

OCTOBER 2016

# the Hummm

free

Arts,  
Entertainment  
& Ideas



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October's Events



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## Fall Colours

When the fall colours are at their most beautiful, artist studio tours will lure you out to the Ottawa Valley to admire gorgeous works of art as well. And if you happen to be running out of wall space, I can help you find the perfect spot to hang your art... and your hat!

**Pat's Picks for October:** Perth Autumn Studio Tour • perthstudiotour.com  
Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour • crownandpumpkin.com  
Fall Colours Studio Tour • westportstudiotour.com  
Expressions of Art • westcarletonartsociety.ca

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"I suspect not so much generosity  
as a desperate attempt to plug the thing up!"

## Learning to Cope with Loss, Grief and Bereavement

The Mills Community Support, in collaboration with Hub Hospice Palliative Care, is launching a series of public talks on Loss, Grief and Bereavement, beginning in the fall of 2016. Both organizations recognize that loss, grief, and bereavement are a part of life and something that we all encounter throughout our lives. We all lose loved ones to death, but we also experience many other losses, including loss of health, mobility, independence, security, finances, pets, dreams for the future, career, home, or country. Loss of any kind is emotionally hard. It pushes us to gather our internal resources in order to cope, and ultimately requires that we change our world view, develop a new sense of identity, and build a different life for ourselves. Following a major loss, we are simply not the same person we once were. This grief process is never easy, but it is made even more difficult by the fact that we live in a society that avoids thinking about death and loss, and so fails to prepare us adequately for the losses we inevitably face.

In order to begin a public dialogue, The Mills and Hub Hospice are presenting a series of public talks on loss, grief and bereavement. This series is designed to increase awareness and understanding of the grief process, and to enhance the internal resources we have available to us when coping with major losses. The six talks will be presented by local grief and bereavement specialist Barbara Carroll, and the topics to be discussed are: understanding grief; caregiving and anticipatory grief; age, gender and cultural differences in grieving styles; the challenges of sudden deaths; how families grieve; and effective grief support.

The first talk in the series — Understanding Grief — will take place on November 7 at Orchard View, 219 Patterson Street in Almonte, from 6:30–8PM. It is designed for people who are grieving, people who are supporting someone who is grieving, and those who would like to be proactive in developing their coping strategies for dealing with loss. All talks are free of charge and offer an opportunity for questions and discussion.



Who's Reading theHumm

Back in 2014, **Barb St. Arnaud** wrote: "My husband and I have just returned from a weekend in Austin, Texas where we experienced some amazing music. It's not the South Pacific or Afghanistan, but it is the "Live Music Capital of the World" so thought I would send you a pic of me in front of the famed Continental Club where we saw "harmony-drenched country rockers" The Whiskey Sisters. Keeping theHumm on the move..."  
Thanks very much for taking theHumm on your travels Barb!

## Restorative Approaches for Youth – Volunteers Needed

Lanark County Community Justice Program (LCCJP) is recruiting volunteers to support the use of restorative approaches by youth and adults in the schools and youth centres of Lanark County and the Town of Smiths Falls.

In addition to providing court diversion services for youth, the organization is expanding to support the use of restorative approaches that can help youth develop resilience, and social and emotional skills that contribute to the development of inclusive, caring and safe communities, thereby contributing to positive engagement in the community and a reduction of the incidence of youth crime.

Having a pool of trained volunteers to support students, teachers and youth centre staff is critical to the effectiveness of the initiative. LCCJP provides ongoing training in-house to give volunteers a working understanding of restorative approaches and the skills to implement strategies such as restorative circles. Volunteers typically note that the training enriches their personal lives by helping them develop effective communication and collaborative problem-solving skills.

Individuals interested in learning more about LCCJP or volunteering with its school outreach program are invited to visit the website <commjustice.org> or contact Andrew Lynch, Community Animator, at 264–1558. The next training session will be held in October.

The Ministry of the Attorney General provides funding assistance needed for court diversion cases involving youth aged 12 to 17. LCCJP is also pleased to be a United Way of Lanark County partner, with United Way funding primarily used to help with cases of youth aged 18 to 25 years. The Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Law Foundation of Ontario and other community partners have made the school program a reality. More information about the Lanark County Community Justice Program can be found at <commjustice.org>.

Some  
may be more to blame than  
others  
for the current climate,  
but

**ALL OF US  
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REVERSING IT.**

– Barack Obama

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

### Submissions

By email or on USB stick

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### Thanks this month to:

The Leadership Lab at the Los Angeles LGBT Center for their excellent work on using deep canvassing to defeat anti-LGBT prejudice, and to David McRaney for his great podcast about them.

<leadership-lab.org>  
<youarenotsmart.com>

# The Intriguing Narrative Art of Angèle Desjardins

Even before the rock paintings of ancient cultures, visual art has served as a form of storytelling. Almonte painter Angèle Desjardins explores and extends the practice with brilliant, intense, three-dimensional paintings. Using water-based oils and ripped canvas edges to achieve textured depth, she beckons the observer to write their own scripts for her intriguing allusions.

by Sally Hansen

In a large work titled *Unencumbered*, a female form literally flies out of the confines of the physical canvas boundary, her face illuminated, glowing with undefined emotions — joy? relief? apprehension? freedom? fear of flying?? In a recently sold work, Desjardins incorporated snippets of lyrics she had written for songs that never materialized.

Desjardins' paintings offer provocative glimpses into moments of human drama — life interruptus, if you will. Like Alex Colville, she has a gift for imbuing a static image with a plot — an unresolved story.

Readers often prefer books to movies because books demand more imagination to visualize the scene. Books invite readers to depict for themselves how evil or seductive or disturbing each character appears. Unlike in movies the settings come to life in readers' imaginations, not in the choices made by the

set designer or the cinematographer. In her paintings, this artist provides only a frozen view of the setting and the character. Unlike either a book or a movie, her works challenge viewers to imagine the story, based on the painting's portrayal of a mysterious moment in time.

A successful abstract painting is one that compels the viewer to impute meaning and emotion into an unrecognizable portrayal of form and colour. Desjardins' vivid, contemporary, representational paintings compel the viewer to invent the story that inspired the painting. Unlike Colville, she seeks to strike a balance between drama and playfulness.

## A Flair for Drama

Her upbringing in the northern Ontario town of Kapuskasing left her flawlessly bilingual and with a thirst for seeing the world. In 1998 Angèle headed a thousand kilometres south to obtain a degree in Fine Arts at the University of Western Ontario in London. There she thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of attending small classes numbering only fifteen to twenty students. With an artist mother and a musician father, it was hard to choose an artistic path, and both loves continue to play a major role in her life.

As part of her fourth year at Western, Desjardins participated in an internship at the Grand Theatre and then pursued theatre design in her postgraduate studies as part of a diploma program at Dalhousie



University in Halifax. She had acquired an interest in and talent for carpentry from her maternal grandfather, and during the two-year intensive course she was immersed in all aspects of theatrical design including sets, costumes and props. Then she worked in theatre all over the East Coast, designing two shows on her own. It was a wonderful environment to nourish her passion for making music, playing the guitar and piano, and writing and singing songs.

After time spent in the big and busy city of Montreal seeking a job in the arts world, it was through her musical connections from the East Coast that she came to Almonte seven years ago. It was the right move for the small-town girl from Kapuskasing. Angèle enjoys the area's dynamic of young emerging artists working and collaborating with an older generation of established artists. Both groups benefit from and encourage each other, and the positive atmosphere is free of judgment and justification. The synergy more than compensates for the loss of anonymity a big city provides.

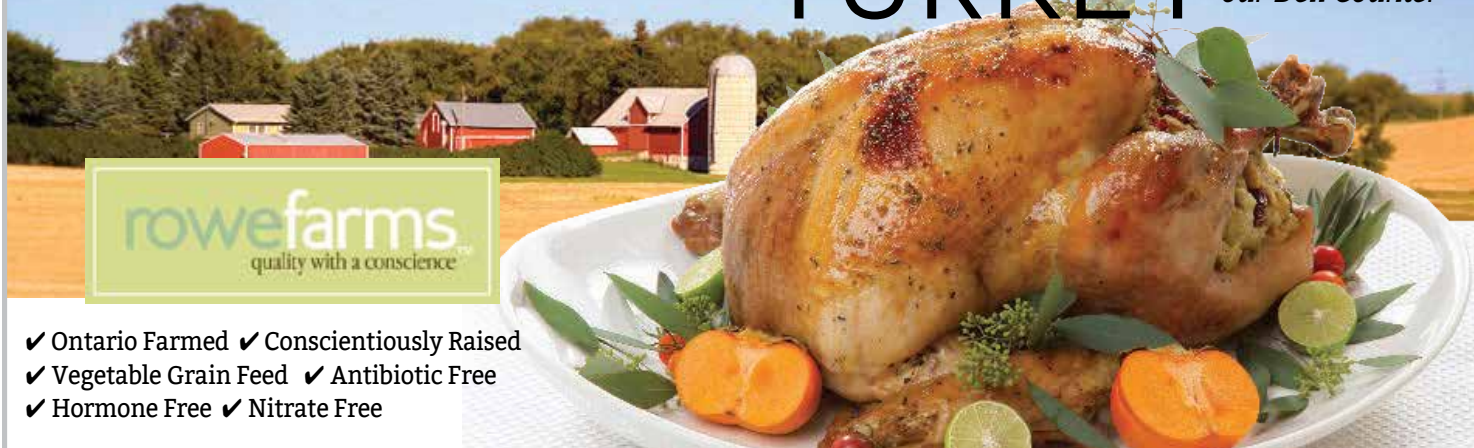
For her, it fosters creative courage. She is experimenting with new artistic concepts, breaking the practice of flat canvases. Her recent paintings are bold, intense, vivid and strikingly original. She loves the medium of water-based oils for their rich colours and sculpted textures. Her ripped canvases explore the metaphysical question of what lies behind the curtain. Perhaps her experiences in the world of theatre, where illusion poses as reality, inspire her innovative three-dimensional explorations of possibility. When the leading lady in *Unveiled* draws the curtain back, layers of brilliantly hued fabrics are revealed; but they, in turn, conceal additional layers of possible complications. The story is yours to imagine. Desjardins piques your curiosity.

One of her works in progress features a young boy struggling to climb upward. When I ask her for the narrative behind his arduous endeavour, she surprises me with her response that the work itself inspires the story. Art and narrative are intertwined; one engenders the other. She values the "beautiful space of meditative focus" that her painting provides. It is where she communes with her soul and develops her own narrative. In her life as in her paintings, she strives to strike a balance between drama and playfulness.

Angèle Desjardins has shown her art in many local venues and farther afield. She participates regularly in The New Art Festival in Ottawa, and will be showing her work again this November at the "Before the Rush Show" at Leeds and Thousand Islands. There are a number of ways to see her work in addition to dropping in to meet her at Heirloom Cafe and Bistro in Almonte where, she tells me, "I serve people art they can eat before I come home and create my own art." Just follow the links at <thehummm.com> and clip and save her Artist's Trading Card at the top of this page!



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**WHO** Angèle Desjardins  
**WHAT** Contemporary Narrative Paintings  
**WHERE** Home Studio, 24 Coleman St., Almonte, <galerieangeledesjardins.com>, 808-4206, <soulful.songstress@gmail.com>  
**WHEN** Nov 25-27, "Before the Rush Show", The Ivy Restaurant and Coach House, 93 Shipmans Lane, Leeds and the Thousand Islands, <beforetherushshow.com>  
**WHY** "For me, painting is my yoga — a beautiful space of meditative focus."

ARTIST TRADING CARD

# Bringing Teens to the Bard

"It started as a lark, really," says Mark Piper, artistic director of the Mississippi Mudds Youth Theatre. "Some of us were sitting around, chatting, wondering — we knew there were a whole bunch of talented teenage actors out there, because they used to be in our kids' group. But they weren't coming out for the adult shows."

Seven years ago the Mississippi Mudds already had a very successful programs of musical theatre and drama for adults in the Carleton Place area, as well as a children's theatre group that put on shorter musicals. Building on this, they decided to launch a program specifically targeted at teen players.

"I was always the Shakespeare nut in the Mudds," explains Piper. "There was a time when I went to see every Shakespearean play at the Stratford Festival for about six years in a row. I loved it." So he decided to try to do one Shakespearean play specifically intended for teenage actors. "I picked *Macbeth*. I thought: 'buckets of blood, witches, occult, madness, treason, betrayal, sword fights — the teens will eat that up.' And since I had grown up watching this stuff at Stratford — my parents worried a lot about my recreational choices, I can tell you — I naturally decided that it had to be in the round, just like Stratford."

"I remember thinking that this was just an experiment — a one-off," Piper admits. "But then, lo and behold, it caught on. Ticket sales were about double what I expected them to be. So everybody said, 'let's keep doing this!'" Since that time, the Mudds Youth Theatre has done a Shakespearean production annually, at the end of October: following *Macbeth* came *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and, most recently, *Romeo and Juliet*.

And the impact of these productions doesn't end there. Many of the Mudds former youth players, who have graduated from high school, have gone on to theatre programs at Canadian universities (Queen's, Toronto, Ryerson and UBC, among others), and have even done some professional work. This year, the cast has an almost entirely new crop of teenagers in to pick up where their predecessors have left off.

"The format is simple, really," Piper explains. "I take the original Shakespearean text, and make cuts to it, so that the play can be performed in under two hours. But I do my best to retain as much of the story, and the feel of the original play as possible — and the original Shakespearean language is retained — this is not a 'translation.'"



Director Mark Piper (back left) and his talented teenage cast will present *King Lear* in Carleton Place

"We maintain professional theatrical values — our model is still Canada's Stratford Festival: we always perform in the round, on the floor of the Town Hall theatre. We use minimal sets, but we don't skimp on costumes, lighting, sound, or other effects. If the play calls for a sword fight, we do it. We rehearse twice a week, beginning in June, and continue rehearsing right up until the performances at the end of October."

This year, the Mudds Youth are taking on one of Shakespeare's most difficult plays: *King Lear*, the story of a king driven mad by the betrayal of his daughters. "It's a great tragedy," says Piper. "By the end of the play, the stage is literally filled with dead bodies. My players love it!"

"Joking aside," he concedes, "*Lear* is usually the apotheosis of a Shakespearean actor's career — all of the parts are fully developed characters that present significant challenges for even the most seasoned actors: the betrayed king, the sad fool, three very different daughters, the man who can only truly see after he becomes blind, and his two warring sons. And my group — all teenagers — have taken these parts, and through a lot of hard work, have made them their own. It will be a real treat for the audience to see this new perspective on *Lear*. I'm very proud of them."

The Mississippi Mudds Youth Theatre production of *King Lear* runs at the Carleton Place Town Hall Theatre, 175 Bridge Street, with evening performances (7:30PM) on October 21, 22, 28 and 29, and a matinee performance at 2PM on Sunday, October 23. All tickets are priced at \$10, and are available at Hallmark (238 McNeely Avenue in Carleton Place), or at the door.

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# Hiding in Plain Sight

What is going on in Calabogie? All of a sudden, theHumm's monthly entertainment calendar is filling up with high calibre musical and cultural events from this community more noted for downhill runs than uptown funk. Clearly, it was time to investigate!

And so it was that one night in late September theHumm's intrepid pub crawling team (picture the gang from Scooby Doo...) headed out to **The Valley Food & Drink Co.** to discover the source of all of this entertainment action.

by Rob Riendeau

First things first, The Valley Food & Drink Co. is located in the Calabogie Lodge overlooking Calabogie Lake. The restaurant is quite spacious but it still manages to feel cozy, and also has a small bar area adjacent to the dining room. Apparently the room can accommodate about 55 diners at a time, and the whole space has a maximum capacity of 70. On the evening that we dropped in, the dining room was packed and the bar area was pretty full too — reservations are highly recommended. A large stage takes up one whole side of the dining room and features an incredible exposed natural stone wall as the backdrop for whoever is performing. The stage itself is equipped with a state-of-the-art sound and light system.

After procuring some locally-brewed beverages (Calabogie and Whitewater Brewing Companies were both on the menu), we managed to speak with the busy man responsible for this terrific venue, Byron Hermann.



Juno award-winning singer/songwriter Lynn Miles plays the Valley Food & Drink Co. on October 8.

One year ago, Byron undertook the creation of a "cultural tourism destination" in the village of Calabogie. His extensive musical education and background, combined with his wife's experience in the hospitality industry, led them to build a top-notch restaurant with a focus on live entertainment. This, along with an investment of \$25,000 in digital sound and light equipment, intrigued veteran soundman Steve Turner, who came onboard as VFDC's in-house sound tech and talent booker.

Steve has over forty years' experience running sound for some of Canada's top touring bands, and he also worked for several years at the National Arts Centre. All of which explains why the sound quality in this



The People Collective is formed of like minded folks in Calabogie who want to help the community, listen to and play music; all while enjoying each other's company and some good food!

small venue is so good, and why a who's who of Canadian talent seem to know about this place: Steve's been making phone calls.

Upcoming shows at the Valley Food & Drink Co. include Ottawa's Lynn Miles (Oct. 8); a special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary party for the inimitable Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo (Oct. 15); local country swing favourites The Telegrams (Oct. 22); east-coast jazz powerhouse Teresa Doyle accompanied by the incredible October Browne (Nov. 5); and Canadian rock legend Carl Dixon (Dec. 3). If you are reading this article in time, you might still be able to catch Maple Blues singer-of-the-year award-winner Suzie Vinnick on October 1. In addition to these more widely known performers, VFDC is also home to The People Collective's monthly kitchen party.

The People Collective is the brainchild of Pierre Desmarais and Peggy Williams. The idea is that a group of musical friends get together to play, sing, eat, and laugh while raising money for the local food bank. The night we stopped in happened to be a kitchen party night, so the atmosphere in the room was lively and friendly. Peggy Williams is a talented and congenial host for the evening, keeping things rolling and joining several of the performers for a song or two. The whole evening was delightful and, at times, hilarious. Their next show is on October 21, but be sure to reserve your spot early!

I've said it before, and here I am saying it again: a strong music scene needs venues that "get it." Venues that support, nurture, invest in, and work with musicians to create great performances and generate audiences. The Valley Food & Drink Co. definitely gets it and they seem to be drawing the large crowds that will let them keep going. If you haven't been yet, you definitely should go soon. Visit their website, <thevalleyfoodanddrinkco.ca> for location and contact details.

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# Back to Nature with Barb Sohn

“Back to nature” is more than a slogan to Perth artist Barb Sohn. It is a reality.

On Thanksgiving weekend, Barb is opening her painting studio in the maple woods near Perth, and inviting art lovers to visit and see her new work. Barb is a landscape artist who specializes in capturing the beauty of the countryside in eastern Ontario, western Quebec and the northeast U.S. Working in acrylics on canvas, she will be showing recent works from her trip to Maine and local areas such as Murphy’s Point Provincial Park.

A year ago, she downsized from her home in Wellington West in Ottawa to a cedar home at the end of a road in the woods near Perth. Over the winter, a small studio was crafted on the edge of the forest behind the house — truly a room of her own!

In June, upon retiring from her full-time career as a social worker (after a year’s sabbatical from painting), Barb got busy in her new studio. Her paintings are a reflection of a fascination with the interaction between light, colour and pattern in water and landscape. Because of the many layers of design and colour found in water, the possibilities are endless. Barb paints landscapes, but she always comes back to water.

Each painting has two stories. The first one is her personal experience, which led her to notice the scene and see the potential for a painting. The second story is that of the life of the painting when it is transformed from her experience into art.

Colour is important. Barb usually begins with an underpainting in a contrasting colour, which provides vibrancy, contrast and continuity to the piece. The initial blocking is done with purple or red. Then,

with the addition of colour, the painting takes on a life of its own. It seems like the best paintings paint themselves.

Barb was a member of the West End Studio Tour in Ottawa for fifteen years, and is now a member of the Rideau Valley Artist Association and the Ontario Plein Air Society. She has work in the Ottawa Art Gallery’s Art Lending & Sales service, and has exhibited at various galleries throughout Ottawa and the Gatineau. Her art is in collections all over the world.

Barb invites you to join her on the most beautiful weekend in October in her new studio, and to view her recent works and to



discover some bargains on older paintings. Celebrate with her as she embarks on her career as a full-time painter — her dream come true!

The studio is open on Thanksgiving Weekend, Saturday to Monday, from 10AM to 5PM. Ten percent of all sales will go to the Ottawa Riverkeeper to support their efforts in keeping the Ottawa River and its watershed clean and healthy.

To get to the studio, drive south out of Perth on County Road 1 toward Rideau Ferry. Go 3km then turn right onto Clifford Crescent. Keep right, go 500m to the end of the road and up the driveway into the woods at 198 Clifford Crescent!

You can also find Barb on Facebook or at <barbsohnart.ca>.

### Speaking Volumes

# One Book, One Community

The Lanark County libraries are proud to be once again hosting One Book, One Community this fall.

The first program of this kind was launched by Nancy Pearl at the Seattle Public Library in 1998, and

by Erika Heesen, Librarian

was called “If All of Seattle Read the Same Book”. It has since expanded throughout North America to prominent Canadian libraries such as Waterloo and Aurora Public Libraries, and inspired other events like Canada Reads. This is the second year that it has been run in Lanark County.

This year’s theme is immigration, an experience that is shared by many Canadian families. Books on the shortlist were nominated by area residents, and residents also voted for the winner: *The Illegal* by Lawrence Hill.

The idea behind One Book, One Community goes beyond a community book club. It’s about starting a wider conversation and talking about something that might be a bit controversial, and that might be a bit scary to discuss. It’s about providing a safe place to express opinions and re-examine beliefs. One Book, One Community 2016 aims to generate empathy and understanding for the many new Canadians who are working to become part of our communities.

So please, do check <onebooklanark.com> and join a conversation near you.

### One Book One Community Shortlist:

- *Greener Grass* by Caroline Pignat
- *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
- *In the Skin of a Lion* by Michael Ondaatje
- *The Illegal* by Lawrence Hill
- *The Bite of the Mango* by Mariatu Kamara

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# Ginger Café: Meatless Meatballs & More

Alerted by an ad in theHumm (you should read the ads too!), Weetabix attended **Almonte Food+Drink** on a hot Saturday in early September. The Almonte Agricultural Hall was packed with displays of edibles from a diverse group of small producers and a number of local restaurants and craft breweries. Judging from the turnout and happy faces, the

by Sebastian Weetabix

event was a success. The format of the show allows sampling as well as take-away purchases; Weetabix happily grazed as part of his research and definitely recommends keeping an eye out for this event next year.

Among establishments offering their wares were bakeries and several candy makers. Temptation to confine tasting to these categories was resisted and then, lo and behold, a vegetarian restaurant from Carleton Place offered “meatless meatballs”. It should be noted that Weetabix is an omnivore. That basic nutritional needs can be met with vegetables is a demonstrated fact. That the need for crispy crackling roasted duck skin even exists, is not. Furthermore, Weetabix is genuinely fond of animals and not just on his plate. Moral and aesthetic conflicts are unavoidable and, at least in abstract, an attempt to live “the examined life” should be reflected in one’s diet.

In practice, a good meatball might not be the apotheosis of gastronomic achieve-

ments, but it certainly is comfort food of a high order — sufficient reason to try the offered “meatless meatballs” from the **Ginger Café**. They are remarkably good — combining flavour and textural attributes that stand on their own; why then are they called “meatballs”? Marketing, one must suppose, but this is the subject of another article. Flanders and Swann raised the basic question to an even higher level in their classic *The Reluctant Cannibal...* but let’s not go there! Instead, we make our way to Carleton Place.

Carleton Place is a town in transition. Originally a railroad junction and centre of small industry, it is emerging from a period of contraction into a developing residential and service centre. The idea of a vegetarian restaurant there is not as strange as it seemed on first encounter. At its core, vegetarian food addresses some basic health and lifestyle issues that are becoming increasingly mainstream. By strictest definition, it is cholesterol-free, high in fibre and low in saturated fats. Properly and skillfully prepared, it offers a flavour palette that is diverse and interesting. It is generally “light”, and therefore presents an attractive alternative to traditional North American meal styles. While you can get vegetarian French fries and deep fried onion rings, that is not what generally comes to mind!



The recently expanded Ginger Café is located in the former Carleton Place Train Station

The owner and mainspring of the Ginger Café is a native of Carleton Place who came to vegetarianism as a lifestyle choice involving both health and aesthetic issues. Earlier in her life Tiffany Nixon actually worked for a retail butcher, and “seeing sausages made” was the last straw. She does not miss meat but is not vegan. Combining her passion for yoga (she also owns and operates the adjoining Hamsa Yoga studio) with healthy food was a natural. After several years in high tech and several job changes and layoffs, she decided to purchase the restaurant as an operating business; now she offers both yoga and yogurt.

Renamed the Ginger Café, in two-and-a-half years the business has grown into a thriving enterprise that offers both eat-in and take out. According to Tiffany, the majority of her customers are not vegetarians; they just “want a healthy meal”. Well, they definitely can get that — and a tasty one too. Weetabix did a small sampling of items on offer and can attest to uniform high quality — the cafeteria-style presentation allows mix-and-match and is sold by weight; Indian-style cuisine is featured on the first Friday of each month. Baked items (some gluten-free and some vegan) are on offer, and Friday is pie day — so a return trip is in order.

With a small staff including a chef and a cook, the restaurant’s recent expansion in seating capacity has achieved a comfortable match. Care has been taken to create a comfortable space where people can linger and socialize over food. The restaurant is located in an interesting heritage building — a nearly century-old stone railway station that is a reminder of Carleton Place’s history. That it now houses a yoga studio and a vegetarian restaurant is an interesting marker of the changes that have taken place there. Further changes are in the works at Ginger Café as well — a cooking school and perhaps a vegetarian cookbook are projects under consideration. Given the talent and energy of the owners, this is a place to check out frequently.

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**The Reever Report**

# One Saturday Long Ago

Once upon a time, in a land far away — Half-moon Bay, BC — I took part in a longstanding BC tradition. Sue, my ever-enthusiastic sister, insisted no vacation would be complete without spending Saturday afternoon at the weekly Meat Draw. I had visions of hung carcasses that made me gag, but her friend Charlotte assured me it would be the highlight of my holiday. Right...

by Glenda Jones

The three of us traipsed down the road to the local pub, a neat little low-ceilinged building that looked as if it had washed in on the tide about fifty years before — no windows on the road side, but a full breathtaking view of the Pacific on the back side. No wonder they wanted to get a window booth. It was early afternoon, and the place was already filling up with friends who had to meet “my sister from Ottawa.” Too many names, too many handshakes and more than one offer to “buy you girls a round.” We didn’t even have to order the house hamburgers, since that was obviously the chosen fare for nearly everyone. I sure didn’t see kale salad on the menu!

Before we’d shucked out coats on the overburdened rack, we were exhorted to buy our tickets as the draw had ten lots of first-rate meat including a special treat at the end. Now, we’re not talking numbered lottery tickets with a licence pinned on the wall. No sirree, the Volunteer Firefighters cruised through the crush of bar patrons flogging a reel of tickets: five for a buck. We had our cash on the counter, and our tickets lined up before the first beer was plashed on the table. We figured we needed a full supply of tickets to really get into the spirit of the afternoon.

As the crowd and the volume rose, the tickets and loonies were exchanging hands fast and furiously. A second round of beer and more tickets hit our table. Promptly at 2:30, a man who must have been the Chief, if size and demeanour counted, shushed the crowd, and announced he was ready to make the first draw in ten minutes. Mercifully, no carcasses appeared! (You won a chit that you turned in to claim your prize from the meat man.) The bar guy pulled a full tray of beer, the waitress ran around with more burgers, and all hands reached for another loonie’s worth of tickets.

So here we go: Round one, the breakfast pack: a dozen eggs and two pounds of the best bacon. Much fanfare, many exhortations for pulling a particular number, and there it was: Old Ed and the Missus

got a grand breakfast for the kids. Big cheer for Ed and the Missus.

On to the next: a dozen steaks, each as big as a plate. More tickets purchased, because obviously the ones we’d already bought weren’t winning for us, or for anyone, it seemed. We also needed some nachos to wash down more libations.

For three glorious hours we snacked, and cheered, and laughed as the sun sparkled on the incoming tide, and friends claimed their prizes. The bar thrived, the kitchen steamed, the firemen filled their coffers. The ticket barrel churned, the winners of one lot chose the winners of the next, special guests were recognized, the firemen nearly wrung out friends’ pockets for that last dollar hiding in the bottom, and finally we were down to the last of ten draws.

The local butcher, who’d provided everything from bacon to beef, and chicken to chops, was given a huge round of applause before he personally got to pick out the last ticket. It came with extra fanfare, and why not: the prize would be a full baron of beef, enough to feed thirty of your closest friends. The ticket barrel was nearly full by now, but more would be better. After all, this money was going to pay for fireworks for Hallowe’en. “C’mon folks, don’t let the kids down! This is a mighty big roast here!” You could hear people lining up their friends for the big party they’d be having when they won. A full bar gave a knuckles-on-table drumroll... the ticket was drawn... all six numbers were read out to much ooh-ing and ahh-ing. “And the winner is number 597!” Oh my lord, Charlotte had won!! Talk about three women celebrating! Let’s just say, we accumulated more friends in the next five minutes than we’d ever known! And yes, it was the most fun ever. It was a magical afternoon that remains with me to this day. It culminated in an anniversary party, a huge barbeque with the best beef I’ve ever tasted, with my sister, my best-ever brother in law, and a slew of their friends.

All things change though. The bar was torn down to make room for a pricey condo building. The tall cedars were replaced with a parking lot. Charities that used to operate with a heads-down/help everyone attitude now require a plethora of permits, licenses, reporting, and paraphernalia to hold their draws. The pleasant tradition has been expropriated by government agencies eager to get a piece of the action. The community has lost a favourite afternoon’s entertainment, and the Hallowe’en fireworks don’t happen anymore.

Dear Charlotte is gone too, but oh, didn’t we have fun that one brilliant afternoon, long long ago.

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# Art All Over Almonte!

Have you walked down Mill Street in Almonte lately? Omgosh — it's eye-popping! I took a stroll there the other day and I was totally blown away. There is not one single storefront that's empty (well, except for 68 and 34 Mill Street, but those two locations are being re-decorated and just waiting for the new tenants to move in).

If you were in Almonte about ten or twelve years ago, you'll remember that there were far too many "For Rent" signs on windows up and down the hill. But today, thanks to the creative thinking of past and current

by Miss Mills, Puppet Reporter

business owners, it's fully alive and enjoying a wonderful economic upswing. Go see the shops and restaurants and galleries for yourself! And those two empty spaces — numbers 34 and 68? They're going to become home to more galleries! David Church's **North Star art studio** is moving into number 68, and Sivarulrasa Gallery is taking over number 34.

With so many galleries now in town, I thought I'd better check them out for theHumm.

Sanjeev Sivarulasa has owned **Sivarulrasa Gallery** on Little Bridge Street in Almonte for two years. With his move to 34 Mill Street, he'll be able to double the size of his gallery and represent twenty artists instead of the twelve he currently has. Those twelve include Almonte's Sue Adams, Dale Dunning, Deborah Arnold and Marcus Kucey-Jones. Sanjeev explains: "I represent committed Canadian artists and am drawn to them because of their vision, no matter what media they use — stone, metal, plaster, oils, acrylics or photography." He himself is a professional artist and photographer who first came to Almonte because of the observatory at the Mill of Kintail and our light pollution by-law to preserve the night sky. "I use stars to say something about life," he tells me. "Almonte is a great place for art and culture."

The Grand Opening of Sivarulrasa Gallery is on Sunday, October 16, from 2 to 5PM. As owner and curator, Sanjeev reports that: "the inaugural show in our new location is called 'Coming up for Air' — a solo exhibition of fifteen breathtaking oil paintings by Toronto-based artist Mary Wong. Mary uses abstractions of the natural landscape to explore psychological and emotional states. Turbulent skies, water gushing over rocks, and intense sunsets all serve as metaphors for the beauty and turmoil of the human experience."

Sanjeev invites us to the opening celebrations and to meet the artist. Be there at 2PM to see Mississippi Mills Mayor Shaun McLaughlin cut the ribbon to officially open the new gallery space! For more information, visit <sivarulrasa.com>.

At 63 Mill Street, **General Fine Craft, Art & Design** owner and founder Richard Skrobecki is happy to announce that, from October 4 to November 13, the gallery will be featuring the hand-built ceramics of Marney McDiarmid, and Jacob Rolfe's



You'll also find gorgeous works at **Kehla Jewellery Design Studio** (88 Queen Street)



Celebrate the grand opening of **Sivarulrasa Gallery** in their new location at 34 Mill Street by attending Mary Wong's vernissage on October 16

silkscreen prints. Richard tells me that: "Marney lives, and maintains an active studio and teaching practice, in Kingston, Ontario. She's been working with clay since the mid-1990s and is largely self-taught. Jacob is a Nova Scotia-based artist well known for his illustrative prints that depict some of life's important issues like literacy, the environment, organic farming, dreams and cats." The Opening is on October 16 from 1 to 3PM, and I'll certainly be there to see the work of these artists as well as all the other wonderful things that this gallery has to offer. For more information, call 461-3463 or visit <generalfinecraft.com>.

I always like to wander down the alleyway next to the General and drop into **Carriageway Studios** to see what's happening there. Chandler Swain, Mary Pal, Lily Swain and Dawn Walker are truly original artists, and even when they're busy working on their latest creations, they're never too busy to stop and chat about their work or about renting a space for a studio or a special event. It's a very special place! Check them out online at <carriagewaystudios.ca>.

Artist Jeff Bank's **J.B. Arts** store and studio at 64 Mill Street <jbart.ca> is a fun place to visit too, and it's often filled with enthusiastic kids taking a class. Jeff runs a great summer art school there, and offers classes for all ages throughout the year. He's a great teacher, the kids love him, and he's also a talented multi-faceted artist.

After you've checked out Mill Street, you'll find several other studios on the intersecting Bridge/Queen Street. One of these is called **Current Works of Glass** <currentworksofglass.com>, operated by Jennifer Kelly, a marvelous glass artist in her own right. Jen took me through her space at 112 Queen Street where she offers a wide variety of classes in fused and kiln-worked glass, for teens and adults. After Thanksgiving the front gallery section of the studio will transform into a glass guild. Six glass artists will have permanent displays showcasing a wide variety of glass art, from sculpture to jewellery. The artists will be taking turns hosting the gallery on weekends, so customers can meet them and learn more about their unique skills. The gallery will be open Saturdays and Sundays until Christmas.

And last, but certainly not least, are the two solo art galleries of painters and teachers: **Mary Pfaff** (who works from her gallery studio at 15 Bridge Street, right across from the Old Town Hall), and **Strachan Johnston** (whose space at 108 Queen Street is adjacent to Current Works of Glass). Both these talented artists deserve a lot more coverage, and we will be revisiting them in a later column.

Several of these galleries are stops on this year's **Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour**, so visit <crownandpumpkin.com> for more details about that great opportunity to get up close and personal with many of this area's artists.

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# More Blues in the Books!

The Arnprior Public Library is thrilled to announce that Dawn Tyler Watson will be performing at this year's installment of Blues in the Books.

This multi-award-winning "Queen of the Blues" will be performing at 3PM on Sunday, October 23 in the wonderful ambiance of the library, located at 21 Madawaska Street in the heart of downtown Arnprior.

"The library provides fabulous acoustics and an intimate setting to see this top talent in the Ottawa Valley, and now that our moveable shelving project has been completed we'll be able to accommodate an even larger seating capacity," says library board chair Maureen Sly-Havey.

Blues in the Books has become a staple at the Arnprior Library, with previous concerts featuring Jack DeKeyzer and Fathead. But there are more than just blues at the library. Recently Craig Cardiff performed two benefit concerts in the venue and raised more than \$1000 for a local elementary school and the library's iPod Project.

Plans are underway to bring more classical, Celtic and folk music to the library. "A full range of program-



Dawn Tyler Watson (aka "Queen of the Blues") will perform in Arnprior on October 23

ming is part of the library's updated Strategic Plan, and proceeds from the October concert will see the space transformed more frequently throughout the coming year," explains Sly-Havey.

Tickets for the Dawn Tyler Watson show are \$25 and available now at the library or online at <[brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)>.

# Miller & MacDonald at MERA

Cape Breton fiddler Anita MacDonald and piper Ben Miller make a musically explosive combination that might just be the next big thing from that storied island. Their four-piece band, which includes Tyson Chen on piano and Zakk Cormier on guitar, will be coming to MERA in McDonalds Corners on Sunday, October 30, for an evening concert, as well as afternoon workshops for musicians interested in learning Cape Breton styles.

Anita has been among the most popular traditional-style fiddle players on the island for a number of years, with a clean, driving and passionate touch that makes her a standout dance fiddler, playing the legendary island square dances, such as Glencoe Mills. (She also stepdances energetically and sings Gaelic songs that are still a vital part of Cape Breton music.) The equally-respected Tyson Chen is a classically-trained pianist from Ottawa who, like many before him, was captivated by the flashy, complex Cape Breton keyboard style, and made his home and career there, playing the jigs, reels and slow airs as if he was born hearing them.

In 2013, Ben Miller was covering the Celtic Colours Festival as a music journalist (and playing his Scottish border pipes at every opportunity) when he met Anita, who was performing. This led to a spontaneous joint performance at the late-night Festival Club, that Anita remarks "went really well". Not long afterwards, Anita, Ben and Tyson came to McDonalds Corners to play a house concert and do workshops for interested local musicians... so, in fact, one of their first performances as a band was in a Lanark Highlands living room!

Since then, Ben and Anita have toured extensively, including appearances at the 2016 East Coast Music Awards, and they have just returned from playing the legendary Tønder Festival in Denmark. They have expanded the band to often include PEI-born guitarist Zakk Cormier, and, in 2015, released an album featuring all four musicians, called *A Day At The Lake*.



Cape Breton fiddler Anita MacDonald and piper Ben Miller will present workshops and a concert at MERA on October 30

MERA is fortunate to be able to present this up-and-coming group who are bringing Scottish Gaelic musical tradition into the twenty-first century with respect, energy and a delightful stage presence. On October 30, the schedule begins with workshops for interested musicians at 2-4PM, at a cost of \$30/person: fiddle and pipe tune playing, in Cape Breton style (combined group), at intermediate to advanced level; and accompaniment styles, for anyone from the strong beginner to the advanced player, on keyboard, guitar or other stringed instrument (bring your own). At 7PM, catch Miller and MacDonald, with Chen and Cormier, in the MERA hall. Concert tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and \$15 for registered workshop participants (plus \$2 ticketing fee).

For more information on this program, contact Bill Cameron at <[bill.martino18@gmail.com](mailto:bill.martino18@gmail.com)> or visit <[benandanita.com](http://benandanita.com)>. Tickets for the concert and workshops can be purchased online at <[ticketsplease.ca](http://ticketsplease.ca)>. Find details and directions to MERA Schoolhouse at <[meraschoolhouse.org](http://meraschoolhouse.org)>.

## In-Store Fall Workshops

October 17, 7-8:30PM:  
**Making Kombucha** with Amy Longard, RHN, \$25

November 7, 7-8:30PM:  
**Aromatherapy 101** with Woman Divine,  
 Magdalena Tomczak, \$20



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# Help Craft Celtfest 2017

## Annual General Meeting Set for October 5

Almonte Celtfest is inviting all interested persons to their Annual General Meeting in the Almonte Old Town Hall on Wednesday, October 5 at 7PM. This gathering aims to provide a summary of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Almonte Celtfest (this past July), as well as an opportunity to look forward to the next festival, scheduled for the second weekend in July 2017. There will be a report from the Chairpersons (Jane Torrance and Gavin Donnelly), a Treasurer's Report from Nicole Pederson, and an opportunity for observers to provide their feedback about the festival. Planning for Celtfest 2017 will begin with identification of volunteers interested and willing to serve on the Organizing Committee.

This year's Celtfest was a huge success, in spite of the threat of thunderstorms, and a steady rain all day Saturday. Pub Night in the Park was an exciting kick-off to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend, when many came out to Gemmill Park to listen to great music under cloudy skies. On Saturday, the Cavanagh Second



Almonte Celtfest had a great year in 2016 (rain notwithstanding), and now they're ready to start planning for next year!

Stage had to be moved to the Almonte Arena due to the inclement weather, but the Main Stage show went ahead as planned. Volunteers working in Gemmill Park kept spirits high, vendors served up lots of warm food, and the Beer Gardens saw brisk business from loyal Celtfest supporters. Sunday dawned insipidly, but sunnier skies prevailed and the crowd swelled. Thanks to the generous donations at the admission gate, and to lots of financial support for the raffle fundraisers, Celtfest exceeded its commitments well enough to pay all the bills, with seed money saved for the future.

The Organizing Committee, led by Jane Torrance and Gavin Donnelly, wishes to thank all the loyal sponsors of Celtfest (many of whom have been with the festival for more than twenty years), the volunteers who have diligently and tirelessly worked behind the scenes over the past years as well as on the weekend itself, and the wonderful guests who come out, despite rain and threats of thunder and lightning, to enjoy the fabulous line-up of performers.

The Annual General Meeting on October 5 is a great opportunity for organizers to thank the public and to look forward to the next year. Celtfest simply cannot continue without the team effort of many volunteers. This year, a number of the Organizing Committee are stepping down to pursue other interests, so the recruitment of people willing to help plan and execute the 2017 festival is crucial to the survival of this much-loved event. All are welcome to come to the AGM to see what goes into the planning of this hugely successful annual festival, and to offer your assistance as able! If you love Celtfest and want to see it continue, please come out on October 5, or call Gavin Donnelly at 229-0692 for information or to volunteer.

# Hungry Helpful Zombies Return to Almonte

Bring the whole family to the Almonte Arena on October 29, and come join in the fun at the second annual Zombie Walk for Hunger. Registration takes place from 10-10:45AM, and the 2km walk starts at 11AM.

This walk will help both people and animals! Participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food item, which will be donated to the Lanark County Food Bank. The \$10 registration fee will be split between the Soi Dog Foundation and Country Cat Sanctuary — two non-funded animal rescues. Anyone who has collected pledges of \$50 or more will have their registration fee waived.

As an added incentive, the first one hundred to register on walk day will receive one of the amazing keepsake coins kindly donated by Sean Isaacs of Alliance Coin and Banknote. Sean has not only agreed to be the official banker of this year's Zombie Walk, but he will also be the Grand Marshall and lead the Little Zombie Parade. There will be a prize awarded to the person who collects the most in pledges, special prizes for the best male, female, and child zombie, and one for the best zombie family (chosen by other participants), plus several other door prizes. Get busy making the most amazing zombie costume for this great event! And if you don't want to dress up, why not come out and walk with some



Even the undead want to keep up on the local arts and entertainment scene... The second annual Zombie Walk for Hunger returns to the Almonte Arena on October 29

new zombie friends? Feel free to stop by with food donations on the day of the walk. All are welcome — the more undead the merrier!

If you wish to collect pledges, please email <hgadbois@sympatico.ca> and you will be sent a pledge sheet and registration form. Find Almonte Zombie Walk on Facebook to see more from last year's walk and get details about this year's event.

Participants under the age of twelve must be accompanied by an adult, and all entries must sign the legal waiver. Anyone under eighteen must have a parent/guardian's signature on the waiver.



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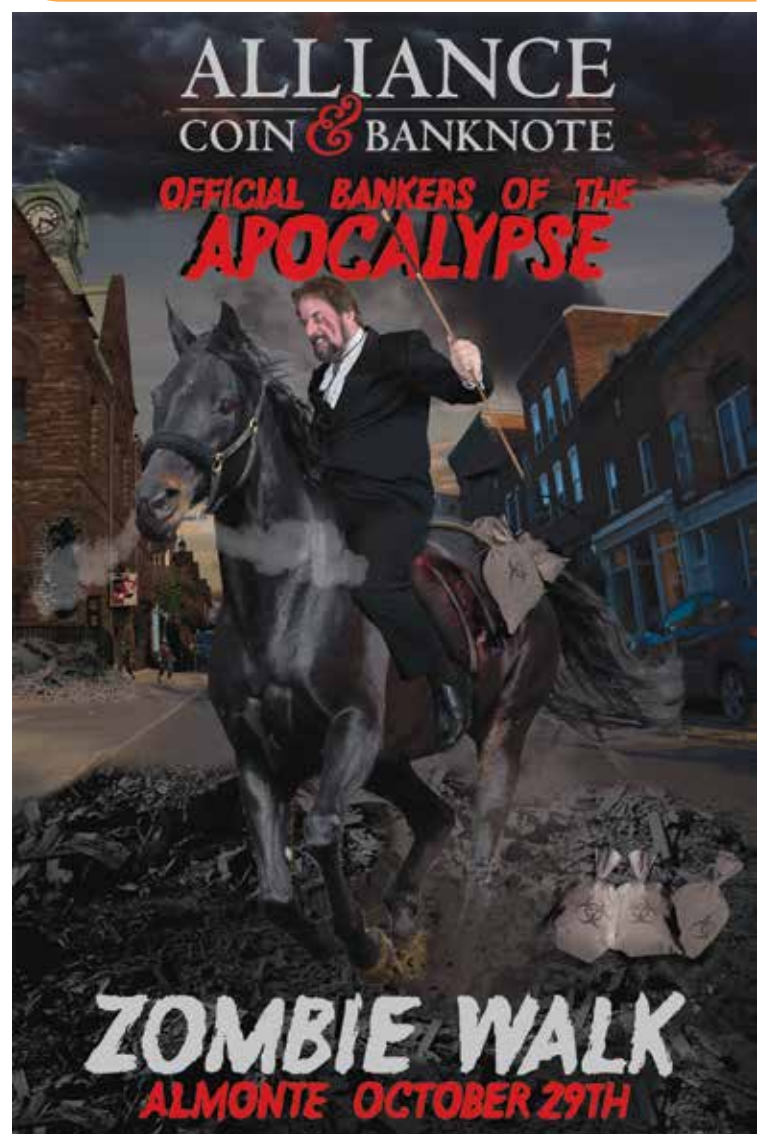
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# October Pub Listings

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 Oct 8 Lynn Miles, 8-11PM, \$10  
 Oct 9 Brunch w/music, 10AM-2PM  
 Oct 15 Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo, 8PM-12AM, \$10  
 Oct 21 Kitchen Party w/the People Collective, 8-11PM  
 Oct 22 The Telegrams, 8-11PM, \$10  
 Oct 29 Halloween Party w/Bahou, Brat & the Commander, 8-11PM

**The Cove** (Westport, 273-3636): Wed  
 Shawn McCullough 7-10PM  
 Oct 2 Norwood & McCullough, 1-4PM  
 Oct 6 Jazz w/Spencer Evans Trio, 9-11PM  
 Oct 7 Rob Lutes, 7-10PM, \$10  
 Oct 8 Turpin's Trail, 6-10PM, \$10  
 Oct 14 Logan Brown, 6-9PM  
 Oct 15 Ferguson & Piticco, 7-11PM, \$50 buffet/show  
 Oct 22, 29 Head over Heels, 6-9PM  
 Oct 28 McKechnie & Mullin, 6-9PM

**Golden Arrow Pub** (Perth, 267-4500): 9PM, Wed Karaoke, Thurs Open Mic  
 Sep 30 Riq Turner  
 Oct 1 Dueling Band Joes  
 Oct 7 Riley White  
 Oct 8, 15 George Reynolds  
 Oct 14 Ted Lalonde  
 Oct 21 Derringers  
 Oct 22 Logan Brown  
 Oct 28 Halloween w/Brea Lawrenson  
 Oct 29 Halloween w/Jimmy Tri-Tone

**The Swan at Carp** (Carp, 839-7926):  
 Oct 14, 28 Steve Barrette Trio, jazz, 7-10PM

**The Royal Oak** (Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, 2-5PM  
 Oct 2, 16, 30 Magnolia Rhythm Kings  
 Oct 9, 23 APEX Jazz Band

**The Barley Mow** (Almonte, 256-5669): Thurs 8-11PM Jimmy Tri-Tone Band (Oct 27 Open Mic)

**Naismith Pub** (Almonte, 256-6336): Wed  
 Open Celtic Jam, 7:30-10PM

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

**Ashton Pub** (Ashton, 257-4423): Sundays  
 Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, 2-5PM

**O'Reilly's Ale House** (Perth, 267-7994):  
 Tues Brock Zeman & Blair Hogan 8:30PM;  
 Wed Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour 8PM,  
 Fri Live music 9PM  
 Oct 14 Tom Watson  
 Oct 21 Stephen Fisher  
 Oct 28 River City Junction

**Alice's Village Café** (Carp, 470-2233):  
 Open Mic Thurs, 7:30PM

**John St. Pub** (Arnprior, 623-8149): 9:40PM  
 Sep 30 Karaoke, 9PM, \$5  
 Oct 1 Razor, Cauldron, Dark Ministry, \$37  
 Oct 7 The Jimmy Tri-Tone Band, \$5  
 Oct 8 Skyley Radmore, \$5  
 Oct 9 80s-90s Dance Party, 9PM, \$5  
 Oct 14 The Zimmer Men, \$5  
 Oct 15 Country Night: Switchgear, \$6  
 Oct 22 Side Pipe, \$5  
 Oct 28 Halloween Dance Party, \$5  
 Oct 29 Diamonds/Great Panic, \$15

**Generations Inn** (CP, 253-5253):  
 Oct 23 NightCrawlers blues, 6-9PM

**The Waterfront Gastropub** (CP, 257-5755): Sun Blues w/ Redneck Limousine 3-6PM  
 Oct 7 Mississippi Blues Society Jam, 8:30PM

**Queens Hotel** (Carleton Place, 257-7639):  
 Oct 6 Jazz at the Queens, 6-9PM

**M3 Eatery** (Arnprior, 791-0992): 7:30PM,  
 Oct 21 DanahKae, \$5

**Slackoni's** (CP, 492-1004): 6:30PM  
 Oct 16 Jazz at Slackoni's

**Fall River Restaurant** (Maberly, 268-2197): Oct 1, 8 Classical guitar, 6:30PM

**Festival of Small Halls.** Oct 1, 7:30PM  
 Downey & Byrne, Pakenham, \$27; Oct 2, 3PM, Devin Cuddy Band, ABC Hall, \$22

# SchoolBOX Turns Ten!

## Celebrate at Latin Fiesta on November 12

We often hear stories of individual heroes who take on the world and effect change. Of course each of our actions do make a difference, but "individual heroes" is an oxymoron in my mind. It is truly the strength of community that transforms the world. I would like to invite the readers of the Humm to join us at SchoolBOX's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Almonte Civitan Hall on November 12, to celebrate the strength of our community that has allowed SchoolBOX to reach this special milestone.

SchoolBOX began in 2006 when our founder Tom Affleck spontaneously gave two notebooks and pencils to two little girls in Nicaragua. Today, we provide tens of thousands of children the opportunity to go to school in Nicaragua. We have built 80 classrooms, 49 washrooms, and 38 mini-libraries in some of the most impoverished communities in the world, and have supplied 476,631 notebooks to children whose parents are often faced with the decision of whether to put food on the table, or to equip the children with the tools they need to attend class.

At our Latin Fiesta we will absolutely celebrate Tom Affleck as a local hero for founding SchoolBOX exactly a decade ago this fall. However, the nuance to the story is that, while Tom did have the tremendous



Over the past decade, numerous volunteers from this area have made the trek to Nicaragua with SchoolBOX to help deliver supplies (above) and build schools (like the one pictured at left). Executive Director Sarah Kerr (below) invites everyone to the organization's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday!

supported our mission whenever we asked for advice, time and talent, and through regular donations. Their generosity astounds us.

### The "Almonte School"

In recognition of the huge and caring local heart that beats for SchoolBOX, this year we named the Bordo Los Martinez School the "Almonte School". Located in the extremely remote hills of northwest Nicaragua, there was not a single parent or community member who didn't stand up to pitch in to build the school. Their passion reminded us of our own amazing "friendly town". The "Almonte School" was built in honour of Mike and Millie Maloney and Katie and Stephen Cotnam, two couples who have dedicated their hearts and their time for many years to the dream of "making education possible" through SchoolBOX.

So with many thanks, we invite all past, present and future members of the SchoolBOX family to join us on November 12 at the Almonte Civitan Club, for our 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Latin Fiesta! It will be an inspiring evening filled with spicy Latin rock tunes from the band Azucar Jam, a silent and live auction with amazing items donated by our local champions, and of course a birthday cake to help us end the night on a sweet note. Tickets to the party are available for purchase at Baker Bob's or Equator Coffee Roasters in Almonte and in Westboro, as well as online at <schoolbox.ca/fiesta>.

Once again, thank you to everyone who pitched in over the past ten years to make our work light and our hearts full.

With love and "muchas gracias",  
 — Sarah Kerr, Executive Director of SchoolBOX Inc.



courage and perseverance to start SchoolBOX, he was able to take such a huge leap of faith because he had an entire community behind him. Because of the amazing local support he received from his hometown, SchoolBOX now works with 96 communities in Nicaragua and has recently started a project in our first indigenous community in Canada!

It truly does "take a village" to help realize a dream. Villagers like Jeanette Affleck, a retired teacher who believed in her son's ambition to give the gift of education to children. She helped found SchoolBOX, and has been to Nicaragua every year since. Then there are Ronald Chavarria and Jazmin Lopez, SchoolBOX's Nicaraguan Director and Program Manager, who struggled themselves with poverty and yet hosted Tom in their humble home during SchoolBOX's infancy. They have since hosted nearly 600 of our volunteers from around the world, and are daily role models for children in our partner schools.

We have felt the support of amazing local women like Ann Bird, who got us registered as a charity, and her daughter Michelle Kay, who ran our finances and recently acted as our Executive Director while I took leave to care for my newborn daughter Hannah.

We also feel tremendous gratitude for business leaders like Craig Hall (one of our first volunteers to Nicaragua) and Amber Hall (now Chair of our Board of Directors) from Equator Coffee Roasters. They have raised over \$100,000 for SchoolBOX, while following their heartfelt vision of making their coffee business a thriving social enterprise.

So many local youth, families, teachers, builders and retirees have come down to champion SchoolBOX on the ground in Nicaragua. Dozens of other artists, craftspeople and entrepreneurs have joyfully



# Lots to Fall For in Perth This Month

For most of us, October marks a time when we give a little extra thanks for all the blessings in our lives — for our health, our family and friends and loved ones, and for our community.

What better time for this update: **indie women productions'** August production of *Bingo Ladies* at the Studio Theatre raised \$12,000 for Jillian O'Connor and her family. Joan Frommer, co-founder of the production company, says she is thankful for the generos-

by John Pigeau

ity of the community of Perth and all the help they received in getting the word out about this benefit show to help Jillian and her family.

I would like to add to that: thank you, Joan, and all the wonderful folks at indie women productions who helped make this possible.

If you would like to read more about the remarkable Jillian O'Connor and her story, please visit <gofundme.com/welovejillian>. There, if you wish, you can also make a donation to the O'Connor family.

October is a fine month, too, to give thanks for the vibrant arts community in Perth. The best way to do that, I think, is to attend a show — and this month, there are many from which to choose.

Jazz enthusiasts will want to get out to the Studio Theatre on October 7 to hear the wondrous sounds of **The Peter Brown Quintet**. The quintet, comprised of some of Ottawa's most established jazz players, plays classic jazz and will be joined on this night by virtuoso violinist John Richard. Fronted by pianist/singer Peter Brown, these gentlemen are richly talented. Brown has toured with blues legend Dutch Mason and for 17 years was the keyboardist for Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo. Drummer Glenn Robb, trumpet soloist Don Paterson (the finest in Ottawa, some say), and multi-instrumentalist, arranger and composer Dave Arthur round out the band.

Peter Brown adds: "I'm looking forward to playing our best tunes in the great acoustics the Studio Theatre offers. We have an enthusiastic crowd that comes to dine and see us play every month in Carleton Place, but it's different playing a 'soft-seater' like this where everyone's attention is completely focussed on the music." Get your tickets for \$17 at Tickets Please,

which, by the way, has moved to the Visitor's Centre at Matheson House Museum at 11 Gore Street East. You can call buy tickets by phone (485-6434) or online at <ticketsplease.ca>. Show time is 7:30PM.

Every year, the **Perth Autumn Studio Tour** kind of sneaks up on me. Maybe it sneaks up on you too. Well, it's that wonderful time again — when you can tour the gorgeous countryside in and around Perth, stop in at a number of area studios, and discover all the extraordinary contemporary fine arts and crafts they have to offer. Some of Eastern Ontario's finest artisans are featured on this year's tour. For more information about them and which studios will be open to the public, please <visitperthstudiotour.com> or call Riverguild Fine Crafts at 267-5237. The Studio Tour runs from Saturday, October 8 to Monday, October 10, from 10AM to 5PM each day. Enjoy the beautiful foliage and the exceptional art!

Does the name **Steve Poltz** ring a bell with you? It might if you're Neil Young or Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak — they're both huge fans — and also if you saw Poltz at this summer's Stewart Park Festival, where he enthralled a very large crowd and earned a bunch of new followers. Poltz, an immensely talented singer-songwriter, is playing the Studio Theatre on October 25 at 7:30PM with special guest Graven. I might be guilty of using the phrase "get your tickets early" a little too often, but in this case, it's warranted. This show was originally planned for a smaller venue but almost immediately sold out.

Rightfully so — Poltz, born in Halifax and raised in California, is a masterful storyteller in studio and on stage, often breaking out mid-tune into hilarious anecdotes and then settling back into some truly beautiful and poignantly heartfelt songs. His concerts are always memorable — just ask his cult following. Poltz co-wrote Jewel's hit *You Were Meant For Me*, and in 2010 went back to Halifax to record his most recent album *Dreamhouse* with Joel Plaskett at Plaskett's Scotland Yard studio. Some critics considered the album one of the best of the year. Visit <poltz.com> to get a taste of his talent and brilliant sense of humour. Tickets for the show are \$30 and available at Tickets Please.

Of course, October in Perth also means there will be some spooky stuff goin' down to celebrate Halloween. On October 29, you can kick off the scariness at the Studio Theatre when the Rideau Lakes Orchestra presents **A Dark and Stormy Night**, an evening of



The Rideau Lakes Orchestra (above) presents **A Dark and Stormy Night** at the Studio Theatre on October 29

dark and spooky songs from film and stage. Alex Guerin will conduct the orchestra with hair-raising selections from *Psycho*, *Lord of the Rings*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *Dance of the Knights*, and more. Also, Brent McLaren will be narrating *Peter and the Wolf*, Prokofiev's timeless classic. Go with someone you can hold on to! The show starts at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students, at Tickets Please.

There's also something freaky happening at the Full Circle Theatre on October 30. It's called **The Paranormal Show: Wunderkammer**. By all accounts, the show is a unique, mysterious, frightening, and funny experience featuring an assortment of supernatural experiments and a bizarre twist on sideshow feats that will leave you spellbound and mystified. You can "witness the Wunderkammer" at 8PM. Tickets are \$28 in advance, \$33 at the door, and available at Tickets Please.

On Halloween, you can bring the kids-in-costumes on down to the Crystal Palace in Perth where the Civitan Club will be hosting a ghostly **All Hallows' Eve** tour. There will be activities for kids, both young and old(er), and treats too I'm guessing. Karen Fox has the details. Call her up at 267-3311. And get spooked!



**CHRISTMAS IN THE**  
**VALLEY**  
**ARTISAN**  
**SHOW**

**NOVEMBER 5 & 6**  
**10-4PM**

**ALMONTE ARENA**  
**182 BRIDGE STREET**  
**UPPER HALL**



Supporting local artisans, crafters, bakers, L.A.W.S. & community projects

**VALLEYARTISANSHOW.BLOGSPOT.COM**

Piano Chameleons

with special guest

Oliver Jones



Saturday October 15, 2016 7:30PM

Almonte Old Town Hall

ALMONTE IN CONCERT

presents

Jazzical Keys an evening of jazz improvisation from the classical repertoire

TICKETS

Online at [almonteinconcert.com](http://almonteinconcert.com) and at Mill Street Books, 52 Mill St. Almonte

Adult \$30 - Student \$15 - Series tickets still available online





# Claiming Column

One-Act Plays, Perth, Nov 3-6  
**Beer, Cheese & Chocolate-Tasting**, MERA, Nov 4  
**Go Wild Gala**, Temple's, Nov 5  
**Bollywood on the Mississippi**, CP, Nov. 5  
**Mick Armitage Band/Raccoons on Ice**, Carp, Nov 5  
**Child Haven Fundraiser**, CP, Nov 5  
**Cheerfully Made Holiday Market**, Almonte, Nov 5-6  
**Christmas in the Valley**, Almonte, Nov 5-6  
**SchoolBox Latin Fiesta**, Almonte, Nov 12  
**Karen Lovely Band**, Westport, Nov 18  
**Allison Lupton**, MERA, Nov 20  
**Selina Martin**, Almonte, Nov 20  
**Mudds Mary Poppins**, CP, Nov 25-Dec 3  
**MERA Christmas**, McD Crnrs, Nov 26  
**Red Trillium Studio Tour**, W. Carleton, Nov 26-27  
**Itty Bitty Teenie Tiny Art Show & Sale**, CP, Nov 26-27  
**Sleeping Beauty**[Panto], SF, Dec 2-11  
**The Christmas Tree/The Song of Mary**, Perth, Dec 2-11  
**Nick of Time Craft Show**, Perth, Dec 3  
**Murder by the Book**, Perth, Dec 8-18  
**The five Woodwind Quintet**, Pakenham, Dec 11  
**24th Street Wailers**, Westport, Jan 20  
**Auditions: The Tin Woman**, Perth, Jan 23  
**Scotland Road**, Perth, Feb 2-12  
**Hogtown Allstars**, Westport, Feb 17  
**7 Keys to Baldpate**, Perth, Feb 17-26

## Visual Arts

**Quilt Tour**, Oct 1, 10AM-3PM. Register at Westport Museum. Westport Village Churches. \$5  
**Merrickville Artists' Guild Studio Tour**, Oct 1-2, 10AM-6PM. mag-artists.ca  
**Quilt Show**, Oct 1, 10AM-3PM. Lunch \$6, 11-1:30. Zion-Memorial Church, CP. \$5  
**Richard Gill Fall Show**, Oct 1, 2-8PM. Talks at 3 & 7PM. Show til Oct 10, 11-5. Bittersweet Gallery, Burnstown. 432-5254  
**Paint Nite**, Tuesdays, 7PM. Waterfront Gastropub, CP. 257-5755. \$45  
**Meet the Artists: Without Exception**, Oct 6, 5:30-7:30PM. Mill of Kintail, Almonte. facebook.com/exceptionalart  
**Expressions of Art**, Oct 7 (7-9PM), 8 (8-4), 9 (10-4). WCAS art show/sale. Carp Fairgrounds. westcarletonartsociety.ca  
**Barb Sohn Art Open Studio**, Oct 8-10, 10AM-5PM. 10% to Ottawa Riverkeeper. 198 Clifford Cr., Perth. 857-8171, barbsohnart.ca  
**Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour**, Oct 8-10, 10AM-5PM. Almonte-Clayton. 256-3647, crownandpumpkin.com. Free  
**Fall Colours Studio Tour**, Oct 8-10, 10AM-5PM. Westport & area. westportstudiotour.com  
**Meet the Artist: Penny Rugs**, Oct 8, 2-4PM. Eco-artisan Danielle Potvin. Textile Museum, Almonte. 256-3754, mvmtm.ca  
**Perth Autumn Studio Tour**, Oct 8-10, 10AM-5PM. Perth & area. 267-5237, perthstudiotour.com. Free  
**Calabogie Artfest**, Oct 15-16, 10AM-4PM. Art & tea room. Calabogie Community Centre. calabogiearts.wordpress.com  
**Grand Opening/Meet the Artist**, Oct 16, 2-5PM. Painter Mary Wong. Sivarulrasa Gallery, 34 Mill St., Almonte. 293-2492, sivarulrasa.com  
**Meet the Artists**, Oct 16, 1-3PM. Marney McDiarmid, Jacob Rolfe. General Fine Craft, Almonte. 461-3463, generalfinecraft.com  
**4A Meeting**, Oct 17, 7:30PM. Almonte Library, 256-5863, 4a-artists.ca

| Monday   | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|--|---------|-----------|----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Bittersweet Gallery</b> presents Richard Gill's annual show [Oct 1-10] &lt;burnstown.ca/bittersweet&gt;</li> <li><b>CP &amp; Beckwith Heritage Museum</b> presents photographer/painter Annie E. Duff [to Oct 8] &lt;cpbheritagemuseum.com&gt;</li> <li><b>Fairview Manor Lobby</b> presents Blair T. Paul's <i>Vignettes of Nature</i> [to Oct 4], and <i>Wanderings</i>, mixed media works by Ann Jezewski [from Oct 4]</li> <li><b>Fall River Restaurant</b> presents Bruce Rabies' photography [to Oct 8] &lt;fallriverrestaurant.ca&gt;</li> <li><b>General Fine Craft, Art &amp; Design</b> features Marney McDiarmid's hand-built ceramics &amp; Jacob Rolfe's silkscreen prints [from Oct 4] &lt;generalfinecraft.com&gt;</li> <li><b>Heritage House Museum</b> presents Kaleidoscope of Victorian Coloured Glass &lt;smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse&gt;</li> <li><b>Mill of Kintail</b> presents Without Exception: Exceptional Art from Beautiful Minds [to Oct 10]</li> <li><b>Mississippi Valley Textile Museum</b> presents Danielle Potvin's penny rugs [from Oct 4] &lt;mvmtm.ca&gt;</li> <li>The <b>Mississippi Mills Chambers Gallery</b> presents Paul Saindon's acrylics/urbanscapes</li> <li>The <b>Almonte Library Corridor Gallery</b> presents Karen Goetzinger's fibre/acrylic art</li> <li><b>Sivarulrasa Studio &amp; Gallery</b> presents Deborah Arnold's sculptures [to Oct 9] &amp; Mary Wong's paintings [from Oct 16] &lt;sivarulrasa.com&gt;</li> </ul> |         |           |          |

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</li> <li><b>Fall Splendour Pancake Lunch</b>, Pakenham</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Smiths Falls</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4-Hand Euchre</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>4-Hand Euchre</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Brock Zeman &amp; Blair Hogan</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li><b>Fall Splendour Pancake Lunch</b>, Pakenham</li> <li><b>Green Drinks</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Paint Nite</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Smiths Falls</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Celtfest AGM</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>CP Hort: Terrariums</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Fall Splendour Pancake Lunch</b>, Pakenham</li> <li><b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li><b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub</li> <li><b>Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Jazz at the Queens</b>, Queens Hotel</li> <li><b>Jazz w/Spencer Evans</b>, The Cove</li> <li><b>Jimmy Tri-Tone Band</b>, Barley Mow</li> <li><b>Karaoke</b>, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li><b>Mahjong</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Meet the Artists: Without Exception</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Bali &amp; Coral Reef</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Musicians' Circle</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Open Mic</b>, Alice's Village Cafe</li> <li><b>Open Mic</b>, Golden Arrow</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b></li> <li><b>Barb Sohn Art Open Studio</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</li> <li><b>Crown &amp; Pumpkin Studio Tour</b></li> <li><b>Fall Colours Studio Tour</b>, Westport</li> <li><b>Fluid Open House</b>, Clayton</li> <li><b>Perth Autumn Studio Tour</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Smiths Falls</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4-Hand Euchre</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>4-Hand Euchre</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Adult Bereavement Group</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Brock Zeman &amp; Blair Hogan</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li><b>Paint Nite</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Perth Hort: Pollinators</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li><b>Women's Business Group of CP Mtg</b>, CP</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li><b>NLHS Speaker: Bruce Toshack</b>, Appleton</li> <li><b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub</li> <li><b>Rams</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove</li> <li><b>Talk: Residential School Memoir</b>, Carleton Place</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Jimmy Tri-Tone Band</b>, Barley Mow</li> <li><b>Karaoke</b>, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li><b>Mahjong</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Merrickville's Jazz Festival</b>, Merrickville</li> <li><b>Musicians' Circle</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Open Mic</b>, Alice's Village Cafe</li> <li><b>Open Mic</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li><b>Rams</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li><b>Toastmasters</b>, CP</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4A Mtg</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Almonte Quilters' Guild</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Beckwith Trivia Night</b>, Ashton</li> <li><b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li><b>Target Earth</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Willow Workshop</b>, McDonalds Corners</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4-Hand Euchre</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>4-Hand Euchre</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Brock Zeman &amp; Blair Hogan</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li><b>Paint Nite</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Smiths Falls</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li><b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub</li> <li><b>Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Jimmy Tri-Tone Band</b>, Barley Mow</li> <li><b>Karaoke</b>, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li><b>Mahjong</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Musicians' Circle</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>MVFN: Nature Talk</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Open Mic</b>, Alice's Village Cafe</li> <li><b>Open Mic</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li><b>Out of Sight... Out of Murder</b>, SF</li> <li><b>Perth Hist Soc: Perth</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Venus in Fur</b>, Perth</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Almonte Hort Soc. Mtg</b></li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, SF</li> <li><b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</li> <li><b>Patrick's Family History Mtg</b>, Amprior</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, SF</li> <li><b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</li> <li><b>Halloween at the Palace</b>, Perth</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4-Hand Euchre</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>4-Hand Euchre</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Adult Bereavement Group</b>, SF</li> <li><b>Brock Zeman &amp; Blair Hogan</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li><b>Lanark County Quilters Guild</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Paint Nite</b>, Carleton Place</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li><b>Steve Poltz</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Westport Writers Group</b>, Westport</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Acoustic Stage w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</li> <li><b>Duplicate Bridge Club</b>, Almonte</li> <li><b>Karaoke</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li><b>Man Who Knew Infinity</b>, Perth</li> <li><b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub</li> <li><b>Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Intention Setting Meditation</b>, CP</li> <li><b>Open Mic</b>, Barley Mow</li> <li><b>Karaoke</b>, Valley Food &amp; Drink Co.</li> <li><b>Mahjong</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Man Who Knew Infinity</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li><b>Musicians' Circle</b>, Bolingbroke</li> <li><b>Open Mic</b>, Alice's Village Cafe</li> <li><b>Open Mic</b>, Golden Arrow</li> <li><b>Historical Soc. Talk</b>, Smiths Falls</li> <li><b>St. James Cemetery Walk</b>, CP</li> <li><b>Toastmasters</b>, CP</li> <li><b>Valley Voices Halloween Mini-Concert</b>, Almonte</li> </ul> |

**Almonte Quilters' Guild**, Oct 17, 7-9PM. Almonte Civitan Hall. 257-8444  
**Willow Workshop**, Oct 17. w/Lena Rasmussen. meraschoolhouse.org. \$65+  
**Lushes with Brushes**, Oct 20, 7-9PM. Paint Night with Jenine McCann. 19+ event. Heritage House Museum, SF. Register at 283-6311, heritagehouse@smithsfalls.ca. \$40  
**Lanark County Quilters Guild**, Oct 25, 7PM. Trunk show. Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds. \$3 guests

## Theatre

**Lanark Laughs**, Sep 30, Oct 28, 8-10PM. Stand-up comedy. Waterfront Gastropub, CP. facebook.com/LanarkLaughs  
**Over The River And Through The Woods**, Sep 30, Oct 1 at 7:30PM; Oct 2 at 2PM. Studio Theatre, Perth. <studiotheatreperth.com>. \$24/\$10

Film Night International presents **Rams** Oct 12, 2 & 7PM (Full Circle, Perth); Oct 13, 7PM (Station Theatre, SF). **Man Who Knew Infinity** Oct 26, 2 & 7PM (Full Circle, Perth); Oct 27, 7PM (Station Theatre, SF). filmnightinternational.blogspot.ca. \$10  
**Out of Sight... Out of Murder**, Oct 14-15, 20-22, 7:30PM; Oct 16, 23 2PM. Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. 283-0300. \$20/\$10  
**Venus in Fur**, Oct 14-15, 20-22, 8PM; Oct 16, 23, 2PM. Strong lang., sexual content. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 267-1884. \$22/\$10  
**King Lear**, Oct 21-22, 28-29 7:30PM; Oct 23 2PM. Mississippi Mudds Youth. Tix: Hallmark. CP Town Hall. 250-2803. \$10  
**LIPS Come-in-Costume Slam**, Oct 21, 7PM. Listen or participate. Code's Mill, Perth. lanarklips@hotmail.com. \$5  
**Captain Fantastic**, Oct 28, 29, 7PM. Viggo Mortensen film. 283-0300, smithsfallstheatre.com. \$10

**The Paranormal Show: Wunderkammer**, Oct 30, 8PM. Full Circle Theatre, Perth. 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca. \$33; \$28 adv

## Literature

**Book Launch: Kathy Sadler**, Oct 16, 3-5PM, MADD fundraiser. Mill Street Books, Almonte. 256-9090, millstreetbooks.com  
**Westport Writers Group**, Oct 25, 6:30PM. Westport Library. 273-7781

## Local Food

**Fall Splendour Pancake Lunch**, Sep 27-30, Oct 3-5, 10AM-3PM. Live music 11-2. Fultons, Pakenham. 256-3867, fultons.ca  
**Fluid Coffee Open House**, Oct 8-10, 10AM-5PM. Part of C&P Studio Tour. 202 Floating Bridge Rd., Clayton. fluidcoffee.ca

## Youth

**Fire Hall Open House**, Oct 8, 10AM-2PM. Fire truck displays, kids activities, BBQ. Almonte Fire Station. Free  
**Beckwith Community Halloween Party**, Oct 28, 6-8PM. Haunted House, activities. Beckwith Park. 257-1539, By donation  
**Halloween at the Palace**, Oct 31, 7-9PM. Activities for kids of all ages. Crystal Palace, Perth. 267-3311

## Music

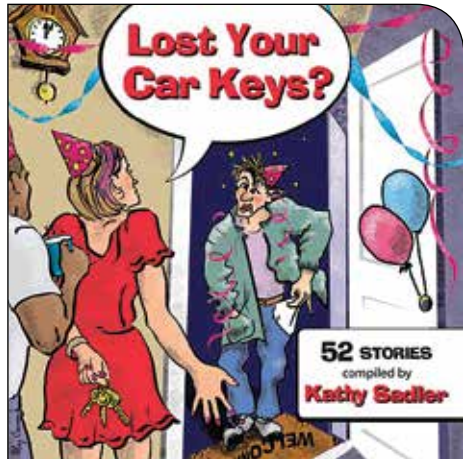
**CP Community Band**, Oct 1, 7:30PM. Movie & Broadway hits. CP Town Hall. \$10  
**Memorial Hymn Sing**, Oct 2, 10:30AM. WV/ local musicians & a light lunch. St George's Church, Clayton. 256-1029



# New Fall Fare at Mill Street Books

Fall is a great time for curling up with a good book, and the folks at Mill Street Books in Almonte would like to help you do just that! Amongst the cornucopia of new releases, they are shining the spotlight on some local authors.

keys in the ignition; however, the rest of us want to put *our* car keys in the ignition but often cannot find them — and some pretty funny stories ensue, although they may not seem not funny at the time.” All the stories, as well as



Kathy Sadler's launch on October 16 will raise money and awareness for MADD Canada

## Lost Your Car Keys?

On Sunday, October 16, Kathy Sadler will be launching a funny book with a very personal back-story, which will be raising money and awareness for a great cause. On August 22, 1999, Kathy's daughter Heather was killed just outside of Almonte on the highway to Carleton Place, in a hit-and-run alcohol-related crash, when she was just 21 years old. Kathy has been actively involved with MADD Canada since that date, and just recently she published a book in memory of her daughter called *Lost Your Car Keys?*

Kathy explains that: “the purpose of the book is to remind people that we do not want impaired drivers putting their car

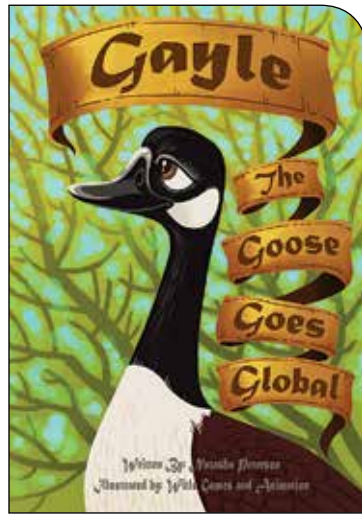
some amazing artwork (some by professionals and some by children), have been donated in order that proceeds from the sale of the book can go to MADD Canada and the Canadian Diabetes Association. By looking at the lighter side of the situation, Kathy hopes that: “the irony and amusement that readers will derive from these pages might resonate with the more serious message.”

Kathy will be launching her book at Mill Street Books in Almonte on Sunday, October 16 from 3 to 5PM, which is the day before what would have been Heather's 37<sup>th</sup> birthday. Kathy explains: “I am excited to be doing this because our family is from the area, and although I am currently living in Ottawa, all my six children went to schools locally and we were a well-known family.” Kathy can be reached at <maddmomcares@gmail.com>.

## Gayle the Goose

Carleton Place resident Natasha Peterson is excited to announce that her debut book *Gayle the Goose Goes Global* is already a Canada Book Award Winner! *Gayle* is a regular Canada Goose, except for one thing — she is directionally challenged. When her

frustrated flock flies away and leaves her behind at migration time, *Gayle* is forced to either sit back and wait for their return, or take matters into her own wings by migrating on her own. She takes on the challenge of a lifetime, and migrates alone. While on her journey, *Gayle* visits many of Canada's greatest landmarks and learns that she can both survive and thrive on her own. When she returns to share her adventures with the rest of her flock, the geese begin to wonder if her quirkiness may be just what the flock was missing. Perhaps a change from the ordinary routine



The debut book by Carleton Place resident Natasha Peterson has won a Canada Book Award!

would do them all a little good. The rhyming text, beautiful illustration, and strong characters will bring readers into *Gayle's* story.

The book is only \$10 and is for sale at Mill Street Books in Almonte, as well as at The Good Food Company, Apple Cheeks,

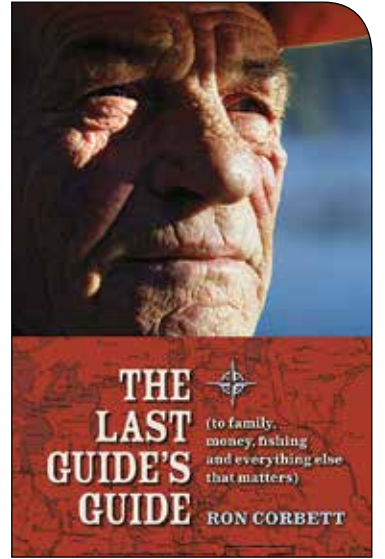
The Owl Café and Under Pressure Coffee House in Carleton Place. For more information, you can check out the author's website at <polarbearpress.com>.

## The Last Guide's Guide

Why you should fish. Twelve things you'd be crazy not to have in your home. How to raise good kids and spot bad ones. These are just some of the lessons contained in Ron Corbett's *The Last Guide's Guide (to family, fishing, money and everything else that matters)*, the sequel to Canadian bestseller *The Last Guide*.

The Toronto Star called *The Last Guide* — which told the story of Frank Kuaick, the last full-time fishing guide in Algonquin Park — “a homage to a vanishing way of life.” Acclaimed author Roy MacGregor said it would “feed the soul forever.”

Now Frank is back with a guidebook to everything he has learned in seventy years of fishing. Written over four years, *The Last Guide's Guide* is a rollicking return to Algonquin Park with Leacock-like tales of politics, heat waves, bass fishing, the Ambassador of Rock Lake, and Frank's eightieth birthday party at Arowhon Pines Resort.



Ron Corbett's launch will take place on November 13

This is the guidebook the world has been waiting for. A how-to manual for fishing, making money, cooking a shore lunch, falling in love, and “everything else that matters. Not the stupid stuff.”

Ron Corbett will be launching *The Last Guide's Guide* at Mill Street Books on November 13 from 1 to 3PM, and you can find more details at <ottawapressandpublishing.com>.

Mill Street Books is located at 52 Mill St. in Almonte or <millstreetbooks.com> online.

Autumn Gold

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

**Art Journey Show & Sale**

Pottery - Carvings  
Paintings - Pencil Art  
Woodwork - Pyrography  
Fibre Art  
Photography - Jewelry

**November 5 & 6, 2016**  
10 am - 4 pm

**Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre**  
71 Cornelia St. W. - Upstairs in the Community Hall

**Artist Demonstrations**  
**Door Prizes**

artjourneysmithsfalls.com  
facebook.com/smithsfallartjourney

Accessible  
Free Parking  
Free Admission

**SMITHS FALLS**  
and District  
**ARTS & CULTURE**  
Council

**ALMONTE in PRAISE!**

Saturday  
October 29, 2016  
7:30PM

**Holy Name of Mary Parish**  
134 Bridge St.  
Almonte

Admission: Free  
(donations welcome)

**LATIN FIESTA**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
10 years  
SchoolBOX  
MAKING EDUCATION POSSIBLE

SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 12, 2016  
ALMONTE CIVITAN HALL  
500 Almonte St., Almonte  
7:00 p.m.

Adults . . . \$20 (advance)  
\$22 (at the door)  
Students . . . \$15  
Under 13 . . . free

Tickets available at:  
Equator Coffee Roaster's - Almonte  
Equator Coffee Roaster's - Westboro  
Baker Bob's - Almonte (cash only)  
on line at [schoolbox.ca/fiesta](http://schoolbox.ca/fiesta)  
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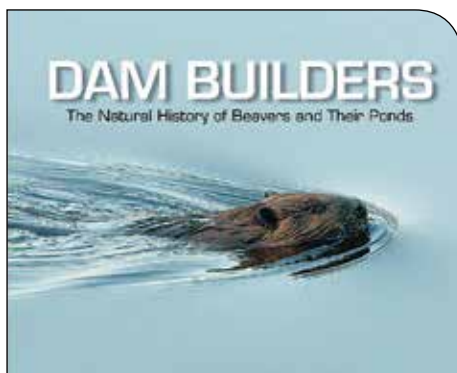
# MMLT Go Wild Gala with Michael Runtz

On Saturday, November 5, the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust (MMLT) is holding a Go Wild Gala. The annual fundraiser will be held this year at Temple's Sugar Bush in their beautiful rustic post and beam hall, a perfect setting for celebrating everything about the wild.

Guest speaker Michael Runtz will entertain and inform with a presentation on "The Bold, the Beautiful, and the Unusual: the Different Faces of Nature". All who know Michael will affirm that he is a most knowledgeable, engaging and funny speaker and will keep you riveted with a slideshow of outstanding photographs of his nature adventures. Michael has won numerous excellence in teaching awards at Carleton University, and has recently published his eleventh book, *Dam Builders: The Natural History of Beavers and Their Ponds*. His books will be available for purchase at the event.

A key feature of this annual gala is the Silent Auction — a great opportunity to pick up early gifts for Christmas. There will be a wide range of useful and interesting items, artwork and gift certificates, with an emphasis on services, ranging from weekends in the woods to landscaping services and guided walks. The hottest item this year is a 12' Delta kayak, hardly used and valued at \$1,500 new. Come along and place your bids — you never know what great bargains you'll walk away with.

While you meander among the tables of interesting items, you'll be offered a variety of delectable treats. The chefs at Temple's will provide an array of delicious appetizers,



The Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust "Go Wild Gala" will feature guest speaker Michael Runtz — educator, author, and entertaining spokesperson for the wild

and a table of delightful homemade dessert offerings will tempt you. A cash bar will be open all evening.

An added bonus this year is the Go Wild Raffle. MMLT is raffling off three vacation packages in the wild. For details about each prize, visit <mmlt.ca>. Tickets will be available at the Gala and the draw will take place at the end of the evening.

The Go Wild Gala begins at 6:30PM on November 5 and will wrap up around 9PM. Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at Gilligallou Bird in Almonte, The Granary in Carleton Place, Shadowfax in Perth, and the Pakenham General Store (cash or cheque only) or call 264-8856 to reserve tickets for pick-up at the door. Temple's Sugar Bush is located at 1700 Ferguson's Falls Rd and you can find directions at <mmlt.ca/events>.

## Bollywood on the Mississippi

Come get a taste of Southeast Asian culture on Saturday, November 5 at the Carleton Place Canoe Club. You won't want to miss this fun and entertaining event in support of **Child Haven International** <childhaven.ca>. CHI, a charitable organization founded in Ontario in 1985 by Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino, supports over one thousand destitute women and children across India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Tibet.

The evening will feature traditional Indian music, a Bollywood dance lesson, a silent auction of beautiful authentic items, and an amazing sales table of original handcrafted goods from India, Nepal, Tibet and Bangladesh. Get some of your holiday shopping done while learning about Child Haven International's children's homes.

Visit with friends while enjoying free samples of authentic Southeast Asian food and snacking on potluck appetizers and desserts. A cash bar will be available all evening.

Doors open at 7PM, when families with children are welcome to come and join in the festivities. Then from 9 to 11PM adults can try out some of their new Bollywood dance moves to live music, featuring the popular local band Judge a Book.

There's no admission charge! You can make a donation for Child Haven International at the door, or bring an appetizer or dessert to contribute to the potluck-style snacks. Be sure to invite your friends to this fun and fascinating event!

For more information, contact Jane at <janehamilton@live.ca>.



(left) Volunteers have fun introducing soccer to girls at a Child Haven International home

CHEERFULLYmade  
**HOLIDAY**  
Market

NOVEMBER 5 & 6, 2016 . 10am to 4pm  
Almonte Old Town Hall . 15 Bridge St  
\$2 admission . Kids under 16 free

Join us in Almonte for our 7th Annual Holiday Market! Formerly the Handmade Harvest Craft Show, this event showcases DIY talent from across the region. 100+ makers DIFFERENT VENDORS EACH DAY. Swag bags to first 50 shoppers BOTH DAYS.

CHEERFULLYmade  
www.cheerfullymade.com

35<sup>th</sup> Tour  
November 2016

**Red Trillium Studio Tour**

Saturday & Sunday  
November 26-27  
10AM-5PM

Visit the studios of  
West Carleton's Fine Artists  
and Artisans

www.redtrilliumst.com

# There's So Much Art in October..

## Richard Gill's Fall Show

Out here in the Ottawa Valley it's not often that masters like Chagall, Klimt and Vermeer keep company with Matisse, Picasso and O'Keeffe, but this month you will find them all under one roof in Burnstown. For his 44<sup>th</sup> annual show, artist Richard Gill has created a visual spectacle of over fifty sculptural works that portray master artists in scenes that include their paintings in miniature intricate detail. Gill's concept of a salon of these masters brings to life what he has deeply re-

by Miss Cellaneous

searched and imagined as the creative realm of artists of renown who transformed the face of modern art.

As Richard transforms his studio to salon, he invites everyone to mingle among the masters' intimate domain at Bittersweet Gallery in Burnstown. *A Salon of the Masters* opens on October 1 with Vernissage from 2 to 8PM. Richard will give a brief talk on the works at 3PM and again at 7PM. The show continues daily from 11AM to 5PM until October 10. For more information, visit <burnstown.ca/bittersweet>.



Expressions of Art takes place at the Carp Agricultural Hall over Thanksgiving Weekend

## Art Expressions in Carp

West Carleton Arts Society is holding the annual **Expressions of Art** show and sale on Thanksgiving weekend at the Carp Agricultural Hall: October 7 (7-9PM), 8 (8AM-4PM), 9 (10AM-4PM). Thirty-five selected local artists will display their inspiring and varied work. The Friday night vernissage will be opened by Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, Councillor Eli El-Chantiry, and Diefenbunker Artist-in-Residence for this year, Anna Frlan. There will be live music by Spencer Scharf. Entrance is free, as is parking. Find further details at <westcarletonartsociety.ca>.

## Almonte Potters Guild's Awesome Auction

The building that currently houses the Almonte Potters Guild is up for sale, and members have decided to create a fundraising auction to support the Guild in the event that they will need to find a different home should their current building become unavailable.

Bidding is now open, and it ends on the final day of the Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour — October 10 at 5PM. There are a number of ways to bid. You can stop by the studio at 95 Bridge Street in Almonte to see the pieces for yourself in the studio's window display, and then call the studio with your

bid at 256-5556 or email <saspraa@gmail.com>. You can also find the Almonte Potters Guild page on Facebook, and leave your bid as a comment beneath the photo of the piece(s) you are interested in. Works include everything from functional (and beautiful) mugs and serving dishes to decorative centrepieces and even a framed Celtic knot! You can also place your bid when you visit the Guild during the Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour — it will be open from 10AM to 5PM on October 8, 9 and 10.

## Calabogie Artfest

The annual Calabogie Artfest, which usually happens on the first weekend in October, is taking place on October 15 and 16 this year. It will still be held at the Calabogie Community Centre from 10AM to 4PM each day, and will feature a variety of media as well as a tearoom provided by the Valley Food & Drink Co.

One of this year's participating artists is Shirley Ann Cone, who created the portrait of the wolf pack pictured below. Shirley Ann writes: "Ever since I was a young child I have had a passion for drawing and for animals. At first I mainly drew with graphite, but about seventeen years ago I discovered that there were artists who worked with professional grade coloured pencils and I fell in love with working with them. I have taken numerous courses and self studies in order to improve my drawing and painting techniques. In my paintings I strive to capture the personality of the subjects so the viewer will get a feeling for them. I prefer my subjects to control the composition for the paintings and I tend to minimize their environment to keep the focus on the subject. I use my own reference photos for all my original artwork. This painting was created from photographs of a wolf pack at a zoo that had as natural an environment as possible for them. The way they interacted with each other was fascinating to observe."

For more information about Shirley and other participating artists, visit <calabogiearts.wordpress.com>.



Shirley Ann Cone is just one of many artists participating in this year's Calabogie Artfest, taking place on October 15 and 16

Look and feel 5-15 years younger before the holidays!



Dr. Michaela Cadeau,  
Doctor of Chiropractic

## Facial Rejuvenation Acupuncture

This safe and non-surgical procedure increases circulation and stimulates collagen production, rejuvenating facial tissue. This gives the skin more tightness and elasticity, and helps to reduce sagging or puffy skin and wrinkles. There is no risk involved with this procedure, no downtime from work, and no side effects.

A research study published in the International Journal of Clinical Acupuncture reported that, in a clinical trial of 300 people who received facial acupuncture, 90% saw marked results after one course of treatment.

Call by October 31 for your free consultation.

- Reduce Double Chin • Eliminate Puffy Eyes
- Tighten Pores • Eliminate Fine Lines
- Raise Drooping Eyelids • Reduce Frown Lines

Check out our website [www.handsonhealing.ca](http://www.handsonhealing.ca) for the Dr. Oz video on facial acupuncture

**Hands on Healing**  
125 Bridge Street, Almonte, 613-256-0222  
welcome@handsonhealing.ca



Almonte Celtfest

Annual General Meeting and Social

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5  
Almonte Old Town Hall | 7 to 9PM

Share your feedback!



What's the craic?

Volunteer or help us recruit!

Board positions are available!

# ... That it Spills into November!

## Penny Rugs at Textile Museum

Penny rugs emerged in the mid-nineteenth century when thrifty homemakers used wool scraps from old clothing to create decorative table toppers, seat covers and rugs. The wool was boiled in water and, when dry, the felted wool was cut using coins as templates — hence the name. These were then stitched onto a cloth backing and embellished with embroidery. A penny would often be sewn in for luck.

Come and discover these wonderful pieces of folk art in Danielle Potvin's exhibition "A Penny Rug", which runs from October 4 to December 10 at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. Meet the artist at the vernissage on October 8 from 2PM to 4PM.

Danielle will offer two one-day workshops at the Museum: on Saturday October 22 and on November 12. No previous experience is required. Students will use simple techniques to create wool appliques from felted, recycled wool that are then blanket-stitched with embroidery pearl cotton thread. As tradition demands, students will hide Canadian coins in their artwork.

Workshops will run from 9AM to 3:30PM with a maximum of six participants per session. Students will receive full kits for their creation. Cost is \$75, including the kit. More details can be found at <mvtm.ca>. For more information or to register, call the Museum at 256-3754. The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is located at 3 Rosamond St. E. in Almonte.

## A Cheerfully Made Holiday

Looking for a way to infuse your carefully chosen gifts with even more good cheer this holiday season? Why not attend the Cheerfully Made Holiday Market in Almonte, and let organizer Emily Arbour do the curating for you! All of the handmade goods (and goodies) at the two-day show are created and sold by area artisans who can help you find the perfect gift *and* tell you the story of how it came to be. And to ensure the biggest selection possible, there will be an entirely new line-up of crafters on the second day of the show. So go ahead and block off the weekend of November 5 and 6 — you'll want to reserve both days, now — for a visit to downtown Almonte.

Cheerfully Made takes place from 10AM to 4PM each day at the Almonte Old Town Hall, and admission is only a twoonie (parking and kids are free). Add in a saunter down Mill Street (which is chock-full of delightful shops and delicious eateries these days) and a visit to the Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show at the Almonte arena, and you've got yourself a perfect pre-holiday two-day-trip! You can stay in the loop by following Cheerfully Made Goods + Markets on Facebook or visiting <cheerfullymade.com>.

## Christmas in the Valley Art Show

Are you looking for gifts with originality, quality and attention to detail? Then forgo the impersonal big box stores and gift cards, and instead give something thoughtful and creative. Make your first shopping destination

the popular Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, where a juried selection over 25 talented artisans, crafters and bakers will be presenting their work in a relaxed, friendly and festive atmosphere on November 5 and 6.

The Valley Artisan Show strives to bring in new vendors, as well as old favourites, to give you a wide variety of handcrafted works: presents for the special people on your shopping list, great items to include in gift baskets, and even some special treats for yourself! Gifts include sun-catching stained and fused glass, leather bags and purses, rustic pottery in many forms, scented soaps and scrubs, maple products and gift baskets, folksy painted reclaimed ceramics and containers, local photography in cards and puzzles, canes and walking sticks created from tree branches, beeswax candles and flavoured honey, things knitted and sewn, and repurposed silver-plated jewellery as well as wire wrapped pendants. Delicious cakes, cookies and sweet confections, framed intricate miniature quilts, books for children, and decorative and useful woodworking items are further examples of what you will find at this popular Almonte Christmas sale.

Homemade light meals and snacks will be served at the show by the Friends of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum as a fundraising project. The Lanark Animal Welfare Society will also be taking donations of tinned dog or cat food, loose change, paper towels and more — check their wish list at <lanarkanimals.ca>. As always, admission and parking are free. Remember to enter for



Early November brings two great events to downtown Almonte: **Cheerfully Made Holiday Market** and **Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show!**

your chance to win this year's fabulous lap quilt in festive Christmas fabrics.

Make a day-trip to Almonte on the weekend of November 5 and 6, from 10AM to 4PM, and start your Christmas shopping at the Almonte Community Centre Upper Hall, located at 182 Bridge Street. If you are looking for more handmade crafts, visit the Cheerfully Made Holiday Market taking place at the Old Town Hall at 14 Bridge Street. Also take a stroll through the pretty town of Almonte with its quaint downtown full of boutiques, antique stores and restaurants. Find descriptions and updates at <valleyartisanshow.blogspot.com> or follow them on Facebook, and tell your friends to meet you in Almonte for a fun-filled day!

**Fluid**  
Solar Roasted Coffee  
fluidcoffee.ca

## OPEN HOUSE

**OCTOBER 8, 9, & 10  
2016 • 10AM-5PM**  
#5 ON THE CROWN & PUMPKIN STUDIO TOUR

202 FLOATING BRIDGE ROAD, CLAYTON ON  
STUDIO TOUR & MAP AT [CROWNANDPUMPKIN.COM](http://CROWNANDPUMPKIN.COM)

**STUDIO TOUR**  
TOURNÉE DES ATELIERS  
*Wander, Savour, Collect.*  
*Balader, savourer, cueillir.*

**Almonte | Clayton**

**CROWN & PUMPKIN**

**October 8, 9 & 10  
octobre 2016**

For information / pour renseignements  
Barbara Mullally 613-256-6347  
[www.crownandpumpkin.com](http://www.crownandpumpkin.com)

Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour

# Almonte in Praise Returns

Back by popular demand is Almonte in Praise! Mark your calendars for 7:30PM on Saturday, October 29, and get ready for a delightful evening of music. This year's event will be held at Holy Name of Mary Parish, located at 134 Bridge Street. Come and hear the individual and massed choirs from the combined churches of Almonte in the ambiance of this restored 1869 church featuring 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture. There is no admission, but any donations to cover the cost of music would be gratefully accepted.

This unique and uplifting ecumenical celebration of music and Christian fellowship was initiated in 2014 by Doretha L. Murphy as the final celebration of St. Paul's Anglican Church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This year the concert is being organized by Cathy Giles (organist and choir director of Holy Name of Mary Parish), Ian Douglas (director of the Folk Choir at Almonte United) and Ms Murphy. They envision this celebration continuing as an annual event, which would eventually include area instrumentalists participating.

The Almonte churches will join in a massed choir conducted by Ms Murphy, and in addition, each area choir and praise team has been invited to present musical works. There's something for everyone, so come out and enjoy! Make sure to arrive early, to ensure getting a seat.

If your church's music director has not yet told you about this, then please call or email for details so you can participate: Doretha L. Murphy at 565-3993, or <pierre.lamoine@sympatico.ca>.

# Station Theatre's *Out of Sight... Out of Murder*

October 14 is sure to be a dark and stormy night, because that's when the play *Out of Sight... Out of Murder* opens at the Smiths Falls Station Theatre, running until October 23.

Peter Knight (played by Jamie Benda) is grinding out a murder story in an old mansion where another author was murdered years before. A weird electrical storm triggers a cosmic snafu and his characters come to life... just as director Katharine Coleman has worked hard to bring the characters of her cast to life in rehearsals.

Coleman is delighted with her troupe. "Each character fits perfectly — they suit their roles. It's great to watch the play come together!" Coleman, who directed the mystery *Love from a Stranger* and the comedy *Sadie Flynn Comes to Big Oak*, had a hankering to incorporate a mystery and comedy and "see what happens." She got her chance in the smartly written, thoughtful play *Out of Sight... Out of Murder*.

"It leaves you trying to figure out the mystery until the very end, all the while laughing at decidedly clever and witty humour," she explains. "The humour stems from how the characters — who are almost caricatures — interact with each other. They think they're 'real'... and that's where the humour lies!"

The play's highly imaginative premise offers great character roles. In addition to Benda's character, there is the lovely ingénue, the trusty butler, a feisty character woman, a dauntless hero, a fascinating "other woman", the pregnant serving girl, and the wily lawyer waiting for midnight to read the will. Sure, these are all stock characters from murder mysteries of yesteryear, but as presented here they are witty, compelling and enticing.

Before long, author Peter loses control of his characters and there is a murder; the intended victim being Peter himself. Other murders follow, and the culprit is among characters who, having also worked for other authors, know a great deal about the subject. Can Peter find the killer before the killer gets his author? Is the romance with the ingénue leading anywhere? Where is the fortune mentioned in the will? In the end, all is solved masterfully with romance, suspense and cosmic wit.

Jamie Benda, who plays the leading role, was last seen at the Station Theatre in *Cactus Flower* as the smarmy Harvey Greenfield. Christine Winter, who audiences will remember as the scene stealer, Vera, in *Nana's Naughty Knickers*, aces the part of Minna, a rough and ready farm woman who takes care of Peter's rented mansion. Katharine Coleman, who also directs the play and was last seen in *Sadie Flynn Comes to Big Oak*, takes on the role of sophisticated, stylishly-dressed Lydia, a woman combining oc-

casional caustic comments with a sense of humour. Then there is the butler, Cogburn, played by Rich Croteau who was most recently seen on the Smiths Falls stage in *Jekyll and Hyde*. Rebecca Blue, returning after a lengthy break from the theatre in the role of Kay Kelsey, is your prototypical ingénue!

Every murder mystery needs a character lady, and Joni Thornley (typecast from her role in *Love From a Stranger*) plays the middle aged know-it-all Fiona Babcock. Rounding out the cast are Jessica Weedmark (making her début after performing in high school shows, in the role of Addie the maid), Nathan Matthews (doing a 180 from his last part in *Bridge to Terabithia*, in the role of Dick Stanton, the



The cast of the Station Theatre's comedic mystery *Out of Sight... Out of Murder* in rehearsal. Fred Carmichael's play, directed by Katharine Coleman, runs from October 14 to 23.

excessively hearty "juvenile"), and Dave Snider (the always entertaining character actor, last seen here in the smash comedy *Leading Ladies*, playing the part of the well-groomed, successful-looking Jordan Dillingham, the lawyer with the will).

*Out of Sight... Out of Murder* is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. and runs from Friday, October 14 to Sunday, October 23. Evening performances are at 7:30PM; matinées are at 2PM. Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for children and students. Call 283-0300 for credit card purchases, or visit <smithsfallstheatre.com> to buy online and find out about future presentations. Cash-only ticket sales are at Special Greetings, 8 Russell St. East in Smiths Falls, and at the door one-half hour before each performance. The 140-seat Station Theatre is located at 53 Victoria Ave., the site of the former CPR Railway Station.

The next concert in the Station Theatre's Music Series features Campbell Woods. Campbell, a former SFDCI student now living in Halifax, returns to Smiths Falls with Tim Jackson on October 8, playing songs from his latest album, *Oxford Street*. The concert starts at 8PM, and tickets are \$20. A cash bar (beer and wine) will be available before, at intermission and afterwards. Details of ticket sales for this show, as well as the upcoming movie (*Captain Fantastic*, to be screened on October 28 and 29), are at <smithsfallstheatre.com>.

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# Humm Bits

## Choral Evensong at St. James

The Cranmer Singers of Ottawa will join the Choir of St. James the Apostle Anglican Church in Perth for Choral Evensong on Sunday, October 23 at 4PM. The Cranmer Singers are led by Frances Macdonnell, a former organist and choir director at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa. "We look forward to singing with Frances and the Cranmer Singers again this year," says Peter Woodwark, music director at St. James.

"The service will include the traditional versicles and responses many know from our youth, and the congregation will be asked to sing along. The choirs will sing the psalms in plainsong. The evening canticles — the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc Dimittis* — will be by Sir John Stainer. It is a substantial setting popular both with choirs and congregations. The anthem will be Stanford's setting of Psalm 100, the *Jubilate*, familiar to those who recall Matins. As a concluding treat, following the recessional hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*, our guest organist will play the famous *Toccata* from Widor's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony."

Everyone is invited to this beautiful service. St. James' Church is located on the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets in Perth. Travelling west on Highway 7, turn left at the first traffic light as you enter Perth. For more information, contact the church office at 267-1163 or check <stjamesperth.ca>

## Around the World at the Library: Bali

The Mississippi Mills Public Library (MMPL) is gearing up for the 2016/17 season of their "Around the World in 80 Minutes" Travelogue Series. Presentations take place at 7PM on the first Thursday of each month in the MMPL Almonte Branch Library Meeting Room. Lilly White will kick things off on October 6 with a talk on "Bali and the Coral Reef Project". Share Lilly's experience with the coral reef restoration project and Agung Prana, who headed this endeavor and has since been awarded the Equator Prize by the United Nations Development Programme for his work in Pemuteran Bay, North Bali.

These events are all free. For more information or if you would like to participate as a speaker please contact Katherine Pillsworth at 624-5303 or <kpillsworth@mississippimills.ca>.

## Local Talent and Great Food at Union Hall

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 29, for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Union Hall Potluck and Talent Night! Everyone is invited to join neighbours and friends for a potluck supper, followed by an entertaining and often hilarious display of local talent.

Bring along your tastiest main course, salad or dessert, and your own dishes and cutlery, so we can avoid the use of disposables. Dinner begins promptly at 6PM and the show begins about 7:30. Admission is free, but of course donations for the upkeep of the hall are always welcome.

It's not too late to get a place on the program! Contact Linda Camponi at 256-2277 or <camponi@storm.ca> for more information.

Union Hall, situated at 1984 Wolf Grove Road at the corner of Tatlock Road, has been serving the neighbourhood for more than 150 years. The hall is maintained by the local community with the support of the Town of Mississippi Mills.

## Perth Writers Guild

Tired of your book club? Thinking about writing instead? Perth Writers Guild is looking for new members who believe in their creed of "writers helping writers". They are a small group open to all levels, from beginners through to published authors of any genre. They meet monthly, in the evening, at the Perth Campus of Algonquin College. For details, please call 267-4662.

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To register contact Barb Goodwin, RMT, E-RYT:  
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## Music Matters

# The Lost Art of Focusing

There has been a bit of a panic lately in Ontario because mathematics scores on standardized tests are down across the province. A while ago, there was concern that literacy test results were

by Tony Stuart

also not what they should be, although that story seems to change year to year.

The response is always the same: *We need to spend more time on (insert subject here)*. Unfortunately, this is almost always at the expense of other areas of learning.

The funny thing is, when you take a look at countries like Finland, who by all accounts have really improved in these educational rankings, they actually spend less time than we do focusing on these subjects. So what is going on?

I've got my own theory, and it is shared by many of my colleagues who have been working in the education system for a while. It really is simple: many of our students have lost the ability to focus, or are never given the opportunity to develop it in the first place because activities like memorization and rote learning have gone by the wayside.

When it comes to distractions in the school setting, there is one clear, undisputed, undefeated champion. It's not even close, really. By now you have probably figured out that I'm talking about smartphones. These little devices have had a big impact on both our education system and on our society at large. I was asking my vice-principal a few years ago

about what percentage of incidents that he had to take care of were phone-related, and he said that it was well over fifty percent, probably closer to seventy-five. We are being constantly inundated with distractions, to the point where our brains are actually undergoing physical changes.

When it comes to literacy, researchers are arriving at the conclusion that a lack of "deep reading" (primarily novels and lengthy factual articles) by our young people is contributing to the problem. They have been taught to "skim and scan" with very little



attention being paid to particular details. Smartphones and computers give us snippets of information, and by bouncing around from one snippet to another, the ability to focus is seriously compromised.

That's what I still love about teaching music: learning to play an instrument or sing in an ensemble helps develop focus and concentration, and those deeper connections start to form through the act of reading and performing music. Research solidly backs this up: students who study music perform better on literacy and numeracy tests.

As a teacher, I've decided to take a stand against distractions this year. At the beginning of every

class, I stand at the door holding a box. Any student entering the band room has to place their smartphone or other electronic device in the box. This is not optional, and the box sits at the front of the room until the class is over. Already I have noticed a significant improvement in terms of students being able to concentrate on their performance.

When you are placed in an environment full of distractions, no amount of time is going to make an appreciable difference on the ability to listen to, think about, and process the information that you are presented with.

As a performer, I am thankful to have learned how to filter out distractions, because that really helps on stage. Having the ability to compose myself and slow down my breathing before having to play a particularly difficult passage certainly makes my life easier. Professional athletes often talk about this as well, and you hear them talking about time seeming to slow down, especially in pressure situations.

I'm no Luddite. I think smartphones and other electronic devices have their place in our society. However, I also think that we shouldn't be throwing out the baby with the bathwater. Before screens came along, there were many valuable ideas and practices that are worth keeping and nurturing in our digital world. Give kids a chance to learn to focus, and they'll rise to meet the bar more often than not.

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

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## Attention Artists!

**Under Pressure Coffee House** in Carleton Place is interested in hearing from area artists who are looking for a venue in which to display their works. Owner Cara Lewis is looking for framed art as well as sculpture, and she can be reached at 257-8700 or <cara@underpressurecoffeehouse.ca>. In the meantime, everyone is invited to drop in for a fantastic beverage and/or delicious snack... Find them at 37 Lansdowne Ave. (in the CP Mews).

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Stop & Smell the Chocolate

# Holidays: Avoidance or Renewal?

I am writing this in the Revel Caffé in downtown Stratford, on a rainy September afternoon, with a large artistic ceramic mug of rich hot chocolate beside me (Stratford's kinda like Almonte... just bigger, with more swans and not-as-good hot choc). This morning I attended an interesting talk at the Stratford Festival: The Allure of the Country. Stratford's artistic director and the host discussed this theme, which runs through many of their plays this season; that of characters

by Rona Fraser

leaving their daily grind in the bustling city to escape into the countryside, where they generally face new challenges, then return to their normal life having learned something valuable about themselves.

The discussion that followed was very interesting, even though I've not seen many of the plays referenced (though I'm off to see *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* tonight!), and it got me to thinking.

So many of us leave our homes to spend time away — whether in a tent, a friend's place, a B&B or a hotel — on holiday. It may mean extra stress at work before and after our vacation, not to mention the research and preparation (food, bug spray, accomodation, tickets, getting the canoe on the car, figuring out out-of-office messages, arranging pet sitters, bringing the car in for an oil change...), but we go through all of this in order to take a break, to get some relief, to feel free from our usual responsibilities.

### That's Avoidance...

Now, I'm not saying I tend to see things with a negative tinge, but... I have often seen my own holidays as avoidance. Perhaps it is because when I relax at home, there is an ever-present, nagging feeling that I should be *doing* something (cleaning, yard work, food prep, getting some exercise, contacting friends and family, reading my "to read later" pile...). You know, all those things that you don't take the time to do in your busy week, yet feel you *should*. But when you are away from home, you are free! FREEEEEEEE! There is no "should"; you are free to just be... to go where the wind takes you. Heck, your only real expectation of yourself while on holiday is to enjoy yourself!

### Is That Bad?

Sure, leaving home means avoiding your responsibilities, but getting away from your to-dos and

should-dos for a while can give your mind and body a much-needed break, allowing you to re-group and return re-energized. As those kids found in Narnia, even a few minutes away can seem like years, and can bring you new wisdom that will help you in your "normal" life. Even holidays-from-hell can have a bright side. There is nothing like camping in pouring rain and cold to give you new appreciation for your home, as well as bringing you together with fellow campers, as it feels like it's you against nature. Bottom line: no matter what the vacation, it gives you a much-needed opportunity to step back out of your regular life and perhaps gain some perspective, as well as some breathing room. I don't know about you, but I need more vacation!

### But We're Not Rich!

I'm not advocating going into debt in order to get away to Hawaii or Italy or Scotland — sigh — but how about a day trip? I dare you! On your next day off, take a holiday in the Valley! Pick an area you've always wanted to visit/revisit, clear your schedule, ditch your chores, and GO! The laundry will wait. Not sure where to go? Check out the Humm calendar and see what appeals to you. Maybe a trip to Westport for lunch at The Cove, then shopping and/or Foley Mountain. Perhaps there's an art tour this weekend (there are at least five on Thanksgiving weekend!), or a local gallery or museum you'd like to check out. You can visit that shop you heard about, or that beautiful spot you've passed by while rushing to somewhere else. My advice: pick one thing to do, so you have a purpose, but leave plenty of time open for spur-of-the-moment adventures. Perhaps a sign promising apples will catch your attention... or a beautiful view... or a nice place to walk/picnic...

So I have rethought my perception of my holidays. Sure, I still think they let me avoid my responsibilities, but they also give me the time and space needed to re-energise. So maybe I'll see you lollygagging around the Valley on my next day off, eh?

I think this quote attributed to Scottish percussionist Evelyn Glennie says it well: "Holidays are about experiences and people, and tuning into what you feel like doing at that moment. Enjoy not having to look at a watch." Or a cell phone.

Addendum: *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* was fantastic! I also enjoyed *Bunny, A Chorus Line*, and *As You Like It*. You know I love life in Almonte and the Valley, but if you ever have the opportunity to visit Stratford, take it!



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# Fall Colours Studio Tour

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Colours Studio Tour, featuring six distinctive studios with sixteen outstanding local artists, provides the perfect opportunity to view and purchase original creations throughout the Thanksgiving weekend — Saturday, Sunday and Monday, October 8 to 10, from 10AM to 5PM each day.

The artists have once again produced an exciting range of juried, high quality work. Celebrate the season with them and take part in a treasure hunt for that special gift or treat as you explore the brilliant fall colours amidst the scenic rugged countryside around beautiful Westport, “Gateway to the Rideau”. For the first time, they will provide a



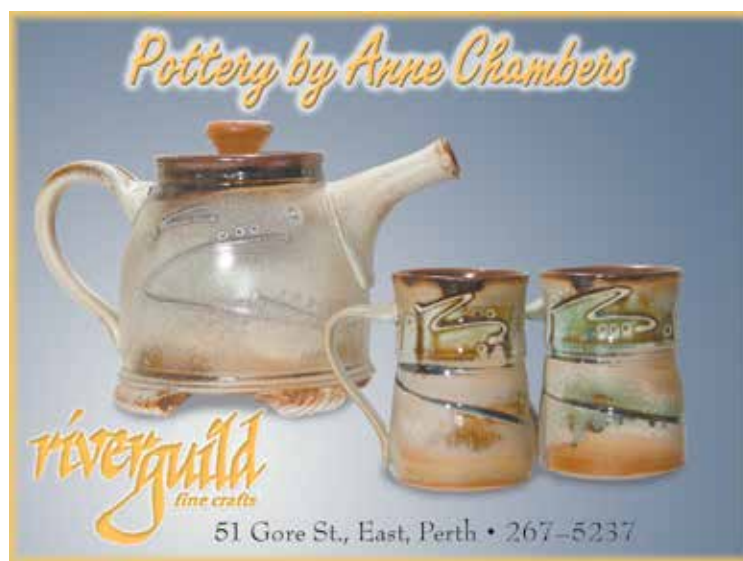
*Seminole Swirl* by Shirley Mancino

series of ongoing live demonstrations; demo times are outlined in the brochure. Come see for yourself how it is really done!

Four of the six studios are walking distance from each other in the historic village of Westport. Two other studios are only a short scenic drive away, through “tree tunnels” of spectacular gold and carmine colour. Exciting new-to-the-tour artists will surprise and delight: Rebecca Maracle’s spiritual feather-smithing will bring you balance, energy and healing; Carl Wiens combines science and nature in his gorgeous screenprints and collage; and Hannah Olszewski shows off beautiful silk and watermedia paintings.

Established exhibitors welcome you to enjoy their latest work. Rediscover Shirley Mancino’s award-winning, evocative mixed media “Paintings with Panache” and see the beautiful and unique gold/silver/semi-precious stone jewellery of her guest, Burt van Tol. Shirley’s Sand Lake studio borders on the area’s first vineyard. David Church returns with his wearable art and sculpture. Delvalle is back with her unique Venezuelan inspired clay pottery and sculpture. Karen and Steven Henderson show repurposed/recycled artifacts from the area’s agricultural past. Featured again are Sharon Benson’s fabulous Paverpol sculptures, as well as renowned illustrators Chantal Bennett-Kimmel and her husband Joel Kimmel, whose letterpress and ink and watercolour illustrations will simply amaze you. The Enchanted Forest will show Kathy Cashman’s gorgeously comfortable and unique clothing, the late Brian Mantrop’s unusual photographic art, David Maracle’s internationally award-winning sculptures and music, and Gregori Robinson’s inspired stained glass.

So come and enjoy Westport and area’s talented artists! For more information, call Shirley Mancino at 273-2984 or check <westportstudiotour.com>. Find brochures with maps at most local businesses.



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Sat. Oct 8 **Turpin's Trail** (East Coast/Folk, Kingston), 6-10, \$10  
Sat. Oct 9 **Thanksgiving Buffet** with all the trimmings! 5-8, \$25  
Fri. Oct 14 **Logan Brown** (Funky Folk/Rock, Kingston), 6-9  
Sat. Oct 15 **Wendell Ferguson & Steve Piticco's Country Pickin' Mayhem Band**  
(Country, Ottawa/Trenton) 7-11, \$50 Buffet & Show  
Fri. Oct 21 **Blues on the Rideau Presents: Laura Rain & The Caesars** (Detroit) 7-11,  
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Sat. Oct 22 & 29 **Head Over Heels** (Guitar/Vocal Duo, Gananogue) 6-9  
Fri. Oct 28 **Matty McKechnie & Ben Mullin** (Folk/Rock, Ottawa) 6-9

Words From Westport

## An End and a Beginning

The summer is nearly over and a lovely warm fall is coming, or at least that is what the weather folks predict. Perhaps we will have a cold spell or two, but I hope they are right with that prediction. Even though I have missed a lot of canoeing this summer, I hope that the coming fall will bring enough rain to give our trees a huge drink.

Cutting the grass for (I hope) the last time only brings to mind mulching of leaves and the thought of cold and snow. I suppose,

by Georgia Ferrell

however, it is the artist in me that craves the changes of seasons. It reminds me that life is always changing and that we all can grow with these changes.

Enough contemplation, though. It has been a great summer for art and artists here in Westport. The **Westport Writers Group** had a most successful launch of their book *One Chocolate at a Time* at the Cove Inn. After each contributor read from her or his work, a lovely intermission with delish finger foods and conversation led to a second reading. I am sure that many who attended will be reading those words for a long time. The group meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the Westport Library from 6:30PM until usually about 8:30. Please feel free to join them if you feel a need or desire to write and want some first-class assistance to get started. Call Audrey at 273-7781 for more information.

Our new artists co-op group ran the **Grist Mill Art Gallery** at 21 Main Street all summer long. Great art can be found by local artists there, and although they will be taking a brief hiatus, you will

find more terrific art available for the gift-giving season when they open on weekends from November 27 to December 18 from 11AM to 4PM. Please visit <gristmillgallery.com> for more details.

**The Cove Inn** had a great summer of music, and the popular **Blues on the Rideau** series started up again in September. On October 21, Laura Rain & The Caesars <laurarain.net> come all the way from Detroit to rock the house, and also to help raise money for the Westport Library (proceeds from all BOTR shows are donated to local organizations). Laura and her band are veterans of the Detroit soul/blues scene, hitting the international map in 2014 with the release of two dynamite albums, *Electrified* and *Closer*, and following up with this year's *Gold*. Laura is a classically-trained singer/songwriter with a powerful, soulful voice, who has been compared to a young Aretha Franklin. Along with producer, songwriter and guitarist George Friend, she decided to rescue the Motown music legacy of the '60s and '70s from the ravages of time, neglect, and electronic dance music. They pulled together some of the best musicians in Detroit and have been cranking it out ever since — it's “Motown with muscle!” This will be their first visit to BOTR, and you can find out more about them and the show at <bluesontherideau.ca>. For the full schedule of musical events at the Cove, please visit <coveinn.com>.

Many other activities celebrating all of the arts were well attended this summer, leading into an eventful fall and other events both in town and throughout the area. More details can be found at <westportartscouncil.com>, so come out and make Westport and the Rideau Lakes the destination for your fall weekends!

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# Radwan Mustafa: Upholstery and Furniture Services

Radwan Mustafa, his wife Amal and their two children — Ayah (6) and Ahmad (4) — arrived in Almonte during the coldest weekend in February of this year. They fled the war in Syria and spent four years in a Canadian-funded refugee camp in Jordan, living in a one-room tent before being accepted to come to Canada. They must have wondered what they'd gotten themselves into that day when they left the warm airport terminal for the -30° winds whipping through the parking garage!

However, since coming to town, the Mustafas have flourished. They bravely dealt with winter and all the issues we take for granted. Then they had to come to terms with this exceptionally hot past summer! They have now been initiated into the extremes of Canadian climate and are enjoying their new life here. So many people have been very kind and welcoming to the family.

Since early spring, Radwan and Amal have been attending English as a second language classes provided by amazing volunteers on weekday mornings. Their English is coming along really well and the children, who are in school at Holy Name of Mary, are now helping translate a bit for their parents. We are so grateful to Sanaa Nassir from Appleton who stepped up immediately and has been translating tirelessly for the family. She has also become a dear friend to them and members of our team.

As the family settled in, it became evident that Radwan is a superb craftsman in the art of upholstery, with a specialty in antique refurbishing. He was generously advised by local upholsterers Glenna Watts, and Cynthia Guerard of My Upholstery Shop in Almonte. Elisabeth de Snajjer, a supporter and aficionado of antiques, first brought Radwan a lovely old armchair to recover in tricky-to-handle cream linen. At that point Radwan had no sewing machine or other essential tools of the trade, but the next day the chair was finished — all done by hand — it was amazing!

After that, word spread and furniture started showing up. Radwan has now beautifully finished numerous pieces of remarkable



Radwan Mustafa, who settled in Almonte with his family after fleeing the war in Syria, is setting up shop as an upholsterer, and already getting rave reviews!

complexity, from sofas to a variety of chairs, all to the delight of their owners. He is getting rave reviews! So it is with pleasure that his supporting sponsor group is sending out word that Radwan is up and running with a new industrial sewing machine, stapler and compressor etc., and can take on jobs large and small. He is a genius with fabric and can also sew curtains, cushions etc. His pricing has been established with help from local experts and is very competitive. We have all been impressed with Radwan's obvious skill and enthusiasm in jumping into re-establishing his business here. He is always willing to take on any task, and loves to be busy.

Since Radwan is still getting the hang of English, we are helping him get to know his customers and to organize pick-up, delivery and other issues for his business. So if you have some furniture that needs re-covering, please contact Chandler Swain and Michael Reynolds at 256-6522 or [cswain@storm.ca](mailto:cswain@storm.ca). We will facilitate you meeting with Radwan.

The sponsors from the ABC Welcome team and others who are helping the Mustafas are all so grateful that we have been privileged to get to know this lovely family and to help them become our neighbours and friends.

— Chandler Swain

## Lyle Dillabough: The Last of the Good Years

When "Valley Troubadour" Lyle Dillabough came to in hospital this past August, his first remark was "This is not heaven..." to which a smiling nurse replied: "No, and I'm no angel either." The last thing he had been told by doctors was that he would most likely not make it. Shortly after coming to, he requested a pen and began to write (and write and write he did). During the next several days he put down pages and pages of "stuff" that included an essay that has since been attracting attention across Ontario.

*The Last of the Good Years* examines "Life, Barrooms & People in Small Town Canada during the 1960s and '70s." It takes a look at the role that musicians (and working people in general) played in the social fabric before the dawn of the technological boom that would alter the social landscape permanently.

In those days, people actually went out on a regular basis simply as part of living their lives; before VCRs, satellite TV, computers, cell phones, iPads and the like made it possible to hide behind devices. And common people were touched by everything from local gossip to international events through coming into contact with one another more often than seems to be the case in the present age.

The essay is currently running in several publications and has been recorded into an audio format that will be broadcast on some community radio stations and is also now available on CD — email [lyleproductions@gmail.com](mailto:lyleproductions@gmail.com) to order your own copy.

Lyle and former Smiths Falls mayor Dennis Staples are looking into the possibility of hosting a "Good Years" type of event in Smiths Falls this November — a kind of celebration of the common people, as Dillabough describes it. Watch for details, or email Lyle for more information.



# Off the Wagon On the East Coast

Welcome to another edition of “A Brew in Review”, the column dedicated to the true pursuit of happiness: enjoying a good pint of beer! September has been a wonderful month here in the Ottawa Valley, yet as the nights get a little longer and the weather becomes a little cooler, I can’t help but lament those bygone days of summer;

by John Scime

it’s a feeling that I’ve encountered many times over the years and never outgrown. So as I sit here drafting this column, I’ve decided to take one last stroll down summer’s lane, by exploring the beers and craft breweries I encountered this summer while on vacation in the Maritimes and Newfoundland. Hang in there, folks, as we’ll be covering thousands of miles and a dozen breweries over the course of the next thousand words!



John Scime returns from holiday with highlights from several East Coast breweries

Let it be known that the craft brewing industry is alive and well out east, and has entered into a renaissance not unlike the recent explosion of craft brewing here in Ontario. Back in the 1990s, when I first started travelling down east, I would have been over the moon to encounter craft brewing of any kind — the industry was in its fledgling stages then and limited to the bigger cities such as Fredericton (Picaroon’s), Halifax (Propeller) and perhaps a few others. Fast-forward twenty years, though, and you can find craft breweries in most east-coast cities.

My wife and I spent four days in St. John’s, NFLD, in June, and within an hour of touching down on “the Rock” we had sidled up to the bar at the YellowBelly Brewery & Public House on Water Street, for a little “research”. YellowBelly brews a wide range of beers with names influenced by over four hundred years of local history; there’s Brewis’ Hard-Tack Ale, St. John’s Stout, Fighting Irish Red, and more. While my personal favorite was the YellowBelly Pale Ale, I found all of these beers to be well brewed and worth a try. The pub itself is also wonderful, and the food was above average.

I was also very impressed by the Quidi Vidi Brewing Co., where they actually make a beer brewed with iceberg melt water!! While a nice enough beer — and certainly novel — I was much more impressed with their British IPA, the finest beer brewed in St. John’s, in my opinion. If you can manage it, try a pint just down the street at the incredible Mallard Cottage bistro in the Village of Quidi Vidi. You’ll be in heaven ...

Later in the summer we had the good fortune to spend a week relaxing on the beaches of Prince Edward Island. Years ago, I tasted a number of local craft beers while on the island, but to be honest, I wasn’t all that impressed. Well... either I hadn’t tried hard enough, or the breweries have upped their game — perhaps as a result of healthy competition in an expanding craft brewing scene. This time around I really enjoyed a number of offerings from both Gahan’s and Upstreet Brewing, two of the island’s largest and best-known micros. To me, the general ethos of Upstreet Brewing is inspiring — similar to the U.S. Pacific Northwest Coast brewing scene from the 1990s — big, bold and beautiful. With regular offerings such as the Do-Gooder American Pale Ale, White Noize White IPA, Commons Czech Style Pilsner and seasonal brews such as the intriguing Grave Digger Imperial Pumpkin Ale, this brewery likes to have a little fun while turning out fine beers. Everything they do is presented in a fresh and exciting manner — check out their fabulous artwork at <upstreetcraftbrewing.com>.

I was equally impressed with the beers from Gahan Brewing, where my family enjoyed a terrific lunch at this quaint gastropub and brewery in the heart of Charlottetown. To my pleasant surprise, the two beers we tested were excellent (Harvest Gold Pale Ale and 1772 IPA). I was familiar with Gahan’s commercially available bottled beers and considered them to be generally well brewed if perhaps a little run-of-the-mill. In the two years since we’d last been in PEI, however, something changed. I can’t say if it was due to improvements at the brewing level, the freshness of the beer and ingredients (brewed on site) or because the brewery doesn’t bottle their most exciting products — but whatever the reason, these were extremely well-brewed, tasty and exciting examples of fine craft brewing. I’d love to try the stout... (yes, that’s a hint to any enterprising readers heading to PEI in the future).

Other fine beers were encountered while on the road, when we would break from a long day of driving. In Edmonston, New Brunswick, I enjoyed Tante Blanche, a fine Belgian white beer produced locally by Les Brasseurs du Petit-Sault. While I may have been particularly appreciative after spending twelve hours in the car that day, I found this brew to be a particularly enjoyable and authentic example of the style. Seemingly in the middle of nowhere, at Bistro Le Chat Bleu in tiny Baie Verte, NB, I enjoyed a very nice Irish red ale from Pumphouse Brewery in Moncton. By the way, if you’re ever in the area near Port Elgin, NB — not too far from the Confederation Bridge — *do not* miss the chance to stop at Bistro Le Chat Bleu — it is one of the best bistros I’ve ever visited. Finally, I enjoyed a fine glass of “tatamagoodness” brewed by the Tata-magouche Brewing Co., in Tatamagouche, NS. Specifically, their lagered (kolsch-style) ale was very nice.

And there you have it, a beer-by-beer jaunt through the Maritimes and Newfoundland. If you’re heading out east any time soon, be sure to test the local waters.

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# October Officially Opens Oscar Season

Autumn is officially in the air, and as the leaves change, so does the quality of films being released. We are entering the Oscar season now, and some fascinating and engaging films are heading our way. Indeed, there are too many to mention here, but I will suggest a few that I feel are more than worth your time. And, since the wonderful local venues at Smiths Falls' Station Theatre, Perth's Full Circle

by Matt Roche

Theatre and Arnprior's O'Brien Theatre are all in full swing, you have many opportunities to see great films closer to home.

At the Bytowne Cinema this month, make time to see *Florence Foster Jenkins* and *Café Society*. Both are very charming, if somewhat uneven films. *Florence Foster Jenkins* is a rather sumptuous, old school-type movie. British director Stephen Frears has been cranking out solid film after solid film for years (*The Grifters* in 1990, *High Fidelity* in 2000, *Philomena* in 2013), and *Florence* is another lovely, light addition to his oeuvre. Meryl Streep stars as Madame Jenkins and gives us another masterclass in acting. Streep will no doubt receive her 20<sup>th</sup> Oscar nomination for her role here. And while most actors don't usually measure up to her sheer presence on-screen, Hugh Grant, of all people, has stepped out of his shell and given us a truly bravura performance, one that will likely bring him a supporting nomination and very possibly

a statuette. As Jenkins' faithful partner St. Clair Bayfield, who has given up his dream of acting on the stage to support her love of singing (at which she is godawful, but that's part of the charm and it quickly becomes a novelty), Grant shows that he can play with the heavy hitters if he really wants to, and he delivers in spades. With more excellent, colourful supporting actors floating around and with a wonderful score from Alexandre Desplat, *Florence Foster Jenkins* is a treat for the eyes and ears. Catch it from October 15 to 17.

In a similar vein, Woody Allen's latest is filled with spirit and humour and a pure love for Hollywood in the Golden Era (1930s-1950s). Allen has visited this period before, most notably with the spectacular *Midnight in Paris* (2011), yet *Café Society* is not quite up to Allen's par. This is his 47<sup>th</sup> feature film to date (with plenty more on the way, I'm sure), and he has directed some master works (*Annie Hall*, *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, *Match Point*) as well as some veritable duds (*Celebrity*, *Scoop*, *Magic in the Moonlight*). You can find *Café Society* somewhere in between. It will surely net Allen his 17<sup>th</sup> Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay, and could very well get some more deserving nods.

This film marks Allen's first collaboration with legendary cinematographer Vittorio Storaro (*Apocalypse Now*, *The Last Emperor*), and the partnership has paid off beautifully. Additionally, this is their first time working with a digital format, and I have to admit that the result is breathtaking.

*Café Society* may be Allen's finest looking film. The opening shot, with the camera swooping and weaving through a glamorous poolside party in the Hollywood Hills, is stunning.

Allen narrates this tale, sounding like the experienced senior he is, wisely letting the young actors take the lead. Steve Carrell, Jesse Eisenberg (embodying the standard neurotic Allen character perhaps a little too well), Kristen Stewart and Corey Stoll are all perfectly cast. *Café Society* is a fine film, though it does meander around its overly complex love triangle scenario a bit too much. All that aside, it's a gorgeous film that leaves you wishing you could travel back to the days when Ginger Rogers, Hepburn and Tracy, and Joel McCrea dominated the silver screens, and when the parties went all night long, swinging to a jazzy beat. *Café Society* can be seen from October 7 to 10 and 23 to 25.

## Showing Locally

Moving to our wonderful local theatres, there is a truly exceptional film being shown. I have been trying to catch the Icelandic drama *Rams* for some time now, and finally got to see it. The fact that it is being shown in Smiths Falls and Perth is truly gratifying.

*Rams*, written and directed by Grímur Hákonarson, is an oddly beautiful, quietly profound film. It tells the tale of two sheep farming brothers who have not spoken to each other in four decades despite living right next to one another. A disease threatens their flocks, and confrontations must


be made. With very little dialogue between them, the brothers have creative ways of communicating: a trusty sheepdog is a handy letter carrier, and a shotgun round through a window certainly gets a message delivered. These two men couldn't be more different. Gummi (Sigurour Sigurjónsson, who gives an outstanding, intelligent, penetrating performance, filled with a range of emotions) is the more compassionate and sensitive of the two, while Kiddi (Theodór Júlíusson) is more volatile and stubborn. The family feud is unimportant to the narrative, as is the calamity afflicting the farmsteads, and even when the government comes in like an iron hand, destroying these farmers' livelihoods, the storyline is realistic and well-thought out but takes a back burner to the near-Biblical profundity of the brothers' relationship.

The ending is breathtaking and heart-breaking and proves yet again the power of the medium. It is rare for a film to be so affecting, so visceral. While this is a dramatic film in a bleak setting, it does offer some fine moments of levity (a hilarious scene involving a tractor will have many in stitches), but it's the end result that will leave you breathless. It will not be easily forgotten. Please take the time to see this remarkable film. You can catch it at the Full Circle Theatre on October 12 and at The Station Theatre on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Check out the times and dates of these and more at <filmmightinternational.blogspot.ca>.

Needless to say, this is a great start to the fall season. And there's more to come!

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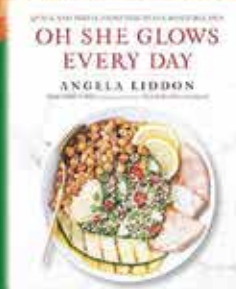
Natasha Peterson of Carleton Place has published her first book, *Gayle the Goose Goes Global*. It will captivate readers with its rhyming text, beautiful illustrations, and strong characters.

**Book Launch October 16 at 3PM**  
Kathy Sadler, who lived and taught in the Almonte area, releases *Lost Your Car Keys?* This book is a collection of whimsical stories about lost keys. It was written to raise awareness and serve as a reminder to keep keys out of the hands of impaired drivers. This book is a tribute to her daughter Heather who tragically died in a hit-and-run alcohol-related crash. Proceeds will go to MADD and Canadian Diabetes Association.


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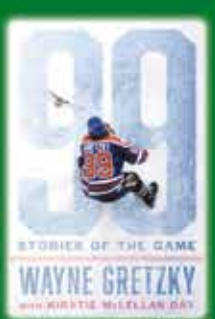
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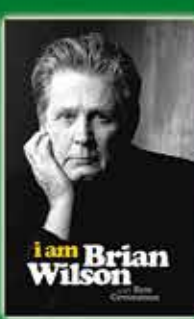
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Photo by smHansen

A Birder's Eye View

# Canadians Cast Votes on National Bird Choice

In the 2015 January/February issue of *Canadian Geographic Magazine*, editor Aaron Kylie pointed out that our beautiful country was without a national bird, despite being declared the undisputed home of hockey, maple trees and beavers. It wasn't long after that *Canadian Geographic* and The Royal Canadian Geographical Society teamed up to address this deficiency and now, nearly two years later, they are honing in on Canada's national bird.

- Gray Jay/Whiskey Jack (7,918 votes)
- Canada Goose (3,616 votes)
- Black-capped Chickadee (3,324 votes)

"However unscientific, this project reflects a spectacular sampling of the population, as the Can Geo team recorded input from every province and territory — and from Canadian expats in the U.S. and other parts of the world — in both official languages," Canadian Geographic's managing editor Nick Walker said in a statement on their website.

## Next Steps

With the citizen science out of the way, experts, ornithologists, authors and other industry leaders were set to convene to discuss and determine which one of the finalists will officially be crowned the National Bird of Canada.

Panelists for this Can Geo Talks event included Steven Price (President of Bird Studies Canada), David Bird (Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Biology, McGill University), Shirley Ida Williams (Professor Emeritus of Indigenous Studies, Trent University), George Elliott Clarke (Parliamentary Poet Laureate) and novelist Noah Richler. Catharine McKenna, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, also provided opening remarks about why birds are important to Canadians.

The panel debate took place on September 19, but you can join the conversation on Twitter and Instagram by using the hashtag #canadabird.

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society's official recommendation for Canada's National Bird will appear in the December 2016 issue of *Canadian Geographic*, on newsstands on November 21.

— Bob Volks can often be found at Gilligallou Bird, Inc. in Almonte's Heritage Court <gilligalloubird.com>.

by Bob Volks

"The Americans have the (bald) eagle, the British have the robin, the French have the rooster, New Zealanders have the kiwi. We don't have one," Deborah Chapman, communications manager for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society told *The Star*. "Our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday is coming next year so we're kind of putting pedal to the metal to get us a national bird in time for our birthday."

Voting closed on August 31, as Canadians cast more than 42,000 votes and close to 13,000 essays in an attempt to narrow down an avian selection. With over 450 species found in Canada, the list had to be narrowed down to a choice between 40 different species.

"It had to be a bird that had a fairly substantial national range, or was fairly iconic in a regional sense," Kylie told CBC News.

## The Results

After tallying up the votes, organizers have now narrowed down the country's selection to five birds:

- Common Loon (13,995 votes)
- Snowy Owl (8,948 votes)

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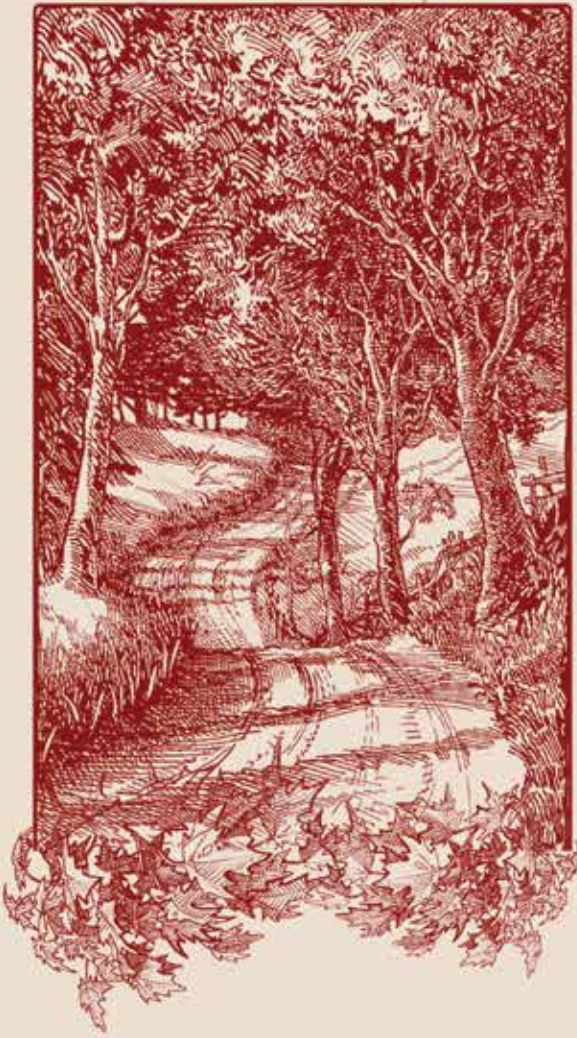


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Mary Wong, "in the midst", oil on canvas on wood, 40 x 30 inches, 2016