

MAY 2012

# the Hummm

free

Arts,  
Entertainment  
& Ideas



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May's Events



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Celebrate Diversity!

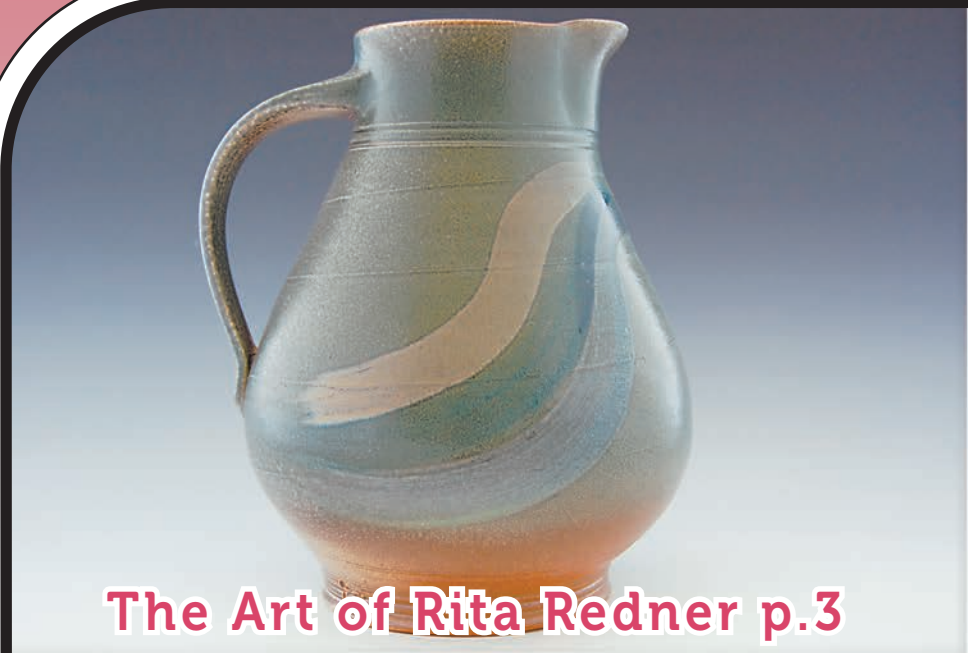


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"I want to talk to you about the day you said my playing inspired you to get the garden dug!"

## Golf for the Kids

### Fundraiser for Big Brothers / Big Sisters

The sun always shines at Mapleview Golf and Country Club, or so the owners say! On May 26, they are proud to be hosting the **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lanark County** annual golf tournament, to raise funds for local mentoring programs. 3M is once again the title sponsor, supporting the local agency and their goal of ensuring that "every child in Lanark County that needs a mentor has a mentor."

The fun-filled day is a shotgun start and the \$75 registration fee includes a continental breakfast, a BBQ lunch, a cart and eighteen holes. There is a chance to win \$10,000 in cash, and the now famous silent auction boasts WestJet tickets among other treasures!

Sponsorships help increase the bottom line for the agency, and there are many options available, including hole sponsors, food sponsors and more. It is great visibility for local businesses, and great support for an agency helping kids right here at home.

Mentoring programs are about prevention and building resilience. Research indicates that providing children and youth with positive role models shows them that they are val-

ued and that they possess the strength to overcome any obstacle. Mentoring also plays an important role in the direction a child will decide to take later in life, paving the way to a future full of possibilities.

Children who have participated in mentoring programs see real, positive change. The children involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters go on to graduate from high school at a rate of 20% higher than the national average. 78% of the children who came from a social assistance background no longer rely on this form of income, and a disproportionately high number of former Littles graduate from college or university, compared to others in their age group.

On the other hand, children who are denied the benefit of a positive role model will often continue to be deemed "at risk", rather than "on the brink of success."

Supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters can have BIG results. And it can be as simple as a game of golf. For more information about the tournament or other ways to get involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lanark County, please call 283-0570 or visit <bigbrothersbigisterslanark.ca>.



Who's Reading the Humm

(above) Back in 2010, John Van Beek of Carleton Place wrote: "I am a television cameraman working for CPAC. I took this picture of me reading theHummm in Aulavik National Park (on Banks Island N.W.T. on the shore of Mercy Bay, approximately 900km north of the arctic circle), during the search for the HMS Investigator in July of this year. The wreck was discovered in eight metres of water approximately 150 metres off shore. They also found the graves of the three sailors who died."

(below) Patti Koeslag wrote: "Recently I took a trip with our Creative Arts students from All Saints CHS in Kanata. We went to New York City — and I brought my Humm to share with all the arts folks! One highlight was our trip to Radio City Music Hall. Here I am with my Humm!"



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

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

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

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

**Assistant Editor:**  
Rona Fraser  
rona@thehummm.com

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

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By email or on disk.

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**Thanks this month to:**  
Ross and Janice for lending us their van in our time of need. We'll be driving it out Ross's Back Road any day now...  
Thanks also to Cynthia and Tony Stuart for being such great team players — we always want you on our team!

### Humble Thought

*I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden.*

—John Erskine

**Gardening is cheaper than therapy and you get tomatoes.**

—Unknown

*Coffee. Garden. Coffee. Does a good morning need anything else?*

—Betsy Cañas Garmon, <wildthymecreative.com>

June is

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July 9–13

to register, or for more information: (613) 839-5241  
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**The Perth Community Choir**  
is holding their AGM  
**May 23, 2012, 7PM**  
at the P.D.C.I. Library,  
13 Victoria St., Perth

Highlights for the fall production of "*Li'l Abner*" will be presented. Audition dates will be announced at the meeting.

For information contact:  
perthcommunitychoir@gmail.com



# Rita Redner — Practice Makes Perfect

As your eyes move over the shelves of elegant shapes, flawlessly formed and beautifully decorated, you immediately recollect the time-honoured adage, "Practice makes perfect." Bowls, teapots, covered pots, mugs, vases — each functional object is executed

by Sally Hansen

with precision and grace. The shapes are largely traditional, but the exceptional loveliness of form, luscious colours, superb glazing, handsome sculpting and beautiful decorative touches elevate Redner's eminently functional pieces to a truly artistic level.

Brooke Valley potter Rita Redner describes herself as practical. Her passion is to create familiar household objects that are used daily. Using a combination of thrown and hand-built techniques, Rita works in both stoneware and porcelain clays to create beautifully glazed, durable, salt-fired pottery. Her greatest reward is enthusiastic feedback from customers who tell her how much they enjoy using her pottery. Establishing that wonderful emotional connection provides all the validation she needs to throw another kiln full of unique but uniformly flawless pieces.

Redner first discovered her love for making functional pottery at summer camp as a young girl growing up in Hamilton. By the end of high school, she had taken a variety of courses and decided to apply to the Crafts and Design program offered at Sheridan College in Mississauga. She considers herself extremely fortunate to have been one of only 150 students "studying everything we ever wanted to study." At the end of her second year she left school to apprentice with a potter in a real-world environment.

At the end of the '70s she decided to further her education by earning a Bachelor of Science at the University of Guelph. She followed on at Queen's University with a Bachelor of Education specializing in Outdoor Education. She had intended to apply her knowledge of human kinetics as a teacher, but found she was dragging her heels in applying for positions. One day a family relative regarded the collection of pottery Rita had made and asked her why in the world she wasn't a potter. The casual question was what she needed to stop pursuing what she thought she should do and embrace wholeheartedly what she wanted to do.

Fortunately for readers of *theHumm*, Rita contacted a potter she had met who lived in the coun-

tryside near Perth. Jackie Seaton is well known to our readers both for his beautiful pottery <[riverguild.com/gallery/jackie/hummprofile.html](http://riverguild.com/gallery/jackie/hummprofile.html)>, and as the organizer and driving force of the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser in Perth (go to [emptybowls.ca](http://emptybowls.ca) and click on "news"). In its eleventh year, this community-sponsored food security initiative has raised over \$130,000.

Seaton invited Redner to come and work with him at his studio, and she moved to Brooke Valley Road in 1985. Their collaborative friendship endures to this day. Rita established her own studio by renting a portion of Tom Clarke's wood shop at 549 Brooke Valley Road, and as the saying goes — "the rest is history." Tom and Rita have been married for twenty-four years.



## When Bad Things Happen to Good People

Since the death four years ago of their twenty-year-old son Sam Clarke in a tragic bicycle accident, Redner has relied on her pottery work and her participation in good works to help assuage her grief. She tells me, "Throwing becomes almost a comforting, meditative thing. It's an old friend, and I can get lost in my work." She continues to develop the friendship incrementally and respectfully, adding new shapes, textures and wonderful gradations of hues to her portfolio.

In addition to her significant involvement with the Empty Bowls project, she has been Tom's supportive partner in the Guatemala Stove Project. A frequent traveller to Central America, Clarke founded the GSP in 1999 after two weeks of volunteer work building six stoves for CEDEC, an indigenous non-profit group working in Guatemala. Thirteen years later, over 4,000 masonry cook stoves are dramatically improving the health and



life expectancy of impoverished families in rural Mayan villages in the mountains of Guatemala.

Shortly after their son's death, the couple created the Sam Clarke Memorial Fund. Sam made his first trip to Guatemala when he was only eight months old and had become an avid volunteer for the GSP. With the help of many friends, GSP supporters and the villagers themselves, they built a simple, two-room school for thirty-five Guatemalan children. Other GSP volunteers and Lanark County children and youth have established programs to provide ongoing nutritional support and education for the students of Escuela Los Niños de Sam and their families. To learn more about how GSP is helping to improve life in rural Guatemala, visit <[guatemalastoveproject.org](http://guatemalastoveproject.org)>.

## Brooke Valley Spring Tour

At home, Rita Redner continues to be heavily involved in the annual Brooke Valley Spring Tour taking place this Victoria Day Weekend. From 10AM to 5PM, May 19 to 21, her lovely salt-glazed pottery will be on display at Studio 1 — the wonderful studio Tom built her at 549 Brooke Valley Road. Studio 1 will also feature the fascinating and wonderfully wearable jewellery creations of Barbara Mullally and new artistic quilts by Robert Pauly of Moondance Studio in Clayton <[moondancegallery.ca](http://moondancegallery.ca)>.

Right across the road at 590 Brooke Valley, classical bassoonist Richard Hoenich will be hosting free chamber music interludes at 1:30 and 3PM daily, teaming up with other area instrumentalists. From 11AM to 3PM, Shirley and John Lianga invite you to drop by at 576 Brooke Valley Road for a delicious lunch, with proceeds going to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The tour's website <[brookevalleyspringtour.ca](http://brookevalleyspringtour.ca)> provides more information about the great artists, beautiful music and tempting array of gustatory and gardening surprises that should entice you out for a spring adventure at this lovely time of year.

Redner was also one of the founding members of the Perth Autumn Studio Tour, celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year on Thanksgiving Weekend, October 6 to 8. Details of this popular holiday outing are at <[perthstudiotour.com](http://perthstudiotour.com)>. From November 9 to 11, she will be participating in the annual 260 Fingers show of clay art at the Glebe Community Centre, 690 Lyon St. in Ottawa <[260fingers.ca](http://260fingers.ca)>. Redner's work is also available at Riverguild Fine Crafts in Perth (267-5237, [riverguild.com](http://riverguild.com)). Save her Trading Card for future reference; she can be reached at 267-5202 or by email at <[rita@redner.ca](mailto:rita@redner.ca)>.



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WHO Rita Redner

THE HUMM

WHAT Potter

WHERE 549 Brooke Valley Rd., Perth, 267-5202, <rita@redner.ca>; Riverguild Fine Crafts, Perth, 267-5237, <riverguild.com>

WHEN Victoria Day Weekend, May 19-21, 10AM-5PM, Brooke Valley Spring Tour — Studio 1, 549 Brooke Valley Rd., 267-5918, <brookevalleyspringtour.ca>

Nov. 9-11, 260 Fingers, Glebe Community Centre, 690 Lyon St., Ottawa <260fingers.ca>

WHY "This is where I'm comfortably lost in my own creative, meditative world."

ARTIST TRADING CARD

# Shari Ulrich at MERA

One of western Canada's most beloved songwriting musicians will be giving a Sunday matinée concert at the MERA Schoolhouse in McDonalds Corners on Sunday, June 3, at 2PM.

Shari Ulrich grew up in California, moving to BC around 1970, where she began a music career that has included both solo work and membership in several well-known bands. These have included the string band Pied Pumkin, the Hometown Band (working with Valdy for many years), and UHF (Ulrich Henderson Forbes).

In all, Ulrich has released nineteen albums — as a solo artist and as part of various groups — which have garnered her two Juno Awards, several award nominations, and an induction into the British Columbia Entertainment Hall of Fame. Her most recent recording is the 2010 solo release *Find Our Way*. About her approach to songwriting, she explains: "I write about what I know and what I've lived. Some of it is stuff people don't like to talk about, but seem to be hungry to hear. I didn't intend to be that kind of writer — it just comes out that way."

Shari will be accompanied by a next-generation combo consisting of her daughter Julia Graff on violin, mandolin and accordion, and friend Ted Littlemore on piano and accordion. Julia is graduating from McGill University in June, so they are combining family business with *the* family business (music) by doing some Ontario shows while Shari is here for the graduation. Shari is effusive in her praise of her current accompanists: "the best band I've ever had!" After they complete the tour and the graduation, the trio will be returning to BC while performing on VIA rail (followed by yet another western reunion tour for the ever-lovable Pied Pumkin, still having fun together after nearly 40 years!).

MERA is fortunate that Shari is able to include a show at their acoustically-friendly community arts centre on the current tour. More information about this exceptional artist is at <shariulrich.com>. Advance tickets (\$20) are available at <ticketsplease.ca> or at 39 Foster Street in Perth during business hours (485-6434). See <meraschoolhouse.org> for directions.

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## Give Wild Mothers a Break

The on-again off-again temperatures, the high winds, and the trees felled (due to the emerald ash borer infestation) have resulted in a lot of wildlife having a very hard time this year. The leaf nests (or dreys) that squirrels normally occupy high up in trees offer little protection against either the elements or predators. All of which explains why females, come spring, are so desperate to get into an eave or attic, or for a raccoon mother to choose a chimney. Skunks and groundhogs will select holes under steps or sheds because they too need to find a safe spot for their young when they are most vulnerable.

The good news is that this is a *temporary* situation. The safest and most humane option during the birthing season is to give a brief grace period until the babies are weaned and coming out with their mother. The family will then move to a natural area and you can go about doing the necessary animal-proofing.

It is also in a homeowner's best interest to resist taking wildlife problems into their own hands, as abandoned hungry babies in inaccessible areas in an attic can fall between walls, requiring expensive drywall removal. Or, if they are under steps, immobile babies will die and create bad and long-lasting smells.

If you have an adult wild animal on your property at this time of the year, you can be sure there are babies nearby. So never risk barricading an animal as they can cause damage by trying to get back to their young or trying to es-

cape. Do not smoke an animal out of a chimney — babies would not be able to escape and you could cause a chimney fire.

Wildlife removal companies that say they offer a humane service can give you no guarantee they won't end up creating orphans, and with very limited help available for wildlife, it is very unwise to take this risk. It is also illegal, under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, to relocate any wild animal beyond one kilometer from where it was found, making trapping quite pointless.

Be smart — research all your options before taking any action. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure when it comes to wildlife concerns. Take advantage of the experienced advice at <wildlifeinfo.ca> and keep this site handy for all your wildlife questions throughout the year.

You'll be glad you did.



Got wildlife? Visit <www.wildlifeinfo.ca> to find out how best to deal with the situation!



MILL  
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BOOKS

May 5, 1:30-3:00PM Book signing: **Secret Selves**

May 6, 10:30-1PM **Introduction to Bookbinding**, \$85

May 12, 1-3PM Book signing with Jacques Roy  
author of **Don't Quit, Don't Cry**

May 16, 7PM Once-in-a-while bookclub: **The Elephant Keeper**

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# George and Martha are Having Company... (Let the Wild Rumpus Begin)

When Perth's **BarnDoor Productions** opened their dream theatre last summer, they decided the first season in the new Full Circle Theatre would be full of shows they had always wanted to stage, but hadn't had the opportunity.

They started with the world premiere of a new comedy, followed with a new production of a Dickens classic, then came one of the funniest farces ever to cross the Atlantic, and now they are rounding out the inaugural Full Circle Theatre season with one of the most legendary and influential plays of the last fifty years.

Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* is fifty years old this year and continues to grow in stature with each passing year. It has the reputation of being dark and intense — well, it is, but it's also devastatingly funny and full of insight. It's a late-night excursion into truth and illusion that cuts to the bone, but keeps its audience engrossed every step of the way. The aforementioned rumpus is kicked off by the arrival of a nice young couple at the home of a not-so-nice older couple for a late-night visit. From there, it follows a twisty, turny path into drama, comedy and a final, inevitable confrontation with honesty.

BarnDoor Productions is bringing together a stellar group for their eighty-first production. Director Janice Jacklin is the founding artistic director of the Perth Community Choir, acted and directed professionally with Perth Summer Theatre,

and has brought such shows as PCC's *Sweeney Todd* and *The Wizard of Oz* to the stage. Real-life married couple Chris and Kristy Angel play Nick and Honey — the pair have been playing leading roles in a number of regional productions in the past few years, including BarnDoor's recent *Not Now, Darling*.

The central couple of the play is, of course, George and Martha, played on Broadway by the legendary Arthur Hill and Uta Hagen, and in the 1966 movie by the even more legendary Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Those are large shoes to step into, but BarnDoor's battling couple has some history behind them as well.

David Jacklin and Catherine Clark were last on stage together in BDP's *Misery*, an adaptation of the Stephen King novel that has been called "the best show ever put on in Perth." That production was also directed by Janice Jacklin. Catherine Clark is well known for her work as director and performer with the Valley Players, including *Les Belles Soeurs*, while David Jacklin, among many other roles, played Sweeney Todd in the recent PCC production. Both have extensive backgrounds in professional theatre, going back decades. In fact, the director and cast bring a collective total of four degrees in drama, hundreds of productions (including professional work in three countries and two continents), and more than one hundred years of theatre background to the show.



Perth's Barn Door Productions is very pleased to present *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* as the finale to their inaugural season at the new Full Circle Theatre

*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* is a play of exceptional power and scope. Dominick Cavendish of *The Telegraph* (UK) calls it "... lethally funny and superbly nuanced... Edward Albee knew exactly what he was doing... nothing less than a masterpiece." Sophie Gilbert on the *After Hours* weblog says "Albee's rapier-sharp comedy... forces an audience to laugh even as they're appalled — by themselves... stunning, ferocious... as theater, it's dynamite."

It's a wild ride into the depths of the mind — sometimes cer-

bral, sometimes physical, but always great theatre. BarnDoor Productions has put together a company that is able to wring every nuance from this play, and it's all set to start May 4 at Perth's Full Circle Theatre. Let the wild rumpus begin!

*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* will run May 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 at 8PM and May 6 and 13 at 2PM at the Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig Street in Perth, near Last Duel Park. Information and ticket orders are online at <barndoorproductions.ca> or by calling 267-2884.



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# A Swarm of Bees

I've been beekeeping for about twelve years. Learning to keep bees was on my bucket list, so in 2000, when I had the chance to install some hives at a farm in Lanark County, I jumped right in. Bees had intrigued me since I was a child listening to my mother, now ninety years old, tell beekeeping stories from her childhood.

I enjoy sharing what I've learned about bees — not just the practical details, but more importantly, the effect bees can have on humans and what we can learn from them.

A particularly interesting aspect of bee life, knowledge of which might become useful during the coming spring and summer, is the strange bee practice of "swarming".

When a bee hive swarms, about one third to one half of the bees, along with the queen, abandon the hive and go in search of a new home. Swarming happens most commonly due to overcrowding. At peak production a hive can be home to as many as 80,000 bees, so you can imagine how they might come to feel too crowded, especially during times of high temperatures and humidity. Those conditions make for the perfect bee storm.

Beekeepers are always on the lookout for signs that a hive might be getting ready to swarm. For example, it is important to keep track of how quickly the hive population is growing in the spring, and to inspect the brood chambers (the two bottom boxes of a hive) to see if new queens are in the making. This is always a sign that something is amiss in the hive. When swarming occurs, one of the new queens will replace the old one, who will then

leave with the swarm. It is said that once a hive has swarming in mind, it is very difficult to stop them, so keepers must work at early prevention.

A swarm is one of nature's most dramatic and exciting events to witness. One lovely, sunny, hot, July morning, I was working in my kitchen when I heard a loud roaring hum from outside the house. Looking towards the bee yard I could see that the sky was filled with swirling insects. Usually bees fly to and from their hives in a very orderly, calm fashion but I could see that something much wilder was underway. Unless I did something fast I was about to lose a large number of my honey producers!

Many times my bee teacher had talked me through the process of catching a swarm. This was my first chance to put my learning into practice. Usually one has a few hours to retrieve the swarm, which typically forms into a dense cluster of bees that settle in a tree while scout bees go off in search of a new permanent home. True to form, my first swarm had settled temporarily about 25 feet off the ground in a nearby maple tree and I decided they were reachable! So, as I had been instructed, I first placed a white sheet on the ground and a hive box on the sheet directly below the swarm. I then went off to a neighbour's to borrow a ladder and invited her to join the fun. Sue is a nurse, and I thought she might prove helpful if things did not go as planned. Long pole in hand, I started up the ladder with the intention of shaking the swarm loose so that it would fall down into the box on the ground below. Indeed the swarm did fall down but then, to my chagrin, it promptly flew right back up again.



Madeline Dietrich will be giving a two-day course in June entitled *What the Bees Know — Lessons from the Beehive on Stewardship, Community and Presence*

Several more attempts proved no more successful, by which time I was becoming tired and decided I should quit while I was still in one piece. I left the swarm and returned to the ground. After a few hours, as expected, the swarm took off for an unknown destination. Only later did I discover why my operation had failed: for whatever reason, when the swarm dropped out of the tree, the queen stayed behind and the rest of the swarm returned as it must be with her.

Almost every year one reads in the paper of a bee swarm settling someplace it is not welcome. Last year this happened in the Byward Market, and the people in the area behaved in a way that is all too common: the streets were cordoned off and the swarm was exterminated — a totally unnecessary and wasteful thing to do. Bee swarms are not dangerous, though most people think they are. In fact, a swarm is very docile. Being away from home, the bees are not territorial and will not attack. Moreover, after a relatively short time, they will move on of their own accord. So rather than exterminating a swarm, a local beekeeper should be called to catch it (hopefully more successfully than I did) and take it to their bee yard. Make a point of knowing the phone number of a local beekeeper or two and you can be a friend of the swarm!

If you are interested in learning more about these wonderful animals, I will be giving a two-day course entitled *What the Bees Know — Lessons from the Beehive on Stewardship, Community and Presence*, on June 22 and 23, at Hollyhock Farm in Lanark County. For details, please visit <madelinedietrich.com>.

— Madeline Dietrich M.A. has been a Lanark County hobby beekeeper and a student of the healing power of bees for over ten years. She is also a holistic psychotherapist and draws from the connection to nature as part of her therapeutic toolbox.

## Three More Great Shows in Carleton Place!

The Town of Carleton Place is quickly becoming known as a premier concert showplace in the Ottawa Valley. On May 4, outstanding Canadian folk performer **Garnet Rogers** will play "Up Close & Personal" at the Presbyterian Church in the first of three premier performances to be staged in Carleton Place this year.

Iconic Canadian superstar **Murray McLauchlan** (who played Up Close and Personal last October to great acclaim) will return to Carleton Place for a show at the Presbyterian Church on September 29. And it has just been announced that legendary Canadian folk star **Valdy** will play the Town Hall Auditorium on Friday, November 23. For Valdy, it will be the first time that this charismatic Canadian institution will perform in town.

For the past several years, Carleton Place-based singer/songwriter Lyle Dillabough has been working with a dedicated group of music lovers to nurture the Up Close & Personal concert series. Back in April of 2006, the highly acclaimed Canadian '70s folk/rock artist Ray Materick played his first of four concerts at the Carleton Heritage Inn. Other concerts followed, featuring local artists such as Pat Willbond, Jack Denovan, Darlene Thibault, Arlene Quinn, Kathleen Stroud, Jamie McMunn, Davey Drummond, Ted Daigle, The Ottawa Valley Review and others. Then came the highly successful McLauchlan concerts last year. The success of those further demonstrates that Carleton Place is emerging as a serious player in the Canadian entertainment scene.

This year, the Garnet Rogers and Valdy concerts are a joint presentation of the Carleton Place In Concert committee and Lyle Dillabough Productions. The Murray McLauchlan encore performance is a joint presentation by SRC Music and Lyle Dillabough Productions. All the people involved in this initiative are seeking to make Carleton Place a "happening spot", and it seems to be working. Dillabough has been receiving calls from agents representing artists from all over North America who are impressed by the concept of Up Close & Personal. For more details of these and other upcoming shows, please visit <lyledillabough.com>.

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# MVFN Celebrates the World of Woodpeckers

The Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists (MVFN) will hold their third annual Spring Gathering banquet on May 17. The evening will feature a keynote presentation entitled *World of Woodpeckers* by Dan Schneider — biologist, writer and senior interpreter with the Grand River Conservation Authority.

Woodpeckers are uniquely specialized for their wood hammering habits. They hammer on trees at a rate of 15 to 20 times per second — a rate of fire nearly twice as fast as a sub-machine gun. Not only that, their brains are subjected to deceleration impact forces of up to 1500g (g = force of gravity) with each blow. Consider that a football player would receive concussion injuries from a force of 15g, survivable car crashes rarely exceed 100g, and airplane black boxes are designed to survive only about 1000g! The design of woodpeckers' heads is inspiring the development of new shock-absorbing systems for electronics and humans.

There are many things about woodpeckers that bear further investigation beyond why they don't end up with extreme headaches from hitting their heads against trees, or go blind from the flying wood

chips. For example, since woodpeckers' bills are not very long, how do they fit their much longer tongues inside them? And what about their zygodactyl feet (two toes point forward, and two back)?

MVFN invites you to Spring Gathering 2012 to expand your appreciation for this novel ornithological assembly and to celebrate spring with a delicious banquet. Dan will share his love for these magnificent avian creatures, giving a global tour, a continental perspective, and information about species that live around us.



Pileated woodpeckers by John James Audubon

The Spring Gathering will take place on Thursday, May 17 at Almonte's Civitan Community Hall, 500 Almonte Street (just west of Highway 29). The reception will begin at 6PM, and at 6:45

the banquet will take place, followed by the presentation. Tickets, which are \$30 and must be purchased by May 11, will be available in Almonte at Gilligallou Bird, in Carleton Place at Read's Book Shop, in Lanark at Lanark Living Realty, in Pakenham at Don's Meat Market, and in Perth at The Office. Please contact MVFN's Brenda Boyd at 256-2706 for further information.

## What Is Square Foot Gardening Anyway?

Recently, folks from Almonte, Barrhaven, Ottawa, Arnprior and Carp gathered at the home of local Square Foot Garden Foundation instructor Carolyn Klickermann to get her answer to the question.

Popularized by Mel Bartholomew with his 1981 book and PBD television series, square foot gardening can be used to create any size of garden, and with closed or open boxes. Carolyn's method uses closed-bottom 4' x 4' boxes filled with a special soil mix of 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 vermiculite and 1/3 blended compost to create a relatively weedless bed for your plants.

Boxes can be placed on a patio, deck, rooftop, balcony, table, or right on top of your present garden. The secret is in the soil: this mixture is not contaminated with the weed seeds of your own soil — also, you needn't be concerned about the quality of your garden soil, because you don't use it! Boxes are divided into 1-foot squares by a grid, which encourages judicious use of the space — some seeds are planted four to a square, some sixteen, others just one, depending on the size of plants they will produce. Wind-blown weed seeds that sprout are quickly recognized because they are the odd one out (fifth in a square that only contained four pepper plant seeds, for instance).

Carolyn encourages gardeners to sit to garden (which appeals to nearly everyone, particularly the elderly who may have abandoned gardening due to aging hips, knees and backs), keeping a pail of covered rainwater and another with compost near each box.

Get rid of those long-handled garden rakes, hoes, tillers, etc. All you need for each box is a hand trowel, a pencil to poke seed holes, and scissors to snip off excess plants that sprout. Traditional gardeners will find it hard to believe that gardening can be this easy, and now they can enjoy fresh home-grown vegetables close to the house rather than at the back of the garden.

This method is also great for those who have small yards and want to avoid supermarket produce laden with chemicals. Square foot gardening is completely organic — after mixing your soil the first year to fill boxes, all that is required thereafter is sun-warmed rainwater and compost. Note: the compost should be a blend of five different kinds, and most garden centres carry nearly all types — sheep, cattle, goat, worm, mushroom, leaf and kitchen compost are some choices, or make your own!

Carolyn is holding workshops in May, so contact her to save your spot at 256-3314 or <cklickermann@hotmail.com>.

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## New Phone (!\*#?!?!)

Isn't it ironic that the acquisition of a new technological device, that was the stuff of science fiction only 25 years ago, only makes you want to take a nap? Technology has come so far, yet seems to make our lives more, not less, stressful and complicated. It makes you wonder.

Lately I've been getting a lot of calls on my cell phone. This is a novelty because normally nobody calls me. Unfortunately, these calls are usually from 1-800 numbers. I ignore, they persist. I pick up, finally, and surprise, it's my cell phone provider! They want me to upgrade to a new phone. A smart one, of course. And they'll give me twice as many minutes! It's useless to try to explain that I don't use the minutes I currently have.

My dumb phone is five or six years old. At one time it was a moderately cool flip, but it's now practically obsolete and the subject of derisive comments from the smartphone crowd. But when the majority of calls you get are from unwanted solicitors like your own phone provider, you realize that maybe you don't actually need a phone, but instead an answering service with a pre-recorded message that says, "No."

Also, I remember vividly what happened when I got that flip phone. I remember asking myself: "Should I get a new cell phone? Do I really need a cell phone at all? Why did I leave the old phone on the roof of my car and then drive off?"

The old phone, which had hung on a belt clip and had a single-colour display the size of a postage stamp, had worked just fine, despite being clunky and totally un-cool to the flip-phone crowd. Much like my flip phone now is to the smartphone crowd, come to think of it. But this is the way of technology. Any electronic device — computer, watch, cell phone, media player, cordless phone — is going to need to be replaced approximately every 1.3 years. Repairs are mostly a thing of the past.

But acquiring a new electronic device always means trouble. I am talking about the re-programming trouble. Re-programming the device in question, and re-programming myself to use it. Learning a whole new set of controls and/or buttons and/or features and/or menu options and/or remote controls and/or passwords and/or, what I like to call "personality quirks". You know, the way the star key has one function on this device but a totally different function on that device. And those so-called "universal remotes" that supposedly will operate all your home audio-video gear but never quite do. There is at least one function per device that the universal remote won't operate, and all the individual remotes line up beside the universal one. This is, pardon the pun, a universal truth.

Anyway, I bought the new phone. At home, I opened the box. To my dismay, I could not locate the "On" button. It turned out that the button with the red phone on it — the "hang up" button — turned the power on. First personality quirk! "Who designed this phone?" I wondered.

The phone lit up and played a tune. Apparently a password was not required. This was a very good thing. I feel very close to critical password-mass and, if required to come up with another, may spontaneously self-combust. The coroner will examine my charred body and mutter, "Yup, password overdose." There are passwords for home voicemail, cell phone voicemail, work voicemail, home computer, work computer, webmail account, garage

door opener, bank card, credit card, and dozens of website accounts. The list goes on. It's another universal truth that they all have to be different because of the restrictions each system imposes. If you happen to have kids, some must be chosen to be kid-friendly, whereas others you definitely don't want the kids to know. Many websites now include links that say, "Forgot your password?" In my mind I actually hear, "Forgot your password, you idiot?" I live in fear that there are web cookies that track the number of times I use this feature and that somewhere there is a database in a government office with my name at the top, and some enterprising reporter is going to publish this list under the freedom of information act, and I am going to have to change my name or leave the country. But I digress.

My new phone displayed unfamiliar icons and I didn't know what any of them meant. The quarter-inch thick manual provided unhelpful information, such as "1X Ready" means you are in the 1X Ready region. This is help? I flipped through the manual but before I knew it I was into the upside-down French section and it made no more sense to me than the right-side-up English portion. I tossed the manual.

To my dismay, I could not locate the "On" button. It turned out that the button with the red phone on it — the "hang up" button — turned the power on. First personality quirk!

The phone display was colour and had a nice flowery background. I shuddered to think of how long it would take me to change that background screen. I found the main menu button and scrolled through the options. There were eight but I didn't know or care what most of them were. Web? No, I didn't plan to access the web with my phone. Tools? Could be, but no. Eventually I discovered that the last one on the list, called "Settings", allowed one to change the background. I felt I'd just graduated from kindergarten. The phone cheerfully told me I had successfully changed the background, but I then couldn't figure out how to back out of "Settings". Second personality quirk! I eventually wound up back on the main screen but had no idea which button did the trick.

The next objective was to change the ring tone. This seemed like a "setting" to me, but no, there was no way to change the ring tone in the Settings menu. I broke out in a cold sweat thinking about what tune the phone might play, with me in some important meeting, or maybe in the lineup at the grocery store. What if it played a Celine Dion song? Nor could I find the phonebook, because I'd forgotten it was menu item two. But why care? The phone book was empty anyway, because all of the button pressing I'd done entering numbers into the old phone had been obliterated the day it slid off my car roof and became road kill. Instead, I simply pressed the button with the little red phone again, turned it off, flipped it closed and went for that nap.

And so now you may understand why, when the phone provider calls trying to induce me to upgrade, I politely say "No, I'm happy with my dumb phone," and press that little red button again.

— Rick Scholes

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# A Bittersweet L'OVE Story in Burnstown

During an early spring visit to Burnstown's Bittersweet Gallery, patron Lynn Griffiths got chatting with owner Cheryl Babineau. Cheryl was describing Bittersweet's annual spring open house, which will feature the 2012 collection of Montreal jewellery designer Anne Marie Chagnon called "OVE". She had been brainstorming for a suitable moniker for the event and had come up with L'OVE.

When Lynn mentioned the volunteer work she does with The Walk of Hope for Ovarian Cancer Canada (OCC) and their recent fundraising campaign called "LOVE HER", it seemed a fortuitous coincidence. Lynn has been involved as a volunteer with OCC since losing her sister to the disease, and is now co-chairing the Walk in the National Capital. Wheels were soon set in motion to partner with OCC Walk of Hope co-chair Shelly Levoy.

Meanwhile, in the spirit of the Easter holiday, Cheryl had created candles made by filling empty eggshells with soy and bees wax, and gave them away to friends and visitors to the gallery. The luminous eggs were so well received that they have now evolved as a gift for those who donate, sponsor or purchase at the L'OVE event. The egg seems the perfect symbol of fertility, hope, love and the fragility of life. The symbol also pays homage to Chagnon's collection.



Bittersweet Gallery's spring open house features Anne Marie Chagnon's "OVE" collection (above), and will raise funds for Ovarian Cancer Canada. It opens on May 26.

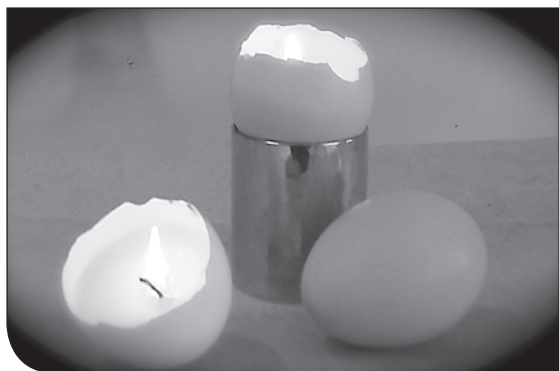
## The OVE Collection

Anne Marie Chagnon describes her new work: "Woven around the themes of childbirth, harmony and love, OVE offers round open shapes, coiling around each other, and rich, warm and enchanting materials — the flexibility of fine leather, the elegance of 22k gold and, as always, a signature that stamps each piece, the symbiosis of hand-sculpted pewter, glass and resin. May this collection enfold you in the rising love of springtime, bringing you renewed energy and warmth." To help portray Chagnon's artistic process, Cheryl plans to display images of the designer's original paintings. Also in the spirit of the event, a bittersweet love potion is in the works. There will even be a draw to win an exquisite Chagnon

piece. Bittersweet will also showcase many new works by its stable of artists, and will introduce several exciting new ones.

## Ovarian Cancer Canada

Representatives of Ovarian Cancer Canada will be on hand as the show opens on May 26 to answer questions and raise awareness of the foundation's goals and objectives. For instance, did you know that currently there is no early detection test for ovarian cancer? This means that 70% of women do not survive longer than five years because they are diagnosed in the late stages of the disease. If we were able to detect the disease earlier, the survival rate could dramatically increase to 90%. Ovarian Cancer Canada is the only registered Canadian charity dedicated to overcoming ovarian cancer. The OCC website <ovariancanada.org> has a wealth of information. The L'OVE event opens at Bittersweet Gallery in Burnstown on May 26 from 11AM to 5PM. Meanwhile the gallery is currently open 11AM to 5PM on weekends and will be open every day beginning May 21. For more information, please call 432-5254.





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**The Reeve Report**

# Life is a Jigsaw Puzzle

I've taken up a new hobby: doing jigsaw puzzles. It's all in an attempt to keep the old brain functioning — hand/eye coordination, spatial perception... big, fat time-taker mostly. However, I don't just sit there plunking pieces in where they belong; I do it with purpose and forethought.

When choosing a puzzle, I pick one of about 500 pieces — any more and they don't fit on the dining room table. I enjoy a pretty picture without too much sky. I don't

right. When the spirit strikes me I work on an area of bright colour that will fit into the whole at some surprise time. Because I'm not referring to the total picture, these patterned pieces take on a life of their own. Sometimes working on a little problem will help in solving the big problem. I build out on the segment until *voilà!* There it is, fitting into an edge or a corner! I did a circular puzzle a while back, and that was a challenge and a half — no corners! I had to work many small areas until they merged.

I can make any excuse to sit down and "have a go at my puzzle", but there are times when all I do is walk past. Now, here's the interesting thing: if I'm standing, I often see pieces practically jump off the table and fall into place, pieces that the previous night wouldn't fit anywhere. And isn't that the truth? We find solutions where we least expect them. A chance encounter out of context will often be the crucial key for which we are waiting. Plunk in that piece and once again I am off and running.

by Glenda Jones

want an impossible challenge, just something that will provide about a week's worth of whiling away some non-TV time.

I dump all the pieces on the table, making sure to break up any that have stuck together, and promptly hide the box so I'm not influenced by the picture. Then I begin the process of turning over the pieces, sorting out the edge bits, and making an effort to put all the distinctive pieces together. I like puzzles with irregular shapes that fool me about placement.

Isn't this a little like life? We have myriad bits scattered around us, and our challenge is to make all the pieces fit a pattern. The edge bits are family, and they have to fit together before we can put in the rest of the puzzle. Then we have the friends, the little clusters of pretty colours that all match. We have community, large pieces that are formed when friends and family combine. Sure, we're all irregular shapes, and finding the fit is the fun part.

The work of assembling the puzzle is completely separate from the actual picture, and as a matter of fact, I don't really see the picture again until the whole thing is complete. What I *do* see are individual pieces that I study carefully for colour, lines or anything that will identify where they belong. We can study our lives in the same way. Each little segment has significance to the whole, if we just take the time to turn it every which way and fit it in. If by some quirk of fate a piece gets put in the wrong spot, the whole puzzle comes to a jolting halt. It may look all right, but no other piece will fit beside it, and I will spend futile hours trying to continue. At that point, I really have to look at every join and find the error of my ways. I then have to retrace my steps, take out the offending piece, and begin again. Once the proper piece is in place I find that a whole series of others will fall right where they should. Wouldn't it be a godsend if we did that with endeavours that are going nowhere, instead of plodding on, piling errors on errors?

I can spend hours poring over the puzzle: one piece, another, another, a little tap when it fits just

**P**reconceptions can be a stumbling block to problem solving. Look at the form, don't give it a name, make it part of the whole. How often do we discount something of value because we aren't looking at its total impact?

The whole picture still doesn't come into focus as I move along. This is especially true if there are tiny bits of the picture hidden in the pieces. I did a puzzle a while back with what I thought was a picture of a hand on one piece. When the puzzle was done, I saw it was a small flower stem. No wonder I couldn't find a spot for it, since there were no people in that picture. Preconceptions can be a stumbling block to problem solving. Look at the form, don't give it a name, make it part of the whole. How often do we discount something of value because we aren't looking at its total impact?

Now I am down to the last few bits. I line them up in categories of shapes and begin counting down as I put each one where it belongs: the "hand" becomes the flower, the "sky" piece is actually part of the vase, the "water" is a curtain bit, and there, the last piece is in place. I usually have to stand up and take a look at the finished puzzle to appreciate the beauty of it. I run my hand over the surface, and feel the joins all perfectly connected. I keep it for a couple of days to enjoy as an accomplishment and as an attractive piece of art. After all, someone either painted or photographed the original, and that was an achievement on its own.

So that's how it goes. All the bits that looked so displaced only a few days ago are all actually part of a beautiful whole, just like the pieces of our lives. Stand back, have a look — all the pieces do fit, you just have to find out where.



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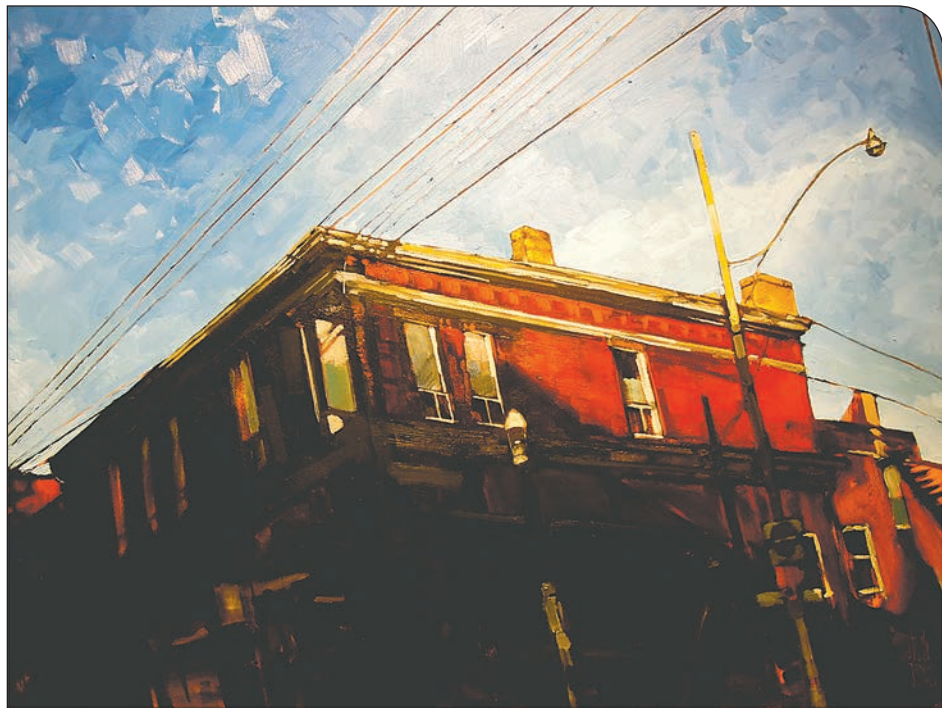
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## New Paintings by Stewart Jones

Toronto artist Stewart Jones has the moxie of a veteran rock star. His art incorporates the skill, beauty and swagger to back that up.

You will be able to judge for yourself when the Kingston native brings a collection of his newest paintings to Perth for an exhibition at Backbeat Books, Music & Gifts on May 11. But that's just opening night. The exhibition of one of Canada's finest young artists runs until June.

Stewart's work has been widely praised by critics as an utterly unique and refreshing perspective on urban landscapes. Most of the landscapes are of downtown Toronto. Of this new batch of paintings, Stewart said he's loosened up a bit: "after a winter's worth of painting and exhibiting in Toronto, I wanted to do a variety of sizes and really make the work accessible to everyone."

And he likes the idea of exhibiting in a music shop.

"Showing in a record store is a treat as it's such an inspiring place," says Jones. "The idea of showing in places other than a typical art gallery has always been important to me as it really opens up the culture to people who otherwise may not have access... I like it when I can think of an exhibition as a Neil Young record... some new, some old, some reprise and something you'd not expect."

Stewart, who studied drawing and painting at the Ontario College of Art and Design and classical animation at Sheridan College, is known for painting urban landscapes that look, at first glance, slightly askew. Critics love his work and often mention that he takes the mundane and transfers it into something immensely captivating on canvas.

Stewart's take on that? "I think people just take for granted what surrounds them and their environment," he says. "There seems to be a busyness in people's days — they forget to look up and around. For me, composition is everything in a painting. The buildings and wires and skies all combine to complete a painting, along with

the shapes of shadows and what happens in the shadows. I guess it's just a feeling when I see a painting in front of me... that I know it will work."

And those funky angles?

"My paintings are simply cityscapes... or urban landscape," Stewart explains. "I don't particularly skew angles as much as I just search for a truth in how we walk through a space or experience it. And that usually isn't standing perfectly straight and stiff. It's while we walk, cycle or drive."

At an early age, Stewart was influenced by the masterful art of Stuart Sutcliffe, who attended art college with John Lennon and was a member of the Beatles during their time in Hamburg — just before the massive fame ensued. Stewart was attracted to Sutcliffe's abstraction.

"Being fifteen and playing in a band and learning guitar," he says, "the Beatles are the first influence. I found this dude, who was in the band early on, super cool. And he was a painter. Art school became a direction. I learned about Nicholas DeStael and other notable post-WWII painters and the path was revealed."

In addition to his painting, Stewart has also worked with some of Canada's finest musicians. He has been involved in short film development and commercial illustration, and has designed album artwork for local and international musicians Wayne Petti, Cuff the Duke, Justin Rutledge and Andrew Rodriguez. He also designed the Polaris Award-nominated album *I'm A Mountain* for Sarah Harmer, and her Juno award winning DVD package for *Escarpment Blues*.

Of that work, Stewart is characteristically humble. "Friends being kind enough to let me do it," he says. "It's an honour."

The opening night of this exhibition takes place on May 11 at 7PM at Backbeat Books, Music & Gifts, 6 Wilson Street West, Perth (call 466-0663, for more information). Refreshments will be served, all are welcome, and the show runs until June.

— John Pigeau



Spring has sprung and green thumbs everywhere are starting to get the itch.



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# Downtown Carleton Place Has a Story to Tell!



Dustin Pettes & Derek Levesque

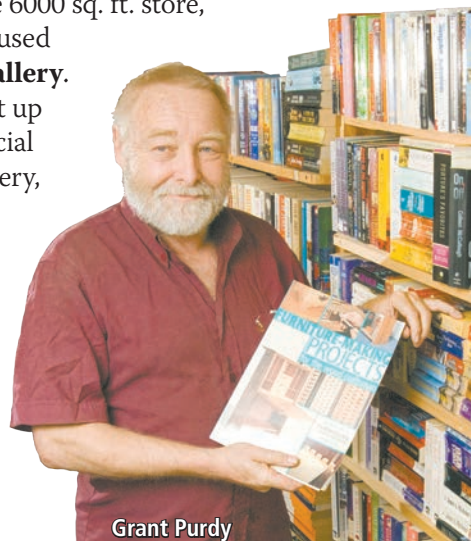
Owner Derek Levesque and chef Dustin Pettes welcome you to dine at **Ballygiblin's** — indoors in air-conditioned comfort, or outside on the patio. After five very successful years in business, the focus is still on local food complemented by microbrewery and craft beer, and a wine list that is exclusively VQA. You'll even find local art on the walls! The menu is brimming with spring salads and signature dishes, and Dustin is creating daily and nightly specials featuring farm-fresh veggies and herbs. They are open seven days a week, and also offer off-site catering.



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Owner Grant Purdy has lovingly built up a well-rounded collection, with a special emphasis on science fiction and mystery, war and... cooking! And if they don't stock it, the staff are happy to track it down for you. Described by *The Ottawa Citizen* as one of the most important tourist attractions in the Ottawa Valley, you'll want to come with plenty of time to browse. Open 7 days a week.

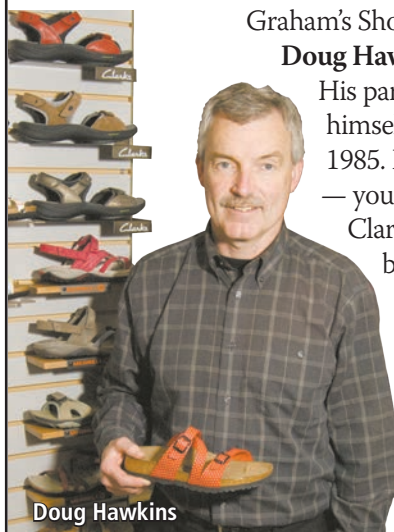


Grant Purdy

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Graham's Shoes is truly a fixture on Bridge Street, and **Doug Hawkins** is one of its longest-standing proprietors!

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Doug Hawkins

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There's so much to do downtown! For a complete listing of Downtown Carleton Place businesses, please visit:

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

For more information contact: [cmcormond@carletonplace.ca](mailto:cmcormond@carletonplace.ca) or 613-257-8049



## “Homes for the House” Tour for LCIH

Just about everyone has driven by a beautiful home and wondered what it looks like inside. Now residents will finally get the chance to tour some of the most spectacular homes in and around Carleton Place, while raising funds for Lanark County Interval House.

On Sunday, June 3, from 10AM to 4PM, visitors will be able to enter six local homes ranging from historical gems to the newest model of elegant living. Each home offers something unique to see, including an artist's studio and a haunted home.

Lanark County Interval House Fundraising Committee member Sarah Bingham notes: “luckily this fundraising initiative was supported right away by our platinum sponsor, Park View Homes, and we were able to get a head start on booking some truly amazing homes for this first tour.”

“The house tour allows us to indulge in our natural curiosity to see inside gorgeous homes and support a very worthy

cause at the same time. It's perfect! This is the first time there has ever been a tour in Carleton Place, but the ones in Perth and Kanata have always sold out, so we're confident this one will too.”

There are limited tickets available and they must be purchased in advance. At only \$25 a ticket, it is an affordable day out and makes for a terrific activity with a group of friends.

Tickets can be purchased locally at the Train Station Visitors Centre on Coleman Street in Carleton Place, as well as at Vickie's Specialty Shop in Smiths Falls, The Running Goat in Perth, doree's habit in Almonte and Merrickville, Art Mad in Stittsville, and Tivoli Florists in Westboro and the Byward Market.

All of the money raised stays right here in Lanark County to support abused women and their children. More information is available at 257-3469 x27 or x63, and at [lcih.org](http://lcih.org).

## Carleton Place Youth Art Competition Expressions of Carleton Place

Are you between the ages of 6 and 18? Do you draw, take photos or write poetry? Are you in the Carleton Place area?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, then Arts Carleton Place has an event for you! Enter the Arts Carleton Place second annual Youth Art Competition, **Expressions of Carleton Place**, in association with the BIA's fourth annual Lambs Down Park Festival on June 16. The deadline is coming up really soon: May 15. Don't miss out!

Once your entry form is in, submit a piece by June 1 that expresses your vision of Carleton Place. You might be inspired by a building, a person, or the natural beauty of Carleton Place. What makes our town special? There are three age groups: ages 6-10, ages 11-14, and ages 15-18. And the three categories are Visual Arts, Digital Photography, and Poetry.

Prizes, provided by our sponsors, will be awarded to the top three entries in each age group and category.

So mark these dates in your calendar: May 15 (deadline for returning entry forms to Arts Carleton Place), June 1 (deadline for art submissions to Arts Carleton Place at the Train Station, 132 Coleman Street), and June 16 (announcement of winners and presentation of prizes at the Lambs Down Festival).

Entry forms and rules are available from Arts Carleton Place at the train station or [artscarletonplace.com](http://artscarletonplace.com). Check out the Youth Art Competition page, found in the “Our Programs” section, to locate the forms. Start creating... We can't wait to see what it is about Carleton Place that inspires you!

For further information, please contact Carol Stephen at 257-7714 or [carolstephen2@aim.com](mailto:carolstephen2@aim.com).



# A New System for Making Music?

In the classical music world, certain countries are known for producing many of the world's top musicians. These countries include members of the European Union, the United States, Russia and China. However, one important country is missing from this list. Care to take a guess?

If you said "Venezuela", you would be correct! Yes... Venezuela.

by Tony Stuart

Here's the thing: since 1975, Venezuela has had a program in place called "El Sistema", which literally translates into "the system". This program is a publicly financed music education program that is open to any student, regardless of socio-economic background.

El Sistema was originally conceived as a social program to help disadvantaged youth escape from the perils of a life of extreme poverty. Children are provided with instruments and access to private music instruction from professional musicians, at no cost to the family. I studied in university with a fellow clarinetist who was a product of El Sistema. He was a terrific player with a real sense of his heritage, who later went on to conduct one of Venezuela's many youth orchestras.

The idea for this program was created by an economist and musician named José Antonio Abreu in 1975. His vision statement is a thing of beauty, in my opinion: "Music has to be recognized as an agent of social development, in the highest sense because it transmits the highest values — solidarity, harmony, mutual compassion. And it has the ability to unite an entire community, and to express sublime feelings."

Abreu is still living, and El Sistema has survived and grown through ten different political administrations, including that of current president, Hugo Chavez. Abreu has made it his mission to keep the program free from partisan politics.

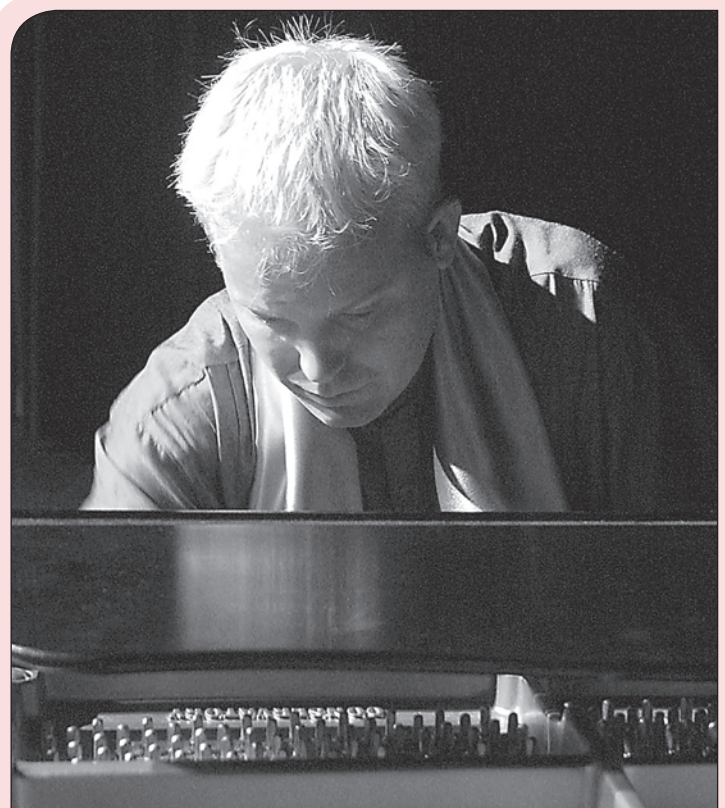
Through the research that I've done on El Sistema, a few things really stand out. Approximately 80% of children in El Sistema come from poor socio-economic backgrounds. Venezuela is not a large country, yet the program oversees more than 150 youth orchestras. They have set a target date of 2015 to have every elementary student in the country receiving publicly-funded music education. However, they are not stopping there. A version of El Sistema is being introduced in the penal system, where prisoners will have access to musical instruments, instruction, and the opportunity to perform in ensembles. It is their belief that humanizing jails in this manner will play an important part in reforming and reintegrating prisoners into society.

One of the rising stars in the conducting world is also a product of El Sistema. Gustavo Dudamel is currently the music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, but is in demand all over the world. Dudamel first came to prominence as the conductor of Venezuela's acclaimed Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra. Look these musicians up on YouTube. They are a youth orchestra in name only! Members of this orchestra have gone on to careers in top flight orchestras all over the world.

Other countries have started to take notice. There are now variations of El Sistema that exist in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. As they say, the proof is in the pudding. In a future article, I will talk about some of the amazing statistics that have emerged in Venezuela in the thirty-five years since El Sistema came into being.

As I mentioned earlier, take a minute or two to look up the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra. Their performances are highly entertaining. In particular, check out their version of Leonard Bernstein's *Mambo* from *West Side Story*. Once you see it, you will know exactly what I mean!

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



## Michael Costello in Concert

On Friday, May 11, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Carleton Place is pleased to present a concert by pianist Michael Costello. Michael will be playing famous works by Chopin, Gershwin and more, beginning at 7PM.

Michael Costello is a native of Carleton Place whose love of music began at an early age and was derived from his family. His uncle Bernie Costello is an old-time piano player and a legend of the Ottawa Valley. Formal training for Michael began in Carleton Place and Ottawa during his early teen years. He went on to study under Dina Namer and Dr. Ireneus Zuk at Queen's University, and received his Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education degrees. His CD, *In Bloom — Sounds of Chopin*, is available from his website, <michaelcostello.ca>.

Michael currently resides just outside of Carleton Place, and continues to teach and perform music on a regular basis. Audiences who have attended Michael's performances rave about the energy, passion and good fun he brings to his playing. Tickets for this performance are \$15 from the Remembrance Gift Shop, by phone at 257-3133, or at the door.

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Sat, May 5, 19 & 26 **Kevin Head** singer/guitarist, 6-9

Sun, May 13 **Mother's Day Brunch**, 10-1, reservations suggested

Tue, May 15 **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Westport Spring Fashion Show**  
\$25/person includes lunch, dessert, tea/coffee, donation to Easter Seals! 12-2

Fri, May 18 Blues on the Rideau with **Chris Antonik Band** \$60, 7-11

Sun, May 20 & 27 **Kevin Head** featuring **Miss V** singer/songwriter acoustic guitarist on the patio, 12-3, free

Sun, May 20 **Latin Music & Dance** Mauricio Montecinos Latin Quartet  
\$10/person, 8-11

Thu, May 24 **The Return Of Jazz Night** with The Spencer Evans Trio feat. **Emily Fennell**, 9-11

Thu, May 31 **Jazz Night** with The Spencer Evans Trio, 9-11





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Funny You Should Write...

# Just Say "No"

## An Advice Column for the Ill-Advised

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

**Dear Miss Write,**

My wife is a complicated woman. Or, rather, a complicating woman. She takes simple things like baking a cake for our four year-old's birthday and turns them

suggestions as to how to get the steam whistle to function (it's a cake!), whatever. And when the party's over and the crumbs are nestled soundly in the vacuum filter, tell her how amazing she is. And tomorrow, when she brews you a no-frills cup of coffee or assembles your cold cereal, tell her how masterful she is at pouring that milk.

**Dear Miss Write,**

I don't know how to say "no". I live in a small community and I literally get asked at least once a month to volunteer my time to some committee, initiative, charity, festival, you name it. I can hardly remember a time when my free moments were spent doing something for myself. I want to give back, but I need a break. Why don't they just ask someone else?

*Yours, Yes Man*

**Dear Yes Man,**

The reason they don't ask someone else is because they don't have to. You already said "yes"! It's working for them, so if you want things to change, you're going to have to be the one to change them. How do you say "no"? You just do. Maybe it'll be easier for you if I tell you that no one is going to be mad at you. You've done your time, and they know it. Go ahead and soften the blow by telling them about all the other things you're involved with and, when eventually you're not involved in anything (if that's what you want), tell them you're doing whatever fabulous thing it is you're doing for yourself. Even if it's drinking spritzers and watching Idol. Nothing to be ashamed of there.

— *Emily Arbour is a freelance writer (among other things) who lives and works in Almonte. By no means is she an expert in anything but having an opinion and making things up. You can go ahead and take her advice, but you'd probably do just as well getting a three year-old to teach you how to match your top to your tutu. Only difference is she doesn't have a column in this fine publication.*

by Emily Arbour

into enormous, stress-inducing undertakings like transforming said cake into a 3-tiered, fully functional, Thomas the Train, edible railroad. I wouldn't have any issue if she actually enjoyed herself, but it's like she's trying to prove something to someone... other moms, Martha Stewart blog editors... I can't be sure. What can I do to convince her that she (we) would enjoy special events a lot more if she dialed back on the pressure?

*Sincerely, The Sane One*

**Dear Sane One,**

I imagine this need to exceed is something that's always been part of the way your wife operates. It's probably even one of the things that attracted you to her in the first place. I don't know what to tell you really. Could it be that perhaps she does these things so that people will recognize how talented she is? Because three years and eleven months ago everyone forgot how great she is at making babies, and maybe she's due for a few extra "super mom" pats on the back. It sounds like the projects aren't the problem quite so much as the pressure they put on her and, consequently, her family at special event time. One of the ways you could help alleviate the stress might just be your willing participation. You could get involved by doing really simple things like asking for her grocery list in advance, getting the kids out of her hair while she bakes, making helpful



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# Stand Up for Diversity at Renfrew Festival

The concept of diversity has always been of particular interest to this community newspaper reporter. After all, our papers are filled with stories about people, events and issues that run the gamut. It is one of the more attractive things about the job, in fact. You never quite know where the day may take you — and the variety is refreshing.

And so, while the schedule of a full-time newspaper job (let alone the demands of a growing family and the self-destructive habit of being disorganized) doesn't leave much wiggle room, there is no doubt this summer's **Diversity Festival** is something for which I can sacrifice some precious free time.

Planned as a day filled with music, vendors, food and more, in and around Renfrew's Lowe Square on July 7, and book-ended by *Dragon's Breath*, a theatrical performance featuring community members, the festival encourages the community to open its eyes and arms to those around them.



Youth involved in *Dragon's Breath* rehearse songs at the O'Brien Theatre in Arnprior. Performances will bookend the July 7 Diversity Festival in Renfrew.

The Diversity Festival is about tolerance and acceptance of everyone. Of course the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and transgendered community is included in this "everyone" and is an important segment of society to make feel welcome and accepted. In fact, my personal interest in this festival was born from a desire to increase awareness and acceptance for the GLBT community. Teen suicides, bullying and intense instances of homophobia are among the reasons this issue sits close to my heart.

In July 2005, when Canada became the fourth country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage, an opinion piece I wrote applauding the move ran in a local paper. The letters, phone calls and emails that followed, most reasonably civil, if intolerant, were numerous. More than one reader was incensed, some were irrational, and if I had a nickel for every Bible verse I was quoted at that time, well, I'd have a few bucks at least. The most disturbing? A copy of the column with words

scrawled, black and block-lettered: "You support sodomy and bestiality."

Threw me for a loop, all that excitement, and indicated to me there was work to be done. And it's not just the GLBT community that needs our support.

So do those of various cultures, religions, socio-economic statuses and physical abilities, and this event recognizes and celebrates the similarities and the differences in each and every one of us.

The Diversity Festival is not a pride parade, and organizers are clear that it will not resemble the adult-themed pride events seen in cities that festival naysayers worry it will become.

The Diversity Festival's catalyst, Marcus Magdalena, is among those stepping out to try to make strides in education and acceptance of others. An out-of-the-closet transsexual male, the Toronto area native who now calls Renfrew home started the ball rolling with his 2011 performance of *Unicorn, With a Cape*, followed by *Memoirs of a Genderless Warrior*. Both performances explored his journey through gender identity issues, addiction and depression. Both, in a compelling and poignant way, shed light on how it must feel to be confused and rejected and alone.

The Ottawa Valley, for the most part, is a warm and welcoming place. Marcus is a case in point: coming to live near his twin sister and her family, he also found the love and support and friends he needed to get healthy and thrive. He is back doing what he loves and where he belongs — onstage, preparing for *Unicorn, With a Cape*.

But while many were welcoming and had kind words as he settled into small-town life, some were not. Marcus noticed that some wonderful, productive people were moving away to find the freedom they needed to live as themselves, and that others were living closeted lives, preferring to keep their relationships or sexuality secret rather than being one of just a few individuals openly known to be gay.

He, along with numerous people in Renfrew and surrounding communities, recognized the need for more education and acceptance at the local level — of the growing diversity in our community, be it cultural, religious and beyond. Following a small meeting late last year at Renfrew's town hall, the Diversity Festival was born.

A lawyer, a high school principal, a sales representative, a teacher, students, members of the media and others of varied genders, nationalities, religions, physical abilities and socio-economic statuses — all are eager to work together for more openness and acceptance in the community we love so much.

Tolerance. Love. Acceptance. Peace. Joy. Inclusion. Empowerment. Freedom. Bring it July 7 and help make history at the Valley's first Diversity Festival. Find out more at <facebook.com/DiversityFestival> or by emailing <diversityfestivalinformation@gmail.com>.

— Sherry Haaima is a reporter for the Arnprior Chronicle-Guide/West Carleton Review

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**It's May!**

Finally, our region gets to experience all the great benefits of warm weather. May brings the farmers' markets back to communities across Ontario. Eating locally gets a whole lot easier at this time of year. There are farmers' markets of all sizes in nearly every small town in the area. You can find the location of the market near you by visiting [www.farmersmarketsontario.com](http://www.farmersmarketsontario.com). To celebrate the new season, make a day of "market hopping" and visit several locations.



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# Cultivating Our Local Arts Scene

## Red Trillium Studio Tour

On May 12 and 13, from 10AM to 5PM, come out to see thirty-three artists in twelve studios and locations in beautiful West Carleton — and some lovely gardens too!

On display will be bookbinding, drawing, pottery, stained glass, woodwork, fabric art, Santa dolls, quilts, glass blowing, metal work, clothing, photography, sculpture, carving and jewellery, as well as

by Miss Cellaneous

paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolour and pencil crayon. Artists new to the tour include Richard Charlebois (marquetry), Jill Alexander (acrylics), Megan Duffield (women's clothing), Jeffery Sugarman (oil painting), Loretta Moore (hooked rugs and kits) and Randy Gill (hand-wrought iron works, including decorative and functional pieces).

There are also several wonderful and very different gardens to be enjoyed. The Master Gardeners will be on hand to dispense free advice, and there will be plants and garden containers for sale.

On Saturday only, the tour is pleased to have the workAbles Group (a group of handicapped adults) back again, serving a



See photographs by Mario Cerroni at this year's Red Trillium Studio & Garden Tour, May 12 & 13

light tea with other goodies for sale, in the Masonic Hall on Carp Road. You can also find great food and drinks at the many local pubs and restaurants.

Look for brochures and maps at many locations throughout the area. Admission is free, and information is available at <redtrilliumst.com> or from Catharine at 839-2793.

## Journey Through the Studios of Smiths Falls

On June 16 and 17, twelve artists will open their studios to the public for a free art studio tour from 10AM to 7PM.

The first **Smiths Falls Art Journey** studio tour aims to raise awareness of the quality of art and the growing group of artists and artisans in this community, in the heart of the Rideau Canal.

Creativity begins in the artist's studio. Tucked away in residential neighborhoods and alternative spaces in this historic community is a wealth of artists and artisans creating in their studios. Browse among new works and purchase art directly from the artists themselves. Whether you are a

long-time collector, beginning your collection or searching for the perfect gift, the tour is a wonderful venue to shop for one-of-a-kind, original creations.

The new tour represents "another great event in Smiths Falls," says Louis Tremblay, president of the Smiths Falls & District Arts & Culture Council. "I am really proud of everyone who helped to put this together. Visitors will be amazed at the high calibre of artists in this first Smiths Falls Art Journey... Your eyes will thank you!"

Maps of the tour and information on each of the exhibiting artists may be found online at <smithsfallarts.com> or by emailing <smithsfallarts@gmail.com>. Find them on Facebook and don't forget tweets @SF\_CultureDays.

## New Art Show Seeking Submissions

Are you creative and looking to showcase your talent? The West Carleton Arts Society (WCAS) is pleased to announce its first summer art show and festival! **ARTstravaganza** will be held in the village of Carp on Saturday, August 18.

WCAS is inviting potters, sculptors, photographers, painters, basket weavers, jewellery makers and many other fine artists and craftspeople to show and sell their work in the big field of the Carp Agricultural Society. Additionally, they are looking for entertainers and volunteers to help make the event a success. They will have opportunities for specialty demonstrations (arts, gardening, etc.) and for artists to paint on-site "en plein air" in the beautiful village and have their work juried at the end of the day for prizes.

For more information please contact Kate Ryckman

at <katemryckman@gmail.com> or visit <westcarletonartsociety.ca>.

## Starving Artist's Marketplace

The Almonte Arts Court (not-for-profit incorporation pending) is a newly formed group of local artists. The board includes Tsuki Studio's Celeste Biggar, film festival award-winning multimedia artist Anaska-Dee Bernard, certified acupuncturist/therapist/intuitive Judith Peak, and leathersmith Gregory Smith.

The goal of the board is to develop a program where the artists travel to schools, community centres and senior centres, providing free art lessons. Due to a lack of available spaces where artists can display their craft, the board decided to create a place where all artists are welcome.

To that end, they recently launched the **Starving Artist's Marketplace** (SAM). It is located in the enclosed concourse of the Almonte Square (the same building as Rexall Drugs) at 430 Ottawa Street in Almonte. A stage is also being built in the "Bardic Corner" to accommodate en-

tertainment. The SAM is open Saturdays, Sundays and holiday Mondays from 9AM to 2PM. They are now seeking local artists, musicians, storytellers, poets, drama groups, craftspeople and any interested others who would like to share the space. Their grand opening will be on May 12, and leading up to that they are offering

vendors 25% off the booking fees. Artists can rent space by the day, weekends, half-weekends, monthly, part-monthly, seasonally or for the full year. All interested artists are invited to contact the SAM coordinator, Gregory Smith, at <artscourt@live.ca>, 259-2534 or 858-7649.

## Current Works Gallery

One of the newest additions to Almonte's thriving gallery scene is the diminutive but delightful Current Works Gallery <currentworks.ca>. It is located on the second floor of the old Almonte Post Office, right above Café Postino, where it works overtime for its owners.

Jennifer Kelly (at right) explains: "we decided to make our real estate office do double-duty because I was lonely working at the computer by myself. My house was filling up with all the glass work I was creating in my off-hours, so Patrick suggested that we convert the office into a gallery to show off my pieces as well work from a few artist friends. 'A few artist friends' has since turned into eighteen different artists, such as Linda Hamilton, Lynda Forgues, Maggie Glosop, Peter Edmison, Kiersten Eagan, and Kirk DesRosier to name a few. Our hours are Saturday 11AM to 5PM and Sunday noon to 5PM every weekend. We are also open by chance or by appointment during the week."



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## Contemporary Art in Almonte

For many years, the Mill Street Gallery existed as a cooperative gallery, and became a staple as a venue for local artists. The gallery, which is located in the mezzanine above the Heirloom Café Bistro at 7 Mill Street, Almonte, has made its return! The Mill Street Gallery of Contemporary Art (MSGCA) now exists as a space to showcase local artists, as well as many others from across Canada. Its aim is to display new contemporary art that previously did not have a venue within Almonte. The work is exciting, edgy, and different from that of other local galleries. The current exhibition presents eight artists, featuring two main local artists.

**Nick Moore** is a fine-furniture maker from Lanark. Nick uses carefully selected hardwoods and precious veneers to bring to life his modern designs. The exhibition includes some larger furniture as well as smaller decorative wooden boxes. Nick's craftsmanship marries time-honoured traditions with his clever and sophisticated concepts. The work fits in well within the walls of the gallery, ably displaying his larger work as well as highlighting his smaller gems.

**Steve Thompson** of Thompsonartist is also displaying at the gallery. Steve is a photographer who for the last fifteen years has continually strived to capture moments from unique perspectives. His philosophy is to think outside the standard limitations of photography to present his audience with interesting and captivating photos. The work he is displaying at the MSGCA is a collection of black and white photography, demonstrating a true passion of his.

This is the second exhibition to be displayed at the newly re-idealized Mill Street Gallery under the direction of local artist Amanda Sears.



Amanda is inviting the community to join the artists for a **vernissage** on Friday, May 4, from 5 to 7PM. Drinks and snacks will kindly be provided by the adjoining Heirloom Café Bistro. Come on out and witness the revived space which is now the Mill Street Gallery of Contemporary Art! Stay tuned to learn about new shows entering the space every few months.



The detail above is from Sylvia Pendl's installation *Old Brooke Road: An Incomplete Field Guide*

## fieldwork at five

fieldwork, now in its fifth year, was established from a desire to present public art, within a rural setting. Audiences experience the artists' creative response to the landscape where the art is displayed. fieldwork utilizes a small field as gallery, located near 2501 Old Brooke Road, which is just 1km off of Highway 7 near Maberly (west of Perth). Each year the fieldwork collective has brought together a collection of installations from artists of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, who are at varying stages of their artistic careers. The artists are challenged to create work that examines the field and its rural setting in the theme, and invites visitors to explore the surrounding environment or participate with the art. Each artist chooses how to interpret and use the space, resulting each season in unique concepts and designs. The fieldwork collective was founded by Susie Osler, Erin Robertson, Chris Osler and Chris Grosset, with the recent addition of Barbara Meneley. Together the collective has presented eighteen installations since 2008, hosted annual workshops for community arts groups, and presented work from the field at group shows in the Ottawa region.

In their fifth year, fieldwork is featuring eight new works, beginning on Saturday, May 26, with the opening of pieces by Sylvia Pendl (an artist and landscape designer from Vancouver), Barbara Meneley (an installation and media artist from

Saskatchewan currently studying at Queen's University), and potter and installation artist Susie Osler, of Maberly. Everyone is invited to attend the opening, between 1 and 4PM. Also on display on the 26<sup>th</sup> will be recent construction by heritage fence builder Scott Dobson, and continuing installations from previous fieldwork seasons.

As the fifth year celebrations continue, additional announcements will be made about a special performance in July by Alicia Marván, a visiting Mexican artist and designer, and the September 15<sup>th</sup> fundraiser celebration and opening for installations created by Joan Scaglione (Kingston), Bozica Radjenovic (Ottawa), Erin Robertson (Ottawa) and Chris Grosset (Almonte).

Many of the 2012 installations will explore the concept of place. This seems fitting at this point in fieldwork's life, not only in terms of the historical life of the physical and characteristics of the outdoor gallery, but also in light of fieldwork's place within public art practices. It is a good time for celebrating accomplishments and new relationships, but also for evaluating our capacity for innovation and greater sustainability moving forward.

fieldwork is supported by the Ontario Arts Council, and by generous donations from the friends of fieldwork. For further information please contact: <fieldworkproject.com>.

— Chris Grosset

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# A Grand Celebration at The Young Awards

It is always a treat to chat with residents of Mississippi Mills — old and new. There are so many with such talent and creativity! Did you know that **Ingrid Hamster Harris** is soon to be presented with the Cultural Achievement award at the annual Young Awards Gala on May 12? It was such a pleasure to interview this dynamic woman in her lovely home along the back road to Blakeney. What a life she has had.

After completing her education in Tailoring and History of Costume she just picked up, left her home in Holland (when

by Miss Mills

she was 29) and was off to New York City. Then she went on to Hollywood to see a building full of all the costumes ever used in the movies. She was hooked. Lucky for us she came to Toronto, where she became a Canadian citizen and decided to stay. For many years she worked as a costume designer — for thirty-six theatre productions — moving between Stratford, Charlottetown and Toronto. More



Ingrid Harris poses with some of her creations



Jeff Mills, characteristically surrounded by volunteer paraphernalia...

luck when Ingrid found a house in Almonte and was soon hired as the National Art Centre's Wardrobe Supervisor for the opera seasons. And luck again when she decided to share her knowledge and became the instigator of the Valley Players — producing their first play in 1983.

Ingrid operated a store in Almonte: Nordic Star. It was such an exciting place with an eclectic collection of clothing and accessories. She developed her own outdoor clothing company — Yarrow Design Grenfell. Over the years she has taught costume design at the Mississippi School of the Arts and the Textile Museum. She also does textile and costume appraisals for the Museum of Civilization.

Most recently she has designed and built thirty-two "art buddies" — soft dolls that match characters in paintings at the National Gallery. Children take these dolls and look for the matching artwork. And now she is sewing costumes for children to wear and again find the same character in the art. How delightful!

And through all the years she has volunteered her time and talents to make costumes for theatre productions in Almonte and to dress merchants' look-alike puppets, often recycling material she finds at The Hub — that illustrious clothing store on Mill Street.

Ingrid is surely a most worthy recipient of the Cultural Achievement Award. What a gal!

But there is another special individual who will be feted at this Young Awards Gala. One of my favourite men, **Jeff Mills**, will be given the Mississippi Cultural Volunteerism Award. I cycle with Jeff — I have to pedal fast to keep up — but I love our chats as we cruise along the highways and byways of Mississippi Mills. He tells me he gets his inspiration from cycling — "Any good ideas come to me when I'm riding my bike." Jeff was raised by Stan and Connie Mills — in a "lefty household" — he a political activist and she a creative grade one teacher. Jeff studied at the Ontario College of Art and focused on photography at Humber College. He started his career in photography working with John Evans — taking a memorable photo of Pierre Trudeau and that year's Easter Seals "Timmy" (the child chosen to represent all children with physical disabilities).

He began his volunteer career as a Big Brother — oh my — what a lucky boy to have Jeff's undivided attention. Everything Jeff does has a creative flair and a collaborative mark — Jeff worked with neighbours to save the Cedar Hill School House and develop programs for the school, he was chair of the board of directors of the Almonte Community Development Corporation, and he worked on the Mill of Kintail board. He was the instigator for Focus on Development and went to Haiti to help students learn how to take photos of their communities, bringing the results back to sell and raise funds for that country. After the horrendous earthquake in Haiti, Jeff worked with ADHS and others to hold a huge fundraising musical event that raised over \$20,000.

But Jeff's real love is cycling. Now in its fourth year, Bicycle Month <mmbm.ca> in June has a plethora of activities full of artistry: themed tours, films, and even a Grand Prix! You can see more of Jeff in the 2012 "Nudes of Mississippi Mills" calendar — oh my, a lot more — that man will do anything for a cause dear to his heart.

The **Young Awards Gala** takes place on May 12 at the Agricultural Hall on the Almonte fairgrounds. Tickets are \$65 and can be found in Almonte at Mill Street Books and Foodies Fine Foods, and in Pakenham at Don's Meat Market.

I'll get there on my bike wearing a costume made by Ingrid. It promises to be a very, very special evening.

One more thing! I've just seen the poster — back by popular demand — **Naismith Is Colourblind and He Can't Drive**. It's to be held at Almonte's Old Town Hall on June 8 and 9. I am so excited! I've heard so much about this play. The Valley Players are directed by Thora Pugh (who, incidentally, was once a real estate agent and sold Ingrid Harris her first house!). This time The Hub is sponsoring the musical as a fundraiser for their new palliative care initiative. Those Hubites are always initiating something, but this is a wonderful marriage of events. The play was written by Fern Martin to celebrate James Naismith's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday last November and every show was sold out. I couldn't get tickets! And there were even puppets in it! But this time I'm going to march right over and be the first in line. Tickets are \$35 for a family, \$15 for adults and \$7 for children and youth, and are available from Baker Bob's in Almonte and the Pakenham General Store. Get yours soon!

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# To Garden...

*"The garden was catnip to them; it was so irresistible they almost rolled around in it. They loved it, they drank it in." — Molly Peacock, The Paper Garden: Mrs. Delany begins her Life's Work at 72*

I haven't quite rolled around in the garden yet, but I do like the image and may be tempted!

Garden. What does that word mean anyway?

If you looked at my garden, you might like it. But on further investigation, you might say, "whoa — there be weeds here." Yes. Nature runs amok — in fact, there is a wonderful braiding of greens on this plot. Another favourite word, "rambunctious", comes to mind.

I think of the word "cultivate". It lends itself to a hands-on connection, a targeting of energies, a moment to breathe. It means slowing down enough to inhale the incandescence of the air moving on the planet, of the soil, of the earth. Of birdsong. Of peace. You're but one of many organisms, halting in this time and space to open yourself to what surrounds you — like a hug that was long overdue. Even if only standing with trowel in hand over a chipped terra-cotta pot dragged from the garage yet again.

It means a new music. Night sounds for sure. The peeping of tree frogs juxtaposed with the thrumming from the river; the cricket outside and here in the house between walls; the wing flaps of a night bird leaving a roost; the chorus of coyotes. And although my neighbour down the road scoffs at the idea, I swear by the starlight above that I can hear the worms working their magic in the leaf mould. And during the day? Endless variations on the spring chorus — easy to move to the beat.

It means community. To garden means the neighbour walking by with the dog, waiting to stop a moment and connect. The friend who offers a plant that really, really wants to travel and eventually gallops across your landscape. It's about exchange and setting up roadside plant displays saying "free to a growing home". It means monthly meetings of the Horticultural Society or a generous backyard demonstration on a new technique (nice work, Carolyn Klickerman, on square foot gardening!). It means Mary Lumsden, of Mill Street Books in Almonte, asking if I might like to cull the catalogues for what might be of gardening interest. Oh please. Everything please! And thank you! So much for retiring early... I'll have to use ALL the pennies, and then some, to pay for books now... sigh.

To garden is also about memory and friendship described in terms of plants that speak of love, loss and, always, hope and desire. The plant that cannot be moved since it was a favourite of the original owner of the house; the shrub that a mother bought for that specific place; the cuttings from a neighbour that fill out a corner, or two, of the yard. The berm where many a cat has been scattered when time moved on for them, and a whispered hello that is shared when you walk by. The promise of bulbs waiting.

For me and mine, we're putting an international spin on it and heading to the icon of all shows, the star of the gardening universe, the Chelsea Flower Show. Ahem. With fascinator perched on my head, I'm ready to parade in the green — but more on that next time.

Find your own words to garden — hoe and Humm!

— Heather Phaneuf

## Hike for Hospice Renfrew

On Sunday, May 6, people from across Renfrew County will participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Hike for Hospice Palliative Care, hosted by Hospice Renfrew at the Renfrew Presbyterian Church, 460 Raglan Street South. Registration is at 1PM, with the hike starting at 2PM. Refreshments will be served shortly after the hike.

This year's theme is "It takes a team". Hospice Renfrew would like to celebrate our families, workplaces, schools and clubs by making all our participating teams the lead hikers. Participants are encouraged to come dressed in team colours and outfits to show their team spirit! Individuals are also encouraged to come out and take part in this fun event.

Every hiker will be given a ticket for a raffle of a 51-inch Samsung colour TV donated by Utronkis Appliance and TV Sales. An additional ticket will be given for each \$100 pledge earned. There will also be a prize for the team with the highest combined pledge amount!

This is a major fundraiser for Hospice Renfrew, and this year their goal is to raise \$50,000. Every dollar raised stays in our community to directly offset operational costs of the Hospice and allow comprehensive end-of-life care to families across Renfrew County, completely free of charge.

As one family member recently commented, "We are fortunate to have a facility like Hospice Renfrew available to us when necessary. The Hospice not only takes care of the patient but also provides comfort to the family."

Hospice Renfrew is working to ensure that more Canadians, especially those of Renfrew County, receive the end-of-life care that they and their families need.

Hike for Hospice Palliative Care pledge forms are now available at RBC in Renfrew and the Hospice Renfrew office. For more information, please contact Hospice Renfrew at 433-3993, or visit <hospicerenfrew.ca>. To learn more about the hike, see <hikeforhospice.com>.



## Local Gardening Resources

WARNING: May cause severe salivation!

<b>Galetta Rose Nurseries</b>	<a href="http://www3.sympatico.ca/galetta">www3.sympatico.ca/galetta</a>
<b>Kiwi Gardens</b>	<a href="http://www.kiwigardens.ca">www.kiwigardens.ca</a>
<b>The Herb Garden</b>	<a href="http://www.herbgarden.on.ca">www.herbgarden.on.ca</a>
<b>Reid Gardens</b>	<a href="http://www.reidgardens.ca">www.reidgardens.ca</a>
<b>Rideau Woodland Ramble</b>	<a href="http://www.rideauwoodlandramble.com">www.rideauwoodlandramble.com</a>
<b>Rock Wall Gardens</b>	<a href="http://www.rockwallgardens.com">www.rockwallgardens.com</a>
<b>Stoneridge Gardens</b>	<a href="http://www.stoneridgegardens.com">www.stoneridgegardens.com</a>
<b>Whitehouse Perennials</b>	<a href="http://www.whitehouseperennials.com">www.whitehouseperennials.com</a>

And not-so-local: **RHS Chelsea**  
[rhs.org.uk/Shows-Events/RHS-Chelsea-Flower-Show/2012](http://rhs.org.uk/Shows-Events/RHS-Chelsea-Flower-Show/2012)

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Postcards from Perth

# Perth's Newest Orchestra Does it with a Twist

There is a new orchestra in town — an orchestra with a twist.

When the **Rideau Lakes Chamber Orchestra** takes the stage at St. Paul's United Church in Perth on May 12, audiences will be in for a new treat. They will be hearing a classical chamber orchestra without a traditional string section. In its place? Synthesizers.

by John Pigeau

"We have a woodwind section, a brass section, string bass, cello, percussion and two synthesizers," Music Director Mark Bailey explains. "The synthesizers add a unique texture to the sound. Traditional ensembles, of course, would use a string section — that's where we differ from most other orchestras. The trick of course is to not try to replace string sections with synthesizers, but rather integrate their sounds naturally with the acoustic instruments."

The orchestra is being coached in Perth by Richard Hoenich, who was the principal bassoonist with the Montreal Symphony for many years and now resides just outside of town. "Richard arranged Tchaikovsky's waltz from *Sleeping Beauty* for this group and it will be our finale in the May 12 concert," says Bailey.

Aside from the uncommon instrumentation, Bailey says the Rideau Lakes Chamber Orchestra is unique in another sense. "The attitude in the group is much like a rock band," he says. "That is to say, since there is no conductor dictating every inch of a performance to the players, input from the musicians is encouraged. If someone has an idea, they share it, and this makes for a very cooperative spirit in the orchestra, and the morale is always very high."

The orchestra consists of twelve musicians, a mixture of professional and semi-professional players who live in the Ottawa Valley area. The idea of forming the group was hatched at Bailey's house last August. "Eventually," Bailey says, "we sought out players to fill in the ranks and had our first rehearsal in November 2011. Right away after that first rehearsal we realized that this was going to be a go, and here we are just a few weeks away from our first concert."

Perth native Alana Sargeant will be a guest vocalist for the orchestra's first show. A veteran of many

local choirs and theatre companies, Sargeant is currently a member of the Cantabile Choir in Kingston. She is also a soprano in the Queen's University Choral Ensemble and conductor for the Queen's University Chamber Choir. At the May 12 show, Alana will be singing *Habanera* from *Carmen*.

Locals may also be familiar with the two synthesizer players in the orchestra, Brad Mills and Adam Reid. Mills has been the music director of St. Paul's United Church for many years and was also the head of the music department at Carleton Place High School, until he retired almost two years ago. Reid, who attends Ottawa University, is an accomplished singer, guitar player and theatrical performer who has performed in many local productions and at the National Arts Centre with *Opera Lyra*.

Also, says Bailey, "Tony Stuart from Carleton Place and Barb Bolte from Perth will be soloists on the program. Barbara is the oboist with the Kingston Symphony Orchestra, and Tony is head of the music department at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Carleton Place."

The theme for the Rideau Lakes Chamber Orchestra's opening night show is "An Evening with the Masters," featuring a diverse repertoire. "Our repertoire covers a few hundred years of musical history," says Bailey, "from J.S. Bach to Hollywood's John Williams. We are featuring music by Bach, Prokofiev, Copland, Tchaikovsky, Fauré, John Williams and Bizet. I think that we offer something even for those out there who say they don't like classical music."

"There's quite a cross-section of musicians in the orchestra," he adds. "Many are ex-members of the Central Band of the Armed Forces, many are freelance musicians in Ottawa, many are music teachers, but all are accomplished, dedicated musicians committed to playing this music at the highest possible level."

The Rideau Lakes Chamber Orchestra plays its inaugural show on May 12 at St. Paul's United Church in Perth at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Tickets Please in Perth at Jo's Clothes, 39 Foster Street, online at [ticketsplease.ca](http://ticketsplease.ca), or by calling 485-6434.

— *John Pigeau is the owner of Backbeat Books & Music in Perth, the founder of the First Edition Reading Series, and the author of acclaimed novel The Nothing Waltz.*

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual FaeryFest

On Saturday, June 9 the faeries are returning for the second annual FaeryFest! This whimsical festival will take place at the Perth Civitan Hall, on Highway 43 just outside of Perth, from 10AM to 5PM. Come dressed in your finest faery garb or as a mystical creature. Wings are most welcome! In the faery tradition of healing the planet and helping animals, there will be free admission to the festival, but a donation to the Lanark Animal Welfare Society would be greatly appreciated. This year LAWS will be on-site with their own booth to accept donations and give information about the animal shelter. Last year's festival attracted close to 250 people, with only thirteen vendors, artists and authors in attendance. This year's festival has a bigger venue and already has thirty-five vendors, artists and authors registered. The participants of FaeryFest will be inside the hall as well as outside on the grounds.

Faeries are here to remind us not to take life so seriously and to have some fun. To that end, there will be something for everyone from the very young to the young at



Faeries and other mystical folks will gather in Perth on June 9 for the second annual Faeriefest

heart! Local artists, authors, vendors and healing practitioners will tempt you with their wares, knowledge and skills. There will even be a FaeryLand Craft Zone for the little "faeries". Grandma's Lunch Box (a Perth restaurant) will be on hand to satisfy any mystical creature's appetite with treats, snacks, drinks and lunch.

Many artists will exhibit and sell their works, including Doug MacDonald (cast cement sculptures), Cheryl Sinfield of Faerie Art by Faerie Ce Ce (natural one-of-a-kind faery houses and doors), Cindy Keary (shawls and other knitting and weaving, made of wool from her own sheep) and Christine Joyce (originals and prints of faery paintings and drawings, as well as masks, candles and cards). Other offerings include nature-inspired patio figurines, wood carvings, pottery, jewellery, stained glass art, tie-dye clothing, faery shields and wings, painted mandalas, and wire and beaded crowns.

Four authors will also be present at FaeryFest this year. Denise Carpenter of Reiki Associates returns with her book *Reiki Wings*. Children's author Nancy Lee Amos will also be returning with her three-part Scottish faerytale series *Isabella and the Healing Faeries*. New to FaeryFest is another children's author, Riemke Bles. Her books are set in Holland and are entitled *Nelltje's Garden* and *Beene and the Atlantic Ocean*. Children's fantasy author Nathalie M. LeBlanc brings *The Magic Coat Series: Shrinking Forward*.

FaeryLand Craft Zone will be hosted by I Heart My Art program, and the craft will feature natural materials. Beside the Craft Zone, you'll find henna tattoos as well as face painting, hair feathers, hair tinsel, and coloured extensions. In keeping with the theme, there will also be natural body and health products, as well as healing treatments and sessions, available to sample and purchase. For more information about FaeryFest please contact Cheryl at 283-9877 or <faeriecece@hotmail.com>.

— Cheryl Sinfield

## Lanark's own "Queen of Country"

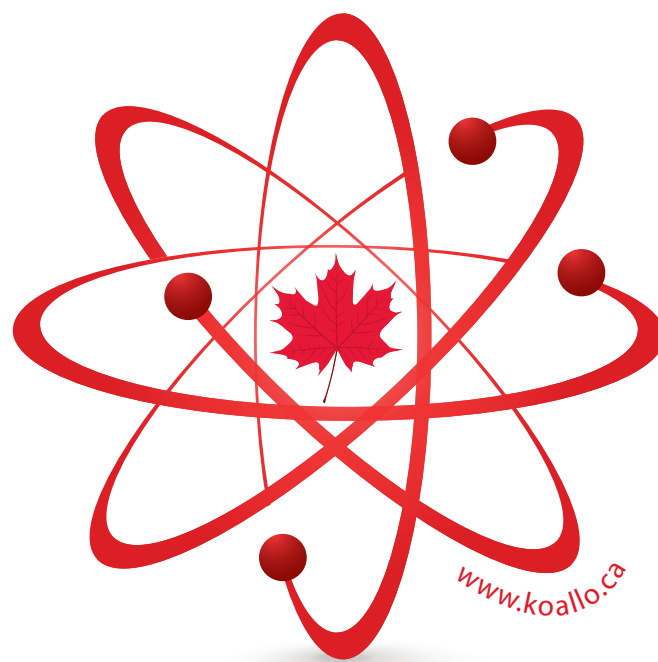
Now in its second year, **Songs from the Valley** is a collaboration between the Stewart Park Festival and the Studio Theatre. On May 12, the grand finale of the series offers another very special treat — the Ottawa Valley's own "Queen of Country", **Arlene Quinn**.

Arlene is a true native daughter of our area, born and raised in rural Lanark County. Her lifelong love affair with music began at age five, when she received her first guitar. At twelve, she composed her first song, *Satin and Laces*, and by seventeen she was touring Ontario and Quebec with her own band, Ramblin' Rose. Arlene's first CD received extensive airplay across Canada and Europe, and the recognition she garnered from music industry elite gave her a chance to share stages with some of country music's biggest names, including Loretta Lynn, Lorrie

Morgan, Terri Clark, Blue Rodeo, Murray McLaughlin, Bill Anderson, Faron Young, Johnny Duncan, George Canyon, Bobby Helms, Jeannie C. Riley, Stonewall Jackson, Moe Bandy and many more.

It has been said that Arlene Quinn has the voice of an angel, and it's no wonder she has a loyal following of fans who love her music, her songs, and her infectious smile. An evening with Arlene Quinn and Guests is a fitting climax to another great *Songs from the Valley* concert series.

Tickets for this May 12 show are just \$25, and are available in person or by phone at Tickets Please, 39 Foster Street in Perth, 485-6434 (a convenience fee applies). All concerts take place at the Studio Theatre, located at 63 Gore Street East in Perth. For further details visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.



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What does it really mean to be Canadian? It sounds like a complex question, but at least part of the answer is really quite simple. We're proud of our country. Whether we carry that pride quietly in our hearts, or wear it boldly on our sleeves, the vast majority of us feel fortunate to work and live in Canada. This is not a sentiment that flares just on Canada Day, or when an athlete sings *O Canada* from the top step of the Olympic podium. No. It is shown in so many different ways, every day.

One way we express our national identity is by putting a distinctly Canadian face on our digital presence. Sure, we're proud, but it also just makes sense. A .CA domain name announces to the world that you, your business or organization are Canadian. And that has value, and means something to those who find you online, whether they're Canadians, or citizens of other nations. .CA sites are trusted around the globe, just as Canadians sporting the maple leaf on lapel pins and backpacks are so often greeted warmly when travelling abroad. Call it the Canadian dividend.

More and more Canadians are clicking their way to a .CA domain name registration. Over the past five years, .CA has been one of the fastest-growing country-code domain extensions in the world. In Canada, .CA's market share has been steadily rising while the collective registrations of the other domain name extensions have been steadily declining. Currently, more than 1.8 million .CA domain names have been registered and the number grows minute by minute. The most successful businesses and organizations operating in Canada, including multi-national companies, have a .CA presence and enjoy the value and benefits that come with it.

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## Winds of Heaven A Film about Emily Carr

On Tuesday, May 15, everyone is welcome to attend a screening of *Winds of Heaven* — a documentary film by Michael Ostroff about artist and writer Emily Carr (1871–1945). This is a 90-minute journey into the deep brooding mystery and inner beauty of Emily Carr's paintings — a lyrical, luminescent and entertaining impression of her life and her connection to the First Nations people of the northwest coast of British Columbia. It is being presented by the Renfrew Art Guild and the Right Relationships with Aboriginal People study group at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church in Renfrew. The screening begins at 7PM in the chapel. Admission is by freewill offering, and refreshments will be served. For more information please call Beulah Wright at 432-3295.

# One Person in One Place A Story of Humanitarianism and Generosity

*Don't Quit — Don't Cry* by Jacques Roy is a life story that shows readers "a way of being human in the supportive company of other committed humans."

Beyond the authentic and deserved censure of political, economic and cultural exploitation at any level, local to international, *Don't Quit — Don't Cry* is a record for good and a record of significance to individuals and groups who struggle to exert independence. Far more than the story of independence movements in Africa, and particularly the politics of Angola as it transformed from colony to nation, this is a story that must be told. And the author has chosen not to use anonymity or emotion to cloak deeds and policies.

Mr. Roy engages the reader in "witnessing extreme poverty, disease, language barriers, and constant insecurity, and feeling the pulse of an emerging society". The reader feels with him the agonies of disintegrative and politically divisive conflicts, and remains with Mr. Roy in his own struggles, which often are personal interests versus concern for humanity and especially for Angolans.

Mr. Roy declares: "In any relationship, personal or working, trust is absolutely essential." He has kept the trust of individuals by presenting them authentically with candour and sincerity yet without acrimony. He describes his involvement in pivotal events with detail sufficient to involve readers without losing or clouding the purposes of the struggles.

*Don't Quit — Don't Cry* shows careful design. Without belabouring rationale, it reveals the beginnings of Mr. Roy's work in Angola and other locations. As he is drawn progressively in, he involves readers in the complexity of political situations in Africa to help them understand the intricacies of political decision-making in Europe and America. Readers can appreciate much of public versus secretive operations of powerbrokers, be they small or large in influence.

With its structure of real time, real places and real events, the account is primarily material for the study of history and the struggle for political and cultural autonomy. It is the story of people living

history. Indigenes struggle to survive, and strain to support their succeeding generations. Self-seeking foreign or local oppressors contrast with altruistic benefactors. Governments and organizations within industrialized nations, with power to alleviate poverty and oppression, do not rise beyond egotism. The contrasts extend to our world, where too often concern for humanity remains only a precept rather than a goal requiring effort with dedication. In *Don't Quit — Don't Cry*, the reader accompanies Mr. Roy as his efforts broaden to invite, encourage and even entice Canadians to assist and commit to programs designed to help people in liberated areas.

Through Mr. Roy's tale, readers are bound to individuals. We want self-sacrificing persons to succeed in their honourable goals; we want Mr. Roy to continue to "contribute to the rebuilding of . . . [his] adopted home — Angola". That the latter portion of *Don't Quit — Don't Cry* is set in Canada shifts the focus to the life of a man attempting to work from home and at home, to promote honourable programs and to achieve altruistic goals.

As he declares in his afterword, Mr. Roy shows readers "a way of being human, in the supportive company of other committed humans". Education is fundamental to development and stability of individuals, families and communities. From *Don't Quit — Don't Cry*, the current generation of Angolans can appreciate more the struggle and the individuals instrumental in that effort to attain national identity. From this book, the current generation of Canadians can learn of fellow citizens assisting others unselfishly in a world fraught with exploitation and selfishness.

If Canadians are to continue their idealism, they must know and respect the positive influence of organizations and individuals they support. Canadians' humanitarian spirit and generosity can continue because of respect for life and the pursuit of cooperation and happiness — powerful principles throughout Jacques Roy's *Don't Quit — Don't Cry*.  
— Marvin Sheets

A story "worthy of Indiana Jones and James Bond..."  
— Le Droit

**Meet the author events:**  
**Mill Street Books**  
 52 Mill St., Almonte  
 Saturday, May 12 from 1 to 3pm

**Read's Book Shop**  
 130 Lansdowne Ave., Carleton Place  
 Wednesday, May 23 from 12 to 2pm

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



COMMUNITY EVENT

## Building Small Town Canada: A Community Discussion!

With special guest Senator Terry Mercer  
 Liberal Critic for  
 Transport, Infrastructure and Communities

**Where:** Old Almonte Town Hall, 14 Bridge Street,  
 Mississippi Mills

**When:** Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> 1:00PM – 3:30PM

**RSVP:** (613) 435-2331 or visit our website:  
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# Echo Echo is Back to Eclipse the Neat Stage

They're back! It has been over a year, but **Echo echo Productions** is set to return to the stage once again. Acclaimed for their choice of quality plays and their excellent performances, they will be bringing the incredible work of Joyce Carol Oates to the Neat Schoolhouse stage from May 31 through June 2.

*The Eclipse* is a poignant drama about a mother and daughter at odds, who must learn to live together. Daughter Stephanie, an activist for women's rights, is reaching the pinnacle of her political career with the feminist party, but feels she is being held back by the need to care for her mother Muriel. A proud intelligent woman who is descending into paranoia and delusion, Muriel is subject to swift and harsh mood swings that are often directed towards her daughter. Once a well-respected teacher, Muriel has spiraled into mental chaos. She often believes that she is being spied on, particularly by former employers, and her mind has created an imaginary suitor named Señor Rios.

As Stephanie struggles with the emotional highs and lows of her mother's moods and accusations, she tries desperately to regain control of her life. In a climactic and revealing twist of the play, Stephanie receives a visit from a social worker with the senior crisis centre. Muriel, in one of her "other" moods, had called in a complaint of abuse to the hotline — a call that she has no recollection of making. On the cusp of moving forward with her political party and on the edge of making all of her dreams come true, Stephanie is haunted and hurt by her mother's false accusations of abuse. Confronted by the young social worker's questions, Stephanie is forced to face the truth about her mother's condi-

tion and, in a revealing dialogue, explores the darkness that plagues her mother's mind.

It's been a year since Heather Sagmeister and Chris Kyte hit the stage together in *MOMologues*. Known for their brilliant dynamic on stage, the two driving forces behind Echo echo Productions are eager to return to the spotlight. This time they are pleased to announce that they will be joined by talented newcomers Kelsey Wagstaff and Herb Roseneck.

In addition to the performance, Echo echo will be helping a local school achieve a fundraising goal. Kelsey Wagstaff, who played Belle in Opeongo High School's musical *Beauty and the Beast*, is particularly excited to be a part of this production. A young philanthropist, Wagstaff spearheads a group at her high school called Project Huduma (which means "care" in Swahili), and works tirelessly to raise money to build a school in Kenya. The student-propelled organization is currently only \$1300 dollars from its objective. In an effort to sup-

port Kelsey in her goal, as this is her last year of school, Echo echo Productions will have donation jars placed at the door for each performance.

*The Eclipse* will be their most technically challenging show yet, so they have enlisted the help of Jeff Scott, Stephanie MacGregor and Richard Laxton to bring the show life. This production promises to be a profound and moving piece that has stretched the abilities and range of the group's actors as no other production has. It will be — without a doubt — entertaining, but it will also be thought provoking and emotional for the audience.

Showtimes are 8PM nightly. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at <neatfood.com> or at the door, though seating is limited.



Echo echo Productions bring *The Eclipse* by Joyce Carol Oates to the stage at Neat Coffee House from May 31 to June 2

# Nature in Renfrew

The Nature in Your Neighbourhood presentation series is a collaborative initiative of the Ottawa River Institute and the Bonnechere River Watershed Project, with three free presentations for communities in the Bonnechere River watershed.

April saw presentations in Killaloe and Eganville. If you missed those, there is still time to catch the final one on Wednesday, May 9, 7PM at the Renfrew Public Library. Award-winning Renfrew County landscape artists Joyce Burkholder and Kathy Haycock will inspire you with their captured moments of nature's freshness and vitality, with appreciation of the Ottawa Valley, through their unique way of seeing and painting what surrounds us. "There is nothing more enjoyable than sitting within a scene, observing and absorbing intensely and painting. I like to share my delight in being there, in experiencing nature's gifts of the landscape, the weather,

the wind and light — even movement and sound," says Kathy. To find out more about their work, visit <hillpottery.com> and <kmhaycock.com>

Information about the new Renfrew County Biotabase, an online database of Renfrew County flora and fauna, as well as the new Nature in Your Neighbourhood online community mapping tool for the area of the Bonnechere River watershed, will also be presented.

More information on this series and the collaborative Nature in Your Neighbourhood initiative can be found at <ottawariverinstitute.ca> and <BonnechereRiver.ca>.

The Ottawa River Institute and the Bonnechere River Watershed Project gratefully acknowledge funding for this project from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

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# Claiming Column

Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month, June  
*Doubt*, Perth, Jun 1-3  
*Naismith is Colourblind*, Almonte, Jun 8-9  
 CP Community Band, CP, Jun 9  
 Valley Voices Concert, Almonte, Jun 10  
 Art at the Station, Carleton Place, Jun 16  
 Cdn. Guitar Quartet, Eganville, Jun 17  
 Lambs Down Festival, CP, Jun 16  
 Smiths Falls Art Journey, Jun 16-17  
*Dragon's Breath*, Almonte, Jun 30  
 Celtfest, Almonte, Jul 6-8  
*Dragon's Breath*, Renfrew, Jul 6-7  
 Diversity Festival, Renfrew, Jul 7  
 Carp Garden Tour, Carp, Jul 8  
 Art in the Barn, Lombardy, Jul 7-8  
 Almonte Fair, Jul 20-22  
 Stewart Park Festival, Perth, Jul 20-22  
 Herbfest, Almonte, Jul 29  
 Canal Railway Festival, SF, Aug 10-12  
 Basketball Festival, Almonte, Aug 11  
 Puppets Up!, Almonte, Aug 11-12

# Visual Arts

**Kanata Artists Studio Tour**, May 4 (5-9), 5 & 6 (10-5). 592-6959, kanataartists.com.  
**Vernissage**, May 4, 5-7PM. Nick Moore fine furniture, Steve Thompson photography. Mill St. Gallery, Almonte (above Heirloom)  
**Vernissage**, May 5, 8-9:30PM. Evelyn Vander-Linde (watercolours) & live music. Equator Cafe, Almonte. equator.ca.  
**Vernissage**, May 11, 7-9PM. Tish Smith & Terry Stevens. Brush Strokes, Carleton Place. 253-8088, brushstrokesart.ca.  
**Vernissage**, May 11, 7PM. Stewart Jones' landscapes. Backbeat, Perth. 466-0663  
**Red Trillium Studio & Garden Tour**, May 12-13 (10-5). West Carleton. 839-2793, www.redtrilliumst.com.  
**Starving Artist's Marketplace Grand Opening**, May 12, 9AM-2PM. Almonte Square, 430 Ottawa St. artscourt@live.ca  
**Almonte & Area Artists' Assoc.**, May 14, 7:30-9PM. w/ Johannes Veenstra. Almonte Library, 4a-artists.ca.  
**ARTiculate**, May 16, 7PM. w/ Suzanne Warren Powell. WCAS members free, guests \$5. St. Paul's United Church, Carp  
**Flippin' Art Night**, May 17, 5-7PM. Colleen Gray and Charles Ebbs. Ballygiblin's, Carleton Place. artscarletonplace.com. Free  
**Vernissage**, May 17, 5-7PM. Franc Van Oort's watercolours. Riverguild Fine Crafts, Perth. 267-5237  
**Brooke Valley Spring Tour**, May 19-21 (10-5). brookevalleyspringtour.ca. Art, concerts, lunch. 267-5918  
**Dandelion Gardens Studio Tour**, Sat. May 19-21 (10-5). Westport area, 273-8347, www.artatwork.ca/westport\_studiotours.  
**Almonte Quilters' Guild**, May 21, 7-9PM. Almonte Civitan Hall, 256-5858  
**Arnprior Quilters' Guild**, May 23, 6:30PM. Christian Educ. Ctr, Arnprior  
**Art Show & Sale**, May 26-27, Noon-5PM. Studio Anna, Stone Church, Middleville  
**Bittersweet Spring Open House**, May 26, 11AM-5PM. w/ Anne Marie Chagnon. 5 Leckie Lane, Burnstown. 432-5254  
**fieldwork Opening**, May 26, 1-4PM. 2501 Old Brooke Rd. fieldworkproject.com  
**Lanark County Quilters Guild**, May 28, 7PM. Perth Lions Hall, 264-9232

# Literature

Mill Street Books **Book Signing** (May 5, 1:30-3PM, author of *Secret Selves*); **Introduction to Bookbinding** (May 6, 10:30AM, \$85); **Book Signing**, May 12, 1-3PM, author of *Don't Quit, Don't Cry*; **Once-in-a-While Bookclub** (May

# WHAT'S ON IN

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
30 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge	1 Mississippi Blues Society Jam, The Thirsty Moose	2 Lanark Cty Genealogical Society, CP Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub The Lost Fingers, Neat Coffee Shop	3 Jazz at Bally's, Ballygiblin's Kathryn Briggs on Piano, Cafe Postino
7 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge For a Taste of the County, Almonte	8 Perth Citizens' Band, Almonte West Carleton Garden Club, Carp Women's Business Group, CP	9 Nature in Your Neighbourhood, Renfrew Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub	10 Lanark Mayors' Bicycle Race & Talks, Almonte Old Man Luedecke / Del Barber, Neat Peter Brown on Piano, Cafe Postino Titanic, Perth Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Perth
14 Almonte & Area Artists' Assoc, Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge	15 Dance of Universal Peace, Renfrew Westport Spring Fashion Show, Westport Winds of Heaven, Renfrew	16 ARTiculate, Carp Culture Days Info Session, Almonte Once-in-a-While Bookclub, Almonte Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub	17 Culture Days Info Session, Smiths Falls Danny Michel, Neat Coffee Shop Flippin' Art Night, Carleton Place MVFN Spring Gathering, Almonte Open Stage w/Barry Buse, Valley BBQ Perth Regional Heritage Fair, Perth Peter Brown on Piano, Cafe Postino Vernissage, Perth
21 Almonte Quilters' Guild, Almonte Brooke Valley Spring Tour, Brooke Valley Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Dandelion Gardens Studio Tour, Westport	22 Drug Impairment & Recognition Wkshp, Almonte Exposure: Breast Cancer & the Environment	23 Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Arnprior Book Signing, Carleton Place Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Perth Community Choir AGM, Perth	24 Bike-friendly Business Wkshp, Almonte Doubt, Perth Peter Brown on Piano, Cafe Postino Spencer Evans Trio w/Emily Fennell, The Cove The Sadies, Neat Coffee Shop Union Hall AGM, Talk & Plant Swap, Almonte
28 Almonte Hort. Society, Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Lanark County Quilters Guild, Perth	29	30 Mind-Body Healing Talk, Carp Neat SoundCheck, Neat Coffee Shop Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub	31 Peter Brown on Piano, Cafe Postino Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove The Eclipse, Burnstown

16, 7PM, *The Elephant Keeper*, 52 Mill St. Almonte. 256-9090, millstreetbooks.com.  
**Book Signing**, May 23, Noon-2PM. Author of *Don't Quit, Don't Cry*. Read's Book Shop, CP.

# Theatre

**Murder Mystery/50s Dance**, May 4, 7PM. Cocktails, Mystery, dance. Timber Run Golf Club, Lanark. ticketsplease.ca. \$50  
**Noises Off!**, May 4, 5 (8PM). \$20 at 132 Coleman St., CP. Carleton Place Town Hall, 257-2031, mississippimudds.ca  
**Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?**, May 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 (8PM); May 6, 13 (2PM). Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 267-1884, barn-doorproductions.ca. \$22; \$18 in adv.  
 PAMT's **Titanic**, May 10-12, 7:30PM. Myriad Centre, 1 Sherbrooke St. Perth. 267-9610. \$10  
**Winds of Heaven**, May 15, 7PM. Documentary about Emily Carr. Trinity-St. Andrew's Church, Renfrew. 432-3295. Freewill

**Doubt**, May 24-26, Jun 1-2 (8PM); May 27 & Jun 3 (2PM). \$20 (Book Nook), \$22 at door or ticketsplease.ca. Studio Theatre, Perth.  
**Spiritual Cinema Circle**, May 27, 2PM. Myriad Centre, 1 Sherbrooke St. Perth. 267-4819, fp@superaje.com. \$2 donation  
**The Eclipse**, May 31-Jun 2, 8PM. \$15 at neat-food.com. Neat Coffee Shop, Burnstown.

# Music

**Chris Knight**, May 4, 8:30PM. CP Curling Club, 120 Patterson Cr. 884-4913, susan.mccann@alcatel-lucent.com.  
**Garnet Rogers**, May 4, 8PM. \$35 at Temptations, SRC Music CP. Burns Jewelers in Perth. St. Andrew's Church, CP. 257-4970  
**Celtic Connections**, May 5 (7:30PM), 6 (1:30PM). Glen Cairn Church, Kanata. 825-3357 \$15; \$10 Srs & kids 12 & under  
**Handbell Choir**, May 6, 7:30PM. St. Paul's United Church, Perth. stpauls-uc-perth.org

**Faithful Friends Country Gospel**, May 6, 7PM. Church fundraiser. Westport United Church, 273-2866, \$10  
**Fiddler's Friends Concert**, May 6, 1PM, \$15 at MMMusicworks, Mill St Books (256-9090). Almonte Town Hall, 256-3786. \$15  
**Madawaska String Quartet**, May 6, 3PM. Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Pembroke. tickets@valleyfestival.ca. \$20 / \$10  
**Perth Citizens' Band**, May 08, 7:30PM. \$10 at My Upholstery Shop (Almonte) or 256-2593. Almonte Presbyterian Church  
**Michael Costello**, May 11, 7PM. Chopin, Gershwin. \$15 at Remembrance or 257-3133. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, CP  
**Arlene Quinn & Guests**, May 12, 8PM. \$25 at door or from Tickets Please. Studio Theatre, Perth. studiotheatreperth.com  
**Goulbourn Male Chorus**, May 12, 7PM. Tickets at, Gaia Java Coffee (Stittsville). St. Thomas Church, Stittsville. \$15; \$12 adv

**Rideau Lakes Chamber Orchestra**, May 12, 7:30PM. \$20 at ticketsplease.ca, 485-6434. St Paul's United Church, Perth  
**White Lake Acoustic Jam**, May 12, 7-10PM. White Lake Fire Hall, 256-5439, wlol.ca/home/hot-licks-acoustic-jam. \$5  
**Dance of Universal Peace**, May 15, 7PM-9PM. Trinity-St. Andrew's Church, Renfrew. 432-5583. Freewill donation  
**Chris Antonik**, May 18, 7PM. Blues on the Rideau. The Cove Westport. choosetheblues.ca. \$60+tax dinner & show (reserved)  
**Troy MacGillivray**, May 27, 7:30PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, \$20 from Mill St Books (256-9090).  
**Jazz at St. James**, May 27, 4:30pm. Grace-notes. St. James Anglican Church, Carleton Place. Good will offering  
**The Swan at Carp** (Falldown Lane Carp, 839-7926), jazz, no cover  
 May 4, 18 Steve Barrette Trio, 7-10pm  
**Fiddleheads** (Code's Mill, Perth, 267-1304): May 13, 27 Jazz w/Clay Young, 12-3pm



## Friday

## Saturday

## Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Astronomy Course</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Chris Knight</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Garnet Rogers</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Kanata Artists Studio Tour</b>, Kanata</li> <li><b>Murder Mystery/50s Dance</b>, Lanark</li> <li><b>Noises Off!</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Roast Beef Dinner</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Songwriters' Circle</b>, The Cove</li> <li><b>Steve Barrette Trio</b>, The Swan at Carp</li> <li><b>Vernissage</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</b>, Perth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Book Signing</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Celtic Connections</b>, Kanata</li> <li><b>Duck Derby</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Fence Building Workshop</b>, Maberly</li> <li><b>Free Comic Book Day</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Handmade Harvest Craft Show</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Kanata Artists Studio Tour</b>, Kanata</li> <li><b>Kevin Head</b>, The Cove</li> <li><b>Montreal Guitar Trio</b>, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li><b>Pancake Breakfast, Plant Sale</b>, Clayton</li> <li><b>Sun Bleached Skulls</b>, Harry McLean's Pub</li> <li><b>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>World Labyrinth Day</b>, Carleton Place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Celtic Connections</b>, Kanata</li> <li><b>Faithful Friends Country Gospel</b>, Westport</li> <li><b>Fiddler's Friends Concert</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Handbell Choir</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Hike For Hospice</b>, Perth, Renfrew</li> <li><b>Introduction to Bookbinding</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Kanata Artists Studio Tour</b>, Kanata</li> <li><b>Madawaska String Quartet</b>, Pembroke</li> <li><b>Magnolia Rhythm Kings</b>, The Royal Oak</li> <li><b>Old-fashioned Spring Fair</b>, Stittsville</li> <li><b>Open Mic Jam w/Kelly Sloan</b>, Ashton Pub</li> <li><b>Valley Singles Lunch</b>, Renfrew</li> <li><b>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</b>, Perth</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Astronomy Course</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Jully Black</b>, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li><b>Michael Costello</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Smiths Falls Home &amp; Garden Show</b>, SF</li> <li><b>Titanic</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Vernissage</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Vernissage</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>John Prine Experience</b>, Barley Mow</li> <li><b>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</b>, Perth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Book Signing</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Andy Langley</b>, Harry McLean's Pub</li> <li><b>Arlene Quinn &amp; Guests</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>CP Farmers' Market Opens</b>, CP</li> <li><b>Giant Community Garage Sale</b>, CP</li> <li><b>Goulbourn Male Chorus</b>, Stittsville</li> <li><b>Red Trillium Studio &amp; Garden Tour</b>, West Carleton</li> <li><b>Rideau Lakes Chamber Orchestra</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Smiths Falls Home &amp; Garden Show</b>, SF</li> <li><b>Starving Artist's Marketplace Opening</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>White Lake Acoustic Jam</b>, White Lake</li> <li><b>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Young Awards Gala</b>, Almonte</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>APEX Jazz Band</b>, The Royal Oak</li> <li><b>Building Small Town Canada</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Jazz Brunch</b>, Fiddleheads Bar &amp; Grill</li> <li><b>Ladies of the Cold War Tour</b>, Carp</li> <li><b>Open Mic Jam w/Kelly Sloan</b>, Ashton Pub</li> <li><b>Red Trillium Studio &amp; Garden Tour</b>, West Carleton</li> <li><b>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</b>, Perth</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Chris Antonik</b>, Westport</li> <li><b>Steve Barrette Trio</b>, The Swan at Carp</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Almonte Farmers' Market Opens</b></li> <li><b>Annual Plant Sale</b>, Westport</li> <li><b>Brooke Valley Spring Tour</b>, Brooke Valley</li> <li><b>Dandelion Gardens Studio Tour</b>, Westport</li> <li><b>Great Perennial Plant Sale</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Kevin Head</b>, The Cove Country Inn</li> <li><b>On Common Ground</b>, Harry McLean's Pub at the Baldachin Inn</li> <li><b>Patricia O'Callaghan</b>, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li><b>Thousand Islands Arts Studio Tour</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Almonte Traditional Sing</b>, The Barley Mow</li> <li><b>Brooke Valley Spring Tour</b>, Brooke Valley</li> <li><b>Dandelion Gardens Studio Tour</b>, Westport</li> <li><b>Kevin Head feat. Miss V</b>, The Cove</li> <li><b>Magnolia Rhythm Kings</b>, The Royal Oak</li> <li><b>Mauricio Montecinos Latin Quartet</b>, The Cove</li> <li><b>Open Mic Jam w/Kelly Sloan</b>, Ashton Pub</li> <li><b>Queen Elizabeth II Display Opening</b>, Appleton</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Breakfast with Soul</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Doubt</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>The Sadies</b>, Neat Coffee Shop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Art Show &amp; Sale</b>, Middleville</li> <li><b>Big Brothers/Big Sisters Golf Tournament</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Bittersweet Spring Open House</b>, Burnstown</li> <li><b>Breakfast with the Arts</b>, Westport</li> <li><b>Carp Ridge Potluck &amp; Film</b>, Carp</li> <li><b>Doubt</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>fieldwork Opening</b>, Maberly</li> <li><b>Fortunate Soul</b>, Harry McLean's Pub</li> <li><b>Kevin Head</b>, The Cove</li> <li><b>MonkeyJunk</b>, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li><b>Talk: Allergies/ADD</b>, Carp</li> <li><b>Wine'd Around Downtown</b>, Carleton Place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>APEX Jazz Band</b>, The Royal Oak</li> <li><b>Art Show &amp; Sale</b>, Middleville</li> <li><b>Doubt</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Harwig/Aiken Open House</b>, Mississippi Mills</li> <li><b>Jazz at St. James</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Jazz Brunch</b>, Fiddleheads Bar &amp; Grill</li> <li><b>Kevin Head feat. Miss V</b>, The Cove</li> <li><b>MonkeyJunk</b>, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li><b>Troy MacGillivray</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Open Mic Jam w/Kelly Sloan</b>, Ashton Pub</li> <li><b>Russell DeCarle</b>, Neat Coffee Shop</li> <li><b>Spiritual Cinema Circle</b>, Perth</li> </ul>

**Brush Strokes:** Tish Smith & Terry Stevens <brushstrokesart.ca>  
**The Mississippi Mills Chamber Gallery:** Jean Morrow, landscapes  
**Gallery Perth** at Code's Mill: Spring Show til June 17 <galleryperth.com>  
**CP & Beckwith Heritage Museum** opens May 19 with local history of food <cpbheritagemuseum.com>  
**Equator Coffee Roasters:** "Look and See", watercolours by Evelyn VanderLinde <equator.ca>  
**Mill St. Gallery of Contemporary Art (Almonte):** Nick Moore's fine furniture, Steve Thompson's photography  
**Palms Coffee Shop:** Charlie Ebbs (to mid-May) then Kate Collins <palmsonline.ca>  
**Read's Book Shop:** the Almonte & Area Artists' Association (from May 21) <readsbookshop.com>  
**Riverguild Fine Crafts:** Franc Van Oort's new Lanark County watercolours (from May 17)

**Mill of Kintail:** Almonte & Area Artists (May 21-Jun 30) <mvc.on.ca>  
**The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery:** the Almonte Crazy Quilters  
**MVTM:** "The Threads of Life: An Exhibition of Embroidery" (May 12 on) <mvtm.ca>

**The Royal Oak** (329 March Rd. Kanata)  
 May 6, 20 Magnolia Rhythm Kings (3-6)  
 May 13, 27 APEX Jazz Band (2-5)  
**The Cove** (2 Bedford St., Westport)  
 May 4 Songwriters' Circle (8-11) \$10  
 May 5, 19, 26 Kevin Head (6-9)  
 May 20, 27 Kevin Head w/Miss V (12-3)  
 May 20 Mauricio Montecinos Latin Quartet (8-11) \$10  
 May 24, 31 Spencer Evans Trio (9-11)  
**Ballygiblin's** (151 Bridge St., Carleton Place, 253-7400), jazz 6-9, no cover  
 May 3 Peter Brown, Don Paterson  
**Neat Coffee Shop** (1715 Calabogie Rd., Burnstown, 433-3205): 8pm  
 May 2 The Lost Fingers, \$38  
 May 5 Montreal Guitar Trio, \$30  
 May 10 Old Man Luedeck \$20  
 May 11 Jully Black, \$65  
 May 17 Danny Michel, \$25  
 May 19 Patricia O'Callaghan, \$44  
 May 24, 25 The Sadies, \$30

May 26, 27 MonkeyJunk, \$28  
 May 27 Russell DeCarle, \$30  
 May 30 SoundCheck with Mike (no cover)  
**The Naismith Pub** (411 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-6336): Celtic Jam Wed, (7:30-10pm).  
**Harry McLean's Pub** (111 St. Lawrence St., Merrickville, 269-4223)  
 May 5 Sun Bleached Skulls  
 May 12 Andy Langley  
 May 19 On Common Ground  
 May 26 Fortunate Soul  
**Valley BBQ** (10470A Hwy 7, Carleton Place, 257-1700): Open Stage Thurs (9pm)  
 May 17 Open Stage w/Barry Buse  
**Carp Masonic Lodge** (3704 Carp Rd., Carp): Carp Celtic Jam Mon (7-9).  
**Ashton Pub** (113 Old Mill Rd., Ashton): Sun-days, Open Mic Jam w/Kelly Sloan, 2-5pm  
**The Barley Mow** (79 Little Bridge St., Almonte, 256-5669):  
 May 11 John Prine Experience, 8pm  
 May 20 Almonte Trad. Sing  
 Jun 1 Straight Up, 8pm

**Café Postino** (73 Mill St., Almonte): Piano on Thursdays, 5:30-8:30pm  
 May 3 Kathryn Briggs  
 May 10, 17, 24, 31 Peter Brown  
**Thirsty Moose** (20 Bridge St., Carleton Place, 253-0879):  
 May 1 Blues Society Jam, 8:30pm

**Community**  
**Lanark Cty Genealogical Soc.** May 2, 7:30PM. Free. Moore House, 170 Bridge St. CP  
**Roast Beef Dinner**, May 4, 5PM. Fund-raiser for Almonte United Church, 106 Elgin St. 256-1355. \$12; \$6 for kids  
**Duck Derby**, May 5, 10:30AM. \$5 duck or \$35 corporate duck. CP Canoe Club, 37 Lansdowne Ave, Carleton Place.  
**Free Comic Book Day**, May 5, 11AM-2PM. Start at Read's Book Shop. Downtown Carleton Place, 257-8049

**Handmade Harvest Craft Show**, May 5, 10AM-5PM. Almonte Agricultural Hall, handmadeharvest.com. \$2 (kids free)  
**Pancake Breakfast, Bake/Plant Sale**, May 5, 8AM-Noon. For Cancer Soc. Clayton Com. Ctre, 256-9010. \$6, kids 6-12 \$4  
**World Labyrinth Day**, May 5, 1PM. CP & Beckwith Heritage Museum, CP257-1014.  
**Hike For Hospice**, May 6, Noon-2PM. 2km walk for Lanark Cty Hospice Palliative Care. Crystal Palace, Perth. 267-6400  
**Hike For Hospice**, May 6, 2PM, Reg'n 1PM. Hospice Renfrew's Palliative Care. Renfrew Presbyterian Church, 433-3993  
**Old-fashioned Spring Fair**, May 6, 11AM-3PM. Ottawa Waldorf School, Stittsville. waldorf.cyberus.ca. Free  
**Valley Singles Lunch**, May 6, 12:30PM. Register at 256-8117 or 432-7622. Finnigan's Road House, 302 Raglan St. S. Renfrew.

**For a Taste of the County**, May 7, 6-9:30PM. Food, wine & beer gala. \$10 at Mill St Books, Shadowfax. Almonte Civitan Hall  
**West Carleton Garden Club Meeting**, May 8, 7:30PM. Carp Memorial Hall. sites.google.com/site/westcarletongardenclub.  
**Nature in Your Neighbourhood**, May 9, 7PM. By artists Joyce Burkholder & Kathy Haycock. Renfrew Library  
**Lanark Mayors' Slow Bicycle Race & Talks**, May 10, 7:30PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, mmbm.ca.  
**Smiths Falls Home & Garden Show**, May 11 (5-9), 12 (10-6). For Arena & Murphy Complex. SF Community Centre  
**CP Farmers' Market Opens**, May 12, 9AM-1PM. Market Square, Beckwith St/Lake Ave, Carleton Place  
**Giant Community Garage Sale**, May 12, 8AM-2PM. Carleton Place Curling Club, 253-5505, hlebbs@gmail.com.  
**Young Awards Gala**, May 12, 6PM. Fund-raiser for arts in schools. \$65 at Mill St Books. Almonte Ag Hall. youngawards.ca  
**Building Small Town Canada**, May 13, 1PM. w/ Sen Terry Mercer. Almonte Town Hall, carletonmississippimills.liberal.ca.  
**Ladies of the Cold War Tour**, May 13, 11AM-4PM. Mini treatments & desserts for kids & moms. The Diefenbunker, Carp  
**Westport Spring Fashion Show**, May 15, Noon-2PM. Tickets at Cove & Seasons. The Cove, Westport. coveinn.com.  
**Culture Days Info Session**, May 16, 5PM. Textile Museum, Almonte. 794-9884, m2c4@rocketmail.com  
**Perth Regional Heritage Fair**, May 17. Perth Legion, www.prhf.org.  
**Culture Days Info Session**, May 17, 7PM. Railway Museum, Smiths Falls. 205-1258, smithsfallarts@gmail.com  
**MVFN Spring Gathering**, May 17, 6PM. World of Woodpeckers. \$30 at Gilligallou, Read's. Almonte Civitan Hall, 256-2706  
**Almonte Farmers' Market Opens**, May 19, 8:45AM-Noon. Almonte Library, almontefarmersmarket.ca.  
**Queen Elizabeth II Display Opening**, May 20, 2-4PM. North Lanark Regional Museum, 647 River Rd. Appleton  
**Drug Impairment & Recognition Wkshp**, May 22, 7PM. Almonte High School, 256-2064x225. Free  
**Exposure: Breast Cancer & the Environment**, May 22, 7PM. Free movie night, scent-free studio. mybodycanhealitsself.ca.  
**Perth Community Choir AGM**, May 23, 7PM. PDCI, 13 Victoria St. Perth. perthcommunitychoir@gmail.com  
**Bicycle-friendly Business Workshop**, May 24, 1-3PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, welcomecyclistsworkshoplanark.eventbrite.ca.  
**Union Hall AGM, Garlic Talk & Plant Swap**, May 24, 7PM. Union Hall, Almonte. 256-2498.  
**Breakfast with Soul**, May 25, 8-10AM. The White Lilly, Heritage Court, Almonte. lillywhite.ca. Free  
**Big Brothers/Big Sisters Golf Tournament**, May 26. \$75. Mapleview Golf Club, Perth. bigbrothersbigisterslanark.ca  
**Breakfast with the Arts**, May 26, 7:30AM. Monthly arts potluck, speaker 8:30AM. The Wordsmith, Westport. 273-3222.  
 Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre **Potluck & Film** (May 26, 3:30-7:30PM, free); **Talk: Allergies/ADD**, (May 26, 1PM, free); **Mind-Body Healing Talk**, (May 30, 7PM, \$20, RSVP). 839-1198, ecowellness.com  
**Wine'd Around Downtown**, May 26, 1PM. Wine and food samples in downtown Carleton Place, carletonplace.ca  
**Harwig/Aiken Open House**, May 27, 1-5PM. Postural Awareness Exercises, view carpentry. 1598 Ramsay Conc I, 256-6243, harwigheritagecarpentry.ca.  
**Almonte Hort. Society**, May 28, 7:30PM. Cornerstone Community Church, Almonte. 257-7155



# Humm Bits

## Union Hall AGM and Plant Swap

Come on out to Union Hall on Thursday, May 24, at 7PM! The proceedings start with a talk by garlic grower John Moore. At 8PM the annual general meeting begins with reports from the outgoing committee, followed by the election of a new slate of officers. Bring a plant and join in the swap which takes place at the end of the evening.

Union Hall is a communal facility located at the junction of Tatlock and Wolf Grove roads, serving both Mississippi Mills and the surrounding community. All are welcome. For further information, please contact Les Humphreys at 256-2498.

## Congratulations Finalists!

The finalists have been announced for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual **National Capital Writing Contest**, and *theHumm* is happy to congratulate three local contenders. Carol Stephen of Carleton Place is a finalist in the poetry category for her entry *Walking in Thomson's Red Sumac*. In the short story category, Ken McBeath from Perth has been chosen for his entry *Walking the Tunnel*, and he joins Lanark's Miriam Sciala, author of *Music Mag*.

The contest was open to any writer within the National Capital Region. "The National Capital Writing Contest is the biggest event of our program year," says Sharyn Heagle, president of the National Capital Region (Ottawa) branch of the Canadian Authors Association. "Becoming a finalist in this contest is validation of their abilities as writers."

The writing contest is blind-judged. Each manuscript is coded when received by the branch, and then forwarded to the judges, who are selected from across Canada. Heagle says it's exciting to see the friends and family members who come out to the Awards Night in support of the finalists. "Writing is a lonely occupation, and having that sort of visible support is a blessing for any writer."

The Awards Night event will take place on Tuesday, May 8 at 7PM in the Ottawa Public Library, Main Branch, 120 Metcalfe at Laurier. A reception will follow.

## Coast to Coast Through Song and Salute

On May 12, the **Goulbourn Male Chorus** presents "Coast to Coast" through song and salute. The concert will feature tributes to our Canadian Armed Forces. Special guests include the West Ottawa Ladies Ensemble, Norman E. Brown on violin and viola, a tribute by Lt. General Bill Carr (retired), and the Honourable Gordon O'Connor.

The concert begins at 7PM at St. Thomas Anglican Church, 1619 Stittsville Main Street. Advanced tickets are \$12 for adults (cash only) at Christopher's Meat Market in Richmond or Gaia Java Coffee Shop in Stittsville. Tickets are \$15 at the door, and admission is free for children 16 and under. The facility is wheelchair accessible. For more information, please visit <goulbournmalechorus.com>.

## Waldorf Spring Fair

The Ottawa Waldorf School is holding a Spring Fair on May 6 from 11AM to 3PM. It will be an old-fashioned fair with traditional games for children — everyone is welcome and admission is free!

Younger children will be enchanted by a wide selection of activities, some of which are old favourites like Digging for Gold, The Pocket Lady, and Flower Crowns, to name few. There will be a puppet play at 11:30AM and again at 1:30PM. For slightly older children there will be a rope bridge and a catapult that will test balance and aim, brought by Scout Troop #112. Face painting, spinning and many other activities will all be presented with the wonder and essence of the Waldorf experience.

A delicious lunch, prepared and donated by Waldorf parents, will be available for purchase in the main hall. Returning families will be pleased to hear that the popular BBQ Sausages are still on the menu.

A new feature this year will be an Art Walk, where people can stroll among the artists and see their work. Organizers hope to have several local artists displaying their work.

Stone Soup, the Waldorf school store, will be open for business on the day, featuring high quality supplies such as beeswax crayons, watercolour paint, felting supplies, doll-making supplies and handmade toys. The Ottawa Waldorf School is located at 1 Goulbourn Street in Stittsville. For more information, please visit <waldorf.cyberus.ca>.

# Celebrating Heritage with the Mica Festival

The Friends of Murphys Point Park are excited to announce they have received confirmation of Celebrate Ontario funding in the amount of \$39,600 from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

"This funding support will allow the Friends to bring some exciting new enhancements to the Heritage Mica Festival for 2012," said Friends' event planner Beth Peterkin.

A new dinner/theatre program will allow guests to experience life as a miner while enjoying a high-end meal in the miners' bunkhouse... in the company of miners! Visitors to the self-guided mine trail tours will interact with many characters from 1903 — the heyday of the Silver Queen Mine — and, of course, will be able to venture underground to see miners at work. Miners' lunches, Lally Homestead Heritage Days, local markets with heritage products for show and sale, and Voyageur Canoe tours with costumed interpreters are some of the other attractions at this year's event.

Murphys Point is home to the Silver Queen Mine, one of the Seven Wonders of Lanark County. It was a working mine from the late 1800s into the early 1900s. Mica was transported by ore wagon to the Rideau River system and was used in products such as lantern windows, insulation for electrical wiring and the windows of ships in the French Navy. The Perth Museum has large samples of mica from the Silver Queen Mine as part of its Wilson Collection.

"The histories of the mine and of Murphys Point are entwined with the whole community," said

Stephanie Gray, Friends president. "With the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement on the horizon in 2016, we are one of many local groups gearing up to celebrate. Plans for the festival are well underway."

There is currently a call out for entertainers, musicians, heritage trades and crafts people, local producers and other participants for the 2012 Heritage Mica Festival. In addition, the Friends are looking for volunteers of all ages to assist in many ways. "We will need costumed interpreters, cooks for flipping burgers and pancakes, souvenir and ticket sellers, people to help with community outreach and to set up venues and facilities," Ms. Peterkin said. "Volunteers will be provided with heritage costumes or festival T-shirts, depending on their role, as well as full training for any assigned tasks."

The Friends of Murphys Point Park formed as a registered charity in 1995 and holds a variety of programs managed by a volunteer Board of Directors representative of the community. Programming is developed and carried out by dedicated volunteers on a year-round basis to meet the organization's mandate to enhance the natural and cultural resources of Murphys Point Provincial Park, just 20 minutes from downtown Perth.

Anyone interested in participating can contact Beth at <eventsmurphys@ripnet.com> or 267-5340. Full details about the festival can be found at the Mica Festival button at <friendsofmurphyspoint.ca>.



The Friends of Murphys Point Park are seeking entertainers, musicians, heritage trades and crafts people, local producers and other participants for the 2012 Heritage Mica Festival

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# News from the North Lanark Museum

The North Lanark Historical Society was founded in 1965, and in 1971 its members — all volunteers — opened the North Lanark Regional Museum. Their vision was to collect, preserve and disseminate the history and heritage of this region. The museum was located in the former Ramsay No. 11 School House. Unfortunately, in 1979, a devastating fire destroyed the historic building and the majority of the artefacts.

Undeterred, the Historical Society began rebuilding the collection of artefacts and historical records from the area. With the generous support of the Drummond Family, a new building was moved to the site and the museum was reopened in June of 1980. In 1985, a pioneer log cabin, which depicts life in the 1850s, was moved to the site and opened to the public.

2012 will be an exciting and extremely busy summer for the North Lanark Regional Museum and the North Lanark Historical Society.



## Diamond Jubilee

The first major event will be an exhibit on Queen Elizabeth II. Ascending to the throne in 1952 and having her coronation in 1953, Queen Elizabeth is celebrating 60 years as Queen of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. She is now the second-longest reigning monarch in British history. This exhibit covers the Queen's life, from her childhood to the present, using photographs, memorabilia and publications. The official opening is May 20, from 2 to 4PM.

## Preserving the Past for the Future

The goal of the Oral History Project is to acquire and preserve the history of the Town of Mississippi Mills and area by recording the memories and

knowledge of local community members. Senior community members have a collective memory that cannot be found in history books, archival sources or photographs. Their memories will bring history to life and preserve it for future generations. The project promises to be both



The North Lanark Regional Museum is located in Appleton. Don't miss the opening of their Queen Elizabeth II exhibit on May 20, and the Strawberry Social on June 24!

through the Programs and Services Branch of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

## Strawberry Social

Our annual Strawberry Social with the Perth Citizens' Band is on Sunday, June 24, from 1:30 to 4PM. In existence since 1852, this band is Canada's oldest continuous town band. This event is held under tents on the lawn at the museum and will take place rain or shine. Join us and enjoy this delicious and musical afternoon. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the museum, Baker Bob's, or from members of the Historical Society. For more information call 257-8503.

The museum continues to fulfill its role of preserving the history of the area thanks to dedicated volunteers, visitors (local and out of town), the Town of Mississippi Mills, Young Canada Works, Service Canada, and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism. Donations of artefacts or historical information are always appreciated.

The North Lanark Regional Museum is located at 647 River Road in Appleton. For more information call 257-8503, visit <northlanarkregionalmuseum.com>, or email <appletonmuseum@hotmail.com>. — Sarah Bennett is the museum's Technology Project Coordinator

fun and informative. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact the Historical Society or the museum. This project was made possible by the support of the Government of Ontario

“Mississippi Mills has so much to offer — we offer a great place to stay while you're here!”

People come from far and wide to experience all that Mississippi Mills has to offer. From festivals, museums, shopping and dining in Almonte and Pakenham to the natural beauty of the Mississippi River or the Mill of Kintail conservation area, this region provides much more than an afternoon's diversion. And whether people come out for fun, for a special event or for a corporate meeting, Patrick and Dee Ashby would like them to be able to stay awhile!



After working in the hospitality industry for the past decade running two restaurants and an inn in London, Ontario, Patrick and Dee recently purchased **Pinehurst Manor** — the stately home built in 1890 by MP and mill owner Bennett Rosamond. This newest addition to Almonte's Bed and Breakfasts features eight bedrooms, ten fireplaces, and a glorious sunroom overlooking the waterfalls of the Mississippi River. And while the new owners enjoy sharing Pinehurst's rich past and heritage charms with visitors and guests, they have also opened their home to the community for charity fundraisers. For more information, visit [www.pinehurstmanor.ca](http://www.pinehurstmanor.ca).

Patrick and Dee are also regulars at the monthly Chamber Mixers, where they enjoy getting to know many of the local business owners so that they can better recommend guests to the wonderful restaurants and shops.



**Pinehurst Manor — Mississippi Mills Chamber member since 2011**



Visit us: [www.mississippimills.com](http://www.mississippimills.com)



Meet us:

**Upcoming Mixer:**

**Wednesday, May 16**

**Main Street Mixer:**

Come and hear from merchants, movers and shakers who work in the heart of downtown Almonte and Pakenham. Find out about new and ongoing initiatives in your town!

**6PM at the Barley Mow**

Join us:

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



## Award-Winning Play Will Make You Think, No Doubt About It Opens at Studio Theatre May 24

Doubt. Such an innocuous-seeming little word. We use it every day. "I doubt it." "No doubt about it." "That's doubtful." Yet doubt can be a double-edged sword. It can be a motive for change or it can be an insidious, destructive force that shatters lives, as John Patrick Shanley illustrates in his Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Doubt, A Parable*, presented by **Studio Theatre** at the end of May.

The setting is the fictional St. Nicholas Church School. The year is 1964. The characters are Father Flynn, a beloved and progressive priest; Sister Aloysius Beauvier, head nun and principal of the school; Sister James, a young impressionable nun and enthusiastic but inexperienced teacher; and Mrs. Muller, mother of the first black student at St. Nicholas.

Sister James reports that Father Flynn has met with the young Donald Muller under questionable circumstances, leading the rigidly conservative Sister Aloysius to suspect that sexual misconduct has occurred. Father Flynn angrily denies the charges. The conflict between these two opposite characters, portrayed by award-winning actress Barb Guthrie and veteran Hugh McCullough, escalates and entangles the young Sister James, played by Mary Ann Majaury, and Mrs. Muller, played by Natalie Gray. At the end we are not sure just where truth lies.

Director Jeremy Dutton is quick to point out that this play is not a criticism of the Roman Catholic religion, but rather an examination of the power of doubt. It is a story that could as easily pertain to a teacher or a hockey coach or anyone else in a position of trust. The author himself dedicates the play to the many orders of Catholic nuns who devote their lives to serving others. He has set his play in the year 1964, when certain behavioural standards were still dominant on the surface, and the Catholic Church was the bastion of morality. The mushrooming disclosure of scandal within its ranks made it fertile ground for doubt to take root.

Jeremy has chosen his cast with great care, selecting some of Studio Theatre's most accomplished actors. He has chosen his crew with no less thought, and he himself has directed a number of plays for both Studio Theatre and Smiths Falls Community Theatre. His last two productions were the very challenging *Rabbit Hole*, performed at Studio Theatre in May 2011, and *The Christmas Tree*, an award-winning entry in last fall's EODL One-Act Play Festival. With such a competent director, cast and crew, this final production of the Studio Theatre season is bound to be an overwhelming success. No doubt about it.

*Doubt* runs May 24, 25, 26, June 1, 2 at 8PM as well as May 27 and June 3 at 2PM. Tickets are \$20 in advance, available at The Book Nook, and \$22 at the door or at Tickets Please in Perth. Phone or credit card orders can be made through Tickets Please, 485-3434, <ticketsplease.ca>. There is a student rate of \$10 (with I.D.) at the door. For further information, call the Studio Theatre box office at 267-7469 or visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.

If you're considering an anniversary or birthday gift, why not give the gift of entertainment. Gift certificates are available for all performances, so watch for Studio Theatre's exciting, upcoming season to be announced soon.

## Toe Tappin' Times with Troy

Troy MacGillivray is one of the finest musicians on the fiddling circuit these days, and he has put together a show not to be missed. Sunday, May 27 will be an evening of fantastic fiddle, piano, and dance, with Troy on fiddle and piano, Allan Dewar on piano, and Jake Charron on guitar and piano. Alongside is an assortment of friends — Louis Schryer, Andrea Beaton, Matt Pepin and Terry Lynn Mahusky — along with award-winning step-dancers Sarah Robinson and Samantha Harvey. They will surely have your toes tapping at the Almonte Old Town Hall.

Troy has won two East Coast Music Awards and is a popular teacher and performer across North America. From Fairbanks to Florida, Seattle to Saskatoon, Davis



Catch Troy MacGillivray and friends in concert on May 27 in Almonte

to Dawson City in the last year alone, he has performed all over the world and is looking forward to being in the Ottawa area again. Whether playing piano or fiddle, Troy displays a true sense of pride and commitment to traditional music. And in crafting the Almonte Town Hall concert, he wanted to gather some of his favourite players and dancers for a night of great tunes. These people have crossed musical paths countless times at festivals, contests and jams, but have seldom shared a stage.

Witness the joy of musical collaboration firsthand with Troy and friends, starting at 7:30PM on May 27. Tickets are \$20, and are available from Mill Street Books or at the door. For details, please visit <troymacgillivray.com>.

## Culture Days are Coming

Last year, more than 800 Canadian cities and towns held events during Culture Days, with attendance topping more than 1.2 million.

Culture Days is a collaborative movement to encourage awareness, participation and engagement of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. Now in its third year, this Canada-wide celebration represents the largest-ever public participation campaign undertaken by the arts and cultural community in this country. It features free hands-on activities that invite the public to participate in the "behind-the-scenes" world of artists, creators, historians, architects, curators and designers, in their own community. Through this exchange, artists and creators have a unique opportunity to engage people of all ages in their creative practice. Culture Days will take place on September 28 to 30 this year, in all provinces and territories. To learn more, please visit <culturedays.ca>.

Information sessions are being planned in Mississippi Mills and Smiths Falls, aimed at helping people increase the impact and success of their activities. Artists, professional- and volunteer-run cultural groups, libraries, museums, schools and anyone else wishing to participate is invited! The sessions are free and open to all.

### In Mississippi Mills

On Wednesday, May 16 at 5PM, an information session hosted by the Mississippi Mills Community and Culture Center Corporation (M2C4), with Culture Days staff in attendance, will be held at the

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond Street East in Almonte.

"We're excited to bring the cultural sector together to collaborate on making this another successful year," said Ingrid Kadoke, M2C4 board member. "Now in its third year, Culture Days keeps growing bigger and better all over Mississippi Mills! The information session is an opportunity to kick-start planning and organizing of 2012 Culture Days events in our community." For more information, please contact Ingrid Kadoke at <m2c4@rocketmail.com> or 794-9884.

### In Smiths Falls

On Thursday, May 17, 7PM, the Smiths Falls & Districts Arts & Culture Council (SFDACC), along with Culture Days staff, will host an information session at the Smiths Falls Railway Museum (90 William Street West).

"The Smiths Falls & Districts Arts & Culture Council had a huge success with last year's Culture Days," says SFDACC president Louis Tremblay. "We want to share the available resources, tools, and tips that can make your Culture Days activities a success, and hopefully inspire others to unite and celebrate the arts and culture of their community." The information session is free and open to all, "but please RSVP so we make sure we have enough room for everyone," says Louis. "A donation box will be placed at the door to help say thank you to the Museum for hosting." RSVP at <smiths-fallsarts@gmail.com> or call Louis at 205-1258.

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 Prince Edward County Quilter's Guild Show  
 (shared booth with Country Quarter) (Picton Ontario) 6-8 July  
 Chaffey's Lock Craft Market (Chaffey's Lock Ontario) 28 July  
 Womens' Art Festival (Kingston Ontario) 19 August

Contact Loretta Blucher-Moore for a list of upcoming classes and shows or for an appointment at 613-273-8347, hookedonthelake@kingston.net or visit: hookedonthelake.wordpress.com



# “Gearing Up” for Bicycle Month

It's nearly that time of year again! Now that it's May, organizers are closing in on the opening ceremony of Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month, held every year in June. They are excited to bring you another month of themed tours, bicycle safety and bicycle-themed cultural events.

The fourth annual opening weekend promises to be the most exciting yet, with the **opening ceremony** beginning at 7:20PM on June 2. There will be a kids' bicycle safety rodeo, bike decorating with JB Arts, the Mayor's Slow Bicycle Race, the children's fun races, and even an Ontario Cup stage race (see "grand Prix" below). Come to downtown Almonte on Saturday, June 2 for food, music, fun and the Ontario Cup races. For up-to-date details and schedule information, please visit <mmbm.ca>.

This year Bicycle Month will be implementing a **passport** card, which you can pick up at the first event you go to. At every event you attend, you get your passport stamped. Go to at least three events and you will be eligible to enter a draw to win an Octane 24" Boy's Youth bike or an Octane 24" Girl's Youth bike, each generously donated by Almonte Bicycle Works. For each event you attend after the third stamp, you receive an extra ticket to win a bicycle! As usual, Bicycle Month has many events to cater to the interests of participants. There will be a wide range of themed rides, including heritage buildings, local flora, local farms, and the night sky. There will also be guided community rides, a bicycle maintenance workshop, and bicycle polo. Bicycle Month is a great excuse to get on your bike and learn something new!

The **Silver Chain Challenge** will again be running throughout June. The challenge is open to anyone in any community in Lanark County, so sign up and log your kilometres on behalf of your community on the Bicycle Month website. In 2011 there was a huge 43 percent increase in Silver Chain Challenge ridership compared to the previous year, with nearly 27,000 kilometres logged by participants. This year Bicycle Month challenges everyone in Lanark County to sign up and help beat last year's total. Need another reason to sign up? The Silver Chain Challenge counts towards your Bicycle Month passport stamps and will increase your chances of winning one of the Octane youth bicycles!

The Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month committee is really excited for this year and can't wait to see everyone on their bikes! Check out <mmbm.ca> throughout May and June for event dates and details.

## More Bicycle Fun!

The good folks involved in Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month are cooking up even more events for this year. Here are a few that are taking place in May and early June, so that everyone will be ready to ride and welcome riders from far and wide.

First up, mark your calendar for Thursday, May 10, for the Bicycle Month kick-off. Come to the Almonte Old Town Hall at 7:30PM for the second annual **Lanark Mayors' Slow Bicycle Race**, as well as a **talk** by Eleanor McMahon of Share the Road Cycling Coalition. She will speak about Mississippi Mills' quest for bicycle-friendly community status, and a speaker from the National Capital Commission will also talk about their plans for cycling in the region.

Then it's back to the Town Hall on Thursday, May 24 from 1 to 3PM for a free **bicycle-friendly business workshop** by the Welcome Cyclists Network. All business owners and concerned citizens are welcome to come and learn more about this growing tourism trend. Workshop topics include regional cycle touring routes, services and events, how welcoming cyclists can be good for business, who cycle tourists are and what they want, how to become a certified bicycle friendly business, marketing and networking opportunities, and destination development. For more details and to register, please visit <welcomecyclistsworkshoplanark.eventbrite.ca>.

## Mississippi Mills Grand Prix

Get ready for cyclists to descend on the Mississippi Mills area during the first weekend of June! As part of this year's Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month, Ride with Rendall will be hosting the Mississippi Mills Grand Prix — an Ontario Cup stage race. Over the course of three days, cyclists from all over Ontario and Quebec as well as the Northern U.S. will compete in four stage races. The first stage takes place on June 1, and is a Blakeney circuit race for elite men only. On June 2 the Clayton time trial and the Almonte criterium are on the menu, both of which are open to all categories. The Pakenham circuit race, also open to all categories, takes place on June 3. Cyclists' times in finishing each stage will be aggregated to determine the overall winner of the three-day race. Registration closes on May 31. For more information please visit <ridewithrendall.com> or <ontariocycling.org>.



This delightful image by Almonte artist Jill McCubbin will be the artistic face of this year's Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month

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# Chamber Pots and Chamber Music

Well, they are not really selling chamber pots per se, but this year's **Brooke Valley Spring Tour** will have pots by Anne Chambers, as well as free chamber music concerts each day. Plus, there will be outhouses for sale. So there you are.

This year's tour takes place on Victoria Day weekend, May 19 to 21, from 10AM to 5PM each day, and features several new guest artists as well as some old favourites. It is a compact tour of about 3km, including a total of five venues, thereby saving visitors both time and gas.

The first stop is potter Rita Redner's studio. Her pots are made of both porcelain and stoneware, thrown on the wheel and often altered into oval shapes. They are salt-fired and come in a wide range of earthy tones and colours. Her guests this year are Barbara Mullally and Robert Pauly of Moon-dance Studio. Barbara uses silver, gold and copper to create her own jewellery designs. Robert is well known for his women's hats and appliquéd jackets. Most recently he has been making artistic quilts, several of which will be on display during the tour.

At Dawn King's home and workplace (stop #3), she will be offering her rustic cedar furniture pieces as well as custom-made outhouses and small buildings. With her will be Bonnie Jehu, whose handcrafted soap you may well remember from last year's tour. Bonnie will also be selling her 100% beeswax candles, including both tapers and molded candles. A new guest, September Scribailo, will be displaying her artwork in one of Dawn's small cabins. September works in encaustic (a mixture of beeswax, pigment and resins) and will be presenting many small landscape paintings.

The studio at stop #5 is the home and workplace of Anne Chambers, a potter who works mainly with porcelain clay. Anne's work is quite varied in its style, fitting a variety of tastes and décor. Anne has three guests this year. Diane Falvey from Stony Brae Farm will be there with preserves made from her homegrown fruits and vegetables, as well as others she has sourced locally. You may know her products from the Perth Farmers' Market — jams, jellies, pickles and chutneys. Under-the-Weather is a small local company that makes a wide variety of bags and purses. These sturdy bags are made of cotton, leather and heavy-duty waterproof nylon, making them both practical and stylish. The third

guest is a new artist on the tour: Greta McDonald. Working in bright acrylics, Greta's subjects are all from the natural world and are painted on re-used canvas or wood.

Interspersed between these three studios you will find three of the Brooke Valley Spring Tour's distinctive features: lunch, plants and chamber music. At stop #2, Shirley and John Lianga will once again serve delicious ethnic food in their lovely home-turned-café. This will be offered from 11AM to 3PM each day, with all proceeds going to the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Dignity House Hospice in Perth. A short walk down the hill, you find the plant sale, where Brooke Valley School volunteers will be selling annuals and perennials in support of this community school. There you will find parking, and have an easy walk to stops #1 and #3 as well as the luncheon, the plant sale and the music.



The Brooke Valley Spring Tour, which does feature pots by Anne Chambers (and works by many other artists), takes place from May 19-21

Speaking of music, at 1:30 and 3PM daily, accomplished bassoonist and conductor Richard Hoenich and friends will offer free chamber music concerts in the comfort and intimacy of Richard's living room (stop #4), right up the hill from Dawn King's studio.

All in all, this makes for a wonderful day in the country that will satisfy all your senses. Come enjoy the magic of springtime in the countryside. The scenery is beautiful, the people friendly, and the work for sale is of the highest quality. For more information, please call 267-5918 or visit <brookevalleyspringtour.ca>.

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# Westport, Old School

Every once in a while it's nice to walk down memory lane. As long as you don't get lost on the way to, or on the way from... it's nice to do. I have a lot of great memories to look back on: my wedding day with the lovely and talented, the day my children arrived all sparkly and new, moving to our lovely town. One of my favourite periods of time to look back on is high school, especially the later years. I look back on them fondly... mostly. I was lucky enough

by Steve Scanlon

to attend a high school that, the year I started, converted from an all girls' school to co-ed. Oh, the stories I could tell. I am, however, sworn to secrecy. Just picture this: me (a very inquisitive lad), a couple of other guys, and somewhere in the neighbourhood of 350 girls, all in one building. All day. Five glorious days a week. A match made in heaven. Speaking of which, did I mention the nuns? Mustn't forget the nuns. I quickly developed my own form of speed dating, truancy, and the ability to smoke cigarettes in a tiny washroom upstairs with three or four lovely girls and exit as if it were the most natural thing in the world. The trick is to do this while running under the nundar (radar specific to the nunnery). These were skills learned through much trial and error... "Would Steve Scanlon please report to the principal's office..." To say that I wasn't the best student to cross the threshold of this, the holiest of schools, may just be an understatement. However, I did do a lot of praying (probably not for the usual fare), and my social life was crazy good.

What I was remembering particularly this week was exam time, or specifically the lead up time to exams when everything was just a little crazier than usual. One particular nun had the bad habit (sorry, had to be said) of barking at everybody as soon as they had entered the classroom: "Sit! Silence! Study! We have a lot to get through and very little time to get through it... it's exam time!" I probably should have been more attentive but seriously, 350 girls, five guys? 'nuff said.

Which brings me to my point... yes, there is a point. You should, right now, right this second, go and grab a pen and a calendar. Now, sit! Silence! Study! We have a lot to get through and very little time to get through it... it's May! May is the lead-up time to the rest of the summer. There are things to do, places to go, people to see... We must be organized or we may miss out and sister will be angry... Very, very, angry.

Let us begin...

**May 4:** Songwriters' Circle. Presented by the Cove Country Inn, this second annual event fea-

tures solo artist Brock Zeman, Eric Lawrance of Ladies of the Canyon and Bullmoose, Mike Cochrane of Angler Management and Fish 'n Licks and the Cove's own Seamus Cowan of Spoon River and Angler Management. Enjoy a night of original music in an acoustic atmosphere.

**May 18:** Chris Antonik Band. Hailing from the big city of Toronto, these guys play the Cove with their blues, rock, funk and soul sound. Chris, on guitar, will be accompanied by Josh Williams on vocals.

**May 20:** Latin Music and Dance. The Cove presents Mauricio Montecinos Latin Quartet with flamenco classical bossa-jazz guitar, folk songs from Latin America and a crash course in Latin dance. A special Latin dinner will also be on the menu.

**May 24:** Jazz Night returns to the Cove with the Spencer Evans Trio and a mysterious special guest vocalist (rumour has it that the mysterious special guest vocalist is Emily Fennel, but shhhh — you didn't hear it from me).

**May:** Westport Farmers Market opens, featuring local grown produce, food and artisan products and takes place Saturday mornings at 43 Bedford Street.

**June 2:** Buddy Holly Lives. Presented by the Westport Arts Council, this rock and roll concert at the Cove commemorates Buddy Holly's last winter tour. This is a fundraiser for The Westport Arts Council in support of their annual music festival MUSICwestport (being held August 18).

**June 2 & 3:** The twentieth annual Westport Antique Show and Sale is being held at the Westport Community Centre, 10AM to 5PM on Saturday, June 2, and 10AM to 4PM on Sunday, June 3. The show and sale is chock full of every type of antique and collectable, from harvest tables to hatpins. A canteen is open to support the Rideau Vista Public School.

**June 4:** Beer (see, studying can be fun!). The Cove presents a Labatt Beer Dinner with a selection of fine beers, including imports, paired with a fine meal by Chef Joanne Edwards.

For more information on events at the Cove, including reservation requirements and times, please visit their website at <coveinn.com>. More details on the Buddy Holly fundraiser for the Westport Arts Council can be found at <westportartscouncil.ca>. To find out more about the Farmers' Market, contact Rebecca Whitman at 273-3255 or <info@westportfarmersmarket.ca>.

Please keep in mind people — this is just a midterm... We have the rest of the summer to get through.

Okay, pens down. Good luck.

(Personal note: If you are reading this, Sister Anna Claire... ummm... Sorry!)



Wendo Van Essen

## Dandelion Gardens Studio Tour

The May long weekend (May 19 to 21) brings the annual Westport and Area Dandelion Gardens Studio Tour, from 10AM to 5PM daily. Featured works will include magical photographic art, eclectic sculptures, primitive rug hooking, felted items, gorgeous comfortable clothing, stained and mosaic glass, garden art made from recycled farm equipment, distinctive pottery, luxurious woven items, rustic furniture, garden sculptures, wrought iron, paintings in acrylic and watercolour, sculpture in clay and iron and cast stone, custom drums and much more. Joining the tour for the first time this year will be the studios of Antony Powell, Stefan Duerst and Diane Black, and back as usual are Hooked on the Lake, Enchanted Forest and Dov Vinograd — twenty artist at six studios! For more information, contact Loretta Moore at 273-8347, <hookedonthelake@kingston.net>, or see <artatwork.ca/westport\_studiotours>.



Diane Black

# may 27

## troy macgillivray



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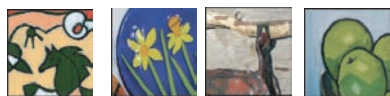
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