

FEBRUARY 2020

# the Hummm

free

Arts,  
Entertainment  
& Ideas



p.18 & 19

February's Events



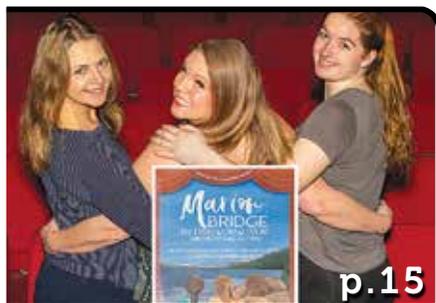
p. 9

Local CSAs



p.10

Vallentyne Bake



p.15

Marion Bridge



The Art of Charles Spratt p.3



Patrick Kelly  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

## ♥ Celebrate With Your Sweetie

Celebrate Valentine's Day right here in the Valley at one of the many area restaurants that are offering special menus on February 14<sup>th</sup>. If things go really well and you wind up needing more bedrooms, just give me a call!

**Pat's Picks** The Black Tartan in Carleton Place <[blacktartankitchen.com](http://blacktartankitchen.com)>  
**for February:** Heirloom Café in Almonte <[heirloomcafe.ca](http://heirloomcafe.ca)>  
Maximilian's in Perth <[maximiliansrestaurant.ca](http://maximiliansrestaurant.ca)>  
The Cove Country Inn in Westport <[coveinn.com](http://coveinn.com)>

### Sutton

Premier Realty (2008), Ltd.,  
Brokerage

(613)254-6580

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

## Dr. Bill Buttle

**Cartoonist, musician, retired dentist and singing bus driver**



## In memoriam

I honestly can't remember when Bill Buttle first started contributing Artbeat cartoons to theHumm, but I think it was some time within our first year of publishing. So for the past two decades (give or take a year or two), his humorous take on the world of art and music has had pride of place here on page 2. On Sunday, January 19, Bill passed away peacefully in Arnprior at the age of 79, leaving behind grieving family and friends as well as legions of Artbeat fans throughout the Ottawa Valley.

I didn't get to spend much time with Bill, but his generosity of spirit and affable good nature were immediately apparent every time we met or emailed. His willingness to freely contribute his time and talent each month was both inspiring and humbling, and I know we will never find another cartoonist like him. Rob and I send our deepest condolences to his loved ones. Bill will be sorely missed. Below are some of our favourite Artbeat cartoons from past issues. Thanks, Bill!  
— Kris Riendeau



PO Box 1391  
Almonte ON K0A 1A0  
Phone: (613) 256-5081

**Editor:**  
Kris Riendeau  
editor@thehummm.com

**Layout and Design:**  
Rob Riendeau  
rob@thehummm.com

**Advertising/Promotions:**  
Kris Riendeau: (613) 256-5081  
kris@thehummm.com

**Calendar Submissions:**  
Rona Fraser  
calendar@thehummm.com

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

**Submissions**  
By email or on disk.

**Content Deadline:**  
20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication

**Advertising Deadline:**  
22<sup>nd</sup> of the month prior to publication

**Subscriptions**  
cost \$40 (includes HST) for one year (12 issues). Send a cheque with your name and address to: theHumm PO Box 1391 Almonte ON K0A 1A0

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

All writing, artwork, and photographs published in theHumm are copyright to the author, or to theHumm in the case where no author is specified. Reprinting any content without permission violates copyright and is prohibited. No cherubs were harmed, nor arrows fired, in the production of this month's issue.

**Thumm's up this month to:**  
**Jane Torrance**, for generously assisting us with an onerous and complicated application process. We learned a whole lot!

## ARTBEAT

by Bill Buttle



"Dad — did you know that if you uncurl your trumpet it's almost a meter long!?"



"I was impressed when you resolved not to text and drive, until you added 'so I can practice harmonica!'"



"Whoo-o-a! — You sure do a realistic picture of a duck!"



"Paints what he knows, obviously!"



"... and this deluxe model comes with an 8-year-old kid to show you how to run it!"



"You see where I put my bow down just now?"

# Charles Spratt — A Four-Decade Love Affair

It is a true gift to discover a passion that endures and rewards for the rest of your life. Charles Spratt is grateful that he has had forty years to enjoy what it took him forty years to realize — he is an artist.

Interviewing artists is always an adventure. When he ushered me into the basement of the tastefully appointed home he shares with his wife Pat in Stittsville, I was astonished. Spratt's man cave is unusual and fabulous. I would like to return and explore it more fully. It is the antithesis of a basement. It is an art gallery and studio, spotlessly clean, more like the Canada Council's Art Bank with paintings of all sizes neatly arranged on

by Sally Hansen

shelves and stacked along the walls and floor. This is where Charlie, as his friends and family know him, spends his time continually exploring his guiding principle that "I must never stop looking for better ways to express my feelings in art, and that struggling to more fully understand myself is integral to painting itself..."

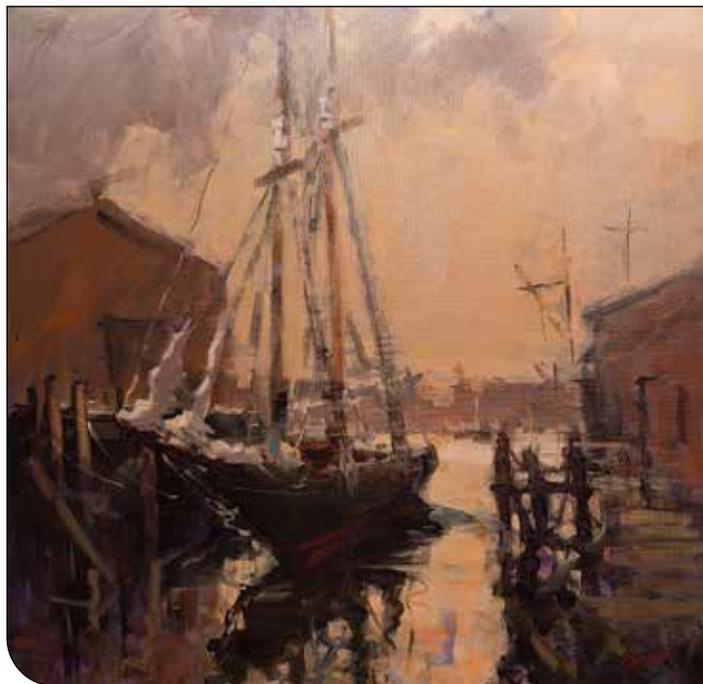
The paintings are lovely, suffused with Spratt's "absorption in the wonder and the beauty of the world around me." He has nourished his love of nature by embarking on plein air painting trips across Canada, frequently in the company of other acclaimed artist friends, and continues his forays into the Ottawa Valley. He uses his plein air acrylic sketches for reference when he returns to his studio to paint larger acrylic works. As expressed in his Artist Statement, he allows "each painting to speak to me as I interpret and develop abstract themes to produce the sense of spirituality that I feel in my work."

Spirituality is easier to perceive than to define, and Spratt's paintings resonate with something that captures the viewer's attention and elicits an emotional, spiritual response. His highly original use of colour and texture, combined with his partial and selective obscuration of detail, result in compelling images. You can live with these paintings and continue to experience a gently visceral as well as a purely aesthetic response. His portraits likewise are intriguing, at the same time questioning and suggesting personalities and life experiences. Charlie seems to have found a way to reflect life's complexities as well as its promises.

## To Improve is to Change

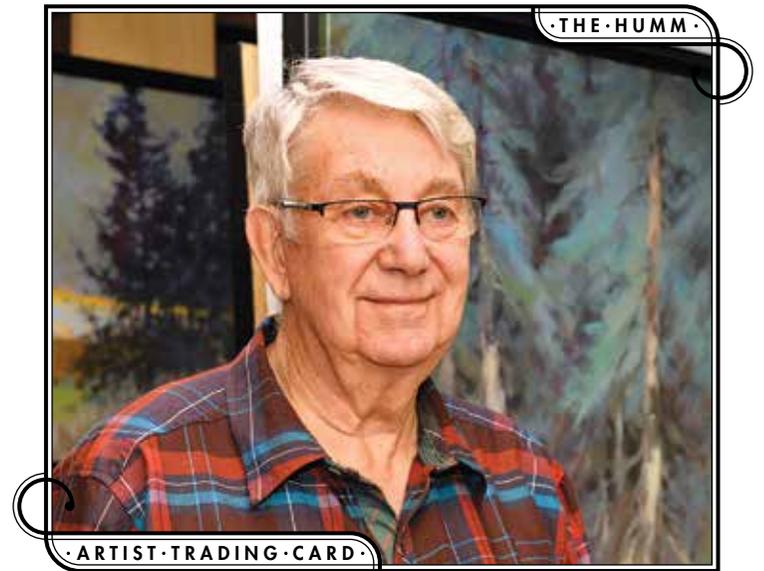
It is a wonderful growth opportunity to have your preconceptions (aka biases) challenged. I don't usually think of engineers as artists. Until he was forty, Spratt self-identified as an engineer who, with his engineer brother John, worked with their father George H. Spratt at Spratt Sand and Gravel near Carp. His great-grandfather had settled in the Ottawa Valley, and his grandfather had founded the first mining operation in Gloucester Township in 1918. When Charles joined in 1964, their company was the largest sand and gravel company in the Ottawa area. It exists today as Spratt Aggregates on Carp Road. Charles was a businessman, past President of the Aggregate Producers Association of Ontario, and a family man.

His life changed irrevocably when at age forty he decided to give painting a try. As a Queen's University mechanical engineering student he had always had a flair for drawing, and he remembered his mother sending him for oil painting classes as a twelve-year-old growing up on a farm. Like many other artists I've interviewed, he also remembers the first acknowledgement of his talent by a teacher in his one-room Ellwood Public School when he drew a picture of Donald Duck on the blackboard. I hope



teachers are aware of the lifelong consequences their encouragement and recognition (and, unfortunately, the opposite) can cause.

Spratt's friend Graham Lochhead was also interested in art, and the two decided to try painting outdoors with "real brushes and real paints". That



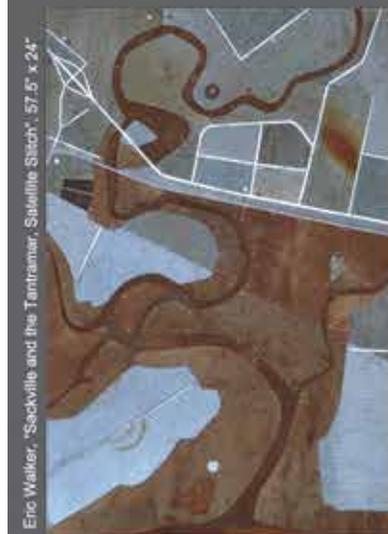
was it. He realized he was handicapping himself by just learning from books and photos, and that he had to learn from nature. Then he became friends with Grant Tigner (a teacher at, and then president of, the Ottawa School of Art), and Charlie's love of plein air painting was permanently confirmed. He visited Algonquin Park and met other artists, took regular trips with Tigner to one of the oldest art colonies in Gloucester, Mass., and continued to expand his network of like-minded artists. He started the Kidney Foundation Art Festival in Westboro with Peter Germotte; he considers it one of his biggest achievements that it continued for thirteen years as the Ottawa Art Festival.

On Monday mornings he joins a group of artists working on portraits as a means of learning how to better express their feelings. After many, many years of teaching, he finally gave it up when he decided that teaching any one method or technique was too prescriptive. He likens painting to being a jazz guitarist. There are so many ways to play a solo improvisation, and they are all valid. His advice to aspiring artists is to "continue to develop your own statement" — at eighty-plus, Charlie Spratt is still refining his personal message. "The farther you go, the more you learn about yourself — the same for musicians." Did I mention Spratt is a jazz guitarist?

In addition to over 25 solo gallery exhibitions to date and numerous awards (see Spratt's bio at [koymangalleries.com](http://koymangalleries.com)), Spratt is a past president and fellow of the Ottawa Watercolour Society, and elected signature member of the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour, the Society of Canadian Artists and the Ontario Society of Artists. He currently is the contact for the Manotick Art Association's Plein Air Group that meets weekly during the summer, and his enthusiasm for outdoor painting is as vibrant as the inspiration he continues to derive from it. His solo exhibitions, teaching history and inclusion in corporate collections are numerous and nicely itemized on his website at [cspratt.ca](http://cspratt.ca).

## The Ten Collective

On April 4 and 5 Charles Spratt will participate as the invited guest of The Ten Collective in their third annual show to be held in the fascinating Mississippi Valley Textile Museum located in the annex of the former Rosamond Woolen Company in Almonte. Constructed in 1867, this National Historic Site of Canada is well worth a visit all on its own, but this eclectic art show makes it almost imperative that art lovers jump in their cars and attend. Details are available at [thetencollective.com](http://thetencollective.com), and don't fail to clip Charlie's Trading Card on the back of this page.



**ERIC WALKER**  
Between the Vanishing Point and the Horizon

February 12 - March 13, 2020

Vernissage/Meet the Artist:  
Saturday February 15, 3pm-6pm

**SIVARULRASA GALLERY**

34 Mill St, Almonte ON  
info@sivarulrasa.com  
sivarulrasa.com  
613.256.8033



WHO Charles Spratt

WHAT Painter

WHERE By appointment at his home studio in Stittsville, 836-3614, <charles.spratt@sympatico.ca>, <cspratt.ca>; Koyman Galleries, <koymangalleries.com>

WHEN April 4-5, 10AM-5PM, The Ten Collective Show, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St. E., Almonte, <thetencollective.com>; July 23-Sept 12, Lightscapes – Three Artists; Three Impressionistic Visions, Cline House Gallery, Cornwall, <obostudios.com>

WHY "Because the next one could be my best!"

ARTIST TRADING CARD

THE HUMM

# Thaw Out at *Frozen Jr.* in Carleton Place!

This enchanting modern classic from Disney is based on the 2018 Broadway musical, bringing Elsa, Anna and the magical land of Arendelle to life onstage.

A story of true love and acceptance between sisters, *Frozen Jr.* examines the emotional relationship between Princesses Anna and Elsa as they embark on a journey. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood. With a cast of beloved characters, and laden with magic, adventure and plenty of humour, *Frozen Jr.* is sure to thaw even the coldest heart!

The Mudds have been rehearsing with a dedicated group of young people since September and are heading into the final rehearsals, in preparation for opening night on February 21.

The wonderful cast is loaded with talent — singing the story through with beautiful voices and lots of amazing choreography. There are many hidden gems, and along with the leads you'll find townspeople, snow chorus, hidden folk, castle staff, summer chorus and Oaken's family. Anna and Elsa, their parents, and friends (including Kristoff, Sven and Olaf) will be sure to engage you in this heartwarming story.

As per Mudds' usual practice, the costumes, makeup, hair, lighting, props, sound, special effects and set design will bring the performance to an outstanding level, led by Sandra Dunlop and



The tremendously talented Mudds Youth Theatre are preparing for their presentation of *Frozen Jr.*, which opens at the Carleton Place Town Hall on February 21

Kaz Lapointe as Co-Directors and Laurel Tye as Musical Director.

Come out to see this amazing production, but get your tickets soon as they are selling very quickly! See <ticketsplease.ca> for your preferred show time. You won't want to miss these young performers singing their hearts out to *Let it Go!* and many, many other songs. Hope to see you there!

— Linda Beigle & Sherrie Seward, Co-Producers

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



18<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**MAPLE RUN**  
STUDIO TOUR  
April 4 & 5

Indulge in sweet maple products and meet local craftspeople and fine artists in the historic village of Pakenham and surrounding area. For studio tour details check [www.mapleruntour.com](http://www.mapleruntour.com).  
Find us at: @MapleRunTour on Facebook and Instagram

## Are you an independent Home Child Care Provider? Consider joining the CROW Team!

CROW has a new Alternate Model of Care where Providers continue to enjoy their independence.

### Alternate Model Benefits:

- ◆ You set your own fees
- ◆ Recruit families to your home-based childcare
- ◆ Access grant funding (if eligible)
- ◆ Additional child in care (from 5 children to 6 children)
- ◆ Receive support from the CROW Home Visitor
- ◆ Training opportunities



All CROW affiliated Home Child Care Providers meet licensing standards as set out in the Child Care and Early Years Act.



hccinfo@crowlanark.com | 613-283-0095 | 4 Ross St., Smiths Falls

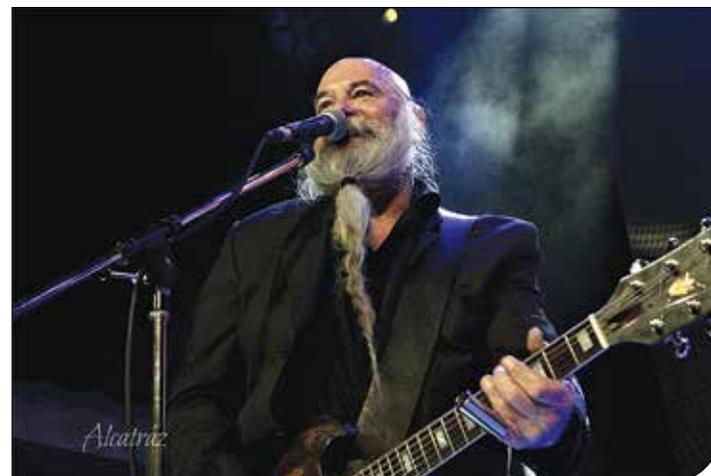
# Hard Hitting Blues at Blues on the Rideau

If you like your blues hard and heavy then you won't want to miss the Bill Durst band at the Cove on February 21. Blues on the Rideau producer James Doran explains: "This will be Bill's first visit to Westport, and I don't know why it's taken this long for us to get him here. I promise that anyone who loves Texas roadhouse-style blues (like ZZ Top) will *really* enjoy this band. This power trio blues rock is as good as it gets!"

Growing up in Wingham, Ontario, Bill was influenced by Motown, R&B, soul and the British blues invasion artists, especially Jimi Hendrix. He formed a classic rock band called Thundermug in 1969 — they had a #1 radio hit and went on to record five albums. He also spent some time in a ZZ Top tribute band, and you can certainly hear that influence in his music today. Bill put out two solo albums in the 1980s, but it wasn't until 2000 that his career really took off. He created his power trio — a "fuzzy, psychedelic blues band" as he calls it — with Joe DeAngelis on bass (who also co-writes the songs with Bill) and a drummer, and boy, do they lay down a big sound for just three guys. They've now put out five albums and have won or been nominated for a long list of Blues and Blues Rock Awards since then. If you're not familiar with Bill's music, check him

out at <billdurst.com> and see for yourself why you'll want to be in Westport for this show!

Tickets for this high-energy show (with dancing!) and delicious Cove buffet are only \$70 per person (plus HST), and proceeds will go to the Kick in for Kids program at Rideau District High School. Reservations are required and it is wise to book well in advance, especially if you want to stay overnight. Rooms at The Cove and nearby accommodations frequently sell out for BOTR nights. You can contact The Cove at 273-3636 or <thecoveinnwestport@gmail.com>. Find out more about this and other Blues on the Rideau shows at <bluesontherideau.ca>.



The Bill Durst band is sure to heat things up at The Cove on February 21. Don't miss this chance to dance the night away!

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

February 2020

# The Girl, the Ash, the Plantation... and Wilding

## The Girl

She used to sing as she walked past and up the hill, to the rock where she would sit, looking back towards me, and I towards her. We grew up together. She'd walk by me with her dogs in the beginning, when I was barely noticeable, then years later ride by with friends on horses. Then later still, under the spell of boyfriends, she'd walk past, oblivious to my outstretched branches. Now she has a husband. I stood by that year, watching their guests arrive on their wedding day — a river of polka dots and colours flowing down their laneway in front of me.

by Susie Osler

When she walks out alone, she stops sometimes to listen and gaze towards things that catch her attention. Some days this happily includes me — especially now that I have grown tall and sturdy. And especially in springtime when, perched in my highest branches, towhee or grosbeak sing. Sometimes she speaks joyful notes to us all. Sounds or no sounds, I can feel the warmth of her heart.

But lately, when she passes by I see her looking at me strangely. Her heart now feels heavy. She touched me one day not long ago — at the spot where two men tattooed an orange symbol I don't understand on my trunk. She uttered something that sounded like a prayer, or maybe a sorrowful lullaby. Something feels wrong.

## The Ash

For the past few months, each time I leave the driveway — on foot or in the car — I cannot avoid seeing a big H tattooed in orange spray paint on the trunk of a lovely adolescent ash tree. There is a moment in a tree's development when it begins to come into its own and says "I'm here!" That is the case for this lovely white ash. It grows nicely at the foot of a rocky outcropping on the other side of the road, with sumac, oak saplings and honeysuckle gathered around it. It's a handsome tree, with a presence that has now become integral to the place. But sadly that orange H spells the imminent end for the tree, as it has grown inconveniently close to the hydro lines and shall be felled come spring.

I'm noticing that I've become increasingly sensitive to just how extensively we humans (myself included) bend nature to suit our needs — even in places that we call "natural" or even "wild". From forest plantations to hiking trails and parks, we "get back to nature" with our cars, boats, RVs, mountain bikes, snowmobiles, ATVs, pets, and our abundant gear. Nature has become a comfortable and well-worn backdrop for our human activity, for our pleasure, for our selfies, at least as long as she behaves and looks beautiful. Amazingly, she has put up with our efforts to control and contain her for a very long time. But it is becoming apparent that this is changing. What are the costs of control — to human and beyond-human life?

## The Plantation

Roughly thirty years ago, a rough swath of well-worn pasture was planted with white pine — one of three such sections planted simultaneously as part of a Managed Forest tax break scheme being offered by the Ministry of Natural Resources. When I first moved here almost twenty years ago and was learning to use a chain saw, the first trails I made were walking paths through these young plantations, made simply by limbing the dead branches from the trunks. I loved opening pathways through the enveloping forest — the dimness and muffled soft sound created by the rows of young pines evoked scenarios from fairy tales — a sort of magical and liminal space that the imagination could step into and emerge from.

But now, after two decades of spending time with the native forest that surrounds these plantations, it is difficult to duck into the dark infantry-like rows of these sections without a twinge of dismay. What is immediately apparent is the stark lack of plant diversity. Linear grids of staid and struggling pines line up like disheveled but well-behaved children living out their lives seated in rows of desks, rather than exploring the dynamic edges of diverse, symbiotic communities. Everything about these plantations speaks sadly of efficiency; a one-size-fits-all mentality and a certain "get-er-doneness" — all of it designed and managed for the benefit of humans.

## Wilding

Recently, I read an article about a woman in Ireland who is "rewilding" a small pine plantation where she and her husband live. For several years, she has used video, photography and writing to respond poetically to what is unfolding on her land as a result of their interventions within the plantation. Ash seedlings have starred in her story as the first succession tree species to arise spontaneously in response to increased light levels in places that have been opened up. To many, her efforts may not look like "art", but in this time of ecological upheaval the world is calling for us to inhabit our lives, our work, and our places *differently* — in ways that honour, attend to, and serve life with greater reciprocity. This woman's art practice to me is holistic — a weaving together of ecology, creativity, and a deep ongoing relationship to place in a manner that is refreshingly slow, quiet, and unpretentious. I believe this is a way of doing art that is entirely suited to these times.

Many folk around the world are now heeding the call to rewild with all sorts of small but similarly soulful actions. Here on the farm, my partner and I have begun our own gesture towards "wilding" our plantations by opening pockets of light within the pines to stimulate the emergence of dormant succession species that have been waiting patiently for the right conditions to arise for germination. It is early days yet, but to our delight we recently realized that the few young whips we've found sporadically growing up amidst the pines are ash. For me, their presence — in spite of the many challenges facing ash trees today — is a sweet affirmation of the incredible tenacity and generosity of life.



**Faraway Places**  
Art Exhibit until Mar 15

**Strevé**  
Design Studio Boutique Gallery

64 Gore St East Perth 613-267-0230

**Valentine's Specials all Weekend**  
**February 14, 15 & 16!**

Take care of the one you love  
on Valentine's Day!

**Sweetheart Specials**  
and our **Delicious Regular Menu**

♥ \$85 per couple Reservations recommended

**Maximilian Restaurant**

Like us on Facebook **Prost!**

99 Gore St. E., Perth • 613-267-2536 www.maximiliansrestaurant.ca

Tuesday to Thursday, 11:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday, 11:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Sunday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**GET OUT AND ENJOY THE SNOW FOR LESS**

**WINTER SALE**

**ON SELECTED ITEMS FROM MOST BRANDS**

**ALL ACCESSORIES UP TO 50% OFF**

**All remaining insulated footwear up to 60% off**

**patagonia up to 40% Off**

**sandwich Spring Collection is here!**

**VAMOS** OUTDOORS

14 Mill Street, Almonte  
**613.461.2000**  
open 7 days a week

Deigual, glerups, dk, LOLë, Columbia Sportswear Company, MERRELL, KEEN

# Humm Bits

## Singin' and Hamin' it Up

St. Andrew's United in Pakenham is planning their first big event in 2020 — their 180<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation! On Thursday, February 6, join them for a scrumptious ham and bean supper (at 6PM) followed by some wonderful music at 7PM.

St. Andrew's choir, Michael Ryan, and talented area kids are coming together for a supper and concert to help raise funds for upgrades to the church's audio-visual equipment. Your participation will support an investment in technology that will ensure that this beautiful church continues to be a great gathering place for worship, parties, meetings, music and community events.

For more information, please contact Rhonda Tees at 624-5593 or <rjtees@hotmail.com>.

## Winter Community Café at MERA

On Saturdays from now until March 28 the Winter Community Café will be operating at the MERA Schoolhouse in McDonalds Corners from 10AM to 2PM. The doors will be open, the coffee will be on, and as always there will be good cheer and lots of laughs! Sticky buns, baked goods and lunch items will be waiting for you. All ages are welcome.

The Winter Community Café is excited to announce that this year's volunteers will be a group of youth who look forward to serving you. MERA welcomes their new ideas, energy and enthusiasm.

Each year the Café puts aside its net profits to offer to a local community initiative or organization. Thanks to the support of its patrons, the Café donated \$850 from last winter's operations to the McDonalds Corners Agricultural Society to assist with the purchase of a new stove. Stay tuned for more details about where net profits from this year's season will be headed.

The Winter Community Café at MERA is an independent undertaking that is operated by a volunteer collective. Its purpose is to bring people of all ages together to promote community building. Email <thewintercommunitycafe@gmail.com> to contact Café volunteers.

## Big Band Tea Dance

The well-known big band Standing Room Only is staging its popular monthly Sunday afternoon tea dance for ballroom and swing dancers on Sunday, February 23. Now in their 14<sup>th</sup> year, this will be the SRO's third tea dance of the season and will feature vocalist Saffron Bradbury.

Saffron has performed in a wide variety of locales including cruise ships, casinos, weddings, birthdays, house concerts and street parties. She has a B.A. in Fine Arts (Concordia), is a music teacher, and currently runs a 40-piece student concert band. She is excited to have the opportunity of performing with the SRO big band. The dance will be held at the Almonte Old Town Hall from 1-4PM (doors open at 12:30). Admission is \$14 per person or \$25 per couple, cash only, reservations are not required.

For more information, visit <srobignband.weebly.com> or like them on <facebook.com/srobignband>.

## Maple Grove Pancake Supper

Maple Grove Public School believes that fun on the playground and physical activity are both key components to a valuable and memorable elementary school education. The Fundraising Committee of the School Council is excited to be replacing the outdoor play structure, planning to have the much needed new and accessible equipment installed and ready for play in September of 2020. As part of this fundraising effort, they are hosting a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 25 from 5-7:30PM. The event will be held at the Civitan Club in Lanark (2144 Pine Grove Road) and the cost to attend is just \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Please come for an evening of socializing and supporting a great cause.

# Almonte's Seedy Saturday

The fifth annual Almonte Seedy Saturday will soon be here. That's right — fifth year — what an amazing anniversary!

Seedy Saturday comes to the Almonte Civitan Club on Saturday, February 8 from 9AM to 3PM. Once again there will be guest speakers all day on a wide variety of topics, more than forty artisan vendors and not-for-profits, door prizes, plenty of seed swapping, and homemade brunch from the Civitan canteen. Johvi Leeck, a young local entrepreneur and owner of the gardening venture Beyond the Garden Gate (along with a bit of help from her mom and dad) is bringing Seedy Saturday to Almonte's Civitan Club for its fifth year. The inaugural year of 2016 was a tremendous success and Johvi continues to build on it. Seedy Saturdays are the first glimpse of spring and a welcome delight for gardeners and foodies alike. For more information, please contact her at <johvi.leeck@hotmail.ca> or 256-0486.

Seedy Saturdays (and Sundays) are grass-roots events that are locally organized — the Canadian not-for-profit organization Seeds of Diversity has a loose organizational role, providing some guidance and some publicity for these events. They are a series of separate events that have sprung up across the country, each individually organized under the themes of encouraging the use of open-pollinated and heritage seeds, enabling a local seed exchange, and educating the public about seed saving and environmentally responsible gardening practices.

All of our local gardening groups will be well represented — the Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardening Program, Almonte & District Horticultural Society, the Canadian Organic Growers, the Seed Library at the Mississippi Mills Library, Seeds of Diversity and the Lanark County Master Gardeners are all enthusiastic supporters of Seedy Saturday. This is a great opportunity for networking with

indoors under lights is rapidly approaching, it is important to take a deep breath and slow down. Tomatoes should not be started until mid-March — otherwise they will become hopelessly lanky. Peppers and eggplants can be started a couple of weeks earlier at the end of February. But there are a number of other vegetables that respond very well to a much longer growing period under lights. Veggies that can be successfully started in early February include parsley, onions, leeks, celery, celeriac, globe artichoke and cardoon — and of course many perennial flowers also need a big head start! So now is a great time to get out and talk to experienced gardeners and check out the huge diversity of seeds that are available.



Seedy Saturday is set for February 8

many gardening groups to learn of their latest accomplishments and their plans for 2020.

Gardeners will be able to exchange information and to buy, sell or trade interesting and unusual heritage varieties of vegetable, fruit, herb, flower, wild and native Ontario seeds. And why not scoop up some of the delicious preserves, foodie bundles and artisan products? Dibble through the plethora of unique and quality garden products and find the perfect accoutrement to add to your garden expressions!

These events are fantastic for the beginner gardener but are also very timely for the serious gardener who is venturing into starting their own seedlings under lights. While the time to start some seedlings

This is another amazingly successful Almonte event and a terrific opportunity for gardeners from the area to network, for local producers to showcase their wares, and for everyone to learn. Come and support local small businesses — these folks are not in it for the "big bucks" but because they believe fervently in what they are doing. Seedy Saturdays' grass-roots nature — low overhead, low admission fees, local talent, and volunteer energy — distinguishes them from expensive, commercially driven garden shows. Attendees are able to contribute, not just consume. This truly is a local event.

For more details on the great network of Seedy Saturday (and Sunday) events taking place across the country, check out the Seeds of Diversity website <seeds.ca>.

— David Hinks

  
**Open daily**  
**10-5**  
**142 Bridge Street,**  
**Carleton Place**  
(formerly  
the Queen's Hotel)  
[f/thequeenscraftmarket](https://www.facebook.com/thequeenscraftmarket)

 **swarbrick law**  
BARRISTERS + SOLICITORS

Need Answers  
To Your Questions?  
Just Ask.

Family Separation/Divorce  
Mediation  
Wills & Estates

83 Little Bridge St.  
Almonte  
613-256-9811  
[www.swarbricklaw.ca](http://www.swarbricklaw.ca)

New Workshop at the Yoga  
Connection  
39 Gore St., Perth  
**Intro to Tai Chi and Qigong**  
Sat. March 7th 2020 2-4 pm  
\$10

with Timothy Booth  
Tai Chi Qigong and Qigong Master  
for more info call 416 554 1912 or  
email timothybooth9@gmail.com





## Come to Mardi Gras

### (Without Travelling Too Far!)

On February 22, the Arnprior Public Library, in collaboration with the Arnprior & District Food Bank, will be hosting a fundraising extravaganza sure to kick out those mid-winter doldrums.

It's a Masquerade Gala featuring live music by the 6-piece Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo — Canada's premier Mardi Gras band. We'll be rolling back bookshelves to create the space for up to 150 guests and the ambiance to further set the tone. There will be a sampling buffet of Cajun food, courtesy of Ullrich's Catering, a cash bar, amazing décor, a photo booth and some delightful surprises. Dress is festive fancy and we'll supply the masks and beads!

It's Mardi Gras — as authentic as you can get! Tickets are \$50 and available now at the library (21 Madawaska Street in the heart of Arnprior) or online at <arnpriorlibrary.ca>.

This fundraising partnership with the food bank is one of many events the library is planning for 2020 — the year the Arnprior Public Library celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mobile shelving has allowed the library to offer a variety of programs, from concerts and author visits to popup art exhibits. During this milestone year, the library is working on a stellar lineup including a spring concert by Stephen Fearing. Tickets are now available for this May 1 event.

Dates are being confirmed for other events such as a visit from science reporter Bob McDonald, more Blues in the Books concerts, poetry evenings, storyteller presentations and more. Follow the Arnprior Public Library on social media and sign up for our monthly newsletter so you don't miss out on any of the great upcoming events!  
— Karen DeLuca

## PDHS Presents A Preview of Spring

Spring will feel just around the corner when Carol Onion of Hillside Gardens treats us to what we might expect this growing season. At the Perth and District Horticultural Society (PDHS) meeting on February 11, Carol will be presenting in her animated style many of the beautiful blooms her local nursery expects to offer for 2020.

Carol has been gardening in the Perth area all her life. She and her husband, along with her sister, took over Hillside Gardens from her parents. This dynamic trio has over thirty years of experience growing plants suited to our climate and has already begun working in their greenhouses, focusing on their passion for starting annuals from cuttings and seeds for spring planting. They also grow many of the perennials available at the nursery and research any new shrub offerings to ensure they are suitable for the unique conditions of the Perth growing zones.

Come prepared to learn about new plant offerings for 2020 and ask questions afterward. Carol will be able to suggest which plants would be appropriate for your garden conditions — whether sun or shade, sand or clay, wet or dry soils.

PDHS meets every second Tuesday evening of the month at 7PM in the basement room at St. Paul's United Church, located at 25 Gore St. W. in Perth. Please use the D'Arcy St. entrance. Plan to join them on February 11 at 7PM, beginning with announcements then a short recess followed by the presenter. Everyone is welcome — membership in the Society is only \$15 per year (membership entitles 10% discount on plants from area nurseries), visitors pay \$5 for admission. PDHS is affiliated with District 2 of the Ontario Horticultural Association.

February 2020

# Choral Evensong in Perth

The evenings are already getting lighter — a perfect opportunity to come to Choral Evensong at St. James the Apostle Anglican Church in Perth on Sunday, February 16. There will be a prelude at 3:45PM, with the service starting at 4PM.

The *Back in Time for Dinner* series currently running on CBC television revisits life in the second half of the last century. This month's Evensong takes us back to the 1950s. "We will be singing the service like it used to be sung in a parish church — indeed, here at St. James — with maximum involvement of parishioners," says Peter Woodward, St. James' Music Director. "Everyone will be invited to sing the versicles and responses — the same familiar ones from the days of yore; if you've ever attended

Evensong in an Anglican Church, you will recognize these responses. We have also chosen some beautiful evening hymns which were common to other Christian denominations as well. If you know any hymns, you'll know these."

All are invited to this service whose beauty echoes down the ages. Choral Evensong at St. James will also take place on Sunday, March 15 at 4PM, with Lenten music sung by the choir from the balcony at the back of the church — originally used to accommodate convicts from the jail next door. St. James' Church is located on the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets in Perth. For more information, contact the church office at 267-1163 or email <stjamesperth@gmail.com>.

## Music of Life

### River Resonance Chamber Choir

River Resonance Chamber Choir is a new addition to the Perth choral scene. This twenty-voice balanced choir, comprised of voices from across Lanark County, is led by Nicola Oddy and will perform on Saturday, February 29 at 4PM at The Old Perth Shoe Factory, 1 Sherbrooke St. E. in Perth. This unconventional venue does not have seating so the event is BYOC — bring your own festival chair or blanket, or choose to stand to hear an unusual collection of a cappella choral music by Eric Whitacre, Imant Raminsch, John Tavener and others. Come with your mind wide open and be prepared to hear something just a little bit different, with something familiar mixed in for good measure. River Resonance Chamber Choir was formed in October 2019, and this is their inaugural concert.

The group would like to welcome poet Susan Gillis and friends, who will present some multi-voice poems in and among the choral music. The choir is grateful to owners of The Old Perth Shoe Factory for donating the space for this concert.

Entry is by donation and all proceeds from concerts by RRCC will go to local music therapy programs provided by certified music therapists to people in long term care, hospice or day programs,

or to people with special needs and individuals who would like this form of therapy but do not have the means to engage with it. This time, the proceeds will go to Community Home Support Lanark County Hospice Palliative Care Services.

Music therapy is thriving in the Perth area, but there are often those who cannot afford to receive what can seem like a luxury therapy modality. Through the use of every kind of musicking including — but not limited to — improvisation, song writing, song singing, instrument playing, performance, learning and listening, people find ways to communicate, move, socialize, improve cognitive skills and express themselves emotionally.

All music therapists practicing in Canada are certified by the Canadian Association of Music Therapists, and those who work at deeper emotional levels are regulated by the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario. For more information about music therapy please visit <musictherapy.ca>.

If you are interested in accessing funds for your organization from a future concert or would like more information about River Resonance Chamber Choir, please contact Nicola Oddy at <nicola.oddy@me.com>.



### New to the Community? New Baby?

Contact Welcome Wagon Today!

It's absolutely FREE!  
Bringing Local Community information & gifts

WELCOME  
WAGON  
SINCE 1930

visit our website to register:  
[www.welcomewagon.ca](http://www.welcomewagon.ca)



**Jeff Fraser**  
**Electron Microscopy:  
A Small Talk**

**7:30 pm Friday, 28 February, 2020  
in the Almonte United Church Hall**

Visit: [almontelectures.net](http://almontelectures.net) for the series schedule

## Almonte Seedy Saturday!

Heirloom, organic, open-pollinated seeds for sale  
Seed & Garden Supplies Exchange  
Workshops for beginners to advanced-level gardeners

**February 8, 9AM-3PM**  
**Almonte Civitan Hall**  
**500 Almonte Road**

Brought to you by: Beyond the Garden Gate

**Free Admission with this ad!**  
(reg. \$2, kids under 5 are free)

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

the  
Hummm

7

Orchard View  
BY THE MISSISSIPPI  
ALMONTE

## Euchre Tournament for



Heart&Stroke

Tuesday, February 11

12PM Lunch  
12:45-4PM Cards

\$10 Cards Only • \$15 Cards & Lunch  
RSVP: 613.963.5000 or ovmreception@ovlc.com

219 Paterson Street Almonte ON

www.orchardviewmississippi.ca

Pick up *theHumm* in Smiths Falls at  
MODERN THYMES

## Joanne Beaton



Let me Tell Your Home's Story

### If these walls could talk...

They might tell you the story of the Thoburn Mill dating all the way back to 1821! Originally a Mill that used the power of the upper falls to create a water-powered sawmill and eventually a gristmill, by 1862 it had been converted to a Woolen Mill, with numerous owners. In 1880, Mr. Sheard and Mr. Thoburn acquired the Mill.

Rebuilt again in 1918 after a fire destroyed the Mill, Mr. Thoburn continued the woolen manufacturing until 1956 with some famous grey flannel production! While most of the turbines and mechanisms were removed from the premises in the 1950s, some parts and relics still remain in the surrounding gardens today.

The Mill has since been home to many local businesses including an antique dealership, a business centre, a gym and a dance studio. In 2000 a group of visionaries redeveloped the space into what is now 23 condo apartments and small business spaces.

What a unique and amazing opportunity to build your fortune and a piece of history in this waterside commercial condo on the banks of the Mississippi River. This condo features big bright windows, a stone wall, maple dividing walls, and a breathtaking view.



Tracy Arnett Realty Sales Representative  
613.407.4309  
joannebeaton@tracyarnett.com

# Key for Two

## Laugh the Winter Away at the Station Theatre

February is the dreariest of months — if you aren't a winter person. There's snow, cold, wind... it seems to have been here forever and seems like it's never going to end. You need a pick-me-up! A night to forget about it all and just submerge yourself in a whole lot of nonsense. That's where the Station Theatre comes in. Our production of the traditional British farce *Key for Two* by John Chapman and Dave Freeman is sure to lighten your mood!

First-time director Linda Pipher has put together a great team of actors — some old faces, some new — all of whom are ready to help make you laugh until your belly hurts. Farce is an interesting art form. Dictionary.com describes it as "a light, humorous play in which the plot depends upon a skillfully exploited situation rather than upon the development of character". But more than that, it leans towards the absurd, in a very subtle way. Every character in a farce does over-the-top, ridiculous things; however, from their point of view, what they are doing is totally logical and normal. That is what makes it so funny to the audience. Watching a character deal with catastrophe (usually of their own making) while taking themselves far too seriously is a very humorous thing. The twist on this year's farce is that instead of the two leads being men who have to deal with the pressures of their situation, this year we're letting the ladies take the lead.

Harriet (Jen Hart), a divorcée living in an elegant flat in Brighton, solves her financial problems by entertaining two married gentlemen callers on different days of the week. The scheme faces collapse when her friend Anne (Emily Starks), whose marriage is tottering, arrives at the flat hotly pursued by her husband (Noel White). One of Harriet's lovers (Robert Del Grande) is confined to Harriet's bed with a sprained ankle and the second lover (Rob Glas) turns up unexpectedly, closely followed by two irate wives (Michelle Vienneau and Leigh Gibson) in search of their itinerant husbands. The indescribable confusion that ensues builds to a rich complexity of mistaken identity, splendidly farcical situations and a climax of comic wizardry. If you need a laugh to get you through the worst part of winter, this is the show to do it for you!

You can catch *Key for Two* at 7:30PM on February 14, 15, 20-22, or at a 2PM matinee on February 16



Things get personal in the Station Theatre's production of *Key for Two* when Harriett (Jen Hart) tries to keep everything in order with best friend, Anne (Emily Starks), her lover Gordon (Robert DelGrande) and Anne's husband Richard (Noel White)

or 23. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and can be purchased with cash at Special Greetings (8 Russell Street in Smiths Falls), online or by phone (283-0300) with credit card. If tickets are still available, they can be purchased a half-hour before showtime at the door, with cash. For more information please visit <smithsfallstheatre.com>. To help celebrate our 10-year anniversary of performing at the Station Theatre, there will be a special Gala Night on every second Friday performance of each of our plays in 2020, so Friday, February 21 will kick things off. There will be snacks and the venue will be licensed for that night. We also encourage the audience to dress up if you like, but sweatpants are great too! We just want to celebrate with you!

And if you are a regular theatre patron (or would like to become one), our 2020 season voucher packs are still on sale for the duration of this play. For \$99 you get six vouchers that can be used for tickets to whichever of our six plays you might be interested in. That's like one show for free! Use them all for one show, or one for each. It's a great way to make sure you see all we have to offer. Voucher packs can still be picked up at Special Greetings (cash/cheque), at the theatre (9AM to 12PM weekdays), or during the performances of this show. Once this show is over the vouchers will no longer be on sale, so don't miss out.

— Smiths Falls Community Theatre

**MOUNT  
PAKENHAM**  
Ottawa and the Valley's Family Snow Center

**DISCOVER SKIING or SNOWBOARDING  
ONLY \$60 +hst**

Includes: Lift Ticket + Equipment Rental +  
1hr Beginner Group Lesson (ages 6+)

**FRIDAY SOCIALS**  
Live Music every Friday 6-9PM!

613-624-5290  
ski@mountpakenham.com

# Local CSAs

## Indian Creek Orchard Gardens

919 Sugar Bush Road, Pakenham  
 Contact Scott at 613-914-7444  
 scott@indiancreekorchard.ca  
 www.indiancreekorchard.ca

We're Marisa and Scott, the husband and wife team who operate Indian Creek Orchard Gardens in Mississippi Mills. We employ a hybrid of regenerative, agroforestry and organic farming practices. Our vegetables are sown between rows of fruit trees, bush fruits and aisles of grape vines. We offer you local, freshly harvested, naturally grown, heirloom vegetable baskets you can feed your family from mid-May to November. We have several garden share options to suit any size of family or individual. Choose between farm pick-up in Pakenham and convenient pick-up locations at Dandelion Foods in Almonte and at the Granary in Carleton Place. Join us this season. Reserve your weekly garden share today.



## Miller's Bay Farm

65 Rideau Ferry Road, Lombardy  
 Contact Robert & Shannon Miller at 613-283-0205  
 millersfarmfresh@gmail.com  
 www.millersbayfarm.com

Strawberries, Sweet Corn and Beans...Oh My!! (plus a whole lot more!) That's what you'll find in your Bountiful Basket this summer. Our affordable, weekly baskets contain conventionally, sustainably grown produce only — and everything we sell is produced right here at the farm. The 15-week program runs from late June through Thanksgiving, with multiple pick-up options. Online registration for the program will begin in early March. Visit our website to sign up for our "Farm Fresh Alerts" and be among the first to be notified.



**Most CSAs sell out well before Spring, so call now to book your share!**

## Rock-N-Horse Farm

1267 Rae Road, Almonte  
 Contact Diane at 613-256-6117  
 diane@rocknhorsefarm.ca  
 www.rocknhorsefarm.ca

We offer a Short Season CSA (12 weeks) for \$360 (small basket) or \$600 (family basket), or a Long Season CSA (20 weeks) for \$800. Pick up at our farm. We also have beef, pork, lamb, chicken, turkey, eggs, maple syrup, honey, bread, flour, preserves, sweets and more to add to your veggies.



## Terramor Farm

terramorfarm.com  
 terramorfarm@gmail.com

At Terramor Farm we practice no-till, no-tractor agriculture and work with mostly hand-tools. This allows us to put an emphasis on building our soil health so that our organic vegetables are tastier, last longer and contain greater nutrients. We offer our high-end delicious vegetables to local restaurants, health food stores and at the Carp Farmers Market! As a CSA member you are gaining access to the same quality vegetables, so you can rest assured they come clean and ready to eat! Our 16-week CSA program runs from mid-June to October offering the best of the bounty from our gardens to our members.



# Eat Local Support a CSA!

Do the grey winter days have you dreaming about the greens of spring and summer? Why not ensure a steady supply of those greens (as well as lots of other delicious produce) by investing in a local CSA?

CSA stands for Community Shared Agriculture (also known as Community Supported Agriculture), which is essentially a partnership between growers and eaters. By purchasing a CSA "share", eaters enter an agreement with farmers who then supply them with a season's worth of vegetables — with a full share usually feeding a family of four. Typically, some or all of the cost of the subscription is paid up front, which helps the farmer with financing for the year. It also provides a secure market, allowing farmers to do what they do best — grow nutritious, great-tasting food. In Lanark County, many farms (such as the ones listed on this page) begin selling CSA shares as early as January, so contact them early to reserve your spot!

### The Benefits

One of the advantages of participating in a CSA is that you get to deal directly with the farmer who grew the food. You can ask questions about the growing conditions or find out how to best prepare an unfamiliar vegetable. Knowing what kind of produce you'll be getting in a given week enables you to plan meals, which is a great way to reduce both wasted food and extra trips to the grocery store.

Supporting small-scale, local farms means voting with your dollars for the option that is easier on the planet than large, mono-crop industrial farms. You will also feel like you're doing something good for your health and the health of your family. Local growers are proud of what they sell, and their primary goal is to produce vegetables, fruit and meat that taste great and are full of nutrients. You will be dealing with a local expert, someone who spends a good deal of time on the many tasks related to turning soil, sunlight and water into delicious food. The farmers then sustain the local economy by making local purchases, resulting in a win-win situation!



## Disney Dazzle

### The Kanata Choral Society

with special guests "The McLeish 5"  
 Scott Auchinleck, conductor

A musical treat for the whole family: Favourites from Walt Disney, The Muppets, Sesame Street and other music. Activities for the kids and sing-along songs everyone will enjoy!

**Saturday, March 7, 2020, 3:00 pm**  
**St. Paul's Anglican Church**  
**20 Young Road, Kanata**

For information email [kanatachoralsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:kanatachoralsociety@hotmail.com) or visit [www.kanatachoralsociety.ca](http://www.kanatachoralsociety.ca)

Let Us Work Our Magic On Your Old Jewellery

Old To New

**Kehla Jewellery Design**  
88 Queen Street, Almonte 613-256-7997  
www.kehladesign.com

**THE COVE COUNTRY INN**

ACCOMMODATION • DINING • ENTERTAINMENT  
DAY SPA • DOCKAGE • WEDDINGS

Westport on the Rideau 613-273-3636 • www.coveinn.com

Every Sun. **Wings 'n Tunes + Open Mic with Shawn McCullough**, 1-4  
Sat. Feb. 1 **Wendell Ferguson, Steve Piccolo & Shawn McCullough's Country Pickin' Mayhem Band** (2 x 7 Time CCMA Guitar of the Year Winners, Classic Country), 7-11, Buffet & Show \$60 + HST  
Fri. Feb. 7 **Sam Wilson** (Country/Rock, Godfrey) 6-9  
Sat. Feb. 8 **East Coast Experience** (High Energy East Coast, Ottawa Duo) 7-10, \$10  
Fri. Feb. 14 **Valentine's Dinner** 3-Course Meal with Bubbly \$60 + HST with **Head Over Heels** (Acoustic Duo Folk/Jazz/Blues, Gananoque), 6-9  
Sat. Feb. 15 **Halfcocked & Lonesome** (Honky Tonk Country Music! Ottawa) 8-11, \$10  
Fri. Feb. 21 Blues on the Rideau with **Bill Durst Band** (Stratford) 7-11, Buffet, Show & Charity \$70 + HST, Reservations Only  
Sat. Feb. 22 **Brea Lawrenson & Shawn McCullough** (New Original Country!, Carleton Place/Westport) 7-10, \$10  
Fri. Feb. 28 **Benni Vander Plays Elton John** (Master Entertainer! Picton), 6-9  
Sat. Feb. 29 **Mardi Gras Parade Band + Costume Party** with Spencer Evans Horn Band! 7-11, \$45 + HST Buffet & Show

Pick up *theHumm* in Almonte at **HFT DONUTS**

**fulton's**  
Maple Fever?  
Taste the Tradition  
at Fulton's Pancake House & Sugar Bush  
Open Daily February 15 to April 19

FOR OVER 60 YEARS  
FOR OVER 10 YEARS  
FUN FRIENDS!  
FOR OVER 20 YEARS  
FOR OVER 40 YEARS  
I ♥ TAFFY  
I ♥ MAPLE  
I ♥ pancakes

2-for-1 meals on Opening Day  
Special Weekend Activities  
For online shopping or tips for planning your trip visit [www.fultons.ca](http://www.fultons.ca)

Connect with us: Fulton's Pancake House & Sugar Bush  
399 Sugar Bush Road  
Pakenham, ON K0A 2X0  
613-256-3867  
Shop online [www.fultons.ca](http://www.fultons.ca)

# HFT Donuts' Vallentyne Bake

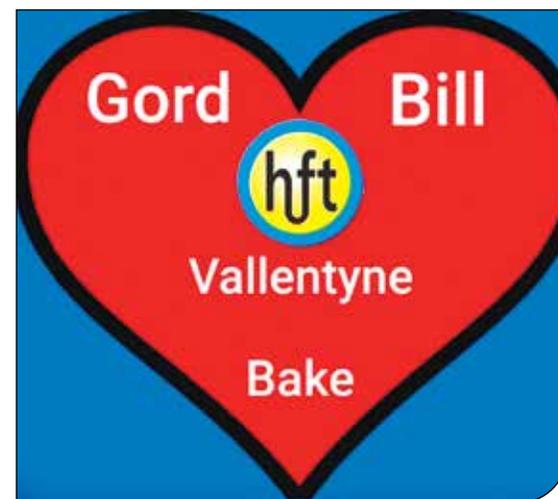
When Ed and Doris Atwell first moved to Clayton, one of the first people they met was Gord Vallentyne. Gord's brother Bill was often in the Clayton General Store, so they got to know him as well. Gord was one of those people who always had a smile and a hug for everyone, and Ed and Doris became good friends with him.

Years later, Ed and Doris opened Healthy Food Technologies (HFT) in Almonte, and one day they ran across a friend who mentioned that Gord was not in good health. As they were in the process of baking donuts that day, Ed decided to take some out to Gord to cheer him up, calling this their first "Vallentyne bake". Sadly, the day that Ed visited Gord was the same day Gord lost his brother Bill to cancer. A few months later, Gord also passed away from the same disease.

The following year, with their donut business in full swing, Ed and Doris found themselves thinking of the two brothers and wondering what they could do to honour their memories. As it was around February 14, they decided to hold a second Vallentyne Bake for the public and give all the proceeds from that one day to the Almonte General Hospital Foundation. This year will mark their sixth annual Vallentyne Bake (last year's raised \$4500), and Ed and Doris hope that to beat their previous fundraising records. Volunteers are invited to help with the manufacturing of donuts starting the night before the event, and to help sell on February 14. All proceeds raised that day will go directly to the Almonte General Hospital

in awareness of cancer. Ed and Doris describe this initiative as "a special community involvement that keeps growing bigger every year. The generosity, and participation of our community is overwhelming!"

So please mark your calendars again this year for the special Vallentyne Bake donut event at HFT on Friday, February 14. HFT is located at 25 Industrial Drive in Almonte, and will be open from 6AM to 4PM that day. If you would like to volunteer as a baker or seller, please contact them at 256-9900 before February 13.



Help HFT Donuts celebrate the memory of Gord and Bill Vallentyne while raising money for the Almonte General Hospital on February 14. All you have to do is buy delicious donuts!

The Bigger Picture

## The Narrow Years and the Luxurious Years

*Nothing is holier, nothing is more exemplary than a beautiful, strong tree... one can read its whole history in the luminous, inscribed disk of its trunk: in the rings of its years, its scars, all the struggle, all the suffering, all the sickness, all the happiness and prosperity stand truly written, the narrow years and the luxurious years, the attacks withstood, the storms endured... (Hermann Hess, Wandering: Notes and Sketches, 1920)*

by Angie Arendt

It's not much of an orchard as far as orchards go, I suppose. Rumour has it that back when roads around here were mostly dirt and people were still punching a time clock in the mills across the river, this spot beside our house was thick with apple trees.

Today the roads around town are paved, the mills have been turned into condos, and there's only one tree left in the old orchard. I've been told that she's not much of an apple tree as far as apple trees go: her trunk is wicked twisted and covered in scars from head to toe; she leans hard to the North, giving the impression that she would have left a long time ago if her roots hadn't stopped her; and her branches stick out at odd angles like snakes on Medusa's head — it's clearly been a good long while since she had a trim. But oh-dear-Lord does she churn

out bushels of the sweetest, crispiest, red-and-yellow speckled fruit in the fall, much to the delight of the deer and me.

She's spunky, this one... and full of stories, too: stories of change and resilience, heartbreak and hope, courage and joy found in the course of a day, over the span of the seasons, throughout a lifetime. She could teach me a thing or two about life, I figure.

This morning I wandered over to see how the old girl fared after last night's snow-and-ice pummeling, thinking she might have lost a limb or ten. Instead, I found this one-and-only apple tree looking downright regal, holding court in her orchard with those tall, not-nearly-as-old pines bent down (bowed down?) around her. Reverent, it was. And all I could think to say was: "You go, girl..."

— Angie Arendt is the Director at Big Stone House: a Center for Courageous Living <[bigstonehouse.ca](http://bigstonehouse.ca)>



# Embracing Winter in Smiths Falls

You know, you never hear a ten-year-old say, “Man, I’m so over winter. This is bleak.” Nope, kids are a hearty lot. Playful, adventurous. When I was a kid, February was prime time road hockey season. Every day after school, my buddies and I played in one of our driveways until our feet were frozen. We thought we had it good, I tell ya, and really, we did. We never griped about endless snow shoveling, freezing rain, the price of rock salt, or having to shower for work when it was still dark out. Nah. Basically, we left the griping to the adults.

by John Pigeau

It seemed to me that they were of two types of adults: those who complained about all that winter “crap,” and those who embraced it or at least endured it without much of a fuss. You know?

At any rate, whichever category you happen to belong to — eventually, inevitably — spring is coming. But in the meantime there’s plenty of fun to be had in February, and some noteworthy events happening around Smiths Falls as well.

Speaking of fun, every Friday at **Bowie’s** you can warm up and enjoy a drink and a bite with friends while listening to some fabulous live music on New Music Nights, with weekly performances by established as well as emerging local musicians. Their February lineup is pretty stacked, too. Boxcar Cadavers and Nigel Wearne take to the stage on February 7, with Dead Root Revival and David James Allen playing the following Friday. Fiends and Andrew Sherriff perform on the 21<sup>st</sup>, with Emily Rockarts and Gino Visconti on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

On February 16, the fifth installment of the Songwriter Concert Series at Bowie’s features world-class slide guitar from the Juno-nominated Sean Pinchin. This guy is a gem, the real deal, as they say. That show begins at 8PM. For ticket information, you can email <bowiesbar@gmail.com> or drop by the café at

20 Russell Street E. You can also visit <bowiesmiths-falls.com> for their full February lineup of food, fun and fine entertainment. It’s a pretty happening spot.

There’s more music mid-month at the Gallipeau Centre Theatre featuring **Road Apples**, one of Canada’s best Tragically Hip tribute bands. Road Apples, who hail from the Hip’s hometown of Kingston and began playing together in 1992, are likely the most celebrated Hip tribute band in the country (like the Hip, they’ve toured it extensively), and I can tell you, having seen them numerous times, they’re tight, entertaining, and they put on a high-energy show.

Tickets for the February 15 concert are \$34.50 in advance and \$39.50 at the door. You can purchase yours online at <gallipeaucentretheatre.com> or by calling 284-9916. There will be a cash bar at the theatre. The doors open at 7:30PM.

On Monday, February 17 — which is **Family Day** in Ontario — you can delight in some delicious soup and keep the bowl as the Smiths Falls & District Arts & Culture Council hosts the **Fill-A-Bowl Fundraiser** at the Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre from 11AM to 1PM. The idea for this family-friendly fundraiser is much the same as the Empty Bowls initiative in Perth, or the Soup for Thought event in Almonte. For \$10 you can enjoy a yummy soup lunch and walk away with a lovely hand-crafted bowl too. You can also simply buy a one-of-a-kind bowl too, for only \$8. And if you just want to warm up with some scrumptious soup, you can do that too for \$5. Buy your tickets at the door, or pick them up beforehand at Special Greetings (8 Russell Street E.). Proceeds support the Smiths Falls & District Arts & Culture Council.

Movie theatres have long been a refuge for those wanting something to do — indoors, in a cozy seat, with a box of hot buttered popcorn — on a cold winter night. Thankfully, the **Station Theatre** is screening a taut political thriller on Thursday, February 27 — **Official Secrets**, starring Keira Knightly, Matt Smith and Ralph Fiennes. I’ve seen this, and it’s gripping, clever and fascinating (it’s also a true story). Keira Knightly is absolutely mesmerizing as



This month you can catch the film *Official Secrets* at the Station Theatre, as well as the play *Key for Two* (see page 8 for more on that show, and on the Theatre’s tenth anniversary season)

British Intelligence whistleblower Katherine Gun. Check it out on the big screen. Showtimes are 2PM and 7PM, and tickets are \$12 at the door.

In gearing up for its summer season, **Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum** has some goings on in February, including four days of **Heritage Week Activities** from February 18–21, and a fun and unique fundraiser on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The museum staff are also excited to be hosting a 2020 **Paint Party** on the last Thursday of the month. This event is for adults (19+) who can enjoy a drink or two and tasty snacks while working on their masterpieces. Funds raised will help pay for the Museum’s multiple summer programs and events, including children’s programs and Market Days, to name but two.

“Come and create your own masterpiece artwork at our Paint Party!” says Emily Parker, the Museum’s Collections Assistant. “You won’t want to miss the snacks, drinks and laughs as we re-create a snowy blue-sky painting. This event will support our 2020 season full of events for families, kids’ programs and more. We look forward to seeing you!” Tickets for the Paint Party are \$40. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call Sienna Cauley at 283-6311 or email <heritagehouse@smithsfalls.ca>.

The Heritage House Museum will celebrate National Heritage Week with various activities from February 18–21. On February 19, the museum will host a Beginners Genealogical Workshop at 6PM (\$10 per person), and on February 20 they will have their Annual General Meeting (\$5 per person, or \$3 per member). Other events are still to be determined. For more information about the Museum’s plans for the week, please call 283-6311 or visit <smithsfalls.ca>.

## It’s true. CHEEKY CHIPPY is for Sale!



The Best Fish & Chips in Lanark County! Located in the friendly town of Almonte. This well established, successful Fish & Chip Business could be yours. Is 2020 your breakout year? Here’s a business that can make it a reality. For the full story and to have all your questions answered please contact us (Kelly & Tim) at

**613-252-6139**  
**Cheekychippy18@gmail.com**

## Almonte in Concert

5 Soundsational Concerts for our 40<sup>th</sup> Season

Join us for another outstanding performance of our 2019-2020 series. Enjoy the intimate atmosphere at the acoustically-stellar Almonte Old Town Hall.

### Concert 4 Percussive Encounter

- Anne-Julie Caron | marimba
- Akiko Tominaga | piano

March 7 | Saturday | 7:30pm

Tickets	Adult	Student
Concert	\$ 35	\$ 15

Full details | Purchase tickets at [almonteinconcert.com](http://almonteinconcert.com)

# Mardi Gras

FUNDRAISING MASQUERADE GALA

February 22, 2020

Featuring... Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo

The Arnprior Public Library in partnership with the Arnprior & District Food Bank is bringing New Orleans to town. All proceeds to be shared equally between both services.

Doors open at 7:30; dancing starts at 8pm;  
Tickets \$50.00/person available now  
at the library or online [www.arnpriorlibrary.ca](http://www.arnpriorlibrary.ca)



Chasing Ice  
screens on  
February 1 at  
Studio Theatre Perth

## Shift Happens: A Documentary Series

### The Impact of Humans on Our Planet and What Can Be Done About It

Studio Theatre Perth, Biosphere Environmental Education, and Three Green Peas are pleased to announce a series of documentary films at the Studio Theatre in Perth.

Five award-winning environmental documentaries shown over five months will cover climate change and environmental challenges caused by human activity. One documentary from the series was presented in November 2019, and four more will be shown in February, March, April, and May of 2020. These films explore the dangers facing our habitats as well as meaningful solutions, and give cause for (more) action.

Every documentary evening will be an event. Following each screening, coffee and the opportunity for discussion will occur in the Studio Theatre (bring your own mug!). Local and national experts will be on hand for lively exchanges and thoughtful conversations.

*Chasing Ice* will be shown on Saturday, February 1. Acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog headed to the Arctic on a tricky assignment for National Geographic: to capture images to help tell the story of the Earth's changing climate. Even with a scientific upbringing, Balog had been a skeptic about climate change. "If any film can convert the climate-change sceptics, *Chasing Ice* would be it: here, seeing really is believing," says Mike McCahill in *The Guardian*.

*The Last Ocean* screens on Saturday, March 14. The Ross Sea in Antarctica was untouched, but an international fishing fleet has recently found its way to its waters. It is targeting Antarctic toothfish, sold

as Chilean sea bass in up-market restaurants around the world. *Educational Media Reviews Online* states: "The documentary is beautifully filmed, with stunning images of wildlife and glaciers. Those images contrast starkly with the tale of rapacious exploitation — ground zero for the unseen consequences of the world's insatiable appetite for fish."

April 4 brings *A Plastic Ocean*, which documents the global effects of plastic pollution and highlights workable technologies and innovative solutions that everyone — from governments to individuals — can do to create a cleaner and greener ocean. John Blyth writes in *A Room with a View* that: "*A Plastic Ocean* grabs your attention immediately, with what might be one of the greatest horror reveals in cinema... by the time the credits are rolling you'll be raring to run out and change the world."

On May 9, *Racing Extinction* will spotlight two worlds that are driving extinction across the globe. One is the international wildlife trade that creates bogus markets at the expense of creatures that have survived on this planet for millions of years. And the other is a world that the oil and gas companies don't want the rest of us to see. "If a documentary can be both alarming and oddly reassuring, it's the gripping splash of cold cinematic water *Racing Extinction*," says Joe Neumaier of the *New York Post*.

Advance tickets are available online and in person from Tickets Please <[ticketsplease.ca](http://ticketsplease.ca)>, and tickets will be at the Studio Theatre box office on show dates.

For further information please contact Sandra Shaw <[sandras@fifthelement.ca](mailto:sandras@fifthelement.ca)> or Dr. Shelley Ball <[biosphere.ed@gmail.com](mailto:biosphere.ed@gmail.com)>.



## Warm & dry.

Real wool fleece footbeds.  
Cold-defying Thinsulate™ lining.  
Waterproof leather, elastics and seams. Pull-on, kick-off comfort.  
Blundstone Winter has Canada down cold.

Blundstone  
TASMANIA AUSTRALIA 1870

#584  
Winter  
Rustic Brown  
\$259.95



14 Mill Street, Almonte, Ontario  
Open 7 days a week.  
613-461-2000



Pick up *theHumm* in Perth at  
**THE BOOK NOOK**

Celebrate  
**love** with  
**chocolate**  
lovingly  
made



**Hummingbird Chocolate Maker**  
Visit our shop in Almonte at 9 Houston Drive  
Mon - Sat 10am-5pm & Sunday 11am-4pm  
[hummingbirdchocolate.com](http://hummingbirdchocolate.com) | 613-801-0357

judy joannou  
CLASSIC STYLE  
with a TWIST

Heading South!  
see our  
New Spring  
Arrivals

WINTER  
CLEARANCE  
SAVE UP TO  
70%

83 Mill Street, Almonte   
[www.judyjoannoudesigns.ca](http://www.judyjoannoudesigns.ca)



# Family Time & Mid-Winter Milling!

OK — we're tired of being indoors already, so it must be time to head outside for some awesome activities and marvellous milling about. No problem — Mississippi Mills has you covered (or uncovered, as the case may be)!

by Miss Mills

Monday, February 17 is **Family Day** in Ontario, and there are many affordable (and free!) activities to enjoy close to home. In Almonte, Pakenham and area, you can enjoy free public skating, explore local history, have fun outdoors, eat pancakes or catch a screening of a free family-friendly movie. Mississippi Mills offers something for everyone in your family! Here's the scoop:



The Mississippi Mills Recreation and Culture department is hosting a **free family movie** at the Almonte Old Town Hall (14 Bridge Street in Almonte) at 11AM. Admission is free, and light refreshments will be available for sale.

There will be **free public skating** at both the Almonte arena (182 Bridge Street, from 1–3PM) and the Pakenham arena (112 MacFarland Street, from 3–5PM). Thanks to Tim Hortons for sponsoring these great skates!

Visit the **Mill of Kintail** (2854 Conc. 8) and enjoy cross-country skiing, hiking or snowshoeing along their beautiful trails (bring your own equipment). The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority is celebrating the day by waiving the admission/vehicle fee.

Learn about local history at the **North Lanark Regional Museum** (647 River Road in Appleton). Museum hours are 10AM to 4PM, and admission is by donation. The **Mississippi Valley Textile Museum** (3 Rosamond St. E. in Almonte, mvtm.ca) is offering free admission that day, so come learn about the "Fabric of a Small Town" and see works by artists Ginger Owens and Vicki VanAmeijden in the *Heritage Habitats* exhibit that runs until March 14.

**Fulton's Pancake House and Sugar Bush** <fultons.ca> is offering a fun-filled Family Day. They are open from 8AM to 3PM and will have special activities (like horse-drawn sleigh rides!) between 10AM and 2PM. Bring your own equipment and enjoy snowshoeing, cross-country skiing

and sliding. Explore historical displays and enjoy live music. Bring your appetite for all things maple, including pancakes, taffy and cotton candy.

Mighty **Mount Pakenham** <mountpakenham.com> is open from 9AM to 5PM for skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing (rentals are available), and from 11AM to 5PM for snow tubing. First-timer lesson packages and private lessons are also available by advance reservation.

So come on out and enjoy some quality family time close to home this Family Day. For more information, contact the Mississippi Mills Recreation and Culture Department at 256–1077, or Tiffany MacLaren, Community Economic & Cultural Coordinator, at <tmaclaren@mississippimills.ca>.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Winter Milling

After milling about Mississippi Mills on Family Day, you'll definitely want to return for Almonte's popular Mid-Winter Milling event. On Saturday, February 29 from 10AM to 5PM, you can wander up and down Mill Street, visiting all of the charming and funky shops and eateries, and partaking in some spiritual and self-awareness sessions with area practitioners. You can indulge in Reiki or Tasseography (Turkish coffee reading), visit with a medium or an intuitive empath,



Come to the annual Mid-Winter Milling event in downtown Almonte for shopping, snacking, and sessions with practitioners like Yesim Gumus (above) and Jennifer Hoy (at left)

have your Tarot or Angel cards read, and much more. Drop in and make a beautiful bowl at the Almonte Potters Guild (\$20, at 95 Bridge St.), and it will be glazed and fired for you to pick up at a later date.

So far 17 practitioners have signed on, and several new shops are participating (including Big Vintage and Gaslight Café), so this will be a perfect day to explore Almonte.

All sessions must be booked *in person* that day, so it's a good idea to plan to arrive right around 10AM for the best selection. Find details on the back page of this issue, and for more information about participating shops and practitioners, please visit <midwintermilling.com> or find them on Facebook.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>

# Family Day

## STAY & PLAY IN MISSISSIPPI MILLS

**FREE FAMILY MOVIE**  
Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St. 11 AM  
Admission is Free. Refreshments will be available for sale.

**FREE PUBLIC SKATING**  
Sponsored by Tim Hortons  
Almonte Community Centre 1PM to 3PM  
Stewart Community Centre 3PM to 5PM

**MILL OF KINTAIL CONSERVATION AREA**  
2854 Con. 8, RRI Almonte, ON  
Family Day Special: no vehicle charge/admission. Enjoy hiking, snowshoeing, or cross country skiing (B-Y-O equipment)

**NORTH LANARK REGIONAL MUSEUM**  
647 River Rd, Appleton, ON  
Admission by Donation, Open 10AM-4PM

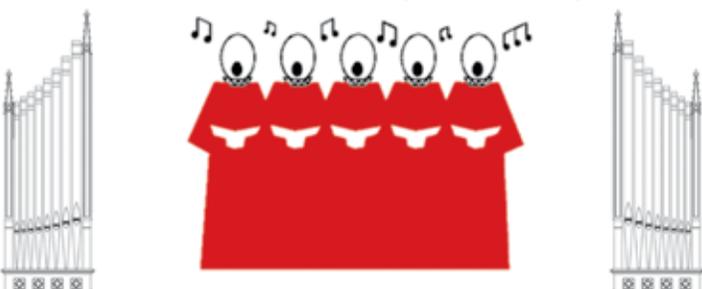
**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY TEXTILE MUSEUM**  
3 Rosamond St. E., Almonte, ON  
Free Admission, Open 10AM-4PM

**FULTON'S PANCAKE HOUSE AND SUGAR BUSH**  
Open 8AM-3PM, Special Activities 10AM-2PM  
Enjoy horse drawn sleigh rides, maple taffy & cotton candy, trails for skiing, sliding, snowshoeing etc. (B-Y-O equipment) live music, historical displays & self guided tours.

**MOUNT PAKENHAM**  
577 Ski Hill Rd, Pakenham, ON  
Open 9AM-5PM for Skiing, Snowboarding & Snowshoeing  
Open 11AM-5PM for Snow Tubing.  
"Discover Skiing/Boarding" beginner packages available.

For more information [tmaclaren@mississippimills.ca](mailto:tmaclaren@mississippimills.ca) or call 613-256-1077

**Glory to You!**  
 St. James the Apostle Anglican Church  
 12 Harvey St. Perth 613-267-1163 stjamesperth.ca  
 Choral Evensong: Sunday, February 16, 4pm



**Traditional Parish Evensong**



**Transfer Process Workshop**  
 Sunday, March 15, 2 to 4:30PM

With Ginger Owen and Vicki VanAmeijden.  
 Using simple processes, the artists will demonstrate how to transfer images onto various papers and fabric.  
 Min. 6 participants—Max. 12 participants Fee: \$200

For information:  
[www.mvtn.ca](http://www.mvtn.ca)  
 or 613-256-3754 ext. 7



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY  
**TEXTILE MUSEUM**  
 NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
 3 Rosamond St. E., Almonte

Pick up *theHumm* in Pakenham at  
**THE CENTENNIAL**



**THE EDGE**  
 Taekwon-Do Academy

**NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL**

**FREE TRIAL PROGRAM**

- Two weeks unlimited training and a free t-shirt.
- Classes for children, teens, families and adults.
- Helps increase focus, concentration and fitness.

Email to register and start training this week!



almonthe@edgetaekwondo.com

**SWEAT SMILE SUCCEED**

106 Elgin Street, Almonte ON | 613.878.4978  
 almonthe@edgetaekwondo.com | edgetaekwondo.com

# Church is Not a Four-Letter Word

Three years ago, I “came out” to the former minister of the church where I sing in Pakenham. I had asked to meet with him, and I was very nervous. I had a big secret to share.

“Reverend,” I said, then took a long breath. “I’m afraid I’m an imposter. I don’t fit in. I don’t believe in a god. At least not the way everyone else here believes in god, as some sort of supernatural deity who takes care of us.”

The minister looked pensive for a moment and then he smiled and held out his right hand. “Welcome to the club, Heather. Don’t be so sure you know what others believe.”

We spent the rest of our allotted hour chatting about religious faith, matters of the human spirit and philosophical issues we’d each pondered. We compared books we had read on the subject of religion and touched on dissenting views held by other ministers. He mentioned Gretta Vosper. I mentioned Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins.

I’d been singing in the choir for several months before I could admit to my adult children that I sang every Sunday in church. They thought I’d gone mad or joined a cult and wondered if I needed an “intervention”.

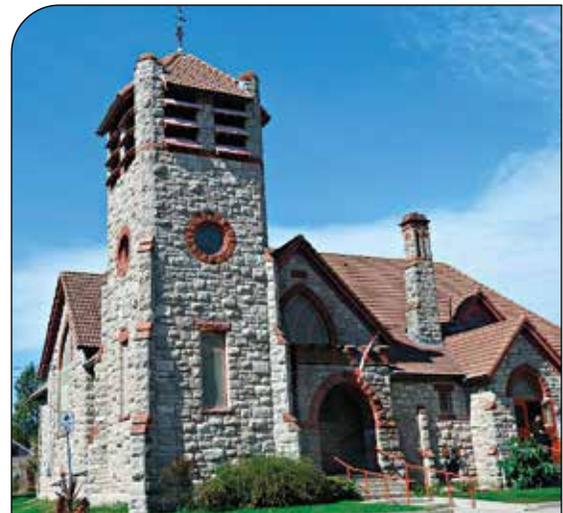
“You’ve gone over to the dark side, mom,” said the eldest.

Indeed, across the Western world dwindling church congregations and the soaring population of Facebook followers suggests that church has become a four-letter word. Over the years I’ve been careful to explain to my friends — especially those I regard as atheist fundamentalists because of their intolerance of any form of religious belief — that I can sing in church and yet not believe in the entity most people call “God”. I tell them about our choir leader, a professional musician who makes our thirteen voices sound like thirty, and about the community of kind souls at my church, some devout believers in the traditional way, and others, like me, who are reluctant to say there isn’t a god because we can’t offer proof to support that claim. All I can say with certainty is that I don’t need a god to make my life purposeful and humane, but I appreciate that others might.

I and my twelve fellow choristers sing to a small congregation of tolerant and loving folk whose beliefs, I’ve come to learn, span the spectrum. Together we put on Sunday school that gets kids away from their wired world to a quiet space where they can think, for one hour, about loving, respecting, and appreciating each another and our shared mother earth. The divine is invoked (it’s a church, after all) but the children are free to see this spirit as they wish. The added bonus for parents is that each can use that hour to find their own quiet centre in the sanctuary upstairs.

Every summer we welcome children to camp with themes that support these values. Last summer, thirty children sat enraptured while the eleven-year-old granddaughter of a member of the congregation (our own version of Gretta Thunberg) delivered a PowerPoint presentation she’d created herself entitled *The Eighth Continent*, her exposé of the masses of waste plastic that are overtaking our oceans.

I especially love helping out with our many annual fundraising suppers, welcoming guests to long tables, hearing the harmonies of happy chatter and feeling the love in that space that reminds me of helping my grandmother serve at such suppers when I was a child. The lonely, the sad, those without families close by, come knowing we will welcome them as family.



We also open our doors to the Festival of Small Halls (the concerts are often sold out), lecturers for our guest speaker series, and our guest ministers on Sundays. We reserve the fourth Sunday of each month to put on something special for the congregation. When our new audio-visual equipment is in place there will be movie nights for youth.

Music drew me to this space three years ago, but beyond the shared harmonies I stayed for the companionship of my fellows. We don’t all think alike — what family can claim that? — but we enjoy singing and working, sharing ideas and breaking bread together. We accept the rituals set forth in the bible — some of us literally, others of us metaphorically — while our shared tolerance of each other and other faiths brings us joy and makes us, I believe, better people.

The poet Robert Frost reminds us that “Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in”.

I think of the place where I sing that way.  
 A four-letter word.

Home.  
 — Heather Atkinson

**Luxury Living**




**108 Acres, Off-Grid** **Near Almonte**

All the comforts, minus the hydro costs. Light-filled, charming bungalow with loft. Cathedral and vaulted ceilings. Hardwood and ceramic floors. Granite kitchen. Horse barns. Miles of riding trails. Huge ponds. Propane furnace, stone fireplace, wood stoves, solar panels, windmill and generator.  
 \$719,900 MLS 1177533

**CENTURY 21**  
 Explorer Realty Inc.  
 BUCKRABACK, Independently Owned and Operated  
 Carleton Place | Smiths Falls | Perth | Almonte | Ottawa | Upper Ottawa Valley

**Stephanie Mols**  
 Sales Representative  
 613.812.5510  
 O: 613.253.2121 x128  
 Stephanie.Mols/C21.ca

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 3rd & 4th Quarters 2019

# Marion Bridge

## Where Past and Present Jostle for Forgiveness

Studio Theatre Perth's upcoming production promises a heart-warming evening of discovery. *Marion Bridge* by Daniel MacIvor is a humorous and touching story about the power of realization and how it heals more than it harms.

"It's a drama, with lots of comic moments. They're amusing characters and the language is amusing and clever and it just flows," enthuses director Barb Guthrie.

The play is about three sisters in their thirties who congregate at their childhood "home" on the East Coast to be with their dying mother. There's the flamboyant and alcoholic under-employed actress, the nun, and the soap opera addict. Each in her own way tries to deal with the loneliness of the lives they are leading.

"It's a very well written play — it feels very natural when we deliver the lines," says Annie West, who plays the soap opera addict and youngest sibling Louise. An experienced actor, West says this role has been a welcome challenge for her.

The quality of the writing is a constant theme among the cast. "Daniel MacIvor is such a great writer. He makes it easy," says Anne-Marie Lindell, who portrays the middle sibling Theresa, the nun.

Written by multiple award-winning Canadian playwright Daniel MacIvor, *Marion Bridge* the play precedes the film of the same name and is very different from the latter. MacIvor, who also wrote the

screenplay, found that he had to adapt the story for the medium of film and that meant making some "major changes in the story", he says in his introduction to the play. He goes on to say: "In the end it's strange how I feel that the play I wrote in order to write the screenplay is really the stronger of the two scripts."

This is a highly entertaining, must-see play that also demonstrates the beauty of aloneness — that private world each of the sisters inhabits.

"Every character in this play has so many layers," explains Tracy Noonan, who portrays the eldest, the alcoholic sibling Agnes.

Set in modern-day Nova Scotia, the play takes place in a small community not far from the community of Marion Bridge. The bridge itself takes on the mantle of a Shangri-La for the three women and becomes a connecting point between past, present and future, as they eventually come to celebrate their mother's life.

"It's good theatre, and for community theatre this is a quality show," concludes Lindell.

The play opens at the Studio Theatre, Perth on February 27. There are 7:30 shows on February 27–29 and March 5–7, with 2PM matinées on March 1 and 8. Tickets are \$24 and can be purchased at Tickets Please (11 Gore Street E., 485-6434 or ticketsplease.ca) or at the door.

— *Heddy Sorour*



Three sisters come together to be with their dying mother, and in the process learn to heal. Beautifully written, *Marion Bridge* by Daniel MacIvor explores the complexity of sibling dynamics with pathos and humour. From left Anne-Marie Lindell (Theresa) Tracy Noonan (Agnes) and Annie West (Louise). Pure entertainment for all theatre lovers, the play opens at the Studio Theatre Perth on February 27.

### Total Rhythm Dance Studio

*Latin ♥ Country ♥ Swing ♥ Ballroom ♥ Fitness*

At our studio, you will learn from the best instructors using innovative and up-to-date teaching techniques. Every dancer gets superb training and attention because everyone deserves a class that helps them to succeed.

We offer a wide range of dance styles and fitness classes.  
Gift Certificates available! Perfect for Valentine's Day!

**Total Rhythm Dance Studio**  
55 Lansdowne Ave.  
Carleton Place  
613-799-8737  
www.TRDS.ca

*French lingerie from*  
**MAISONLEJABY**  
PARIS

*un cadeau parfait pour votre amoureuse*

(this means "a perfect gift for your lover"...but we think it's more romantic *en français*)

**Valentine's Day Special**  
get a \$100 gift certificate for only \$80!  
(VALID FEB. 1 - 14)

• BRAS • PANTIES • SHAPEWEAR • and more!  
14 MILL ST., ALMONTE • 613-883-8008  
Monday – Saturday • 10-5 • Sunday 11-4

Follow us on @8008lingerie

**THANK YOU**  
for saying you saw their ad  
in *theHumm!*

at **black tartan** kitchen  
food is an art form

Our winning dish from  
Canada's Great Kitchen Party  
the regional qualifier for the  
2020 Canadian Culinary Championships

132 Bridge St. Carleton Place, ON  
(613) 492-0860  
www.blacktartankitchen.com





APRIL 4&5,  
2020 @ the  
Nepean  
Sportplex

DORA  
Storytime  
on Stage

Meet  
and Greet  
with PJ  
MASKS!

Ottawa's Most  
Popular Parenting &  
Kids Show!

Ottawa  
Parent & Child  
expo  
play Learn Explore

Over 125 local parenting exhibitors  
Weekend fun for the whole family  
Free parking

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

**Want to be an exhibitor?** To reserve your booth, contact  
Peter Ausland at 613.656.3430 or [peter@ottawaparentingtimes.ca](mailto:peter@ottawaparentingtimes.ca)



Eric Walker's solo show at Sivarulrasa Gallery includes a 20-foot-long commuter train.  
The exhibition runs from February 12 to March 13.

## Eric Walker: Solo Exhibition in Almonte

Artist Eric Walker has been creating his "painted constructions" — blurring the boundaries of painting, collage, and sculpture — for over three decades. Much of his work is linked to the history and culture of the Maritimes, combining elements of high art with more vernacular forms. Walker aims to call attention to collective history by focusing on a mix of commonplace subjects such as ships, trains, government buildings and cities seen from the ground and above. The works in this solo exhibition, varying in size from small works to a 20-foot long commuter train, are meticulously constructed on plywood using oxidized metals, paint, building materials, found objects, and thousands of nails.

Eric Walker's work has been exhibited across Canada and internationally, and is widely collected both privately and in public holdings such as the Beaverbrook Gallery, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada Council Art Bank, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, The Rooms, the Owens Art Gallery, Dalhousie University Art Gallery, Carleton University Art Gallery and the City of Ottawa. He has received awards from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Conseil des arts et des lettres de Quebec, and the City of Ottawa.

Eric's solo exhibition, *Between the Vanishing Point and the Horizon*, runs from February 12 to March 13 at Almonte's Sivarulrasa Gallery. Everyone is invited to meet the artist at the Vernissage/Artist Reception on Saturday, February 15 from 3–6PM. For more information, please visit [sivarulrasa.com](http://sivarulrasa.com).



web  
logo print  
design

Effective and affordable  
brand and web design  
with friendly, local folk.

We will make sure your  
company looks great &  
gets found on the web.

Our first  
meeting is  
always free!  
Give Auni &  
Dagne a call  
today!

sumackloft  
[sumackloft.ca](http://sumackloft.ca)  
256-0378

foilmedia  
[foilmedia.ca](http://foilmedia.ca)  
256-5855

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

## "SOUP FOR THOUGHT"



A Luncheon Fundraiser  
Saturday March 28, 2020  
12PM – 2PM

Enjoy gourmet soup from the best restaurants in Almonte and the Valley and take home the beautiful handmade stoneware bowl it was served in, made by members of the Almonte Potter's Guild.

Adults \$30  
Children 3–12 years \$10 (soup, but no bowl)

Advance tickets from MVTM or Baker Bob's (cash only)  
Credit card orders also accepted at 613-256-3754  
or the museum's website: [mvtm.ca](http://mvtm.ca)

**Book your tickets now,  
this event always sells out!**





Percussive Encounter, Almonte, Mar 7  
**Kanata Choral Society: Disney**, Mar 7  
**BOTR: David Gogo**, Westport, Mar 20  
**Soup for Thought**, Almonte, Mar 28  
**Maple Weekend**, Lanark Cty, Apr 4-5  
**The Ten Collective**, Almonte, Apr 4-5  
**Maple Run Tour**, Pakenham, Apr 4-5  
**BOTR: Miss Emily**, Westport, Apr 17  
**AiC: Beyond Borders**, Almonte, Apr 18  
**Tempting Providence**, Perth, Apr 23-May 3  
**The Fantasticks**, SF, Apr 24-May 3  
**Stephen Fearing**, Arnprior, May 1  
**Keramion Trio**, Perth, May 1  
**Arts CP Spring Show & Sale**, May 2-3  
**Art in the Attic**, Almonte, May 8-10  
**BOTR: David Vest**, Westport, May 8  
**Lanark Offbeats**, CP, May 15  
**Stanton Lanier**, Elgin, May 23  
**Stanton Lanier**, Carleton Place, May 24  
**This Year Next Year**, Perth, May 28-Jun 7  
**Town Singers**, CP, May 31, Jun 2  
**Sister Act**, Arnprior, Jun 4-7  
**Almonte Celtfest**, Jul 3-5  
**Stewart Park Festival**, Perth, Jul 17-19

## Literature

**Big Book Sale**, Feb 15, 10AM-3PM. By donation. Perth Library fundraiser. Perth Library, Perth.  
**Customer Appreciation Celebration**, Feb 15, 10AM-4PM. Mill Street Books, Almonte. 256-9090, millstreetbooks.com.

## Local Food

**Seedy Saturday**, Feb 8, 9AM-3PM. Seeds, swaps, workshops, vendors. Almonte Civitan Hall, Almonte. \$2; free w/Humm ad

## Visual Arts

**Vernissage: Lanark Life Learners**, Feb 8, 12-3PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners, <meraschoolhouse.org>  
**Meet the Artist: Eric Walker**, Feb 15, 3-6PM. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. 256-8033, sivarulrasa.com  
**Meet the Artists: Faraway Places**, Feb 15, 1-3PM. 8 artists. Strévé Design, Perth. 267-0230, strevedesign.com  
**Almonte Quilters' Guild**, Feb 17, 6:30-9PM. Speaker: juanitasauveartquilts.com Almonte Civitan Hall. Guests \$5  
**Lanark Co. Camera Club Mtg**, Feb 25, 7-9PM. All skill levels. Rm 104. Algonquin College, Perth  
**Lanark County Quilters Guild**, Feb 25, 1-3PM. Historic quilts. Lions Hall, Perth. lanarkcountyquiltersguild.com. \$5 guests

## Theatre

**Lanark Laughs**, Jan 31, 8:30PM-10PM. Stand-up comedy. Waterfront Gastropub, Carleton Place., facebook.com/LanarkLaughs/  
**Chasing Ice**, Feb 1, 6:30PM. Shift Happens documentary series. Studio Theatre, Perth., ticketsplease.ca. \$17 (\$12 student)  
**The Good Liar**, Feb 7, 7PM. Film. Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen. Studio Theatre, Perth. 267-7469, ticketsplease.ca. \$10 (\$12 adv)  
**The Good Liar**, Feb 7, 8, 7PM. Film. Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen. 14A. Station Theatre, SF. 283-0300, smithsfallstheatre.com. \$10/\$5  
**Key for Two**, Feb 14-15, 20-22 at 7:30PM; Feb 16, 23 at 2PM. Bedroom farce. Station Theatre, SF. smithsfallstheatre.com, 283-0300. \$20/\$10  
**One Body Too Many**, Feb 14-15, 20-22, 27-29 at 8PM; Feb 16, 23, Mar 1 at 2PM. BarnDoor Prod'ns. Comedy-thriller. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 267-1884. \$22/\$20  
**The Rash Comedy Bash**, Feb 16, 7PM. w/ Rachelle Elie. Tix: eventbrite.ca. Fundraiser. Calabogie Community Centre. crowning-monkey.com. \$35; \$25 adv

# WHAT'S ON IN

**Monday** **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ <b>CP &amp; Beckwith Heritage Museum</b> presents Men in Kilts &lt;cpbheritagemuseum.com&gt;</li> <li>▣ <b>Fairview Manor Lobby</b> presents Meed Barnett's MixedMEEDia [to Feb 11], Rosemary Leach's paintings [from Feb 11]</li> <li>▣ <b>Mississippi Valley Textile Museum</b> presents Ginger Owens &amp; Vicki VanAmeijden's Heritage Habitats &lt;mvtm.ca&gt;</li> <li>▣ <b>Sivarulrasa Gallery</b> presents Eric Walker &lt;sivarulrasa.com&gt; [from Feb 12]</li> <li>▣ <b>MERA Schoolhouse</b> presents art by the Lanark Life Learners &lt;meraschoolhouse.org&gt;</li> <li>▣ <b>Strévé Design Studio &amp; Boutique</b> presents Faraway Places &lt;strevedesign.com&gt; [to Mar 15]</li> <li>▣ <b>The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery</b> presents Michael Sproule's landscapes [from Feb 3]</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Cancer Support Group</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Masonic Lodge</li> <li>🎵 <b>Hackberry Men's Shed</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Bill Martin</b>, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Trivia Night</b>, Cheshire Cat Pub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Music Trivia</b>, Almonte Lobby Bar</li> <li>🎵 <b>Olde Time Bingo</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Town Singers: New Friends Night/ Rehearsal</b>, Carleton Place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Jam</b>, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Rockin' Trivia</b>, Brew Revolution</li> <li>🎵 <b>Where Is My Mind Trivia Night</b>, Bowie's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Naismith Men's Shed</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Kevin Choffe</b>, Fiddleheads Bar &amp; Grill</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Stage</b>, Bowie's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Singin' &amp; Hammin' it Up Supper/ Concert</b>, Pakenham</li> <li>🎵 <b>The Jerry Cans</b>, Neat Coffee Shop</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Cancer Support Group</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Masonic Lodge</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Bill Martin</b>, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Trivia Night</b>, Cheshire Cat Pub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Bluesday Night: Revolutionary Blues Spinners</b>, Brew Revolution</li> <li>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Eucre Tournament for Heart &amp; Stroke</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Hackberry Men's Shed</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 <b>Music Trivia</b>, Almonte Lobby Bar</li> <li>🎵 <b>Olde Time Bingo</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Town Singers: New Friends Night/ Rehearsal</b>, Carleton Place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Meditation &amp; Associated Processes</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Jam</b>, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Where Is My Mind Trivia Night</b>, Bowie's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Naismith Men's Shed</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Kevin Choffe</b>, Fiddleheads Bar &amp; Grill</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Stage</b>, Bowie's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Toastmasters</b>, Carleton Place</li> </ul>
* FAMILY DAY *			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ <b>Almonte Quilters' Guild</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Masonic Lodge</li> <li>🎵 <b>Family Movie</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Fill-A-Bowl Fundraiser</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li>🎵 <b>Free Public Skating</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Free Public Skating</b>, Pakenham</li> <li>🎵 <b>Hackberry Men's Shed</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Bill Martin</b>, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Trivia Night</b>, Cheshire Cat Pub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Huntley Township Historical Soc. Mtg</b>, Carp</li> <li>🎵 <b>Music Trivia</b>, Almonte Lobby Bar</li> <li>🎵 <b>Olde Time Bingo</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Town Singers: New Friends Night/ Rehearsal</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 <b>Perth Horticulture: Growing Season</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Jam</b>, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Pakenham Gardeners: Permaculture Experiences</b>, Pakenham</li> <li>🎵 <b>Rockin' Trivia</b>, Brew Revolution</li> <li>🎵 <b>Travelogue: United Arab Emirates</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Where Is My Mind Trivia Night</b>, Bowie's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Key for Two</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li>🎵 <b>Naismith Men's Shed</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>One Body Too Many</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Kevin Choffe</b>, Fiddleheads Bar &amp; Grill</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Stage</b>, Bowie's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Perth Breast Cancer Support Group</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Hort: Trees</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Cancer Support Group</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Masonic Lodge</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Bill Martin</b>, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Trivia Night</b>, Cheshire Cat Pub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Community Pancake Supper</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Hackberry Men's Shed</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li>▣ <b>Lanark Co. Camera Club Mtg</b>, Perth</li> <li>▣ <b>Lanark County Quilters Guild</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>Music Trivia</b>, Almonte Lobby Bar</li> <li>🎵 <b>Olde Time Bingo</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 <b>Pancakes &amp; Pyjamas</b>, Lanark</li> <li>🎵 <b>Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club</b></li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li>🎵 <b>Official Secrets</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Jam</b>, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Where Is My Mind Trivia Night</b>, Bowie's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 <b>Frozen, Jr.</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 <b>Karaoke</b>, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>🎵 <b>Marion Bridge</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>Naismith Men's Shed</b>, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 <b>Official Secrets</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li>🎵 <b>One Body Too Many</b>, Perth</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Kevin Choffe</b>, Fiddleheads Bar &amp; Grill</li> <li>🎵 <b>Open Stage</b>, Bowie's</li> <li>🎵 <b>Toastmasters</b>, Carleton Place</li> </ul>

Film Night International presents **Official Secrets**: Feb 26, 2 & 7PM (Full Circle Theatre, Perth); Feb 27, 2 & 7PM (Station Theatre, SF). filmnightinternational.blogspot.ca. \$12  
**Marion Bridge**, Feb 27-29, Mar 5-7, 7:30PM; Mar 1 & 8, 2PM. Studio Theatre, Perth. studiotheatreperth.com. \$24 (\$19 Feb 27)  
**Audition: Great Kooshog Lake Fishing Derby**, Mar 1 & 4, 7PM. NorthWind Ctr; Constance Bay. ruralroot.org/Kooshog  
**Lanark Laughs**, Feb 28, 8:30PM-10PM. Stand-up comedy. Waterfront Gastropub, Carleton Place., facebook.com/LanarkLaughs/

## Youth

**Family Movie**, Feb 17, 11AM. Snack bar. Almonte Old Town Hall. 256-1077. Free  
**Frozen, Jr.**, Feb 21, 27, 28 (7PM), Feb 22, 23, 29, Mar 1 (2PM). Mudds Jr. Carleton Place Town Hall. ticketsplease.ca. \$12 (\$7 Feb 27)

## Music

**Town Singers: New Friends Night/ Rehearsal**, Feb 4, 11 and 18, 7-9PM. New and returning singers welcome. No auditions. St. James Anglican Church, Carleton Place. 253-4932, cptownsingners.com.  
**Valentine Open Mic**, Feb 14, 6PM-8:30PM. All welcome. Equator Coffee, Almonte. 256-7529, mmmusicworks.com.  
**Tragically Hip Tribute**, Feb 15, 8PM. Road Apples. Gallipeau Centre, Smiths Falls. 284-9916, gallipeaucentretheatre.com. \$39.50 (\$34.50 adv)  
**Valentine Dance & Silent Auction**, Feb 15, 8PM-12AM. Kyle Felhaver & Brandy Creek. Clayton Com. Centre. 256-9010, stgeorgechurchclayton.webs.com. \$18/15  
**Choral Evensong**, Feb 16, 3:45PM. St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, Perth. 267-1163, stjamesperth.ca

**Bill Durst Band**, Feb 21, 7-11PM. The Cove, Westport. 1-888-COVE-INN, bluesontherideau.ca. \$70 buffet/show/dancing  
**Jenny Whiteley & Joey Wright**, Feb 22, 7:30PM. Perth Library, Perth., ticketsplease.ca. \$20; under 12s free  
**Mardi Gras Fundraising Gala**, Feb 22, 8PM. w/Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo. Sampling buffet, cash bar. Arnprior Library, arnpriorlibrary.ca. \$50  
**SRO Big Band Tea Dance**, Feb 23, 1-4PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, sroteadances.org. \$14; \$25 couple (cash only)  
**Trad Song Pub Session**, Feb 23, 2-4PM. The Barley Mow, Almonte. 355-5552, www.shantyman.ca/almonte-trad-songs.  
**Evening Coffee House**, Feb 28, 7-9PM. St. Paul's Anglican Church, Almonte. Free. Donations to Food Bank accepted  
**River Resonance Chamber Choir**, Feb 29, 4PM. Conductor: Nicola Oddy. BYO chair. Old Perth Shoe Factory, Perth.

**The Cove** (Westport, 273-3636): Sun Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, 1-4PM  
 Feb 1 Country Pickin' Mayhem Band w/ Shawn McCullough, 7-11PM, buffet+show \$60  
 Feb 7 Sam Wilson, 6-9PM  
 Feb 8 East Coast Experience, 7-10PM, \$10  
 Feb 14 Valentine's Dinner w/Head over Heels, 6-9PM, 3courses+bubbly+show \$60  
 Feb 15 Halfcocked & Lonesome, 8-11PM, \$10  
 Feb 22 Brea Lawrenson & Shawn McCullough, 7-10PM, \$10  
 Feb 28 Benni Vander plays Elton John, 6-9PM  
 Feb 29 Mardi Gras Parade Band + Costume Party, 7-11PM, buffet+show \$45  
**Mount Pakenham** (624-5290): Fri Socials, 6-9PM  
 Feb 7 Jordan Dubeau  
 Feb 14 Dale Yuke  
 Feb 21 Spencer Scharf  
 Feb 28 Open Mic w/Sky Papoušek

# FEBRUARY 2020

## Friday

## Saturday

## Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almonte Lectures: Evolution of Nat'l Park System</li> <li>Lanark Laughs, Carleton Place</li> <li>Mario Franco, The Cove</li> <li>Open Mic w/Sky Papousek, Mount Pakenham</li> <li>Shawn McCullough, Fiddleheads Bar &amp; Grill</li> <li>Slo Tom &amp; the Handsome Devils, Bowie's</li> <li>Vocals for Locals, Calabogie Brewing Co.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blues &amp; Rock w/Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Brent Dickie, Ridge Rock Brewing Co.</li> <li>Chasing Ice, Perth</li> <li>Country Pickin' Mayhem Band, The Cove</li> <li>Funk Night!, Bowie's</li> <li>Ghost Town Cryers, Cheshire Cat Pub</li> <li>Lanark Co. Genealogical Mtg, Beckwith</li> <li>Ray Harris, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen</li> <li>The Arrogant Worms, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li>The Brockolees, Golden Arrow</li> <li>The Keystings, Brew Revolution</li> <li>TJ Morrison, Lumbertown Ale House</li> <li>Winter Community Café, McDonalds Corners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub</li> <li>Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Open Mic w/George Turcotte, Brew Revolution</li> <li>Open Mic w/Jillian Kerr, Ridge Rock Brewing Co.</li> <li>Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove</li> <li>Sitting on Sundays, Almonte</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boxcar Cadavers w/Nigel Wearne, Bowie's</li> <li>John Dorsch, Golden Arrow</li> <li>Jordan Dubeau, Mount Pakenham</li> <li>Joseph McDonald, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li>Mississippi Blues Society Jam, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Ryland James, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li>Sam Wilson, The Cove</li> <li>Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp</li> <li>The Good Liar, Perth</li> <li>The Good Liar, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Valley Mountain feat. Ellen Daly, Ridge Rock Brewing Co.</li> <li>Vocals for Locals, Calabogie Brewing Co.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arnprior &amp; McNab/Braeside Archives AGM, Arnprior</li> <li>Blues &amp; Rock w/Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>East Coast Experience, The Cove</li> <li>Exposure Exposure, Lumbertown Ale House</li> <li>Funk Night!, Bowie's</li> <li>Joe MacDonald, Ridge Rock Brewing Co.</li> <li>Jordy Jackson, Golden Arrow</li> <li>Seedy Saturday, Almonte</li> <li>Spencer Scharf, Brew Revolution</li> <li>Steve Stacey, Cheshire Cat Pub</li> <li>The eMTees, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen</li> <li>The Good Liar, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Winter Community Café, McDonalds Corners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak</li> <li>Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub</li> <li>Bluegrass Lunch, Bowie's</li> <li>Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Open Mic w/George Turcotte, Brew Revolution</li> <li>Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove</li> <li>Sitting on Sundays, Almonte</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valentyne Bake (Donuts), Almonte</li> <li>Dale Yuke, Mount Pakenham</li> <li>Danielle Hewitt, Golden Arrow</li> <li>Dead Root Revival w/David James Allen, Bowie's</li> <li>George Turcotte, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li>Jeremie Albino, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li>Key for Two, Smiths Falls</li> <li>One Body Too Many, Perth</li> <li>Valentine Open Mic, Almonte</li> <li>Valentine's Dinner w/Head over Heels, The Cove</li> <li>Vocals for Locals, Calabogie Brewing Co.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big Book Sale, Perth</li> <li>Key for Two, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Keystings, Cheshire Cat Pub</li> <li>Cabin Fever, Golden Arrow</li> <li>Ty Hall, Lumbertown</li> <li>Anj Chito Duo, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen</li> <li>Blues &amp; Rock w/Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Customer Appreciation Celebration, Almonte</li> <li>Fulton's Opening Day, Pakenham</li> <li>Halfcocked &amp; Lonesome, The Cove</li> <li>Meet the Artist: Eric Walker, Almonte</li> <li>Meet the Artists: Faraway Places, Perth</li> <li>Shawn McCullough, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li>Tragically Hip Tribute, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Winter Community Café, McDonalds Corners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valentine Dance, Clayton</li> <li>One Body Too Many, Perth</li> <li>Funk Night!, Bowie's</li> <li>Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub</li> <li>Bluegrass Lunch, Bowie's</li> <li>Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Choral Evensong, Perth</li> <li>Key for Two, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Snow Angel Party, Lanark</li> <li>Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak</li> <li>One Body Too Many, Perth</li> <li>Open Mic w/George Turcotte, Brew Revolution</li> <li>Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove</li> <li>Songwriter Series: Sean Pinchin, Bowie's</li> <li>Terry Tufts, Ridge Rock Brewing Co.</li> <li>The Rash Comedy Bash, Calabogie</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BOTR: Bill Durst Band, Westport</li> <li>Eastbound of Bytown, Ridge Rock Brewing Co.</li> <li>Fiends w/Andrew Sherriff, Bowie's</li> <li>Frozen, Jr., Carleton Place</li> <li>Ken Workman, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li>Key for Two, Smiths Falls</li> <li>NLHS Heritage Dinner, Almonte</li> <li>One Body Too Many, Perth</li> <li>Spencer Scharf, Mount Pakenham</li> <li>Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp</li> <li>Under The Covers, Golden Arrow</li> <li>Vocals for Locals, Calabogie Brewing Co.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blues &amp; Rock w/Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Brea Lawrenson &amp; Shawn McCullough, The Cove</li> <li>Davina Pearl, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen</li> <li>Frozen, Jr., Carleton Place</li> <li>Funk Night!, Bowie's</li> <li>Key for Two, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Jenny Whiteley &amp; Joey Wright, Perth</li> <li>Mardi Gras Fundraising Masquerade Gala, Arnprior</li> <li>One Body Too Many, Perth</li> <li>Poetic Justice, Golden Arrow</li> <li>Ryan MacIntyre, Lumbertown Ale House</li> <li>Winter Community Café, McDonalds Corners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak</li> <li>Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub</li> <li>Bluegrass Lunch, Bowie's</li> <li>Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Frozen, Jr., Carleton Place</li> <li>Key for Two, Smiths Falls</li> <li>One Body Too Many, Perth</li> <li>Open Mic w/George Turcotte, Brew Revolution</li> <li>Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove</li> <li>SRO Big Band Tea Dance, Almonte</li> <li>Trad Song Pub Session, Almonte</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almonte Lectures: Electron Microscopy</li> <li>Benni Vander plays Elton John, The Cove</li> <li>Emily Rockarts w/Gino Visconte, Bowie's</li> <li>Evening Coffee House, Almonte</li> <li>Frozen, Jr., Carleton Place</li> <li>In Between, Ridge Rock Brewing Co.</li> <li>Lanark Laughs, Carleton Place</li> <li>Marion Bridge, Perth</li> <li>Matt Dickson, Golden Arrow</li> <li>One Body Too Many, Perth</li> <li>Open Mic w/Sky Papousek, Mount Pakenham</li> <li>Tom Watson, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li>Vocals for Locals, Calabogie Brewing Co.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Al Wood, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen</li> <li>Blues &amp; Rock w/Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Danielle Hewitt, Golden Arrow</li> <li>Folkus: Campbell Woods &amp; Kate Weekes, Almonte</li> <li>Frozen, Jr., Carleton Place</li> <li>Funk Night!, Bowie's</li> <li>Mardi Gras Parade Band &amp; Costume Party, The Cove</li> <li>Marion Bridge, Perth</li> <li>One Body Too Many, Perth</li> <li>River Resonance Chamber Choir, Perth</li> <li>Robby Miller, Lumbertown Ale House</li> <li>The Keystings, Brew Revolution</li> <li>Winter Community Café, McDonalds Corners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub</li> <li>Auditions: Great Kooshog Lake Hollis McCauley Fishing Derby, Constance Bay</li> <li>Bluegrass Lunch, Bowie's</li> <li>Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Frozen, Jr., Carleton Place</li> <li>Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak</li> <li>Marion Bridge, Perth</li> <li>One Body Too Many, Perth</li> <li>Open Mic w/George Turcotte, Brew Revolution</li> <li>Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove</li> </ul>

**Cheshire Cat** (Carp, 831-2183): Mon Trivia, 8-10PM  
 Feb 1 Ghost Town Cryers, 8-10PM  
 Feb 8 Steve Stacey, 8-10PM  
 Feb 15 Keystings, 8:30-10:30PM

**Bowie's** (Smiths Falls): Wed Trivia Night, 8-11PM; Thu Open Stage, 8-11PM; Fri New Music, \$5-10 sugg'd cover, 8-11PM; Sat Funk Night!, 9PM; Bluegrass Lunch (excl Feb 2) 12-2PM  
 Feb 7 Boxcar Cadavers w/Nigel Wearne  
 Feb 14 Dead Root Revival w/David James Allen  
 Feb 16 Songwriter Series: Sean Pinchin, 8-11PM, \$20/\$15adv  
 Feb 21 Fiends w/Andrew Sherriff  
 Feb 28 Emily Rockarts w/Gino Visconte

**Calabogie Brewing Co.** (Calabogie, 752-2739): Fri Vocals for Locals, 5:30-8:30PM

**Carp Masonic Lodge:** Mon Carp Celtic Jam, 7-9PM

**Fiddleheads** (Perth, 267-1304): 8PM. Thu Open Mic w/Kevin Choffe

**Brew Revolution** (Stittsville, 877-2121): Sun Open Mic w/George Turcotte, 2-5PM  
 Feb 1 & 29 The Keystings, 8-11PM  
 Feb 5, 19 Rockin' Trivia, 7-9PM  
 Feb 8 Spencer Scharf, 7:30PM  
 Feb 11 Bluesday Night: Revolutionary Blues Spinners, 7PM

**Golden Arrow Pub** (Perth, 267-4500): 9PM, Wed Karaoke  
 Feb 1 The Brockolees  
 Feb 7 John Dorsch  
 Feb 8 Jordy Jackson  
 Feb 14, 29 Danielle Hewitt  
 Feb 15 Cabin Fever  
 Feb 21 Under The Covers  
 Feb 22 Poetic Justice  
 Feb 28 Matt Dickson

**Almonte Lobby Bar** @Riverside Inn (Almonte, 461-2745): Tue Music Trivia, 8PM

**Ashton Pub** (Ashton, 257-4423): Sun Open Mic, 2-5PM

**The Swan at Carp** (Carp, 839-7926): Feb 7, 21 Steve Barrette Trio, jazz, 7-10PM

**Juke Joint Soul Kitchen** (Carp, 470-8888): 7PM. Mon Open Mic w/Bill Martin  
 Feb 1 Ray Harris  
 Feb 8 The eMTees  
 Feb 15 Anj Chito Duo  
 Feb 22 Davina Pearl  
 Feb 29 Al Wood

**The Waterfront Gastropub** (CP, 257-5755): Wed Open Jam 9PM; Thurs Karaoke 9PM; Sat Blues/Rock w/Al Tambay 3-6PM; Sun Blues w/Redneck Limousine 3-6PM  
 Feb 7 Mississippi Blues Jam, 8:30PM

**The Royal Oak** (Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, 2-5PM  
 Feb 2, 16 Magnolia Rhythm Kings  
 Feb 9, 23 APEX Jazz Band

**O'Reilly's Ale House** (Perth, 267-7994): Tues Brock Zeman, 9PM  
 Feb 7 Joseph McDonald, 8:45PM  
 Feb 14 George Turcotte, 8:30PM  
 Feb 15 Shawn McCullough, 8:45PM  
 Feb 21 Ken Workman, 8:30PM  
 Feb 28 Tom Watson, 8:45PM

**Ridge Rock Brewing Co.** (Carp, 470-2337): 8PM.  
 Feb 1 Brent Dickie  
 Feb 2 Open Mic w/Jillian Kerr, 2-4PM  
 Feb 7 Valley Mountain feat. Ellen Daly  
 Feb 8 Joe MacDonald  
 Feb 16 Terry Tufts, 2-4PM  
 Feb 21 Eastbound of Bytown  
 Feb 28 In Between

**Lumbertown Ale House** (Arnprior, 623-8885): 8:30-11:30PM, no cover  
 Feb 1 TJ Morrison  
 Feb 8 Exposure Exposure  
 Feb 15 Ty Hall  
 Feb 22 Ryan MacIntyre  
 Feb 29 Robby Miller

**Neat Coffee Shop** (Burnstown, 433-9960): 8PM  
 Feb 1 The Arrogant Worms, \$40  
 Feb 6 The Jerry Cans, \$42.50  
 Feb 7 Ryland James, \$18.50  
 Feb 14 Jeremie Albino, \$25

**Cancer Support Group**, Mon 10-11AM (excl. Feb 17). Patients & survivors. Almonte Library. 726-8040. Free

**SF Bridge Club**, Mon 7PM, Tue 1PM. 256-4747. SF Legion

**Olde Time Bingo**, Tue 7PM. Held by CP Civitans in CP Arena upper hall

**Almonte Bridge Club**, Wed 7PM. 256-4747. Almonte Legion

**Winter Community Café**, Sat 10AM-2PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDs Corners, thewintercommunitycafe@gmail.com

**Almonte Lectures: Evolution of Nat'l Park System**, Jan 31, 7:30PM. Gerry Lee. Almonte United Church, almontelec- tures.net. free; donations accepted

**Toastmasters**, Feb 13 & 27, 7-8:30PM. Guests free. Riverview Snrs' Residence, 204 Lake Ave., CP. RSVP 250-9282

**Lanark Co. Genealogical Mtg**, Feb 1, 1:30PM. Topic: Joe Perkins. All welcome. Brunton Hall, Beckwith. Free

**Hackberry Men's Shed**: Feb 3, 17, 7PM, meeting, Workshop opposite 98 Donald St., CP; Feb 11, 25, 7:30AM, breakfast, Gourmet Restaurant, CP. 461-0013. \$1/yr

**Naismith Men's Shed**: Feb 6, 20, 8AM, breakfast, Superior Restaurant, Almonte; Feb 13, 27, 9AM, meeting, Mill of Kintail gatehouse. 461-0013. \$1/yr

**Singin' & Hammin' it Up Super/ Concert**, Feb 6, 6PM. Ham & beans, choir & kids. Fundraiser. St. Andrew's United Church, Pakenham. 624-5593

**Arnprior & McNab/Braeside Archives AGM**, Feb 8, 1:30PM. Talk: Gillies Mill and Braeside. Arnprior Library. 623-0001

**Euchre Tournament for Heart & Stroke**, Feb 11, 11AM-4PM. Orchard View, Almonte. 963-5000, orchardviewmissis- sippi.ca. \$15 cards+lunch; \$10 cards only

**Perth Horticulture: Growing Season**, Feb 11, 7PM. W/ Carol Onion. St. Paul's United Church, Perth. \$5

**Meditation & Associated Processes**, Feb 12, 1:30PM-3PM. Perth Library, Perth. 225-4675. By donation

**Valentyne Donut Bake**, Feb 14, 6AM-4PM. Fundraiser for AGH at HFT Donuts, 25 Industrial Dr., Almonte

**Fulton's Opening Day**, Feb 15, 8AM-3PM. Family activities, maple taffy and more. 2 for 1 pancake meal. Fulton's Pancake House, Pakenham. 256-3867, fultons.ca

**Snow Angel Party**, Feb 16, 1-4PM. X-country & snowshoe. 4381 Wolf Grove Rd., Lanark

**Fill-A-Bowl Fundraiser**, Feb 17, 11AM-1PM. Smiths Falls Community Centre, smiths- falls.ca. \$10; \$8 bowl only; \$5 soup

**Free Public Skating**, Feb 17, 1-3PM (Al- monte arena); 3-5PM (Pakenham arena). 256-1077.

**Huntley Township Historical Soc. Mtg**, Feb 18, 7:30-8:30PM. Brian Tackaberry, end of WWII. Carp Commons Retirement Village, Carp. 470-0060. Free

**Pakenham Gardeners: Permaculture**, Feb 19, 7:30PM. Scott Sigurdson. St. An- drew's United, Pakenham. 256-2014

**Travelogue: United Arab Emirates**, Feb 19, 7PM. Susan Macaulay. Almonte Library, Almonte. 624-5306, missmillslibrary.com

**Perth Breast Cancer Support Group**, Feb 20, 7-9PM. Monthly mtg. Perth Family Health Centre, Perth. 812-4474

**NLHS Heritage Dinner**, Feb 21, 6PM-9PM. Historical Soc., Glenn Wright. Tix: Baker Bob's. Almonte Legion. 257-8503, \$30

**Almonte Hort: Trees**, Feb 24, 7:30PM. Experimental Farm. Cornerstone Com- munity Church, Almonte. 256-1071. \$2

**Pancakes & Pyjamas**, Feb 25, 5-7:30PM. Maple Grove fundraiser for new play structure. Lanark Civitan Club, \$5/\$15

**Community Pancake Supper**, Feb 25, 4:30-6:30PM. w/GF & diabetic options. St. Paul's Anglican, Almonte. 324-3379. \$5

**Almonte Lectures: Electron Microscopy**, Feb 28, 7:30PM. Jeff Fraser. Almonte United Church, almontelec- tures.net. free; donations accepted

**Mid-Winter Milling**, Feb 29, 10AM-5PM. Tar- ot, psychics, crafts. Downtown Almonte, midwintermilling.ca. Varied \$

**BLUES ON THE RIDEAU**  
THE COVE INN • WESTPORT ONTARIO

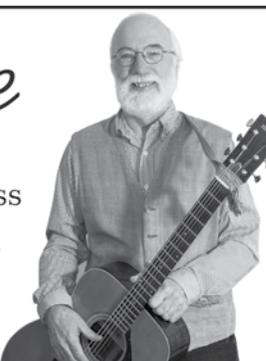
FEBRUARY 21  
**BILL DURST BAND**  
PROCEEDS TO: KICK IN FOR KIDS, RIDEAU DISTRICT HS  
**DINNER & SHOW \$70**  
ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
613-273-3636  
www.BluesOnTheRideau.ca



*Mike Doyle*

Accounting for  
Small & Large Business  
Income Tax Services

(613) 256-9987  
mike256doyle@gmail.com



Pick up *theHumm* in Carp at  
**RIDGE ROCK BREWING CO.**

*Almonte  
Antiques &  
Collectibles*

**A Multi Vendor Antique Market**  
60+ Dealer booths • 6,000 sq. ft of Treasures

26 Mill Street, Almonte, ON K0A 1A0  
**613-256-1512** VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

**The Smiths Falls Community Theatre Presents**

**Key For Two**

John Chapman by Dave Freeman

**Directed by Linda Pipher**  
Presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC - Feb 2020

**Feb 14, 15 & 20, 21, 22 at 7:30 pm**  
**Sunday Matinees Feb 16 & 23 at 2:00 pm**  
• Adult \$20 • Student (with ID) \$10  
Group rates available for 15 or more for same performance - call for details  
**\*\*Special Gala Night - Friday, February 21st\*\***

Tickets available at:  
• Special Greetings, 8 Russell St. E., Smiths Falls (cash only)  
• smithsfallstheatre.com (Paypal/Visa/Mastercard)  
• By Phone - 613-283-0300 (Visa/Mastercard)  
• At the Door - 1/2 hour before performance (cash only)  
53 Victoria Avenue, Smiths Falls



Opinion Ate It...

# The Postman Delivers

But first, a word from Weetabix on analogies and terminology, since exactly what is delivered is of interest. “Il Postino” in Italian is, literally, the postman or letter carrier. Il Postino in Almonte is a restaurant located in an historic building that once housed a post office. There should be no confusion as to heritage; Café Postino has deep roots in the restaurant business and no links to Canada Post. This is a very good thing. Café Postino consistently delivers high quality dining experiences and outstanding value.

by Sebastian Weetabix

On the front of Café Postino’s business card is a logo showing a crossed knife and fork circled by the words “Family owned and operated, Casual Dining, Quality Food, Fresh Produce.” Redundancy aside, this is accurate and modest. Beneath the logo appears “Café Postino,” the date established (2011), a small Italian flag, and words of welcome in Italian. Weetabix likes the presentation which succinctly represents the establishment, its culinary point of view and its ethos. Only one word should be added. In place of “Casual Dining” substitute “Casual Fine Dining”.

Steve Falsetto has almost a half-century of experience in the restaurant business and it is obvious that he loves it. It is also the business of his family, and he spent ten years in Miami where he owned and managed some of his family’s operations there. Prior and post his time there, he had been involved in several restaurants in Ottawa including Stefano’s, Amaretto and Café Zucchero. His wife Claire is a native of Cornwall, and when they returned to the Ottawa area they decided on Almonte as a home base. Commuting for a few years convinced them that they should work closer to home, and with the help of Stephen Brathwaite they found suitable space in the old Post Office building. The vacant space had previously been a restaurant and then a bar. Under Claire’s talented guidance (she is trained as an interior designer), necessary renovations were made and Café Postino officially opened on February 19, 2011. In Steve’s words: “We work hard to deliver good food and good value and have been well supported by Almonte.” Yes, but that is not enough for an article and Weetabix does not do food criticism, so Weetabix badgers Steve and is granted an opportunity for conversation. Truth be told, we have eaten at Café Postino on several occasions — always happily and always with the comment that we “must get here more often”. Consistency is not the same as lack of novelty; the kitchen is very well-run and Steve produces specials and event-driven meals (think Valentine’s Day if you can still get a table!) which are oriented towards Italian style with some international character. And so, back to Steve and what Weetabix considers to be a defining quote from a restaurateur: “I love what I do; the money is not primary... I live for compliments. It is my life — day and night — and for me, when I cook as proprietor, I have the authority to decide what I do.”

And then there’s the secret weapon, the other Steve (and no, we do not count Stephen Brathwaite here). Steve Galvin (two years into working with



After savouring several samples, Weetabix concludes that Café Postino “consistently delivers high quality dining experiences and outstanding value”

Steve Falsetto at Café Postino) is a returned Almontonian who brings a diverse experience in kitchens ranging from cruise ships to high-end temples of gastronomy such as Araxi in Whistler, including a stint as the private chef to the Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia and another as chef to the Canadian Ambassador in Rome. In 2016 he returned to Almonte with his Cape-Breton-born wife, decided to settle here, and soon after his return he joined Steve (I hope you are keeping track here) at the Café. The chemistry between them is obvious and synergistic, with Steve G. in the inside kitchen and Steve F. in an annex — both working together to create daily lunch specials from seasonally available fresh (and, where possible, local) ingredients. The partnership works and is supported by Claire and staff that are well trained and dedicated to making customers comfortable and happy.

Supply chain management is a critical part of the operation, as ingredients are a very significant factor in delivering quality while managing to keep prices reasonable. There is a constant need to balance labour costs with ingredients. Café Postino is dedicated to delivering a consistent value proposition that is enhanced by the setting and service.

Weetabix suggests some additional reading. The Café has a website and posts its menus at <cafe-postino.com>. Our recommendation is that you read it before you go so that when you are confronted with the specials you will be prepared to make hard choices. Don’t worry though — you can return! Also, do not neglect to enquire about possibilities that are not on the dessert menu; the torta dela nonna is excellent! Café Postino is located at 73 Mill Street.

*The Silver Shingle*  
SILVERSHINGLE.COM



CUSTOM PHOTO METAL PRODUCTS | DARKROOM DEVELOPED

# The People Are Coming! The People Are Coming!

I feel like I'm living in that Ikea commercial — in a big flap because company is coming, important company who'll be here for a few days, and who might be opening cupboards or looking under beds, and yikes! Do I really want them to see the pet fur that at any moment could come alive down there?

by Glenda Jones

It's Alan's major birthday on March 1 (everybody sing!) and our kids — well, grown adults — are gathering for the occasion. It's a long time since we were all together, so this is momentous. I want to make a good impression. This is one time when low lighting is not going to cut it.

After the doldrums of flu season in December and procrastination season in early January, I am now hit with the cleaning season bug. I'm dragging stuff to recycling, to the Hub, to the garbage, anywhere to get rid of excess. Alan has to keep his stuff tidy or it'll be gone. The dogs are sleeping on top of their toy basket, in case I have at that and dump their favourites.

I actually enjoyed cleaning the cupboards. I discovered treasures in unlikely places, a sheaf of letters my Mom wrote us in 1998, poems written in six-year old French and little paintings of apple trees,

and thank-you notes from people I have long forgotten. There was also a collection of post cards I kept because I liked the pictures, plus one hilarious one from my sister that I kept because she wrote a silly verse on it. None of that got turfed.

There was a ratty looking kindergarten project in the recipe book cupboard. We all have one of these: two paper plates, one cut in half, sewn together with red yarn, and Happy Mother's Day on the front in primary printing. It still holds the bits and bobs of kids' art, and some little recipes they wrote out for things like "hot choclat". In the front is a yellowed sheet gently folded with the recipe for Crunchy Granola, a big hit sent directly from CBC's *This Country in the Morning* with Peter Gzowski in 1972. The cleaning was put on hold while I reminisced and whipped up a full batch of granola. I'd have had the "hot choclat" too, but alas, no cocoa in the cupboard. No, I couldn't part with any of those things.

On to the next cupboard, and I got serious. No one needs three wine bottle bags, two thermoses, five mismatched chipped mugs or six paper plates that are crushed. And what about a spaetzle maker? Now I have one shelf with little on it, always a good thing in this house where I consider an empty drawer the height of luxury. The glasses are all sparkling, the odd ones are

discarded, so everything is pristine and a treat to behold.

The space under beds is a no man's land that has been a godsend when the people are coming. Bed skirts hide a lot of area, and before we got Miss Diva I used it with gay abandon. She, however, discovered my



hiding place and proceeded to chew corners of everything from picture frames to fabric. She leaves her toys under the bed and when she pulls them out, all dusty, I feel pangs of guilt for at least ten seconds. I have to hang upside down to vacuum under there, but it's getting done, all in the name of "the people are coming".

The closets are a particular challenge, but if a guest should hazard to open one I don't want them crushed under the detritus that could spring out unbidden. We double-shelved all our closets, probably not a good

idea in hindsight, since we can't reach and never see the stuff on the top shelf. Surely no one will want us to drag down that clutter. However, I swear hangers have bred freely in the dark; what began as five is now a mass of fifty-five. Wicked things! There are three duvets in there, and multiple useless sham pillows. (Have you ever figured out a purpose for those piles of pillows that are decorators' delights?) Art works in boxes, balls of yarn, antique silverware, and the crème de la crème: my grandmothers' wedding dresses! There are four boxes of photos, three stuffed toys, two lovely hats and one handmade quilt. I've repacked it all securely and am hoping it will stay there.

If I get really serious, I'll take down the curtains and dust the high places. I'll clean the light fixtures and maybe polish the silver. However, I don't want to overdo it, right? Probably best if I content myself with what has been accomplished so far, and hope that a quick vacuum the day before guests arrive will suffice. I'll make favourite meals and smile a lot, and maybe no one will notice the rest. After all, housework is self-replicating, and no matter what is done one day it has to be redone the next, especially when we live in this constant swirl of beautiful dog fur. I used to tell the kids, "you can write your name in the dust, but you can't put the date". So bring on the people — we're ready as we'll ever be!



## Valentine's Day Menu

### Appetizers

**Halloumi Cheese Salad** — fresh Spring mix, shaved radish, & cucumber topped with a house dressing.

**Calamari** — hand-breaded, fried squid. Served with a cucumber, lemon, dill yogurt dip.

**Shrimp Spring Rolls** — filled with shrimp, bean sprouts and cabbage, accompanied by a sweet chili sauce.

**Roasted Cauliflower Bisque Soup** — the name speaks for itself.

### Entrées

**Squash Risotto** — grilled steak served the way you like it, creamy risotto with onions, butter, white wine & parmesan.

**Pulled Chicken Mexican Rice Bowl** — oven-roasted, pulled chicken served on top of a Mexican rice filled with corn, beans and edamame.

**Braised Short Ribs** — slow-roasted short ribs tossed in our secret sauce, served with beef gravy, mashed potatoes, and roasted vegetables.

### Dessert

No need for explanations, it is all delicious!

**Red Velvet Cake with cream cheese icing**

**Chocolate Mousse with Bailey's and shaved chocolate Cheesecake**

**\$45/person**




12609 Lanark Road, Calabogie  
Redneckbistro.ca • 613-752-1888

## THE MISSISSIPPI MUDDS JR. PRESENTS

# Disney FROZEN JR.

**DIRECTED BY**  
Sandra Dunlop & Karen Lapointe

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**  
Laurel Tye

**PRODUCED BY**  
Linda Beiglee & Sherrie Seward

<b>Friday, Feb 21,</b>	<b>7PM</b>
<b>Saturday, Feb 22</b>	<b>2PM</b>
<b>Sunday, Feb 23</b>	<b>2PM</b>
<b>Thursday, Feb 27</b>	<b>7PM</b>
<b>Friday, Feb 28</b>	<b>7PM</b>
<b>Saturday, Feb 29</b>	<b>2PM</b>
<b>Sunday, Mar 1</b>	<b>2PM</b>

**TICKETS**  
All shows: \$12  
except Thurs Feb 27: \$7

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
www.ticketsplease.ca | 613-485-6434

ALL PERFORMANCES AT:  
CARLETON PLACE TOWN HALL






MUSIC AND LYRICS BY Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez  
BOOK BY Jennifer Lee  
BASED ON THE DISNEY FILM WRITTEN BY Jennifer Lee AND DIRECTED BY Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee



## CAMPBELL WOODS & KATE WEEKES

FEBRUARY 29, 2020 ALMONTE TOWN HALL  
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM SHOW STARTS AT 8

**SOLD OUT**

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT FOLKUSALMONTE.COM

THANKS TO:

Canada

MILL STREET BOOKS

print shop picture framing

Pick up *theHumm* in Arnprior at  
**SWEET & SASSY CO.**

# EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

## What is EarlyON?

EarlyON Child and Family Centres provide opportunities for children from birth to 6 years of age to participate in play and inquiry-based programs, and support parents and caregivers in their roles. These centres will offer safe and welcoming environments open to all families across Ontario, with qualified professionals and quality programs. Families and caregivers will be able to find support, advice, make personal connections and access a network of resources.

## Join Us:

- ◆ **Playgroups**  
(morning & afternoon)
- ◆ **Parent Education Workshops**
- ◆ **Parent Discussion Groups**
- ◆ **Saturday Events**



EarlyON  
Child and Family Centre



[crowlanark.com](http://crowlanark.com) | [info@crowlanark.com](mailto:info@crowlanark.com)

613-283-0095 | 1-800-267-9252 | 4 Ross St., Smiths Falls

22

the *Humm*

# Snow Angel Party

We are celebrating the Tenth Annual Snow Angel Making Party at Highlands Gate (4381 Wolf Grove Road in Lanark Highlands) on Sunday, February 16 from 1–4PM. It's fun, it's *free*, and it is fabulous! If you haven't made a snow angel in a while, this is your chance to join with others in the art of making a winter impression. The act of making a snow angel produces an inexplicable sense of calm and contentment, and pausing to feel the coolness on your back or to gaze up to see what the sky has to offer that day is a treat.

The invitation is open to everyone and anyone so bring your friends and family. There is a big play structure with slides, horses to feed carrots to, sliding hills and 85 acres of fields and forest on which to snowshoe and cross-country ski. We have some extra snowshoes that you can borrow. 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 around. Everyone is welcome, so spread the word and we will see if we can fill the field with angels.

To find us, take exit # 155 from the 417 (the Carp/Almonte turn-off to Highway #49) and continue on this road for 40km all the way to the farm. From Almonte, continue on Almonte Street, which turns into Wolf Grove Road after the lights at the ESSO station, drive 20km through the flashing yellow light in Middleville and then look for the second laneway on your left at 4381 Wolf Grove Road, Lanark.

— Sue Cressy

Speaking Volumes

## Library, After Dark Featuring Jenny Whiteley & Joey Wright

The Perth & District Union Public Library is preparing to use their space like never before. On Saturday, February 22 at 8PM, the library will be transformed into a live music venue for its first every Library, After Dark event. It will take place long after the doors close for that day, and will feature live music by Juno-award winning Jenny Whiteley and Joey Wright.

of humour is often featured during her shows in the engaging stories of musical friends, encounters with folk music legends, and daily life that leave audiences giggling and tapping their toes at the same time.

Joey Wright is a Juno-nominated songwriter, composer, multi-instrumentalist and performer from Toronto. Joey is well known for his lyrical and inspired guitar and mandolin playing. He is also highly regarded for his compositions and songwriting. Joey was one of the leading lights in the explosive bluegrass, old time and traditional country scene in Toronto in the 1990s and 2000s. Joey joined Jenny Whiteley's band in 1999, and their first two albums (*Jenny Whiteley* and *Hopetown*) both won Juno awards for Best Roots Traditional Album. In 2005 Joey joined Sarah Harmer's band to record the album *I'm A Mountain*, which earned him a gold record. In 2007 Joey collaborated with Jesse Zubot, Steve Dawson, Dan Whiteley and Joe Phillips to create his own album, *Jalopy*. *Jalopy* received a Juno nomination for Best Instrumental Album. He has since recorded the acclaimed albums *Hatch*, *Tuxedo!* (with Christine Bougie), *Country, Music*, and *Satie on the Beach* (with Luke Mercier) among others.

Tickets to the February 22 event are available from Tickets Please for \$20 each — children under 12 are free and all ages are welcome. Purchase your tickets in person at the Visitors' Centre in the Perth Museum at 11 Gore Street E. in Perth, call 485-6434 or visit [ticketsplease.ca](http://ticketsplease.ca).

To learn more about the services and programs offered by the Perth and District Union Library, visit us at 30 Herriott Street or online at [perthunionlibrary.ca](http://perthunionlibrary.ca).

by Heidi Taber Work

The idea of transforming the library into a music venue was inspired by a visit to the Arnprior Public Library. That library offers ticketed evening events that bring music and culture to the community. The hope is that by creating an "After Dark" program, Perth will be able to draw more people into the library and create unique communal experiences. Future plans include open mic nights, author visits and more music.

"As a live music lover, I am always keen to access and support music locally. I really want to bring the magic of the library space alive and increase the cultural capacity and profile of the library in the community," explains Perth librarian Heidi Taber, who is spearheading the event.

### About the Musicians

From bluegrass to old time, from folk to jug band music, Jenny Whiteley has been immersed in the tradition of acoustic music her whole life. Her most recent album is dedicated to her dad Chris Whiteley and the musical influence he continues to have on her. The whole recording rings out with strains of banjo, fiddle, harmonica and guitar, but also features such unsung instruments as jaw harp, mouth trumpet, bones and even the jug! Jenny has won two Juno Awards for her solo recordings in 2000 and 2004, and was nominated in 2017 in the Traditional Folk category for *The Original Jenny Whiteley*. That same record was Longer Listed for the 2017 Polaris Prize and got a nomination from the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

The resulting live show is an extravaganza of quirky sounds and solid songs, echoes of the long-gone dust bowl, and shadows of the delta blues, all strung together with the pearls of Jenny's original songs. And let's not forget the joy! Jenny's famous sense



Catch Jenny Whiteley and Joey Wright on February 22

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

February 2020

# If You Heart Art...

## Find Faraway Places... in Perth!

As the temperatures drop and we start to feel a little tired of lower light levels and icy pathways, our thoughts tend to travel to *Faraway Places!* Step into Strévé Design Studio Boutique Gallery in Perth and soak in the bright sun-drenched colours of Barbara Chappelle's abstract oil and cold wax paintings of travelling the El Camino trail in Spain or biking through Provence and Perigord in France. Be sure to check out Rob Laffier's ship-inspired poster in oil on canvas of *Oasis on the Seas*.

by Miss Cellaneous

The hot African sun can be felt through the layers in mixed multimedia collage works by Hawa Kaba. The warm glow is also evident in Caroline Evans' impressionist style oil landscapes of Paramali Beach and Brittany. Ben Bennett and Margaret Martin create energy on painted acrylic canvas through landscapes and surging waters of High Ridge, Scotland and Salmon Cove, Newfoundland. David Lafleche draws you into his high realism oil paintings of places such as Gdansk, Amsterdam, Quidi Vidi in Newfoundland, and Peggy's Cove. Travel away to such places as Cody Mill, Mallorca, Venice, La Rochelle and Seoul via David Gilmore's realistic watercolours and acrylics. At the end of these earthly travels, quilt artist Beth Van Wyngaarden lets us contemplate a trip to the moon.



Experience *Faraway Places* as depicted by local artists (like David Lafleche, above) in Perth

Spend a little time traveling to *Faraway Places* at Strévé Design in downtown heritage Perth, behind the TD Bank. They are open Monday to Saturday from 10AM to 5PM and Sunday by chance. Find out more at <strevedesign.com>. Meet the artists on Saturday, February 15 from 1-3PM in the gallery during the Frost and Fire Winter event in Perth. A few artists may be painting live in the gallery. Stop by and ask them about their faraway travels — who knows, they may help you plan your next vacation or at least get you dreaming of one! The exhibit runs until March 15.

## Maple Run Time!

Spring is just around the corner and the sap will soon be running — which means it's almost time for the annual Pakenham Maple Run Tour of art, fine craft, local food and heritage. On April 4 and 5, the tour returns for the 18<sup>th</sup> year with exceptional artists and artisans in ten fascinating stops in and around the beautiful village of Pakenham.

Experience a huge variety of carefully curated creative expressions including painting, pottery, pewter, glass, jewellery, photography, weaving, soap-making, blacksmithing, paper arts, woodworking, artisanal food and so much more. New artists join the tour each year! Take a drive of discovery and take in spectacular spring scenery en route to experiencing the tour's unique locations: heritage buildings, a craft brewery, a cidery, a one-room schoolhouse, a peace-



Mark the calendar for the weekend of April 4 & 5: that's when the Maple Run Studio Tour — and Maple Weekend — take place!

ful retreat overlooking the Mississippi River, and of course working studios. New this year, organizers are thrilled to announce they have added the beautifully renovated Pakenham Branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library as a stop.

The Maple Run Tour coincides with Maple Weekend, so be sure to pick up locally produced maple products during your visit or include a stop at Fulton's Sugar Bush and Pancake House. Tour brochures are widely distributed locally and regionally during the month of February, or you can find all the information you need at <mapleruntour.com>.

## Lanark Life Learners Vernissage

On Saturday, February 8 from noon to 3PM, MERA is proud to welcome the Lanark Life Learners back to Dean Hall. The exhibition will run throughout February — please visit <meraschoolhouse.org> for directions and hours.

The Lanark Life Learners is a group of home learners from all over Lanark County who love learning through everyday experiences. They also love art! They encompass a wide age range, and their art represents an eclectic collection of media and styles. Works in this show will include sculpture, drawing, painting and mixed media. The pieces include both the abstract and the literal; many are based in nature, and most are full of fantasy and imagination.

This group believes that art is a form of individual expression. Art is a universal language that people of all ages, interests and backgrounds can understand. It is a way of storytelling without using words. It can be therapeutic or just plain fun! Each artist in the group has a different personal inspiration and has had different artistic training, but they find common ground in their love for expressing themselves and experiencing life through art. MERA is located at 974 Conc 9A Dalhousie in McDonalds Corners.



Find works by the Lanark Life Learners at MERA during the month of February

## Call for Participants

If you are a practicing artist or artisan interested in joining a dynamic tour, consider joining the popular **Crown and Pumpkin** for their 24<sup>th</sup> annual tour on Thanksgiving weekend in Almonte, Clayton and area. The 2019 tour was a resounding success as the public responded enthusiastically to the variety and quality of fine art, craft, food and drink.

Organizers like to keep the tour fresh with professional quality, innovative work. New kinds of three-dimensional art and craft will receive particular consideration. If this is your practice, they would like to see your creations. To apply, submit digital images of recent work and a brief biography. Work is judged on originality of expression, concept, and quality of execution. Applications open April 1 and the deadline for submissions is May 1. Send your application, including photos and a link to your website/Facebook page to <barbara.mullally@gmail.com>. For more information, please call 256-3647.

*Sitting on any Gold?*

Turn that old necklace into a candlelit dinner for two, or enjoy a ski weekend with that gold coin you never look at.

**Beware of Travelling Roadshows and "Metal Recyclers"!**

I have been paying consistently high prices for all gold & silver coins, bars and jewellery since 1988. At Alliance Coin & Banknote, you deal personally with the owner, and I treat each and every transaction with courtesy, discretion and expertise that can only come from more than two decades in the coin and precious-metal business.

**Alliance Coin & Banknote**  
88 Mill Street, Almonte  
613-256-6785  
www.alliancecoin.com

*Sean Isaacs*  
Numismatist

Member: Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers

STUDIO THEATRE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

**Marion BRIDGE**  
BY DANIEL MACIVOR  
DIRECTED BY BARB GUTHRIE

HEART-WARMING AND BREATHTAKINGLY LYRICAL  
~A MOVING DRAMATIC-COMEDY

February 27, 28, 29, March 5, 6 & 7 at 7:30pm  
March 1 & 8, at 2:00pm

**SEE OUR ARTICLE IN THIS EDITION**  
or visit: [www.studiotheatreperth.com](http://www.studiotheatreperth.com)

The Studio Theatre  
studiotheatreperth.com

63 Gore St. East  
In historic Perth, Ontario

Come out for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual

Feb 29 10-5

# Mid-Winter Milling

Explore the delightful shops and cafés along Mill Street in Downtown Almonte and sign up for spiritual and self-awareness sessions with local practitioners.

<b>Denise Smeaton</b> ..... Medium Intuitive	<b>Acanthus - 14 Mill St.</b> Flowers, tropical plants & floral design
<b>Denise Carpenter</b> ..... Reiki	<b>Crush Marketplace - 14 Mill St.</b> Shoes, clothing, & gifts
<b>Krista Thom</b> ..... Dragon & Reiki Energy Healer	<b>Gilligallou Bird Inc. - 14 Mill St.</b> Eastern Ontario's specialty backyard birding store
<b>Trevor Couturier</b> ..... Psychic Medium & Tarot	<b>Vamos Outdoors - 14 Mill St.</b> Men's and women's lifestyle clothing, footwear & accessories
<b>Tamara Geddes</b> ..... Psychic Reader	<b>L.G. Lee &amp; Sons - 36 Mill St.</b> Merchandise for the home, garden and workshop
<b>Ken Mason</b> ..... Psychic Medium	<b>Mill Street Books - 52 Mill St.</b> Books, vinyl, CDs, games & puzzles
<b>Paula White</b> ..... Psychic Reader	<b>Gaslight Café &amp; Sign Gallery - 61 Mill St.</b> Café and sign gallery
<b>Donna Kinniburgh</b> ..... Deep Trance Medium & Tarot Card Reader	<b>Carriageway Studios - 65 Mill St.</b> Artist studios, exhibition space & workshop facilities
<b>France Koroscil</b> ..... Access Bars	<b>doree's habit - 65 Mill St.</b> Unique apparel, distinct accessories, authentic atmosphere
<b>Cherîe Hebert</b> ..... Reader, Energy Channeler	<b>Threadwork - 68 Mill St.</b> A lifestyle store for men, women and home
<b>Aidan Bliss Morton</b> ..... Oracle Card Reader	<b>Cheerfully Made Goods + Markets - 72 Mill St.</b> A handmade hub for creative goods, gifts and fashion
<b>Jennifer Hoy</b> ..... Rune Stone Readings	<b>Baker Bob's - 73 Little Bridge St.</b> Breads, cakes, pastries, confections & fine foods
<b>Catherine Fredette</b> ..... Access Bars, Reiki and Massage	<b>Blush &amp; Black - 76 Mill St.</b> Natural and organic boutique featuring spa services
<b>Penny Samek</b> ..... Psychic Medium	<b>Wee Bee Growing Again - 79 Mill St.</b> Your source for quality children's and maternity consignment
<b>Evonne Nugteren</b> ..... Reiki, Crystals, Reflexology and Mediumship	<b>Textile Traditions - 87 Mill St.</b> Fabric, yarn, quilting & sewing supplies
<b>Yesim Gumus</b> ..... Tasseography: Turkish Coffee Readings	<b>Pêches &amp; Poivre - 89 Mill St.</b> Quality fine food, fun & artful kitchen & dining ware
<b>Nancy Kerr-Wilson</b> ..... Psychic Medium/Animal Communicator	<b>Big Vintage - 95 Mill St.</b> Antiques, vintage, collectibles and curios
<b>Potters Guild Members</b> ..... Make your own beautiful bowl (\$20)	<b>Almonte Potters Guild - 95 Bridge St.</b> Adult & children's classes, studio rentals, birthday parties

Sign-up sheets will be available on the day.  
For up-to-date details, visit

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