *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*. They opened for, or toured with, The Guess Who, The Beach Boys, The McCoys, The Young Rascals, The Turtles, and many other top acts of the day. They appeared on national television numerous times and their songs were played and charted from coast to coast. Recently a double CD was released of all of their hits, some live concert recordings, and other related recordings. It sold around the world. You can find it on the internet.

The lead singer of The Townsmen was **Frank Morrison**. "To me, music is like a disease," says Frank, "Once it gets in you, you're never cured of it." He writes songs about many different topics, and six years ago released a CD featuring eight of his own songs — songs about local people and happenings. The CD sold out two pressings at concerts and events throughout eastern Ontario. That recording is now being released nationally with

three additional songs. One of them is a new jazz version of The Townsmen's number one hit *We're Doin' Fine*. But, what Frank is really excited about is that another of his own songs has just been recorded by the original members of The Townsmen. This song will be featured on the new release. It is called *Corporation* and, just like "back in the day", it features the big harmony sound The Townsmen were renowned for.

On December 5 you can hear these songs at Spotlight on the Rideau when they host a concert by Frank Morrison. You'll hear folk, jazz, country, Christmas music and yes, rock and roll. In addition, you will hear that new Townsmen song, *Corporation*.

If you attend this concert you'll also have the opportunity to become part of rock and roll history. Organizers have been sworn to secrecy on the details. All Frank would say is that they're looking for the "Top One Hundred". To find out more, visit Spotlight on the Rideau at 39 Chambers Street in Smiths Falls on December 5 at 1PM. The admission is \$8 and proceeds will be donated to the food bank. Seating is limited to only sixty people, so you might want to call 284-4141 first to reserve a seat.



Catch Frank Morrison, lead singer of the popular '60s band The Townsmen, in concert in Smiths Falls on December 5

## Gifts for Coffee & Tea Lovers

<b>Bold-icious or Smooth as Silk Organic Coffee</b> , Palms.....	\$11.85 per bag
<b>Cast Iron Tea Pot</b> , Watt's Cooking & Gift Shop.....	\$39.95
<b>Cups &amp; Saucers</b> , Vintage Wear / Ware.....	\$8-\$20
<b>Harney &amp; Sons Tea Tins</b> , Appleton Gift & Basket.....	\$9.99
<b>Ho Ho Jo! Organic, Fair Trade Coffee</b> , Equator Café.....	\$14/lb
<b>Japanese Tetsubin Cast Iron Tea Pots</b> , The Granary.....	\$64.99
<b>Sweet Dreams 2-Tin Red Wine Tea Gift Set</b> , Ground Waves.....	\$13.99
<b>Travel Coffee Mugs</b> , Maclean Young Picture Framers.....	\$24

## Gifts for Gardeners

<b>Cabbage and Gourds Watercolour</b> by Linda Rush, Gallery Perth.....	\$375
<b>Gift Certificate for Ornamental Carpentry</b> , Harwig Heritage Carpentry.....	various
<b>Glass Birdbaths</b> , Maclean Young Picture Framers.....	\$47
<b>Heavenly Hands Gift Pack</b> , Hands On Healing Centre.....	\$55
<b>Hedgehog Boot Brush</b> , Rideau Valley Hearth & Home.....	\$55
<b>Manicure</b> , Carmelized.....	\$30 & up
<b>McBlooms Extremely Rich Hand Cream</b> , Appleton Gift & Basket.....	\$17.99

## Gifts for Cooks

<b>Cotton Tea Towels Made at the Museum</b> , Mississippi Valley Textile Museum.....	\$18
<b>Cast Iron Pans</b> , Lachapelle Antiques.....	\$18 & up
<b>Cookbooks &amp; "Historic" Kitchen Items</b> , Curiosities.....	\$4-\$25
<b>Fabulous "500" Cookbook Series</b> , Robin's Paper Thin.....	\$19.95
<b>Veggie-themed fabric for aprons</b> , Textile Traditions.....	13.99 & up

## Gifts for Parents

<b>Real Food for Healthy Kids Cookbook</b> , The Granary.....	\$31.95
<b>The Mother of All Parenting Books</b> , Read's Book Shop.....	\$26.99
<b>Carving Course or Gift Certificates</b> , Black Duck Studio.....	\$95 & up
<b>Exotic Cut Flower Bouquet</b> , The Blossom Shop.....	\$40 & up
<b>Gift Certificate for 45-min Relaxation Massage</b> , Pauline's Massage.....	\$50
<b>Gift Certificate for Ornamental Carpentry</b> , Harwig Heritage Carpentry.....	various
<b>Pedicure</b> , Carmelized.....	\$40 & up
<b>Wool Blankets</b> , Vintage Wear / Ware.....	\$15-\$25



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Tuesday, December 14, 7:30PM

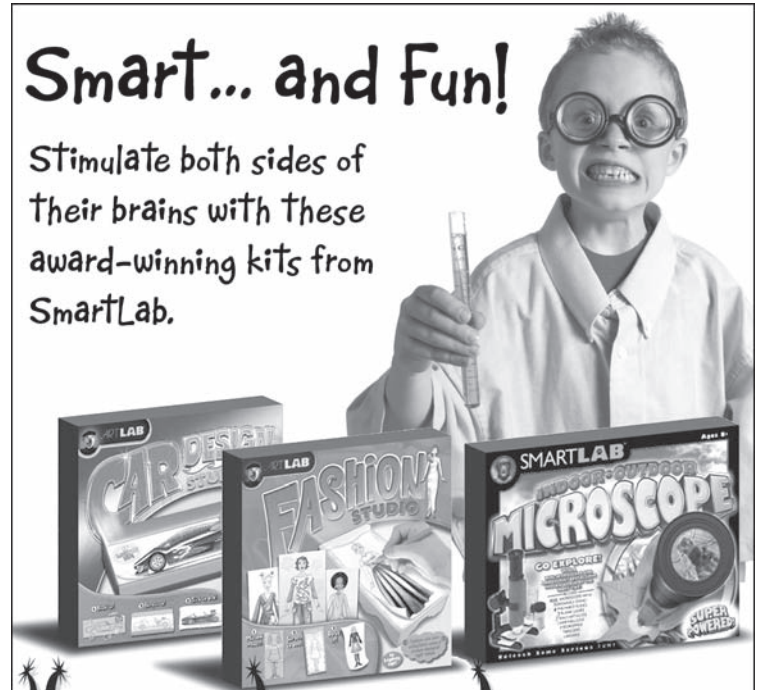
St. James Anglican Church, Perth

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# Claiming Column

Mudds Auditions, Carleton Place, Jan 9  
 Folkus Concert Series, Almonte, Jan 15  
 Blues on the Rideau, Westport, Jan 21-22  
 Songs from the Valley, Perth, Jan 21  
 Almonte in Concert, Jan 22  
 Pakenham Frost Festival, Jan 25-30  
 The Vinyl Café, Smiths Falls, Jan 28-29  
 On Stage For Kids, Almonte, Jan 30  
 SRO Tea Dance, Almonte, Jan 30  
 Looking, Almonte, Feb 11-13, 18, 19  
 Blues on the Rideau, Westport, Feb 18  
 Duke Robillard Blues Band, Perth, Feb 25  
 Looking, Perth, Feb 26  
 On Stage For Kids, Almonte, Feb 27  
 SRO Tea Dance, Almonte, Feb 27  
 Into The Woods Junior, Carleton Place, Feb 25-26, Mar 4-5

# Visual Arts

Artist's Reception, Dec. 4, 2-4PM. Featuring original works by many local artists. Philip K. Wood Gallery, 7 Mill St., Almonte.  
 Nick of Time Artisan Show, Dec. 4, 10AM-4PM. Local artisans & craftspeople, and the Grannies of Lanark County. McMartin House, 125 Gore St. E., Perth.  
 Open Studio - Chandler Swain, Dec. 4, 10AM-5PM. Pottery open house, good seconds for sale. 178 Blakeney Rd., Almonte. 256-6522, www.chandler-swain.ca  
 Perth Christmas Craft & Farmers' Market, Dec. 4, 10AM-3PM, Crystal Palace, 63 Gore St. E., Perth  
 Vernissage, Dec. 4, 10AM-4PM. Photos by Michele Baitley, Keith Allen & Amie Brown. Michele's New Life Photos, 14 Winnifred St., Smiths Falls  
 Arnprior & District Quilters' Guild, Dec. 8, 7-9PM, Xmas party. All welcome. 257 John St. N., Arnprior. 623-3085, \$5 entry or \$20/yr membership.  
 Pints 'n Purls, Dec. 8, 6-9PM. Knitting group. Old Mill Pub, Ashton. 257-2296  
 Christmas Art Show, Dec. 10, 7-9PM. Live music. Lily Creek Photography & Art Studio, 15 Daniel St., Arnprior  
 Vernissage, Dec. 10, 7-9PM. Featuring Stratchan Johnston. Brush Strokes, 129 Bridge St., Carleton Place. 253-8088

# Theatre

Hairspray, Dec. 2-4, 7PM. Perth Academy of Musical Theatre. \$10 at door or call 267-9610 with credit card. Myriad Centre for the Arts, 1 Sherbrooke St., Perth.  
 Nunsense: The Mega-Musical, Dec 3-4, 9-11 at 8PM; Dec 5 at 2PM. \$20 at Arts Carleton Place (257-2031, arts.carletonplace.com). Carleton Place Town Hall. 253-2007, mississippimudds.ca.  
 A Christmas Carol, Dec. 4, 8PM. The whole family will enjoy this lively one-man show by David Bird. The Thorny Issues will sing at intermissions. Studio Theatre, Perth.  
 A Christmas Carol, Dec. 5, 7:30PM. Dramatic reading of with narrators from Theatre Night in Merrickville. \$10 from 269-4414, or The Knock Knock Shop. Merrickville United Church, 108 St. Lawrence St.  
 Harvey, Dec 9, 10, 11, 17, 18 at 8PM; 12 & 19 at 2PM. \$18 in adv (Book Nook, Bookworm, Tickets Please!), \$20 at door. Studio Theatre, Perth. www.studiotheatreperth.com  
 Theatre Night in Merrickville, Dec 9-11, 8PM; Dec. 12, 2PM. The Fardale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of 'A Christmas Carol'. Merrickville Community Centre. 269-3424, \$12

# WHAT'S ON IN

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
29	30	1	2
6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30

**Monday 29**  
 A Bridge of Song, Perth  
 Poetry Slam, Carleton Place

**Tuesday 30**  
 Festival of Trees, Smiths Falls  
 Green Drinks, Perth  
 Open Mic, The Barley Mow

**Wednesday 1**  
 CP Celtic Jam, Ballygiblin's  
 Westport Winter Fashion Show

**Thursday 2**  
 Hairspray, Perth  
 Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub  
 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub  
 Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow

**Monday 6**  
 A Bridge of Song, Perth  
 Poetry Slam, Carleton Place

**Tuesday 7**  
 Festival of Trees, Smiths Falls  
 Green Drinks, Perth  
 Open Mic, The Barley Mow

**Wednesday 8**  
 Arnprior & District Quilters' Guild  
 Christmas & More Concert, CP  
 CP Celtic Jam, Ballygiblin's  
 Festival of Trees, Smiths Falls  
 Pints 'n Purls, Ashton  
 Prelude to Christmas, Smiths Falls

**Thursday 9**  
 Festival of Trees, Smiths Falls  
 Harvey, Perth  
 Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub  
 Nunsense: The Mega-Musical, CP  
 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub  
 Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow  
 Theatre Night in Merrickville

**Monday 13**  
 Mayan Code Study Group, Almonte

**Tuesday 14**  
 Almonte Coin Club, Almonte  
 Christmas Potluck Dinner & Centerpiece Auction, Carp  
 Open Mic, The Barley Mow  
 Perth Citizens' Band Concert, Perth  
 Town Singers/Hummdingers, CP  
 Women's Business Group, CP

**Wednesday 15**  
 CP Celtic Jam, Ballygiblin's

**Thursday 16**  
 Christmas Bus Tour, Smiths Falls,  
 Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub at JR's  
 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub  
 Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow

**Monday 20**  
 Mayan Code Study Group, Almonte

**Tuesday 21**  
 Open Mic, The Barley Mow

**Wednesday 22**  
 CP Celtic Jam, Ballygiblin's

**Thursday 23**  
 Christmas Jazz Night, The Cove  
 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub  
 Peter Brown & Sandy Faux, Ballygiblin's  
 Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow

**Monday 27**  
 The Christmas Mysteries, Dec 10 & 11, 7:30PM. Re-telling of the Nativity story based on plays found in the Wakefield Mystery Cycle. \$20, \$12 students, at church office or from 267-1884. St Paul's United Church, 25 Gore St. W., Perth.  
 Spiritual Cinema Circle, Dec. 19, 2PM. Short: Santa's Little Helper. Feature: NOEL. Myriad Centre, 1 Sherbrooke St., Perth.

**Tuesday 28**  
 Open Mic, The Barley Mow

**Wednesday 29**  
 CP Celtic Jam, Ballygiblin's

**Thursday 30**  
 Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub  
 Kelly Sloan CD Release, Almonte  
 Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow

**Music**  
 The Stairwell Carollers, Dec. 3, 7PM. Zion-Memorial United Church, 37 Franklin St., Carleton Place  
 Tay Valley Community Choir/Hummdingers, Dec. 4, 7:30PM. With vocal & handbell choirs. Maberly Community Hall, 172 Maberly Elphin Rd. By donation; food bank donations welcome  
 Frank Morrison (of The Townsman), Dec. 5, 1PM. Concert, proceeds to Food Bank. Spotlight on the Rideau, 21 Chambers St. Shopping Plaza, Smiths Falls. \$8  
 Harps for the Holidays, Dec. 5, 2PM. Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble, afternoon tea. St. Andrew's Church, 2585 County Rd 29, Pakenham. Adults \$15, 12 & under \$7.  
 Christmas & More Concert, Dec. 8, 7PM. Music Dept., Notre Dame Catholic High School, 157 McKenzie St., Carleton Place. \$5, tickets at school or at door.  
 Prelude to Christmas, Dec. 8, 7PM. Central Band of the Canadian Forces, benefit for Rideau Environmental Action League. SFDCI, 299 Percy St., Smiths Falls. 283-9819, www.REALaction.ca. \$10 ea; \$25 family of 4  
 Findlay House Concert, Dec. 10, 8PM. Luther Wright, Chris Brown & Emily Fennell. RSVP mctavishheather@gmail.com. Findlay House, 207 High St., Carleton Place. \$15  
 Christmas with La Pieta, Dec. 11, 8PM. Almonte in Concert. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St., Almonte. www.almonteinconcert.ca. \$27 adults, \$14 students  
 Arnprior Community Choir, Dec. 12, 2PM. Sing Noël concert of seasonal favourites. Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church, 116 Baskin Drive W., Arnprior. \$15; \$10 for under 12 from Arnprior Book Shop  
 Cape Breton Meets The Valley Christmas Gathering, Dec. 12, 7PM. With Cape Breton Live on Tour and Barley Shakers. \$20 from Musicworks, Baker Bob's. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St. www.almontecelfest.com  
 Kilmaurs Cornerstone Christmas, Dec. 12, 7PM. Traditional music, candlelight carols, hot cider, sweet treats. Snow date Dec 19. St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Woodlawn. 256-6479 or 832-2366, Frewill donation  
 Town Singers/Hummdingers, Dec 12 (2PM) & 14 (7PM); concert with 60-voice choir and handbell choir. Snow date: Dec 21. St. Andrew's Church, 37 Bridge St., Carleton Place. 257-7196, \$10  
 Perth Citizens' Band Christmas Concert, Dec. 14, 7:30PM. With Town Crier Brent McLaren & Women of the Tay choir. St. James Anglican Church, Perth. www.perthband.ca. \$5 each; \$10 for families



# DECEMBER 2010

## Festivals



**Light Up The Night**, Dec. 3, 7PM, Wayne Ros-tad & Leanne Cusack with music, puppets, Santa & fireworks. Downtown Almonte. [www.lightupthenightalmonte.com](http://www.lightupthenightalmonte.com). Free

**Santa Claus Parade**, Dec. 4, 1PM. Begins/ends at Stewart Community Ctr, free skate at the Community Ctr. Pakenham. 256-1077, ext. 22

**Santa Claus Parade**, Dec. 5, 1:30PM. Begins/ends at Almonte Community Ctr, public skate after. Downtown Almonte. 256-1077, ext. 22

## Community



**Westport Winter Fashion Show**, Dec. 1, 12-2PM, Lunch + show. The Cove, 2 Bedford St., Westport. \$20/person

**Christmas Farmers' Market**, Dec. 4, 9AM-2PM. Railway Museum, 90 William St. W., Smiths Falls. 283-9404, [www.smithsfalls-farmersmarket.com](http://www.smithsfalls-farmersmarket.com)

**Perth House Tour**, Dec 4-5 (10:30-3:30). Tickets \$25, from Home Furniture (Perth), Elizabeth Interiors (SF), or call 267-2270.

**Pet Photos with Santa Fundraiser**, Dec. 4. For Hopeful Hearts Dog Rescue. Natural Pet Food, 61 Bridge St., Carleton Place. Info: 492-PAWS

**Recycling Gold Church Fundraiser**, Dec. 4, 10AM-4PM. Bring your old or broken jewellery. Zion-Memorial United Church, 37 Franklin St., Carleton Place.

**Victorian Christmas Tea**, Dec. 5, 1-4PM. Heritage House Museum, 11 Old Sly's Road, Smiths Falls. 283-8560. \$5, seniors \$4, children \$3.50

**A Bridge of Song**, Dec. 6, 4:30PM. Documentary about Margaret Bennett's visit to Ecotay in Perth. Perth Museum

**Festival of Trees**, Tues., Dec. 7, 11am-9pm, Dec 7-10. 7: set up/decorate a tree. 8: Gala Dinner. 10: auction., Smiths Falls Civitan Hall, 12468 Hwy 15 N., Smiths Falls.

**Green Drinks**, Dec. 7, 5:30-7:30PM. People in the environmental field meet for drinks. [www.greendrinks.org](http://www.greendrinks.org). The Crown Pub, 71 Foster Street, Perth.

**Festival of Trees**, Dec 7-10. 7: set up/decorate a tree. 8: Gala Dinner. 10: auction., Smiths Falls Civitan Hall, 12468 Hwy 15 N.

**Kintail Country Christmas**, Dec. 11, 10AM-4PM. Father Christmas, Valley Voices choir, skating rink & more. Mill of Kintail, 2854 Concession 8, Almonte. 256-3610x2, [www.mvc.on.ca](http://www.mvc.on.ca). \$15 per vehicle

**Almonte Coin Club**, Dec. 14, 7PM. All welcome. Show and tell. Alliance Coin & Banknote, 88 Mill St., Almonte.

**Christmas Potluck Dinner & Center-piece Auction**, Dec. 14, 6:30PM. West Carleton Garden Club. Non-members \$5., Carp Memorial Hall, 3739 Carp Rd.

**Women's Business Group**, Dec. 14, 7:30 AM. Networking, support & volunteer group. [www.wbgroup.ca](http://www.wbgroup.ca). Buster's Bar and Grill, 515 McNeely Dr., Carleton Place.

**Christmas Bus Tour**, Dec. 16. See lights & decorated houses around town. Reserve at 283-1334. Smiths Falls. \$5; under 12 free

**Yoga & Potluck**, Dec. 17. 7-11PM. Live Sound & Flow yoga. \$25; \$20 in adv. 8:30PM holiday gathering with music. Hollow Tree Yoga, 150 John St. N., Arnprior. 623-4013, [info@hollowtreeyoga.com](mailto:info@hollowtreeyoga.com)

**Christmas Celebration/Social**, Dec. 18, 1-3PM. Healthy treats, live music. Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre, Carp. 839-1198, [www.ecowellness.com](http://www.ecowellness.com). Free

**Mayan Code Study Group**, Dec. 20, 6PM. Potluck dinner at 43 Johanna St., Almonte. 256-0216, [lillywhiteangels@sympatico.ca](mailto:lillywhiteangels@sympatico.ca)

**Breakfast with Soul**, Dec. 31, 8-10AM. Open to all. 43 Johanna St. Almonte. 256-0216, [lillywhiteangels@sympatico.ca](mailto:lillywhiteangels@sympatico.ca)

**Valley Singles Lunch**, Jan. 2, 12:30-2:30PM. Singles lunch, all welcome. Register at 256-8117 or 432-7622. Location tbd.

### Friday

### Saturday

### Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hairspray, Perth</li> <li>Jazz at the Swan, The Swan at Carp</li> <li>Light Up The Night, Almonte, CP</li> <li>Nonsense: The Mega-Musical, CP</li> <li>Open Stage, The Downstairs Pub</li> <li>The Stairwell Carollers, Carleton Place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Christmas Carol, Perth</li> <li>Perth House Tour, Perth</li> <li>Artist's Reception, Almonte</li> <li>Christmas Farmers' Market, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Nick of Time Artisan Show, Perth</li> <li>Nonsense: The Mega-Musical, CP</li> <li>Open Studio - Chandler Swain, Almonte</li> <li>Christmas Craft &amp; Farmers' Market, Perth</li> <li>Recycling Gold Church Fundraiser, CP</li> <li>Ric Denis 3, St. James Gate</li> <li>Santa Claus Parade, Pakenham</li> <li>Sounds Sweet, The Downstairs Pub</li> <li>Tay Valley Community Choir, Maberly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Christmas Carol, Merrickville</li> <li>Frank Morrison, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Harps for the Holidays, Pakenham</li> <li>Live Jazz, Fiddleheads</li> <li>Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak</li> <li>Nonsense: The Mega-Musical, CP</li> <li>Perth House Tour, Perth</li> <li>Santa Claus Parade, Almonte</li> <li>Victorian Christmas Tea, Smiths Falls</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charlotte Gray, Perth</li> <li>Christmas Art Show, Arnprior</li> <li>Festival of Trees, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Findlay House Concert, CP</li> <li>Harvey, Perth</li> <li>MonkeyJunk, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li>Nonsense: The Mega-Musical, CP</li> <li>Open Stage, The Downstairs Pub</li> <li>The Christmas Mysteries, Perth</li> <li>Theatre Night in Merrickville</li> <li>Vernissage, Carleton Place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brea Lawrenson, St. James Gate</li> <li>Christmas with La Pieta, Almonte</li> <li>Danny Rembadi, Harry McLean's Pub</li> <li>DJ Dance, The Downstairs Pub</li> <li>Harvey, Perth</li> <li>Jim Bryson, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li>Kintail Country Christmas, Mill of Kintail</li> <li>Nonsense: The Mega-Musical, CP</li> <li>The Bros. Chaffey with The Tony D. Band, Harry McLean's Pub</li> <li>The Christmas Mysteries, Perth</li> <li>Theatre Night in Merrickville</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak</li> <li>Arnprior Community Choir, Arnprior</li> <li>Cape Breton Meets The Valley, Almonte</li> <li>Harvey, Perth</li> <li>Kilmaurs Cornerstone Christmas, Woodlawn</li> <li>MonkeyJunk, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li>Theatre Night in Merrickville</li> <li>Town Singers/Hummdingers, CP</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harvey, Perth</li> <li>Open Stage, The Downstairs Pub</li> <li>The Good Lovelies, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li>Yoga &amp; Potluck, Arnprior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buntline, The Downstairs Pub</li> <li>Christmas Celebration/Social, Carp</li> <li>Christmas Celtic Jam, Middleville</li> <li>Christmas Music, The Cove</li> <li>Harvey, Perth</li> <li>Sun Bleached Skulls, Harry McLean's Pub</li> <li>The Night Before the Night Before Christmas, Perth</li> <li>Undun, St. James Gate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almonte Traditional Sing, Almonte</li> <li>Harvey, Perth</li> <li>Live Jazz, Fiddleheads</li> <li>Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak</li> <li>Spiritual Cinema Circle, Perth</li> <li>Wolf Grove Singers, Clayton</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.5;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.5;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.5;">26</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art Mad presents Olga Mounitsyna &lt;<a href="http://www.artmad.ca">www.artmad.ca</a>&gt;</li> <li>Brush Strokes presents Strachan Johnston &lt;<a href="http://www.brushstrokesart.ca">www.brushstrokesart.ca</a>&gt;</li> <li>Gallery on Main presents Artists at Work, Open Studio &lt;<a href="http://www.galleryonmain.ca">www.galleryonmain.ca</a>&gt;</li> <li>Gallery Perth presents Art Here &amp; Now with local and regional artists &lt;<a href="http://www.galleryperth.com">www.galleryperth.com</a>&gt;</li> <li>Heritage House Museum Art Show and Sale of 25 local artists &lt;<a href="http://smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse">smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse</a>&gt;</li> <li>MVTM presents TEXT-ing by Karina Bergmans, and A Tribute to Canada's Military &lt;<a href="http://www.mvtm.ca">www.mvtm.ca</a>&gt;</li> <li>Baker Bob's Gallery (Almonte) paintings by Amelia Ah You and acrylics and textile by Frances Graff</li> <li>Palms Coffee Shop (Almonte), presents photos by Photography Matters members</li> <li>Philip K. Wood Gallery (Almonte) presents original works by local &amp; regional artists</li> <li>The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents Paula Gray, sculptor &amp; Peter Lewis, photographer</li> </ul>		

**Christmas Celtic Jam**, Dec. 18, 1-4PM. Christmas desserts, coffee/tea. Middleville Community Centre, 4203 Wolf Grove Rd., Lanark. 256-5474

**The Night Before the Night Before Christmas**, Dec. 18, 7:30PM. With Tell Mama & The Commuters. Perth Legion. [www.thenightbeforethenightbeforexmas.com](http://www.thenightbeforethenightbeforexmas.com). \$25 or \$20+food donation

**Almonte Traditional Sing**, Dec. 19, 2-4PM. Upstairs at Barley Mow. 482-1437. 79 Little Bridge Street, Almonte.

**Wolf Grove Singers**, Dec. 19, 3PM, Guthrie United Church, 2819 Tatlock Rd. Clayton. [rayfort@storm.ca](mailto:rayfort@storm.ca). Free

**Kelly Sloan - The New Record CD Release**, Dec. 30, 8PM. Opener: Winchester Warm. Almonte Old Town Hall. [kellysloan.ca](http://kellysloan.ca). \$15 from Baker Bob's or 256-5181

**New Year's Eve Party**, Dec. 31, 9PM. Brothers Chaffey, Kelly Prescott, Adam Puddington & guests. Tickets at Mill St. Books. Almonte Civitan Hall, \$15

**Jazz at the Swan** (The Swan at Carp, Fall-down Lane Carp, 839-7926) 7-10pm. Dec 3

**The Downstairs Pub** at JR's (385 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-2031) Karaoke Thur, 8PM, no cover; Open Stage Fri, live music from 9PM, Dec 3, 10, 17, no cover; Sat live music, 9PM.

Dec 4 Sounds Sweet, 9PM, \$4  
Dec 11 DJ dance, 9PM, no cover  
Dec 18 Buntline, 9PM, \$5  
Dec 31 Country New Year's, 9PM, \$10

**St. James Gate** (111 Bridge St., Carleton Place, 257-7530): Live at the Gate Saturdays (8:30-10:30PM).  
Dec 4 Ric Denis 3  
Dec 11 Brea Lawrenson  
Dec 18 Undun

**Fiddleheads** (Code's Mill, Perth, 267-1304)  
Dec 5, 19 Live Jazz with Clay Young & guest, 12-3pm

**The Royal Oak** (329 March Rd. Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sundays (3-6PM), no cover  
Dec 5, 19, Jan 2 Magnolia Rhythm Kings  
Dec 12 APEX Jazz Band

**The Cove** (2 Bedford St., Westport, 273-3636)  
Dec 4 Mario Franco & Son, 6-9PM  
Dec 18 Christmas music w Kevin Head, 6-9PM  
Dec 23 Christmas Jazz Night, 9-11PM  
Dec 31 New Year's Eve w/Spencer Evans Trio, 7PM-?, \$100

**The Barley Mow** (79 Little Bridge St., Almonte, 256-5669): Open Mike w/ Jumpin' Jimmy Leroux Tue (7PM); Terry Tufts Thursdays (8-11PM).

**Ballygiblin's Restaurant & Pub** (151 Bridge Street, Carleton Place, 253-7400): CP Celtic Jam Wed (7:30-10PM), no cover  
Dec 23 Peter Brown & Sandy Faux, 7-10pm

**Neat Coffee Shop** (1715 Calabogie Rd., Burnstown, 433-3205)  
Dec 10 MonkeyJunk, \$20, 8PM  
Dec 11 Jim Bryson, \$20, 8PM  
Dec 12 MonkeyJunk, \$20, 4PM  
Dec 17 Good Lovelies, \$20, 8PM

**Naismith Pub** (411 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-6336): Open Celtic Jam (7:30-10PM).  
**Harry McLean's Pub** (111 St. Lawrence St., Merrickville, 269-4223)

Dec 4 Rod Baird  
Dec 11 Danny Rembadi  
Dec 11 The Bros. Chaffey with The Tony D. Band  
Dec 18 Sun Bleached Skulls  
Dec 31 Terry Tufts



# Brock Zeman — A Hardcore Troubadour

Brock Zeman is the sort of musician you root for.

Born and raised in Carleton Place, the twenty-eight-year-old singer-songwriter and former bartender has worked hard in recent years to make a name for himself on the independent music scene. He has released seven albums to date, including his latest effort *Ya Ain't Crazy Henny Penny* (for which he has received the best reviews of his career), and toured North America extensively, averaging 250 dates a year. His first four records were produced by Keith Glass, the Canadian Country Hall of Famer and lead singer of Prairie Oyster. Critics have embraced the depth of Zeman's songwriting and praised the maturity of his vocals and his impressive live performances. Brock is the sort of prolific, hard-working, salt-of-the-earth musician that Steve Earle would call a "hardcore troubadour."

Not bad for a guy who bought his first guitar and amp for sixty bucks from a friend, not too many years ago, then joined his buddy's band. "I've been making poor choices ever since," he jokes.

But not really. In recent times, Brock has shared the stage with an impressive lineup of musicians including Steve Earle, Toby Keith, Kelly Joe Phelps, Prairie Oyster, Lynn Miles, Fred Eaglesmith, Corb Lund, Great Big Sea, Jenny

Whiteley, Blackie and The Rodeo Kings, The Cruzeros, Aaron Lines, Amos Garrett, Willie P. Bennett, Mike Plume and Chris Knight. And that is just to name a few.

He's also played some prestigious festivals, including Juno Fest, the Stewart Park Folk Festival, Mariposa Folk Festival, Summerfolk Festival, Barrie Folk Festival, Blueskies Folk Festival and Fred Eaglesmith's Northern Picnic — again, just to name a few.

Though he's often on tour and playing live, Brock, who now calls Lanark home, says he prefers writing songs to recording or live shows.

"Something about the writing process has always interested me and excited me," explains Brock, whose top influences include Dylan, Steve Earle, Greg Brown, and Townes Van Zandt, all irrefutably brilliant songwriters. "I guess it's just the simple fact that when you write a song and play it over and over you think to yourself: this song would not exist if it wasn't for me. Harry Crews said that writ-

ing a novel is the closest a man will ever come to knowing how it feels to have a baby. I'm not sure if he's right on that, but I'm not sure he's wrong either."

Critics have widely praised Zeman for the depth of his storytelling, and musicians have chimed in as well. Juno Award winner Lynn Miles describes Brock as

"a master songwriter, who writes with a maturity far beyond his chronological age. He digs in dark places and comes back with diamonds. He belongs on stage with the big boys."

Keith Glass calls him "an emerging Canadian powerhouse!" and says that Brock is "a gifted artist who possesses a rare talent for lyrics, and a compelling voice to deliver them."

Brock says he might still be tending bar if he hadn't met Glass. He also says working with the Hall of Famer was a pleasure. "Working with Keith was great. He's still one of my favorite guitar players. What Keith did for me was introduce me to the music world in many, many ways," Brock says, "I don't think I'll ever be able to pay him back."

Meanwhile, Brock takes all the praise that's been heaped on him in stride.

"A good story is just a good story," he says. "It works well in a song, a book, a movie or around the kitchen table. I write a lot of story songs. I find it's easier to keep the crowd's attention... they want to find out what's going to happen next. As far as it coming naturally," he adds, "I don't think anything comes natural, at least for me it doesn't."

Beyond the praise and the positive feedback from audiences at live performances, Brock is honest about what he finds most rewarding about being a musician. "The fact that I get paid to do something that I do for fun," he says, adding, "I hope there are no booking agents reading this."

You can check out what all the fuss is about as Brock tours his most recent CD throughout December in Carleton Place, Perth, Renfrew, Ottawa, Picton, Toronto, Sarnia, and Peterborough. For a full list of Brock's gigs, times and venues, please visit his website at <[www.brockzeman.com](http://www.brockzeman.com)>. You can also listen to some of his music there, read what the press has to say about his songwriting, learn more about his new record label, Mud Music Records, check out some of Brock's performances on video, and even purchase an album or two.

— John Pigeau



Check out Brock Zeman's latest CD — and find out when he'll be playing near you — online at [www.brockzeman.com](http://www.brockzeman.com)

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# Seasonal Theatre Fare

Well, what a month for theatre November was! In the case of the two "reecally big events," I thought the Perth Community Choir's production of *Sweeney Todd* was an absolutely ground-breaking production, and I do hope that many of you got out to see it. And the Eastern Ontario Drama League One-Act Festival, held this year at the Ottawa Little Theatre, was really a treat — and I must say,

by Ian Doig

the shows from our area did us all proud. The Kemptville Players, Studio Theatre Productions and the Valley Players strutted their stuff and brought home what seemed to be a disproportionate amount of silverware and other awards, including best female in a lead role, best female in a supporting role and the People's Choice Award, as well as a good number of nominations for various other awards for both acting and directing. Well done, all!

Now then, the **Perth Academy of Musical Theatre** kicks off the month of December with its young people's production of the musical *Hairspray!* Show dates are December 2, 3, 4 at 7PM at the Myriad Centre for the Arts at 1 Sherbrooke Street in Perth. I'm told that a limited number of tickets are available for this very popular show, so please call 267-9610 to reserve, with a credit card.

Meanwhile, the **Mississippi Mudds** come to the stage of the Carleton Place

Town Hall with *Nunsense: The Mega-Musical* on December 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11 at 8PM, with a matinée on the 5<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. This time out the Little Sisters of Hoboken are putting on a variety show to raise money to bury the four remaining nuns who died from a bout of botulism from vichyssoise served up by the convent cook. With nuns in freezers, the Reverend Mother communing with the spirits, and teenagers running a *Grease* production at the same time, zany situations abound, and it should be a laugh-a-minute show!

Tickets are \$20 from Arts Carleton Place, 132 Coleman Street, 257-2031, <artscarletonplace.com> or <www.mississippimudds.ca>. The Mudds are also advising that sign-up and auditions will be held at the Town Hall on Sunday, January 9 for their spring production of *Halfway to Heaven*, a new genre-defying musical written and directed for the Mudds by Mark Piper. Call 253-2007 for more information.

Acclaimed local area actor **David Bird** brings Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the Ghosts of Christmas to life in Dickens' classic story, *A Christmas Carol*, on Saturday, December 4 at 8PM in Perth's Studio Theatre. The whole family will enjoy this lively one-

man show, which has become a tradition all its own! Adding to the excitement, the **Thorny Issues** will be singing during the intermissions.

Also in Perth, Joan Sonnenburg is the director (assisted by Kathie Reid, who was nominated for "Best New Director" at the EODL) of the classic stage

Dowd, who makes friends with a spirit that takes the form of a human-sized rabbit named Harvey, that only Elwood (and a few privileged others on occasion) can see. Appearing as Elwood P. Dowd is Jamie Schouler, who memorably played the same role ten or so years ago on the same stage. What a way to bring some lightness and laughter to the Christmas season! Tickets are \$18 in advance from The Bookworm, The Book Nook, or Tickets Please, or \$20 at the door.

Over in Arnprior, the **Prior Players** community theatre group will be celebrating their twentieth anniversary in 2011. For two decades they have provided the community with local entertainment through both dramatic and comical theatrical productions. This volunteer-based organization gives locals the opportunity to try their hand at many exciting roles in theatre. Their production of *The Odd Couple*, a comedy by Neil Simon, will hit the stage in May. Auditions will be held this coming January for both cast and crew. For details on becoming involved please call 623-5585 or contact <priorplayers@gmail.com>.

Happy holidays all, and see you at the show!



Mother Superior (aka Catherine Clark) had to be dragged away from The Brick after becoming captivated by the plasma TVs. Like Sister Amnesia, she seemed to forget that the Little Sisters of Hoboken already have one... The Mississippi Mudds' production of *Nunsense: The MegaMusical* opens on December 3 at the Town Hall in Carleton Place.

and movie hit *Harvey*, at Perth's **Studio Theatre** on December 9, 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 8PM, with 2PM matinées on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. This is the story of Elwood P.

Merry Xmas,  
here we go,  
Home for the  
holidays  
Ho, Ho, Ho  
What!  
No place  
to hang your hat?  
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51 Mill Street, Almonte 613-256-9090



# Feeling Revolutionary?

I love pasta so much it makes me ache. "How much?" you ask. A Monty Pythonesque reply of "a lot" would fall far short of describing my pasta passion. Would I sell my grandmother for a bowl of pasta? Sadly, both my grandmothers have passed away, so I cannot give you an accurate answer. Would I launch a nuke if it meant I got a bowl of pasta for lunch? Extremely unlikely, but not beyond the realm. Would I commit Seppuku if I could have any pasta dish I wanted as my last meal? Certainly not! Death precludes future pasta eating — doh! OK, I have it: I love pasta so much that I'd sacrifice a pinky or two if it guaranteed me a constant supply of pasta for the rest of my natural life. I know, with age and girth comes wisdom, no?

My favourite pasta dish of all time is the Mighty, the Invincible, the Colossally Magnificent, the Cockle-Warming, the Universe-Warping... yes, the Über Great One: Linguine alla Carbonara. Da-Na-Na-Naaa!

"Noodles with bacon, eggs and cheese? What's so great about that?" sneer the blasé. "Hush you philistines, seal your blasphemous heathen lips and return to your neanderthal stoop!" I retort. Carbonara is oh so very

much more! Yes indeed, other than tasting like a miracle, this superpastafragalistic elixir has a storied history, shrouded in culinary mystery; legends abound, tales are told and folklore is made with this dish.

Some believe that lumberjacks making charcoal (carbonara's etymology is quite evidently "carbon") in Italy's Apennines took eggs, cheese, lard and dried pasta with them into the woods where they whipped it up over a campfire during lunch break. Others have said "Pish! It was coal miners who invented the dish and its liberal use of ground black peppercorns is reminiscent of coal flakes. So there!" Then there's the story that when the Allies liberated Rome in 1944, there was so little food to be had that Romans began combining the Allies' rations of powdered eggs with boiled pasta, a sliver of bacon and maybe a little cheese. Romantics claim that Franco-Italian revolutionaries called "The Carbonari" would meet and eat this king of dishes while they plotted how to overthrow Italy's political system in the early 1800's. Mmmmm... mangiamo!

Here's how to get this piping hot wondrousness in front of you and a friend inside the ten minute mark: cut up and fry **1 cup of**

**cubed pancetta** on medium-high (reduced-salt bacon also works beautifully if you're respectful of your arteries). While it cooks, put **200g of linguine** in a pot of boiling salted water with a **tablespoon of olive oil** to prevent the pasta from sticking together; other pasta is fine, but avoid the whole wheat stuff because it corrupts the final taste. Combine  $\frac{3}{4}$  **cup grated Parmeggiano Reggiano** with **2 whole eggs** into a thickish paste. You can add some Pecorino cheese for extra tanginess if you like.

Once the pancetta has rendered its fat, add  $\frac{1}{4}$  –  $\frac{1}{2}$  **cup of cream** (at least 18%) to the pan but ensure that there are no Carbonara purists lurking when you

do or else you'll get an earful. Stir the cream and bacon on low heat until their fats combine. Add a smidgeon of **powdered paprika**. Drain the cooked pasta but do not rinse. Put it back in the pot. Throw in the pancetta/cream mix. Stir together on very low heat. Add the egg-cheese mixture using tongs to work the sauce through the pasta while the eggs cook. Kill the heat. Serve with **ground black pepper**. Focus on cleaning every last carbo-speck from your plate, then check if your buddy's wimped out; if yes, do the honours, no questions asked.

Preempt any lurking Carbonara purists by using  $\frac{1}{2}$  –  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup reserved water from the pasta pot instead of cream, but add it at

the end when everything is in the pot. More liquid = runnier sauce. More cheese, glorious cheese = thicker sauce. **Do NOT** add the reserved pasta water to the pancetta pan unless fighting kitchen fires is your hobby!

On cheese: real Parmeggiano Reggiano is de rigeur for this dish; second rate processed varieties of this noble cheese are impostors and they just do not cut it! Grated Romano cheese is acceptable. Your grocery store stocks all the ingredients and your butcher will have the pancetta if the supermarket doesn't.

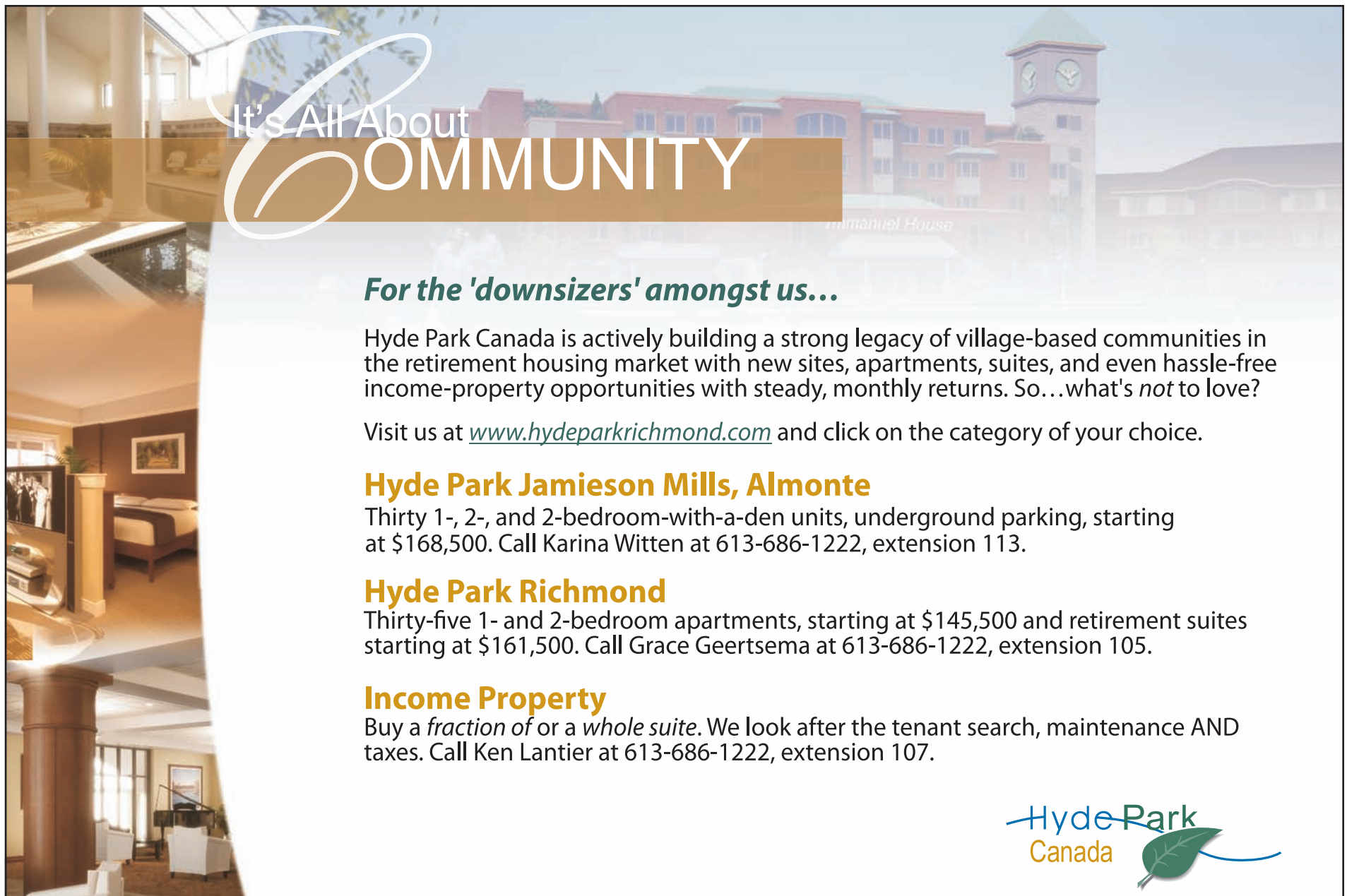
Don't eat this more than once a week for breakfast unless you're Michael Phelps. Chow for now.

— *Innit Yummyinmytummy*



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# Come Rural Rambling!

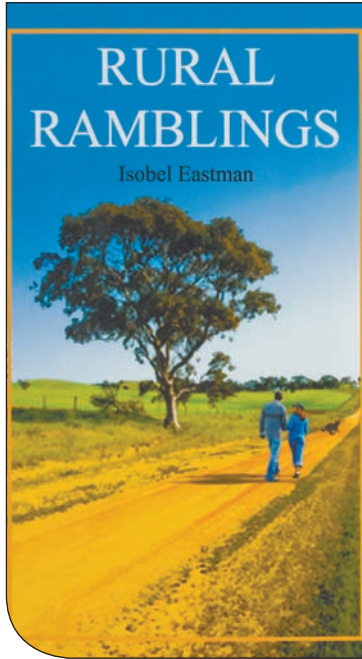
Local author Isobel Eastman takes us on a delightful ramble through the rural landscape with her third book in a trilogy, *Rural Ramblings*. Her stories introduce us to more of her memorable characters, events and family times. She developed a loyal following with her first two books, *Rural Reflections* and *Growing Up Rural*, and her latest offering is sure to enchant both fans and new readers alike.

Isobel grew up on a Pakenham farm, attended Almonte High School, and taught in a one-room school near Richmond. She married and raised a family in the country and has lived on a North Gower farm with her husband, Stu, for over fifty years. It's a life she loves, and one from which she draws the inspiration for her stories.

Just in time for the Yuletide season, one of her stories is entitled *The Perfect Christmas*. This tale recounts a memorable family Christmas Eve that sparkles with all of life's heartwarming and funny moments. It captures the personalities that make a family unique: the husband who always chooses a "Charlie Brown" tree, the son who thinks a good Christmas song is *I've Been Working*

*On The Railroad*, the Grandma who dresses up like Santa, and the daughter who gives the Easy Bake Oven "a little shove" so she doesn't have to share it with her sister. Nonetheless, Isobel says: "...the perfection of that day is how I like to recall it."

Many of the stories will have



you laughing out loud as Eastman captures the essence of humour — humour that is always at someone's expense even when

Eastman aims it at herself. One of Isobel's dire predicaments occurs when she has to give a presentation after having eaten a bunch of baby carrots that cause, well, sound effects. Then there is the story about a family member who is desperately running away from a swarm of bees with arms flailing, not really caring at this point that his bare bottom is exposed. Whether it's getting bopped on the head with a golf ball or retrieving pesky pigeons from a chimney, Isobel truly captures the essence of witticism.

Distinctive, imaginative and heart warming, these stories are about real people and the predicaments they get themselves into. Some are full of humour, but others will make you pause and reflect about the really important things in life. Many capture something profoundly deep about human connections.

*Rural Ramblings* sells for \$9.95 (ISBN 978-0-9687544-3-6), and is available at Mill Street Books in Almonte, The Bookworm and The Book Nook in Perth, Nature Lover's Bookshop in Lanark, The Arnprior Book Shop in Arnprior, and Read's Book Shop in Carleton Place.

— Elaine Kenney

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# The Dark Side of Holiday Gift-Giving

"Getting and spending..." It's actually the other way around in this frenzied season. The ad headlines scream their messages about the perfect gift, while shoppers cram their cars into the parking lots of the malls, all in a futile quest for the *exact* thing that will fulfill the

by Glenda Jones

fantasies of everyone on their lists. No expense is spared, no whimsy overlooked, no wish left wanting.

Ah, but what lurks behind those flowing headlines?

"Make Christmas morning one they'll always remember!" Jane started her Christmas shopping the day after Halloween. She had a list as long as her arm with choices for twenty assorted family members, young and old. Her dining room was a maelstrom of wrapping tissue, tags, and tape. Throughout November and December the gifts were swathed in paper and piled in an Everest of Christmas until the day they were all boxed and carted to the post office. Then she could relax, knowing that Christmas morning everyone would open their gifts and extol her ability to choose the very thing they wanted.

## Ah, but what lurks behind those flowing headlines?

Finally came the big day! Her niece in Halifax had been rattling her gift for a week, and she tore open the parcel to reveal... two books: *Every Fly for Every Fish*, and *Restoring your Family Bible*. At that same moment, in Toronto, her brother was unwrapping a darling pair of Hannah Montana PJs! Ah, yes, a Christmas they will always remember!

"Give the gift that keeps on giving!" Ralph and Jean had a love affair with the Rideau Canal, but had denied themselves good skates all the years their children needed sporting gear. Ralph's Christmas gifts to them were the best pairs of skates he could find: warm fuzzy linings, good strong support. Christmas morning he could hardly wait to see Jean's face when she opened the box. With sheer joy, he anticipated the freedom of whizzing down the canal, the wind at their backs. So before their breakfast was even on the table, they were away to the ice, had tied on the skates and, arm in arm, were cruising over the pristine surface.

They glided along, happy, happy, and missed seeing the black hole ahead of Jean, a hole only big enough for one skate, but it was hers. She hung there, icy water seeping into her new boot. Ralph had no way to break her free, so could only console her by wrapping his jacket around her. Before long a crowd gathered, and a brave soul rolled up his sleeves and groped below the surface to free the skate. More people, a cell phone, Ralph distraught and beginning to wheeze. Emergency workers, a siren blaring, a chainsaw to cut the ice, more on-

lookers, and Jean too embarrassed to even respond. The hole was finally enlarged and her foot was freed, but by then she was near hypothermic, and Ralph was sitting in the front seat of the ambulance while paramedics administered oxygen. The two of them were bundled off to the hospital, damaged skate in hand.

The rest of the winter saw Jean huddled as close to the wood stove as she could be, and Ralph on high blood pressure medication. For months they recalled the skating adventure, sometimes with chagrin, sometimes with regret, and sometimes with gales of laughter. Ah yes, that gift kept on giving until April!

"Nothing says I love you like diamonds at Christmas!" A love story. When Chris got the notion that Christmas would be the best time to propose, he scouted out the jewelry stores for a ring proportionate to his ardour. Once he discovered he couldn't afford such a gigantic expense, he settled for a conservative little stone, set in a modest but stylish ring — one he just knew would clinch his passionate proposal.

He planned this proposal with the finesse of a general: a romantic dinner, the best champagne, with the ring nestled sparkling in the bottom of the glass. He would have the waiter present the glass on a silver tray, accompanied by a red rose, and he knew his darling would melt into his arms.

The big night came. He was so nervous, the ring in its velvet case nearly burned a hole in his pocket, but he kept the whole plan entirely under wraps. Only he and the waiter knew what was going to happen.

Sure enough, the restaurant glowed with subdued candlelight, their table overlooked the river, Christmas lights twinkled from Parliament Hill, and his future fiancée was a picture of elegance.

At the appointed time, the waiter appeared with the silver tray. Chris reached for his beloved's hand, and watched... as the waiter swept past their table to the one behind them! He watched in horror as the unknown lady fell into raptures when she discovered the ring. "Oh, Mark," she cooed. "Of course I'll marry you. How could you ever have pulled this off?" Mark, too overwhelmed to say anything, mumbled something about eternal love, and together they departed. Chris was dumbfounded. His ring had disappeared with total strangers; his engineered evening had been destroyed. He was left with no champagne, no ring — only the bill for dinner with the love of his life.

"Wasn't that the most romantic thing you've ever seen?" said Chris' beloved. "I'd marry any man in a heartbeat who could come up with a scheme like that." And marry they did, and lived happily ever after.

Beware the headlines. Make your holiday the best it can be. Love each other, spoil your pets, eat treats, stay toasty warm, walk with childish pleasure in the first snow of the season. Take time to relish all the good things that Christmas means.

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## A new look but the same familiar faces...

Effective October 1, Rick & Associates assumed the law practices of Douglas Buchmayer and Patrick J. Galway. For many years, Mr. Galway was an important feature of the Almonte community as a respected lawyer and advisor. After his retirement, his practice was taken on by Douglas Buchmayer. Douglas has accepted a position at an Ottawa law firm and we wish him the best of success.

Rick & Associates has been providing common-sense, cost-effective legal advice throughout the Ottawa Valley since 1987 and we are proud to be a part of the Almonte community. We are also delighted that two familiar faces, Heather Metcalfe and Bonnie McCurdy, have joined our team providing sensible, experienced assistance in the areas of real estate, business law and wills and estates.

Drop us a line or give us a call if you need legal assistance. *We may have a new look, but we'll make sure that you're treated like an old friend.*

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# Unique Forms / Archetypal Presence

A collection of works in stone by Paula Gray and photographs by Peter A. Lewis will grace the Corridor Gallery of the Almonte Public Library throughout December. The works by these unrelated artists kept each other company at the Chamber Gallery throughout November, where the tangible three-dimensional stone sculptures and the evocative images of the Canadian landscape not only complemented one another, but enhanced the viewer's appreciation of each medium. To further enhance your appreciation of their work, the creators have shared their artistic statements...

**Paula Gray** writes: "Although I grew up in downtown Toronto, I spent my summers with the trees and the rocks and the lakes of the Canadian Shield. It seemed to me that this is where a person *ought* to be.

After university, I returned to the city where I spent almost a decade pursuing a career that was only tangentially related to my time spent 'up north'.

"Moving to the Ottawa Valley in 1993, it didn't take long to see that it was possible to have a busy and complete life away from the intensity of a major urban core whose energy tended to motivate and drive twenty-four hours a day. The rhythms and cy-



cles that continue day after day, year after year do so based on another energy difficult to discern in the middle of a big city.

"It is this energy that makes itself known in the work that I am doing. It is an archetypal presence recreating itself in a substance that is hard, sometimes stubborn, and always beautiful. It is the substance of our foundation. It is gentle and persistent, flowing and gracious. In it I see the movement of water, the sweep of clouds, the solidity of the earth and a thread to the human emotions we bring to the picture."

Born and raised in Birmingham, England, **Peter Lewis's** appreciation of form and colour was developed and directed at the Birmingham College of Art where he studied in the '60s. There he experimented with various techniques, tools and media, finally specializing in the craft of jewellery.

His working life in the industrial city, however, led him into the print trade, where he became a master silkscreen printer known for his exceptional colour mixing and matching interpretation in a time before computer-aided applications. At this time, he took up photography as a serious outlet for his own creative expression.

His passion for photography and for capturing the unique forms and colours of the world around us grew over the years and found its full expression in the art and science of digital photography. He married his Canadian sweetheart and immigrated to Canada in 2006. His work is now shown in various shows and studio tours in the Ottawa/Lanark area. He also takes on individual commissions.

The exhibit will be on display at the Almonte library until the end of December. For library hours or more information about special exhibits and events, please visit <[www.mississippimills.ca/library](http://www.mississippimills.ca/library)>.



Find photographs by Peter Lewis (above) and sculptures by Paula Gray (above right) at the Almonte Library

**All I want for Christmas is an original Rosemary Leach.**  
(Seriously, it's all I want.)



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



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For more information, please contact Nicole Guthrie at [nguthrie@mississippimills.ca](mailto:nguthrie@mississippimills.ca) or visit or visit [www.mississippimills.ca](http://www.mississippimills.ca)