

DECEMBER 2014

the Hum

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas

The Art of Mary Lou Devine p.5



p.30 & 31

December's Events



The 2014 Gift Giving Guide



p.14, 22, 24 & 28

Christmas Shows



p.16-18 & 29

Holiday Reading



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See More Online!

The biggest deal about theHumm's website this month has to be the online version of our Gift Giving Guide. Not only will you find hundreds of great gifts (all available from small, independent businesses, artists and growers in the Valley), but if you click on an item you'll be taken right to the business's directory listing! Read the "Happy Local Holidays" editorial over there on page 3 for more details.

But we've got a few extra treats for you at <thehummm.com>:

- This month's contributing librarian — Meriah Caswell from the Carleton Place Library — has provided us with her **top holiday reading picks** for both kids and adults.
- Miss Mills (the puppet reporter for the Town of Mississippi Mills) found so many amazing **gifts that are both made and sold in Almonte and Pakenham** that she couldn't fit them all into her article! Find out which shops sell local flowers & plants, note cards, music, and even "adult stocking stuffers" at <thehummm.com>...
- When Glenda Jones (author of the "Reever Report" on page 26) sent this month's column off to her sister Sue, she discovered that Sue had written a similar piece — but Sue had published her article back in December of 1975 in the *Creston Valley Advance*. Thanks to Sue's great archives (and due to the fact that she owned the paper), we are able to run her article (as well as a lovely photo of the two writing sisters) on our website this month.
- Finally, if you're looking for help in preparing holiday meals for guests who have allergies, we've got an article about a very useful cookbook: *Dig In - Cooking Without 14 of The Most Common Allergens*. With recipes for Hempus with veggie sticks, Country Bread, Sweet and Sour Brussels Sprouts, and Super Chocolate Brownies, you'll be able to cover all the culinary bases!

Humble Thought

The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us.

— Terri Marshall

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Who's Reading theHumm



Back in 2012, Charles Dunlap sent in this photo of his wife Ann holding theHumm in front of the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum in Glasgow, Scotland. He writes: this is the same issue that featured her Fibre Arts Group, Soulplay.

Our February Issue: All About Volunteers

In the February 2015 issue of theHumm we plan to run our ninth annual "Get Involved, Get Connected" resource for organizations seeking volunteers (and volunteers seeking local organizations). If you are running a community organization or service club, festival, cultural event, museum, conservation area, arts or activities group within theHumm's catchment area, we'd like to hear from you! Send us 80 words (maximum) describing what your group does, what type of volunteer opportunities you offer, and how people can contact you, and we'll run them — free of charge! — in our February issue.

Due to space limitations, we can only offer **80 words per organization**, and can only include groups that serve our catchment area (Lanark County and parts of Renfrew County). We are not able to edit down longer entries or brochures, so please send the text as you wish it to appear. Please email all information or queries to <editor@thehummm.com>. All information must be received by January 20 for inclusion in the February issue.

Tell Us About a Volunteer Who Made a Difference

If you have a story about a special volunteer or volunteer organization that made a difference in your life, we'd love to hear from you! We'd like to help put some of those positive stories out into the world via the paper, theHumm's website, and our social media channels as we head into 2015. Send your stories to <editor@thehummm.com>.

Classes, Courses, Lessons in January!

We will be running another "Classes, Courses, Lessons" spread in our January 2015 issue. In it, we collect all of the ads we receive from area teachers and studios, so our readers can plan out the new semester for themselves and their kids. If you are a local teacher, mover or shaker and would like to advertise in that section (which we will also be promoting online), please give us a shout by December 20.

January Humm Deadline: Saturday, December 20

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theHumm is a monthly arts, entertainment and ideas newspaper delivered free to businesses and visitor attractions in Almonte, Perth, Carleton Place, Westport, Pakenham, Carp, Arnprior, Smiths Falls, Burnstown, White Lake, 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.

Content Deadline:

20th of the month prior to publication

Advertising Deadline:

22nd of the month prior to publication

Subscriptions

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Thanks this month to:

Everyone who gave us a hand when Rob's left one was in a sling, and especially Jason Nichols of Kraken Graphics for his help with ads and I Found It In Almonte <krakengraphics.ca>.

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 huge 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 local initiatives. A healthy local economy is an essential component to a healthy community.

by Kris and Rob Riendeau

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 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 grower or 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!

See More Online!

Not only is this year's Gift Giving Guide available online at <thehummm.com> — it even links through to the directory listing for each participating business. So if you are intrigued by a particular gift suggestion — and who knew that you could find "Zombucks" (the coin of the apocalypse), hand-printed Agatha Christie t-shirts, and glamorous beaded jaguars in the Ottawa Valley? — you can find the source with a click of your mouse!

Gifts for Teenagers

Lazy Ones Onesies 100% Cotton Long Johns , Crush Marketplace	\$52.99
Mineral Fusion Mini Nail Polish Kit , Foodsmiths	\$12.99
Limited Edition Almonte Toques , Hello Yellow	\$25
Gemstone Dangle Earrings in Sterling Silver , Kehla Jewellery Design.....	\$90
Ukuleles! , Mississippi Mill Musicworks.....	\$38 & up
Settlers of Catan , Read's Book Shop.....	\$42
Secret Garden Inky Treasure Hunt/Colouring Book , Backbeat Books & Music.....	\$17.95
Merry Hempsters Vegan Lip Balm , Soul Scents	\$3.35
Air Plants in Awesome Containers , The Blossom Shop	\$20 & up
Metal Photo Reproduction, B&W 8"x10" , The Silver Shingle.....	\$62
"Yoda" Legal-tender Dollar Coin from New Zealand , Alliance Coin.....	\$19.95
Solmate Socks (Mismatched, from Recycled Cotton) , Crush Marketplace.....	\$19.99
Christmas Lottery Gift Packs & Tickets , Nicholson's Sundries.....	\$2-20
Eco Friendly Soy Candle Products , Olde Crow Creek	\$5.99-22.99
Hats and Mitts , Pakenham General Store.....	\$12-24
Flora, assorted boxed set of 4 letterpress & watercolour cards , Papillon Press.....	\$20
Garden Flags , Reid Gardens	\$14



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. Happy local shopping!

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Whole Medicine Wellness Centre.....	Pakenham, p.25
Willow Creek Studio.....	Almonte, p.24

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**Check out page 36 for great
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Enjoy the Simple Side of Christmas

The crunch of the snow, the smell of cookies, the roar of the fire... Could it be? Yes! It's Christmas-time at the Mill of Kintail.

Step into the world of holidays past at **Kintail Country Christmas** on Saturday, December 13. Experience the simpler side of the season with music, laughter and the great outdoors. Take a stroll, or wagon ride; get your photo taken with Santa. Enjoy stories by the fire and Christmas music. There's hot apple cider and home baking too.

Hosted by Mississippi Valley Conservation at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area, the event has something for all ages. "It's become a tradition for many; visitors come to the Mill of Kintail, then head off to get their Christmas trees or have dinner in town. It's nice to think that we've helped create traditions and memories for families," says museum director Stephanie Kolsters.

Kintail Country Christmas is truly a community event with a wonderful group of supporters: the Mill of Kintail Museum Committee, Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, Mississippi Mills' museums, Ramsay Women's Institute and many other wonderful volunteers.

Santa will also be visiting. He invites everyone to come and see him in the museum gallery; each family will receive a free photograph. "Family and friends



This year's Kintail Country Christmas event takes place on Saturday, December 13

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

The festivities run from 11AM to 3PM on Saturday, December 13. Admission is only \$15 per vehicle. Visit mvc.on.ca for a detailed schedule of events and site map.

Christmas Food Baskets

Children hungry in Mississippi Mills? — Afraid so! Families in financial crisis in "The Friendly Town"? — Sadly, yes! The ever-rising cost of living hurting your neighbours? — Yes! Feel lucky to live in this wonderful community? — You bet!

For many years now, the Almonte Lions Club and Mills Community Support have coordinated a **Christmas Food Basket program** to provide support to neighbours in need during the holiday season. Last year, over 125 local families received generous boxes of food, including all the fixings for a full turkey dinner.

The groups will be honouring the Lions pledge "To Serve" again this year, and they need your help. Please consider making a financial contribution to the Almonte Lions Club Charitable Foundation to aid in the provision of food items to local needy fam-

ilies for the upcoming holiday season. All donations are eligible for a charitable receipt, and all monies collected will be used exclusively for this purpose.

Cheques can be mailed to Almonte Lions Club, PO Box 643, Almonte, ON, K0A 1A0, or make your donation in person in Almonte at Baker Bob's, the Bank of Montreal, the Royal Bank, or Mills Community Support (67 Industrial Avenue). Please indicate clearly on the memo line of the cheque that this donation is for "Christmas Hampers".

Take this opportunity to show you believe that Mississippi Mills is the "Friendly" community it is known to be, and that you support efforts to assist neighbours at a time of need. All donations will be most gratefully received. Friend to friend, neighbour to neighbour, let's show our community spirit!

Gifts for People You Don't Know

- Oncidium Orchids**, Acanthus Floral & Botanicals.....\$40 & up
- Jennifer Graham's Porcelain Pieces**, Art & Class.....\$15.50 & up
- Cider Keg Sparkling Apple Cider**, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....\$5.99
- Fulton's Maple Syrup, 500 ml**, Fulton's.....\$19
- Gift Certificates**, Green Counter Boutique.....various
- LCBO Gift Sets**, Nicholson's Sundries.....various
- Gift Baskets Filled with Festive Goodies**, Olde Crow Creek.....\$30-100
- Christmas Décor**, Pakenham General Store.....\$10-200
- Gift Basket of Fine Foods**, Pêches et Poivre.....\$25 & up
- Gift Certificates for Yoga Classes**, Rising Sun Yoga Studio.....various
- Homemade Jams & Preserves**, Scheel's Furniture & Appliance.....\$10 & under

Mary Lou Devine — Redefining Devine

Whimsy, humour, beauty, grace, irony, even utility — Mary Lou Devine's fabric sculptures are endlessly amusing, imaginative and just plain fun. They run the gamut from outdoor garden sculptures to functional bathroom accessories. She creates wonderfully original decorating accents for every room of the house, and every holiday and occasion. Her husband has noticed that his wife is occupied fulltime again.

by Sally Hansen

Devine's exceptional gift is her imagination. She dreams up and creates characters that belong on your tables, in your garden, standing in your bathroom and on your kitchen counter. Her Christmas elves are so appealing you will have trouble putting them away at the end of the holiday season.

Wire, aluminum foil, tape, fabric, Paverpol™ — the medium isn't the message, but it is the enabler that inspired Mary Lou Devine to cast aside her other artistic endeavors and become a dedicated sculptor, instructor and, just recently, the Eastern Ontario distributor of Paverpol products.

The environmentally friendly, water-based textile hardener is a non-toxic, weather-resistant sculpting medium that has transformed Devine's life (and her home, garden and studio) in a remarkably short time. It was the stimulus she needed to



finally refuse additional post-retirement contracts proffered by her former civil service colleagues. The ability to endlessly explore her creativity while experiencing the thrill of rapid gratification was irresistible.

"I was looking forward to early retirement so I could continue developing my artistic skills by attending courses in oil and acrylic painting, but the first time I tried Paverpol it changed everything," she told me. "I realized I had found what I wanted to do."

Born in Smiths Falls, she was raised in Prescott. She and her sister had become accomplished seamstresses in their teens, and Mary Lou made most of her own clothes well into her thirties. She started quilting in her late thirties while expecting her son, and then started teaching herself to paint with acrylics. In her twenties she was plucked out of the temporary administrative pool where she was working in an Ottawa federal department, and invited to become a fulltime civil servant. She extended her career twice by working on contract after retirement, until her sculptural epiphany.

In September of 2010, Devine was attending a workshop on making garden pots when another participant, Liz Ciesluk, introduced the group to Paverpol fabric sculpture. A make-up artist by profession, and multimedia artist in her spare time, Ciesluk was a Certified Paverpol Instructor. Mary Lou took a couple of courses with Ciesluk, now her friend, and six months later



ARTIST TRADING CARD

decided she too wanted to share her excitement over the infinite creative possibilities that fabric sculpture provides.

"I thought everybody would want to do it!" she exclaimed. She learned while taking a heron-sculpting course that not everyone does. Not everybody likes the feel of getting their hands wet and gooey as they dip swatches of fabric in the water-soluble, fast-drying, eventually rock-hard sculpting medium. For Devine, the process was simply divine. Besides, you can wear gloves.

Her introduction to the medium changed her artistic direction completely. The combination of creating a form, manipulating the form into a figure with attitude, and then dressing that sculpture to enhance that attitude, has proven endlessly compelling and fascinating to her. "When I start creating the figure, the person inside starts coming out; their personality starts to emerge. It's almost like birthing — without the pain." Her wonderful beer (or soft drink) caddy is the result of observing how both her husband and son sit when they are relaxed. I recognized it instantly as a caricature of my grandson.

The act of draping fabric to flesh out the form and create the personality is a large part of the appeal for Devine. She mentions that she sometimes feels like she is bringing Norman Rockwell images to life in sculptural form, and I immediately make the connection as I envision some of his famous paintings. Rockwell painted characters that were casual and comfortable in their own skins. Devine creates characters with the same unselfconscious appearance. Like Rockwell's, many of her personae make you smile. They all have attitude.

By the summer of 2012, Mary Lou's creations were flying off her table at the North Gower Farmers' Market. Since then she has created a fabulous studio at her home where she now offers three types of workshops — Basic, Specialty and Certified Paverpol Instructor training. And yes — she offers a Specialty Heron Workshop. The birds look wonderful in your garden.

From looking at Devine's sculptures and researching Paverpol on the internet, my impression of this crafty medium is that it enables you to explore your creative capabilities about as easily and quickly as possible. The material is quite forgiving until it sets, you can incorporate all kinds of accessories and props, and you have a great chance of creating a sculpture you'll be proud of in a single lesson. I think I'm going to sign up!

Check out Mary Lou Devine's divine sculptures at the North Gower Farmers' Market Christmas Show and Sale on Saturday, December 6, from 9AM to 3PM at the Alfred Taylor R. A. Centre, 2300 Community Way <ngfarmersmarket.com>. You can find all of her contact information on the back of her Artist Trading Card, or just follow the links at <thehummm.com>.

Gifts for Art Lovers

- Vivid, Intuitive Landscape Paintings by John Robert Bradley**, Bittersweet \$65-400
- Prints on Linen**, Blackbird..... \$25-100
- Bonnie Brooks "Winter Oak Bough"**, Gallery On Gore..... \$350
- Resin Photography**, Lola Dot Studio..... \$60-395
- Paintings by Brenda Beattie and Janice Johnston**, Pine Ridge Studio..... \$20-200
- Indoor/Outdoor Plants**, Reid Gardens..... \$20
- Deidre Hierlihy Lino Cuts**, Riverguild Fine Crafts..... \$150
- Metal Photo by TKMarsh Photography, B&W 10"x12"**, The Silver Shingle..... \$150
- 2015 Calendar by Kaija Savinainen-Mountain**, Willow Creek Studio..... \$20

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WHO Mary Lou Devine

THE HUMM

WHAT Paverpol™ Fabric Sculptor and Instructor

WHERE Home studio, 6773 McCordick Rd., North Gower, by request, <simplydevinepaverpol.com>, 489-4125, <mldevine@storm.ca>

WHEN Dec. 6, 9AM-3PM, North Gower Farmers' Market Christmas Show and Sale, Alfred Taylor R. A. Centre, 2300 Community Way, 489-9794, <ngfarmersmarket.com>

WHY "The creation of the form, the manipulation of that form into a sculpture with attitude, and dressing it to enhance that attitude is, to me, fascinating and extremely fulfilling."

ARTIST TRADING CARD

Vinyl – Black is Back!

Whether it's due to the more natural sound, the cover art, the collectibility, or just the ceremony of pulling out and placing that record on your turntable to sit back and enjoy, vinyl is back.

Of course, for some, it never left at all, but it's certainly enjoying its moment in the sun again. So, to what can we attribute the undeniable popularity of vinyl right now? While it's hard to pinpoint one thing that started the resurgence, vinyl sales have been growing at an incredible rate. As CD sales plummet and digital download sales have started to slip as people looking for a quick music fix are turning to online streaming services, the mighty record has seen extraordinary growth in popularity year over year now for over half a decade. For some, it's the desire to collect and have that physical piece in their hands. After all, if you're paying for something, wouldn't you want to truly own it? Clicking a button to download or stream a song or an album has a certain disconnect for the discerning listener. There is no emotional attachment to an MP3 file like there is to a record. So many people still hang onto their records, even if they're not still spinning them. It's a little piece of the artist, a memory to the listener like an old photo that can bring them back to a certain time or place.

Nowadays, there is no "typical" vinyl consumer. The format spans and appeals to listeners of all ages. From teens catching onto the trend, oftentimes dusting off an old record player found in the basement, to adults rediscovering the music of their youth or the latest contemporary artists' offerings pressed on high-quality vinyl, to people who never abandoned the format continuing to fill out their vast collections, the vinyl format is here to stay for those who enjoy a quality sound and a physical, often nostalgic, way of listening to the music they love.



And while sitting down and really listening to a record and the music's intricacies is all part of the audiophile's experience, so too is visiting their local record shop and rifling through a great and varied selection of records. Many consumers eschew online record shopping simply for the thrill of the hunt. Nothing is more rewarding than finding a record they've been yearning for and finding it right there in their local record shop. It's a much more rewarding and interactive experience than going online and clicking a button. Just as many book lovers don't get the same feeling from an e-reader as they do from an actual physical book, the tactile experience of rifling through a full record bin, discovering hidden treasures inside record sleeves and finding beloved records that strike a chord from a certain time in their lives is all part of the experience.

So dig out that turntable, grab a record, sit back and just stop to enjoy music the way it was meant to be.

— Dan Chu is the owner of Backbeat Books, Music & Gifts in Perth <backbeatperth.com>

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Gifts for Do-it-yourselfers

- "Reiki Wings: Usui Reiki Teachers Handbook", Arlie's Books..... \$30
- Art Classes & Workshops, Art & Class..... \$20 & up
- Alpaca Yarn Knitting Kits, Ballintotas Alpacas \$25
- 2-day Workshop in Clay-relief Sculpture with Richard Gill, Bittersweet..... \$350
- Kombucha Tea Starter Kit, Dandelion Foods..... \$21.75
- Frieling 7-8 Cup Stainless Steel French Press, Equator Coffee Roasters..... \$99.75
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From the Valley to the Sea

Perth Celtic Heritage Orchestra Farewell Concert

After fifteen years of sharing tunes with each other and the community of Perth and surrounds, the Celtic Heritage Fiddle Orchestra has decided to leave the stage on a high. For their final concert they will share that stage with the wonderful Joel LeBlanc and five youth members of the Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra (called the Unspoken Rests). This is a fundraiser to help send the Blue Skies Fiddle Orchestra on a performance tour of PEI next summer.

The toughest thing the Celtic Orchestra had to do in preparation for the afternoon of music was choose their favorite pieces from a thick album of tunes played over the last fifteen years.

Cape Breton, Quebec, Ottawa Valley and northern aboriginal styles all fall under the Celtic umbrella — not to mention Irish, Scottish and French Breton. These distinctive styles provided Carolyn Stewart and the orchestra with both opportunity and challenge. The opportunity was to explore and enjoy these unique expressions and share them with the community. The challenge was to channel the personal styles of individual orchestra members in order to create the disciplined sound of an orchestra. The players, some near-novices and others already known in other musical aggregations, moved from struggling with strathspeys to joyous gypsy jazz as they tackled the musical modes. Through this journey, they have become a part of Perth's rich musical history.

When orchestra leader Carolyn Stewart moved to this area, she used her classical violin training and coun-

try swing heritage in fondly remembered local bands such as Up Against the Wall.

She later went on to build the wonderful Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra (BSCFO), now led by Cindy McCall. It provided an opportunity for youth and adults to learn and play together at a time when schools were shutting down their own music programs.

The BSCFO is planning a trip to PEI this coming summer. Hence the benefit and hence the title: "From the Valley to the Sea".

A limited number of tickets are available through orchestra members or by calling 264-2744 for this concert on December 14, at the Full Circle Theatre in Perth. It all begins at 2PM at a cost of \$10.



After fifteen years of sharing tunes with each other and the community, the Celtic Heritage Fiddle Orchestra will play their final concert in Perth on December 14

A Meighbourly Christmas!

The Tay Valley Community Choir invites you to share in "A Simply Meighbourly Christmas", with your friends and neighbours, at the Maberly Hall. This year's concert of Christmas music will take place Sunday, December 7 at 7PM. The choir will be joined on stage by **Fiddlers and Friends** to round out an evening of joyful entertainment and good cheer.

In the true spirit of a community choir, these choristers gather for the joy of friendship, and sing for the joy of song. With the new leadership team

of director Rebecca Worden and accompanist Rachel Reinhart, it has been a wonderful and inspiring fall season. The mix of familiar, traditional and new Christmas songs, along with lively fiddle music, should make for a highly entertaining concert.

Admission is by donation. Offerings for the food bank are encouraged. Please stay on after the concert to enjoy refreshments and conversation with the fiddlers and the choir.




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George Turcotte — Adventures in *Otherland*

George Turcotte's third album, *Otherland*, is in George's words: "an escape, both metaphorically and artistically." Lyrically, the songs are inventive and lively, creating impressions rather than telling stories. According to George, this is due to the fact that the album was recorded entirely without the use of traditional guitars. Guitars lend themselves to the "self-absorbed, introspective songwriter" side of his personality. His relationship with the ukulele is more carefree: "The uke and I just want to play!"

"This recording is a departure from my last two efforts. It's a ukulele album, and ukuleles mean fun! In a nutshell, the wee instrument has brought out a whack of happy, uplifting numbers that seem to be resonating with people as we've been playing them live with my band, GT & the Earthtones. It's a full blown production with arrangements of ukes, pedal and lap steels, pianos, bass and drums and more."

Fun songs in a funky little package with artwork done by local graphic artist Sam Hamilton, <samhdesign.com> — sounds like a perfect stocking stuffer to me. Let *Otherland* whisk you away to a beautiful place full of imagination.



The CD is available at Mississippi Mills Musicworks (the music shop that George just happens to own), 453 Ottawa Street, Almonte, 256-7464, <mmmusicworks.ca>. The man himself could probably even be persuaded to sign a copy or two.

—Rob Riendeau

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- "Daisies and Friends", Original Oil on Canvas, Willow Creek Studio..... \$325

Nine Lessons & Carols

St. James the Apostle Anglican Church

12 Harvey Street, Perth ~ 613 267 1163

Sunday, December 21, 7:30 p.m.

Combined Choirs of
St. James' & St. Paul's United Church

The St. Paul's Handbell Choir will play from 7:15

Flavour of the Month

Winter is Harvest Time at Bluegrass Farm

With the first blast of cold snowy winter that rolled through recently came a reluctant acknowledgment that yes indeed, winter has arrived. The trees are bare. The landscape has donned its subtle Nordic vestments. The

by Susie Osler

life force at this latitude has been sucked deep into the earth like a long inhalation.

Yet just when many farmers are beginning to slow down and take a bit of a deep breath themselves, the main season at Bluegrass Farm is heating up, so to speak. Proprietors Leela Ramachandran and Brad Wright built four large greenhouses this summer, funded in part by a grant from Ontario's Local Food Fund, and seeded them with all sorts of wonderful cold-hardy greens in September and October. They are a sight for sore eyes — filled to the brim with greens that supply the farm's seventy CSA members from October to February.

The greens are an unusual part of a typical winter CSA and tap into a niche market demand for fresh, local greens which are hard to come by in the winter months. Complementing these leafy components are the farm's summer yield of field-grown squash, potatoes, root vegetables and onions kept fresh in a cold storage unit also built this year on the farm.

Subscribers to Bluegrass Farm's bi-weekly CSA include Ottawans, as well as many families from the Valley. The farm also supplies grocers and restaurants in Ottawa and a growing number locally. Not shabby for year one!

Neither Leela nor Brad came from farming families, but they have plenty of smarts, curiosity, creativity and passion to lend to the task. For many years now they have been gleaned valuable knowledge to put towards their own farm venture. The pair met while doing their Master's Degrees in Environmental Science in Waterloo. They have worked as a sustainability educator (Leela) and a stormwa-



ter planner (Brad) in Ottawa. They've farmed with friends on someone else's land, and interned at other farms. Not too long ago they finished working for Just Food's start-up farm program in Ottawa. The opportunity to farm on Brad's parents' land south of Smiths Falls arose and they moved there in 2013 to start what's become Bluegrass Farm.

The land is part of an extensive alvar — that is, an environment

based on a limestone plain with thin soil. Land such as this — once reasonably suited for grazing and horse-drawn farm implements — was often abandoned and seen as unviable with the advent of industrial farm practices. Shallow, poorly drained soil was difficult to drain and cultivate efficiently with heavy industrial machinery.

Like other farmers who have been "blessed" with challenging soil situations, Leela and Brad are figuring out innovative ways to productively and organically farm their land. Influenced by visits to winter producers in Vermont and much research, the couple has come up with a greenhouse design that includes insulated foundations and perimeters to reduce heat loss by up to 75%, radiant floor heat (using a wood boiler) to keep the soil temperatures conducive to growing cold-hardy plants through the winter, and a double plastic envelop designed to better insulate the greenhouse. A small fan circulates air between

the layers of plastic, buffering the green house against wind and snow damage, and increasing light penetration. Soil from another farm in the area was brought in to make giant (as in, green-house-sized), permanent raised beds. Importing tons and tons of soil to use in the greenhouses is a pretty unusual and gutsy strategy, but as Brad noted, it was a means to make the farm able to support intensive production and was an affordable alternative to the purchase of (unaffordable) prime agricultural land.

This winter will be the first test for their new greenhouse systems, seed choices, and planting schedules. Over the winter they will get a sense of how much they can scale up production to take on more CSA members (call to be added to the list), feed into the Twin Rivers Food Hub supply, and find more local markets, grocers and restaurants to supply. They have been delighted by both the welcome and generous support offered by other local farmers, and by the level of interest and demand for their produce. They also benefitted from the excellent help of friends and family as well as three part-time helpers over the summer.

Brad and Leela are not short on ideas to develop the farm go-



Who They Are

Bluegrass Farm
Bradley Wright and Leela Ramachandran
714 Kinch Street, Jasper, ON K0G 1G0
275-2639 <leela@bluegrassfarm.ca> <bluegrassfarm.ca>

What They Offer

Winter CSA subscriptions. Bi-weekly boxes October–February of produce that would typically include generous selections of 8-10 of the following veg: beets, carrots, parsnips, Swiss chard, cabbage and napa, cauliflower, broccoli, shallots, green onions, garlic, leeks, onions, potatoes, kale, winter squash, arugula, spinach, leaf and head lettuce, mustard greens, bok choy, turnips, rutabaga and herbs.

Where They Sell

Call or email to be put on their CSA waiting list (for this winter) or to subscribe for next year. Pick up locations are in Ottawa, the Twin Rivers Food Hub in Smiths Falls, and Perth.

Restaurants and grocers: Gezellig, Fauna, West End Well, Bridgehead (Ottawa), Magnolia (Smiths Falls)

Winter Squash and Ale Soup

- 1 medium winter squash (3–4 lbs) [butternut or sweet meat are good choices]
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 tbsp oil
- 2–4 cloves garlic, diced
- 6 cups soup stock (chicken or veggie)
- 1 cup grated old cheddar
- 1 cup whipping cream (or half and half)
- 1 bottle of beer (optional) [a medium or dark ale is good]

Cut squash in half, remove seeds, and bake face down on a cookie sheet in the oven, at 400°F, until soft — about 45 minutes to an hour. Set aside to cool, then scoop out the insides with a spoon.

In a large pot, sauté onions in oil on medium heat for a few minutes. Add garlic and cook a few more minutes. Add cooked squash and stock. Bring to a boil. Simmer for 10–15 minutes. Remove from heat and blend with an immersion blender, or in batches in a regular blender. Return to pot and whisk in the cheese. Add the cream and beer and serve.

ing forward. The farm actually feels a bit like a research station and an experimental farm rolled into one. Trials of twelve strains of heritage barley from USC <usc-canada.org> were grown this year — to select from for use in local breweries in coming years (Brad is a fan of microbrews, which may explain the recipe above). They also plan to test varieties of wheat and rye in future. It is great to see how the couple is applying their universi-

ty training — research methods, analysis, and concern for the environment — to their particular farming practice.

If a winter CSA membership is sounding like a great potential Christmas present, give them a call — if you are lucky, they may be taking more members! If not, consider signing on for next winter.

All the best to everyone this holiday season. And remember to enjoy the bounty grown close to home when you can.

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Humm Bits

Catch the Holiday Spirit in Merrickville!

Merrickville's annual kick-off to the holidays takes place throughout the village on December 6, from 8:30AM to 9PM. This community non-profit event is for families and friends to enjoy a full day and evening of fun, food and festivities: breakfast and photos with Santa, horse-drawn wagon rides, street entertainment, Brock Street Rocks, Devon the Juggler, Diego the Magician, carollers, Santa Claus parade, shopping spree prizes, roasted hot dogs and marshmallows over an open fire, steamy cider, hot chocolate, funky and festive hat challenge, silent auction, tree lighting ceremony and more.

Don't forget to bring a perishable food item between 1-4PM for the Merrickville Lions Christmas Hamper and Build a Mountain of Food drive. See <christmasinmerrickville.ca> for more details.

Photos with Santa in Almonte

For the fourth year in a row, Santa will be stopping by BH Photography at 15 Bridge Street in Almonte, to meet the children of Lanark County. Have your child's photo taken with Santa for only \$10, with all proceeds being donated to the **Young Awards Foundation**, which fosters dynamic arts initiatives in the schools of Mississippi Mills. Santa will be in the studio on Saturday, December 13, from 10AM to 3PM, and children of all ages are welcome! No reservations required — just drop in!

This fundraiser is sponsored by BH Photography and Jennifer & Patrick Kelly of Sutton Realty.

The Rhythms of Christmas

Trying to keep your hips still will be a challenge, as the **West Ottawa Ladies Chorus** brings in the Christmas season with the snappy rhythm of the Caribbean. Calypso is all about shouting out the news, which makes it the perfect style to announce the birth of a child born to be king.

"A Garland of Carols" features *A Calypso Carol* with Robin Tropper playing oboe, Gary King on guitar and chorus members carrying the beat on other instruments. Eliana Kurilov — the chorus accompanist, formerly from Brazil — plays the beat with passion. The audience can sing along with their favourite calypso carol: *Mary's Boy Child*. Traditional carols and the truly Canadian *Huron Christmas Carol* round out the variety and selections of Christmas music to delight every taste.

This is the third year that Robert Dueck has directed this talented group of ladies. The concert will feature the **West Ottawa Chorale** — a mixed choir established specifically for this event. The group combines guest male voices with the West Ottawa Ladies Chorus. In addition, the **Trinity Handbell Quartet**, under the direction of Stuart Belson, will enchant music lovers.

You will have two opportunities to catch this special show: on December 13 at 7PM and December 14 at 2:30PM. Both performances are at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 20 Young Road in Kanata. Tickets (\$15) are available at Gaia Java Coffee Shop at 1300 Main Street in Stittsville, Kanata Barber Shop at 2 Beaverbrook Road, through choir members, and at the door. There is a limited number of free admission tickets available for children 12 and under. Please note: it is advisable to purchase tickets ahead of time as past performances have sold out.

United Way Raffle

Are you looking for a great gift for someone who has it all? Why not give them a ticket for United Way Lanark County's **Champagne Flights, Dinners & Stays Raffle**? The main prize is a flight for two in a private plane over Lanark County, down to Kingston and back, including a small champagne reception and tour of the Classic Wings Private Museum at the Smiths Falls Airport in Montague Township. The second prize includes stays for two at the Almonte Riverside Inn and the Perth Manor Boutique Hotel. Finally, you could also win dinners for two at participating restaurants across the County. At only \$10 per ticket, this is a great way to help United Way Lanark County reach their campaign goal!

The Gift of Local History

"*Timewise Carleton Place — Our Town... A Glance Back*" is a publication outlining the history of Carleton Place, from 1816 through to 1950. A lot of never-before-seen photographs are included. This booklet sells for \$10 each and all proceeds go to The Carleton Place and Beckwith Historical Society. Find your copy now at Read's Book Shop, the Museum and the Carleton Place Chamber of Commerce.

A Victorian Family Christmas Party

Celebrate the Season at Heritage House Museum

The Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum invites you to share in the sights, sounds and flavours of a traditional Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 7, from 1-4PM.

Visitors will step back into days gone by with festive music and family entertainment while enjoying seasonal treats in a traditionally decorated 1860s family home. Stop by 11 Old Sly's Road for an afternoon of delightful holiday entertainment for the whole family.

Families and friends are encouraged to gather around the traditionally decorated tree in the parlour and enjoy a cup of tea or hot apple cider while savouring delicious home-baked treats and enjoying the sounds of festive music. Holiday craft and cookie decorating stations will be available for younger visi-

tors. The "Spot the Elf" scavenger hunt, a favourite seasonal activity held throughout the museum, always brings a smile to children's faces and sends every participant home with a prize. The museum's traditional brick bake oven will be fired up with samples and tasting stations available, including homemade maple taffy. From 1-3PM, visitors both naughty and nice will enjoy a special visit from a Jolly Old Soul!

The museum's gift shop is full of local gift ideas, including local history books, jewellery, candles, traditional children's toys, and tasty treats. Take advantage of super sales and find the perfect gift and stocking stuffers from the museum shop and the 33rd annual Art Show & Christmas Artisan Market! Some of the participating artists will be on hand to meet you throughout the day,

and everyone is encouraged to support these amazingly talented local people by purchasing one of their beautiful works of art. Enjoy an afternoon of Christmas past and present at the Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum!

Admission is by donation for this event or to tour the museum anytime until December 24. The museum is open 10:30AM to 4:30PM Monday to Friday, and on weekends from 12-4:30PM. It's the perfect place to shop local and pick up all those last-minute gift ideas! For details on this or any of their other seasonal events, please call 283-6311, visit them at <smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse>, look up HeritageHouseMuseum on Facebook, or simply drop by the museum at 11 Old Sly's Road in Smiths Falls. Everyone is welcome!

Gifts for Food Lovers

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- Chamilia Charms, Dack's Jewellers.....\$35
- Farm to Fork Three Farmers Camelina Oil from Saskatchewan, Foodsmiths \$19.99
- Cristina Del Sol "Pear With Water Drop", Gallery On Gore.....\$76
- Servingware by Potter Anne Chambers, General Fine Craft, Art & Design.....\$40-175
- Maison Orphée Organic Oil and Vinegar Gift Packs, Granary.....\$15-35
- Oven and Microwave Casserole, Ian Paige Pottery.....\$50
- The Ottawa Valley Special, Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....\$139.95
- Kitchen Paraphernalia and Scrumptious Ingredients, Pêches et Poivre...\$1.99 & up
- Great Pottery Serving Pieces by Lis Allison, Pine Ridge Studio.....\$10-60
- Champagne Flights, Dinners & Stays Raffle Ticket, United Way Lanark County..\$10
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Lanark County 2014 Award of Excellence

Lanark County Council recently honoured a Tay Valley Township resident with a 2014 Award of Excellence — an award that recognizes and honours citizens or organizations that have made a significant and/or extraordinary contribution to Lanark County. This year **Cheryl Nash** was recognized in the Business/Agriculture/Industry/Tourism category.

“These awards celebrate people who give freely of their time and who promote our county and continue to make it such a wonderful place to live,” said Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith reeve). “Since the start of the program, we have seen many examples of local citizens and organizations that have made a big difference in the lives of others. Through actions large and small, we have role models at work in Lanark County.”

The program began in 2005 as a way to recognize recipients for contributions to the county at large or in at least two municipalities. It was developed to say thank you to citizens of Lanark County, to provide community recognition and visibility, to support citizens for their contributions, and to inspire further community service.

Cheryl was nominated by the Township of Beckwith for her contributions to the agricultural economy, by bringing farmers and consumers together throughout Lanark County with a “Buy Local” movement that has created a long-term spinoff

local producers and encouraging their participation in this first-time event.”

She has also played a major role in the development of the Two Rivers Food Hub. Thanks to a combination of provincial legislation, grants, the availability of the kitchen and storage facilities at the Gallipeau Centre in Smiths Falls, and Cheryl’s coordination of local producers and consumers, the food hub is expected to be open by the end of this year. Its goal is to increase local food production, provide processors with local resources for preserving and baking, and provide buyers with a place to purchase local food, which has positive environmental effects by reducing transportation costs.

In a letter of support for the nomination, ecoPerth chair Janet Duncan described Cheryl’s extensive work in the Slow Food movement, as well as with ecoPerth, an award-winning incorporated not-for-profit agency that has been working on climate change projects and local food initiatives since 1998.

“Cheryl Nash is the prime volunteer coordinator of local food activities and has focused her efforts on supporting farmer activities and other organizations through numerous projects.”

Ray Elgersma, who is with the food hub, also submitted a letter of support and commented on Cheryl’s enormous contributions to that project. “The intent is to ‘mainstream local food,’ and that

is going to happen thanks in large part to Cheryl’s vision, tenacity and drive... While this has been a community effort with many volunteer hours given by numerous persons, Cheryl has been the spark plug that has kept the group fired up, and the gatepost on which much of the committee activity has swung.”

He added that she has given tirelessly throughout the past year to see the concept realized for Lanark County. “She does this because she believes it is in the interest of this county, and the health and well-being of its residents, to have this.”

Warden Kidd thanked Cheryl for her passion to serve the community and to keep it healthy. “The food hub is truly a legacy project, as it has the potential to help not only our local farmers but everyone who lives here. Cheryl is to be commended for her hard work on making the food hub a reality,” he said. “She was a great candidate for this award because her work involves the whole county. It can be difficult to find someone to celebrate who contributes to all of Lanark County.”

Cheryl thanked the Township of Beckwith and her supporters (Cassandra McGregor, Ray Elgersma and Janet Duncan) for the nomination. “I am truly and deeply honoured to receive this award today,” she said. “I hope that next year at the Warden’s Banquet we will have food supplied by the Two Rivers Food Hub.” She added that the organization expects to announce the hiring of their general manager next week.

Award of Excellence recipients receive an individually-designed award created by Mississippi Mills artist Stephen Braithwaite, who also created the stained glass windows in the council chambers. Award recipients will be recognized on a plaque in the county administration building, as well as on the county website at <lanarkcounty.ca> and in notices in local newspapers.



Lanark County Council recently honoured **Cheryl Nash** (centre, holding plaque) with a 2014 Award of Excellence — recognizing her extraordinary contribution to Business/Agriculture/Industry/Tourism in Lanark County. Congratulations, Cheryl!

related to healthy communities and economic growth for garden farmers.

“Cheryl’s goals around local food are a real passion for her, as can be seen in her calls for action,” the nomination indicated, noting such activities as meet-and-greet events to bring together commercial consumers and producers, the “Get Fresh with Lanark Local Flavour” initiative that provides information about food and farming and highlights producers and farm gate sales, and her efforts to provide support and coordination to a number of different organizations, including the Eastern Ontario Local Food Collaborative and others interested in local food issues throughout the region.

She is a founding member on the board of directors for ecoPerth, a member of the Lanark County Agricultural Advisory Committee, and a member of the organizing committee for the Lanark County Harvest Festival, which formed in 2013.

“The Harvest Festival is an annual event that celebrates local food by hosting a super farmers’ market, speakers’ series, and buy-local cooking demonstrations,” the nomination continued. “Cheryl played a key role in connecting the committee with

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Folkus Concert Series Offers Four for 2015

Folkus has enjoyed great shows and great support from the community over its history. We love being able to fill the Almonte Old Town Hall with great sounds and great people. But we crunched some numbers, and found our best attendance is after the holidays. So for this series, folkus will be offering shows only in the new year.

Trent Severn

Soaring harmonies and superb instrumentation are the hallmarks of this unabashedly Canadian folk supergroup. Featuring the talents of Emm Gryner (bass, guitar, stomp box), Dayna Manning (guitar/banjo) and Laura C. Bates (violin), with all three trading vocal lead and harmony roles, Trent Severn makes the most of their talent with subtle arrangements and soulful originals. Trent Severn will perform on January 17.

Jack Pine & The Fire

Coming out of the Ottawa Valley's alt-bluegrass and country scene, Jack Pine and the Fire's lead singer and songwriter, Gareth Auden-Hole, fuses country twang with rootsy soul-searching, bringing a modern awareness to a trad sound. On February 28, they will be joined by a fabulous, high-energy band in the style of Gogol Bordello. Unfortunately, the contract was unconfirmed at press time — more details to follow!

Oh Susanna

Oh Susanna is beloved for her clarion-clear voice and thoughtful songwriting. But her latest project, *Namedropper*, is a bit of a departure from the norm, as it features songs written on her behalf by leading lights of Canadian music, including Ron Sexsmith, Royal Wood, Jim Cuddy, Joel Plaskett, Luke Doucet, Amelia Curran, and Old Man Luedecke. Her appearance at folkus on March 28 will feature a mix of old and new songs, guaranteed to delight.

Ball & Chain & Durham County Poets

Ottawa's Jody Benjamin and Michael Ball have been stalwarts of the folk and country scenes for decades. Warm, witty and beguiling, these musical troublemakers will set your toes tapping. They have nothing against audience members getting up to dance, clap or sing along.



Hailing from further down the road, the Chateaugay Valley's Durham County Poets bring lively instrumentation and seasoned playing to the stage. Experienced players in a variety of genres, from blues and western swing to Cajun and gospel, The Poets built their sound out of regular jams until they were ready to take it to the road. This double bill takes place on April 25.

You'll still be able to buy passes for all four shows, just in time for Christmas. Whether you tuck them in a stocking or hide them in the middle of a huge box, we hope you'll find room for them under the tree! Tickets will be available through the website and at Mill Street Books. A season's pass is \$90, and individual tickets are \$30. That's right — buying a series pass is like getting one concert for free!

Folkus is looking forward to offering you great entertainment, and great local beverages, all in the warm setting of the Almonte Old Town Hall. Details can be found at <folkusalmonte.com>, and tickets are available by clicking the Eventbrite link on the site. Questions? Email <info@folkusalmonte.com>.

— Sandy Irvin



This year's Folkus Concert Series includes performances by Oh Susanna (above) and the trio Trent Severn (below left). All concerts take place in early 2015, but tickets are available now!

Gifts for Parents

- Garneau Sheepskin Slippers, Made in Canada**, Crush Marketplace\$89.99-109.99
- Family Ring/Pendant**, Dack's Jewellers \$180
- Squirrel Buster Plus**, Gilligallou Bird Inc. \$99
- 30-min Therapeutic Massage**, Kim Naraway, RMT\$50
- Gift Certificates for Daycare**, Linda Lowe Daycare..... various
- Melissa & Doug Wooden Puzzles**, Nicholson's Sundries \$6.99-19.99
- Nativity Sets**, Pakenham General Store..... \$10-125
- Family Passtimes Cooperative Games**, Riverguild Fine Crafts.....\$15-30
- Christmas Turkeys**, Scheel's Furniture & Appliance various
- Champagne Flights, Dinners & Stays Raffle Ticket**, United Way Lanark County .. \$10

Gifts for Environmentalists

- Local/Fair Trade Flowering Plants**, Acanthus Floral & Botanicals.....\$20 & up
- Mittens from Recycled Sweaters**, Blackbird.....\$20-40
- Stainless Steel 3-in-1 Eco Lunchbox**, Dandelion Foods\$26.15
- Mill Creek Pesticide-Free, Non-GMO Bird Seed**, Gilligallou Bird, Inc..... various
- Messenger Bags from 95% Recycled Material**, Green Counter Boutique.....\$39.99
- Natural Handmade Bar Soaps by beCleanNaturally**, Heartsong Studio.....\$6-7
- Pottery Mug, Reusable Forever**, Ian Paige Pottery\$20

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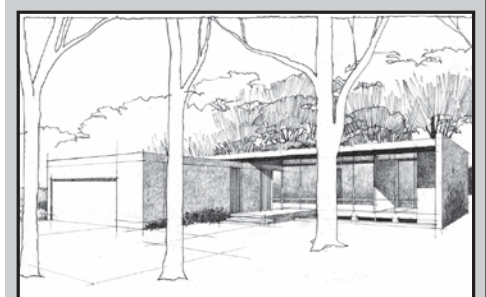
Designed by award-winning architect Richard Limmert, this 1700 square foot contemporary bungalow is located on an oversized lot in the friendly town of Almonte. The site is flat, measuring 70 by 113 feet. Ancient maples and black walnut trees occupy the front corner of the lot. The home is within walking distance to shops, restaurants, community center and arena, schools, churches and parks.

This bright airy modern-style home features an open plan, bedroom suites with dressing rooms, private outdoor courtyard off the master bedroom, kitchen with sit-up bar, a home office/additional bedroom and laundry/pantry adjacent to the kitchen. The full-height basement is unfinished, permitting a wide range of uses. A generous two-car garage is attached, incorporating storage closets.

Special features of this house include barrier-free, energy efficient design incorporating passive solar, radiant hot-water floor heating and cooling, LED dimmable lighting, gorgeous floor-to-ceiling wall of glass and optional polished concrete floors.

Construction commences in the Spring of 2015, so there's still time to personalize your interior design.

For more information, please contact richardlimmertarchitect@gmail.com or 613-850-1870.



275 St. George St., Almonte

Purchased in Town, Made in Town!

You know me... I'm a local girl, and am happiest hanging out in Mississippi Mills. So of course I do my Christmas shopping where I do ALL my shopping: Almonte and Pakenham! Shopping local is great for our economy, but I think I've figured out a way to help it even more: buy locally-made gifts in our local shops! Because after all, sometimes it seems like we live in the artistic and craftastic centre of the universe! So below I will share with you just *some* of the many products you can buy in town, that are made in Mississippi Mills or not too far afield.

by Miss Mills, Puppet Reporter

Clothes

I was surprised by the amount of locally-made clothing! Sure, I knew about Almonte toques at Hello Yellow, but did you know that doree's habit carries accessories and clothing by Blondie Apparel (co-owned by Brodie, owner of doree's)? And at Vamos Outdoors you can find comfy tops and leggings by Duffield Design (of Fitzroy Harbour). Specific tastes? How about a gift certificate for made-for-them clothing by Paddy Mann Clothing, or a hand-woven scarf in their favourite colours by Laura Fauquier of Lola Dot Designs? Speaking of hand-knits, have you seen that the MVTM now has a pop-up shop within Palms, as well as having a shop right in the museum? And if anyone is shopping for a certain puppet, well, wouldn't I look fabulous wearing one of Robert Pauly's fascinators (at General Fine Craft)?!



Jewellery

Whether you're looking for kids' necklaces (by CP's Linda Phillips, at Kentfield Kids), one-of-a-kind wire-wrapped gemstones by Lisa Kopil (of Fitzroy Harbour's Mythral Mountain Jewels, at Soul Scents), or the elegant silver, gold and gems of Kehla Jewellery Design (created in-studio), you will have plenty to choose from. Better ask the shop folks for advice!

Books

There are many local items at Mill Street Books, and Mary and Terry can advise you on which is most appropriate for which person — *Paddlenorth* by Jennifer Kingsley (previously of Almonte), *I Am Algonquin* by Rick Revelle (born in Smiths Falls), *By Word of Mouth: Stories of Northern Lanark*

County, or *Tales from Good Old Cow Pie Valley* by Eganville's Al Donohue.

Food

Love home-cooking but find homemade pastry is a pie-in-the-sky idea? Baker Bob's has got you covered, but you might want to order ahead. Better get some Sweet Cheeks gluten-free treats too (at Bob's, Equator, or Dandelion Foods), so your gluten-phobic friends aren't left out.

While we're on food... what host wouldn't be happy to receive maple products from Fultons (Pakenham) and Thompsontown (Clayton), honey from Pakenham's Mississippi Meadows, or Clayton's Heritage Haven Farm's pickles? Hummingbird makes exquisite chocolate bars right in Almonte, and Crazy4Chocolate, who make beautiful (and tasty) chocolate truffles, have recently moved to town. You can find them in the best food shops in Almonte, and can even pre-book your chocolate truffles through Pêches & Poivre.

Hosting a party yourself? Pick up a Janie & Pamalamalas dip mix — my favourite is Scorchin' Scrumptious, which would also be my stripper name. These are just a taste of the great local foods you can find at shops such as Pêches & Poivre, Dandelion Foods, Equator and Don's Meat Market in Almonte, and the Pakenham General Store.

Dandelion Foods carries a variety of Mississippi Mills-prepared foods — everything from The Sauce Stop hot sauces to Abbott's granola — or save yourself some time and just get their Locavore Foodie basket!



Décor

A fantastic gift for Almonte-lovers — especially those who have moved away — are the ornaments of local landmarks (Superior, water tower, Old Post Office) created by Small Town Thinking (at Hello Yellow). They also carry festive (or not) coasters from VersaTile, and Campy Candles (hand-poured scented soy candles), both made right in Almonte. Tin Barn Market also carries soy candles, in vintage mason jars! Prefer unscented beeswax? Find them at Soul Scents, Pêches, or Dandelion.

Ya Gotta Eat

There is also the much-appreciated gift certificate, of course. Your workaholic friend who is fueled by cof-

fee would love one from Palms or Equator, or some Baker Bob's Bucks. Your niece and her partner, who love food but have a tight budget, would make the most of a gift certificate to Café Postino, Heirloom Café, Almonte Riverside Kitchen or the Mill Street Crepe Co.

Art pieces

When it comes to art, you have a wealth of choice here. Whether you go to the galleries (General Fine Craft, Tony Mihok, Sivarulrasa, Almonte Pottery Guild, MVTM) or see art on the walls of Palms or Equator, you are bound to see something you like. Some of my favourites (in case you are shopping for moi) include Chandler Swain's black and white drawings on porcelain, Amelia Ah You's acrylics on canvas, and wouldn't I look fabulous wearing one of Robert Pauly's fascinators?!



Outdoors

Your sporty daughter would love to perfect her boarding skills and hang out with her friends with a season's pass for Mount Pakenham. Your birder dad needs a nesting box made by Gilligalou Bird, with its front carved by Dave Card. (They also carry Dave's charming carved Santa ornaments.)

Do-It-Yourself

Maybe you are quite the artsy crafty person yourself? Sign up for Glass Etching for Adults or Make-your-own Embossed Metal Sketch Book Cover at JB Arts this month. Or plan for next Christmas by signing up for a winter class at the Almonte Potters Guild. Or get your needle and thread out — Textile Traditions carries vibrant fabrics by Ottawa designer Elaine Quehl.

Too Big for a Box

Mississippi Mills also has a great selection of antiques and re-purposed items. Maybe if your wife's bedside table was bigger, with a drawer, all of her junk wouldn't keep sliding off the top... Just sayin'...

I have quite literally just scratched the surface here — your best bet is to spend a day (or three!) wandering around talking to all of our wonderful merchants!

See More Online!

For even more suggestions of gifts made in or near Mississippi Mills (including Music, Cards, Flowers and more), see <thehummm.com>.

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This year's Mudds panto features musical direction by our very own Tony Stuart!
You can still catch performances of *Cinderella* on December 5 and 6.

Music Matters

Making Music With the Mudds

Around our area, it wouldn't be a holiday season without a production by the **Mississippi Mudds**. I have been working with the Mudds as the music director for their latest show, *Cinderella*, which is a pantomime very much in the English tradition, complete with the dames (in their usual silly

I was approached about being the music director, one of my stipulations was that I wanted to be able to perform in a song or two with the band, during the overtures at the start of each act. Having a good band is crucial to the success of any musical theatre production. It also makes my job easier as I know that once I cue them in, they will do an excellent job and I can concentrate on directing the singers on stage.

by Tony Stuart

costumes), a two-person horse, and a band of very funny characters. Pantomimes, or "pantos" for short, have become a staple in the Mudds' repertoire, and it is a tradition that I hope continues long into the future.

Directing musical theatre is an interesting job. It starts with teaching the chorus all of the songs in the show. As with any community production, you have a mix of experienced and inexperienced singers. Teaching an inexperienced singer how to sing in three- or four-part harmony is always a challenge, but a rewarding one. For any aspiring singers out there, it is worth your while to consider joining a local choir, or a group such as the Mudds. Harmony singing is a wonderful skill to develop.

Once the songs have been taught, it is then time to take things up to the stage. With the addition of choreography, many singers who thought they knew a song realize that they still need to go back and polish their parts. Part of a music director's job is to instill confidence in the chorus. This means a lot of repetition, which isn't the most thrilling part of rehearsal, but is incredibly important. Another challenge for the actors and chorus on stage is that they now have to listen to two sets of instructions from the directors and their musical director. In this show, the two directors are Judith and Tony Scott. Both of them have a lot of experience with pantos, and their leadership really brings the show alive.

The third part of this equation is the band. The Mudds are extremely fortunate to have local pianist Peter Brown as their band leader. Not only is Peter the band leader, but he also arranges all of the vocal music for each show. I have had the privilege of playing with Peter on several occasions, and it is always a treat. In fact, when

Musical theatre presents a whole series of challenges when compared with conducting bands, choirs, or orchestras. As music director, you have to be paying very close attention to the actions and dialogue on stage, and listen for the cue lines for each song. If an actor misses a line, or accidentally changes it, the band has to be ready to jump in. It is almost a certainty that there will be at least one such occasion in every show. However, if I am doing my job properly, the audience won't know that anything is amiss. That is part of the magic of the theatre!

I would be remiss if I didn't talk more about the Mudds. This group was started way back in 1973 and has run continuously ever since. For a town the size of Carleton Place to have a local theatre group putting on quality shows several times a year is a blessing. If you have never seen one of their shows, I think you should consider taking one in. You'll be impressed by the quality of the music, acting, sets and costumes.

While being the musical director for *Cinderella* has been a sizeable commitment of time and energy, I'm certainly glad that I decided to take the job, and I have enjoyed every aspect of both rehearsals and performances. I hope you decide to see these talented folks at work, either for this show, or for an upcoming performance. You'll be glad you did!

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

Editor's Note: *Cinderella* is playing at the Carleton Place Town Hall at 7:30PM on December 5 and 6, and also at 2PM on the 6th. Tickets, available at Reads Book Shop, are \$20 for evening performances and \$15 for matinées. See <mississippimudds.ca> for more information.



Sing In the Season With the CP Band

By popular request, the **Carleton Place and District Community Band** and **Zion-Memorial United Church** will again join together to give everyone in the area an early Christmas gift! On Sunday, December 14 at 2PM in the church, the band will present its fourth annual Sing In the Season.

Everyone is invited to join in and sing some favourite Christmas carols and songs, such as *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and *We Three Kings*. And for a rest from singing, listen to the band play some wonderful seasonal music, including *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*, *Feliz Navidad*, and a *Christmas Suite* which includes many favourite seasonal tunes, such as the *March of the Toy Soldiers* and *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*.

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

The band is a direct descendant of the Carleton Place Brass Band, formed in the 1860s. The current version of the band was re-formed in 1994 by Jack Peckett. The band, a group of volunteers from teenager to much older, is now under the direction of Graham Ingram. They play at many community events, such as the recent 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 298-3953.

Pigs Can't Fly... But They Can Get your Neighbour to Cancer Treatment

The Canadian Cancer Society launched their **Pigs of Hope** campaign on November 7. This new fundraising campaign will run until January, in support of their Wheels of Hope transportation service. The launch took place at three locations within the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville area: Brownlee's Metro in Perth, Walmart in Smiths Falls and Walmart in Brockville. Over fifty Pigs of Hope were adopted during the launch, and the community can still adopt a pig by calling the office at 267-1058.

The adoption is easy. Select a ride you wish to sponsor (e.g. Family to CHEO, or Perth to Ottawa), feed your selected Pig of Hope with your change and, once the pig has reached its fundraising goal weight, drop the pig off at the office or arrange a piggy pick-up.

"Pigs of Hope is a fun way to get involved and support your neighbours that are battling cancer," said Anita Carley, Fundraising Coordinator of the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville office of the Canadian Cancer Society. "If we can help provide

transportation, they can concentrate on fighting their cancer and not worry about how they will get to cancer treatment. We want the community to know that their change can change lives."

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, Wheels of Hope is a critical transportation service for people who have no other way of getting to lifesaving cancer treatment. The transportation service is especially vital in communities such as ours, as many clients travel outside of our area for treatment. This means that clients are travelling a much further distance to receive the treatments that they require. In Lanark, Leeds and Grenville it costs an average of \$60 per trip, due to the long distances travelled in eastern Ontario. It is not an understatement to say that some people would literally not be able to make it to treatment without this vital program.

For more information about Pigs of Hope, Wheels of Hope, or to arrange a pig adoption, please contact your local Canadian Cancer Society office at 267-1058.

The Canadian Cancer Society is a national community-based organization of volunteers whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer. To learn more about cancer, visit cancer.ca or call the toll-free, bilingual Cancer Information Service at 1-888-939-3333.



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Rick Labelle: History of the Smiths Falls Police

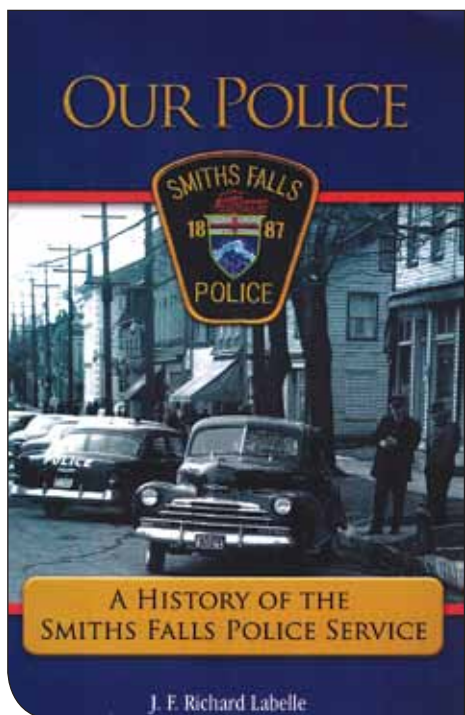
Staff Sgt. Richard (Rick) Labelle of the Smiths Falls Police Service (SFPS) always had two passions in life: history and policing. Originally from the Kemptville area, Labelle started his policing career in 1987 with the Niagara Regional Police Service before moving back

by Tony Palermo

to Eastern Ontario seven years later and accepting a position as a front-line constable with the SFPS. Labelle tells theHumm's newest columnist how his two passions came together to form his first book, *Our Police: A History of the Smiths Falls Police Service*.

Tony Palermo: You've been a police officer for 27 years, 20 of them with the Smiths Falls Police Service (SFPS). How does being a police officer in a small town differ from a larger police service?

Rick Labelle: As a small service, you're sort of a Jack-of-all-trades. Even as a front-line patrol officer, you're able to conduct your investigations from start-to-finish.



You're able to have your hand in everything and your call doesn't get passed off to other units, as it can in other police services. So, I've had the opportunity to participate in numerous investigations: everything from serious frauds and arsons to attempted murders and death investigations. Now, I'm a staff sergeant where I'm responsible for overseeing the day-to-day functions of the uniformed officers and directly supervising the investigating officers.

So, a lot of investigative experience. How does this lead to writing a book about the history of the SFPS?

Aside from being interested in policing, I've always had an interest in history, particularly Canadian history and local histories. That sort of paralleled into policing as well because the history of policing spans the history of our country. When I came to Smiths Falls, there wasn't a lot in terms of information available about the history of the police service, aside from old photographs of past police chiefs that hung on the walls. So, I started researching it as a sideline, just out of personal interest. Then, the SFPS had its 125th anniversary coming up in 2012. I approached Larry Hardy, who was our Chief at the time, and told him that on my own time I had collected a quantity of information and felt that I now had enough that I could tell a story of the history of the SFPS and tie it in to the 125th anniversary. I received great support from the Police Services Board, the Chief, and our staff here, and was able to follow through with it.

What will people find in the book?

I spent about ten years collecting stories and events. I took all of this information and tied it into historical events that happened in Smiths Falls — not necessarily large police-related events, but the chronological history of the Town. As an example, the coming of the railway didn't really have an impact on telling a story of the police, but it certainly had an impact on the growth of the Town, so it became a significant event in our history. I didn't want to just have a book that rhymed off

names and crimes. I wanted to tell a story of the Town as it went along, from the perspective of the police department. There are some interesting stories there: a number of high profile crimes that happened, the prisoners of war that were kept here during WWII and passed through the Town on the trains, and bank robberies and safe jobs. I tried to create a flowing history while tying interesting events together.

Were there any stories that particularly struck you while you were researching the book?

There was one unfortunate incident from 1910 where a man had killed his wife after a drunken argument. The man was arrested and put before the court, tried, and ended up being the last man hanged at the Perth Jail in Lanark County. It was interesting in that when you read the details of the crime itself and the way it unfolded, if you applied today's standards to the incident, the man probably would've been convicted of second degree murder because there wasn't the deliberate intent that a first degree murder conviction requires. But the law at that time — well, that was the way the story unfolded.

So, essentially the guy wouldn't have been hanged on a lesser second degree murder charge.

Right. It's still a serious offence but viewed in a different context. The circumstances surrounding the incident in terms of assigning intent and addressing severity would be different now.

Any plans for a second book?

No (laughs), certainly not for a while. Maybe as a retirement project, but I don't know. There are a couple of history projects I have rolling around in my mind to look into, but this project took a lot of time, especially when it came time to put the book in manuscript form. It really gave me an appreciation for what writers and



Humm columnist Tony Palermo interviewed Staff Sgt. Richard Labelle (above) about his first book

authors do in terms of putting a work together. In the big scheme of writing, this is a small document, but I gained a huge appreciation for writers of large works and multiple books. It takes a lot of time, and there's a lot of effort and thought that goes into it.

— Tony Palermo is a freelance writer based in Smiths Falls. If you are a local author or have written a book with a local tie-in, contact him at <tony@tonypalermo.ca>.

Paramedics Between the Pages

You could say Brockville resident Perry Prete always works double shifts; not only is he a veteran full-time paramedic, but he moonlights as an award-winning author. Prete brings knowledge gained through more than thirty years of experience in the field of emergency response, to offer a unique twist on the murder-mystery genre, crafting riveting and sinuous stories told from the perspective of Ethan Tennant, a City of Ottawa paramedic. On December 6 at 12PM, meet Perry Prete at Reads Book Shop, 135 Bridge St. in Carleton Place.



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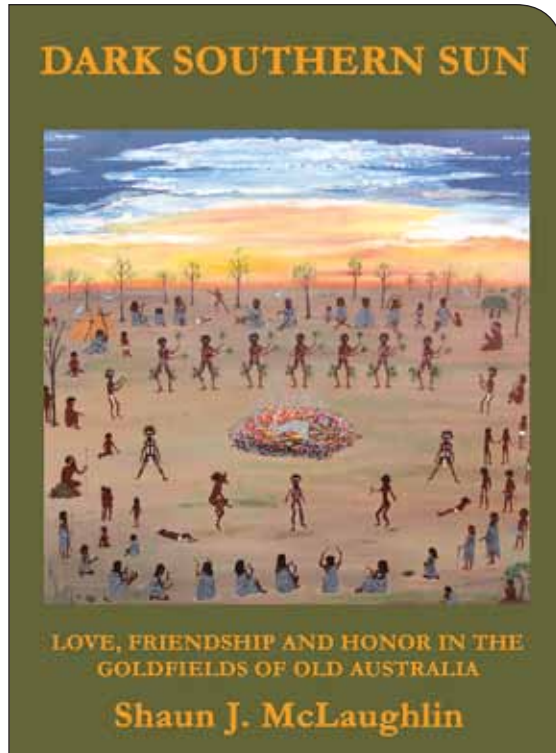
The Mayor's New Book

Join Shaun McLaughlin at the Barley Mow on December 4 for the launch of his new novel, *Dark Southern Sun*, a story about love, friendship and honour in the goldfields of old Australia.

At his previous book launches in 2012, and again in 2013, this local author and politician packed the back room of the Barley Mow pub with fans eager for beer and books. Let the literary party continue! The meet-and-greet starts at 6:30, with a reading at 7PM.

In this sequel to Shaun's award winning first novel *Counter Currents*, Ryan washes up on the southern shore of Australia near death in 1845. Rescued by two Wathaurung native children and nursed to health by their parents, his life and theirs are entwined through good and ill for the next ten years. Set against the historical backdrop of Australia's formative years, Ryan witnesses the displacement of the Aboriginal people, the chaos of the world's largest alluvial gold rush, and the bloodshed of Australia's only armed uprising. Throughout, two very different women tug at his heart as he struggles from penury to prosperity. As he rises in social esteem as an astute businessman and cunning streetfighter, Ryan creates two bitter enemies. In time, they set aside their vast racial and emotional hatreds and combine forces. Can Ryan survive their vicious attempt to destroy him and save the good life he has built?

Mill Street Books will have copies on hand for purchase.



Author (and new Mayor of Mississippi Mills) Shaun McLaughlin launches his new novel at the Barley Mow in Almonte on December 4. Copies will be available at Mill Street Books

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- Night Reader Glasses, Blackbird.....\$20
- Hand-printed Agatha Christie T-shirts, Lola Dot Studio.....\$40
- Mark Twain (party hat) Birthday letterpress card, Papillon Press.....\$5.50
- "Family Furnishing: Selected Stories" by Alice Munro, Read's Book Shop..... \$32.95

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Author/Illustrator Duo at Mill Street Books

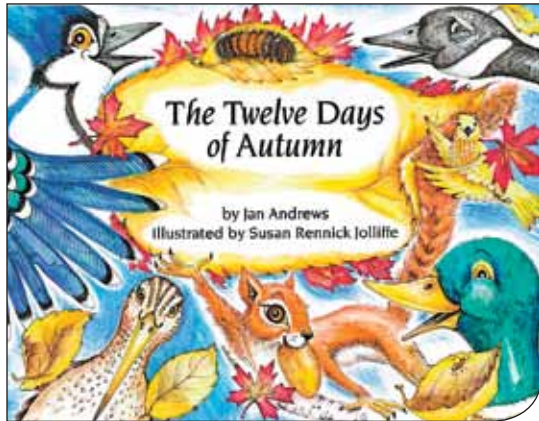
When Jan Andrews sits down at her desk to write, she looks out over a lake just off Wolf Grove Road in Lanark. What she sees forms the heart of *The Twelve Days of Autumn*, her latest picture book. Once more, she is in collaboration with artist Susan Rennick-Jolliffe. This is a partnership that began with their earlier book, *The Twelve Days of Summer* — a partnership that has grown.

“People are always asking if I do the illustrations,” Jan says. “The truth is I can’t draw anything. I have to stick to the words.”

Jan and Susan are creating out of a shared passion for nature. “We grew up thousands of miles apart but we both have vivid memories

of bringing home caterpillars to feed so we could see them turn into butterflies, and tending polliwogs in jam jars so we could observe legs and tails appearing as those polliwogs changed into frogs,” Susan explains.

“That passion makes us the perfect team,” Jan adds. “It makes working together so much fun.”



Fun is what *The Twelve Days of Autumn* offers young readers in abundance. The words dance along in the pattern of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. The illustrations sing with life. The book is all about getting ready for winter; groundhogs munch mightily, frogs find places to bury themselves, red-winged blackbirds gather, geese take off in flocks.

Readers become nature-watchers. *The Twelve Days of Autumn* is a seek and find book. As birds, plants, and animals increase in number, they have a tendency to hide themselves; turning the pages means joining in a treasure hunt. Where is that fourth milkweed pod? Is the ninth warbler really way back there in the sky?

Susan and Jan also have their own separate careers: Susan is a renowned multimedia artist whose work is often to be found at General Fine Craft, Art & Design on Almonte’s Mill Street; Jan has been a children’s writer since the 1970s and is the author of award-winning books. Find more information at <janandrews.ca> and <susanrennickjolliffe.com>.

Both are delighted to be coming to Mill Street Books to talk to readers and, of course, do signings. “Mill Street Books is such a gem and *The Twelve Days of Autumn* is perfect for Christmas giving,” Jan says.

Meet Jan Andrews and Susan Rennick-Jolliffe, at Mill Street Books (52 Mill Street in Almonte), on Saturday, December 13, from 1–3PM.

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Get Writing!

National Capital Writing Contest Deadline

The 28th annual National Capital Writing Contest, presented by the Canadian Authors Association-National Capital Region (CAA-NCR), is now underway, and the deadline for entries is February 6. There are two categories — short story and poetry — and each has a \$300 first prize, \$200 second prize, and \$100 third prize.

The contest is open to residents of the National Capital Region (which includes the Ottawa Valley), and is blind judged. Short stories must be a maximum of 2500 words, and poetry (no haiku) a maximum of 60 lines including title and blank lines. Entries must be the original, unpublished work of the entrant.

Finalists and the public are invited to attend CAA-NCR's 25th annual NCWC Awards Night, on Tuesday, May 12 at 7PM at the McNabb Centre (180 Percy Street). First place winners will be asked to read their entries.

The entry fee is \$15 per story, and \$15 for up to three poems. Poems will be judged individually, and there is no limit on the number of entries. Members of CAA-NCR are entitled to one free entry in one category.

CAA has been in existence since 1921, helping writers achieve their goals. The organization is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit group dedicated to providing information, support, and opportunities for growth and development to its members. In addition, CAA hosts many writers' circles across the area, sponsors workshops open to the public, and does much to assist local writers in their creative endeavours.

For complete contest rules and information on the 28th annual National Capital Writing Contest or CAA, please visit: <canauthors-ottawa.org/contests.shtml> or email Sherrill Wark at <ncwc@crowcreations.ca>.

Menopausal Woman of the Corn

'Tis the Season — To Give

My worst holiday gift ever was after a severe argument with a former roommate. She gave me a four-times-discounted (down to 25 cents) deodorant with the price stickers still in place. I did smile, and say thank you, even though I was furious. Basically, don't try to tell someone they have poor hygiene via gifts.

Then there was the dead frog. It was a real frog that had been eviscerated, lacquered and then

Nothing quite says the holidays like having to exchange gifts with people you don't like — the cousin who talks too much, and the not-even-an-acquaintance who insists on a big, wet kiss underneath the mistletoe. How about a slightly defective Eiffel Tower necklace that says "ARIS" instead of "PARIS" — 93 cents, free shipping from Amazon, for the traveller in your family? I've learned never to give anything remotely related to the kitchen — especially if it can double as a projectile. But one year I gave Tupperware to my annoying cooking friend who talked non-stop about her epicurean conquests. As I handed the box to the Julia Child wannabe I wanted to scream: "Now you can stop struggling with all those complicated recipes and use your microwave!"

Looking for an anonymous gift? How about poop in a box? Yes, that's right, there is a company that actually sends dung to people's doorsteps. The excrement (obtained from various large-sized

safari-type animals) can be purchased in one quart or one gallon sizes from <poopsenders.com>.

A particular gift I would love to give is a GPS — something you might give an unloved one. One particular Global Positioning System I saw online is specially made for frenemies. It looks and sounds like an expensive piece of machinery, but offers nothing but wrong directions and insults.

I guess giving bad gifts is how to make everyone on the holiday list hate you. Then, come next year you won't have to buy anyone gifts. Awesome!

by Linda Seccaspina

mounted on a piece of wood in a standing position, like a little person, with a hat and a guitar. I'm an animal lover and I was completely aghast. Second to that was a \$100 gift card for dinner at Outback. Problem: it was never validated and I swear to this day that the person who gave me the card merely took it off the display and put it in his pocket — then gave it to me.

I received a bathroom scale from my dad for Christmas one year. As if that wasn't bad enough, he had no idea why I was upset by this "gift". I definitely would not recommend giving anyone a scale as a gift — EVER. However, I would be perfectly fine with a scale if it only ever read "126.4".

I felt like a failure when my friend asked for one of those Chicken Soup books. Dreck, dreck, dreck. I'd rather have some real chicken soup — homemade, with barley or lentils. Better than some mass-produced book printed cheaply in China. Somebody's making a fortune from those Chicken Soup books, and it certainly isn't the people who contribute those stories.

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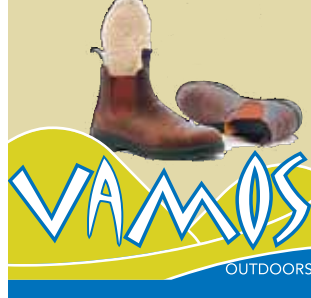
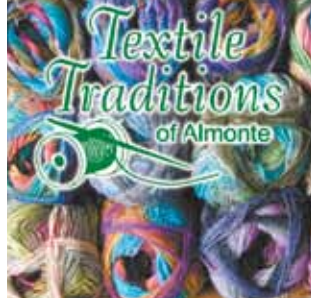
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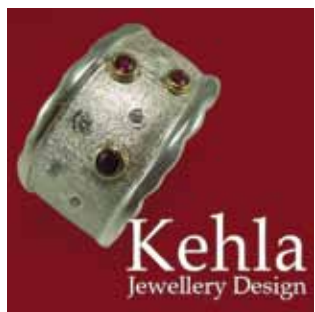
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It's A Wonderful Life for the Studio Theatre

It may be a young company (only six years old), but that did not stop the Studio Theatre from sweeping the awards at the Eastern Ontario Drama League's One-Act Play festival last month. Their entry, *A Bench at the Edge* by Luigi Jannuzzi, won acting awards for its two actresses (Joanna McAuley and Juli Heney), the Best Director award for director Lucas Tennant, the Best Production award from adjudicator Sandy Macdonald, and The People's Choice award, as voted by audience members who saw all nine plays. What a weekend!

But far from resting on their laurels, Studio Theatre has plunged into their final production of 2014, appropriately entitled "*It's a Wonderful Life*", with two of the lead roles in this production played by none other than director Lucas and actress Joanna. This is the beloved seasonal story of George Bailey, a kind, generous man who has become disillusioned with life, feeling he has let everyone down, and has decided the world would be better if he had never been born. But just as he is about to throw himself off a bridge, Clarence — an angel who is trying desperately to earn his wings — enters and shows George just how miserable the world would have been without him, and George realizes how wrong he has been.

But you probably know all that. There are few people who don't know this heartwarming story.

However, there is another dimension to Studio Theatre's production. It is performed as a 1940s radio drama.

Only a handful of people today, myself included, remember the days of radio drama. It was a time before TV, or iPads, or other electronic devices that brought movies into our homes. The radio drama relied on actors' voices, sound effects, and mood music. The audience was required to use something seldom employed today — their imagination.

The cast of *It's A Wonderful Life* would number some thirty-six characters in a regular production, but as a radio drama (that only a studio audience can see), eleven actors perform the roles, switching characters and voices as required. The main characters include Hugh McCulloch as George Bailey, Joanna McAuley Trefers as his wife Mary, Barry Caiger as the Superintendent of Angels, and Lucas Tennant as Clarence — Angel Second Class — who so badly wants to earn his wings. Other on-stage voice characters include Alfred Von Mirbach, Alison Kirkpatrick, David Parry, Grey Masson, Krista Duff, Robert Del Grande, and Jeremy Dutton as the Announcer.

But a radio drama has another major element: sound effects.

Since early audiences could not see what was happening, the sound technician, in this case Jane Stott, is as important as the voice actors. She is responsible for the sound of footsteps, doors opening and closing and so on. There is also a live musician (Jack Hurd), and a stage manager for the radio production. And like all radio programs, today



It's A Wonderful Life! in rehearsal: (l-r) Voice actors Grey Masson and Allison Kirkpatrick perform, with sound effects person Jane Stott in the background. The show opens on December 4 in Perth.


or yesterday, there is advertising, with commercial jingles written especially for this play and sung by local favourites The Thorny Issues, in the fashion of the Andrews Sisters.

It's A Wonderful Life premieres at the Studio Theatre, 63 Gore Street East in Perth, on Thursday December 4, with performances December 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13 at 8PM, and December 7 and 14 at 2PM. Regular tickets are \$22 at The Book Nook (60 Gore Street East, cash only), Tickets Please (39 Foster Street, 485-6434,

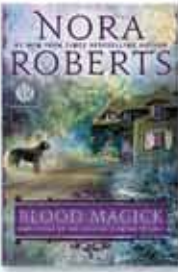





ticketsplease.ca, credit cards accepted and a convenience fee applies), and Shadowfax (67 Foster Street, 267-6817, shadowfax.on.ca, credit cards accepted and a convenience fee applies). Tickets are \$24 at the door, and students with ID pay just \$10 at the door on show nights.






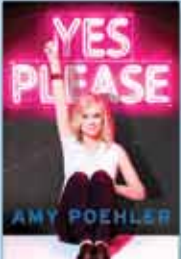
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December 2014

“Passage from Transylvania” in Perth

Life is a journey, so the time-worn saying goes. Each of us charts a course and sails using whatever navigation tools we have at our disposal, but there is a considerable amount of faith in the process. None of us, after all, comes with a map or a set of instructions, and most of us bumble through life, the fingers of one hand crossed behind our backs, hoping that the ship doesn't wreck on some unseen rock.

And so it was for Maria Moldovan, whose journey began in 1977 in the Romanian Province of Transylvania. Recognizing very early where her talents and interests lay, she pursued the visual arts through enriched learning programs at the high school level before moving on to study painting and ceramics at university. A versatile talent and teacher, she was well established as a professional artist by the time she was thirty.



The new **Gallery On Gore** in Perth features an exhibition of works by Transylvanian-born Maria Moldovan from December 5 to January 23

But then, the ship changed course. Transylvania, it seemed, seething as it was with ancient folklore and mystery, was not enough to satisfy this artist's lust for the unknown. And so Maria, along with husband George (an accomplished stone carver and sculptor) and 2-year-old son Matyas, embarked for Canada, ultimately deciding on Gatineau, Quebec, as a suitable place to put down some tentative roots.

But new pastures, according to that other oft-abused adage, are not always greener. All lawn and garden metaphors aside, sometimes the pull of home is just too strong. Sometimes we lose our way, and sometimes it just doesn't work out. Nothing ventured, nothing gained — right? It's not about mistakes. It's about the journey. It's about the process of being.

Maria and her family recently returned to Transylvania, where they will spend the winter pondering whether Canada is the right move for them. Whether it is or not, it is certain that Canada has left a mark on them, has changed them forever in the way that travel always does. But it is also true that Maria has left her mark on us — and a very tangible mark it is.

A prolific painter, Maria's brush was rarely dry for the year that she spent in Gatineau. The result is a legacy of paintings that express the essence of her experience of Canada — a turbulent time when both her life and her emotions were in transition.

I hope that Maria, George and Matyas return to Canada, even if only to visit. If not, then I hope they will remember their Gatineau sojourn as an exciting adventure. It may have been a tumultuous and trying time for this wayfaring young family, but to return to the irresistible nautical metaphor, calm seas make poor sailors.

The paintings of Maria Moldovan are the subject of a special exhibit entitled *Passage from Transylvania*, being hosted by the **Gallery on Gore** in Perth from December 5 to January 23. To preview Maria's work, visit her website at moldarya.wix.com/moldovanmaria.

— *Kevin Gray is the owner of Gallery on Gore, located at 92 Gore St East in Perth.*

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Bethany Duberville, Jennifer Jasiak, Garrett Pipher, Daisy the Cow (Shawna Merkley and Sheila Jasiak) and Mike Adams rehearse a scene from *Jack and the Beanstalk*, playing at the Station Theatre in Smiths Falls from December 4 to 14

Jack and the Beanstalk Hilarious Christmas Panto at Station Theatre

The Smiths Falls Station Theatre is welcoming the holiday season with a pantomime to appeal to the entire family. This year it's Ben Crocker's adaptation of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, a re-imagining of the classic tale, complete with zany action, side-splitting gags, lavish costumes, dancing and familiar songs.

Jack and the Beanstalk is a play for young people of all ages. The pantomime opens with the wicked Giant Blunderbore terrorizing the land, and poor Jack and his mum being hit with hard times. Trying to make ends meet, the family decides to sell their beloved cow, Daisy. When Jack comes home with gold coins that turn into worthless beans, the magic really starts.

Director Emily Duberville, who grew up in England attending Christmas pantos, says "the casting just fell into place with the appearance of some old hands as well as some new faces." Mike Adams returns as the Dame, a male cast in a female role in the best tradition of English pantomime. Jenny Jasiak, age 15, plays Jack. Although young, Jenny has been in fifteen plays in total — four of them pantomimes. Bethany Duberville, who "acts because she loves it", has been cast as the Princess in her first leading role.

Richard Croteau, who sang in this summer's *Railway Children*, comes back as King Bertram. Nicki Hayes joins the cast as Flunkit. She most recently had a role in *Funny Money* and co-directed *Educating Rita*. Heather Mitchell Adams, who plays Edena The Eco-Fairy, is excited about playing in her first production. Shawna Merkley and Sheila Jasiak strut their stuff as the front and back end of Daisy the cow. Slimeball is played by Slade Stoodley, a student at SFDCL, who brings the greasy and slightly odorous character to life as the evil henchman of the Giant Blunderbore (played by Nick Ritchie). Simple Simon is the slightly flaky assistant to the Dame, and is played exceedingly

well by Garrett Pipher, also a student at SFDCL. His wildly funny comic turns are a delight to children and adults alike.

In the British style of panto, everyone is expected to join in the fun — heckling the villains and urging on the good guys. Sometimes the actors give back as good as they get! All this hilarity is supported by two chorus groups — the villagers and the ever-funny cockroaches — who keep up a commentary on the antics of the main characters.

This year's production will run on the evenings of December 4, 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 7:30PM, with two matinée performances: December 7 and 14 at 2PM. Tickets are \$20 for adults and for students (with ID) \$10, with special group rates also available. Call The Station Theatre at 283-0300 for details. Tickets can be purchased at Special Greetings (8 Russell Street East in Smiths Falls) for cash only, from <smithsfallstheatre.com> via Paypal/Visa/Mastercard, by phone at 283-0300 via Visa/Mastercard, or at the door (subject to availability) a half-hour before the performance — cash only.

Patrons are invited to keep in touch with all upcoming shows — outstanding plays, great movies, and special events. Simply sign up for the e-newsletter through a visit to <smithsfallstheatre.com> and find out about the 2015 season. For this, the Station Theatre is offering a "Six-Pack Flex Pack" voucher plan for just \$99, meaning that playgoers can select how they want to use their six vouchers to redeem tickets for any of the 2015 plays. The deal — which is good up to the deadline of February 22 — offers a saving of almost 20% compared to the regular adult ticket price. Go to <smithsfallstheatre.com> for detailed ordering instructions and information on the different ways the "Six-Pack Flex Pack" can be used throughout the 2015 season. The voucher package makes a great Christmas gift. Don't miss out!

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I'm in Serious Trouble!

The first day it snowed, there was just enough to make us bail on afternoon activities, light the woodstoves, and get out the Christmas magazines.

Those sirens of the season should be called Christmas porn! I want it all: I want the sparkly balls and the decorated trees, the front door greenery lathered with red ribbons, the Martha Stewart table centrepieces, candles, ever-so-clever napkin rings, wrappings and trappings, and all the bounty those magazines promise.

by Glenda Jones

But most of all I want the lavish trays of dainties laid out in party fashion. I know I can do it! I cruise the counters at the grocery stores, picking up candied everything, nuts galore, real butter, cake flour, honey, spices, and even the cute little cake pans. I plan a day of baking everything from fruitcake (yes, I love that chewy heavy stuff!) to shortbread. I might even decide to make a few chutneys — not one... a few — to serve on those sesame crackers I could make. Then there are the puff pastry businesses, filled with lord knows what sort of exotica.

There seems to be a push on cheese this year, so I'll get a good stock of that too. Blue cheese figures in many of the recipes, and what's not to like about well-aged Gouda? I'll need at least four kinds,

surrounded by little toasts, the aforementioned chutney, maybe some homemade bread twists as well, and phyllo anything would be good too.

I'll need to start the baking before the first of December to have it all ready in time. The magazines are big on planning, because they can sense my angst at having to prepare all this. If I do two things a day for ten days... Well, that'll take me into December.

Day One of the baking: no eggs, so it's back to the store for eggs, and the ubiquitous milk — we really need a cow in the back 40 — and some extra flour. I'm in a big rush now, and drop the bag of flour, splitting it open all over the front seat of the car. No time to bake now, as there's this huge mess to clean, taking the better part of the day. I'm going to leave the baking until tomorrow when I'm more inspired. I could start soaking the fruitcake stuff though, since it has to coddle in a cup of rum before I start.

Day Two morphs into Day Three because it's more important to make dog treats than shortbread. The candied fruit is doing well, but could use a little more rum. Maybe it'll be the first project tomorrow.

Day Four isn't looking too good either what with more snow and shovelling to do, and I'm not sure where the recipes have gone. I do resurrect the fruitcake recipe, and can mix that one in about ten minutes. It can bake all afternoon without my supervision. That's a recipe I like!

Day Five through Ten disappear, as can easily happen at this time of year. So now we're into December, and I'm under the gun. If I can handle a full day on my feet in the kitchen, surely I can churn out four kinds of cookies along with those sesame crackers. Before I realize Martha isn't coming to help me I'm elbow deep in flour, with a different recipe in every bowl I own, trying to schedule oven times. Both dogs are under my feet waiting for droppings, and suddenly all this fuss is beginning to lose its charm.

Not only that, but there is no way two people can consume the bounty I'm preparing without serious sugar overload. Now I'm going to have to invite friends to help, which means house cleaning, table setting, at least a touch of that Christmas decorating, and once again Martha is nowhere in sight!

You'd think handsome Ricardo with his stunning wife and family could at least lend a hand, but no, he's long ago prepared all his goodies, and they are sitting around a blazing fire sipping some cherry-laced cheer. He made it look so easy to capture the rapture of the season, and here I am hoping I can hold it together long enough to make one decent meal for three extra people.

We put out the Christmas lights in mid-November, when it was above zero (getting smart in our dotage!), but I'd still like to make one of those classy arrangements for the front porch — the one in the *Style* magazine, with the pines, huge

balls and roses. How hard would that be? Plenty hard, if you must know! Instead I've assembled a planter of every green thing I can clip along our roadside, plus some dead hydrangeas that I sprayed gold — ever so artsy, right? Maybe it'll look better when it's covered with snow.

Those darn magazines should come with a disclaimer that they'll drive you to drink if you plunge right in. Now, maybe that wouldn't be the worst idea in the world. How about a sip of some decent wine, a moment of reflection about relaxing into Christmas, and a late snack of those wretched sesame crackers and one of the chutneys?

Don't get so caught up in the preparations that you don't have time to enjoy the holiday as you should. No one gives extra points for perfection, and if your friends are true, they won't notice if your treats are Civitan Christmas Cake or something you slaved over yourself.

Do yourself a favour: step away from the magazines!!

See More Online!

After writing this month's Reever Report, Glenda Jones discovered that her sister had written a similarly-themed piece, entitled "Decorations Are the Last Straw". The thing is, her sister had published her article back in December 22, 1975, in the *Creston Valley Advance*. You'll find Sue Betcher's article, as well as a lovely photo of Sue and Glenda, at <thehummm.com>.

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To Scrooge, with Love, from Perth

This holiday season I'm taking on the pre-enlightened Ebenezer Scrooge.

"Bah, humbug!" he'd say, to which I'd reply, "No, cranky sir, this year we're going to be giving happily and humbly, and we're going to think alternatively."

"Alternatively?!"

"Yeah, you know — outside the box. Like, way outside the box."

"Box? What box?"

by John Pigeau

The idea, essentially, is to think of gift-giving this year in a different way. Shop local, I've always said. I stand by that still. Big time. But what if we took that a step further and thought, say, instead of gifting a loved one the latest shiny new doodad, why not get them something re-purposed or upcycled — like vintage vinyl from Backbeat Books & Music, or a small stack of previously-loved books from The Bookworm or The Book Nook. Or perhaps a funky home décor item from Mariposa Design or Homing Instinct... maybe a vintage collectible from The Merchant of Herriot.

This isn't my idea, but I love it. Instead of getting someone on your holiday gift list a smart phone or fancy hi-tech gadget, think of "actual" experiences instead of "virtual" ones, and pick them up two tickets for a play or a concert — and in Perth, as you know, every month, without exception, we have many, many great plays and concerts to experience. With shows in mind, a subscription to MERA's Schoolhouse musical series seems a fine idea. So do season tickets to PPAC's series, or shows at the Studio Theatre or Full Circle Theatre. A gift certificate from Tickets Please would also make an excellent present; that way, whoever gets the gift could choose from any number of great concerts and shows. At the same time, you would already be in Jo's Clothes, one of the nicest second-hand clothing shops going. Not only is vintage hip these days, but also a lot of the clothing in Jo's actually looks brand new!

"Bah, humbug!"

"Clamp it, Ebenezer!"

Let's think Canadian, too. So, perhaps skip that "made in China" gizmo and hone in on all the beautiful, handmade Canadian art made by hard-working and passionate local artisans for sale in our wonderful shops in town, such as Riverguild Fine Crafts or Art & Class, or clothing or jewellery from Strévé Design. Take it a step further and get that crafty person in your life some craft or painting lessons from Art & Craft or Gleanings Studio & Art

Gallery. How about a food basket from Foodsmiths or Coutts & Co. — for that matter, a gift certificate from a yoga studio (Shakti Kriya Yoga or Yoga Connection), or a massage at a spa (Tay River Reflections, the Parkside Spa, or The Beach House), or guitar or piano lessons offered by a local virtuoso (and there are many).

A gift doesn't even have to be wrapped in pretty ribbons and bows to be lovely and heartfelt and meaningful. Doesn't it seem the most meaningful gifts come from the heart?

"Poppycock!"

"Zip it, Scrooge."

Or think of all the wonderful restaurants in



Think outside the box (stores) this Christmas! Consider giving experiential presents, or handmade gifts like clothing from Strévé Design (above) or Riverguild (right) in Perth!

Perth you could take a loved one to — The Masonry Restaurant & Market, the Golden Arrow Pub & Eatery, Bistro 54, The Stone Cellar, Maximilian's, or Around the Corner. You could get a friend a gift certificate that would also include the pleasure of your company. Two gifts in one! I would imagine the lovely folks at the Sunflower Bake Shop would be more than happy to custom-make a food basket as a gift, and the possibilities abound: delicious breads and sumptuous cakes and decadent desserts.

I've just visited their website <sunflowerbakeshop>, and my stomach is growling and I'm licking my lips. Oh boy, let's move on before I call them up and order way too much take out, shall we? And yes, they have an amazing take out menu.

One of my favourite places to shop for holiday gifts has always been Ground Waves. Why? Because they have everything! Well, maybe not everything, but they always carry an eclectic and vast selection of items for pretty much everyone on your list, be it your husband or wife, your sister or brother, your grandparents or that kooky uncle or your nephews and nieces. Locally owned and operated, they also carry over one hundred Canadian and local product lines. For me, that's a big selling point. Shop local, shop Canadian.

"Bah, humb—"

"Nope. Don't even think about it, Ebenezer."

Every holiday season it occurs to me that not everyone has a whole lot of money to spend on gifts. For that matter, some people will spend the holidays alone, and others might be struggling to keep their families fed. With that in mind, I think those of us who do have the means to buy gifts might consider supporting a favourite local charity; and you could do this in a loved one's name as a gift, as well.

The Table Community Food Centre immediately comes to mind as the perfect place to donate this year on someone's behalf. Year round, their goal is to ensure that "everyone in Perth and the surrounding communities has enough safe, good quality food to have a healthy life." You can even donate online by visiting <thetablefc.org>. Or have a look around your kitchen cupboards and box up some good food, perhaps even adding a few items — if you have the means — with a holiday theme. The good folks at The Table, located at 190 Gore Street East, will be thrilled to see you.

Even crotchety old Scrooge might see the value in that.

On a personal note, I would like to wish everyone reading this, including dear friends and loved ones I have not seen in some time, a very Merry Christmas. I extend to you and your loved ones my most heartfelt wishes for a healthy, happy new year. May we all give thanks for our blessings, and know love and forgiveness in this the season of peace and joy.



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Vintage Variety Vaudeville Review

On December 21, wrap yourself in a heartwarming nostalgia with the **Vintage Variety Vaudeville Review**, a 1950s Christmas-themed variety show that brings vaudeville back to the Perth stage at the Full Circle Theatre.

In the mid-19th century, The Marks Brothers — the Canadian Kings of Repertoire — joined the ranks of vaudeville history, making their name first in Perth and then across North America. Dressed to impress in silk top hats, bowties, and moustaches, these seven gentlemen laughed their way into the hearts of their audiences and left Perth a legacy that still has its roots in the community.

By the 1920s, enthusiasm for the art form began to wane, but recent years have seen a renewed interest in vaudeville humour across North America. “Live theatre, specifically circus/vaudeville/burlesque, seems to be in a period of revival,” says Stanley Mansfield of Ottawa’s premier vaudeville troupe, The Mansfield Brothers. The troupe just completed a Canadian tour to spread their good-humoured fun out to the west coast and saw enough success to start planning a second run. In an effort to give the crowd what they want, Mansfield joined up with improvisational artists Critical Miss and Retro Joad of the Crystal Basement comedy group to create the high-talent, high-energy Vaudeville Revue.

As much as interest in the Ottawa area is increasing, the Revue remains a rare and original venture as, to the knowledge of Critical Miss, there are no other shows like this one. Taking advantage of the supply gap, they wanted to “offer a show that wasn’t being showcased to the public.” Not only comedy, the show appeals to a second growing trend as they drive to keep it vintage.

Complete with wrapped presents and an aluminum tree, this Christmas show will offer “a sense of old world fun,” says Retro Joad. One that will “always leave the audience wondering what the next act will be.”

And considering the acts coming to the Perth stage include, among others, a circus performer from Toronto, a hoop artist from Montreal, an opera singer from Ottawa, as well as the tongue-in-cheek humour of the Mansfield Brothers and improvisational brilliance of Critical Miss and Retro Joad, there’s no doubt the audience will be amazed by every set.

The producers selected their performers with the intention of bringing forward the best in each field. By pulling from many genres across the local art scene, they offer a collection of talents rarely seen on the same stage. “These performers put the show and the audience first,” says Mansfield, and for this sort of show, the audience is a priority. The structure of the Revue aims to break down the fourth wall, making the audience as much a part of the show as the artists themselves. “The Vintage Variety Vaudeville Revue will engage and challenge the audience to become active participants in a shared experience and, above all, it will entertain.”

Be part of the movement by joining the fun on December 21. Tickets for the show are \$22, and are available at Shadowfax, 67 Foster Street in Perth, 267-6817. The show starts at 7:30PM.

Serious Silliness at Full Circle Theatre

Take three well-known community performers — serious men in their middle years, men with deep, meaningful plays such as *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* on their résumés. Put them together on the stage at Perth’s Full Circle Theatre and tell them to perform *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)*. Then get out of the way!

This is BarnDoor Productions’ second take on this play by Michael Carleton, James Fitzgerald and John K. Alvarez, and they have decided to bring it back to allow audiences another chance to see David Bird, Joe Laxton and David Jacklin tear up the stage in the funniest, fastest and most nonsensical tribute to the holiday season ever put on stage. It all stems from Bird’s deep desire to perform Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* — a story he has performed many times, including a one-man version. The other two members of the cast are not quite as enthusiastic and agree on a compromise: they’ll tell every other Christmas story first, then Dickens... if there’s time.

The digressions include everything from *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer* (or rather, for copyright reasons, *Gustav The Green-nosed Reingoat*), a few brief commercial interruptions, the Grinch, Frosty The Snowman, Christmas traditions around the world, a fruitcake-themed game show and much more, all performed by three people and all in about ninety minutes.

There’s music, of course; in fact, *Every Christmas Carol Ever Sung*. There are Christmas ghosts and a Christmas goat. There are grumpy old misers and tiny little Whos. There’s even an inflatable



A Child’s Christmas With Whales: Joe Laxton leads a pirate-y version of Dylan Thomas’ Christmas classic, while David Bird tries to correct his stream of misinformation in a scene from BDP’s *Every Christmas Carol Ever Told (And Then Some!)*

beagle in a Sopwith Camel and, you know, nothing says Christmas like a beagle in a Sopwith Camel.

This is a great family show, with fun for young and old, although BDP recommends that those with a still-unshakeable faith in St. Nick be left with the babysitter (no matter what their age). *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)* will run at the Full Circle Theatre (Perth’s only ground-level, barrier-free theatre) at 26 Craig Street on December 4, 5 and 6 at 8PM, and December 7 at 2PM. Tickets are \$20 reserved and \$22 at the door. Children and students are just \$10. To reserve, simply call 267-1884. No credit cards required; cash at the performance is requested. More information can be found at <barndoorproductions.ca>.

Gifts for Kids 11 & up

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Major New WWI Book Launches in Perth

Perth residents will enjoy a rare book launch by a major Canadian publisher on Thursday, December 4 at 7PM at Backbeat Books and Music (6 Wilson Street, at Foster), when Fernwood Publishing author Stephen Dale comes to town to share insights into his latest book, *Noble Illusions: Young Canada Goes to War*. He will be joined in discussion by Hans Sinn, Co-chair of Civilian Peace Service Canada.

Timed to coincide with the centenary of the start of World War I, Dale's latest book is a fascinating look at a boys' life of a century ago; one that, as he says, allowed him to see "exactly what young men were being told that led them to eagerly sign up for war, and to compare that to the propaganda of today."

Dale is a widely-published journalist and former Canadian correspondent for the news agency InterPress Service (IPS), who has written for publications ranging from *This Magazine*, *rabble*, and *NOW* to the *Washington Post*, *Toronto Star* and *Globe and Mail*, while producing documentaries for CBC Radio's *Ideas*. His previous books are *McLuhan's Children: The Greenpeace Message and the Media*, *Lost in the Suburbs: A Political Travelogue*, and *Candy from Strangers: Kids and Consumer Culture*.

Noble Illusions has been well received by critics coast to coast, especially given the way it wades through the fog created by historic distance and tells the real stories of veterans who can attest that war truly is hell.

"Now that all veterans of the Great War have died, governments around the world feel they can

downplay the horrors of World War I, and instead promote a nostalgic, sentimentalized vision of what led young people to war a hundred years ago," says Dale. "I hope that *Noble Illusions* is in some way an antidote to the current government's glorification of war and its photoshopped version of World War I. My intention in writing the book was to provide a counterpoint to all the cheerleading."

One of the most poignant of those stories is that of Harry Patch, the oldest surviving soldier of WWI, who passed away at age 111 in 2009. "His story illustrates how governments have hijacked veterans' experiences for their own purposes," says Dale. "Patch was eulogized as someone who symbolized 'a generation that in youth was steadfast in its duty' and who should be remembered for 'upholding the same values and freedom that we continue to cherish and fight for today.' Yet, in reality, Harry Patch was steadfastly opposed to war, which he once described as 'nothing better than legalized mass murder.' As a sniper during the Great War, he made a pact with other men in his unit to never shoot to kill — only to inflict minor wounds on German soldiers so that they would be sent home. This would have been considered an act of treason."

Backbeat Books and Music co-owner Christine Chu says the store is a perfect venue for the launch. "Our customers often remark on our cozy, intimate and homey atmosphere, making it the perfect backdrop for an author reading. We are excited to host this launch for Stephen Dale's latest book because we have a special place in our hearts — and on our bookshelves — for Canadian authors. As the one hundredth anniversary



Author Stephen Dale comes to Perth to share insights into his latest book, *Noble Illusions: Young Canada Goes to War*. He will be joined by Hans Sinn, Co-chair of Civilian Peace Service Canada.

of World War I is upon us, this book will appeal to many of our customers, and a special signed edition will make a truly special gift for the holidays."

Guest speaker Hans Sinn will address the work of Civilian Peace Service Canada <civilianpeaceservice.ca>, which works to promote the idea that civilians can be actively involved in the work of peace building. The group states that "To strengthen civilian conflict resolution capacity, CPSC is developing a reserve of qualified peace professionals — unarmed civilians, professionally trained and accredited based on shared core values and proven key competencies — who perform a recognized and valuable element in peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding."

The *Noble Illusions* book launch is free at Backbeat <backbeatperth.com>. It is sponsored by Lanark Action for Social Change (LASC), a new advocacy group promoting nonviolent solutions to conflict and transforming situations of injustice in Eastern Ontario. More information can be found at <tasc@web.ca> or 466-0663.

Gifts for Animal Lovers

- Sculpted Sea Turtles, Whales & Penguins by Cathy Reeves**, Bittersweet.....\$65-450
- Cristina Del Sol "Dumpster Diving III"**, Gallery On Gore.....\$250
- Raku Boxes w Sculpted Animals by Hanne Lawrence**, General Fine Craft . \$180-500
- Festive Reindeer Christmas card**, Papillon Press\$5.50 (single) or \$18.50 (set of 6)
- Western Horse Saddle 17" Lightweight**, Rustic Remnants.....\$450

Gifts that are Made in the Valley

- "The Memory Box: Stories from Smiths Falls and Beyond"**, Arlie's Books\$27
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- Sculpted Clay-Relief by Richard Gill**, Bittersweet.....\$65-275
- Locavore Foodie Gift Baskets**, Dandelion Foods.....\$50 & \$100
- Crosswind Farm Farm-crafted Goat Milk Soap**, Foodsmiths.....\$6.99
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Claiming Column

Folkus: Trent Severn, Almonte, Jan 17
 BOTR: Jack de Keyzer, Westport, Jan 23
 Almonte in Concert, Jan 24
 Hilda's Yard, Perth, Feb 5-15
 Powder Blues Band, Perth, Feb 7
 The Wizard of Oz Jr., CP, Feb 20-28
 Hogtown Allstars, Westport, Feb 20-21
 Almonte Lectures, Feb 27
 Folkus: Jack Pine, Almonte, Feb 28
 Almonte in Concert, Mar 7
 Borealis String Quartet, Perth, Mar 13
 Paul Reddick Band, Westport, Mar 20
 Maple Run Studio Tour, Pakenham, Mar 21-22
 Folkus: Oh Susanna, Almonte, Mar 28
 The Salvage Shop, Perth, Apr 9-19
 Paul James Band, Westport, Apr 17
 PPAC: Yiannis Kapoulas, Perth, Apr 17
 Almonte in Concert, Apr 18
 Once Upon a Mattress, CP, Apr 24-May 2
 Folkus: Ball & Chain, Almonte, Apr 25

Local Food

Carp Christmas Market, Dec 5 (3-8PM), Dec 6 (8AM-2PM). Local produce, crafts & Xmas decor. Carp Fairgrounds, 786-1010
Xmas Farmers' Market, Dec. 6, 9AM-2PM. Local food & crafts. Rideau Vista School, Westport. westportfarmersmarket.ca
Farmers' Xmas Market, Dec. 13, 9AM-3PM. Local food, crafts, Amanda's Cafe. Almonte Community Centre
Food 4 Food Fair, Dec. 20, Noon-3PM. 50% proceeds to Food Bank. The Cove, Westport. 273-3636, coveinn.com. \$25

Festivals

Light Up The Night, Dec. 5, 7PM. Xmas concert, Santa, fireworks. Downtown Almonte, 256-1077. Free
Christmas in Merrickville, Dec. 6, 1-4PM. Merrickville village. 791-4756, christmasinmerrickville.ca. Free
Santa Claus Parade, Dec. 6, 1PM. Free skating, hotdogs, hot chocolate, Santa!, Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham. 256-1077
Almonte Night Parade, Dec. 7, 5PM. Downtown Almonte, 256-1077.

Visual Arts

Art Open House, Dec. 6 & 13, 1-4PM. Margaret Ferraro oils & pastels. 113 Terraviva Dr., Kinburn. 839-5241
Open Studio - Living Stones, Dec. 6-7, 10AM-5PM. 1787 3rd Conc. Dalhousie, Lanark. livingstonessculptures.ca
Willow Creek Open Studio, Dec. 6-7, 10AM-4PM. 411 Bellamy Mills Rd., Almonte. willowcreekstudio.ca
Open Studio, Dec. 7, 10AM-5PM. Letterpress studio. Papillon Press, 26 Spring St., Westport. papillonletterpress.com
Almonte & Area Artists' Xmas Potluck, Dec. 8, 6PM. All welcome. Millfall Condos, 1 Rosamond St. E., Almonte. 256-5863
Arnprior Quilters' Guild Xmas Potluck, Dec. 10, 7-9PM. Christian Ed Centre, Arnprior. arnpriorquiltersguild.com
Vernissage: Thompson, Dec. 12, 7-9PM. Toronto eco-fibre artist Sheila Thompson. Fairview Manor, 75 Spring St., Almonte
A Smalls Show & Sale, Dec. 13, 10AM-4PM. Kanata Civic Art Gallery, 580-2424x33341, kanatagallery.ca
Craft Fair, Dec. 13, 11AM-3PM. Lanark Learning Centre, 67 George St., Lanark. 259-2207, grahamanne56@bell.net. Free entry
Vernissage, Dec. 13, 2-4PM. "Rock & Roll + POP". Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St. E., Almonte. mvmtm.ca

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>1</p> <p>🎵 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge 🎵 Rotary Club Mtg, CP</p>	<p>2</p> <p>🎵 Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Green Drinks, Perth</p>	<p>3</p> <p>🎵 CP Hort Soc Mtg/Potluck, CP 🎵 Ida, Renfrew 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Open Jam w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's 🎵 Probus Club Meeting, Perth 🎵 Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>4</p> <p>📖 Book Launch: Dale, Perth 📖 Book Launch: McLaughlin, Almonte 🎵 Dog Communication, Perth 🎵 Every Christmas Story, Perth 🎵 It's a Wonderful Life, Perth 🎵 Jack and the Beanstalk, Smiths Falls 🎵 Karaoke, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke 🎵 Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe 🎵 Open Mic, Golden Arrow 🎵 Christmas Home Tour, Westport</p>
<p>8</p> <p>📖 Almonte & Area Artists' Xmas Potluck, Almonte 🎵 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge 🎵 Rotary Club Mtg, CP</p>	<p>9</p> <p>🎵 Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Town Singers Xmas Concert, CP</p>	<p>10</p> <p>🎵 Adult Bereavement Group, Perth 📖 Quilters' Guild Xmas Potluck, Arnprior 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Open Jam w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's 🎵 Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>11</p> <p>🎵 It's a Wonderful Life, Perth 🎵 Jazz at Bally's, Ballygiblin's 🎵 Karaoke, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke 🎵 Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe 🎵 Open Mic, Golden Arrow 🎵 Pirates of Penzance, Perth</p>
<p>15</p> <p>🎵 Carol Singing with Melanie, Lanark 🎵 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge 🎵 Rotary Club Mtg, CP</p>	<p>16</p> <p>🎵 Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Perth Citizens' Band Xmas Concert, Perth</p>	<p>17</p> <p>🎵 Adult Bereavement Group, SF 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Open Jam w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's 🎵 Shawn McCullough, The Cove</p>	<p>18</p> <p>🎵 Karaoke, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Musicians' Circle, Bolingbroke 🎵 Neat Soundcheck, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Open Mic, Alice's Village Cafe 🎵 Open Mic w/Matt Dickson, Golden Arrow</p>
<p>22</p> <p>🎵 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge</p>	<p>23</p> <p>🎵 Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Xmas Eve Jazz Night, The Cove</p>	<p>24</p> <p>🎵 Open Jam w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's</p>	<p>Merry Christmas!</p>
<p>29</p> <p>🎵 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge</p>	<p>30</p> <p>🎵 Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan, O'Reilly's</p>	<p>31</p> <p>🎵 Great/Scott (AC/DC tribute), John St. Pub 🎵 NYE Dinner Dance, Almonte 🎵 NYE Party w/Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove 🎵 Open Jam w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Party w/Texas Tuxedo, Golden Arrow</p>	<p>1</p>

Theatre

Ida, Dec. 3, 7:30PM. O'Brien Theatre, Renfrew. obrientheatre.com. \$9 or pass
Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Dec 4-6 at 8PM; Dec 7 at 2PM. Comedy. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 267-1884. \$22/\$20/\$10
It's a Wonderful Life, Dec. 4-6, 11-13 at 8PM, Dec 7 & 14 at 2PM., Studio Theatre, Perth. studiotheatreperth.com. \$24/\$22
Jack and the Beanstalk, Dec 4-6, 12, 13 at 7:30PM; Dec 7, 14 at 2PM. Christmas panto. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. smithsfallstheatre.com
Cinderella, Dec 5-6 (7:30PM); Dec 6 (2PM). Tickets at Reads., CPTown Hall, 257-7323, mississippimudds.ca. \$20 evg; \$15 aft
Auditions: Mudds, Dec. 13, 9AM-4PM. Book aud'n at kazli63@gmail.com or 668-6874. CPTown Hall.
Vintage Variety Vaudeville Review, Dec. 21, 7:30PM. Full Circle Theatre, Perth.

shadowfax.on.ca. \$22 at Shadowfax
Spiritual Cinema Circle, Dec. 28, 2PM. McMartin House, Perth. 267-4819, fp@superaje.com. \$2 donation

Literature

Book Launch, Dec. 4, 7PM. Stephen Dale: *Noble Illusions: Young Canada Goes to War*. Backbeat, Perth. backbeatperth.com. Free
Book Launch, Dec. 4, 6:30PM. Shaun McLaughlin: *Dark Northern Sun*. The Barley Mow, Almonte. 256-9090
Book Signing, Dec. 6, Noon. Brockville paramedic/author Perry Prete. Reads Book Shop, 135 Bridge St., Carleton Place
Vine Rhymes, Dec. 6, 7-9PM. Xmas Caroling. Coffee Culture, Smiths Falls. No cover; food bank items welcome
Book Signing, Dec. 13, 1-3PM. Jan Andrews & Susan Rennick-Jolliffe: *The Twelve Days of Autumn*. Mill St. Books, Almonte. 256-9090

Youth

Pirates of Penzance, Dec. 11, 12, 7PM. The Academy of Musical Theatre. Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St., Perth. \$12
Beckwith Youth Dance, Dec. 12, 6-9PM. Brunton Community Hall, 257-1539, cmcgregor@twp.beckwith.on.ca. \$3
Children's Art Class, Dec. 13, 1-4PM. 6 Sawgrass Circle, Ashton. \$25
Photos with Santa, Dec. 13, 10AM-3PM. Drop-in. Proceeds to Young Awards. BH Photography, 15 Bridge St., Almonte. \$10

Music

Musicians' Circle, Thursdays, 7PM. Musicians only, all ages. ABC Hall, Bolingbroke. 273-9005, \$5 for hall
Jack DeKeyzer, Dec. 6, 8PM. Carleton Heritage Boutique Hotel, CP. 253-1300, theboutiquehotel.com. \$20/\$15 in adv

Christmas Sing-Along, Dec. 7, 2-4PM. Non-perishable food accepted. Trinity United Church, Middleville
Town Singers Xmas Concert, Dec. 7, 2PM, Dec 9, 7PM. St. Andrew's Church, CP. cptownsingers@gmail.com. \$10
AiC: Christmas w/Buzz, Dec. 13, 8PM. Brass. Tickets at Mill St. Books/online. Almonte Old Town Hall. 256-9090, \$30/\$15
W. Ottawa Ladies Chorus, Dec. 13, 7PM, Dec 14, 2:30PM. Tickets at Gaia Java. St. Paul's Anglican Church, Kanata. \$15
White Lake Acoustic Jam, Dec. 13, 7-10PM. White Lake Fire Hall, wlol.ca/home/hot-licks-acoustic-jam. Free
Carols & Cookies, Dec. 14, 2PM. With the Wolf Grove Singers. Guthrie United Church, 2819 Tatlock Rd., Clayton. Free
Music for Dbl Reeds/Piano, Dec. 14, 2PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. 485-6464, ticketsplease.ca. \$22

DECEMBER 2014

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carp Farmers' Christmas Market, Carp Cinderella, Carleton Place DJ Whisper, Waterfront Gastropub Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Perth Funk Power Party!, The Cove Country Inn It's a Wonderful Life, Perth Jack and the Beanstalk, Smiths Falls Kate Weekes & Grant Simpson, Gaia Java Light Up The Night, Almonte Riq Turner, O'Reilly's Pub Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Terry Tufts & Kathryn Briggs, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crooked Wood (The Cove), Acoustic Saturdays (CP), Supersonic (John St. Pub), Broccolees (Perth), MonkeyJunk (Neat), Jack DeKeyzer (CP) Open House/Studio (Almonte, Lanark, Kinburn) Book Signing (CP), Vine Rhymes (Smiths Falls) Santa Parade (Pakenham) Christmas in Merrickville Cinderella (CP), Every Christmas Story (Perth), It's a Wonderful Life (Perth), Jack and the Beanstalk (SF) Gift & Bake Sale (Arnprior), House Tour (Perth, CP), Nick of Time (Perth) Polar Express (SF), Tour of Lights (SF), Tea and Talent Sale (Renfrew) Xmas Farmers' Market, Carp Westport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night Santa Parade, Almonte APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Christmas Sing-Along, Middleville Clay Young Duo Jazz Brunch, Fiddleheads Bar & Grill Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Perth Christmas House Tour, Perth, CP It's a Wonderful Life, Perth Jack and the Beanstalk, Smiths Falls Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Open Studio, Almonte, Westport, Lanark Sunday Blues, Waterfront Gastropub Town Singers Xmas Concert, Carleton Place Victorian Family Christmas Tea, Smiths Falls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beckwith Youth Dance, CP DJ Whisper, Waterfront Gastropub Harmonic Generation Concert Preview, Gaia Java Heritage Whisky Tasting, Maberly It's a Wonderful Life, Perth Jack and the Beanstalk, Smiths Falls John Wilberforce, The Cove Pirates of Penzance, Perth Respectables, Golden Arrow, Riq Turner, O'Reilly's Scottish Country Dancing, Perth Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp Vernissage: Thompson, Almonte Winter Wonderland, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Smalls Show & Sale (Kanata), Art Open House (Kinburn), Craft Fair (Lanark), Vernissage (Almonte) AiC: Christmas w/Buzz (Almonte), Acoustic Saturdays (CP), Norwood & Foster (The Cove), Iconoclast (John St. Pub), Mtl Guitar Trio (Neat), Xmas Concert (Kanata), Acoustic Jam (White Lake) Farmers' Xmas Market, Almonte Book Signing, Almonte Kids' Art Class (Ashton), Photos w Santa (Almonte) It's a Wonderful Life (Perth), Jack and the Beanstalk (SF), Auditions: Mudds (CP) Kintail Country Christmas (Almonte), Winter Wonderland (Perth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carols & Cookies, Clayton Clever Mess Jazz Club, The Barley Mow It's a Wonderful Life, Perth Jack and the Beanstalk, Smiths Falls Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Music for Dbl Reeds/Piano, McDonalds Corners Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Celtic Heritage Orchestra Farewell Concert, Perth Sing in the Season, Carleton Place Sunday Blues, Waterfront Gastropub Valley Voices Christmas Concert, Almonte W. Ottawa Ladies Chorus Xmas Concert, Kanata
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DJ Whisper, Waterfront Gastropub Keli Jay & Mollie Roy, Gaia Java Scottish Country Dancing, Perth The Hoovers, Golden Arrow The Sadies, Neat Coffee Shop Winter Wonderland, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acoustic Saturdays, Waterfront Gastropub Elvis Tribute, Perth Food 4 Food Fair, Westport Head over Heels, The Cove Lucky Bs, Golden Arrow The Arrogant Worms, Neat Coffee Shop Winter Solstice Party, Almonte Winter Wonderland, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Clay Young Duo Jazz Brunch, Fiddleheads David Francey's Carols for a Christmas Eve, Almonte Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Perth Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Sunday Blues, Waterfront Gastropub Vintage Variety Vaudeville Review, Perth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brea Lawrenson, Golden Arrow Winter Wonderland, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bullmoose Reunion, The Cove White Army w/Riley White, Golden Arrow Winter Wonderland, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casey Corbin, Neat Coffee Shop Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Spiritual Cinema Circle, Perth The NightCrawlers, Generations Inn Traditional Song Session, Almonte

- CP & Beckwith Heritage Museum** presents Ready, Set, Snow! exhibit <cpbheritagemuseum.com>
- Fall River Restaurant** presents photography, handweaving, woodwork, jewellery, ceramics & stained glass <fallriverrestaurant.ca> [to Dec 14]
- FIELDWORK** presents outdoor art <fieldworkproject.com> **Fairview Manor Foyer** presents the fibre art of Sheila Thompson [from Dec 11]
- Gallery on Gore** presents Maria Moldovan's paintings <galleryongore.perthchamber.com>
- General Fine Craft, Art & Design** presents Diane Lemire's wearable art & Dushka's jewellery <generalfinecraft.com>
- Heritage House Museum** presents annual art show & sale <smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse> [to Dec 21]
- Kanata Civic Art Gallery** presents Joy group show <kanatagallery.ca>
- Mississippi Valley Textile Museum** presents "Rock & Roll + POP" <mvtm.ca>
- The **Mississippi Mills Chambers Gallery** presents Diane Black's sculptures
- The **Almonte Library Corridor Gallery** presents Barbara Mullally & R. Pauly's jewellery & hats

Perth Celtic Heritage Orchestra Farewell Concert, Dec. 14, 2PM. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 264-2744. \$10

Sing in the Season, Dec. 14, 2PM. Sing with the CP Community Band, Zion-Memorial Church, CP. 298-3953. Food bank

Valley Voices Christmas Concert, Dec. 14, 7PM. \$10 at door; \$7 adv at Baker Bob's or MVTM. Almonte United Church

Carol Singing with Melanie, Dec. 15, 6-8PM. Donations to Xmas Baskets. Lanark Learning Centre, 67 George St. 259-2207

Perth Citizens' Band Xmas Concert, Dec. 16, 7:30PM. St. James Anglican Church, Perth. 256-4221. \$5; \$10 family

Elvis Tribute, Dec. 20, 8PM. w/Gino Monopoli., Studio Theatre, Perth. 267-6817, shadowfax.on.ca. \$30

David Francey's Carols for a Christmas Eve, Dec. 21, 7:30PM. \$25 at Mill St Books. Almonte Old Town Hall. 256-9090

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Dec. 21, 7:30PM. Choirs, handbells. St. James Anglican Church, Perth. 267-1163

Traditional Song Session, Dec. 28, 2-4pm. Join in traditional songs w/choruses. The Barley Mow, Almonte. 355-5552

The Swan at Carp (Carp, 839-7926): Dec 12 Steve Barrette Trio, jazz, 7-10PM

Fiddleheads (Perth, 267-1304): Sunday Jazz Brunch, 12-3PM
Dec 7, 21 Clay Young Duo

The Royal Oak (Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, no cover, 2-5PM
Dec 7, 21 APEX Jazz Band
Dec 14, 28 Magnolia Rhythm Kings

Neat (Burnstown, 433-3205): 8PM
Dec 6 MonkeyJunk, \$35
Dec 13 Montreal Guitar Trio, \$45
Dec 18 Soundcheck, free
Dec 19 The Sadies, \$30
Dec 20 The Arrogant Worms, \$40
Dec 28 Casey Corbin, \$30

The Cove (Westport, 273-3636):
Dec 3, 10, 17, 19 Shawn McCullough, 6-9PM
Dec 5 Funk Power Party benefit, 8-11PM
Dec 6 Crooked Wood Christmas, 7-11PM
Dec 12 John Wilberforce, 6-9PM
Dec 13 Norwood + Foster, 7-10PM
Dec 20 Head Over Heels, 6-9PM
Dec 23 Xmas Eve Jazz Night, 9-11PM
Dec 27 Bullmoose Reunion, 9-11:30PM
Dec 31 NYE Party, \$140/couple

Ballygiblin's (CP, 253-7400): jazz, no cover
Dec 11 Peter Brown, Don Paterson, Dave Arthur; Glenn Robb, 6-9PM

The Naismith Pub (Almonte, 256-6336): Open Celtic Jam Wed (not 24 or 31), no charge (7:30-10PM)

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

Ashton Pub (Ashton, 257-4423): Sun Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan (not Dec 28), 2-5PM

Alice's Village Café (Carp, 470-2233): Open Mic Thursdays, 7:30PM

Gaia Java (Stittsville, 836-5469): Live music
Fridays, 7-9pm, no cover
Dec 5 Kate Weekes & Grant Simpson
Dec 12 Harmonic Generation Preview
Dec 19 Keli Jay & Mollie Roy

John St. Pub (Arnprior, 623-8149): 9PM
Dec 6 Supersonic (Oasis tribute), \$15
Dec 13 Iconoclast w/Elegant Devils, \$7
Dec 31 Great/Scott (AC/DC tribute), \$10

Golden Arrow (Perth, 267-4500): 9pm
Dec 4, 18 Open Mic w/Matt Dickson
Dec 5 Terry Tufts & Kathryn Briggs
Dec 6 The Broccolees
Dec 11 Open Mic w/Stephen Staines
Dec 12 Respectables
Dec 13 The Tritones
Dec 19 The Hoovers
Dec 20 Lucky Bs
Dec 26 Brea Lawrenson
Dec 27 White Army w/Riley White
Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party w/Texas

O'Reilly's Pub (Perth, 267-7994): 8:30pm.
Tuesdays Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan,
Wednesdays Open Jam w/Dave Balfour
Dec 5, 12 Riq Turner, 10PM Tuxedo

Gallipeau Centre Theatre (Smiths Falls, 284-9916):
Dec 6 Amberley Beatty's Classic Country
Xmas, 7PM, \$29.50

Generations Inn (Carleton Place, 253-5253): Dec 28 The NightCrawlers, 6-9PM

The Waterfront Gastropub (CP, 257-5755): Wed Open Jam 9PM, Thurs Karaoke 9PM, Fri DJ Whisper (Top 40) 10PM, Acoustic Sat 3-6PM & 9PM, Sun Blues 4-7PM

Community

Rotary Club Mtg, Mondays, 6PM. CP and Miss Mills. New members welcome. Slackoni's, CP. carletonplacerotary.ca

Green Drinks, Dec. 2, 5:30PM. Around the Corner, Perth. GreenDrinks.org

CP Hort Soc Mtg/Potluck, Dec. 3, 6PM. Potluck, Xmas arrangement demo. St. Andrew's Church, CP. cphorticulture.ca

Probus Club Meeting, Dec. 3, 9:30AM-Noon. Mtg of retired folk., Perth Legion, info@ProbusPerth.ca

Dog Communication, Dec. 4, 6-8PM. Pooch Pal dog training. Perth Library, 283-9308, lanarkanimals.ca. Free; donations

Westport Christmas Home Tour, Dec. 4, 10AM-3PM. \$15 at Cove, Running Goat (Perth). 273-9195

Scottish Country Dancing, Fridays, 9:30AM. All levels welcome. McMartin House, Perth. 264-2787

Bus Tour of Lights, Dec. 6, 5-7PM. Railway Museum of E On, Smiths Falls. sfchamber@smithsfalls.ca. Free

Free Yoga Classes, Dec. 6, 9AM-1PM. Gratitude Day! Rising Sun Yoga, Heritage Court, Almonte. 290-9973, risingsunyoga.ca

Gifts of Light Christmas Gift & Bake Sale, Dec. 6, 10AM-2PM. Xmas items, baking, preserves. Kirkman House, Arnprior

Perth Christmas House Tour, Dec. 6-7, 10:30AM-3:30PM. \$30 at Home Furniture (Perth), Crush (Alm). 267-2270, \$30

Lanark Co. Genealogical Soc., Dec. 6, 12:30PM. Potluck & AGM. Archives Lanark, Perth. 866-2029. Free

Nick of Time Artisan Show, Dec. 6, 10AM-4PM. Juried show, local artisans. McMartin House, Perth. 283-0755

Polar Express, Dec. 6, 1-4PM. Ride Polar Express in pjs. Trim trees, Santa pics. Railway Museum of E On, Smiths Falls. 283-5696, \$5

Tea and Talent Sale, Dec. 6, 1-4PM. Hot tea, goodies. Talent (craft) sale. Trinity-St. Andrew's Church, Renfrew. 432-2285

Xmas in CP House Tour, Dec. 6 (4:30-9:30PM), Dec 7 (10AM-4PM). \$25 at CP Nursery, Crush (Alm). CP. 257-9717. \$25

Victorian Family Christmas/Artisan Mkt, Dec. 7, 1-4PM. Artisan market. Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls. 283-6311

Adult Bereavement Group, Dec 10 (1-3PM, Lanark Lodge, Perth); Dec 17 (1-3PM, Alzheimer's Society, Smiths Falls). 267-6400, rebeccab@chslc.ca. Free

Heritage Whisky Tasting, Dec. 12, 7:30PM. Fall River Restaurant, Maberly. 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca. \$70

Winter Wonderland, Dec 13/14, 20/21, 28/29, 5-9PM. Stroll or ride, lights, music. Last Duel Park, Perth. perthtourism.ca

Kintail Country Christmas, Dec. 13, 11AM-3PM. Wagon rides, music, photos w/ Santa, stories by the fire. Mill of Kintail, 256-3610x2, mvc.on.ca. \$15 per vehicle

Winter Solstice Party, Dec. 20, 10AM-8PM. Refreshments, giveaways & more. Soul Scents, 42 Mill St., Almonte. soulscents.ca

NYE Dinner Dance, Dec. 31, 6PM. Cocktails, dinner, dancing. \$45 by Dec 22; \$50 by Dec 29. Dance-only \$25. Not black tie. Almonte Civitan Hall. 256-6234 x4, nye@almontecivitan.com



Perth Citizen's Band Christmas Concert

The Perth Citizens' Band will be holding its annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 16, at 7:30PM. This year marks the 22nd year of the event, which will be held at St. James Anglican Church, at the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets in Perth. The longstanding tradition of the Christmas Concert at the church was revived in 1993 by conductor Brian Tackaberry. The band had previously played concerts for the Christmas season from the 1920s to 1940s.

Guests for this year's event will be Perth's Town Crier Brent McLaren, and Fiddlers and Friends. The evening will feature a variety of sacred and popular tunes, including Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, *White Christmas*, and a novelty tune called *Christmas at the Circus*. Admission for the evening is \$5 per person or \$10 for families. For more information, visit the band's website at <perth-band.ca> or phone 256-4221.

Check out page 12 for great
GIFTS FOR PARENTS

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Glory to the Christ Child

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*Candle light, angel light and starglow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn*

— John Rutter

You are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 21 at St. James the Apostle Anglican Church in Perth. The combined choirs of St. James and St. Paul's United Church will lead the singing under the direction of Peter Woodward (organist and choir director at St. James) and Brad Mills (director of music at St. Paul's).

This year, they are delighted to welcome the St. Paul's Handbell Choir as guest musicians. They will play for fifteen minutes before the service — come early! As well, they will accompany the singing of *Silent Night* and play a variation of the hymn tune *Forest Green* as a postlude.

The service starts with the haunting sound of soloist Terri Henderson singing the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* and, as the choir processes down the aisle, everyone joins in the second verse "He came down from earth to heaven..." The Rector of St. James, Canon Christine Piper, then tells us, in *The Bidding Prayer*, to "Prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger".

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 traditional, much-loved melodies that speak the Christmas season to so many will be sung by everyone," says Peter Woodward. "But the accompaniment and choir harmonies are fresh and exciting to the ear, reflecting the new generation of composers. This year we are repeating one of the most popular of these modern anthems that the choir has ever sung over their 32 years — Mack Wilberg's lively *Carol to the King*. Val Leavett and Brad Mills, playing four-hands piano, with three percussionists, give depth to this exciting and rhythmic anthem."

Another popular composer is John Rutter, and the choir will sing his *Candlelight Carol*. (The Combined Choirs' Spring Concert will also feature the music of John Rutter.)

Modern settings of carols from the 14th to the 17th century include *Adam lay ybounden* by Harold Skempton, *A little child there is yborn* by Malcom Archer, *Glory to the Christ Child* by Alan Bullard, and *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming* by David Blackwell. Musical arrangements of poems by Tennyson and Longfellow round out the service, which concludes with the singing of *Joy to the World*.

"We warmly welcome you to this glorious service," says Canon Christine, "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 Sunday, December 21 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 or visit <stjamesperth.ca>.

Gifts for Outdoor Enthusiasts

Super-warm Alpaca Socks, Ballintotas Alpacas	\$32
Cozy Hats and Mitts, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm	\$14.99-24.99
Bos & Co. Waterproof, Shearling-lined Winter Boots, Crush Marketplace	\$265
Sally Chupick "Spring Bike Path 3", Gallery On Gore	\$400
Walking Sticks, Gilligallou Bird Inc.	\$42
S'well Insulated Water Bottles, Granary	\$35
Locally Made Walking Sticks, Soul Scents	\$25-75
Made in Canada Quartz Nature Jackets, Vamos Outdoors	\$419 & up

Gifts for Funky People

Hanging Terrariums, Acanthus Floral & Botanicals	\$25 & up
1oz Copper "Zombucks" Coin of the Apocalypse, Alliance Coin	\$4
"Northern Lore: Northern Mind, Body, & Spirit", Arlie's Books	\$20
Rock Art Record Album Frame, Backbeat Books and Music	\$19.95
Hand-felted 100% Alpaca Purses, Ballintotas Alpacas	\$65
Canadian Made Nothing Perfume Spiral Pendants, Foodsmiths	\$17.99
Himalayan Salt Lamps, Granary	\$50
Handmade Woolen Jackets, Ponchos & Wraps, Heartsong Studio	\$80-110
Ukuleles!, Mississippi Mill Musicworks	\$38 & up
Beaded Jewellery by Tarnished Angel, Pine Ridge Studio	\$15-50
5-, 10- or 20-Class Passes, Rising Sun Yoga Studio	various
Rainsticks, Soul Scents	\$15
Glamorous Beaded Jaguar, The Blossom Shop	\$74.99
Metal Photo Reproduction, B&W 10"x12", The Silver Shingle	\$75
Blundstone Winter Boots, Vamos Outdoors	\$199

Westport in December

Oh my gosh, it is so hard to believe that 2014 has come to her last month. Wow! But there is a lot to do at this time of year, what with family visits, trips to see Santa and parades with bands and floats, shopping for those very special gifts, and the myriad of last minute tasks.

We start to think about resolutions for the New Year as we look at our list of so many undone tasks from this one. I resolve to prioritize, ruthlessly, as I am beginning to get it that there are only so many hours

by Georgia Ferrell

in a day — so many wonderful things to see and people to meet — why is there just so little time?

Here are some of the wonderful time-of-the-year events in Westport, so you can plan your schedule now!

On Thursday, December 4, from 10AM to 3PM, you can be part of a delightful tour of some of Westport's finest homes, decorated in great style for the holidays for the **Westport Christmas Home Tour**. Visit <westportartscouncil.com/news-2> for more details.

The **Westport Christmas Farmers' Market** will be at Rideau Vista Public School (9921 County Road 42), on Saturday, December 6, from 9AM to 2PM. Come out to the picturesque Village of Westport and find that one-of-a-kind gift for that special someone on your list. The Christmas Market features local chefs, bakers, crafters and artisans showcasing a wide variety of unique handmade gift ideas. The school will also be holding a **Scholastic Book Fair Fundraiser**. For more information, contact Rebecca Whitman at 273-3255 or <info@westportfarmersmarket.ca> or visit <westportfarmersmarket.ca>.

The businesses of Westport have again this year made great efforts to bring you the season's joy by decorating their windows — or porches — with wonderful seasonal themes. The judging for this event will be done by the time you read this, but can admire the businesses' lovely decorations throughout December.

The **Cove Inn** is known for presenting great music, and this month is no different. First up is a Funk Pow-

er Party on Friday, December 5. The cost for this benefit for Benji Perosin is only \$10. Then enjoy the folk/celtic tunes of A Crooked Wood Christmas, 7-11PM on December 6 (\$35 for buffet plus show, or \$10 for the show only). Their annual Christmas Eve (aka December 23) Jazz Night with the Spencer Evans Trio is sure to be a fun night, as it will feature the return of Jeff Cowan, the original Jazz Night drummer, from Australia. You'll probably enjoy it so much you'll want to ring in the New Year with the Spencer Evans Trio as well! The New Year's Eve bash includes a buffet-style dinner and show for \$140 per couple.

As Christmas is a time for giving, why not drop by The Cove on December 20 for the **Food 4 Food Fair**, 12-3PM. This annual fundraiser for the Westport Food Bank sees all of The Cove's kitchen staff out on the floor preparing their signature dishes. Santa will be there for pictures on his knee... there will be gingerbread house-building... If that doesn't get you in the Christmas spirit, I don't know what will. It costs \$25 per person, with 50% of proceeds going to the food bank. And there is more! Just go to <coveinn.com> or <facebook.com/thecovecountryinn> for the most up-to-the-minute event listings.



A Sad Goodbye

Westport and area artists are saddened by the news of the death of Brian Mantrop (pictured above in his Artist Trading Card image from the Humm's December 2007 issue), one of our finest and most renowned photographer/artists. Our deepest condolences to his family, as I am sure I can speak for all of us who knew him.

— Georgia Ferrell

Gifts for \$10 & under

- Arbonne Stocking Stuffers: Skin Care Samples, Hands on Healing.....\$1-10
- Melissa & Doug "On the Go" Activity Kits, Nicholson's Sundries.....\$4.99
- Greenery, Decorations and Homemade Preserves, Pine Ridge Studio.....various
- Champagne Flights, Dinners & Stays Raffle Ticket, United Way Lanark County...\$10

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Check out page 4 for great gifts for PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

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So What's the Plan for 2015?

(You Do Have a Plan... Right?)

Today I am going to discuss a topic that resonates with many people at this time of the year: Health & Fitness.

The New Year is fast approaching. It's time to get healthier. Maybe lose ten pounds. Definitely feel better, stronger.

by Patrick Arbour

This time, however, I'm going to suggest you look at the health of your business. How healthy is your business? Could it lose ten pounds? Maybe it should gain ten pounds? Could it feel better?

This is December, the month that often makes or breaks a business. Let me first say that I wish everyone every success. I want you to enjoy your family and friends over the holidays, and maybe even through to the New Year itself. However, as soon as the calendar turns to January 2, I want you to begin the Plan for a Healthier Business in 2015.

Just like any fitness regime, it will take commitment. It will also take BUY-IN.

A Healthy Business Doesn't Just Happen

You have to go through the "exercise". Do you have plans for an assessment of the previous year(s)? Have you allotted time to get your business healthy? To rethink your processes? Review your financing?

Go through the S.W.O.T. analysis again:

- What are your strengths?
- What are your weaknesses?
- What are the opportunities?
- What are the threats?

Same as last year? Are you sure?

Did your advertising work as hard as it could have? Has your message changed? Should it?

Do your suppliers know your business well enough? Have you talked to them lately?

Does your staff understand the goals you have set out for 2015? Have you asked them what their goals are?

Does your bookkeeper and/or accountant should share your vision? Have you shared your vision with your bank? Do they understand your business? When's the last time you spoke with your bank manager and didn't discuss money?

Ready To Go?

If you are going to get through this exercise, you might want to warm up first. Read a few books. Watch some TED Talks. Take a Marketing course. Maybe get a personal trainer. Get that blood flowing. You know how great it's going to feel.

Once you finish your analysis, here are a few business hints to get you going.

Good luck. I know you can do it.

— Patrick Arbour is a Creative Director and Executive Business Coach who has worked in the advertising world for major agencies in both Canada and the US.

Pat Arbour's Hints For a Healthier Small Business or Organization in 2015

- **Make customer service a priority.** Put customer service information all over the place. Distribute all customer service correspondence, good or bad, for everyone to see. If a person is named specifically in bad correspondence, black out the name to avoid embarrassment to the individual. Public humiliation is not the point. Being fanatical about service is. Invite customers to visit. Highlight stories about service heroism.
- **Be memorable.** Your enterprise should make your prospective customer say: "Wow, Neat, Holy Smokes". It should be memorable. It should have a special guarantee, remarkable service or extraordinary products.
- **Have passion.** The life of an entrepreneur is occasionally exhilarating and always exhausting. Passion will see you through the long days and the mistakes and challenges that are part of any business.
- **Pay attention to the details.** The overall scheme must be an attention-getter, but the execution of the details will win the day.
- **Develop a culture.** Culture counts in the large multi-national as well as in the single-proprietor shop with a part-time assistant. The spirit, energy and professionalism of that part-timer sets the tone for your entire service offering. Spend time sharing your vision with every one so they all get it and transmit it to customers.
- **Be a part of your community.** Participating in community affairs — with time more than dollars — is good business from day one. It gets your name around, adds to your distinctiveness, and best of all makes you an attractive employer, which is the key to sustained success.
- **Have a pal.** Whether it's a business partner or a life partner, you desperately need someone to counsel with. Someone you trust and who supports you but is not a flatterer.
- **Persevere.** The path to success is littered with many fiascos. The key to the success of any new business is learning. Keep learning.



Heritage Whisky Tasting



Perth Museum

Friday December 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fall River Restaurant in Maberly

- Whisky Tasting led by Ouidram
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- Music by Cratur and Food Samplings
- \$70 per person (includes a \$25 charitable tax receipt)

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Working Blues

What do real working blues musicians look like? Well, Barry Buse looked pretty tired when I arrived during a break between sets at **Redneck Limousine's Sunday Blues Matinée** at the Waterfront Gastropub in

first thought was "he really could do this in his sleep!"

Which makes sense. Barry Buse, Bill Serson and Mike Lush have probably spent more time playing music than sleeping. They live and breathe this stuff, and it shows in their extensive and varied repertoire.

The trio came together as the host band for the weekly blues jam at the Elmdale Pub in Ottawa. There they solidified their musical friendship over the six years that that jam went on. When you watch these guys perform, all of that time playing together is evident in the smoothness of their interactions and the polish of their performance.

The Waterfront Gastropub, <thewaterfrontgastropub.ca>,

is a great setting to catch these bluesmasters. In the summer they perform on the patio overlooking the Mississippi River, and it is easy to imagine spending many a relaxing, sunny afternoon enjoying the music, the view, some pub fare and maybe a pint or two. Once the weather turns colder, the band moves inside, which is also great because that room has a lot of history as the venue for the legendary Leatherworks Blues Jams back in the day.

The Sunday Blues Matinée takes place each week from 4-7PM.

One Pint Preview

The Clever Mess Jazz Club is a new venture intended to bring together jazz players and fans. According to creator Ric Denis, the plan is for "a bit of playing, a bit of listening, a bit of talking, more playing, rinse, repeat."

Meetings are on the second Sunday afternoon of every month from 2 to 5PM, upstairs at the Barley Mow in Almonte (79 Little Bridge St.). The inaugural gathering will be on December 14.

Since this club is a bit of an experiment, ideas are welcome. If you've got a great idea for an upcoming meeting, give Ric Denis a call at 456-6270. Hope to see you there!

by Rob Riendeau

Carleton Place. It turns out he had played the Thirsty Moose late into the previous night and had spent the early afternoon setting up for his evening gig with The Night-crawlers at Generations Inn. But when the 3-piece band launched into the up-tempo first song of their second set, with Barry taking lead vocals and playing guitar, my



Redneck Limousine are Barry Buse on guitar, Bill Serson on drums and Mike Lush on bass.

husbands

- Aeropress Coffee Maker for Camping, Equator Coffee Roasters.....\$35
- Fulton's Maple BBQ Sauce, 250ml, Fulton's Pancake House and Sugar Bush.....\$10
- Contemporary Silver Jewellery by Canadian Makers, General Fine Craft....\$60 & up
- Gold Leaf "Beer Snob" Glass, Hello Yellow.....\$12
- 45-min Therapeutic Massage, Kim Narraway, RMT.....\$70
- Troublemakers boxed set of 4 assorted letterpress cards, Papillon Press.....\$18.50
- Lanark Sheepskin Slippers, Riverguild Fine Crafts.....\$88
- Badger Organic Soap, Salves and Oils for Men, Soul Scents.....\$9.95-17.95
- Metal Photo Reproduction, B&W 12"x20", The Silver Shingle.....\$105
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Check out page 17 for great
GIFTS FOR READERS

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Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Grand opening coming soon!

SIMONE & MAXINE have news!

JOY of Beauty
Salon and Day Spa

Will have a meet and greet with the staff on December 2nd including refreshments. Will officially open for all services in January. Esthetics will be available at the new location starting Dec. 16. We apologize for the delay. We look forward to seeing you.

We will be having a **Grand Opening Wine and Cheese Party** Jan 31st!

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Check out page 12 for great
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Speaking Volumes

The Joys and Pitfalls of the Library Program

The library program. You have likely been to one in your life. Perhaps you have joined the library book club, or taken a computer training course. Maybe you attended an author reading, or sent your child to the summer reading program. At the very least you have likely sat at the feet of a librarian while she read to your class at storytime. Library programs are well-cherished, and give energy and character to the library that offers them. But what goes into a library program? What makes one a success? Let's take a look.

by Meriah Caswell, Librarian

When planning programming, a question in the back of any librarian's mind is "What does my community want?" This is the all-important question, for obvious reasons: if the community doesn't care about a program you are offering, then no one is going to attend the program you have spent hours planning and a portion of your limited budget on. Sometimes the will of the community is obvious; at the Carleton Place Public Library, we recently began offering a program for toddlers, because regulars of our Babytime and Storytime programs communicated to staff that it was something they wanted to see in their library. These moms and dads made it easy on us — once we had worked out the logistics of budget and staffing, our Children's Librarian was able to begin planning a program.

It is not always that easy to find out what a community wants, however. A program you think is sure to be a hit may tank with only a few attendees. Indeed, what may be a runaway hit for one community may be a complete dud in another. An example of this is a comparison of the libraries of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills. Mississippi Mills Public Library CEO Pam Harris has introduced some incredibly successful programs at her library this year, including a very popular Travlogue series, two Book Clubs (one with a waiting list of attendees!) and a series of seed-saving seminars to complement their new Seed Library. Amid these huge successes she admits that her biggest program failure has been a Young Writers Workshop that she offered in early 2014. Only one person attended. Contrast this to the booming success of Carleton Place Public Library's Camp NaNoWriMo, a month-long writing challenge in April where participants undertook the challenge of writing 50,000 words during the month. People of all ages and writing experience participated with great enthusiasm. It was so successful that the library began offering teen writing groups during the summer reading program, offered two young writers' group programs in November, and opened

the doors of CPPL as a "Come Write in Zone" for National Novel Writing Month.

Why did a writers' group work in Carleton Place but not work ten minutes up the highway in Almonte? The answer is difficult to pinpoint. Questions like this are often asked by library staff. Perhaps Mississippi Mills already has active and supportive writing groups. Or maybe the event in Almonte had the misfortune of occurring on the night of the big game. Perhaps the event in Carleton Place was advertised at just the right time on Facebook. Often library staff have to navigate a web of complicated community offerings to nail a well-attended program. Ask any librarian and they will tell you their horror stories: they booked a children's performer for March Break, only to find the Daycare had booked the same act the previous day; they planned a mother-daughter craft night on the same night as Girl Guides, or they organized a big-name author visit the same night as the hockey game. For a librarian, knowing your community and being on top of its comings and goings can make or break a successful program.

Indeed, what indicates a successful program can mean different things to different people. As a library administrator, I like to use attendance statistics as an indicator for success. Numbers are easy to explain to a library board or to Town Council — they are up or they are down, and so many people enjoyed such and such a program. However, my staff are quick to point out to me that sometimes it is the intangible benefits of a program that indicate success: an afterschool program may only be attended by one or two students, but for those two children the library has become a safe, quiet and welcoming place to complete their homework after school. Or, a one-on-one tutoring program may take up an hour of staff time, but the person being tutored will gain immeasurably from the individual attention and personal service. On paper these programs may not be seen as triumphs, but they are of definitive value to the people that attend.

So, next time you are at your local library, take a look at their program bulletins. These programs are reflections of your community, of its hobbies, interests and learning needs. And don't be shy. If there is a program you wish your library was offering, let the staff know. They will always be happy to hear what their community wants.

— Meriah Caswell is the Manager of Library Services at the Carleton Place Public Library

See More Online!

Find Meriah Caswell's holiday reading picks for adults and children at <thehummm.com>

Gifts for Chocolate Lovers

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- Just Chocolates (Village Treats)**, Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....\$79.95
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- Fine Chocolate by Ludwig**, Read's Book Shop.....\$4.95 & up

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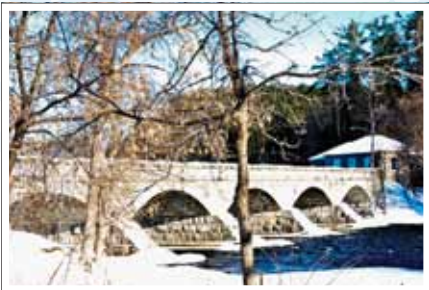


Photo by Cheryl Baxter

**Pakenham
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November 29, 2014,
10am-5pm, Pakenham

Visit our quaint village to experience the true spirit of Christmas. 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.

www.facebook.com/events/1481886128765473/

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December 5, 2014, 7pm
Almonte



Photo by DeSa Photography

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lightupthenightalmonte.com



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December 6, 2014, 1pm
Pakenham
Parade of Lights
December 7, 2014, 5pm
Almonte

FREE skating, hot dogs, hot chocolate and visits with Santa. This year's theme is Winter Fun!

www.exploremississippimills.ca

Kintail
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Christmas

December 13, 2014, 11am-3pm
Mill of Kintail

Visit the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area for music, crafts, stories, refreshments, Father Christmas and more!
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January 22-25, 2015
Pakenham

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www.exploremississippimills.ca



March 21 & 22, 2015
Pakenham Area

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For more information, please contact Tiffany MacLaren at tmaclaren@mississippimills.ca
or visit www.exploremississippimills.ca



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Wed. Dec 3, 10 & 17 Wings 'n Tunes with **Shawn McCullough** (Country/Rock), 6-9
Fri. Dec 5 **Funk Power Party!** a night of funk and soul, 8-11, \$10, benefit for Benji Perosin
Sat. Dec 6 **A Crooked Wood Christmas**, 7-11, \$35 Buffet & Show, \$10 Show only
Fri. Dec 12 **John Wilberforce** (Country/Rock), 6-9
Sat. Dec 13 A Christmas Evening with **Henry Norwood & Wade Foster**, 7-10
Fri. Dec 19 **Shawn McCullough** (Country/Rock), 6-9
Sat. Dec 20 **Food for Food Fair** Donations to Food Bank, Door prizes! 12-3, \$25
Sat. Dec 20 **Head Over Heels**, with Kevin Head & Miss V (vocal guitar duo), 6-9
Tue. Dec 23 **Xmas Eve Jazz Night** with **Spencer Evans Trio** featuring the return of **Jeff Cowan**, 9-11
Sat. Dec 27 **Bullmoose Reunion** (Rock), 9-11:30
Wed. Dec 31 **New Year's Eve Party** with **Spencer Evans Trio**, \$140/couple. Packages available! 7PM-1AM

Check out page 23 for great gifts for
PEOPLE WHO ARE STRESSED

indie women productions

and the cast and crew of **next to normal** would like to thank all their friends and supporters from Lanark County who attended and supported the show and the Royal Ottawa Foundation for Mental Health.



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Comedy, Thrills and Historic Walks

The **Classic Theatre Festival** (CTF) has big plans for an expanded assortment of entertainment activities in the summer of 2015, featuring some of Canada's top theatrical talent while providing a forum for young local talent interested in training opportunities with a professional company. The CTF's traditional Holiday Season Sale is now offering major discounts to early-bird buyers who order tickets before December 31.

The CTF continues to grow by producing hits from the golden age of Broadway and the London Stage, including the winning formula of presenting a romantic comedy with a classic thriller, while providing tourists and regional residents alike with many excellent reasons to extend their stay and stimulate the local economy. An Ontario Tourism Ministry report found that the 2014 Classic Theatre Festival season produced over half a million dollars in economic spinoffs for local shops, restaurants and accommodations.

The 2015 mainstage season — returning to the lovely Perth venue at 54 Beckwith Street East (the Good Shepherd Hall of St. James Anglican) — will open with Neil Simon's comedy *Barefoot in the Park*, the tenth-longest-running non-musical play in Broadway history. The story of a pair of unique newlyweds — he a button-down conservative lawyer and she a free spirit — is bolstered by an eccentric neighbour, an interfering mother, and classic New York characters, all of whom ride this comic romp while finding that love can conquer any differences. The show will run July 10 to August 2.

The second show is the gripping Frederick Knott thriller *Wait Until Dark* (running August 7 to 30), a heart-thumping tale of a blind woman who must fend off a group of seedy drug dealers and thieves

who have invaded her apartment using a variety of ruses. Later a beloved Audrey Hepburn film, the stage version features some of the most intense moments Broadway witnessed in the 1960s. The CTF held local auditions in November for the integral role of the spunky 10-year-old and found that the region's countless youth-centred theatre programs have produced a bumper crop of very talented young thespians.

Both shows will run eight times a week, with five 2PM matinées running Wednesday to Sunday, and 8PM evening shows every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Returning in 2015 will be the hugely popular **Perth through the Ages** youth theatre training troupe, which thrilled visitors last summer with a theatrical historic walking tour featuring tales and characters out of Perth's storied past. Running five mornings a week at 11AM (Wednesday to Sunday), this year will feature brand-new characters, themes and stories. Starting at Matheson House Museum, the walking tour will appeal especially to families looking for something to do with their kids and grandkids during the summer holidays.

New this year, the youth troupe will be introducing **The Lonely Ghosts Walk** each Friday night at 8PM during the summer, starting at the CTF's mainstage site and touring some of Perth's most fabled haunted settings, with costumed characters enacting scenes from the town's 200-year ghostly history.

To take advantage of the Holiday Season Sale, simply visit <classictheatre.ca> or call toll-free at 1-877-283-1283. Order by December 31 and receive a 20% discount off any season ticket (including either of the walking tours). You can pick your dates later!

Gifts for Wives

Gold Anniversary Band , Dack's Jewellers.....	\$420
Loose Leaf Tea Glass & Poly Travel Tea Mug , Dandelion Foods.....	\$27.55
Earrings by Anne-Marie Chagnon , Green Counter Boutique.....	\$28
Facial Rejuvenation Acupuncture (Non-Surgical Facelift) , Hands on Healing.....	\$150
Woven Paisley Design 100% Silk Scarves & Wraps , Heartsong Studio.....	\$46-75
Dayna Lee Collection Throw Pillows , Hello Yellow.....	\$50
Gift Certificates , Ian Paige Pottery.....	various
Pink Sapphire Pendant in White Gold , Kehla Jewellery Design.....	\$850
1.5-hour Therapeutic Massage , Kim Naraway, RMT.....	\$125
Centerpieces, Festive or Everyday , Olde Crow Creek.....	\$30-150
Scarves, Necklaces & Accessories , Paddy Mann Clothing.....	\$75-325
Unlimited Joy Pass , Rising Sun Yoga Studio.....	\$450
Italian Murano Glass Necklace , Strévé Designs.....	\$100
Gift Certificates , Textile Traditions.....	various
Faux Fur Coats and Ponchos , The New Runway.....	\$85 & up
Skin Essence Organic Skin Care , Whole Medicine Wellness.....	\$18-32



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Almonte

Winter Woes and Santa Claus

Disclaimer: please consult your local mall Santa (not the real one) before heeding any of the following advice. Got a question? Send Miss Write an email at <misswrite@thehummm.com>.

Dear Miss Write,

I [expletive] hate winter. I hate it. What can I do to learn to tolerate, if not enjoy, this wretched, WRETCHED season?
— Grinchy

doors in the winter is that you get to come inside and cozy up afterwards... and the fresh air makes your sleeps even better. Oh winter sleeps. They're the best.

Another thing that helps me get through the winter is having something to look forward to. Plan a little reprieve from the cold weather around... say February/March. Take a week in the sun and by the time you get back, you'll be on the home stretch.

Good luck, old guy. Maybe we'll see you on the slopes.

Dear Miss Write,

Did you ever teach second grade at Maple Grove? Specifically, did you teach second grade at Maple Grove in, like, 1992? Specifically, did you ever have a student named Emily Cameron to whom you (I think?) gave either a joke book or *The Littles Go To School* to read in the hospital?

If not, how embarrassed should I be that I've been enthusiastically bragging about the advice column of my second grade teacher to all kinds of people for, like, a year, without investigating whether it's just some other nice lady with the same name?

Thanks!
— Emily (aka *It's a Little Late to Cling to Anonymity Now*)

P.S. I realize this is not a legitimate request for advice; I was just wondering.

P.P.S. Writing to someone who may or may not be your second

grade teacher is a very good way of getting really nervous about grammar.

P.P.P.S. I think it was a joke book. I think it was a joke book by "Jovial Bob Stine", which I've recently learned was a pseudonym of R.L. Stine, which I always figured was already a pseudonym, but it basically isn't.

P.P.P.P.S. Thank you very much for the book, whichever it was. Unless you're another different Ms Arbour. In either case, thank you for upholding the great and wonderful tradition of advice columnry.

My question is: Are you now or have you ever been my second grade teacher?

Dear Emily,

Though it is no reason to be embarrassed, I am not, nor was I ever, your beloved second grade teacher. I am, however, her eldest (some say favourite) daughter. I

told her about your question and she was just tickled that you remember her fondly.

All the best!

Dear Miss Write,

Some of my friends say Santa isn't real. They said that my mom and dad are the ones who leave me presents on Christmas morning. Is that true?
— Sarah

Dear Sarah,

Your friends are dead wrong. In fact, they're so wrong they should probably be held back a grade. Santa is real. Admittedly, I've never seen him (because everyone knows the real Santa doesn't allow himself to be seen), but I know it's true because I'm a mom and I sure as heck don't stay up until the wee hours of Christmas Eve sneaking presents under the tree. I'm too busy watching *Love*

Actually and drinking eggnog with my honey.

Maybe your friends are confused by all the substitute Santas you see around Christmas time. That guy at the mall with the boney knees and the cotton beard? He's not real. He's just a stand-in for the real Santa, who's back at the North Pole making sure the elves stay on task. If you don't watch elves, they run amok I tell you. Amok.

Don't stop believin!
— Emily Arbour is a freelance writer, mother 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 husband a question before he's had his coffee. Only difference is he doesn't have a column in this fine publication.

by Emily Arbour

Dear Grinchy,

I'm with you, brother. I am not winter's biggest fan myself. But when we had kids I decided that, in order to save them from a life of misery (it is our longest season after all), I would find ways to make the season enjoyable.

First thing you need is the right gear. Go get yourself a great warm coat, boots, scarf, hat — the works. If you can go outside and be warm, you're halfway to happiness.

Next, find an activity that you like and can ONLY do in the winter. We're getting into skiing this year, but maybe you'd prefer snowshoeing on some local trails, or cross-country skiing, or even just walking with a friend through snowy fields. The great thing about being active out-

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