

DECEMBER 2013

the Hummm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas

The Art of Shawn De Salvo p.5



p.30 & 31

December's Events



The 2013 Gift Giving Guide



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A Well Deserved Award



p.9

Mother Goose Comes to Perth



Glad Tidings of Great Joy!
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"Bet you thought I wasn't listening when you said you never wanted to wake up to an alarm clock again!"

Readers Write

Something Fishy Indeed

I read with interest the article by Susie Osler about Nick Coutts and his fish farming venture (*There's Something Fishy Going on Here*, November 2013). I met Nick at the Farmers' Market in Carleton Place on the last day of the season and we had a short chat about his venture.

I am writing to correct an error in the article in the sentence — "As opposed to many large fish farming operations where antibiotics are administered preventatively in feed..." The fact is that, in Canada, very few antibiotics are used in fish farms, large or small, and certainly not as a preventive measure. To use an antibiotic requires a veterinarian's prescription after a positive diagnosis of a bacterial infection. The cost of administering antibiotics in feed is very expensive and not done unless absolutely necessary. The development of fish vaccines for the most common diseases encountered on fish farms has largely done away with the need for antibiotics. Yes, fish do get vaccinated just like humans, but that's another story.

For more information about Canada's aquaculture industry and its practices, please visit the website of the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance (CAIA) at <aquaculture.ca>. There is a lot of interesting information there that your readers may find quite useful. Another excellent resource is the University of Guelph Aquaculture Centre website at <aps.uoguelph.ca/aquacentre>.

Thanks for an informative article about a local farmer who is producing a great product — I bought some of his smoked trout and it was excellent!

— Dave Conley, MSc, Senior Consultant, Founding Partner ACG – Aquaculture Communications Group, LLC

Correction

In our November issue, we reported that the Champions for Kids initiative had raised close to \$70,000 for children throughout Eastern Ontario. According to Bruce Monteith, coordinator of this year's fundraiser, that number should have read \$700,000. Sorry about that!



Who's Reading the Humm

Back in September of 2011, **Laura Wylie** of Carleton Place sent in this lovely shot and friendly message: This is a picture from Makarska, Croatia taken this past April. It was a beautiful place with the Adriatic Sea on one side and a mountain range on the other. I brought theHummm with me on our 2-month trip and this is my favorite spot I got a shot with it. Hope you can make room for my picture in an upcoming issue. Cheers to the best local newspaper around!!

A Whole New Humm!

Don't worry – we're certainly not tired of the "old" Humm, and we plan to keep on delivering the printed version for as long as there are coffee shops on main streets. However, after many years of searching, Rob and Kris Riendeau are delighted to announce that they have met their virtual soulmates, personified in the forms of Earle Barber and Dagne Forrest of Foil Media <foilmedia.ca>. And after a year and a half of ongoing collaboration, the four of us are proud present the "new" HummOnline!

Starting in December, when you visit <thehummm.com> you will essentially enter a whole new world. The lovely look is courtesy of designer extraordinaire Auni Milne <sumackloft.com>. Rob and Kris, along with "calendar girl" Rona Fraser, have contributed 15 years of deep, detailed content under the headings that you find on our monthly calendar spread. And Earle and Dagne, through their vast technical expertise and exceptional project management skills, have created the perfect vessel for that content.

Before we get too full of ourselves, we should point out that the new site is in "Phase I" of development. Plans for the near future include adding more content to the directories, improving searchability, and adding geographic filters. But in the meantime, we want to hear from you! Surf on over and let us know what you think and whether you encounter any difficulties. Send in any suggestions for future additions and modifications. Subscribe to our new blog at the same time, and we'll keep you up-to-date on local happenings throughout the month. We look forward to your feedback.

— Rob and Kris Riendeau



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

Submissions

By email or on disk.

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Thanks this month to:

Everyone who drove carefully during, or helped their neighbours shovel out from under, the first big snowfall of the year! Stay safe, and have a fun and festive season.



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Dec. 6, 13, 21, 28 **Head Over Heels**, with Kevin Head & Miss V (vocal guitar duo), 6-9
Sat. Dec. 7 **Westport Businesses Country Christmas Party** with **doubleBack** (Shawn McCullough, Wade Foster) 7-11. \$35 Dinner and Show
Sat. Dec. 14 **Spencer Evans Trio**, 9-11
Fri. Dec. 20 **Holiday Jazz Night** with **Spencer Evans Trio** feat. **Emily Fennell**, 9-11
Sun. Dec. 22 **Food for Food Fare** Donations to Food Bank. Door prizes! 12-3
Fri. Dec. 27 **Shawn McCullough** (guitarist/singer), 6-9
Tue. Dec. 31 **New Year's Eve Party** with **Spencer Evans Trio**. \$140/couple.
Packages available! 7PM-1AM
THANKS FOR A GREAT 2013 EVERYONE!

Happy Local Holidays!

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 clientele, some inside the community, some from outside. Some businesses host their own special events; others join together with local festivals to make the whole experience more vibrant. Many provide support in cash or in kind to

throughout our coverage area. In doing so, you're likely to encounter not only friends and neighbours, but also some old-fashioned small town peace and joy at this potentially hectic time.

If you've been reading theHumm for a while, none of this is news to you. You've been shopping locally and feeling pretty good about it. So how about putting your mouth where your money is? 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!). That kind of investment is so much more powerful and useful than outrage and despair when a beloved business closes its doors.

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!

by Kris and Rob Riendeau

local 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 Coffee & Tea Lovers", "Gifts for Environmentalists" and "Gifts for Funky People", we hope you'll discover the perfect gift for everyone on your list. But we also hope that you'll be inspired to investigate even more of the independent, locally owned and run businesses

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. No matter who's on your list, we're sure that you will find great gifts — 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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Gifts for Environmentalists

- Recycled Vintage Ornament**, Mississippi Mills Ornaments.....\$20
- Beeswax Candles**, Reid Gardens.....\$10 & up
- Gift Certificates**, The Granary.....various
- A Brave Brown Bag (Handmade in Canada)**, The Green Counter Boutique . \$50-180

Gifts for Food Lovers

- Gourmet Gift Baskets**, Foodsmiths.....\$24.95 & up
- Fat Daddio's Bakeware**, Ground Waves.....\$2.99-29.99
- The Ottawa Valley Special**, Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....\$139.95
- Artisan Cheeses with Fixin's**, Pêches et Poivre.....\$10 & up
- Perfect Sushi Kit**, The Book Nook.....\$19.99
- Delicious Pilaf Mixes**, The Granary.....\$6-15



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Shawn De Salvo — Big Time Photography in a Small Town

Almonte got lucky when Shawn De Salvo and Marta Wein purchased their home a few minutes from the centre of town on Upper Dwyer Hill Road. The couple had been living in the Glebe and looking for a country home when they saw a real estate ad touting the virtues of Almonte. They spent a day walking the streets and asking people if they liked living there, and that was the clincher.

by Sally Hansen

The spontaneous demand from friends and colleagues for Shawn's photographs had been growing steadily, and when he moved to the friendly town of Almonte in 2008, he decided to "put himself out there" as a professional photographer. Before long, Marta began accompanying him. As she concluded, "I never saw him, so I decided to take it up too." Their excellent and eclectic results are on display at their website <photosbydesa.com>.

DeSa portraits are worth at least a thousand words. Like Yousuf Karsh, Shawn's goal is to capture the essence of the person. He also enjoys capturing the drama and the emotion of the moment.

Portraiture is only one facet of De Salvo's photographic passion. On his website you will notice his featured UG Series of photos. Further exploration reveals an amazing collection of photos of female and male athletes participating in the Ottawa Fall Classic of the UnderGround Series of Crossfit competitions. What isn't revealed is that one of the competitors is Marta Wein. Shawn retorts, "I never saw her either, so I decided to become their photographer." Marta works at Carleton University Athletics and teaches strength training classes in addition to "putting it all on the line" in Crossfit competitions.

Perspective, Patience, Perseverance

De Salvo offers a simple explanation for his compulsion to photograph: "Photography lets me show other people my unique perspective — what I see and how I see it." His landscape gallery offers beautiful examples of his finely-honed aesthetic. As he explains, "You need to know a particular landscape like you know the behaviour of a bird." For a dramatic lightning shot, this entails following the weather forecast of an approaching storm, monitoring Environment Canada's weather radar report, heading for the river at Arnprior or to the top of Blueberry Mountain for a panoramic van-

tage point, updating your weather map on your IP-hone, hiking to the location, setting up your gear, and probably getting drenched yourself.

The Almonte connection continues to grow. De Salvo has discovered that becoming a small town's resident photographer requires a great deal of flexibility. His assignments have ranged from fashion shoots and interior design to a wide gamut of events — concerts, athletic, family, civic... Recently he accompanied the Almonte-based SchoolBOX volunteer group that travelled to Nicaragua to help build a school. He treasures the shots he took of kids coming home from Sunday School carrying their chairs on their heads. He teases that he checks *theHumm's* monthly calendar each week to plan his photographic schedule.



Besides his talents in the areas of perspective and aesthetics, De Salvo is very inventive. When he meets creative people, he welcomes and initiates invitations to collaborate on thematic ideas. In his Special Projects gallery you can enjoy the results of a "Day of the Dead" celebration he co-authored recently with a CTV make-up artist and an Appleton hairdresser. A "Bohemian Gypsy" theme is under development.



Shutter Bug

Shawn was bitten by the urge to take photographs when his grandparents gave him his first 35mm Kodak film camera when he was six years old. His youthful instincts were to record, and he filmed every aspect of their beef farm near Peterborough, pretending he was an intelligence operative. Throughout high school he worked in stage and lighting design in theatrical productions.

Today his camera is much more than a recorder; it has become the tool that allows him to express his personal aesthetic. He continued shooting while he completed a summa cum laude degree in Aerospace Engineering at Carleton University in 2004. His timing was off; the aerospace industry was experiencing a high degree of uncertainty after the disaster of 9/11, and he had to accept work in BC and Peterborough to pursue his chosen career. His future wife, however, was pursuing her own degrees (Political Science and Human Kinetics) at Carleton U., so Shawn returned to Ottawa and became a patent examiner for Industry Canada — a job he still holds.

Putting Your Best Photo Forward

An autodidact, De Salvo's enquiring mind enables him to continue to expand his technical as well as his aesthetic capabilities. He now offers one-on-one instruction not only in the use of the hardware, but in the indispensable post-processing software packages like Adobe's Lightroom and Photoshop. Tailored to your personal interests and experience level, this type of instruction can be invaluable and save you a lot of time. If, like Pogo, you're "confronted with insurmountable opportunity" regarding the sophisticated capabilities of your hardware and/or software, just give Shawn a call at 286-1111 or leave him a message at his Contact page at <photosbydesa.com>.

If you're an artist or artisan, you may be interested to learn that De Salvo is offering a free sample of his talents as a photographer of artworks. After interviewing over 170 area artists, I was able to confirm his suspicion that a potential market probably exists for high-quality digitized images of art. If you'd rather create art than learn how to photograph it professionally, give Shawn a call and let him show you why you might want to upgrade the images on your website and social media sites. He can also supply high quality print reproductions of your artwork.

From December through February, you can enjoy Shawn De Salvo's perspective on many subjects at Neat Café in Burnstown at 1715 Calabogie Road (neatfood.com, 433-3205). All photos are available as prints in various sizes. And on weekends through to Christmas he is offering Christmas Portrait Mini-Sessions, either inside at the Old Post Office in Almonte, or outside at the Mill of Kintail. Give him a call to set up your own shoot.



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Dec 27 - 30 Regular Store Hours
Dec 31 8am - 6pm
Closed New Years' Day

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WHO Shawn De Salvo

WHAT Photographer

WHERE On location from Almonte to Jamaica, <photosbydesa.com>, 613-286-1111, <shawn@photosbydesa.com>, DeSa Photography on Facebook

WHEN Dec.-Feb. at Neat Café, 1715 Calabogie Rd., Burnstown (neatfood.com, 613-433-3205).

WHY "Because I can't stop creating images."

ARTIST TRADING CARD

Uplifting Choral Concert Jazzes Up the Season

The Capital Vox Jazz Choir presents a special concert in Almonte on December 6 at 6PM. **Remembering Brubeck** is a tribute to the late jazz icon Dave Brubeck, on the first anniversary of his death. The thirty-member Capital Vox Jazz Choir and music director Elise LeTourneau will explore the choral music of Dave Brubeck, accompanied by guest pianist Brian Browne. This special concert, organized by jazzN.ca, will be performed in the acoustically excellent and visually beautiful Holy Name of Mary Church in Almonte. The program will include uplifting and seasonal Brubeck originals such as *Every Christmas I Hear Bells* and *Two*

Churches, as well as adaptations of *We Three Kings* (Reverend John Henry Hopkins, Jr.), *To Us Is Given* (St. Thomas Aquinas), and much more!

Capital Vox has been heralded as Canada's first community jazz choir. Established in February 2007 and based in Ottawa, the choir is comprised of 25 to 30 auditioned voices and is backed by a core three-piece rhythm section, as well as guest musicians. The members of Capital Vox are all excellent vocalists in their own right, several of whom perform in the city. Capital Vox was formed to explore the works of classic jazz composers, as well as standards old and new, in a large group vocal setting.

Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church, at 134 Bridge Street in Almonte, is an exceptional venue for such a choral tribute. The original church, built in 1842, was the first church in the settlement now called Almonte. The current stone church, which replaced the razed wooden church in 1869, is one of the ten oldest in the Archdiocese of Ottawa. Extensive interior restoration work has been recently done to lovingly restore historical details, revitalize stunning stained glass windows, and repair the exterior. Organists play and choirs sing beside a rare, restored Warren Organ, circa 1875. The Parish is honoured to invite the larger community to this special fundraising concert.

jazzN.ca is a non-profit organization with a desire to make jazz more accessible to larger, local audiences. The "N" stands for "in" (jazzNhouse, jazzNalmonte) or "and" (jazzNblues?). Its mission is to build a welcoming audience of attentive and appreciative listeners for professional and proficient, performance-oriented, jazz artists.

As it's a busy night in Almonte, the concert is slated to start earlier — at 6PM — so visitors and residents alike can enjoy a wonderful Friday evening. Tickets are just \$15 each (available at the parish office). For more information about this concert, visit <jazzn.ca>.



Ottawa's Capital Vox Jazz Choir presents a tribute to Dave Brubeck at Holy Name of Mary Church in Almonte on December 6. The concert begins at 6PM, so afterwards you can head downtown for Almonte's annual "Light Up the Night" festivities!

Gifts for \$10 & Under

- Complete Set of Canadian Pennies 1937-52 with Folder, Alliance Coin.....\$9.95
- Surprise 3-Pack of Books (Gift-Wrapped), Backbeat Books & Music.....\$9.95
- Unique Christmas Ornaments, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....various
- Cedar Point Soaps - Natural Herbal Soaps from Ontario, Foodsmiths.....\$4.79
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The Christmas Tradition Continues at Mill of Kintail

Come to the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area on Saturday, December 14 from 10AM to 4PM, to experience a **Kintail Country Christmas**. Enjoy wagon rides, a nature-focused scavenger hunt, holiday music, crafts, photos with Santa, and stories by the fire. Kids will love the Children-Only Gift Shop, where they can buy for mom and dad and not break the piggy bank.

"I look forward to this event every year. I see happy parents and happy children," says Stephanie Kolsters, the event coordinator. "This is the perfect site for kids to run around and let off some energy, and still have a chance to sit on Santa's knee, listen to a Christmas story, or make a craft."

New this year, the folks from Fulton's Pancake House and Sugarbush will also be on site. "We encourage visitors to make the day what they want it to be, creating their own great memories of Kintail Country Christmas," says Stephanie.

The event has become a tradition for both the visitors and the volunteers who help make the day special. The Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, Mississippi Mills Museums, The Friends of the Mill of Kintail and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority staff, family and friends all contribute to this special day each year.

Admission is only \$15 per vehicle. For more information, visit <mvc.on.ca> or like the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area on Facebook.



Come out to the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area on Saturday, December 14 for the annual Kintail Country Christmas! Family-friendly events include wagon rides, photos with Santa, music, crafts, and a children-only gift shop.

healthy Happy holidays

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- Quilt Kits & Knitting Projects, Textile Traditions.....\$30 & up

Gifts for Readers

- "Catmas Carols", Mill Street Books..... \$11.95
- "The Orenda" by Joseph Boyden, Read's Book Shop.....\$24



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It's Christmas in the Valley! Celebrate the season with Wayne Rostad, Santa, and your friends in Almonte and Pakenham

A Special Season In Mississippi Mills

It's no secret that there's something special about the Town of Mississippi Mills, and Christmastime is no exception. The holiday season begins with a Pakenham Country Christmas on November 30, lights up the night in Almonte on December 6, and doesn't stop until the jolly man himself comes shimmying down the chimney on Christmas Eve!

Light Up the Night!

Nothing says "Christmas in the Valley" like Almonte's annual **Light Up the Night** event. A holiday cheer-filled evening of fantastic musical entertainment, fireworks, hot chocolate on a twinkle-lit street, late night shopping, and of course the much-anticipated arrival of Santa Claus, is truly a heartwarming holiday experience to behold. It all takes place this year on Friday, December 6 from 7-9PM.

Hosted by Wayne Rostad, the Light Up the Night stage is set to feature Brea Lawrenson, Voices of Praise, Johnny Spinks, Delaney Ziebarth, The Allan Martin Puppets, Marty McTiernan and Brad Munro, The Twinkle Fairies, the Snow Queen, and The Cedar Hill Sunday School Choir. The festivities begin at 7PM on Mill Street in Almonte, and wrap up with the "light up" ceremony and a spectacular firework display high above the Mississippi River falls. More information is available at <lightupthenightalmonte.com>.

Almonte shop owners have made a greater effort than ever to light up their windows and decorate for the season. Once again, commemorative **glass tree ornaments** containing the remnants of downtown décor of Christmas Past (such as our once-beloved candelabras) will be sold to raise funds for the replacement of retired decorations. These ornaments will be sold at Hello Yellow (72 Mill Street) through the season.

Additionally, in an effort to encourage commuters to shop locally for Christmas, many shops have begun extending their hours of operation to 7PM or later on Thursday evenings, and until 6PM on Fridays.

Santa Claus Parades

As always, Mississippi Mills is keeping Santa particularly busy, with two local appearances this year. On Saturday, December 7, he'll be in Pakenham for a White-Christmas-themed parade and festivities. The parade gets underway at 1PM and

winds up at the Stewart Community Centre at 112 MacFarlane Street. Along the route, the Pakenham Civitan Club will be accepting donations of food or money for the Lanark County Food Bank.

Parade participants are asked to register by noon, and cash prizes will reward those who show the best Christmas spirit. After the parade, free hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served, compliments of the Thunder Grill Canteen in the community centre, where the kids can meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy a free skate.

On Sunday, December 8, Almontonians will wait until nightfall for Santa's arrival on Mill Street. After the success and inspiring turnout of onlookers last year, Almonte is shifting their parade start time to 5PM and will deliver an enhanced display of brightly lit floats and an unforgettable holiday event. Like Pakenham, this year's theme is White Christmas, and local businesses, churches, sports and community groups are encouraged to call and register so they can add their light to what could be Almonte's longest parade yet. The 2nd Almonte Cubs, Scouts and Venturers will be collecting food along the parade route in support of the Lions Christmas Food Basket campaign. After the parade, the Almonte Lions Club will sponsor its annual "warm up" with hot dogs, hot chocolate and free public skating at the Almonte Community Centre. Both the Almonte Civitan Club and Lions Club are ready with awards to recognize the best use of theme, and the best overall float.

For more information about the parades, or to register a float for either parade, contact the Town of Mississippi Mills Recreation and Culture Department at 256-1077.

The Spirit of Giving

Mississippi Mills businesses and charities hope that your Christmas shopping and giving includes some special mementos from our town. Mississippi Mills Christmas ornaments will be treasured by friends and family, as will a copy of the 2014 **Nudes of Mississippi Mills calendar**, a fundraiser for our local Communities in Bloom initiative and several other Mississippi Mills charities.

The Town of Mississippi Mills wishes you and your families a warm and healthy holiday season!

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The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose

So why would any self-respecting adult trek to Studio Theatre in Perth to see a play about Mother Goose? It's a kids' story, right?

Wrong.

This tale is not just a traditional nursery rhyme. Far from it. *The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose* is a time-honoured English pantomime (also referred to as a "panto") filled with madcap characters, zany and sometimes naughty dialogue, and silly songs. Says director Patricia Parry: "During my childhood in England, it was always a Boxing Day treat. It's fun. The whole family can go — Grandma, Grandad and all the little kids can go as a family outing."

Most North Americans have little or no experience with this age-old form of theatre, but in the past decade pantos have been gaining in popularity. And for good reason. They are just plain fun. Lucas Tennant, one of the whimsical characters in the play, recalls his first experience with this form of theatre: "I remember seeing versions of panto as a kid, and being intrigued by it. Most of the time when a kid goes to the theatre, he calls something out and they tell him to be quiet. In a pantomime, there's a true sense of entertainment and participation, even if a kid calls out something. There are no real rules. All who show up — tech people, cast and audience members — become a part of it."



Perth's Studio Theatre offers up a delightful panto for the holidays: *The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose*, which opens on December 5

Audience members will recognize a number of familiar faces in this production — well, names anyway, as most are as made up as the whimsical characters they portray. The central role of Mother Goose ("the Dame", in panto-speak) is played by Joe Weber, last seen on the Studio Theatre stage in *You Say Tomatoes*. Joe acquired a taste for panto when he appeared in one with Mississippi Mudds' productions several years ago. This role, as well as that of Mother Goose's silly son Billy (Lucas Tennant) is traditionally played by one of the top comedians in England. Hugh McCulloch is Clarence Creep (the evil Squire), and Norma Cummings, who as often as not works as a director, back stage crew, or a technical operator, as well as appearing on stage as she does here, is the Fairy Queen ("I'm a very good fairy," she is quick to explain, since there are some not-so-good fairies lurking about). Brenda Roberts, who came to work on the backstage crew, is now making her first on-stage appearance as the magic goose.

And in true fairy-tale fashion, Laurie Reesor rescued the play from disaster — joining the cast as Harmony the Good Fairy when the actor initially cast had to withdraw at the last minute. Laurie shared an acting award with Lucas Tennant in *The Christmas Tree* two years ago. Many other faces, both new and familiar, round out the team that makes up this enchanting tale.

And a team it truly is. A traditional pantomime involves scores of adults and children working together to create a fantasy world. This world comprises not just a large cast, but also a fanciful set, outlandish costumes and make-up, music, choreography, and a team of workers to build, paint and decorate the set and manage all the people on it. Not to mention a director who can cope with having to train three different fairies in a very short time!

But Studio Theatre excels in teamwork. Indeed, they are an award-winning team. At the Eastern Ontario Drama League One-Act Play festival held this past November in Merrickville, the entire cast of Studio Theatre's production of *The Death of Me* won an ensemble award for acting. A Best Director award also went to Barb Guthrie (who was a first-time director). And the most esteemed award of all, the Brighton Barn People's Choice award, was pre-

sented to the Studio Theatre production — voted as the audience favourite by all who attended the entire festival.

But along with those awards, Studio Theatre members were also nominated for Best Visual (set by Reiner Silberhorn), Best Costume (Penny Silberhorn), Individual Actor (Lucas Tennant), and Best Production (the entire team). And this is the team, plus many others, that will bring you *The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose*.

Mother Goose runs December 5, 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 7:30PM, with matinées at 2PM on December 8, 14 and 15. Advance tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12 at the Book Nook (cash only) and Tickets Please (major credit cards accepted, fees apply, 485-6434 or ticketsplease.ca). Adult tickets are \$22 at the box office on show nights. Students with ID pay just \$10 at the door (depending on availability). And if a child donates a Teddy to a children's charity for Christmas, he or she will receive a coupon for a delicious treat from the snack bar. Who knows, maybe some adults will donate too.

Get your tickets soon and make *The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose* part of your Christmas celebration. As Patricia says, "our goal is to encourage



Pictured above are David Parry (left) and Paul Joyce (right), who play Onions and Sage. Photos by Bruce Raby.

kids to have fun and hopefully, one day, to go on stage." By that she means kids of all ages — four to ninety-four.

And don't forget, the Studio Theatre's brand new elevator means great entertainment is accessible to everyone. For further details please visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.

— Joan Sonnenburg

Gifts for People Who Are Stressed Out

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- Gift Certificate for 90-min Therapeutic Massage**, Kim Narraway, RMT.....\$115
- Wingback Swivel Chair**, Lanark Emporium.....\$95
- New Student 1-Month Unlimited Pass**, Rising Sun Yoga.....\$45
- Send Them Flowers Anytime!**, The Blossom Shop.....\$40 & up

Gifts for People You Don't Know

- Cider Keg Sparkling Apple Cider**, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....\$5.99
- Numi Organic Tea (15 Varieties)**, Equator Café.....\$9.45
- Vinoice Wine Chiller**, Ground Waves.....\$29.99
- 2014 Calendar**, Nudes of Mississippi Mills.....\$20
- Ornaments for Tree, Garden & Home**, Reid Gardens.....\$6.99 & up

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Gifts of Light Christmas Sale

L'Arche Arnprior sponsors this sale of one-of-a-kind Christmas items and homemade baking and preserves each year at The Kirkman Bed and Breakfast, 294 John Street North in Arnprior. Come out to the **Gifts of Light Christmas Gift & Bake Sale** on Saturday, December 7 from 10AM to 2PM. The wares of talented local vendors are also featured in this gracious old home, beautifully decorated for the season. L'Arche holds it at this time of year in celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Why not join them at this festive season to browse and find a few items to brighten your holidays!

Start at the Train Station, Then Hop on a Bus

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 7 at 5PM, when the Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario partners with the Smiths Falls Chamber of Commerce for its fifth annual **Light Up Smiths Falls**. The evening's festivities will start off at the Railway Museum (90 William Street West in Smiths Falls), where there will be many activities to get you into the holiday spirit, including a visit from Santa! Then hop on the bus to take a tour of the colourful Christmas lights around town, sure to be a beautiful sight. Festivities run from 5-8PM.

The cost is \$5 each, or \$10 for the whole family. You can pre-register through the Smiths Falls Chamber of Commerce or the Railway Museum, and pay at the door.

For more information, you can contact the Chamber at 283-1334 or <sfchamber@smithsfalls.ca>, or the Railway Museum at 283-5696 or <programs@rmeo.org>.

Christmas Open House at the CP Museum

The Carleton Place & Beckwith Heritage Museum is all decked out for the Christmas Season! On Sunday, December 15, you are invited to come inside, warm up with hot cider and home-baked cookies, and explore local history. They'll be displaying some of their favourite antique quilts, as well as blankets produced locally at the McDonald Woolen Mill and the Bates and Innes Mill. The mannequins will be dressed warmly in furs, with cozy hats and elegant muffs (and fox-head stoles). The Carleton Place Town Singers will entertain you with carols while you enjoy the exhibits. Come out from 1-4PM and bring a friend, because admission is free! The museum is located at 267 Edmund Street in Carleton Place. For more information, please call 613-253-7013.

Sing In the Season with the CP Community Band

The Carleton Place and District Community Band and Zion-Memorial United Church are joining together to give everyone in the area an early Christmas gift!

On Sunday, December 8, from 2-3:30PM in the church, the band will present **Sing In the Season**. Everyone is invited to join with the band to sing some favourite Christmas carols and songs such as *Jingle Bells* and *Silent Night*. And for a rest from singing, listen to the band play some wonderful seasonal music, including *White Christmas*, the *Charlie Brown Christmas* song, *Little Drummer Boy*, and a big band version of some familiar carols.

This is a free presentation, but a contribution to the Food Bank (either a can or cash) would be welcome. That way, everyone can share in the gift.

The band is a direct descendant of the Carleton Place Brass Band, formed in the 1860s. The current version was re-formed in 1994 by Jack Peckett. The band, a group of volunteers from teens on up, is now under the direction of Graham Ingram. They play at many community events, such as the Santa Claus Parade and Remembrance Day service.

Zion-Memorial United Church is at 37 Franklin Street in Carleton Place. For more information about the concert, call Louise at 253-4737.

A Tay Valley Christmas

It is not news that Christmas is coming. But it is coming early to the Maberly Hall as the **Tay Valley Community Choir** presents their annual concert, *Christmas is Coming*.

The choir is well known for its rich tone, warm harmonies and cozy, country concerts. Choir members have fun making beautiful music together and sharing their love of music with the audience. The audience is an integral part of the evening, as they are invited to join in and sing along.

The choir is delighted to share the stage with special guests **Jessica Wedden** (fiddler) and **Murray's House** (folk-singing trio). Eleven-year-old Jessica has been playing the fiddle for only two years, but she plays traditional fiddle tunes at an amazing speed and also does trick fiddling. Murray's House placed second in this year's Our Town's Got Talent contest. The trio of Isaac Mathews Hanna, Tyler Wilkinson and Wednesday Parnell sing in three-part

harmonies and also write and arrange their own music. The three PDCI students are former music students of choir director Grace Armstrong.

The Christmas is Coming concert takes place at the Maberly Hall on Saturday, December 7, at 7PM. Admission to the concert is by donation at the door, and Food Bank items are welcomed. Refreshments will be served following the concert, as the audience and performers mingle to share in this celebration of community and the season.



The Tay Valley Community Choir presents their "Christmas is Coming" concert on December 7

Gifts for Wives

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- Rose Gold Earrings from Flora Collection**, Kehla Design \$500
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- Bonnie Brooks, Donna Lynd, Edwina Wood Paintings**, Gallery Perth..... \$200 & up
- Thymes Fragrance Collection**, Ground Waves \$5.99-39.99
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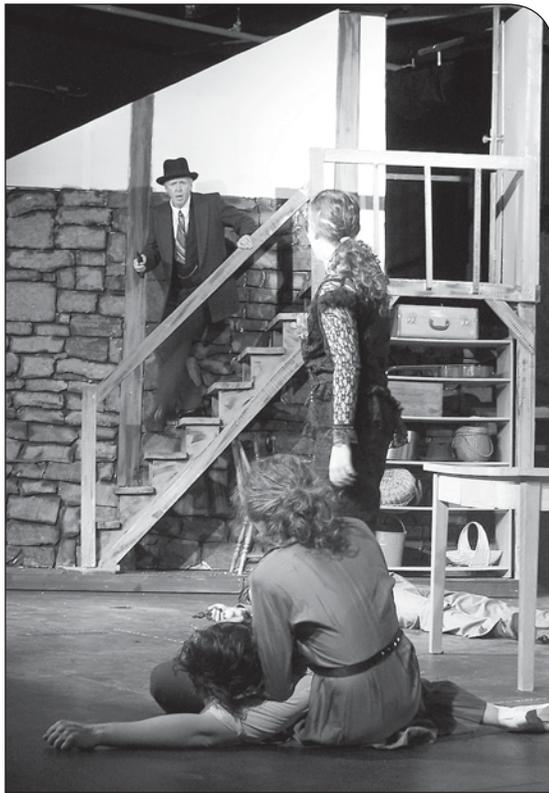
From Christmas to Summer at Full Circle

"It's been a long time since I've laughed so hard," commented one patron after attending **BarnDoor Productions'** hilarious show *The 39 Steps* in October. BDP is willing to bet that that will be topped when the company returns to the stage from December 6 to 15 with a show that surely encapsulates the most ho-ho-holiday spirit of all. *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)* is a 90-minute tour of, well, every Christmas story ever told. Veteran BDP performers David Bird, Joe Laxton and David Jacklin will keep you laughing and howling while they tell you every story from *Rudolph* (in a non-copyright infringing version) to *The Grinch to It's A Wonderful Life* and, yes, even *A Christmas Carol*. It's silly and nonsensical and a great way to start the holiday season, and you can catch it at 8PM on December 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14, or see the 2PM matinee on December 8 or 15. Tickets are \$22 at the door, but you can save \$2 each by reserving them in advance (call 267-1884). All ticket sales are cash only, as they would otherwise need to raise them by as much as 25% to cover credit/debit card surcharges! Further information can be found at <barndoorproductions.ca>.

Plans for 2014

BarnDoor is also looking well beyond the holiday season this month, making some announcements about the summer of 2014. Next year will see Full Circle Theatre return to the kind of summer entertainment that BarnDoor does best: high-energy, high-entertainment, unpredictable and unusual.

First up will be *Gaslight* (also known as *Angel Street*), the seminal mystery thriller of all time, running in June. For July, BDP revives one of its most popular productions ever, *The Lure of the Lights (Or Why Women Sin)*, an original musical built around a 1903 shocker. It's part of BarnDoor's Marks Brothers Melodrama series — taken from plays in the archives of Perth's famous Marks Brothers Dramatic Company of the 1900s. This tale of gangsters, fallen women and the underworld of New York City in 1910 is set to great songs from the time. Then in August, William Wycherly's 1673 comedy *The Country Wife* will continue BDP's long



Full Circle Theatre is planning a summer season of thrillers, music and classic comedy in 2014, including a revival of one of BDP's most popular shows ever, the musical melodrama *The Lure of the Lights (Or Why Women Sin)*. The photo above is from their 2006 production.

tradition of summer classic theatre. *The Country Wife* was so risqué in its time that it was banned for over 200 years! It's fun, funny and still a little bit shocking three hundred and forty years later!

Of course, there will be plenty to see in between then and now at Full Circle, including concerts, storytelling, some racy adults-only comedy in February, one of the most honoured and evocative plays of the last decade in April, student theatre, cinema and much more. You can get all the details at <barndoorproductions.ca>.

While the summer sun seems a long way away, the temperature is already climbing at Full Circle Theatre!

Gifts for Art Lovers

- Paintings by Ann Gruchy, Stephen Rothwell & Stuart Arnett, Artemisia.....\$80 & up
- Tiles, Bookends & Candlesticks by Richard Gill, Bittersweet Gallery..... \$65-275
- Larry Bracegirdle Original Oil Painting, Gallery Perth.....\$225 & up
- Encaustic Paintings by Susan Ukkola, General Fine Craft, \$80-1300
- 2014 Calendar, Nudes of Mississippi Mills\$20
- Hand-Painted Christmas Cards by Teagan, Phil Wood Framing\$10
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- 24 Oil Pastel Kit, The Book Nook.....\$6.99

BLUES ON THE RIDEAU

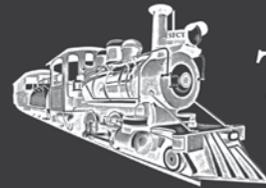
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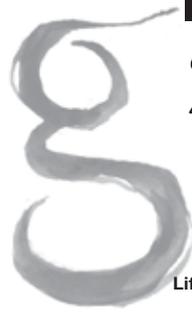
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Funny You Should Write...

Conversations With the King

Disclaimer: Please consult Santa before heeding any of the following advice. Got a question? Send Miss Write an email at <misswrite@thehummm.com>.

Dear Miss Write,

How do I stop my 70-year-old dad from having a few too many rum 'n' eggnogs and embarrassing himself (me) on Christmas day with Elvis impersonations (the large and sweaty version, not the young and

by Emily Arbour

handsome one)? Especially since I also host my conservative in-laws on this most communal of days. Or maybe the real question is how do I get out of hosting Christmas this year? It would save me lots of time and money on therapy.

Seriously, I'm starting to get twitchy from last year.
Sincerely, Mortified

Dear Mortified,

Your dad is 70. As the saying goes, you can't teach an old Elvis new tricks. This is his schtick and I'd say you're probably schtuck with it. My vote would be to try to get out of hosting Christmas. It sounds like maybe that would be a lot less work, stress and embarrassment. Tell your families that you're trying to simplify this holiday and that you'd be thrilled if someone would take over hosting this year. You'll even happily bring the main! I'm curious to know what your mom thinks about your dad's behaviour. Could you talk to her about a solution? Maybe she could speak to him gently, or maybe she could host instead. In that scenario, even if it's not less embarrassment, at least it's not in your house. You can strap on your blue suedes and get the heck out of there when you need to.

Dear Miss Write,

How does a parent give a toddler the Christmas of their dreams while also trying to teach him that it's not all about gifts, gifts, and more gifts?

Crazy 'bout Christmas

Dear CBC,

The thing about kids is that the "Christmas of their dreams" probably has a lot more to do with the true meaning of the holiday than it does the gifts. It's the introduction of a shimmering tree in their living room (A tree! In the living room! You gotta see this!), the excitement of being around family and friends, the building of snowmen and gingerbread houses, and the eating of said gingerbread houses. Of course the gifts play a role, but as parents, sometimes I think it is we who place the emphasis on that part. "Santa's

watching, kids! Smack your brother one more time and you won't get any presents Charlie! Chaaaarlie, don't you want Santa to bring you presents? Do you want a lump of coal? Huh kid? Do ya?!"

Don't get me wrong — there's not much I enjoy more than a reason to spoil my kids. To watch their eyes light up over a new toy or candy cane the length of their forearm is part of what makes Christmas fun for parents, but what's even more awesome is watching them pass out on the couch mid-*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (the original) from holiday cheer-induced exhaustion. This year, why not limit the gifts to a few things they'll really appreciate. Around here we've decided to limit the gifts to four items: a toy, a game, a book and an edible treat. Then focus on everything else that makes the holiday special. Let them help you bake the cookies, trim the tree and set the table for the turkey dinner. Go carolling, attend a pageant, and read a few Christmas books that convey the spirit of the season. They'll get it eventually. You did. And if you can do it, anyone can.

Dear Miss Write,

Merry Christmas! There. I said it. Happy Holidays my bum.

Traditional Trevor

Dear Trevor,

Merry Christmas to you and yours! Let's leave your bum out of it, shall we?

Dear Miss Write,

This year, when I am invited to a Christmas party where children (unrelated to me) are in attendance, do I have to bring them a gift? I don't have children myself so I never know what's appropriate. If the answer is yes, what do I bring? Ages range from 4 to 10 years old.

Sincerely, Puppy Mamma

Dear Puppy Mamma,

No, you do not need to bring gifts for the kids. Absolutely not. However, if you want to make a nice gesture, I suggest chocolate. It's affordable, it's consumable, it's well received by all ages, and they're not your kids (lucky) so the bad behaviour as a result of the impending sugar crash isn't something you need worry about.

— *Emily Arbour is a freelance writer and shop owner who lives and works in Almonte. By no means is she an expert in anything but having an opinion and making things up. You can go ahead and take her advice, but you'd probably do just as well asking her dad how to say no to a granddaughter. Only difference is he doesn't have a column in this fine publication.*

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A Leahy Holiday Treat From PPAC

About 31 years ago, a few of the Leahy girls (who were the oldest of a family of 11) took the bus from Peterborough to Carleton Place to take lessons from renowned fiddler Gilles Roy. They would then return home by bus to teach their younger siblings what they had learned.

Sixteen years after their last performance in Perth, Leahy can charter their own bus when they return to give a Christmas performance on Sunday, December 15 at 2PM at Perth and District Collegiate Institute. And Gilles Roy will be there to celebrate!

Start your holiday celebrations with a unique Canadian Celtic family. The Leahys were raised without a television on a farm in the small town of Lakefield, Ontario. Their life story was so compelling that it became the subject of an Oscar winning documentary — *The Leahys: Music Most of All*.

For a great early Christmas present, bring the whole family to see these eight musical brothers and sisters who have been playing together their entire lives (how's that for family harmony?). So far they have released four acclaimed CDs: *Leahy*, *Lakefield*, *In All Things*, and *Live*. Their awards include Junos for Best New Group, Best Country Group, and Best Instrumental Album; the most played folk/roots song in Canada in 2004; and the SOCAN award for Folk/Jazz Instrumentalist the following year. Pure and authentic — Leahy continues to be one of Canada's most sought after exports.

And for some authentic under-the-tree-type presents, why not add in tickets to see Canadian funny man **Lorne Elliott** on March 31, and the classically jazzy **Quartango** on April 11? The special holiday Leahy show starts at 2PM on Sunday, December 15, and all other PPAC shows start at 7:30PM in the Mason Theatre at Perth & District Collegiate Institute. Tickets are available from Tickets Please — visit <ticketsplease.ca>, call 485-6434, or drop in at Jo's Clothes, 39 Foster Street in Perth.



The musical Leahy family will perform a special Celtic-flavoured pre-Christmas concert in Perth on Sunday, December 15

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**Check out page 3 for great
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What if the Bottom Fell Out of Your Life?

According to the Canadian Women's Foundation, half of all women in Canada over the age of 16 have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence. On any given day in Canada, more than 3,300 women (along with their 3,000 children) are forced to sleep in an emergency shelter to escape domestic violence. Every night, about 200 women are turned away because the shelters are full. On average, every six days a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner. Despite these alarming statistics, some still turn a blind eye.

by Linda Seccaspina

Domestic violence can happen to anyone, and Lanark County Interval House provides comprehensive resources and support for victims of domestic violence. Women on the run from abusers can seek emergency shelter and safe transitional housing for themselves and their children, complete with meals and counselors to help disable the cycle and stop it from perpetuating.

Whether you're a mother or not, whether you're a victim of domestic violence or not; you're a person first. Think of having to flee your home at an instant. Yes, you need shelter, but you also need the basic necessities of life, regardless of the situation. You might not realize it,

but one person *can* make a difference in someone's life.

During the holiday season, Lanark County Interval House gathers and gives out gifts to hundreds of women, children and teens who they've supported over the past year. For the staff of Interval House, those are the best few weeks of the year, because those days are filled with good cheer and giving. They get to experience the joy of the donating public, and then be able to hand out the gifts to families who truly appreciate them.

At this time of year, if anyone would like to help, they can do so by purchasing a gift for a boy or girl of any age — babies, preschoolers, kindergarten, primary and middle school. They are often low on teen gifts, so gift certificates for places like Shoppers Drug Mart, Canadian Tire, EB Games, Tim Horton's, or Target and Walmart go a long way for the youth they support.

Like myself, many women have a way of putting everyone else first. The women in Interval House are some of the strongest, most resilient people, who could really use a pick-me-up and morale boost during the holidays. Because tastes vary, it's hard to say what sort of things the women would like best, but anything from slippers to winter mitts, or maybe a gift card for a book store or restaurant would be the perfect thing.

Interval House has a wish list (see bottom of article) that they put together in the hopes of finding donors to help alleviate some of their daily operational costs.

It gives people an option to give tangible items and allows them to see exactly how their donation helps.

Sometimes it's hard for people to understand how they use the donations to run counselling groups, or for transpor-



These Interval House staff and students will be helping to organize and deliver hundreds of holiday gifts to families from across the county who have been supported by the agency over the past year

tation, public education or their training programs, but everyone has experienced the rising cost of maintaining their own household. All the basic things like tinfoil, snacks for the children's school lunches, and batteries are mandatory supplies for their clients.

Churches and book clubs have taken up the challenge. Sometimes, instead of gifts, people have asked guests attending birthday parties to bring donations. Interval House provides wish list postcards and purple grocery bags to their group members, who in turn take them and challenge

their community groups or friends to fill the pantry.

They have several drop-off points this year. You can drop donations off at: Crush Marketplace in Almonte's Heritage Court, the Carleton Place Chamber of Commerce Visitor Centre at the old train station, ZenDragon Martial Arts studio in the Giant Tiger mall in Smiths Falls, and The Loft Artisan Shop in Davidson's Courtyard in Smiths Falls.

All of these local businesses have generously offered to collect items for the agency. We thank them for their support! Please note: if the public would like to donate perishable items to help with holiday meals at the shelter (turkeys, pies, vegetables, etc.), please contact the shelter office directly at 257-3469 or email <info@lcih.com>.

The reality of this is that all of it is my business, your business and everyone else's business. Maybe this year if you have a little extra you might consider providing a little happiness for someone in need. Domestic violence is an epidemic in this country — in the world, for that matter — and it can affect you, your friends, or your daughters. Lanark County Interval House represents help, hope, healing, shelter, counselling, and community support.

Interval House's Wish List can be found at <lcih.org/about/shelter-wish-list>

— by Linda Seccaspina, with help from the files of Heather Whiting, LCIH Fundraising & Volunteer Coordinator

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Shopping Local is Good for the Soul!

For those who love to give, Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year. For those who love to support locally-owned Mom-and-Pop shops and find one-of-a-kind treasures for their loved ones at the holidays, well, you'd be hard pressed to find a more ideal spot to shop than beautiful downtown Perth, where charming indie shops abound.

There are so many funky little shops in Perth, in fact, that you might want to plan to make a day of it — and clear out the trunk too! Some gifts are larger than others...

by John Pigeau

I was thinking of art when I wrote that, and two fantastic shops immediately come to mind: Riverguild Fine Crafts (51 Gore Street East) and Gallery Perth (in the Code's Mill Building). Both are lovely, locally-owned shops, and both are filled with breathtakingly gorgeous artwork created mainly by local artists. A painting is one of those uniquely personal gifts that people often won't buy for themselves, but are thrilled to receive. So, for the art lover in your life, keep these two fine shops in mind. And of course Riverguild has so much more than paintings, including pottery, leather goods, wood carvings and sculptures, art quilts, cooperative games, pewter lanterns — all regionally if not locally made, and all of high quality.



Also, for older artwork, you could easily stroll on across the street from Riverguild and visit the Merchant of Herriot, where you'll find all sorts of amazing collectibles and memorabilia, as well as vintage art. Martin and Erin, who own this enchanting shop, understand the excitement of finding a treasure. Whatever retro or antique item you might be looking for, there's a good chance they'll either have it in store or can guide you in the right direction.

Good, kind, knowledgeable shopkeepers really add to the fun of a holiday shopping day, don't they?

Speaking of which, Dan and Christine Chu, the new owners of Backbeat Books & Music (6 Wilson Street West), will help you find just the thing for the book or music lover on your "Nice" list this year. Christine knows the books, and Dan knows the music. With vinyl records making such a wonderfully welcome comeback in recent years, Backbeat is your vinyl headquarters. They also sell turntables — something to keep in mind in case someone on your list has been extraordinarily nice this year.

You could also visit Barbara at The Bookworm (76 Foster Street) to fulfill the needs of the book lover in your family, or, heck, just to treat yourself to a nice little stack of gently used books. And please remember: buying used is a wonderful gift. Not just for the person who's getting that special something, but for the environment too. The Book Nook (56 Gore Street East) is also a fine little shop, with a small but nice selection of new books as well as a solid selection of children's and historical books, plus arts and crafts supplies.

Ooh... which brings to mind Art & Class Studio & Boutique (53 Gore Street East), just a safe dash across the street. This boutique has some neat items that might be ideal as stocking stuffers, like homemade journals and jewellery and owl pillows, but you could always give a friend some art classes, too.

If you're shopping for the man in your life and want to punch up his wardrobe a little, head on over to Conway's Men's Wear (45 Gore Street East). You'll find everything from sporty hats to fine suits in this handsome old shop. Ladies — don't forget that most men suffer from some odd affliction that makes it necessary for them to acquire new socks on pretty much a monthly basis. Another fact: they won't remember to buy themselves new socks. Just a gentle reminder.

You can also find all of the above, including socks, at Shaw's of Perth (1 Gore Street East), which I believe is one of the oldest locally-owned businesses in town. It's a great place for ladies' clothing as well, and kitchen and home items too.



Homing Instinct (above) is the latest in a long line of great shops in Perth — which are the perfect antidote to mall mania!

Got someone "funky" to buy for? Think Dragon Moon (2 Gore Street East). This charming, loft-sized store carries funky items galore. It's dizzying, actually — everywhere you turn... funky, funky, funky... and also very nice, whether it's jewellery, exotic textiles, concert t-shirts, or worldly fashions. One look in the front window and you'll be pulled in anyway. Shadowfax (67 Foster Street) carries some similar items — mainly high quality jewellery and clothing, but many gift items as well, including many hilarious and some quite naughty cards. There's always a joker on everyone's list who needs a naughty card...

Nearby is a very cute little shop called Mariposa Design (73 Foster Street), where Susan Storie will greet you with a lovely smile, always, and where you can find an eclectic blend of vintage, shabby and chic, re-furnished and new, country and rustic, home décor items.

A similar shop, called Homing Instinct, recently opened at 87 Gore Street East — across from the big clock tower — and yes, of course you should check it out. Owners Janina and Cheryl were very pleased when over 100 people lined up at their door for the store's opening gala in November. The store stocks vintage, recycled, upcycled, and homemade "things for houses" — everything from paintings to pillows to dishes to jewellery — with a focus on elegance. It's a delightful place to buy something that will help make someone's house a home.

It's impossible to think of Perth and gifts and not think of Ground Waves (17 Wilson Street East, in the Code's Mill Building) — one of the loveliest shops in town. Replete with unique home décor items and one-of-a-kind gifts, it would actually be difficult to walk into Ground Waves at the holidays and *not* find a basketful of fun and fabulous gifts for anyone (and everyone) on your list. Good time for that reminder again: Before you head to Perth for your Christmas shopping, clear out the trunk. Maybe leave the dog at home too.

Have fun with your Christmas shopping this year, and please remember that buying local is not only fun and rewarding, but of vital importance to your local economy. Stay safe and spread the good cheer. Above all, enjoy the season! Merry Christmas, everyone!

— John would like to wish everyone in Perth a Merry Christmas, and especially the Daley clan, who hold a very special place in his heart.

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A Christmas Unlike Any Other

As we enter the holiday season, there is no shortage of Christmas stories — some happy, some sad, and some almost difficult to believe. One of my favourite stories, which I first heard about years ago, was of the Christmas Truce of 1914. If you don't know this story, it is a fascinating one.

by Tony Stuart

It was Christmas Eve in 1914, and British and German soldiers were manning trenches along the Western Front running south from Ypres. At some points along this line, the enemy trenches were as close as thirty yards away, so it was easy for soldiers on both sides to hurl insults at each other, or to ask for a ceasefire so that the dead and wounded could be collected.

Earlier in the day, the Germans had managed to sneak a chocolate cake into the British trenches, along with a message asking for a ceasefire so that everyone could celebrate Christmas without bloodshed. The British were told that the Germans wanted to have a concert that evening, and the Germans would place candles on the parapets of their trenches. The British accepted the offer of a ceasefire, and managed to send some tobacco over as a gesture of goodwill.

ing in the most genuine possible manner. Every sort of souvenir was exchanged, addresses given and received, photos of families shown, etc. One of our fellows offered a German a cigarette; the German said, 'Virginian?' Our fellow said, 'Aye, straight-cut,' the German said 'No thanks, I only smoke Turkish!...' It gave us all a good laugh."

Scenes like this occurred all along battle lines. In many cases, games of soccer broke out once the dead and wounded from both sides had been pulled from No Man's Land. We have several written accounts of these impromptu matches, including this one from Kurt Zehmisch of the 134th Saxons: "The English brought a soccer ball from the trenches, and pretty soon a lively game ensued. How marvelously wonderful, yet how strange it was. The English officers felt the same way about it. Thus Christmas, the celebration of Love, managed to bring mortal enemies together as friends for a time."

By the time the next day had set in, German and British officers ordered their troops back to their respective trenches, and hostilities commenced once again. It is estimated that some 100,000 troops were involved in truces of this kind. Even Canadian soldiers were involved in this type of truce, two years later in 1916. At Vimy Ridge, Canadian and German soldiers

stopped fighting on Christmas Day, taking time to exchange greetings and small gifts before being ordered back to their positions.

Newspapers on both sides of the conflict reported about the truces, and this only served to highlight the absurdity and barbarity of trench warfare. All of a sudden, the enemy had a face. On Remembrance Day in 2008, a Christmas Truce monument was raised in Frelinghien, France. Since this was

one of the spots where a soccer game had occurred, British and German soldiers decided to commemorate by staging a game of their own, which the Germans won by a score of 2-1.

There are many valuable sources of information about the Christmas Truce, including a recently released book which I plan on reading, called *Not a Shot Was Fired: Letters from the Christmas Truce 1914* by Lesley Park and Alan Cleaver.

One of the miracles of this season is that brutal conflict can stop, even for a day. It makes you wonder why these miracles can't happen every day of the year. I hope you and your families enjoy the holiday season, and I wish you a happy and healthy 2014.

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



Music played a special role in the Christmas Truce of 1914

As the evening came, British soldiers heard their enemies singing Christmas carols. After a while, the Germans invited the other side to join in on the singing. Of course, it didn't take long for the high command on both sides to hear about this fraternization, and orders were given to cease and desist. Luckily, however, many high-ranking officers, both English and German, took a much more relaxed view, so very few officers or soldiers were disciplined.

On Christmas Day, the singing started again, and rations were tossed back and forth. It didn't take long before "No Man's Land" became more like a playground than a battlefield. Men started exchanging gifts and buttons, and for a little while, the ravages of war were forgotten.

According to Captain Edward Hulse of the Scots Guards, in a letter written to his mother, "Scots and Huns were fraterniz-



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Mary Vandenhoff Receives OLTA Vision Award

Mary Vandenhoff was recently honoured by the Ontario Land Trust Alliance at their annual conference, when she received their 2013 Vision Award for Volunteers in recognition of her tireless and innovative leadership in the Land Trust Movement.

The Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy (MMLTC) is very proud of Mary and delighted to see her receive this prestigious award. Ten years ago, none of us would have believed how far we would come in such a short period of time, and that a small organization located in a relatively remote and non-affluent part of the province would have one of our own so recognized.

As Mary stated in her acceptance response, MMLTC is a working board in which each volunteer director is expected to carry the work forward. However, Mary recognized from the beginning that the task is so great that even if each director could devote themselves to the work full time, our goals would always remain beyond our grasp. She helped forge partnerships in the community with like-minded groups, and rallied community members to join us. This is never an easy task, but the example Mary sets of a volunteer extraordinaire makes the path much easier. Volunteers are the life-blood of our organization.

Perhaps the key to Mary's success, and what inspires so many to follow her example, is her unshakable belief in the importance of helping land owners protect their wonderful wilderness properties so that they will be forever there, for both the benefit of wildlife and to meet the needs of our children for eons of time. Each time she sees happiness on the face of a child who visits one of the protected properties, or sees the power of Nature reach deep into our inner core, she comes away refreshed and reinvigorated to continue on.

Many of us are responding to her leadership and are discovering for ourselves that there are few things in life that we can devote our time to that will have such wonderful results on so many levels,



Mary Vandenhoff, volunteer extraordinaire and one of the founders of the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy, is presented her award by Chris Baines of the OLTA Awards Committee

lasting far beyond our own lifetime — a legacy that only grows more important as the decades pass.

As Mary so elegantly stated, it is her dream that many will discover for themselves how personally satisfying it is to be part of such an important cause.

We are proud of her and of all our volunteers, and will continue to take pleasure in seeing many others participate with their time, and also with their financial support, to make this glorious dream a reality.

— Howard Clifford, President, Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy

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Holidays Coming? You Need a Plan!

To get anything accomplished, it is best to have a plan... and getting ready for Christmas – especially if you want it to be fun, rather than stressful – you need a good plan. So I'm gonna help you out! To enjoy your Christmas shopping to the fullest, may I suggest 4 simple steps: 1. Bird. 2. Kids. 3. Downtown Almonte. 4. And beyond!

by Miss Mills, Puppet Reporter

The Bird

Are you hosting Christmas this year? Call Don's Meat Market to pre-order your turkey and/or ham (256-6801), or plan to drop in while shopping.

The Kids

Sometimes you want to get some shopping done without the kids slowing you down. Why not sign them up for an arts and crafts workshop at JB Arts, right on Mill Street?! On December 7 and 8, pairs can book 90 minutes on the pottery wheel (for ages 6 and up). On December 20 (a PA day), Jeff's offering present-oriented projects between 9AM and 5PM. In case you fancy doing some art yourself, he also offers a couple of classes for adults – check out <jbarts.ca>. You can also pick up some arts supplies for your artistic friends, while you are there. And on the evenings of December 5 and 12, kids (only!) are invited to the annual Blackbird Kids Only Shopping Nights from 5–9PM, at 79 Mill Street.

Downtown Almonte

With shops of all kinds located on one central street, you can park at an end or in the middle and see everything at once – kind of like a mall but without the parking-jousting and claustrophobic crowds. Plus, as you are often dealing with the owner or manager, you get more efficient and helpful customer service. Whether you have an itemized list, or are feeling more "I've gotta get something, but what?!", they are here to help. And help is what they do best. The salesfolk here evoke memories of Kris Kringle in *A Miracle on 34th Street*. Remember when he is working as the Macy's Santa yet telling people they can find certain items at Gimbel's? Well, if you are looking for an item and can't find it in one store, the shopkeepers will often point you to other potential purveyors.

We have too many shops for me to list every one, but here are some tips on what you can find where. For women's clothing there are many options – a good idea is to walk into your woman's



The marvelous merchants of Mississippi Mills extend a very warm welcome during the holiday season... and beyond!

favourite shop (The White Lilly, Ooo La La, doree's habit, Crush Marketplace and Vamos all come to mind) and ask the staff there if they know what she would like. As for men's clothing, you are more limited, but Vamos Outdoors has a nice selection.

There's a good variety of jewellery too, from the funky to the elegant. Me, I go for funky elegance... but I guess you knew that by looking at me, eh?

For folks who are hard to buy for, I always think: food! Whether that amounts to gift certificates to their favourite restos or coffeeshops, a special salsa or jam, or high quality chocolate, you're sure to find just the right thing to give... or treat yourself to. Go into Pêches et Poivre at the right time and you can taste test some chocolate or dulce de leche caramel sauce!

If you really don't have any ideas, I recommend walking into Mill Street Books and asking their advice. You know, like "My friend loves Mississippi Mills and the colour blue and puppets... What would you suggest?" Mary and Terry are full of good ideas!

You can find a lot of stuff for kids at the bookstore too, or try Keepsakes – they have a section with some cool puzzles. Check out Kentfield Kids for the younger set too!

Almonte is known for its antiques, which some folks may not think of as Christmas gifts, but take a look around. You may find just the perfect thing – perhaps a memento of times shared. And we're also known for art, so don't miss the galleries – General Fine Craft, Art & Design, Phil Wood Framing and Tony Mihok's Studio, to name but a few.

If all you know about your giftee is that she knits or quilts, might I suggest Textile Traditions or Quilting Quarters – those ladies are bound to come up

with something. For the uncle who prefers birds to people, the folks at Gilligallou Bird will help you find just the right thing to make him actually smile at you for a second! And for your new age friend... talk to the nice ladies at Soul Scents. Angel cards, candles, chakra jewellery – don't be scared – they'll lead you through.

Now to music! If your giftee likes to play, then drive up to Musicworks and they'll set you up. Maybe some sheet music or lessons? If they prefer to attend concerts, then check out theHumm's listings and pick up some tickets – perhaps for Folkus or Almonte in Concert?

Ok. Great job! You have picked up some gifts that are sure to be loved – especially the ones you bought for yourself ;-) – and likely made some friends along the way. You deserve a reward! Yes, in addition to the gifts you bought yourself. Perhaps dinner out... or a latte or a brownie or some pizza or...

And Beyond

Sure, downtown Almonte is the most concentrated area of shops, but there other places that are well worth a side trip, such as the aforementioned Musicworks (conveniently located near Equator Coffee Roasters). Over in Pakenham there's a new shop – Olde Crow Creek – which has some lovely and funky home décor items. Don't forget to stop in at the Pakenham General Store for more gifts (and cinnamon buns!). And speaking of Pakenham, if you have any skiers or boarders on your list, you might want to consider visiting Mount Pakenham for some passes or goggles etc.

You might say there are a Mississippi Million options for local gifts... Now if you'll excuse me, I've gotta go shopping!!

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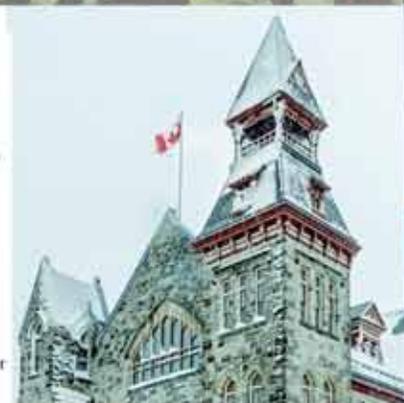
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Stevie Rave On

I’m Jealous...

I have two wonderful children and really, I wouldn’t change anything about them for the world. They are bright, energetic, delightful kids. Don’t tell them that though — we don’t want it going to their heads. The thing is, as much as I love my kids, I get jealous. I get jealous when I see someone show up for an appointment on time. I don’t do that anymore. I get jealous when I see couples going out for dinner

they were, by chance, parents, then their nest had obviously been empty for so long that they had forgotten what it was like to have a child, in a store, where there is so much very cool stuff to be had and really no four-year-old-way-of-thinking reason why they couldn’t have it.

As much as I felt for the little dude’s mother, I was still pretty jealous of the obnoxious, sneery-type folks. Not jealous of the fact that they sneered, ‘cause that was just plain rude, but jealous of the fact that they had no idea what it was like to have a child just lose it... in public, with great acoustics. And let me be perfectly honest — I wanted half the stuff in the store myself and I was getting just a little cranky that nobody was giving it to me... and I’m an adult (if you go by the numbers).

by Steve Scanlon

or to a club. We don’t do that anymore. I get jealous when I see someone put on their own winter coat and boots without having to fight with somebody else’s zippers, buckles, mitts, toques and boots. We don’t do that either. Walk anywhere within a three block radius of our house without stepping on a toy? No, we don’t do that anymore. Sleeping in... I remember sleeping in... or maybe that was just a dream. Answering a question without the phrase “What’s the magic word?” is a thing of the past. Requesting something without having to count to three is a long forgotten treat. Having a quiet moment over a hot cup of coffee listening to the world around you... fergittaboutit.

I was grocery shopping a few weeks ago and, while walking aimlessly down the aisle (‘cause that’s what I do when I don’t have the kids in the store with me, although it usually turns into a speed walk ‘cause I am inevitably late picking up one or the other of them), I heard a little boy just lose it. “Tantrum” doesn’t begin to describe the ten different types of fits this little guy was having. His mother was doing her very best to ignore the crazed look in her little angel’s eyes, and she was doing a pretty good job of it. Having been in a similar situation (except for the fact that I took the coward’s way out and left the store with said child, leaving behind a trail of tears and a half-full grocery cart), I gave her my best “there but for the grace of god go I” look.

Others passing by were not nearly as considerate, instead choosing to look on with their sneers and their noses pointing perilously close to the ceiling. Now these folks were obviously not parents. If

So all you single people sipping your decaf mocha latte at the outdoor café with all the world’s time at your fingertips, I admit it: sometimes, just sometimes, I think to myself, “Self,” I think, “... I could trade places with them.” I could, if I put my mind to it, sip a latte and watch as the world takes another rotation. Other times, like this morning as the sun came up and my son came into our room, curled up next to me and said, “Daddy, is it tomorrow yet?”, I cherish the lack of sleep and the feet permanently indented with the impressions of every toy known to humankind. Other times, like the day my daughter played her first piano recital and beamed afterwards, I love the tantrums, tears and broken zippers. It’s just... I’d like to start just one day knowing that my children’s mittens were exactly where they should be and not under the cat that was under the stairs that was under the house that Jack built — I think those mittens make incredibly imaginative snowmen (aka slush families).

So I admit it. All you people with time on your hands and no mystery stuff sticking to your clothing... I AM JEALOUS. But wait — What’s that sound?... My son coming downstairs to tell me he needs another hug before he can sleep? My daughter coming downstairs to show me the bracelet she made out of twigs and scraps of cardboard?... I am so jealous... and loving it.

Merry Christmas and a very happy new year to you all.

Gifts for Husbands

- Leather Gloves, Crush Marketplace..... \$45
- Maple BBQ Sauce, Fulton’s..... \$9.99
- Dirk Meitzker Industrial Designer Paintings, Gallery Perth. \$225 & up
- Squirrel-Proof Feeders & Pole Systems, Gilligalou Bird Inc..... \$35 & up
- Wooden Hockey Stick Photo Frames, Hello Yellow..... \$26
- Bundle of Old Cedar Shakes for Kindling, Homing Instinct..... \$15
- Sterling Silver Key Chains, Kehla Design..... \$140-220
- Gift Certificate for 45-min Massage, Kim Narraway, RMT..... \$63
- Music Lessons, Music for Young Children..... \$200 + materials
- Coffee Mugs, Natural Pet Foods..... \$5-20
- Custom Framing with Double Mats, Phil Wood Framing.... \$19.95 & up
- Lanark Sheepskin Slippers, Riverguild..... \$85
- Maroma for Men Incense, Soap and Colognes, Soul Scents..... \$2-16
- Anything Kuhl: Shirts, Sweaters, Pants, Vamos Outdoors..... \$49 & up

West Carleton War Memorial Project

No memorial exists in the Carp/West Carleton region to honour the brave men and women who voluntarily served their country and who made the ultimate sacrifice. Through the Carp BIA (Business Improvement Area), a group of West Carleton residents formed a small committee, co-founded by local entrepreneur Stuart Hodge and well-known resident and WWII veteran Roly Armitage, to examine the possibility of erecting a permanent war memorial in the village. The BIA is spearheading this effort to construct a war memorial to honour those who died in the two World Wars, the Korean War and other conflicts, and who enlisted and stood up for Canada.

The West Carleton War Memorial will be located at Falldown Lane, in the heart and centre of the Village of Carp. The location originally served as a meeting place and a source of water in the early days of the village. Design work and detailed site planning have been completed, and the site approvals, transfer of the traffic island for use as a small municipal park, and the beginning of site preparations are now under way.

The memorial theme is of a soldier taking a moment's rest to

read a letter from home amid the ravages of war. On the 11th of November, at 11AM, the sun will fall directly on the names on the memorial plaque. Work for the full-size sculpture is now underway.

Many local individuals, companies and volunteers are already involved, generously providing in-kind donations of services and materials to offset costs. Tens of thousands of dollars in professional services, essential to meeting the required standards and regulations for such an important memorial, have been donated by many local companies. In addition, Veteran Affairs Canada has agreed to a major funding contribution of \$50,000, under

their Cenotaph/Monument program. The City of Ottawa is assisting with bylaw requirements and the land transfer.

Funds are needed for the sculpture itself, site preparation, landscaping and other professional services, which are essential to convert the site from its present use to the site of a permanent monument. The committee is working to raise a total of \$200,000 by November 2014. As at October 2013, a total of \$72,000 has been raised. Local support is very much needed to help us reach our goal. Tax deductible donations may be made to "Carp BIA Cenotaph Project", PO Box 273, Carp, ON K0A 1L0.



Above is an artist's rendition of the proposed Carp Cenotaph. Local support is needed to see the project through to completion.

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It's...

Christmas in Carleton Place



In support of the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation!

In celebration of the Holiday Season, we invite you to join us for our *Christmas in Carleton Place* events & *Annual Tree Lighting Festivities!*

Monday, November 18th to Sunday, December 8th

You are invited to take a walking tour of beautiful Carleton Place! Many of our merchants and businesses will be participating in something new this year: displayed in storefront windows across Town will be "oh-so-perfect" Christmas trees which will be auctioned off through a silent auction at each location. There will be themed trees, both large and small for all to awe and desire. Go ahead... bid on what you like and have a chance to take home a pre-decorated tree all ready for the Holidays. Our beloved Hospital Foundation will thank you as all funds raised will assist in the purchase of needed patient care equipment.

Participating Merchants and Businesses:

Coleman Street: Chamber of Commerce
Lansdown Ave: Carleton Place IDA
Bridge Street: Apple Cheeks, The Good Food Company, Wisteria, The Floral Boutique, The Granary, Brush Strokes, The Pickle Dish, Dack's Jewellers, Nanny's Peas and Pods, The Storeroom Family Thrift Shop, Reads Bookshop and Coffeebar, Destiny Center, The Blossom Shop, Essentials Health and Beauty
Lanark Hwy #29: Carleton Place Nursery
Costello Drive: Tangled Hair Design

Saturday, December 7th 6:30 — 9:30PM & Sunday, December 8th 10:00AM — 4:00PM

House Tour

Come and celebrate the magic of the Holiday Season in Carleton Place. Tour eight beautiful homes, all decked out in their Holiday splendour. We are offering a variety of homes to view — some old and some new, some larger than others, but all are tastefully decorated for the Holidays. You may even wish you could stay a while! Fill out a ballot during the tour for your chance to win amazing prizes!

Tickets \$25
 On sale at these locations:
 (Age limit 9 years and up accompanied by an adult)

Carleton Place: The Floral Boutique 77 Bridge St. 613-253-2424 The Blossom Shop 167 Bridge St. 613-257-1855 The Hospital Gift Shoppe CPDM Hospital 613-257-2200 Chamber of Commerce 132 Coleman St. 613-257-1976 Carleton Place Nursery 7164 County Rd #29 613-257-8175	Almonte: Crush Marketplace 14 Mill St. 613-461-2211 Arnprior: Simply Elegant Decor & Gifts 114 John St. N 613-622-1500 Ottawa: Tivoli Florists 282 Richmond Rd. 613-729-6911 Yarn Forward 474 Hazeldean Rd. 613-831-8027
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All House Tour
 Guests are also invited to attend the FREE Carambeck Christmas Craft Show! Held at the Carambeck Community Centre — 351 Bridge Street, Carleton Place on Saturday, December 7th 9:00am-2:00pm Admission FREE (A donation to the Lanark County Food Bank would be appreciated)
 Visit us for Christmas shopping ideas for the whole family!
 More info contact: Jessica at 613-257-1704

Thank you to all our Sponsors!

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Sunday, December 8th 3:00 — 7:00PM on

Tree Lighting Festivities include the following events:

3:00 - The 1st Annual Santa Run begins at Heritage Community Fitness Centre for a 5km run to the Hospital!

4:00 - Santa will be at the Hospital for his Pre-Flight Check-Up! Kids activities for all ages including your chance to make your very own Charlie Brown Christmas Tree!

5:00 - Tree Lighting Celebration will begin with Christmas carols, hot chocolate, children's activities, prizes and great treats for all!

6:00 - The Comfort Quilters Raffle and Christmas Tree Raffle are drawn to reveal the winners of great prizes!

7:00 - The Bowes Brothers "Home for Christmas" Concert at the Carleton Place Arena and The Town Singers "A Down Home Christmas" Concert at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

Tour Maps available at each location and on the text2 app! See pictures and experience the House & Tree tours and more of the Town of Carleton Place by using the town's mobile App. Send a text "CP" to #84748 or use the QR code on the left to download text2 now, select Carleton Place and view "Tours"!

To find out more about *Christmas in Carleton Place* events, please visit www.carletonplacehospital.ca or "Christmas in Carleton Place" on ottawa.kijiji.ca, contact Jane Tunks at 613-858-6633, email: Christmasincarletonplace@gmail.com. For more information about *Tree Lighting Festivities*, please visit www.carletonplacehospital.ca or contact Robyn Arseneau at 613-257-2200 x 856, email: foundation@carletonplacehosp.com.

Each year our special Hospital tree is lit to reflect the light that donors like you shine on our patients. Thank you for your support and Merry Christmas from all of us at the CPDMH Foundation & Hospital!

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Christmas Comes to Carleton Place

The Christmas Season is a magical time of year to share with family and loved ones. Carleton Place has much in store for you and should definitely be one of your "not-to-be missed" destinations this year, as there are many wonderful events, fantastic holiday shopping opportunities, and delicious dining experiences to be enjoyed. Included in the festivities are three wonderful community events that will support the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) Foundation. Become inspired by Christmas décor with a tour of eight beautiful homes all decked out for the holiday season; tour and bid on seventeen exceptional pre-decorated Christmas trees to take home with you; and join Santa for his Pre-Flight Check-Up and see that he receives his "clear for take-off" status from his doctor while taking in the Foundation's annual Tree Lighting Festivities!

Each home on the second annual holiday **House Tour** is decorated from top to bottom for the holiday season. The homeowners are present and engaging, there are goodies and hot apple cider to sample in each home, and some will even have live entertainment! The tour opens on Saturday, December 7, from 6:30–9:30PM, and follows on Sunday, December 8, from 10AM to 4PM. Each ticket costs \$25 and comes with a ballot for a chance to win one of nine wonderful prizes.

If you're looking for more inspiration when it comes to decorating for the holidays, why not take a **Christmas Tree Tour** through businesses of Carleton Place, and bid on the perfect themed and already decorated special Christmas tree, ready for you to take home and enjoy! Seventeen merchants and businesses will be participating by displaying Christmas trees in their storefront windows, which will be auctioned off through a silent auction at each location.

The Foundation is also thrilled to announce that Santa has chosen Carleton Place as his hospital of choice to have his annual **Pre-Flight Check-Up** to make sure he is cleared for take-off on Christmas Eve. This will take place on Sunday, December 8 at 4PM, and will kick off the 16th annual **CPDMH Tree Lighting Ceremony**. Chief of staff Dr. Marty White and fellow nursing staff will be giving Santa a full examination to make sure he is ready for his big day. This will be a great opportunity to learn about the importance of keeping ourselves strong and healthy! Included in this event will be kids' activities organized in part by the Ontario Early Years Centre; Charlie Brown

Christmas Trees and kits will be sold to help raise funds for the Hospital, hot chocolate and goodies will be served and there will be lots of treats for all!

After that, you are invited to participate as Santa helps light up the hospital's very special Christmas tree. Honour someone you love by purchasing a light on the tree or by making a donation to the CPDMH Foundation. Sip a hot chocolate and join The Town Singers carolling from 5–5:30PM, and enjoy the grand ceremony at 5:30PM.

Following the Tree Lighting Ceremony, two fabulous Christmas concerts will be taking place at 7PM: **The Bowes Brothers** "Home For Christmas" concert at the Carleton Place Arena is raising funds for the CPDMH Foundation (advance tickets available at various locations in Carleton Place including the Founda-

tion Office at the hospital), and **The Town Singers** will give their annual concert, entitled "A Down Home Christmas", at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Bridge Street (tickets available at the door).

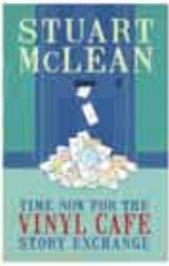
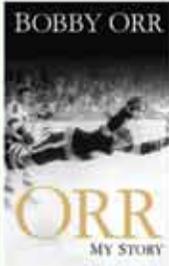
All proceeds from the House and Christmas Tree Tours and Tree Lighting Festivities will go towards the purchase of much needed patient care equipment for the Hospital. For more information on the House and Christmas Tree Tours, please contact Jane Tunks at 858-6633 or <ChristmasinCarletonPlace@gmail.com>. To make a donation or for more information on the Tree Lighting Festivities and other "Christmas in Carleton Place" events taking place on the same weekend, please contact the CPDMH Foundation Office at 257-2200 x856 or visit <carletonplacehospital.ca>.

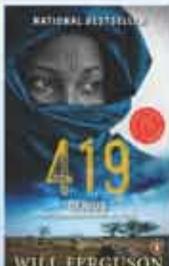
Gifts for Outdoor Enthusiasts

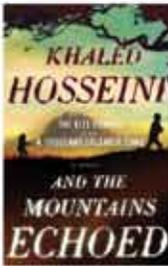
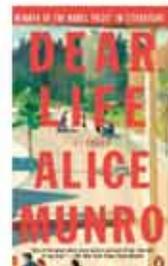
- Hats, Mitts and Scarves Made in Nepal**, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm \$15-25
- Nikon & Kowa Binoculars**, Gilligallou Bird Inc \$229-369
- 1-hour Swedish Massage & Gift Bag of Treats**, Hands On Healing Centre \$85
- Extreme Alpaca Socks**, Silent Valley Alpacas \$29.99
- Made in Canada Quartz Nature Jackets**, Vamos Outdoors \$419 & up
- Terry Pro Alpaca Socks**, Victory Farm Alpacas & Store \$40

Gifts for Kids 11 & Up

- Canada 2013 Superman Silver Coin**, Alliance Coin & Banknote \$45
- Tumbled Stones & Crystals**, Soul Scents 50¢-\$10





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of

Christmas

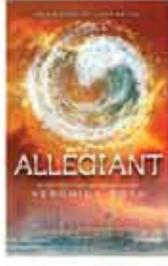
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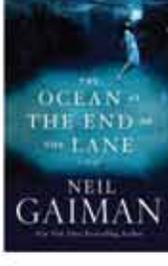
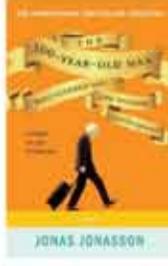
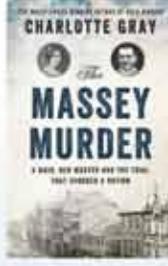
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CHRISTMAS MARKET
Saturday, December 14, 2013
1 to 5 p.m.
at the Almonte Old Town Hall
visit almontefarmersmarket.ca
for vendor information

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Pick-up your 'little-piece-of-Almonte-history' ornament before they are gone. These limited edition ornaments were enthusiastically handmade using materials recycled from the downtown decorations of holidays past.

Proceeds from the sale of these ornaments will be put towards the purchase of new decor for downtown Almonte.

Available at Hello Yellow and Almonte Old Town Hall until they're all gone.

For more information contact Mississippi Mills Recreation & Culture Department
613-256-1077



Words From Westport

A Season of Giving

The season of giving always makes me a little nostalgic for the days of my childhood — when life was carefree and Santa came with all sorts of goodies. And we gave, in what seemed to be no small measure, of our time and skills. I remember making decorations with strips of metal that

very often during this year. I only wish I could give back in such great measure.

All Things Westport

Art still abounds here, with new events and artists doing great things. **Life Drawing** sessions are held every other Tuesday morning at GristMill Studios, from 9:30AM to 12:30PM (in December, Tuesday the 3rd and 17th). Drop-ins are welcome!

Also at the GristMill, **painting classes** will be held on Monday mornings (10:30AM to noon) and Wednesday afternoons (4:30–6PM), beginning the third week of January. These

which to develop their skills. For fees and details, contact Diane at <dianeblackstudio@gmail.com> or by calling 273–9299.

On Thursday, December 5, from 1–5PM, the Westport Arts Council is sponsoring a wonderful **house tour** of some of the town's wonderful historic homes with all their festive decorations. This is an event requiring registration, and there is a fee of \$15. Please check out <westportarts-council.ca> for more information and details.

The following two weekends, don't miss the **open house** events hosted by Backstairs Pottery at 15 Rideau Street. They will be open from 11AM to 3PM on December 7 and 14. Call 273–9195 for more details.

Westport's bakeries and restaurants are full of tempting and delicious treats to enjoy during this wonderful season. The shops are full of delightful treasures to give as gifts or to brighten our own homes. And just in time for the holidays, our shops are participating in a window decorating contest which will be judged on the day of our Santa parade. The parade took place on November 30, but the lovely

decorations will certainly prove worthy of a visit throughout December. We are looking forward to welcoming you!

by Georgia Ferrell

my mom cut from tin cans. We twisted them around a pencil, poked a small hole in one end, and dangled them from our tree. I also learned to make origami decorations that you could blow up into balls to hang on the tree. I still know how to do that after all these years.

Those days made a lasting impression on me, as giving — especially of the heart — is always a wonderful thing to do. As I look back on my year of traumas, I am so thankful for all the gifts I have received, many from folks I scarcely know. I found that a community spirit is abundant in my new hometown of Westport.

And, at this time, I want to say a most hearty and grateful thanks to everyone who helped me during my times in hospital and so

lively and informative classes are suitable for beginner or intermediate painters who are looking for a supportive environment in



LEAHY
Sunday, December 15, 2013
2:00 PM

Perth Performing Arts Committee
Mason Theatre
at Perth & District Collegiate Institute
13 Victoria St., Perth, ON

Tickets \$40
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Tickets Please at Jo's Clothes,
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[f /Foodies-Fine-Foods](https://www.facebook.com/Foodies-Fine-Foods)

Wine Pairing Dinner
Friday December 13
featuring the wines of
Harwood Estate Vineyards

My Town's Got Talent!

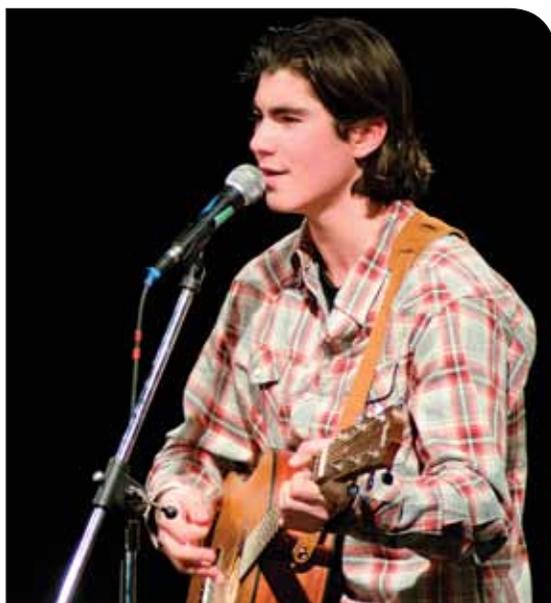
The atmosphere was electric in the Carleton Place High School Cafetorium as the celebrity judges chose the top 5 of 15 outstanding youth performances at the My Town's Got Talent finale. Presented by the EMC, Town and Country Chrysler, and the Almonte Valley Players, the competition was teeming with talented performers. Once the top 5 acts were named, it was up to the audience to select the final winner, along with Best Hosts and the Best Logo Design.

"The choices this year were really tough," according to head judge Johann Ramsaran, a local drama teacher and chair of the United Way Lanark County, "as all of the performances were of such high quality. Choosing the Top Five was extremely difficult!" Ramsaran worked with fellow judges Catherine Clark (a noted local musical director, actor, and musician), Michael Gareau (acclaimed director of drama and musical theatre from Ottawa and Orpheus Little Theatre), and Jordan McIntosh (past MTGT participant and rising Nashville singer). After much discussion, the top 5 selected were: Clifford Glas from Smiths Falls, Emma and Sophie Hans from Almonte, the Perth trio Murray's House (Isaac Matthews-Hanna, Wednesday Parnell and Tyler Hawkins), Madelyn Fyfe from Perth, and Alex Vala from Carleton Place.

While the judges were deliberating on the final five, the MTGT Team was counting the audience votes for Host. Turns out the duo of Melody Patten and Maddy Martin from Carleton Place had won the hearts of the audience. "It was great to have the new categories of Host and Designer this year," noted Artistic Director Christy Bindhardt, "as it allowed other youth who were not performers to be involved in the show." The winner in the design category for the new MTGT Logo for 2014 was Katey Best from Almonte.

"We are also proud of our House Band, another new feature this year, which featured past performers from previous shows: Tanner Flinn, Sara Milligan, and Liam Mansfield, under the direction of Harriet Lavoie."

After announcing the Top 5, it was time for the winning hosts Melody and Maddy to host the last part of the evening, which featured performances from the Top 5. During the counting of the ballots, all were treated to a spirited performance by the MTGT winners of two years ago: the IMPACT drumming group of Almonte and Carleton Place.



The winner of this year's My Town's Got Talent was Alex Vala from Carleton Place

Finally, Christy announced the winners: Alex Vala took first place, followed by the Murray's House Trio in second, and Clifford Glas in third. Rounding out the top five is Madelyn Fyfe in fourth, with Emma and Sophie Hans taking fifth spot. "It was a great show, and all of the youth put on wonderful performances for the audience," said Fraser Scantlebury, Executive Director of the United Way Lanark County, "and it just proves how much talent we have here in the County. We started with over forty performers auditioning for the show, and then moved to fifteen semi-finalists who did a superb job — they all deserve our congratulations! It was also a great night for the United Way, and we want to thank everyone who donated at the door and online — it means so much to our annual campaign. We also appreciate the support of all of our sponsors, including Lake 88 and the Royal Canadian Legion Branches in Almonte and Perth — they help to make this show possible, along with the assistance we receive from all of the local high schools and both school boards — the UCDSB and CDSBEO. Finally, we could not put this show on without the volunteer support of the students and the five youth centres in the County."

"We are already planning next year's event," says Bindhardt, "and we hope to see more great talent from our county out for the 2014 show. Stay tuned for further details!"

Gifts for Music Lovers

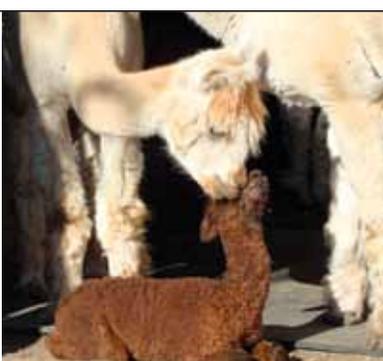
- Rock Art Picture Show Record Album Frame, Backbeat Books & Music \$19.95
- "A Charlie Brown Christmas" CD, Mill Street Books \$18.99
- George Turcotte's "Otherland" Ukulele Album, Mississippi Mills Musicworks \$18
- 10 Weeks of Adult Music Lessons, Music for Young Children \$200 + materials
- Meditation CDs, Soul Scents \$20
- Music Ornaments, The Blossom Shop \$5 & up



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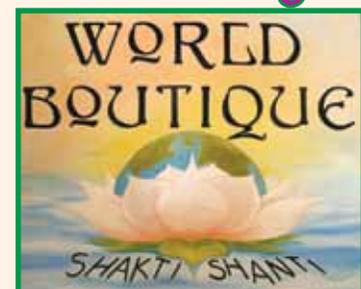
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approaching
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Put Some Music Under the Tree!

Looking for a gift for that “hard to buy for” music lover? How about seasons tickets to MERA’s **Sunday Schoolhouse Concert Series**? Then again, you just might want to treat yourself too!

The winter segment of the Sunday Schoolhouse Concert Series promises to bring a truly eclectic mix of musical styles to McDonalds Corners. The series begins on Sunday, January 26, with Evalyn Parry (award-winning songwriter, poet and theatre creator), continues on February 23 with the duo of Terry Tufts and Kathryn Briggs (residents of North Frontenac known and respected across Canada in the folk/roots musical community), and finishes on March 30 with The Boxcar Boys (five young musicians from Toronto who deliver a veritable gumbo of wild gypsy, Dixieland jazz, Klezmer, and folk music, performed with a good time New Orleans spirit).

From 19th century cycling heroines to 21st century sailors; from “feminine protection” to bottled water to the quest for the Northwest Passage, **Evalyn Parry’s** outspoken creations hold out a powerful vision of social and personal change, while her irreverent wit holds nothing sacred. Accompanying herself on guitar, bicycle, water bottle, concertina, shruti box and loop pedals, Parry shoots from the hip and aims for the heart. Fierce, funny, poignant and original, her work has been widely broadcast and anthologized, and over the last decade she has appeared at storytelling, poetry, music and theatre festivals all over North America. Evalyn appears at MERA on Sunday, January 26 at 2PM.

Terry Tufts has the guitar skills of a magician and is a robust songwriter with a long trail of fabulous CDs to his credit (seven, at last count). Tufts often speaks with a strong social conscience in his songs, but can also write with grace of his family and loves... current and lost. **Kathryn Briggs** has been making music for most of her life. In October 2000, Kathryn released her debut CD entitled *Small Awakenings*, produced by Canadian folk treasure Ian Tamblyn. Listeners find themselves transported to a space of peace and healing. Award-winning singer-songwriter David Francey calls Kathryn “...a brilliant pianist and composer, writing — with clarity, depth and sensitivity — moving pieces that never fail to bring images to mind and emotions into play.”

Terry and Kathryn are deep thinkers who turn the attention of their thoughts to things that matter in the world. Somewhere along the line those perspectives are transformed into songs that explore the emotional spectrum, from the fun and light-hearted to the touching and deeply personal. They appear at MERA on Sunday, February 23 at 2PM.

The Boxcar Boys are the combined forces of clarinetist and tunesmith John David Williams, jazz master Karl Silveira on trombone, violin whiz Laura C. Bates, soulful accordionist Ronen Segall, and JUNO nominee Rob Teehan on sousaphone — musicians with appreciation for old jazz and folk music who have honed a sound that is undoubtedly their own. With their first album *Don’t Be Blue* (2011) they caught the ears of critics across the country, placing on the *Ejazznews* list of Best Canadian Jazz of 2011, receiving 3.5/4 stars in the *Toronto Star*, as well as praise in *Wholenote* and *Canadian Folk Music* magazines.

Their new album, *Rye Whiskey*, further explores their unique instrumentation as they delve deeper into both the jazz and



The next season of MERA’s Sunday Schoolhouse Concerts includes the entertaining Evalyn Parry (above), Terry Tufts and Kathryn Briggs, and The Boxcar Boys

folk genres. These fifteen live-off-the-floor studio tracks showcase the band’s raw acoustic sound and lively performances. Their ability to effortlessly switch from gritty sprawling blues into a tight western swing number or an emotive tango is demonstrated in compositions by all band members.

Rye Whiskey also features charming vocal renditions of folk classics *Sam Hall*, *Rye Whiskey*, and *Freight Train*, a joyous instrumental performance of *You Are My Sunshine*, and a sentimental lullaby written by composer Joe Ernewein. The Boxcar Boys appear at MERA on Sunday, March 30 at 2PM.

All concerts in the series are at the MERA Schoolhouse in McDonalds Corners, on the last Sunday of the month. Tickets for the Sunday Schoolhouse Series are \$55 for three concerts. Single concert advance tickets are \$22. MERA members are entitled to a discount on ticket fees. All tickets are available from Tickets Please at 39 Foster Street in Perth (Jo’s Clothes), by phone at 485-6434, or online at <ticketsplease.ca>. Tickets can be reserved at Tickets Please and held for pick-up at the door.

Upcoming concerts in the spring segment of the series include Garnet Rogers, Trent Severn and Jason Fowler.



Treats from the Ottawa Valley!

Looking for that perfect gift idea? Consider ordering a gift basket from **Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets**. Baskets are comprised of area products, including **Balderson Cheese**; **Equator Coffee**; **Harvest Foodworks** soups; **Harvest Moon Orchard** sparkling apple cider; **Highlands Honey**; **Just Wing’It** sauces; **Major Craig’s Chutney**; **michaelsdolce** gourmet jams; **Paul’s Maple Products**; **Perth Pepper & Pestle** jellies and mustards; **PUREST Natural Foods** biscuit & scone mix, muffin & loaf mix, and pancake & crepe mix; and **Village Treats** chocolates. Select from many basket ideas ranging in price from \$26.95 for the *Lil’ Taste O’ The Valley* to \$199.95 for *The Office Commendation* — or let us design a custom basket creation for you! We deliver locally and ship throughout Canada using CanadaPost and FedEx Ground.



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Raise the Roof Toques

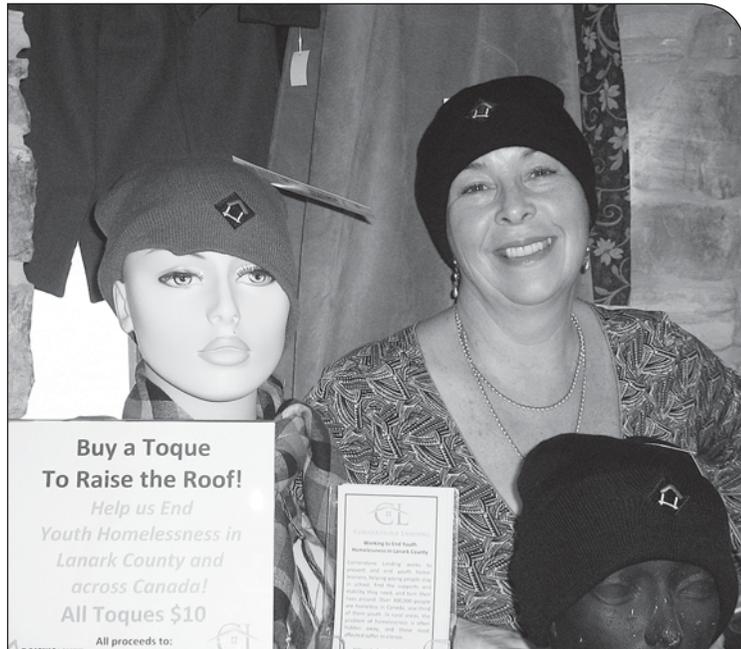
Ending Youth Homelessness in Lanark

Anyone looking for the perfect holiday gift that warms the head and the heart need look no further than the Raising the Roof toques. These hats are currently on sale in Perth courtesy of the folks at Cornerstone Landing, who work to prevent and end youth homelessness in Lanark County.

Raising the Roof is a national campaign that, for the past 17 years, has raised millions of dollars to support a variety of social service agencies that are working to end homelessness across the country. Partner groups such as Cornerstone Landing receive 80% of the proceeds of toque sales (black and grey models all sell for \$10). The national campaign works with some 145 partner agencies.

Cornerstone Landing's work very much ties in with the national campaign, which focuses on raising awareness and understanding of the issue of homelessness, identifying barriers and solutions to the issue, providing tools and resources for those who work to alleviate homelessness, encouraging networking and sharing of best practices, and engaging individuals, communities and the private sector in solutions. Cornerstone Landing provides rent supplements, gift certificates and other supports, as long as the affected individual stays in school and works towards course completion.

A report issued earlier this year identified Canada's homeless population at upwards of 300,000 people, with a third of them young people. Raising the Roof notes that families are the fastest-growing segment of Canada's homeless population, and for the next three years, the national organization will place a special focus on developing a preventative/early intervention framework to address family homelessness.



Joanna McAuley of Jo's Clothes in Perth, along with Fiddleheads Bar and Grill and Barnabe's Your Independent Grocer, is hosting the sale of toques to help Cornerstone Landing's work to end youth homelessness in Lanark County

A report on youth joblessness issued by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives last month also painted a bleak outlook for young people trying to break out of the cycle of poverty, revealing that Ontario has the highest rate of youth unemployment of any province outside of Atlantic Canada. Figures compiled by the Ottawa-based think tank reveal that youth joblessness figures rival those of the worst-hit areas of the U.S. rust belt.

"It is no understatement to point out that a lot of young people are in crisis, with one symptom of that crisis being insecure and precarious housing, couch surfing, and never knowing from day to day if one will have a place to study, to have some private, quiet time, or to have a shower," explains Cornerstone Landing's community coordinator Matthew Behrens. "That's why we're really honoured to be part of Raising the Roof, which has been

in this struggle to end homelessness for the long haul. We're also incredibly lucky to have such supportive local boosters in the stores that are selling the toques."

To purchase a toque to support Cornerstone Landing, visit one of several Perth locations: Jo's Clothes (39 Foster Street), Barnabe's Your Independent Grocer (at the customer service desk), and Fiddleheads Bar and Grill (across from Stewart Park).

While Cornerstone is currently working to keep a number of young people both housed and in school, the organization also provides guest speakers for local churches, service clubs, and other groups interested in learning more about the issue and how they can get involved.

For further information on volunteering and other ways of supporting some of the country's most vulnerable residents, visit <cornerstonelanding.com> or call 267-3998.

The Perth Citizens' Band
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
 Guest performers: **Fiddlers & Friends**
 Tuesday, December 17, 7:30PM
 St. James Anglican Church, Perth
 \$5/person \$10/family
 More information at 256-4221 or www.perthband.ca

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Check out page 18 for great gifts for **COFFEE AND TEA LOVERS!**

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 6" Alpaca Figure, Victory Farm Alpacas & Store.....\$17

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 Truffettes de France Chocolate Truffles, Foodsmiths.....\$6.99
 Just Chocolates (Village Treats), Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....\$78.95
 Hummingbird, Koko, Chelsea and Other Chocolate, Pêches et Poivre.....\$1.75-20

Claiming Column

Vinnick & Fines, Westport, Jan 10
 The Strumbellas, Almonte, Jan 18
 SRO Big Band Dance, Almonte, Jan 19
 Pakenham Frost Festival, Jan 24-26
 Evalyn Parry, McD Crnrs, Jan 26
 Cow Guys (OSFK), Almonte, Jan 26
 Willy Wonka Jr., CP, Feb 21-Mar 2
 Almonte in Concert, Feb 1
 Les Misérables, Perth, Feb 6-9, 13-16
 Leaving Home, Perth, Feb 13-16, 21-23
 Steve Strongman, Westport, Feb 15
 Evening Hymns, Almonte, Feb 22
 Maxim Bernard, Almonte, Mar 8
 JW Jones (BOTR), Westport, Mar 14
 Folkus, Almonte, Mar 22
 Maple Run Studio Tour, Pakenham, Mar 29-30
 Lorne Elliott (PPAC), Perth, Mar 31
 The Lion in Winter, Perth, Apr 3-13
 Pakenham Home Show, Apr 4-6
 Quartango (PPAC), Perth, Apr 11
 Gryphon Trio, Almonte, Apr 12
 Hogtown Allstars, Westport, Apr 18
 Fox on the Fairway, CP, May
 Handmade Harvest, Almonte, May 3
 Little Women — The Musical, Perth, May 22-25, May 30-Jun 1
 Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month, June
 Busfusion, Almonte, Jun 5-8
 Cantores Celestes Choir, Perth, Jun 7
 Celfest, Almonte, Jul 4-6
 Come Blow Your Horn, Perth, Jul 11-Aug 3
 Stewart Park Festival, Perth, Jul 18-20
 Herbfest, Almonte, Jul 27
 Dial M for Murder, Perth, Aug 8-3
 Puppets Up!, Almonte, Aug 9-10
 Highland Games, Almonte, Aug 23
 Harvest Food & Drink Show, Almonte, Sep 13
 Fibrefest, Almonte, Sep 13-14

Visual Arts

Xmas Art/Craft Sale, Dec. 1, 10AM-4PM. Artisanal gifts, kids' activities, period Xmas photos. Goulbourn Museum, Stittsville.
Nick of Time Artisan Show, Dec. 7, 10AM-4PM. Juried show. McMartin House, Perth. 283-0755
Home Grown Artisan Show, Dec. 7, 9AM-5PM. Leather, jewellery, glass & more. Lanark Civitan Club, Lanark Village. 858-7649
Open Studio - Living Stones, Dec. 7 & 8, 10AM-5PM. John Schweighardt Studio, Dalhousie, Lanark. livingstonesculptures.ca.
Almonte & Area Artists' Xmas Potluck, Dec. 9, 6PM. Millfall Condos Meeting Room, 1 Rosamond St. E., Almonte.
Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Dec. 11, 6:30PM. Xmas party. Christian Education Centre, Arnprior. arnpriordistrictquiltersguild.com.
Vernissage, Dec. 13, 7-9PM. Photographer Lynda Connerty. Brush Strokes, CP. 253-8088, brushstrokesart.ca.
Open House / Art Sale, Dec. 14, Noon-3PM. Wine & cheese. Jeff Julian's State Farm Insurance, 135 Hooper St. CP. 257-2886.

Youth

Champions For Kids Concert, Dec. 1, 2-4PM. Fundraiser w UCDSB students. Almonte High School. 259-3346, \$10/\$5
Gift-Making Workshop, Dec. 7, 10AM-4PM. \$45 incl. materials, pizza. Glad Tidings Pentecostal, Perth. maplekeydaycamp.com
Photos with Santa, Dec 7, 9AM-12PM; Dec 8, 1-4PM. Proceeds to Young Awards. BH Photography, 15 Bridge St., Almonte. \$10

WHAT'S ON IN

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

Brush Strokes presents the photography of Lynda Connerty from Dec. 7 <brushstrokesart.ca>
Read's Book Shop presents Almonte & Area Artists <readsbookshop.com>
MVTM presents Unraveling Tension by Bozica Radjenovic (to Dec 21) <mvtn.ca>
General Fine Craft, Art & Design presents handmade treasures for the holidays <generalfinecraft.com>
Heirloom Gallery & Phil Wood present a group show (Skura, MacIvor, Mirabelli, Birkett, McLean)
Heritage House Museum presents Ottawa Valley Artists Show & Sale (to Dec 20) <smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse>
Ottawa West Arts Association Gallery presents "Anticipating Winter" <owaa.ca>
Palms Coffee Shop presents Nona Argue's linocut prints, photographer Shawn DeSalvo <palmsonline.ca>
Phil Wood Gallery presents works by Sue Adams (to Dec 28) <philwood49@gmail.com>
 The **Mississippi Mills Chambers Gallery** presents Cathy Blake, acrylic, mixed media
 The **Almonte Library Corridor Gallery** presents Sayward Johnson, textile artist, weaver
Fairview Manor Foyer presents Gayle Marshall's watercolours of children (from Dec. 12)

<p>2</p> <p>Blackie & the Rodeo Kings, Neat Coffee Shop Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Green Drinks, Perth</p>	<p>4</p> <p>CP & District Horticulture Potluck, Carleton Place Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Jazz at Bally's, Ballygiblin's Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic w/The Camerons, Golden Arrow Snow White Panto, Smiths Falls The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose, Perth Westport Christmas Home Tour, Westport</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Almonte & Area Artists' Xmas Potluck, Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge PFLAG Mtg, Carleton Place</p>	<p>10</p> <p>The Town Singers Christmas Concert, CP</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Adult Bereavement Group, Perth Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Arnprior Game Club, Almonte Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Perth Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic w/Steve & Martin, Golden Arrow</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Life Drawing Class, Westport Perth Citizens' Band Xmas Concert, Perth</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Adult Bereavement Group, CP Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Danny Michel Trio, Neat Coffee Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke Open Mic w/The Matts, Golden Arrow Perth's Writers Guild, Perth Stand-Up Comedy Open Mic, Carleton Place</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge</p>	<p>24</p> <p>NYE Party Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove NYE Snowflake Ball, CP</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas tree illustration</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Open Mic, Golden Arrow</p>

Festivals

Light Up The Night, Dec. 6, 7PM. Wayne Rostad, entertainers, Santa & fireworks. Mill St., Almonte. 256-1077. Free
Santa Claus Parade, Dec. 7, 1PM. Pakenham. 256-1077, mississippimills.ca.
Santa Claus Parade, Dec. 7, 5PM, Perth, 812-1215.
Santa Claus Parade of Lights, Dec. 8, 5pm. Almonte, 256-1077, mississippimills.ca.

Theatre

Almonte: Transitions, Dec 1, 1:30PM. Documentary. Almonte Old Town Hall, 256-2483. \$15; \$12.50 adv at Mill St. Books
Humbug!, Dec 1, 6, 7 at 7:30PM; Dec 1, 7 at 2PM. Xmas panto. CP Town Hall, mississippimuds.ca. \$20; \$15 matinée

Red 2, Nov. 30, 7:30PM. Station Theatre, SF. 283-0300, smithsfallstheatre.com.
Live At The Met: Eugene Onegin, Nov. 30, 1PM. O'Brien Theatre, Arnprior. 623-4007, obrientheatre.com. \$22
Snow White Panto, Dec 5, 6, 7, 13, 14 at 7:30PM. Station Theatre, SF. 283-0300, smithsfallstheatre.com.
The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose, Dec 5-7, 13-14 at 7:30PM; Dec 8, 14, 15 at 2PM. \$10/\$20 (Book Nook) or \$22 (TicketsPlease.ca). Studio Theatre, Perth
Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some), Dec 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 at 8PM; Dec 8, 15 at 2PM. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 267-1884. \$22; \$20 in adv (cash)
Stand-Up Comedy Open Mic, Dec. 19, 8:30PM. 3rd Thurs/mo. Ballygiblin's, CP. facebook.com/LanarkLaughs. No cover
Spiritual Cinema Circle, Dec. 29, 2PM. McMartin House, Perth. 267-4819, fp@superaje.com. \$2 donation

Literature

Book Signing: A Journey of Days Continues, Dec. 8, 1:30-3PM. Author Guy Thatcher. Mill Street Books, Almonte. 256-9090.
Book Signing: Faking It! A History of Counterfeiting in Canada, Dec. 15, 1:30-3PM. Authors James Powell & Jill Moxley. Mill Street Books, Almonte. 256-9090.

Music

Advent Procession with Carols, Dec. 1, 4PM. St. James Anglican Church, Perth. superaje.com/~stjamesperth.
GT & The Earthtones, Dec. 1, 7PM. Fundraiser at TYPS Youth Centre, 65 Mill St., Almonte.
West Ottawa Ladies Chorus, Dec. 1, 3PM. St. Paul's Anglican Church, 20 Young Rd. Kanata. \$15

Musicians' Circle, Thursdays, 7PM. Musicians only - all ages. ABC Hall, Bolingbroke. 273-9005. \$5 for hall
Capital Vox Jazz Choir, Dec. 6, 6PM. "Remembering Brubeck". Holy Name of Mary Church, Almonte. jazzN.ca. \$15
Christmas Celtic Kitchen Ceilidh, Dec. 6, 7:30PM. Tickets at Shadowfax (cash) or heritagemicadays.ca. Perth Museum, 267-5340, eventsmurphys@ripnet.com.
AiC: A Stradivarius Christmas, Dec. 7, 8PM. \$30/\$15 at 256-4554, almonteinconcert.com. Almonte Old Town Hall
Dragonfly, Dec. 7, 8PM. Hard rock house concert. 84 Johanna St., Almonte. dragonfly-live.com.
Tay Valley Community Choir Xmas, Dec. 7, 7PM. Maberly Community Hall. By donation (\$/food for Food Bank)
Duo Athenais, Dec. 8, 2PM. Blue Jeans Classical series. Ticketsplease.ca., MERA, McDonalds Corners. 485-6434. \$25

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Lectures, Almonte Almonte: Transitions, Almonte Bombino, Neat Coffee Shop Eat, Pray, Play Advent Potluck, Carp Gretchen Martin, Gaia Java Hub Gala, Almonte Humbug!, Carleton Place Jazz Trio, The Swan at Carp Red 2, Smiths Falls The Hobbit, Perth The Matts, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Craft Show, Westport, CP Coins & Strings, Almonte Folkus: Jason Collett, Almonte Henry Norwood & Friends, The Cove Humbug!, Carleton Place Live At The Met: Eugene Onegin, Arnprior MERA Christmas Fair, McDonalds Corners Pakenham Country Christmas, Pakenham Scott Woods Country Christmas, Perth Stairwell Carollers, Almonte Vernissage: Sue Adams, Almonte Wonderful Westport Santa Parade, Westport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advent Procession with Carols, Perth Almonte: Transitions, Almonte Champions For Kids Concert, Almonte GT & The Earthtones, Almonte Humbug!, Carleton Place Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Xmas Art/Craft Sale, Stittsville Open Mic w/John Allaire, Ashton Pub West Ottawa Ladies Chorus, Kanata
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Vox Jazz Choir, Almonte Carp Farmers' Christmas Market, Carp Christmas Celtic Kitchen Ceilidh, Perth Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Perth George Fox, Neat Coffee Shop Head over Heels, The Cove Humbug!, Carleton Place Light Up The Night, Almonte Michael Pollard, Gaia Java Snow White Panto, Smiths Falls The Matts, Golden Arrow The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose, Perth Ecole Polytechnique Vigil, Smiths Falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Market, Carp Open Studio, Lanark Snow White Panto, SF Light Up Smiths Falls CPDMH & Carleton Place Xmas Events, CP Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Perth A Stradivarius Christmas, Almonte Gifts of Light Gift & Bake Sale, Arnprior Home Grown Artisan Show, Lanark Nick of Time Artisan Show, Perth Santa Claus Parade, Pakenham, Perth Tay Valley Community Choir Xmas, Maberly The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose, Perth House Tour, Perth Dragonfly, Almonte Humbug!, CP Festive Fare, Carp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPDMH & Carleton Place Xmas Events, CP APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Book Signing, Almonte Duo Athenais, McDonalds Corners Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Perth Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour, Perth Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Open Studio - Living Stones, Lanark Outdoor Twilight Lessons & Carols, Franktown Photos with Santa, Almonte Santa Claus Parade of Lights, Almonte The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose, Perth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beniais Lemma, Gaia Java Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Perth Head over Heels, The Cove Country Inn Snow White Panto, Smiths Falls Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp The Matts, Golden Arrow The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose, Perth Vernissage, Carleton Place Winter Wonderland, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Christmas Market, Almonte Basement Ramblers, Golden Arrow Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Perth Kintail Country Christmas, Almonte Open House / Art Sale, Carleton Place Snow White Panto, Smiths Falls Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose, Perth White Lake Acoustic Jam, White Lake Winter Wonderland, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Celtic Christmas Celebration, Pakenham Book Signing: Faking It!, Almonte CP Museum Xmas Open House, Carleton Place Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Perth Goulbourn Male Chorus Concert, Kanata Leahy, Perth Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose, Perth Valley Voices Christmas Concert, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craig Cardiff, Neat Coffee Shop Goulbourn Male Choir Singalong, Gaia Java Holiday Jazz Night, The Cove Terry Tufts, Golden Arrow Winter Wonderland, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head over Heels, The Cove Rik Emmett w/Dave Dunlop, Neat Coffee Shop Stephen Mark Fisher, St. James Gate Winter Solstice Party, Almonte Winter Wonderland, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Hand Drumming Circle, Carleton Place APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Food 4 Fare Auction/Buffer, The Cove Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Perth Traditional Song Session, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brockolis feat. Brock McNamee, Golden Arrow Shawn McCullough, The Cove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Game Club, Almonte Head over Heels, The Cove The Matts, Golden Arrow Winter Wonderland, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Spiritual Cinema Circle, Perth Winter Wonderland, Perth

Sing in the Season, Dec. 8, 2PM. CP Community Band. Zion-Memorial Church, CP. 253-4737. Donation to food bank

The Bowes Brothers Christmas, Dec. 8, 7PM. Home for Christmas concert raises \$ for CPDMH. CPArena, 253-5487.

The Town Singers Xmas Concert, Dec. 8 & 10, 7PM. Tickets at Brush Strokes. St. Andrew's Church, CP. 257-4100. \$10

White Lake Acoustic Jam, Dec. 14, 7-10PM. White Lake Fire Hall, 142 Burnstown Rd. \$5 (members free)

A Celtic Christmas Celebration, Dec. 15, 7:30PM. St. Andrew's Church, Pakenham. 624-5593. Donations to food bank

Goulbourn Male Chorus Christmas Concert, Dec. 15, 3PM. Tickets at Gaia Java. St. Paul's Church, Kanata. \$15

Leahy, Dec. 15, 2PM. PPAC. ticketsplease.ca, 485-6434. PDCL auditorium, Perth.

Valley Voices Christmas Concert, Dec. 15, 7PM. \$10 (\$7 adv at Baker Bob's or MVTM). Almonte United Church.

Perth Citizens' Band Xmas Concert, Dec. 17, 7:30PM. St. James the Apostle Church, Perth. 256-4221, \$5; \$10 family

Traditional Song Session, Dec. 22, 2-4PM. The Barley Mow, Almonte. 355-5552, dpbaril@gmail.com

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Dec. 22, 7:30PM. St. James Anglican Church, Perth. 267-1163

NYE Snowflake Ball, Dec. 31, 8PM-2AM. W/ The Dipolmats. In support of youth programs. CP Canoe Club, \$40

The Swan at Carp (Carp, 839-7926): Dec 13 Steve Barrette Trio, jazz, 7-10PM

St. James Gate (CP, 257-7530): Dec 21 Stephen Mark Fisher, 9PM

Ballygiblin's (CP, 253-7400), jazz, no cover Dec 5 6-9pm Peter Brown, Don Paterson, Steve Barrette & guests

The Royal Oak (Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, no cover Dec 1, 15, 29 Magnolia Rhythm Kings, 3-6PM Dec 8, 22 APEX Jazz Band, 2-5PM

The Cove (Westport, 273-3636): Dec 6, 13, 21, 28 Head over Heels, 6-9PM, Dec 14 Spencer Evans Trio, 9-11PM Dec 20 Holiday Jazz Night w/Spencer Evans Trio feat. Emily Fennell, 9-11PM Dec 27 Shawn McCullough, 6-9PM Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party, Spencer Evans Trio, \$140/couple

Neat Coffee Shop (Burnstown, 433-3205): 8PM Dec 2 Blackie & the Rodeo Kings, \$75 Dec 6 George Fox, \$60 Dec 19 Danny Michel Trio, \$30 Dec 20 Craig Cardiff, \$25 Dec 21 Rik Emmett, Dave Dunlop, \$52.50

Carp Masonic Lodge: Carp Celtic Jam, \$3/\$25 for 3 mos, all levels, Mon (7-9PM)

Ashton Pub (Ashton): Sundays Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, 2-5PM, (Dec 1 w/John Allaire)

The Naismith Pub (Almonte, 256-6336): Open Celtic Jam Wed (excl Dec 25), no charge (7:30-10PM)

Gaia Java (Stittsville, 836-5469): Live music Fridays, 7-9PM, no cover Dec 6 Michael Pollard Dec 13 Beniais Lemma - guitar and jazz Dec 20 Goulbourn Choir Xmas Singalong Jan 3 Happy New Year w/Rob Wannell trio

Golden Arrow Pub (Perth, 267-4500): live music at 9PM Dec 5 Open Mic w/Cameron Dec 6, 13, 28 The Matts Dec 7 Brea Lawrenson Dec 12 Open Mic w/Steve & Martin Dec 14 Basement Ramblers Dec 19 Open Mic w/The Matts Dec 20 Terry Tufts Dec 26 Open Mic Dec 27 Brockolis feat. Brock McNamee

Green Drinks, Dec. 3, 5:30PM. Informal meeting of environmental folk., O'Reilly's Pub, Perth. Perthgreendrinks@gmail.com.

CP & District Horticulture Potluck, Dec. 4, 6:30PM. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Carleton Place. cphorticulture.ca.

Westport Christmas Home Tour, Dec. 5, 1-5PM. \$15 at The Cove, The Running Goat (Perth). 273-9195.

Carp Farmers' Christmas Market, Dec 6 (3-8PM), Dec 7 (8AM-2PM). Carp Agricultural Hall. 786-1010

Vigil Remembering Ecole Polytechnique, Dec. 6, 2:45-4PM. All welcome. Smiths Falls Town Hall, 77 Beckwith St. N

Christmas Craft Sale, Dec. 7, 9AM-2PM. Carambeck Community Centre, CP. 257-1704, jsmith@carletonplace.ca.

CPDMH House Tour, Dec. 7 (6:30-9:30PM), Dec 8 (10-4). Carleton Place, 858-6633, carletonplacehospital.ca. \$25

Downtown Carleton Place Xmas, Dec. 7. Breakfast with Santa. trolley rides & more. Downtown Carleton Place

Festive Fare, Dec. 7, 9AM-1PM. Xmas gifts, preserves, gently used winter clothing. Refreshments. St. Paul's United Church, Carp

Gifts of Light Christmas Gift & Bake Sale, Dec. 7, 10AM-2PM. Kirkman House, Arnprior. 623-7323 x123, free admission

Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour, Dec. 7 & 8, 10:30AM-3:30PM. \$30 at Home Furniture (Perth), 267-2270.

Light Up Smiths Falls, Dec. 7, 5-8PM. Santa, bus tour of lights. Railway Museum, Smiths Falls. 283-5696, \$5; \$10 family

Aboriginal Hand Drumming Circle, Dec. 8 & 22, 1:30PM. Moore House, CP, 850-2803, lanarkdrum@gmail.com

CPDMH Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 8, 5PM. CP Hospital, 257-2200 x856, carletonplacehospital.ca. \$25

Outdoor Twilight Lessons & Carols, Dec. 8, 4PM. Followed by potluck dinner. St. James Church, Franktown. 283-3789.

PFLAG Carleton Place, Dec. 9, 7-8:30PM. LGBT youth drop-in at same time. Zion-Memorial United Church, 37 Franklin St., Carleton Place. Info: 859-0100.

Adult Bereavement Group, Dec 11 (1-3PM, Lanark Lodge, Perth); Dec 18 (1:30-3:30PM, Waterside, CP). 267-6400, rebeccab@chslc.ca. Free.

Game Club, Dec. 11, 7PM, Dec 11, 28; 7PM. Board & strategy games, all ages. Baker Bob's, Almonte. disobedientdonkey-games@gmail.com., \$7

Winter Wonderland, Dec 13/14, 20/21, 28/29, 6:30-9PM. Stroll, wagon rides, lights, music, etc. Last. Duel Park, Perth. perthtourism.ca.

Life4Dew Fundraiser, Dec. 14, 7PM-12AM. Fundraiser for local family, live music. Carleton Place arena. life4dew.ca, \$10

Almonte Christmas Market, Dec. 14, 1-5PM. Farmers' Mkt veg, meat, baking, crafts, decor. Almonte Old Town Hall

Kintail Country Christmas, Dec. 14, 10AM-4PM. Family activities, crafts. Mill of Kintail, Almonte. 256-3610x2. \$15/vehicle

CP Museum Xmas Open House, Dec. 15, 1-4PM. Cider, cookies, & CPTown Singers. Carleton Place & Beckwith Heritage Museum, CP. 253-7013. Free

Winter Solstice Party, Dec. 21, 10AM-8PM. Refreshments & more. Soul Scents, Almonte. soulscents.ca.

Special Deadline for our January issue: Wednesday, December 18

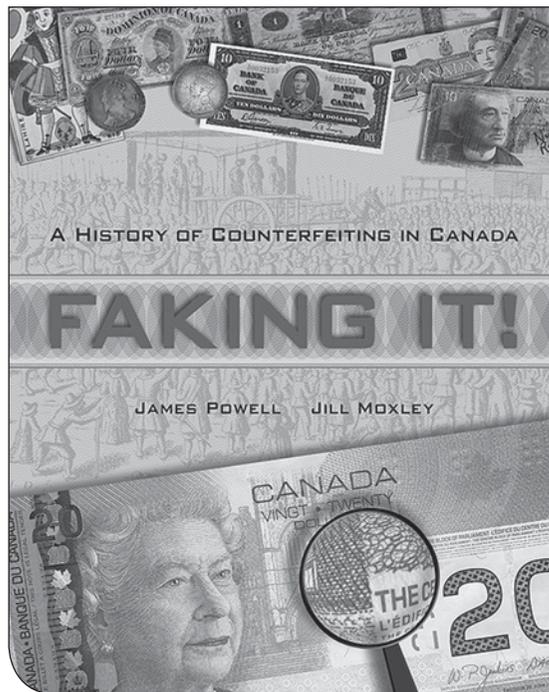
Faking It! – Counterfeiting in Canada

The late great comedian W.C. Fields once quipped: “Anything worth having is a thing worth cheating for.” While few of us would endorse such dubious ethics, to the counterfeiter and forger this could very likely be adopted as a mantra for their view on the world. Such is the prevailing theme in *Faking It!*, the newly-published and quite excellent book by James Powell and Jill Moxley, which aims to present a comprehensive survey of the history, nature, and ramifications of counterfeiting in Canada.

by Sean Isaacs

Although clearly focusing on our own domestic context, the book begins with a chronological look at the scourge of counterfeiting, referred to as “the world’s second-oldest profession”, throughout the ages, in a more global context. From the first early mulberry bark banknotes of China’s 14th century Ming Dynasty — with their explicit anti-counterfeit warning promising beheading as the punishment for illicit reproduction — to the debased (or “watered-down”) Silver coinage of Henry VIII, the book details not only the processes and motivations of the counterfeiter/forger, but also the characters involved, as presented in numerous interesting vignettes throughout its pages.

While their motivations may at first seem obvious — the attempt to enrich oneself through the cheating of others — *Faking It!* shares with us alternative agendas that may not normally come to mind. From the British Government’s counterfeiting of French revolutionary banknotes in the 1790s, to the legendary German forging campaign of British banknotes during the Second World War, Powell and Moxley illuminate the practise of state-sponsored counterfeiting as a tool for attempting to destabilize the opposition’s economy through the erosion of confidence in their monetary system. This is a critical theme in the book, as the authors clearly detail how the practise of counterfeiting can and often does leave three potential victims in its wake. The first, the person being duped through the acceptance of



Sean Isaacs (of Alliance Coin & Banknote) reviews a book on counterfeiting written by James Powell and Almonte resident Jill Moxley

bogus currency, is obvious. The second is often the innocent consumer, who endures not only embarrassment and financial loss, but in some cases actual arrest for the simple act of possessing a counterfeit coin or note. The third is the currency system itself, which can be severely impacted by a lack of confidence brought about by a scourge of bogus currency, as well as the government’s perceived inability to guarantee the integrity of the circulating money supply. This in turn leads to increased costs of production and enforcement, as well as the resistance of both consumers and merchants to freely accept notes whose legitimacy may have been compromised.

This last theme runs through the core of the book, and effectively clarifies the true driving force of anti-counterfeiting strategy and enforcement policies. The profound efforts put into currency design and technology today are a result of this fundamental focus on integrity and confidence. It is also interesting to read about the continuing efforts to align the priorities and policies of the various central banks with their national and regional policing authorities, who have not always shared a common vision on the overall importance of anti-counterfeiting enforcement activities. And as the

authors illustrate, this complex relationship swings back and forth from extremes — with the finance authorities often pressuring the policing authorities to take a more aggressive stance on counterfeiting, to a delightful excerpt near the book’s end which details a recent attempt by the RCMP to lay charges against a national Canadian newspaper for printing an image of a new Fifty Dollar note issue — regardless of the fact that the note was pictured being held by the hand of an anonymous Bank of Canada officer!

In addition to neat, often local, stories of many “baddies” from counterfeiting history, *Faking It!* also illuminates some of the heroes throughout history who have been tasked with thwarting the efforts of forgers. Who knew, for example, that as Warden of England’s Royal Mint, Sir Isaac Newton was personally responsible for the capture of the country’s most notorious counterfeiter of the time? Or that, 165 years later, the United States Secret Service was created not for the purpose of protecting the President, but rather with the exclusive mandate of protecting the integrity of the nation’s currency supply through anti-counterfeiting enforcement?

As a life-long collector and dealer of coins and banknotes, two things ultimately impress me the most about *Faking It!*. First and foremost, Powell and Moxley have managed to accomplish the challenging task of taking this subject, that can unfortunately come across as fairly dry when presented from a purely academic approach, and turning it into a truly engaging read through the interweaving of factual data with historical vignettes and anecdotes. Secondly, the sheer level of “insider” detail, both on the technological and policy side of the field, is simply unprecedented, right down to their ability to reproduce many of the images and facts contained in the book. This clearly speaks to both the level of research conducted and the confidence earned on the part of the departments and institutions who so zealously protect this material. As in my case, this would undoubtedly raise the eyebrows of even the most veteran coin dealer.

All in all, *Faking It!* is an enjoyable and compelling read, and very likely the definitive accessible survey on the history of counterfeiting in Canada available to us today.

— Sean Isaacs is an Almonte-based coin dealer, and member of the Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers. He also serves as Trends Pricing Editor for *Canadian Coin News*.

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Rock Band Dragonfly to Alight Upon Almonte

Have you ever asked yourself why there isn't more hard rock music in the living rooms of Almonte? A band called Dragonfly may be the solution. Their first-ever, in-person live performance to promote their debut album *Amplification* will take place on Saturday, December 7, in the lead singer's Almonte home. "I prefer the intimacy," explains singer/guitarist Corey Tamas. "And the great thing about being a small, independent band is you can be so close to the audience that it feels more like friends getting together than a more formal, corporate show."

Regardless of the venue, Dragonfly delivers an interesting pastiche of sounds. Heavy metal, Indian sitar, jazz riffs, psychedelia, and atmospheric music are all part of the show. "It's hard to categorize what we do," Tamas says. "While hard rock music is a consistent part of our work, we don't limit ourselves to that genre alone." He also explained that Dragonfly has an ever-changing lineup of musicians, and will be joined for the upcoming show by Almonte bassist Rob Riendeau and Quebecois drummer Patrick Marshall.

2013 has been a pretty big year for Dragonfly. Their first album, *Amplification*, is a collection of 14 original songs (and you can grab it at dragonflylive.bandcamp.com), showing off their signature stylistic range with a bit of humour and a whole lot of rock intensity. In addition to an upcoming series of live shows, the band is now finishing production on their first music

video and is preparing to record their next album in the new year. As if that isn't enough, Dragonfly also regularly performs live over the internet on NuMuBu <numubu.com/dragonfly> where fans all over the world can listen in to live broadcasts.

You can check out the band on Facebook or Twitter (search "Dragonfly Live" on either) or take a look at their website <dragonfly-live.com>. If you'd like to catch Dragonfly in action right here in town, come to 84 Johanna Street on December 7 at 8PM. Admission is \$10 at the door.



Catch Dragonfly live in Almonte on December 7

Studio Theatre Productions
presents
**The Wonderful Story of
Mother Goose**
by Norman Robbins
Directed by Patricia Parry
A Traditional British Pantomime
Full of music, laughter, villains and heroes!
Fun for children and just a bit naughty for grown-ups!
December 5, 6, 7, 13 & 14 2013 at 7:30 pm
December 8, 14 & 15 2013 at 2:00 pm
See our article this edition or
www.studiotheatreperth.com for details
The Studio Theatre
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Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc

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A Holiday Helping of Artistic Happenings

Celebrating a book launch, a children's musical production and a theatre critics' awards event in one month, Iris Winston is happily impervious to conventional wisdom about how to lighten your load during the hectic holiday season.

During December she is enjoying the launch of her book celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Ottawa Little Theatre — Canada's oldest amateur theatre. Her book, by Baico Publishing, is titled *Staging a Legend: The Legend Continues*, and updates her previous history of OLT published in 1997. During its first century, while surviving two major fires, two world wars and the Great Depression, without direct financial support from any level of government, OLT has produced more than 1000 plays. To obtain a copy of Winston's portrayal of this Canadian theatrical landmark, contact Lynn McGuigan at <lynn@ottawalittletheatre.com> or by phone at 233-8948.

On December 21 and 22, the Orpheus Musical Theatre Society is presenting a musical adaptation of Iris Winston's children's book *Sammy Skunk Finds a Friend*, at Orpheus House in Ottawa. Gordon Carruth (co-author of *I Am Not a Legend*, a drama about football coach Vince Lombardi) offered to write the music and lyrics for this charming production for families and kids of all ages, with particular focus on ages four to eight. The book, illustrated by Christina Clemis, won a national playwriting award (children's edition). Winston confides that she derived the story

concept from advice given to her husband by his mother: "The way to make people like you is to be a friend to them." Tickets for "Be a Friend," can be purchased online at <orpheus-theatre.ca>.

Winston's third December project involves an event she reinvented as a member of Capital Critics Circle (CCC), an Ottawa-based club of theatre critics that began in the early 1980s. The CCC became a regional association officially affiliated with the Canadian Theatre Critics Association, also recognized by the International Association of Theatre Critics. Their website references an impressive 107 of Iris Winston's theatrical reviews.

In 2000 Winston led the group in formalizing the CCC's announcements of their choices for best performances, best shows and best directors in English and French theatre. The new Capital Critics' Circle Theatre Awards annual event, now in its thirteenth year, not only honours the best on local stages, but also brings together professional and community theatre participants and advocates. The announcement of the winners of the 2013 Capital Critics Circle awards

in the Salon of the National Arts Centre on Monday, December 2, includes a new award for the best student production.

Iris Winston is an Almonte-based author, playwright, editor, reporter, theatre critic and advocate of animals. Navigating the intricacies of her complex biography leads one to wonder whether her penchant for drama is a result of her own family's riveting history. She was born in London, U.K., to Austrian parents who were Holocaust survivors. When her father went into the British Army Intelligence Service and had to change his name to return to Nazi Germany, her mother selected Winston out of admiration for England's Winston Churchill.

Iris received an Honours B.A. in History from the University of Wales, Cardiff, and a postgraduate diploma in education at the University of London. After immigrating to Nova Scotia in 1967, she acquired additional degrees at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta. By 1968 she was an editorialist for CBC Radio.

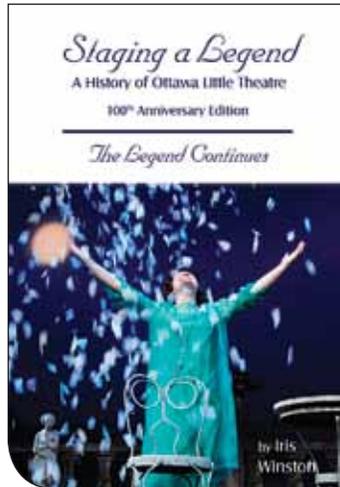
Married to educator and playwright Stewart Boston, Iris taught at both the Southern and Northern Alberta Institutes

of Technology. When Stewart became Superintendent of Schools for the Banff/Canmore school district, she worked at the Banff Centre in the PR/Communications department. Her career as a journalist began when the editor of the local Canmore paper invited her to be their arts reporter. She loved it. When they moved to Saskatoon, she worked with Persephone Theatre and as a freelance reporter for various newspapers and magazines, including *Variety* in New York.

In 1989 the couple moved to Ottawa so Iris could assume her duties as the Executive Director of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. She worked there for a little over two years before becoming a writer, editor and information officer in the federal public service for the next 17 years. Since 2007 she has authored three children's books and nine plays, while continuing to freelance as writer, editor, reviewer and news correspondent for a variety of magazines, papers and organizations.

Winston is a superb example of what can be accomplished when you just decide to do it. She wrote her first stories for her son when he was six years old. She wrote her first book review when she disagreed with her husband's critique; her review was selected and she never looked back. Her list of awards for stories and plays started in 1985 and continues; in 2008 she was the winner of three North America-wide magazine awards. In the meantime, her commitment to her pets remains unflagging.

— Sally Hansen



Almonte resident Iris Winston has several notable literary and theatrical events on the go this month



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Sunday, January 19, 2PM
The Perth and Queen's Connection!
Bruce Kelly, Baritone; and Perth's own Brad Mills, Piano



Sunday, April 6, 2PM
In a Manor of Harp – Part 2
Back by Popular Demand!
Sharlene Wallace, pedal and folk harp

Sunday, April 27, 2PM
Trio Chanteclair from Montreal
Tracey Davidson, soprano,
Thomas Davidson, piano
and the Manor's Gordon Craig, clarinet



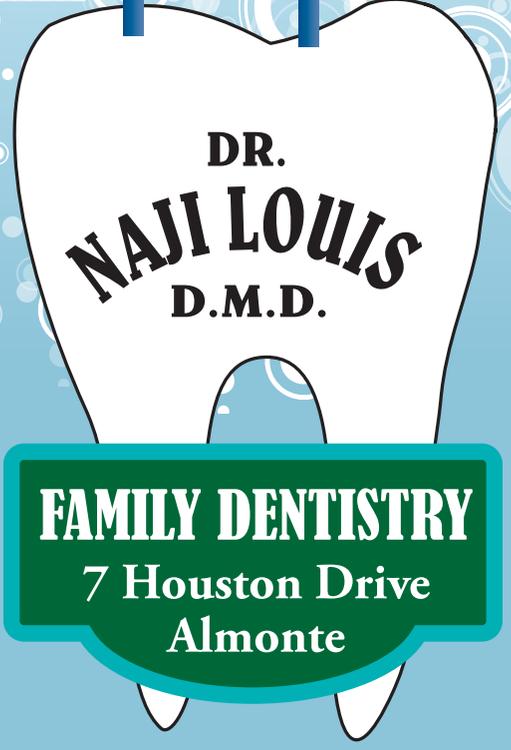
Tickets \$35 plus HST
Include a glass of wine and hors d'oeuvres
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A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet the words repeat
Peace on Earth this Christmastide*

— *The Bell Carol*

Old familiar carols are a beloved part of the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** at St. James the Apostle Anglican Church in Perth, but there is much more to this beautiful service, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. You are invited to join them at 7:30PM on Sunday, December 22, to hear the Christmas story, pray for peace in the world, and sing carols and hymns led by the combined choirs of St. James and St. Paul's United Churches.

The birth of a baby is a joyful event, and the birth of the Christ child has inspired musicians throughout the ages to compose wonderful music, complementing the story. This year, the singing will be enhanced by a much clearer sound from the pipe organ, thanks to major repairs. The Festival starts with a soloist singing "Once in Royal David's City stood a lowly cattle shed..." All join in the remaining verses as the choir processes down the church to the chancel at the front.

In the words of the Bidding Prayer, the Reverend Canon Christine Piper invites us "to pray to God for the needs of the whole world and all his people; for peace upon the earth. And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed, the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children..."

The Christmas story unfolds in the nine Scripture readings, including Adam's expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the faith shown by Abraham, and the Prophet Isaiah foretelling the coming of the Saviour. The story continues with the Gospel accounts of the angel Gabriel breaking the news to Mary and Joseph, the birth of Jesus and visits by the shepherds and wise men. In the final reading, St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation — of God becoming a human being.

The lessons are interspersed with an eclectic mix of Christmas hymns and carols. New this year are several selections from a new Carol book, *Carols for Choirs*: Philip Leger's *The Bell Carol*, whose

words are taken from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem *Christmas Bells*; *Candlelight Carol*, with words and music by John Rutter; and contemporary arrangements of the medieval carols *Adam lay ybounden* by Howard Skempton, and *Lo how a Rose e'er blooming* by David Blackwell. As well, there will be something completely different — *Angels We Have Heard on High* from *Five Little Jazz Carols* by Evelyn Larter. The choirs are under the direction of Peter Woodward and Brad Mills, with Val Leavitt assisting.

"We warmly welcome you to this glorious service," says Canon Christine Piper, Rector of St. James, "which offers music, prayer and time for reflection, and a meaningful focus for the Christmas season." The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols takes place on December 22 at 7:30PM, and there will be a reception afterwards. St. James Church is located on the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets in Perth. For more information contact the church office at 267-1163.

Gifts for \$25 & Under

Colourful Hand-Painted Brooches by Robin Hollingdrake , General Fine Craft	...\$24
Recycled Vintage Ornament , Mississippi Mills Ornaments\$20
2014 Calendar , Nudes of Mississippi Mills\$20
Festive Doormats , Reid Gardens\$25
Home Décor Pillows from Bali , the White Lilly\$25
Smartwool Merino Socks , Vamos Outdoors\$21.99

Gifts for Kids 6-10

Chess Sets, Tic Tac Toe & Other Games , Artemisia Art Gallery\$65 & up
Backyard Maple Tapping Kit , Fulton's\$10
Window Feeders for Birds , Gilligallou Bird Inc.\$14.50-45

Along with our children and grandchildren,

Shirley Deugo & Al Potvin

*invite our family, friends and community
to celebrate with us as we officially tie the knot!*

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WEDDING

1PM • SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

AT HOLY NAME OF MARY CHURCH
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EVERYONE IS
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RECEPTION

2-5:30PM • SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

AT THE CIVITAN HALL
• 500 ALMONTE STREET, ALMONTE •

CATERED • CASH BAR

Kids' and Grandkids' Corner
with candy bar

Please consider this to be your official invitation!

In lieu of gifts, donations to Hub Hospice Palliative Care in memory of Barb Potvin and George Deugo would be most welcome.

hubhospice.com

CTF Announces 5th Anniversary Season

The Classic Theatre Festival's fifth anniversary season of hits from the golden age of Broadway and the London Stage promises a number of innovative additions. Organizers anticipate drawing audiences from across Eastern and Central Ontario, as well as the U.S. The CTF's hugely popular Holiday Sale returns this year: purchase a voucher before December 31 that entitles you to 20% off any ticket, with the freedom to pick your actual show dates closer to summer.

The CTF's summer season will open with Neil Simon's Broadway debut, the uproariously funny *Come Blow Your Horn*, Simon's comedic take on the swinging bachelor lifestyle of the early 1960s. It is the story of a ladies' man who appears to tire of juggling girlfriends, and the younger brother who idolizes him and wants to follow in his footsteps. The play features trademark Simon characters, from a pair of outrageous parents with unforgettable one-liners, to a bubble-headed airline stewardess smitten with the hope of a Hollywood career, to a less-than-successful singer whose latest achievement is performing (*Why Not Take*) *All of Me* while dressed as a sausage. *Come Blow Your Horn* runs from July 11 to August 3.

"This play really set the stage for what followed with Simon's career," says Artistic Producer Laurel Smith, who notes that audience requests, for more Simon plays after the CTF's 2013 hit production of *The Star-Spangled Girl*, contributed to this choice.

"This is an affectionate look at family, the tensions that arise when children do not meet parental expectations, and finding your way in a world of mixed messages about relationships. Just reading the play, we found ourselves laughing out loud, so you can imagine how much audiences will enjoy this once it's up on the stage."

The CTF's second show takes the company in a new direction with one of the all-time great mystery thrillers, Frederick Knott's *Dial M for Murder*. Originally produced in 1952 and later turned into a classic Alfred Hitchcock film, the plot follows the dastardly plans of a has-been tennis player who arranges the murder of his wealthy wife. The intricacies of the scheme, the investigation by Scotland Yard, and the possibility that the plotter may be caught, leave audiences on the edge of their seats. The *New York Times* called it "remarkably good theatre, tingling with excitement." *Dial M for Murder* will run from August 8 to 31.

"Reading the play on paper, we found it a real page turner; seeing it on stage will be even more exciting," says Smith. "Audiences will really enjoy this play, because it has all the elements that make up a good mystery, with a slow but steady build that, while working well on film, works even better live. Because audiences are so close to the stage, they feel like part of the action," explains Smith.

During 2014, the CTF will add an additional Thursday matinee, and shows will run



While the Classic Theatre Festival's fifth season opens with a Neil Simon comedy (after the success of its 2013 production of *The Star-Spangled Girl*, above), it switches gears with its second show, the all-time classic mystery thriller *Dial M for Murder*

Wednesday to Saturday at 8PM, with 2PM matinees each Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Each matinee will feature the return of the popular pre-show talks that situate the play in its historical context, explain plot elements, give the background of the playwright, and include a discussion of the show's original production.

The CTF will also feature a Canadian theatre history exhibit in its lobby, building on the success of the Now and Then exhibit that graced the walls of the Perth Museum during the summer and fall of 2013. Organizers also have plans for a guided walking tour called "Perth through the Ages", featuring a new youth theatre troupe that will animate the Town's

downtown core by recreating scenes from Perth's history, four mornings a week.

CTF organizers are also planning their third edition of the ever-popular **Swing Into Spring**, a big band dance extravaganza, that will return to the Perth Civitan Club on Saturday, May 3, with the 16-piece band Standing Room Only.

Until December 31, purchasers can take advantage of the CTF's annual Holiday Sale and receive a 20% discount, with the freedom to pick their dates later in 2014. They will also receive a 10% discount on the big band dance with every Classic Theatre Festival ticket purchase. For tickets and further information, contact 1-877-283-1283 or visit <classictheatre.ca>.

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Give The Gift of Art This Holiday Season

Do Some Old-Fashioned Christmas Shopping

Get an old-timey photo taken with Santa while getting a headstart on your Christmas shopping at the Goulbourn Museum's **Old-Fashioned Christmas – Art & Craft Sale** on Sunday, December 1, from 10AM to 4PM.

The list of artisans surely includes something for everyone on your Christmas list:

by Miss Cellaneous

jewellery, woodwork, pottery, Christmas greenery, hand-painted textile art, baked goodies, natural soaps, hair accessories, and more.

There will also be oodles of free fun and activities for all ages. Children can write letters to Santa with expert help from The Calligraphy Society of Ottawa, play with old-fashioned games and wooden toys, and watch rope-making demonstrations by Tom Stephenson of The Kettle Boys. Each child will even get a handmade skipping rope to take home!

Families can don period costumes to pose for a photo with Santa in the Village Store, and take home a vintage keepsake of the day. There will be free hot chocolate and hot apple cider for everyone, and Pizza All'Antica will be on site making authentic Neapolitan wood-fired pizza.

Goulbourn Museum is a registered charity and located at 2064 Huntley Road in Stittsville. For more information, visit <goulbournmuseum.ca> or find them on Facebook.

Lanark's Home Grown Artisan Show

Lanark Civitan presents their first annual Home Grown Artisan Show on Saturday, December 7, from 9AM to 5PM. Participants include The Leathersmith, Tsuki Studios, Jane's Pottery, Caroline's Gift Baskets, Jennifer's Kiln Glass, Paula's Sugar Cookies, June's Knitting, Yama Doll Animation, jewellery-makers, woodworkers and more.

The Lanark Civitan Hall is located at 2144 Pine Grove Road, and admission to the show is free. Space is available for more local artisans at a cost of only \$20 per table. That price includes lunch, because as organizer Gregory Smith explains: "nobody likes a starving artist!" Gregory hopes to make the show a biannual event in Lanark.

For more information or to reserve a table, call 858-7649 or email <leathersmith@live.ca>.

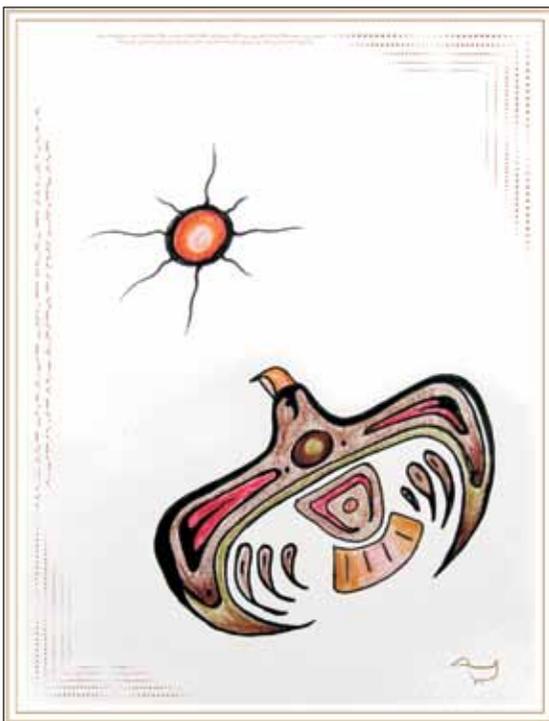
Big Hearts Help Kids' Arts

The folks of the **Art for Aid Project** feel that children have brilliant and beautiful imaginations and are able to connect to their culture through art. To help some young artists, Art for Aid is selling 8" x 10" prints of four original works by Métis artist Colleen Grey, and giving all of the proceeds to a First Nations reserve school, to replenish their art supply cupboard.

Choose from four beautiful, signed Native art prints for \$25 each and help First Nations schools fuel the artistic endeavors of the students! Each piece of artwork carries a message that is embedded into the framework using Morse code. The message depicts the need to care for and nurture our Earth according to the First Nations teachings.

Simply go to <youcaring.com>, click on the magnifying glass, and search for "Art For Aid". There you'll be able to see the four ink/watercolour prints available, and can donate online.

Let's colour their world with generosity!



Art for Aid is selling 8" x 10" prints of four original works by Métis artist Colleen Grey, and giving all of the proceeds to a First Nations reserve school to replenish their art supply cupboard



"A Change Of Art" Continues until December 22

Thirty artists from our own backyard will continue to display their evocative creations until Gallery Perth changes location in the New Year.

The November vernissage at Gallery Perth in Code's Mill drew an excellent and admiring crowd for the opening day of the six-week art show entitled "A Change of Art". More than one hundred people were treated to delicious refreshments while they took in the diverse and desirable works of art. This art show is provocative, highly colourful, and very inspiring but, sadly, art shows will not be seen again in this splendid setting after this year. On January 1st, Gallery Perth and Perth Picture Framing will amalgamate into the newly renovated Picture Framing location at Code's Mill.

This will be the last time to see art displayed in the marvelous stone-walled rooms with the 20-foot, sky-lit ceiling in the Code's Mill building. "Art has been on display here for 3½ years and it has done its job," says Veronica Airth, owner of Gallery Perth and Perth Picture Framing. "We have distinguished the artists and graced the historic Code's Mill with art worthy of its grandeur. We brought people together to appreciate both, and we thank the artists, the patrons and the Friends of the Gallery for coming together to make this happen. We have shown that there is talent in our town and the surrounding district, and that it is a valuable asset worth supporting. Now we will downsize to be more efficient in business, so we can continue representing our talented artists. Although smaller, the newly renovated picture framing space in the same building will make a marvelous gallery too."



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December 9 & 10

Plein air painting in Costa Rica
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Introduction to Pastel 2
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So bring in your prescription or
have our optician call to receive it.

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri. 9:30-5, Thurs. 9:30-8, Sat. 10-2

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Getting Our Goats to Haiti

A Year in Retrospect at the Centre Vie Orphanage

I am one of many volunteers who have been involved in helping local resident Dieudonne (DD) Batrville fulfill her "calling" to provide for thirty-one children left parentless and helpless after the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. DD is the founder, director and main benefactor of the Centre Vie Orphanage for children in St. Marc's.

Since some of my friends and family members are also supporters, I decided to email them the photo that accompanies this article. I was delighted to receive replies from them expressing the same sentiment I had myself: "How wonderful. I wish I could give them all a hug!"

What a thrill to see a photo (taken with a donated second-hand digital camera) of the children, growing taller, thriving and evidently happy — in this case sporting their "new" used backpacks. It felt like an unexpected but delightful reward for what amounted to a very busy year for many of Centre Vie's faithful supporters, donors and volunteers. It also seemed time for an update to theHumm's readership.

The Goat Sustainability Project

It was one year ago that the first article and advertisement to "Get a Goat for Sustainability" was published in theHumm. The article explained how the project was being established, with the goals of helping the orphanage to fund their monthly costs (of between \$3000 and \$5000) and of becoming sustainable. It is a struggle to meet these operational needs, especially as the children grow and costs escalate. Currently, sponsorship organized by the Smiths Falls Baptist Church provides up to \$1000 per month of this funding. The rest comes from individuals, from local churches' fundraising efforts, or is donated by Heart Plus (DD's business).

For Centre Vie to be truly sustainable, children must have shelter at the orphanage, staffing needs must be met, and food, hygiene, clothing, medicine and educational expenses must be covered. Dreams of what such sustainability might mean to the children took hold of many supporters in 2013. Many donors are now excited about the possibilities in terms of training and post-secondary schooling.

The plan is to obtain seed money to buy and raise dairy goats in Haiti — for the selling and consumption of meat, milk, cheese and soap by the orphanage. Each \$100 donated will go toward the purchase of one dairy goat, as well as fencing, feed, equipment and paying a herdsman. In return for a \$100 donation, the donor will receive both a tax receipt and a "We Got Your Goat" gift card, to be sent to the recipient to mark the occasion. Donations of other amounts are also welcome!

Classic Theatre Festival Tickets

With Christmas and Valentine's Day being busy gift-card sending times, a few of us (and especially DD) did a terrific job of selling over 75 tickets to the Classic Theatre Festival's outstanding and very humorous 2013 production of Neil Simon's *The Star Spangled Girl*. This allowed us to raise over \$1,000 in July toward the Goat Sustainability Project. Another few hundred dollars were raised in donations from people who could not attend, but wanted to help the orphanage.

In fact, the CTF organizers' offer of tickets was a direct result of them reading theHumm's Valentine issue about the Goat Sustainability Project!

If you loved the laughs last year, I am told we will have more tickets to sell for another Neil

Simon comedy in 2014. The price is \$30 each, and the show makes a nice gift and outing with friends. Let us put you on a call list for this summer's production!

Containers of Goods to Haiti

Many people in Canada would not be squealing with delight upon receiving used soccer shoes, bikes, backpacks, linen or clothes. However, these items were met with as much excitement as Christmastime itself by the children and staff when the first container, shipped out from Montreal last July, arrived in October. Donations of cough medicine, tablecloths, Christmas decorations and used toys were put to very good use, but a few important items are still needed. A working microscope and lab items such as pipettes for diagnostic tests — are vital. If you have access to such items, we would appreciate hearing from you (see below).



These beautiful smiling children are survivors of the 2010 earthquake, and are cared for at the Centre Vie orphanage in St. Marc's, Haiti. Here they are off to school with their "new" gently-used backpacks, which they were thrilled to receive.

I am so glad that I have a photo to remind me that I can make a difference by doing small things, even if it is just to provide comfort or food for one person, child or orphanage. So can you!

How You can Help

Track down needed items. Volunteer at a fundraiser. Buy a ticket. Mail a cheque and donate any amount toward operational costs any time, all year-round, by contacting us. Or buy a Goat for Sustainability!

An annual operational cost of \$900 is also due for a year of school. This amount covers fees, uniforms, supplies and books for all the Centre Vie children, and is being paid in installments. Thanks to recent donations and down payments on this debt, this amount has happily decreased to \$370. It would be great to see this amount paid by Christmas. Any amount will be gratefully received, and tax receipts can be issued. A donation toward a year's education would make a nice gift for a teacher or scholar!

For more information about Centre Vie Orphanage and the Goat for Sustainability project, please contact Linda Dryer at 257-7617 or <led613mail@gmail.com>, or Dieudonne Batrville at 256-6334 or <ddbatrville@hotmail.com>.

— Linda Dryer

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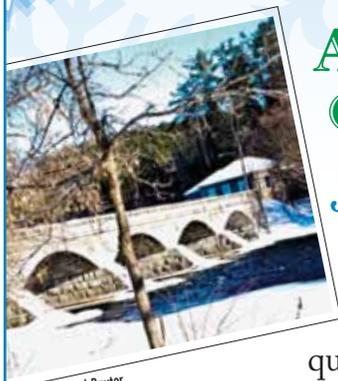


Photo by Cheryl Baxter

A Pakenham Country Christmas

November 30, 2013, 10am-5pm
Pakenham

Get out of the malls and visit our quaint village to experience the true spirit of Christmas. Start the day off with breakfast with Santa, then head down the street for Christmas baking, pony rides, festive carols, and the opportunity to pick up unique gifts for everyone on your list.

Light Up the Night

December 6, 2013
Almonte

Join the crowd of several thousand people sharing the holiday spirit, while Wayne Rostad and friends entertain you on Mill Street in the heart of downtown Almonte. Fine, family fun in our friendly town. lightupthenightalmonte.com



SANTA CLAUS PARADE & CELEBRATIONS

December 7, 2013, 1pm
Pakenham

Parade of Lights

December 8, 2013, 5pm
Almonte

FREE skating, hot dogs, hot chocolate and visits with Santa!



Pakenham Frost Festival

January 24-26, 2014
Pakenham

Three days of Winter fun with many events for all to enjoy! Dress warmly and bring the whole family — there's something for all ages.

www.mississippimills.ca



Kintail Country Christmas

December 14, 2013
10am-4pm
Mill of Kintail

Visit the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area for music, crafts, stories, refreshments, Father Christmas and more! Call 613-256-3610 x 2 for details.



March 29 & 30, 2014
Pakenham area

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