

JULY 2024

# The Hummer

free

Arts,  
Entertainment  
& Ideas

## The Art of Teri Bell & Chris Wynnyk p.3



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July's Events



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Almonte's Celfest



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Stewart Park Festival



p.14

Craft Beer Fest



## July is Festival Season

After the fireworks on Canada Day, there's still a lot of celebrating going on this month — this area abounds with popular festivals! And if you want to reserve a perfect parking spot by buying the house it comes with, just give me a call!

**Pat's Picks 5 Wednesdays in July** • in Almonte's Augusta Street Park  
**for July:** Almonte Celfest • July 5-7 <almontecelfest.com>

Perth's Stewart Park Festival • July 19-21 <stewartparkfestival.com>  
Merrickville Festival of the Arts • July 27 & 28 <mag-artists.ca>

Patrick Kelly  
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Software engineer Kent Beck on why creators struggle to release projects (and why people in general don't take action):

**“By far the dominant reason for not releasing sooner was a reluctance to trade the dream of success for the reality of feedback.”**

Source: *Approaching a Minimum Viable Product* (August 2009)

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**Steve Reside** recently sent in this wonderful photo of his kids reading theHumm several years ago. Steve is a member of the local band The Ragged Flowers, who rehearse in his attic but recently vacated it to play two sold-out gigs at the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse. Steve wrote: "With all the gear out of my attic, I decided to do a deep clean of the cupboards and found pictures from our trip to London in 2006."

We thought this one was too cute to pass up!

And if readers will forgive the shameless self-promotion (since Rob Riendeau is the bass player for The Ragged Flowers), we wanted to let our readers know that for the first time in 25-ish years, you can now find their music on a streaming service near you!

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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 or on disk.

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**Thumm's up this month to Angie Arendt and Peter McGaugh**

Erstwhile Almontonians Angie and Peter recently decamped for southern climes, but during their brief stint here they contributed so much to the fabric of our community. We know they touched many lives and will be missed by a plethora of people, but we wanted to send out a personal thanks to Angie for her wonderful Humm column *The Bigger Picture*, and to Peter for participating in our Humm Team Productions show *Sketchy Santa*. We will miss your hugs, your laughs, your wisdom and your pie, and we wish you all the best. Don't be strangers!



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Almonte Celtfest presents  
**Rum Ragged**  
Gemmill Park, Almonte  
July 5



**CFUW Perth & District's Home & Garden Tour**  
Fundraiser  
July 6



**Mediterranean Dinner**  
4-course dinner  
Stonefields Estate  
July 11



Academy for Musical Theatre's  
**Willy Wonka**  
St. Paul's United, Perth  
July 19



Stone Fence Theatre presents  
**Miss Pringle's Mini-Skirt**  
Rankin Culture & Recreation Centre  
July 24–October 6



Art House Music Series presents  
**Peter Brown & Roxy Swan**  
CP Gallery, Carleton Place  
July 25



Mississippi Mills presents  
**Almonte Craft Beer Fest**  
Almonte Old Town Hall  
July 26



**Mexican Fiesta Dinner**  
4-course dinner  
Stonefields Estate  
August 8



**Puppets Up! presents Ben Durocher's A Canadian in New York**  
Almonte Old Town Hall  
August 9



**Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival**  
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# Hooking Up with Teri Bell and Chris Wynnyk!

These two Valley sisters have hook(k)ed up in a deliciously creative undertaking titled Hookk Creative Crochet. For the past three years these two fabric artists have played and experimented and thoroughly enjoyed themselves developing a line of crocheted jewellery. Suspend any initial reservations, and take a serious look at their eye-catching results.

by Sally Hansen

Matched with the right outfit, their colourful, organic, wildly original pieces can spice up your wardrobe and your life. Each crocheted necklace and pin presents you with creative opportunities. Most pieces feature a fascinating potpourri of colours, shapes and textures that complement various backgrounds in different ways. On their Facebook and Instagram posts they provide frequent tips on how to transform casual pairings into "Oh my God! I love your outfit!" And their jewellery is light, packable and best of all — affordable!

Chris and Teri are ingenious and imaginative. Each Hookk creation is original — a unique combination of crocheted shapes (many of which they have invented), and colours (much of their jewellery features variegated yarns). In some pieces they integrate bits of wood, leather and beads — basically, anything that catches their artistic fancy. The results are fun, funky and very eye-catching. They suggest using their crocheted pins on your coat, your hat, your pet, your bag, and (their personal favourite), on anything denim. Here's another destination: for years I've been displaying my favourite pins on plain lampshades and hats so I can enjoy them every day. I can just picture a room with their Hookk jewellery featured as a fun-loving decorative statement.



Eclectic is another adjective that pops into mind. We've all seen and probably worn the de rigueur gold or silver chain and pendant necklace, but I'll bet you've never sported a necklace that features a plumber's brass tee valve! That necklace sold the first time they showed it. Admittedly, the customer's father was a plumber...but it's a great piece, absolutely original, and very striking. Patterns do not feature in their creative explorations. The materials they use are primarily

organic, but their number one criterion is fun — fun to make and fun to wear.

## Sisters, Sisters...

*"Two different faces, but in tight places / We think and we act as one..."*

Irving Berlin's song came to mind as I interviewed Teri Bell and Chris Wynnyk in Teri's beautiful home on Otty Lake near Perth. Just change the last word in the lines "Caring, sharing / Every little thing that we are wearing," from "wearing" to "creating," and it describes their friction-free and extraordinarily productive partnership.

Teri is now retired while Chris is still working full-time, and over the past three years they have worked out a collaboration that accommodates their different schedules. Teri is a Certified Public Accountant, so she handles the finances and Hookk's bookings at artisanal craft shows. Also an accomplished painter, Teri's artistic talents are apparent on their social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. In addition to all her innovative and whimsical jewellery creations, Chris recently reciprocated by being her sister's eyes and ears during a major renovation at Teri's home while Teri was living abroad with her husband Jamie. Prior to retirement the couple worked as diplomats for Global Affairs Canada, and their home is replete with superb examples of art and artifacts from around the world.

The sisters and their three other siblings were born and raised in Halifax/Dartmouth until their Navy dad moved the family to Ottawa in 1974. Chris attended college to become an architectural technician and conservation technologist, and worked as a project coordinator/manager for various general contracting companies. Now she works in sales support and coordination for Team Harding in Kanata, ensuring the success of your new fireplace installation. Teri earned her CPA designation at Carleton University, and fulfilled her goal of joining the Public Service. When her husband's career in the diplomatic corps entailed overseas postings, she decided to join Global Affairs as well, and eventually became an auditor and fraud investigator. Chris notes that Teri is also "an awesome baker."

The rapport between the two is a pleasure to behold. They take turns extolling each other's virtues, and agree that Chris is a free spirit and Teri is more structured. The dichotomy works — they complement each other. Chris teaches me a new phrase — she describes them as "Frick and Frack". The Urban Dictionary informs me that it is "slang for two people who work well together or get along great." The partnership formed during Covid when Teri became socially isolated during her husband's posting to the Netherlands. She started crocheting again, and came across textile jewellery. Intrigued, and inspired by the yarn, she began experimenting. She was definitely not interested in using other people's patterns. Chris responded enthusiastically and equally imaginatively, and soon they were Hookked up.



Their first show in 2021 was a disaster. On a dreary spring weekend in Westport, they sold one necklace. Fortunately, Teri's mother-in-law offered them a space at her booth at the Perth Farmers' Market soon after, and their sales were so encouraging they redoubled their efforts.

In 2022 at Almonte's Fibrefest, they nearly sold out. Artisanal craft shows attract attendees who are looking for original creations. I agree with Teri's observation that "Wearable art is all about joy... making connections. It's a conversation starter."

The duo are on a dynamic creative roll. They love their medium — natural yarns available in an endless rainbow of colour combinations, complemented by anything that strikes their fancy, amplified by an endless possibility of shapes. It's the perfect creative playground that tantalizes Teri and never constrains Chris.

They have enjoyed "amazing support, mentorship and encouragement from the local fibre community," calling out special thanks to the generous folks at the yarn shops Unraveled <unraveled.ca> in Perth, and Yarns Aplenty <yarnsaplenty.ca> in Smiths Falls.

## Hookk Up at the Stewart Park Festival!

From July 19–21, Hookk's creatively crocheted accessories will be on display at the Stewart Park Festival in Perth. On September 7 and 8 they will join a host of other fabric artists at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum's 29<sup>th</sup> annual Fibrefest. As usual, the back of their Artist Trading Card provides details on the duo's upcoming shows, as well as coordinates for how to contact them if you hanker for a joyous, crocheted, made-to-order conversation starter.



## CAROL BAJEN-GAHM

*Littoral Light*

July 26 - August 30, 2024

Artist Reception: Saturday July 27, 2pm-4pm



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



**WHO** Teri Bell and Chris Wynnyk  
**WHAT** Crocheted Jewellery  
**WHERE** Facebook & Instagram <hookk\_creativecrochet>; contact by email at <teribell2013@gmail.com> and/or <cawynnyk@gmail.co>  
**WHEN** July 19-21, Stewart Park Festival 2024 <stewart-parkfestival.com>, Sept. 7-8, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum's 29<sup>th</sup> annual Fibrefest <mvtm.ca/whats-on/fibrefest>, Oct. 26, IODE Fundraiser, Carleton Place  
**WHY** "It gives us joy to create connections through our art."

• ARTIST TRADING CARD •



The Fitzgeralds will bring their electrifying and upbeat music to Celtfest, taking place from July 5-7

# Celebrate Summer at Almonte Celtfest!

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*Joanne Beaton*

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**exp REALTY BROKERAGE**

Mark your calendars, make your plans and tell your friends — Almonte Celtfest is back in Gemmill Park with a fantastic lineup of family-friendly entertainment from July 5-7. There are few things sweeter than getting together as a community to enjoy music outdoors, and Almonte Celtfest promises that and so much more. This gem of a festival is organized entirely by volunteers who work on it throughout the year. Thanks to the generosity of community sponsors, entrance to Saturday and Sunday's programming continues to be by-donation at the gate.

On Friday, July 5 Newfoundland's Rum Ragged will kick off the festivities with special guest Mariner's Curse. Tickets for opening night are \$30, and are available through Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) and at the gate. It's sure to be an evening to remember. Rum Ragged has made a name for themselves with a distinctive blend of striking vocal harmonies, staggering musicianship and captivating storytelling. Featuring bouzouki, fiddle, bodhran, banjo, guitar and button accordion, these Juno-nominated new champions of East Coast music enliven and enlighten audiences with songs and tune sets delivered with an honest swagger that is far beyond their years. With reverence for their roots and a creative, contemporary edge, this young band has quickly become known as the finest purveyors of a great living musical tradition.

Saturday and Sunday will also bring plenty of music, dancing and fun to the park from noon until late. From party band East Coast Experience and Almonte favourite Kelly Sloan to the Québécois folk of Bon Débarras and the sure-handed bluegrass of the Gladsome Gentlemen, the lineup has something for everyone. Another highlight is Lonesome George, a duo from Belfast, Ireland, who combine rip-roaring reels and finger-picking finesse with stirring socially conscious songwriting and Irish traditional music. Meanwhile, fans of dance should be sure to catch the electrifying family band The Fitzgeralds, featuring 3-time Canadian Grandmaster Fiddle and Step Dance

champions Tom, Kerry and Julie Fitzgerald, as well as local SFH Irish Dance Studios.

This year's festival carries on the tradition of celebrating and promoting the Celtic heritage of the Ottawa Valley with plenty of area talent on the bill, including community favourites the Barley Shakers and Valley Voices of Almonte, step dancing fiddler Terri-Lynn Mahusky, Traditional Fare, Saloon Dion, and bluegrass band Concession 23. Upcoming local talent will be showcased at the presentation of the Danny O'Connell Memorial Award, and the River-thieves will close out the weekend with a musical one-two punch of trad-inspired original tunes that are sure to get you up out of your camp chair one last time! Rounding out the event will be Celtic music workshops on the Saturday morning where you can learn from musicians playing in the festival, activities for the kids, food trucks, artisans, buskers downtown, and a seniors' shade tent, making this a widely accessible, family-friendly celebration. With all of this to check out, could a summer weekend get any better?

Almonte Celtfest would like to thank Cavanagh Construction, Mississippi Mills, Heritage Canada, and many other sponsors whose support make the festival possible and who have ensured that this year's event is one of the best yet.

Almonte Celtfest takes place from July 5-7. Visit <AlmonteCeltfest.com> for details, and follow @AlmonteCeltfest on Facebook and Instagram for festival news and updates.



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# Stewart Park Festival 2024

## A Celebration of Music and Community

Get ready for a musical experience like no other! Perth's Stewart Park Festival is thrilled to announce a spectacular three-day event, welcoming everyone to join in the celebration of music, community and generosity. Mark your calendars for July 19–21 and prepare for an unforgettable time filled with incredible performances and vibrant festivities.

Taking place in Stewart Park and the Crystal Palace, this unique festival offers a diverse lineup of artists and bands from various genres, ensuring there's something for every music lover. From soulful blues to high-energy rock and everything in between, the festival promises a rich tapestry of sounds and experiences.

Highlights of this year's festival include non-stop live performances from a stellar lineup of local and national artists; delicious treats and beverages from a variety of vendors; an artisan market where you can explore and purchase unique creations from talented artisans; and family-friendly activities that offer fun for all ages with face painting, games and more!



July 19–21 brings three days of free music in Perth's beautiful Stewart Park, along with ticketed after-hours events

What makes this festival truly special is its extraordinary team of volunteers. This isn't just any festival — it's a testament to the power of giving and community spirit. Together, organizers and volunteers have created something truly special that operates on a by-donation basis.

Stewart Park Festival believes in making music accessible to everyone. Your generous contributions will help support the artists, cover event costs, and contribute to local charities. Give what you can, and help create a memorable and impactful community event. Your contributions make this festival possible! Every donation helps cover costs and ensures that everyone can join in the fun, regardless of their ability to pay. Donation booths can be found throughout the festival (tax receipts are available), and you can also donate via the website. For more information, including this year's full lineup and schedule, please visit <stewartparkfestival.com>.



# Madawaska Valley Studio Tour

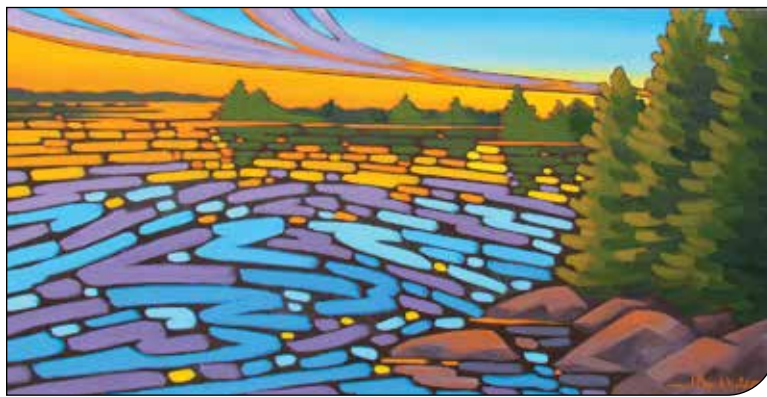
Spend some time off the beaten path and immerse yourself in art on the Madawaska Valley Studio Tour, which offers two opportunities to visit artists in their studios and see artmaking first-hand. Take a drive through historic routes and explore the Madawaska highlands and valleys during the summer tour on July 20 and 21, or at the fall tour on October 5 and 6. Studios will be open 10AM to 5PM on both weekends.

The tour offers the perfect opportunity to explore the picturesque landscape, with its lush forests and pristine lakes, and see why so many artists and artisans call this area home. Visitors will have the chance to observe them in their studios as they transform wood, clay, metal, glass, leather and canvas during live demonstrations.

One-of-a-kind art and fine craft will be available for purchase at the twenty studios participating in this year's tour, including four new studios and several youth guest artists. This is a wonderful opportunity to see emerging and renowned artists where they live and work.

The Madawaska Valley Studio Tour is a free, self-directed tour. Experience local art and enjoy all that this beautiful part of Eastern Ontario

has to offer. Brochures can be found at tourist information centres and businesses throughout the Valley. Follow the tour on Facebook and Instagram, or find more details at <madawaskavalleystudiotour.com>.



Evening Light by Joyce Burkholder



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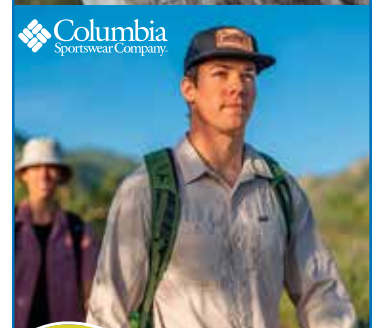
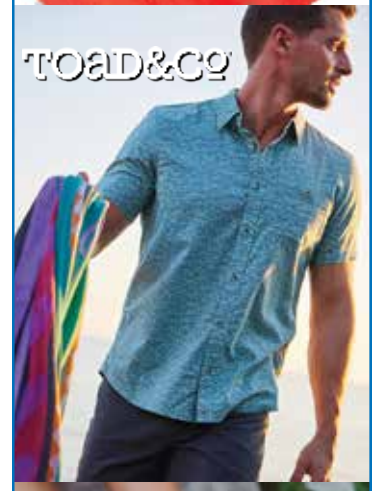
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Visit Whitehouse Perennials during their wonderful **Bloomfest** event (taking place from July 20-28) to find beautiful garden art (like the mosaic above by Cindy Laneville or the birdhouse below by My Recycled Dreams). Wander the daylily field and partake of a plethora of perennials!

## Using Art in Your Garden

By Suzanne Patry

To design a beautiful garden, it is important to consider the sizes, shapes, textures and colours of plant material and hardscape, as well as the background the garden is set against. In choosing art for your garden, all the same factors come into play. A well-chosen piece of art can be a wonderful addition to a garden. It can be both functional and beautiful. Consider the colourful birdhouses produced by My Recycled Dreams, Portshell Crafts or Peace of Mind Creations. Birds appreciate the housing, and we love the bright splashes of colour throughout the garden. The screens made by Rusty Girl can hide an air conditioning unit, and a free-standing trellis can support a vine to block your neighbour's compost pile. The colourful weatherproof paintings on canvas by Shelly Amor can also function as a privacy screen. A bench by Tuscany Concrete can be a focal point in a small garden and a place to sit and relax after a hard afternoon of weeding.

Art can also invite you in to explore a garden. When your eye is attracted to something, your feet will soon follow. It might be a piece of art that highlights a particular plant combo with its colour. It could be a larger piece off in the distance that beckons you to investigate. On a small scale this is more difficult to do, but remember that fences make great canvases for garden art. An interesting piece of art can also be suspended in a tree. A tall metal sculpture can tuck into a corner full of tall perennials and grasses, even in a small space.

Be sure to consider the size of the art piece relative to the size of the garden or garden room. Even a very small garden can accommodate a piece of art proportional to its size. It could be a beautiful birdbath

or a small glass mosaic piece. Conversely, a large space needs a choice that is big enough to make an impact and not be lost among the larger plants and shrubs. Consider using a pedestal or base to give mass to a smaller object that needs some added height to be in proportion to the surroundings. Concrete plinths, logs set on end, or a stump left when a tree is removed are all ways to do this.

Choose art pieces that complement the style of your garden. The fence around a cottage-style garden would be the perfect place to display the colourful daisies of Artfully Recycled. The fanciful creatures of Simply Devine and Twisted Tees work well in an informal setting where they can peek out from between masses of flowers. The tall spheres of A Twist of Metal have a formal feel that makes them suitable for a more structured garden.

Also remember the adage that less is more. Lots of small pieces of art scattered throughout a garden can make it cluttered and disjointed. A carefully chosen piece of art should not have to compete for attention with another piece in close proximity. Can you situate that second piece on a different sightline, or tuck it around a corner where it will be partially hidden until you walk there? If you can't resist collecting more pieces than you have room to display, consider rotating them seasonally.

When you come to Bloomfest, taking place from July 20 to 28 at Whitehouse Perennials near Almonte, wander the gardens and daylily field and enjoy the creations of twenty-two artists. But remember that no matter what you read about using art in the garden, it is your garden and yours is the only opinion that really matters!



**Perth Farmers Market**  
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[www.perthfarmersmarket.ca](http://www.perthfarmersmarket.ca)

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Grand illusionists Ted & Marion Outerbridge bring their fascinating show to the Carleton Place Town Hall beginning July 19

## Mysteries of the Keyhole House

Grand illusionists and Hollywood's Magic Castle headliners Ted & Marion Outerbridge are set to cast their spell this month at the Carleton Place Town Hall with their new magic show *Mysteries of the Keyhole House*, perfect for the entire family (ages 8-108)!

The Keyhole House is an enchanting sanctuary in the Ottawa Valley, inhabited by Canada's very own Ted and Marion Outerbridge. Beckoned by the spirits of yesteryear, these connoisseurs of all things magical were chosen by the abandoned, dilapidated home to be guardians of this historic gem. As they meticulously restored the creaking floors that carried the weight of countless footsteps, a treasure trove of cherished relics materialized before their eyes. From delicate skeleton keys to faded photographs, from a forgotten spool of thread to yellowed newspapers, a Victorian dollhouse and even a 1918 golf ball, each artifact whispered tales of bygone eras. But it was Ted's compelling videologues, marrying history with the digital age, that transported the Keyhole House into the viral universe. With over 30 million views on social media and appearances on CTV National News, a TVO documentary, and NBC's The Golf Channel (Brooke Henderson's grandparents had a 54-year connection to the house) the Keyhole House became international news! These videos and the true stories they tell birthed *Mysteries of the Keyhole House*, a simultaneously reverent, mystical and joyous show, where magic becomes the master storyteller. Audiences will be transported through time as Ted and Marion Outerbridge take them through an evening of enthralling illusions, theatre and dance, creating a spine-tingling spectacle of living history.

It all began when, fresh off their Hollywood appearances and in search of an old Victorian home, a chance Google listing lured the Outerbridges to the house and its grand keyhole arched entryway. That was the first tell-tale sign — after all, what magician doesn't love a keyhole and its portal to the otherworldly!

The couple was immediately smitten with a love that was palpable and unconditional. Despite concerns from banks and building inspectors the Outerbridges could not be swayed, and moved in on a cold November day. Ever since and ever thankful, the Keyhole House has generously returned its love with regular revelations of its storied past.

Indeed, on the very first night, Ted awoke to an aura of bright light at the foot of the bed, which they are now convinced was the friendly spirit of Agnes Lamb, one of the first owners of the Keyhole House. To

this day the couple's sleep continues to be disrupted by things that go bump in the night.

Ted and Marion thought they chose the house, but came to realize the house chose them. Evidence of this manifested itself when Ted discovered a book behind a hidden stairwell — he opened it to a random page only to find an illustration of a character named "Ted"! A dusty newspaper discovered in the attic featured a headline, "Dance Little Ladies", a perfectly choreographed welcome to Marion, herself a professionally trained dancer.

And what would a housewarming for the couple be without a gift set of keys? The Keyhole House happily obliged by unearthing a set of eight skeleton keys dating back to 1892, which Ted discovered behind the fireplace mantel. Serendipitously, the Outerbridges gifted the home an old gothic lantern found at a local antique shop that turned out to belong to the very architect who designed the Keyhole House. In reply, the Keyhole House's long since silent doorbell miraculously started working on its own, revealing ethereal forces at play. It has been said that Agnes has been known to mischievously lock and unlock the front door at will...

Delving into the depths of history, Ted's meticulous research into Agnes and others who lived and loved there has unlocked timeless stories of its former residents, many of whom played important roles in the development of the former railway metropolis of Smiths Falls. Among them is WW1 veteran John Briggs, a returning soldier who found solace in the Keyhole House before later succumbing to a heart attack there and being buried in an unmarked grave. Ted led an appeal to the Federal Government's Last Post Fund to ensure that John will receive the military gravestone he deserves, forever memorializing his service. Through the power of TikTok videos and Ted's captivating *Smiths Falls History & Mystery* column in *Hometown News*, he similarly rallied Township funds to restore Agnes Lamb's tomb, which had fallen into great disrepair. Now adorned with beautiful limestone, Agnes and her kin rest peacefully, knowing that their legacies will not be lost to time. Setting itself apart from other magic shows, the Keyhole House is a real-life in real-time celebration of the departed, and serves as a living, breathing bridge between reality and illusion, past and present, and the rhythmic cadence of time.

Catch *Mysteries of the Keyhole House* at the Carleton Place Town Hall on July 19, 20, 26 and 27 at 7:30PM, and on July 20, 21, 27 and 28 at 2PM. Tickets are available from <outerbridge.eventbrite.com>.

music • theatre  
needlepoint • jewellery  
photography • painting  
pottery • sculpture

# Merrickville Festival of the Arts

JULY 27 + 28 2024

11am-6pm | Blockhouse

MAG artists located on eastern section of Blockhouse Park

Plays and music in the Lions Club Pavilion, Blockhouse Park

Urban Sketching Event

Special evening concert, 7pm at The Pews (United Church) - Tripoly & the Grenville Troubadours

Saturday, July 27	
	10:45–11:00AM Opening Remarks
	11:00–11:45AM Vandasalaars
	12:00–12:30PM "A Generous Gift" Theatre Night in Merrickville
	12:30–1:15PM Heather Snow
	1:30–2:15PM Kentucky
	2:30–3:15PM The Sutterlins
	3:30–4:15PM Gentle Sparrow
	4:30–5:15PM Kentucky
<b>Free Evening concert at the Pews with Tripoly &amp; The Grenville Troubadours</b>	
Sunday, July 28	
	10:45–11:00AM Opening Remarks
	11:00–11:15AM "The Legacy of Harry McLean" Johanna Kuyvehoven
	11:15–12:00PM Bradley Smith
	12:15–12:45PM "A Generous Gift" Theatre Night in Merrickville
	1:00–2:00PM Moonfruits
	2:15–3:00PM James Brand
	3:15–4:00PM Heather Snow
	
	

Updates | [www.mag-artists.ca](http://www.mag-artists.ca)

Contact | [nprevisich@bell.net](mailto:nprevisich@bell.net)

 [merrickvilleartistsguild](https://www.facebook.com/merrickvilleartistsguild)

 MOCA2019

no fee for admission



māg merrickville arts guild



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EDITION IV  
**GARLIC NIRVANA**  
August 18 | 9:30-1:30

The event where all your wildest garlic fantasies come true

- Free taste testing  
Sample 10 varieties
- Free growers lecture
- Certified organic garlic available

**INDIAN CREEK**  
Orchard Gardens

919 Sugar Bush Road | Pakenham ON | www.indiancreekorchard.ca

Middleville & District Museum presents two workshops

**Sunday, July 21**  
**Preserving Photographs by Kyla Ubbink**  
10:30–11:30AM Presentation (open to public) Cost: \$5  
Learn the history of photography and discover techniques for dating photographs.  
1–4PM Workshop (registration required) Cost \$20 (includes a light lunch at 12:30PM)  
Learn proper care and preservation of photographs.

**Sunday, August 25**  
**Basketry Workshop with Ankaret Dean**  
Workshop (registration required) 9:30AM–1:30PM  
Cost: \$20 (including light lunch)  
Informative talk and demonstration of basketry including hands on project by participants

Register for these workshops at [middlevillemuseum.org/events](http://middlevillemuseum.org/events) or Canada Helps



2130 Concession 6D, Middleville

ALMONTE  
**Readers & Writers**

**Lanark Lit**  
WRITING COMPETITION

Deadline: September 30, 2024

A new program celebrating works of original writing by local literary artists of all ages.

Now open for submissions  
The genre for 2024 is short fiction.  
Send us your best stories!

Submissions are in three (3) categories, organized by age of author:

- ages 17 and under
- young adults 18-29
- adults 30+



Full contest details:  
[www.almontereadersandwriters.org](http://www.almontereadersandwriters.org)

theHumm Interview

# Miss Pringle's Mini-Skirt

Stone Fence Theatre is a true local gem in the Ottawa Valley. This semi-professional non-profit company has been developing and producing their own original material since 2003, including musical reviews like *The Train She Blew from Killaloe*, and a romantic musical comedy called *Stick Out Your Tongue and Say MOO*. In 2023 they toured the Valley with *Tom Thomson and the Colours of Canada* — a production that raised about \$10,000 for local hospitals. Their most recent production was *Conspiracy Conniptions*, a zany comedy set in a doughnut shop and sung in gospel music style. With their new show opening in July, theHumm caught up with founder/producer Ish Theilheimer to find out more about them.

by Kris Riendeau

**theHumm: What inspired the founding of Stone Fence Theatre in 2002, and what were some of the initial challenges you faced?**

Ish Theilheimer: A number of local storytellers, musicians and artists came together to found the company. I was having a lot of fun playing with The Wilno Express, three “from-aways” who came together to write a lot of funny folk-inspired songs about local people and events — *The Breeding of the Pig*, *The Wilno Hound*, *The Killaloe Kid in a Kitchener Kitchen*, *The Toronto Polka* — a lot of silly stuff that made people happy in the bars and parties we played throughout the Valley in the '70s. Then the late Barry Goldie encouraged me to write with a home-grown theatre company called The Upper Madawaska Theatre Group in the 1970s. My first musical, in 1977, was called *A Place to Roost*, about a city rooster who moved to the country to live on the land. Upper Madawaska developed a number of original scripts, most of them focused on the local area. My work with *The Ottawa Citizen* connected me in another way with people all over the Valley. Johanna Zomers, author of 2024's *Miss Pringle's Mini-Skirt*, was part of the founding group and was also writing for *The Citizen*.

It was fun, but it was challenging indeed. There was no tradition of professional theatre in the area, and local people were not accustomed to going out to theatre. We solved that by staging “supper theatre” reminiscent of church suppers, and producing our shows in parish and community halls — anywhere we could seat an audience. For years, we served supper at every show. Now, we only do it once in a while because it's so much work! Our biggest challenge has always been our geographic isolation, and the fact that although our area is beautiful and a nice place to spend the summer, it is not a prime tourist destination. It has no large attractions or resorts. We had hoped when we launched the company that it could be a full-time professional operation, but the low-key nature of the tourism industry here ultimately meant we could not do that. We have been part-time and semi-professional since 2006, so getting on Ontario's and Canada's cultural map has been hard.

Nevertheless, we offer a unique, magical product, and seasoned theatre-goers who experience Stone Fence for the first time are always blown away by what we produce. We are a group with long experience working together and collaborating to produce very special, original theatrical and musical material. Walk into the community hall, and we take you away to another reality. I, personally, have never lost the inspiration I got from a play my parents took me to see in New York City when I was quite small. It opens with these words: “You are about to hear an opera for beggars. Since this opera was conceived with the splendour only a beggar can imagine and since it had to be so cheap even a beggar could afford it, it is called *The Threepenny Opera*.” Our shows have that same sense of home-grown grandeur.

**Can you share more about the types of productions you focus on and how they reflect the cultural and historical heritage of the Ottawa Valley?**

We are of, about, and for the Ottawa Valley. In our earliest years, most of our productions were historical. Our first original show was based on the 100-year

history produced by *The Eganville Leader* called *Reflections of a Century, the Musical*. One of our most popular shows in early years was *Al Capone's Hideout*, about when the gangster hid out near Quadeville. We did a show about the Ottawa Valley's best-known songwriter, Mac Beattie, that played, in one form or another, 75 times in venues all over the Valley. And *Up at Fred's — Allons-y*, the story of beloved Chapeau, Quebec hotel keeper Fred Meilleur, played to more than 4,000 people in 2019.

**What role do local artists and community members play in your productions, and how do you engage them in the creative process?**

We have built a strong network of local artists who work together on our productions and who inspire one-another to create new ones. Last year we started a playwriting workshop, and there are at least four scripts in development in connection with that. One of the ways we have developed plays over the years is by holding storytelling sessions in which we encourage local people with knowledge of, or experience in, a particular area or time or subject to come and share their stories. We have put a lot of material on stage that has come out of these sessions. It's hard to make up stuff as interesting as actual history and real people's stories.

**Could you discuss some of the most memorable or impactful performances you've had and what made them stand out?**



Stone Fence Theatre founder Ish Theilheimer tells theHumm about the history of this longstanding Valley troupe, and about their show that opens on July 24

There are so many. Doing *Up at Fred's* for 500 people in Chapeau. Doing *High Times at the Heart Institute* — which is all about the defence of public health care — in Deep River the weekend after Donald Trump was elected. The first storytelling session at the Wilno Tavern in December, 2002. The wonderful roast pork the Our Lady of the Angels church ladies made in our original Brudenell parish hall location. The standing ovations every time Fran Pinkerton sang *Canada is Love* in *Conspiracy Conniptions*. So many great memories! We've never “made it big,” but the connection we've made with people in our community is gratifying and rewarding.

**Can you give our readers a sneak peek at your upcoming production, *Miss Pringle's Mini-Skirt*, which is set to open July 24?**

It's a two-act musical in two distinct musical styles — Beatles and Mac Beattie (Mac was the Valley's best-known songwriter) — because those were the competing styles in the Valley in the '60s. The show casts a fond look back at the final days of rural schoolhouses as the Ottawa Valley discovered the Beatles, the Cold War, and Hockey Night in Canada. The script is inspired by Johanna Zomers' nostalgic weekly columns in *The Eganville Leader*. In it, a young, inexperienced first-time teacher “from away” learns to cope with her first teaching job in a schoolhouse on the Opeongo Line, the historic settlement road that winds through the hills of Renfrew County. From threshing to chicken killing, from chimney fires to putting on the Christmas concert, Miss Pringle and her students get an education in rural life, love, family and friendship.

***Miss Pringle's Mini-Skirt* opens on July 24 at the Rankin Culture and Recreation Centre in Pembroke. Tickets are available at Tickets Please ([TicketsPlease.ca](http://TicketsPlease.ca), 485-6434).**



# ALMONTE CELTFEST

**July 5-7 2024 in Gemmill Park**

**Friday  
7-10pm**

**Rum Ragged  
Mariner's Curse**

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**Saturday  
12-10pm**

**The Fitzgeralds  
East Coast Experience  
Bon Débarras, Traditional Fare,  
Lonesome George,  
Elaine Kicknosway, Concession 23,  
Barley Shakers,  
Valley Voices of Almonte,  
Plus Celtic College workshops 10 am - 11:30 am**

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**Sunday  
12-6pm**

**Riverthieves  
Kelly Sloan  
Saloon Dion  
SFH Irish Dance Studios  
Gladsome Gentlemen  
Terri-Lynn Mahusky  
Danny O'Connell Memorial Award  
Presentation and Showcase  
Plus Fiddle Mass 10 am - 11 am**

**Saturday and Sunday - Buskers downtown and Lil Celtz**

Canada



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[AlmonteCeltfest.com](http://AlmonteCeltfest.com)



@AlmonteCeltfest

# Summer Readin'... Havin' a Blast!

"I don't change what I read when I go to the beach or on a vacation," the Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist Michael Chabon once said. "I just read more."  
I do the same, Mr. Chabon.

by John Pigeau

Some people enjoy tanning on the beach, or swimming, or playing volleyball and so on — of course they do — but you'll find me under the shade of the nearest leafy tree reading, perhaps, a battered old copy of Peter Benchley's *Jaws*, which truly is the perfect beach read.

Now that it's summer at last, lots of folks will find themselves with some leisure time on their hands — and maybe they'll have a trip to the beach or a cottage getaway in the works. I hope so. And if you like to read in your leisureliness, I have some book recommendations you may appreciate.

First up, there's a wonderful new book in the world called *Anyword: A Festschrift for Phil Hall*. The book is a 308-page tribute to writer Phil Hall, celebrating the man and his work through essays and appreciations from 28 writers. Talented contributors include Susan Gillis and John Steffler — who live quite near Perth, as does Mr. Hall — as well as Ronna Bloom, George Bowering, Mark Goldstein, Don McKay, rob mclennan, Erin Moure, and Sandra Ridley, to name a few. The book, published by Beautiful Outlaw, is sure to appeal to the discerning literary crowd.

Hall is one of Canada's finest poets. In 2011, he won the Governor General's Award for Poetry for the collection entitled *Killdeer*. Notably, his 22<sup>nd</sup> book, *Vallejo's Marrow* (Beautiful Outlaw) came out earlier in the year, and it's said to be one of Hall's most powerful

works to date. I loved *Killdeer*; I therefore feel quite safe in recommending that you pick up his latest book. Reading poetry is a wonderful way to spend some time, whatever the season. But maybe more so in summer.

Another collection of poetry I enthusiastically recommend is *The Work* (Gaspereau Press) by Bren Simmers. I special-ordered this book from my indie shop some time ago, and when it arrived I was profoundly moved by its lyric grace and power. The first poem in the collection, *Load Upon Load*, begins:

There comes a point when the losses stack up and all you want is a few good years and cash in your wallet.

Those lines spoke to me — smartly, elegantly. I was nodding my head: *uh huh*. The poems in *The Work* "engage with the work of love and loss and the hope that we might somehow learn to carry our portion of grief." They do so with quiet yet resounding beauty, vulnerability and strength. That seems tough to pull off, but Simmers does it strikingly well. *The Work* is a heartrending, soulful, magnificent collection of poems.

On my coffee table are two excellent non-fiction books I've recently picked up. I'm enjoying them both simultaneously — book lovers know how this works — and recommending both without hesitation.

The first is *The Editor: How Publishing Legend Judith Jones Shaped Culture in America* by Sara B. Franklin. Jones was an editor at Alfred A. Knopf for many years, and she worked with and helped nurture the careers of some of the most important authors of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including Sylvia Plath, John Updike, Anne Tyler, Edna Lewis,

and Julia Child, to name a few. Early in her career, when she was with Doubleday, Jones picked a manuscript out of a slush pile. She was rapt, read it in one sitting, and later begged her boss to consider publishing it. Eventually, he did. That book was *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*. *The Editor* is an intimate biography of one very important editor's astonishing career.



Our literary columnist weighs in on the best summer titles — fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and short stories!

The second is an amusing and rather fascinating book written by a cantankerous Scottish bookseller, Shaun Bythell. Cleverly titled, *Remainders of the Day* is a marvelously entertaining diary of the daily happenings in Bythell's beloved used bookshop, the largest of its kind in Scotland. Early on, he writes: "At 4PM a woman found a boxed set of Sue Grafton novels and asked if I'd break the set as she only wanted one of the books. I said no. She was furious." Bythell's a persnickety, sometimes delightful fellow who makes witty and endearing observations. You'll likely laugh a lot. You may despair for the future of booksellers. And quite possibly, you'll be thoroughly charmed.

Novels are popular in summer. One I'm thoroughly enjoying was recommended by the much-loved author and bookseller Ann Patchett — it's called *Sipsworth* and was written by Simon Van Booy. The book is an enchanting love story about a woman and a mouse. Unusual as that sounds, it's a terrific and surprisingly moving read. It's a short book, too, which is sometimes kind of nice in summer.

Short stories, in fact, might just be *ideal* summer reading. Two collections I have my eye on have already received lots of praise; but since they've been published by two of Canada's smaller presses they've not gotten much ink. They are *Art of Camouflage* (Freehand Books) by Sara Power, and *Things That Cause Inappropriate Happiness* (Guernica Editions) by Danila Botha. Botha's stories — sad, vulnerable, funny — observe "what it's like to find your place in the world." Power's formidable debut collection, meantime, examines the lives of girls and women caught in the orbit of the military. Celebrated author Lisa Moore called it "spectacular."

I'm a sucker for Stephen King's short stories, too, so I've really been enjoying his latest, *You Like It Darker*. And yes, King's about as mainstream as they come, but still — he's a masterful storyteller, and these tales are rather good. Just don't drop the book off the dock or in the pool. It's sort of heavy.

Lastly, I need to mention *Cocktail* (Biblioasis) by Lisa Alward. This book of short stories has won so many awards that its cover is running out of sticker room. And, yes, it is that good.

Happy summer reading, friends!



## Kehla Jewellery Design – Online!

Starting on September 30, Kehla Jewellery Design will be moving the studio to a virtual store at [kehladesign.com](http://kehladesign.com).

Although the retail outlet in Almonte will close, Master Goldsmith Michaela Wolfert will continue to offer her outstanding designs from the online store, and will continue to accept commissions for custom jewellery.

Thank you so much for your amazing support for our studio these last 20 years!

We look forward to seeing you in our new online store.

[kehladesign.com](http://kehladesign.com)

See you soon!

—Michaela



# 5 Wednesdays in July

By Violet Bova

Friends of Augusta Street Park community volunteers have come together to organize a great lineup for this year's 5 Wednesdays in July concert series. There actually are 5 Wednesdays in July this year, so mark July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 in your calendar, and see our ad in this month's issue for the full lineup. Plans are also afoot for the third annual Augustafest live music festival, to be held on September 14.

5 Wednesdays in July and Augustafest are free, family-friendly events taking place in Almonte's Augusta Street Park, whose goal is to bring community together and break up the work week by having friends and neighbours come together to enjoy live music. We pride ourselves on offering a free, welcoming, and safe inclusive space. We also pass the hat to fundraise in support of the festival and to complete the citizen-led park plan that includes a memorial water feature to recognise the Cole family, who lost children in a horrible neighbourhood fire in 1965. The Friends are working with the Town on this important element. This year, Marshall Street in front of the park will be reconstructed. The water service and drain for a splash pad are being considered for installation as part of this work. Efforts to find the required funding for the pad itself are in progress.

Opening on July 3 will be The Almonte Legion Pipe Band, followed by Dr. Brown's Uptown Travelling Medicine Show, which will consist of four acts! Craig Visser, Craig Nelson, Ben & Grace, and Allan Brown will be followed by headliner Trevor James.

For the rest of the month, we are proud to offer a stellar lineup of music with everything from folk and country to rock and Brazilian beats. Along with a taste of Brazil, how about some Soul Circus? Soul Circus is an international community formed specifically to bring collaboration, cultural cross-pollination, creative expression and nourishment to the festival experience.

July 3, 17 and 31 are Bring-Your-Own-Picnic nights, so remember to bring your dinner along. The Civitan Club will be on-site providing food for purchase on July 10 and 24, including burgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs and drinks.

Want to promote your arts, environmental group, or social enterprise? Are you building community in some way and want to share what you are doing?



The lineup for this year's 5 Wednesdays in July concert series features the phenomenal Vicki Brittle (above), Dr. Brown's Uptown Travelling Medicine Show, Brazilian beats, and much more!

We can offer you a table and an audience. Please contact <augustafest@gmail.com> for more details.

We run on a shoestring budget, with community volunteers and a handful of community sponsors including Blair Baker, The Almonte Civitan Club, Almonte Pipe Band, Big Vintage, Nomad Fashions, Waxwing Tattoos, Pokoloko, Baker Bob's, Carebridge Community Support, and a very generous donation from CorCann Heating and Cooling. Thanks to all of them for their contributions! Also, special thanks to Moodie Music and Sound for helping to make the evenings that much better with crystal clear sound.

We always welcome new volunteers, so let us know how you want to help. See you in Augusta Park!

## Save the Date for Country Music!

The Board of Directors of the Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame is very pleased to announce the Inductees to be honoured in 2024: The Debenham Brothers, Rae Palmer, Eddie Francis, and Jennifer Johnston-Armstrong.



The 2024 Induction Ceremony will take place at its new time on Sunday, September 29 at 3PM at Meridian Theatres @ Centrepointe. Throughout the afternoon you'll be entertained by over twenty of the best artists and musicians our Ottawa Valley has to offer, performing many of your all-time favourites. After the show you'll have the opportunity to meet and mingle with the 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees, current Hall of Fame Inductees, and many of your favourite Ottawa Valley country music artists.

Tickets will be available through <meridiancentrepointe.com>, 580-2700, toll free at 1-866-752-5231, or in person at the box office located at 101 Centrepointe Drive in Ottawa. Tickets for this extraordinary afternoon are just \$50 per person.



## THE PUPPETS ARE COMING!

**PUPPETS UP! TAKES PLACE AUGUST 10 & 11**

AND WE'VE STOCKED UP ON SOME UNIQUE PUPPET PALS.



SPECIALTY COOKWARE | KITCHEN GADGETS | UNIQUE GOURMET ITEMS | GIFT BASKETS



**613-256-5764**  
89 Mill St. Almonte

# Bloomfest

## Garden Art Show & Sale

July 20 to July 28, 2024

Wander our beautiful display gardens and discover the unique garden art of 22 talented artisans.



Find the perfect piece of garden art to enhance your outdoor space.

Shop our outstanding selection of quality plants.



Our daylily field in full bloom will take your breath away.

**Whitehouse Nursery & Display Gardens**  
594 Rae Road, Almonte

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

# Puppets Up!

## International Puppet Festival



A fun-filled family festival featuring puppet shows for all ages, street performers, a puppet marketplace, kids' crafts and a daily puppet parade!



**August 10 & 11, 2024**  
Almonte, Ontario

SAVE on Early Bird pricing until July 14: [puppetsup.com](http://puppetsup.com)



# Merrickville Festival of the Arts

Come on out to Blockhouse Park in beautiful heritage Merrickville on the weekend of July 27 and 28, and immerse yourself in a marvelous mix of arts! The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of the Arts is organized by the Merrickville Organization for Culture & the Arts, in collaboration with the Merrickville Arts Guild (MAG) and Theatre Night in Merrickville (TNIM).

### Music

Each day features a full lineup of wonderful music featuring local and nearby performers. There will also be a free Saturday night concert by the very popular Tripoly and the Grenville Troubadours. It takes place in the United Church starting at 7PM. Voluntary donations to The Pews <[thepews.ca](http://thepews.ca)> — a new community hub and venue located in the church — are gratefully appreciated and can be made at the door. There will be bar service on-site.

### Theatre

Each afternoon, TNIM will present *A Generous Gift* — a play written by Peter Paylor and directed by Peyton Horning. The festival also features a story about Harry McLean by MAG artist and professional storyteller Johanna Kuyvenhoven. There is currently a movement afoot to honour Harry — one of Merrickville's most interesting and accomplished historical characters — by creating a life-sized statue.



In addition to live music, live theatre and storytelling, you'll find works by MAG artists like Jim Jordan (above) and Lisa McShane (below)

### Visual Arts

Festival-goers may notice a group of Urban Sketchers roaming about and recording their perspectives on the unique architecture and Village life. Their sketches will be on display in the Blockhouse Park, near where MAG artists will be featuring their creative work.

### All Ages

This year's event will also feature activities for children, in collaboration with the Merrickville Day Nursery School and l'École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Marguerite-Bourgeoys. There is plenty to see and do for both residents and visitors alike! For further information, please contact Nick Previsich at <[nprevisich@bell.net](mailto:nprevisich@bell.net)> or follow Merrickville Arts Guild on Facebook.

### 2024 MAG Booklet

The Merrickville Arts Guild is pleased to release the 2024 MAG Booklet of artists and activities of the Guild. Copies are being distributed to local businesses, galleries and tourist locations in and around the area. Special thanks to the advertisers and the Merrickville-Wolford Community Grant to help make this publication possible. While you're in the Village, stop by the Boathouse Café and the Iron Forge to view their works.



# A New Lens on South Crosby

*A New Lens on South Crosby* is an exciting summer exhibition being presented by the Elgin and Area Heritage Society at the Red Brick School in Elgin, Ontario. Sourced from some 1,300 archived pictures taken by early 20<sup>th</sup> century photographer Clifford Pennock, this selection of more than 100 photographs will draw you into the life and times of early South Crosby Township.

Marvel at how Clifford Pennock viewed the people, places and surroundings of the early 1900s through his camera lens. With the click of his shutter, he created not only a picture but a testament in time. His selection and composition of subjects, his nod to subtle humour, and his mastery of

comic deception make this a display not to be missed.

All photos in this collection have been remastered in colour using AI tools, with the human intervention of Glen Russell, to achieve the more muted palettes necessary for heritage photographs. Copies of the original black and white photographs can be seen in a specially printed book at the exhibit.

The limited 20-day run is open weekends from 10AM to 4PM at the Red Brick School, located at 3 Halladay Street in Elgin, commencing June 29. Visit <[eahs.ca](http://eahs.ca)> and follow Elgin and Area Heritage Society on Facebook for updates and specific postings regarding this exhibit and other undertakings.



## A GARDEN EXPERIENCE!



# Rideau Woodland Ramble

Open Every Day 9am-5pm

Mid April to October

7210 Burritts Rapids Rd, North Grenville  
613-258-3797, [rideauwoodlandramble.com](http://rideauwoodlandramble.com)

Home of the Art of Dave Dunn

# The Balancing Act of Summer Festivals

By Jane Torrance

Ah, summer. The season of swimming and BBQs, late nights on patios, hanging out with friends, cottages and camping and exploring new places, festivals and events that showcase the joy and creativity of towns and villages across our region.

Here at Puppets Up! we have prepared an exciting and magical line up of entertainment that will delight and amaze our audiences! Are you ready for 14 puppet troupes from across Canada and the USA to perform in six theatres spread out in beautiful downtown Almonte over two days and two nights? Here are some of the many highlights:

- *The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow* by Frog-town Mountain Puppeteers from the USA
- *Doc Wuthergloom's Here There Be Monsters* by Eldritch Theatre from Toronto
- *The Dragon King* by Tanglewood Marionettes from the USA
- *One for Sorrow, Two for Joy* by Long Grass Studio from Alberta
- *Judy Saves the Day*, a Punch and Judy show with a twist by Sarah Nolen from the USA

You'll also find a Stunt Ventriloquist (Tim Holland from Peterborough), *Be Pozzy* (Rock the Arts from Carp), *Cuckoo* (Graham Soul from Montreal), *Chloe and Meraki* (Honeyball Puppetry from Toronto), *Humpty Dumpty & Co* (Humpty Dumpty Puppet Theatre from Toronto), and two unique shows (*Plastic/Plastique* and *Woods/Bois*) by Puzzle Theatre from Montreal.

On top of all that, kids of all ages (yes, right up to 99 years young!) can enjoy scarf juggling, amazing parades, non-stop street entertainment, a children's craft zone and a Garden for Little Souls by Isabelle Payant, a unique marketplace, and did we mention delight and amazement? How about two evening adult-only performances — *A Canadian in New York* with Ben Durocher, and a Puppet Cabaret featuring multiple performers (including 2022 favourite Joshua Holden) — that will definitively answer question of whether puppets can make you blush?



From the captivating zaniness of Tim Holland (above) and Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers to the breathtaking artistry of Tanglewood Marionettes (below), Almonte's Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival is sure to be a highlight of the summer! Passes are available at awesome Early Bird pricing, but only until July 14!

So should you buy tickets and festival passes now, while passes are still at the amazingly low early bird price? Sounds like a no-bird-brainer!

The thing is, the balance of festival funding is tricky. Organizers rely on grants, sponsors, ticket sales and fundraising — usually in that order — to produce a festival or event. Grants for festivals have been extremely lean this season, and trying to balance the funding feels like juggling while riding a unicycle.

Here is where you come in, gentle reader. If you would like to see this amazing festival (and many others throughout the area) continue, and save the organizers from a whole lotta stress, please BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY! You can find festival passes, as well as tickets to the two adult-only evening shows, at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434), and of course you can find lots of information at <PuppetsUp.com>.

You know you want to attend, and you know the festival will be a fabulously fun family adventure that will become a highlight of your summer. Please show us the love now so we know that we can continue to produce these high-quality festivals and events.

Puppets Up! will thank you (really, we will hug you so tight!) but so will all the area fairs, music festivals, and unique, quirky and creative events that drive our summer entertainment. Please, buy the tickets. You won't regret the summer fun!

— Jane Torrance is the Chair of the Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival

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## Explore Exciting New Flavours!

### Almonte Craft Beer Fest Set for July 26

Sip some of region's best brews and winning wines at the Almonte Craft Beer Fest, taking place on Friday, July 26.

Coordinated by the Municipality of Mississippi Mills, the event takes over the grounds of Almonte Old Town Hall (14 Bridge St.) from 6:30–10:30PM. Come for an amazing evening featuring nine local breweries and wineries, live entertainment, and some tasty treats from food vendors.

Participating breweries and wineries include Vodkow, Cartwright Springs Brewery, Farmgate Cider, Cold Bear Brewing Co., Whitewater Brewing Co., Braumeister Brewing Co., Stalwart Brewing Co., KIN Vineyards, and Orleans Brewing Co.

Located in the heart of Almonte, Dairy Distillery is the maker of the renowned Vodkow vodka and cream liquors, using technology that converts a dairy byproduct into their beverages.

Just down the road in Pakenham is Cartwright Springs Brewery, innovators in environmentally friendly initiatives. The brewery takes advantage of the natural artesian spring on-site.

Farmgate Cider is a family-owned and operated cidery in Arnprior. They use local and sustainable agricultural practices — meaning no pesticides are used on their apples or sulphites added to their cider.

Arnprior's Cold Bear Brewing Co. is about crafting community and high-quality beers, which includes supporting local farmers, growers and suppliers.

A love of the outdoors and adventurous spirit is brewed into everything Ottawa Valley's Whitewater Brewing Co. does. Committed to protecting the environment, they are Climate Neutral certified.

Over in Carleton Place, Braumeister Brewing Co. is a Bavarian-inspired craft brewery with a passion for brewing some of the finest European beer styles locally.

Stalwart Brewing Co. also calls Carleton Place home, offering an eclectic mix of beers and seltzers, using the finest ingredients (including one beer made with Hummingbird Chocolate's Hispaniola cocoa nibs!)

Carp's KIN Vineyards is family-owned winery located on 47 acres of land in the heart of the Ottawa Valley. A strong belief in viticulture goes into every wine they make.

Orleans Brewing Co. uses the purest of ingredients to inspire their impressive line of beers and ciders, and will be bringing an Equator Stout Beer with them to the craft beer fest.

On the entertainment side, Ottawa-based musical duo Beats'n Keys will bring their versatile and soulful sound to open the event. Featuring Jamie Holmes on drums and Jeff Rogers on vocals and keys, they have been performing all over the region since 2016.

Newfoundland's The Rowdymen serve as the headlining act. Made up of musicians



Born out of the hit musical *Come From Away*, Newfoundland's The Rowdymen are bringing their energetic vibes to the festivities

George Masswohl, Gerry Finn and Greg Hawco, The Rowdymen were born out of the Canadian company of the hit musical *Come from Away*. Come enjoy their energetic spirit and traditional Newfoundland music!

Tickets to the Almonte Craft Beer Fest are on sale now for \$25 each (including taxes and fees). Get them through Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).

Please be advised that this is a 19+ event and takes place rain or shine, and dogs are not permitted at the event. For more information about the Almonte Craft Beer Fest, please visit <mississippimills.ca/craftbeerfest>.



# Rowland Leather Celebrates 50 Years

Celebrating 50 years in business is a remarkable milestone for Rowland Leather, a creative studio founded by Michael Rowland in Merrickville, Ontario. Over the years, Rowland has established a reputation for crafting elegant and durable leather goods, garnering a loyal following both locally in Canada and internationally. Below are some key highlights from Rowland's journey.

## Artisanal Legacy

A self-taught artisan who delved into leatherwork from a young age, Rowland has honed his craft over the years. His dedication and skill have resulted in the production of over 300,000 handbags, along with innovative backpacks and designer cross body bags.

## Contribution to Merrickville

Rowland played a pivotal role in the cultural landscape of Merrickville by being one of the first artisans to establish a presence in the town. By showcasing his work and gradually introducing products from other Canadian and global producers at his shop, he not only contributed to the artisan community but also attracted customers with an appreciation for timeless design and quality craftsmanship.

## Celebrating Canadian Women

Rowland has paid tribute to notable Canadian women by naming many of his bag styles after them, such as Silken Lauman, Avril Lavigne, and Joni Mitchell. This gesture reflects his admiration for their impact and serves as a unique storytelling element behind his creations.

## Sharing Expertise

In 2011, Rowland had a transformative experience when he shared his expertise in leatherwork with seamstresses in Nunavut, demonstrating his commitment to knowledge exchange and cultural enrichment. His journey was captured in the book *Iqaluit 2011*, which offers a glimpse into this cultural exchange and learning opportunity.



Leatherworker Michael Rowland is celebrating 50 years in business this month. Visit Rowland Leather in Merrickville on July 13 and join the party!

## Expansion into Hospitality

Demonstrating his entrepreneurial spirit and creativity, Rowland ventured into the hospitality sector by opening luxurious guest suites above his store in 2013. The Merrickville Guest Suites provide visitors with a unique and aesthetically pleasing accommodation option that reflects Rowland's design sensibilities and his desire to create a memorable experience for guests.

## Continued Creativity

Despite the passage of time, Michael Rowland remains unwavering in his passion for creating leather goods. His ability to draw inspiration from diverse sources and his commitment to innovation have allowed him to sustain his legacy and evolve with the changing times. Rowland Leather's enduring success is a testament to Michael Rowland's vision, artistry, and dedication to his craft, and it serves as an inspiration to aspiring artisans and entrepreneurs in the creative industry.

Everyone is invited to visit Merrickville on July 13 from 10AM to 6PM to help Rowland Leather celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Bring your Rowland Leather bags for free polishing, receive a 10% discount on any purchases, and meet Michael. There will also be a draw for a free leather bag. Rowland Leather is located at 159 St. Lawrence Street, and you can find more information at <rowlandleather.ca>.



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## Textiles and the Stories They Tell

An evening of cultural clothing and dance!

Sunday, July 14, 2024, 6-8pm  
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

Learn about different cultures through their textiles, straight from the source, as models and dancers wear their cultural clothing and share their stories. Performances will include Bharatanatyam, Hoop Dance, and Jingle Dress Dance.

**Do you have cultural textiles to show?**  
Bring or wear them, and share your story!

For more information, email Laila at [l.hack@mvmt.ca](mailto:l.hack@mvmt.ca).

Tickets: \$10

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Planting the Seed

# Garden Nightmares

What is your worst garden nightmare? Goutweed invading your prize perennials? Bindweed popping up all over your lawn and vegetable patch? Poison ivy creeping into your yard under the fence from your neighbour?

Our relationship with plants is a complicated one. On the one hand we want plants that will thrive; on the other hand we want

plants that will be well behaved. We are deceived into thinking that our new perennial border will be maintenance-free. However, any garden requires a lot of work — weeding, dividing perennials, dealing with pests and disease, and replacing plants that did not thrive as promised.

You have carefully prepped the new perennial border by eliminating the weeds. Perhaps you dug out the dandelions with their long tap roots and used a spading fork to ensure the removal of grass roots. Or perhaps you have chosen to spread a layer of heavy cardboard and truck in new soil (sometimes called the lasagna method).

by David Hinks

New plants have been carefully chosen... and you are horrified when an unwelcome invasive plant rears its ugly head. How did it get there?

Beware of special deals on a cubic yard of topsoil delivered to your driveway. I have seen a new garden full of a witches' brew of six or seven of the most invasive weeds that a gardener can imagine — a cocktail of burdock, sow thistle, Canada thistle, Japanese knotweed, quack grass, Japanese lantern and colt's foot — the only ones missing were bindweed and goutweed! I am a firm believer in dealing with local reputable businesses that I can trust. The price may be somewhat higher, but most of the time you get what you pay for.

However, the primary vehicle for the spread of many invasive plants is the automobile! Gardeners plant many invasive plants because they are very attractive. Japanese knotweed, for example, was introduced to North America as a horticultural plant in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is a very attractive structural plant, resembling bamboo, but this is one tough hombre to confine.

Goutweed is often seen in perennial gardens — I have found it the absolute worst thug to eliminate in a garden. The irony is that people still continue to plant it and offer it to other gardeners. Beware anyone that offers you a pretty green-and-white ground cover that grows itself. Run! Save yourself and your garden! It is particularly malicious if growing next to specially prepared fertile soil — it will practically gallop into what it sees as the Promised Land.

Creeping bellflower is another thug that comes into gardens disguised as an attractive perennial plant. It

was introduced from Europe as a garden flower, and its blue blooms are commonly seen around town in gardens. Any piece of its white creeping root (rhizome) or its tubers will send up a new plant.

The best laid plans of many a gardener “gang aft agley” (apologies to Robbie Burns). A few decades ago, I thought that it would be worthwhile to grow several types of herbal and medicinal plants. Some of those plants rewarded my care and nurturing by growing large, tangled clumps, spreading rampantly, or flowering profusely and spreading their seed far and wide.

Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*) is a very large perennial plant with a large, branched root used traditionally as a topical application for bruises, fractures and wounds. The deep roots of comfrey mine minerals from the subsoil and the foliage can be used to make a manure “tea”. Its blossoms are also highly attractive to pollinators. However, if allowed to go to seed, little plants spring up all over the place and, if ignored, turn into monsters in no time at all.

Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) has stinging hairs on its leaves and is generally to be avoided, except for those who believe that the stings relieve the pain of arthritis. It has been widely used as a medicinal and culinary plant. Its young leaves are some of the first greens to emerge in the spring. It is a bit of a spreader, and the roots are truly a wicked tangled web.

Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) is a hardy perennial herb that grows to about four feet in height. It has been traditionally used as an insecticide and disinfectant. It produces huge quantities of seeds that sprout readily. Its root clump can be relatively easily dug, but a lot of effort can be saved if seed heads are clipped off before they mature.

So, what is one to do if faced with garden nightmares? The first stage is education. The more you know about plants, the better positioned you are to repel invaders. Research plants before you welcome them into your garden. The best control is to not plant it in the first place, or, if you must plant it, to ensure that it is safely confined.

What to do with a patch of goutweed or Canada thistle that one wishes to get rid of? We no longer use chemicals in our garden, and it is impossible to dig them out (unless you use a backhoe), but one solution that I have used with considerable success is to cover the patch of ground with a heavy black plastic sheet. With a plant such as goutweed it may be necessary to leave the plastic cover on for a full growing season. Some plants such as bindweed can be dealt with by cutting every stem that rears its head. Eventually the plant may lose the will to live.

Finally, if we want more insight into the behaviour of invasive species, perhaps we need look no further than our mirror...



Beware the pervasive goutweed...

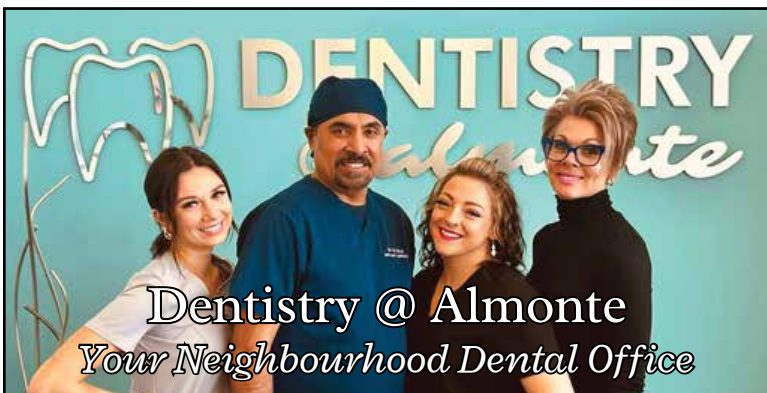


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# Textiles and the Stories They Tell

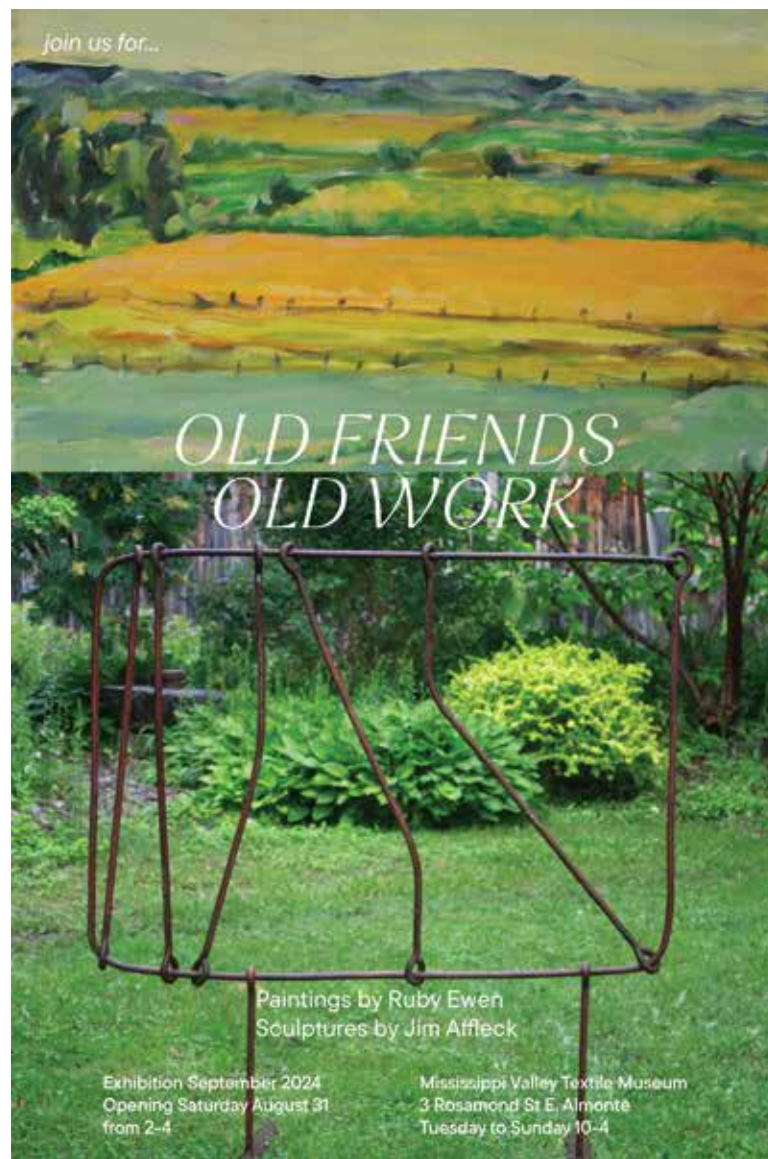
## An Evening of Multicultural Clothing and Dance

Textiles are threads that weave together the stories of our past, our community, and our culture. These stories help us understand each other. The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (MVTM) and The Inclusion Project are hosting an evening of multicultural clothing and dance to explore these connections. From Asia to Turtle Island, see the beautiful cultural clothing of our models, hear their stories, and learn their culture. Taking place on Sunday, July 14 from 6–8PM at the MVTM, tickets are \$10 and available at the Museum or online at <mvtm.ca>.

Our vibrant community is home to cultures from all around the world. This exciting event is an opportunity to celebrate this diversity, encourage exchange, and prompt reflection about our cultural identities. How do we connect with our culture, our roots? Hosts Zarina Laalo and Yahya Syed will be engaging our models with this question, and you're invited to participate! Bring or wear your cultural textiles and share your story.

Performances include a Jingle Dress Dance by Patricia Rankin, Hoop Dance by Makhena Rankin-Guérin, and Bharatanatyam by Samyuktha Punthambekar. Don't miss out on this evening of multicultural clothing, dance and connection!

This event is generously supported by the Almonte Community Coordinators (The Hub and Rebound) and the Sivarulrasa Gallery.



# Woven by Hand

## Contemporary Canadian Tapestries at MVTM

Join the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (MVTM) on Saturday, July 20 at 1PM for the opening of *Woven by Hand: Contemporary Canadian Tapestries*! This new exhibit presents recent works designed and woven by a collective of outstanding Canadian tapestry artists, reflecting their experiences and the comfort/discomfort of the Covid lockdowns. Each tapestry

is an individual response to the world at a time of unprecedented challenges and social upheaval.

Recognized internationally, each artist has dedicated many decades to professional practice in this medium. Among the collective are winners of Canada's prestigious Governor General's Award. Participating in this exhibition are Line Dufour (QC), Thoma Ewen (QC), Murray Gibson (NS), Peter Harris (ON), Barbara Heller (BC), Jane Kidd (BC), Paulette-Marie Sauvé (QC), Suzanne Paquette (QC), and Ixchel Suarez (ON).

*Woven by Hand* is curated by Thoma Ewen of Moon Rain Centre, located in the Gatineau Hills. Moon Rain is dedicated to integrating textile art and community, and to sharing the ancient indigenous weaving wisdom that illustrates how weaving transmits the energy of peace.

"Weaving is an art that embodies intention, skill, and patience, and *Woven by Hand* is a beautiful testament to the artistry that goes into each work," says Executive Director/Curator Michael Rikley-Lancaster. "The MVTM is excited to bring this tribute to the many talented tapestry artists across the country to our community."

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is located at 3 Rosamond Street in Almonte. Find more information at <mvtm.ca>.



The exhibit *Woven by Hand: Contemporary Canadian Tapestries* opens at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum on July 20

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# We Did It!

The Reever Report

We did it — we made it to 60 years of married life, and to our surprise we realized that half of it has been spent right here on Carroll Side Road. Does this qualify us as locals now? Are we still living on the McCabe property? Can we claim it as our own now?

In 1964, we thought it was a grand joke to be getting married on Independence Day, July 4. All our friends were already married, embarked on parenthood and careers and

by Glenda Jones

buying homes while we'd been toiling away on education. But we could only keep the love light burning over long distance for so long, and when Alan got a good job in Victoria we knew the time was right. We loaded up Alan's little Chevy II and headed for Victoria, leaving our parents standing in the driveway waving us off, probably thinking, "Lord love a duck! Do these two know what they're doing?"

And no, we didn't. Who does when they're barely 21 and 23, and are trying to look like real adults? We learned, and mighty fast too. We found an apartment, learned to cook, learned to budget (still not too good at that one) went to classes, took courses, worked a new job, and still found time to enjoy walks on the beach and very cheap fish and chip dinners.

We should have a sit-down with that innocent couple of long ago. Here's what I'd say:

When the time is right, get married. Don't wait until you have every detail of your future laid out. It's way more exciting to dive in together and swim the entire length of the pool as one. Don't wait until you're too old to have your children. They won't care if they live in a mansion, if their parents drive a top-of-the-line SUV. Kids need love way more than things. Also, you'll be young enough to catch them when they start to fall or run amok. Just remember you're in charge, so don't try to be their friend, be their parents.

Be frugal but not stingy with yourselves. Enjoy a treat, even if it's only an ice cream cone. An A&W lunch in the car together might be better than a luxurious café. Take that fancy vacation, but only because you really want it, not because you see others doing it.

Never compare your situation to someone else's. Wealth doesn't mean happiness. Be content that you are doing the best you can. "Bloom where you're planted," as the garden sign says. Don't be swayed by appearances when others flaunt their lifestyles.

Make the most of your considerable talents by giving to others, but not at the expense of your own family. Find opportunities to expand your own knowledge in volunteer activities, even better if they involve your kids' activities too. We threw ourselves into the kids' sports, and were fortunate to attend the 1988 Olympics!

Be kind to yourself so that you can be kind to your family. Look after your health, take time daily to just be YOU. And make sure your family knows you're doing this. I read the newspaper every morning still, and even when the kids were little they knew not to bother me for that hour.

Learn to compromise. A compromise might lead to a whole new experience. Treasure the triumphs, share the sorrows, learn from your mistakes, and above all, learn to listen. Listen to each other, and to your children. We have one mouth and two ears for

a reason. Say less, hear more. Sometimes it's not the words; it's the little gestures that tell you everything. A hug says so much. Just do it, and often.

Respect that your elders have been down this road before you, and can give you good advice. Learn from them, and seek help if you can't cope. They want you to be happy and successful.

Keep your friends, both women and men. They will be there for you when your parents aren't. We all need our own circle of support, and friends become like family.

There are certain phrases you should practice saying: "I'm sorry", "thank you", "you're right", "I appreciate you", "let's talk", and of course "I love you". These are precious and need to be said with conviction and honesty. Be present for each other, no matter what happens. You made a promise to stick together, and promises aren't options, they're responsibilities for all time.

Getting to 60 years has been a journey we could never have anticipated as we drove down the driveway in 1964. We thought we knew enough then, but by golly, we were beyond naïve! We look back on our wedding vows — "in good times and bad" — and are grateful to have had way more of the former than the latter, but we are certain sure that we have memories stored to fill a library. It's one day at a time, the present is all we have, and we cherish it.



Happy anniversary — their 60<sup>th</sup>, no less — to the Humm's indomitable "Reever Reporter" Glenda Jones and her husband Alan!

To Alan, to our three wonderful kids, Steve, David, and Alison, our in-laws, our extended family and oh so treasured friends, and even our beautiful dogs, thank you for making these 60 years a joyful and exciting excursion.

*Editor's Note: for the last 25 of those 60 years, Glenda Jones has been faithfully providing Humm readers with a glimpse into her active life, along with regular invitations to tour her lovely garden. And we have the fan mail to prove it! Thank you, Glenda.*

# Creative Expressions

## Virginia Ross Jewellery and Watercolours

The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery invites you to an exhibition featuring new works from Almonte artist Virginia Ross, which runs until Friday, August 9.

Virginia draws from her international experiences as a child and her educational background to infuse her pieces with an organic flavour and a tasteful play of colours. The daughter of a diplomat, she grew up in Latin America and has also spent time in the United States and Europe. She is the daughter and granddaughter of visual artists, and her father cut and polished stones. Virginia's formal training is in Biology and Animal Care Technology, but she now pursues her passions for painting and jewellery-making in her retirement.

Virginia favours watercolours and pencil crayon and loves to paint the wonders of Mother Nature, with a particular passion for frogs, birds, nudibranchs and florals. She loves to make watercolour and alcohol ink pendants, which used to be sold at Judy Joannou in Almonte and can now be found at Frangipani Boutique.



This show of watercolours and jewellery represents a new direction for Virginia, who for many years created jewellery from hand-honed and polished precious stones. She has been exploring various intriguing watercolour techniques, including the application of salts on the wet surface which gives loose and unpredictable textures.

In addition to her watercolour paintings, Ross's new line of jewellery will also be available. Made using alcohol inks, these pieces are colourful and light and have an organic fluidity — perfect for summer!

The Corridor Gallery at the Mississippi Mills Almonte branch library is free to visitors. It is completely volunteer-run, and the exhibit space is free to Ottawa Valley artists and artisans. Are you an artist looking to exhibit at the Corridor Gallery? They've got space for 2025. For information, please contact Melanie at <m.bruntwood@gmail.com>.





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Frontenac Frolic, Bob's Lake, Aug 3  
 Killaloe Fair, Aug 9-11  
*A Canadian in New York*, Almonte, Aug 9  
 Puppet Cabaret, Almonte, Aug 10  
 Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival, Almonte, Aug 10-11  
 Perth Garlic Festival, Aug 10-11  
*The Enchanted Bookshop*, Smiths Falls, Aug 16-25  
 Garlic Nirvana, Almonte, Aug 18  
 Tarts and Arts in the Park, Arnprior, Aug 24  
 Highland Games, Almonte, Aug 24  
*Old Friends, Old Work*, Almonte, Aug 31  
 Almonte Fair, Sep 6-8  
 Fibrefest, Almonte, Sep 7 & 8  
 Augustafest, Almonte, Sep 14  
 Doors Open Mississippi Mills, Sep 22  
 Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame Ceremony, Sep 29  
 Perth Autumn Studio Tour, Oct 12-13  
 Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour, Mississippi Mills, Oct 12-13  
 Laugh Out Loud, Perth, Oct 17-20  
*Arsenic and Old Lace*, Smiths Falls, Oct 18-27  
*The Wizard is... Odd!?*, Almonte, Nov 8-17  
*It's a Wonderful Life*, Smiths Falls, Dec 6-15  
*Winter Wonderettes*, Perth, Nov 28-Dec 8  
 Holiday Makers Market, Lanark, Dec 7  
 St. Paul's Christmas Concert, Perth, Dec 15

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎻 Canada Day Hootenanny, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎻 Celebrate Canada Day in Perth</li> <li>🎵 Canada Day with Long Sault Trio, The Cove</li> <li>🎻 Canada Day, Almonte</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Mike Godwin, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Dr. Brown's Uptown Travelling Medicine Show &amp; Trevor James, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 Wings 'n Tunes Wednesdays, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Anne Lewis Trio, The Cove</li> </ul>
<p><b>8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Nolan Hubbard, The Cove</li> <li>🎵 Evening of Music in Junction Station Park, Carleton Place</li> </ul>	<p><b>9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Eric Uren &amp; Meghan Balogh, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 TOG &amp; Ball and Chain, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 Wings 'n Tunes Wednesdays, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p><b>11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Jazz Night with Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove</li> <li>🎻 Carleton Place Toastmasters Club</li> </ul>
<p><b>15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Nolan Hubbard, The Cove</li> <li>🎵 Evening of Music in Junction Station Park, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 Evening of Music in Gemmill Park, Almonte</li> </ul>	<p><b>16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Eric Uren &amp; Meghan Balogh, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p><b>17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 TRXTRS &amp; Vicki Brittle, Almonte</li> <li>🎻 Smiths Falls Community Theatre Foundation AGM, Smiths Falls</li> <li>🎵 Wings 'n Tunes Wednesdays, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p><b>18</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Terry Gillespie + Crystal Axe, The Cove</li> </ul>
<p><b>22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Nolan Hubbard, The Cove</li> <li>🎵 Evening of Music in Junction Station Park, Carleton Place</li> </ul>	<p><b>23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Eric Uren &amp; Meghan Balogh, The Cove</li> <li>🎻 Crackup, Smiths Falls</li> </ul>	<p><b>24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Billygrass &amp; Matt Dickson, Almonte</li> <li>🎻 Miss Pringle's Mini-Skirt, Pembroke</li> <li>🎵 Wings 'n Tunes Wednesdays, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p><b>25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎻 Miss Pringle's Mini-Skirt, Pembroke</li> <li>🎵 Peter Brown and Roxy Swan, Carleton Place</li> <li>🎵 Social Swing Dance with Revival Swing, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 Music Night featuring Logan Brown, Snow Road Station</li> <li>🎵 Jazz Night with Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove</li> <li>🎻 Carleton Place Toastmasters Club</li> </ul>
<p><b>29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Nolan Hubbard, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p><b>30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎵 Eric Uren &amp; Meghan Balogh, The Cove</li> </ul>	<p><b>31</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎻 Miss Pringle's Mini-Skirt, Pembroke</li> <li>🎵 Haonobeko, Almonte</li> <li>🎵 Wings 'n Tunes Wednesdays, The Cove</li> <li>📖 Silent Book Club, Perth</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🎻 Miss Pringle's Mini-Skirt, Pembroke</li> </ul>

## Festivals

**Rum Ragged wih Mariner's Curse**, Jul 5, 7PM. Celtfest kickoff concert. Gemmill Park, Almonte. \$30 from TicketsPlease.ca, children under 13 free. almonteceltfest.com  
**Almonte Celtfest**, Jul 6-7, 12PM. A family-friendly celebration of Celtic music. Gemmill Park, Almonte. By donation. almonteceltfest.com  
**Stewart Park Festival**, Jul 19-21, 9AM-late. 3 days of free live music, plus food & artisanal vendors. Stewart Park, Perth. StewartParkFestival.com  
**Bridge Street SummerFest**, Jul 27, 10AM-3PM. Street market, live music, food, and entertainers. Downtown Carleton Place  
**Merrickville Festival of the Arts**, Jul 27-28, 11AM-6PM. Outdoor art show, plays, music & poetry performances. Blockhouse Park, Merrickville. mag-artists.ca

## Literature

**Summer Fiction Book Sale**, Jul 13, 9AM-3PM. In the garden, all sales by donation, proceeds to Perth Library. Perth & District Union Library. perthunionlibrary.ca  
**Silent Book Club**, Jul 31, 6PM. Everyone welcome. Quiet reading; mingle with fellow book lovers, if you wish. Bridge Masters Brewing Company, Perth. sbcperth.ticketeap.com

## Local Food

**Vodkwo Distillery Markets**, Jul 14, 10AM-3PM. Makers, artisans, growers, food vendors, beverage slingers, singers and more. Dairy Distillery, Almonte. Free. dairydistillery.com  
**Almonte Craft Beer Fest**, Jul 26, 6:30PM. Showcasing local beer, wine, cider, and spirits from the area. 19+. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434 (includes taxes and fees). mississippimills.ca  
**Pizza Night & Barn Dance**, Jul 26, 3-7PM (pizza night) 7-11PM (barn dance). Live music by Open Road. Reserve through ecotay.ca. Ecotay, Perth. Barn dance tickets \$25

## Visual Arts

**Rowland Leather 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, Jul 13. Meet the artist, exclusive giveaways. Rowland Leather, Merrickville. rowlandleather.ca  
**Madawaska Valley Studio Tour**, Jul 20-21, 10AM-5PM. Self-guided tour of artists' studios. Combermere to Eganville. madawaskastudiotour.com  
**Woven by Hand: Contemporary Canadian Tapestries**, Jul 20, 1PM. Exhibit opening. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. mvtm.ca  
**Meet the Artists**, Jul 27, 2-4PM. Opening of exhibitions by Carol Bajen-Gahm, Gizem Candan, and Jeannie Polisuk. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. sivarulrasa.com

## Theatre

**Film Club Fridays presents Ru**, Jul 5, 2 & 7PM. Based on the Governor General's Award-winning novel by Kim Thuy. Studio Theatre Perth. \$12 at the door. studiotheatreperth.com/whats-on/#film-club-fridays  
**Outerbridge: Mysteries of the Keyhole House**, Jul 19-28, 7:30PM. Every Friday & Saturday Mind blowing magic for the whole

family. Carleton Place Town Hall. From \$26.78 at EventBrite.ca  
**Crackup**, Jul 23, 7:30-8:30PM. Comedy night. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$31. smithsfallstheatre.com  
**Miss Pringle's Mini-Skirt**, Jul 24 to Oct 6 (select days) 7PM. A fond look back at the final days of rural schoolhouses in the Ottawa Valley. Rankin Culture and Recreation Centre, Pembroke. \$42 adult / \$15 youth from TicketsPlease.ca  
**The Diefenbunker presents Dief the Chief: October '62**, Jul 26-27, 4:30PM, 7:30PM & 9:30PM. Immersive theatrical production. 3 shows daily. The Diefenbunker - Canada's Cold War Museum, Carp. \$55 must purchase in advance. diefenbunker.ca/events/dief-the-chief-2024-1

## Youth

**Teddy Bear Tea Party**, Jul 6, 11AM. Teddy bear treats, drinks and crafts. North Lanark Regional Museum (Appleton Museum). \$5/child, \$10/adult. northlanarkregional-museum.com  
**Willy Wonka**, Jul 19, 1:30PM. A captivating adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantastical tale. St. Paul's United, Perth. \$15 (plus fees) from TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434

## Music

**Dr. Brown's Uptown Travelling Medicine Show & Trevor James**, Jul 3, 6PM. Augusta Street Park, Almonte. Free. facebook.com/FriendsOfAugustaStreetPark  
**Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band tribute**, Jul 6, 7:30PM. The Last of the Duke Street Kings live. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$15 plus fees. smithsfallstheatre.com  
**Perth Citizens' Band Summer Pops Concert**, Jul 7, 2PM. Bring lawn chair. Rain or shine. Crystal Palace, Perth. perthband.ca/events  
**Evening of Music in Junction Station Park**, Mondays, 7:30PM. Live performance with 45 musicians of the Carleton Place Community Band. Carleton Junction, Carleton Place. Free. Donations appreciated. facebook.com/cpadcb  
**TOG & Ball and Chain**, Jul 10, 6PM. Augusta Street Park, Almonte. Free. facebook.com/FriendsOfAugustaStreetPark  
**Jamboree**, Jul 14, 1-5:30PM. Live country music and a home cooked meal. Perth Civitan Club & Hall. \$20 dinner & dance, \$10 dance. civitanclubofperth.com

## Friday

## Saturday

## Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rum Ragged wih Mariner's Curse, Almonte</li> <li>Film Club Fridays presents Ru, Perth</li> <li>Lonesome George, The Cove</li> <li>Cait Porteous, St. James Gate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almonte Celtfest</li> <li>CFUW Perth Home and Garden Tour, Perth</li> <li>Perth Antique Show &amp; Sale, Perth</li> <li>Teddy Bear Tea Party, Appleton</li> <li>Dave Balfour, Westport Brewing Co.</li> <li>James King, The Cove</li> <li>Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band tribute, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Jason McCoy, Neat Coffee Shop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almonte Celtfest</li> <li>Perth Antique Show &amp; Sale, Perth</li> <li>Strawberry Social, Pakenham</li> <li>Perth Citizens' Band Summer Pops Concert, Perth</li> <li>Head Over Heels, The Cove</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Family Name, The Cove</li> <li>The Cavalier Son, St. James Gate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rowland Leather 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Merrickville</li> <li>Artisan Sale, Perth</li> <li>Summer Fiction Book Sale, Perth</li> <li>Lanark Speaks: Featuring Tamara Lopez, Perth</li> <li>Chris Murphy, Westport Brewing Co.</li> <li>Eric Uren, The Cove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Textiles and the Stories They Tell, Almonte</li> <li>Head Over Heels, The Cove</li> <li>Vodkwo Distillery Markets, Almonte</li> <li>Jamboree, Perth</li> <li>Free Outdoor Concert Series, Carleton Place</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stewart Park Festival, Perth</li> <li>Willy Wonka, Perth</li> <li>Young Petty Stones, The Cove</li> <li>Rick &amp; Lindsay, St. James Gate</li> <li>Outerbridge: Mysteries of the Keyhole House, Carleton Place</li> <li>Five Alarm Funk, Neat Coffee Shop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stewart Park Festival, Perth</li> <li>Outerbridge: Mysteries of the Keyhole House, Carleton Place</li> <li>Madawaska Valley Studio Tour, Combermere to Eganville</li> <li>Woven by Hand: Contemporary Canadian Tapestries, Almonte</li> <li>Deborah Lynn, Westport Brewing Co.</li> <li>Amanda Keeley Quartet, The Cove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stewart Park Festival, Perth</li> <li>Outerbridge: Mysteries of the Keyhole House, Carleton Place</li> <li>Madawaska Valley Studio Tour, Combermere to Eganville</li> <li>Preserving Photographs Presentation, Middleville</li> <li>Head Over Heels, The Cove</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almonte Craft Beer Fest, Almonte</li> <li>Outerbridge: Mysteries of the Keyhole House, Carleton Place</li> <li>Pizza Night &amp; Barn Dance, Perth</li> <li>The Diefenbunker presents Dief the Chief: October '62, Carp</li> <li>The Wanted, The Cove</li> <li>Brock Zeman, St. James Gate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merrickville Festival of the Arts, Merrickville</li> <li>Bridge Street SummerFest, Carleton Place</li> <li>Outerbridge: Mysteries of the Keyhole House, Carleton Place</li> <li>The Diefenbunker presents Dief the Chief: October '62, Carp</li> <li>Live music, Carleton Place</li> <li>Wade Barras, Westport Brewing Co.</li> <li>Meet the Artists, Almonte</li> <li>River City Junction, The Cove</li> <li>The Wanted, Elgin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merrickville Festival of the Arts, Merrickville</li> <li>Perth Citizens' Band Summer Pops Concert, Perth</li> <li>Free Outdoor Concert Series, Carleton Place</li> <li>Head Over Heels, The Cove</li> <li>Outerbridge: Mysteries of the Keyhole House, Carleton Place</li> </ul>
<p><b>Whitehouse Perennials</b> presents Bloomfest — a show and sale of garden art and plants — from July 20-28 &lt;whitehouseperennials.com&gt;</p> <p><b>General Fine Craft</b> presents new works by Andrea Vuletin (mishima pottery), Lauren Blakey (ceramics), and Paulus Tjiang (blown glass) &lt;generalfinecraft.com&gt;</p> <p><b>The Art Factory</b> presents <i>Call Me Crazy</i>, a solo show by Patrick John Mills &lt;liveloveartfactory.com&gt;</p> <p><b>Mississippi Valley Textile Museum</b> presents <i>Woven by Hand: Contemporary Canadian Tapestries</i> [from July 20] &lt;mvtm.ca&gt;</p> <p><b>Sivarulrasa Gallery</b> presents Carol Bajen-Gahm: <i>Litoral Light</i>, Gizem Candan's <i>worms as earth, earth as ochre</i>, and Jeannie Polisuk: <i>The Messiness of Memory</i> [from July 27] &lt;sivarulrasa.com&gt;</p> <p><b>The Corridor Gallery</b> of the Almonte Library presents jewellery and watercolours by Virginia Ross</p> <p><b>Alice's Village Café</b> presents works by Margaret Ferraro &lt;alicesvillagecafe.com&gt;</p> <p><b>The Red Brick School</b> presents <i>A New Lens on South Crosby</i>, a retrospective of photos by Clifford Pennock [weekends from 10AM to 4PM] &lt;eahs.ca&gt;</p>		

**Free Outdoor Concert Series**, Jul 14, 2-4PM. Steven Williams, Robert van Wyngaarden, Noreen Sullivan. Presented by Kay Francis. BYO lawn chair. Near John's Marina, Carleton Place. Free. kayfrancis.ca

**Evening of Music in Gemmill Park, Almonte**, Jul 15, 7:30PM. Live performance with 45 musicians of the Carleton Place Community Band. Gemmill Park, Almonte. Free. Donations appreciated. facebook.com/cpadcb

**TRXTRS & Vicki Brittle**, Jul 17, 6PM. Augusta Street Park, Almonte. Free. facebook.com/FriendsOfAugustaStreetPark

**Billygrass & Matt Dickson**, Jul 24, 6PM. Augusta Street Park, Almonte. Free. facebook.com/FriendsOfAugustaStreetPark

**Peter Brown and Roxy Swan**, Jul 25, 7PM. Folk music, local treats and art. Carleton Place Gallery. \$30 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434. cpgallery.ca

**Social Swing Dance with Revival Swing**, Jul 25, 7-9PM. Intro lesson followed by social dance. No experience or partner needed. Hillside Reformed Presbyterian Church, Almonte. \$5 cash. facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089575624202

**Music Night featuring Logan Brown**, Jul 25, 7PM. Guitar and vocals, and side-splitting musical comedy. Snow Road Community Centre, Snow Road Station. \$15 in advance/\$18 at the door. snowroadcommunitycentre.com

**The Wanted**, Jul 27, 8PM. Folk and Alt Country with a Canadian edge. Chaffey's Lock Community Hall, Elgin. \$35 from onstage.direct.com or \$40 at the door. chaffeyslock.ca

**Live music**, Jul 27, 12PM. Live music by GASM, in front of the store as part of Bridge Street Summerfest. Granary, Carleton Place. free

**Perth Citizens' Band Summer Pops Concert**, Jul 28, 2PM. Bring lawn chair. Rain or shine. Crystal Palace, Perth. perthband.ca/events

**Free Outdoor Concert Series**, Jul 28, 2-4PM. Mark Fryars, Kari Robertson, Reif Spano. Presented by Kay Francis. BYO lawn chair. Near John's Marina, Carleton Place. Free. kayfrancis.ca

**Haonobeko**, Jul 31, 6PM. Augusta Street Park, Almonte. Free. facebook.com/FriendsOfAugustaStreetPark

## Pub Listings

**The Cove** (Westport, 273-3636): 5-8PM unless noted; Mon Jon Jones; Wed Wings 'n Tunes w/Shawn McCullough (5:30-8:30); Sun Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh

Jul 1 Canada Day w/ Long Sault Trio, \$10  
 Jul 2 Mike Godwin  
 Jul 4 Anne Lewis Trio  
 Jul 5 Lonesome George, \$10  
 Jul 6 James King  
 Jul 11 Spencer Evans Trio, 8PM, \$10  
 Jul 12 The Family Name  
 Jul 13 Eric Uren  
 Jul 18 Terry Gillespie + Crystal Axe, \$10  
 Jul 19 Young Petty Stones, 7-11PM, \$85  
 Jul 20 Amanda Keeley Quartet  
 Jul 25 Spencer Evans Trio, 8PM  
 Jul 26 The Wanted, \$10  
 Jul 27 River City Junction, \$10

**Westport Brewing Co.** (Westport, 273-2739): Tunes on Tap, 2-4PM  
 Jul 6 Dave Balfour  
 Jul 13 Chris Murphy  
 Jul 20 Deborah Lynn  
 Jul 27 Wade Barras

**Neat Coffee Shop** (Burnstown, 433-9960):  
 Jul 6 Jason McCoy, \$60  
 Jul 19 Five Alarm Funk, \$45

**St. James Gate** (Carleton Place, stjamesgatecp.com): 7-10PM  
 Jul 5 Cait Porteous  
 Jul 12 The Cavalier Son  
 Jul 19 Rick & Lindsay  
 Jul 26 Brock Zeeman

## Community

**Canada Day**, Jul 1. BBQ, refreshments, kids crafts & fun, music. Gemmill Park, Almonte. mississippimills.ca

**Canada Day Hootenanny**, Jul 1, 10AM-12PM. BYO lawn chair; fun for all ages; Live entertainment by The Brownie Bunch. Brunton Community Hall, Carleton Place. Free. cmcgregor@twp.beckwith.on.ca

**Celebrate Canada Day in Perth**, Jul 1, 3-10PM. Family fun and fireworks. Conlon Farm, Perth. perth.ca/canadaday

**CFUW Perth Home and Garden Tour**, Jul 6, 9:30AM-4:30PM. Self-guided tour of 11 gardens + 2 homes in and around Perth. Downtown Perth. \$30 for Tour and \$20 for Garden Lunch. Tickets from TicketsPlease.ca. 485-6434. homeandgardencfuwperth@gmail.com

**Perth Antique Show & Sale**, Jul 6-7, 10AM-4PM. Dealers from Ontario and Quebec offer a wide variety of quality antiques, popular retro and nostalgia. Perth Civitan Club & Hall. \$7. perthantiqueshow.com

**Strawberry Social**, Jul 7, 1-4PM. Fundraiser. All welcome. Cedar Hill Schoolhouse, Pakenham. Adults \$10, Children \$5. 256-2014

**Carleton Place Toastmasters Club**, Jul 11 & 25, 7PM. Improve public speaking and leadership skills. via Zoom, contact for link. Free. carletonplace.toastmastersclubs.org

**Artisan Sale**, Jul 13, 8AM. Quality, handcrafted items from local quilters. Crystal Palace, Perth. lanarkcountyquiltersguild.com

**Lanark Speaks: Featuring Tamara Lopez**, Jul 13, 1-3PM. Part of a series by Queer Connection Lanark. Register on the library website. Perth & District Union Library. Free and open to all ages. perthunionlibrary.ca/events

**Textiles and the Stories They Tell**, Jul 14, 6PM. An evening of cultural clothing and dance. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. \$10. mvtm.ca

**Smiths Falls Community Theatre Foundation AGM**, Jul 17, 7:30PM. If you have an interest in volunteering in Community Theatre, join us! The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. thestationtheatre@gmail.com

**Preserving Photographs Presentation**, Jul 21, 10:30AM. Learn the history of photography and techniques for dating photos. Middleville & District Museum. \$5. middlevillemuseum.org

# River City Junction Comes to The Cove

For almost 30 years, River City Junction has been playing big festivals like RBC Ottawa Bluesfest, Montreal's FestiBlues, and many of the clubs in Eastern Ontario and Quebec. They have had the honour of performing with artists like Jerry Mercer, Harpdog Brown, Jerome Godboo, Eric Shenkman, Steve Marriner, and Matt Sobb. They played The Cove for the first time this past February, and will be bringing their funky soulful sound back on Saturday, July 27. I caught up with lead singer and drummer Caroline Addison, and her husband and guitar player Jason, to find out more about these seasoned veterans of the Canadian music scene.

by Seamus Cowan

**Seamus Cowan: Making music is a special thing, but is there a different feeling when you're doing it with someone close to you?**

Caroline: Making music is definitely a sharing of souls in my opinion. I've been very fortunate to share that experience with many great players, but it's something else altogether to share that with Jason, because each of us is able to intuit what the other is feeling, both on and off stage. So it definitely makes for something very magical. It makes the very best of friends even better!



**A lot of people are taken by how much soul you sing with, and how you play the drums at the same time. Can you tell us about your singing drummer influences?**

Caroline: There are definitely some greats, but Levon Helm of The Band is by far my favourite singing drummer. I just love his groovy feel and attitude. I got to meet him the night he played our very own first big festival gig — Ottawa Bluesfest in 2010 — and got to thank him for all the years of inspiration he gave to me.

Another great inspiration of mine has always been Jerry Mercer. He didn't sing much in April Wine, but let me tell you, that man could sing like a bird! I used to sneak into the bars when I was underage back in the day in Montreal to catch him playing in a local band called Big City. Jerry used to do an a cappella version of *Desperado*, and it was so good. Years later Jerry played in our band for five years until returning to April Wine to record *Back to the Mansion* with them, but that's another story!

**Submitting your creative self to working with a great producer can be liberating. What were some of the tools and alternate ways of thinking about performing and recording that Rob Fraboni gave you?**

Jason: Rob is a brutally honest guy in pretty much every way, so working with him was one of the best experiences of my life. He really cares and was totally open with me about everything from the very first moment we met. I was completely overwhelmed with the fact that I would be meeting this guy because to me, he is huge. He's worked with The Beach Boys, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, The Band, Joe Cocker, Eric Clapton, Bonnie Raitt, Keith Richards, and many more. He's right up there with Daniel Lanois and Rudy Van Gelder. These people are the masterminds who coax the best sounds and performances from the people that they work with, and are also the ones that massage all those instruments and frequencies together, and turn it into the beautiful music that we all know and love.

As we were talking, he said to me, "Wait a minute. Are you the guy who did the remake of that Joe Bonamassa tune *The Ballad of John Henry*?" When I answered yes, he just blurted out, "Oh thank God. After I heard that song, I was like: 'What am I going to show this guy that he doesn't already know?'" I think maybe he was expecting someone who was not aware of his accomplishments or contributions, but when he realized how much respect and admiration I already had for him, I think that broke down any possible barriers that could have existed between us and we just instantly became friends.

That brutal honesty from each of us to the other forged a bond in my heart and I have loved that man from that very moment. He not only showed and explained a lot of his personal approaches to recording, but also showed me that how you approach the whole process is also very important. He does so with a very light heart and was a great mentor to me in the little amount of time we got to spend with him. And don't get me wrong, he is also the kind of guy that if you make the mistake of approaching him in the wrong way, it's not likely to go well for you, so I was extra appreciative of every moment we spent together.

**Can you tell us about the evolution of the sound of your newest record coming down the pipe?**

Jason: That's a very hard question to answer, because the evolution of our sound is in step with the evolution of our souls, so hopefully it will sound great! Caroline has become an incredible songwriter and has written all the songs for the fourth record. I think the biggest evolution will be the fact that we will be living in a small cabin and doing most, if not all, of our recording there with zero interruptions or disturbances. Maybe I'll write you back in six months or a year and I'll be able to quantify it better!

**River City Junction will play a summer patio party at The Cove on July 27. It's always a good idea to reserve early, so call 273-3636 to book your spot.**



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# Light, Earth & Memory at Sivarulrasa Gallery

Sivarulrasa Gallery will present three new exhibitions starting on July 26. *Carol Bajen-Gahm: Litoral Light*, featuring a series of 12 new paintings, will run in Gallery I. Carol lives on the East coast of Newfoundland, working from her studio on a cliff overlooking the ocean.

Gizem Candan's thought-provoking installation *worms as earth, earth as ochre* will run in Gallery II. In this installation, the artist explores the kinship between species, including psychological and spiritual states. Gizem Candan is a Turkish-Canadian visual artist, curator and researcher based in Toronto.

*Jeannie Polisuk: The Messiness of Memory*, will run in Gallery III. Through a series of abstract works, this Ottawa-based artist explores the concept of memory as a chaotic tapestry woven with fragments of experiences, emotions, and distortions.

Meet all three artists at the combined Artists Reception on Saturday, July 27, from 2-4PM. Sivarulrasa Gallery is located at 34 Mill Street in Almonte. For more information, please visit [sivarulrasa.com](http://sivarulrasa.com).



*Down to Earth* by artist Jeannie Polisuk is featured in her solo show at Sivarulrasa Gallery. An Artists Reception takes place on Saturday, July 27.

## Dreams Do Come True

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The Almonte Civitan Club is about to see a twenty-five-year-old dream come true! A fully accessible and barrier free playground for all has been designed for persons of all ages, regardless of their physical abilities or cognitive challenges. The playground will include a walking track and impact-absorbing rubberized play surface designed with safety in mind. All of this in a quiet outdoor setting.

The project is set for completion in 2026. The club commitment of \$200,000 toward this \$800,000 project provides a solid foundation for the pursuit of wider community and corporate sponsorship of this welcoming Eastern Ontario facility, intended for the benefit of all Ottawa Valley residents.



The Almonte Civitans are fundraising for an accessible playground

For more information or to donate to this wonderful endeavour, visit [almontecivitan.com/playground](http://almontecivitan.com/playground) or email [playground@almontecivitan.com](mailto:playground@almontecivitan.com).

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theHumm Interview

# New Arts Carleton Place “Art Hub” Gallery, Meeting Space & Studio!

Arts Carleton Place (ACP), a dynamic organization that has been active since the fall of 2005, is continuing their mission to recognize, celebrate, and promote the unique artistic activity in the vicinity. With an eye to “empowering artists and area residents through the arts,” this group has been busy hosting art shows, donating to area student bursary programs, and facilitating the process of getting art into public spaces. This month they

**Can you describe the range of facilities and services that will be offered to artists and the community?**

First and foremost, to participate in the Art Hub, an artist needs to be a member of Arts Carleton Place.

The Art Hub is offering members affordable display space, in a variety of options, within the large gallery space. A good portion of art will be refreshed every six weeks as the Art Hub presents a new “show.” Some 75 artists and artisans will be featured throughout the year.

The studio area will be an excellent venue for classes and workshops offered by members, or for individual artists to use as a creative studio. We hope that in the latter case the artists will be able to leave canvasses and painting supplies behind for their next session, therefore enjoying the convenience of having a regular studio space.

by Kris Riendeau

will be launching a new Art Hub, which will consist of a gallery, meeting space, studio and workshop space.

The Art Hub will be run by the artists — for the artists — of Arts Carleton Place. It will be located at 50 Bennett Street, Unit 1, in the Walsh Business Park. The space will be shared with artist Sarah Moffat, who will continue to operate her studio there. While Sarah will be concentrating on creating new works of art and commissions, she has generously allowed Arts Carleton Place to operate the business side of promoting and selling art in the gallery space. theHumm caught up with Arts Carleton Place President Suzanne Deschênes to find out more about this exciting new venture.

**theHumm: What inspired the creation of the Art Hub, and how did the idea come to fruition?**

Suzanne Deschênes: At the Annual General Meeting in April, the Board of Directors asked the membership what ACP should do with its year-end surplus. The idea of a Club House was a recurring suggestion from members. As of April, Arts Carleton Place had no permanent home and needed a place for meetings, social gatherings, and painting get-togethers. The Art Hub idea, as suggested by members, would answer many of the organization’s goals, with the principal goal being to offer members a permanent venue to sell their art at affordable prices. Another goal is to further develop a sense of belonging to a vibrant art community. The Art Hub will create a meeting place for artists and local art lovers alike.

The time was right to make something happen, and I was mandated to start looking for spaces.

The Board felt that a Bridge Street location was not ideal for our organization, and we didn’t need a formal “fine art” gallery, so I was looking for something a little laid-back and a little off the beaten path that could accommodate all interested members. We needed at least 1500 square feet to accommodate a gallery and meeting/studio space for art classes.

I started driving the back streets. When I drove past the Walsh Business Park, I realised that there were potential synergies with the location of the S.M.art Studio and Gallery and ACP’s needs. ACP was already successfully holding its Saturday afternoon paint-ins at this location, so it made sense to explore this option.

The gallery, meeting space, and studio will officially open on July 5, 2024. Summer hours will be Wednesday through Friday from 10AM to 7PM, and Saturday and Sunday from 10AM to 5PM.



For the public, there will be a spacious gallery where visitors and potential customers can view a large variety of art. There will be places to sit and relax while taking it all in.

The Art Hub plans to set aside a small space for “featured artists” or mini “solo shows” for participating artists or guest artists.

The community will be able to enjoy the experience of our popular 2-day shows — The Spring Fine Art Show and the Itty Bitty Show — year round. The Art Hub will offer art cards, small gift items, and original art.

**What kind of workshops and events can people expect to see there, and how can local artists get involved?**

Arts Carleton Place members will have space to offer classes and workshops on topics of their choice. The Art Hub itself will facilitate classes rather than organize them. We do know that ACP member Emily Hitz has already planned a series of summer youth art classes, which will be held at the Art Hub. Arts Carleton Place may occasionally plan some special workshops.

The facility has a kitchenette, which will make it easy to provide or offer food and beverages during activities.

**What are your long-term goals for the Art Hub, and how do you see it evolving in the future?**

ACP encourages its members to voice their wants and needs with this new venture. This will help the Board of Directors continue to set goals as the Art Hub takes shape. The Art Hub will evolve by listening to its members feedback and attempting to make members’ artistic dreams a reality.





On Saturday, July 27, the highly anticipated Bridge Street Summerfest will return to Downtown Carleton Place. Bridge Street will be transformed as it becomes a bustling hub of entertainment and vendors, stretching from Mill Street to Lake Avenue. Prepare to be amazed by the diverse range of artisans, makers, crafters, vintage and thrift resellers, pop-ups, and remarkable local businesses that will fill Bridge Street with an array of remarkable discoveries.

The goal of Summerfest is to create an unforgettable experience with continuous performances from incredible entertainers like Edward the Juggler (famous for his work with Cirque du Soleil), and fan-favourite Scott Jackson (Champion beatboxer) making a triumphant return. In addition, there will be complimentary

gifts for 250 lucky attendees, as well as a wide range of activities such as free face painting, balloon twisting, photo ops and so much more.

"Everyone is buzzing with excitement for Bridge Street Summerfest in downtown Carleton Place," says Rachael Heleniak, Coordinator at Carleton Place Tourism. "We invite you to plan a day or weekend trip to explore our historic town on the beautiful Mississippi River during our biggest summer festival. Recently voted the best small town in the Ottawa area, Carleton Place is ready to show you a fantastic time. Bring your friends, pack up the family, and book an overnight stay to fully immerse yourself in the festivities. Come see why Carleton Place is the perfect blend of small-town charm and big-time fun!"

# The Return of the Rideau Artist of the Year

Rideau Artist of the Year (RAY) is a celebration of local artists competing and creating live outdoors along the historic Rideau Canal waterway. This unique event will be returning for its third year in early September.

The 2023 competition was won by Rachel Houlton. A professional artist for over 23 years, Rachel captured the attention of jurors and the public with her showpiece entitled *Joyce's Hydrangeas*. The Youth Artist prize for 2023 was won by artistic newcomer Jordan Sinclair.

No matter how much artistic experience you have or what medium you like to work with, you are welcome to compete at RAY. If you need an added incentive, the grand prize winner will receive \$1,000, while the youth category winner will receive \$250 and a \$50 gift card from The Craft Witch.

Artists who have participated in previous years are encouraged to return once again. The location has been moved from Old Slys Lock Station to between the Combined and Detached Lock Stations for some breathtaking new views, closer to downtown Smiths Falls. Those who have never tried painting en plein air are invited for a fun and challenging weekend of creative competition!

Painting en plein air to capture the beauty of the Rideau Canal in Smiths Falls — where industrial



The image above won Rachel Houlton the title of 2023 Rideau Artist of the Year. Artists have until August 23 to register for this year's competition!

heritage meets the natural landscape. On the weekend of September 7 and 8, you can take up this challenge or come by as a spectator to see the artists in action.

Artists have until August 23 to register for the competition. For additional information or to register, please contact Will Manhire at the Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum by phone at 283-6311 or by email at <sfheritagehouse@gmail.com>.

Vendors - Mark your Calendar!

## TARTS & ARTS IN THE PARK FESTIVAL

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 Fri Jul 12 **The Family Name** (Folk Guitar/Vocal Duo, Smiths Falls) 5-8  
 Sat Jul 13 **Eric Uren** (Folk/Rock, Westport) 5-8  
 Thu Jul 18 **Terry Gillespie + Crystal Axe** 5-8, \$10 suggested cover  
 Fri Jul 19 **Young Petty Stones**: The Music of Neil Young, Tom Petty + The Rolling Stones (Westport/Yarker/Montreal) 7-11 \$85 Dinner, Show + Donation  
 Sat Jul 20 **Amanda Keeley Quartet** (Soulful Folk/Rock, Brockville) 5-8  
 Thu Jul 25 Jazz Night with **Spencer Evans Trio** (Piano Trio, Kingston) 8-10, \$10  
 Fri Jul 26 **The Wanted** (Original Folk/Alt Country Trio) 5-8, \$10 suggested cover  
 Sat Jul 27 **River City Junction** (Soul Rock/Blues Trio, Brockville) 5-8, \$10 sugg. cover



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# The Wanted to Play Chaffey's Lock Hall

The Chaffey's Lock and Area Heritage Society (CLAHS) is gearing up for the second concert in their 2024 Music Events Headliner Season at the historic Chaffey's Lock Community Hall. On July 27, Toronto's The Wanted will bring their distinct sound, described as folk and alt-country with a cool Canadian edge. This is full-throated, full-throttle entertainment, imbued with a spirit that is darkly haunting, incisively witty, or just plain fun.

Then on August 24, Emilie Steele & The Deal will come from Kingston to keep everyone up on the dance floor with their amazing sonic tapestry of indie rock and alt-country sounds.

Get tickets for The Wanted and Emilie Steele & The Deal from [onstagedirect.com/chaffeyslock](http://onstagedirect.com/chaffeyslock), and find more details at [chaffeyslock.ca](http://chaffeyslock.ca).

Funds raised by these events will go towards Community Hall renovations, maintenance and operation, as well as heritage projects.



Catch The Wanted on July 27

# Astronomical Observatory Exhibit at the Mill of Kintail

by Rick Scholes

A special exhibit featuring the Fred Lossing Observatory (FLO) is now open at the Mill of Kintail Museum near Almonte. FLO has been called "A Hidden Gem in Mississippi Mills," an apt description since many people who've lived in the area for years remain unaware of its existence. This could have a lot to do with astronomers working mostly at night, in the dark. It is also because FLO is a membership-based astronomical observatory operated by the Ottawa chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC). The observatory is hidden (er, I mean, located) elsewhere on the grounds of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Area.

The exhibit chronicles the history of the observatory from its inception in 1971 to the present. Various artifacts are featured, including historical logbooks used by local amateur astronomers over the years, eyepieces, plaques and posters, and two typical amateur astronomer telescopes. If you're thinking of taking up astronomy as a hobby, consider joining RASC, where you can find both new and experienced members eager to share their love of the night sky. RASC holds well-attended public star parties at the Diefenbunker in Carp during the summer months. Details can be found at [ottawa.rasc.ca](http://ottawa.rasc.ca).

The RASC Ottawa chapter is the second largest in Canada, with well over 400 members. One membership privilege is the use of FLO, where people can escape the light-polluted Ottawa skies and set

up their own observing gear or use one of the club's fixed telescopes. In Mississippi Mills we benefit from a night-sky-friendly lighting bylaw. And when I say "we" I mean not just observatory users, but everyone who enjoys the grandeur of the night sky. Lights that point upward just wash out the night sky for all of us, and waste electricity (and money) at the same time. So please consider night-sky-friendly lighting for your properties and businesses, using timers and motion sensors, and just turning off lights that aren't needed. The night sky is a natural resource, just like the hiking trails, flora and fauna, and fresh air found at the Mill of Kintail.

For those interested in learning more about astronomy, I will be offering a course entitled **The Night Sky** through Learning Again in Almonte in the fall of 2024. The focus will be on what we can see with our eyes or a small telescope when we look up, and how our perception of the universe has evolved over the course of human history. Details and registration will be available in July at [learningagaininalmonte.ca](http://learningagaininalmonte.ca).

If you've never visited the Mill of Kintail Museum, it's well worth exploring its permanent collection, which profiles two famous sons of Lanark County, R. Tait McKenzie and James Naismith. There are fascinating displays about the lives and accomplishments of these men, contained within the beautiful heritage mill building. The museum is open in the summer from 9AM to 3:30PM (Monday through Friday) and from 10:30AM to 4:30PM (weekends and holidays).



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# So Many EV Myths to Bust

I have had an Electric Vehicle — or EV — for two-and-a-half years now. I love it. And frankly, I get very tired of seeing the various posts on social media meant to discredit EVs.

So it was with particular pleasure that Climate Network Lanark (CNL) invited the Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa (EVCO) to come to Almonte on June 8, bringing a group of volunteers and cars to offer test drives (nine people took

materials used in ICE vehicles — and oil and gas extraction are considered mining — are mainly burned. “EVs require 160kg of minerals or 100 times less mined minerals than an ICE vehicle when fuel is included,” says Banks. As well, the extra embodied GHG emissions from manufacturing EVs are made up after about 20,000km (or two years) of driving.

## Costly Battery Replacement

Another top myth is that EV owners will have to replace their big batteries very quickly and at a huge cost. In fact, EV batteries are designed to last the life of the vehicle of 15-20 years. And once they are finished working at their peak current output in a car, they are now being used for other back-up electricity purposes in homes, commercial applications, and as Battery Energy Storage Systems supporting the grid. Beyond that, the materials are recycled into new batteries, with 95% of the materials being recycled, according to Canada-based Li-Cycle battery recycling.

## Not Enough Electricity for All EVs

Yet another “claim” is that there isn’t enough electricity to handle all the EVs. Banks quotes StatsCan: “There is enough current grid capacity to handle an instant 25% increase in EVs on the road with no changes or upgrades to the grid required.”

According to StatsCan data, even when 10 million EVs are added to the grid (representing about half of all cars on the road), demand for electricity would only increase by between 4.7% to 9.4% from 2022 levels.

I can speak to this personally. At a Canadian average of 50km/day, and with most trips being relatively close to home, charging

overnight from my Level 2 home charger is perfect for me. I set my car to charge after midnight so it’s taking advantage of the super cheap and excess electricity produced then.

While you’re at the CNL website, go to the slide decks from our Electrify Lanark Forum to see excellent presentations on just how we will meet the electricity demands we have from decarbonizing.

## EVs and Fire

According to auto insurance data Banks presented, hybrid vehicles (the combination of ICE engines with old-style, non-lithium electric batteries) are the worst fire risk at 3,475 per 100,000 vehicles sold. ICE vehicles are 1,530/100,000 and Battery Electric vehicles are only 25/100,000. Yes, putting out lithium fires was an issue, but fire departments are now trained on that.

## Growth of EV Sales

Would you be surprised to learn it’s not what the fossil fuel interests would have you believe? I invite you to go to our website and see the information Banks provided on the growth of EV sales.

## Range Anxiety

My personal favourite myth about EVs has to do with what’s called “range anxiety.” I’ll leave it to you, dear reader, to see what Banks says, but here’s my personal take: My EV is not a long-range model, but it gets 350-400km in the summer when I do my longer-distance driving. Quite frankly, what drives my driving habits is “bladder range.” Given that my car takes 15-20 minutes to charge, that’s just enough time to get a charge, take a break, and grab a coffee before I’m on the road again!



During the derecho of 2022, Sue Brandum plugged her Hyundai Ioniq 5 into her neighbour Laura Plummer’s sump pump to keep Laura’s basement from flooding while her power was out. The feature is called Vehicle to Load, but not all EVs have it. This photo of Laura was taken at the time.

by Sue Brandum

advantage, with others doing ride alongs), but particularly to give a presentation on EV Myth Busting.

By all accounts from the full room, it was a superb presentation. EVCO is some 30 years old, so they know what they are talking about. I’m going to provide a few of the highlights and bust some myths here, but you are most welcome to see the whole slide deck on our website at <climatenetworklanark.ca>. We will also be posting a video recording of the whole presentation at a later date, which includes much more from presenter and EVCO VP Mike Banks, as well as the Q&A session. A big thanks to Banks and EVCO President Ray Leury and their volunteers! Now let’s get to busting those myths...

## Evs Use More Mined Metals

One of the most aggravating social media posts claims that EVs use more mined metals than conventional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles do. While it is true that EVs take more mined materials in the manufacturing process, those materials are reusable and recyclable. The mined

## Electrify Lanark Workshops

EVs certainly aren’t the single solution to the climate crisis. That’s why CNL has been exploring many ways to decarbonize and electrify our homes and our community in our Electrify Lanark series. Watch for our last two workshops in September: Residential Heat Pumps at the new Beckwith Net Zero Town Hall on September 19; and How to Make your House Resilient against the ravages of the climate crisis of fire, flood, drought and extreme heat on September 26. These workshops are free, but registration is required at <ticketsplease.ca>. Thanks again to the Perth and District Community Foundation for their generous support for this project.



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