

FEBRUARY 2012

the Hummm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas



p.24 & 25

February's Events



p.11

Soup for Thought

**GET INVOLVED
GET CONNECTED**

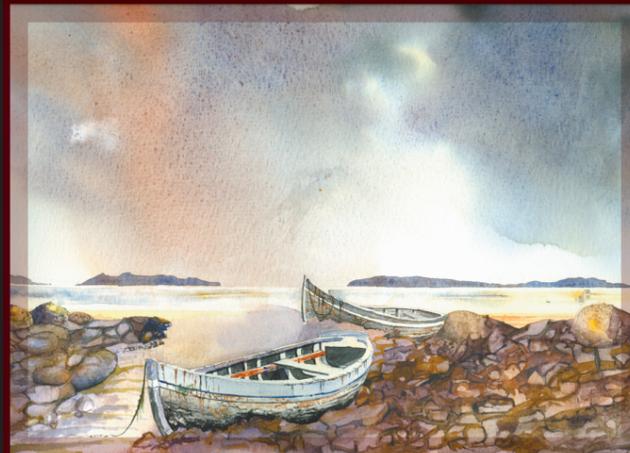
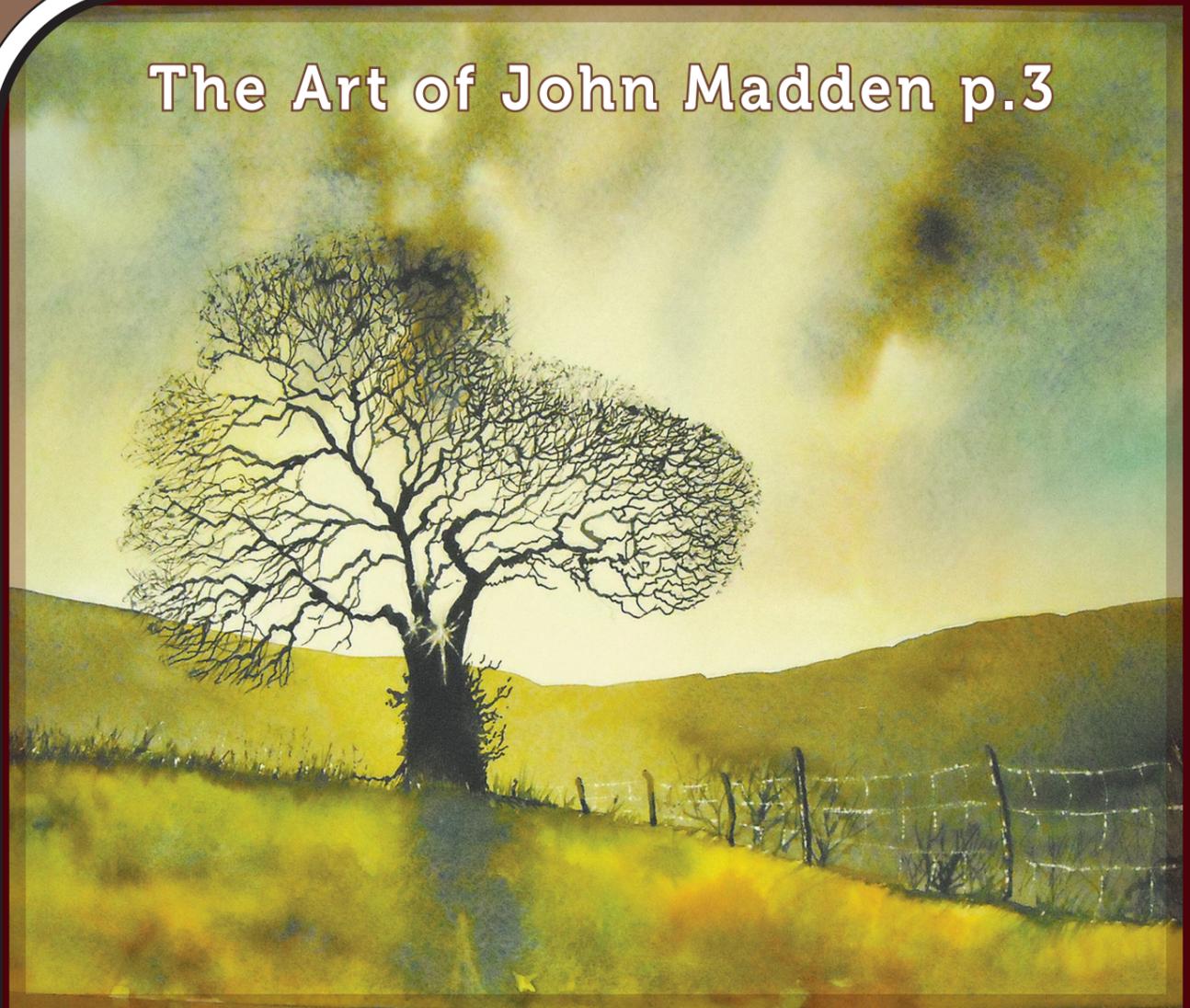
pages 6 to 11



p.19

Birds of a Feather

The Art of John Madden p.3



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ARTBEAT

by Bill Buttle



GET CONNECTED!

The Making of This Month's Artbeat

Bill Buttle: Thought this might do for the "Get Involved, Get Connected" issue in February. This cartoon was inspired by a personal experience of quite some years ago, when Linda and I and a couple of Ottawa friends went out to Pakenham to go around their groomed cross-country ski trail.

I have never had a sense of balance, and cross-country skiing had been, for me, an uneasy amalgam of unceasing frustration interspersed with moments of sheer terror. On this day, the other three were ahead of me and, some distance behind us, a mother, dad, and two littlies were coming along as we headed uphill towards the end of the trail. Uphill on skis was never a sure thing for me, and as I approached the top of the rise, I felt myself beginning to slip backwards. Normally at this point I would have fallen, but on this day of infamy, I maintained my balance, and increased my speed backwards down the grooves of the trail somehow remaining upright until I cannoned into the poor unsuspecting family behind me, scattering them to the four winds. This was obviously a sign. I removed my skis, waded out to the parking lot, and have never been back.

I am glad that that excruciating moment has finally borne fruit. Took long enough...

— Cheers Bill

Editor: I love it!! And may I please run your explanation as well? It made the cartoon all the more poignant for me...

Bill: By all means run the text — though I can just picture in my mind's eye the multitude of readers who have built up a mental picture of the cartoonist superman — handsome, dashing, devil-may-care, take charge kind of guy, only to have it dashed by the inclusion of that explanation, but go ahead, truth is more important... I guess... sigh... you're sure they can handle poignant???

Editor: It just makes you more human, Bill. You don't want to intimidate them.

Don't ask what the world needs.

Ask what makes you come alive and go do it.

*Because what the world needs is people
who have come alive.*

— H. Thurman



Who's Eating theHumm...

Tammy MacKenzie writes: "Mamma Groundhog was taking a break after being busy with housekeeping, and was looking rather bored. Knowing full well the demands of single parenthood, I offered my furry neighbour the latest copy of theHumm, thinking she might appreciate some reading material, and a chance to catch up on what was happening in arts and entertainment around Lanark County. Mamma seemed quite happy about it: you'd almost think she'd read theHumm before!"

Readers Write

New Commuter Route

I ride the Thom bus into Ottawa each day, which was formerly routed through Carleton Place and took about 90 minutes each way (I know!).

However, starting January 2nd, the route has been changed to start in Carleton Place, then come through Almonte on the way to the city, which means it is now a direct shot from Almonte to Ottawa!

It now departs the Almonte Arena at 6:37AM and arrives in Ottawa (Queen and Bank) around 7:40AM. The new route passes Algonquin and Tunney's Pasture, before finishing at Ottawa U. In the afternoon, the bus departs Ottawa U at 4:25PM, and arrives back in Almonte at 5:50PM.

I hope this means we can get a lot more Almonte residents out of their cars and into a nice, warm, spacious coach bus. You don't have to sweep snow off a bus, you know!

The Route in question is 502, Trip 2. If you contact Thom, they will fax you a copy of the new schedule I am sure. The new route hasn't yet been posted to the OC Transpo site, but I imagine it will be shortly, to here: <www.octranspo1.com/community-events/rural_partner_routes>

I am hoping to gain some publicity for the route change, so that we can get lots of people on the bus, reduce traffic, and save the environment! Also, I don't want the bus line to have an excuse to revert to the old bus route. Almonte Express Bus! News at 11! Let me know if you need more info, thanks, and keep up the good work!

— Danielle Wojtyniak, Proud Almonte Resident and Transit Taker



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

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By email or on disk.

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Thanks this month to:

Dick Veenstra (aka the Macgyver of Almonte), for building a "Riendeau drain removal tool" for our ancient plumbing. And to Will and June for letting us shower at their house (and feeding us!). This issue smells much better because of them...

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John Madden — Away From the Maddening Crowd

Painting in watercolour is an escape and an adventure for John Madden. After a career spanning almost three decades as an electronics engineer, genetics prevailed and he has returned to his familial roots as an artist. When his dad died in 2000, John inherited his dad's watercolour set, triggering John's latent passion for art. In John's words, "Dad lives on in the instruments of his craft."

by Sally Hansen

Art On Hold

Born in Belfast, Ireland, John almost followed in his father's footsteps to pursue a career in art. His father was a life-long painter, calligrapher and mosaic specialist who, with his two brothers, operated a business in Belfast creating stained glass windows, mosaics and plaster statues for churches. He passed that artistic talent on to his eight children, all of whom are involved in the arts in one way or another. John treasures a self-portrait his father painted at 35, and remembers the encouragement and correction his father doled out to his artistic offspring.

Even though John had completed his art portfolio, practicality prevailed and he decided instead to enter university and study Electronic Engineering. Most recently he has worked with Nortel, Ciena Corporation and IBM.

Unlike many area residents, Madden remains grateful to Nortel. From 1994 he had been working for Bell Northern Research in Ireland designing high speed modems for New Brunswick. "They made it very attractive for Maggie (his wife) and me to relocate to Canada." In 1998 the couple landed at the Ottawa airport in the middle of the Great Ice Storm; they were thoroughly impressed by the power of the Canadian winter as they skated across the parking lot and retrieved a car completely encased in two inches of ice.

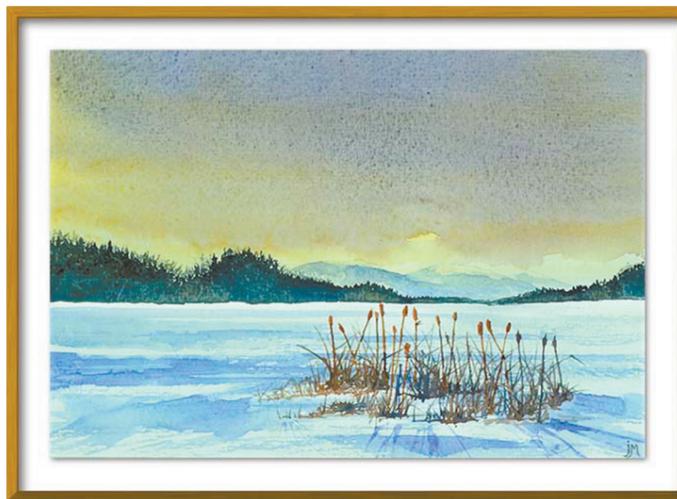
Perhaps that's why many of John Madden's gentle watercolours reflect his memories of his home country. He feels that the startling contrast of the Canadian landscape with that of Ireland brought the meaning of his home country into focus for him. It is what he tries to portray in his landscapes: "the essential Irishness of the hills and mountains, seas and skies, with their air of solitude, even abandonment, that is sometimes melancholy, sometimes tranquil."

Perhaps that is also why he was so drawn to his father's watercolour set as his preferred medium. He finds it the perfect vehicle for reflecting the

various colours and moods of his two favourite subjects — the endless vicissitudes of water and stormy skies. He finds that watercolours enable him to achieve the transparency and depths that bring a landscape alive, with colours intensifying in the foreground as he paints an atmosphere that is a cherished image in his heart and mind.

Far From the Maddening Crowd

(That's right, the actual title of Thomas Hardy's 1874 novel is *Far From the Maddening Crowd*.) Throughout his high tech career Madden turned to his love of art as an antidote to the high-pressure, stressful demands of that madding industry. After his father's death, he returned to art more and more frequently. "Painting relaxes and focuses me; it takes me to a different place," he explains. Eventually it did. Literally.



Art Mad

In 2007, John and Maggie opened Stittsville's first art shop — Art Mad — offering art supplies, gallery space and art classes. The store is located at 1300 Stittsville Main Street, and for John it represented a "leap of faith with no guarantee of where I would land, so I decided to enjoy the freefall." As part of that leap, he and Maggie have had to tackle the biggest challenge of all — how to remain commercially viable in a retail environment comprising a vast variety of product offerings (from chalk through high-quality oil paints) by a wide range of competing suppliers to a widely differing clientele (beginners to professional artists).

Teaching art is a tricky business too. There is always the delicate balance between being too directive and not teaching enough. Maggie's training as an ESL (English as a Second Language) educator has been invaluable, and they have developed structured curricula for all of their courses. The



courses have been extremely popular, and John's favourite aspect of teaching is watching beginners discover talent they didn't know they had. "You can see it in their faces. They are so happy to realize they accomplished something they didn't know they could do."

Madden also really enjoys the gallery aspect of Art Mad. He has always been interested in encouraging budding artists to pursue their dreams. In 2008 he was one of four founding members who approached the City Council to lobby for wall space to display public art at the Goulbourn Recreation Centre. As a result, the Ottawa West Arts Association <owaa.ca> opened their gallery on November 1st of that year, and is continuing to grow.

As part of that encouragement, he invites area artists to drop in at Art Mad and show him their work for possible display in the gallery. Some of Madden's own works are on display, and the shop contains an interesting range of works for purchase and to inspire other artists. At <artmad.ca/gallery.shtml> you can see John's lovely watercolours, and the shop website at <artmad.ca> will answer all of your questions about this welcome addition to the Stittsville arts scene. I would particularly draw your attention to the link at <artmad.ca/lessons.shtml>. It features a generous offering of affordable art classes for adults, including drawing and watercolour and acrylic painting, and an exciting focus on winter art classes for children and youth.

John Madden can be reached by phone at 836-1100 and by email at <info@artmad.ca>.



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WHO John Madden
WHAT Watercolourist, Proprietor of Stittsville's Art Mad, Watercolour Instructor
WHERE Art Mad, Stittsville Shopping Center, 1300 Main Street, 836-1100, <artmad.ca/gallery.shtml>, <info@artmad.ca>
WHEN See Art Mad hours at <artmad.ca/about.shtml>
WHY "Painting relaxes and focuses me; it takes me to a different place."

ARTIST TRADING CARD

Humm Editorial

Welcome to the sixth annual "Get Involved, Get Connected" issue of *theHumm*. We hope you will find it to be a useful (and possibly year-round) tool — full of up-to-date contact information for many of the numerous organizations, events and activities in our area that rely on volunteers. If you find yourself (or a friend) with some spare time and a desire to reach out to your community, we're pretty sure you'll find the means and inspiration within these pages!

by Kris Riendeau

Listed on pages 6-11 are close to sixty different groups that are all seeking volunteers, and we're sure there are plenty more out there. We hope you'll take the time to read through and consider whether your time or talents would be suited to one (or more) of

them. Looking to put your accounting skills to good use? Almonte in Concert could use a new treasurer! Want to try your hand on stage (or be a stagehand)? Join the Mississippi Mudds, the Perth Community Choir or the Valley Players. If you've got a green thumb, your local Horticultural Society would love to hear from you. There are also numerous organizations that assist various members of our society — the Civitans, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Home Support and Hospice Visiting Service are but a few of them. And if you enjoy the company of furry friends, LAWS is looking for you!

We also hope you'll read through the many articles and columns extolling the benefits of volunteering. According to the 2007 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, the number one reason why people don't volunteer is: "because no one asked me to". Please accept this issue of *theHumm* as your official invitation!

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Classes start the week of March 5th and run for 6 weeks

Snow Angel Party

When is the last time you let yourself to fall backwards with abandon into a soft field of snow, stretch out your arms and legs, and make a snow angel?

Sunday, February 19, will be your opportunity! The 2nd Annual Snow Angel Making Party is being held at 4381 Wolf Grove Road, Lanark, between 1 and 4PM. "What is a snow angel making party?" you may ask. The act of making a snow angel produces an inexplicable sense of joy, relaxation and contentment. Making more than one angel multiplies the feeling, and when a whole group of people are making angels at the same time, the collective energy rocks! You really have to be there and do it to understand the concept, so come out and try it. The invitation is open to everyone. There will be a campfire with hot cider and good cheer and you are welcome to bring something to cook over the fire or a treat to share. Dress for the weather

and wear a coat with a hood so you don't get snow down your neck when you are flailing in the snow. Last year a wonderful group came out and one young girl from Pakenham broke the record and made over 53 angels! The youngest participant was 8 months old and the oldest was 87. Everyone is welcome, so spread the word and we will see if we can fill the field with angels — it's bound to be good for your soul!

From Almonte, continue on Almonte/Ottawa Street, through the lights at the ESSO station, and it turns into Wolf Grove Road. Drive 20km through the flashing yellow light in Middleville and then look for the 2nd laneway on your left after the flashing light. Bring your snowshoes or cross-country skis if you want to tour the farm after making your snow angels. See you there!

— Susan Cressy



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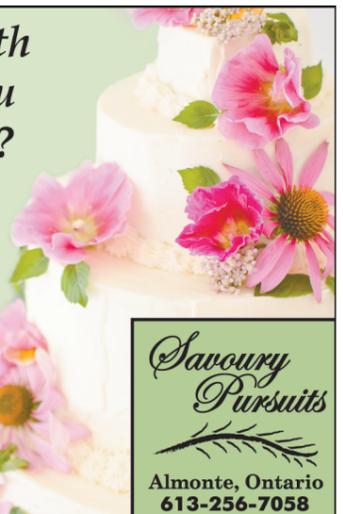
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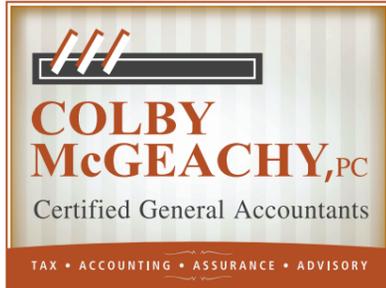
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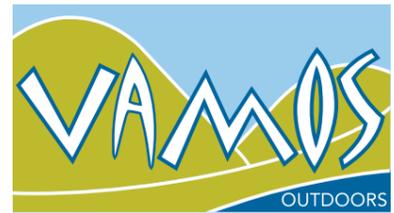
An oasis for the backyard birder

The Philip K. Wood Gallery
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«A new beginning in the old town!»



Gord Pike had a vision and his dream has been fulfilled. Over the past few years, that dream has focused on his property at 14 Mill Street in downtown Almonte, and now all nine spots in his beautifully renovated **Heritage Court** <www.heritagecourt.biz> have been filled!

These days, Gord himself can most often be found welcoming diners to the **Mill Street Crepe Company** at the front of the Court. The delightful atmosphere and delectable offerings of executive chef Theo Yeaman have already attracted a great deal of favourable publicity, including a glowing review by The Ottawa Citizen's Anne DesBrisay, who also listed the Crepe Company as one of her "Best Bites of 2011". Across from the restaurant, the Heritage Court's inaugural tenant, **The Village Idiot**, is in the process of transforming into {smitten}, and also shares space with **Philip K. Wood Framing**. Take a walk down the skylit central corridor and you'll find **Gilligallou Bird, Inc.** (an oasis for the backyard birder), **Willow** (accessories for inspired living), **Peace of Mind Creations and Friends** (Canadian art and craft), and **The White Lilly** (eco-friendly women's clothing and accessories). The retail portion of Heritage Court is rounded out by **Vamos Outdoors** (getting you out for less). On the upper level, you'll find the offices of **Colby McGeachy, PC** – Certified General Accountants.

Thanks to the vision of folks like Gord Pike, Heritage Court is now full of new beginnings in the old town!



Meet us:

Upcoming Mixer:

Wednesday, February 15

Leonard Lee, founder of Lee Valley Tools, Algrove Publishing and Canica Design
6PM at Pakenham's newest pub **Love That Barr**

Please RSVP, as space is limited to 256-7886 or www.mississippimills.com.

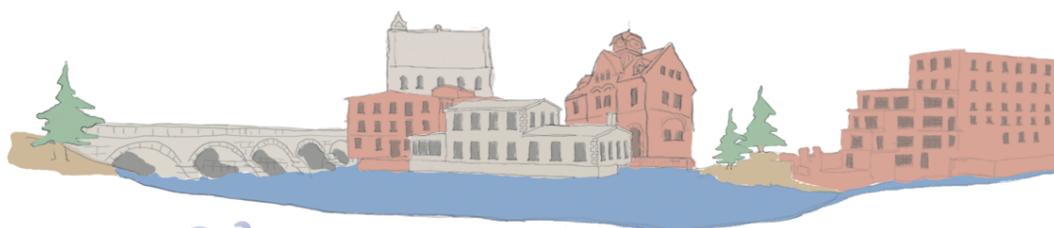
Chamber AGM

Wednesday, March 28 at 5PM
Location TBA.

Join us:

To become a member of the Mississippi Mills Chamber of Commerce please email your request to manager@mississippimills.com. Members who attend our monthly MIXERS are eligible to win a business profile like this one!

Gord Pike — Mississippi Mills Chamber member since 1994



Visit us: www.mississippimills.com

Volunteer Opportunities

If you're looking to get more involved in and connected with your community, look no further! Below and on the next few pages you'll find a "one-stop-shopping" index of events, groups and organizations throughout Lanark County (and beyond) that rely on the wonderful work of volunteers. Our hope is that no matter what your interests and availability, you'll find the perfect match.

Don't see your event or organization listed on these pages?
Contact <editor@thehummm.com> to be listed in future issues.

Arts & Activities Organizations

We are seeking people to join the Board of **Almonte in Concert** as it goes into its 33rd season of providing quality classical music in our community. Be part of the planning for our concerts, fundraisers, and special events. Our board is currently looking for a new treasurer with a knowledge of Quicken or an equivalent accounting software programme. Check <www.almonteinconcert.com> for an overview of our activities. Contact <info@almonteinconcert.com> for details.

The **Almonte Trad Sing** session meets the third Sunday of the month in the upstairs parlour of the Barley Mow to sing traditional songs with choruses, such as sea shanties and old gospel tunes. We revive the days when people would gather round the kitchen table or in a local pub to sing and play for their own pleasure. For more info see <www.shantyman.ca/TradSing> or call David Baril at 256-2689.

Arts Carleton Place is gearing up for a busy year with programs, events and fundraisers. We appreciate the interest in the arts from the community, but rely on the support of volunteers to make it all happen. If you are interested in being a part of the scene, meeting artists and performers, participating in committees, and above all having fun, please contact us at <artscp@bell.net>.

Artswell, Arts and Healthcare is looking for volunteers to join one of several programs run in various locations across the region. This is a rewarding, stimulating activity that can significantly improve the lives of many people. We are also actively seeking new Board members to assist in growing our established arts and health charity. If you have management, Board or fundraising experience, we would be delighted to hear from you. To learn more, contact us at <artswell@magma.ca>.

MERA is a community arts organization in McDonalds Corners. Our Heritage Schoolhouse is busy all week with dancers, fibre artists, musicians and potters. On weekends we host concerts and, in winter, our popular 'Round the World on a Dinner Plate community suppers. We offer interesting workshops and, in the warmer months, there is the Farmers' Market, MERA Café, summer arts camps, festivals and community events. For more information, or to become a member, visit <www.meraschoolhouse.org>, email <meraschoolhouse@bell.net>, or call 278-0388.

The **Mississippi Mudds Theatre Group** is always looking for new volunteers both back stage and on stage. Another season of live theatre in Carleton Place is underway with plans for two major productions between now and May 2012. In February our Youth Theatre branch presents "Pirates of Penzance Junior" and on April 27 we present the Michael Frayn farce "Noises Off". Meanwhile we are planning the family musical "Aladdin" to open in December. Visit <www.mississippimudds.ca> or email <info@mississippimudds.com> to get involved.



The **Mississippi Mudds Youth Theatre** provides opportunities for children and youth aged 8-18 to gain confidence, artistic skill and friendship through theatre. Established in 2007 and growing strong, we welcome volunteers of all ages and in all departments. Always seeking set painters, builders, seamstresses, designers and anyone interested in making a difference to a young person's life through the performing arts. Check <www.mississippimudds.com> for details. Email <info@mississippimudds.com> to get involved.

Movies Under the Stars — Together Smiths Falls will be back under the SF water tower this summer hosting outdoor family movies every Thursday evening and introducing a new event: outdoor music every Saturday evening. Help needed for poster hanging, setup, concession sales and take down. Your commitment can be as little as one hour; then enjoy the show. Please call and help us bring some new and interesting events to town. Call 285-9125 or email <info@togethersmithsfalls.com>. See you this summer!

On Stage For Kids <www.onstageforkids.com> is a not-for-profit charitable organization that has been offering live entertainment for children since 1987. Four shows per season, including jugglers, musicians, comedians, puppeteers, actors, magicians and improv artists, have awed children aged 2 to 10. All the shows are planned, organized and coordinated by volunteers, and we'd love to have a few more people to help us plan the next season's shows. To join us or for more information, please contact Karen at 451-0323.

United Way Lanark County Needs Your Help!

As the 2011 annual fundraising campaign winds down, the United Way of Lanark County needs the help of all individuals, organizations and companies in the County in order to reach their goal of \$400,000 by the middle of February. "While many community members and businesses have been very generous with donations," notes board president Shelagh Dobson, "we need everyone in the county — individuals, business owners, service clubs, everyone — to make sure that they have made their donation to this year's United Way annual campaign. Our support for the United Way's sixteen member agencies depends on the donations we receive from the whole community, and we are only at 75% of our goal."

This year's campaign has seen an increase in giving by many individuals, with some people donating to the campaign after an absence of a year. "It was very encouraging to see many people returning to donating to the campaign," stated executive director Sarah Bridson, "yet we also noted that many people who normally contribute have not done so yet. We hope to reach out to those individuals, to make sure they have the opportunity to donate. Over the next few weeks, we will be calling those potential donors to make sure they have the opportunity to give to our campaign." The annual fundraising drive allows the United Way to provide funds to its sixteen member agencies within the County. These agencies assist seniors, young people, people with disabilities, and many others who need a helping hand to succeed in today's world. For example, a \$20 donation provides a homeless youth with basic clothing, while \$75 allows a senior who is living alone to have a hot lunch delivered for one month by volunteers. Bridson notes: "many of those people who receive support from our United Way member agencies are neighbours, friends, or co-workers — people we know. Many families need that support."

"We also hope that the business community — small business owners, professionals, large organizations — will step up and help us reach our goal," says Dobson, who pointed out "they are crucial to our success, and it is a great opportunity for them to give back to their community — to the people who support them." This year, several new companies joined those who already participate in the Payroll Deduction Program, which offers employees the opportunity to contribute to the United Way through payroll deductions at work. Dobson noted, "This effective program makes donating very easy for employees, and several organizations this year have participation rates of over 75% of the employees. Even \$2 per week makes a huge difference for us and the people we serve."

Bridson summed up why donating is so important: "Our member agencies need these funds to meet the requirements of the people they serve. The United Way needs your help to reach our goal — please consider donating. You may donate with your credit card by calling us at 253-9074 or by going to <lanarkunitedway.com> and clicking the Donate button, which is on the right-hand side. We also accept donations, in person or by mail, at our office at 15 Bates Drive, Carleton Place, ON K7C 4J8."

Remember, the United Way is here for your community. All donations made here, stay here, to help people in Lanark County, in your community. Please consider donating, to help the United Way reach its goal of \$400,000 — and provide the funds that go to help over 1 in 8 people in Lanark County.

Carleton Place and Beckwith Historical Society Needs Board Members

The Historical Society is seeking committed enthusiastic people with an appreciation of local history to join our Board in May 2012. The Board meets for two hours each month, and activities between meetings may take an additional three hours per month.

Our Society seeks to bring together people interested in the diverse historical heritage of Carleton Place and Beckwith Township in order to preserve, research and promote our rich history. We manage the Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum as part of this mandate.

If you have an interest in local history and time and enthusiasm to volunteer, please contact Valerie Fox by email at <val2.fox@gmail.com> or call 613-257-4228 to volunteer and to attend an upcoming Board meeting.

How to Get Exactly What You Want

If what you want is to become more connected and involved with your community:

Start reading the descriptions of organizations and events seeking volunteers (they start at the left and span the next six pages), and don't stop until you've found the perfect match for your interests and availability. We guarantee it will be here somewhere!

If what you want is to help spread the work (and fun) around so that you can keep some balance (and free time) in your life:

Pass this issue of *theHumm* on to a new neighbour or someone who has recently retired or moved to the community. Why not bring them cookies too!

If what you want is to attract and retain volunteers for your organization:

Go to www.thehummm.com and read Sally Hansen's article "In Pursuit of Volunteer Recruits", that first ran in the February 2007 issue of *theHumm*. It's chock-full of proven and practical ideas!

And Last, But Not Least:

If what you want is to continue to live in a community where folks volunteer to coach your children (or you), sort your used stuff and re-direct it from landfills, care for you when you get older and have trouble moving around, figure out how to be good stewards of the land and water on which we rely, preserve and celebrate our cultural heritage, raise money for good causes, and put on events that are tons of fun...

THANK A VOLUNTEER!



FUNDRAISING, MARKETING, & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

Mills Community Support Corporation (MCSC) is a non-profit community organization. We strive to promote an inclusive, age friendly community through the provision of services and community capacity building activities.

Although we use our existing resources creatively, the Mills needs greater involvement of citizens of Lanark County to carry out its work. The Board of Directors of MCSC is inviting volunteers with a passion for community building and expertise in marketing, fundraising and grant proposal writing to form a Fundraising, Marketing and Communications Committee. We need you!

Please contact: Jeff Mills, Coordinator, Community Development, Mills Community Support (613) 256-1031, ext. 63 or jmills@themills.on.ca.

To learn more about the work of the Mills visit our website at www.themills.on.ca



North America's oldest community theatre organization, **Orpheus Musical Theatre Society**, has something for everyone! Established in 1906, this volunteer-driven, non-profit musical theatre company showcases some of the area's finest talent, both onstage and behind the scenes. Open auditions are held for each of our mainstage productions, performed at Centrepointhe Theatre, and we offer an exciting array of volunteer opportunities in production areas such as set construction, costumes, props and stage crew. Find out more at www.orpheus-theatre.ca or contact info@orpheus-theatre.ca or 729-4318.



The annual November musical theatre presentation by the **Perth Community Choir** plays to capacity audiences in the Mason Theatre. Opportunities are available to be on stage, to be a member of several production teams, or to join the Board. At the Annual General Meeting in May, the fall show is announced, a new board is elected and scheduled auditions are arranged. Look for further announcements in *theHumm*. Join the Perth Community Choir family this year!

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the **Valley Players of Almonte**, the group will be offering one-act plays for competition this fall and a comedy in spring 2013. The Valley Players have provided great theatre experiences for young and old, novice and seasoned. The upcoming year is bursting with opportunities such as play readings throughout the winter, which are open to all. Have fun and make new friends on or off stage. Check out our website or contact Brian McManus at 256-6475.

Festivals & Events

Almonte Celtfest is a free weekend of Celtic entertainment performed in the natural amphitheatre of Gemmill Park. We celebrate and promote the Celtic heritage of the Ottawa Valley through music, dance, local artisans and vendors. Our event requires the efforts of many volunteers leading up to and during the event. We are looking for people who would be able to assist the organizing committee. If you are interested, please send an email to almonteceltfest@hotmail.com or call Brenda Cain-Kealey (256-4089).

The **Canal Railway and Chocolate Festival**, which is held August 10-12 in Smiths Falls on the UNESCO World Heritage Rideau Canal, is a family-focused festival. Volunteers are needed right away to help with organizing events, writing grants and getting the program together, and are also needed on the festival weekend for set-up, gate admissions, vendor set-up, security, teardown and cleanup. Contact dawnsclot@hotmail.com, www.canalrailwayfest.com, 284-2664.

The **Classic Theatre Festival**, Ottawa Valley's professional summer theatre, presents classic hits from the golden age of Broadway and the London Stage at the Mason Theatre in Perth (13 Victoria St.). 2012 summer season (July 13-Sept. 2), features two comedies: William Gibson's "Two for the Seesaw", and Jean Kerr's "Mary, Mary". Opportunities include ushering, operating concessions, set construction and painting, community outreach. A great opportunity to work with some of Canada's top theatre professionals. Contact 1-877-283-1283 ext. 3 or info@classictheatre.ca.

Doors Open Mississippi Mills/Carleton Place: Saturday, September 8. Would you like to participate in welcoming visitors to some interesting and historic properties in your community? Doors Open events are held across Ontario each year. Admission is free. We need volunteers interested in interpreting the sites for visitors. Time commitment would be about 8 hours (2 hours training, 4 hours on the day, 2 hours de-brief). Your participation would be greatly appreciated! Contact Charlotte Farmer at 256-8130 or missmillhc@gmail.com.

Join a dynamic team of volunteers for the 17th annual Ottawa Valley **Midsummer Herbfest**, Sunday, July 29, 2012 at the Herb Garden, 3840 Old Almonte Road just outside of Ottawa. This festival hosts a large marketplace of over 90 vendors and artisans, the famous Chef Cook-off, live dance and music, wild herbal walks, presentations and more. As a volunteer, you will receive a free family and parking pass, T-shirt and honorary stipend. Info: www.herbfest.ca or contact Freda Godby at fgodby@rogers.com.

Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month is a volunteer-run community festival in June which celebrates everything bicycle — art and film shows; guided rides for birders, heritage buffs, stargazers, seniors and families; bike safety and maintenance courses; games, rodeos, competitions; and much more. Now and throughout June, we need volunteers to help organize, promote, and run events. We'll match your talents, ideas and time commitments with tasks and people you'll enjoy working with. Contact our bicycle-friendly group at bicyclemonth@gmail.com or 256-3234.



Come and join our volunteer corps for the **Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival** www.puppetsup.ca on August 11 to 12! Love working with people? We have jobs as greeters and ticket takers. Have experience with finances? We need help in our cash office. Organizational and management skills? Put your talents to good use in our theatres. And for avid crafters, we could certainly use your skills in our children's craft tent. Contact Jan Watson, Volunteer Coordinator at 256-3455 or jwatson@themills.on.ca.

Museums & Conservation Areas

Archives Lanark welcomes your help once a week. The Archives relies on volunteers to assist visitors, organize the holdings, make photocopies and type information into our database. Located at Drummond Centre near Perth, this repository for historical and genealogical documents pertaining to the County of Lanark is an independent not-for-profit organization. Call 256-3130 or 267-2232 if you enjoy dealing with the public and working with adults in a comfortable office environment on Fridays or Saturdays.



The **Arnprior and District Historical Society** is dedicated to the history of the local region. Interesting talks are held five times a year. Formed in 1967, this group is newly rejuvenated and is looking for you and your interest in local history. Anyone with a keen interest in history is encouraged to join in and help both the organization and its museum. For further information please contact Cathy Brady at 623-6920.

The **Arnprior and District Museum** has super volunteers that make the place tick, and we need more. Do you like antiques and history? If so, this is the place for you. We need help with our database, which involves bringing new artefacts into the collection, and if that's not enough to keep you occupied we also need help with our school program! Volunteers make it happen in Arnprior. Please call 623-4902 or email <jclarile@arnprior.ca>.

The **Carleton Place & Beckwith Heritage Museum's** collection of artifacts, photographs and archival materials chronicles the history of Carleton Place and Beckwith Township. We are currently planning our summer exhibits and have opportunities for volunteer expertise and assistance in: scanning photo collection, researching newspaper/document archives, and creating indexes of photo albums and scrapbooks. If you have an appreciation of history, love to create order from chaos, and would enjoy learning about your community, please contact Jennifer at 253-7013 or <victoriaschool@bellnet.ca>.

The **Friends of the Arnprior and District Museum** are a group of folks who are dedicated to helping the museum grow and be even more active in the community. Following a major success with its first fundraiser, the Friends are looking to get involved with exhibit opening and fun special events. If you want to know more contact Mark at 623-3119 or <markpfoley@hotmail.com>.

Be a friend, make a friend. Your skills are needed by the **Friends of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum** in Almonte who are happy to welcome new members. Their activities centre around the various museum events: exhibit openings, Fibrefest, dances, the Christmas events, and many others. Meet artists, learn about the textile trade, and help keep this vibrant museum alive. Call the museum at 256-3754x7, or drop in to find out what's new.

The **Friends of Murphys Point Park** <www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca> group works to enhance the natural heritage education program at Murphys Point Provincial Park by furthering the public's awareness, education and understanding of the geological, historical/archaeological, cultural and biological resources of the park. Volunteers are needed for youth programs, fundraising activities, Board of Director positions, heritage interpretation, social media communications, helping at BBQs and greeting visitors at the Heritage Mica Festival. Training will be provided as necessary. Email us at <friendsofmurphyspointpark@yahoo.ca> or call 264-0447.

The **Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation (MVCF)** is looking for volunteer members. The MVCF provides volunteer support and raises funds for the conservation education program, special projects, and conservation area upkeep. If you are interested joining the MVCF, contact Suzanne McFarlane at 259-2421x225. Mississippi Valley Conservation is also looking to expand its conservation area volunteer corps. Volunteer interpreters



are needed at **Purdon Conservation Area** during the peak Showy Lady Slipper Orchid blooming period from mid-June to early July. Volunteers assist visitors with plant identification and site history and provide light maintenance. Training provided. The **Mill of Kintail Conservation Area**, home of the R. Tait McKenzie Memorial Museum and Dr. James Naismith Museum, needs volunteers to help maintain and enhance the gardens, monitor trails, and assist with special events. For these and other watershed-based volunteer opportunities please contact Suzanne McFarlane at 259-2421x225.

Join the **Mississippi Valley Textile Museum's** team of volunteers! The MVTM collects, interprets and displays artifacts relating to the history of the textile industry in the Mississippi River Valley, and showcases contemporary fibre arts exhibitions. We are looking for volunteers to assist in office administration, building maintenance and landscaping, and to greet visitors, give tours, run educational programs, work on displays and exhibits, work with artifacts, help out at special events, and more! Visit <www.mvtm.ca> or contact 256-3754 x7.

Volunteers are greatly appreciated at the **North Lanark Regional Museum** (Appleton). Tasks include assisting with research at the museum, collecting artefacts, preserving artefacts, maintaining flower beds, etc. Events at the museum depend on volunteers to greet visitors, provide refreshments, and more. Anyone with an interest in local history and who enjoys working with others is welcome to share their time and talent as a volunteer. For further information contact Doreen at 256-2866 or email <appletonmuseum@hotmail.com>.



Hospice Visiting Service

Giving People Living with a Serious Illness a Chance to Stay Home

The Volunteer Hospice Visiting Service of Community Home Support — Lanark County needs more volunteers in Smiths Falls and surrounding area. Volunteers give people with a life-threatening illness, and people who are dying, the chance to be cared for at home, in comfort and dignity surrounded by the people they love. The service supports caregivers who cannot leave their loved ones alone and need respite (a break) in addition to getting out to run errands, doing yard maintenance, going to appointments, visiting other ill family members, having someone to talk to, etc. Many caregivers are still working and desperately trying to keep their jobs while meeting the very challenging and fluctuating needs of their loved one. The service also supports people who are living alone with their illness and have no family members or friends available to help them.

If you are a sensitive and caring person and have a few hours to spare once a week, this may be the role for you. A work record is kept for each volunteer so that the position can provide job references. An invaluable personal benefit may be gained by easing the burden of others while passing on one's own experience and wisdom. All new volunteers must successfully complete the screening process: an interview, two personal reference checks and a criminal reference check. Completion of a free 36-hour Palliative Care Level 1 Certificate or equivalent education and experience is also required. Ongoing information and education sessions are offered free to volunteers by Community Home Support, where there are many opportunities to meet other members of a very active and compassionate Volunteer Hospice Visiting Team that is growing throughout Lanark County.

For further information about becoming a volunteer, please contact Rebecca Bowie at 267-6400 ext. 28 or <rebeccab@chslc.ca>. Community Home Support — Lanark County is supported by the South East Local Health Integration Network, the United Way and charitable donations.



—THE—
MILLS
Community Support Corporation

**WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS
TO SERVE ON THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

Contribute your experience and enthusiasm to the governance and growth of Mills Community Support (MCS). MCS provides supports and services to over 1000 people living in Lanark County and Smiths Falls with the help of 200 volunteers, in the areas of Developmental Service, Seniors Services, Housing and Community Development.

Board membership reflects the areas we serve: Mississippi Mills, Carleton Place and Smiths Falls. The volunteer board functions through a committee structure and meets monthly in Almonte. Directors are expected to engage in committee work.

Currently identified opportunities

The board is looking for persons who have, in addition to a passion for community service, expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Legal services
- Financial services
- Fundraising/marketing
- Service delivery
- Stakeholder/ Community Relations

Applicants are invited to apply by sending their resume complete with a letter of interest indicating relevant experience to the Nominations Committee care of Lisa Ryan, Mills Community Support, 67 Industrial Drive, Almonte, ON KOA 1A0 or via email: lryan@themills.on.ca

Applications will be accepted until March 15, 2011.

To learn more about MCSC visit our website at www.themills.on.ca or call 613 256-1031



The Joplinesque Band plays a fundraiser for Lanark Animal Welfare Society (LAWS) on February 25

Janis Joplin Tribute for LAWS

She was known as “Pearl”, but inside became more like a withered rose. She turned the music world upside down but couldn’t set right her own broken heart, and so she soared to the top and then crashed to the bottom. She died too young and, sadly, was done too soon.

She was Janis Joplin.

On Saturday, February 25, local singer/songwriter Shelley Montreuil (known best as the lead singer for the group Tell Mama) will personalize this legendary late ‘60s / early ‘70s blues/rock singer in a production entitled *An Evening with Janis Joplin*.

The premier presentation of this production will be staged at the Royal Canadian Legion in Perth, with show time set for 7:30PM. It is presented in part by the Lanark Animal Welfare Society (LAWS) and will serve as a fundraiser for that organization.

An Evening with Janis Joplin is a production that profiles three distinct periods of Joplin’s life and music. It ranges from her beginnings as a teenager (who would sneak out of her parents’ house at night to sing in coffee houses and blues bars) to the final years of big concert stages along with her band Full Tilt Boogie.

“This is meant to be more than a show,” Montreuil explains. “It’s meant to be an experience. I’m not trying to ‘channel’ Janis, but rather we are trying to investigate, project, profile and hopefully bring to life somewhat the essence of just who and what she was.”

To do this, Montreuil will open the show by welcoming the audience to join Janis in a Juke Joint where she will perform the Leadbelly and Bessie Smith tunes that made her feel a connection... a purpose. The group will take you to San Francisco with their depiction of some Big Brother and The Holding Company arrangements and, ultimately, the evening will explode with the Joplinesque band revisiting the Full Tilt Boogie band and some of Joplin’s best known tunes such as *Piece of My Heart*, *Tell Mama* and *Cry Baby*.

“Ottawa Valley Troubadour” Lyle Dillabough is helping Montreuil compose the script and will appear in the show as well. He hopes to eventually take the show on the road and produce it in other venues throughout the province.

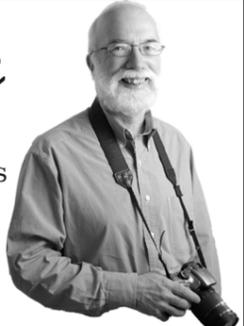
LAWS is an independent organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of all animals. It is a registered charity that survives solely on private donations, receiving no funding from any level of government. Every year the shelter staff deals with many lost, abused, or abandoned animals that are cared for until their rightful owners can be found or they can be placed in new homes. For more information about the organization, please visit <lanarkanimals.ca>.

Tickets for this show are \$60 and are available at Shadowfax and Tickets Please <ticketsplease.ca> in Perth.

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Organizations & Services

Join the **Almonte & District Horticultural Society** for monthly speakers and gardening tips. Enter your best blooms and creative arrangements in our shows. Mount your best shots for our photo competitions. Lend a hand tending our gardens around Almonte. Sample dishes at our “Culinary Feast From My Garden” potluck. We meet the fourth Monday of every month, except July and December, at the Cornerstone Community Church at 7:30PM. \$10 annual membership. Contact Gerda Franssen at 257-7155 or visit <www.gardenontario.org/site.php/Almonte>.

If you are looking for a way to give something back to your community, please consider volunteering at the **Almonte General Hospital/Fairview Manor**. The Hospital and Manor are seeking volunteers to assist staff in several departments, help with activities and spend time with patients and residents. Training is provided. To find out more, contact Anne McRae at 256-2514 x 2226 or visit <www.agh-fvm.com>.

The **Almonte Lions Club** is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year with a concerted membership drive. It is one of several thousand clubs of Lions International in over 400 countries worldwide that devote time, effort and money for innumerable humanitarian causes. The Almonte Lions have raised and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to many community projects and individuals with special needs. The Lions welcome new members, both men and women. For information please call Garth Teskey at 256-6778.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lanark County is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that provides mentoring programs to children throughout the County. Volunteer opportunities are varied, and can be built to suit an individual’s interests and location. Programs include one-on-one mentoring, music, craft or sports programs, and so much more. Other opportunities include helping at events, in our thrift store, on a committee, or on our board. Visit us at <www.bigbrothersbigsisterslanark.ca> or call 283-0570 for more information.

Camp Lau-Ren is a children’s residential summer camp of the United Church of Canada, drawing campers from many parts of Renfrew and Lanark Counties. The Camp Lau-Ren Board seeks volunteer board members, leaders and counsellors, as well as people willing to help with camp renovations and repairs in the spring. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this non-profit camp and help keep camper fees low. For information on how you can help, contact Bruce Patterson at 257-2672 or visit <www.lau-ren.com>.

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. We need help with the spring daffodil pin campaign, the Relay for Life in Lombardy and Mississippi Mills, interviewing and training volunteers, a Mississippi Mills Branch Secretary and more. There are many ways to share your special skills and talents. Contact Laurie Blackstock at 267-1058 or <lblackstock@ontario.cancer.ca >.

With ice storms, floods, forest fires, or house fires that leave families homeless, every 4 hours someone in Canada needs disaster relief. The **Canadian Red Cross** helps by meeting basic needs, and providing help and hope. Our Disaster Management Team is seeking volunteers to respond in **Lanark County**. To give back to your community, meet people, have new experiences, and help your neighbours in times of crisis, volunteer for the Red Cross! Contact <lanarkcounty@redcross.ca>.



Everyone in and outside of **Carleton Place** is invited to participate in **BIA** community events such as Lambs Down Park Festival, Bridge Street Bazaar, the Maskeraid Halloween Parade and the Santa Claus Parade. All events require many volunteers to make them the success they are. The BIA is an organization open to new partnerships and events — if you have a great event idea, contact us. For a great volunteer experience contact the Carleton Place BIA at 257-8049 or <cmcormond@carletonplace.ca>, <www.downtowncarletonplace.com>.

Do you have a green thumb or would you like to learn how to develop one? The **Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society** is looking for new members. Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month except January and February at St. James Anglican church hall at 7PM. Featured are expert speakers on all aspects of gardening. Members/volunteers are needed for our June Flower Show and maintenance of the Victoria School Museum Garden. Visit <www.cphorticulture.ca>.

Community Home Support — Lanark County provides support services to seniors, adults with physical disabilities, and persons with life-threatening illness and/or are dying which help them continue to reside in their own homes and remain a vital part of their community. Volunteers are needed. Drivers receive a tax-free reimbursement. For more information, please call the office nearest you. Perth 267-6400, Smiths Falls 283-6745, Lanark 259-5412, Carleton Place 253-0733, Pakenham 624-5647.



GET INVOLVED / GET CONNECTED

The **Community Labyrinth in Carleton Place** offers a special place for people to come together to celebrate, to enjoy a meditative walk, or simply take time out of a busy day. Seeking volunteers to assist with staging and set up for our 2012 events. Contact Debby at 257-1014, log into our blog <carletonplacecommunitylabyrinth.blogspot.com> or visit us on Facebook.

Dignity House Hospice operates a palliative care Day Hospice in Perth every Monday. We are seeking volunteers to assist with the following. In the Day Hospice: Direct assistance and support to clients (training provided), and assistance with kitchen duties once a month. For Dignity House: assistance with behind the scenes activities such as sending thank-you cards, assisting at events and with promotions, a quarterly newsletter and more. If you are interested in discussing these opportunities, contact 430-4211 or <dignityhouseperth@gmail.com>.

The **Friends of the Perth & District Union Public Library** is a volunteer group that supports the library by raising funds for services such as children's programming and technology. We hold annual raffles and bake sales and look after the library's outdoor gardens and book sales. New members, as well as ideas for fundraising events, are sought to help the library improve its services over the coming years. Contact Loretta Erion at 267-1693 or <erion@sympatico.ca> or visit <www.perthunionlibrary.ca/friends.html> for information.

The **Guatemala Stove Project** works with indigenous Maya families living in Guatemala's Western Highlands. The core activity is building masonry cookstoves for impoverished households in rural Maya villages. We're also involved in education and nutrition. The goal is to improve health, and reduce deforestation and carbon emissions. Volunteers plan fundraising events, presentations, and the annual volunteer trip to Guatemala. Meetings held every six weeks in Perth, and Ottawa. For more info visit <www.guatemalastoveproject.org>.



Mills Community Support Corporation's **Home Support Program** in Almonte and area assists seniors and adults with physical disabilities to be active in their community and to be happy, healthy and independent in their homes for as long as possible. Consider volunteering with our program by driving seniors to appointments, delivering Meals on Wheels, serving meals at our dining programs, being a friendly visitor, telephone assurance or helping with our Home Support Hikers program. Please call Home Support at 256-4700 for more information.

The Volunteer **Hospice Visiting Service** of Community Home Support — Lanark County needs more volunteers! Hospice volunteers give people living with serious illness the chance to be cared for at home, in comfort and dignity, surrounded by the people they love. If you are a sensitive and caring person with some time to spare, come out and join a team of compassionate volunteers! Phone 267-6400 or email <rebeccab@chslc.ca>.

The Hub has a place for you. Our \$4 membership includes the camaraderie of our store and staff where you will make new friends, find a sympathetic ear, and learn new skills. Everyone has talents to offer — we can't wait to meet you! See our website: <www.thehubalmonte.com>. Come in anytime to join this 38 year-old institution in Almonte — you'll be glad you did; so will we!

The **Lanark County Community Justice Program** involves the community in repairing the harm that results from crime. Youth and adult referrals are screened, then assigned to volunteer facilitators who conduct restorative justice forums, where people directly affected meet to discuss an incident and decide how to make things right. Volunteers receive training, resources and support to assist them in their work. For information on upcoming training sessions, call 264-1558 or 1-888-264-1558, or email us at <ed.lccjp@gmail.com>.

Pick your volunteer team with **Lanark County Interval House** (LCIH). Support needed in many areas: office, drivers, shift, children's program, housekeeping, handyman/odd jobs, special events, board of directors and at the As Good As New Thrift Store — where we need sellers and sorters. As the only shelter serving Lanark County, LCIH volunteers have an opportunity to make an important contribution to women and children fleeing violent homes. For more information, contact Heather Whiting, Volunteer/Fundraising Coordinator at <heather@lcih.com> or 257-3469 x27.



The **Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program** offers specialized riding lessons to people with physical and/or developmental disabilities. Would you like to volunteer during weekly lessons to lead the horses or walk beside the riders to give them support and encouragement? No experience is required, and training sessions will be held in the spring with lessons beginning in April in Perth, and Almonte. Great exercise and great people! For more information visit <www.therapeuticriding.ca> or 257-7121 x 236.

Want to get involved in your community? Why not consider joining the **Lanark & District Civitan Club**. Civitan is an international organization and its purpose is to serve the community. We do this by supporting our local hospital, youth centre, school citizenship awards, Adopt-A-Road, Relay For Life and CHEO, and organizing the Canada Day celebrations and the Santa Claus parade. Choose your project and get involved. For information call 267-2491. Serving the community for 39 years.

LAWS is a registered charity dedicated to promoting the well-being of all animals, and survives solely on private donations, without government funding. Shelter staff care for many lost, abused or abandoned animals until their rightful owners can be found or they can be placed in new homes. Are you 16+ and would like to help at a fundraiser or can commit once per week to help clean cages/kennels, dishes, or laundry, or feed animals or walk dogs? Please apply at <www.lanarkanimals.ca/programs_volunteer.htm>.



Cancer Prevention Event in Almonte

Prevention Is The Cure, a multimedia presentation that explains how to prevent cancer, will be taking place at the Almonte Old Town Hall, at 14 Bridge Street, from 7 to 9PM on February 15. As part of the program, the community choral group Just Voices will be entertaining the audience with excellent singing and harmonies along with clever and humorous lyrics. Combining good entertainment with valuable, perhaps life-saving information for town residents — this promises to be an event not to be missed.

Prevent Cancer Now is a national, non-profit organization that aims to reduce and/or eliminate the preventable causes of cancer. The interactive presentation, *Prevention Is The Cure*, describes how prevalent cancer is in our community and what we can do to avoid becoming victims of this dreaded disease. Nearly half of us will contract cancer in our lives, but much can be done to prevent it. Attendees will take away a dozen cancer prevention tips that they can act on right away, as well as insights on the many, everyday things to avoid that can cause cancer. Their website is <preventcancer.org>.

Just Voices is an energetic community choir based in Ottawa. They sing songs on activist and protest themes such as social injustice, war, and the environment, including freedom, bicycling, and workers' songs from many countries. Their concert will make the audience laugh, make them think, and might even get them singing along with the gregarious group. At their website <justvoices.ca> you can see some of their great songs, like *Ride a Cycle*.

Healthy snacks and beverages will be provided at this free event.

In order to provide sufficient refreshments, please contact <info@preventcancer.org> or 755-0110 to reserve a spot. Walk-ins are welcome, though!



Mardi Gras for Soldier On

The Valley BBQ in Carleton Place will be hosting a Mardi Gras Celebration on Saturday, February 18, to raise funds for the organization Soldier On. The event will include live entertainment featuring **Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo**, a prime rib BBQ provided by The Valley BBQ, and a silent auction. It is anticipated that over 200 people will be in attendance, making this an excellent venue to promote corporate items and support a worthy cause. To ensure the success of this local community initiative, organizers are seeking donations of goods and services to be included in a silent auction. All proceeds raised from this event will be donated directly to Soldier On. Those who donate goods equal to \$100 or more can, upon request, receive a 2012 charitable tax receipt for the value of the goods.

The mission of Soldier On is to optimize the functional independence of ill or injured Canadian Forces personnel or former personnel, by delivering programs and services that support their full and active participation in physical fitness, health promotion and sport. Financial grants are awarded to injured or ill personnel to enable them to purchase adaptive custom mountain bikes, basketball wheelchairs, hockey sledges and assistive sports devices. Soldier On also subsidizes the expenses of fitness- or sports-related activities that directly contribute to enhancing or maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle, which can include funding of high-performance training for those who aspire to compete at a national or international level.

This is a great opportunity to join the local community and The Valley BBQ in honouring the contributions of our veterans. For more details please contact <cfpsa.com/en/psp/SoldierOn/index.asp>.

MVTM's Soup for Thought

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum's Soup for Thought Lunch Fundraiser aims to satisfy two appetites: your hunger for food and your aesthetic sense.

Food and museum lovers attending the lunch will enjoy gourmet soup from the best restaurants in Almonte, and take home the hand-made stoneware bowl it was served in, courtesy of the Almonte Potters' Guild's fine craftsmanship.

Buttered rolls, dessert, coffee or tea will round out the complementary menu. Contributing all this wonderful food will be Foodies Fine Foods, Heirloom Café Bistro, Café Postino, JR's Family Restaurant, Savoury Pursuits, and Robin's Nest Tea Room.

Mark your calendar for lunch on March 3, from 12 to 3PM, at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum in Almonte. The museum will also be holding a silent auction at this event.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for ages 6 to 18 years, and kids under 6 eat free. They are available at Baker Bob's in downtown Almonte and at the museum.



Here's a delicious way to support a cause! The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum's *Soup For Thought* fundraiser takes place on Saturday, March 3 and features delectable donations from fine local restaurants. You even get to keep your bowl!

Rock-n-Horse Farm CSA
A partnership from our fields to your table.
We have a limited number of harvest shares available for this year's season (early June to late October).

Seasonal vegetables	Herbs	Flowers
Lamb, chicken, pork	Eggs	Maple syrup

Sleigh rides for hire (winter months)
Pesticide and herbicide-free!

For more information: 613-256-6117
am.sheets@hotmail.com www.rocknhorsefarm.ca

Yoga Tune-up Workshops!

Neck, Shoulders, Arms & Upper Back
1:00-3:30pm, Sun Feb 5 - \$50 +HST

Legs, Hips, Butt & Low Back
1:00-3:30pm, Sun March 18 - \$50 +HST

Register early and save 15% off!
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Mainstreet Almonte Attraction and Promotion (MAAP) promotes Downtown Almonte and assists communication between festivals, organizations, the Town, and the downtown community. You might know us from such initiatives as: the Get It Here card, the Christmas Money Tree, Mill Street Money, Christmas Elves and EGGScapade. Interested in helping keep Almonte a thriving, friendly town? Contact us through the "Downtown Almonte" Facebook page, consider attending our Wednesday morning meetings, or perhaps help with a specific project. Learn more at <DowntownAlmonte.ca>.

The **Mount Pakenham Adaptive Ski Program** (CADS) provides skiing resources for those with a wide range of physical and/or developmental impairments. With 52 participants and an army of volunteers to assist them on the hill, our program is underway for the 2012 season. We are already taking names for interested participants and volunteers for next year. Volunteers need no previous experience (should be strong intermediate skiers) although previous CSIA certification would be ideal. Contact Deanna at <deannabarry@storm.ca> or 256-7535.

Perth & District Union Public Library accepts teen and adult volunteers to work on a variety of special projects. Currently, the library is seeking volunteers with specialized skills, especially in the areas of technology, graphic design, marketing, and community outreach. Volunteers can work on an ongoing regular schedule or on limited-term assignments. Please visit <www.perthunionlibrary.ca> to learn more about the library's programs and services. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact library CEO Elizabeth Goldman at 267-1224 or <egoldman@perthunionlibrary.ca>.

The 2012 **Perth Regional Heritage Fair Committee** will once again be sponsoring history fairs in the schools throughout Lanark County, culminating in the Regional Fair in Perth on May 17. The committee welcomes volunteers to help in the planning and organization of the day, as well as the judging of individual projects and various other volunteer activities the actual day of the fair. If interested in helping out, please contact John McKenty at 267-7319 or <john.mckenty@sympatico.ca>.

Join a local **Rotary Club** to enjoy fellowship while supporting local and global communities with hands-on help and financial assistance from fundraisers. There are clubs in Carleton Place (George Reilly, 253-1386), Smiths Falls (Eileen Crosbie, 283-8763), and Perth (Jeff Dean, 264-2747). Clubs meet weekly for a meal and a guest speaker and to plan their fundraising and service activities. For more information see <www.rotary7040.com>, call the club presidents (above) or David Batchelor at 264-1559 or <david.batchelor@rotary7040.com>.

TYPs Youth Centre serves 12-18 year olds in Mississippi Mills. Our centre in Almonte is open Monday-Friday after school. We offer a drop-in centre as well as a range of special projects, programs and events. We are always looking for volunteers to help out in the centre, join the Board, share their skills, or join our community garden. If you'd like to help make our community more vibrant and youth-friendly, please contact us! Please call 256-8485 or email <julie@typsyouthcentre.org>.



Would you be willing to give 1½ hours each week to help with **Whiz Kidz**, an after-school programme run at R. Tait McKenzie Public School in Almonte? Snacks, games, Bible stories and homework help make up the programme for approximately 20 children from Grades 2-5. Gotta love kids, and a police check is required. We really could use a "crafty" person — age no barrier! Tuesdays 3:30-5pm. Call Chris or Carolyn Klickermann at 256-3314.

Vol•un•teer (noun): **UTTERLY AWESOME!**



This Art Will Draw You In!

OMMA at Brush Strokes

From February 4 through March 2, Brush Strokes Gallery in Carleton Place will host the first juried exhibition of Ottawa Mixed Media Artists' tenth anniversary year. The title of the show is *Draw Me In* and each of the entries includes some form of drawing or expressive line work. Many of OMMA's members often work in non-representational formats, so the show promises to offer works that may not reflect traditional drawing techniques or representational subject matter. Some artists, however, may incorporate such drawings within their mixed media pieces. Indeed, visitors might be surprised by the range of drawing techniques that these "artists with attitude" will bring

by Miss Cellaneous

to the challenge. Expressive marks will range from broad, bold strokes made by brush or other tools, to fine, intimate lines created by pencil, pen or fine-tipped brush. Needless to say, all marks will be very personal to each artist, much like a signature, and will definitely reveal the hand of the artist to the viewer. This juried show promises to be another outstanding mixed media exhibition — one not to be missed.



The artists of the Ottawa Mixed Media Association welcome you to join them for a vernissage on Friday, February 10 from 7–9PM at Brush Strokes in Carleton Place. The exhibition runs from February 4 until March 2. The image above is by Suzanne Powell.

OMMA was created as a forum for artists interested in experimenting with the plethora of new watermedia products that had begun to appear on the shelves of area art stores — art materials that did not meet the strict criteria of the more traditional local and international art associations. From an initial membership of approximately forty curious and experimental artists, OMMA has grown to a membership base of almost two hundred artists who live and work all across the greater Ottawa area. Indeed, over forty members reside in *theHumm's* coverage area. Over the past ten years, OMMA members have mounted over forty exhibitions, both juried and open. Several of these have been held in the Mississippi Mills area, including three in Almonte, most recently this past summer at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, and at the Brush Strokes Gallery in Carleton Place in 2008.

OMMA is also committed to broadening the technical skills of its members and has hosted numerous workshops, many by nationally and internationally acclaimed artist-instructors. Given that art-making can be an extremely solitary endeavour, the group has not forgotten the social side of the artist's life. Each year they feature several events and get-togethers, ranging from the annual picnic and Christmas party to yearly art retreats. For more information and to see some of the members' artwork, please visit <omma.ca>.

Brush Strokes Gallery is located at 129 Bridge Street in Carleton Place. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday from 10AM to 7PM, Saturday from 10AM to 4PM and Sunday from 12:30 to 4PM. For information contact the gallery at 253-8088 or visit either <brushstrokesart.ca> or <omma.ca>.

Cast a Glance at the Carp Library

In the fall of 2011, the library staff in Carp approached the West Carleton Arts Society (WCAS) and asked if the members would be interested in hanging art for sale on the library walls. The members jumped at the chance to step out in public once again.

The Society is happy to reintroduce the WCAS to the community via the Carp Library with an exhibit called "Cast a Glance". It features local artists, and all the work is for sale. When you see artwork that you would like to purchase, simply contact the artist directly, or the curator.

Currently, the group is showing paintings and photography from the following artists: Vera Van Baaren, Catherine Gutsche, Rosy Somerville, Mario Cerroni, Brian Seed and Donnalee McKenna.

There are a variety of pieces, including oils on canvas, watercolours, acrylic, mixed media and photography. This is an open exhibition. All artists who are members of the WCAS are welcome to submit work to the curator, Donnalee McKenna, at <groovygosh@msn.com> or 435-3833. The next exhibit will take place at the beginning of March entitled "The Promise of Spring".

For more information on the WCAS, see <westcarletonartsociety.ca>.

Maple Run Studio Tour

Discover some local artistic talent at Pakenham's annual Maple Run Studio Tour, coming up on March 24 and 25. Eight locations, in and near the town, host twenty artists. Restock your bathroom cupboard with Clare's Old Farm House Soap, or store them in a crafted wood cabinet from Geoff Randall. Brighten cloudy afternoons with a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle made from a Judy McGrath landscape photo. Perhaps you could use one of Allan Barratt's handmade leather belts to hold up your pants as you lose that Christmas weight. Or find that must-have piece of art that adds a special something to your home. Top it off with a treat for the women: jewellery!

Maps and detailed tour destination descriptions can be picked up at Fulton's Sugar Bush, the Pakenham General Store, or any tour stop along the way (look for the green maple leaf sign). For more infor-



See works by members of the West Carleton Arts Society at the Carp Library. The image above is by Catherine Gutsche.

mation please visit <maplerun.on.ca>, find maplerunstudiotour on Facebook, or phone 624-2062.

Call for Proposals

fieldwork is an outdoor art space dedicated to presenting new, site-specific installations biannually for the public to discover, and is now accepting proposals for its 2013-14 exhibition season.

Located in a small field in eastern Ontario, **fieldwork** is close to the town of Perth. Over twenty artists have created work for the project over the past five years and there are two exhibition periods each year: spring/summer and autumn/winter.

Artists or collaborations of creative people (including landscape architects, designers, multimedia artists and new media artists) are welcome to submit proposals for installation at the field site, or for digital installations to be linked to the website. The work proposed is intended to be site-specific (i.e. conceived for, and related to, the field) and may be in any medium. Attention to the integrity of the land as well as public safety must be given.

For more information and to download detailed submission information, go to <fieldworkproject.com> or contact <fieldworkproject@gmail.com>. The deadline for submissions is March 1, and notification of acceptance is June 1. **fieldwork** is a not-for-profit volunteer-run project.

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Banishing the Dog Days of Winter

Three times a day, your dog looks up with his big eyes, and begs for a walk. You haul on the boots and toque and hunch yourself and the excited dog out the door. Once more around the boring block, through the dirty snow banks, past the bedraggled bushes, and back to the house you trudge, with the dog all enthused and you all frozen. He loves it; you don't!

But if you look deep into those big eyes, you'll see that what he is actually craving is some quality time with a master who — ahem — could probably use a little physical workout himself. (You are welcome to read "herself" here too.)

Teamwork is the best way to succeed, and for a dog and owner there is no better plan than to work out together doing a sport that benefits both of you — a doggy sport that involves a loving handler, an enthusiastic dog (and what dog isn't?), a little bit of patience, and a lot of laughter.

Agility is the answer, and **Dream Fields** dog agility school can deliver.

Canine agility involves handler and dog working together, using basic commands and body language, to have the dog complete an obstacle course within a specific time frame. The course is usually comprised of A-frames, teeter-totters, weave poles, tunnels and

jumps fitted to the dog's size. It's amazing to see dogs achieve these "tricks" based on the handler's ability to "converse" with his dog. The handler is expected to keep up with his dog, since it is a team sport. The companionship that develops is inspira-



tional, as the animal has a natural desire to please, and the handler has the joy of being the provider of treats, exercise, fun, and an exciting alternative to that boring old trail every day.

Of course, this isn't achieved overnight. Fortunately, Dream Fields is a first-class training facility close at hand with highly qualified instructors, who themselves are agility aficionados, to teach you and your dog the intricacies of agility. And what positive training it is! Everything is based on "Good Dog". Treats and praise abound, and doggy smiles are everywhere. Every lesson brings a new challenge to which the dogs are only too glad to rise, especially when they know liver bitties are forthcoming.

I hear you saying you can't do this; you're too old, your dog's too old, or whatever winter excuse you want to drag out, but don't you see your dog panting to try this? There is a level for every age — you and your dog! — from the teenager who got the new puppy for Christmas to the owner whose dog is now six and quickly becoming a couch potato. The homework is enjoyable — just watch-

ing your dog, treating his good behaviour, teaching him new little tricks, and what do you know, getting active right beside him. You'll now have a purpose for playing outside — not just throwing that tired old Frisbee, but learning hand signals and commands that ultimately are very useful.

Agility is not a competitive sport, but once you get the hang of it, you might want to enter the ring with a judge to earn a dog biscuit and a ribbon — very impressive! Your friends will cheer you on, too.

Every dog wants to try it: Dachshund to Great Dane, Sheltie to Retriever. And they are all there, looking for their doggy friends and loving their weekly trip to agility. Do I have you hooked? Check out <dreamfields.com> and see what this is all about. No more idle fat dog and apathetic owner, but a working team with a purpose: to enjoy each other the way you intended when you first got your loving pet.

Just ask me what agility has done for me and Beau and Bonnie. But be prepared: I tend to go on and on about it. We treasure our time at the indoor Dream Fields arena. As we get close to this beautiful facility on Upper Dwyer Hill Road, both my dogs are prancing to get out of the car.

You and your dog will thank me for giving you this opportunity to attend the finest training facility in our area. Classes start in March for every level of ability, so don't dally, get on the website and sign up now — or I'll tell Fido you don't love him!
— Glenda Jones

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Theatre News to Warm Your Heart

February begins with Perth's **Studio Theatre Productions'** presentation of J. B. Priestley's most celebrated play: the turn-of-the-20th-century "whodunit" *An Inspector Calls*. If you missed the opening performances in late January, you can still catch it at the Studio on February 3 and 4 at 8PM and February 5 at 2PM. Tickets are available at Tickets Please or at the door for \$22, or get them for \$20 from the Book Nook or The Bookworm.

by Ian Doig

Meanwhile, across town at the Full Circle Theatre, Carnival Diablo brings two spooky events to the stage: **The Paranormal Show** on the 3rd of February, and **Cinema Obscura** (featuring *King Kong*) on the 11th, with both shows opening at 8PM. For anyone who is craving a touch of Hallowe'en in February — this is for you! Tickets

are available from Tickets Please or at the door. For further information please call 267-1884 or visit <barndoorproductions.ca>.

Full Circle Theatre is also hosting more screenings of Film Night International films this month. February 8 features the French film *Sarah's Key*, and on February 22 you can catch *The Way*, from the USA. Shows are screened at both 2PM and 7PM. For more information, please call 267-1224.

Next up, also at the Full Circle Theatre — and on the 200th anniversary of the Brothers Grimm themselves — **2 women productions** bring their acclaimed storytelling production of *The Brothers Grimm: Two Hundred Years and Counting* for one presentation only, on February 10 at 7:30PM. It features storyteller Dale Jarvis and musician Delf Maria Hohmann, who together bring the wonderful tales to life, linking them to stories drawn from their own lives. Again, tickets are available from Tickets Please. For further information see <2wp.ca> or call Jennifer at 256-0353.

Still at the Full Circle, **Barn Door Productions** continues its 17th season with the frantic, fast-paced, funny, sexy farce that was such a hit in the West End, on Broadway, and on film. *Not Now, Darling* hits the Full Circle stage on February 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 at 8PM, with 2PM matinées on the 19th and 26th. Tickets are available from Tickets Please.

The **Mississippi Mudds Youth Theatre** brings its production of *Pirates of Penzance, Jr.* to the Carleton Place Town Hall stage on February 24, 25 and March 2 at 7PM, and February 26 and March 3 at 2PM. Tickets are \$10 for opening night and \$15 for the rest of the run, and are available at the Chamber of Commerce, 132 Coleman Street at the Train Station, 257-1976.

On the audition front, I am advised by director Jeremy Dutton that a casting call for the **Studio Theatre's** production of *Doubt* will be held at the Theatre on the evenings of March 5 and 7 at 7PM. This is a tremendously challenging play for both actors and audiences, having been awarded both a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony, and would really be something to be involved in, so mark your calendars!

See you in the theatres!

A SPECIAL BENEFIT APPEARANCE IN SUPPORT OF PUPPETS UP! INTERNATIONAL PUPPET FESTIVAL IN ALMONTE, ONTARIO

Spend an informal evening with Canada's foremost puppeteer, Ronnie Burkett, on his "night off" during the run of his new show, *Penny Plain*, at the NAC. Ronnie will share stories, reflections on his career in puppetry, his creative process and demonstrations with his magnificent marionettes.

TICKETS: NAC Box Office at 613-947-7000 Mill Street Books in Almonte at 613-256-9090

Monday, March 26
7:30 p.m.
Ticket price: \$25
Fourth Stage of the National Arts Centre

Ronnie Burkett

See you this summer at Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival, August 11 & 12, 2012 in Almonte, Mississippi Mills, Ontario



Raffan Returns for Storyfest

At 2PM on February 19, at the Seeley's Bay Community Hall, Dr. James Raffan will give a public presentation on his latest project: *Circling the Midnight Sun*. Last winter Raffan presented a series of five "Storyfest" talks, on his travels and research, which wowed area audiences. This year, as a result of the fans' demands for more, and thanks to his love of the Seeley's Bay area, James will return for a single afternoon of entertaining storytelling along with beautiful images of arctic travels.

Raffan is a prominent Canadian writer, explorer, geographer, canoe expert, and more. For thirty-five years his travels have included arctic destinations, and his current work will explore the way human populations across the top of the globe are adapting to change. Having travelled throughout Arctic Canada and then to Greenland, Iceland, Scandinavia and across Russia from the remote Kola Peninsula in the west to the forbidden Chukotka District in the Far East — with only a couple of run-ins with Arctic customs and immigration officials and a slight misunderstanding with a drug/bomb sniffing dog in Siberia — the last leg of the journey is to Alaska, which is right before he returns for the February 19 Storyfest event.

The Storyfest events help raise funds for **Seeley's Bay Steps Up**, a local community economic revitalization program. Peggy Sweet McCumber, who heads up the Seeley's Bay initiative, is thrilled that Raffan will once again donate his talents to the community. "Last year James took us on amazing journeys with spectacular visuals, delightful wit, and a lovely dose of learning. People left the sessions feeling that they had been inspired and very well entertained." According to Sweet McCumber, James Raffan is a national treasure.

The Sunday afternoon event (February 19, 2PM) will be held at the Seeley's Bay Community Hall, just off Highway 15 in the heart of the village, on Main Street, upstairs from the fire hall. The venue is fully accessible and costs only \$10 per person. Treats and hot chocolate will be available after the presentation.

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Fearless Police Meet Swashbuckling Pirates!

A rollicking band of pirates has landed in the Carleton Place Town Hall. Never fear! The trumpet's sound heralds the fearless police who have mustered their courage with a confident "Tarantura!" A clash between a sense of duty and the virtues of piracy is sure to ensue on opening night of *The Pirates of Penzance Jr.*, being proudly performed by the Mississippi Mudds Youth Theatre (MMYT). Under the creative, experienced direction of Sandra Dunlop, the enthusiastic, energetic and talented cast of mostly elementary school-aged young people has been rehearsing since September to bring to life one of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular shows.

This production is one of several shows presented by the MMYT. So far they have entertained audiences with *Percival* in

2008, followed by *Bugsy Malone Jr.*, *Into the Woods Jr.* and, to the amazement of those who attended the performances earlier this season, *Macbeth*.

True to Gilbert and Sullivan's style, *Pirates* provides plenty of fair young maidens meeting up with swashbuckling pirates woven into a plot of turmoil and pandemonium. All of this is set to music with lyrics that travel at light speed packed with humour, wit, and oh so much romance!

The music of *Penzance* can be demanding for adult musicians. One might doubt that a cast so young could pull it off. Not this cast! An up-and-coming talent, Ashley Haley, who plays Mabel (female lead), has a clear, lilting voice of a coloratura in the making. Justin Beiglee, as Frederic (male lead), is a confident young man with a strong voice and excellent stage presence. Ruth (Katie Irvine) and the Pirate King (Peter Irvine), a brother and sister in real life, bring off amazingly strong performances, and the minor leads provide a robust support for the major characters. Then there are the pirates and the police. Whether learning how many taranturas to sing in one phrase (and there are many), or learning how to stumble about on stage while singing and drinking pirate "sherry", this wonderful bunch never disappoints. Finally, there is the role of the Major-General (a signature character in any G&S show) who must sing the



Avast ye, maties — you'd rather walk the plank than miss *The Pirates of Penzance, Jr.*, performed by the Mississippi Mudds Youth Theatre! The show opens on February 24, so sail over to Carleton Place and grab your tickets today!



Ashley Haley and Justin Beiglee plays the roles of Mabel and Frederic in *Pirates*

traditional patter song. This arduous task has been stunningly mastered by Phoebe Williams, who also appeared in *Macbeth*.

This engaging cast learns challenging music and takes direction quickly. Every one of these talented youths brings a carefree, delicious abandon to rehearsals. They've created their own brand of magic sure to spill over into every audience fortunate enough to attend one of the five performances.

Pirates of Penzance Jr. performance dates are February 24 and 25 and March 2 at 7PM. Matinées are February 26 and March 3 at 2PM. Tickets are \$10 for opening night only; \$15 for the rest of the shows, and are available from the Chamber of Commerce, 132 Coleman Street at the Train Station (257-1976). This production is sponsored by L-D Tool & Die.

— Laurel Tye is a Mudds Music Director

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DAVID MYLES
Friday, March 23, 2012

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Mississippi Milling

Leaving an Indelible Mark

Since I am a puppet, I know warm and fuzzy. But I gotta tell you, the warmest and fuzziest people I know live right here in Mississippi Mills. *theHumm's* annual celebration of all the people who give their time, their energy, their caring, their creative ideas and their lovely dollars to this community gets me downright misty-eyed.

There are so many great volunteer stories in MM. It must be something in the

of the Pragnells, did I mention that, while with the Almonte Lions Club, Herb created high school scholarships in honour of the renowned Almonte surgeon, sculptor and pioneer in physical therapy, Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie? He's served on that scholarship committee for 43 years now! And get this: at 90 Herb is still assembling a book of local historic articles about Almonte's mill history!

I am beginning to think that the Pragnells are a bit nutty about history, but ponder for a moment the gift they have given us. You don't live here long before you are busting your buttons talking about the history of woollen cloth manufacturing in Canada, the heritage mills and homes, and the lively town life of the past. Then don't get us started about how much we love how the MVTM has become a focal point for local history and art. And you just know that, over the years, leading volunteers like Herb and Helen have drawn so many others into their projects and the excitement got spread around.

Before I run out of time and space, I want to mention some other phenomenal volunteer initiatives and I'll try not to mention names since some volunteers, and you know who you are, would be horrified to see their names in print. That's the thing with great volunteers, they never want credit! So, I'd like to give a shout out to:

All of the local donors, including so many local business owners, who are supporting the up-coming fundraiser for the Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival on March 26, on the Fourth Stage at the National Arts Centre (NAC) in Ottawa. One of Canada's most famous puppeteers, Ronnie Burkett, is taking a night off from the run of his show *Penny Plain* to give our festival a boost, and to share stories and reflections about his career in puppetry. **Ronnie Burkett... Unstrung** is suitable for puppetry lovers over 16, and supporters of Puppets Up! More info is at <puppetsup.ca>.

Our local Folkus Concert Series just gets better and better. You can hardly find more devoted volunteers than the people who regularly bring some of the leading names in folk music to the Almonte Old Town Hall. (How many years?) They plan, they promote, they decorate, they hang lighting and they greet you at the door with happy grins because they love being Folkus volunteers and they love sharing their passion with you! (They remind you about the chairs at the end of the shows too.) I hate to tell you, but the February show featuring singer songwriter **Hawksley Workman** is already sold out! Fortunately, there's still one more concert this season, so grab your tickets now to catch the double bill on Saturday, March 24 featuring the **Brothers Chaffey** and **Silver Creek**. Tickets are available at Mill Street Books in Almonte (256-9090) or <folkusalmonte.ca>.

by Miss Mills

water, 'cuz when you ask for help around here, a whole bunch of people show up, bring their friends and kids, and usually a lasagne on the side. Sometimes puppets are involved. And success is nearly always the result — take our many volunteer-inspired and volunteer-run festivals, for example. Or the Hub. Or the Young Awards. Or the new Communities in Bloom initiative.

That volunteer spirit in Mississippi Mills isn't something new either. This giving streak goes back decades, and a little research reveals that we have been truly blessed by people with real vision — people who went beyond being volunteers and became true leaders. These people, these volunteers, have left an indelible mark on our community. Our community is better for it and we are better for having known them.

Take **Herb** and **Helen Pragnell** for example. At the end of January, the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (MVTM) paid tribute to the Pragnells' many years of volunteering and leading in Almonte with a blowout birthday party for Herb. It is utterly amazing to learn about what those two have done for this community! Once I got over the shock that Herb is now 90 years old (didn't I just see him speed walking down Mitcheson Street?) and Helen is right behind him at 86, I was then astounded to learn that Herb is one of the reasons we cherish our local textile history so much, especially in Almonte. MVTM Executive Director Michael Rikley-Lancaster calls Herb and Helen the museum's "most dedicated and generous founding members".

From the time they arrived in Almonte in 1959 and began to raise their family here, it seems that the Pragnells made the preservation of our community's heritage their priority. Herb was a town councillor in 1980 when Almonte turned 100, and he got it into his head to get formal recognition of Almonte's history, dating back to the 1850s, as the woollen manufacturing centre of Canada. That little idea kick-started a heritage-focused committee that eventually led to the creation of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, which was ultimately designated a national historic site by the federal government! How cool is that? Young puppets like me take it for granted that the museum located at the old Rosamond Woollen Mill has always been there. We forget that it takes leadership, passion and commitment to make things like that happen.

Herb has served the museum every year since, in various roles, and Helen is a founding member of the Friends of the Museum committee, which continues to this day. Herb also had a hand in getting heritage designation for other mills in Almonte, and our famous Fuller Post Office too. Not stopping there, he worked with others to locate a monument at the Appleton Museum in honour of the 37 people who died in Almonte's famous train wreck of 1942 as well. And before I leave the topic



Setting Up Shop

Disclaimer: Please consult your family physician, therapist, barista and mom before heeding any of the following advice. Got a question? Send Miss Write an email at <misswrite@thehummm.com>.

Dear Miss Write,

I am a new shop owner in a small town near Ottawa (you might know it). This is the first time I've owned my own business and,

by Emily Arbour

while I'm over the moon excited about the idea of hanging my shingle and putting my own mark on this town, I am well aware that you only get one chance to make a first impression... and I want to do it right. As a past shop owner yourself, is there any advice you can give me for setting up shop?

— Shop Girl

Dear Shop Girl,

This is my favourite topic! However did you know?!

We have a unique opportunity as small town shop owners to connect with our customers, listen firsthand to their likes and dislikes, get to know what prices they will and will not pay, and create an environment over which they can feel some sense of ownership. And that, my friend, is the real ticket. To make customers feel

at home in your store, feel that their feedback is considered, and feel that you care about their shopping experience, is to create a fan for life. And fans (especially those in small towns) love to spread the good word. (They also like to spread the bad word, so let's really try to make a positive first go here, shall we?) So how do you do that? Excellent question.

I'll start first with the importance of atmosphere. When shopping in a small town, it's not all that uncommon to be the only patron in the store. For some (me), this can be pretty uncomfortable. Since you can't necessarily control the number of patrons, the key is to create the illusion of privacy. Music. Music. Music. Not too loud, not too soft, just enough to envelop the shop in a cozy blanket of sound. (Bonus feature! Music can be a great conversation starter and "Do you love this new Feist album or what?" is a fantastic replacement to the ever-popular conversation ender "Can I help you? No? OK...")

Secondly, layout. Think about flow. How will the customer move from one display to the next, to the cash, and out the door? Where do you want them to linger? The best way to attack the layout of

your shop is to enter it as though you are the customer. How do you feel when you walk into a new space? I think you'll find



Thirdly, the placement of the cash register. This is so important. If your store is long and narrow, don't go putting your cash at the end wall with you facing the door like "Hey customers! Shop freely while I watch you like a hawk!" Put it to the side or on an angle so that, although they are greeted upon entering, they're not on display themselves.

Now for my most important tip. Always remember that the customer is king. I'm not saying they're always right because they're really not. What I'm saying is that you need them. This may seem like an obvious point. Condescending even. But I am continuously awed by the number of shopkeepers who treat their customers like they're doing them a favour by allowing them to peruse their wares. What a joke. Without customers all you have is a pretty sign, some dusty merchandise and a credit card bill that keeps you up at night.

If you act grateful for every person who comes through your doors, your customers will begin to care about you too. And when they care about you, they'll care about your business. And then you're golden.

— Emily Arbour is a freelance writer (and former shop owner) who lives and works in Almonte, Ontario.



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Why We Read

Why do we read? We read to learn. We read to be entertained. We read to escape. Sometimes, we read to put ourselves to sleep.

We read to enter someone else's mind. I remember from school days the common shorthand many teachers and professors would use: "For next class, read *Brown*, pages 70 to 75." *Brown* was a really thick organic chemistry textbook that revealed the wonderfully logical world of organic molecule naming conventions and the snowflake beauty of benzene rings. It was a huge book with velvety pages and so well written and illustrated that you just wanted to soak it all up. When you lost yourself in that book, it was like being in the mind of Mr. Brown. He had disgorged a good portion of what he knew and understood onto those pages as his legacy for students and future chemists to forage and feast on.

It finally dawned on me one day when a physics professor was saying "I'm not going to go over momentum operators. Just read *Baym*, Chapter 3" — surely the umpteenth time I had heard that general expression. Quantum physics is one of those incredibly difficult subjects that you try to grasp and usually don't quite get. A good prof would take you for a stroll during a well-prepared lecture, elevating you above the vast murky sea of information, and you thought for a while you could see things clearly. But then when the lecture ended, most of us splashed

down into the water, opacity descended, and we lost our way. Reading about quantum physics was truly entering the mind of another, during one's attempt to understand it. Each author understood and described it in their own unique way. And so the workings of Baym's mind could be found in those pages. Those pages were a portal into his mind.

Fiction is no different. The understanding and feelings we gain are very different from what we get from textbooks, but we still enter the mind of another. With fiction we glimpse their imagination, their views on society, their take on human interactions. We are exposed to the sociological, the political, the phantasmagorical. We see into their dreams.

Music, on the other hand, is a more sensual experience. Less like entering the mind of another; more like entering their feelings. It can be cerebral too, like reading, through memories — a kind of time machine. Every time I hear *One of these*

Nights by the Eagles, it is 1976 again. The sky is cloudless and I am driving my father's sports car in the summer sun. I can feel the leather steering wheel on my hands. I can see the AM/FM radio on the dashboard. I can smell fresh cut grass. I can taste the McIntosh apples that fell from the fairway trees in August. *Dr. Jimmy* by The Who, on the other hand, transports me to a wood-paneled basement rec room with black-light posters on the walls and a \$50 stereo — my first — in the corner. *Cherokee Lane* by Tangerine Dream means I am cramming for spring exams while others play Frisbee on the street and beer bottles litter the streets of the student ghetto. *Into the Lens* by Yes places me in a one-bedroom apartment on Carling Avenue, with oak-and-suede furniture and gold carpeting, and odours of mustiness and weed in the hallways. When I listen to *Gone to Earth* by David Sylvian, I am in a rocking chair before a bay window, cradling an infant that smells of baby powder and formula, watching an April morning snowfall.

In the end, shouldn't really good writing or really good music, or art of any sort, take

With fiction we glimpse their imagination, their views on society, their take on human interactions. We are exposed to the sociological, the political, the phantasmagorical. We see into their dreams.

you to a place of thoughts and feelings? In an abstract way, you feel the euphoria or the sadness, the excitement or the anger, that the artist felt when they created the piece. You connect with it. I always say that my favourite music is music I wish I had composed, had I the talent. It is the same for books. Some musicians say we all have music within us, and that may be true. The music I connect with does seem to resonate within me somewhere, as if it matches up with the natural frequency of my own molecules. The match-up amplifies these vibrations and maybe your foot taps the floor to the beat, your head nods in time. The writing I connect with makes another place or time real to me. I become lost in it, consuming the words though my body remains inert. I am transported to another place. I feel suspended out over the water, I can see the horizon, a sunset over the new land. I don't want it to stop. I don't want to splash down.

— Rick Scholes

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Birds of a Feather...

At first glance, it might be hard to figure out what a mythical bird and an old bit of metal have in common. But if you spend a few moments browsing in **Gilligallou Bird, Inc.**, you can't fail to appreciate the partnership between that shop's proprietors and the talented owners of **Rusty Nail Reclamation Design**. A far cry from a traditional feed store, Gilligallou is as thoughtfully designed as the top-quality seed and birding accessories they carry.

And the partnership really did come about because birds of a feather flock together! When Louise Beckinsale and Bob Volks began imagining the layout of Gilligallou, they decided they would like to have a "tree" in one corner. Not knowing who might be able to help them create an in-store tree, Bob sent a request out via Twitter. Someone soon tweeted back to recommend Rusty Nail, and the rest, as they say, is history.

In this case, though, it really does involve history. History permeates almost every facet of the store's interior, including a stunning porch detail from an old building in Kingston, 150 year-old floorboards from Westport, shelving built from a century-old

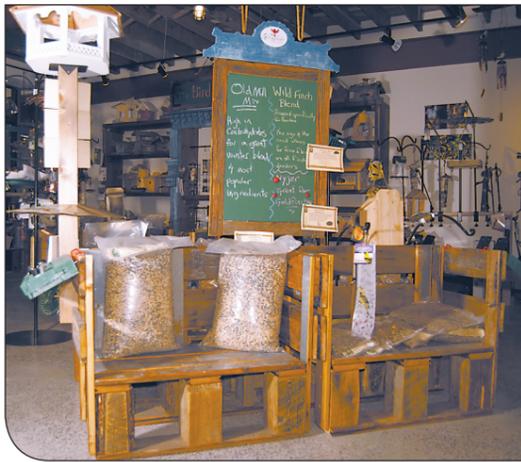
Douglas Fir, blackboards made from an old table, and stable cleaner links used to hold up wooden pulleys. The key terms here are "reclamation" and "repurposing", and the folks at Rusty Nail are experts.

Laura Starkey and Jamie Carter both have visual arts backgrounds (Laura as a painter and Jamie as a photographer who also studied film). They settled in Merrickville because of the strong arts community there, and began experimenting with mixed media, gradually incorporating "old stuff" and re-

they decided to go straight to the salvage yards. Fortunately, they still liked each other after their own renovation was complete, so they agreed to pursue a work partnership. Rusty Nail was born.

After doing jobs for friends and family for a while, Jamie and Laura got a contract to design an entire restaurant — the Back Lane Café in Hintonburg. They have since created the "umbra room" at Mrs. McGarrigles in Merrickville, and of course, Gilligallou in Almonte. They are very hands-on with each project: from the design stage to "the hunt" for materials, then on to the repurposing phase and the final implementation — on-site installation. And as disparate as the reclaimed materials are, they flow together seamlessly in the final product, giving each room or business a signature, cohesive look.

The look that Laura and Jamie created for Gilligallou Bird, Inc. has been so well received that Louise jokes about her part-time job handing out business cards for Rusty Nail. Customers enjoy the feel of the store, likening it to a "spiritual space". Bob and Louise appreciate that their esthetic has been brought to life, reflecting their



(l-r) Gilligallou Bird Inc. staff Nancy Kerr-Wilson and owners Louise Beckinsale and Bob Volks pose with Laura Starkey and Jamie Carter from Rusty Nail Reclamation Design. Their combined efforts can be seen at Gilligallou — located at 14 Mill Street in Almonte's Heritage Court.

personalities as well as their love of nature.

Of course, that love of nature is captured not only by the shop's design, but also by the high-quality products they carry. Seed is their primary concern, so they source it from an Ontario company that uses biodegradable bags and no filler, ensuring that the seed is not full of empty hulls, dust or mold. It is also specific to location, species and season, so they invite you to come in and tell them where you live and what type of birds you are hoping to attract. The staff has a wealth of knowledge about wildlife, and Gilligallou also carries birding paraphernalia like Nikon optics,

books, locally-made birdhouses and feeders.

For more information about Rusty Nail Reclamation Design, please visit <rustynaildesign.ca>, or give Jamie and Laura a call at 724-9389. To see a lovely example of their work and find out more about Gilligallou Bird, Inc., drop in to the Heritage Court at 14 Mill Street in Almonte, check them out on Facebook, or follow @GilligallouBird on Twitter.

— Kris Riendeau

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Mid-Winter Milling in Almonte

There is a story told in Almonte about a line of rose quartz that runs through this small, picturesque town in the Ottawa Valley. This story is often used to explain why so many people are being drawn to move here and why the spiritual/yoga community is growing so rapidly. So many people who visit Almonte comment on the wonderful atmosphere they feel while they are here. They experience the sense of community, the kindness and the type of shopping and dining experiences you can only get in small towns.

Another aspect of the community that is flourishing is the beautiful main street. Accented with historical buildings and artwork, Mill Street has had many faces over the years, but none as vibrant as the current one. With no empty storefronts and a boost of culinary delights, Mill Street is the place to be. With help from the exciting new Heritage Court mall, three new women's clothing stores, and restaurants and cafés with nothing but rave reviews, the downtown has never been a more attractive place to visit. As a shop on Mill Street, **Soul Scents** feels lucky to be part of what appears to be a new wave of exciting times in downtown Almonte.

Soul Scents opened its doors on Mill Street in February 2010. Selling natural, premium incense, local beeswax candles, organic body care, chakra oils, fair trade products from India and Nepal, as well as ceremonial smudges, Soul Scents was started in 2002 as a national wholesale distributor, by Allan and Susan Brown.

When Sara Bazett took over the reins seven years ago, she decided a retail store would complement the wholesale aspect nicely — a groovy place where spirituality, fun, and above all laughter is encouraged! To kick off the opening and get people to the downtown to beat the February blahs, Sara created a one-day street festival called Mid-Winter Milling, described as “a spiritual and self-awareness day for

conscious living” where people could mill about on Mill Street.

Time has flown by, and Soul Scents is now gearing up for their third annual Mid-Winter Milling, which will be happening on Saturday, February 11, from 10AM to 5PM.

Participating businesses along the street will host spiritual intuitives, psychics, astrologers, Reiki practitioners,

yogic numerologists, reflexologists, Feng Shui consultants, sound vibration therapists and more! Not only can you explore the wonderful shops and cafés on Mill Street, but you can also treat yourself to a mini session with some of the many gifted practitioners participating in the event.

What makes this year's Mid-Winter Milling even more special is that it coincides with the 20th anniversary of Soul Scents! Twenty years ago, tempah gurus Susan and Allan Brown of Noble Bean began Soul Scents as an ethical, fair trade, organic wholesale company. Soul Scents became very successful under the infectious, free spirit charm of Allan and the graceful, hard work of Susan. It is only because of them that there is a vibrant, thriving Soul Scents today. In order to honour the Browns who started it all and, of course, Sara, the “Head Poobah and Chief Groove Enhancer” for the past seven years, there will be celebrations, discounts, giveaways and, of course, the wonderful resident psychic Nancy Kerr-Wilson will be at the store to offer readings.

Help celebrate at Soul Scents in Almonte on Saturday, February 11, from 10AM to 5PM, and feel the good vibes the downtown has to offer.

For more information, call Soul Scents at 1-866-347-0651 or check them out on Facebook.

— *Angie Buttrum is Soul Scents' Assistant to the Head Poobah & Chief Groove Enhancer*



The gang at Soul Scents invites everyone to spend a day milling about on Mill Street in Almonte on Saturday, February 11. Visit local shops and restaurants and indulge in mini treatments by spiritual intuitives, psychics, astrologers, Reiki practitioners, Feng Shui consultants, and others. Pictured above (l-r) are Angie Buttrum, Soul Scents owner Sara Bazett, and Nancy Kerr-Wilson

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St. E., Almonte, Ontario



“Soup for Thought”



A Luncheon Fundraiser for the Textile Museum

Saturday March 3rd, 2012
12 noon ~ 3 pm

Customers get to take home a handmade stoneware soup bowl courtesy of the Almonte Potters' Guild.

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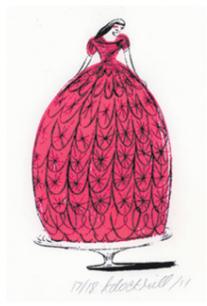
Admission: Adults \$20, Children 6~16 yrs \$10, Under 6 free

Coming Soon!

As some of you may know, we have a beautiful private office in the Old Post Office on Mill Street in Almonte (above the wonderful Café Postino). We meet local clients there and occasionally attempt to get some administration work completed there during the week. Well, we have decided to shake things up a bit for 2012!

This spring our office will open to the public every Saturday and Sunday to showcase and sell the work of several talented local artists. Everything from paintings to jewelry will be on display in a wide range of affordable prices. All items are original and produced by independent, emerging artists.

So, when you are walking down Mill Street this spring, come in to the Old Post Office and take a trip to the 2nd floor. We are happy to answer your real estate questions and fill your soul with inspiring artwork!




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Military Museum — A Place to Remember

As you enter the Hall of Remembrance Military Museum in Perth, the “Wall of Heroes” seems to stretch on forever. Here hang photographs of local fighting men and women from World War II. Each one who was killed in action has the familiar Legion symbol of Remembrance affixed to it, and the poppies appear “row on row” from this vantage point. Some Perth and area families sent as many as six men and women off to war.

The museum was founded by four members of the Perth-Upon-Tay Royal Canadian Legion Branch 244 — Del Harper, Barry Mulville, Jack Churchill and William Riddell — and officially opened on November 11, 1993. Their credo was “to perpetuate the memories of our veterans who served our country, and educate our youth, and those who follow, of the sacrifices that these brave men and women made to protect our freedoms and rights that we have today.”

Located on a picturesque setting on the banks of the Tay River at 26 Beckwith Street East in Perth, the museum occupies most of the second story of the Legion building. Artifacts dating from the 19th century Fenian Raids and Boer Wars, to World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and peacekeeping missions, up to the recent war in Afghanistan, are among the holdings of the museum, filling six rooms. A large percentage of the displays emphasize the participation of Perth and area men and women in the service of our country, and many of the donations to the museum come from local Legion members and families of veterans.

A display with a significant contribution from students of the Perth & District Collegiate Institute tells the heart-wrenching story of Flying Officer William Joseph Kyle of Perth, age 22. FO Kyle was reported missing in action on a World War II mission in Burma, and the story behind the recovery mission began in 1990 when a native of Myanmar discovered the crash site. He found a watch inscribed with William Kyle’s name and service number, and subsequently a Christian missionary became aware of the story, which led to a mission to visit the crash site.

The Dakota transport aircraft with a crew of six had taken off from an airfield in India on June 21, 1945, to drop supplies to the British 14th Army in Burma, and failed to return. Although the cause of the disappearance will never be determined for sure, there were monsoon conditions that day which could have driven the plane into the ground. In early March 1997, Veterans Affairs led an official delegation of family members, veterans

and Canadian Forces personnel back to Burma to provide the crew with a formal burial in a cemetery near Rangoon.

Across from the Kyle display, a glass cabinet is devoted to Colonel the Hon. John Matheson, who served in the Parliament of Canada and as a judge in Perth for many years. As Parliamentary Assistant to Prime Minister Lester Pearson, Col. Matheson was instrumental in securing the agreement of a committee to choose our Canadian flag. While serving in Italy with the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery during the Second World War he was badly wounded, but later in life he was able to celebrate his 80th birthday by completing a parachute jump. He is also a respected authority on heraldry in Canada, and a proud United Empire Loyalist.

Another display recognizes the military service of Perth native, Lieutenant-General (Air Marshal) Donald McNaughton, CMM, CD, commander of the Canadian Forces Air Command from 1985 to 1986. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1952, and after a brilliant military career as a fighter and helicopter pilot, instructor, and in many command positions, retired to the family farm in the Perth area. Gen. McNaughton is still active in the community doing volunteer work, and has participated in DND and government studies.

At the far end of the building, a room about “The Great Escape” from the German POW camp Stalag Luft III has a replica of a tunnel section and many examples of prisoner of war memorabilia. The story told here includes Canadian Wally Floody, who was instrumental in the tunnel digging, and was nicknamed “The Tunnel King”.

The only known, authentic cigar owned by the great British wartime leader Winston Churchill lies in state behind glass in one of the large display cases. This cigar travelled with a Perth fighting man, Melville Kirkham, from in front of the Prime Minister’s residence in London, England, during World War II, and remains in pristine condition here in “The Great Dominion”, as Churchill liked to call Canada.

Curator John Gemmell extends an invitation to visit the museum from May through November on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, between the hours of 1 and 3PM, or otherwise book an appointment through our Legion office at 267-4400. Elementary school tours can also be booked during the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day. Please visit our website at <hallofremembrance.ca>.

— Terry O’Hearn



John Gemmell, curator of the Royal Canadian Legion Hall of Remembrance military museum, shows part of the Royal Canadian Navy exhibit. All branches of the Canadian Forces are represented, from the Boer Wars through all World Wars and major conflicts with Canadian involvement.

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Dance Like No One's Watching...

February. There's a reason it's the shortest month. If we had 31 days of it, we'd surely go mad. MAD, I tell you!

But New Year's resolutions are still a fresh memory, and I resolved to write hopeful, positive columns, dammit! So I will not focus on the miserable weather, or the single woman's bitterness of the 14th, or the fact that "smelling" the chocolate (col-

by Rona Fraser

umn title) is all I can do as I have temporarily given up eating it. Yes... positive... hmm...

Personal expression! That will be my new focus.

What? No, I'm not referring to my penchant for swearing. I will never make a resolution to give *that* up. I'm talking about art. Each month of 2012 I will spend time doing some form of art — preferably art that is free or relatively low cost because, well, that's just how I roll. And then I will tell *you* about it. Best case scenario: you will be inspired to

out a rock song from the stage of the Almonte Old Town Hall, such as Bif Naked's *I Love Myself Today* or Pat Benatar's *Heartbreaker*... and be a flexible, enthralling bellydancer... and grow an abundant and well-designed permaculture garden... and develop my nature photography (if you'll pardon the pun).

Wow — I didn't realize how many of these artistic fields attracted me until I began listing them. You should try it. I wonder if you'd find the same thing — different details, but a similarly long list.

Ok... now, which art shall mark the start? (Ah, poetry — add that to the list.) Well, as it is almost halfway through January as I write, I'd better choose something simple. Bellydancing it is! Granted, it is not new to me, but I've long been thinking I should get back to it. Now I told you — I plan on doing this cheaply. I already have the "jingles" (that you wear around your waist) and some appropriate music from when I used to take bellydancing with Parvaneh Rowshan, though I guess I could dance to a variety of music. Think I'd better go get started tonight, because "If I had the chance, I'd ask the world to dance, and I'll be dancing with myself..."

Addendum. Well. I didn't dance that night — it took me a week to get to it (busy, busy busy!), but when I did? Wow.

How could I have forgotten? How could I have forgotten the joyful bliss of dancing?! I put on a mixed CD I'd made several years ago — some bellydance music, a couple of African rhythms, and *No Heaven* by DJ Champion. Awesome. I was much relieved to find I hadn't lost my shimmy, for it had taken these British hips a

year of practice to learn to move like that. And only upon dancing did I remember that I used to look to my belly class as a weekly therapy session — no matter what my mood upon arrival, I was smiling and carefree by the end. I will definitely be keeping this up, even if I have to schedule reminders into my Google calendar to enforce it!

There don't seem to be many (any?!) bellydance classes offered these days, but I recommend you get some dance into your life, whether it be belly, step, highland, ballroom, square, hip hop, or free-styling it in your own living room. In my opinion, free form is the best — just do what you feel. Think of it as therapy, or simply fun! Better yet — don't think at all! Just dance!



try some artistic endeavour that's long called your name. Worst case? You may laugh at my efforts.

You see, although I live in Almonte, which some days feels like an artist's mecca, I myself do not feel very artistically, um, endowed. I can carry a tune, and I have rhythm. And I can take your Power-Point chart and tweak it 'til it looks awesome and gets your point across clearly — I don't know if many would see that as art, but when it comes to visual art, it's my best work. I've always wanted to do pottery... and learn to draw... and write a fun children's story or an engrossing novel... and put together a bright and beautiful quilt... and design a super-efficient, über-functional, eco-friendly house and garden... and drum to *Smells Like Teen Spirit* or *Happy Jack* on a real drum set... and belt

Some places nearby to get your dance on:

- **Almonte Academy of Dance** gives classes for anyone 5 and up... though there are no adult classes offered this term. If you're looking for a class, why not let them know (256-3683).
- **The Mississippi Squares**, based in Carleton Place, teach modern square dancing. Tuesday nights they have alternating Basic and Mainstream tips from the caller. They also dance most Friday nights. Call 253-2960 or see their comprehensive website.
- Inspired by *So You Think You Can Dance?* **Tania's Dance Studio** (253-0035) in Carleton Place provides classes in ballroom and Latin dance, as well as swing, hip hop, mixed martial arts, and dance fitness.
- The **Perth School of Dance** offers some dance-related fitness classes: BellyFit (cardio-based class using moves from African dance, bellydance, Bollywood and Bhangra dance) and Nia (unique a combination of 52 moves inspired by martial arts, dance and healing arts). Call them at 267-1900.
- Get your kilt on and take some highland dancing at the **Rosemary Breman School of Dancing** in Carleton Place (253-3093). They also offer jazz, ballet, hip hop, and more.

Mark the date:

- February 10, 8PM, is St. George's Anglican Church's **Valentine Dance** in the Clayton Community Center, featuring the Glenn Silverson Band. Call 256-9010.
- February 11, is the **Maberly Quarterly Contra and Square Dance** — 7:30PM beginner's lesson, dance at 8PM. It is \$10 (children under 16 are free) and held at the Maberly Community Hall. Call 264-1993.
- February 21 and monthly until June, there is a **Dance of Universal Peace** at Trinity St. Andrew's United Church in Renfrew. People of all ages, abilities and faith traditions are welcome at the "circle dances using sacred songs and chants drawn from the world's many faith traditions." 7 to 9PM. Call 432-5583.
- There are two remaining **SRO Big Band Tea Dances** this winter: February 26 and March 25, 1 to 4PM at the Almonte Old Town Hall, \$12 (cash only). Almonte-based big band Standing Room Only and vocalist Sandy Faux will help you dance the afternoon away.
- As for the youth of this area, you've got opportunities a-plenty. One is the **Beckwith Youth Dance (80's theme)** of February 10 at Brunton Community Hall (1702 9th Line), 6 to 9PM, \$3. Parents, they are looking for adult volunteers to help chaperone. Call 257-1539.



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February 19th is our first anniversary! We would like to give thanks to our patrons by offering an amazing Postino deal! Available in-house on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights, order one regular price main course and get the second for half price. We look forward to serving you for many years to come...*

* The second item must be of equal or lesser value & special occasions are excluded.

Watch for Memorable Occasions (like February 18th) and Special Menu Items as they will keep coming. The Humm and our website will certainly keep you posted.

Monday – Friday: 12pm to 2:30pm & 5pm to 9pm

Saturday: 12pm to 9pm

Sunday: We're resting!

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"Quality in your Community"

Flavour of the Month

The Real Food of Love...

Ahh February, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways...

(Thinking hard...)

Well, though I may find it tough to find the silver lining in the grey cloud-filled skies and yo-yoing temperatures of late, February does bring along with it a great excuse (or should that read "rea-

by Susie Osler

son") to indulge righteously in a wee bit of chocolate. You know, that Valentine's Day favourite? But not all chocolate is created equal. And for the discerning chocolate lovers out there, you can be sure that both your taste buds and your ethical standards will be satisfied by the locally-produced indulgences I am about to tell you about.

It might be bold of me to hazard a guess that there are not too many chocolatiers living in the middle of the Canadian hinterland and producing some of the finest chocolate bars available. Yet here in our midst is one such fellow. Meet Ludwig Ratzinger.

Ludwig grew up on the shores of a lake in Bavaria, Germany, in the small village of Utting. After apprenticing in pastry in Garmisch, and bakery in Landsberg, he was expected to carry on his family's business as a fourth generation baker. But at some point, Ludwig looked around the family-owned bakery and asked himself, "Is this where I want to spend the next forty years of my life?" The answer was no. Instead, he made the decision to move to Canada in 1990, seeking a new challenge

and a bit of adventure. For the next ten years or so he worked as a pastry chef at the Chateau Laurier hotel and also at the Governor General's residence in Ottawa. During this time he also met his wife Marion.

By 1999 it was time for a break from cooking, and again Ludwig sought a new challenge. The couple decided to buy The Oaks <theoaksresort.com>, a cottage resort on the shores of Crow Lake, just south of Sharbot Lake, where they now reside. Aside from hosting guests from May to October, Ludwig kept a few fingers in the culinary world by offering cooking classes from time to time and writing food-related articles for magazines. Then, four or five years ago, an exclusive Swiss chocolate refiner called Felchlin <felchlin.com> contacted Ludwig to see if there might be a market in Ontario for high-end chocolate. Ludwig, also trained as chocolatier, knew that the product they were selling — "couverture" chocolate — was exceptional, and decided to try his hand at making specialty chocolate bars. Note: a chocolatier is someone who makes confectionary from chocolate as opposed to a chocolate refiner (like Felchlin) who creates chocolate from cocoa beans and other ingredients.

Starting With Quality

Good chocolate really has three main ingredients: cocoa mass (the % that you will see on the label), cocoa butter, and sugar. Couverture chocolate is a very high quality chocolate that contains extra cocoa butter (32 to 39%). The higher percentage of cocoa butter, combined with proper tempering, gives the

chocolate more sheen, firmer "snap" when broken, and a creamy mellow flavour.

There are only three types of cultivated cocoa beans (see chocolate-revolution.com/beans.php for more information). Criollo — the rarest and most expensive — makes up only about 3% of all cocoa grown. It is more difficult to grow and yields are smaller but it is sought by exclusive makers of chocolate for its flavour, which is reputed to be delicate yet highly complex.

Criollo beans from Venezuela are used in many of Ludwig's chocolate bars. Exceptional varieties of Trinitario and Forestaro sourced in the Dominican Republic and Ecuador help to create the unique tastes of other bars. Topping the list are Ludwig's "Cru Hacienda 74%" made with organic beans from the Dominican Republic, and the "Cru Sauvage 68%" which uses wild cocoa beans from Bolivia.

Though cocoa is native to the Americas, the Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa leads the world in cocoa exports. Most chocolate we see on the shelves is made at least in part from cocoa from this region. Unfortunately, the Côte d'Ivoire has a history of trafficking children who are sold as slaves to work on cocoa plantations. It is nice to know that Felchlin sources their cocoa from the Americas, and also supports sustainable practices, and sustainable incomes (higher than the fair trade standards) for farmers from whom they purchase.

Much like the specific characteristics that different grapes bring to wine, cocoa varieties uniquely influence the finished chocolate. The innate flavours of the raw beans are only part of the story, however. The skills utilized, and time taken by refiners to coax out their particular qualities, are a real art. Then the task of turning couverture into the final product is passed on to the chocolatier. Ludwig tempers the chocolate and adds touches of additional flavours (if applicable). Tempering is yet another art. The chocolate couverture must be heated and cooled and heated again to specific temperatures to combine the molecules well. Each type of couverture is tempered differently. It takes time, precision, and a real feel to do it

Fine Chocolate by Ludwig



Who He Is

Fine Chocolate by Ludwig
Ludwig Ratzinger
The Oaks Cottages, 2020 Crow Lake Rd. (near Sharbot Lake)
279-2986 ludwig@finechocolate.ca
finechocolate.ca theoaksresort.com

What He Offers

Fine chocolate bars (see website for complete list)

Where He Sells

Foodsmiths (Perth), Mrs. McGarrigle's Fine Food Shop (Merrickville), Rosie Yumski's Fine Food (Westport), Read's Book Shop (Carleton Place), Pêches & Poivre (Almonte).
Tasting: Friday, February 3 at Foodsmiths in Perth.

Instant Bliss

Pour a glass of single malt whiskey, ice wine, champagne, or red wine. Open one of Ludwig's chocolate bars. Sip and savour the flavours letting the chocolate melt slowly in your mouth. Try hard to enjoy :-)

successfully. The liquid chocolate can then be poured into appropriate molds, shaken gently to remove air bubbles and left to set. It is a labour of love for Ludwig. Each step is done by hand, even including the wrapping and packaging.

Ludwig currently makes his chocolate in the Community Center kitchen at Crow Lake. At this point he can make up to 200 bars of chocolate a day and in a year he may process a half-ton of Felchlin couverture. As the chocolate business has grown, he has found it more and more challenging to divide his time between running the resort and producing and distributing his chocolate. Much as he has en-

joyed the time spent hosting guests each summer, it is time for change again. The Ratzingers have put The Oaks resort up for sale and plan to build a home nearby, complete with a commercial kitchen that will help Ludwig keep up with rising demand. Lucky for us, we will still have a local chocolatier!

Meantime, get out to Foodsmiths in Perth on February 3 to meet Ludwig, and taste some of his truly remarkable chocolate. And in case you need an excuse to treat yourself, remember that Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and what would be nicer than to share a bar of Ludwig's chocolate with your loved ones, or, dare I say it, yourself?

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Claiming Column

Mark Berube & the Patriotic Few, Burnstown, Mar 2
 Ken Workman, Almonte, Mar 3
 MVTM Lunch Fundraiser, Almonte, Mar 3
 CP Talent Showcase, Carleton Place, Mar 3
 Seedy Sunday, Perth, Mar 4
 Lyle Dillabough & the Ottawa Valley Review, CP, Mar 4
 Tommy Hunter, Perth, Mar 9
 The Claytones, Burnstown, Mar 10
 Blackburn, Westport, Mar 16-17
 Cecilia String Quartet, Almonte, Mar 17
 Dance of Universal Peace, Renfrew, Mar 20
 David Myles (PPAC), Perth, Mar 23
 Almonte Lecture Series, Mar 23
 James Keelaghan, Burnstown, Mar 23
 Silver Creek/Brothers Chaffey (Folkus), Almonte, Mar 24
 Pakenham Maple Run Studio Tour, Mar 24-25
 On Stage For Kids, Almonte, Mar 25
 Al Wood & The Woodsmen, Burnstown, Mar 31
 Deep Dark Woods, Burnstown, Apr 5
 Lynn Miles (Songs from the Valley), Perth, Apr 7
 Lunch at Allen's (PPAC), Perth, Apr 13
 Home & Fashion Show, CP, Apr 13-15
 La Cage aux Folles, Perth, Apr 13-15, 19-22, 26-29
 Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Perth, Apr 13-15, 19-22
 Dance of Universal Peace, Renfrew, Apr 17
 Terry Tufts, Almonte, Apr 20
 Almonte Lecture Series, Apr 20
 David Rotundo Band w/Julian Fauth, Westport, Apr 20-21

Visual Arts

Vernissage, Feb. 4, 8-9:30PM. Diane Coutu's original paintings. Equator Café, 451 Ottawa St. Almonte.
Vernissage, Feb. 10, 7-9PM. Featuring the Ottawa Mixed Media Artists' exhibit "Draw Me In". Brush Strokes, 129 Bridge St. Carleton Place. 253-8088, brushstrokesart.ca.
New Artist Reception, Feb. 11, 3PM. Welcoming 6 new gallery artists. Kanata Civic Art Gallery, 2500 Campeau Dr. Kanata. 580-2424x33341, kanatagallery.ca.
Vernissage, Feb. 11, 2-4PM. Nancy Cole's silk quilts. "Letters" runs from Feb 7-Apr 14. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St. E. Almonte. mvtm.ca.

Almonte & Area Artists' Association Mtg. Feb. 13, 7:30PM. Demo on image transfers. Almonte Public Library, 4a-artists.ca.
ARTiculate, Feb. 15, 7PM. Poetry in Fine Art Photography w/Mario Cerroni. West Carleton Arts Soc. members free, guests \$5. St. Paul's United Church, Carp. westcarletonartssociety.ca.
Arnprior & District Quilters' Guild, Feb. 22, 6:30PM. Garage sale - quilt quality material only. Christian Education Centre, 257 John St. N. Arnprior. arnpriordistrictquiltersguild.com. \$5 or \$20/yr membership.
Lanark County Knitting & Crocheting Guild, Feb. 28, 7PM. St. Paul's Anglican Church, 70 Clyde St. Almonte. lanarkknitting@gmail.com. Guests \$5
Lanark County Quilters Guild, Feb. 28, Noon. Stash sale & trunk show, with "Sewmates". Guests welcome; \$3. Lions Hall, Perth Fairground. 264-9232

WHAT'S ON IN

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
30 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp	31	1 Auditions - Barn Door Productions, Perth Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub	2 Jazz at Bally's, Ballygiblin's
6 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge	7	8 Sarah's Key, Perth Neat SoundCheck, Neat Coffee Shop Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub	9
13 Almonte & Area Artists' Assoc. Mtg, Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge	14 Love Under Cover, Carp West Carleton Garden Club Mtg, Carp Women's Business Group Mtg, CP	15 ARTiculate, Carp Cancer Prevention Event, Almonte Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub	16
20 Family Day Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Fulton's Opening Weekend, Pakenham Kid-Friendly Activities at the Bunker, Carp Open Mic Night, Carleton Place Snow Codes & Snow Cones, Carp	21 Dance of Universal Peace, Renfrew Pancake Supper, Franktown	22 Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Arnprior The Way, Perth Mind-Body Healing Talk, Carp Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub	23 Not Now, Darling, Perth
27 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge	28 Lanark Cty Knitting & Crocheting Guild, Almonte Lanark Cty Quilters Guild, Perth	29 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub	1

Youth

The Smurfs, Feb. 3, 7PM. Family Movie Night hosted by Beckwith Youth Committee, Brunton Community Hall, Beckwith. Free
Build-Your-Own Snow Bunker Competition, Feb. 4, 11AM-4PM. Diefenbunker, 3911 Carp rd, Carp. diefenbunker.ca. Free
Evening of Music and Movement, Feb. 4, 7PM. Ottawa Waldorf School performs eurhythmy to Chopin & Rachmaninov. Glen Cairn United Church, Kanata. 836-1547. \$20 adv. (\$25 at door), kids \$10
Snow Codes & Snow Cones, Feb. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 11AM-4PM. Secret snow codes, Winter Scavenger Hunt, & snow cones! Diefenbunker, Carp. diefenbunker.ca. Free w/admission
Kid-Friendly Activities at the Bunker, Feb. 17 & 20. Spy camp & arts & crafts. Diefenbunker, Carp. diefenbunker.ca.

Theatre

Pirates of Penzance Jr., Feb 24, 25, Mar 2 at 7PM; Feb 26, Mar 3 at 2PM. Mississippi Mudds Youth Theatre. Tickets at CP Chamber of Commerce, 132 Coleman St. CP Town Hall. 257-1976, mississippimudds.ca. \$15; \$10 opening night
On Stage For Kids, Feb. 26, 2PM. The Gift by Aboriginal Experiences. Tickets \$9 at Kentfield Kids, Read's. Naismith School, 260 King St., Almonte. 451-0323, onstageforkids.com.
Auditions - Barn Door Productions, Feb. 1, 7PM. The Imaginary Invalid and The Merchant of Venice. Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St. Perth. barndoorproductions.ca.
An Inspector Calls, Jan 26-28, Feb 3-4 at 8PM; Jan 29, Feb 5 at 2PM. \$20 at Book Nook; \$22 at Tickets Please or door. \$10 student rush at door w/ID. Studio Theatre, Perth. studiotheatreperth.com.

The Paranormal Show, Feb. 3, 8PM. Clairvoyance, magic, psychokinesis, retrocognition & more. \$30 at Tickets Please. Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St. Perth. www.barndoorproductions.ca
 Film Night International presents **Sarah's Key**, Feb. 8, 2PM; **The Way**, Feb. 22, 2PM. Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St. Perth. 267-1224, filmnightperth@gmail.com. \$10
The Brothers Grimm: 200 Years & Counting, Feb. 10, 7:30PM. Storytellers Dale Jarvis & Delf Maria Hohmann. Tickets at ticketsplease.ca. Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St. Perth. 2wp.ca. \$20; \$18 in adv.
Cinema Obscura, Feb. 11, 8PM. featuring King Kong (1933). Full Circle Theatre, Perth. www.barndoorproductions.ca. \$7
Love Under Cover, Feb. 14, 6PM. Enjoy tales of bunker love, a gourmet meal & chocolates, and watch a Cold War love story movie. Diefenbunker, Carp. diefenbunker.ca.

Not Now, Darling, Feb 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 at 8PM; Feb 19 & 26 at 2PM. Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St. Perth. 267-1884, barndoorproductions.ca. \$22; \$18 in adv.
Spiritual Cinema Circle, Feb. 26, 2PM. Myriad Centre, 2 Sherbrooke St. Perth. 267-4819, fp@superaje.com. \$2 donation

Literature

Book Signing, Feb. 4, Noon-2PM. Arnprior author Jamie Johnson signs copies of Secret Selves: How Their Changes Changed Me (A Mother's Story). Arnprior Book Shop, 152 John St. N. Arnprior.

Music

A Walk in the Park Benefit Concert Feb. 3, 7PM. Local talent raise money for Augusta Street Park renewal. Almonte, Old Town Hall, \$10.

FEBRUARY 2012

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Inspector Calls, Perth Bros Chaffey - Prince Tribute, Foodies A Walk in the Park Concert, Almonte Local Pie & Chocolate Day, Perth The Paranormal Show, Perth The Smurfs, Beckwith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Inspector Calls, Perth Book Signing, Amprior Bros Chaffey - Prince Tribute, Foodies Build-Your-Own Snow Bunker, Carp Evening of Music and Movement, Kanata Lanark Cty Genealogical Soc., Perth Snow Codes & Snow Cones, Carp Vernissage, Almonte Westport Wally Celebrations, Westport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Inspector Calls, Perth APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Auditions - CP Talent Showcase, CP Jon Brooks, McDonalds Corners More about Meat, Smiths Falls Open Mic Jam w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Snow Codes & Snow Cones, Carp Valley Singles Lunch, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp, Carp The Brothers Grimm, Perth Valentine's Dance, Clayton Vernissage, Carleton Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cinema Obscura, Perth Maberly Quarterly Dance, Maberly Mid-Winter Milling, Almonte New Artist Reception, Kanata Snow Codes & Snow Cones, Carp Valentine's Party, Westport Vernissage, Almonte White Lake Acoustic Jam, White Lake Yeshe, Neat Coffee Shop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egyptian Postures of Power, Almonte Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Open Mic Jam w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Snow Codes & Snow Cones, Carp
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Lecture Series, Almonte Kid-Friendly Activities at the Bunker, Carp Not Now, Darling, Perth The Original Homewreckers w/Miss Angel, The Cove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulton's Opening Weekend, Pakenham Jazz w/Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove Kathryn Briggs & Tom McMahon, Almonte Kristine Schmitt & her Special Powers, CP Mardi Gras Celebration, Carleton Place Not Now, Darling, Perth Snow Codes & Snow Cones, Carp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Traditional Sing, Almonte APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Circling the Midnight Sun, Seeley's Bay Fulton's Opening Weekend, Pakenham Not Now, Darling, Perth Open Mic Jam w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Snow Angel Making Party, Lanark Snow Codes & Snow Cones, Carp
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast with Soul, Almonte Hawksley Workman, Burnstown Not Now, Darling, Perth Pirates of Penzance Jr., Carleton Place Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Annual Chilly Days, Almonte An Evening with Janis Joplin, Perth Coins & Strings, Almonte Fulton's Jewellery Show, Pakenham Hawksley Workman, Almonte Not Now, Darling, Perth Pirates of Penzance Jr., Carleton Place Potluck & Film, Carp Talk: Osteoporosis, Carp The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, Neat Café The Claytones, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Big Band Tea Dance, Almonte Fulton's Jewellery Show, Pakenham Lost Films of the National Archives, Neat Café Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Not Now, Darling, Perth On Stage For Kids, Naismith Public School, Almonte Open Mic Jam w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Pirates of Penzance Jr., Carleton Place Spiritual Cinema Circle, Perth

- Baker Bob's Gallery** presents Hamid Ayoub, palette knife painter in oils
- MVTM** presents "Letters", featuring Nancy Cole's storytelling quilts <mvtm.ca>
- Palms Coffee Shop** presents the photography of Charles Ebbs & Richard Skrobecki's pottery <palmsonline.ca>
- The Mississippi Mills Chamber Gallery & Almonte Library Corridor Gallery** present Louis Helbig, "Beautiful Destruction" photos of the tar sands
- Carp Library** presents "Cast a Glance", oils, watercolours, acrylic, mixed media and photography of the West Carleton Arts Society <westcarletonartsociety.ca>
- fieldwork** presents land art - OOH,AH,WOW by Karina Bergmans <fieldworkproject.com>
- Brush Strokes** presents Ottawa Mixed Media Artists' exhibition "Draw Me In" <brushstrokesart.ca>
- Heritage House Museum** presents Cultures of the World Exploration <smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse>
- Equator Coffee Roasters** presents Diane Coutu's original paintings
- Kanata Civic Art Gallery** presents six new gallery artists <kanatagallery.ca>

Neat Coffee Shop (1715 Calabogie Rd., Burnstown, 433-3205): 8pm
 Feb 8 SoundCheck open mike (no cover)
 Feb 11 Yeshe, \$25
 Feb 24 Hawksley Workman, \$52
 Feb 25 Silent Film/Live Soundtrack: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, \$20
 Feb 26 Silent Film/Live Soundtrack: *Lost Films of the National Archives*, 7pm, \$20
Foodies Fine Foods (34 Mill St., Almonte, 256-6500):
 Feb 3, 4 The Brothers Chaffey: Prince tribute, dinner & live music, \$40, 6:30pm
Carp Masonic Lodge (3704 Carp Rd., Carp): Carp Celtic Jam, \$3 or \$25 for 3 mos, all levels, Mon, no charge (7-9pm).
Ashton Pub (113 Old Mill Rd., Ashton): Sun-days, Open Mic Jam w/Kelly Sloan, 2-5pm

Community

Local Pie & Chocolate Day, Feb. 3, Noon-5pm, Tasting, incl. Ludwig chocolate. Foodsmiths, 106 Wilson St. W. Perth.

Lanark County Genealogical Society, Feb. 4, 1:30pm. Drummond Centre Community Hall, 1920 Conc 7, Perth.

More about Meat, Feb. 5, 4-8pm. RSVP to info@REALaction.ca. Chef Tibrata Gillies. Smiths Falls Community Health Ctr, 2 Gould St. \$5; \$15 per family, bring a local potluck dish.

Valley Singles Lunch, Feb. 5, 12:30-2:30pm. To register, call 256-8117 or 432-7622. JR's Restaurant, 385 Ottawa St., Almonte.

Mid-Winter Milling, Feb. 11, 10AM-5PM. Intuitives, astrologists, psychics, reiki, etc in downtown shops. Mill St. Almonte.

Egyptian Postures of Power, Feb. 12, 10AM-4PM. Sacred geometry of human body. Mill of Kintail, Almonte. 256-9373, innerrevelations@gmail.com. \$80

West Carleton Garden Club Meeting, Feb. 14, 7:30-9PM. Re-growing dahlias. Carp Hall. \$5 for non-members

Women's Business Group Mtg, Feb. 14, 7:30AM. Buster's Bar and Grill, 515 McNeely Dr. Carleton Place. wbggroup.ca.

Cancer Prevention Event, Feb. 15, 7-9PM. Multimedia presentation on cancer prevention. Almonte Old Town Hall. preventcancer.now.ca.

Almonte Lecture Series, Feb. 17, 7:30PM. Peter Larson: Jerusalem Today. Almonte United Church. almontelecures.ncf.ca. free - donations accepted

Fulton's Opening Weekend Celebrations, Feb. 18-20. Special events, trails, playground & outdoor fun. Fultons Pancake House, Pakenham. fultons.ca.

Circling the Midnight Sun, Feb. 19, 2pm. Dr. James Raffan's travels through the arctic. Seeley's Bay Community Hall. \$10

Snow Angel Making Party, Feb. 19, 1-4pm. All welcome. Bring snow shoes or skis to explore the farm. Cressy's, 4381 Wolf Grove Rd. Lanark. Free

Pancake Supper, Feb. 21, 4:30-6:30pm. Centennial Hall, 152 Church St. Franktown.

Mind-Body Healing Talk, Feb. 22, 7pm. Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre, 2386 Thomas Dolan Pkwy, Carp. ecowellness.com. \$20

Breakfast with Soul, Feb. 24, 8-10AM. Mill Street Crepe Co. 14 Mill St., Almonte. lillywhite.ca. Free

1st Annual Chilly Days, Feb. 25. Snow Golf, Chili Cookoff, and more. Organized by Almonte Legion. Gemmill Park, Almonte.

Potluck & Film, Feb. 25, 3:30pm-7:30pm. *Food Matters*, Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre, 2386 Thomas Dolan Pkwy, Carp. ecowellness.com.

Free Talk: Osteoporosis, Feb. 25, 1-3pm. Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre, 2386 Thomas Dolan Pkwy, Carp. Info: 839-1198, ecowellness.com.

Fulton's Spa Days & Jewellery Show/Sale, Feb. 25 & 26, 10AM-2PM. Samples, Maple Spa treatments, jewellery by Silver Desire. Fulton's Pancake House, Pakenham. fultons.ca.

Auditions - CP Talent Showcase, Feb. 5, 11AM. CP/Beckwith residents of all ages & media. Email concerts@orangepawentertainment.com to reserve a slot. Mississippi School for the Arts, 150 Mill St. CP.

Jon Brooks, Feb. 5, 2PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. meraschoolhouse.org/music. \$15 at door or from Tickets Please.

Valentine's Dance, Feb. 10, 8PM-Midnight. With the Glenn Silverson Band, put on by St. George's Anglican Church. Adv tickets at 256-9010. Clayton Community Centre, stgeorgechurchclayton.webs.com. \$12

Maberly Quarterly Contra & Square Dance, Feb. 11, 7:30PM. Music by Sheesham & Lotus. 7:30pm beginner's lesson. 8pm dance begins. Maberly Community Hall. 264-1993. \$10; kids under 6 are free

White Lake Acoustic Jam, Feb. 11, 7-10PM. White Lake Fire Hall, 142 Burnstown Rd. 256-5439. \$5 (members free)

The Original Homewreckers w/Miss Angel, Feb. 17, 7-11PM. Blues on the Rideau. The Cove, 2 Bedford St. Westport. choosetheblues.ca. \$60+tax dinner & show.

Kathryn Briggs & Tom McMahon, Feb. 18, 6-9PM. Piano & bass to accompany dinner. A celebration of 1 yr open. Cafe Postino, 73 Mill St. Almonte.

Kristine Schmitt & her Special Powers, Feb. 18, 8PM. Findlay House, 207 High Street, Carleton Place. findlayhouseconcerts@gmail.com. \$20

Mardi Gras Celebration, Feb. 18. Fundraiser for Soldier On. Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo & more. Valley BBQ, 10470 Hwy 7, Carleton Place.

Open Mic Night, Feb. 20, 7PM. Tiny Town Cinemas, 17 Albert St. Carleton Place. 257-8715 to register, cpcinemas.com. \$2

Dance of Universal Peace, Feb. 21, 7PM. No experience needed. Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church, 291 Plaunt St. S. Renfrew. 432-5583. Freewill donation

An Evening with Janis Joplin, Feb. 25, 7:30PM. Shelly Montreuil & band do tribute. Proceeds to Lanark Animal Welfare Society. Perth Legion, 26 Beckwith St. E. \$60

Coins & Strings, Feb. 25, 4-6PM. Open house w/Acacia Lyra (harp duo). Alliance Coin, 88 Mill St. Almonte. alliancecoin.com.

Hawksley Workman, Feb. 25, 8PM. Folkus Concert Series. \$27, students \$12 from folkusalmonte.ca, Mill Street Books, or at door. Almonte Old Town Hall.

The Claytones, Feb. 25, 8PM. Songs From The Valley II. Anders Drerup, Adam Puddington & Kelly Prescott. Tickets at door or from Tickets Please! Studio Theatre, Perth. studiotheatreperth.com. \$25

Almonte Big Band Tea Dance, Feb. 26, 1-4PM. With big band Standing Room Only. Almonte Old Town Hall. 692-5380, sroteadances.org. \$12 at door (cash only)

The Swan at Carp (Falldown Lane Carp, 839-7926)
 Feb 10, 24 Steve Barrette Trio, 7-10pm

The Downstairs Pub at JR's (385 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-2031) Karaoke Thurs, 9pm, no cover.

The Royal Oak (329 March Rd. Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, no cover.
 Feb 5, 19 APEX Jazz Band, 2-5pm
 Feb 12, 26 Magnolia Rhythm Kings, 3-6pm

The Cove (2 Bedford St., Westport, 273-3636):
 Feb 4 Westport Wally Celebrations, music all day, kids' activities, free entertainment, 11am start
 Feb 11 Valentine's Party with Emily Fennell & Spencer Evans, dinner/show, 5:30pm
 Feb 18 Jazz w/Spencer Evans Trio, 9-11pm, no cover

Ballygiblin's Restaurant (151 Bridge Street, Carleton Place, 253-7400)
 Feb 2 Jazz at Bally's w/pianist Peter Brown, Don Paterson & guests, 6-9pm, no cover.

The Naismith Pub (411 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-6336): Open Celtic Jam Wed, no charge (7:30-10pm).

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The Reeve Report

Who's Minding the Works?

Don't you love living here? Isn't it grand to be in a community where everything is available, from education to health care to entertainment? It's likely the very reason you moved here in the first place. Who would want to live in an impersonal environment where nothing is provided for children or seniors? We're glad you've come to avail yourself of all our special amenities.

by Glenda Jones

I know this wonderful lady who is a veritable energizer bunny. I'm just going to call her my friend, because she really is!

You leave for your work in the city in the morning, knowing your children are in safe hands at school, that my friend is there to help them into winter coats and mitts. She brings her dog in for your children to learn to read, and she mans the library, or supervises kids after school.

In the afternoon, she visits your parents in the nursing home. Her husband plays piano in the lounge once a week. It's a rush for him to finish his Meals on Wheels circuit before he arrives though. He likes to spend a couple of minutes with each diner, to make sure they are all right. Not many people come by if *he* doesn't, and he enjoys the contact.

Their sons are all married and living here too. One coaches your kids' soccer team in the summer and the other the hockey team in the winter. Their wives organize the skate exchange so you won't have to buy all that expensive gear every year. They also sewed all the costumes for your daughter's skating team in the carnival. It only took them four days to do them all. My friend took over their Beaver and Brownie groups while they were busy on that project.

Were you thrilled to learn there are several concert series right here in town so you don't have to drive back into the city for entertainment? They just magically appear, and all you have to do is attend and enjoy them. The hours my friends spend numbing bums on committees would astound you. There isn't an arts group in the whole area that doesn't depend on fundraisers and grants to remain viable, and those things take gargantuan efforts to arrange. However, they are satisfied if, when you leave the hall, you tell them you had a grand time.

You can't complain about lack of activities when you see the line-up of festivals from Ride for Dad to Puppets Up! and everything in between. From the end of one success to the beginning of the next, there is no relaxation for the faithful few who are the Gibaltars of these committees. They work year-round to provide the festivals and fairs that define us. They listen to complaints, smile, and keep coming back for more! Aren't my friends absolute saints?

When misfortune hits, there are service clubs who pick up the slack. My friends belong to a few because they know there is a need, and who will help if they don't? They make sure the food banks are stocked, play structures are built, and basic needs are provided. Again, there are meetings aplenty and responsibilities to shoulder, but in the name of making this community a gracious place, they do it.

Most people are not touched by any of this, because they are "too busy" making a living to concern themselves with these things. They're happy to be on the receiving end of all the good stuff though. They vow to set aside time when they retire to get involved, and yet when that time comes, they often

When misfortune hits, there are service clubs who pick up the slack. My friends belong to a few because they know there is a need, and who will help if they don't? They make sure the food banks are stocked, play structures are built, and basic needs are provided. Again, there are meetings aplenty and responsibilities to shoulder, but in the name of making this community a gracious place, they do it.

say, "But I earned time off. I'm going to travel; I'm going to do all the things I never had time to do while I worked." I say *now* is the time. And if not *you*, then who?

Read back over this article and you will discover that my friend's name is Someone Else. She and her husband are providing the undercurrent of everything in your community that you value. Now try changing her name to "I" and see what you could be doing. You will never regret the time you spend volunteering. There can be no better way to learn to love your town than being on the inside track. There are more opportunities here than you can imagine, and there is not one single organization that will turn you away. MAKE TIME, don't just spend it!

The Perth Community Choir

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The Brothers Grimm: 200 Years and Counting

After bringing the community a number of fine storytelling performances based on contemporary personal narratives, it seems only fitting that 2 women productions, with its commitment to presenting high quality storytelling for adults, is now offering a performance that celebrates the roots of storytelling — those compelling and ancient folk and fairy tales that are the foundation, the inspiration for most modern tellers, no matter what kinds of tales they tell.

Remember Snow White, Cinderella, Rapunzel, The Frog Prince, Rumpelstiltskin, the Golden Goose, Hansel and Gretel?

If you do, it's thanks to the Brothers Grimm, who collected these stories and hundreds of others.

In 1812, brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published the first of what would become a two-volume book of tales, gathered from the German people. Unbeknownst to the Grimms, this was destined to become the best known, most widely translated, and most influential book ever created in the German language.

It may be 200 hundred years since that first publication, yet these stories still come to catch us unawares. Fierce, funny, ancient and oh-so-contemporary in their ability to reflect our strengths and weaknesses, these are stories handed down through the ages, because they are essential to humankind. The influence of these stories can still be found everywhere in our culture. Even one of the year's most successful new TV

series, *Once Upon a Time*, depends on these stories for its appeal.

For the past decade, storyteller Dale Jarvis and musician Delf Maria Hohmann have been retelling the most famous, as well as some of the lesser-known Grimm's tales. Both are folklorists hailing from Newfoundland, with a love of this material and a wondrous ability to link it to historical stories drawn from their lives. They admit what the Grimms have to offer isn't always pretty.

"These are the real deal," says Jarvis, "Full of loss, longing, violence, tenderness, blood, mothers-in-law, the best and the worst of humanity, told alongside themes of hope, rebirth, marriage, and the joy of

living — but certainly not bedtime tales for little children!"

Jacob and Wilhelm also collected a vast amount of Volkslieder (rarely heard folk music) — songs of love and war, religious songs, song fragments and broadsides. Drawing upon this legacy, Hohmann provides a musical complement to the action. It's a compelling combination.

The Brothers Grimm: 200 Years and Counting — story, music and memory — 2 women productions' latest contribution to our community's cultural life. Get your \$18 advance tickets at Tickets Please (485-6434/ticketsplease.ca) or pay \$20 at the door of the Full Circle Theatre (26 Craig Street in Perth) on February 10 at 7:30PM.



On February 10 you can catch *The Brothers Grimm*, presented by 2 women productions, at Perth's Full Circle Theatre. It will be performed by raconteur Dale Jarvis (right), accompanied by folk musician Delf Maria Hohmann.

Ottawa Waldorf Presents Music in Movement

The Ottawa Waldorf School (OWS) is pleased to present an Evening of Music and Movement on Saturday, February 4, from 7 to 9PM.

Eurythmy, which means "harmonious rhythm", is a form of artistic movement. Through their movements, participants strive to make the sounds of speech and musical tones visible, and to permeate them with feeling. Working as a group in a class, where they create complex interwoven patterns together, children develop awareness of each other in space and as a social unit. Experience the enchanting music of Chopin and Rachmaninov with local pianist Chiharu Zeng. You will also discover the magic of tone with local eurythmist Sylvie Richard, guest eurythmists, and OWS students of Grades 6, 7 and 8.

Come with your family and friends to enjoy the event, followed by a reception with refreshments, and an opportunity to meet the artists. It promises to be an evening to remember. All profits will be directed to the OWS children's eurythmy program. Tickets are available at the school, located at 1 Goulbourn Street in Stittsville. Call 836-1547 for tickets: adult advance tickets are \$20 each (\$25 at the door), and children are \$10. The concert will be presented at Glen Cairn United Church, 140 Abbeyhill Drive in Kanata.

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PPAC Presents March ... in Double Time!

The Perth Performing Arts Committee (PPAC) is gearing up for a great month with two terrific concerts coming up in March. The first is a special show that has been added to their regular series. On Friday, March 9, at 7PM, PPAC presents the legendary **Tommy Hunter** on his very last cross-Canada tour!

With his timeless appeal, Tommy Hunter is an entertainer with a long history of involving people in his brand of country music. For 27 consecutive years on television, *The Tommy Hunter Show* brought wholesome family entertainment into living rooms all across this great country. Don't miss your chance to catch Tommy on his final cross-Canada tour — it's history in the making!

The show starts at 7PM on March 9 at the Mason Theatre in PDCI. Tickets are \$48 (including the convenience fee) from Tickets Please in Perth. Visit <ticketsplease.ca> or call 485-6434 to order yours.

Later in the month, East Coast music comes west on Friday, March 23, in the form of multi-East Coast Music Award nominee **David Myles**. David's earlier releases, *Things Have Changed* (2006) and *On The Line* (2008) had already established his reputation as a versatile, genre-bending artist with a knack for effortlessly straddling jazz, blues, folk and pop styles.

Setting out to make his fourth album, *Turn Time Off*, **David Myles** knew he was ready to try something a little different. Produced by acclaimed Nova Scotia musician Joel Plaskett, *Turn Time Off* is a smooth, soul-infused pop record that pays tribute to crooners and lovers alike, and solidifies Myles's reputation as a gifted, spirited

songwriter with wide appeal. A warm, easy performer, Myles brings his audiences to their feet wherever he plays. His unabashed joy at being on stage is infectious, and his enthusiasm, along with a tendency to regale his audiences with humorous anecdotes, has made him a favourite wherever he plays.

And if those shows have whetted your appetite for fabulous Canadian music, you'll want to mark your calendar for Friday, April 13, when PPAC offers you to opportunity to have **Lunch at Allen's**. Neither a local diner nor a songwriter's circle, Lunch At Allen's is an extraordinary musical revue by internationally renowned artists Murray McLauchlan, Cindy Church, Marc Jordan and Ian Thomas, who perform together as a band. Together, it seems as though this stellar foursome has been playing for years with an energy and freshness like they've just met.

This year, tickets to all shows are available exclusively at Tickets Please <ticketsplease.ca>, which is located at Jo's Clothes, 39 Foster Street in Perth. For more details, please visit <perthpac.org>.

— Kris Riendeau



East coast sensation David Myles plays Perth on Friday, March 23 (photo by Mat Dunlap)



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Carleton Place Talent Showcase

Carleton Place artists of all ages have a new opportunity to perform, as Orange Paw Entertainment presents the Carleton Place Talent Showcase on March 3 at 7PM. Held in the beautiful studio space at McArthur Island in Carleton Place, the showcase invites musicians, dancers, actors and visual artists to share their talent. Children, teens and adults are all welcome to audition. Painters, photographers and sculptors are encouraged to display their work.

Giselle Minns, concert promoter for Orange Paw Entertainment, teaches both voice and piano locally and wanted to see more opportunities for her students to perform. She decided to host this showcase and, at the same time, support local artists.

There will also be a draw at the showcase, for artwork and other wonderful prizes. All proceeds from the concert will be going to Arts Carleton Place, and admission is free.

Auditions will be held on Sunday, February 5, starting at 11AM, at 150 Mill Street in Carleton Place — just down the street from the Town Hall. Interested performers can reserve an audition slot by emailing <concerts@orangepawentertainment.com>. Spaces are limited. The purpose of this event is to showcase the talents of Carleton Place residents. Organizers ask that only those from Carleton Place and Beckwith areas submit their works for audition or display. Orange Paw Entertainment is already working on a Mississippi Mills Talent Showcase for later in the spring.

The Breath of a Baby and Other Stories

My little fella took a long, long time to arrive. He was... unexpected. Surprise! My wife and I were lucky enough to adopt a baby girl a few years ago and really wanted to complete our family with another child, so we threw our hat in the adoption ring a second time. Anyone familiar with adoption knows that, when it comes to the process, the wheels turn very slowly, if they turn at all. We had given up hope when,

by Steve Scanlon

more than three years after our initial enquiries, our son arrived. Anybody familiar with adoption also knows that if you are lucky enough to have the opportunity to adopt, the folks in charge give you as little notice as they possibly can. You get a call saying, "I know it's been a few years but... how's Monday for you?" And you say, "Ahh, ya, good, ummm, what time?"

I'm pretty sure it's a test. We passed. Surprise! You are now the proud parents of a bouncing baby. The first time this happened I rushed out and bought a couple of years' supply of infant diapers (and really, my wife should have mentioned — in passing — that infants grow out of infant diapers way before a year is up). The second time around I was an old hand.

So, we have a boy now and I live in a gated community. Well, it's not the community that's gated so much as our house. Since my son's arrival, we have managed to gate every possible means of escape. We have a gate at the top of the stairs, we have a gate at the bottom of the stairs, we have a gate at the basement stairs and the sunroom stairs. We gate doorways, entrances, exits and openings — we even gate gates and, because my son is my son, we gate his bedroom door. We have cornered the market on gates. I should have named my boy Bill (wait for it... it'll come to you). If I could I would gate the streets. Why, you ask? Self-preservation. Wherever my son is, he wants to be somewhere else — doesn't matter where, doesn't matter how, it just matters that it's not here... wherever here may be at any given time. To sum it up, he's three. He wants to be elsewhere. Fast. It's not the destination, but the journey. I love that about him.

I should clarify — I *used* to live in a gated house. We still have the gates — many, many gates — and they still function... but they don't work anymore. You see, there comes a time in every child's life when he or she will crave that adventure taking place on the other side of the fence... you know, where the grass is always greener. There are two ways this can be accomplished: the safe way or... my son's way. He or she can wait for that gate to be opened for them and enter the new world with eyes wide open in amazement or... he can risk life and limb by climbing that fence and hurling himself over the top! My son chose the latter. At bedtime, when all was quiet, not a being stirring. He not only climbed to the top of the gate, but he also leapt down without a sound — stealth-like, Ninja Baby — I swear he rolled when he landed to soften the impact. I never saw it coming. One moment I was ever so nicely ensconced on the couch, cup of tea in one hand, remote control in the other (yes, I should have been reading Hemingway or doing something productive but... well, if you have kids, you get it), images of the quiet evening ahead of me drifting through my mind, when I caught a movement out of the corner of my eye. I'll admit it, I was

scared — it gave me a start to see the movement where none should have existed. After all, it could have been anything — a burglar, a raccoon, some sort of huge red-eyed rodent, or a small child... wearing bright red Elmo jammies.

Me: Hey, how did you get down here?

Him: I climbed out and I comed down da stairs.

Me: Oh.

Him: I did it by myself.

Me: Yes, I see that. Is there any point in me telling you not to do that again?

Him: No.

Me: Oh... okay. Hug?

Him: Hug!

That was the beginning of a series of hugs, pleas, punishments and bribes. Nothing, short of strapping the boy to his bed, will work for this particular escapade. I'm fairly certain he'll grow out of it. He will grow out of it, right? Right?! Please say "yes".

In the meantime, since he has managed to find a way out of his gated fortress, he picks the most opportune moments to exercise his newfound freedom. Bedtime is a popular time, as are the wee hours of the morning.

My boy is exceptionally affectionate — he loves to cuddle — and, in his defense, he really doesn't know how to tell time, and really the sun was going to come up eventually anyway, and in actuality he's up, so he may as well *do* something, and the gate is

One moment I was ever so nicely ensconced on the couch, images of the quiet evening ahead of me drifting through my mind, when I caught a movement out of the corner of my eye. It could have been anything — a burglar, a raccoon, some sort of huge red-eyed rodent, or a small child... wearing bright red Elmo jammies.

not an effective deterrent so... why not visit Dad... in bed... at 3AM? Decision made.

So, with pillow, snuggle bear, and sippy cup in hand (actually, "hands", because he wastes no effort in return trips to his bedroom for more supplies — one task, one trip — he's nothing if he's not efficient), he crawls up the bed and pushes and pulls his way under the blankets (leaving his poor old father without) and proceeds to settle in for the remainder of what could have been a long restful night.

The fact of the matter is (no matter what I say to my lovely and talented wife), I love the fact that my boy cuddles, if and when he slows down enough to accomplish the task, and if that takes a visit at 3AM, so be it. My boy, who smells of Johnson's baby shampoo. My boy, who smells of freshly laundered jammies. I would gladly give up a limb to be snuggled by my boy, who has the scent of the innocence of childhood. Who doesn't love to snuggle with their children who smell all, y'know... childlike? With that in mind I was a very groggy, yet happy father as my son snuggled in for the duration. I was ready to breathe in all the pleasurable scents of the child. I was ready to inhale the breath of an angel. I was ready to absorb the innocence. I had been looking forward to this moment it seems for my entire life. I was READY. I was, that is, until my boy, my lovely precocious child... exhaled. All of the dreams of the sweetness of my baby's breath were exhaled in that one short moment. My baby boy has bad breath. I snuggled closer.

My boy still climbs gates, he still snuggles up close and I still breathe through my mouth, not my nose. I wouldn't change a thing.

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The Claytones



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If Theatre Be the Food of Love, Play On...

If it's fair to say that Valentine's Day is one of the "hottest" times of the year — despite falling right in the middle of winter's coldest month — then perhaps it's a good time to be thinking ahead to when the concept of heat is not just a romantic goal but a meteorological reality.

With that in mind, the Classic Theatre Festival is launching its annual Valentine's Day Special, an opportunity for those with warm thoughts and hot intentions to enjoy significant savings on the purchase of vouchers that can be redeemed during the summer theatre season, when the Ottawa Valley's only professional summer company stages two long-running romantic comedies from the golden age of Broadway and the London Stage.

Individuals who purchase tickets for either show before February 14 will receive a 15% discount and can choose their dates when the sun is warm and shirt sleeves are the fashion. In addition, their names will be entered in a draw to win tickets to one of the shows at this summer's St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival in Prescott (*A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Othello*).

"The Classic Theatre Festival is not only great for weekend getaways and day trippers looking for something to do in the summer," explains artistic producer Laurel Smith. "We often find it's a great opportunity for a date night for couples (even when one half of the couple may

be reluctant to enter a theatre). We've been told on countless occasions that when a husband gets dragged to one of our shows by his spouse, he emerges a theatre convert!"

Indeed, one comment left in the Festival's audience reaction book in 2011 read "As someone whose cultural tastes ran more to the Green Bay Packers than the theatre arts, your production has made me undergo a rethink and has broadened my horizons!"

The shows for 2012 are a unique mix that calls to mind an era that is currently popular with television audiences enjoying shows such as *Mad Men* and *Pan Am*, both of which offer realistic depictions of life and relationships at the end of the 1950s and the early 1960s. Fans of the music, fashion and social dynamics of that era are certain to enjoy *Two for the Seesaw* and *Mary Mary*, both of which are regarded as among the top shows of the era.

Two for the Seesaw, a comedy about two lost souls finding each other in late 1950s New York City, won a Tony Award for best play and introduced the young Anne Bancroft, who starred with Henry Fonda. The show's author, William Gibson, also wrote *The Miracle Worker*, the popular story of Helen Keller.

Mary, Mary, by Jean Kerr, is an uproarious comedy about a formerly married couple rethinking their divorce. It ran for almost four years, making it the



Passions of the kind seen on last year's Classic Theatre Festival stage (here featuring Erica Wood and Scott Maudsley in *Bell, Book and Candle*) return in 2012 with two new productions of classic romantic comedies: *Two for the Seesaw* and *Mary, Mary* (photo by T.H. Wall)

eighth-longest running play in Broadway history. Kerr, a rarity as a successful female playwright during the 1950s, was also well known for her hugely popular take on suburban life, *Please Don't Eat the Daisies*.

To take advantage of the Valentine's Special, order your tickets before Feb-

ruary 14 and you will receive a 15% discount as well as a voucher that can be redeemed up until June 1, for the dates of your choosing. Vouchers are available online at <classictheatre.ca>, over the phone at 1-877-283-1283, or in person at Tickets Please, 39 Foster Street in Perth.



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The Claytones Kick Off Songs From The Valley II

How can you tell that last year's Songs From The Valley concert series was a big success? Five words: Songs From The Valley Two! That's right. If you enjoyed last year's concerts featuring fiddle virtuoso Wade Foster, guitar master Steve Piticco, and Neville Wells/John Richard & Bytown Bluegrass, you're going to love the 2012 edition of this popular series.

Songs From The Valley II once again represents a collaboration between Perth's Studio Theatre and the Stewart Park Festival. And, as before, the series will consist of three separate concerts, each featuring a well-known Ottawa Valley performer.

The line-up for 2012 is guaranteed to set any music lover's heart a-flutter...

On February 25, the first concert in the series brings **The Claytones** to the stage of the Studio Theatre, featuring Kelly Prescott, Adam Puddington and Anders Drerup. The Claytones have an undeniable musical pedigree: music is the family business for 25-year-old **Kelly Prescott**, daughter of Tracey Brown and Randall Prescott. Tracey and her family members were the Family Brown, the legendary Ottawa Valley group that had its own television show, while Randall is the son of another Canadian country legend, Irwin Prescott. With a childhood that consisted of tour buses, onstage appearances, and songwriting trips to Nashville, it's no wonder Kelly has developed into a musical force in her own right.

Kelly and **Anders Drerup** met while rehearsing the theatrical concert production of *Grievous Angel*, the touching portrayal of the life and music of Gram Parsons, in which Anders plays the lead role and Kelly plays Emmylou Harris. The production has captivated audiences from Ottawa's NAC to California, Oregon and Washington, and was recently named one of the Montreal Gazette's top 5 shows of 2010, next to Paul McCartney and Allen Toussaint.

Kelly Prescott's husband, **Adam Puddington**, rounds out The Claytones, bringing his own rich vocals and double bass skills to the trio. The group has been writing, recording, and planning a trip to Nashville, leading up to a CD release in 2012. No doubt their stage show at the Studio Theatre will be a tantalizing preview of that much-anticipated release.

On April 7, the second concert in the Songs From The Valley II series will feature **Lynn Miles**, one of Canada's most accomplished country/roots singer-songwriters, performing with **Keith Glass** of Prairie Oyster fame, a six-time Canadian Country Guitar Picker of the Year. And on May 12, the final concert features **Arlene Quinn** and Guests. Arlene was born and raised in rural Lanark County and has shared stages across North America with the likes of Loretta Lynn, Lorrie Morgan, Blue Rodeo, Murray McLaughlin, Bill Anderson, Faron Young, Moe Bandy, and many more.

Songs From The Valley II will be unforgettable and, at just \$70 for the 3-concert series (or \$25 per concert), it's also the musical "steal" of the year. Tickets are available in person or by phone at Tickets Please, 39 Foster Street in Perth, 485-6434 (a convenience fee applies). For further details visit <studiotheatreperth.com>. The Studio Theatre is located at 63 Gore Street East in Perth.



Catch the Claytones at the Studio Theatre in Perth on Saturday, February 25

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: March 10, 2012 at 2:30 p.m.

Where: St. Andrews United Church, Lanark

Guest Speaker: Brent Patterson, Research Scientist, MNR & Trent University

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Public is invited to attend

Light refreshments will be provided

Info: 613-267-4200, ext. 3403



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Sat., Feb. 11 **Valentine's Party** with Emily Fennell & Spencer Evans

Fri. Feb. 17 **Blues on the Rideau** presents **The Original Homewreckers** with Miss Angel. \$60, 7-11 PM

Sat., Feb. 18 **Jazz Night** with **Spencer Evans Trio**, 9-11, Free

Wed., Feb. 22 **CARKBUS!** Sens vs Capitals, \$65 (bus leaves The Cove at 5PM)

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