

MARCH 2019

the Hummm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas



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Culture in Perth



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& Brent McGillivray
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March is for Maple!

With the first stirrings of Spring in the air, there's no better way to get a taste of Lanark County than by visiting a local sugar bush or maple event. And if you happen to get sweet on the area, just give me a call!

Pat's Picks Fulton's Pancake House & Sugar Bush <fultons.ca>
for March: Temple's Sugar Bush <templessugarbush.ca>
Maple Run Studio Tour <mapleruntour.com>
Maple Weekend <mapleweekend.ca>

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ARTBEAT

by Bill Buttle



"The guy moving in upstairs is a church organist... I imagine he'll be pretty quiet!"



Eddy and the Singrays Play for AGH

Eddy and the Singrays are back! On Saturday, April 27, they will play a dinner-dance at the Almonte Civitan Hall, the proceeds from which will help bring a CT scanner to the Almonte General Hospital.

The event includes a diner-style supper, spotlight dances, Unposed Studio photos, draws and more. Tickets (\$45 per person, or \$350 for a table of eight) are now available at RBC Almonte, Baker Bob's, or from the Almonte General Hospital — Fairview Manor Foundation at <almontehospitalfoundation.com>, <lbeckinsale@agh-fvm.com> or 256-2500 x2296. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment, and come out and party for a great cause!

And although summer is still a way off, registration is already open for the annual Almonte Hospital Golf Classic, which takes place on Friday, June 7. This fabulous fundraiser also welcomes sponsors, so please contact Louise Beckinsale to find out more. Visit <almontehospitalfoundation.com/new-events> for details about these and other upcoming events.

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Who's Reading the Humm

Back in 2017, **Sherry Galey** and **Bob Hussey** sent in this great shot, and Sherry wrote: "Hello good folks! So what am I doing in an outdoor café in Valencia Spain right now? Well besides drinking sangria and eating patatas bravas... reading theHumm of course! The weather is beautiful here and the world famous Fallas festival is over, so the city has calmed down and we are exploring to our hearts' content. ¡Hasta luego!"

Humble Thought

It is easy sometimes to feel overwhelmed by the gravity of the challenges we face. Issues like climate change, forced migration and the threat posed by nuclear weapons. It's hard to know how to make a difference.

The secret is not to focus on how to solve the problem, but concentrate on what you can contribute — to your country, your community and neighbours.

Start from a place of compassion and be grateful for all that Canada has to offer — especially the natural beauty that surrounds us, and the music that brings us so much joy.

— Paul Dewar

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Sat. Mar. 2	Tom Watson (Oldies/Alternative/Folk/East Coast/Celtic, Perth) 6-9
Fri. Mar. 8	Tony Silvestri (Classic Rock Keyboard Master, Belleville) 6-9
Sat. Mar. 9	Head Over Heels (Acoustic Blues/Folk/Jazz Duo, Gananoque) 6-9
Fri. Mar. 15	The Valley Shantyman (Country/Rock/Whatever, Mallorytown) 6-9
Sat. Mar. 16	"St. Practice Day" with Shawn McCullough + Wade Foster (Acoustic Irish/Country Duo, Westport/Perth) 7-10
Sun. Mar. 17	St. Paddy's Day with Turpin's Trail 2-6, \$10
Fri. Mar. 22	Blues on the Rideau with Ria Reece Band (Montreal) 7-11, Buffet, Show \$65 + HST
Fri. Mar. 29	Benni Vander (Classic Rock Keyboard Master, Belleville) 6-9
Sat. Mar. 30	Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night! feat. The Best in Canadian Comedy with Rob Bebenek, Jarrett Campbell + Dom Pare, 7-11 Buffet + Show \$55 + HST

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theHumm is a monthly arts, entertainment and ideas newspaper delivered free to businesses and visitor attractions in Almonte, Perth, Carleton Place, Westport, Pakenham, Carp, Arnprior, Smiths Falls, Burnstown, White Lake, 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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Thumm's up this month to:

All of the municipal crews for trying to keep the roads and sidewalks navigable, and for The Mills Community Support for their "Get-A-Grip" campaign that provides ice grippers for seniors. Spring will come, folks — we promise!

Brent McGillivray and Maureen Bennett — Celebrating Times Gone By

The new art gallery at 48 Craig Street in Perth presents viewers with two distinct experiences — an evocative trip down memory lane, and a fresh take on our beloved Canadian landscapes. Artists McGillivray and Bennett present their individual but harmonious styles in their “Times Gone By Studio” located adjacent to their heritage home.

by Sally Hansen

On a bleak and blustery March day, the vibrant colours in their art works are enough to warm and cheer you up. Brent McGillivray’s acrylic “Neon Art” landscapes dominate the current collection. Painting in the photorealistic style he conjures up the past, paying tribute to the vanishing urban symbols of previous consumer cultures. Those with a fond remembrance of former times and cherished road trips will experience a nostalgic reaction to his renditions of fading neon signs.

Brent is perpetually watchful for iconic symbols of our pre-high-tech existence. (For younger readers, those were the days when people simply got in their cars without cell phones or GPS aids, and drove back-country roads.) Throughout their travels during the past five years, and always armed with a camera, the couple would stop at roadside restaurants and motels without checking their social media status, searching for the rare hidden gem. With his keen photographer’s eye, Brent captures striking images of familiar sights and capitalizes on his training as an architectural draftsman to create meticulously rendered images of fast-disappearing urban and rural artifacts.

Maureen Bennett recently refocused her earlier artistic endeavours to develop her own striking and self-taught style of acrylic art. “It’s all about not being afraid of colour,” she explains, and her paintings are proof. Bennett’s paintings are geometrical, full of angles and straight lines executed in brilliant hues. Even those landscapes inspired by The Group of Seven take on a new life through her exuberant use of colour laid down in parallel strips and offset with solid triangles of black. Maureen had worked in stained glass and quilting for many years and experimented to see if she could transfer the same patterns of design used in glass and quilting to acrylic on canvas.

The works of the two artists are complementary. McGillivray’s canvasses are larger and spellbinding in their finely-honed precision; they invite contemplation. Bennett’s are bolder and catch your eye. They too elicit closer attention, in part because of their novelty, but more so because of her gift for composition. Each artist warrants consideration. Some viewers are instantly drawn to one; some can’t decide which style appeals to them more.

Brent’s Backstory

Born in Wakefield, QC, Brent pursued a degree in Architectural Technology from Algonquin College in Ottawa, and then worked as a draftsman in Calgary, where he also studied printmaking at the Alberta College of Art. Somewhere along the line he started painting, and at the age of 34 he moved to Toronto to earn a degree in Fine Arts at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto. After working for interior design firms he “got lucky” and got into the film industry. For the past 27 years he has “lived in a world of fantasies and façades.” For seven years he worked on the “Saw” horror movie franchise, cited in *Guinness World Records* in 2010 as the “Most Successful Horror Movie Series.” He is a member of the Directors Guild of Canada and continues to work as a set designer and art director in the film industry in Toronto.



Maureen — Times Going Forward

Born in Toronto, Maureen worked as a teacher for over thirty years in elementary schools in Toronto, Australia and Haliburton Highlands, working in special education, physical education, administration and guidance. As long as she can remember, Maureen had to be doing something creative. In her spare time she sampled various art forms: twig furniture, quilting, upholstery, stained and fused glass. After completing a course at the Haliburton School of Fine Arts, fused and slumped glass became her passion — “It’s like Christmas when you open up the kiln,” is how she describes it. Her talent and creativity, combined with her experience as a teacher, earned



ARTIST · TRADING · CARD ·

her an invitation by a glass supply store in Barrie to teach workshops in fusing and slumping.

After watching Brent at work, she decided to pick up a brush herself. Using concepts from her stained glass work, she began painting with acrylics on canvas. After years of encouragement by McGillivray, in the summer of 2017 she applied to the Toronto Outdoor Art Fair for her first solo juried art show. She was both “humbled and validated” to be accepted. She was so well received by the public that she reapplied in 2018 and went on to be nominated for an Emerging Artist Award.

Five years ago, after living in Haliburton for over 25 years, the two were looking for a new chapter in their lives. They sold their beautiful home on a lake in the Algonquin Highlands, stored essential possessions in a one-bedroom apartment, and embarked on a traveling adventure that encompassed Manitoulin Island to the eastern seaboard of the U.S. down to the Florida Keys, much of eastern Canada, and a three-month trip to Asia. They eventually returned to Toronto where they spent eighteen months renting on the edge of High Park before deciding where they wished to settle — in Ontario.

The Right Place at the Right Time

When the couple began the search for their new home they looked for a location that offered a flourishing artist community, studio tours, an atmosphere with a rural feel but within fifteen minutes of amenities, close to water, and architectural history. The house they found on Craig St. in Perth, built in 1896, is ideal. They have lovingly furnished the entire two-storey home as a showcase for their incredible collection of antiques, including Brent’s museum-quality antique boat and ship models.

It is no wonder they have already been invited to participate in the 2019 Perth Christmas House Tour, as well as the upcoming inaugural Art Works! Perth Studio Tour, taking place from June 21–23 <facebook.com/pg/ArtWorksPerth>.

Maureen Bennett and Brent McGillivray have already participated in the recent juried Sundance and Perth Autumn Studio Tours, and they would love to meet you and introduce you to their Times Gone By Studio. In addition to their original art works, they offer a collection of cards, prints, pillows, fused and slumped glass, and one-of-a-kind handmade jewellery.

Check our website at <thehummm.com> and the back of their Artist Trading Card for details.



Installation view at Sivarulrasa Gallery: FIGURE, featuring works by Sue Adams, Adrienne Dagg, Caroline Ji

FIGURE

Exhibition continues to March 24!

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ADRIENNE DAGG
CAROLINE JI

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WHO Brent McGillivray and Maureen Bennett
WHAT Photorealist watercolour and acrylic artists
WHERE Times Gone By Studio, 48 Craig St., Perth, <timesgonebystudio.com>, <brent@timesgonebystudio.com>
WHEN Open daily by chance (please call 705-457-7474 to confirm); June 21-23, Art Works! Perth Studio Tour 2019 <facebook.com/pg/ArtWorksPerth>
WHY Brent: "My photographs of vanishing landmarks inspire me to preserve them on canvas."
 Maureen: "It's all about the colour!"

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COMPASSION. INSPIRATION. BALANCE.

New Direction for Learning in Almonte

The secret is out: Learning in Almonte is widening its scope to include an evening class. And what a class it's going to be!

On Wednesday evenings from April 10 to May 15, consummate local musician Ian Douglas will lead a six-week evening course at the Almonte Library called "Sound & Soul: How Music Works", an exploration of the musical experience often taken for granted as a background to busy lives.

Ian's musical career includes being a composer, a poet, an instrumentalist, and a member of local bands the Ragged Flowers and Raintree. He's particularly interested in the creative process, from "earworm" snippets of music to finished choral works, and how the musician is like a painter who needs to know when to put the brush down. His creations are remarkable and a credit to the many years of training and the passion with which he tackles his musical life.

Ian has pursued all things musical, from early piano lessons through children's choir to discovering

a drum set in the school band. His shining concert moment was striking the cymbal so enthusiastically that it broke the stand, hurling the cymbal into the trumpet section! Passion? Oh yes! Even though his father encouraged him to study music at the university level, Ian realized that dance bands don't pay the bills, and instead studied engineering, leading to his present occupation as a Water Quality Engineer with the City of Ottawa, doing research into clean water and participating in international conferences. Not surprisingly, the two interests go together, as many musicians also have a scientific bent.

For Ian, his music is more than a hobby; it is an outlet that allows him to go in any direction he chooses. Realizing there is a wealth of knowledge in a catchy tune, he is eager to share the origin of a song, how it affects the listener, and how to open the senses to new musical experiences.

This course promises to appeal to anyone, from aspiring musicians to those who "don't know a thing about music but know what they like".

There may be a field trip to a local studio, along with the opportunity to learn genres of music that are out of the ordinary. There likely will be some drumming in the mix, as well as vocals, why songs stick in our memory, how music affects the brain, and so much more. Like the magician Ian was when he was twelve, he will weave a vast number of subjects into this innovative course.

You can find more details on the course and about Ian Douglas himself at <learninginalmonte.ca>. Registration is required and limited, and payment (\$75) is due at the first class. Register at <cmapsimon@gmail.com>.

— Glenda Jones



Photo by Bill Pratt

Almonte musician Ian Douglas (who moonlights by day as a water quality engineer) will teach the first evening course offered by Learning in Almonte: *Sound & Soul: How Music Works*

FRIDAY MARCH 29

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 Kaija **Savinainen Mountain** | Jennifer **Noxon** | Lily **Swain**

  TheTenCollective.com

Grab Yer Kilt! *Hamish* is Coming to Perth

Hamish, by award-winning Canadian playwright Michael Grant, is the hilarious story about discovering the spirit of family... in more ways than one.

When his wife takes him to Scotland to visit his ancestral home, Gordon believes himself to be an orphan, bereft of any family traditions or obligations. An ambitious corporate lawyer, he has no interest in delving into the long-dead past, never mind donning a kilt. Or does he? When the old clan property is suddenly threatened by developers, he must decide whether to stake his claim as a descendent or abandon his birthright altogether. *Hamish* is a prankish, playful comedy that introduces a host of memorable characters. In addition to the workaholic Gordon, we meet Tomas, the classic Scottish caretaker better at spinning yarns than paying the bills; Kelli, Gordon's wife who arranged the trip and is counting on making a family connection for reasons of her own; Shelby the banker, and his investor Annette, both intending to acquire the property, history bedamned. And finally, there is Hamish, the play's namesake with his own unique connection, and a strong presence felt throughout the story.

"There's not one character in it that I don't absolutely adore" says director Sheila Jasiak, who fell in love with the play the moment she read it. "The plays I tend to pick are about family dynamics and the comedy that can happen in everyday life. *Hamish* is a love story, not between a man and a woman, but between family... knowing that you can't go ahead in life without really knowing where you came from." Jasiak, whose own Scottish ancestors helped build Perth over 200 years ago, looks upon this show as her love letter to the town's heritage. Having spearheaded several wildly successful local productions, she is joined by a keen and accomplished cast eager to perform this tale of tartan with its supernatural twist.

Talented local actor Mark Daley and theatre veteran Dana Ruprecht portray the Canadian



In rehearsal for Studio Theatre's production of *Hamish* are (l-r): Dana Ruprecht (Kelli), Mark Daley (Gordon), Jerry Logan (Shelby) and Alan Humphreys (Tomas). The show opens at Studio Theatre Perth on Thursday, April 4. Visit <studiotheatreperth.com> for more details.

couple hilariously confronted by Gordon's past. Alan Humphreys makes his Studio Theatre debut as charismatic Tomas, with the pencil-pushing Shelby played by Jerry Logan. One of Ottawa valley's strongest thespians, Janet Rice, portrays Annette, and local favourite Rob Glas rounds out the cast as the spirited and formidable Hamish.

Hamish opens at the Studio Theatre Perth on Thursday, April 4 for seven shows: April 4, 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 7:30PM, and April 7 & 14 at 2PM. Be sure to book your tickets in advance! Tickets are \$24 exclusively at Tickets Please in the Matheson House Museum Visitor Centre, 11 Gore St. E. (485-6434; ticketsplease.ca), which accepts in-store, phone, online and credit card purchases. Tickets are \$24 at the Studio Theatre box office on show nights, subject to availability. Rush tickets for students with ID are just \$10 at the door, subject to availability. Attend opening night and save \$5!

Don't miss your chance to see this delightful comedy about Scottish tradition, family, and forefathers. "There's a lot of heart in [Michael Grant's] writing," says actor Jerry Logan. "A lot of heart and soul." His co-star Alan Humphreys agrees: "Everyone is uplifted in the end. It's all about family."

— Dana Ruprecht

Choral Evensong on March 17

St. James Anglican Church in Perth invites you to Choral Evensong on Sunday, March 17 at 4PM, with a prelude at 3:45PM. "The Liturgical Choir will be in the Gallery at the back of the church during the Prelude," explains Musical Director Peter Woodwork, "singing unaccompanied music written between five and 500 years ago, including a selection from Handel's *Messiah* originally composed in 1741." The gallery was originally designed to allow occupants of the next-door jail to attend services, and there was no access except by ladder, which was taken down during the service to make sure no one escaped. Fortunately, we now have stairs.

This will be the last Choral Evensong this year until the fall, but there will be special evening services during Lent and Holy Week, including Ash Wednesday (March 6 at 7:30PM) and Maundy Thursday (April 18 at 7:30PM). If you have never experienced evening worship, you are warmly invited to attend any or all of these very special services. As well, the combined choirs of St. James and St. Paul's United Church and friends — a total of over eighty singers along with soloists and an orchestra — will be singing selections from Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, April 28. Tickets will go on sale very soon and it is recommended you buy them early.

St. James' Anglican Church is on the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets in Perth. For more information, contact the church office at 267-1163 or check <stjamesperth.ca>. All are welcome to this deeply spiritual service.

— Hilary Barrett

Humm Bits

Maple Grove Pancake Supper

At Maple Grove School, we are focused on improving our students' interest in the sciences. We believe that providing students with enriching opportunities in these areas will have a positive effect on both their achievement in and their enthusiasm for these subjects. On Tuesday, March 5, from 5–7:30PM at the Civitan Club in Lanark (2144 Pine Grove Road), the Fundraising Committee of the Maple Grove School Parent Council is planning a Pancake Supper to support the school in these efforts. The cost to attend is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. We are raising money to provide an interest-building, one-day workshop for each classroom in the area of science called "Science in the Classroom" where professional scientists will come into the classroom for the day to perform exciting feats.

— Jason Wilkinson

Pancake Breakfast at Union Hall

Once again, the folks at Union Hall are celebrating the coming of spring on Sunday, March 31 with a Pancake Breakfast. Food is being served from 8AM until noon.

For a modest price, diners will enjoy pancakes, ham or sausages, 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 \$7, or \$9 for the larger appetite. Kids 10 and under eat for \$5.

Union Hall, located west of Almonte at the corner of Wolf Grove and Tatlock Roads, has served the public for over 150 years. This year, visitors will be greeted by a second outdoor mural, featuring the former Rosedale Cheese Factory, courtesy of artist Laurel Cook.

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.

Get Ready to Diefen-Book It!

The 23rd annual Diefenbooker Race will take place on Saturday May 4, and welcomes runners, walkers and cyclists of all ages. Funds raised support organizations in West Carleton that promote literacy, or encourage physical activity or personal wellness. The Diefenbooker promotes community fun as well as serious racing. There are events for all ages, including: 5K and 10K running races; a 5K walk; 5K, 18K and 33K cycle tours; a 1K running race for 12 years old and under; and "Loonie Loop" short races for ages 2 to 6.

One of the highlights of the running and walking courses is a trip through the blast tunnel of the "Diefenbunker", Canada's Cold War Museum. Cyclists travel fully paved routes through rural West Carleton Township (some roads are temporarily closed to vehicular traffic). The youth events are held at the Fairgrounds in Carp. All routes are well marked.

There are two early-bird registration rates — one ending on March 23 and the other on April 13. For more information visit <diefenbookerclassic.ncf.ca>.

Stewart Park Festival's Kick-Off to Summer Party

If you're ready to party, it's never too early to think of summer. Stewart Park Festival and the Downtown Heritage Perth BIA announce this year's Kick-Off to Summer party — "Welcome to Margaritaville".

Taking place on Saturday, June 22 at the Crystal Palace in Perth, "Welcome to Margaritaville" is a two-part event beginning with a tailgate party at 5PM, complete with games, giveaways and a Cheeseburger in Paradise contest. Who makes Perth's best cheeseburger? You decide!

The dance follows at 8PM, featuring Brian Neale & Northern Harbour — one of Canada's premiere party bands playing the best of Jimmy Buffett, The Eagles and the Beach Boys,

One ticket covers both events, and partygoers are invited to dress in their most colourful attire. Prizes will be awarded for the most original parrot head hat.

Watch for special menu items in Perth's downtown restaurants and fantastic sales in the town's retail outlets that weekend as Perth's downtown merchants welcome you to Margaritaville.

This event is presented in conjunction with the Northern Landshark Parrot Head Club. If you thought last year's Blues Brothers party was a blast, wait 'til you see what's coming.

theHumm Interview

Enjoy a Sunday Afternoon at the Opera!

Christopher Dunham is a native of Niagara Falls, Ontario who has captivated audiences across Canada and as far away as the Adriatic coast of Italy with his lyric baritone voice. A recent

by Kris Riendeau

graduate from L'Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal, his roles have included Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, Mercutio in *Roméo et Juliette*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, Don Giovanni, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, Dandini in *La Cenerentola*, Schaunard/Marcello in *La bohème*, and the Conte d'Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*. Christopher is also a two-year recipient and winner of the Jaqueline Desmarais Foundation for Young Canadian Opera Singers and the Jeunesses Musicales du Canada's Young Mentorship Prize.

As a result of a rather romantic connection with Almonte, Christopher will be performing an afternoon of opera on Sunday, March 17 beginning at 1PM at the Almonte Old Town Hall. Eager to find out more, *theHumm* caught up with Christopher and demanded all the details...

theHumm: What factors set a young man from Niagara Falls on a course to become an international opera singer?

Christopher Dunham: So what set me along the path towards opera was actually all accidental. I was singing in musical theatre and rock & roll bands in high school and that led my father to get me some voice lessons. I went to university for sciences but quickly switched the following year to study music full-time. Nothing makes me feel as satisfied or as complete as music does.

There's a glowing review of your performance at the Brott Music Festival in the role of Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, a portion of which reads: "Possessed of an enormous baritone voice that he used with great musicality and intelligence, he proved he could not only sing like a god but act brilliantly, dance, play the guitar for his serenade and probably do stand-up and improv if asked nicely." What other training and experience (musical and otherwise) have you undertaken along the way?

My training in opera has put me in some very strange classes, that I would never have expected to study otherwise. I've done countless combat classes; swords, knives, all method of medieval weaponry. I've had non-stop movement and dance classes along



Baritone Christopher Dunham (above), along with accompanist Richard Coburn, will present an afternoon of opera and Broadway in Almonte on Sunday, March 17

the way, everything from ballet to modern dance and stylized theatrical movements. Languages are very important to study, as are other musical instruments.

It seems that your career path is about to lead you to the illustrious Almonte Old Town Hall. While known for its glorious acoustics, magnificent Steinway piano, and being the home of Almonte in Concert, it doesn't often act as an opera house. What's your connection to this town?

My connection to Almonte started through Corry McClure! Her daughter Alex is my partner and we've been coming to visit this charming town ever since Corry started calling it home. I did my first ever cross-country skiing here!

What can people expect to hear at your March concert? Do they have to be familiar with opera to enjoy this event?

I think people know more about opera than they would believe themselves. I'm going to sing a few of the great pieces of opera which we all remember from children's television programs like *Looney Toons*. I guarantee you'll know a few!

After your Ottawa Valley debut, what are your near-future musical plans?

I plan on heading to the Opéra de Montréal where I'll be singing a very well-known opera, *Carmen*. Then I head to Europe to continue my adventure across the pond, working with my two European agents to secure work for the future!

Tickets to Christopher's Almonte concert are \$25, available at the door or in advance from Mill Street Books, Baker Bob's or <facebook.com/events/2195729107408463/>. For more information, email <corry.mcclure@gmail.com> or call 705-879-7744.

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For more information on the course and your teacher, Anna Egan, visit www.mayapractice.com or email hello@mayapractice.com



The Work of the Women's Institute

I have fond memories of my paternal grandmother heading off to meetings of her Women's Institute (WI) and her glowing reports on how the Institute was doing important work in our rural community. Fast forward sixty odd-years — I met

by David Hinks

acquaintances at a local coffee shop recently and was somewhat surprised to learn that the female side of the equation was the President of the local Institute. Could it be true that this quintessential rural organization was still alive and thriving?

A bit of internet sleuthing and chats with local members soon revealed that indeed the WI remains a force in rural communities. Of course my thoughts turned to whether they have a role in gardening and my concerns about food security. And what I found was incredibly impressive. The mission of WI is quite broad, as it aims to strengthen families and communities. I found a recent resolution very revealing. The WI expressed their concern for the health and wellbeing of future generations of Ontario citizens in a resolution to the Ontario government that the Ontario Ministry of Education develop a Lifestyle Program which will teach all Ontario students

cooking skills, human nutrition and other wellness practices that will contribute to a healthy modern society.

The WI movement began in Canada at Stoney Creek in 1897. The objective was to improve women's skills in the art of homemaking and childcare. The movement quickly spread throughout Ontario and Canada, with 130 branches launched by 1905 in Ontario alone. As of 2013, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) had more than 300 branches with more than 4,500 members.

Interestingly, the movement spread from Canada to Great Britain, where the first meeting took place in 1915 in Wales. The organization had two aims: to revitalize rural communities and to encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the war. Since then the organization's aims have broadened and it is now the largest women's voluntary organization in the UK. The WI is a diverse organization open to all women, and there are now WIs in towns and cities as well as villages. Perhaps the most prominent member is Queen Elizabeth II. She has been a member since 1943, and is President of Sandringham WI. The Queen attends the January meeting at Sandringham each year and in January 2019 referred to "common ground" and "never losing sight of the bigger

picture" in a speech that was widely reported and interpreted as touching on the Brexit debate.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) was organized in 1919, giving members a stronger voice by working together as a united group. Through education and support programs and services, FWIO's original focus expanded to include personal growth opportunities, government lobbying, and health and community wellness projects. Their mission is stated as: "We envision an Ontario where women work together for safe, healthy communities and pursue an enriched and balanced lifestyle."

Their approach to governance is exemplary. "In every phase of its work the Women's Institute shall be non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-racial. All Women's Institutes shall be operated for the equal good of all citizens in a democratic manner to ensure that proper opportunity is provided for the expression of opinions and that the rights of a minority are respected."

In our area there are at least a dozen branches including Ramsay, Carleton Place, Perth and Lanark Village. The group that I am most familiar with is our local Ramsay WI that was formed in 1944. Two



The Ramsay Women's Institute serves Tea on the Lawn at the Mill of Kintail each summer

have created across the province, while the original documents remain within their communities.

I also love the Tea on the Lawn at the Mill of Kintail. In their own words: *Ramsay Women's Institute has been serving Tea on the Lawn at the Mill of Kintail during the summer since 1958. The tranquil setting of the Indian River, delicious homemade tea breads,*

tea in china cups and cool glasses of lemonade is a tradition worth saving. Institute members invite you to enjoy a relaxing time with friends and family on the grounds beside the museum.

Tea is served every Wednesday and Saturday in July and August from 2-4PM. The menu features an assortment of homemade tea breads, with steeped tea or ice-cold lemonade at a cost of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. The 2019 season begins on July 3. For newcomers who wish to meet their neighbours or become involved in their new community, Ramsay Women's Institute is a friendly starting point. New members are always welcome — there are no religious or political ties. For further information check out their great website at <ramsaiwi.ca>.

of their activities are ones that I treasure. The first is Tea on the Lawn at the Mill of Kintail; the second is their role as custodians of local history.

They have been officially recording community histories in Tweedsmuir History Books since 1947. A campaign was begun in 1945 to have every branch prepare a history of its community. Not only was it to include the history of the branch, but also to go back to the earliest settlers, the early agriculture and industries, churches, schools and local personalities including war veterans. The project was named after Lord Tweedsmuir.

Members also work with museums, libraries and schools. As of March 31, 2016, there is now an online platform to allow the public to access the many documents the Women's Institutes

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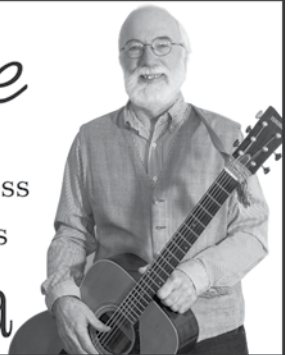
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Carleton Place Horticultural Society

A new season starts for Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society on March 6. The first meeting of the year will be an interesting evening with speaker David Dunn from Rideau Woodland Ramble near Merrickville, who will give a presentation entitled "The Design and Making of Shade Gardens."

Why not come for the evening and find out what the Society is all about? It's an excellent resource for answering all your gardening questions, whether you're a beginner or more advanced gardener, and to network with others by sharing problems and offering ideas and solutions. There is a question-and-answer session one evening each year with Lanark Master Gardeners, so you can also seek help with your gardening problems there. Membership is only \$10 per year for an individual or \$15 for a family. You can simply sit back and enjoy the monthly meetings, or you can dig right in by helping out with the annual plant sale; potting up for it is great fun.

Participate in the Society's various flower and vegetable shows, as well as their annual photography contest. This year they are having three flower shows, in spring, summer and fall. The Summer Show will be held at Mitchell's Independent Grocers (455 McNeely Avenue in Carleton Place) on July 22, and will be open to the public from 1-4PM.

Good snow cover at this time of year is the best possible condition for the garden to be in, which by spring should bring forth a bountiful supply of perennials needing to be dug up and divided by members assisting with the potting up for the annual Spring Plant Sale, held this year on May 25 from 8:30-11:30AM at the Victoria School Garden located next to the Carleton Place & Beckwith Heritage Museum. Funds from this sale provide bursaries to local students pursuing studies in horticulture, forestry or environmental studies.

As the seasons permit, you can relax and enjoy working with other members in the Victoria School Garden, and then take a stroll through the adjacent community labyrinth or enjoy a chat with other volunteers over a cup of tea. And you can also participate in occasional workshops on subjects such as flower arranging, planter gardens, dish gardens and Christmas décor.

Members receive a 10% discount at local businesses, including Reid Gardens, Gemmell's Garden Centre, Canadian Tire, Rock-

wall Gardens, Kiwi Gardens, Hillside Gardens and Whitehouse Perennials, as well as all garden centres that are associated with the Ontario Horticultural Association.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Zion Memorial United Church Hall

(located at 37 Franklin Street in Carleton Place) except for January, February, July and August. The meetings start at 7PM and refreshments are provided. It's only \$3 for visitors, so come and check them out. For more information visit <cphorticulture.ca> or find them on Facebook.

MMPL Seed Library

Come out to the Almonte Branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library on Saturday, March 23 at 12:30PM for this year's opening of the MMPL Seed Library. Find some amazing vegetable, flower and herb seeds, grown and shared by community members across the county! No need to register, just join the free membership when you get there.

There are also two special free seedy workshops planned for this spring. The first one, "Intensify Your Veggie Garden with Early Spring Crops", takes place at the Almonte Library on March 23 from 10AM-noon (just before the Seed Library opening). Some crops love the cold, so come out and learn how you can get a jump on the season from local grower and market gardener Sarah Lickley.

The second workshop, "Planning your Garden for Seed Saving", takes place on Saturday, April 6 from 10AM-noon and features Kate Green (Program Manager, USC Canada, Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security). She will provide step-by-step instructions on how to save four different types of seeds, how to store them well, and how to plan your garden to produce good quality seeds.

There is no cost for these workshops, but please register by emailing <kkiddey@mississippimills.ca> or phoning the Almonte library at 256-1037.



Sarah Lickley from Wild Oak Homestead will give a free workshop on early spring crops on March 23

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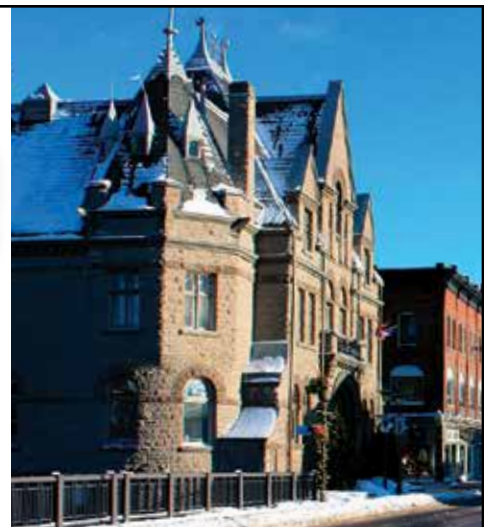


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Welcome Spring with Sultry Tango Music

The Station Theatre in Smiths Falls is proud to welcome the group Payadora for the first concert of the Theatre's 2019 music series. Founded in 2013, Payadora has quickly become one of Toronto's most vibrant and sought-after acts, performing an extensive repertoire of original compositions and their own arrangements of Argentinean folk music and tango. Their broad scope in tango draws from the height of Buenos Aires' tango tradition (including compositions by De Caro, Pugliese, Troilo and Salgan), as well as the masterful, contemporary sounds of Astor Piazzolla and others. Drawing from eclectic backgrounds in classical, jazz, latin, eastern European folk music and improvisation, Payadora's performances exude technical virtuosity, playful spontaneity, and rhythmic vitality. Check them out at <payadora.com>.

The band consists of four wonderfully talented artists, each of whom can perform a solo show without batting an eyelash. But together they transform into a group that critics have praised as "Playful, spontaneous and sexy!" (Classical 96.3 FM), "Superstar group" (*Wholenote Magazine*), "It was difficult to tell who was having more fun — the audience or the performers!" (*Ontario Arts Review*).

Rebekah Wolkstein is the violin and voice of the group. Wisconsin born, she has made herself a name in Toronto both on stage and in studio. She is also a dedicated educator. Drew Jurecka plays the bandoneon. He is an accomplished jazz and session violinist but also an arranger, producer, composer and multi-instrumentalist. He has toured with Jeff Healey, Jill Barber and Stuart McLean to name a few, and his arrangements and original scores have been used on albums and in plays. Robert Horvath plays piano in the group. He has performed regularly with the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra since 2008 and leans towards the classical pieces. Speaking of his recording of Bach's F minor Piano

Concerto, renowned vocal coach Elaine Overholt said: "His nuances are exquisite. His incredible technique allows Robert so much range with the dynamics, and his heart leads you to the magic." Musical education is important to Horvath as well, and he fits teaching into his busy schedule. Joseph Phillips is the ensemble's double bass player. Phillips started studying classical guitar at age nine at the University Settlement House Music School. He attended Oakwood Collegiate, and after some time playing the clarinet, he discovered the double bass. Time spent playing in various blues bars and Irish pubs, as well as four years studying with renowned classical virtuoso Joel Quarrington, have led to a busy and diverse career. Joe has performed with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, among others.

The tango has been called a "dance of sorrow" as it represents frustrated love and human fatality, although originally the dance was not so deep and serious. The original tango music had no lyrics to it and the dances were mostly improvised and in some cases were almost a combination of dance and wordless theatre. Tango has been described as "a feeling that is danced". If you recall the scene in *Scent of a Woman* when Al Pacino's blind character leads a lady in a tango, you will remember the feelings it brought with it. This music has a distinct, sensual feeling to it.

This concert will be a wonderful way to welcome in the newness of all that is Spring. The show starts at 8PM on Friday, March 29. Tickets will be on sale at Special Greetings, located at 8 Russell Street in Smiths Falls (cash only) and can be picked up half an hour before the start of show at the box office at 53 Victoria Avenue. Online and telephone orders are available too. Adult tickets are \$30 and student/child tickets are \$15. For more details, call The Station Theatre at 283-0300 or visit <smithsfallstheatre.com>.



The Station Theatre's first concert of 2019 takes place on March 29 and features Toronto's Payadora ensemble

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A Maple's Tale

*While walking in the woods one day
I stopped beside a maple tree
The leaves were rustling in the breeze
And this is what they said to me...*

Hello, please stop awhile and listen to my story. Yes, I'm a maple tree and I'm talking to you! Here I am standing in my allotted spot in the woods, surrounded by my children and grandchildren. From my lofty perch I can look out over the tree tops and watch the clouds sail by and the hawks and eagles soaring high above me. But it was not always like this.

My very first memory is as a small round kernel lying on the forest floor in the leaf litter. How I got there, I later learned, was by floating down from my parent tree and landing where I stand today. It was a very good spot, as the soil was moist and just the right mixture of sandy loam with lots of decayed leaves. I lay there all winter covered by snow. The snow melted as the weather warmed, providing lots of moisture, and I began to swell. The moment of awakening arrived when my shell split and I sprang forth as a green shoot. My first meal came from my seedcase, but I soon began to reach out with tiny rootlets in the damp soil that allowed me to add to my rapidly growing height, and I kept stretching as much as I could to see the sun. All at once two leaves sprang from the tip of my growing stem and I could now breathe as well as drink! A patch of sunlight shone directly on me and I began to grow faster than my siblings all around me.

All too soon my daily dose of sunshine began to diminish, and I felt myself slowing down. My leaves fell off and I felt the need to sleep. The snow came, but I awoke in the spring and once again sent out my leaves to catch the sun. And then my stem grew and I added another row of leaves. Every year the cycle repeated, and soon I was a teenager standing ten metres tall and with limbs and lots of leaves.

I outgrew my nearby siblings and am sorry to say that most of them fell by the wayside. Then something happened — the sunshine that I absorbed each summer could no longer reach me due to the canopy formed by the older trees above. I survived, but my growth almost stopped and I seemed doomed to live in the shade of all these big trees.

Now this was many years ago and there were no people around. But settlers came and began to cut the mature trees for lumber and firewood. I was too small and thin, so I was left undisturbed. Now I could see the sun again and I began to grow. There were still other trees around me, so my beam of sunshine was narrow. I stretched my new limbs upward every year to catch every minute of the nurturing sun. I grew tall and straight until I became the tallest tree around me, and now I could spread my limbs far and wide.

I have lost count of the number of years I have stood here, but I do remember special events that occurred. Several years red-shouldered hawks nested in my branches, and I enjoyed watching the young hawks learn to fly. I thought it must be nice to be able to fly around, but I also saw how hard they worked to find something to eat. All I had to do was spread my roots for water and my leaves for sunshine and I was fully fed.

That reminds me that sometimes caterpillars ate my leaves and I was very hungry. I had stored some starch in my trunk and roots just for this possibility and I used this food to survive. Much harder to withstand were those years with not enough rainfall or snow cover to provide all the moisture I needed. Then I partially shut down my system and I even dropped my leaves to conserve moisture. If you were able to look inside my trunk, you could see that these events are recorded in the width of my annual growth rings. Ice storms and wind storms twisted my branches, but I was strong and survived.

So here I am today — the tallest and largest maple in these woods — and people come just to see me.



The Fortune Farms giant maple tree is 33m tall, with a 110-cm diameter and 25m to the first limb. It is estimated to be about 300 years old.

Photographer Neil Carleton writes: "The integration of two scales from this perspective — the magnificent girth of the trunk and the intricate detail that emerges from its silhouetted canopy branches — speaks to both the massive presence of the tree as a single forest component and its interconnectedness to a complex ecosystem that exists above, on, and beneath the forest floor."

There are trees with larger diameters on lawns and in open areas, but they are also rather short and bushy. Not majestic trees, like me, found only in dense forests.

One spring day a man appeared and — ouch! — he drilled a hole in my trunk. I couldn't stop the sap with its supply of sugar that I needed for my new set of leaves dripping out the hole. Now squirrels had always bitten some of my twigs to drink a bit of sap. But this was different. This man-made hole was wholesale robbery. He was very greedy, but I saw him collecting the sap and he seemed to value it very much. In the end I had the last laugh. Since this was in the spring, the weather was warming rapidly and all the microbes that live in my bark rushed to the hole to gorge on the sugar in the sap. There were so many they stopped the sap from flowing, and then I covered the hole with new wood. I will always have a scar, but as long as I can grow new wood no serious damage is done. This now happens every spring, and I have learned to grin and bear it.

By the way, I have some friends standing around me. Our roots intertwine and even grow together. Underground we are a continuous interconnected maze of roots. If one tree has a better supply of moisture or nutrients, then it may even share it with its neighbours!

Some people say that the trees are talking to one another. But that's not the right expression. We do communicate with one another through our roots and through the olfactory emanations from our leaves. We also whisper in the wind, and if you sit beneath my canopy and listen closely as you are today, you'll hear me communicating with you!

— Ray Fortune is the owner of Fortune Farms Maple Sugar Bush

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Art, Music, Comedy and More in March!

As always, there are plenty of interesting events taking place in Mississippi Mills in the merry month of March. Here are a few:

Two Class(ical) Acts

On Saturday, March 16, Almonte in Concert presents Ensemble Made In Canada's **Mosaïque Project** at 7:30PM at the Almonte Old Town Hall. This concert by Canada's premier piano quartet features a commissioned suite by fourteen Canadian composers, each engaging with a specific region, province, or territory of Canada. But it is also your

by Miss Mills

opportunity to take part in a unique and exciting nation-wide project. The audience is invited to become part of the creative process, and express yourself by drawing as you listen to the music. A specially designed website will document audience-generated artwork inspired by this musical Canadian mosaic. Drawing tools and a small card on which you can doodle, draw or colour will be provided, and afterwards submitted cards are collected, scanned, tagged and uploaded to the website. As the tour progresses, the Visual Mosaïque has been growing in complexity, diversity, and beauty. It acts as a dynamic visual representation of the tour, and of the country, connecting music, art, and communities across Canada. Find out more at <ensemblemadeinCanada.com>, and visit <almonteinconcert.com> to get your tickets!

Then on Sunday, March 17, baritone **Christopher Dunham** will present an afternoon of opera and Broadway — check out page 6 for all the details!



Rachele Elie will be bringing a slate of "rock star" stand-up comedians to Almonte for her **Rash Comedy Bash** on March 29

Rachele's Rash Comedy Bash

After opening for Tommy Chong at the HubCap Comedy Festival in February, award-winning comedian Rachele Elie is back in Almonte and ready for some laughs.

Known in this area for her Rag Bag Cabarets, she is excited to bring a stand-up comedy show to Almonte audiences. The **Rash Comedy Bash** is hosted by Rachele and features some of her favourite comedians as seen on The Debators, Sirius XM, Just For Laughs, The Halifax Comedy Festival, the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, and the HubCap Comedy Festival, to name a few. Rock star comedians Jenn Labelle, Don Kelly, Greg Shroder and Mike Beatty are so far confirmed as performers, but more will be added, so stay tuned to <crowningmonkey.com> for up-to-date details.

The show takes place on Friday, March 29 at 8PM at the Old Town Hall (doors open at 7PM). Tickets are \$25 (includes HST) and can be purchased on Eventbrite or at Mill Street Books. Cash bar! Don't miss this one, Almonte!

That First Weekend in April...

If March is merry in Mississippi Mills then April is going to be AMAZING! You can catch *The Phantom of the Hubera* — a musical, hilarious fundraiser for The Hub's building fund — on April 4, 5, 6 at 7:30PM and on the 6th and 7th at 2PM (see page 13 for the details). Drop in to the Textile Museum that same weekend for a show by **The Ten Collective** (page 15) and a vernissage for **Hub Hospice** (page 20), drive around the Pakenham area and experience the **Maple Run Tour** (page 17), and visit local sugar bushes for **Maple Weekend** (page 22). And that's just the first weekend!

Blanket Exercise Coming to Almonte

"The Kairos Blanket Exercise program is a unique, participatory history lesson — developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators — that fosters truth, understanding, respect and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples" <kairosblanketexercise.org>. It is now available as a workshop in many communities across Canada, and is coming to Almonte on March 30.

This event will be facilitated by Mireille LaPointe, past chief of Ardoch Algonquin First Nation, co-chair of the Indigenous Health Council, and a high school teacher in Perth. Following a short break once the "exercise" has been completed, participants will debrief the experience using a Talking Circle format. The morning will finish

with a community feast, providing more time to continue the conversation informally.

Participants are invited to come well-rested with an open mind, prepared for a new learning experience. Pre-registration is required since space is limited, and a heart donation is appreciated.

The Blanket Exercise will take place on March 30 from 9:30AM to 1PM at the Almonte United Church Hall, located at 106 Elgin Street in Almonte. The inclement weather alternate date is April 6. Please pre-register at <MMallmyrelations.ca>.

Mireille LaPointe will be back in Almonte on Friday, May 3 for a screening of *Reel Injun* — the first film in a Reconciliation Movie Night series. The Movie Night will start at 7PM at St Paul's Anglican Church in Almonte. Admission is by donation.

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Musings On Mr. Rogers & the Art of Sacred Living

It was CBC playing through the car speakers when I pulled onto the roundabout on the edge of Almonte. I was only half paying attention to the radio when an old familiar voice (and accompanying xylophone) broke through the chatter and sang: *It's a beautiful day in the neighbourhood, a beautiful day for a neighbour...* Every cell in my body instantly came alive and completely relaxed as the words bubbled up out of my heart and through my mouth, joining in: *...would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbour?* Suddenly I was six years old again, sitting on a bright orange vinyl floor pillow about a foot away from the console TV in the family room, watching as Mr. Rogers walked through the front door of his house in the 'hood, slipped on a comfortable cardigan and a pair of sneakers, and got to work lovin' on kids like me all over the world.

Maybe it was the consistent kindness in his voice and his genuine, gentle demeanour: whether he was talking to those of us on the other side of the screen, catching up with Mr. McFeely or Officer Clemmons on his side of the screen, or testifying before a Senate Subcommittee in order to secure \$20 million for public television (something I didn't know about until years later), it was clear that Mr. Rogers was full of grace and gratitude in all things, full of love for everybody and everything around him.

Maybe it was the way he was completely present to whatever he was doing and whoever he was doing it with: his easy-going, un-fluffed, "there's-nowhere-I'd-rather-be-than-right-here" way of being let it be known that mindfulness matters.

Maybe it was the sense that he was completely comfortable in his own skin: sincere, willing to ask hard questions, able to listen to other people with curiosity and openness and with challenge and compassion... this guy was the real deal.

Whatever it was, there was something about Mr. Rogers that made me believe him when he looked into the camera and sang: *It's you I like. It's not the things you wear. It's not the way you do your hair. It's you I like...*

For thirty minutes every weekday afternoon, regardless of what was going on in our house or at school or in the world around me, I knew in my bones that everything would be OK, that I wasn't alone, that I belonged... all because of a big-hearted, courageous man in Pittsburgh whose only goal in life was to remind people of just how beautiful we all are and how sacred life is.



Angie Arendt is the co-founder (with her husband Peter McGaugh) and director of Big Stone House in Almonte: a space and place for people to learn and practice the art of sacred living and leading... or, as Angie says, "a place where people can learn to be like Fred (Rogers)." For more information on happenings at Big Stone House, visit bigstonehouse.ca.

The CBC story wrapped up the same way the TV show did: with Mr. Rogers promising that *"I'll be back when the day is new and I'll have more ideas for you and you'll have things you'll want to talk about. I will, too."* And then he was gone, replaced with stories of war, rumors of war, #metoo, local kerfluffles, the stock market, snowstorms and traffic snarls. He was right: there are so many things to talk about...

— Angie Arendt


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The Phantom of the Hubera

Fundraiser for The Hub in Almonte Promises TWICE the Fun!

Twice the fun!? What hyperbole is this? Well we kid you not, fair reader — and we should know, since we are both the editor of this reliable publication and the director of the upcoming production of *The Phantom of the Hubera* (although, admittedly, only one person). It is in fact my great good fortune to be directing my third “Fern Martin show”, the first two being *Trashdance* and *A Peak at Pakenham*. And while those earlier shows raised funds for the Beautification Committee of Mississippi Mills and the Pakenham Library Expansion respectively, *Phantom* will be assisting the marvelous institution known as The Hub, as they renovate their lovely building in downtown Almonte so that they can continue to raise and donate oodles of money to the community of Mississippi Mills.

But back to the bold promise of “twice the fun”. One of the ways in which we calculate the fun-icity of this show is by factoring in the cast, and there are in fact *two dif-*

ferent ones! That’s right — the roles of the Phantom, the Narrator, Cinderella, the Fairy Goddess Mother and Prince Charming will be played by **two** completely different groups of people. Not only that, but you can deduce from the names of the characters that this show is a quirky blend of (at least) **two** different tales! So in order to see all of the actors shine in their roles you definitely need to see the show (at least) **two** times. Take a look at the ad on the back page of this issue to see who is playing on what dates.

Now there are several other characters (the Chandeleer, the Hub Women, the Hot Chicks and the Huberettas) who perform in every show, but their roles are so compelling and their dialogue so quick and witty that you will need to attend twice just to hear all their lines over the raucous laughter that is sure to ensue. And the fact that many of them have shared the stage in past “Fern shows” adds elements of improv and slapstick that may well vary from one show to the next. And speaking of past shows, *Phantom* will even feature a cameo by a favourite character — one who brought the house down in *A Peak at Pakenham*. This character was such a hit that we figured you deserved to see it a **second** time.

Fortunately, we took all of this into account when determining the ticket price. Although the show will be every bit as fabulous and funny as Fern’s past oeuvres, we decided to go with a price of only \$15 and the motto “It’s a low ticket price so you

can see the show **twice!**” So run out right away and buy yours at Mill Street Books (256-9090) or on EventBrite. Performances are at 7:30PM on April 4, 5 and 6, with 2PM matinées on April 6 and 7.

All hyperbole aside, this production is an example of what our community does best — coming together to share our talents and energy to support something we hold in the highest esteem. From costumes, back-stage support and set design to musical direction and accompaniment, people are pouring their time into this project to ensure that The Hub can continue will their great work. The cast has coalesced into a warm and wonderful ensemble, welcoming newcomers and supporting each other in their character development, and even contributing some extra dialogue. Their performances are sure to make you laugh out loud, but you’ll also leave feeling great about the power of positive community.

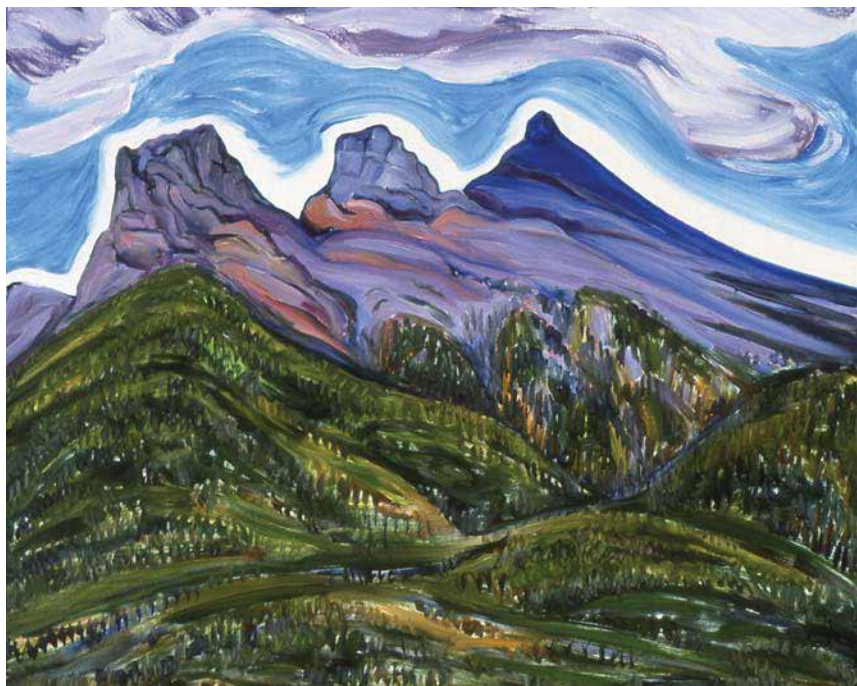
And by the way, if the title of this production sounds familiar, that’s because Fern wrote the original script for *The Phantom of the Hubera* ten years ago when



The upcoming production of *The Phantom of the Hubera* features two different casts (pictured above are a Fairy Goddess Mother and two Cinderellas, with a Chandeleer at left) and a ticket price of only \$15. “It’s a low ticket price so you can see the show twice!”

it was put on to celebrate The Hub’s 35th birthday. She has updated it somewhat for this occasion, but it certainly stood the test of time — in fact, it’s so good it deserves a **second** go-round. See you at the show! Twice!

— Kris Riendeau



Three Sisters 1 • Oil on Canvas
2006 - 30 x 36 in. 76 x 91 cm

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Rob Lutes
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An Almonte Author's Family Affair

I'm really happy to announce that I'll be releasing my latest book, *A Family Affair*, on March 23. This brings a conclusion to my first trilogy that blossomed into a series. This is what happens when you're not paying close attention! I've been writing for over twenty-five years; poetry, short stories and then, accidentally, a novel. That was a surprise but I haven't looked back. In 2017 I released *An Expensive Retreat*, followed by the second novel in 2018, *Uncomfortable Truths*. I've got several more in the works and I like to tell people it keeps me out of trouble.

The *Pure Red Sand* trilogy follows Nadine, a former medic, and Sven, a mine owner's son, across two planets in a search for justice. They find love and a new kind of family on the way. I don't want to give too much away. Then you won't want to read the books!

Almonte has been a lovely place to write, with such a feeling of community when you meet people on the streets. I've met some wonderful people since I moved here over two years ago and I'm hoping to stay. If you'd like to give my blog or books a read, you can find me on your favourite social media sites on the big old World Wide Web: blog <mnegrijn.wordpress.com>, Twitter <@M_thewriter>, Facebook <facebook.com/mnegrijn>.



M. Negrijn will be releasing her third book (with its great cover art by Laura Sou) on March 23

My books are available in print and digital form on Amazon. Just search: Pure Red Sand. I know we're all hoping for an early spring. But until then, take a quick peek at the new cover and why not join me on the hot sands of Mars?

— M. Negrijn

Speaking Volumes

Libraries: A Lifetime of Public Service

Recently, librarians from across the country gathered in Toronto for an annual conference. As with all such gatherings of professionals there were guest speakers, learning opportunities, workshops and the chance to network with peers.

In addition to sharing innovative programming ideas and new approaches in technology, there was a lot of discussion about homelessness and the public library.

by Karen DeLuca, Librarian

In urban centres, this often takes the form of employing social workers as part of the library team, or creating close relationships with community partners whose mandate is to assist with this particular need.

Although not as prevalent in smaller, more rural communities, the public library is often the only resource for those in need of a place to go during the day... warm in winter months, cool in summer months and open to everyone. No questions asked.

It doesn't cost money to walk through the doors. There are no limitations on the amount of time spent at the library. Library staff often become a source of information — providing individuals with the tools to make vital connections that can help with immediate and long-range needs.

In fact, libraries have been playing this role for decades. As a public institution, it is one of the few in society offering services, resources and a welcoming, respectful space for everyone.

There's also the opportunity for community engagement. Newcomers can connect with the community at large — outside of the established networks of schools or work. For immigrants, this often takes the form of language-learning and social connections.

The very young learn to interact with others through programming. Baby Time, preschool story times, March Break activities and more bring youngsters to the library and offer them a fun, engaging world of learning and friends.

The educational and recreational resources are available for all ages. eResources bring the library into the home via a free library card. Various cultural programming brings affordable film screenings, presentations, exhibits and such to a community space. Book Clubs, organized meet-ups for knitting groups, games clubs and more provide social activities for all ages.

The library as a destination provides an escape from living alone — a place to read the newspaper, have a friendly chat with staff or another patron, or simply explore the aisles of books — all at no cost.

Often, when mobility issues restrict someone from coming to the public library, the library can offer services to bring resources right to their doors — thereby continuing that vital connection throughout the stages of life.

If you haven't yet discovered your local library, perhaps it's time to wander through the doors to see what it can offer you!

— Karen DeLuca is the CEO at the Arnprior Public Library and the 2017 Ontario Library Association's Public Librarian of the Year. The Arnprior Public Library recently received the 2018 Minister's Award for Innovation for its Music of Your Life Program.

Karen's Non-fiction Recommendations:

- *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean
- *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
- *Vegetables, Chickens & Bees: an honest guide to growing your own food anywhere* by Carson Arthur



The Ten Collective is following up their wildly popular inaugural show with a second annual event on April 6 and 7 at the Textile Museum in Almonte

The Ten Collective Second Annual Exhibit in Almonte

In April 2018, ten Mississippi Mills artists held their first show, expecting 500 people to visit. By the end of the two-day exhibit, more than 1,200 had attended the show and visited the town. Visitors came from Mississippi Mills, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and Toronto. The artists were overwhelmed and sold many of their paintings. It was also very busy weekend for local restaurants and stores.

“The success of last year’s show and the demand for our work convinced us to mount a second exhibit this year,” said The Ten Collective founder Eileen Hennemann. “We are very excited about sharing our work with each other’s networks and about holding the exhibit once again in a Canadian national historic site — the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. It is a perfect venue for a group of our size.”

The show will be held at the museum, located at 3 Rosamond St. E. in Almonte, on Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7. The show runs from 10AM to 6PM both days. Admission and parking are free.

The Ten Collective artists are Amelia Ah You, Eleanor Doran, Jill Halliday, Eileen Hennemann, Rosemary Leach, Marina May Raike, Katherine McNenly, Kaija Savinainen Mountain, Jennifer Noxon and Lily Swain.

The Ten Collective believes their show benefits the artists, the town and the museum. Visitors can enjoy the show and a day visiting

the area, stopping to enjoy a coffee or lunch, browsing through unique and interesting stores and seeing some of the natural sites that surround us. New visitors to the museum will experience the history of the woollen industry in the Mississippi River Valley and learn about the impact it had on the social, cultural and industrial development of the region. They can also get information about the exhibits and educational events held at the museum throughout the year.

The second annual show will display all new work, with select paintings available for purchase. The show will feature artwork in a variety of styles including acrylic, oil, watercolour and mixed media, with no two artists alike.

HFT Donuts is supplying morning refreshments, and tastings of Cartwright Springs beer and KIN Vineyard wine will be offered mid-afternoon. Several other sponsors, including Fulton’s Pancake House & Sugar Bush, are also involved in the cross-promotion of this event and will be profiled during the weekend. Hennemann Stanley Design developed the trademark, branding and promotional materials.

To learn more about the artists and the show and to read their blog, visit <thetencollective.com>. Follow The Ten Collective on Instagram and Facebook for updates on what the artists are creating.

Soup for Thought 2019

Almonte’s tastiest fundraising event is back and better than ever, so save the date: Saturday, March 30. Once again, the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum will host its immensely popular “Soup for Thought” fundraiser. You’ll be able to buy a fabulous bowl (handmade by the artists at the Almonte Potters Guild!), fill it with delicious soups from restaurants in Almonte and Carleton Place, add a roll, coffee and dessert, and enjoy a meal with friends or family.

Featured again this year is the “taster’s choice” where you can try smaller servings of three delicious soups. Doors will open at 11:45AM, and there’s no need to worry about getting the “best bowls” as there will be a terrific selection throughout the event.

Please note that there is only ONE sitting from 12–2PM. Seating is limited and tickets can only be purchased in advance, so don’t hesitate! Tickets are available at the Museum (Visa payment accepted by phone) and at Baker Bob’s (cash only). Adults are \$25 and children 3–12 are \$10 (no pottery bowl); children under 3 are free. No tickets will be sold at the door.

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is located in Almonte at 3 Rosamond St. E. For more information, visit <mmvm.ca> or call 256–3754.



Get your tickets well in advance for the popular “Soup for Thought” fundraiser at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. This year’s event takes place on March 30.

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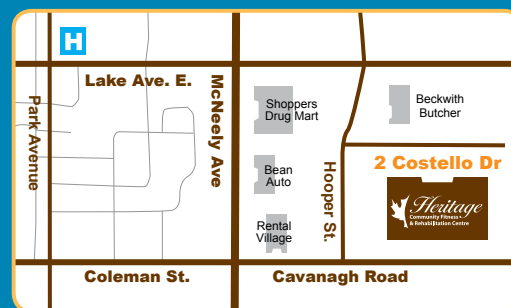
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The Reeve Report

I'm Getting Antsy...

I should have known this would happen. As soon as the days start to get longer, I am eager to "DO SOMETHING". In other years, that's led to a desire to paint the living room, clean the kitchen, wash the curtains, start planting up geraniums. I have to take a step back and sit down with the crossword puzzle or I'd be a whirling Dervish stupidly overstepping the bounds of common sense.

by Glenda Jones

This is our down-time, but it's gone on long enough now and I need activity, as do the dogs. Our little one sits by the door waiting for one step towards the coats and boots. I'm weary of the dressing routine, five layers to assemble with a dog hanging on the snow pants before I can get out the door. She's happy; I, not so much when it's still minus-15.

I finished the four little paintings I wanted to do, I've knit two pairs of socks, I've trimmed the houseplants, I've organized the recipe book, I've even organized my whole summer's agility trial season. And now I'm ready to "do something" different. It's a blessing that February is a short month, as the anticipation of spring is palpable.

However, it's March now, and we can smell spring in the air, even if it's still buried under five feet of snow. I am tempted to dig the pile off the daffodils to hurry spring along. Instead, I'll raid the flower sections of the grocery store for those sweet little pots of greenery and flowers. I bury my face in the hyacinths on display, just to savour the aroma of spring. I resist the tulips because as soon as they get home, they'll droop over the sides of the pot like homesick divas. I don't need that sulky look in the house!

We are nearly through our considerable wood pile that fuelled us throughout the winter. We always leave a few logs just in case Mother Nature isn't finished with us yet. We all know how capricious she can be in March. But I am contenting myself with general basement clean-up, making that one less job to tackle when I want to be outside. There: I've "done something"!

I can mark the sun's spring path by when it appears in the kitchen. Just today the whole kitchen was awash in rainbows as the sun caught the crystal in the window. Later it will be shining the length of the hall as it begins to head toward the spring arc. I relish these little increments of spring's arrival. Well, not exactly, since it lights a task I really need to accomplish soon: the windows are the usual winter mess. There: I can "do something".

When sunlight floods the skylights, it catches faint strings of cobwebs. Fuelled by cat hair and gossamer dog hair, it's a siren cry to get out the broom and make a clean sweep of the ceilings and corners. And the baseboards could do with a wipe while I have the mop out. It's no use doing that if I'm not going to wash down the doors, and I might as well open the closet and do the shelves too. Okay, while I'm in there, I should see what can be sorted and tossed. And lurking at the bottom are things to be washed. Maybe I can rearrange these closets to be more efficient. That should take the better part of a morning, and by golly that's "doing something", isn't it?

I have to do these things before spring fever hits or I'll be caught short, spending my time wandering in and out, sitting on the sunny front steps, making rivulets for melting snow, sweeping the garage, poking at the frozen ground, opening windows, and doing my darndest to look busy.

One thing I won't be doing is buying seeds. I



still have that stern reminder in my garden journal: "Don't buy seeds! You'll be disappointed in August!" My neighbour will have lush green under his grow lights, but I'll only have lanky succulents and wispy geranium cuttings. I'll divide them all in late March, pot up the babies, and ship the works off to the Hub for quick sale.

Something we can do at this time of year is drive in the country and watch the season change. It never fails to amaze me that nature knows it's time to wake up. The willow trees are the first sign when they start to turn golden yellow. Then the maple buds go red, while the poplars swell like pussy willows. Just wait and it won't be long till the tamaracks are lime green, the birches bud forth, and what do you know, here comes the forsythia, right on schedule.

Hang in there, folks, it's going to happen, and we'll all be busy "doing something" in anticipation of summer.

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Maple Run Tour: Wander, Experience, Indulge!

Visitors to the 2019 Pakenham Maple Run Tour on the weekend of April 6 and 7 will discover the largest showcase ever of participants and locations — perfect for wandering, experiencing and indulging!

Wander up to Pakenham, just a short drive from Ottawa via Hwy 417 or from Carleton Place on Hwy 29. Experience inspiring art, craft, food, drink and heritage locations. Meet the artists who have created their work and find out what feeds their passion. Indulge your taste buds in locally-produced food and beverages.

The Maple Run Tour website at <mapleruntour.com> gives detailed descriptions of all 33 participants, ten tour venues, food stops, demonstrations, special events and a map with locations taking you through Pakenham and the surrounding area. Brochures with tour information can be picked up at the Pakenham General Store (right in the heart of the village) or at any tour stop displaying the green maple leaf logo.



Find terrific local food and art (like this blown glass feeder by Chris Van Zanten) on the Maple Run Tour!

There are returning favourites and several artists new to this year's tour who present a wide variety of artistic expressions. Brighten up your home both inside and out with award-winning pottery, pewter ware, textile and paper artistry, artistic blacksmithing, fine woodwork, unique birdhouses, photography and miniature quilts. Treat your body and soul with luscious soaps, natural skin care and coconut wax candles. Tempt your taste buds with flavoured honey, jams, fudges, sauces and sweet breads, solar roasted coffee, craft beers, hard apple ciders and a pink food truck serving up a gourmet lunch menu. Add to your spring wardrobe with custom clothing, felting, weaving and unique jewellery designs. Read along with an award-winning children's book author and also visit the fiery spectacle of the daily glassblowing demonstrations and other glass art forms. All this adds to the excitement of the 2019 Maple Run Tour.

Leave time in your day to experience Lanark County's maple syrup season <mapleweekend.ca> and plan a visit to Fulton's Pancake House and Sugar Bush <fultons.ca>. Try out the local restaurants and bakeries, many who have maple-inspired items for this annual spring celebration. Take advantage of the rare opportunity to visit St. Peter's Celestine Church for a guided tour of its heritage architecture and ecclesiastical art on Saturday and Sunday at 1:30PM (donations appreciated). Take photos of the only surviving 5-arched stone bridge in North America and the thunderous Mississippi River spring run-off. Check out the Pakenham General Store and in its impressive pre-confederation stone building, which has been the longest continuously running general store in North America (in operation since the 1840s).

All the details can be found at <mapleruntour.com>, or follow the tour on Facebook for updates. Towards the end of your afternoon, head over to Almonte to see the artwork being presented by the Ten Collective <tencollective.com> being held at the Mississippi Textile Museum. And then relax after a very busy day while you enjoy *The Phantom of the Hubera* at the Almonte Old Town Hall. This musical fundraiser for the Hub's building fund is sure to be a great show!



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Claiming Column

The Phantom of the Hubera, Almonte, Apr 4-7
Hamish, Perth, Apr 4-14
Rob Lutes, Almonte, Apr 6
Maple Run Studio Tour, Pakenham, Apr 6-7
Maple Weekend, Apr 6-7
The Ten Collective, Almonte, Apr 6-7
Almonte in Concert, Apr 13
Oh Susanna, MERA, Apr 14
BOTR: Rick Fines/Suzie Vinnick, Westport, Apr 19
The Faery's Kiss, SF, Apr 26-May 5
We Will Rock You, CP, Apr 26-May 4
Folkus: David Myles, Almonte, Apr 27
AGH Spring Dance, Almonte, Apr 27
Handel's Messiah, Perth, Apr 28
Superhero Saturday, CP, May 4
Home & Living Expo, SF, May 4-5
Eugene Friesen & Joel Martin, Perth, May 25

Local Food

Deep Roots Food Hub AGM, Mar 6, 6:30-8:30PM. West Carleton Amateur Sports Club, Carp. deeproofsfoodhub.ca
Two Rivers Market, Mar 30, 10AM-2PM, Farm fresh products & specialty items. Galloway Centre, 361 Queen St., Smiths Falls

Visual Arts

Meet the Artists: 6 Fibre Artists, Mar 3, 2-4PM. Strévé Design, 64 Gore St. E., Perth. 267-0230, strevedesign.com
Vernissage: Lanark Life Learners, Mar 3, 2-4PM. meraschoolhouse.org
Almonte Quilters' Guild, Mar 18, 7-9PM. Monthly mtg. All welcome. Almonte Civitan Hall, almontequiltersguild@gmail.com
Lanark Co. Camera Club Mtg, Mar 26, 7-9PM. Rm 104. Algonquin College, Perth
Lanark County Quilters Guild, Mar 26, 7-9PM. Trunk show, Tucan Quilts, Lions Hall, Perth. lanarkcountyquiltersguild.com

Theatre

The Maltese Falcon, Mar 1-2 at 8PM, Mar 3 at 2PM. Thriller. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 267-1884. \$22/\$10
Alone Together Again, Mar 1-2 at 7:30PM; Mar 3 at 2PM. Broadway comedy. Studio Theatre, Perth. ticketsplease.ca. \$24
Out of Order, Mar 1-2 at 7:30PM; Mar 3 at 2PM. British farce. Station Theatre, SF. smithsfallstheatre.com, 283-0300. \$20/\$10
Film Night International presents *The Guilty*, Mar 6, 2 & 7PM (Full Circle Theatre, Perth); Mar 7, 2 & 7PM (Station Theatre, SF). *Shoplifters*, Mar 20, 2 & 7PM (Perth); Mar 21, 2 & 7PM (SF). \$10
A Star is Born, Mar 15, 16, 7PM. Film. Station Theatre, SF. 283-0300, smithsfallstheatre.com. \$10/\$5
Bad Times at the El Royale, Mar 15, 7:30PM. Film. Studio Theatre, Perth. 267-7469, ticketsplease.ca. \$12 adv (\$10 door)
Lanark LiPS Poetry Slam, Mar 22, 6:30-8:30PM. Lanark Live Poets Society competition. YAK Youth Services, Perth. \$5
Rash Comedy Bash, Mar 29, 8PM. Rachelle Elie and stand-up comedians. \$25 from Mill St. Books, EventBrite. Almonte Old Town Hall
Lanark Laughs, Mar 29, 8:30-10PM. Stand-up comedy. Waterfront Gastropub, CP. facebook.com/LanarkLaughs/

Youth

The Lion King, Jr., Mar 1 (7PM), Mar 2-3 (2PM). Mudds Jr. Carleton Place Town Hall, ticketsplease.ca. \$12 (\$7 Feb 28)

WHAT'S ON IN

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CP & Beckwith Heritage Museum presents Postcards of the Past <cpbheritagemuseum.com> Elgin Art Gallery presents Gregori Robinson's stained glass Fairview Manor Lobby presents photographs by world-renowned photographer Steve McCurry MERA Schoolhouse presents art by Lanark Life Learners <meraschoolhouse.org> Mississippi Valley Textile Museum presents Anne Kelly & Heather Dubreuil in <i>Stitched: A Homecoming</i> <mvtm.ca> [to Mar 24] N. Lanark Regional Museum presents <i>Skating Through Time</i> <appletonmuseum@hotmail.com> Sivarulrasa Gallery presents "Figure" w/ Sue Adams, Adrienne Dagg, Caroline Ji [to Mar 24] <sivarulrasa.com> Strévé Design Studio & Boutique presents "The Mix of the Six" [to Mar 30] The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents Pamela Allen's art quilts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carp Celtic Jam Masonic Lodge Hackberry Men's Shed, Carleton Place How Love Continues: Recognizing the Afterlife, Westport Open Mic w/Bill Martin, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub CP Bridge, Carleton Place Learn 6-Hand Euchre, Almonte Music Trivia Night, Almonte Lobby Bar Olde Time Bingo, Carleton Place Pancakes & Pyjamas, Lanark Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club Soup'in'Dippity Lunch, Carp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club CP Hort: Shade Gardening Deep Roots Food Hub AGM, Carp Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub The Guilty, Perth Karaoke, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musicians Circle, Bolingbroke Naismith Men's Shed, Almonte Naismith Men's Shed Drop-In, Almonte The Guilty, Smiths Falls Travelogue: Tanzania, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carp Celtic Jam Masonic Lodge Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub CP Bridge, Carleton Place Hackberry Men's Shed, CP Matthew Good, Neat Coffee Shop Music Trivia Night, Almonte Lobby Bar Olde Time Bingo, Carleton Place Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club Women's Business Group Breakfast, CP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub Karaoke, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musicians Circle, Bolingbroke Naismith Men's Shed, Almonte Toastmasters, CP 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Quilters' Guild Carp Celtic Jam Masonic Lodge Hackberry Men's Shed, Carleton Place Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLHS: Genealogy Workshop, Appleton Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub Celtic Music w/Barley Shakers, Carp CP Bridge, Carleton Place Dave Brown, Jeff Gilbert & Friends, Ashton Learn 6-Hand Euchre, Almonte Music Trivia Night, Almonte Lobby Bar Olde Time Bingo, Carleton Place Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club Soup'in'Dippity Lunch, Carp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club NLHS: Genealogy Workshop, Appleton Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub Pakenham Hort: Gardens in Shade Shoplifters, Perth Karaoke, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musicians Circle, Bolingbroke Naismith Men's Shed, Almonte Shoplifters, Smiths Falls 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Hort: Herbs Carp Celtic Jam Masonic Lodge Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub CP Bridge, Carleton Place Hackberry Men's Shed, CP Lanark Co. Camera Club Mtg, Perth Lanark County Quilters Guild, Perth Learn 6-Hand Euchre, Almonte Music Trivia Night, Almonte Lobby Bar Olde Time Bingo, Carleton Place Scott Helman, Neat Coffee Shop Smiths Falls Duplicate Bridge Club Square Dancing Open House, Beckwith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MMLT AGM & Moth Talk, Carleton Place Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, The Cove Almonte Duplicate Bridge Club Meditation & Associated Processes, Perth Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub Karaoke, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musicians Circle, Bolingbroke Naismith Men's Shed, Almonte Stephen Fearing, Neat Coffee Shop Toastmasters, CP 	

Pakenham Youth Group, Mar 9, 10AM-2PM. Movies, games, pizza, crafts. Ages 9-16. Pakenham Library, 257-9772. Free
Meet Curious George, Mar 15, 11AM; Mar 17, 2PM. Mill Street Books, 52 Mill St., Almonte. 256-9090, millstreetbooks.com

Music

Peter Brown & Julie Kevan, Mar 1, 7-9PM. Jazz/folk/etc. Table Community Food Centre, Perth. \$20 or pay-what-you-can
Kanata Choral Society Concert, Mar 2, 3PM. St. Paul's Anglican Church, Kanata. 592-1991, kanatachoralsociety.ca. \$20
Mardi Gras Dance, Mar 2, 7PM. Live music by DLUX. Cash bar. Althorpe Bolingbroke Community Hall, abchall.ca. \$20
Musicians Circle, Thursdays, 7PM. All genres, no audience. ABC Hall, abchall.ca. \$5
Queen Flash, Mar 8, 8PM. Tribute band. Galloway Centre, Smiths Falls. gallowaycentretheatre.com. \$34.50 (\$29.50 adv)

Celtic Kitchen Party, Mar 10, 1:30PM. \$20 incl. refreshments at intermission. St. James Anglican Church, CP. 257-3178. \$20
AiC: Ensemble Made In Canada, Mar 16, 7:30PM. Almonte in Concert. Almonte Old Town Hall, almonteinconcert.com.
Choral Evensong - Lent, Mar 17, 3:45PM. Choral music of lent. St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, Perth. stjamesperth.ca
Opera & Broadway, Mar 17, 1PM. Christopher Dunham & Richard Coburn. \$25 from Mill St. Books. Almonte Old Town Hall
Celtic Music w/Barley Shakers, Mar 19, 7:30-9PM. Huntley Historical Soc. Carp Memorial Hall, Donations welcome
Dave Brown, Jeff Gilbert & Friends, Mar 19, 9-11AM. Live music. Ashton United Church. By donation
BOTR: Ria Reece Band, Mar 22, 7-11PM. Blues on the Rideau. The Cove, bluesontherideau.ca. \$65 buffet/show/dancing

Folkus: Betty and the Bobs w/Beth Tufts, Mar 23, 8PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, folkusalmonte.com. \$30
SRO Big Band Tea Dance, Mar 24, 1-4PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, sroteadances.org. \$14; \$25 couple (cash only)
Trad Song Pub Session, Mar 24, 2-4PM. The Barley Mow, shantyman.ca
Payadora Tango Ensemble, Mar 29, 8PM. Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. smithsfallstheatre.com. \$30; \$15 students
Listening Room Series: David Olney w/Brock Zeman, Mar 31, 7PM. Perth Restaurant, 267-7902. \$20
Cheshire Cat (Carp, 831-2183):
 Mar 2 Kelly Sloan, 8PM
 Mar 16 Me & Him
 Mar 17 Patrick Donnelly & Huntley O'Slim
Almonte Lobby Bar @Riverside Inn (Almonte, 461-2745):
 Tue Music Trivia, 8PM
 Mar 3 Jazz w/The Brindled Cats, 7-10PM

The Cove (Westport, 273-3636): Wed
 Open Mic w/Shawn McCullough, 6:30-9:30PM
 Mar 1 Jeff Callery, 6-9PM
 Mar 2 Tom Watson, 6-9PM
 Mar 8 Tony Silvestri, 6-9PM
 Mar 9 Head over Heels, 6-9PM
 Mar 15 The Valley Shantymen, 6-9PM
 Mar 16 "St. Practice Day" w/Shawn McCullough, Wade Foster, 7-10PM
 Mar 17 St. Paddy's Day, 2-6PM \$10
 Mar 29 Benni Vander, 6-9PM
 Mar 30 YukYuk's Comedy Night, 7-11PM, \$55 buffet+show
The Swan at Carp (Carp, 839-7926):
 Mar 8, 22 Steve Barrette Trio, jazz, 7-10PM
Juke Joint Soul Kitchen (Carp, 470-8888):
 Mar 2 The Whiskey Runners
 Mar 4 Open Mic w/Bill Martin
 Mar 9 Dimestore Duo
 Mar 16 Blueswind
 Mar 23 Alain Tambay Duo
 Mar 30 AlWood

MARCH 2019

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Alone Together Again, Perth 🎵 Out of Order, Smiths Falls 🎵 The Lion King, Jr., CP 🎵 Anita Sont & Matt Larabie, Maximilian's Restaurant 🎵 Jeff Callery, The Cove 🎵 Pub Trivia, Mount Pakenham 🎵 Mississippi Blues Open Jam, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Mitch Desilets, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. 🎵 Peter Brown & Julie Kevan, Perth 🎵 Pretty Ugly, Lee Tavern 🎵 Riley Donnelly, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Royal Wood, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Shawn McCullough, Golden Arrow 🎵 The Maltese Falcon, Perth 🎵 Shawn McCullough, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Out of Order, Smiths Falls 🎵 Alone Together Again, Perth 🎵 The Lion King, Jr., CP 🎵 Tom Watson, The Cove 🎵 The Whiskey Runners, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen 🎵 Bob Pepin, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. 🎵 Kanata Choral Society Concert, Kanata 🎵 Kelly Sloan, Cheshire Cat Pub 🎵 Lanark Co. Genealogical Mtg, Beckwith 🎵 Mardi Gras Dance, Bolingbroke 🎵 Shawn McCullough, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 The Maltese Falcon, Perth 🎵 Wild Rivers, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Ted Lalonde, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Meet the Artists: 6 Fibre Artists, Perth 🎵 Alone Together Again, Perth 🎵 Après-Ski: Jerry & Sky Papousek, Mount Pakenham 🎵 Out of Order, Smiths Falls 🎵 The Lion King, Jr., CP 🎵 Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub 🎵 Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak 🎵 Seedy Sunday, Perth 🎵 The Brindled Cats, Almonte Lobby Bar 🎵 The Maltese Falcon, Perth 🎵 Vernissage: Lanark Life Learners, McDonalds Corners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Tony Silvestri, The Cove 🎵 Games Night, Pakenham 🎵 Joseph McDonald, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Queen Flash, Smiths Falls 🎵 Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp 🎵 Jordy Jackson, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Head over Heels, The Cove 🎵 Bridges Blues Series, Bridges Bar & Grill 🎵 Dimestore Duo, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen 🎵 Myles Castello & Ezra Jordan, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Pakenham Youth Group 🎵 Pat Maloney, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Poetic Justice, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Après-Ski: Braedon Vincent, Mount Pakenham 🎵 APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak 🎵 Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub 🎵 Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Celtic Kitchen Party, Carleton Place 🎵 Women's Health & Wellness Show, Perth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Meet Curious George, Almonte 🎵 Anita Sont & Matt Larabie, Maximilian's Restaurant 🎵 Open Mic w/Nic & I, Mount Pakenham 🎵 A Star Is Born, Smiths Falls 🎵 Bad Times at the El Royale, Perth 🎵 Justin Rutledge, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Stephen Mark Fisher, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 The Keystings, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. 🎵 The Valley Shantyman, The Cove 🎵 Logan Brown, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 'St. Practice Day' w/Shawn McCullough, Wade Foster, The Cove 🎵 AiC: Ensemble Made In Canada, Almonte 🎵 A Star Is Born, Smiths Falls 🎵 Blueswind, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen 🎵 Me & Him, Cheshire Cat Pub 🎵 St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Fundraiser, Arnprior 🎵 The Wooden Sky, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Matt Dickson, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Opera & Broadway, Almonte 🎵 Meet Curious George, Almonte 🎵 St. Paddy's Day w/Turpin's Trail, The Cove 🎵 Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Choral Evensong — Lent, Perth 🎵 George Turcotte, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Jono Townsend, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Kelly Sloan & Friends, Ashton Pub 🎵 Patrick Donnelly & Huntley O'Slim, Cheshire Cat 🎵 Riley Donnelly, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Matt Dickson, Golden Arrow 🎵 Poetic Justice, Golden Arrow
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 BOTR: Ria Reece Band, Westport 🎵 Begonia, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Jono Townsend, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Lanark LiPS Poetry Slam, Perth 🎵 Mitch Desilets, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. 🎵 NLHS: Genealogy Workshop, Appleton 🎵 Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp 🎵 Jenna Wright, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Workshop: Early Spring Crops, Almonte 🎵 Folkus: Betty and the Bobs w/Beth Tufts, Almonte 🎵 Alain Tambay Duo, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen 🎵 Neat Comedy Night, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 NLHS: Genealogy Workshop, Appleton 🎵 Spring Luncheon, Bake & Book Sale, Ashton 🎵 The Tennessee Jed's, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 The Brocolees, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak 🎵 Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub 🎵 Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Buddhist Chanting to Create Absolute Happiness, Carleton Place 🎵 SRO Big Band Tea Dance, Almonte 🎵 Trad Song Pub Session, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Rash Comedy Bash, Almonte 🎵 Almonte Lectures: Social Enterprises 🎵 Anita Sont & Matt Larabie, Maximilian's Restaurant 🎵 Payadora Tango Ensemble, Smiths Falls 🎵 Benni Vander, The Cove 🎵 David McGrath, O'Reilly's Pub 🎵 Lanark Laughs, Carleton Place 🎵 Murray Lightburn, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Spencer Scharf — Neil Young tribute, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. 🎵 The Peter Principle, Parkside Bistro 🎵 Jimmy Tri-Tritone Band, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 MVTM Soup for Thought Fundraiser, Almonte 🎵 Hub Hospice Palliative Care Presentation, Almonte 🎵 Reconciliation Event, Almonte 🎵 Al Wood, Juke Joint Soul Kitchen 🎵 Bring Out Your Sparkle, Perth 🎵 Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, Ridge Rock Brewing Co. 🎵 Megan Bonnell, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Two Rivers Market, Smiths Falls 🎵 Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night, The Cove 🎵 Jordy Jackson, Golden Arrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Pancake Breakfast, Mississippi Mills 🎵 Ashton Open Mic, Ashton Pub 🎵 Blues w/Redneck Limousine, Waterfront Gastropub 🎵 Buddhist Chanting to Create Absolute Happiness, Carleton Place 🎵 Listening Room Series: David Olney w/Brock Zeman, Perth 🎵 Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak

The Royal Oak (Kanata, 591-3895):

Mar 3, 31 Magnolia Rhythm Kings
 Mar 10, 24 APEX Jazz Band
Naismith Pub (Almonte, 256-6336):
 Wed (not Mar 6) Open Celtic Jam, 7:30-10PM
Ashton Pub (Ashton, 257-4423): Sun
 Open Mic, 2-5PM
 Mar 17 Kelly Sloan & Friends, 12-6PM
Golden Arrow Pub (Perth, 267-4500):
 Wed Karaoke
 Mar 1 Shawn McCullough
 Mar 2 Ted Lalonde
 Mar 8 Jordy Jackson
 Mar 9 Poetic Justice
 Mar 15 Logan Brown
 Mar 16 St. Patrick's eve w/ Matt Dickson
 Mar 17 3-6PM Matt Dickson
 9PM — 1AM Poetic Justice
 Mar 22 Jenna Wright
 Mar 23 The Brocolees
 Mar 29 Jimmy Tri-Tone Band
 Mar 30 Jordy Jackson

Maximilian Restaurant (Perth, 267-2536):

Mar 1, 15, 29 Anita Sont & Matt Larabie, 6-8PM
Carp Masonic Lodge: Mon Carp Celtic
 Jam, 7-9PM
Bridges Bar and Grill (Pakenham, 624-
 5939):
 Mar 9 Blues Series w/ Joe MacDonald
O'Reilly's Ale House (Perth, 267-7994):
 Tues Brock Zeman, 8:30PM
 Mar 1 Riley Donnelly, 8:30PM
 Mar 2 Shawn McCullough, 8:30PM
 Mar 8 Joseph McDonald, 8:45PM
 Mar 9 Pat Maloney, 8:45PM
 Mar 15 Stephen Mark Fisher, 8:45PM
 Mar 17 Jono Townsend, 12-3PM;
 George Turcotte, 4-7PM;
 Riley Donnelly, 8:30-11:30PM
 Mar 22 Jono Townsend, 8:45PM
 Mar 23 The Tennessee Jeds, 8:45PM
 Mar 29 David McGrath, 8:30PM
Parkside Bistro (Perth, 326-0082):
 Mar 29 The Peter Principle, 5:30-9PM

Mount Pakenham (624-5290):

Mar 1 Pub Trivia, 6-8PM
 Mar 3 Jerry & Sky Papousek, 2:30PM
 Mar 10 Braedon Vincent, 2:30PM
 Mar 15 Open Mic w/Nic & I, 6-9PM
The Waterfront Gastropub (CP, 257-
 5755): Wed Open Jam 9PM, Sun Blues w/
 Redneck Limousine 3-6PM
 Mar 1 Mississippi Blues Society Jam
 Mar 2 Bob Pepin
Neat Coffee Shop (Burnstown, 433-
 9960): 8PM
 Mar 1 Royal Wood, \$61
 Mar 2 Wild Rivers, \$20
 Mar 9 Myles Castello & Ezra Jordan, \$17.50
 Mar 12 Matthew Good, \$92
 Mar 15 Justin Rutledge, \$40
 Mar 16 The Wooden Sky, \$30
 Mar 22 Begonia, \$30
 Mar 23 Neat Comedy Night, \$25
 Mar 26 Scott Helman, \$42.50
 Mar 28 Stephen Fearing, \$35

Mar 29 Murray Lightburn, \$20
 Mar 30 Megan Bonnell, \$25
Lee Tavern (Smiths Falls, 283-2266): 9:30PM
 Mar 1 Pretty Ugly
Ridge Rock Brewing Co. (Carp, 470-2337):
 Mar 1, 22 Mitch Desilets, 8PM
 Mar 2, 30 Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, 7:30PM
 Mar 15 The Keystings, 8PM
 Mar 29 Neil Young tribute, 7:30PM

Community

Lanark Co. Genealogical Mtg, Mar 2,
 1:30PM, Talk: Wood Cemetery, All welcome.
 Brunton Community Hall. Free
Seedy Sunday, Mar 3, 10AM-3PM, Seeds,
 vendors, workshops. Perth Civitan Hall,
 perthfarmersmarket.ca
SF Bridge Club, Mon 7PM, Tue 1PM. 256-
 4747. SF Legion
CP Bridge, Tue 1-4PM. CP Legion, \$5

Olde Time Bingo, Tue 7PM. Held by CP
 Civitans in CP Arena upper hall
Almonte Bridge Club, Wed 7PM. 256-4747.
 Almonte Legion
**How Love Continues: Recognizing
 the Afterlife**, Mar 4, 6:30-8PM. W/ author
 Eleanor Glenn. The Cove, coveinn.com. \$20
Hackberry Men's Shed: Mar 4, 18, 7PM,
 meeting. Shed opposite 98 Donald St., CP;
 Mar 12, 26, 7:30AM, breakfast, Gourmet
 Restaurant, CP. 461-0013. Mtgs free
Soup'in'Dippity Lunch, Mar 5, 19, 11:30AM-
 1PM. St. Paul's United, Carp. Good food &
 friendship. Freewill offering
Learn 6-Hand Euchre, Mar 5, 19, 26, 4-6PM.
 Youth, adults, srs; learn, play, teach. Mississippi
 Mills Youth Centre, Almonte
Pancakes & Pyjamas, Mar 5, 5-7:30PM.
 Fundraiser for "Science In The Classroom".
 Lanark Civitan Club, \$5; \$15 family
CP Hort: Shade Gardening, Mar 6, 7PM.
 Speaker: David Dunn of Rideau Woodland
 Ramble. Zion-Memorial CP. \$3; \$10 annual
Naismith Men's Shed: Mar 7, 21, 8AM.
 breakfast, Mamma's Place, Almonte; Mar
 14, 28, 10AM, meeting, Mill of Kintail; Mar
 7, 9:15AM, drop-in, OrchardView, Almonte.
 461-0013. Mtgs free
Travelogue: Tanzania, Mar 7, 7PM. Rick
 Scholes. Almonte Library, missmilllibrary.com
Games Night, Mar 8, 4-9PM. Mount Pakenham.
 624-5290, mountpakenham.com
Women's Health & Wellness Show,
 Mar 10, 9AM-3PM. Talks, booths. Swag bags
 for 1st 50. Best Western Perth. \$5 to LCIH
**Women's Business Group Break-
 fast**, Mar 12, 8AM. RSVP on Facebook. The
 Gourmet Restaurant, CP. 250-9282
Toastmasters, Mar 14 & 28, 7-8:30PM. Guests
 free. Riverview Snrs' Residence, 204 Lake
 Ave., CP. 250-9282
St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Fundraiser,
 Mar 16, 7:30-11AM. Christian Education
 Centre, Arnprior. 623-7981. \$10; \$6 ages 5-12
Genealogy Workshops, Mar 19, 20, 22,
 2-4PM; Mar 23, 9:30AM-12PM. N. Lanark
 Museum, Appleton. \$15 per day; \$50 for all 4
Pakenham Hort: Gardens in Shade, Mar
 20, 7:30PM. David Dunn, Rideau Woodland
 Ramble. St. Andrew's, Pakenham
Spring Luncheon, Bake & Book Sale,
 Mar 23, 11AM-1PM. Ashton United Church.
Workshop: Early Spring Crops, Mar 23,
 10AM-12PM, Sarah Lickley. Almonte Library,
 256-1037
**Buddhist Chanting to Create Absolute
 Happiness**, Mar 24, 31, 3-4:30PM. Drop-ins
 welcome. CP Library, sgicanada.org
Almonte Hort: Herbs, Mar 25, 7:30PM.
 Speaker: Bonnie-Jean Herts. Cornerstone
 Community Church, Almonte. 256-1071
Square Dancing Open House, Mar 26,
 7:30-9:30PM. Try for free. Brunton Com-
 munity Hall, mississippisquares.ca
Meditation & Associated Processes,
 Mar 27, 1:30-3PM. Perth Library, 30 Herriott
 St., Perth. 225-4675. By donation
MMLT AGM & Moth Talk, Mar 27, 6:30PM,
 Public: 7PM. Mississippi Valley Conservation
 Centre, CP. 253-2722, mmlt.ca/events
Almonte Lectures: Social Enterprises,
 Mar 29, 7:30PM. Edward Jackson. Almonte
 United Church, almontelecures.net. free
Bring Out Your Sparkle, Mar 30, 6-11PM.
 Ladies Night! Buffet & DJ. Hospital Fndn
 fundraiser: Perth Civitan Hall. \$30
**Hub Hospice Palliative Care Presenta-
 tion**, Mar 30, 2PM, RSVP: familycouncilfm@
 gmail.com. Presentation on Hub Hospice and
 Palliative Care. Fairview Manor, Almonte
MVTM Soup for Thought Fundraiser,
 Mar 30, 12-2PM. Soup/handmade bowl. Textile
 Museum, Almonte. mvtm.ca. \$25 (keep bowl)
Reconciliation Event, Mar 30, 9:30AM-1PM.
 Blanket exercise. Register: MMAIMyRela-
 tions.ca. Almonte United Church
Pancake Breakfast, Mar 31, 8AM-12PM.
 Union Hall, Mississippi Mills. \$9 large, \$7
 small, \$5 kids 10 & under

Art and About...

Carbon + Light — Juan Geuer's Luminous Precision

A very special exhibit of works by artist (and former Almonte resident) Juan Geuer will be on display at the Ottawa Art Gallery oaggao.ca from March 9 until August 18, with a vernissage on Thursday, April 11 from 5:30–8:30PM.

Juan Geuer's groundbreaking work sits in the threshold between science and art. It bridges the human condition, in all its various states, and the carbon-based ecosystems and oxygenated atmospheres upon which we depend.

by Miss Cellaneous

The exhibition Carbon + Light celebrates this artist's significant legacy as a fearless truth-seeker. Through his inventive approach to installation, he pointed out the onset of the Anthropocene long before the term emerged to denote the geological period in which we now find ourselves embedded. Here, Geuer's work will be in dialogue with artists with whom he either collaborated, influenced, or worked with in parallel, from Michael Snow to Catherine Richards.

The exhibition will also showcase the importance of Ottawa as the site within which Geuer's surprising practice emerged, suggesting that time and location were instrumental to his ability to develop his unique investigation.

Art Exhibit and Fundraiser at MVTM

Hub Hospice Palliative Care is once again so very grateful that someone has come forward offering to make a meaningful donation in support of the services they offer to the people of the North Lanark area.

The "someone" in this case is Ruby Ewen, a Canadian artist with an impressive curriculum vitae. Her work has been exhibited extensively in Canada and internationally. A former resident of Mississippi Mills, she now resides in Luskville, Quebec, working primarily in oils. On her website rubyewen.ca she states: "I paint through the seasons, drawing my inspiration from nature, the landscape and the process of transformation and regeneration."

The source of Ewen's inspiration is quite apparent in the work that will be on display at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum from April 7–20. The exhibit will feature paintings that were created from 2004 to 2006 during and following trips to the Canadian Rockies. The public is invited to attend the vernissage on Sunday, April 7 from 1–4PM.

Please visit hubhospice.com for more information and to preview the artwork, which includes a wide range of sizes and prices. Ruby is pleased to be making a 50% donation of all sales from this exhibition to Hub Hospice Palliative Care.

The museum has kindly waived their \$7 admission charge for the vernissage, but any donations to



Mount Rundle by Ruby Ewen



Folk art by Linda Standing is available at The Queen's Crafters

MVTM during the exhibit period would be greatly appreciated. The museum's hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10AM to 4PM, Saturday from 12–4PM, closed on Sunday and Monday.

Hub Hospice Palliative Care is a not-for-profit registered Canadian charity funded through donations and targeted fundraising initiatives. They are a "Hospice without walls," providing compassionate in-home support for adult clients and their families who have received a life-threatening or terminal diagnosis. Services are provided in the North Lanark area by a trained volunteer in a confidential, respectful and client-centered manner under the supervision of a registered nurse. Visit hubhospice.com for information or to request the support of a visiting volunteer.

Folk Art in Carleton Place

Ottawa Valley folk artist Linda Standing has enjoyed drawing and painting since childhood but has only now, in her retirement years, offered her art works for sale. As a folk artist in the tradition of Maud Lewis and Grandma Moses, she is self-taught and her pieces depict scenes of the everyday life of our pioneer ancestors and country folk. Her simple style relies on design rather than realism through the use of colour, form and line. They reflect her imagination and are full of playful and humorous scenes. Her canvases are often found materials such as old cupboard doors and left-over pieces of wood. Linda's paintings can be viewed and are available for purchase at The Queen's Crafters and Antique Market, located at 142 Bridge Street in Carleton Place (open from 10AM to 5PM daily).

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Culture Comes to Perth!

Jewel of the River Tay, the town of Perth is well known for its arts and theatre culture. Year-round this town is a centre of activity, and the seat of Lanark County promotes itself as offering both a lifestyle and a vibrant and developing business community. "Enjoy the setting. Embrace the culture. Engage in experience." Weetabix is a frequent visitor to Perth. Travelling on his stomach (don't look for a scooter board — the term is figurative), he is pleased to report that the

by Sebastian Weetabix

Perth food and beverage scene merits both attention and patronage. Articles have been written on specific establishments and perhaps one day we will consolidate thoughts and recommendations. Meanwhile, Weetabix has been instructed to seek out and research what is clearly a new addition to culture in Perth: kombucha.

Despite its name, kombucha is not a Japanese play or style of martial art. It may go to the mat (about which more will be revealed), but essentially it is a drink based on fermented green or black tea. It has come to Perth where it, or at least its makers, have established a cultural and physical base in the active ferment of the Perth food and beverage community. So, directed by his Editor, Weetabix investigates Artizen and reports to you, esteemed reader, that there is kombucha, makers of kombucha (kombutchers?), and a mysterious entity called SCOBY, which is not to be termed Scooby Doo even if you are a fan of Hanna-Barbera. Start then with a quick Google search and up comes <artizenkombucha.ca>, which provides some interesting background and context.

As it turns out, kombucha has strayed from its origins as an artisanal product and been co-opted by the likes of Coke (MOJO) and PepsiCo (KeVita). US sales in this beverage class exceed half a billion dollars annually, and issues like shelf life drive product development. A quick look at Artizen and the bio notes on Dasha and Sebastien will reassure you that this is not what they are about. For those of you too distracted to pursue original inquiries, here is a précis based on interview notes and additional research.

First, motivation: this is a business that has its origins in a deep commitment to a vision in which production of healthy food is the result of an integrated lifestyle and work style. The couple met about ten years ago at a community garden where Sebastien (not ever to be confused with Sebastian)

was helping participants set up and manage their gardens and Dasha was growing "healthy and nourishing food". Their relationship is rooted in dirt and common dedication to the idea that production and consumption of food should be an integral part of their lifestyle. Both have cosmopolitan backgrounds; she is from Siberia by way of Carleton University's International Business program, and he is from Haiti, Ashbury College, plus eight years of organic farming at Tucker House (Rockland) and multiple stints in Costa Rica, Turkey and Jamaica. It is possible to have an entertaining conversation with them on many topics besides kombucha! Weetabix did and recommends a visit, although you can just buy the product without any ceremony.

Second, execution: like many foods and beverages, kombucha can be made in many styles, flavours and processes. Processing can be done on small- or large-scale and with more or less care; it can even be done at home, but as Weetabix frequently points out, home cooking is not the same as good cooking. The point of this is that Sebastien and Dasha started with home brew but have proceeded carefully to scale up their production while maintaining both quality and safety. Nature produces toxins as well as health-promoting substances, and it is important to remember that. Kombucha is a fermented product resulting from the action of a complex mixed culture of bacteria and yeasts that transforms a substrate into a beverage. Like all food processing, results may vary! Sebastien approaches making kombucha with care and has developed and tested recipes that he can scale up. The product is a flavourful and health-promoting brew made and bottled locally — it is unpasteurized and contains live cultures which means it also has a recommended shelf life. Best to get it and consume fresh, although it will last for months in your refrigerator.

For those dedicated readers also afflicted with curiosity about some technical details, Weetabix has prepared Coles Notes™ on kombucha. Read on, there will not be a pop-quiz. There are various origin myths, but as we know it, the common features of kombucha are that it starts with a sweet tea that is fermented by a mixed culture of bacteria and yeasts (SCOBY stands for Symbiotic Culture Of Bacteria and Yeasts). This is a disarming way of saying that certain bacteria and yeasts get along together and form stable communities, but since there are literally thousands of species of yeasts and bacteria floating around looking for homes, it doesn't mean much. Traditionally, just as in brewing, one took pot-luck based on local conditions. The good news is that mostly this works out well. Just as in beer or wine



This month, Weetabix examines (fermented) culture in Perth, in the form of **Artizen Kombucha**. Sebastien (left) and Dasha (right) are in the throes of moving their operation to 12 Gore Street East, to share space with Kassy (centre) from the Perth Pie Company. Look for their soft opening in March!

making, the growing conditions and local biology cooperate and the resulting culture can be relied upon to produce an acceptable product. Skill and careful control of conditions ensure that a working SCOBY can be produced and maintained. Should things go wrong with the SCOBY, results can vary from off-flavours to outright toxicity. This is where Sebastien's knowledge and skill play a critical role. As anybody who has made wine or beer at home knows, off-batches do occur.

Quality control is about avoiding off-batches; skill is producing delicious and healthful products. The large scale producers generally manage the former but Artizen is about the latter — and the claimed health benefits of an unpasteurized pro-biotic product can't be delivered by a pasteurized mass-market product.

The brewery at Artizen is worth a visit. A hybrid between a small production facility and a large experimental kitchen, it provides a studio for expression of Sebastien's culinary art and the ability to make reproducible bottled product. Starting with personal distribution of their products at local farmers' markets, Artizen has grown to serve an increasing base of consumers who buy their kombucha through local distributors. They have invested in equipment for bottling and labeling with help from Valley Heartland and will soon be opening a new facility in premises shared with the Perth Pie Company. Watch for the announcement and plan on a visit!



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Maple Weekend

Celebrating the Sweetest Time of the Year

Spring is the sweetest time of the year, and the Lanark & District Maple Syrup Producers' Association (LDMSPA) is inviting visitors to join them on the weekend of April 6 and 7 in celebrating the 5th annual Maple Weekend event and a new season of maple syrup production in the region.

Since its introduction in 2015, Maple Weekend has become a popular spring excursion allowing visitors to celebrate the sweetness of the season, while getting a firsthand view of maple syrup production. Visitors to Maple Weekend come from Ottawa, Brockville, Kingston and beyond, eager to experience the maple season and sample the sweet treats and outdoor adventure at local sugar bushes.

In Lanark & District, maple syrup producers are excited at the opportunity to treat visitors to a full day of maple-inspired interactive fun. "We've had a very long winter, and we're looking forward to the coming of spring and the launch of another season of producing maple syrup," explains LDMSPA President Harold Walker.

Maple Weekend is ideal for everyone from families with young children to teenagers, couples and seniors. Visitors can take home what they would like from the event — whether it's a better understanding of how maple syrup is made, memories of a fun day with their family, or an armful of delicious maple products!

"Maple Weekend is a family-friendly spring outing, and the perfect time for visitors to learn more about Canada's maple heritage, sample maple taffy, and have fun at a local sugarbush," Walker



Photo by Jim Robertson

Maple Weekend (April 6 & 7) is a great time to explore Lanark County maple producers. Don't miss the Sugarmaker's Buffet at Temple's Sugar Bush (above), the delicious Maple Shoppe at Fulton's, and taffy-on-snow at Fortune Farms (below)

adds. "Whether you're watching sap being gathered or boiled over an open fire, watching maple syrup being made is always interesting."

Activities vary depending on location, however they typically include pancake breakfasts, trail adventures, wagon rides, sugar-making demonstrations and taffy on snow. In Lanark & District, fifteen producers will be participating in Maple Weekend in 2019, at sugarbushes located in Almonte, Pakenham, Frankville, Lanark, Sharbot Lake, Athens, Crosby, Mallorytown, Clayton, Perth and McDonald's Corners.

For even more maple experiences, visitors are invited to attend Lanark & District's annual tapping out party on March 9 at Golden Moment Farm in Athens. The tapping out party will kickstart the maple syrup season with a traditional tapping of the first maple tree of the year at 11AM by local MPP Steve Clark. This fun, family-friendly event will include maple syrup and candy demonstrations, taffy on snow, trail walking, wagon rides, samples and more.

A full list of Maple Weekend participants from the Lanark & District region is available at <mapleweekend.ca>, along with specials on offer at each location. An interactive map makes it easy to find a participating sugarbush across the province.



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Land Trust AGM with Speaker Diane Lepage

On Wednesday, March 27 the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust (MMLT) will hold its Annual General Meeting at the Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre in Carleton Place, beginning at 6:30PM. It's always an opportunity to get together with like-minded friends and listen to a great speaker as well as conduct the Land Trust's legislated business.

This year the organization is fortunate to have Diane Lepage as their keynote speaker on *Moths of Eastern Ontario*. Diane is currently president of the Ottawa Field Naturalist Club. She has been doing mothing since her early adulthood but became even more interested after she got her first digital camera in 2007. She found a rich source of moths at Larose Forest near Limoges, which gave her an opportunity to learn more about them.

She will be discussing the diversity of moth species found in various parts of Eastern Ontario. You will learn all about the fascinating world of moths, primarily the macromoths, but she will also touch on micromoths and how she goes about finding them, as well as taxonomy, food plants, equipment, best times of year and locations to go mothing.

Diane has visited most of MMLT's properties and spent the night at the Keddy Nature Reserve doing a moth inventory. She participated in a Kingston Field Naturalists' Bioblitz and has done many inventories at Larose Forest close to her home. She is a



The Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust will hold their AGM on March 27

soon-to-be retired Public Servant who will now have even more time to follow her passion for photography and nature.

MMLT is currently celebrating its 16th anniversary. It has legally protected 2,663 acres (1,078 hectares) of ecologically significant lands in Eastern Ontario. While faithful to its core land conservation mission, MMLT encourages public use of these wilderness properties for the physical, mental, educational and spiritual benefits arising out of nature experiences.

The Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre is located at 10970 Highway 7 in Carleton Place. Doors will open at 6PM and the meeting begins at 6:30 sharp. There will be a refreshment break following the AGM and Mme. Lepage's presentation will begin at 7:30PM. Entrance for MMLT members is free and the presentation is \$10 for non-members.

Spring into Art!

Spring is the time of year when new creativity takes hold, and the Spring into Art Conference, hosted by the West Carleton Arts Society (WCAS), will be sure to get your energy flowing.

Five speakers will share their art and their creative processes across various media. The conference takes place on Saturday, April 6 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Carp and includes a catered luncheon. The price is \$75 per person (or \$60 before March 15 with the code EARLY60).

"This annual conference is a great opportunity for participants to network and learn," says Karen Mackay, WCAS president. "The speakers generously share their knowledge and experiences, and are very inspiring. The luncheon also provides an opportunity to mix and mingle with other like-minded people."

This Year's Speakers

Brian Turner will discuss principles for developing art — composition, shape, contrast and colour. With a background as an architectural draftsman, an illustrator and a teacher, Brian's art focuses on Canadian landscape. Among his awards is the Mary Duggan Canadian Landscape Award from the Canadian Society of Artists 2018 Open International Juried Exhibition.

Marjolein Dallinga is an internationally recognized artist who will discuss her

experiences with the ancient art of felting, including the design and creation of costumes for Cirque du Soleil. Marjolein was born in the Netherlands and has lived in Canada since 1989. She is the winner of the prestigious WOW World of Wearable Art award. Marjolein is also conducting a three-day workshop prior to the conference. This workshop is wait-list only.

Suzanne Warren Powell, founder of the Ottawa Mixed Media Artists (OMMA), has been creating her art and teaching in Ottawa for over 25 years. Her interest lies in oriental philosophy and nature. Among the courses that she teaches is wabi sabi, the aesthetic branch of zen philosophy.

Dale Dunning creates sculptures with bronze, aluminum and steel in his foundry. His sculptures can be found in private, corporate and public collections including the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. He is the recipient of awards from the Canada Council. Dale will share his techniques of this lesser known art.

Yulia Lisitsyna will demonstrate how to create urban cityscapes with watercolours, including how to build up a striking composition and capture people on the run. This Russian-born artist, craft maker and art educator now makes her home in Ottawa and teaches at the Ottawa School of Art.

More information and registration can be found at <westcarletonartsociety.ca>.

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