

WINTER 2026
JANUARY & FEBRUARY

the Humming

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas

free



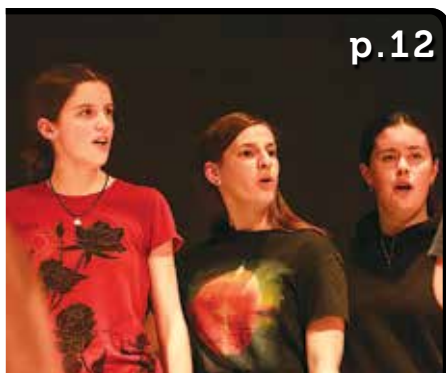
January & February's Events



Frost & Fire Festival



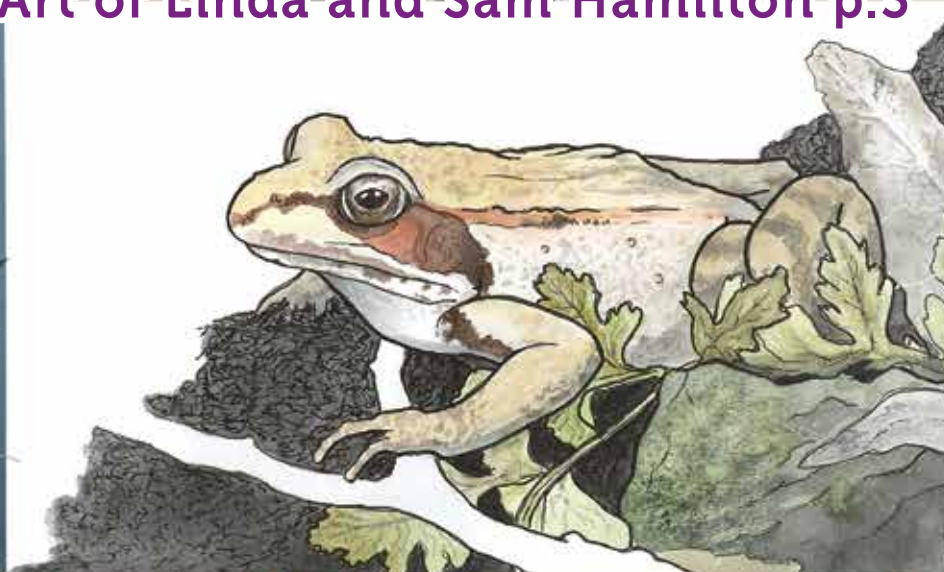
Mid-Winter Milling



Mudds present *Hadestown*



The Art of Linda and Sam Hamilton p.3



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Snow Angel Making Party

By Susan Cressy

On Sunday, February 22, everyone is invited to the Tenth Annual Snow Angel Making Party at Highlands Gate, located at 4381 Wolf Grove Road in Lanark Highlands. Taking place from 1–4PM, it’s fun, it’s free and it is fabulous! If you haven’t made a snow angel in a while, this is your chance to join with others in the art of making a winter impression. It produces an inexplicable sense of calm and contentment — pausing to feel the coolness on your back and gazing up to see what the sky has to offer that day is a treat.

The invitation is open to everyone and anyone, so bring your friends and family. There is a big play structure with slides, horses to feed carrots to, sliding hills, and 85 acres of fields and forest to snowshoe and cross-country ski. We have some extra snowshoes that you can borrow. There will be a campfire with hot cider and good cheer, and you are welcome to bring something to cook over the fire or a treat to share.

Dress for the weather and wear a coat with a hood so you don’t get snow down your neck when you are flailing around. Everyone is welcome, so spread the word and we’ll see if we can fill the field with angels.

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



In August of 2024, right after her first Puppets Up! festival as coordinator of volunteers, **Joan Cox** went to Algarve, Portugal for a much-deserved rest. She certainly looks happy with that decision here!



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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 Merrickville. 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 to editor@thehummm.com

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Subscribe to Hummail — it’s Free!



Hummail is a weekly newsletter that we use to further promote independent local performers, creators, businesses and community initiatives. It’s also a great reminder of what’s coming up on the weekend, in case someone has stolen your copy of theHumm...

You can subscribe by using the QR code above or by emailing <kris@thehummm.com>.

TICKETS PLEASE

What’s Happening This Month

Live music, theatre, festivals & more – tickets made easy.



ARTISAN ENTERTAINMENT presents
You’ve Got a Friend
Jan. 16 • 7:30PM
Studio Theatre Perth

ALMONTE CELTFEST presents
Burns Night Concert
Jan. 24 • 7PM **SOLD OUT**
Almonte Old Town Hall

TRIPOLY & THE GRENVILLE TROUBADOURS present
Songs of Scotland
Jan. 25 • 3PM
St. John’s United Church, Kemptville

FOLKUS CONCERT SERIES presents
Amos the Transparent
Jan. 31 • 7:30PM **LIMITED AVAILABILITY**
Almonte Old Town Hall

JBC PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE present
Moonfruits & Tragedy Ann
Feb. 6 • 7PM
Joshua Bates Centre, Athens

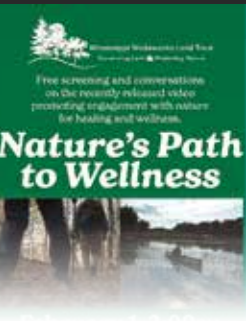
THE MISSISSIPPI MUDDS present
Hadestown: Teen Edition
Feb. 13–21
Carleton Place Town Hall

DREAM ROCK ENTERTAINMENT presents
Los Desperados
Feb. 21 • 8PM
FARRELL HALL, PERTH

MISSISSIPPI MILLS FILM SOCIETY presents
DJ Ahmet
Feb. 22 • 2PM
Almonte Legion

FOLKUS CONCERT SERIES presents
The Weber Brothers
Feb. 28 • 7:30PM
Almonte Old Town Hall

ALMONTE IN CONCERT presents
Scandalous Romantics
Mar. 7 • 7:30PM
Almonte Old Town Hall



WORKSHOP
Up-Cycling in Art
Jan. 18 • 1–4PM
Carleton Place Collective

ALMONTE IN CONCERT presents
All the Mornings with Elinor
Jan. 25 • 2PM
Almonte Old Town Hall

STUDIO THEATRE PRODUCTIONS presents
Who Killed the Director?
Jan. 31 • 5:30PM
Perth Civitan Club

MISSISSIPPI MADAWASKA LAND TRUST presents
Screening: Nature’s Path to Wellness
Feb. 1 • 2PM
Studio Theatre Perth

MICHAEL CONWAY MAGIC present
An Afternoon of Comedy Magic
Feb. 7 • 2PM
Studio Theatre Perth

MUSIC AT MERA presents
Sarah Hagen
Feb. 15 • 2PM
MERA Schoolhouse, McDonald’s Corners

ST. PAUL’S UNITED CHURCH presents
Frankenstein
Feb. 21 • 7:30PM
St. Paul’s United Church, Perth

OAKFIELD RUGBY PARK presents
Ben Caplan
Feb. 27 • 7:30PM
Oakfield Rugby Park, Perth

CP GALLERY presents
The Paul Weber Band
Mar. 5 • 7PM
Carleton Place Gallery

CARLETON PLACE ROTARY CLUB presents
An Evening of Wine Tasting
Mar. 7 • 7PM
Carleton Place Curling Club

Browse our full event list and buy tickets in minutes at **TicketsPlease.ca**

Linda and Sam Hamilton – A New Year's Treat!

This talented Almonte couple continues to brighten our world with the way they live and the art they create. theHumm is delighted to feature the art of Linda and Sam Hamilton on our cover for the second time. Illustrator (and now art instructor) Sam headlined our April 2012 issue; paper botanical artist and teacher

by Sally Hansen

Linda decorated our May issue of 2013. The Hamiltons epitomize the raison d'être for our monthly arts paper: "...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!" Throughout the past fourteen years these two local artists have continued to flourish, entertain and educate!

Linda Hamilton is the creator of extraordinary paper botanicals — so extraordinary, in fact, that she was flown to Boston to install thirty of her stunning floral sculptures for an event at the home of a prominent Boston-area philanthropic couple. That fortuitous encounter has blossomed into commissions by a staggering variety of far-flung institutions such as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the Roof Crop urban agriculture initiative in Chicago, Grow Wild in Montana, and four commissions for the University of Minnesota. It's ironic but wonderful that her reputation is flourishing as successfully as an invasive weed!

Her success is well deserved. In addition to working many seasons at her mother's acres of commercial gardens in Brooke Valley near Perth, Linda worked as a florist caring for and arranging fresh and dried flowers for a decade. She also completed a degree in Visual Arts at York University, where she met Sam Hamilton who was studying graphic design. Today she is a member of the Paper Artist Collective, the Ottawa Society of Botanical Artists, and Arts Carleton Place. Her beautiful botanical artworks are for sale locally at Riverguild in Perth, General Fine Craft in Almonte, and the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum in Almonte.

She and Sam are inveterate lovers of and protectors of the natural world, both in their personal lives and in their artistic endeavours. In addition to her ongoing experience as a gardener, Linda does extensive research on the flora surrounding us in Lanark County. Since the couple purchased a rural piece of land about twenty minutes from their home, Linda has studied the local wildflowers and been amazed at how many are not native to our area. In April of 2021, in conjunction with her stunning display of local flora at the Mill of Kintail Museum, she told us: "Learning about the impacts of non-native and invasive species on our environment is important because they affect so many aspects of our surroundings from insect and animal life to drainage, land use and disease."

She particularly welcomes commissions to create hyper-realistic floral and plant displays that will be used for conservation education, such as her recent display of native wildflowers and noxious weeds made for Jefferson County in Montana this past year.

Another major component of Linda's career is highlighted on her website where she writes, "I love to give workshops to teach others the joy of making flowers from paper!"

She teaches both virtually (online) and in person, and has taught extensively both locally (Ottawa School of Art, Parrott Gallery in Belleville) and farther afield (virtually at The Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, Denver Botanic Gardens, Brock University), among many other assignments.

Linda and Sam appear to have inadvertently embraced the teachings of John Dewey, an American philosopher, educational reformer, and a leading figure in progressive education. Dewey taught, "The essential self is creative, and creativity is the source of all fulfillment." When Sam completed his Honours Bachelor of Design at York University/Sheridan College in 2004, he emerged with proficiency in web design and the skills needed to land a job as graphic designer for a supplier of large construction tools. He found it stifling, so he took the plunge to become a freelance graphic designer.

Today Sam is a gifted illustrator who creates some of the most endearing characters for children's books and animations I have seen. As a freelance illustrator, he has collaborated with several authors to produce books that, in my opinion, should be available to every parent helping a child learn how to enjoy and appreciate reading — and art!

Sam's presentation of his portfolio at <samhdesign.com> demonstrates his whimsical and magical approach to creating thoroughly captivating characters. Selling kids' books is a daunting undertaking, and Sam is overdue for the lucky break that propels him into the public's eye. In the meantime, if you know someone who needs a great logo (like theHumm's), or signage and print design for a new local feature (like Mississippi Mills' Walking Tour in Almonte), contact Sam at <sam@samhdesign.com>.



The flowers on this page and the front cover are by Linda and the illustrations are by Sam, but the image above is by their son Henry!



He is also developing educational classes in cartooning and drawing with a focus on storytelling. He noticed a lack of similar resources in the community, and his inaugural classes at the Almonte Branch of the Mississippi Mills Library have been hugely successful. Watch his website for announcements about his upcoming classes at the Almonte Old Town Hall. As Sam knows so well, there is no substitute for the thrill and pleasure of developing your own creativity.

A Family Affair

The Hamiltons' eighteen-year-old son Henry is following in his parents' footsteps. He is taking a break from school this year to explore the path his artistic career will take, and he is currently working at the Almonte Library. Next July Henry's artworks will be on display there, and theHumm predicts he will become another flourishing Ottawa Valley artist. It will be interesting to see what his younger sister, Hazel, chooses to pursue as her career.

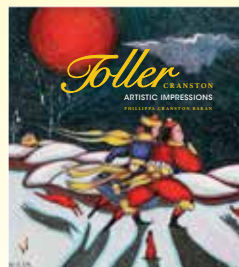
It has been a pleasure and a privilege to document this local couple's artistic achievements over the past fourteen years. Doing the research for this update, I rediscovered the joy that Sam's and Linda's art bestows on a world in sore need of comfort and joy. Do yourself a favour and spend some time on their uplifting websites, handily accessible on the reverse of their Artist Trading Card at the top of this page. Better yet, spread your wings and take a class! Happy New Year to you all.



Book Launch

Toller Cranston: Artistic Impressions Distinctive. Colourful. Poignant.

Toller Cranston:
Artistic Impressions
explores a stunning body of work through the perspectives of the artist who created the work, the gallerists who represented the work, the collectors who fell in love with the work, and the sister who bought for \$15 the first piece he ever sold—a pen and ink drawing of a dead chicken that he did at age fifteen.



Save the Date

THE HISTORIC O'BRIEN THEATRE
DOWNTOWN ARNPRIOR
Sunday, January 25, 2026
2:00pm



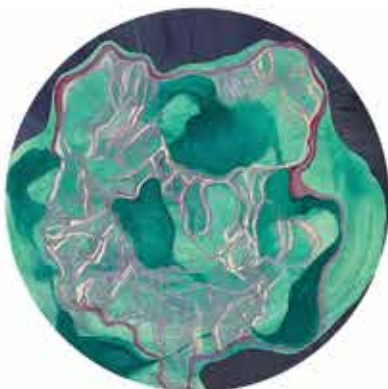
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GAYLE KELLS



SARAH ANDERSON



PETER WOOD



MARY PFAFF

LOVE LOVE LOVE



Join us on Valentine's Day
for the opening of our 1st
Exhibition of 2026!

February 14 - March 20

Artists Reception:
Saturday February 14
2pm-4pm

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

Who
Linda and Sam Hamilton

What
Linda: handmade paper botanicals and instructor,
Sam: illustrator and art instructor

Where
Linda: General Fine Craft, Riverguild Fine Crafts, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, <daydream-flowers.ca>; **Sam:** <samhdesign.com>; to discuss a project or for information regarding art classes, contact Sam at <sam@samhdesign.com>

Why
Linda: "I'm following a path of creativity to see where it will lead, and working in three dimensions is a wonderful way to share my observations." **Sam:** "Making art helps me make sense of life while celebrating in its exquisite beauty — and even its baffling absurdity!"

THE HUMM

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Joanne Beaton

Once upon a quiet morning on 318 Finner Court in Almonte, a bungalow townhome waited at the end of the cul-de-sac, basking in gentle light. It had watched seasons change and families come and go. Inside, sunlight warmed the open living and dining area and glistened off the kitchen's stainless steel. Patio doors opened to a private backyard—perfect for morning coffee or a summer barbecue.

Every room had a purpose. The primary bedroom offered calm, with a Jack-and-Jill bath beside it that felt like an ensuite. The second bedroom shifted easily — nursery, office, or guest room — as life changed.

Downstairs, the finished basement flexed with the moment: movie den, playroom, or a quiet gym where goals took shape. Outside, sounds from Augusta Street Park carried on the breeze—basketballs bouncing, neighbours chatting in the garden. The home waited, ready to welcome someone new and become home again.

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Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

Riversong Players have Big Plans for 2026

Almonte's Riversong Players is closing the chapter on a joyful and well-received holiday season following its recent production of *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, which brought together audiences of all ages for an evening of warmth, nostalgia, and community connection.

Audience members consistently shared how much they enjoyed the production, with children responding enthusiastically to the humour and energy of the show, while older patrons remarking that it reminded them of their own childhoods and helped usher in the Christmas spirit. For many, the experience evoked fond holiday memories and the magic of seeing a beloved story come to life on stage.

The intergenerational cast and family-friendly approach reflect Riversong's mission to create theatre that is accessible, welcoming, and rooted in shared experience — especially for families, first-time theatregoers, and community members of all ages.

Building on the positive response to its Christmas production, Riversong Players is now looking ahead to an ambitious and meaningful series of performances, concerts, and audition opportunities in 2026.

Upcoming Productions

March bring *The Strings of the Violin* — a moving, school-friendly play grounded in Jewish folklore and heritage. It tells the story of children who use imagination, myth, and storytelling to cope with the dangers of World War II. The production explores resilience, courage and hope, offering powerful themes for both youth and adult audiences.

In June, Riversong returns to the musical stage with *Godspell*, a joyful and contemporary celebration of community, compassion and shared humanity, told through music, movement and ensemble storytelling.

The season will culminate in September with *Next to Normal*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning rock musical that explores mental health, grief and family dynamics with honesty and emotional depth, continuing their commitment to meaningful and thought-provoking theatre.

Tickets for all shows will be available through Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). Please



Following their production of *A Christmas Story*, Riversong Players are gearing up for 2026

contact <info@riversongplayers.com> for school matinee information and rates.

In addition to its theatrical productions, Riversong Players' community chorus will be performing as part of Winterfest, bringing music into local celebrations and inviting the community to experience the joy of shared song during the winter season.

Auditions and More

Auditions for *Godspell* will be held on January 20 and 21, from 7-8:30PM. Riversong Players welcomes performers of all backgrounds and experience levels and encourages anyone interested in being part of a supportive, collaborative creative environment to attend. All auditions, rehearsals and performances will be held at the Almonte Old Town Hall, located at 14 Bridge Street in Almonte. To register, please visit <riversongplayers.com/contact>.

Riversong Players is a community-focused theatre company dedicated to inclusive, intergenerational storytelling. Through plays, musicals, chorus work and educational programming, the company creates spaces where stories are shared, voices are lifted, and community connections are strengthened. For more information visit <riversongplayers.com>, email <info@riversongplayers.com>, or follow socials @riversongplayers.

Become A Friend of the Miss Mills Library!

By Barbara Carroll

The Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library (FoMMPL) had another record year in 2025. By the end of September we had donated a total of \$21,500 to the Library, which allowed them to purchase 100 lighter-weight chairs to accommodate the audiences at their array of in-library events, a booking management system that allows patrons to book the library meeting rooms online, and an automatic checkout system that complements the existing in-person checkout. The Friends' donation also allowed the Fine-Free Status of our library to continue.

The Friends also had a record fundraising year. We made more than ever before at our play reading in the spring (\$4,000), and at our early summer online auction (\$8,000). This, together with some existing funds, allowed us to support the library. In the fall we had our Annual and Christmas book sales and managed to raise a record amount of around \$13,500. We hold this in reserve for our 2026 donations to

the library, together with the money our Friendshop generates each year.

In 2026 our plan is to focus on our two major fundraisers, the online auction and the book sales, and see how we can streamline them. The same group of volunteers have worked these events since Covid sprung us free, and we are starting to think about a succession plan for the committees of both events.

Those who work on the silent auction say they enjoy promoting local businesses, encouraging people to shop locally, and helping to build community. The volunteers on the book sale work hard but are happy doing it. Their love of books makes sorting a bit addictive. They have become very adept at finding locations for the books that don't sell so that good books don't get thrown into landfill. Those who shopped at the book sale appreciated their efforts tremendously. If you have these types of interests and some time to spare, please contact the Friends at <friends@missmillslibrary.com>. We will very happily welcome you!

Weaving Wednesdays

Chat with weavers every
 Wednesday from 1pm - 4pm
 at the MVTM!

Visit www.mvtm.ca to see what's on!

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

A Stitch in Time: The Palestine History Tapestry

A new exhibit is coming to the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum on February 14. *A Stitch in Time: The Palestine History Tapestry*, hosted in partnership with Palestine Museum US, is a selection of tatreez (Palestinian embroidery) pieces from the Palestine History Tapestry — a collection of over 100 hand-stitched panels by Palestinian women in refugee camps. The tapestry will be on display at the Museum from February 14 to April 19, with an opening event on Saturday, February 14 from 1–4PM.

This is an award-winning project that platforms the embroidery skills of women to illustrate the history, culture, and humanity of the people of Palestine — forming a large-scale timeline, from Neolithic times to the present. The tapestry panels are largely stitched in the traditional cross-stitch technique of tatreez. Palestinian embroiderers mainly use tatreez to decorate clothing and other items, often in geometric designs and colours that each have their own meaning. It is a traditional craft passed down from generation to generation, incorporating stories and memories, and has become an act of resistance in the face of occupation, apartheid, and genocide.

Although some traditional designs have been used in parts of the Palestine History Tapestry, it is a further development of traditional Palestinian embroidery. It is a testament to the creativity and imagination of Palestinian embroiderers, showcasing the skill required to represent the complicated illustrative imagery of a history tapestry.



Above, *Homeless family, Gaza assault 2008-9* by Iman Shehaby [Tabariyyeh], Ain al-Hilweh, Lebanon; from The Palestine History Tapestry



A new exhibit celebrating Palestinian Culture opens at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum in Almonte on February 14. Above, *The Right of Return* by Hanan Al-Behery [Karatiyya], Gaza; from The Palestine History Tapestry

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is privileged to share this exhibition with the community and hopes it will provide an opportunity for visitors to connect with the shared thread of humanity. This exhibit is generously supported by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, the Family of Mary Ballantyne, nineSixteen, and Almonte Cozy 2 Bedroom Apartment (Airbnb).

Faisal Saleh, the Executive Director of Palestine Museum US, explains that: “At the heart of the tapestry lies tatreez, the centuries-old Palestinian embroidery tradition which UNESCO added to its Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2021. The art of tatreez has long been the quiet chronicle of a people, passed down from mother to daughter across generations.”

Michael Rikley-Lancaster, Executive Director/Curator of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, adds that: “There’s power in textiles; in how they stretch across cultures and time as tangible pieces of history. This is why the Museum feels that *A Stitch in Time* is important as a way to facilitate connection and discussion, and amplify voices and stories that are being silenced. This exhibit is a celebration of Palestinian history, culture, and people, but it’s also a frank reflection of what Palestinians have endured and continue to endure. It’s a reflection of their resilience, and we’re honoured to share this exhibit.”

More information can be found at <mvtn.ca>.

Mid-Winter Milling Returns to Downtown Almonte

Destination Almonte invites you to the 13th annual Mid-Winter Milling on Saturday, February 21. Experience the magic as psychics, mediums, card readers, tea leaf readers and more gather in downtown Almonte for this much-anticipated event. Be sure to arrive early in the day to reserve a spot on the signup sheets for your spiritual and self-awareness sessions with the practitioners, as they tend to book up quickly. Advanced reservations are at the discretion of each individual practitioner.

There is plenty to do between sessions — amazing local shops to visit, delicious treats for you to devour, and beautiful art displays to go see — so you can enjoy the whole day in the friendly town of Almonte.

The full list of participants and where to find them will be published at <DestinationAlmonte.com>.





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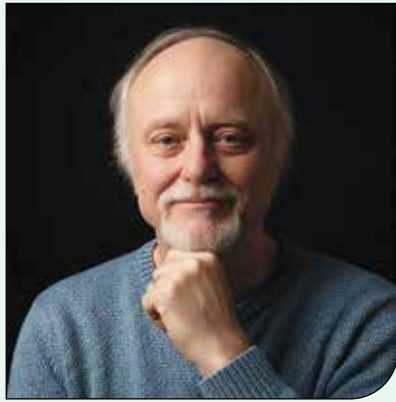
14 Mill Street, Almonte
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VAMOSOUTDOORS.CA

Frankenstein — The Monster and the Music

The 1931 *Frankenstein* film was eerily silent, with no music beyond the titles. Early sound technology just wasn't up to the task, and many theaters weren't equipped to handle full scores. As a result, it was released with dialogue-only tracks. However, Perth musician and composer Mark Bailey decided to write a music score to accompany the movie. Mark is a professional musician and a published composer, and his creation of this music is a major accomplishment! He captures all the excitement and foreshadowing of the movie but also sheds a fresh and sympathetic light on the character of the Frankenstein "monster". Mark explains: "I've always been a fan of this film, ever since I was a kid, and it seems like a natural transition for me to complete this task."

On February 21 at 7:30PM, a live orchestra will perform the new score as the film screens, with Ottawa composer and jazz trumpet player Rick Rangno conducting. In 1931 the film encountered censorship challenges. It was banned in Kansas and faced censorship in other states. But rest assured, it will be screened as the director James Whale intended — without any cuts.

Come out and enjoy this premiere on the large screen at St. Paul's United Church in Perth, located at 25 Gore St W. Tickets are \$25 from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).



Experience a screening of *Frankenstein* with a live performance of an original score by Mark Bailey on February 21.

Bookin' It

Books to Keep You Cozy

In 1985, Jonathan Yardley reviewed Anne Tyler's novel *The Accidental Tourist* in the *Washington Post*. He wrote: "Words fail me: one cannot reasonably expect fiction to be much better than this." Now that is pretty much the grand slam of blurbs. It's also the kind of thing I hope critics and readers will end up saying about books I'm recommending. Prognosticating is an inexact endeavour, however. At the very least, I hope to send folks into bookshops with a clearer idea of what's new and good on those shelves.

by John Pigeau

With that in mind, here's a closer look at some titles coming out in January, February, and March that, to me, look top-drawer. At the absolute minimum, I hope they will help keep you cozy and entertained until the clocks spring forward.

For fifty years, Julian Barnes has been writing literature of the highest quality. His latest book, *Departure(s)*, a hybrid of autobiography and fiction, will be published on January 20, the day after Barnes's 80th birthday. It will be his last book. (Barnes, suffering from an incurable illness, has said as much.) By all accounts, *Departure(s)* marks a graceful exit. Part love story, part novelist's diary, the book is said to be a "revelatory meditation on love, death, and memory." Barnes — whose 11th novel, *The Sense of an Ending*, was awarded the 2011 Man Booker Prize — has always been a deeply captivating writer. His books are elegantly composed, witty, precise, often funny and devastatingly insightful. He writes truly beautiful sentences, and stories as rich and complicated as life itself. *Departure(s)* is almost certain to be sad, beautiful, and thoroughly engaging. I've little doubt it will be one of Barnes's best.

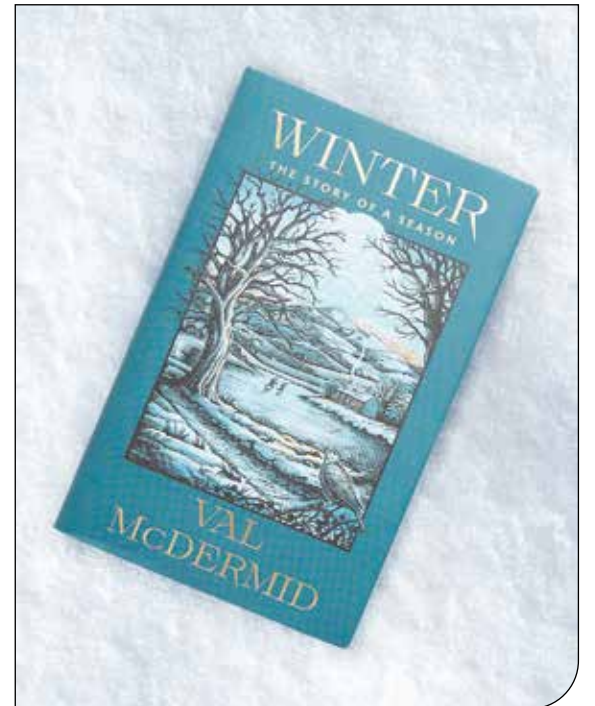
Val McDermid is a wildly popular Scottish crime writer of murderous fiction. She writes clever books apparently awash in gore, that sell by the millions. I've never read a word she's written, but I am completely charmed by what I've read about her new book of non-fiction, *Winter: The Story of a Season*.

Born and raised in small-town Scotland, McDermid's *Winter* is an ode to memories of winters past and a heartfelt appreciation of all the season has to offer. She is a fan of a crisp cold day, of big jumpers and thick socks and scribbling in a notebook and settling in beside the fire. The world is divided in two, she writes, those who think soup is a meal and those who are wrong. Homemade soup is a comforting winter supper, McDermid was raised to believe; she calls it "central heating for the soul." She offers us intimate snapshots of her childhood: going as a toddler to see Kirkcaldy's big town-centre Christmas tree, and the memorable bonfire night when her father accidentally dropped a burning taper into a box of fireworks. She sings the praises of Scotland's winter's festivals, holidays and celebrations — the joyful times that help take the bite out of the short, frosty days, and long, windblown nights. The book is fairly slim, at 160 pages. I adore a lovely, gentle, bite-size book. Booklist calls *Winter: The Story of a Season*: "lyrical, often profound, and thoroughly enjoyable." It sounds to me like a wee book that might just warm even the frostiest of hearts.

A few books are getting a lot of buzz on critics' most anticipated books of 2026 lists. Several have me

intrigued. But these are the sorts of books I'd want to sit down with in my local bookshop and read a bit of first. If you're like me, you usually know after reading, say, the first ten pages if a book is for you or not. Among the titles I'd take for a "test drive" are *Vigil* by George Saunders, and Jeanette Winterson's *One Aladdin Two Lamps*. Fans of both distinguished authors might wish to just take the chance. By the time you read this, both titles should be on bookshelves.

One book I know I'll be picking up is David Streitfeld's *Western Star: The Life and Legends of Larry McMurtry*. It's not out until March, but it should be well worth the wait. The book is being billed as the "definitive" biography of Larry McMurtry, the legendary author of *Lonesome Dove*, *The Last Picture Show*, and *Terms of Endearment*, among many other classic American novels. We should be in good hands with Streitfeld, too. He is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and was a close friend of McMurtry's. In fact, before



McMurtry died in 2021, he gave his friend "the keys to his past." This is good news, as McMurtry was an elusive figure who apparently loved making up stories about himself, and had many personas — rancher, novelist, Hollywood screenwriter, rare book collector, obsessive bookseller, rigorous defender of free speech. He was a complicated man. Streitfeld has gone to work, though; he's dug into every archive and interviewed everyone who would talk. What he'll reveal in *Western Star* will be revelatory and a treat to read, I'm sure. Douglas Brinkley, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cronkite*, calls *Western Star* "a dazzling masterclass in the art of biography." I, for one, can't wait.

One last title I would like to recommend (though I really would like to recommend a large stack of books!) is Trina Moyles' memoir *Black Bear: A Story of Siblinghood and Survival*. As an environmental journalist and fire tower lookout, Moyles chronicles the path of this mesmerizing animal from her vantage point in northern Alberta. She also writes about her complicated relationship with her brother. In an increasingly conflicted world, Moyles, an acclaimed nature writer, reflects on ways we can co-exist with one another, with wildlife, and with nature. Recently, *Black Bear* earned a rave review in the *Washington Post*. It won't be the last for this dazzling memoir.

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Don't Dress for Dinner

Hilarious Farce Starts the 2026 Season

Don't Dress for Dinner, by Marc Camoletti and Robin Hawdon, is the first play in The Smiths Falls Community Theatre's 2026 season. Set in the French countryside near Paris in a converted farm building, this dynamic farce borders on the ridiculous as the action explodes early with cheating spouses on both sides of a slumping marriage.

Bernard (Rob Glas) plans a romantic weekend with his secret lover Suzanne (Stephanie Korzeniowski) while his wife Jacqueline (Liz Stienberg) is visiting her mother. But when Jacqueline learns that Bernard's best friend, her secret lover Robert (Robert Del Grande), is coming, she cancels her plans and stays home. Uh oh, two secret lovers under one converted-barn roof. When the Cordon Bleu chef Suzette (Lara Klymko) arrives, Robert assumes she's Bernard's lover Suzanne — an honest mistake — and now he must convince Jacqueline that he, Robert, is *not* with Suzette. Suzanne (Bernard's lover) arrives next, and within moments none of them knows which one is Suzanne, which one is Suzette, who is sleeping where, how long their particular string of lies can last, and most importantly, who's cooking dinner. And if that's confusing, we're still in Act One! Soon enough, Chef Suzette's jealous, bone-crunching husband George (Dave Snider) arrives. Mayhem, double talk and a happy (enough) ending somehow ensue.

This is a funny, frenetically paced French farce that will delight audiences. The cast is full of familiar names and faces, super keen and experienced. Rehearsals are well underway and laugh-filled. Director Dave Clark, new to the area but not to directing,



In rehearsal at The Station Theatre, Robert (Robert Del Grande, left) pays off chef Suzette (Lara Klymko) and her husband George (Dave Snider)

is delighted to add this rollicking nugget to a long list of directorial titles in his past. Prepare for some wintertime silliness as we all slip our way toward a most welcome spring. You will recognize regular contributors as well as some new cast members in this show.

Don't Dress for Dinner runs for seven performances over two weekends, with 7:30PM performances on February 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21, and 2PM matinées on February 15 and 22. Order your tickets and select your seats online at <smithsfallstheatre.com>. Orders can also be made at Special Greetings, 8 Russell Street East in Smiths Falls, Monday through Saturday from 9AM to 5PM. You can also call the store at 283-2244. Adult tickets are \$25, student tickets are \$10, and season vouchers are still available. Visit <smithsfallstheatre.com> to find out what's coming up at The Station Theatre.

SRO Big Band Tea Dances

The classic big band Standing Room Only (SRO) with vocalist Saffron Bradbury is staging the next Almonte Tea Dance in their 2025-2026 season on the afternoon of Sunday, January 18. "Tea dances" are afternoon dances that were popular in the '20s, '30s, and '40s, when big bands were king. They were held in hotels and, of course, featured a live band. As implied by "tea", beverages were non-alcoholic.

SRO dances feature a variety of music for ballroom and swing dancers, including swing, waltzes and Latin (cha chas, tangos, rumbas, etc.), and are held in the Auditorium on the top floor of the historic Almonte Old Town Hall, located at 14 Bridge Street in Almonte.

This beautifully preserved venue features a clean and spacious wooden dance floor, natural lighting, and wonderful acoustics. Doors open at 1PM and dancing is from 1:30-4PM. Admission is \$20 per person at the door (cash only). Reservations are not required.

Light refreshments including delicious treats and a range of non-alcoholic beverages will be available at very reasonable prices (cash only). The Almonte Old Town Hall has its own parking lot, and there's lots of additional parking on nearby streets. For more information, visit the band's website <srobigband.ca> or Facebook page.

The remaining Sunday afternoon Almonte Tea Dances are scheduled for March 1 and March 29.



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FAMILY MOVIE - FREE!

John Levi Community Centre - 2PM
Movie title will be announced closer to the date.
Stay tuned!

PUBLIC SKATING - FREE!

John Levi Community Centre 1 - 3PM (Almonte)
Stewart Community Centre 2 - 4PM (Pakenham)

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“Cabin Fever” Antiques Show

One of Canada’s premier antiques shows, the “Cabin Fever” Kingston Winter Antiques Show will be held at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour Centre in Kingston on February 7 and 8. This show is a not-to-be-missed event that draws in both seasoned and novice collectors.

A diverse selection of some of the best dealers from Ontario and Quebec offers a treasure trove of antiques, vintage, retro and nostalgia, covering all collecting interests, periods and styles.

Furniture includes everything from early country furniture to elegant fine formal pieces and sleek mid-century modern designs. Art lovers will find academic and folk art paintings, prints and sculptures. Collectors of fine china, glass and silver, jewellery, textiles, clocks and crocks will find exquisite pieces to add to their collections. Nostalgia includes early advertising, signs and toys, books, tools, maps, ephemera and more. Popular mid-century and retro pieces and accessories will also be on display.

Whatever your budget, you can browse and buy — or just come for the experience to look and learn by mingling with knowledgeable dealers and passionate collectors. Check out cabinfeverkingston.com for



Many popular pieces will be available at the Kingston Winter Antiques Show. One highlight will be this Canadian Pacific Railway Shield Sign from the 1940s.

more details, or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Mississippi Mills Film Society Presents *DJ Ahmet*

Don’t miss the first TIFF movie in the Mississippi Mills Film Society’s Winter/Spring 2026 series! *DJ Ahmet* will be screened at the Almonte Legion on Sunday, February 22 at 2PM.

Directed by Georgi M. Unkovski, *DJ Ahmet* tells the story of a 15-year-old Yuruk boy from a remote Macedonian village who escapes into music amidst parental expectations, societal conservatism, and forbidden love for a promised girl. This movie garnered multiple nominations and awards at film festivals around the world. And now it’s coming to Almonte!

Toronto-based movie critic Peter Howell writes: “The bleat goes on for music-loving teen shepherd Ahmet after his flock invades a rave and TikTok notoriety ensues. He has bigger things to worry about: a grieving dad who wants to

pull him out of school, a younger brother who refuses to speak, and a major crush on a girl who is about to be married. Georgi M. Unkovski’s coming-of-age comedy finds much to smile about in a North Macedonian village where conservative traditions clash with modern times.”

Tickets are \$15 per film (fees included) from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434), and a series pass to all three is available for only \$42. The next two movies will be shown on March 22 and April 19. Follow the Mississippi Mills Film Society on Facebook for all the details.

All proceeds from these screenings are donated to the Mississippi Mills Public Library, Almonte and Pakenham branches. The Film Society gratefully acknowledges their partnership with Film Circuit, presented by TIFF, and its sponsors and supporters.



The first Mississippi Mills Film Society offering in 2026 will be the Macedonian movie *DJ Ahmet*



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Head to downtown Perth on February 14 for a full day of indoor and outdoor activities and events, including the amazing tubing run pictured above!

Perth's Frost & Fire Winter Festival

Perth Tourism invites residents and visitors to bundle up and head downtown for the return of Frost & Fire Winter Festival, taking place on Saturday, February 14 as part of Family Day Weekend.

This year's festival offers a full day of winter fun for all ages, with activities running from 10AM to 4PM. Events and attractions will take place throughout Perth, both indoors and outdoors, including the much-loved tubing run, making it easy to explore, play, and warm up along the way.

Visitors can slide down the tubing run in downtown Perth, take part in outdoor laser tag, and — weather permitting — enjoy outdoor skating and sledding. Inside the Perth Museum, craft stations will be available for those looking to get creative, while indoor and outdoor warming stations help keep the winter chill away.

The Vendor Marketplace at the Crystal Palace will once again showcase handmade goods, local treats, and unique finds from talented artisans, offering the perfect opportunity to shop local and discover something new. Festival-goers are also encouraged to explore Perth's downtown shops, cafés and restaurants, many of which will be open throughout the day and ready to welcome you.

Looking to extend the weekend fun? Begin with the Pep Trivia Night and test your knowledge on Friday, February 13 at the Crystal Palace. For those looking to continue the Family Day Weekend celebrations, The Table Community Food Centre will host the 2nd Perth Multicultural Food Fair on Sunday, February 15, also at the Crystal Palace.

Frost & Fire Winter Festival takes place on February 14 in Perth. For full event details and updates, visit <Perth.ca/FrostAndFire>.

Luna Blackwood at the Corridor Gallery

Until February 21, the Almonte Library's Corridor Gallery is pleased to present artwork by Luna Blackwood (Melissa Labrecque), an Indigenous multimedia artist and photographer. Luna's work has a strong focus on realism and abstract realism. She loves to draw and paint in darker tones with highly detailed subjects that portray deep emotions, and incorporates animals into her pieces, often wolves or ravens. Much of her artwork includes hidden Indigenous elements, and she has recently adopted a woodland style with bold lines and vibrant colours.

Her goal is to portray emotion through her pieces and to connect to people on a deeper level, allowing her to heal through art.



Works by Luna Blackwood will be on display at Almonte Library until Feb. 21

At the age of fourteen, she started her artistic career with graphite realism and began selling commission drawings by fifteen. After years of developing her skills, she moved on to charcoal and abstract realism painting in her early twenties. She has recently expanded her skills to include digital art, animation, photoshop, and photography.

Luna now teaches private art workshops known as "HeARTworks", where she shares her experience and connects with her audience regarding struggles from her own personal life. The point of HeARTworks is learning to heal through art. Allowing others to feel their emotions and let them know that life still has meaning, even if they don't see it.

For purchase inquiries, please contact the artist at <Luna64black@gmail.com>.





Personal Touch Country Gifts

Welcoming a New Business in Gillies Corners

By Colleen Gray

Just a short drive from Carleton Place, Perth and Smith Falls, there's a new shopping experience blooming in the snow at 1127 Perth Road. Sherrie and Dan Imbeau quietly opened Personal Touch Country Gifts on November 1, 2025, extending an invitation to local artists and craftspeople to showcase their items for sale.

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia and Sudbury, Sherri and Dan are a retired trauma nurse and border services worker who have long dreamed of owning a fine quality gift store where they could showcase local talent and connect with customers. Good fortune

allowed them to purchase and set up shop in the historical brick Methodist church and parsonage. The impressive open architecture adds a reverent ambiance to lovely items carried in the store and is worth taking the time to visit.

Along with an impressive array of gift items, Sherrie and Dan offer professional sublimation services to the public and businesses. Sublimation is process that allows vibrant images to be transferred and embedded onto a surface with clean, crisp lines. Come and discuss your professional needs or gift ideas with them. Dan is a skilled wood artist whose talent is clearly evident from the moment you walk up to the impressive carved front doors.

Along with showcasing local talent, Personal Touch Country Gifts is the newest brick and mortar location for the Art for Aid Shop's beautiful art gifts <artforaidshop.ca>. This local initiative run by long-time area artist Colleen Gray helps to provide free access to art supplies for resource-challenged Indigenous schools in fly-in communities across Canada.

Drop in to shop, chat, and explore this wonderful new business. They are open from 10AM to 5PM every day except Mondays and Tuesdays, with plenty of parking and more than enough joy to fill up your basket. You can also find and follow them on Facebook.



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Petra's Chocolate Bourbon /Rum Cake

The Good Food Column

This month's recipe was a special request from a reader who used to buy the cake for her husband's birthday. Petra Graber writes: "This was The Good Food Co. twist on a 'mud' cake. I had a terrible habit of using coffee or liquor to pep up chocolate recipes — this one has both!"

by Petra Graber

Chocolate Bourbon /Rum Cake

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 5 ounces unsweetened OR extra dark chocolate
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup strong coffee
- ½ cup bourbon OR dark rum
- ½ cup buttermilk OR sour cream
- 3 eggs + 1 yolk
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Grease a bundt OR angel food pan and dust with cocoa;
- Combine flour, baking soda, and salt in a bowl and set aside;
- Melt chocolate and butter together on medium in microwaveable bowl or in saucepan on medium-low heat;

- Stir in coffee, liquor, and buttermilk and set aside;
 - With electric mixer, beat together eggs, sugar, and vanilla until smooth;
 - Add ⅓ of flour mixture and blend;
 - Add ½ melted chocolate mixture and blend;
 - Alternate beating in flour and chocolate mixtures, scraping as needed, until smooth;
 - Turn batter into prepared pan and bake at 325 F for approximately 50 minutes, or until skewer inserted in cake comes out clean — do not overbake!
 - Cool and turn out onto platter;
 - Dust with cocoa or cover with ganache (below).
- NOTE: the cake can be frozen successfully before icing, and the recipe works well for cupcakes or split into two 9" round pans and filled and iced with lightly-sweetened whipped cream — try adding some fresh raspberries or strawberries and decorating the sides with chopped dark chocolate.

Chocolate Ganache

- 8 ounces (226 g) dark chocolate (not extra dark), finely chopped
 - 1 cup 35% cream, heated
 - Stir hot cream into chopped chocolate until smooth;
 - Spoon over cake.
- Ganache leftovers will keep in the fridge for at least 1 month — scoop out what you need and heat on low to bring back to drizzling consistency.

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Above, the Three Fates (left to right) Amber Onofrychuk, Mayla Kozuska and Grace McNally, confront Orpheus in the Mudds' *Hadestown, Teen Edition*

Goin' to *Hadestown*

Mudds Youth Bring Greek Myth to the Stage

This February, the Mississippi Mudds youth take on *Hadestown, Teen Edition*, a bold, nearly sung-through musical filled with tight harmonies and a jazzy groove. The show is a modern retelling of the Greek myths of Orpheus and Eurydice, and Hades and Persephone, weaving themes of love, faith, and defiance into a powerful story about choosing hope in a harsh world.

Set in a post-apocalyptic landscape that blends the feel of a lively speakeasy with an industrial underworld, *Hadestown, Teen Edition* features haunting songs such as *Anyway the Wind Blows*, *Way Down Hadestown*, and *Wait for Me*. The result is a timeless theatrical experience that feels not only mythical but also contemporary.

"Who doesn't hope for a better tomorrow?" says director Bobby Martin. "*Hadestown* captures that raw emotion — the hope

for a new day. Each character brings a different perspective on that hope, and we learn that not everyone's hope can be realized."

The production showcases the musicality, diversity, and energy audiences have come to expect from Mississippi Mudds. Theatre-goers are invited to join this talented young cast on a mythical journey down the "Road to Hell" and back.

Hadestown, Teen Edition is the second major musical of the Mudds season, following a sold-out run of *Annie* in November. Upcoming productions include *Broadway Showstoppers* in March and the hit comedy *The Play That Goes Wrong* in May.

Tickets for *Hadestown* are selling fast. Don't miss this opportunity to see a local youth cast bring one of Broadway's most unique musical experiences to life. Get your tickets at <Mudds.TicketsPlease.ca>.

What is an Art Quilt?

Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) is an international organization dedicated to promoting the art quilt — art that is layered and stitched, or that references layering and stitching. This broad definition allows many techniques, materials and styles to be used by artists in their creations. SAQA holds many juried shows exhibited in art galleries and museums around the world, as well as more local exhibits. A regional group named the Land Between Pod started in 2018 with members in the Kawarthas and surrounding areas. This is part of the geographical area known as the Land Between, the southern edge of the Canadian Shield. During the pandemic lockdown meetings moved online, and SAQA members from across Ontario, Quebec and even Europe were welcomed to join the pod.

In 2024 the group chose "The Land Between" as the theme for a challenge. The objective was to explore what this meant to members personally, not just as a specific physical area. How does it reflect in their art? What social, economic and environmental issues do they face? Are they "between" in their work — starting to transition from one style to another?

All work is mounted on a 12" x 12" artist canvas. Participating artists used a variety of designs, materials and techniques. Some are abstract, some are representational, some are dimensional, some include photography or painting. Some use natural or synthetic dyes. One incorporates a map, another one bra cups. Some are heavily hand or machine embroidered. All have some form of stitching on fabric.

The *Land Between* exhibit is on display at the Perth Public Library until the end of



This art quilt by Joanne Misener is just one of the pieces on display at the Studio Art Quilt Associates show at the Perth Library

March, during the hours that the library is open. Additional art quilts are included in the Perth show due to available space. Some of the quilts are available for sale. While viewers are normally requested not to touch quilts on display, there is one quilt at this show that can be touched. It is made from used denim clothing and has a zillion pockets on it!

Anita Payne De Gaia will host tours of the exhibit on Saturday, January 31 at 1PM, Thursday, February 5 at 1PM, Saturday, February 28 at 2PM and Tuesday, March 31 at 4PM. Registration is required at the Perth & District Union Library website <perthunionlibrary.libcal.com/calendar>.

On March 31, the last day of the exhibit, several of the artists will be at the library for a "Meet the Artists" event from 5-7PM. Come to the Perth Library to find out what an art quilt is!

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with **Jordan Smith**
3 week course begins April 13

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with **Avalyne Diotte**
Lecture April 22

Photo: Trevor Johnston Photography

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www.learningagaininalmonte.ca

Valley Youth Sing High and Low!

By Helen Rutledge

As Dr. Seuss himself said: “Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!”

We can't be sure, but it's possible that he was thinking about children and the joy of singing when he spoke about thinking low and high. The Valley Youth Singers like to think of fun, teamwork, and music education all rolled into wonderful experiences for kids! Valley Youth Singers, a choir for Perth and area children, was launched in September of 2024. Conducted by Alana Cliften and accompanied by Val Leavitt, the choir is now preparing for the next term starting in February.

Valley Youth Singers operates from two locations, so families may choose to register their children for Perth or Lanark. It's made up of three choirs: “Da Capo” choir for children aged 6–8, “Allegro” choir for ages 9–13, and “Animato” choir for ages 7–13 in Lanark. The choirs will come together for a dress



Valley Youth Singers performed in Perth at the Once Upon a Christmas event in November

rehearsal and concert in May at St. James Anglican Church in Perth.

The cost to join Valley Youth Singers is \$125 per term, and bursaries are available to families who would benefit from financial assistance. For more information, or to enquire about registration, please email the choir at <valleyyouthsingers@gmail.com>.

Almonte in Concert Offerings for 2026

There are still three exceptional shows left in the 2025/26 Almonte in Concert season. Their most recent concert, *A Piano for Christmas*, sold out, so grab your calendars now and your tickets soon!

First up, on Sunday, January 25 at 2PM, is *All the Mornings with Elinor*. Alone on stage, surrounded by her string instruments, JUNO Award-winning cellist Elinor Frey invites you to discover each one's distinct personality, tones and colours while she tells their story. A reference to the film *Tous les matins du monde*, *All the Mornings with Elinor* is a recital both intimate and rich in discovery, highlighting the most beautiful pages by Bach, Dall'Abaco, Telemann and Tartini, as well as the piece *Les Pleurs* (Sainte-Colombe) excerpted from the film.

On Saturday, March 7 at 7:30PM, you won't want to miss Bridge & Wolak's *Scandalous Romantics* — a hilarious tabloid take on stories behind the

most celebrated music stars across genres and their spectacular lapses in judgement! Co-written with CBC's Tom Allen, Michael Bridge (digital accordion and piano) and Kornel Wolak (clarinet and piano) expose the lust, pride, and envy that fuelled some of the greatest music every written. Bridge & Wolak dazzle with virtuosity, down-to-earth humour, and their original arrangements in an explosive program steeped in contemporary culture.

Finally, Saturday, April 11 brings the Vnukowski/Odin Quartet to town for *In Schumann's Footsteps: Dances, Dreams and Remembrances*. The program includes Robert Schumann's monumental *Piano Quintet in E-flat major* Op. 44 and award-winning Canadian composer Simon Bertrand's *Imprecise Memories*, among other works. Find more details at <almonteinconcert.com>, and find tickets at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434).

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FOR THE FULL LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS, VISIT
WWW.DESTINATIONALMONTE.COM/EVENTS

January's Events

All Month

General Fine Craft presents new works by Saskia Praamsma (ceramics), Diane Lemire (nuno-felted scarves), and Vanessa Neily (enamel jewellery) <generalfinecraft.com>

The **Arts CP Art Hub** presents *Shifting Perspectives*, a group art show [to Feb 15]; Fine Art Photography by Gilly Marston [to Jan 28] and Danielle Barabé-Bussi eres [Jan 29–Feb 27] <artscarletonplace.com>

The **Corridor Gallery** at the Almonte Library presents works by Luna Blackwood [to Feb 21]

Festivals

Pakenham Frost Festival, Jan 16-25. Skating, SnoPitch, family dance, sleigh rides, movie night, Bingo, trivia, crafts and more! mississippimills.ca/events

Community

Finding Hope Despite the Despair, Jan 19, 6:30PM. Speaker: Pamela Cross Canadian feminist lawyer & women's advocate- Zoom details provided upon registration. Contact cfwperth.org for link.

Carleton Place Toastmasters Club, Jan 22, 7PM. Learn how to improve your public speaking and leadership skills. Carleton Place Toastmasters Club. carletonplace.toastmastersclubs.org

January Antique Sale, Jan 24, 9AM–4PM. Collectibles, Vintage items and Antiques. Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum. \$2 entry fee; proceeds support the museum. cpb-heritagemuseum.com

Pub Listings

Bridge Masters Brewing Co. (Perth, 201-2337): 7PM

Jan 16 Brock Zeman

Jan 23 Field Trip

Jan 30 Will Turnbull

Lumbertown Ale House (Arnprior, 623-8885): 7PM

Jan 15 Ryan MacIntyre

Jan 22 Stuart Hoopfer

Jan 29 Cargo Cult Acoustic Duo

Neat Coffee Shop (Burnstown, 433-9960): 8PM

Jan 16 Lloyd Spiegel with Lisa Baird, \$40

The Cove (Westport, 273-3636): 5-8PM unless noted; Wed Wings 'n Tunes w/Shawn McCullough; Sun Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh

Jan 15 Tim Loten

Jan 16 Jack de Keyzer, 7–11PM, \$95

Jan 22 SIAN featuring Anne Archer and Shane Dunne

Jan 23 Country Rocks, 7–10PM, \$15

Jan 24 Robbie Burns Supper with Seventh Town, 6–10PM, \$75

Jan 25 Sunday Funday Chicken Pickin' Matinee Band, 1–4PM.

Jan 29 The Growing Machine

Music

You've Got A Friend, Jan 16, 7:30PM. Studio Theatre Perth. \$36.50 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434

SRO Tea Dance, Jan 18, 1:30–4PM. Dance to big band Standing Room Only. Entry (\$15) & snacks: cash only. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$20. facebook.com/srobigband

Burns Night Concert, Jan 24, 7PM. Kick off 30 years of Almonte Celfest with a special Burns Night Concert featuring East Coast Experience and special guests the Front Porch Sitters. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$30 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434

All the Mornings with Elinor, Jan 25, 2PM. Cellist Elinor Frey, Almonte in Concert. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$44 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434

Songs of Scotland, Jan 25, 3PM. Celebrate the birthday of Scotland's national poet Robert Burns with Tripoly & the Grenville Troubadours. St John's United Church, Kemptville. \$20 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434

Literature

Book Launch - Toller Cranston: Artistic Impressions, Jan 25, 2PM. Free admission. O'Brien Theatre, Arnprior. Free admission, RSVP required. phillippa@tollerinternational.com

Theatre

Film Night International — The Summer Book, Jan 22, 2PM & 7PM. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. Admission is \$12 at the door. smithsfallstheatre.com/event-detail-movies-fni

Winter
sales

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SRO Tea Dances, Mar 1 & 29, Almonte
Scandalous Romantics, Mar 7, Almonte
Jeff Rogers Trio, Mar 7, Carleton Place
Broadway Showstoppers, Mar 20-22, Carleton Place
Old Man Luedecke, Mar 28, Almonte
Pipes, Fiddles, Jigs and Reels, Mar 28, Perth
Maple Run Tour, Apr 4-5, Pakenham
Vnukowski/Odin Quintet, Apr 11, Almonte
Danny Michel, Apr 18, Almonte
The Play that Goes Wrong, Apr 30–May 3, Carleton Place
Fine Art Sale, May 2–3, Carleton Place
Los Desperados, May 16, Carleton Place
The Perfect Time, May 22–31, Almonte
Town Singers Concert, May 24 & 26, Carleton Place

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
General Fine Craft presents new works by Saskia Praamsma (ceramics), Diane Lemire (nuno-felted scarves), and Vanessa Neily (enamel jewellery) <generalfinecraft.com> Mississippi Valley Textile Museum presents <i>A Stitch in Time: The Palestine History Tapestry</i> [from Feb 14] <mvtm.ca> Sivarulrasa Gallery presents <i>LOVE LOVE LOVE</i> , a group show by artists Sarah Anderson, Gayle Kells, Mary Pfaff and Peter Wood [from February 14] <sivarulrasa.com> The Arts CP Art Hub presents <i>Shifting Perspectives</i> , a group art show [to Feb 15]; Fine Art Photography by Gilly Marston [to Jan 28] and Danielle Barabé-Bussi�res [Jan 29–Feb 27] <artscarletonplace.com> The Corridor Gallery at the Almonte Library presents works by Luna Blackwood [to Feb 21]			
2	3	4	5 🎵 Skyler Radmore , Lumbertown Ale House
9	10	11	12 🎵 Steve Stacey Duo , Lumbertown Ale House 🎵 Carleton Place Toastmasters Club , Carleton Place
16 🎻 Winterfest , Almonte 🎻 Family Day at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum , Almonte 🎻 Public Skating , Almonte, Pakenham 🎬 Family Movie , Almonte 🎻 Family Day at the Mill of Kintail , Almonte	17 🎻 Winterfest , Almonte 🎤 Q&A with Madame Ambassador Leslie Scanlon , Zoom	18 🎻 Winterfest , Almonte	19 🎭 Don't Dress for Dinner , Smiths Falls 🎵 Jasen Colson , Lumbertown Ale House 🎵 John Muirhead , Neat Coffee Shop 🎻 Winterfest , Almonte
23	24	25	26 🎵 Ty Hall , Lumbertown Ale House 🎵 Carleton Place Toastmasters Club

Festivals 🌻
Frost and Fire Winter Festival, Feb 14.
A day of indoor and outdoor family-friendly activities in downtown Perth. perth.ca/frostandfire

Visual Arts 🖼️
A Stitch in Time: The Palestine History Tapestry, Feb 14, 1–4PM. Exhibition opening. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. mvtm.ca
Artist Meet & Greet, Feb 14, 2–4PM. Meet and greet with artists Sarah Anderson, Gayle Kells, Mary Pfaff and Peter Wood. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. sivarulrasa.com

Theatre 🎭
Who Killed the Director?, Jan 31, 6PM. Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre. The Civitan Club, Perth. \$100 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434

Screening: Nature's Path to Wellness, Feb 1, 2–4PM. Screening and conversation around the recently released short film *Nature's Path to Wellness*, which explores the role of nature in healing and wellness. Perth Studio Theatre. Free, registration through TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434
An Afternoon of Comedy Magic with Magician Michael Conway, Feb 7, 2PM. Magician Michael Conway brings you an afternoon of non-stop comedy, magic, and illusion! Recommended for ages 5 and up. Studio Theatre Perth. \$22.60 – \$28.25 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434
Hadestown: Teen Edition, Feb 13, 20 & 21, 7:30PM; Feb. 14 & 15, 2PM. A full-length adaptation of Anais Mitchell's international phenomenon *Hadestown*, modified for performance by teen actors for family audiences. Carleton Place Town Hall. \$20 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434

Don't Dress for Dinner, Feb 13, 14, 19 & 20 7:30PM; Feb. 15 & 22, 2PM. The Smiths Falls Community Theatre presents a farce by Marc Camoletti, adapted by Robin Hawdon. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. Adults \$25 / Children \$10. smithsfallstheatre.com/online-tickets-plays
Family Movie, Feb 16, 2PM. John Levi Community Centre, Almonte. Free. mississippimills.ca/events
Frankenstein, Feb 21, 7:30PM. The movie will be seen on the large screen in St. Paul's accompanied by a live orchestra playing composer Mark Bailey's new score, with Rick Rangno conducting. St. Paul's United, Perth. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434
DJ Ahmet, Feb 22, 2PM. Macedonian film presented by the Mississippi Mills Film Society. Almonte Legion. \$15 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434

Music 🎵
Library After Dark presents **Susie Ungerleider**, Jan 30, 7:30PM. Perth & District Library. \$30
Amos The Transparent, Jan 31, 7:30PM. Folkus is kicking things off with Ottawa's own six-piece ensemble Amos the Transparent. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$50 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434
Moonfruits and Tragedy Ann, Feb 6, 7. Joshua Bates Centre, Athens. \$30 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434
Civitan Club of Perth Monthly Jam-boree, Feb 8, 1–6PM. Get ready for an afternoon filled with amazing music and good vibes followed by a delicious full course dinner. Perth Civitan Club & Hall. \$20 per person for dinner and dance. civitanclubofperth.com
Sarah Hagen, Feb 15, 2PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonald's Corners. \$10/\$30 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485–6434

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>30</div> <div><div></div><div>Chris Murphy, The Cove Country Inn</div><div>Susie Ungerleider, Perth</div><div>Will Turnbull, Bridge Masters Brewing Co.</div></div>	<div>31</div> <div><div></div><div>Who Killed the Director?, Perth</div><div>Amos The Transparent, Almonte</div><div>Annual Westport Senior Living Fundraiser Night, The Cove Country Inn</div></div>	<div>1</div> <div><div></div><div>Screening: <i>Nature's Path to Wellness</i>, Perth</div><div>Sundays with Eric and Meghan, The Cove Country Inn</div></div>
<div>6</div> <div><div></div><div>Moonfruits and Tragedy Ann, Athens</div><div>River City Junction, Bridge Masters Brewing Co.</div></div>	<div>7</div> <div><div></div><div>An Afternoon of Comedy Magic with Magician Michael Conway, Perth</div><div>Sam Polley and The Old Tomorrows, Neat Coffee Shop</div></div>	<div>8</div> <div><div></div><div>Civitan Club of Perth Monthly Jamboree, Perth</div></div>
<div>13</div> <div><div></div><div>Hadestown: Teen Edition, Carleton Place</div><div>Don't Dress for Dinner, Smiths Falls</div><div>Landon Bedor, Bridge Masters Brewing Co.</div></div>	<div>14</div> <div><div></div><div>Frost and Fire Winter Festival, Perth</div><div>Don't Dress for Dinner, Smiths Falls</div><div>Sivarulrasa Gallery, Artist Meet & Greet, Almonte</div><div>A Stitch in Time: The Palestine History Tapestry, Almonte</div><div>Valentine's High Tea, Perth</div><div>Hadestown: Teen Edition, Carleton Place</div><div>Craig Cardiff, Neat Coffee Shop</div></div>	<div>15</div> <div><div></div><div>Hadestown: Teen Edition, Carleton Place</div><div>Don't Dress for Dinner, Smiths Falls</div><div>Winterfest, Almonte</div><div>Perth Multicultural Food Fair</div><div>Craig Cardiff, Neat Coffee Shop</div><div>Sarah Hagen, McDonalds Corners</div></div>
<div>20</div> <div><div></div><div>Hadestown: Teen Edition, Carleton Place</div><div>Don't Dress for Dinner, Smiths Falls</div><div>Michelle Wright, Neat Coffee Shop</div><div>Winterfest, Almonte</div></div>	<div>21</div> <div><div></div><div>Mid-Winter Milling, Almonte</div><div>Frankenstein, Perth</div><div>Don't Dress for Dinner, Smiths Falls</div><div>Hadestown: Teen Edition, Carleton Place</div><div>Los Desperados, Perth</div><div>Terra Lightfoot, Neat Coffee Shop</div><div>Winterfest, Almonte</div></div>	<div>22</div> <div><div></div><div>DJ Ahmet, Almonte</div><div>Don't Dress for Dinner, Smiths Falls</div><div>Snow Angel Making Party, Middleville</div></div>
<div>27</div> <div><div></div><div>Miss Emily, The Cove Country Inn</div><div>Ben Caplan in Concert, Perth</div><div>Field Trip, Bridge Masters Brewing Co.</div></div>	<div>28</div> <div><div></div><div>The Weber Brothers, Almonte</div><div>Ben Caplan, Neat Coffee Shop</div><div>Coldest Night of the Year, Carleton Place</div></div>	<div>1</div> <div><div></div><div>SRO Tea Dance, Almonte</div></div>

Los Desperados, Feb. 21, 8PM. Canada's premier tribute to The Eagles. Farrell Hall, Perth. \$39 (advance) from TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434

Ben Caplan in Concert, Feb 27, 7:30. Caplan's newest album, *The Flood*, pushes boundaries through the strength of his talented and diverse collaborators. Oakfield Rugby Park, Perth. \$35 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434

The Weber Brothers, Feb 28, 7:30PM. A duo (sometimes trio) from Peterborough. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$50 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434

SRO Tea Dance, Mar 1, 1:30-4PM. Dance to big band Standing Room Only. Entry (\$15) & snacks cash only. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$20.facebook.com/srobigband

Pub Listings

The Cove (Westport, 273-3636): 5-8PM unless noted; Wed Wings 'n Tunes w/ Shawn McCullough; Sun Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh

Jan 30 Chris Murphy

Feb 1 Sundays with Eric and Meghan

Feb 27 Miss Emily, 7-11PM, \$95

Bridge Masters Brewing Co. (Perth, 201-2337): 7PM

Feb 6 River City Junction

Feb 13 Landon Bedor

Feb 27 Field Trip

Lumbertown Ale House (Arnprior, 623-8885): 7PM

Feb 5 Skyler Radmore

Feb 12 Steve Stacey Duo

Feb 19 Jasen Colson

Feb 26 Ty Hall

Neat Coffee Shop (Burnstown, 433-9960): 8PM

Feb 7 Sam Polley, \$30

Feb 14 Craig Cardiff, \$20

Feb 19 John Muirhead, \$40

Feb 20 Michelle Wright, \$60

Feb 21 Terra Lightfoot, \$40

Feb 28 Ben Caplan, \$40

Community

Carleton Place Toastmasters Club, Feb 12 & 26, 7PM. Learn how to improve your public speaking and leadership skills. Carleton Place Toastmasters Club. carletonplace.toastmastersclubs.org

Valentine's High Tea, Feb 14, 2-4PM. Come enjoy a delightful afternoon of tea, fancy and delicious treats, beautiful decor and live music. Perth Civitan Club & Hall. \$45 per person (Tables of 8 available). civitanclubofperth.com

Destination Almonte presents **Winterfest**, Feb 15-21. Skating, Family Fun Day, and lots more. Details at destination-almonte.com

Perth Multicultural Food Fair, Feb 15, 11AM-2PM. Hosted by The Table Community Food Centre at the Crystal Palace. Free community event with samples and performances from different cultures, celebrating diversity in Lanark County

Family Day at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Feb 16, 10AM-4PM. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. Free. mississippimills.ca/events

Public Skating, Feb 16, 1-3PM. John Levi Community Centre, Almonte. Free. mississippimills.ca/events

Family Day at the Mill of Kintail, Feb 16., Mill of Kintail Conservation Area, Almonte. Free admission and parking. mississippimills.ca/events

Public Skating, Feb 16, 2-4PM. Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham. Free. mississippimills.ca/events

Q&A with Madame Ambassador Leslie Scanlon, February 17, 6:30PM. Zoom. Ambassador Scanlon will answer your questions about what it's like to work as a woman, and advocate for women, across a wide variety of countries. cfuwperth.org

Mid-Winter Milling, Feb 21. Mini sessions with practitioners of reiki, tarot, etc. Downtown Almonte. destination-almonte.ca

Snow Angel Making Party, Feb 22, 1-4PM. Free, family-friendly, all welcome. Campfire, sledding, snowshoeing and more. 4381 Wolf Grove Road, Middleville

Coldest Night of the Year, Feb 28, 4PM. Carleton Place. Join CFUW Perth and District in supporting the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) fundraiser! cnoy.org



Catch the Jeff Rogers Trio at the Carleton Place Town Hall on Saturday, March 7

Jeff Rogers Trio to Play Carleton Place

On Saturday, March 7, the Jeff Rogers Trio will perform at the historic Carleton Place Town Hall Auditorium at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at <online.carletonplace.ca/jeff-rogers-trio>.

Singer/songwriter Jeff Rogers’ unmistakably soulful voice often evokes weighty comparisons to the past — whether that’s Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles or even Otis Redding — however, his tone, range, phrasing and sincerity all make him unmistakably contemporary and totally original. Jeff has toured internationally and is in demand as a session player. He has also been a member of renowned country rock band The Cooper Brothers for over a decade.

The Carleton Place Town Hall Auditorium is once again becoming a hub for live musical entertainment throughout the year. This venue has already hosted incredible talents such as Fred Eaglesmith, KellyLee Evans, Bywater Call, Ron Sexsmith, Devin Cuddy, and more! This intimate venue provides breathtaking acoustics as well as the opportunity for up close and personal interactions with the artists. Tickets for the Jeff Rogers Trio are on sale now and will sell out, so don’t delay!

Los Desperados

Then on Saturday May 16, Los Desperados will bring the Eagles’ greatest hits to the stage. Experience hits like *Hotel California*, *Take It Easy*, *Desperado*, *Lyin’ Eyes* and *Life in the Fast Lane*, performed with the lush harmonies and guitar work that made the Eagles legendary. Every note is delivered with deep respect for the originals, creating a live experience that feels both nostalgic and fresh. Showtime is 7:30PM, and tickets are available online at <online.carletonplace.ca>.



Wine Tasting

paired with gourmet small bites
presented by the Rotary Club of Carleton Place

Join us for a guided tasting of fine wines paired with gourmet small bites from renowned Black Tartan Kitchen



GUIDED TASTING BY SOMMELIERE
LOUISE BOUTIN

March 7, 2026 at 7pm
(doors open at 6:45pm)

Carleton Place Curling Club
120 Patterson Crescent, Carleton Place



Tickets: \$75 (plus fees)
from TicketsPlease.ca



Call to Artists: The Tunic Show

Organizer Laura Jean Starkey invites artists and makers from all disciplines to take part in a large-scale, immersive exhibition titled The Tunic Show, taking place on August 1 at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum in Almonte. This ambitious exhibition will bring together creators from all walks of life, each contributing a single, artist-designed tunic. The vision is to fill the museum hall with mannequins dressed in tunics that reflect the individuality, creativity, and stories of their makers, creating a powerful visual statement about the diversity of contemporary creative practice.

Artists of all kinds are encouraged to participate, including but not limited to potters, painters, photographers, embroiderers, knitters, crocheters, printers, assemblage artists, drawers, and carvers. The idea for the show grew out of a conversation between Laura Jean Starkey and Deborah Guthrie while discussing a project involving dyed and decorated tunics. From that moment came a larger inspiration: to create a space that showcases what artists can bring to life from nothing, using a shared form as a starting point.

In this exhibition, the tunic acts as the vessel, and the artist becomes the storyteller. There are intentionally very few rules. All tunics will be handmade by Laura Jean Starkey using linen or cotton; painters who prefer canvas may request a canvas tunic instead. Artists are free to alter, embellish, cut, stitch, paint, dye, print, or otherwise transform the tunic in any way they choose.

Registration Deadline

Registration is open until January 31, with limited spots available. Once registered, artists will receive their tunic on or just before the deadline, making this an ideal winter project. Finished tunics are due by July 15. Artists may register more than once and create multiple tunics, provided each piece includes its own registration and display fee.

Participants are asked to bring their finished tunic along with a mannequin or upright display to Almonte on August 1. For artists who are unable to attend in person, tunics may be mailed in and will be displayed on their behalf. Set-up will take place on the morning of the show.

Each tunic should include a display card with the artist’s name, price, and a short bio. Adding the story behind the tunic is highly encouraged. All tunics will be offered for sale during the exhibition, with pricing determined by the artist and 100 % of sales going



Pictured above is a linen tunic currently under construction. After hand-dyeing it with walnut ink, artist Laura Jean Starkey is adding linen leaves and lace from her mother’s 1957 wedding dress.

Laura invites artists and makers from all disciplines to participate in a Tunic Show at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum later this year.

directly to the creator. Tunics not for sale, or those sold prior to the show, will be marked with a red dot and will still be exhibited and eligible for awards.

The exhibition will include People’s Choice Awards, voted on by visitors during the show. Prizes include \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place, and \$500 for third place, announced at the end of the event. If a tunic is unfinished by the deadline, it is still welcome and may be displayed as “under construction,” honouring the reality of creative life.

The registration fee is \$100 per tunic, payable by e-transfer to <laurajeansstarkey@yahoo.ca> or online at <lauras-shop.square.site>. The fee includes the handmade tunic, exhibition participation, promotion, vernissage, Instagram promotion, posters, a show brochure, and food and wine at the event.

Artists are encouraged to share this call widely. Questions may be directed to Laura Jean Starkey by email.

Suzie Ungerleider in the Library After Dark

Suzie Ungerleider (formerly Oh Susanna) returns to the Perth & District Library for a Library After Dark concert on January 30. Library After Dark is a special fundraising concert series that offers a chance to see top-notch artists in an intimate and uncommon space.

After 23 years away chasing dreams in Toronto, three-time JUNO nominee Suzie Ungerleider returned home to Vancouver, drawn by its salt air and towering trees. Her new album, *Among the Evergreens*, is a deeply personal journey through time, tracing her path from youthful dreams to the wisdom of experience.

“It’s about being like a tree with all those rings around you, the layers of your life telling you who you are and where you’ve been,” she says. Imagery of the outdoors, of green valleys and trees shedding their leaves, infuses this new collection that is garnering high praise as one of her best.

Uncut Magazine describes *Among the Evergreens* as “thoughtful, luminous, expressive”, and featured it as Americana Album of the Month for June 2025. *Mojo Magazine’s* four-star review glowed

that these ten new songs “are about as sweet as folk-Americana comes.”

Suzie brings her stories to life with her captivating voice and raw honesty. Inviting you into her world through poetic lyricism and mesmerizing melodies, she shares her experiences from teenagehood to motherhood. “Here I am making songs back among the evergreens, a prodigal daughter, who is now a mother, asking who was I then and who am I now, where have I been and what did I learn along the way?”

Expect an evening of heartfelt music and vivid storytelling that lingers long after the last note fades, leaving you among the evergreens, dreaming and remembering.

Doors open at 7PM and music starts at 7:30PM. There will be a cash bar, featuring a selection of wine and beer generously donated by the Perth Brewery. Tickets are \$30 and available online in advance at <perthunionlibrary.ca/library-after-dark> or at the door. A charitable receipt for \$15 will be issued for each ticket.



Photo by Trevor Cornish

Meditation in Clay

How Joanne Nimmo Bulsara Helps Us Rediscover Creativity

When artist Joanne Nimmo Bulsara and I set out to design a workshop pairing clay sculpting with guided meditation, we weren't sure the concept would land. Still, we believed that a practice grounded in the hands and another anchored in the mind might enable a deeper, unique creative experience. We discovered that meditating while making encourages people not just to make something, but to feel something shift as they do.

by Kim Lulashnyk

For Joanne, creativity has always been elemental. "As far back as I can remember, I had a pencil or a crayon in my hand," she says. Growing up in a challenging home environment, she found her refuge outdoors. The woods and lake near her childhood home became her sanctuary. What she didn't know then was that she was already meditating, finding stillness, breathing with the natural world, and listening inward long before she ever encountered formal teachings.



Clay artist Joanne Nimmo Bulsara

That changed when she was sixteen. A meditation teacher appeared at her high school (quite literally sitting alone in the gymnasium) and invited curious students to join her. Joanne instantly recognized the experience. "I told her afterward, 'I've been doing this since I was a little girl.'" That simple moment ignited a lifelong inquiry into spirituality and consciousness. Joanne explored Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Zoroastrianism, always searching, always asking. Throughout, her sketching remained the throughline, the place where her questions took shape.

Like so many artists, Joanne's artistic path has been anything but linear. For twenty years, she worked as an artist-blacksmith alongside her husband and children. They forged large sculptures, functional ironwork, and one-of-a-kind commissions, entirely self-taught and fueled by intuition and craft. When serious illness ended that chapter, Joanne returned to other materials; first to stone carving, which she took to as though she had done it for a century, and later to clay and smaller sculptural forms that suited her evolving physical abilities.

However, the most transformative evolution was not in the medium but in the method. Joanne realized that meditation wasn't simply preparation for creativity; it was the heart of her creative process. She began to practice dropping into a meditative state, asking her consciousness for guidance and listening. She speaks to the work, follows its cues, and feels her way forward. "It becomes a conversation," she says. "It's joy. It's connection. It's energy."

This insight became the seed of the meditation and clay workshop. In a culture that often treats art as a product, Joanne wanted to share a practice that reveals how creativity can ground and restore. Each session begins with a guided meditation, gently settling participants into stillness before they touch the clay. Joanne works with clay in her own stone-carving practice, but she also chooses it because it is drawn directly from the earth and provides immediate grounding. The simple act of holding it brings people fully into the present moment. As fingers begin to shape the surface, self-criticism softens into curiosity. Participants stop asking, "Am I doing this right?" and instead ask, "What wants to come through?"

This shift is the magic Joanne hopes to offer. "I didn't want the workshop to feel like therapy or to bring up sadness," she explains. "I wanted people to discover joy — real, grounded joy — in the act of creating."

A recent session at Stone Manor Studios proved how powerful the combination can be. Participants relaxed, laughed, and shaped their clay with a freedom that surprised them. Each sculpture was different, but all carried a quiet sincerity. I believe that people left feeling lighter, more settled, and deeply connected to the creative process. Joanne herself

was moved. "I knew I could teach meditation, and I knew I could teach sculpture," she says. "But seeing both come together, seeing people feel joy through their own hands, that was incredible."

Today, Joanne continues her own creative work with the same sense of wonder. She is currently exploring multi-material pieces that combine stone, deer bone, and wood, each one created through her meditative dialogue with the materials. "Everything I create now comes from the heart," she says. "If it resonates with someone, wonderful. If it doesn't, that's perfectly fine. The work needs to be true."

Her work can be followed through Raven's Eye Studio on Instagram and Facebook, though she'll be the first to tell you that what matters most is not the finished sculpture but the energy and awareness that shape it.

For those interested in exploring this approach, Joanne plans to offer additional meditation-and-clay experiences in early spring 2026, with the possibility of a special session for the Winter Solstice 2026. If the recent workshop is any indication, these gatherings won't just teach people how to sculpt. They will offer something much rarer, a chance to pause, breathe, and rediscover the deep, quiet creativity that lives within us all.

For information about these and other creative offerings at Stone Manor Studios, visit <stonemanorstudios.ca>.



THANK YOU
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in *theHumm*!

The Smiths Falls Community Theatre Presents

Don't Dress for Dinner

A FARCE BY Marc Camoletti adapted by Robin Kardon

Directed by Dave Clark
Produced by special arrangement with Concord Theatrical - February 2026

February 13, 14 & 19, 20, 21 at 7:30 pm
Sun Matinees
February 15 & 22 at 2:00 pm
• Adult \$25 • Student/Child \$10
Group rates available for 15 or more for the same performance

Tickets available at:
• Special Greetings, 8 Russell St. E., Smiths Falls (cash, credit, debit, voucher)
• smithsfallstheatre.com (credit, debit, voucher)
• By Phone - 613-283-2244 (credit, debit, voucher)
• At the Door - 1/2 hour before performance (cash, credit, debit, voucher)

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JACK DE KEYZER BAND

FRI. FEB. 27
MISS EMILY BAND

FRI. MAR. 20
CRYSTAL SHAWANDA BAND

FRI. APR. 17
ANGELIQUE FRANCIS BAND

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Midnight Dream by Gayle Kells is featured in the upcoming group exhibition at Sivarulrasa Gallery

LOVE LOVE LOVE

Come out to Sivarulrasa Gallery on Valentine's Day for the opening of their first exhibition of 2026! **LOVE LOVE LOVE** will run until March 20, with a vernissage/artists reception on Saturday, February 14 from 2-4PM.

The show brings together works by artists Sarah Anderson, Gayle Kells, Mary Pfaff and Peter Wood, exploring themes of love and life. Sivarulrasa Gallery is located at 34 Mill Street in Almonte. For more information, visit sivarulrasa.com.

Indigenous River Project Moves Ahead in CP

By Colleen Gray

This summer, construction for a beautiful installation at Riverside Park in Carleton Place will begin, thanks to the Town's approval for the funding required to build "The 4 Directions Stones". The installation will honour the historical and existing presence of the Algonquin Nation along the banks of the Mississippi River. Historically, the river has been an important travel and trade route for the Algonquin people.

Under the guidance of the planning committee, the installation will be carried out by WRC Contracting, who also installed "The 7 Gifts" at Riverfront Park in Almonte. The committee is comprised of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous representation and has been in the planning and development stage for three years.



A bench by local woodworker Robert Manson will be part of the installation

This impressive installation will consist of four pillar-styled arrangements of armour stone facing the four cardinal directions. The stones will be embellished with symbols and language pertaining to the Algonquin culture with a nod to the Mississippi River. Alongside the installation will be a plaque detailing the meaning behind the symbols on the stones. In addition to the stones, along the river's edge a large plaque will detail the Mississippi's historically significant place names, with a bench created by local woodworker Robert Manson as part of the

installation. This powerful acknowledgement will serve to inspire and educate people visiting the park and attending cultural ceremonies.

The 4 Directions Stones planning committee is deeply grateful to the Town of Carleton Place for supporting this initiative. Follow the progress on the committee's Facebook page @Mississippi River Gathering Place, or email 4directionscp@gmail.com for more information.

MISI ZIBI MAMIDOSEWIN

MISSISSIPPI RIVER GATHERING PLACE

INDIAN DOOR IN CARLETON PLACE
The Riverside Inn at 17th Bridge Street was built in 1876. As the first other than the river was a door to the west and to the east for Indigenous people who arrived by boat or on foot, their arrival, their journey, is a testament to the river's role as a gateway to the west and to the east.

HACKBERRY TREES
This area of the river is known for its abundance of river mud, growing along the river's edge. The mud is rich in nutrients and is a testament to the river's role as a gateway to the west and to the east.

INDIAN'S LANDING
This is the place where the first Indigenous people arrived in Carleton Place. It is a place of great significance and is a testament to the river's role as a gateway to the west and to the east.

MEGOWITCH, THANK YOU!
• Mississauga's first Indigenous gathering place to be named after an Indigenous person.
• A testament to the river's role as a gateway to the west and to the east.

"The 4 Directions Stones" installation at Riverside Park in Carleton Place will honour the historical and existing presence of the Algonquin Nation along the banks of the Mississippi River

Load Up the Calendar!

Good grief, we're barely through with 2025 yet, and already I've got things on the calendar way into spring. I'm supposed to be signing up for April events, and I haven't finished with December yet. By April I should be thinking about the garden, and here I am shovelling snow — and yes, I know we've already had enough, but there's more to come, count on that.

by Glenda Jones

I intended to uncomplicate my life by doing less in the new year, and now I see that's not going to happen. We go into January believing we have a clean slate when in reality we only have a quick Christmas break before we're right back into our routine, one that we chose in September when we were desperate to find new activities.

If we were suddenly to leap off the merry-go-round of our own making, we'd soon find ourselves mired in ennui and longing to get out of the house and into our old routine, or if nothing else, to find a new activity. Sure, it's tempting to get all virtuous and decide to go to the gym, but you probably know that you'll find excuses to skip sessions long before the membership runs out. We're much better off to pick up where we left in mid-December and leave the big changes to the real New Years, which we all know is September 1.

January? What is the compulsion to schedule ourselves way ahead? Well, it gives us a reason to get up in the morning. Knowing the day holds some promise of purpose increases our resolve to make the best of it. We can think ahead to how the event will play out. Maybe we think of what we'll wear, who we'll see, even how much it's going to cost. Meeting someone for coffee takes a whole lot of phone calls and emails to get a date compatible for both of us, but once we do, it's on the calendar, and heaven help circumstances that interfere.

February? Putting something on the calendar months in advance gives us planning time. Maybe we need to improve our skills... which involves taking a course. Purpose again: every class gives us the opportunity to learn and grow towards the final goal. The dog trialling season will start up again in a month,

and I've got a long way to go. Diligence, patience, and yes, a whole lot of practice! Whatever I can learn in the meantime will be useful.

March? Already? Time to put the skills to good use and hope the practice pays off. Are travel plans in the offing? Have you booked the resort for the summer? Better get at it now before all the best spots are taken. There might be icicles hanging from the eaves, but in a few months it's going to be a scorcher and you'll want to be on a lake somewhere cool. Get those weeks written into the calendar, and pray the weather will cooperate. Then you can let your imagination take over while you declare "I can't wait for..." It'll make the experience even better when you've savoured it for months in advance.

Anticipating events, even if they aren't particularly exciting, provides focus. I knew a lady who said: "I can't die yet, I've got bridge next week", and by golly, she was there at the table with the best cards. Yes, "places to go, people to see" provides incentive one day to the next.



theHumm's office calendar
("The Art of Gray" by artist Colleen Gray)
is filling up already!

So what do we do if our best plans go off the rails? We regroup our resources and make a new plan. The gap in the calendar might be a gift of time we didn't anticipate when we can play hooky for a while. Even if the derailed date is doomed by weather or circumstances, we can salvage some shred of purpose from it.

We've got several calendars around here, but we rely on the computer one and the little notes tucked into our garden journal. Lord help us if we forget to enter something, because it'll disappear into the ether. I thought I didn't need reminders, but I'm glad to see them pop up on the email if only to confirm what I already know. Further, it prevents things from overlapping and me from having to make weak excuses for forgetting. That annoys me.

So there now, I'm turning a new page to January 2026, with many events already planned for the next four months. They're on the calendar, in my journal, and waiting. I'll do my best to arrive at each of the dates with some degree of readiness. I've still got plenty of time to pencil in lots of new things too, so "I'll have my people call your people" and we'll try to get together some time before September, when it's good for both of us.

Neighbourly ReUse in Lanark Highlands

By Jeff Mills

In response to the recent closure of the Hub's Rebound Centre in Almonte, a small group of engaged citizen advocates has rallied in Mississippi Mills. By examining other nearby community programs that are successfully reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill by returning reusable items to the community, this group is looking for future solutions in Mississippi Mills. They are also actively addressing the closure of the Hub's Rebound.

"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." The 3-R mantra has been adopted over the decades as human-generated waste continues to threaten our environment. This group wants to learn from other communities about their successful programs of waste reduction and reuse. This article features the McDonald's Corners ReUse Centre in Lanark Highlands.

"I was taking my garbage to the town dump one day when I saw five computers in a pile ready to be buried with the waste," explains Lanark Highlands resident Lynn Parks. "I needed a computer at the time, so I fished out the newest one from the pile.

'Someone should do something', I said to myself." From this humble beginning came a very successful citizen-led waste diversion program. Lynn contacted her friend Chris Anstead, and then many other citizens rallied after a simple poster was shared throughout the community.

In the early days of their efforts, areas at some municipal waste facilities were designated for materials that could be reused and were free for the taking. Then in October 2009, these self-described "ReUsers," with support from the Municipality of Lanark Highlands, opened the facility at the McDonald's Corners waste site. Local businesses, tradespeople and volunteer carpenters came together and constructed a building on the site. ReUse had a proper home, with storage, sorting area, shelves, and a volunteer program. This marked the formal start of the centre as a place where items could be accepted, sorted, and offered back to the community free of charge, instead of being thrown away.

In 2010, the municipality passed Bylaw 2010-1061 — "ReUse Centre Operating Procedures" to formalize the relationship between the volunteer ReUsers and the municipality. It established rules for how the centre would run, ensuring "fair use" of the centre by residents — meaning it set out how goods are accepted, sorted and made available, specifically prohibiting profit-making from goods taken from the centre — no one is to resell for personal gain. The operation was to be volunteer based, not a commercial venture, but supported by the municipal-



The ReUse Centre in McDonald's Corners is a terrific example of a community-led, municipally-supported environmental solution



ity. Lanark Highlands offered space at their landfill site and some funding for repairs and utilities, while the volunteer ReUsers would run the day-to-day operations.

In short order the efforts of the ReUsers showed signs of success as they collected and diverted goods such as books, clothing, furniture, small appliances, electronics, housewares and craft materials, sports and garden equipment, windows, doors and more from landfill. In 2009, an estimated 16 tons of reusable materials were diverted from landfill; in 2010 the number more than doubled to 37 tons; in 2011 it grew to approximately 75 tons; and recent counts have this figure at over 100 tons per year.

"Our partnership with Lanark Highlands and being here at their waste site is key," shares Lynn. "We don't have garbage pick-up in the Highlands, so everyone has to come here with their waste anyways. We make it easy for them to dispose of their reusable

items. Most people take other things they can use home with them when they leave."

"It's an amazing place of social connection," she adds. "Some days there are cars lined up at the gate before we open. Neighbours meet neighbours. It really works because of the dedicated ReUser volunteers, and oh yeah — everything is free!"

If you are concerned about the waste diversion of reusable goods in Mississippi Mills, send a message to <After.Rebound@gmail.com> to join our email group for updates and watch local media for further articles describing what other communities in our region are doing.

The McDonald's Corners ReUse Centre's winter hours (September 15 to May 14) are the same as their landfill: Thursday 2–5PM, Saturday 9AM to 1PM, and Sunday 12–5PM. Please note: the drop-off of reusable goods at the McDonald's Corners ReUse Centre is limited to Lanark Highland residents.

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Join MMLT on *Nature's Path to Wellness*

The Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust (MMLT) was founded on and is guided by two core principles: conserving ecologically important lands and encouraging people to experience the healing power of nature. In today's fast-paced, screen-focused society, many have become disconnected from nature — often at the expense of mental and emotional wellbeing.

In partnership with Pinegrove Productions, and with support from the Perth and District Community Foundation and MMLT individual donors, MMLT has produced a short video entitled *Nature's Path to Wellness*.

Through real-life stories and experiences, the video explores how simply engaging with nature can start you down the path to wellness. It reveals how nature nurtures and rejuvenates, offering a free and accessible way to feel more balanced, emotionally resilient, and better able to care for yourself and others.

To mark its release, the public is invited to join those



featured in the film for a screening and conversation. Attendees will have the opportunity to share stories, reflect on what nature means to them, and learn how small moments of nature connection — using all the senses — can be powerfully restorative.

The screening takes place on Sunday, February 1 from 2–4PM at Studio Theatre Perth, which is located at 63 Gore St. E. There is no charge to attend, but registration is requested via <TicketsPlease.ca>. For further information, please contact Mary Vandenhoff at <vandenhoff@bell.net> or 278–2939.

January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Help Raise Awareness and End Stigma!

Submitted by The Alzheimer Society Lanark Leeds Grenville

The Alzheimer Society Lanark Leeds Grenville invites you to participate in this year's Alzheimer's Awareness Month. There are approximately 4,000 people living with dementia in Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville.

Last year alone, we had over 12,000 visits to our Day Program (offered in five locations). Each visit equals a 6-hour day. That is 72,000 hours of care we offered families living with dementia. In our Overnight Weekend Respite Program, we had 600 overnight stays (in two locations).

"Forget No One" is the Alzheimer Society's national anti-stigma campaign for January 2026. It focuses on shifting perceptions of dementia, encouraging early help-seeking, and reinforcing that people living with dementia — and those who support them — deserve to be seen, heard, and remembered.

Throughout January you can participate in Awareness Month in several ways. You can "Light it Up Blue" and use blue lights or décor to shine a light on dementia in our community either at home or at your place of businesses. We are pleased to have the town of Carleton Place; the town of Smiths Falls, and Heritage House Museum in Smiths Falls committed to lighting blue this month!

You can also keep an eye out for community displays with helpful information about dementia, local supports, and resources at places like the Carleton Place, Mississippi Mills and Brockville libraries. To request a digital toolkit of resources to set up your own display, please reach out to Sarah at <scavanagh@alzllg.ca>.

You can purchase (by donation) a paper forget-me-not flower and dedicate it to someone you love at a participating retailer. We are grateful to the Light-house Café in Smiths Falls and The Wedgewood in Brockville for being the first organizations on board for this campaign.

If you are a bakery, restaurant, or café owner, you can sign up for the Dining for Dementia campaign this year, which we hope to expand each January going forward. Contact Sarah at <scavanagh@alzllg.ca> for more information.

Dementia Friendly Communities

As part of the National Day of Action on January 28 to spark visibility and community engagement, we are

offering free Dementia Friendly Communities training in person at our Smiths Falls office (179 Elmsley St. N., Unit 155) or virtually via zoom on January 28 at 10AM or 6PM. A Dementia Friendly Community is a place where people living with dementia are understood, respected, and supported. It is an environment where they will feel more confident in their abilities to contribute to community life, will be included in conversations, and have a choice and control over their day-to-day lives.

People with dementia and their care partners have the right to live well in the community, together. As more people are diagnosed every year and choose to live at home, we need to determine how we can better support people living with dementia.

Join thousands of Ontarians in showing your support for people living with dementia and their care partners. Together, we can create a Dementia Friendly Community. Contact Robin at <rhull@alzllg.ca> to register!

Health Hub

We are excited to announce that in 2026 we will be developing a Dementia Health Hub in Smiths Falls. This hub will be a one-stop site for caregivers to bring their loved one living with dementia to receive health services that they may need. It is our way to continue to support families and care partners and help reduce the stress that is often associated with general appointments (for example, hair and foot care, hearing and eye tests).

The Alzheimer Society Lanark Leeds Grenville is a charity that operates free and low-cost programming, education, respite and support groups throughout Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville. We have offices in Carleton Place, Almonte, Smiths Falls, Perth and Brockville.

We encourage everyone to follow us on social media (facebook.com/AlzheimerSocietyLLG or instagram.com/alzheimersocietyllg) or sign up for our newsletter to stay informed about free education, local programs, services, and opportunities to support local families.

If you're interested in making a positive impact on those affected by Alzheimer's in your community, either as an individual participant or a business sponsor, please contact Sarah Cavanagh at <scavanagh@alzllg.ca>.

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The Perfect Garden...

In the long winter months, I don't spend all my time salivating over glossy seed catalogues and planning next season's perfect garden. I must confess that I spend many happy hours reading murder mysteries, in particular British crime fiction. In addition to enjoying descriptions of plants that I cannot successfully grow in the Ottawa Valley, I love encounters between British sleuths and old duffers in their garden allotments. The detectives find that the allotment gardeners make the most reliable witnesses. They are "in the moment", connected to their surroundings, and notice what goes on around them. I feel something similar as I connect with growing plants and am able to still the craziness in my head.

by David Hinks

Taking a break from ways to poison my adversaries, I focus on seed catalogues that fuel fantasies of the most amazingly productive vegetable garden imaginable. It is time to get practical. Am I going to have a tomato crop with the best-tasting heritage variety, or should I pick the new hybrid with all kinds of disease resistance? Perhaps a compromise — grow some of each!

Why go to all the effort of ordering seeds and then growing tender little seedlings under lights when you can just pick up plants from the closest box store? It is really a matter of choice. Garden centres tend to have very limited selection, often not even listing the name of the variety. For example, I want information about days to harvest, taste characteristics, and disease resistance.

After four months of winter, gardeners are understandably eager to plant some seeds. But this is a case where timing is critical! The length of time seedlings can grow indoors before they need to be planted in the outdoor garden varies considerably. Melons, squash and cucumbers only need four to six weeks; broccoli and cabbage five to eight weeks; tomatoes six to eight weeks; peppers and eggplant eight to ten weeks; celery, parsley, onions and leeks ten to twelve weeks.

Similarly, frost-tolerant veggies such as onions, leeks and brassicas (cabbage family) can go into the garden in the first week of May, but frost-tender seedlings such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplants will not want to be transplanted outdoors until the last week of May.

So if we are exercising restraint, our seed-planting schedule should look something like this: onions and leeks mid-February; brassicas,

peppers and eggplant mid-March; tomatoes first week of April; cucumbers and melons mid-April.

I have tried starting peas, corn and beans early indoors, but have found virtually no benefit — they are just so much happier growing directly from seed planted in the garden. Also, root vegetables such as beets and carrots do not transplant well. Peas can be planted directly in the ground probably by mid-April; carrots and beets by the first week of May; and corn and beans close to Victoria Day.

The approach to growing seedlings that I am describing is one that has worked well for me for several decades; however, many other approaches are possible — plants are pretty flexible.

The key to growing seedlings successfully indoors is lots of light. If plants don't have enough light, they will be spindly and weak and will not be able to handle the transition to outdoor conditions. I use artificial light as I have found that even a very sunny window is unlikely to provide sufficient light — although I do know some successful window-sill gardeners.

The set-up does not need to be fancy or pricey. I use utility wooden shelving and suspend fluorescent fixtures by chains between the shelves so that I can adjust them to keep them within a couple of inches of the seedlings. Used fluorescent fixtures are available for next to nothing at garage sales. I use only the cheapest four-foot fluorescent tubes, as my results have been just as good as with special "grow" tubes. On the other hand, some gardeners spend many hundreds of dollars on LED full-spectrum lights and nicely built stands.

I try to do one-step planting — for example, I use plug trays with 39 cells and put one seed in each cell. The other approach is to put a bunch of seeds in a small container and then transplant into larger pots or cells. I use a commercial seedling medium that I moisten well before filling the cells. Is a heat-mat required? I generally use them only for seeds that prefer warmer temperatures to germinate, including peppers and eggplants.

I turn on the lights first thing in the morning and turn them off when I go to bed. I water only when the growing medium is dry to the touch but before the seedlings wilt, and then drain off any excess water that has not been absorbed in a couple of hours — watering from the bottom is preferable.

Seeds contain all the nutrients required for germination. I use a diluted organic fish-based fertilizer



weekly after seedlings have been growing for a few weeks.

Seedlings are very vulnerable to viral diseases — commonly called "damping off" — which causes apparently healthy plants to topple over from the base and die. I have found that this is virtually eliminated by using a commercial seedling medium, new plastic cells/plugs, and ensuring good air circulation by keeping a fan running constantly. The air movement also produces stronger, stockier plants.

Vine crops such as cucumbers and melons do not like to have their roots disturbed when they are transplanted, but they do benefit from an early start, so I start them in biodegradable pots that I can plant directly in the garden.

One thing I do after planting the seeds is to maintain charts of what I have planted — both indoors and outdoors. At times I supplement this with labels, but I find that these get lost, move or fade. No job is finished until the paperwork is done!

It is also necessary to harden-off seedlings before moving them to the garden by giving them gradual exposure to outdoor conditions. As I transplant these lush green growing plants into the garden, it seems miraculous to me that just two or three months ago they started from small hard apparently lifeless objects!

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Call for Artists for 2026

By Laurette Lafleur

The 2026 Art in the Attic Show and Sale is sponsored by the Almonte & Area Artists' Association and will be held at the Old Almonte Town Hall on Mothers' Day Weekend, May 9 and 10.

Beginning January 26, we are extending an Invitation to Participate to other artists in our community. We invite you to apply.

There will be limited show spaces in this amazing venue as current members have had the first option to secure their spaces. New members may apply for membership and to participate in the show. Please visit <almonteareaartists.ca> to learn more.

The show is curated (not juried) to ensure a pleasant mix of art throughout the show space. We welcome new and innovative artists. If you have any questions, please email <a4artintheattic@gmail.com>.

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Pipes, Fiddles, Jigs and Reels!

RCMP Pipes, Drums and Dancers to Play Perth & District Collegiate Institute

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28 for “An Afternoon of Pipes, Fiddles, Jigs and Reels” featuring the RCMP Pipes, Drums and Dancers with special musical guests The Oakfield Players and the Celtic band Shabraque. This lively event starts at 2:30 in the Mason Auditorium at Perth and District Collegiate Institute, and is presented by generous local sponsors Oakfield Park, Coutts Coffee Roastery & Café, Riverwood Pizza Company and the Perth Academy of Building Arts & Science, along with support from media partner myFM Perth 88.1.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Pipes, Drums and Dancers of the National Capital Region was formed in the year 2000 and is one of eight RCMP pipe bands across Canada. Wearing the distinctive RCMP tartan and the world-renowned red serge, the band is comprised primarily of citizen volunteers but also includes police officers and employees of the force. They are led by Pipe Major Iain Tait, who was been decorated by both the Governor General and the RCMP Commissioner for his service.

The band performs regularly for the public in support of both regional and community endeavours as well as for RCMP ceremonial events. As

part of its official duties, they have performed for many heads-of-state including King Charles III and other members of the Royal Family. The band has toured extensively, representing both Canada and the RCMP while performing at international events across North America as well as in Europe and China. Most recently, the RCMP Pipes, Drums and Dancers toured The Netherlands for the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the liberation from Nazi-occupation, playing to sold-out crowds at concert halls as well as leading Canadian representation at parades and local events attracting hundreds of thousands of Dutch citizens. The band has also accepted an invitation to perform at the Eksjo Tattoo in Sweden in July of 2026. Find more information at <rcmppipesanddrums.com>.

Shabraque is a Celtic stage band that grew out of the RCMP Pipes, Drums and Dancers several years ago. This 19th century term was given to the saddlecloth used by the British Army’s famous Household Cavalry and carried over to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The RCMP horses traditionally feature a black shabraque with yellow trim. Comprised of string instruments and soloists, Shabraque performs high-energy toe-tapping jigs and reels originating from Scotland, Ireland and the east coast of Canada. Most of the musicians are also members of the pipe band. Audiences are encouraged to sing along for an intimate kitchen-party experience featuring familiar timeless folk songs. Check out their Facebook page for more details.

The Oakfield Players are a group of talented local artists who perform kitchen-party style during “Traditional Sundays” throughout the winter at Oakfield Park. Fiddles, harps and guitars are just a few of the musical instruments that are enjoyed in the clubhouse by those who drop by to tap



The RCMP Pipes, Drums and Dancers (above) will be joined by the Celtic band Shabraque (at left) and the Oakfield Players for a lively afternoon of Celtic music on March 28 at PDCI




their toes to the jigs and reels while sitting by the roaring stone fireplace, perhaps savouring a pint, glass of wine or a wee dram.

Oakfield Park is located on County Road 10 (North Street) 9 kilometres east of Perth. It was built on a simple belief: that when people gather with intention, they create ripples of impact that can last for generations. Oakfield Park was born in 2018 to create a home for rugby in Lanark County as well as a community meeting place where friendships could form, conversations could flow, and connection could flourish. What began as a field of dreams and a spirit of volunteerism has grown into something far bigger. Today, Oakfield Park is a dynamic destination for corporate retreats, weddings, field rentals, community celebrations, and of course, the sport that started it all.

In addition to The Oakfield Players on winter afternoons, the clubhouse hosts monthly concerts in an intimate setting by professional musicians from the Perth-area, Canada, the U.S. and across the pond. For more information on Oakfield Park and upcoming performances, check out <oakfieldpark.ca>.


Tickets for the March 28 concert at PDCI are available from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). For concert information, inquire at <concert@rcmppipesanddrums.com>.



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