

MARCH 2011

the Hummm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas



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March's Events



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Listen Up!



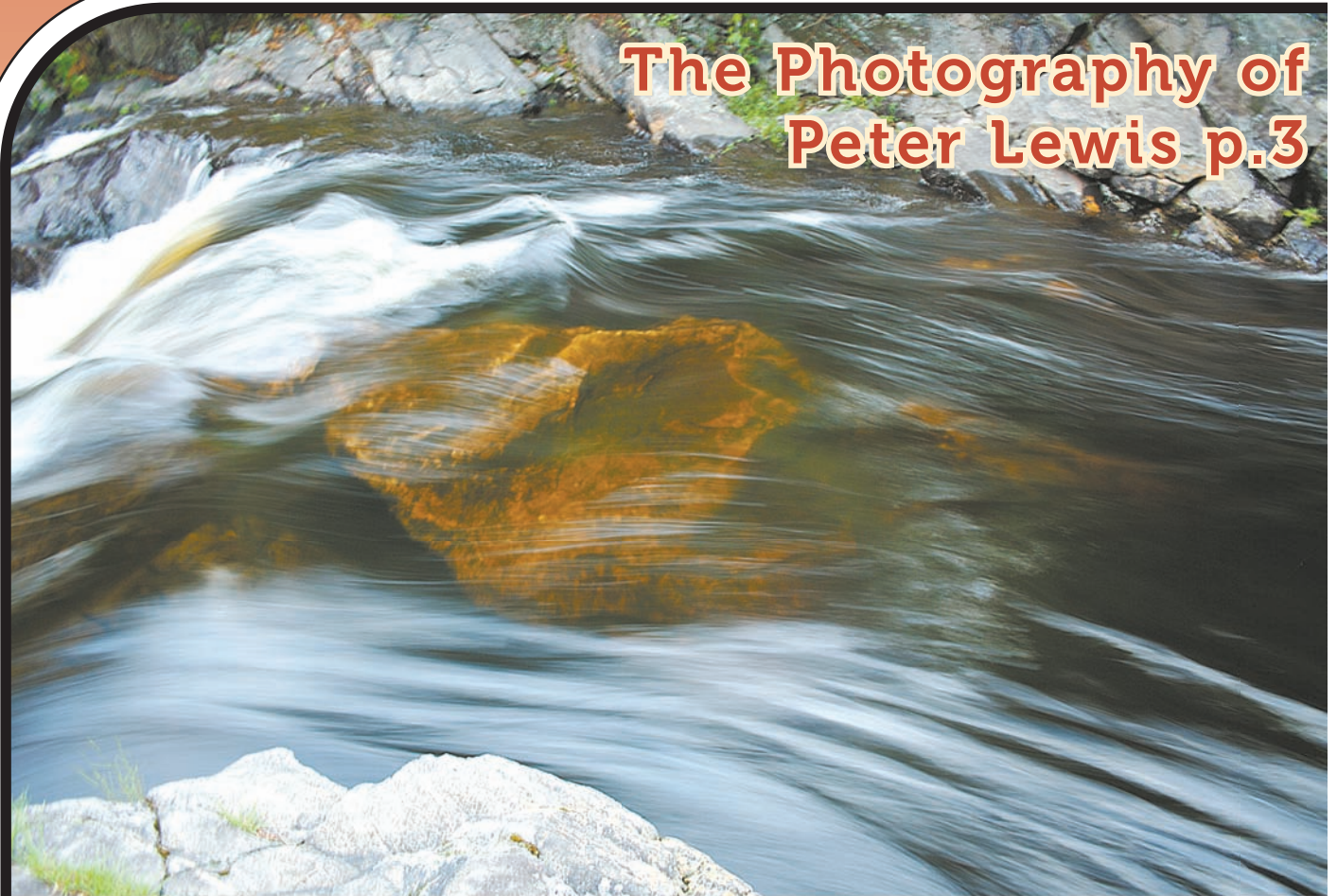
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Maple Time

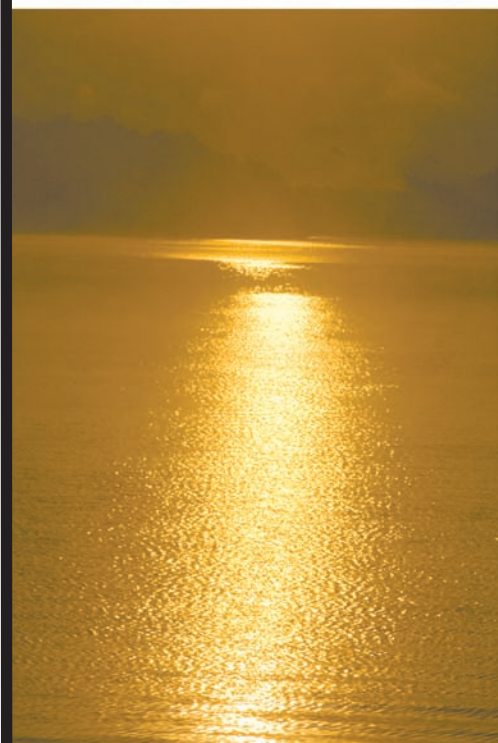


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Spring Reading



The Photography of
Peter Lewis p.3



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ARTBEAT

by Bill Buttle



"Morning, brighteyes! – Want me to boot up YouTube and see if your video of *Wild Colonial Boy* has gone viral yet?"

Bill Buttle's New Book!

Our own Artbeat cartoonist, Bill Buttle, has put out a new book entitled *Out of Hand and Off the Fairway*. Please see page 20 of this issue for more details, then run out and buy a copy from your local independent book seller!

Readers Write

Dear editor,

After attending the Young Awards Gala in February, and hearing the lament of our fine local butcher, I believe indeed that Don St. John should be considered for the monthly artist trading card. It would be a shame to lose the revenue from his always witty ads, and as he himself noted, he is an artist in his own right. His varied talents as auctioneer, raconteur, Chamber of Commerce Chairman, and of course butcher make him a valued member of our arts community, if for nothing else than providing us with delicious food for the stomach as well as the soul.

Most sincerely,

A supporter of all things artistic, including a rolled roast extraordinaire!

The Arden Chamber Players

The Arden Chamber Players are presenting a concert at St. Paul's United Church in Perth on Sunday April 3 at 1PM. Admission is free, but a free-will offering will be received. The Arden Chamber Players consist of Janet Geiger, flute; Tony Stuart, clarinet; and Brad Mills, piano; with guest artist Richard Hoenich, bassoon. The ensemble plays compositions for wind trio interspersed with solos and piano accompaniment. Repertoire by Bach, Schumann, Mozart and Faure will be featured. The sanctuary of the 1854 stone church has wonderful acoustics and excellent sight lines. The resident piano is an 1877, nine-foot Knabe concert grand which was completely restored in 2001.

Humble Thought

Any sufficiently advanced
bureaucracy
is indistinguishable from
molasses.
— anon.

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Who are the Humms?

OK, they're not reading theHumm. However...

Edwina and Julian from England write:

A friend was recently in Canada and bought back a copy of your paper for us. Our surname is Humm! We have attached a photo of the Humms. With very best wishes from Edwina and Julian Humm.

The Ones That Got Away...

The February issue of theHumm featured our annual "Get Involved, Get Connected" section on local organizations seeking volunteers. Here are two other very worthwhile groups who are looking for help:

LAWS (Lanark Animal Welfare Society) is an independent organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of all animals. A registered charity, it survives solely on private donations, receiving no funding from any level of government. Every year the shelter staff deals with many lost, abused, or abandoned animals which are cared for until their rightful owners can be found or they can be placed in new homes. If you are interested in volunteering at the shelter, or with fundraising events etc, please check out the volunteering page at <www.lanarkanimals.ca/about.htm>.

The **Classic Theatre Festival**, Ottawa Valley's professional summer theatre, presents classic hits from the golden age of Broadway and the London stage at the wheelchair-accessible Mason Theatre in Perth (13 Victoria Street, in the Perth & District Collegiate Institute). The 2011 summer season runs July 8 to August 28 and features two romantic comedies: John van Druten's *Bell, Book and Candle* and Jan de Hartog's *The Fourposter*. Volunteer opportunities include everything from ushering and assistance with front-of-house tasks to operating concessions, set construction and painting, set building and takedowns, assistance in the rehearsal process, outreach and marketing. We're also looking for help with billeting performers and stage crew (many of whom are travelling great distances to stay in Perth for the summer) as well as a black cat to star in one of our shows. The Festival provides volunteers a great opportunity to work with some of Canada's top theatre professionals. If you can help, contact 877-283-1283 x3 or visit <www.classictheatre.ca>.

Sorry – we goofed

The article on ethical investing entitled "Putting Your Money Where Your Heart Is" (February 2011 issue) unfortunately contained an error and an omission. The phone number of the author, Margo Willmot, should have read 253-8283. And the notation "Mutual Funds provided through Family Wealth Advisors Ltd" was inadvertently omitted.



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

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By email or on disk.

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Thanks this month to:

everyone who assisted with this year's Young Awards Gala! Thanks to the efforts of well over 100 volunteers (including almost 50 high school students), the event raised more than \$10,000 for arts programs in area schools!

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March 2011

Peter Lewis – When Opportunity Strikes, Shoot It!

With a camera, that is. Some people keep diaries. Some artists wouldn't be caught without their sketchbook. Peter Lewis carries his camera. "You never know," he says, "when you'll see something remarkable. I'm an opportunistic photographer."

by Sally Hansen

The landscape images he captures tell a slightly different story. For Lewis, opportunity can strike at dawn because he got up earlier than that to be in a particular location by daybreak. For nature and landscape photographers, that first hour of daylight and the last hour of twilight are the sweet spots — the spot where the shot will be the most effective. During a recent studio tour, a visitor was captivated by a particularly lovely shot of a misty landscape and inquired, "Where is that?" When Peter replied, "Al-



gonquin Park," the visitor looked startled and said, "I've been there many times and I never saw that."

That pretty much explains why Peter Lewis gets up before dawn and waits patiently for the light to be just right. Most of us haven't noticed how mysteriously beautiful a scene can be when the light filters through early morning mist. Landscape features are illuminated and filtered and obscured by the shifting light, and the same subject shot five minutes later can be significantly different. The same shot taken an hour later will be hugely different. I laugh when Peter tells me his response to photography buffs when they ask for advice: "Look behind you!" The same spot looks totally different approached from a different perspective.

It's the Eye

Trained originally in jewellery design, Peter's career was as a silkscreen printer. He became an ink technician and colour matcher at a time when colour matching was done by eye, adding a few drops of this colour and a bit of that to achieve exactly the desired hue. Maybe that's why he tries to avoid the use of computerized processing tools. "I want it to look the way I saw it," he explains. "Nature isn't perfect; that's part of her attraction."

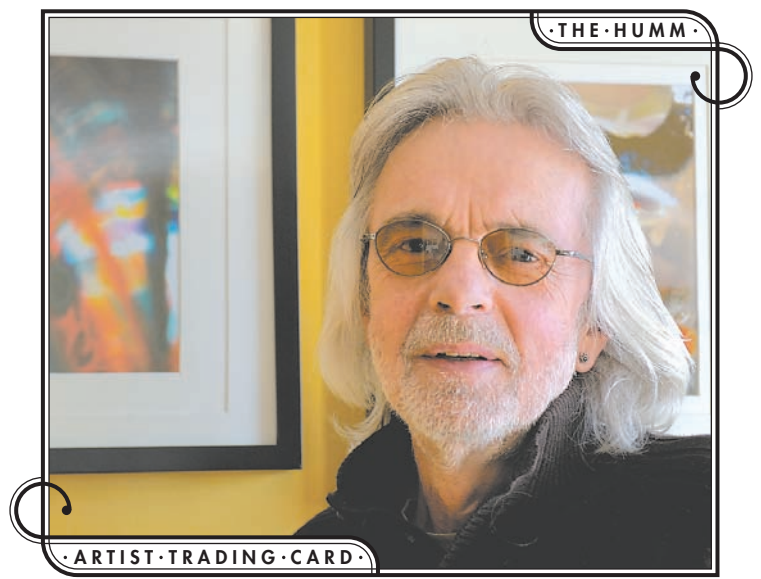
It also explains his slightly exasperated response to a studio visitor who complained, "But you don't have any black and white!" His internal response was, "No, I don't care what's in fashion." His audible response was, "Look out there; it's not black and white!" On the contrary, it is Lewis's finely honed appreciation of colour that transforms his photos from the ordinary to celebrations of nature's nuanced palette and constantly changing colour displays.

Lewis prefers to capture his digital photographic images in the camera, cropping his scenes with the lens, not with the computer. An ironic analogy occurs to me. The advent of affordable digital equipment has enabled "en plain air" or "alfresco" photography. No more darkroom. The image is developed in the field, so to speak. "Studio" photography still entails hours at the computer, improving

the image that was captured, whether it was shot outside or indoors. Peter likes being outdoors a lot more than he likes sitting in front of a computer, so his goal is to get the shot in the moment and go with it straight to the printer.

Go With the Flow

Peter Lewis doesn't need refrigerator magnets to remind him to "live in the moment" or "take time to smell the roses." "I've never had a plan," he confides cheerfully. It's easy for me to empathize, since one of my favourite jokes is: "Q. Why do people plan? – A. To make God laugh." Peter's life has taken some interesting twists and turns. Even though he had never been on a boat before, after his retirement



from silkscreen printing he lived for five years on a Narrowboat (think house trailer on a barge) floating along the canals in Birmingham, UK. He also delivered boats to customers and skippered a restaurant canal boat. Did you know that Birmingham's canal system is longer than Venice's?

Opportunity Rings Up

Without a prescriptive plan, Lewis was free to seize opportunity when it presented itself a few years ago. "There was always something there," he tells me, as he explains how he landed in Clayton, just fifteen minutes west of Almonte. "There" refers to his enduring and reciprocal interest in a female acquaintance from his youth in England — his best friend's sister, Linda. Despite their mutual attraction, life took Peter and Linda along their separate ways. They married other people, had kids, and Linda moved to Canada. About seven years ago Linda's brother mentioned to Peter that Linda was divorced. So was Peter... so they got re-acquainted! Five years ago Linda and Peter married in England, and Peter immigrated to Linda Daniels-Lewis's delightful Clayton home. Now he pursues his passion for photography surrounded by three acres of bush and wetlands that even include a boardwalk!

Always with a passion for photography, Peter cites a wonderful week-long course led by a landscape photographer at Algonquin Park as the catalyst that turned him into a serious practitioner. He bought his first digital camera the year he came to Canada and loved the immediacy of the results. A year later he participated in the 2007 Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour. He has been showing and selling his work ever since. He enjoys the support and encouragement he receives from fellow photographers as a member of "Photography Matters <www.photographymatters.ca>," and from community artists of all genres as a member of Arts Carleton Place <www.artscarletonplace.com>.

Carpe Diem

On March 26 and 27 from 10AM to 5PM you can seize the opportunity to enjoy Peter Lewis's talents for capturing the moment during the ninth annual Pakenham Maple Run Studio Tour (624-5932, www.maplerun.on.ca). He will be displaying his distinctive landscape photographs at Studio 7, situated at Kealey & Tackaberry Log Homes Ltd., 540 Ski Hill Road in Pakenham. His photographs are also on display at Brush Strokes at 129 Bridge Street, Carleton Place (253-8088, brushstrokesart.ca), and at the Carleton Place Train Station Visitors' Centre and Gallery at 132 Coleman Street.

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WHO Peter Lewis

WHAT Landscape Photographer

WHERE Home in Clayton, <lewipa@gmail.com>, 256-5583; Brush Strokes, 129 Bridge Street, Carleton Place (253-8088, brushstrokesart.ca); CP Station Gallery, 132 Coleman Street.

WHEN March 26 & 27, 10AM-5PM, Pakenham Maple Run Studio Tour <www.maplerun.on.ca>, Studio 7, situated at Kealey & Tackaberry Log Homes Ltd., 540 Ski Hill Rd.

WHY "I want people to see what I care about."

ARTIST TRADING CARD

theHumm Editorial

The Promise of Spring

I'm not sure whether it was prompted by that gloriously warm Friday in February or simply "slush fatigue", but it seems that our columnists are all dreaming of spring. From Susie Osler's comprehensive and invaluable listing of tips, events and resources for planning your garden (page 9) to Rona Fraser's compilation of book suggestions to take you through to sandal weather

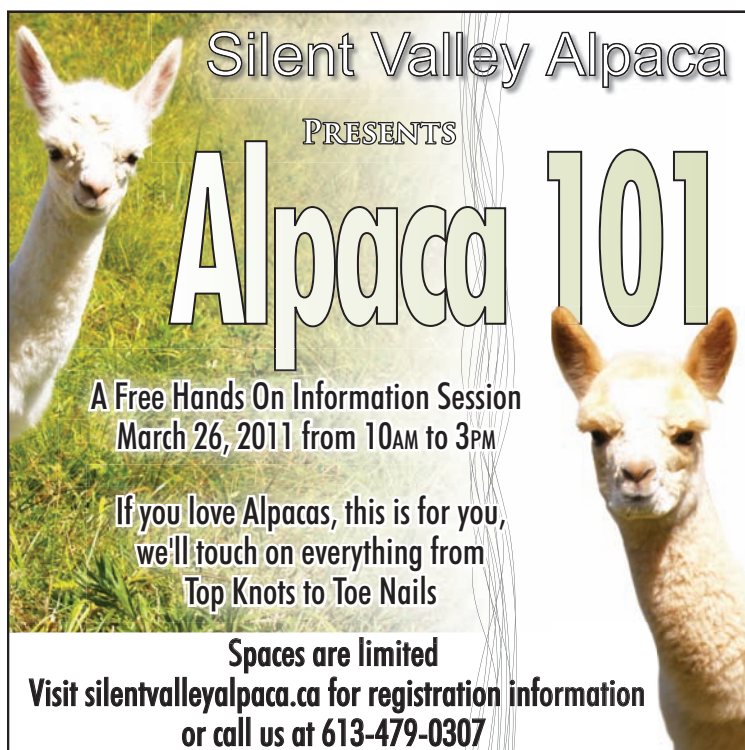
by Kris Riendeau

(page 5), you're sure to find some optimistic inspiration in the pages of this issue. Even Steve Scanlon has a hard (but hilarious) time whining about his situation (page 10)...

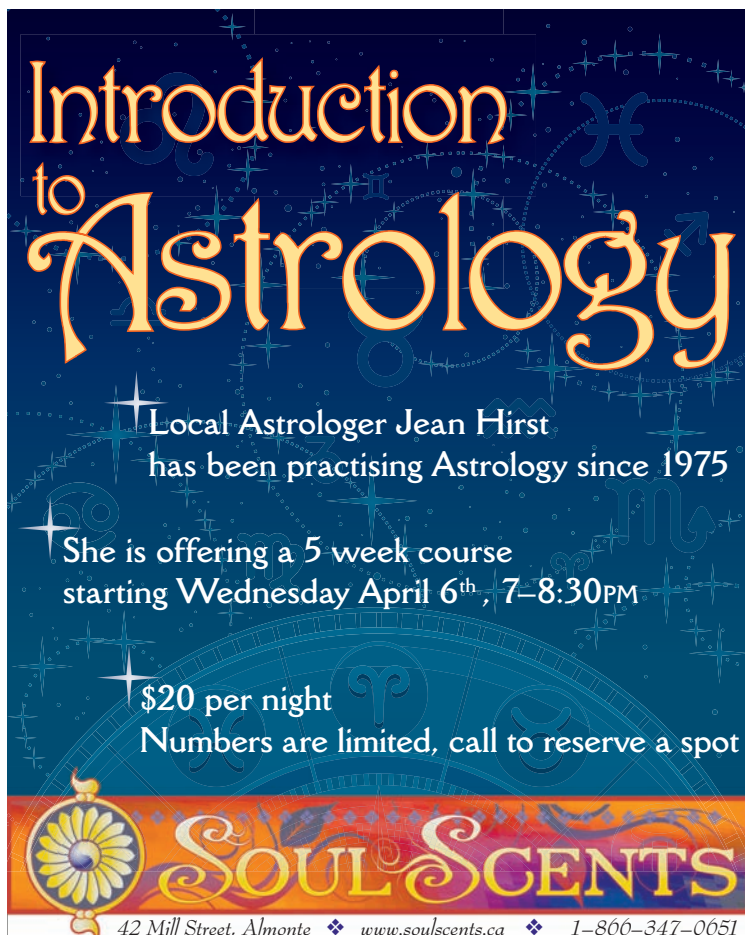
One of the best ways to experience the first stirrings of the season in this part of the world is to head out to a sugar bush. Check out page 16 for an article about maple season, and be sure to mark this year's Maple Run Studio Tour on your calendar (it's on March 26 and 27, but please see page 20 or this month's Artist Profile on page 3 for more details). And be sure to check online for the Lanark and District Maple Syrup Producers to find a sugar bush near you!

In the meantime, all of us at *theHumm* are sending our best wishes to Smiths Falls correspondent Joffre Ducharme for a very speedy recovery. The indomitable Joffre says he plans to return in the April issue.

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Open House a Milestone Locally Produced Opera Premieres on March 10

There must be something in the Tay River water. Something good, that is, because Perth, a heritage town of 6,000 people, has fostered a theatrical community with a depth and scope far beyond its population base. From outdoor Shakespeare to original musicals, the variety and quality of productions in the town have set the region's standard for a long time.

Beginning on March 10, Perth will mark another milestone with the world premiere of a new opera. The show's producers have an archive of local newspapers stretching back into the 19th century and can find no record of an opera presented in the town; this production appears to be the first. The fact that it's the premiere production of a new work makes it doubly remarkable. The fact that this new work was created by an area resident makes it triply so!

Open House is a simple and engaging story of a woman's struggle to deal with loss and life. It features a cast of twelve community performers, working with a professional ten-piece orchestra under the guidance of a creative team bringing a wide variety of experience to the production. The result will be a memorable event and the culmination of decades of work for composer/librettist Peter Morgan of Lanark Village.

The show is a "contemporary" opera, dubbed by arranger/orchestra conductor Mark Bailey as a "popera". While it is definitely operatic in nature, it draws on popular musical styles from jazz to rap for its inspirations. While it is popular these days to refer to any modern musical with a lot of music in it as an opera, *Open House* actually is, with a score that is "through composed", that is, moving from beginning to end in continuous melody, without relying on song structures for its shape, and using the music as a part of the show which moves the characters forward, rather than simply being accompaniment to their action.

The challenges of a show like that are many, and the fact that only three of the show's twelve characters are adults indicates the depth of commitment to the project. Make no mistake — although there are a number of kids in the show, this is no children's production; it is a serious work by a serious company of performers, whatever their age.

Open House will run for four performances only at the Studio Theatre in Perth, March 10, 11, 12 at 8PM, March 13 at 2PM (the first day of Daylight Savings Time!). Tickets are \$25, and are available at Tickets Please, 39 Foster Street (Jo's Clothes), Perth, or online at <www.ticketsplease.ca>. Call 485-6434 for further details.



The cast of *Open House* in rehearsal in February. Left to right: Emma Bornheimer as Mavvie, Emily Richardson as Lydia, Janice Reid as Carrie, Justice Tremblay as Amber, and Alex MacWilliam as Gregg.



9th PAKENHAM
MAPLE RUN STUDIO TOUR
March 26 and 27
Indulge in sweet maple products and meet local craftspeople and fine artists in the historic village of Pakenham and surrounding area. Maps and detailed tour destination descriptions can be picked up at
Fulton's Sugar Bush, any tour stop along the way (look for the green maple leaf sign), Pakenham General Store, visit www.maplerun.on.ca or call
Three Yellow Tulips at 613-624-5932.

Great Reads to Help Winter Slip Away

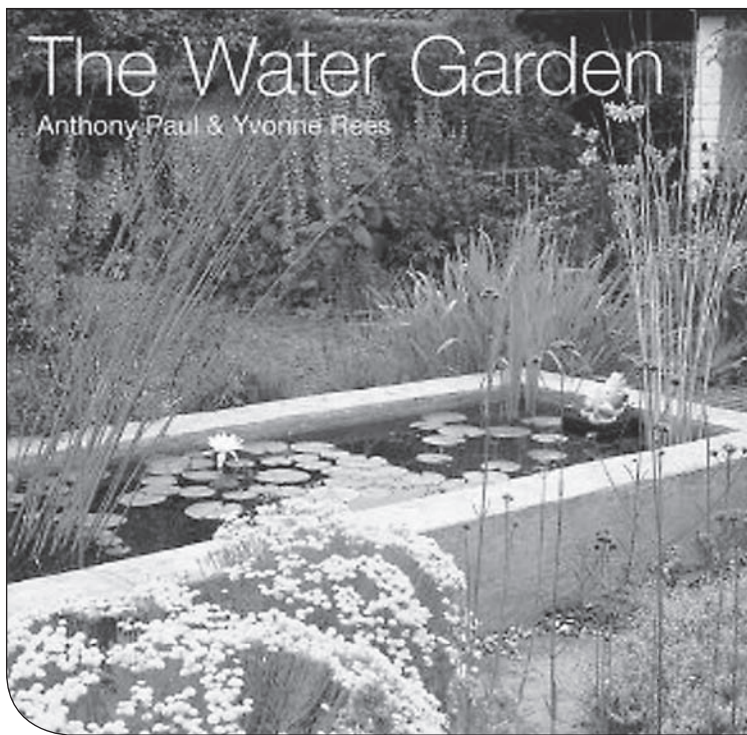
Phew! It's MARCH!! Finally!!

Yes, I know... you've been sitting in the corner, rocking quietly, hands over your head, quietly repeating "It's spring now it's spring now it's spring now..." I hear ya. February is not the most fun month. My apologies to those who enjoy it — different strokes for different folks — maybe you have a birthday in February, or go on a ski or sun vacation, well, happy birthday and bon voyage. But for the rest of us... trudging through the cold snowy days, feeling spring is around the corner and yet still just out of reach... February can seem like the TARDIS — looks small from the outside but huge when you're in the middle of it. (For non-geeks, the TARDIS is what Dr. Who travels in — looks like a phone booth from the outside but is a huge ship on the inside.)

by Rona Fraser

Well I have I have an idea to help you transition from rocking in the corner to skipping down the street in your sandals. Why not visit your local bookstore, pick up a good book, walk to a nearby café or eatery, lounge with your book and a snack and watch the snow start to melt? To give you some inspiration, here is what some of your friends recommend to help you hang in there while winter slips away.

The Water Garden by Yvonne Rees & Neil Sutherland (\$16.95). Recommended by Mary Vandenhoff of Nature Lover's Bookshop, 62 George Street (Hwy 511) in Lanark Village. A step-by-step guide



to planning that water garden you've always wanted. Lots of pictures for ease of understanding. Get yourself a table at the Lanark Landing Restaurant, order something tasty, and dream of sunny, warm, pleasant days spent outside as you design a water feature and select underwater plants.

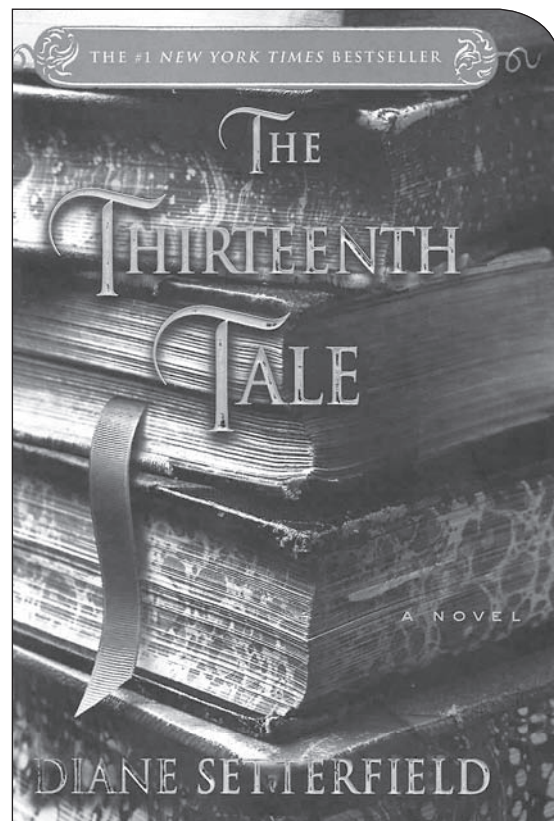
Azteca by local author David E. Scott (\$16.95). Recommended by Leslie Wallack of The Book Nook, 56 Gore Street East in Perth. Set in the Caribbean, this book has hilarious, off-the-wall bit players with bizarre agendas. Adventure, suspense and fun — laughter is a great way to warm up in dreary winter's day! Why not drop into the Factory Grind at 1 Sherbrooke Street in Perth, buy yourself a nice lunch, and let your mind wander to warmer climes.

When Will There Be Good News? by Kate Atkinson (\$15). Recommended by Barbara Gateley of The Bookworm, 76 Foster Street in Perth. It is the third in a series of books by this author involving her northern English copper Jackson Brodie. It follows *Case Histories* and *One Good Turn*. Yes, they are murder mysteries, but told in a less violent way but still with plenty of action. Read it seated with a hot cup of java at Coutts in Code's Mill, Perth.

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield (\$22). Recommended by Mary Lumsden of Mill Street Books, 52 Mill Street in Almonte. This is an old favourite. It is about a bookstore owner's daughter who is asked to write an autobiography of a famous author. Set mainly in Yorkshire, with stormy weather, it's a great cuddle-up-with-hot-chocolate read. It has an eerie, Jane Eyre feel. Let it grab your attention and help you forget the cold outside your door! Mention this Humm article and receive 20% off the cover price!

Mary would read in the cosy cat chair — named Chester — in Mill Street Books, since that's where she spends lots of time these days, and drink a decadent chai latté from Palms or Equator.


Generation A by Douglas Coupland (about \$21). Recommended by: me. I don't own a bookstore, though I would like to! I rarely seem to take the time to read a book these days, and when I do, it has to really be engrossing to keep me choosing it over sleep etc. This is a weird book, which is why I bought it. Set in the near future, when bees have allegedly become extinct, five disparate people in



various countries are each stung, much to the curiosity of the scientists and mysterious people who then study these... stingeers. With colourful characters, interesting ideas and a puzzling plot, this book will keep your attention 'til the end. When you finally look up, your hot chocolate will be cold and the outdoors will be warm.

I read this book all over Almonte — over a hot chocolate at Palms (mmm... hot chocolate...), a grilled cheese at the Supe (Superior Diner), a chocolate croissant at Baker Bob's — and to read it today I would go for lunch at the new Italian restaurant in town: Café Postino, located in the beautiful Old Post Office in Almonte. I recommend the manicotti...

So happy reading! I hope you enjoy the last of these cozy indoor days, as soon the snow will melt (oh please oh please oh please) and there will be plenty to keep you busy outside.



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Justin Rutledge to Play Almonte

Almonte's Folkus Concert Series concludes its tenth season on Saturday, April 9, with its fourth concert, featuring alt-country singer-songwriter Justin Rutledge. Raised in a working class neighborhood of Toronto, Rutledge grew up with aspirations of becoming a writer. He studied English literature and modern poetry at the University of Toronto until his musical career got in the way. He dropped out after his third year, with a backup plan of finishing his degree if music did not work out. Based on his track record so far, it seems highly unlikely he will be walking university halls any time soon.

Signed to Six Shooter Records, Rutledge has released an impressive four albums since 2005. His first three have garnered impressive amounts of critical acclaim. Between his debut album, *No Never Alone* (2005), his sophomore release, *The Devil On a Bench in Stanley Park* (2006), and his third album, *Man Descending* (2008), Rutledge has earned a Juno nomination, a Galaxy Rising Star Award, countless year-end critics' picks, the title of Toronto's Best Local Songwriter (NOW Magazine), a spot on the 2008 Polaris Prize Long List, and a Canadian Folk Music Award nomination.

With his fourth album, *The Early Widows* (2010), Rutledge returns with a stoic collection of songs that rehabilitate the heart and illuminate the dark. Produced with intense fragility by Hawksley Workman, this album is an arrestingly moving and lyrically meticulous piece of art penned by one of the most progressive songwriters at work today. Shouldering

an electric guitar instead of his trademark acoustic, Rutledge infuses the new material with a newfound conviction and drive. *The Early Widows* includes songs co-written with literary giant Michael Ondaatje and award-winning songwriter Darrell Scott from Nashville. Each song is like an undisturbed room in which a wounded echo reclines. Like the birth of a dawn through a curtain, this latest CD is a study in light and shadow, with words that move like a pilgrimage towards one's ear. The album has earned considerable early critical acclaim and has just been nominated for the 2011 Juno Awards in the Roots and Traditional Album of the Year, Solo category.

In addition to songwriting and recording, Justin Rutledge has played at Canadian folk festivals, has toured extensively in Canada, the UK, the USA, and Europe, and has played with performers such as Kathleen Edwards, Jim Cuddy, Blue Rodeo, Hawksley Workman, Luke Doucet, Martha Wainwright, the Great Lake Swimmers, and Dolly Parton.

On Saturday, April 9, Justin Rutledge can be seen in concert at the Almonte Old Town Hall. The opening act features Almonte resident and rising star Angèle Desjardins, who captivates audiences with her blues/folk rock style, her soulful and silky voice, and her powerful range. The show starts at 8PM and the doors open at 7:30PM. Tickets are available in advance for \$23 or at the door for \$27. Student rates are \$12. For ticket orders and information call Mill Street Books at 256-9090 or visit <www.folkusalmonte.ca>.



Café Postino is now open for business! Owners Claire & Steve Falsetto wish to thank everyone for the warm welcome into the Almonte community.

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Thank You

To everyone who made this year's gala such an overwhelming success.

To our board and committee members, technical crew, performers, numerous volunteers (both adult and teen!), auction donors and bidders, and ticket purchasers... you helped raise over \$10,000 towards arts programs in local schools!

A special thank you to this year's presenting sponsor:



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2010 Tax Tip

If you were a single parent on December 31, 2010, you can include all of your Universal Child Care Benefit in the income of the child for whom the UCCB was received, or in the income of the child you are claiming as an eligible dependent.

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Learning in Almonte

Two new series start in mid-March:

**From Gutenberg to the Kindle:
 Libraries and Publishing, by David Holmes**

This course will present an overview of the history of libraries and the parallel history of books and publishing and will examine how these fields are changing in the digital age.
 Starting Wednesday, 16 March

Canadian Novels, by Michael Gnarowski

From rural to urban: The Canadian experience as it finds itself in fiction. Books to be read (all available in paperback) are the following:
 Louis Hemon, *Maria Chapdelaine* (Dundurn)
 Patrick Slater, *The Yellow Briar* (Dundurn)
 Gabrielle Roy, *The Tin Flute* (McClelland & Stewart)
 Margaret Laurence, *The Stone Angel* (McClelland & Stewart)
 Hugh Garner, *The Silence on the Shore* (Dundurn)
 Starting Thursday, 17 March

These courses are six weeks in length.
 Each comprises one two-hour lecture every week,
 from 1:30-3:30 in the Almonte Public Library Classroom.
 No final exam, but lots of discussion time! \$75 per course.

To register contact Don Wiles at 256-4376 or
 don_wiles@carleton.ca

The Paranormal Show Comes to Town

Who amongst us hasn't felt the urge to lift the edge of the curtain separating the "normal" from the "paranormal"? Perhaps to attend a séance, or revisit the days of Harry Houdini?

Take a trip into the past, when the supernatural was commonplace, and all was not as it seemed...

As Monty Python once put it, "and now for something completely different!" Recent immigrant to our area (from Toronto), Carleton Place resident Scott McClelland brought his one-man show, *The Paranormal Show*, to the stage of the Poor Alex in Toronto, where it played for two years. He then took it across Canada on tour and, in 2008, brought it back to Toronto where it played to full houses six days a week for eight weeks! It has been featured on The Discovery Channel, A & E, the CBC and The Learning Channel, amongst others, and has even received public congratulations from Reveen The Impossibleist.

Scott takes us back to the late Victorian Age, when the Spiritualist movement thrived, séances were fashionable evening entertainment, and the paranormal was something of great interest to a significant part of the educated and socially prominent section of the population.

His show combines paranormal phenomena — clairvoyance, magic, psychokinesis and retrocognition, to name a few — with various sideshow feats that, in the hands of a master showman like Scott, leaves one wondering what is real and what is... what?

And a master showman he is; have a look at his website <www.theparanormalshow.net> and decide for yourself! Check it out and then mark your



The Paranormal Show
 plays in Perth on March 5
 and in Carleton Place on the 19th

calendar for March 5 at the Studio Theatre in Perth and two weeks later, the 19th, at the Carleton Place Town Hall. Expect to be amazed... and thoroughly entertained. I, for one, will be there!

— Ian Doig

Theatre News in our Area

March Into the Theatre!

First off this month is the **Perth Academy of Musical Theatre**, which brings a pair of young people's productions to the stage of the Myriad Centre. First up is *Willy Wonka*, on Thursday, March 3 and Saturday, March 5, at 7:30PM. This is followed on Friday, March 18 at 7PM by *Rock the House!*, a rock and roll extravaganza across the decades. Tickets are \$10 each and are available by calling 267-9610 with a credit card number. These productions sell quickly and seating is reserved, so purchasing your tick-

ets in advance is strongly recommended. For more information, please visit <www.myriadcentre.ca>. (Please note their new website address — it used to be ".com".)

Barn Door Productions comes to the stage of Perth's Studio Theatre with something very special indeed — the world premiere of an original modern opera by Peter Paul Morgan! *Open House* was arranged by Mark Bailey, with Brad Mills as choral director and David and Janice Jacklin as producers. Musical styles range from swing to rap, rock to jazz, as well as more familiar classical operatic styles, with a ten-piece professional orchestra. Grace Main and Cynthia Bates are featured as co-artistic directors. This not-to-be-missed musical event is scheduled for the stage of Perth's Studio Theatre on March 10 to 13. Tickets are available at the Studio Theatre by cheque or money order, or from Tickets Please (at Jo's Clothes, 39 Foster Street in Perth), which accepts credit cards, and a small convenience fee applies.

Next, the **Smiths Falls Community Theatre** is pleased to announce its upcoming production of *The Melville Boys* by Canada's most prolific playwright, Norm Foster. It opens on March 17 and runs on the 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26 at 8PM, and on March 20 at 2PM. This is a story about two brothers who book a weekend alone to have some quality "male" time together at a family lakeside cabin, only to have two sisters show up... and you can take it from there! Tickets are \$20 each from Spotlight on the Rideau at 39 Chambers Street in Smiths Falls, 284-4141. Get yours early, as I'm told that these shows frequently sell out well in advance.

Studio Theatre Productions closes off March and opens up April with a hilarious and poignant comedy that looks at the differences between British and American attitudes. *You Say Tomatoes* runs on March 31, April 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 8PM and April 3 and 10 at 2PM, at the Studio Theatre. Tickets are \$18 from Tickets Please or from the Studio Theatre. See <www.studiotheatreperth.com> for information or bookings.

From **Theatre Night in Merrickville** comes news that their production of *The Farm Show* will be presented at the Merrickville Community Centre from Thursday, March 31 to Saturday, April 2, at 8PM and on Sunday, April 3, at 2PM. This is, or should be, an old favourite in our area, so mark it on the calendar! For ticket information call Kym at 269-3424

And finally, I'm told that the **Mississippi Mudds** are well into rehearsals for their latest home-grown musical, *Halfway to Heaven*, written by their own Mark Piper, which opens at the end of April, so more about that next month.

Start Your Garden with a Trip to Perth

Spring is just around the corner and the Perth Farmers' Market would like to help you get ready. On Sunday, March 6, from 10AM to 3PM, the second annual "Seedy Sunday" will be hosted at the Royal Canadian Legion at 26 Beckwith Street East in Perth. The inaugural event last year was a great success and many of the vendors were amazed at the turnout of people dedicated to growing their own plants and vegetables. Some of the highlights are a swap table (bring seeds you don't need and take ones you want), gardening presentations, films, and door prizes of seed packages, gift certificates and a worm factory. Admission is free.

The main focus of the event is the opportunity to buy seeds from local producers for the upcoming gardening season. By buying from local growers you are assured that the seeds are acclimatized to our growing conditions, as well as being open-pollinated and heritage varieties. Why does this matter? Many of the seeds being sold by seed companies cannot be saved by the grower to produce the same plant, meaning that we become reliant on only a few varieties to feed us. As well, many of these plants are grown for commercial reasons (such as tomatoes with thick skins for shipping), which are unimportant to the home gardener. The payoff in heritage seeds is a diversity of taste and colour not found at the grocery store.

This year looks to be better than ever, with some returning seed sellers and some new ones. **Terra Edibles**, from Foxboro, has been selling organically grown seeds since 1992 and specializes in seed for open-pollinated heir-

loom vegetables, herbs and flowers. They carry over 120 varieties of tomatoes alone and are often asked to add more.

From just around the corner in Carleton Place is **Yuko Horiuchi**, who specializes in exotic Asian vegetables and has been saving open-pollinated seeds since 1985. You can get information on her 10th Annual Heirloom Tomato & Perennial Plant Sale at her booth.

Heritage Seed and Produce, located near Westport, specializes in the propagation of heirloom fruit and vegetables without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. It was formed in 2005 to assist in the preservation of our agricultural heritage, and they have acclimatized heirloom varieties from across the globe and propagate seed from these cultivars.

Wildsome Gardens offers seeds for a colourful selection of native and heirloom flowers, grasses, and woodies. Native species add beauty and wild-life value to all styles of garden and are naturally hardy in a variety of soil types and growing conditions. They also offer a selection of rare heirloom vegetable and herb seeds.

Mountain Grove Seed Company will be selling seed packages of wildflowers and heritage plants, as well as balms and skin products made from herbs grown at their location near Arden.

As well as filling your practical need for seeds, there will also be

vendors selling items made from the garden and for the garden.

Rock Wall Gardens will have available for sale some handmade garden art items such as stepping stones and hypertufa containers, as well as information about the garden art workshops they offer.



Yuko Horiuchi from Carleton Place is one of many seed sellers who will be at Seedy Sunday in Perth on March 6.

The **Eastern Ontario Gardeners Guide** will be available, and is filled with information on over a hundred local growers/nurseries, studio and garden tours, farmers' markets, historic gardens, and articles and tips to help make your gardening more enjoyable this season.

From the Ottawa Valley comes **Swirly Thing**, offering original

photography taken from across Canada, along with therapeutic Essential Oil products to help a wide range of ailments.

Regular vendors from the farmers' market will be there too. **Blue Chicory Garden** provides certified organic vegetables, herbs and honey, and will have seeds from some of their favourite veggies, seed potatoes, and samples of the garden furniture that they make from cedar harvested and milled on site.

Piggin' Out is a producer of locally-raised pork, chickens, turkeys and eggs. They will have regular and gluten-free baking and such lunch items as soup, chili and gluten-free mini-pizzas. Local ingredients are simply crafted to make fresh, tasty foods.

Elphin Gold Organic Farm has been a family-run for almost 200 years and they have practiced organic standards for fifteen years. The maple syrup season will be starting soon and they grow garden vegetables for market sales and crops for feeding to their chickens, goats, pigs, and cows.

Since 2001, **Hollyhock Grange** has been at the market selling perennials, produce and freezer lamb. At the sale, they will offer seeds harvested from their garden, as well as food favourites such as granola, samosas, muffins and more.

Local community groups have also been invited to set up

booths to reach out to the public. The Perth & District Horticultural Society will have some demonstrations of proper soil mixtures, seed starting and floral arranging. Master Gardeners will also be on hand to answer any gardening questions that have you stumped. The Perth and District Food Bank is at an exciting point in its development, poised to make a dramatic change in what it does and how it does it — they are transforming their organization into a "Community Food Centre".

USC Canada Seeds of Survival works with farming communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America to secure their local seed systems and help people grow enough food where they are. Faris Ahmed, the head of campaigning, nationally and internationally, for USC on seeds, farmers' rights and other issues, will be at the event. USC helped found the Seedy events along with Seeds of Diversity, a Canadian volunteer organization that conserves the biodiversity and traditional knowledge of food crops and garden plants. Seeds of Diversity is a source for information about heritage seeds, seed saving, plant diversity, garden history and your own garden heritage.

Transition Perth is about building resilience to help address economic and environmental challenges in our community. They will be showcasing their lineup of film nights and upcoming special events. The Perth Farmers' Market is dedicated to preserving our farming heritage and sustainable agriculture. They hope that this Seedy Sunday will get you excited about it too!

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Spring Thinking – A Gardener’s Guide

I think that no matter how old or infirm I may become, I will always plant a large garden in the spring. Who can resist the feelings of hope and joy that one gets from participating in nature’s rebirth? — Edward Giobbi

I’m not sure what ever happened to the months since November. It seems that the cold January moon just passed, that just enough snow finally covered the trails for skiing, and the annual personal hibernation hasn’t been quite long enough. That still, breathless pause that is winter has collected its energy again, is limbering up its limbs, flexing its muscles, shedding its white cloak, and easing into spring again.

by Susie Osler

March is a fertile month for house-bound imaginations waiting for the freeze to release its grip on the soil. Now is the time to start aligning dreams with action for this year’s garden. Collect your clippings of favorite farms, veggies, trees, and gardens, get a hold of seed catalogues, put pen to paper, and start some serious scheming. What will you grow? Where? How much? How do you want it to look?

If you haven’t grown food before, fear not! Gardening, especially edibles, has become incredibly popular in the last few years, and there are heaps of great websites, podcasts, books and magazines whose raison d’être is to inspire and inform you. There are even people (ahem, like me) who offer services to get you started, or help you transition your lawn into an edible landscape. So... go for it! Growing things organically, especially one’s food, is rewarding, satisfying and great for body, mind, spirit, and the planet. Start small and keep in mind that a garden is always transforming — changing through the seasons, and also often in scope, diversity and complexity over the years as the garden begins to reflect one’s personal interests, explorations, and observations. Start the transformation of your corner of the universe by lifting a corner of your lawn (or all of it) and planting it with edibles (perennials, annuals, shrubs, fruit, etc). Don’t feel like you have to have everything worked out on paper before you start. Some people operate best with very detailed plans, while others happily (and successfully) wing it a bit more “organically”.

Speaking of wings... think bees. If you’ve ever thought of beekeeping, now is the time to order your starter nucs, and equipment. Bees are important pollinators and they are facing some serious challenges due to pesticide use, industrial agriculture’s tendency towards monoculture, and disease. Bee populations are in decline, so the more backyard beekeepers, the better. The Ontario Beekeepers Association <www.ontariobee.com> has loads of information and contacts for local bee breeders and workshops. The Lanark County Beekeep-

ers Association is also a great source of information for new and experienced beekeepers: <sites.google.com/site/lanarkcountybeekeepers>.

In the next couple of months, many events and workshops are being offered which provide excellent learning opportunities for novice and experienced gardeners and farmers. I have tried to list as many as I could below, as well as other resources that may inspire and help you prepare for this year’s growing season. Happy planting, growing, learning and eating!

Seeds

If you haven’t yet, it’s time to order seeds. A huge selection of organic and heritage seeds (and lots of info on growing requirements) are available through the following seed providers. It can be overwhelming and many offer the same varieties, but going through catalogues and websites can be exciting. Buy good organic, or at least untreated, seeds grown in similar climate and soil conditions to ours, when possible.

- Seeds of Diversity: Amazing collection of seeds and a non-profit organization dedicated to saving heirloom varieties and encouraging biodiversity. <www.seeds.ca>
- Yuko Horiuchi: Wonderful local seed saver/plant producer. <www.yuko.ca>
- Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds (MO, USA): Fantastic selection of heirloom seeds from all over the world. Excellent catalogue and website. <rareseeds.com>
- High Mowing Organic Seeds (VT, USA): Great seed company and good website. <www.highmowingseeds.com>
- Johnny’s Selected Seeds (ME, USA): Very informative website and blog with helpful gardening info, including growing guides, videos, library. <www.johnnyseeds.com>
- William Dam (Dundas, ON): Untreated seeds. <www.damseeds.ca>.
- Greta’s Organic Gardens (Gloucester, ON): Local and organic. <www.seeds-organic.com>
- T&T Seeds (Winnipeg): <www.ttseeds.com>
- Richter’s Herbs (Uxbridge, ON): Huge range of herbs. <www.richters.com>
- Seed Potatoes: Eagle Creek Seed Potatoes (AB): <www.seedpotatoes.ca>
- Trees: Ferguson Forest Center (Kemptville, ON): <www.seedlingnursery.com>

Our last average frost date is May 21, so when starting seeds indoors use the following guidelines: starts peppers 10 weeks ahead (mid-March); start tomatoes & eggplants 6-8 weeks ahead (late March/early April); start kale, cauliflower & broccoli 6 weeks ahead (April 9); start squash, pumpkin, and melons 4 weeks ahead (April 23). For a good instructional video on starting seeds (thanks to Martha Stewart and Johnny’s), visit <www.johnnyseeds.com>. Spinach, peas, snow peas and potatoes can be seeded outside as soon as the soil can be worked (often end of April, beginning of May).

Recommended Reading

For planning a garden try *Gaia’s Garden – A Guide To Home-Scale Permaculture* by Toby Hemenway, or *Square Foot Gardening* by Mel Bartholemew.

For details and “how-to” about plants, check out any of the following: *4 Season Harvest* and *The New Organic Grower* by Eliot Coleman; the *Canadian Encyclopedia of Gardening*; *The Rodale Compost Book* (all you will ever need to know about composting); Rodale’s *Ultimate Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening*; *The Fruit Expert* by Dr. D. G. Hessayon (excellent information on fruit

trees, shrubs and canes and on how to plant, train, prune, and treat disease); and *Perennial Vegetables* by Eric Toensmeier.

If you are interested in edible landscaping, have a look at *Edible Landscaping* by Rosalind Creasy; *Food Not Lawns: How to Turn your Yard into a Garden and your Neighborhood into a Community* by Heather Flores, or *Designing and Maintaining your Edible Landscape Naturally* by Robert Kourik.

Coming Events

Check out local Seedy Saturday/Sunday events for workshops, seed swaps, seed sales, and lectures. There’s one in Ottawa on Saturday, March 5 (go to <www.seeds.ca> for more info), one in Perth on Sunday, March 6 from 10AM–3PM at the Royal Canadian Legion, 26 Beckwith St. East, and one in Pembroke on Sunday, March 6 from 10AM–3PM at Fellowes High School.

On Tuesday, March 8 at 7PM, the Lanark Organic Growers Guild present *DIRT* (the movie), which “takes you inside the wonders of the soil. It tells the story of Earth’s most valuable and underappreciated source of fertility — from its miraculous beginning to its crippling degradation.” The film will be screened at Algonquin College, 7 Craig St., Perth.

On Tuesday, March 29 from 6:30–9:30PM, Eliot Coleman will give a workshop on Year-Round Vegetable Production. Learn about the history of season extension in Europe, moveable greenhouses, fabric covers, growing tips, marketing, rodent control, curing and packing using sustainable materials, how to work with restaurants and chefs, choosing varieties and much more. Algonquin College, 7 Craig St., Perth.

There’s also a Permaculture Talk on Saturday, April 2 at 7:30PM at Arbor Gallery, 36 Home Avenue, Vankleek Hill <arborgallery.org>. This is a holistic approach to design — for gardens, farms, lifestyles, communities — based on nature. For more information, sign up for the Ecological Design and Gardening — Introduction to Permaculture workshop from April 29 to May 1 (one evening, two full days) in Ottawa. For details email <bas2bach@gmail.com>. Instructors are Sebastien Bacharach and Bonita Ford <eonpermaculture.ca>

The Canadian Organic Growers are offering four workshops on the Principles of Organic Gardening on April 6, 13, 27 and 28. For details call 244-4000 x2, or visit <www.cog.ca/chapters/ottawa>.

Here are a few more options:

- Container Gardening: March 16, 6:30 to 9PM, Ottawa, 565-6336, <transitionottawa.ning.com/events>
- Year-Round Growing: March 23, 6:30-9PM, Ottawa, 565-6336, <transitionottawa.ning.com/events>
- Cover Crops and Market Gardens (with Maureen Bostock): April 9. Ecological Farmers of Ontario. Check EFO website for details and other interesting events <www.efao.ca>

Looking for a farm internship? Check out C.R.A.F.T. <www.craftontario.ca>. Other websites listing lots of good workshops and events are New Farm Project <www.newfarmproject.ca>, and Lanark Local Flavour <lanarklocalflavour.ca>.

No place to garden? Check out community garden opportunities near you: The REAL Community Garden (Smiths Falls), call 283-1952 x136; the Perth Community Garden, contact Valorie Vincent at 267-4200 x3112; the TYPS Community Garden in Almonte <www.typsouthcentre.org>.

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To Whine or Not To Whine...

Whine: Verb (used without object), to snivel or complain in a peevish, self-pitying way.

Recently I have begun to whine and complain about getting old(er). I'm a guy — whining comes natural to me —

by Steve Scanlon

it's in our genes. A day without whining is like a day without something something... I can't remember what 'cause I'm getting old (hence the whining). My lovely and talented wife takes the brunt of the whining. Do I feel guilty? Hell no, she walked into this with her eyes wide open (hidden lovingly behind rose col-

A day without whining is like a day without something something... I can't remember what 'cause I'm getting old (hence the whining).

oured glasses). Okay, maybe a tad guilty. The truth is, I go through these bouts every decade or so whether I need them or not. This one is particularly bad as this is a "big" birthday year — one I am not looking forward to at all. I know, I know, it's just a date on a calendar, life is what you make it, "Carpe diem" and other horse pucky...

Getting old just plain bites. Don't try to tell me any different. I've spent too many minutes at the top of the stairs looking down saying to myself, "what the hell did I come up here for..." to agree with anybody who refutes my claim. I was just about to write something completely clever that would have, undoubtedly, put me in the running for a Pulitzer, but guess what... I have no idea what it was. That thought is probably at the top of the stairs waiting for me. Did you know that Mick Jagger is sixty-eight? Sixty-Eight! How did this happen? ...but I digress.

Here's the thing. I do know that deep, deep down inside, life is pretty good despite the onset of my "where did I leave those damned glasses" moments. I have my health, an amazing family, and a standard of living that allows me to look in both directions and know that I really have nothing to complain about. I live where other people vacation and I enjoy the friendship of more good people than I really have a right to. Life is good. I jumped out of the rat race many moons ago and now I look at those still in the race and want to ask them to give their collective heads a shake.

The point to all this (did you doubt there was going to be one? I had my doubts too!): I'm get-

ting older. There's no avoiding it. However, I'm getting older in a crazy great town. I live in a village where walking down the street can be a challenge — but only if you're in a hurry because undoubtedly you will have to stop and chat with more than one person. Forget just picking up your mail at the post office, that's a 20-minute trip right there — and it's one block away. I don't know everybody in this village by name, but I probably know a good 70% of them by sight — try that in your city neighborhood (if you could get somebody to stay still long enough to get a good look at them).

I was watching yet another "romantic comedy" last night with the lovely and talented — it's the price I pay for saying: "no honey, you go ahead and choose." In the movie, people were scurrying all over hell's half acre on buses and cabs and subways, bumping into each other without the hint of an apology or a

glance backward... and there was I sitting on my comfortable chair, in my comfortable house, in my small town with barely a whisper of noise other than the odd dog barking down the road. I can't remember the last time I was stuck in traffic or had a sales clerk scowl at me or paid good money for bad service or heard a police siren. If I run out of milk I actually do call the neighbors, and they'd do the same. My neighbor has a snow blower. I don't. I love my neighbor. In the summer we get cucumbers and tomatoes along with other vegetables, fresh picked and hanging off the handle of our back door (we think that's the neighbors too). Events are planned here that the whole town is invited to attend. This is typical small town, claustrophobic at times yes, but even this is outweighed by all the good. Don't get me wrong, this isn't Mayberry RFD, we have our own set of characters good and bad, but given a choice, I'd choose to get older in this small town over the best big city up for offer, hands down (the fact that I would forget where my house was in a big city notwithstanding).

So yes, despite my best efforts, I am getting old(er). And yes, I whine. I do, I'm a guy therefore I have to, it's not my fault, blame genetics. Even in this quaint small village my whining goes unnoticed, as it should. I really have nothing to whine about — or, if I do, I can't remember what it was. At the end of the day, when I look around at where I live and the type of people I am surrounded by, I realize I truly am blessed to live in a town like Westport. At the end of the day, life is what you make of it and, equally important, where you make it.

Don't tell my wife we had this talk. If she thought for a second that my whining wasn't justified, I'd have to behave... Don't make me behave.

Poetic Events in March

As I write this, it is eleven degrees above zero. I can feel spring coming, and there are very few things that inspire a good poem like warm weather and an

next door to CP Cinemas. Bring a poem or two and take part, or just enjoy an evening out.

Youth Poetry Workshop

On Monday, March 14, in partnership with Arts Carleton Place and the Carleton Place Library, I will be delivering a slam poetry workshop for youth between 8 and 12 years of age. Learn to write and perform the exciting art form of spoken word (slam poetry). It will get you thinking and up on stage. Bring a paper and pen, and a love of creating. We'll write together and explore the absolute fun that poetry can bring. The event takes place at the Carleton Place Library from 9:30 to 11:30AM. The contact name at the library is Heidi Sinnett, at 257-2702 or <cplibrarykids@yahoo.ca>. Register your children ahead, and be a part of spreading spoken word through the valley.

If there is something exciting happening poetically in the valley, I'd love to hear about it. Contact me at <danielle.gregoire@hotmail.com>.

by Danielle Grégoire

end to cabin fever. Now March may come with snowstorms and slush, but the end of winter is near. March is for spring breaks and renewal; two things that will be meshed with poetry this time around in Lanark County.

Slam into Spring

On March 7, a very special gentleman poet will be coming to Carleton Place. Loh El the Minstrel is a musician, writer and spoken-word artist who defines the word "rockstar" as any human being with a soul solid like stone fuelled by a heart burning brightly as the stars. A self-described romantic revolutionary, he weaves words with melodies like lyrical artillery, unleashing his attack on the loneliness and apathy that continually eats away at our hearts and imaginations. He has independently released two collections of poetry, *The Metamorphosis* and *The Tao of Loh*, as well as a feature-length demo CD of music and spoken word entitled *Demonstrable Demons*. This will be the first time Loh El comes to Lanark County, after more than two years of impressing audiences in his hometown of Ottawa as well as Vancouver. You can get a preview of what you're likely to experience by visiting <www.RaisingTheRevolution.wordpress.com>.

It's \$5 at the door for an evening of slam poetry competition and a fabulous feature. It all takes place at Ernie's On Stage,



Loh El the Minstrel will be featured at the March 7 spoken word slam in Carleton Place

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The Perth Community Choir

is inviting proposals for the
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Perth's Legacy Art Show

Gallery Perth will be showcasing local artists and the themes of past and present when it opens its doors in April to its latest exhibition called *Legacy Art*.

When she was choosing artists' work for the show, Gallery Perth owner Veronica Airth says she thought locally.

"We aimed for regional artists whose work has stood the test of time and will continue to endure," Veronica says, "thus juxtaposing the past with the future."

"In small towns such as Perth," she notes, "where changing economic values have awakened creative resources, the growing trend is being recognized and championed. After all, supporting artists and investing in art

can reap rewards for us now and create a legacy for the future."

She hopes visitors to the exhibit will appreciate that Perth "is abundant in human creativity and artistic endeavours."

"We want people to discover the talent in their midst and the importance to themselves of supporting the culture that makes up the personality of the area in which they live," she says, adding, "we also hope, of course, that they will take home a painting or two!"

On display will be a retrospective of watercolour paintings by Garnet Hazard, and new works by contemporary painters Gordon Harrison, Larry Bracegirdle, Marc Brzustowski and Bryce Bell.

Veronica speaks highly of all of these artists.

"Garnet Hazard (deceased) lived in Perth and was an artist whose work created a tradition of watercolour paintings that are still widely sought after," she says. "Gordon Harrison, a highly collectible Canadian landscape painter, is producing art already recognized for its future value. Similarly, Larry Bracegirdle is known for his Old Master style which has evolved to encompass the current era. Bryce Bell is a powerful artist of modern style who has only recently opted to show his large body of work. His figurative acrylics leave one with the feeling of having discovered the real thing. Marc Brzustowski, though young, is an engagingly old-fashioned painter who sets up his easel in the streets and paints quickly and freely what he sees. One is captured by the open spirit of his observant style."

The key idea, she adds, is that the past, present and future will be represented in this collection.

"These are painters whose work has endured, appeals now and will create a legacy."

The Legacy Art Show begins at Gallery Perth's beautiful Code's Mill location on Friday, April 22 — with a vernissage on Sunday, May 1 — and continues to May 30.

— John Pigeau



You'll find Gallery Perth's Legacy Art Show on display at their lovely location in Code's Mill

March into Mill Street Books for some great events!

March 3 & 17 at 9:15AM

Storytime for Preschoolers with Danielle

Tuesdays With Terry

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March 15

Klutz Kits Drop In Day

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Mar 18

Jan Andrews Reading

from her latest book *Rude Stories*, 11AM-Noon

March 24

Camino Dreaming

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March 26 & 27
Maple Run Studio Tour

Near Pakenham



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Harry Manx, March 1st



Royal Wood, March 11th

Jonas + the Massive Attraction Tour
Acoustic Duo Show, April 23rd



Chic Gamine
April 12th

Steve Dawson
April 8th



Arrogant Worms
April 30th



Jeff Martin 777, March 28th



Patricia O'Callaghan, March 31st



Jimmy Rankin, April 29th



The Acorn, April 24th



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Our menu has changed with a re-focus on fresh and local. Why, just this last month we made our own sausage from local lamb and bacon from local pork. Music night specials are a real treat.

in Burnstown.

We're thrilled about our coming musical guests. March and April are packed with talent and great performers. If there's no live music, we've got a record player and vinyl, CDs, or MP3s to fill the music need.

Discover Almonte's Slungshot Studio

Slungshot Studio in Almonte invites you to join them on March 12 for an introduction to the studio and art show featuring new work from Ryan Lotecki, Rick Herrera and Winnipeg artist Andres Nieto. The event will showcase a retrospective of Slungshot's work from the past year as well as new personal work from studio founders Ryan Lotecki and Rick Herrera. As an added bonus, they will be introducing the Ottawa Valley to Winnipeg painter Andres Nieto. Nieto's work as an abstract expressionist (pictured here) has been evolving for over ten years to what may be his finest work to date. His paintings are bold, vi-

brant and affecting and are not to be missed on this one day/night event.

All of the artwork at the show will be for sale and will feature a variety of media including paintings, screen prints, gig posters, stained glass, drawings, t-shirts and postcards. Prices will vary from piece to piece but there is sure to be something for everyone's tastes and budget. Delicious refreshments, catered by Heirloom Café Bistrot in Almonte, will be provided. Slungshot Studio is located at 2-70 Brae Street (side entrance) in Almonte. You can call 256-5182 for more information, or visit them online at <www.behance.net/slungshot> or on Facebook.



About the Studio

Slungshot Studio is a multidisciplinary art and design studio operated by Rick Herrera and Ryan Lotecki. At its core, Slungshot aims to be a creative environment where artists (of all disciplines) and designers come together to collaborate on a wide variety of projects, both commercial as well as self-initiated work. Throughout all of the different media in which they work, their main goal is to push contemporary art and design to its limits: constantly experimenting, evolving and innovating the way people look at and perceive art. To date, Slungshot has provided graphic design and art direction services for clients in music and fashion, advertising, not-for-profit organizations and art galleries. Individually, they have also taken on private and public art commissions and have participated in and organized gallery exhibitions spanning contemporary sculpture, painting, printmaking and stained glass.



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The Bag Ladies want to help you B



About Burn Your Bra for Bev

The Burn Your Bra fundraising dinner was initially inspired by Jody Gleeson of Watt's Cooking in Pakenham as a way to create awareness for a disease that hit close to home after the tragic loss of her mother. In doing so, Jody brought together some friends and family who had experienced similar losses. After the huge success of the first Burn your Bra for Breast Cancer dinner in 2005 (which raised over \$20,000), it was decided that this would become an annual event – each year supporting different cancer-related causes.

Tragically, in 2006 the committee experienced a great loss in the sudden passing of Bev Griffith. For that reason, Burn Your Bra is now known as Burn Your Bra for Bev, in order to commemorate the impact she had on their devotion to the cause. The sadness translated into motivation and commitment, and to date Burn Your Bra for Bev has raised over \$170,000.

Each year the organizing committee strives to raise funds in memory of all of their loved ones lost to these horrible diseases, just as Bev would have done.



2011's Cause

The goal of this year's Burn Your Bra for Bev fundraiser is to raise \$25,000 towards the purchase of a piece of robotic equipment for a lab in the CHEO Research Institute that will further advance their work to find a non-toxic way to treat cancer in children.



Burn Your Bra for Bev!



Make a donation to
Burn Your Bra for Bev
at one of these
fine establishments
and receive a free bag!



Paddy Mann
156 MacFarlane St.,
Pakenham



Robin's Paper Thin
76 Mill St., Almonte



Appleton Gift
& Basket
65 Mill St., Almonte

How You Can Help

The only problem faced by Burn Your Bra for Bev organizers is that the event is so successful there's a waiting list to get in!

If you are unable to attend this wonderful event (scheduled for Friday, May 6 this year), you can still contribute to the cause.

The Bag Ladies of Almonte and Pakenham (see description at right) invite you to drop into any one of their fine establishments to make a donation. As a further enticement and to thank you for your support, they will give away a funky, three-sided, eco-friendly bag to each donor. By making a donation and using your bag, you'll be supporting both cancer research and the environment!

The bags will also be available at Watt's Cooking in Pakenham.

Who Are the Bag Ladies?

This enterprising trio of business owners includes Paddy Mann (of Paddy Mann Clothing in Pakenham), Robin Singleton (of Robin's Paper Thin in Almonte) and Cynthia Stuart (of Appleton Gift & Basket in Almonte).

They wanted to create a special treat for their customers: eye-catching, eco-friendly, and thoroughly funky, three-sided shopping bags. These colourful totes do double environmental duty because they take the place of plastic bags and are made from recycled water bottles.

The bags are available at all three shops for \$2.99 each, and are free with a purchase of \$29.99 or a donation to Burn Your Bra for Bev. Happy (funky) shopping!



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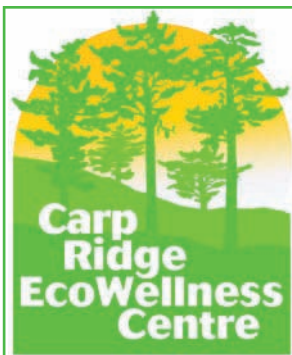
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Amber Young, RMT, on
 Breast Health

Sat. April 16, 1-3PM

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 Proceeds from this event will help to replace the bridge over Black Creek on the McParlan Trail at Murphys Point Park washed out by spring floods. (A partnership between the Friends of Murphys Point Park, the Tay Valley Ski Club and the Rideau Trail Association Central Club)

Friday April 15th
 Perth Civitan Club (Highway 43)
 Doors Open at 6PM, Dinner at 7PM

Hosted by the Perth Town Crier
 Dance Music by Tell Mama

Tickets: \$30
 Available at: **Shadowfax**, 67 Foster St., Perth
 or through club members
 or contact Beth at 613-267-5340 or bethp@ripnet.com

www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca

Partners: Contributors:

It's Maple Time Again

All the ingredients are in place for a good maple syrup season: lots of moisture in the ground from the heavy rains last fall, cold weather to convert the starch in the roots to sugar, and reasonable snow cover. However, the success of the season still depends on the weather patterns in March and April. We need warm days and cold nights and some low pressure weather systems in order to stimulate sap flow. The sap and carbon dioxide gas in the tree thaws and expands with the warm weather, creating pressure inside the tree which pushes the sap out of the tap hole. Cold weather causes the sap and gas to contract creating a negative pressure inside tree which pulls fresh sap up from the roots. In simpler terms, this pumping action with warm and cold weather is the reason for sap flow in the spring. Sap will run as long as the pressure inside the tree is greater than the atmospheric pressure, so a low pressure weather system is good for sap flow.

Recently the health benefits of maple syrup have been studied more thoroughly, and the work is continuing. It has been known for some time that maple syrup is an excellent source of calcium, zinc, manganese, potassium and other trace minerals. What was not known is that maple syrup is also a good source of antioxidants. It ranks with tomatoes and broccoli in its antioxidant properties — not as good as blueberries or cranberries, but much bet-

ter than corn syrup or honey. To read more, do an internet search of "maple syrup health benefits".

Producing maple syrup is hard work. It starts with tapping the trees in late February or early March. Then comes sap collection and syrup production in March/April, followed by the washing up in late April and May. We try to make it fun at Fortune Farms. The Kettle Boys entertain us and our visitors with their stories, toys and boiling kettles. Our family and friends come from far and wide for their annual taste of fresh syrup and for some relaxation time at the farm. The maple bush is coming alive with returning birds, early wildflowers and the greening of the landscape. It's a magical time of year and we always celebrate the season with a wind-up party when the last of the washing is done and we too can relax.

Up and down the byways of Lanark and beyond, maple producers are ready with a taste of their syrup and a story or two. Each producer makes the best maple syrup — unless, of course, you've made your own. To find a map and description of twenty-eight maple sugar bushes, search under User Created Google Maps for Lanark and District Maple Syrup Producers.

No matter how you get your syrup, you can't go wrong. It's good, it's healthy, it's natural and it's local.

— Ray Fortune of Fortune Farms Maple Sugar Bush



Kettle Boy Scott McLellan minding the kettles at Fortune Farms during sugaring off

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Hey Almonte — Listen Up!

The stars aligned when Roman Borys of the famed Gryphon Trio learned that Almonte takes arts education in the schools pretty seriously. Connections through Almonte in Concert's Youth Music Club and funding from the Young Awards Foundation found the energetic cellist plunked down in a classroom earlier this year at Naismith Memorial School, talking to kids about classical music and the importance of the arts. Along for the ride were music educator/conductor Rob Kapilow and composer Andrew Staniland.

Piloting the trio's Listen Up! program — a musical outreach program meant to engage whole communities and spark collaborative, cross-disciplinary artistic creation — at Naismith just seemed natural, given the school's unusually strong middle school music, English, and French immersion programs. And so, what started with a few student poems about the four seasons, evolved into hands-on composition workshops with

some of Canada's top composers and educators, and will soon see both the literary and musical ideas of some of Almonte's teenagers hit the stage in a big way.

"Almonte was not only our preferred community because of its long history of supporting arts education, but we knew if we piloted our Listen Up! program here we would have a huge success on our hands," says Roman Borys. "Listen Up! will also change the way the students hear music forever."

Listen Up! ensured that Andrew Staniland was on hand last month to work with student musicians to produce a series of music "fragments" based on the seasonal poems created by grade eight students. During his workshops, the middle school students got an insider's view of how a composer takes an idea or concept and expresses it musically. Staniland has now turned those fragments into a bilingual, four-movement work (Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer) for children's choir and piano trio.

"It was interesting to work with the music to see how it fit with the words," says grade eight student Jillian Douglas, who enjoyed the workshop process of arranging five to six note segments in different



(above) Music students from Naismith School and their teachers Shelley Smith and Shannon Gray "Listen Up!" along with members of the Gryphon Trio, conductor Rob Kapilow, composer Andrew Staniland, and Almonte In Concert representative Penny Blades.
(below) Evidence of the creative process...

ways and styles, using major and minor keys. "What we learned affects how I listen to my own music now," adds classmate Liam Mansfield, a percussionist with the local IMPACT group.

"At Naismith, music and performance are part of our every day, so the students were ready for this experience and the musicians were impressed with their level of understanding and abilities," says Naismith music teacher Shelley Smith, who is currently readying a 50-voice choir of students from Grades 4 to 8 for the wrap-up Town Hall performances in April. "They will see and hear themselves in this work."

Almonte's Listen Up! experience culminates in a three-day musical extravaganza at the Old Town Hall on April 2, 3 and 4. On the Saturday (April 2), Rob Kapilow will return to Almonte to rehearse with the piano trio and children's chorus. On Sunday evening (April 3), he and the Gryphon Trio will present *What Makes it Great: Beethoven's Archduke Trio* — an education format developed by Kapilow that illuminates the secrets that make great music great. On Monday afternoon (April 4), the Gryphon trio will host master classes for string students, and then return to the stage for the premiere performance of Staniland's work, *The Seasons of Almonte*, which includes separate choral and instrumental pieces.



"The kids aren't that nervous because they are used to performing, but they do recognize what an opportunity this has been," says Smith. "What I hope is that it opens their eyes to the possibility that they can pursue a career in the arts if they want to."

With lessons learned in Almonte in his back pocket, Roman Borys hopes to find communities across Canada just as ready for some musical experimentation.

For more information, please visit <www.gryphontrio.com>, <robkapilow.com>, or <www.andrewstaniland.com>.
— Susan Wright

Summer

The heat has a contagious sense of laziness,
All day we loll by the pond,
Splashing in its depths,
And frolicking in the fields beyond.
— Alyssa Stowe



Gryphon Trio & Almonte in Concert Youth Music Club Present

Listen Up!

Almonte

The Grand Finale

CHAMBER FACTORY

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

www.gryphontrio.com

Sunday, April 3rd 7:30pm
What Makes it Great? - Beethoven's "Archduke" Trio presented by the world's most inspiring music educator Rob Kapilow and the Gryphon Trio.

Kapilow's musical tour of Beethoven's most famous trio will change the way you listen no matter what your favorite music is!

Tickets: Adults \$22 - Students \$12

Monday, April 4th 10am - 12pm
Listen Up!
Student Masterclasses with the Gryphon Trio. Suggested donation \$5.

Partners and Supporters:
Keiko Parker (in memory of John E. Parker), Almonte in Concert Youth Music Club, The Young Awards, Naismith Memorial Public School, Penny Blades, Kathryn Briggs, Suzanne Snelling, Susan Wright, Steve Reside, The Humm, Ottawa's Finest.

Monday, April 4th 7.30pm
Listen Up!
The World Premiere
Following months of poetry writing, composition and choir rehearsals, Listen Up! participants from Naismith Memorial Public School are joined by the Gryphon Trio, Rob Kapilow and composer Andrew Staniland in the World Premiere of their collective creation *The Seasons of Almonte*.

Tickets: Adults \$15 - Students \$10
Family Pass (2 adults + children) \$45

All events take place at Almonte Town Hall, 14 Bridge Street
Tickets available at: Musicworks, 453 Ottawa St. Almonte 613.256.7464
Mill Street Books, 76 Mill St. Almonte 613.256.9090

Giggles, Guffaws and Belly Laughs

The perfect recipe for a March good time! That's what local author Jan Andrews promises listeners aged 6 to 96 when she reads from her newest collection, *Rude Stories*.

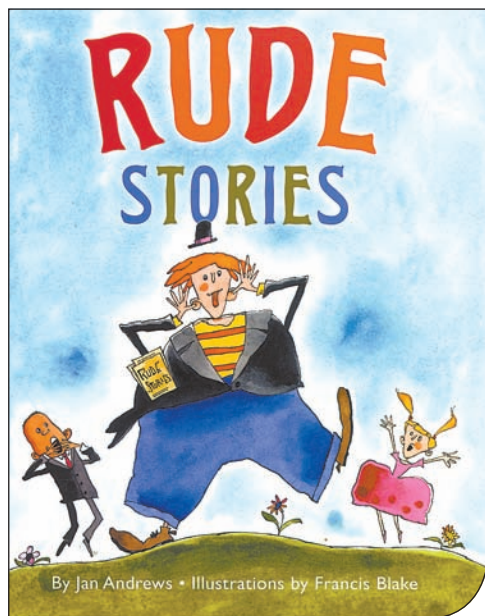
"It's the only book I've written where I've seriously been concerned audience members were laughing so hard they were going to fall out of their chairs," Jan says.

But what else would you expect from a cast of characters that includes an old woman so rude she cannot even get it together to stay in her grave when she ought to, a gambler who grows an enormous bottom, and two old women who have a belching contest?

Hailing from Taylor Lake (just off the Wolf Grove Road), Jan is known nationally and internationally for her writing and

storytelling. In fact, she's just returned from a tour that took her to Australia.

Rude Stories is a follow-up to a previous book: *Stories at the Door*. It too is full of quirky, leap-off-the-page illustrations by



English artist Francis Blake. The stories all have their roots in old traditional folk tales, although Jan has infused them with her own voice. She has also been careful to maintain the old stories' form and strength.

Books will be available for purchase and Jan will be signing upon request — all you need to do is visit one of our fine local bookstores! You'll find Jan and her *Rude Stories* at **Nature Lover's Bookstore** in Lanark on Sunday, March 6 from 2 to 4PM; at **Read's Book Shop** in Carleton Place on Tuesday, March 15 from 10:30 to 11:30AM; and at **Mill Street Books** in Almonte on Friday, March 18 from 11AM to 12PM.

For further information, including a chance to hear Jan in her Storytelling Club, visit <www.janandrews.ca>.

Expressive Arts Group for Bereaved Children

Community Home Support-Lanark County will be offering a group for children who have experienced the death of a significant person in their life. The group will offer children ages 7 to 11 the opportunity to explore their feelings around the loss through an expressive arts approach. Weekly sessions, throughout March and April, will be held at the Community Home Support office in Perth, at no charge. All participants must pre-register.

Expressive art therapy uses creative arts such as music,

dance, drama and writing as a way to promote mental and physical healing. In this form of treatment, the act of creating is given more importance than that of producing a completed work of art.

Children often do not have the verbal skills to articulate their feelings, but may be capable of acting them out or drawing them. This makes the creative arts very useful for helping children express feelings they may not otherwise be able to talk about.

The group will be facilitated by Joy Dexter and Julie McIntyre, both of whom are trained and experienced hospice volunteers. Julie has an undergraduate degree in psychology and social work, has completed graduate studies in expressive arts and art therapy, and has extensive experience working with children around loss and grief through expressive arts.

To register or obtain more information please contact Rebecca Bowie at <rebeccab@chslc.ca> or 267-6400.

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One Day March Break Art Classes

Drawing Animals
Monday March 14, 10AM-3PM

Drawing Flowers and Still Life
Tuesday March 15, 10AM-3PM

Drawing from Fantasy
Horses, Dragons & Castles
Wednesday March 16, 10AM-3PM

Yoga & Art at Hollow Tree Yoga
Sunday March 27, 10AM-4PM

Introduction to Pastel
April 16 & 17

Pastel and Figure
Voices through colour
Monday April 11 Friday April 15

to register, or for more information: (613) 839-5241
margferraro@xplornet.ca or www.ferraro-art.com

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March 13 2 pm (Daylight Savings Time!) \$25 (all incl.)
The Studio Theatre 63 Gore East, PERTH 613 485 6434
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Humm Bits

CPHS Arts Revue

The cast of Carleton Place High School's production of *Bye Bye Birdie* is presenting an Arts Revue on Thursday, March 3, in the CPHS Cafetorium at 7PM. There will be a variety of acts including singing, dancing, and instrumentalists. Everyone is invited to enjoy an evening of music and celebration of the wonderful talent at CPHS. Admission is \$10 and proceeds will go towards music rental, technical expenses, costumes and supplies for the upcoming musical *Bye Bye Birdie* (which will be presented April 7, 8 and 9 at 7PM). Hope to see everyone on March 3 and at our upcoming musical!

Pancake Breakfast at Union Hall

Once again, the folks at Union Hall are celebrating the coming of spring with a Pancake Breakfast. This year, food is being served on Sunday, March 27 from 9AM until noon.

For a modest price, diners will enjoy pancakes, sausages or ham, beans or blueberries, with lashings of butter and maple syrup, accompanied by fruit juice, coffee or tea. The cost of this springtime treat is a modest \$6, or \$8 for the larger appetite.

Union Hall, located at the corner of Wolf Grove and Tatlock Roads, west of Almonte has served the public for over 150 years. Visitors will enjoy the benefit of new windows and new furnishings, courtesy of a grant from the town of Mississippi Mills.

This annual fundraiser is organized by the hall committee for the benefit of the public at large, and all are welcome. Reservations are not necessary.

Union Hall is an 8km drive west of Almonte through scenic maple bush along Wolf Grove Road. After breakfast, visitors can take a closer look at maple syrup production by visiting local operators, west of the hall.

More Chances to Bid!

Did you miss Almonte's Royal Soirée in February? Don't despair — Her Majesty has decreed that the auction items will be on display at The Hub for the month of March, so that you can still put in a bid on everything from a mosaic birdhouse, jewellery (Swarovski crystals), paintings by local artists, photography, music lessons, house cleaning, a massage, dinners, teas, a brunch, and a weekend for six at a timeshare in Tremblant!

Drop into The Hub (118 Mill Street in Almonte) during store hours and check out the beautiful items, all in support of Danielle Morgan, the Keeper of the Household for the Hub.

Seeking Singers

We are a small group of singers in the Carleton Place/Almonte area who have been meeting every Saturday morning since last September. Our passion is vocal music; our joy is making beautiful music together. The focus of the group is to explore a wealth of repertoire and dig deep into pieces of various styles (standards, sacred, jazz, and more). We also want to hone such skills as choral blending and balance, tuning and sight reading.

There is room in the group for a few more singers of all ranges, particularly tenors and basses. If the above sounds like fun to you, please contact the director, Cheryl Woods, for more information and to arrange for a (very informal) audition: 256-1874, <Singon-Saturday@gmail.com>.

Salon Prize Seeking Artists

Kingston's third annual **Salon Prize** will be hosting its award winners at Gallery Raymond this year. They will be giving away cash prizes of \$2000, \$500, and \$150 for best artwork.

The Salon Prize was born of Cleah Bunting's overwhelming desire to help other artists in their own working lives. The prize was originally given in association with The Kingston School of Art, however; due to the ever-increasing success of the contest, the competition outgrew the school.

Cleah's intention was to provide not only prizes, but also opportunities for artists to showcase their work. As a show, they are looking for images that evoke and capture the audience — that are not only acts of brilliance, but also encourage creative growth amongst the artists who visit the show.

Are you looking for a chance to showcase your paintings, drawings or sculptures? Check out <www.salonprize.com> for rules and guidelines to enter.

The Reeve Report

Priorities

You know how a steam train starts out from the station with the big wheels slowly turning the cranks, the steam billowing out in clouds of anticipation for the huge task ahead, gathering speed, chuffing and grinding, whistles blowing, passengers waving, until finally it leaves the station and

travelers might just be thankful that you recognized your trip is too complicated and let you go peacefully.

Last week, I actually resigned from a committee. One meeting was enough to make me realize that it was not my cup of tea. I was holding down a spot someone else will enjoy, so I signed off on it, not even regretfully. I could hardly believe I had said "No." Doing it once may make it easier the next time.

We hear the "I'm too busy" excuse all the time, and I wonder if that is really a cover for "I don't want to." If it is truly that the speaker is too busy, we need to pity that person. In my opinion, dividing our life into miniscule portions erodes our souls. It is better to find our passions and devote our energy to those things that excite us, be they volunteer efforts, culture, sports, or politics (lord preserve us!).

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Conversely, when we learn to say with sincerity "I don't want to," we are taking control of our lives and allowing ourselves to relish our favourite things instead of obligating ourselves to duty-bound activities. We would cut our frustration level, we would spare others the annoyance of a half-effort, and we would leave the job open for someone who will do it with passion if we recognize that we can legitimately say no once in a while.

Now, there are those whose passion leads them to be involved in a multitude of activities, and they thrive on the hectic pace they set. Their train is a diesel, there's no doubt! But it also needs maintenance, and can't be expected to run in perpetuity.

There are seven days in the week in which to fit family and community. It is imperative that we don't lose sight of the important things in our lives while we are in a rush to achieve it all. Pick the best and leave the rest. However, don't be stingy with your time either. Mete it out to the activities you enjoy and do those things well. Putting balance in your life will mean you can give yourself entirely to each activity as it comes along, knowing the time is well spent, and you are happy. No one ever died saying, "I wish I'd spent more time at the office." They don't

hand out medals for being "too busy," but they do for getting a job done well.

So, my friend, sit in the station next to me here, and we'll fill in our calendars. No, we can't do dinner together for a couple of months. I've got my dog classes (top priority!) we're going to a couple of movies, got to get our maple syrup stove set up, a few meetings here and there, trips to the gym, that sweater to finish. Yes, we're both busy, but we have chosen these priorities, and for now we're sticking to them.

by Glenda Jones

disappears around the corner? That is January around here. We have this blessed lull after Christmas where we stop in our station and relax for a couple of weeks. Oh, we know there are things we should be doing — planning, exercising, painting — but it all goes by the board. My only sop to conscience is a knitting project to overlay the TV watching. (An aside: is this a sign of old age? I had a sweater I didn't like much, so I ripped it out completely and am re-knitting a new one. This is the second time I have done this with the same yarn. Watch for the sweater sometime in March!)

Come February though, we start to feel the angst of inactivity, and begin to fill the calendar with the requisite meetings, social engagements, and classes. Every day some new endeavour comes our way, and we're quick to say yes, in an attempt to fill the rest of the winter. It's only in a rare moment that we actually start to think perhaps we are overly enthusiastic, and really don't want all these obligations.

There are times when it is imperative to get off the steam train and sit in the quiet of the station to contemplate the rest of the journey. There is no disgrace in declaring you signed on for more than you wanted. There is no disgrace in saying you want to go home. In fact, your fellow

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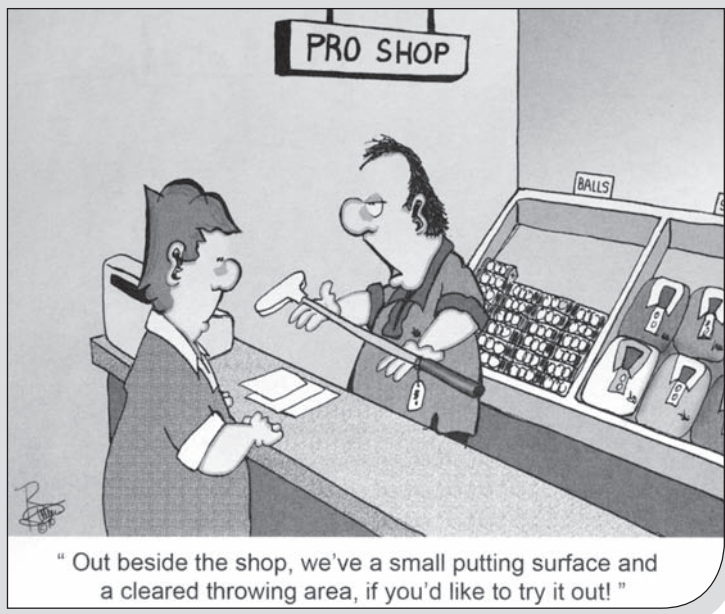


Bill Buttle Gets Out of Hand

Great news for lovers of leisure activities and good humour — the Humm's own Artbeat creator Bill Buttle has recently had a compilation of his bridge- and golf-themed cartoons released. Published by Master Point Press in Toronto, *Out of Hand and Off the Fairway* features Bill's work in both black & white and glorious, glossy colour.

And lest you think that an intimate understanding of bridge and golf is required, let me assure you that I excel at neither and thoroughly enjoyed the book. Although both topics are rife with humorous potential — which Bill deftly exploits — his special talent lies in his ability to gently poke fun at the true subject: human beings. Get your copy (and one for a friend) at your local independent bookstore!

— Kris Riendeau



Astronomy at the Mill of Kintail

Do you enjoy gazing up at the night sky but want to learn more about what you are seeing? On Friday evenings in March, come out to the Mill of Kintail near Almonte to view the heavens through telescopes, binoculars and imaging equipment (supplied or bring your own). March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, from 7 to 10PM, join instructors Stephen J. McIntyre, Richard McDonald, and Peter Hayman for star gazing, identifying constellations, viewing star clusters, galaxy surfing and observing special celestial events. The courses are presented by Night Sky Conservation (NSC) and the cost is a suggested donation of \$20 per evening.

The NSC program educates the public about the effects of light pollution on our night sky. The astronomy courses instill an appreciation and understanding of the night sky, helping students recognize the need for light pollution abatement. To register, call the Mill of Kintail at 256-3610 x1 or email <sogrady@mvc.on.ca>. The courses take place at the Mill of Kintail Gatehouse at 2854 Concession 8 in Mississippi Mills (between Almonte and Pakenham).

The Maple Run Studio Tour Celebrates Spring

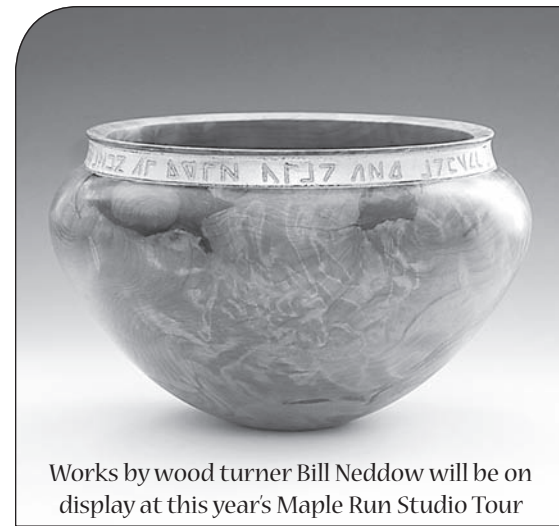
The first signs of spring are beginning to appear as the birds return: the Lanark maple trees begin to run their sap and the Maple Run Studio Tour participants are gearing up for a 9th season. Take a scenic drive on Saturday, March 26 or Sunday the 27th (10AM to 5PM) to indulge in the sweet maple products and meet local craftspeople and fine artists on this popular self-guided studio tour which takes place in and around historic Pakenham.

Tour stops include Fulton's Pancake House and Sugar Bush and studios featuring glass blowing demonstrations; paintings in oil, acrylic and water colour; woodworking made with exotic and native woods; photography; jewellery in diverse creations; functional and decorative pottery; intricate miniature quilting; new spring colours and fibres in woven garments; and handmade papers and journals. Also included are natural bath and beauty products and many more one-of-a-kind pieces to be discovered. You will find artwork and crafts for yourself, your home, your garden and your friends!

Forgo the cookie cutter big box stores and come enjoy seeing artists working in their studios; also visit the cluster groups in various locations in and around the village of Pakenham. No need to pack a

lunch — there are stops along the way where light meals and tasty treats are served.

Maps and detailed tour destination descriptions can be picked up at Fulton's Sugar Bush, any tour stop along the way (look for the green maple leaf sign), and Pakenham General Store, or visit <www.maplerun.on.ca> or call Three Yellow Tulips at 624-5932.



Works by wood turner Bill Neddow will be on display at this year's Maple Run Studio Tour

Earth Changes & the New Energy Potential

The New Energy Group would like to invite interested individuals to join them on April 12 in an open discussion about the recent earth changes and the tremendous shift in consciousness. They are pleased to announce that Peter Webb and Jean Hirst will join together to lead the discussion and will share their personal insights on the changes they see happening. They have both spent a lifetime working with and learning about the earth energy. Peter and Jean will also share experiences of how they see the potential changing, as it is beyond anything ever imagined!

Peter's passion is agriculture. He has been working with farmers in Ontario and the U.S. for many years increasing yields for crop and milk production and re-balancing their farms. Peter has a deep understanding of the magnetics of the earth and how to create balance in the various systems. Jean Hirst's life passion has been the study of the earth's energy patterns. She has been a recognized teacher of astrology for many years and is able to integrate these teachings with the New Energy perspective. Jean also has a keen understanding of geology and agriculture.

As we head into the crux of the shift and are fast approaching the end of the Mayan Calendar, the implications for the earth and its inhabitants are becoming less clear. What is understood is that the shift in consciousness of the earth and humans alike is what is fueling the monumental change we are seeing in almost every aspect of our world. Many of the things we have come to know and take for granted are now being questioned at a deep level.

Over the next two years the earth will continue to go through tremendous change and rebirth. The increase in unprecedented world events, unusual weather patterns and the departure of many animal species has also caused us to stop and take a closer look at our world and what is happening to it. The year-end solar and lunar eclipses of 2010 saw great change in the magnetics of the earth, with wide spread implications for all. These eclipses appeared to mark a further increase in the acceleration of the change for the planet. The Mayan Calendar and many visionaries predict that the rate of change will continue to accelerate until the end of 2012.

In order to stay out of the vortex of fear and chaos, it is important to stay grounded and to look at things from a higher perspective. As human consciousness expands to a whole new level, the potential that can be assessed by humans is becoming limitless. It is by accessing this new energy potential that the solutions for the earth's problems will be created. It is time to take responsibility for what we have created and remember the master creators that we are. We all have the ability to transform our individual lives and to shift our perspective to one of compassion and acceptance for others and the world we live in.

Please join Peter, Jean and the New Energy Group on Saturday, April 2 from 10AM until 3PM at the Mill of Kintail Gatehouse near Almonte (30 minutes west of Kanata). Admission at the door is \$30 and includes three vegetarian dishes. Please contact Lesley at <innerrevelations@gmail.com> or 256-9373 to reserve your seat or get further information.

— Lesley Cochran-Hulcoop

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Canada Council — Assistance for Artists

You know the old adage “time is money”? Well, for artists, I think it’s almost more apt to say that “money is time”. Literally, money for rent and food and supplies can buy an artist the time they need to finish that next project.

In Canada, artists are fortunate. Not only are they surrounded by natural beauty and a thriving artistic culture, but we also have the Canada Council for the Arts, a government funded agency whose mandate is to help foster the arts in Canada. One way in which they do this is by providing grants to both individual artists and groups/organizations.

“Who receives Canada Council grants?” you might be asking. The answer is: many artists in a variety of disciplines, including dance, media arts, music, theatre, writing and publishing, and the visual arts.

The Canada Council’s website <www.canadacouncil.ca> will tell you all you need to know about what sorts of grants are offered, who receives them, and when and how to apply for them. If you’re serious about furthering your work as an artist in Canada, then you will certainly wish to visit this site to determine if you are eligible for grants or not, or call the Canada Council and speak to an information officer who will tell you all you need to know. The main number is 1-800-263-5588 x5060.

Grant eligibility differs from discipline to discipline. Last October, I attended a Canada Council information session in Smiths Falls, and one of the main tips the presenting information officers gave was how very important it is to carefully research grant programs, eligibility, and how to properly put together a grant proposal.

If you are a professional writer working on a novel, for instance, you would be applying to the program called *Grant for Professional Writers: Creative Writing*. A quick visit to the Council’s website will give you a description of the program: “The Grants for Professional Writers program covers subsistence, project and travel expenses. The Creative Writing Grants component gives Canadian authors (emerging, mid-career and established) time to write new literary works, including novels, short stories, poetry, children’s literature, graphic novels and literary non-fiction.”

Next they explain who is eligible to apply for a grant in this program. The explanations can be long, but Canada Council officers urge artists not to be dismayed and to read these sections carefully. For those who are eligible, the payoff can be fantastic in terms of furthering an artist’s career. Those who

find that they are ineligible for a particular granting program can learn what they need to do to become eligible. In the Creative Writing program, for instance, they might learn what they need to do to be recognized as a professional writer. If questions remain, there are 1-800 numbers that artists can call to speak with Program Officers.

The process of applying for a grant, for individuals and for groups and organizations, may at times seem daunting. But the Canada Council emphasizes that perseverance is key. In other words, don’t give up because you are staring a lot of grey text in the face. Grant recipients would certainly tell you the same thing.

Another helpful tip: know what the Canada Council is looking for, which, when it comes to organizations, is an answer to the question “How will your organization help develop arts in your community?” For individuals, that question to answer would be quite similar, though twofold: “How will a grant help further your career as a professional artist in Canada?” and “How will your work as an artist help foster the arts in your community?” It is a competitive process, so if you can answer those sorts of questions with the idea of “advancing the arts” in mind, then you will have a better chance at landing you or your organization Canada Council funding.

Funding decisions are made by Peer Assessment Committees composed of experienced professionals in each field. The committees assess each application on artistic and project merit, according to the published criteria. The Canada Council urges artists to make sure their proposals address the specific guidelines and assessment criteria of the program, and that artists have a reasonable and realistic timeline and budget.

At October’s meeting, CC Information Officers outlined “7 Habits of Successful Grant Applicants.” They are as follows:

1. Have a really good reason to seek a grant.
2. Use the most recent guidelines.
3. Write in plain, clear language.
4. Select your support material carefully.
5. Give yourself adequate time to prepare.
6. Read, reread, proof, and edit your proposal.
7. Mail it on time!

Something else they mentioned: if you apply once and do not receive a grant, keep trying. As with most things in life, perseverance is important, and can be rewarding not just financially, but artistically as well.

— John Pigeau

The Invisible Woman

“Pfft, what does a woman know about history and stuff like that? She shouldn’t be doing such a long treatise anyway. This is man’s work. No one will read it with a woman’s name in the author line.” Soooo, the publisher usurped her work, added a bit of his own, and what do you know, H.G. Wells had *A Short History of the World* on the bookshelves, and Florence Deeks began the long trek through the courts to redeem her work.

There is a lot more to the story that that: the relentless battle by the original author to regain her status, the court case that ensued, and all manner of plagiarism issues as well as feminist issues that make this story not only one of interest but also an intimate look into some fascinating Canadian history which we largely ignore.

On March 18, author and lecturer Brian McKillop will present this story in his lecture “The Invisible Woman,” a story that will send you running to find McKillop’s book *The Spinster and the Prophet, Florence Deeks and H.G. Wells and the Mystery of the Purloined Past*. Regular Almonte Lecture Series attendees will remember McKillop’s revelations about Pierre Burton, which indicates this lecture will be informative as well as entertaining.

The lecture, the second to last in the present series, will take place Friday, March 18, 7:30PM, the Almonte United Church Hall. Since these lectures attract a large crowd, it is advisable to come early. There is no charge, although a donation is gratefully accepted.

— Glenda Jones

Claiming Column

Pakenham Home Show, Apr 1-3
The Farm Show, Merrickville, Apr 1-3
 Arden Chamber Players, Perth, Apr 3
Bye Bye Birdie, CP, Apr 7-9
 Steve Dawson, Burnstown, Apr 8
 Folkus Concert, Almonte, Apr 9
 Chic Gamine, Burnstown, Apr 12
 Steve Dawson, McDonald's Corners, Apr 14
 Sultans of String, Perth, Apr 15
 Blues on the Rideau, Westport, Apr 15
 Build a Bridge Bash, Perth, Apr 15
 Almonte in Concert, Apr 16
 The Acorn, Burnstown, Apr 24
Halfway to Heaven, CP, Apr 29-30, May 1, 6, 7
 Jimmy Rankin, Burnstown, Apr 29
 Arrogant Worms, Burnstown, Apr 30
 Art in the Attic, Almonte, May 6-8
 Handmade Harvest, Almonte, May 7
 A Taste of the Valley, Almonte, May 9
 Melwood Cutlery, McDonald's Corners, May 12
 Songs from the Valley, Perth, May 20
 Bicycle Month, Mississippi Mills, June
 Almonte Fair, Jul 15-17
 Herbfest, Almonte, Jul 24

Visual Arts

MVTM Exhibit Opening, March 5, 2-4PM. *Gifts of the North*. Textile Museum, Almonte. 256-3754 x7, curator@mvtm.ca.
 MERA Workshops: **Rug Hooking**, March 5; **Create a Portrait from a Photo**, March 13. MERA, McDonald's Corners. 278-0388. \$35-MERA members; \$50-non-members
Kanata Art Club, March 9, 7PM. John Mlack is guest artist. Kanata Art Club Studio, 1030 Riddell Dr., Kanata. 599-4959.
Pints 'n Purls, March 9, 6-9PM. Knitting group. Old Mill Pub, Ashton. 257-2296.
Vernissage, March 11, 7-9PM. Photos by Dalene & Margret Gallo. Brush Strokes, 129 Bridge St., Carleton Place. 253-8088
Discover Slungshot Studio, March 12, 10AM-6PM. 2-70 Brae Street, Almonte. 256-5182, www.behance.net/slungshot.
Almonte Quilters' Guild, March 21, 7-9PM. Almonte Civitan Hall
Lanark County Knitting Guild, March 22, 7-9PM. Almonte United Church. Guests \$3.
Lanark County Quilters Guild, March 22, 7PM. Visitors \$3. Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds. Info: 283-9944.
Flippin' Art Night, March 24, 5PM. With Stacey Cassell & Brenda Milne. Ballygiblin's, 151 Bridge Street, Carleton Place. 257-2031, www.artscarletonplace.com. Free
Maple Run Studio Tour, Mar 26-27, 10AM-5PM. Self-guided studio tour: www.maplerun.on.ca or 624-5932. Pakenham
Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Wed., March 30, 7-9PM. Christian Education Centre, 257 John St. N., Arnprior. \$5 or \$20/yr.

Youth

Mill Street Books presents **Storytime**, for ages 8-11, Tuesdays from 4:30-5PM; **Storytime for Preschoolers**, March 3 & 17, 9:15AM. 52 Mill St., Almonte. www.millstreetbooks.com, 256-9090.
PAMT's Willy Wonka, Mar 3 & 5 at 7:30PM.
Rock the House!, March 18 at 7PM. Tickets in advance at 267-9610 with a credit card. Myriad Centre, 1 Sherbrooke St., Perth. www.myriadcentre.ca. \$10
Into The Woods Junior, Mar 4 at 7PM, Mar 5 at 2PM. Mudds Youth Theatre. Tickets at Arts Carleton Place (257-2031, artscarletonplace.com). Carleton Place Town Hall. 253-2007, mississippimudds.ca. \$15

WHAT'S ON IN

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
28 🎵 Almonte Horticultural Society Meeting, Almonte 🎵 Spiritual Cinema Circle, Perth	1 🎵 Storytime, Almonte 🎵 Harry Manx, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Open Mic, The Barley Mow	2 🎵 Toastmasters Club, Smiths Falls	🎵 CPHS Arts Revue, Carleton Place 🎵 Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Open Mic, Tilly's Smokehouse 🎵 Storytime for Preschoolers, Almonte 🎵 Strategy Games for Adults, Almonte 🎵 Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow 🎵 Willy Wonka, Perth
7 🎵 Poetry Slam, Carleton Place	8 🎵 DIRT (the movie), Perth 🎵 Mayan Code Study Group, Almonte 🎵 Open Mic, The Barley Mow 🎵 Pancake Supper, Franktown 🎵 Storytime, Almonte 🎵 West Carleton Garden Club Meeting, Carp 🎵 Women's Business Group, Carleton Place	9 🎵 Kanata Art Club, Kanata 🎵 Pints 'n Purls, Ashton 🎵 Toastmasters Club, Smiths Falls 🎵 The Magic of Ireland, Perth	10 🎵 Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Open House, Perth 🎵 Open Mic, Tilly's Smokehouse 🎵 Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow
14 🎵 Almonte Coin Club, Almonte 🎵 Youth Poetry Workshop, Carleton Place	15 🎵 Book Signing, Carleton Place 🎵 Open Mic, The Barley Mow 🎵 Storytime, Almonte	16 🎵 Films & Discussion: Economics, Perth 🎵 Toastmasters Club, Smiths Falls	17 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Open Mic, Tilly's Smokehouse 🎵 St. Pat's Bash, The Downstairs Pub 🎵 Storytime for Preschoolers, Almonte 🎵 Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow 🎵 The Melville Boys, Smiths Falls 🎵 The Diplomats, St. James Gate
21 🎵 Almonte Quilters' Guild, Almonte	22 🎵 Lanark County Knitting Guild, Almonte 🎵 Lanark County Quilters Guild, Perth 🎵 Open Mic, The Barley Mow 🎵 Storytime, Almonte	23 🎵 Toastmasters Club, Smiths Falls	24 🎵 Camino Dreaming, Almonte 🎵 Flippin' Art Night, Carleton Place 🎵 Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Open Mic, Tilly's Smokehouse 🎵 Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow 🎵 The Melville Boys, Smiths Falls
28 🎵 Almonte Horticultural Society Meeting, Almonte 🎵 Jeff Martin 777, Neat Coffee Shop	29 🎵 Open Mic, The Barley Mow 🎵 Storytime, Almonte 🎵 Year-Round Vegetable Production, Perth	30 🎵 Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Arnprior 🎵 Toastmasters Club, Smiths Falls	31 🎵 Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub 🎵 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub 🎵 Open Mic, Tilly's Smokehouse 🎵 Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow 🎵 Patricia O'Callaghan, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 The Farm Show, Merrickville 🎵 You Say Tomatoes, Perth

Youth Poetry Workshop, March 14, 9:30-11:30AM, ages 8-12. Learn to write & perform slam poetry. Register at 257-2702, cplibrarykids@yahoo.ca. CP Library
On Stage For Kids, March 27, 2PM. IN-FINITUS - for ages 2-10. Naismith Public School, Almonte. www.onstageforkids.com. \$8 at Kentfield Kids, Read's Book Shop; \$9 at door

Theatre

Spiritual Cinema Circle, Feb. 28, 2pm: *Déjà Vu, A Love Story*; March 27, 2PM: four short films. Myriad Centre for the Arts, 1 Sherbrooke St., Perth. \$2 donation
The Paranormal Show, March 5, 8PM at the Perth Studio Theatre (at Jo's Clothes, www.ticketsplease.ca, or at door); March 19, 8PM at the CP Town Hall (at door). www.theparanormalshow.net. \$30

DIRT (the movie), March 8, 7PM. "Takes you inside the wonders of the soil." Presented by Lanark Organic Growers Guild. Algonquin College, 7 Craig St., Perth.

Open House, Mar 10-12 at 8PM, Mar 13 at 2PM. An original modern opera by Peter Paul Morgan. Studio Theatre, 63 Gore Street East, Perth. \$25

Films & Discussion: Economics, March 16, 6:30-9PM, *The Economics of Happiness*. Algonquin College, 7 Craig St., Perth. 267-9949, www.transitionperth.ca.

The Melville Boys, Mar 17-19, 24-26 (7PM), Mar 20 (2PM). Tickets at Spotlight on the Rideau, Smiths Falls; 284-4141. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$20

Family Movie Night, March 25, 7PM. Snacks avail. Details at www.twp.beckwith.on.ca. Brunton Community Hall, Beckwith.

The Farm Show, Mar 31-Apr 2 (8PM), Apr 3 (2PM). Theatre Night in Merrickville. 269-3424, Merrickville Community Centre

You Say Tomatoes, Mar 31, Apr 1, 2, 8, 9 at 8PM; Apr 3, 10 at 2PM. \$18 from Book Nook, Bookworm, Tickets Please), \$20 door; \$10 students w/ID at door. Studio Theatre, Perth. studiotheatreperth.com.

Literature

Jan Andrews Book Signing, Mar 6, 2PM (Nature Lover's, Lanark); Mar 15, 10:30AM (Read's Book Shop, CP); Mar 18, 11AM (Mill St. Books, Almonte). Jan reads from *Rude Stories*. www.janandrews.ca.

Poetry Slam, March 7, 7PM. LiPS slam. With Loh El the Minstrel. CP Cinemas, Carleton Place. \$5; free for performers.

Music

CPHS Arts Revue, March 3, 7PM. Singing, dancing & instrumentals. Proceeds to upcoming musical *Bye Bye Birdie* (April 7-9). Carleton Place High School. \$10

Doctor Zoo, March 4, 8PM. Presented by PPAC. Afro-Celtic-Reggae PDCI auditorium, 13 Victoria St., Perth. www.perthpac.org.

Youth Dance/Beach Party, March 4, 6-9PM. Prizes for tropical attire. Hula hoop & limbo contest. Brunton Community Hall, Beckwith. \$3

Ensemble Prisme, March 5, 8PM. Almonte in Concert. Almonte Old Town Hall, www.almonteinconcert.ca. \$27 adults, \$14 students

The Magic of Ireland, March 9, 8PM. Traditional Irish dance & song. Tickets Please: 485-6434, www.ticketsplease.ca., PDCI auditorium, 13 Victoria St., Perth.

Findlay House Concert, March 11, 8PM. Terra Hazleton. RSVP at findlayhouseconcerts@gmail.com. Carleton Place. \$15

Irish Concert, March 13, 7:30PM. With Clarence Fralic & The Valley Rovers. Middleville Community Centre, 256-5474. \$10

MARCH 2011

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Astronomy Course, Almonte Doctor Zoo, Perth Into The Woods Junior, Carleton Place Open Stage, The Downstairs Pub Youth Dance/Beach Party, Beckwith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brea Lawrenson, St. James Gate Ensemble Prisme, Almonte Into The Woods Junior, Carleton Place March Melt Down, Beckwith MMLTC AGM, Lanark MVTM Exhibit Opening, Almonte Nathan Sloniowski, Foodies Fine Foods Rug Hooking Workshop, McDonalds Corners Still Dangerous, Tilly's Smokehouse The Paranormal Show, Perth The Stool Pigeons, The Downstairs Pub Willy Wonka, Perth 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Book Signing, Lanark Nathan Sloniowski & the John Prine Experience, Foodies Fine Foods Seedy Sunday, Perth Seedy Sunday, Pembroke Valley Singles Lunch, Arnprior
<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Astronomy Course, Almonte Findlay House Concert, Carleton Place Jazz at the Swan, The Swan at Carp Open House, Perth Open Stage, The Downstairs Pub Royal Wood, Neat Coffee Shop Vernissage, Carleton Place 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew, Cait & Mike, St. James Gate Discover Slingshot Studio, Almonte Fortunate Soul, The Downstairs Pub Nobody's Fool, Tilly's Smokehouse Open House, Perth 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portraits from Photos, McDonalds Corners Irish Concert, Middleville Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Open House, Perth
<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Lecture Series, Almonte Astronomy Course, Almonte Book Signing, Almonte Monkey Junk, The Cove Open Stage, The Downstairs Pub Rock the House!, Perth The Melville Boys, Smiths Falls 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Tambay, Tilly's Smokehouse Brothers Chaffey, The Downstairs Pub Green Party Chili Cook-Off, Maberly Maple Tapping Out Party, Lanark Mississippi John, St. James Gate Monkey Junk, The Cove Sheesham & Lotus, McDonalds Corners The Melville Boys, Smiths Falls The Paranormal Show, Carleton Place 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Traditional Sing, The Barley Mow APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Bolingbroke Music Jam, Bolingbroke Rita Chiarelli, Perth The Melville Boys, Smiths Falls The Ric Denis 3, Foodies Fine Foods
<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Astronomy Course, Almonte Breakfast with Soul, Almonte Craig Cardiff, Arnprior Family Movie Night, Beckwith Jazz at the Swan, The Swan at Carp Open Stage, The Downstairs Pub Steve Piticco, Perth The Melville Boys, Smiths Falls 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Whiteley & Diana Braithwaite, McDonalds Corners Grievous Angel, Harry McLean's Pub Ingolf Wunder in Recital, Almonte Maple Run Studio Tour, Pakenham Open House/Free Talk, Carp Stephen Mark Fisher, St. James Gate The Melville Boys, Smiths Falls The Night Crawlers, Tilly's Smokehouse 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Maple Run Studio Tour, Pakenham On Stage For Kids, Almonte Pancake Breakfast, Union Hall Spiritual Cinema Circle, Perth SRO Tea Dance, Almonte Stomp Your Paws for LAWS, Carleton Place

- Brush Strokes (Carleton Place) presents photos Dalene & Margret Gallo <www.brushstrokesart.ca>
- Baker Bob's Gallery (Almonte) presents Fortunee Shugar, "Unrestrained", mixed media
- fieldwork presents land art exploration <fieldwork.blogsome.com>
- The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (Almonte) presents "Gifts of the North" by Janet Irene MacDonald Hannam <www.mvtm.ca>
- Palms Coffee Shop (Almonte) presents photographs of Shawn De Salvo & oil, pastels & acrylic by Margaret Ferraro <palmsonline.ca>
- Philip K. Wood Gallery (Almonte) presents original works by local & regional artists
- The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents Donna Lynd, acrylics
- The Mississippi Mills Chamber Gallery presents William Hodge, textiles

Monkey Junk, March 18 & 19, 7PM. Blues on the Rideau. The Cove, 2 Bedford St., Westport. www.choosetheblues.ca. \$55+tx. Reservations req'd.

Sheesham & Lotus, March 19, 8PM. Tickets \$18 at Shadowfax, \$20 at door. 278-0689. MERA, McDonalds Corners.

Almonte Traditional Sing, March 20, 2-4PM. 482-1437 or david@shantyman.ca. The Barley Mow, Almonte

Bolingbroke Music Jam, March 20, 1-5PM. All welcome. 273-2571. ABC Community Hall, Bolingbroke.

Rita Chiarelli, March 20, 4PM. Tickets Please ticketsplease.ca, 39 Foster St. in Perth, 485-6434. Myriad Centre, Perth.

Craig Cardiff, March 25, 8:30PM. Concert at Hollow Tree Yoga, 150 John St. N., Arnprior. 296-4013, \$10 in adv, \$15 at door

Steve Piticco, March 25, 8PM. Tickets at door or from Tickets Please! (485-6434). Studio Theatre, Perth. \$20

Chris Whiteley & Diana Braithwaite, March 26, 8PM. \$18 at Shadowfax, \$20 at door. 278-0689. MERA, McDonalds Corners.

Ingolf Wunder in Recital, March 26, 8PM. Piano. Almonte Old Town Hall, www.almonteinconcert.ca. \$27 adults, \$14 students

SRO Tea Dance, March 27, 1-4PM. With Standing Room Only. Almonte Old Town Hall, 692-5380, www.sroteadances.org. \$12 at door (cash only)

Stomp Your Paws for LAWS, March 27, 2-4PM. Fundraiser; live auction & door prizes. Adults \$15, over 65/under 13 \$10. \$5 extra at door. With Brad Scott Band, Johnny Spinks, & more. CP Arena

Jazz at the Swan (The Swan at Carp, Fall-down Lane Carp, 839-7926) 7-10PM. Mar 11, 25 Steve Barrette Trio

The Royal Oak (329 March Rd. Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, no cover. Mar 6, 20 APEX Jazz Band, 2-5PM. Mar 13, 27 Magnolia Rhythm Kings, 3-6PM

The Downstairs Pub at JR's (385 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-2031) Karaoke Thurs, 9PM, no cover; Fri Open Stage, 9PM, no cover; Sat live music, 9PM, \$4

Mar 4, 18 Billy Armstrong

Mar 5 The Stool Pigeons, \$4

Mar 11, 25 Whiskey Mike

Mar 12 Fortunate Soul, \$4

Mar 17 St. Pat's Bash, 5-12PM, \$5

Mar 19 Brothers Chaffey, \$4

Mar 26 Brock Zeman, \$4

St. James Gate (111 Bridge St., Carleton Place, 257-7530): Live at the Gate Sat (8:30-10:30PM).

Mar 5 Brea Lawrenson

Mar 12 Andrew, Cait & Mike

Mar 17 The Diplomats (7:30-11PM)

Mar 19 Mississippi John

Mar 26 Stephen Mark Fisher

The Cove (2 Bedford St., Westport, 273-3636)

Mar 15 Kevin Head, 6-9PM

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

Neat Coffee Shop (1715 Calabogie Rd., Burnstown, 433-3205)

Mar 1 Harry Manx, \$45, 8PM

Mar 11 Royal Wood, \$20, 8PM

Mar 28 Jeff Martin 777, \$70, 8PM

Mar 31 Patricia O'Callaghan, \$25, 8PM

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

Harry McLean's Pub (111 St. Lawrence St., Merrickville, 269-4223)

Mar 26 Grievous Angel - tribute to Gram Parsons

Foodies Fine Foods (34 Mill St., Almonte, 256-6500): Dinner & live music, \$40, 6PM.

Mar 5 & 6 Nathan Sloniowski & The John Prine Experience

Mar 20 The Ric Denis 3

Tijuana Tilly's Smokehouse (10470 Hwy 7, Carleton Place, 257-1700): Mississippi Blues Society Sat (8PM), Open Mic w/Brock Zeman Thurs (9PM)

Mar 5 Still Dangerous

Mar 12 Nobody's Fool

Mar 19 Al Tambay

Mar 26 The Night Crawlers

Community

Almonte Hort. Society Meeting, Feb. 28, March 28, 7:30PM. \$2 visitor, \$10 membership. Cornerstone Community Church, Almonte. 256-5155, zorgel@sympatico.ca

Smiths Falls Toastmasters Club, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 7PM. Courtyard Café, Smiths Falls. robrodine@hotmail.com.

Strategy Games for Adults, March 3, 7:30PM. Mill St. Books, 52 Mill St., Almonte. 256-9090, www.millstreetbooks.com.

Astronomy Course, Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr 1, 7-10PM. Mill of Kintail, Almonte. 256-3610 x1, sogrady@mvc.on.ca. Suggested donation \$20/night

March Melt Down, March 5, from 8:30AM. Pancake Breakfast, sleigh rides, music, skating, chili cook-off. Brunton Community Hall, Beckwith.

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy AGM, March 5, 2PM. With Paul Keddy, author. St. Andrew's United Church, Lanark. Info: 267-4200 x3403.

Seedy Sunday, March 6, 10AM-3PM. Local growers with seeds, demos, garden decor, photographs, maple syrup, etc. Royal Canadian Legion, 26 Beckwith St. E., Perth. Free

Seedy Sunday, March 6, 10AM-3PM. Presentations, swap table, local lunch, seed savers & vendors, etc. Fellowes High School, 420 Bell St., Pembroke. Free

Valley Singles Lunch, March 6, 12:30-2:30PM. Register at 256-8117 or 432-7622., Jim's Restaurant, 54 Elgin St. W., Arnprior.

Mayan Code Study Group, March 8, 7PM. Pot luck snacks. Bring drums, rattles, etc. 5907 Martin St. N., Almonte. 256-0216. Free

Pancake Supper, March 8, 4:30-6:30PM. Centennial Hall, 152 Church St., Franktown. \$5 adults, \$3 ages 6-12

West Carleton Garden Club Meeting, March 8, 7:30PM. Dos & don'ts of starting a rock garden, with Paul Pietsch. Carp Memorial Hall, \$5 for non-members

Women's Business Group, March 8, 7:30-8:30AM. Buster's Bar and Grill, 515 McNeely Dr., CP. www.wbgroup.ca.

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

Almonte Lecture Series, March 18, 7:30PM. Brian McKillop on The Invisible Woman. Almonte United Church. almontelectures.ncf.ca. Free - donations accepted

Green Party Chili Cook-Off, March 19, 6PM. With David Chermushenko (author, filmmaker & activist). Silent auction. Maberly Community Hall. \$25; \$35 family

Maple Tapping Out Party, March 19, 10AM-2PM. Wagon rides, pancake lunch, maple & musicians. Providence Point, Lanark. 259-5016, www.providencepoint.net.

Camino Dreaming, March 24, 7:30PM. Presentation led by Cathy Solowjew for those curious about the Camino Trail. Palms Coffee Shop, 78 Mill St., Almonte.

Breakfast with Soul, March 25, 8-10AM. Open to all. 43 Johanna St., Almonte. Info: lillywhiteangels@sympatico.ca. Free

Open House/Free Talk, March 26, 1-3PM. Amber Young, RMT, on breast health., Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre, Carp. 839-1198, www.ecowellness.com. Free

Pancake Breakfast, March 27, 9AM-noon. Union Hall, Wolf Grove Rd. at Tatlock Rd., Almonte. \$6 or \$8

Year-Round Vegetable Production, March 29, 6:30-9:30PM. Eliot Coleman workshop for farmers & gardeners. Algonquin College, 7 Craig St., Perth.

Braisenly Breathtaking Beef

So, tonight's the coldest night of the winter — so far. Hurray. I can think of only one thing. No, not Cuba, although that's an admirable reflex. Food would be the other one. The birds out at my place are going through at least one full feeder of sunflower seeds per day right now. They don't know what they're missing out on in the biped culinary department, and not just because they're outside — they also can't read.

Being half German I was, predictably, introduced to *spätzle* egg noodles at an early age. They usually came sprinkled with chopped parsley and covered in butter as an accompaniment to boiled beef or *Siedfleisch* as it's known — or, more accurately: well-aged leather lathered in homemade horseradish to placate the palate. Break out the toothpicks. The *spätzle* were invariably the highlight. Euro-bovine should stick to chocolate and cheese. Fortunately I've since found a much, much better accompaniment for *spätzle* and winter in general.

A few years back I was thumbing through a food magazine (I have more of those than there are sunflower seeds in the birdfeeder) and I came across an article on rustic Italian cooking. The one recipe that tickled my throbbing *spätzle* gene was *Brasato al Barolo*; beef braised in red Barolo wine, not beef stock with a drop of wine, but the wine itself — stock schmock — this is not just a roast, it's a roasted miracle! I've made this dish a lot and have "perfected" what was a pretty decent recipe to begin with. Ohhhh the sauce! First things first: Barolo wine can be fairly pricy, so any full-bodied red will do the job. I've been using the 1.5L bottles of Gato Negro Merlot which are around \$15 and that does the job handsomely — on the beef and on the cook. You don't need an eighteen billion dollar chunk of beef for this one, but you do need patience, because this dish has three acts. I promise you it's worth the 24–36 hour wait from pot to pie hole and the three other people this will feed will agree, unless they're vegetarian.

Act I

What you want from your butcher is a **chuck or a blade roast** weighing in at about 3½ lbs. It needs to have some marbling in it, i.e. shouldn't be totally lean, i.e. not turkey. And, with a wave of something wand-like (wooden stirring spoon?), here's how you turn it into gastronomic magic which will be yummy in your tummy.

Finely chop **1 medium onion**, **1–2 peeled medium carrots**, **2 washed celery ribs** and **¼ lb pancetta or bacon**. Finely slice **4–6 cloves of garlic** and **8–10 large, washed button mushrooms**. Cover the mushrooms and put them in the fridge. Wrap **3 sprigs fresh rosemary** and **5 sprigs fresh thyme** in a very thin piece of cheesecloth and tie it tightly so the herbs don't fall out. Prepare **2 tablespoons tomato paste concentrate**. Now make a roux which will

be used in Act II to thicken your sauce. Here's how: prepare equal weights of **flour and butter**. Melt butter in pan on low-medium heat. Shake in the flour and stir like a maniac until it goes all pasty and begins to form a ball, about 3–10 minutes. Cool it and freeze it. Heat your oven to 325°F. Pour yourself and drink a **glass of vino** to make sure it's safe to use in the cooking.

Pat the beef dry and season with **salt 'n' pepa**. Heat oil in your Dutch oven or oven-proof pot with a lid. Sear and brown the meat all over for 5–10 minutes. Take it out and sit it on a plate. Give it a newspaper to read if it complains that it's cold. Stab it with a knife if it persists. Add the pancetta to the same pot and fry until fat is rendered. Remove some of the fat and discard, leaving about 2–3 tablespoons in the pot. Throw in the onion, carrots and celery and soften them up to golden, then add the garlic and herbs and stir. Add the tomato paste and about **¼ cup of water**. Stir it up for about 5 minutes — this step helps to "liberate" the herbal oils from their cheesecloth straightjacket. Add **3 cups of the red wine**. Bring to the boil and reduce by about half. Add **2 cups of water**, stir and bring to a simmer. Return the meat to the pot, cover and "shove in oven" for 3 hours. Remember new verb: "to shoven".

Take the pot out every 45 minutes, turn the meat over and baste with liquid. If too much liquid is evaporating, add a little more wine/water mix. Punctuate potential boredom with more vino... Three hours later, take the pot out of the oven. Fish out the cheesecloth full of soggy herbs and discard. Leave lid off and let the whole thing cool to room temperature — it'll take a while. When it's cool, cover it and put in fridge overnight.

Act II

The next day, uncover the pot and you'll see that all the fat has risen to the surface and congealed to a yellowish colour. Use a spoon to skim/scoop out as much fat as possible — don't move the meat while you do this otherwise all the fat breaks up! (This fat scooping operation is a VERY important step, especially when you visualize it coating your arteries... mmm!). Now remove the meat and cut it into ½-inch thick slices. Heat up the remaining sauce on the hotplate and add more wine, up to about one cup. Get the whole thing boiling again and throw in the sliced mushrooms while you reduce sauce for 5 to 8 minutes. Grab your roux from the freezer and grate into the pot using a fine grater or microplane. When thickening your sauce stir like a maniac until it's the right consistency. Optional: if you have an electric hand mixer with a blade (wand) you can run it through your sauce at this point, or you can short-pulse it all through a blender.

Return the meat slices to the thickened sauce and let it all heat up over low-medium heat for about 20 min-



utes. In the meantime, boil a large pot of **salted water** and throw in a **500g pack of spätzle noodles**. When everything is ready, serve your brasato over the *spätzle* and have a green side salad as an accompaniment. All ingredients are available at your local grocery store although, if you're an Almontonian, grab your *spätzle* at Steve's Independent Grocer in Carleton Place because they'd stopped stocking it at Patrice's last time I tried to buy.

Act III

Eat your braisenly breathtaking beef. Drink more of the same wine you made the sauce with — pretty neat effect, huh?

Now tell me it wasn't worth the wait!
— *Innityummyinmytummy*
Whether you love or hate my articles please send me feedback here: <parched@wordthirst.com>. I will be launching a website in the next little while so if you'd like to be on the mailing list as of now please say so in your email. Thanks!

MVTM March Break Workshops for Kids

Looking for something interesting to do during the March Break? Want to learn a new skill and take home something you have created? Join the fun at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum from March 14 to 18. The museum is offering a full week of morning workshops for kids aged 9 to 12. Each workshop is an opportunity to explore the museum, learn a new skill, and make a unique craft. Adults are welcome to join in as well.



On Monday, March 14, put your hands to work learning how to cross stitch. Create beautiful pictures from thread using this simple technique. Explore the possibilities of working with colourful threads and fun patterns. Make a covered button to take home. No sewing skills required.

On Tuesday, March 15, come out for a morning of creative fun making a sock monkey! Learn how to make this popular toy and take your new friend home with you. It's a great way to recycle an old pair of socks. Beginner sewing skills will be covered in the workshop.

On Wednesday, March 16, weave a nest using insulation foam and be a part of the exhibition "Sheltering" at the MVTM! Artist Uta Riccius will be leading the workshop to tie into her upcoming exhibit with Deborah Arnold. These "mobile homes" will be placed in the lower branches of some of the trees along Mill Street to provide a place of rest for animals, insects and birds. Learn the simple technique for making these intricate sculptures and have a chance to exhibit your final work as well.

On Thursday, March 17, join in the fun exploring patterns, colors and shapes. Participants will play with geometric patterns to create various effects. Learn how shapes and colors interact. Make and take home a patchwork fabric "patch". No sewing skills required.

On Friday, March 18, round out the week with a lesson in spinning, using a drop-spindle. This basic technique has been used for centuries to make yarn from raw wool. Enjoy the satisfaction of making something from scratch while learning a new skill. Bring your finished ball of yarn home with you to use in your own craft projects.

Pre-registration is required for all workshops, and the deadline is March 11. The cost for each workshop is \$10, or come to all five for \$45. Each workshop will run from 9:30AM to noon. Bring a (nut-free) snack. Contact the MVTM at 256-3754 x7 for more information or to register.

Songs From The Valley — A Harmonious Collaboration

Friedrich Nietzsche once said: "Without music, life would be a mistake." I'm not sure if the good people organizing the *Songs From The Valley* music series would take it that far, but surely they would agree with the sentiment. Music enriches our lives. With that in mind, the Studio Theatre and The Friends of the Stewart Park Festival

by John Pigeau

tival have teamed up to bring some top-notch musical talent to Perth.

The *Songs From The Valley* concert series — a collaboration between the Studio Theatre and The Friends of the Stewart Park Festival — kicked off in January with a nearly sold out performance by Ottawa Valley native and fiddle virtuoso Wade Foster.

"One of the great things about the Wade Foster show was the number of people who were 'pleasantly surprised' and came away from the show impressed by both the talent and the professionalism of Wade and the other performers there that evening," said John McKenty, chair of the Organizing Committee of the Stewart Park Festival. "In fact, the show drew a standing ovation from the near capacity crowd," McKenty adds. "I suspect there will be a good number of folks who will feel the same way after seeing Steve Piticco and Neville Wells and Bytown Bluegrass."

Steve Piticco, a multiple award-winning, world-class country guitarist, plays next in the concert series, on March 25. **Neville Wells and Bytown Bluegrass**, a veteran quintet (together for over thirty-five years) that blends bluegrass, country and folk music, playing both traditional favourites and contemporary ballads in the inimitable Bytown style, rounds out the series on May 20.

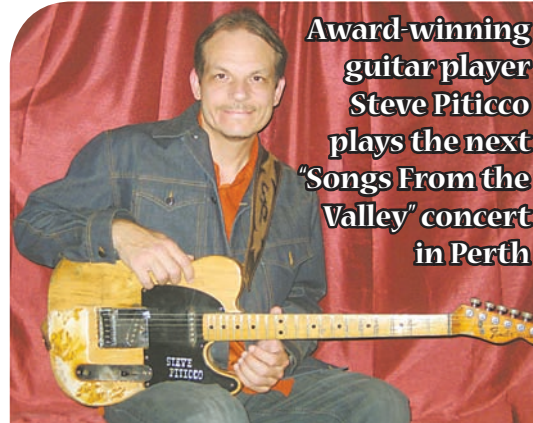
Penny Silberhorn, community liaison for the Studio Theatre, says the idea for the concert series began to come together when the theatre's booking agent, Reiner Silberhorn, recognized a mutual need of both the theatre and the Stewart Park Festival: funds.

"He had heard that the Stewart Park Festival organizers were in need of funds," says Silberhorn, "and so was the Studio Theatre, so he thought we should pool our resources and talents and present a music series. The board of directors of the Studio Theatre agreed, so he and I met with John McKenty, who took the idea to the Friends of the Stewart Park Festival (FOSPF), who also liked the idea."

In the meantime, says McKenty, "Steve Tennant and Ed Ashton from the Friends of Stewart Park Festival had been talking for a while about doing a music series with local talent. What they were thinking dovetailed nicely with what Reiner and the directors of the Studio Theatre were

proposing." And thus the series of three essential concerts took shape.

"The FOSPF organized the groups and the Studio Theatre is providing the venue,



within our own community. One event that does this in a fantastic way is the Studio Theatre's annual *Perth's Got Talent*. Judging by the positive comments of those who attended these shows (there have been three to date), I believe this series meets that same criteria."

As to the diversity of musical styles, he adds, "It has always been a mandate of the Stewart Park Festival to expose its audience to a variety of different genres. To that end, the Festival has incorporated elements of folk, rock, jazz, blues, reggae, world beat, etc. This series is one more attempt to broaden that range and, in so doing, attract people who may not ordinarily attend the Festival or who may not be aware of what a great music venue the community has in the Studio Theatre." Silberhorn says if this series is a money maker, it could become a yearly event.

Tickets for the next two shows are \$20 each, available in person at Tickets Please, 39 Foster Street in Perth, or by phone at 485-6434. Both concerts begin at 8PM and take place at the Studio Theatre in Perth, 63 Gore Street East, overlooking the Tay Basin.

— John Pigeau is the founder of the First Edition Reading Series in Perth, and the author of acclaimed novel, *The Nothing Waltz*. His second novel, *The Journals of Templeton Speck*, will hit bookstores this June.

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Seeking Farmers and Vendors

The McDonald's Corners Farmers' Market is looking for more vendors for its coming season. With the surge of interest and demand for locally produced food, the market is expanding to meet that demand. There are openings for fruit and vegetable growers, using traditional chemical-free methods (organic certification is not necessary), bakers, locally produced foods and juried arts and crafts. Members must be local, within an 80km radius of McDonald's Corners.

The unique market is located at MERA Schoolhouse in McDonald's Corners in a friendly, relaxed, beautiful setting under the trees. Visitors are greeted by sounds of local musicians and the smells of freshly baked breads and cut flowers. Friends

meet at the market café for fair trade coffee, and to sample taste treats from vendors. Pizza is served from the outdoor wood fired oven (pictured above).

Local co-operatives, between friends and neighbours, are encouraged. Many growers who don't have a large amount to sell can get together with others, perhaps taking turns to staff a booth. The market is open on Saturday mornings from 9AM to 1PM and runs from May 21 to October 8.

A meeting for new and returning vendors will be held on Saturday, March 26 at 2pm at MERA Schoolhouse in McDonald's Corners, Hwy. 12 at Concession 9. For information and vendor inquiries call 278-2739 or email <mcdonaldscorners-farmersmarket@hotmail.com>.

Come to a "Help Us Build a Bridge" Bash

Three community groups are uniting in order to raise \$10,000 to help rebuild a bridge and to support each group's programs.

On April 15, bring your appetite and your dancing shoes to the Perth Civitan Hall and be prepared for a great evening of food, fun and frivolity! The Build a Bridge fundraising dinner/dance is hosted by the **Friends of Murphys Point, Tay Valley Ski Club and Rideau Trail Association Central Club.**

Members of these three groups have used the bridge over Black Creek on the McParlan House Trail at Murphys Point extensively over the years, but when it was washed out by spring floods, alternatives to some parts of their programming had to be sought. The bridge linked the trail to the excavation site for the Friends' public archaeology program, *Archeo Apprentice*, and it is used by the Tay Valley Ski Club and the Rideau Trail Association as part of their trail network and recreation programming.

"The bridge was used extensively by hikers, skiers and day-program participants," explained Beth Peterkin, event coordinator. "Not only is the physical structure important, but it is symbolic of the links we share with other groups that love Murphys Point."

Work to replace the bridge is underway. To date, Ontario Parks has completed a geotechnical survey for the bridge and engineer-

ing drawings are in progress. Funds raised at the dinner/dance will go towards work on the bridge, as well as to support programs offered by the three organizations.

The evening starts with a cocktail and networking hour, offering you an opportunity to visit the displays of these three active groups and time to peruse the vast array of silent auction items. A home-cooked turkey dinner with all the trimmings, catered by Civitan members, will be a hit for sure! After dinner, kick up your heels on the dance floor and continue your bidding in the silent auction. There may even be a few surprise activities to enjoy. Some items for the auction: a VIA Rail ticket package valued at over \$1,000 and a load of manure for your spring gardening needs.

Tickets for the Bash are \$30 per person and can be ordered by e-mailing <bethp@ripnet.com>, by calling Beth at 267-5340, or through local club members. Information is also posted on the Friends' website at <www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca>. Sponsorship packages are also available and silent auction donations are welcome.

Doors open at 6PM on April 15 with dinner served at 7PM. Come and join the hikers, skiers and outdoor enthusiasts and help to build a bridge. The assistance of Ontario Parks and the Perth Civitan Club in this worthwhile project is gratefully acknowledged.

"Our lovely setting is the perfect environment for rural clients."



Located among beautiful mature trees on a quiet lot just outside of Pakenham, **Country View Lodge Retirement Home** (www.countryviewlodge.ca) is an ideal setting for rural seniors seeking quality, affordable care. Many residents are from the Mississippi Mills area, and therefore can continue into their senior years with neighbours that they know, and in a social and physical environment that is familiar to them. With easy access to leisure activities such as gardening, golfing, fishing, skiing and walking, Country View Lodge is not only a relaxing place to live, but also a residence that recognizes the full spectrum of needs — be they physical, emotional, social or spiritual.

Subhash Chadha, who has been Operations Manager there since 2007, notes that the caring staff and personal touches like home-cooked meals and fresh baking put Country View Lodge in a class of its own. They offer a full range of services, including independent to assisted living, palliative care and respite care. For seniors convalescing after surgery or illness, Country View Lodge can provide responsive, concerned care as well as proximity to two excellent hospitals, until a return home is realistic.

A long-standing member of the Chamber of Commerce, Subhash appreciates the networking and business promotion opportunities provided by events such as the monthly Mixers.

Country View Lodge Retirement Home
Mississippi Mills Chamber member since 1996



Meet us:

March 16 Mixer

With Gord Cowie, speaking about WagJag 6PM at the Barley Mow

Please visit our website at www.mississippimills.com for information about Mixers and events in 2011

Join us:

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



Visit us: www.mississippimills.com

Spring Fling Anyone?

What better way to spend an April evening than enjoying some great local musical entertainment, savouring Equator coffee with yummy desserts, and bidding on some wonderful and varied silent auction items, all in support of a great cause? Sounds great, doesn't it? Well, you're in luck, because the school council of Naismith Memorial Public School in Almonte is, once again, preparing for its adult-oriented **Spring Fling Coffee House and Silent Auction**. It will feature Josie Geuer of Hot 89.9 FM as emcee, the musical talents of parents of Naismith students, Equator coffee, a wide variety of donated desserts, and a generous array of auction items with something for everyone! This year's event will take place Friday, April 8, from 6:30 to 9:30PM, with music starting at 7PM.

A couple of years ago when the Naismith School Council was discussing ways to get parents involved and raise money for the school, it was pointed out that there were quite a few very talented musicians in the Naismith parent community and that maybe the council should do something that would take advantage of this opportunity. They thought it might be fun to create an event where they could get to know each other and play together while helping to raise money for a school they all had a vested interest in supporting. The first Spring Fling was held in 2010 and was a great success, so they're hoping to make their second event even more successful! The council is hoping to raise enough money to be able to purchase an additional SmartBoard or two, as well as some new gym equipment and music supplies for Naismith's renowned music program.

As the event draws nigh, silent auction items are being collected and catalogued and are viewable online at the website created for the event at

<naismithsilentauction.ca>. If you'd like to support this event, you could donate an item to the silent auction (contact Kerron at lambk2001@yahoo.com), donate a dessert to be served at the event (contact Lesley at innerrevelations@gmail.com) and/or come to the event and bid on the items while enjoying some great music and refreshments! Advance tickets are available for \$12 in Almonte at Naismith's school office or Mill St. Books (cash only). Admission at the door will be \$15.



Hear some great music and raise money for a good cause at Naismith Schools Spring Fling Coffee House on April 8. Pictured above is Ric Denis.

MERA in March

This month there will be two interesting and fun workshops at MERA (McDonald's Corners and Elphin Recreation and Arts) as part of the Winter Blues series.

Rug Hooking, with popular fibre arts instructor Donna Sproule, takes place on Saturday, March 5 from 10AM to 4PM. Donna specializes in the East Coast Primitive style of rug hooking and encourages her students to work on colourful, exciting projects. She is suggesting a "Night Sky" subject for this one-day workshop. You will

design your rug and take home enough supplies to finish it.

In **Create a Portrait from a Photo** on Sunday, March 13, Ethan Hogue — a young local artist — will teach you how to create detailed and realistic coloured artworks through the precise medium of coloured pencil, which will enable you to recreate photographs in stunning colour and depth.

Both courses take place at the MERA Schoolhouse in McDonalds Corners and cost \$35 for MERA members and \$50 for non-members. For more information, contact 278-0388.

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Mar. 9 • Beer Dinner, imported beers paired with a 4 course meal \$55 or \$35 for food only, 6-9PM
 Mar. 15 • Caribus 6 Sens vs Penguins, support Westport's own Matt Carkner \$65 (bus leaves The Cove at 5PM)
 Mar. 18 & 19 • Blues on the Rideau presents **Monkey Junk**, \$55, 7-11PM
 Mar. 25 • Singer/songwriter **Kevin Head**, 6-9PM

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 cell: 613-715-3802
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READ'S BOOK SHOP

March Promotion

All For **DUMMIES** books 30% off

Parent-Child Story Time
Jan Andrews
RUDE STORIES
Tues March 15
10:30-11:30

Check the website for details
 130 Lansdowne Ave., Carleton Place
 257-READ(7323)
www.readsbookshop.com

STONE HAVEN ARTWORKS!

Mosaic Country Retreat Weekend

Spend two days creating a mosaic heirloom memory mirror using recycled materials — old jewellery, chipped tea pots, saucers, etc. No prior artistic experience required.

Sat & Sun. March 26 & 27, 9:30 to 4:30
 Lunch provided
 Woodlawn, just past Dunrobin

\$90 retreat fee/\$45 supplies (includes new glass cutters to take home, wooden mirror)

Register: stonehavenartworks@gmail.com
 Call 613-323-5290

Gallery Perth

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galleryperth.com 613-264-8338

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the

Pakenham Home Show

April 1, 2, 3



Stewart Community Centre and Pakenham Public School
FRIDAY 6 P.M. - 9 P.M. SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. SUNDAY 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Entertainment

Friday April 1, 2011

Ol' Tyme Round & Square Dance

8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Sponsor: Pakenham Square Dance Club

Saturday April 2, 2011

Jamie McMunn & McMunn Music

special guest Freddie Dixon

1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sunday April 3, 2011

Jamie McMunn & McMunn Music

special guest Andy Bowes

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Special thanks to our contributors:



For more information please call 613.256.1077 or visit www.mississippimills.ca

By the time March arrives many people are wondering why they settled in the freezing north instead of a tropical location. However, the magic of this climate produces maple syrup to remind us that



spring and warmer weather is just around the corner. Ottawa is surrounded by many maple product producers who offer full day adventures, food, and maple products with a visit to their forests.



We have added some links to the community page of our web site www.waterviews.ca so that you can plan your own maple syrup trip. There are links to some of the local producers such as Fortune Farms, Fulton's, Wheelers, and Temple's



as well as links to maple syrup recipes. Yum!

See you there!



Photos provided by Wheelers Pancake House and Sugar Camp

Jennifer Kelly

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All tree sale proceeds to the Mississippi Mills Chamber of Commerce

Prices

Trees priced from \$25 to \$100. All trees include fertilizer, mulch, compost and planting seminar!



How to Order

Go to www.mississippimills.com to download and print the order form. Mail your order and cheque to:

Mississippi Mills Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1244, Almonte, ON K0A 1A0

Deadline

Tree orders must be received by April 21st. Trees are to be picked up April 30th at 3131 Old Perth Road (back of municipal building) between 9am - noon.