

NOVEMBER 2011

the Hum

free

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& Ideas

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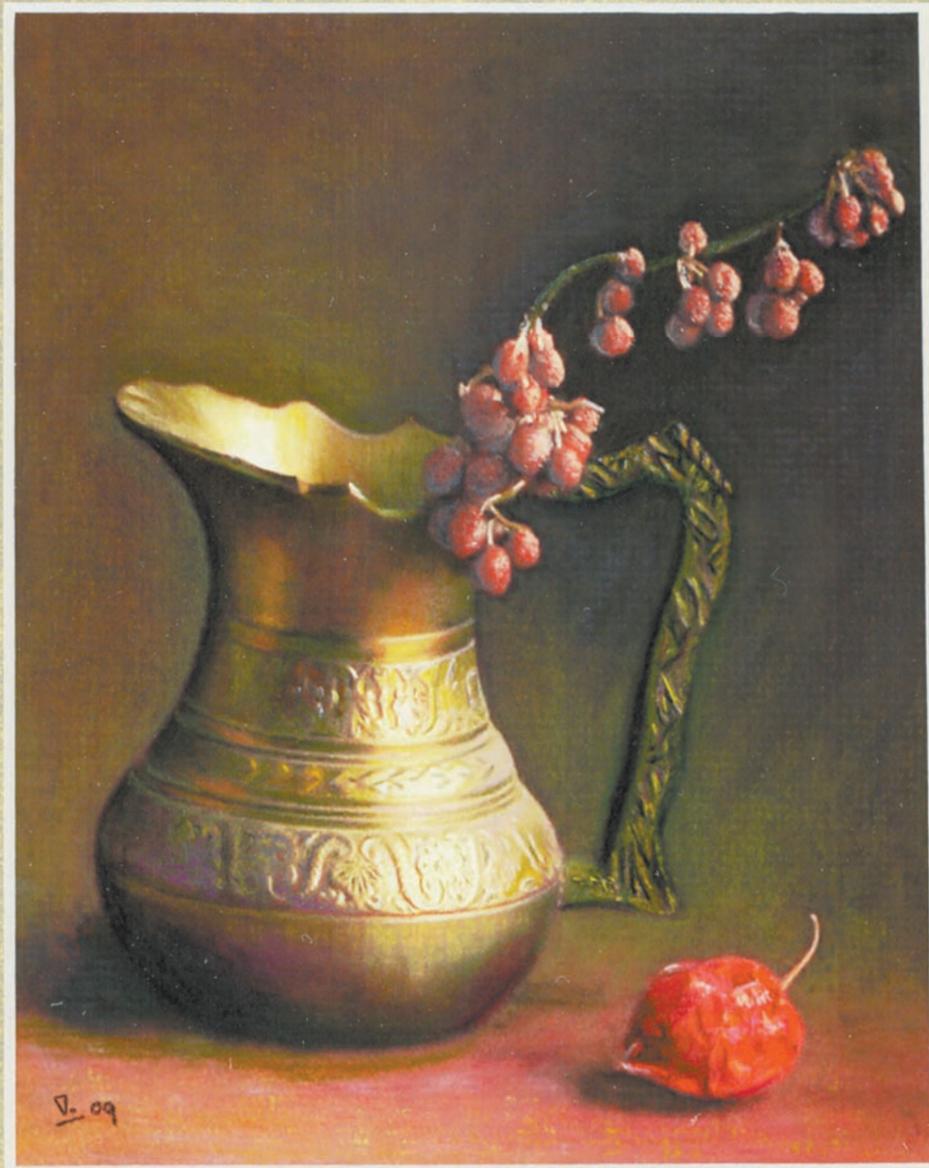
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ARTBEAT

by Bill Buttle



“Wouldn't it have been easier to just buy a bag or two of that stuff from the garden centre?”

No Gripes, No Moans, No... vember?

On a sunny day in late October, with a chocolate truffle sitting nearby and the upcoming issue of *theHumm* almost in the bag, it's easy to forget that the gloomy month of November is just a few hours and several trick-or-treaters away. Easy for me, that is, but apparently a few of our columnists beg to differ. This month, Glenda Jones takes umbrage with technology, Tony Stuart offers suggestions for motivating kids to practice music once the early fall honeymoon has worn off, and Steve Scanlon — well, I'm just going to give you a little preview of Steve's Westport Wonders column. Steve writes:

Okay, by a show of hands... who likes November? Just as I suspected, not one hand up in favour of the moody month (you in the back row with the sun hat and sunglasses... it's November — take the sunglasses off and put your hand down). Nobody in this great province of ours (and possibly every other province in the nation) has even the slightest interest in November. We should just ditch it, get rid of it, kick it to the curb. Who needs it? If you were born in November you get an extra year... so sayeth I.

Let's go to eleven months. It's such a nice number, eleven — it even rhymes with heaven. We should take a vote — a nationwide show of hands to ban the month



Back in early 2010, **Lilly White** of Almonte sent this lovely shot of herself “reading theHumm with some chums” at her home-away-from-home in Bali.

Who's Reading theHumm



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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, Lanark, Smiths Falls, Burnstown, White Lake, Balderson, and Ottawa. Our mandate is to connect and promote people and events in the small towns and rural communities of the Ottawa Valley — where the arts flourish and entertaining characters run amok!

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By email or on disk.

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Thanks this month to:
Will and June for feeding us at deadline time, and to Dick for designing a flaccid flag pole (you'll have to come and see *Naismith Is Colourblind and He Can't Drive* to get that one...)

(everybody gets a vote except for the goofy guy with the sun hat and sunglasses). Do you know why we should ban November? No? Well, I'll tell you why: because there is nothing to like. I hate to sound like an old curmudgeon, but seriously folks, everything is dead in November and I'm not talking the colourful “look at me I'm an October tree filled with lovely colour” dead, or the “it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas” dead. No. This is the “grey, overcast, wetter than rain, colder than a gravedigger's ass in the Klondike, butt ugly, please just let me curl up and stay in my warm cozy bed because if I open my eyes to one more miserable, ugly, dreary November day I'm gonna hurl...” dead. So, by a show of hands, all in favour of eleven months in the year and skipping November completely?

But given that this is the publication that promotes all of the fun and fabulous happenings throughout this fine area, you can probably guess at the outcome of Steve's article. True to form, he found plenty to do in the small town of Westport alone. Take a gander at the other 35 pages in this issue, and you'll have a fun-filled, action-packed month. No worries... no problems... no down-time... November!
— *Kris Riendeau (borrowing heavily from Steve Scanlon)*

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www.carletonplacearttourandsale.wordpress.com

Johannes Veenstra — Eclectic Autodidact

If you have dropped in lately at Bittersweet Fine Craft & Art Gallery in Burnstown, chances are that proprietor Cheryl Babineau has directed your attention to some breathtaking pastel paintings by Renfrew artist Johannes Veenstra. That happened to me, so I followed up by seeking Veenstra out at the recent Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour. Then I called my editor.

by Sally Hansen

Eclectic Autodidact

theHumm strives to make the arts accessible. So why did I choose a relatively obscure title to feature a local artist who deserves to be better known? Johannes Veenstra is a complex, complicated artist who cannot be easily described or categorized. In one studio tour brochure he is described as a book-binder; in another, as an artist offering boxes and pastels. He has been commissioned to create a mosaic floor and stained glass pieces. The sanctuary of the Calvin Christian Reformed Church at 1475 Merivale Road in Ottawa displays fourteen multimedia art panels he created to “proclaim the Gospel in wood, metal and stone.”

According to thesaurus.com, “eclectic means selecting what seems best of various styles, methods, or ideas.” [Dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com) defines autodidact as “a person who has learned a subject without the benefit of a teacher or formal education; a self-taught person.” The more I learned about Veenstra, the more I grew to appreciate what he has accomplished.

His native tongue is Frisian, a language spoken in the Friesland Province of Holland, where he was born. Johan, as he is known to family and friends, recalls his first experience as a painter. Isolated by language after his parents moved him to Kingston, Ontario, when he was fourteen years old, the lonely teenager retreated into the basement armed with watercolours. His love of art intensified over the decades and fortified him during a career with Corrections Canada that ended sixteen years ago when he retired. “I haven’t stopped smiling since,” he told me, with a confirming grin.

While attending Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he met the woman who became his wife. Lillian’s first language is also Frisian, and she had moved to Canada in 1947. They married in 1964, and Johan describes their relationship as “each other’s best friend.” She agrees. Johan admits to a few art and art history courses at Queen’s University, where he completed degrees in Sociology

and Anthropology, but his wide range of artistic accomplishments are primarily the result of an endless curiosity, a restless mind and body (he only requires five hours of sleep), and the fact that he suffers from ETC. Self-diagnosed, he confesses that he is guilty of Extreme Temperamental Contrariness, and claims he is a hermit. Regardless, I really enjoyed my time with him, and he is close to his three children and nine grandchildren. Lillian happily accommodates his temperament by removing herself to her well-stocked quilting studio, where she works on her own aesthetic creations.

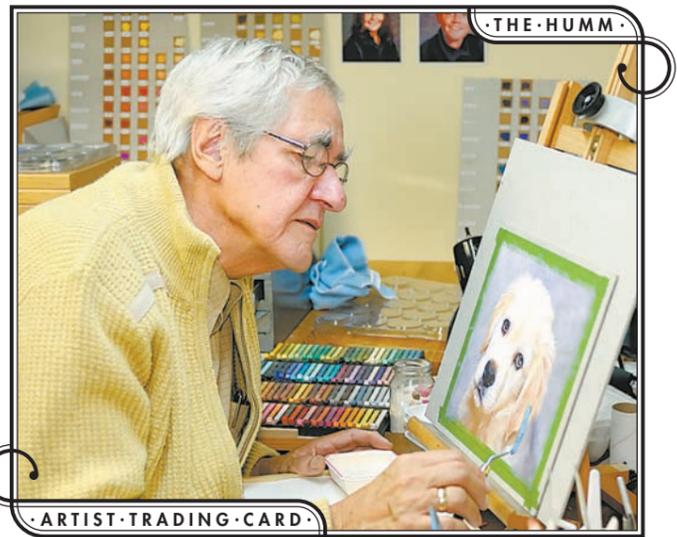
The autodidacts I have met usually share a few common personality attributes. Like Johan, they believe “rules are for beginners.” They have enquiring minds and absolutely hate to be told what they “have” to do. They are experimental, entrepreneurial and highly innovative. As a sideline, Johan developed and taught music appreciation courses in Ottawa and other communities for over ten years. When the couple moved from Richmond to their current spectacular location in Renfrew, he culled



5,000 classical CDs from his collection because he had to downsize. After getting interested in Lillian’s new Ricoh camera many years ago, he studied books for six months and became a wedding photographer.

Eccentric Eclectic

Veenstra carries the definition of “eclectic” an additional step by inventing new styles, methods and ideas of art. One Friday on a long weekend in 1979, he signed a pact with seven other Corrections colleagues to quit smoking. By Tuesday when they returned to work, he was the only one not smoking. But he couldn’t work in his studio. He had acquired



the habit of painting with a cigarette in his left hand, and he couldn’t return to the scene of the crime. So he bought his first set of pastels and painted at the dining room table for six months while he detoxed.

Pastels remain his favourite medium, and he has invented a wide variety of tools and techniques to meet challenges. Conversely, he creates challenges to motivate himself to rise to the occasion. He was working on his first dog portrait when I interviewed him, and he explained that he had decided to see how much detail he could render in the dog’s coat using his modified palette knives with soft pastels. The results are stunning. Johan constantly researches new products and now creates his own art paper after experimenting with all the best commercially available products. He built his own small printing press. He described with a smile the thrilling terror of having a low-relief carving in slate crack completely across its surface as he attempted to put the final touches on it.

Back in the Public Eye

Not surprisingly, Johannes Veenstra creates his art for himself when something speaks to him. I was horrified to learn that he frequently shreds work that doesn’t meet his stringent personal standards. Fortunately, he acknowledges that he truly enjoys the pleasure that his work brings to other people, and has recently ended a long hiatus from selling his art. Years ago a client returned a painting to him and asked him to re-do the background because she had changed the paint in her dining and living rooms. Outraged, he returned her money and withdrew from the public eye.

His return is a welcome contribution to the thriving arts community surrounding him in West Carleton, where he will be participating in the 25th annual Red Trillium Studio Tour on November 26 and 27. With his granddaughter Meagan’s assistance, he will be exhibiting his remarkable pastel still lifes, rendered in the tradition of Dutch painters of the 17th century, and a collection of decorative boxes, all at Studio 14 of the tour, located at 109 Terraview Drive (off Panmure Road) in Kinburn. The tour website is a very convenient source of information about this wonderful opportunity to see the works of forty area artists and artisans and to get a truly enjoyable start on your holiday shopping, <redtrilliumst.com>.

Thanks again to Cheryl Babineau at Bittersweet Fine Craft & Art, 5 Leckie Lane in Burnstown, for bringing this exceptional talent to our attention. You can see Veenstra’s works there, but phone to check for winter hours. Johannes Veenstra can be reached at his Mountainview Home Studio, 330 Goshen Road in Renfrew, by phone at 433-9457 or by email at <kluzener.2@gmail.com>.

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WHO Johannes Veenstra
WHAT Pastels and much more
WHERE Mountainview Home Studio, 330 Goshen Rd., Renfrew, 433-9457, <klužener.2@gmail.com>; Bittersweet Fine Craft & Art, Burnstown, 432-5254, <burnstown.ca/bittersweet>
WHEN Red Trillium Studio Tour, Nov. 26 & 27, 10AM-5PM, Studio 14, 109 Terraview Dr. (off Panmure), Kinburn, <redtrilliumst.com>, 839-2793
WHY "I do art because something speaks to me; every painting is a challenge."

ARTIST TRADING CARD

Guatemala Stove Project Benefit Dance

The Guatemala Stove Project is pleased to present an awesome evening of dancing and musical entertainment featuring the amazing talents of **Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo**. On Friday, November 4, this popular annual fundraising dance takes place at the Perth Civitan Hall (6787 County Road 43). Doors open at 7PM. While dancing and having a great time, you'll also be helping the Maya of rural Guatemala.

Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo is an Ottawa-based quartet inspired by the rhythms and eerie melodies of New Orleans and the bayous of rural Louisiana. They glide effortlessly from Cajun, boogie, jazz, rock and roll, calypso, reggae and blues to Latin-influenced tunes. The band has been performing together for twenty years and members boast two Juno awards. A comprehensive set list will satisfy every taste in attendance. They'll put a spell on you and you won't be able to stop moving.

Opening this musical evening are local favourites **Dave Balfour and Friends**. Also included in the evening's program are: a silent auction, a live auction, a sale of Guatemalan handicrafts, gift baskets, a show and sale of paintings by local high school students, and refreshments. Thanks

to the generosity of our community, all auction items as well as refreshments are donated

Founded in 1999, the Guatemala Stove Project is a locally-based, non-profit charity that builds masonry cook stoves for Mayan families in impoverished communities located in the western highlands of Guatemala. Over 4000 stoves have been built to date. These efficient stoves dramatically reduce fuel consumption and properly ventilate harmful smoke out of the homes. A person's life expectancy may be increased as much as fifteen

years, as many smoke-related risks including respiratory disease and eye problems are alleviated.

Come out and have a great time while supporting a truly wonderful cause. This is a licensed event, so a 19+ID is required for service, and an adult must accompany minors.

Advance tickets (\$20) are available in Perth at Shadowfax (1-800-518-2729) and Coutts & Co., or at the door (\$22). Tickets are \$15 for students. For more information please call 267-5202 or see <guatemalastoveproject.org>

— George Bluett and Rita Redner



Dance to Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo and Dave Balfour & Friends while you help raise funds for the Guatemala Stove Project at this year's dance, in Perth on November 4.

Photo by Tom Clarke

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What do you get when you combine a beautiful Victorian-era town, exciting shopping, fireworks, music and great food? Perth's annual **Festival of Good Cheer** of course — a chance for visitors and Perth residents to embrace the Christmas spirit at this special time of year. And, for 2011, the Festival is set to feature more good cheer than ever!

This year, the Perth BIA has created a whole weekend of events, comprised of two great festivals with something for everyone. On Friday, November 25, the **Festival of Lights** will fill the night with oohs and aahs — a spectacular fireworks display follows a bonfire, accompanied by the Perth Citizens' Band. The grand finale of the evening will be the lighting of the Christmas trees in the Crystal Palace, the official beginning of our most special time of year. And things are just getting started...

The next day, November 26, Perth comes to life once again with a Christmas shopping fair in the Crystal Palace, discounts and demos at your favourite downtown stores, a wine tasting at the Stone Cellar, live music in the sun-filled atrium at Code's Mill, and meal deals at select restaurants. Some restaurants will also feature dinner/theatre packages that include a delicious meal plus a ticket to *A Month of Sundays*, the heartwarming comedy by Bob Larbey that's on stage at the Studio Theatre all that weekend.

Perth's Festival of Good Cheer is an opportunity for visitors and locals alike to discover all that is special about this great town. The Festival of Lights begins at 6PM on Friday, November 25 at the Crystal Palace, and on Saturday, November 26, the Festival of Good Cheer starts at 10AM. For details please call 267-1100 and make a weekend of it in beautiful, historic Perth!

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Happy Home-Grown Christmas!

Carp Farmers' Christmas Market December 2 and 3

Friday and Saturday, December 2 and 3, are dates you want to mark on your calendar right away for this year's not-to-be-missed Carp Farmers' Christmas Market.

The vendors whose produce and preserves have made the Carp Market such a popular destination during the summer months will be out in force, showcasing their end-of-season products to add that special touch of home-grown goodness to your Christmas festivities.

This year features more vendors than ever before. Both buildings will be crammed with all your favourite booths, displaying their holiday best.

Home baking to die for, silky truffles, sparkling preserves, crafts of all kinds, and a wide choice of snacks and beverages will be on hand to keep those festive-season energies flowing!

Be sure not to miss the draw for the market's famous Christmas basket, filled to over-flowing with goodies from all the market's vendors.

Open from 3 to 8PM on Friday and from 8AM to 2PM on Saturday, the market offers lots to see and select for that special gift, and plenty of local food to tempt your taste buds. Admission and parking, gift-wrapped in a warm welcome from your market friends, are all free!



Local vendors will have all your holiday needs covered at the Carp Farmers' Christmas Market!

Celebrate with Mr. Fezziwig

Victorian Party and Fine Art Auction at MVTM



The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is building on their annual Christmas party by combining it with a fine art auction this year. **Mr. Fezziwig's Victorian Christmas Party and Fine Art Auction** will take place on Saturday, November 26, beginning at 7PM at the museum.

The art auction includes a collection of prints by John Tennent (1926-1995), recently received by the museum. Tennent was a wildlife artist, born in Singapore, who spent most of his artistic life in England. The superbly executed prints feature a Golden Eagle, pheasants (pictured at left), Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, mallard, deer, peregrine, puffins and owls. The auction will also feature two exquisite pastels by Barb Pierce of Almonte — one showing the iconic Almonte Railway Bridge and the other the picturesque Mill of Kintail. There will also be textiles from Len and Reva Dolgoy's art collection (Indian bedspreads, 1930s linens, Guetemate' quipil, raw silk wall hangings and more).

The live music of the Barley Shakers and the Valley Voices will ensure that a warm, Dickensian atmosphere awaits you. Period costume is encouraged. Refreshments will be available, including mulled wine and minced tarts. Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door (doors open at 6:45PM). Tickets are available at Baker Bob's and at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, which is located at 3 Rosamond Street East in Almonte. For more information, please visit <mvmtm.ca> or call 256-3754.

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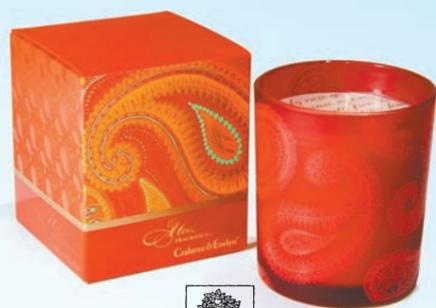
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The Mudds Go To Wonderland



Cast members of the upcoming Mudds production *Alice in Wonderland* have been rehearsing since September for this Holiday panto. Pictured above (l-r) are Jordan McIntosh, Jan Ferguson, Maddy Martin, Joe Webber, and Shawn Millman. The show opens on December 2 in Carleton Place.

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I'm sure most of you have heard the story of *Alice in Wonderland* — the one where Alice finds herself falling down a rabbit hole and coming out the other side into a strange new land. Young and old alike enjoy this well-known classic.

The upcoming Christmas production of *Alice in Wonderland*, to be presented by the Carleton Place Mississippi Mudds, is a slightly different version. This pantomime script by Kate Parry and Karen Dolan-Smith includes those familiar characters we've all come to love (or wonder about!) like Alice, the Mad Hatter (Joe Weber), the March Hare (Elizabeth Szucs), the Cheshire Cat (Adam Pelletier), the Queen of Hearts (alias the Red Queen), and of course the storyteller, the White Rabbit (Patricia Black). But there are a few other characters involved as well, to add a few new spins to the favourite tale.

Alice, played by Amy Bourne, along with her mother Gladys, played by Brian McManus, quickly become involved in an adventure to save Wonderland from the cruel Red Queen, played by Jenny Pfitzer.

In her efforts to fulfill a royal prophecy, Alice meets up with various subjects of Wonderland. But will the comedic pair Tweedle Dee (Angela Sotiropoulos) and Tweedle Dum (Trish Smith) be able to help Alice find the king? And what's going on between Gladys and Ernest Compost, the palace gardener (Chris Jones)? Is that a romance blossoming for Prince Valentino (Andrew McDougall)? Will Billy the Prince's valet (Jordan McIntosh) be able to

help Alice solve a riddle? Will the bored Princess Incontinenta (Kayley Kennedy) save the prince from the executioner?

As always, the chorus will provide musical interludes to round out the story. Led by musical director Laurel Tye and accompanied by band leader / piano player / musical arranger Peter Brown, musical selections include: *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, *It's A Wonderful World*, *Somebody to Love*, *Burning Love*, *Lean on Me*, *Hooked on a Feeling*, *I've Had the Time of My Life*, *Hard Knock Life*, *Bright Side of Life*, *Poker Face* and *Satisfaction*.

Director Meredith Millman and producer Alina Jacques, with assistance from Louise Link, have been collaborating for over two years to bring *Alice in Wonderland* to the Carleton Place Town Hall stage. With a cast of 39 and an additional 15 production team members, this talented group has been working hard since early September to bring this production to local audiences.

Come out for this Mississippi Mudds pantomime treat on December 2, 3, 9 and 10 at 7:30PM and December 4 and 10 at 2PM. Matinées are \$15, evening performances are \$20. Tickets are available at Arts Carleton Place at 257-2031. For more information, visit <mississippimudds.ca>.

Thank you to the sponsors of the Alice production: Giant Tiger, Riverview Seniors' Residence and Valley Design Co.

— Doris Ohlmann



Perth Christmas House Tour

The women of CFUW Perth and District invite you to tour some of Perth's most distinctive homes on December 3 and 4, from 10:30AM to 3:30PM and, in the process, help them raise funds to support higher education for women and young girls, local libraries, and children's reading programs.

This year a total of eight homes will be open to visitors — heritage homes that remind us of our past, and some more modern but truly exceptional homes. Decorated for the season, the homes will definitely put you in the Christmas spirit.

Since the tour will no doubt make you hungry, most local restaurants will be offering an "Express Lunch" for house tour ticket-holders, at a modest charge. In addition, they will donate a portion of the proceeds to the tour, in support of its goals. Don't miss afternoon tea and snacks on Saturday at the Factory Grind Coffee Shop, at the corner of North and Sherbrooke.

Tickets, in the form of a brochure illustrating the homes and their history, are available at Home Furniture in Perth (18 Gore Street East), Elizabeth Interiors in Smiths Falls, Tivoli Florist (Westboro or Byward Market) and in Carleton Place at The Blossom Shop. Or simply call Muriel at 267-2270. Tickets are \$30.

CFUW, the Canadian Federation of University Women, is a voluntary non-profit organization committed to the improvement of the status of women and human rights, and to the promotion of education. Last year's Heritage Perth House Tour allowed the granting of \$17,500 to area women continuing their education.

Tweet Nothings

When the hype really started to hit the fan about "social media", we here at *theHumm* were definitely among the sceptical. Facebook and Twitter seemed like a great way to find out what some tween was having for a snack while watching YouTube videos, but not much else. In our opinion, our humble newsprint publication ate social media's lunch when it came to providing timely information on local happenings, connecting people, and building community. We even toyed with the idea of using the tagline "*theHumm* — real social media since 1999." So it is somewhat surprising that today we find ourselves the caretakers of a Facebook fan page and a Twitter account (@InfoHumm). If you are curious about why we joined 'em instead of beating 'em, read on.

The Big Why

I have a superpower. I even have a costume. It's a blue, skin-tight body suit with a big yellow "Y" on the chest (try to get that image out of your head). My superpower allows me to leap tall assumptions in a single bound, to stop a speeding train of thought. My superpower is the uncanny ability to ask "Why?" For example: "Why are we arguing about the colour of the balloons for the tables when we haven't decided if we are running the event yet?"

So coming up with the big why for jumping into the social media swamp was an important consideration. We came up with a few: connecting with our readers and advertizers more informally and

more regularly; finding out about events in the area from organizers' tweets and Facebook pages; extending our reputation as an authoritative source for area event information. In the end, we couldn't come up with one that justified the time commitment — so we stayed away.

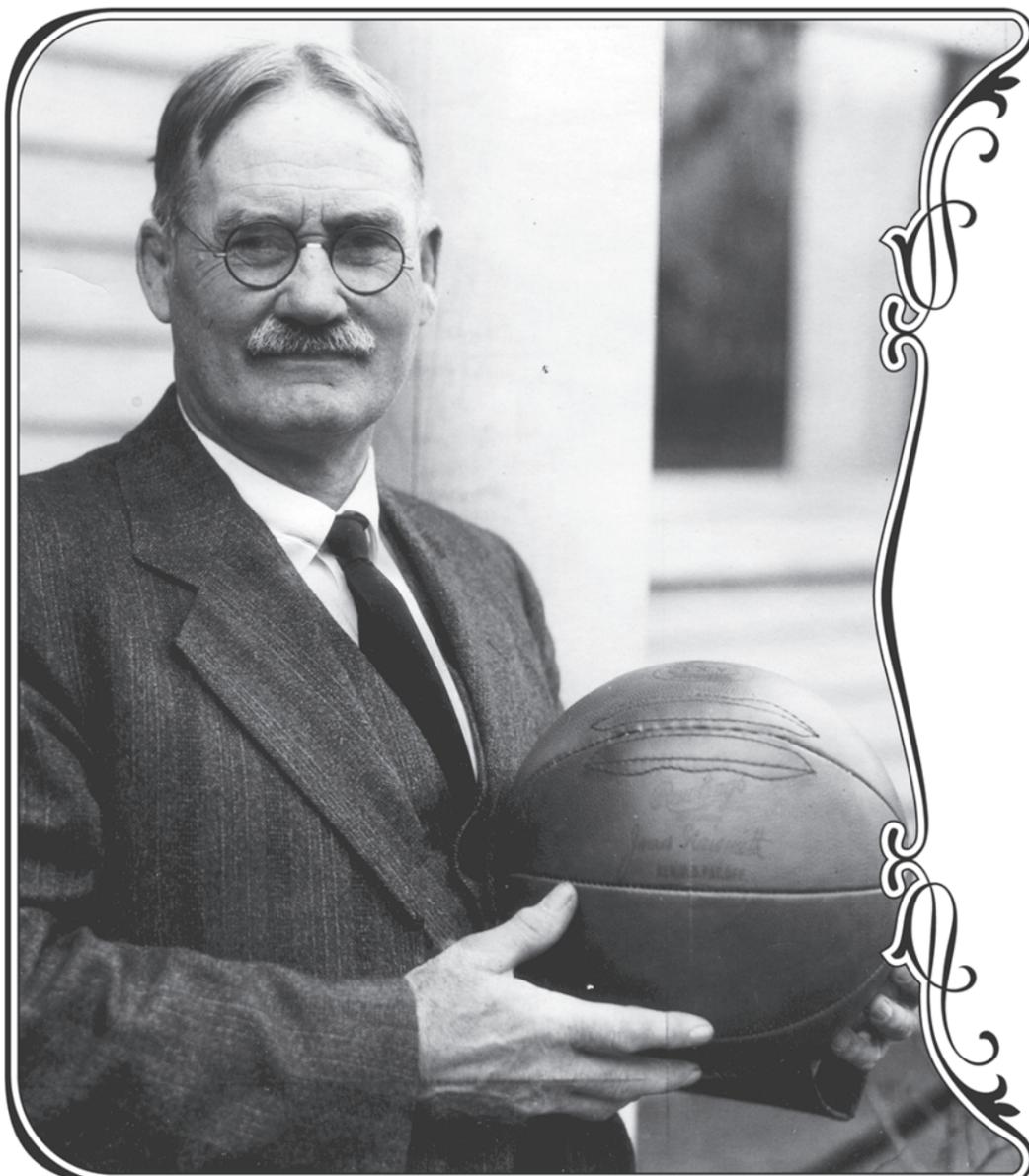
The Big Why Not

The main sticking point we had to get over before boarding the social media bandwagon was the time commitment. We're busy people, we don't have time to waste on frivolousness (except for the occasional cat video). So the real turning point came when we started experimenting and discovered HEY, THIS IS EASY! It only takes a few seconds to type up a 140-character tweet or a Facebook update. With drag-and-drop simplicity, we can add links to *theHumm's* online calendar for more complete details. It's a piece of cake.

And it's fun. Every new Facebook "Like" or Twitter follower feels like an endorsement of what we are doing here at Humm headquarters. Liking other Facebookers' events or re-tweeting them feels like a value-added Humm service. Of course, it's easy to fritter away a great deal of time on these things, so it is a good idea to allot a specific amount of time per day (or to have a really forgiving boss, like I do).

So, if you are on the sidelines, please take this as your invitation to follow *theHumm* on Twitter (@InfoHumm), like us on Facebook, and join the conversation.

— Rob Riendeau



November 6th, 2011
marks the

150th
ANNIVERSARY

of the birth of
Dr. James Naismith,
inventor of basketball.

*
*
*

Dr. James Naismith
(1861-1939)

*Born in Ramsay Township,
just outside Almonte.*

More Happiness than Daffodils? Give Yer Head a Shake

Okay, by a show of hands... who likes November? Just as I suspected, not one hand up in favour of the moody month (you in the back row with the sun hat and sunglasses... it's November — take the sunglasses off and put

Cyril Connolly, the literary critic, wrote: "Fallen leaves lying on the grass in the November sun bring more happiness than the daffodils." I hate to speak ill of the dead but dude, c'mon, give yer head a shake! What a crock. I could just barely read that as my eyes were rolling to the back of my head. And he lived in England, the only country on the planet worse than Canada in November. Damned romantics are ruining the month for the rest of us.

I much prefer his countryman, the poet Thomas Hood: "No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, / No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds, — November!" See, that's the November I love to hate, the month that is filled with... nothing! November needs some serious attitude adjustment... or... is it just me? Don't answer that — you didn't put your hand up either.

So, to sum it up, the bad news: November sucks. The good news

with both Prescott and *Grievous Angel* and recorded a collection of songs from the show. Anders, who plays a number of musical instruments including the guitar, mandolin, steel guitar, banjo, piano, bass and dobro, epitomizes the term "all 'round musician". He has toured Europe, Australia, Cuba and of course, Canada. His solo CD, *Songs for the Common Man*, showcases the multi-faceted singer songwriter. The trio is complete with Almonte's Adam Puddington on standup bass and vocals. Adam has two solo CDs under his belt: *Back in Town* and *For the Meantime*. Individually, the three make waves — together they are tidal. Go, listen, have fun — trust me.

The Cove Inn keeps November from imploding with their **Blues on the Rideau** series in collaboration with Choose the Blues Productions, this month featuring Donald Ray Johnson and the Maurice John Vaughn Band on November 18 and 19. The Grammy Award winning soul, blues and R&B musician joins forces with veteran musician Maurice John Vaughn for an evening to remember... in November.

The month comes to a close when a very large jocular dude arrives by sleigh, dressed all in red, sporting a white beard and 'stache. That's right — Santa Claus is coming to town. This year the annual Lions Club **Westport Santa Claus Parade** is being held November 26 beginning at 2PM, and The Cove Country Inn (yes, again... the hosts with the most) is hosting an **All-Day Christmas Party** featuring Kevin Head with a matinee performance from 1-4PM and Angler Management from 8-11PM.

Then, so early in December that it might as well still count as November, we have the **Westport Christmas Farmers' Market and Rideau Vista Public School Scholastic Book Fair** — a two-in-one event on December 3, from 10AM to 4PM. The farmers' market will feature a variety of goods from local artists, artisans and crafters, along with local growers, bakers and chefs. The scholastic book fair will feature ummm... books — go figure — and a canteen filled with goodies, to benefit Rideau Vista Public School. Contact Rebecca Whitman at <info@westportfarmersmarket.ca> for information on the farmers' market, or Shauna Strotmann Scanlon (AKA my lovely and talented

wife) at <scanlon@rideau.net> for information regarding the Scholastic Book Fair.

I'm starting to warm up to this month, thanks (as always) to the great folks at The Cove Country Inn and the organizers of the Farmers' Market, The

Book Fair and the ever vigilant Lions Club. It's shaping up to be a good month after all. Maybe we should keep it. All in favour of keeping November... go ahead, put your hand up — we won't laugh.

by Steve Scanlon

your hand down). Nobody in this great province of ours (and possibly every other province in the nation) has even the slightest interest in November. We should just ditch it, get rid of it, kick it to the curb. Who needs it? If you were born in November you get an extra year... so sayeth I.

Let's go to eleven months. It's such a nice number, eleven — it even rhymes with heaven. We should take a vote — a nationwide show of hands to ban the month (everybody gets a vote



(l-r) Anders Drerup, Kelly Prescott and Adam Puddington play The Cove in Westport on November 4. Individually, the three make waves — together they are tidal.

except for the goofy guy with the sun hat and sunglasses). Do you know why we should ban November? No? Well, I'll tell you why: because there is nothing to like. I hate to sound like an old curmudgeon, but seriously folks, everything is dead in November and I'm not talking the colourful "look at me I'm an October tree filled with lovely colour" dead or the "it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" dead. No. This is the "grey, overcast, wetter than rain, colder than a gravedigger's ass in the Klondike, butt ugly, please just let me curl up and stay in my warm cozy bed because if I open my eyes to one more miserable, ugly, dreary November day I'm gonna hurl..." dead. So, by a show of hands, all in favour of eleven months in the year and skipping November completely?

is that there are all kinds of things going on during the month to improve it, to breathe new life into the old month, to make it tolerable or perhaps, if we're lucky, if we're really truly lucky, Westport will kick November's butt.

For instance, we kick the month off on November 4, when Westport's favourite venue for food and music, The Cove Country Inn, presents **Kelly Prescott, Anders Drerup and Adam Puddington**, a trio who, individually, have an extensive history in the music industry. Kelly and her brother Kaylen recorded their first album in April 2009 under the name Prescott. Since then, Kelly has played the role of Emmylou Harris in *Grievous Angel: The Legend of Gram Parsons*, with Anders Drerup as Gram. She has toured extensively

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McMartin House
125 Gore St. E., Perth



Renfrew Christmas House Tour

Renfrew residents have been asking for it, and now it's finally here. On Sunday, December 11, the Renfrew Victoria Hospital Auxiliary presents their 2011 Christmas House Tour. This is the sixth house tour fundraiser sponsored by RVH Auxiliary and it is being held in conjunction with the Victorian Miniature House Lottery and Raffle already underway.

The tour, which is sponsored by M. Sullivan and Son Ltd. of Arnprior, showcases six unique and beautiful homes guaranteed to please. Homes are open between 12:30 and 5PM. There are five homes in the town of Renfrew: 818 Kedrosky Drive, 97 Erindale Avenue, 219 Opeongo Drive, 270 Lochiel Street and 577 Raglan Street S. The sixth is in Horton at 27 Ruttan Road.

Tickets include a Victorian Bone China Tea held in the Renfrew Victoria Hospital

cafeteria between 1 and 4:30PM. While you are at the hospital, visit the RVH Auxiliary Gift Shop, a hidden gem. They will be open from 12 to 5PM, and you receive 20% off all merchandise purchased. Also, you will not want to miss a special exhibit presented by members of the Renfrew Art Guild. And, if you've not seen it before, you can feast your eyes on the fit-for-a-princess Victorian Miniature Dream Home, which will also be on display at the hospital.

Join us for this exciting and fun-filled Sunday afternoon. All proceeds go toward the Renfrew Victoria Hospital CT Scanner. Tickets are \$25 per person and available in Renfrew at Aikenhead's Drug Store (226 Raglan Street S.) and the RVH Gift Shop. For tickets, information, or to pay by credit card, call 432-3088 or email <rvha2011housetour@yahoo.ca>.

PPAC: Czech It Out!

The Perth Performing Arts Committee (PPAC) invites you to ring in the holiday season in style. The second show in this year's series brings the **Czech Boys Choir** all the way from the city of Hradec Kralove, in North Bohemia, right here to Perth for a pre-Christmas concert on Thursday, December 1. This world-renowned ensemble maintains the famous traditions of choral singing in the Czech territory as it began in the 13th century with the first boys' choir at the St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague. Current artistic director, Jakub Martinec, began singing as a child with the first boys' choir established in the region by Jiri and Kveta Skopal in 1982. Martinec's choirs have appeared at numerous international music festivals, including the Prague Spring Festival. PPAC organizers are delighted that the choir is including Perth in their three-province Canadian tour. This is sure to be a delightful way to usher in the holiday season!

PPAC then takes a break until March 23, when multi-East Coast Music Award nominee **David Myles** comes to town. Then on Friday April 13, you are invited to have **Lunch at Allen's**, with a concert featuring renowned artists Murray McLauchlan, Cindy Church, Marc Jordan, and Ian Thomas.



PPAC presents The Czech Boys Choir in Perth on December 1.

The Perth Museum Celebrates

The Festival of Good Cheer

Nov. 26th 10-5PM

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Gifts of the North
 Meet the artist, Janet Irene Macdonald Hannam, 2-4PM.



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Special Visit from Father Christmas! 3PM
Matheson House National Historic Site
 Home of the Perth Museum
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Memoirs of a Genderless Warrior

Marcus Magdalena presents *Memoirs of a Genderless Warrior* at Neat Coffee Shop in Burnstown on November 11 and 12 at 7PM and on November 13 at 2:30PM. Seating is limited, and reservations may be made by emailing <goldenwarrior999@gmail.com> or calling 433-6955. Tickets are \$10.

Prologue

Right at deadline time leading up to this issue, just as ads, press releases and columns started pouring in, I received an email from a person in Renfrew named Marcus Magdalena, asking *theHumm* to help promote an upcoming show at Neat Coffee Shop. Normally, at that time of the month, I would have asked

by Kris Riendeau

for a quick press release and tried to squeeze it in as I laid out the paper. However, the passionate tone of this email suggested that this particular show, and this individual, warranted a closer look and a more personal touch. The email stated: "I am an out of the closet genderless individual who brings awareness of the LGBTTQQ community via the stage. Theatre is my blood and social activism is my breath."

Introduction

By way of introducing the show, Marcus sent along a synopsis written by Murray Adolph, owner of the O'Brien Theatre in Renfrew, where Marcus had previously performed a shorter piece. Here's what Murray had to say: "Marcus Magdalena, whose brilliant performance at the O'Brien Theatre in August awed, shocked and informed the audience, returns to the stage at the Neat Coffee Shop in Burnstown in November with a new performance, *Memoirs of a Genderless Warrior*. *Memoirs* is a 'walk down memory lane' for Marcus Magdalena. The presentation will be rich with pages from the tapestry of the performer's life. Having lived straight, gay, transgendered, transsexual, and finally genderless, Marcus will bring an often-controversial topic to the forefront. Augmented by experiences of addiction, homelessness and depression, Marcus's story is a theatrical medium of advocacy for the rights of all."

Thoroughly intrigued, I called Marcus and we spoke for a while about life experiences, people's perceptions, and the role of art in living and healing.

Body

theHumm: Can you describe some of the events that have led to you bringing this particular show to the area at this time?

Marcus Magdalena: When I first came here, it wasn't my intention to actually live in Renfrew. I came here because my twin is here. I came here to heal, because I was a pretty hard-core alcoholic, a heavy smoker, pretty much overweight and bloated from all the booze and unhealthy living. Being a transsexual male, and having gone through all of those transitions — straight woman, lesbian, transgendered... I encountered a lot of discrimination and oppression in the city (I lived in Toronto for twenty years). Living here for the past year, I realized that a lot of people don't know much about the lesbian, gay, and transgendered community — it's not like it's all over the place. People didn't know where I was coming from, and I knew that the only way to approach that was to bring it to them in a manner that would be... human — gentle, funny, theatrical — as opposed to that humdrum mundane institutional way. It's really about being human, and reaching out to another human and saying "I'm no different than you and you're no different than me... but we're different!"

I'm in this town, and it's predominantly a straight, white, gendered town. And I may be white, but I'm not straight or gendered — I identify as genderless. So I don't fit in here, and I didn't fit in in Toronto either. Things are definitely better than they were twenty years ago, but what no one is seeing is that there is a lot of self-hatred, a lot of alcoholism and abuse, and feeling like we're not part of this world. I feel like I'm the only genderless person here, but I know I'm not the only one. And I'm tired of feeling like a freak, like I'm not part of society — I am part of society. I'm not somebody who has an illness or who has lost their mind — I am a human being who identifies as genderless. Just like a straight person says they're straight, so guess what? Move on! Yet I have encountered homophobia, I have encountered transphobia — I have encountered all of it.



Clockwise from upper left, Marcus Magdalena with a few individuals who have been impeccably supportive: Debi Virtue, Joanne Beattie-Kalimeris, Laurent Gagnon, Elizabeth Hagan and Noreen Smith (missing from the picture are Murray Adolph, Donovan Adolph, Kathy Dagg, Sean Anderson and Christine Perri).

Have you encountered people who, once they get to know you as a human, treat you decently?

Here's the kicker. I came to Renfrew, and here in this town I have met so many wonderful people who are open-minded, who are all about seeing that everyone has differences. I have never in my life had as much support as I have since I moved here.

I recently completed a survey for the Green Party in which one of the questions asked "What is your sex?" and the answers were "male", "female", and "other". And Australian passports now include "indeterminate" as a gender option. When larger groups or institutions take a stand like that, does it trickle down and help you, or is there a backlash against it?

It absolutely does help. I have been so negative for so many years because of all of the discrimination that I have forgotten that there are many people out there who are supporters, who are allies. These inuksuks of our community have created a path where eventually, thanks to people in Australia, thanks to people in the Green Party, maybe one day in Canada we may have a third or a fourth box, or perhaps even no boxes! Why even have gender in that context? Does it really make sense?

Maybe one day we'll simply be asked to describe our external genitalia... (some giggling ensues)

The play actually uses a lot of humour to explore those issues, but it's definitely asking for an open-minded approach from the audience.

How has the reception been from the folks at Neat?

Absolutely excellent. Neat Coffee Shop is wonderful — we are so lucky to have it here. Every town should have a place like Neat — they give us a place where we can flourish, and they give it freely. Murray Adolph also did that for me back in June — he let me perform at his O'Brien Theatre. He has been an incredible ally.

And was it the reception of that first show that encouraged you to schedule more performances?

Yes. The audience there really made it clear that I should do it again, so I decided to do so, but with more specific memories and messages than in that first 45-minute show, which was more of a general overview of my life. This show is two hours long (including an intermission), and that gives me time to explain how I came to believe that I was not a human being — that I was crazy.

Epilogue

After the interview was over, Marcus realized that there was more to be said, and sent me this email the next day: "This may be too late... yet, it is also the most important part. This performance, like the last one, is my comeback to the stage. I stopped performing almost twenty years ago. I stopped because of the immense shame I felt for being not normal. I internalized the shame and guilt and withdrew from my light. The past twenty years have been dark beyond dark, to say the least... so this performance is special. It's my rebirthing — it's me reclaiming my power. It's the story of so many, isn't it? Withdrawing and becoming small..."

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Flavour of the Month

The Gift of Gardening

Oh no, it's "holiday" season again. I'm not sure about you, but "holiday" season never feels much like a holiday to me. 'Tis the season to be... jolly whilst shopping? Fa-la-la-la-la feels a bit more like @#%#%\$^ at times. I am sure that all of you reading this article are

Well, amidst all of the glazed-over shopping mall zombie-walk experiences that you may cheerfully anticipate in the next two months, here's a thought. How about supplanting that golden ceramic unicorn, the one your wife (or husband) is just maybe not dying to have, with something substantial, meaningful, and real — something special that has the potential to bring both physical and mental health benefits: the satisfaction of learning useful skills, an enhanced connection to the earth and the cycle of life, and something that will literally put good food on the table?

Jeremy and Peggy Dutton are offering hands-on workshops aimed to take both beginner and experienced gardeners through a year of gardening. The Duttons have been practicing organic methods of gardening for over ten years. Their five-session series starts in January with garden planning, site considerations, catalogue selections and calculating seed amounts/yields desired. When signs of spring start stirring in March, the group meets again to learn about indoor seed starting and early planting possibilities (e.g. greenhouses). In May, when the ground can be worked, gardeners get off to a good start by learning about garden and soil preparation, planting techniques, seedling transplants and other growing considerations. The last two sessions — June and September — cover ongoing maintenance (watering, pests, weeding, mulching) and, finally, harvesting, preserving, composting, cleaning up and making amendments.

Depending on one's needs, there is the option to sign up for the full course or for individual sessions. Each session runs from 9AM to noon and is followed by a delicious, home-cooked lunch. The workshops sound to me like gatherings for convivial, communal learning.

Jeremy and Peggy, both retired teachers, have a history of farming and market gardening that goes back to their years living in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Growing healthy plants with high nutritional value and great flavour is important to them, and this begins with the soil. It needs building up and amending using organic methods. They have grown market vegetables, salad greens and garlic for local restaurants like The Hungry Planet and The Fall River Pub & Grill. They have tried their hand at animal husbandry as well. Now, located just outside of Glen Tay, their small acreage is home to more than ten garden plots. In recent years they have scaled back the amount they cultivate themselves and today produce and store much of what they need for the year from just their main garden — the approximately 50'x30' area closest to their house.

Though the days of growing for market and food boxes are in their past (they were at the Perth Farmers' Market for about a decade), they have re-oriented



Jeremy & Peggy Dutton

Who They Are

Jeremy and Peggy Dutton
205 Glen Tay Road, RR 3, Perth, ON, K7H 3C5
267-6168 <jandpdutton@gmail.com>

What They Offer

Vegetable gardening courses for 2012 growing season. \$50 per session or \$225 for 5 sessions. Half-day in January, March, May, June, September (call for exact dates). Garden plot rental: \$150/season — 300 sq. ft. plot includes tillage, watering, and free advice when desired.

Coleslaw

This is a very flexible recipe, so vary the proportions as preferred.

- 4–5 cups of chopped green cabbage
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion (red or white)
- 1/2 cup finely chopped green pepper
- 1/2 cup coarsely grated carrot (optional)
- 1 Tbsp. cider vinegar
- 1 tsp. honey or sugar
- 1/2 tsp. celery seed
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise (or more)
- salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients and chill for at least 30 minutes.

their efforts from producing food for market, to producing gardeners. Over the years, many people have asked them for gardening advice and, drawing on their teaching skills, it made sense that they would turn their focus to transferring some of the knowledge that they've accumulated over the years. The smaller garden patches (300 sq. ft. each) that they used to use for production are now available for individuals to rent for the growing season. For many people from Perth, this is a convenient ten-minute drive and a pleasant location for a veggie plot. Renting a plot from the Duttons costs \$150/year, which may seem like a healthy sum at first, but the fee includes such perks as spring and fall tilling, custom tilling (i.e. furrowing and hilling potatoes), watering if there is not adequate rainfall, the use of onsite

tools, and any advice should you want it. It is a worry-free situation for gardeners — especially those new to growing food.

The courses and the allotments are Jeremy and Peggy's way of encouraging others to discover the pleasures of growing their own food. It is, they feel, important to reassure people that "gardening is not perfection!" Each year, some things will flourish and others will fail and those successes and failures will vary from garden to garden. There are also as many philosophies and methods of gardening as there are gardeners. The uninitiated need not be intimidated. The workshops offered by the Duttons are a perfect way to ease into what, for many, becomes a life-long passion for growing things. Growing by growing — what a great way to start off the New Year.

by Susie Osler

already losing sleep over what on earth to present to your darling loved ones this Christmas/Yuletide/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa.

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Blindness, Enchantment, and That Accursed Ring

Stories for Adults from 2 Women Productions

For Jan Andrews and Jennifer Cayley, November marks a time to rejoice as they kick off their second season of fine storytelling for adults.

Their production company (the aptly named 2 Women Productions), which is dedicated “to ensuring that storytelling for adults achieves its full potential on the Canadian cultural scene,” is quickly making a name for itself in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec.

by John Pigeau

They begin their 2011/2012 touring season with an exciting, thoroughly contemporary story called *Flying In The Dark: A Blind Woman's Story*, created and told by Kim Kilpatrick.

Jennifer Cayley says Kim is a delightful, dynamic storyteller, and audiences should expect an unexpected story adventure. “Kim’s been telling stories for years,” Jennifer explains. “People will find it interesting to be brought into her world, which is only limited by people imposing their limitations on her. She is a wonderful, vibrant presence. People will experience a new world — one most of us don’t get to experience every day — and they will be touched by it.”

Kim was born blind, and most people might think she would be hemmed in by the dark. Not so, according to Jennifer. She says Kim’s story is moving, funny and contemporary, and should send audiences, as 2wp’s brochure puts it, “chuckling into the night.”

Kim is set to take the stage at Perth’s Full Circle Theatre with *Flying In The Dark* on November 26 at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door, and can also be purchased at Tickets Please at 39 Foster Street or <ticketsplease.ca>. For those who would like to attend all three shows on 2wp’s docket for this season, subscriptions can be ordered for \$45. Buying a subscription not only saves you money — it will make a big contribution to helping a new company sustain its work in this community.

2wp travels back two hundred years for the inspiration for their second show of the season. *The Brothers Grimm: 200 Years and Counting* features veteran tellers Dale Jarvis and Delf Maria Hohm-

ann. That show takes place on February 10 in Perth. They dip further into the past for the April 27 season finale, *Dragon’s Gold: A Sword Re-Forged, A Ring Accursed*, when Jan Andrews, Jennifer Cayley and Katherine Grier take us back to a time when “the old Norse gods held sway.”

For those who have never experienced an adult storytelling, Jennifer Cayley asks the question, “When is the last time you had a story told to you?” The answer is likely “quite some time ago” (it certainly is for me). Yet storytelling has been and remains fundamental to our culture, she says. “It’s one of the things that makes us human. Storytelling is an age-old tradition and has many manifestations.”

It is much different than having someone read a story, Jennifer explains. “Storytelling is not improv, nor is it memorized exactly.” Essentially the teller learns (or internalizes) the story so well that it is happening to them in the moment. They offer the tale, and each audience member, responding individually, will take away a different experience from it. That way, the story becomes alive. Some stories are folk and fairy tales, others are from people’s own experiences (like Kim Kilpatrick’s), while still others come from myths and legends. The result, when the storyteller is skilled, is a vibrant co-creation of the story between teller and audience.

Audiences from past storytellings presented by 2 Women Productions have heaped them with praise, with comments like “Paradise!” and “Absolutely wonderful! A very special experience.” Many audience members have mentioned what a unique and captivating experience it was for them and — a common theme — how they felt young again.

“Just come out and try it,” Jennifer urges. She and Jan, both experienced and dynamic storytellers, are hopeful 2wp will build a loyal following, and not only in Perth. In June 2012, in partnership with Ottawa StoryTellers, Jan and Jennifer will take part in *Homer’s Odyssey: The Whole Story* at the NAC in Ottawa.

With an emphasis on “storytelling of the highest caliber,” 2 Women Productions organizes and promotes performances by themselves and other tellers in established performance venues. They also assist in program development, promotion, administration and logistics. Further, they offer workshops to groups for storytellers at all levels —



Jennifer Cayley (left) and Jan Andrews are thrilled to begin their second season of storytelling for adults with a performance by Kim Kilpatrick in Perth on November 26

from beginner to master class — and coaching for script development, performance preparation, and grant writing.

There is a wealth of fascinating information on their website about who they are and what they do, but also about their personal backgrounds. Both Jan and Jennifer have vast experience in storytelling. Professionally, Jennifer has been telling stories for nearly twenty years, including performances at the Talk Story Festival in Hawaii, touring *The Book of Spells* to Wales and Ontario, making regular appearances at the Ottawa StoryTellers National Arts Centre series, and collaborating with Jan in producing epic pieces.

Jan, meantime, has traveled extensively, telling stories at concerts across North America, in Australia and in the United Kingdom. Jan tells everything from epic to personal tales, folktales to literary stories. She is also the author of classic books for young people. Jan was the first Storyteller/Writer in Residence at the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture at the University of Manitoba.

For much more about 2 Women Productions, please visit their friendly website at <2wp.ca>.

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

Beckwith Township Christmas Craft Show
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 Over 40 Exhibitors — Shop 'til you Drop!
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A Soulful Voice and Emotive Lyrics

Royal Wood Plays Folkus on November 26

Folkus kicks off its 2011/2012 concert series at the Almonte Old Town Hall on Saturday, November 26 with Toronto singer-songwriter **Royal Wood**. Wood has been described as an upscale Tom Waits, complete with piano, a smooth rich voice, and truly memorable romantic lyrics. He has a reputation for connecting with his audience and building loyal fans one at a time by word of mouth, by a heavy performing schedule in both large centers and small towns, by critical acclaim, and by his musical achievements.

Wood studied business at McGill University before moving to Toronto where he began a career as a foreign exchange trader on Bay Street. At the same time, he was writing lyrics, perfecting his craft of balladry and pop music, and beginning his musical career. He released two EPs, *The Milkweed* in 2002 and *Tall Tales* in 2006, both of which were well received. His break came in 2007 when his album *A Good Enough Day* was featured on *Grey's Anatomy*. That earned him an international following and enough of an income to allow him to quit his day job on Bay Street and devote himself to his music. Since then he has recorded an EP *The Lost and Found* (2009) and, last year, the full-length album *The Waiting*.

The Waiting was produced with Pierre Marchand, who has developed talents such as Sarah McLachlan and Rufus Wainwright. It appropriately begins with a song entitled *You Can't Go Back*. And why would he, when with each new release Royal Wood delivers another collection of heartrending and honest tales of love, loss and life more impressive than the last. It seems now more than ever that Wood has found his voice. "This record is about the duality of life and how, at times, I seemingly waited for the mirrored experience

to return," says Wood. "I went through so many severe shifts personally, and all of that turbulence led to serious thought and reflection. That is why these songs were born and why they are my most personal and introspective to date."

In addition to his recordings, Wood has a healthy list of achievements to his credit. He was nominated for Songwriter of the Year at the Junos, and was named iTunes' Songwriter of the Year, as well as Best Pop Album and Pop Single. He has supported national tours with David Gray and Serena Ryder and landed song placements not only on TV's *Grey's Anatomy* but also on *Private Practice*.

With the release of *The Waiting*, and in anticipation of his next studio album, Wood has embarked on a national "Sneak Peak" tour. In the last two months he has played to sold-out houses in Regina, Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna, Edmonton, Toronto and Peterborough, and in late October he performed *Release Me* on Canada AM. He is an artist very much on the rise and one who will undoubtedly play to a sold-out house here in Almonte as well.

Royal Wood can be seen in concert at the Almonte Old Town Hall on Saturday, November 26 at 8PM. The opening act is Toronto folk/rock artist **Sarah Burton**, whose steady soulful voice tells tales of life, beauty, strength and weariness. Doors open at 7:30PM. Single tickets are available in advance or at the door and are \$27 (\$12 for students). A much better deal, however, is to buy a season's pass for \$88, giving you admission to all four concerts in the series and ensuring that you reserve a seat for Royal Wood and also for the Hawksley Workman show, another performance sure to sell out. For ticket orders and information, call Mill Street Books at 256-9090 or visit <folkusalmonte.ca>.



Prior Players present **Norm Foster's**

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Performances take place at
the Christian Education Centre, 257 John Street North, Arnprior

For information contact 613-623-5585 or priorplayers@gmail.com

Tickets can be purchased at:
Hair Zone • 104 Elgin St. Arnprior • 613-622-7676
Arnprior Bulk Foods • 135 John St. • 613-623-8772

Abrams Brothers in Perth

On November 24, The Abrams Brothers — the youngest Canadians ever to appear on Nashville's iconic Grand Ole Opry — will play a special fundraising concert in Perth. The concert takes place at 7:30PM at St. Paul's United Church on Gore Street, but funds raised will go to the Althorpe Bolingbroke Community Hall (ABC Hall).

Ontario-based band The Abrams Brothers released their fourth studio album, *Northern Redemption*, in June of 2011. Known for combining bluegrass, country and folk-rock, brothers John and James along with cousin Elijah have taken their traditional musical roots and made the music more accessible. Produced by Canadian singer-songwriter Chris Brown (Ani DiFranco, Barenaked Ladies), *Northern Redemption* contains nine tracks, including their version of Coldplay's *Viva La Vida*.

Although they are only between 18 and 20 years of age, the band has already been performing live for a decade and will take their new album on the road this fall for a Canadian tour. "Music found its way into our souls early on and our experiences fostered our understanding of music, not

merely as a means for self-expression, but also as a gift that we are to return to what is greater than ourselves," explains John Abrams. "All music has the potential to do great things for this world — I hope our new record inspires people."

Following their debut album, *Carrying On* (2004), The Abrams Brothers became the youngest Canadians to appear on Nashville's iconic Grand Ole Opry. The band toured Europe for the first time in 2006 and also received the Daniel Pearl Memorial Violin, an award given to espe-

cially gifted young musicians in honour of international journalist and musician Daniel Pearl. In 2007 the band released *Iron Sharpens Iron*, and in 2008 they paid tribute to Arlo Guthrie and Bob Dylan with an album called *Blue On Brown*. For more information about them, please visit <theabramsbrothers.com>.

Tickets to this show are \$25 (children under twelve are \$12.50), and are available at Shadowfax in Perth, Wordsmith in Westport, by email at <abramsconcertperth@kingston.net> or by calling Martin at 273-7505.



The Abrams Brothers play a fundraiser for the Althorpe Bolingbroke Community Hall in Perth on November 24

Thomas D'Arcy McGee: The Extreme Moderate

The McGee Band and Professor David Wilson present a superb show that combines powerful emotion with creativity in music and words, and brings to life a compelling chapter of the history of Canada as an emerging nation. Please mark the date, and come experience the acoustically superb Almonte Old Town Hall on Sunday, November 6 at 2PM for this musical and literary event that is also a fundraiser for Almonte Celtfest 2012.

The recipient of the University of Toronto's Outstanding Teach-

ing Award and a professor in the Celtic Studies program and history department, David A. Wilson has completed a two-volume biography of Thomas D'Arcy McGee. The McGee Band excels in fusing a blend of Irish, Scottish and Québécois music, and has recorded a CD of original music in traditional style — *In Honour of the Life and Times of Thomas D'Arcy McGee* — written, recorded and produced by James Stephens and Frank Cassidy in Ottawa. Together, David A. Wilson and the McGee Band put on a

show that combines the speeches, letters and poems of McGee with original music that is fresh, innovative and respectful of its traditional roots. They have performed it to great critical acclaim in Canada and the US, and Almonte Celtfest 2012 is delighted to premiere the launch of *McGee Volume 2*. There will also be refreshments by Almonte's Naismith Pub.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door, and are available in Almonte at Mill Street Books, Mississippi Mills Musicworks, and Baker Bob's.



2nd Annual Christmas Sale

NO HST!
Sale & Clearance Items!

Friday Nov. 25 - Monday Nov. 28
10am - 4pm

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Saturday, Nov. 26 at 7 pm

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Downtown Almonte Is Full Of It!

I don't mean to be rude, but Almonte is full of it. Chock-a-block. Bursting at the seams. Jampacked. At a time when lots of small communities in Eastern Ontario are suffering from that bleak empty storefront syndrome, the little business district at the heart of Mississippi Mills is overflowing with enterprise.

In recent months, downtown Almonte has experienced a bit of a renaissance with the unprecedented-

by Miss Mills

ed opening of a wide variety of new storefronts along historic Mill Street, famous for its downward slant. Collaboration and communication explains this burst of retail energy, explains Tamara Connors, a local business owner herself, and President of Mainstreet Almonte Attraction and Promotion (MAAP). "We have a lot of new, young business owners who ask the question "How does my business fit with yours?", so there is a lot of co-operation and cross-promotion going on."

Gord Pike, who recently undertook a massive renovation of the former V & S Options space at the bottom of Mill Street, credits some key investments that have restored many of the downtown's heritage buildings. New activity on the street and the addition of new condo space begged for a retail complement, he says. The beautiful skylit **Heritage Court** that now anchors the downtown line-up

is testament to Gord's "if you build it they will come" philosophy. I had a hot chocolate with him recently while he happily revealed that every space in the Heritage Court is now leased. Shoppers are rushing to see the eclectic space there and the diversity of businesses ranging from yummy crepes (**The Mill Street Crepe Company**), to international fashion (**The White Lilly**), art (**The Village Idiot, Philip K. Wood Framing, Peace of Mind Creations & Friends**), a new birders' shop (**Gilligallou Bird Inc.**), home décor (**Willow**), and outdoor apparel (**Vamos Outdoors**).

Just up the street, what was already a thriving antique shop run by Dianna Lachapelle is now a veritable marketplace for "previously owned and less than young" treasures. Dianna reports that she's filled the nearly 5,000 square foot space (on two levels) of her **Almonte Antique Market** with a total of thirty-one vendors. When you add that to the existing antique and vintage stores on the street, suddenly Almonte is looking like antique heaven!

At 65 Mill Street, the newly merged **Kentfield Kids** — now the domain of friends and business leaders Erin Kentfield and Cynthia Stuart — left a storefront gap that lasted about a nanosecond. Brodie O'Connor opens a satellite version of her Merrickville-based success story, **doree's habit**, on November 1 after a year-long search for a new location. "I don't know what it was, but there is something about Almonte," says Brodie, commenting on the energy on the street and

the welcome she has received. Her shop will offer many of the same funky fashions and accessories that have had women flocking to Merrickville for years now. And by the way, the shop is named after her late, and much missed, grandmother Doree. Inquiring puppets need to know!

And it seems that creative collaborators Errin Stone and Vicki Veenstra were inspired, not daunted, by the narrow dark corridor that sits between Kentfield Kids

and doree's habit. When I stopped by this week the gals had created a soft, winter glow — their magical winter cabin theme — in that cozy space, and are readying their holiday pop-up version of Errin's **Tin Barn Market** for the Christmas season. Their specialty is anything you can re-use, re-purpose or re-cycle. The collection of vintage, shabby chic furniture and home décor takes you back to another, gentler time.

Everybody I talk to just keeps mentioning the new energy and enthusiasm apparent in downtown Almonte. All the new faces in Mill Street just sweeten the deal we already had going with great restaurants, shops and one fantastic and award winning bookstore. The timing couldn't be better as locals, and all our friends from the Ottawa region and Lanark County, start thinking about getting their Christmas shopping done. Almonte proprietors don't want you to forget how easy they can make it, with free parking and loads of Christmas options, served up with small town charm and hospitality. Keep an eye on <downtownalmonte.ca> for links to all of these businesses and the latest news.

And speaking of full, Almonte's annual Christmas kick-off, **Light Up the Night**, offers proof that you can fit 5,000 people along Mill Street and, yes, you will feel like singing Christmas carols shoulder-to-shoulder with your grumpy neighbour. Wayne Rostad, along with Santa, will once again headline the celebration, so mark your calendars for Friday, December 2 at 7PM. Bring the kids and don't forget your mittens!



Miss Mills took a tour of all the great shops in downtown Almonte this month. Here she is surrounded by re-purposed stuff from the Tin Barn Market, and accessories from doree's habit



5th Annual

Kintail

Country Christmas

Saturday, December 10
10AM to 4PM
Mill of Kintail Conservation Area

Horse drawn wagon rides • Crafts • Treasure hunt • Stories by the fire
Holiday music • Children-only gift shop • Hand hewn bench making demo
Photos with Father Christmas • Refreshments • Skating & snowshoeing
weather permitting

2854 Ramsay Concession 8 in Mississippi Mills
Admission: \$15 per vehicle
call 613-256-3610 or visit www.mvc.on.ca



Mississippi Valley Conservation

• Mill of Kintail Committee • Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists • Mississippi Mills Museums •

Here Comes Santa!

Photos, Concerts and Parades in Almonte

No need to head out of town to get that necessary photo of your cuties up on Santa's knee — that's right, this year they can cry their eyes out close to home in Almonte! MAAP (Mainstreet Almonte Attraction & Promotion) has teamed up with Brian Hargreaves of BH Photography to bring Santa into the studio at 15 Bridge Street, across from the Old Town Hall. It costs just \$10 for a 5"x7" print and, if you want another, \$10 more will get

that pic emailed right to you for sharing. The first session is early enough that you have time to order your Christmas cards with the photo on the cover!

Photos with Santa will be taken on the following Saturdays: November 26, December 10, and December 17, from noon to 4PM. Proceeds will be donated to the Young Awards Foundation, a group that provides funding for arts initiatives involving Mississippi Mills' schools and/or stu-

dents — keeping your money in the community.

Celebrate the Christmas season further on December 4, from 12:30 to 1:30PM (before the Santa Claus parade): there will be a concert in Centennial Square (in front of Baker Bob's) — a collaboration between the music departments of Naismith Public School and Almonte & District High School. Come along to enjoy the music and sing along! For details visit <downtownalmonte.com>.

Holiday Magic

The Try It, Buy It Fashion Show

Just when your closet looks bare and you know you're going to need a fashion fix, along comes Almonte in Concert with the perfect fundraiser: Holiday Magic — The Try it, Buy it Fashion Show. Almonte in Concert is collaborating with local designer Judy Joannou of Ashton to bring you a unique fashion experience: a formal fashion show followed by the opportunity to try on the outfits yourself, and buy them on the spot. On November 25 at 7PM, the Almonte Community Centre will be transformed into a runway and showcase complete with change space, refreshments and decorations to spark your imagination. Judy has promised to bring all of her latest fall and winter collection in a full size range, from 6 to 16, with specially tailored jackets, pants, skirts and tops, with accessories to match.



Almonte in Concert presents a fashion show featuring designs by Judy Joannou on November 25

Judy's fashions are shown exclusively through designer art shows and open houses in her home studio, so we are fortunate to have her bringing her whole studio to this one event. She and her assistant are experts in com-

binning items for every client, and excel in their keen knowledge of colour, fit and flare.

This show features a wide range of fashions, from casual to classy. Judy Joannou Designs are

versatile and timeless, making them a perfect addition to any wardrobe.

The Almonte in Concert board members are all Joannou enthusiasts, often wearing her fashions to concerts. They are thrilled to be working with her, and know this event will be on the "don't miss" list for most people. It should be noted that this fundraiser is being supported by Judy through her generous donation of some of the proceeds to Almonte in Concert, for which the group is most grateful.

An evening of sparkle and sweets, lovely clothing, good company, and a bagful of fashion to take home! That's all a good thing! Tickets are \$20, available by calling 256-6479, or simply buy them from any **Almonte in Concert** board member, at the November 19 concert at the Almonte Old Town Hall, or from Judy Joannou at 253-5054. Some tickets may also be available at the door, but don't count on that — this show will be a sell-out for sure!

— Glenda Jones



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- Home décor
- Ladies' clothing
- Outdoor wear
- Bird seed and accessories
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Gord Pike

owner, Heritage Court and Mill Street Crepe Company

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Matt will be signing autographs in the store on

November 6 from 1-2PM.

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All proceeds to  **Big Brothers Big Sisters**



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December 3 & 4
10:30AM to 3:30PM

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Elizabeth Interiors, 8 Chamber St., Smiths Falls
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It's a First! Carleton Place Art Tour & Sale

For the past two years Arts Carleton Place has held a successful Holiday Shopping Day at the Train Station. This year an Art Tour & Sale will be added to this event. It will allow more artists to participate, as well as giving the public the opportunity to experience a day of visiting studios and arts-related businesses. The Arts Carleton Place Gallery at the Train Station is one of the locations, and they will be increasing their space to display art and to have demonstrations next door during the tour and sale (in the space formerly occupied by the Licence Bureau & Paul Nelson's Foto Store). You can also purchase souvenirs and pick up information at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Centre.

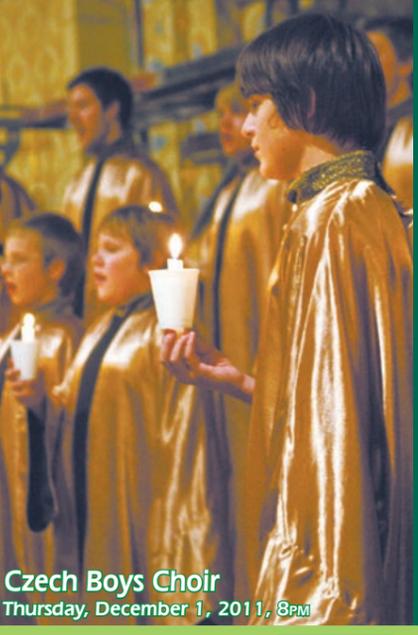
Come out on Sunday, December 4 from 10AM to 4PM to do your holiday shopping in Carleton Place and area. Organizers have been busy getting artists registered and booking locations. Over seventeen artists are participating at nine businesses and studios. There will be demonstrations and musical guests to entertain you. Enjoy refreshments and decadent sweets while you shop. Pick up a map at the following locations: the historic Train Station, at 132 Coleman Street, Picture It Studio at 154 Beckwith Street,

Surrounding Memories at 77A Bridge Street, Brush Strokes at 129 Bridge Street, and Ballygiblin's Restaurant at 151 Bridge Street.

This is a great opportunity to purchase original art, photography, pottery, jewellery, fibre and textile pieces and much, much more. Please support local artists, artisans and performers. Visit <carletonplacearttourandsale.wordpress.com> for more information.



(left) Stoneware bean pot by Victoria Jenkins.
(above) Fantasy Garden Fairy by Brenda Milne.
Victoria and Brenda will be participating in the Carleton Place Art Tour and Sale on December 4.



Perth Performing Arts Committee

2011 • 2012
Thirtieth SEASON

Mason Theatre at Perth & District Collegiate Institute

Czech Boys Choir
Thursday, December 1, 2011, 8PM

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The Perth BIA presents

The Festival of Lights

6:00PM Friday
November 25



At the Crystal Palace
Music by the Perth Citizens' Band
Bonfire
Fireworks
Lighting of the Trees
Great Family Fun!
Call 613-267-1100 for details

The Festival of Good Cheer

10:00AM Saturday
November 26



Shopping Fair in the Crystal Palace
Music in Code's Mill Atrium
Wine Tasting at the Stone Cellar
Demos, Discounts and Dining at Local Shops and Restaurants
Dinner Theatre Packages

Artsy Reasons to Get Out and About

Crown and Christmas Art & Craft Sale

If you're searching for an original, well-crafted gift for your child's teacher, your boss, your spouse or yourself, you're sure to find something that suits your taste — and your budget — at the Crown and Christmas Sale of Art and Fine Crafts. The show takes place at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, and coincides with Almonte's

valued at over \$100. For more information, visit <[a href="http://crownandpumpkin.com">crownandpumpkin.com> or call 256-3647. "Like" Crown and Pumpkin on Facebook to see more work by participating artists and to get a glimpse of their studios.



Woodturning by Art and Janet Horton can be found at the Crown & Christmas Art and Craft Sale in Almonte

On the Walls at Read's

From October 30 to November 27, Read's Book Shop in Carleton Place will be exhibiting drawings and watercolours by John Hodgkinson, a Beckwith resident.

John has always shown a talent for and interest in drawing and painting, which he experimented with as a student in England. When he lived in Ottawa in 1981 he enrolled in an Algonquin College drawing class, through which he rediscovered his early artistic skills. John's profession as a geologist reflects his love of the outdoors, wildlife and nature. His hobbies involving dogs and horses provided many subjects for his photographic interests. However, it was not until retirement offered him the time to pursue different media and more classes in watercolours that he settled on watercolour as his principal medium. John is an active member of the Almonte and Area Artists Association and has exhibited in group shows, but this is his first solo show.



Find works by Susie Osler and other Valley potters at 260 Fingers

260 Fingers

Chandler Swain, an award winning ceramic artist living in Blakeney, initiated 260 Fingers seven years ago to give some of the exceptional ceramic artists in the region an event at which to celebrate, exhibit and sell their finest work. The exhibition has since earned a reputation as *the* place to see, learn about and purchase high calibre, contemporary ceramic work, as well as offering a great opportunity to meet and talk with the artists.

Twenty-five of the finest ceramic artists of eastern Ontario and western Quebec will gather together on November 11, 12 and 13 in the atrium of the Glebe Community Center (175 3rd Avenue in Ottawa,

just off Bank Street) to host the 7th edition of 260 Fingers. Free guided tours of the show (Saturday and Sunday at 1PM) will present a great opportunity to learn more about ceramic work in general, as well as a chance to ask questions of the artists about their specific practices.

The exhibition begins Friday, November 11 at 6PM with a vernissage, and continues Saturday and Sunday from 10AM to 5PM. Admission is free. For more information, please call Susie Osler at 268-2024 or see <[a href="http://260fingers.ca">260fingers.ca>.

by Miss Cellaneous

Light Up the Night festivities. There will be an opening vernissage hosted by the Friends of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum on Friday evening, December 2, from 6 to 9PM. The show continues on Saturday and Sunday (December 3 and 4) from 10AM to 5PM each day.

Organized by the Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour committee, the show features a number of well-known tour members as well as many guest artists. From gourmet jams and jellies, goat milk soaps, greeting cards and charming knitted babies' hats to luxurious woven silk in rainbow colours, pottery for the table or décor, silver and mixed media jewellery in all price ranges, woodworking and painting, the show offers a broad selection of juried, high-quality, locally-made work. Visitors will have a chance to win a gift basket of artists' work,





Carp Farmers' Christmas Market

Friday, December 2
Saturday, December 3

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Fri. Nov. 4 **Prescott Trio** (Folk Roots) 8-11PM
Fri. Nov. 11 **Jazz Night** with Spencer Evans Trio 9-11PM
Fri. Nov. 18 and Sat. Nov. 19 Blues on the Rideau presents
Donald Ray Johnson & Maurice John Vaughn Band (Calgary and Chicago) 7-11PM
Tue. Nov. 22 **Westport Christmas Fashion Show** Food Bank Fundraiser 12-2PM
Sat. Nov. 26 **Santa Claus Parade All Day Party**
with Kevin Head 1-4PM and Angler Management 8-11PM

Pick up *theHumm* in Perth at
SUNFLOWER BAKERY

Studio Theatre Productions Presents

A Month of Sundays
by well-known British author Bob Larbey

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30

*A bitter-sweet comedy
about two friends growing old together.*

Directed by Norma Cummings
Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

November 24, 25 & 26, December 2 & 3 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday Matinéés: November 27 and December 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets \$20 in advance (cash only) at The Studio Theatre Box Office and The Book Nook, 56 Gore Street East,
\$22 at Tickets Please, 39 Foster Street, (613) 485-6434, www.ticketsplease.ca
(includes convenience fee) and at the door.

Read This Book!

I wouldn't have chosen to read it! But Mary proposed it, and after listening to Gloria's stories about working as a nurse up in Sioux Lookout, the members of the "Wednesday with a Book" club agreed to tackle it. So *As Long As The River Flows* by James Bartleman was our first book for discussion this fall. And to top it off, the author, a man of Native heritage and the former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, agreed to come and talk to us about it.

The novel is "a fictional description of actual reality." It is as close to a true account of the First Nations situation as fictionally possible. I knew reading the book would be an emotionally difficult journey for Gloria. However, I wasn't prepared for the effect the book would have on me. It linked the bits and pieces of Native news — news about the physical and mental abuse in Canada's native residential schools, the high suicide rate of native young people, drug and alcohol abuse by Aboriginal youth — into a coherent story of sadness and tragedy. After finishing the novel, I felt indignation about what I considered to be a hopeless situation.

But the situation isn't hopeless. Bartleman began his presentation by talking about the late Jack Layton and the active concern the well-loved politician of the people had with regards to the First Nations. Where there is one compassionate soul, undoubtedly there are more. He then touched on the reason for the historical mistreatment of Native peoples in Canada and throughout the world. The actual means of treatment varied but the aim was always the same — the creation of a perfect, homogeneous society through the eradication of all things native. The author lamented about the current worsening gang situation in the North, but he also talked of the potential opportunities for First Nations people in cities — opportunities to become more native and more fulfilled.

Finally, Bartleman touched on Shannen's Dream. Shannen Koostachin was a 15-year-old Native advocate working for a safe school environment in At-tawapiskat. She died tragically in May 2010. To ensure that her

dream lives on, the Shannen's Dream Campaign was initiated. The hope that all children, including Natives, get a good education in a safe and healthy school, lives on and is being actively pursued.

And hope is found in Bartleman himself. He has acted to promote literacy, seeing this as the way for First Nations children to get out of the quagmire. He set up four Aboriginal Youth Literacy initiatives to give Native youth access to reading materials. And as a legacy to his efforts and vision of hope, The James Bartleman Aboriginal Youth Creative Writing Award was created.

I read the book and was shocked; I heard the author speak and was moved. My attitude changed about the First Nations issues from indifference to anger, then to compassion and finally to commitment. I'm grateful to have gone down this road, a road I wouldn't have chosen to travel. The book club was the catalyst.

The "Wednesday with a Book" club meets every third Wednesday, September to June, at McMartin House in Perth.

— Victoria Laube



Gloria Opzoomer (left) and Mary Bowrin with James Bartleman, author of *As Long As The River Flows*



Café Postino welcomes the opportunity to "Ho Ho" host your holiday celebrations.

Offering a festive ambience and imaginative menus, our restaurant is ideal for office parties, casual get-togethers, or simply toasting the season for two.

Let us simplify your holiday entertaining!

Bookings are recommended

73 Mill Street in downtown Almonte
613.256.6098

www.cafe-postino.com





The Prior Players present Norm Foster's *The Long Weekend* on Nov. 11, 12, 18 and 19.

Spend *The Long Weekend* in Arnprior

This fall, the **Prior Players** in Arnprior are presenting Norm Foster's *The Long Weekend*. Returning to the stage are veteran actors Dave Anthony, Colleen Lacasse, Kim Oliver and Grey Masson. This hilarious comedy takes twists and turns as the two couples try to enjoy a weekend getaway. In true Foster style, the antics of the two couples will keep the audience in stitches. The men, who have only come along to support their wives, tolerate each other while the women's sassy remarks keep the pace of the play upbeat.

The Prior Players are happy to offer theatre patrons the popular dinner theatre option. On Friday, November 11 and Saturday, November 12, patrons can attend the play only for \$12 (curtain time is at 8PM), or enjoy a dinner/theatre combination ticket for \$25 (with dinner starting at 7PM). Dinner theatre is very popular and tickets go quickly, so don't hesitate to commit to this lovely evening out!

On Friday, November 18, there will be a regular theatre performance at 8PM. And after a positive response from the public and a successful past couple of performances, the Prior Players are also offering a matinee on Saturday, November 19, at 2PM.

Tickets can be purchased at Hair Zone or at Arnprior Bulk Foods. All performances take place at the Christian Education Centre at 257 John Street North. For more information, contact the Prior Players at <priorplayers@gmail.com> or 623-5585.

The Prior Players put on a really great performance, and have been entertaining audiences in Arnprior for over twenty years. They are looking forward to welcoming back their regular patrons, but also invite all newcomers to come out and give them a try. You are sure to be entertained!

10 Reasons to Support Dignity House Hospice...

... by attending the Hospice Hop Dinner-Dance headlined by Eddy and the Stingrays on Saturday, November 12, at the Perth Civitan Club on Highway 43:

1. You get to dance the night away with fabulous music.
2. You can win prizes, participate in a 50/50 draw, shop the silent auction and try your luck at a surprise game.
3. You get to eat a sumptuous dinner of roast beef, cranberry chicken, or vegetarian pasta with a selection of sides and a dessert table.
4. You can enjoy your favourite drink in between dancing (cash bar).
5. You can learn more about the need for hospice palliative care services in Lanark County.
6. 100% of the money you spend on this evening will go towards a residential hospice for Lanark County.
7. You can help ensure that residents of Lanark County living with life-limiting illnesses, and as well as their loved ones, will receive the specialized com-

fort and care offered by a residential hospice program.

8. You can sleep better at night with the knowledge that when you and your loved ones need these specialized services they will be available in your own community.

9. You are giving a lasting gift to every resident of Lanark County.

10. You can wear those retro clothes you have shoved at the back of your closet! And just what is Dignity House Hospice? The hospice's mission is to assist Lanark County residents who are diagnosed with life-limiting illnesses to live life as fully as possible while maintaining their dignity and comfort, as well as to provide support to their families and loved ones.

If you would like to purchase tickets to the Hospice Hop Dinner-Dance, please go to Tickets Please in Jo's Clothes on Foster Street in Perth, <ticketsplease.ca>. To learn more about Dignity House Hospice, please visit their website at <dignityhousehospice.ca>.

Dufflebag Theatre's

A Christmas Carol

This troupe is back by popular demand with this original story full of wit and humour. A hilarious experience for all ages.

November 20, 2011



Waterwood Theatre Projects'

Mousetales

Puppetry, music, stories and fun. Comic scenarios delighting young audiences. Engaging, meaningful and most importantly fun.

January 29, 2012



Aboriginal Experiences'

The Gift

Storytelling theatre, features mask and movement. Traditional Algonquin legend of how the eagle was given his white head.

February 26, 2012



Tim Holland's

THE PUPPET TAMER

Ventriloquism, puppets = a highly entertaining show.

March 25, 2012



All performances **Sunday, 2PM** at **Naismith Memorial Public School**, Almonte

Series Passes (Single Series \$22/Family Pass \$75) and tickets for individual shows (\$9) are available at the door or from:

Kentfield Kids - 65 Mill Street, Almonte 256-5500

Read's Book Shop - 130 Landsdowne Ave, Carleton Place, 257-7323

Or by printing and completing the on-line form at www.onstageforkids.com





"A Christmas Gift"



Carleton Place BIA Santa Claus Parade Saturday, November 26 at 5pm

WHILE YOU'RE HERE, VISIT THESE DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS!

B **Ballygiblin's**
Restaurant & Pub
151 Bridge St.
613-253-7400
www.ballygiblins.ca

The Blossom Shop
167 Bridge Street
613-257-1855
www.blossomshop.ca

Bonnie and Company
114 Beckwith Street
613-257-8345

The Book Gallery
19 Lake Avenue
613-257-2373
www.thebookgallery.ca

Graham's Shoes
139 Bridge Street • 613-257-3727

THE GRANARY
BULK & NATURAL FOODS
EST. 1978
107 Bridge Street
613-257-5986
www.granary.ca

Natural pet foods
61 Bridge St.
613-253-7387
www.naturalpetfoods.ca

PICTUREit STUDIO
154 Beckwith Street • 613-492-2299
www.pictureitstudio.ca

Real Wool BOUTIQUE
142 Franktown Road
613-257-2714

Spice Wellness Systems
110 Bridge Street
613-257-7739
www.spicewellness.net

SURROUNDING MEMORIES
77 Bridge Street • 613-257-1301
www.surroundingmemories.ca

Wisteria
62 Bridge Street • 613-253-8097
www.wisteriacp.com



Join us in Carleton Place for a magical night at the BIA Evening Santa Claus Parade, with this year's theme "A Christmas Gift"

Thousands of spectators, over one hundred floats, and one jolly St. Nick are congregating in downtown Carleton Place this holiday season for the largest Santa Claus parade in the Ottawa Valley. Amid a sparkling cascade of Christmas lights and under the dark winter sky, the BIA (Business Improvement Association) hosts the annual evening parade on **Saturday, November 26**. The train of spectacular floats will begin at 5PM at Carambeck School and travel up the town's main thoroughfare, Bridge Street.

You will experience the Christmas spirit in Downtown Carleton Place when you see businesses, community groups, residents and visitors joining together to share their best wishes for the holiday season with everyone.

A SEASON FOR GIVING

'Tis the season for giving, and the parade is an opportune time to get into the Christmas spirit. The Civitan Club will be collecting food for the Lanark County Food Bank and monetary donations for the Christmas Basket Fund.

Parking is free in downtown Carleton Place, where visitors and residents can shop and dine amongst the 150 stores, restaurants and services.

Multiple plaques will be awarded to the most enthusiastic and decorative float designs that are consistent with the theme. At the end of the parade, a group of judges will select 1st, 2nd and 3rd of the Best Walking float, and the Best Use of Theme float. There will be awards for the Best Commercial float, Best Small Independent Business float and the Best Overall float.

After the grand finale of the parade, when Santa's sleigh makes his crowning pass down Bridge Street, spectators are invited to the Carleton Place and District Memorial Hospital for free hot chocolate, caroling and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Just before the parade, on **November 26 from 2-4PM**, children are invited to write letters to Santa at the Moore House, just across Bridge Street from the Town Hall. For more information, please contact Jessica Smith at 257-1690. This year the BIA will also have people collecting children's letters to Santa in the parade by Santa's float.

For more information or to register a float, contact the BIA office at **257-8049** or cmcormond@carletonplace.ca. Visit www.downtowncarletonplace.com/SantaClausParade for more information about the event, to see pictures from last year's parade, or to download a registration form. For more upcoming events this Christmas season be sure to check out the rest of the site.

WANT TO HELP?

Each year, the BIA takes on more growth and thus more responsibility for the parade. The organizing committee estimates that at least ten volunteers are needed to assist in the facilitation of the parade, at both the staging area and the receiving area. The BIA appreciates any help that can be offered. Please contact the BIA office at **257-8049** or cmcormond@carletonplace.ca.

After The Parade

The excitement will continue the following Saturday — **December 3rd** — when the kids can have breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and attend a gingerbread house workshop put on by the Chamber of Commerce. The Carleton Place and District Memorial Hospital will be hosting a bake sale at the Moore House, and the Town of Carleton Place is planning a special Christmas Tea on the same day. The BIA is sponsoring downtown horse-drawn trolley rides, and the Farmers' Market is coming downtown for the day. The events of the day will continue into the evening with the Mississippi Mudds performance of *Alice in Wonderland*.



Mitten Art on Bridge Street!

This winter season Bridge Street will have a little extra warmth, thanks to the Mitten Art Project. Unique and originally painted wooden mittens will hang on the lampposts lining the historic main street of our Town.

All mittens will be displayed on lampposts from November 1st until March 1st. Artists of all ages and ability were invited to create a mitten for winter display. For more information please contact Debby Lytle at **257-1014** or dlytle@rogers.com.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| November 11 | Remembrance Day , 11AM at the Cenotaph in Carleton Place |
| November 26 | Write letters to Santa workshop , 1-4PM at the Moore House on Bridge Street (across from Town Hall) |
| November 26 | Annual BIA Santa Claus Parade "A Christmas Gift" , beginning at 5PM downtown Carleton Place |
| November 26 | Tree Lighting at the Carleton Place and District Memorial Hospital following the Santa Claus Parade |
| December 3 | Breakfast and photos with Santa , 9AM until noon Upstairs at Ernie's |
| December 3 | Chamber of Commerce Gingerbread house workshop [www.cpchamber.com] for more information |
| December 3 | Horse-drawn trolley rides from 11-4PM in downtown Carleton Place |
| December 3 | Visit the local Farmers' Market in Downtown Carleton Place |
| December 3 | Appearances by Frosty the Snowman and the Gingerbread Man in Downtown Carleton Place |
| December 3 | CPDMH bake sale in the morning at the Moore House across from the Town Hall in Carleton Place |
| December 3 | Town of Carleton Place Mad Hatter's tea in support of the Mississippi Mudds' performance <i>Alice and Wonderland</i> |
| December 4 | Christmas Shopping Open House at the Visitors Station, 132 Coleman Street |
| December 4 | Carleton Place Art Tour |

STITTSVILLE



ARTISTS STUDIO TOUR

Saturday & Sunday

November 5 & 6, 2011

10AM to 5PM

www.stittsvillestudiotour.com

In the Nick of Time! A Juried Show of Original, Unique Work

It's that time of year again! On December 3, McMartin House in Perth, one of Canada's most elegant heritage homes, will open its doors to host Perth's annual Nick of Time Artisan Show. Over twenty of the area's most skilled artisans get together every year to put on a high quality, juried art and craft show designed to make your holiday shopping a truly unique, pleasant and festive experience. When you arrive, you'll be met by a greeter in period costume with the strains of a Bach fugue filling the cedar-bedecked rooms. Once inside, the aroma of fresh hot cider and Christmas greenery will charm your senses. You'll immediately realize this is no ordinary craft show.

In keeping with the spirit of the season and the heritage venue, the traditional crafts are always a main attraction. Participants take great pride in presenting a wide variety of the venerable old crafts, all under one roof at one time. Look for everything from delicately-scented handmade soaps to pewter ware, basketry, whimsical corn brooms and much more. And of course, what would the show be without the food artisans returning with their gourmet offerings of Italian panettone cakes, exotic chocolate and fine local maple products?



Works by Randy Bolger (above), Mary Zintel (left), and many others can be found at this year's Nick of Time Artisan Show in Perth

To keep the show fresh, organizers add a diverse selection of new artisans every year. This year they have included a wood bowl turner who fashions one-of-a-kind functional and decorative bowls using material from trees found in this area such as maple, walnut, birch, cherry and butternut. As well, a potter who produces organic functional pottery that is silky and velvety to the touch will be showcasing her works. Also new this year is an artist who creates mystical creatures, sculptures and faerie houses made from natural materials.

So take a break from the commercialism of the season. See you on Saturday, December 3, at McMartin House, 125 Gore Street East in Perth, from 10AM to 4PM, for the 18th annual Nick of Time show where there is sure to be a beautiful and lasting gift for everyone on your list. Support a local crafts-person and spare the environment by shopping locally. And be sure to enter the free draw for a basket of fine gift items donated by participating artisans. Admission is free. For more information, please contact Bonnie Jehu at 278-2712.



Arts & Culture Council Recruitment Drive

Barely out of the maternity ward yet with a full Culture Days weekend event under its belt, the new Smiths Falls and District Arts and Culture Council has set its sights on organizing and recruitment.

The Council's all-volunteer board is fanning out into the community to find artists, musicians, historians, patrons and audiences who will join them as members of what is the first Smiths Falls arts organization in thirty years.

Through any medium, art and culture extends in every direction and elevation. It frames all sound, sight and memory detected by the human mind, whether embraced or repelled. The purpose of having a local arts and culture council is to establish and provide a point of connection for all participants, so they can work together to shine a light on what is around us and to shelter memory from oblivion.

Members will be able to stay informed, participate and add their own perspective to the mix. Communications, events and membership committees have already been established. Members will be sought

to bring their energy and perspective to monthly meetings and make light work of resulting plans.

A portal website is being constructed and will go online this month. There, members with a stake in the arts can be listed and linked. An annual general meeting will be held in 2012. In the meantime, anyone interested in volunteering or receiving more information can email <smithsfallsarts@gmail.com>.

Smiths Falls had an arts club that formed in the 1950s and survived until being killed by television. Previously the town had earned the nickname "Little Chicago," not by the hail of gangland bullets, but by the breadth and scope of its simmering nightlife. Another arts club operated in the 1970s but also faded away. Today, as the town and surrounding rural and urban communities weather the crests and troughs of modern life, they now have another channel of ready access to what people have always appreciated the most; everything the imagination never conceived of before.

— David Hoffman

MISSISSIPPI MUDDS BY KATE PARRY & KAREN DOLAN-SMITH Produced by arrangement with Jasper Publishing Ltd.

WALICE IN WONDERLAND

CARLETON PLACE TOWN HALL

Evening shows \$20.00 on Friday Dec. 2, Saturday Dec. 3, Friday Dec. 9, and Saturday Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.
Doors open at 7 p.m.

Matinee shows \$15.00 on Sunday Dec. 4, and Saturday Dec. 10 at 2:00 p.m.
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

Tickets available through Arts Carleton Place on Coleman Street, 613-257-2031 or mississippimudds.ca

Practicing How to Practice

I should start off by saying that I detest the expression “practice makes perfect”. Practice doesn’t make perfect, but it certainly makes you better! November is typically the time of year when parents start noticing that their children aren’t practicing music with the same frequency that they used to, or that the instrument they brought home from school is collecting dust up in their room.

by Tony Stuart

Band directors and private music teachers receive frantic calls from parents wondering why their child suddenly doesn’t want to practice as much anymore.

It is not normal for teenagers to want to practice on a regular basis. I love the reaction I get when I utter this statement. It sounds crazy upon hearing, but if you stop and think about it, it makes perfect sense. Learning an instrument is hard work. There is the immediate “honeymoon period”, where students are excited to have that shiny new instrument in their hands, and that moment of gratification when they can play their first simple song. I remember those moments very clearly, and I love seeing that enthusiasm in students.

However, learning to play an instrument well is hard work that requires constant repetition, correction of mistakes,

and plenty of frustration. In our age of instant gratification, qualities like perseverance and attention to detail are being sorely tested. I was explaining something to the clarinets in my Grade 9 Music class the other day. On the clarinet, learning how to play in the upper register is quite challenging. I told them, and the class, that it might sound for a while like they have been strangling the neighbour’s cat, but they need to keep with it. Humour does help in those instances! If those students were to give up simply because this aspect of playing their instrument is difficult, they would be missing out on being able to play a lot of great music.

Let’s take a second to be honest... most teenagers would rather be on Facebook than sitting there repeating a difficult passage of music over and over until they get it just right. Teenaged brains are hard-wired that way, but that doesn’t mean they can’t be taught to practice. Perhaps the most important thing is that they need to perform, so that they can see where all of that practice leads to. That is why we have concerts several times a year at school. There needs to be a reward for the many hours spent in both rehearsals and individual practice sessions. Although teenagers love Facebook, they also love being able to perform and achieve at a high level (although they won’t always admit this).

I run my band program like a benevolent dictator. I’m not ashamed to admit it. If students want to participate in bands

and join us on band tours and other great experiences, they are expected to work. I’m constantly reminding kids in the hallway about practices and rehearsals. As parents or caregivers, there are a few things you can do as well. First and foremost is to help your child set up a practice routine. We are all creatures of habit. Schedule in that twenty minutes or half hour a day where it is practice time, and keep that time free, always. I know parents who schedule this time in before their child’s favourite television show, so that there is a bit of a reward at the end of the practice session. Great idea! The important thing is that we get involved, be a pain in the backside when required, and make practicing become a habit.

One trend I find a little bit worrisome in our schools and communities is the whole “buffet” style approach to gaining experiences. This is where kids dabble in a hundred different things, but don’t get the chance to be good at any of them because they are constantly running in a hundred different directions. It just doesn’t allow for targeted practicing of skills, whether they be musical, athletic, or something else.

If you are a musician yourself, let your son or daughter see you practicing. This makes a huge difference. When I give practice time during my music classes, I always pull out my instrument and practice along with them. I think it is important that students see that everything I’m

telling them applies to me as well. Sometimes I’ll show them what I’m practicing, and explain how I’m about to tackle a really difficult section of music. If they can see why it is being done, that really helps.

When parents put some of these suggestions into place, it is amazing how quickly they notice the turnaround in their child’s performance. There is an immense feeling of satisfaction that comes with having spent time learning something difficult, and finally being able to perform it. The skills that students develop by practicing, such as learning attention to detail and self-discipline, are transferable to other areas of life. It is no coincidence that many strong athletes are also good musicians. They know how to persevere, keeping an end goal in mind.

We live in a society that is constantly telling us that there is an easy way out, whether it be in the form of a magic pill or the newest shiny gadget. However, I think there will always be a place for hard work, perseverance, and dedication. Sometimes we just need to give our students a gentle nudge in the right direction.

If you have ideas for this column, or exciting musical news to pass along, please don’t hesitate to email me at <musicmatters@thehummm.com>. New ideas are always welcome!

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

Almonte in Concert
presents

Marie-Josée Lord



Do not miss the opportunity to hear this rapidly rising star on the international vocal scene in a mesmerizing recital of songs by Spanish composers Granados, Rodrigo and Falla, Americans Bernstein, Porter and Gershwin, and a selection of moving and powerful African-American spirituals.

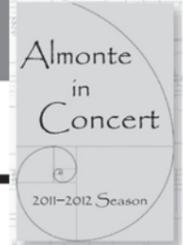
Photo: Jocelyn Michel

Saturday, November 19, 2011 8PM
Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge Street, Almonte
Tickets Adult \$30 Student \$15
Available by phone at 613 256 8192, online at www.almonteinconcert.com
or at Mill Street Books, 52 Mill Street, Almonte 613 256 9090

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
The Ontario Arts Council
is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

Mississippi Mills

Holiday Magic
A Try It/Buy It Fashion Show
Fund Raising Event for Almonte in Concert



Presented by:
Almonte in Concert
in collaboration with



Friday, November 25th, 2011, 7:30 p.m.
The Almonte Community Centre
182 Bridge Street, Almonte
Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for pre-show 'sparkle and sweets'!

Tickets \$20
Available from:
Almonte in Concert board members
Judy Joannou Designs 613-253-5054
Or at 613-256-6479

Fashions, Accessories and Jewellery

Full Fashion Show for your purchasing enjoyment.
See the fashions, try them on, and go home with your own!

Claiming Column

Light Up The Night, Almonte, Dec 2
 Carp Christmas Market, Carp, Dec 2-3
 Crown & Christmas, Almonte, Dec 2-4
 Alice in Wonderland, CP, Dec 2-4, 9-10
 Sarah Slean, Burnstown, Dec 2
 Santa Claus Parade, Pakenham, Dec 3
 Westport X-mas Farmers' Mkt, Dec 3
 Paul Reddick, Burnstown, Dec 3
 Jon Brooks, McDonalds Corners, Dec 3
 Perth House Tour, Dec 3-4
 Santa Claus Parade, Almonte, Dec 4

Visual Arts

Handmade Harvest, Nov 4 (4-9pm), Nov 5 (10am-4pm). Craft & food sale. Almonte Old Town Hall, handmadeharvest.com. \$2
 Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Nov 4 (2-9pm), 5 (9am-4pm). Almonte Community Centre. 256-4207
 Free Art Class/Demo, Nov. 5. Compositions Art Gallery presents info on colour mixing, free samples, etc. Modern Thymes Natural Foods, Smiths Falls. 205-1258.
 Stittsville Artists Studio Tour, Nov. 5 & 6, 10AM-5PM. stittsvillestudiotour.com.
 Pints 'n Purls, Nov. 9, 6-9PM. Knitting group. Old Mill Pub, Ashton. Info: 492-5648.
 Vernissage, Nov. 11, 7-9PM. Batik art of Jennifer Raby. Brush Strokes, 129 Bridge St. Carleton Place. 253-8088
 Vernissage, Nov. 12, 1-5PM. Amazing works of art by local fibre artists. Artemisia, 7 Spring St. Westport. 273-8775.
 AAAA Mtg, Nov. 14, 7:30PM. Almonte Library. 4a-artists.ca. Free
 Arts Carleton Place AGM, Nov. 15, 7PM. The Thirsty Moose (upstairs), 20 Bridge Street, Carleton Place.
 Flippin' Art Night, Nov. 17, 5-7PM. Donna Naprstek & Ilona Monahan. Ballygiblin's, Carleton Place. artscarletonplace.com. Free
 Gift of Art Show & Sale, Nov. 19 & 20, 10AM-5PM. Kanata Civic Art Gallery. 580-2424x33341, kanatagallery.ca.
 Almonte Quilters' Guild, Nov. 21, 7PM. Almonte Civitan Hall, 256-5858.
 Knitting & Crocheting Guild, Nov. 22, 7PM. St. Paul's Anglican, Almonte. Guests \$5.
 Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Nov. 23, 7PM. Christian Education Centre, Arnprior.
 Red Trillium Studio Tour, Nov. 26 & 27, 10AM-5PM. Brochures at www.redtrilliumst.com or 839-2793. West Carleton.

Theatre

Auditions, Nov 2 for *An Inspector Calls*. Studio Theatre, 63 Gore St. E. Perth. 326-0426, david_parry@sympatico.ca.
 Anything Goes, Nov 3-5, 10-12, 8PM. Nov 6 2PM. Perth Community Choir. PDCI, 13 Victoria St. 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca. \$22
 Film Night International: *The Tree*, Nov. 10, 7PM; *Oranges & Sunshine*, Nov. 24, 7PM. Premier Cinemas, Smiths Falls. 267-1224, filmnightperth@gmail.com, \$10
Memoirs of a Genderless Warrior, Nov. 11 & 12 (7PM). Nov. 13 (2PM). Neat Coffee Shop, Burnstown. \$10 from 433-3205.
Naismith is Colourblind (And He Can't Drive), Nov 11-12, 7:30PM. Nov 13, 2PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, 256-1077. Tickets at Pakenham Gnl Store, Mill Street Books
One-Act Play Festival, Nov 11, 7PM. Nov 12, 2&7PM. Studio Theatre, Perth. \$15 from 267-7469, studiotheatreperth.com.
The Long Weekend, Nov 11-12, 8PM play (\$12) or 7PM dinner+play (\$25). Nov 18 8PM, Nov 19 2PM play (\$12). Christian Education Centre, Arnprior. 623-5585.
A Month of Sundays, Nov 24-26, Dec 2-3, 8PM. Nov 27 & Dec 4, 2PM. Tickets Please (485-6434). Studio Theatre, Perth. 485-6434. \$22; \$20 in adv. Students \$10.

WHAT'S ON IN

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
31 Auditions, Perth Carp Celtic Jam, Carp	1 Open Mic, The Barley Mow	2 Auditions, Perth Fall Fashion Show, Carp Foodsmiths' Anniversary Event, Perth Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Toastmasters Club, Smiths Falls	3 Anything Goes, Perth Jazz at Bally's, Ballygiblin's Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow
7 Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Tay Valley Cross Country Ski Club AGM, Perth	8 Open Mic, The Barley Mow West Carleton Garden Club Meeting, Carp Women's Business Group Mtg, Carleton Place	9 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Pints 'n Purls, Ashton Toastmasters Club, Smiths Falls	10 Anything Goes, Perth The Tree, Smiths Falls Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow
14 AAAA Mtg, Almonte Almonte Coin Club, Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp	15 Arts Carleton Place AGM, CP Open Mic, The Barley Mow Sue Foley & Peter Karp, Neat Coffee Shop	16 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Toastmasters Club, Smiths Falls	17 Flippin' Art Night, Carleton Place Gluten-free Cooking Demo, Almonte Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub MVFN Lecture, Almonte Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow
21 Almonte Quilters' Guild, Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Green Liquid Refreshments, Smiths Falls	22 Knitting & Crocheting Guild, Almonte Open Mic, The Barley Mow Westport Christmas Fashion Show, Westport	23 Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Arnprior Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Toastmasters Club, Smiths Falls	24 A Month of Sundays, Perth Oranges & Sunshine, Smiths Falls Karaoke, The Downstairs Pub Pavlo, Neat Coffee Shop Getting Your Book Published, Almonte Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow The Abrams Brothers, Perth
28 Almonte Horticultural Mtg, Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp	29 Open Mic, The Barley Mow	30 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Toastmasters Club, Smiths Falls St Andrew's Day Celebrations, Smiths Falls	1 Czech Boys Choir, Perth Guys and Dolls, Perth Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow

Flying In The Dark: A Blind Woman's Story, Nov. 26, 7:30PM. Storyteller Kim Kilpatrick. Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St. Perth. 2wp.ca. \$20; \$18 in adv. at ticketsplease.ca.
Spiritual Cinema Circle, Nov. 27, 2PM. Myriad Centre, 2 Sherbrooke St. Perth. 267-4819, fp@superaje.com. \$2 donation

Youth
MacBeth, Nov 5, 2PM & 8PM. Mudds Youth Troupe. Not small children. Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St. Perth. 267-1884
Beckwith Youth Dance, Nov. 18, 6PM-9PM. Glow in the dark - come in neon. Brunton Community Hall, Beckwith. 257-1539, \$3
On Stage For Kids, Nov. 20, 2PM. A Christmas Carol by Dufflebag Theatre. \$9 at Kentfield Kids, Read's Book Shop. Naismith Public School, Almonte. 451-0323
Family Movie Night, Nov. 25, 7PM. *Despicable Me*. Brunton Community Hall, Free

Photos with Santa, Nov. 26, Noon-4PM. Proceeds to Young Awards. BH Photography, 15 Bridge St. Almonte. bhphotography.ca.
Workshop: Write Letters to Santa, Nov. 26, 1PM-4PM. Moore House, Bridge St. Carleton Place. 257-1690.
PAMT's Guys and Dolls, Dec. 1-3, 7:30PM. Myriad Centre, Perth. 267-9610.

Literature
1st Edition Reading Series, Nov. 4 & Nov. 18, 7PM at Backbeat, 6 Wilson St. W. Perth. 466-0663, \$10
Vine Rhymes, Nov. 19, 7-9PM. Smiths Falls & area songwriters & poets. Coffee Culture Cafe & Eatery, 2 Russell St. E. Smiths Falls.
Getting Your Book Published, Nov. 24, 7PM. Talk by author Nerys Parry. Palms Coffee Shop, 78 Mill St. Almonte. 256-9090.

Music
Guatemala Stove Project Benefit Dance, Nov. 4, 7PM. Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo, auctions, licensed. Perth Civitan Hall. 267-5202. \$22; \$20 adv.
An Evening of Country & Gospel, Nov. 6, 7PM. St. James Anglican Church, Franktown. 283-4617. \$10
Celtfest 2012 Fundraiser, Nov. 6, 2PM. Prof. David Wilson & The McGee Band. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$22; \$20 adv.
Jazz Vespers, Nov. 6, 4:30PM-5:30PM. The Tay Valley Winds. St. James Anglican Church, Carleton Place. 257-3178.
Dignity House Hospice Fundraiser Dinner/Dance, Nov. 12, 7PM. \$50 at 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca. Perth Civitan Hall
White Lake Acoustic Jam, Nov. 12, 7PM-10:30PM. White Lake Fire Hall, 142 Burnstown Rd. 256-8675. \$5
Donald Ray Johnson & Maurice John

Vaughn Band, Nov. 18 & 19, 7PM. The Cove, Westport. www.choosetheblues.ca. \$60+tx dinner & show. Reservations req'd.
The Rakish Angles, Nov. 18, 8PM. House concert. Findlay House, Carleton Place. findlayhouseconcerts@gmail.com. \$20
Almonte in Concert, Nov. 19, 8PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, 253-3353. \$30 adults, \$15 students
Ottawa Cape Breton Session, Nov. 19, 7:30PM. For Hug the Children of Haiti. Tickets at Church or Blossom Shop. St. James Anglican, C.P. 257-7143. \$10
Capital City Chorus Concert, Nov. 20, 2PM. \$10; \$20 family from Heritage House Museum. SFDCI, Smiths Falls, 283-6311.
Music Jam & Potluck, Nov. 20, 1PM. Music & dancing (1-5pm), potluck at 5:30. Althorpe Bolingbroke Community Hall, 273-2571.
The Abrams Brothers, Nov. 24, 7:30PM. \$25 / \$12.50 at Shadowfax, Wordsmith, 273-7505. St Paul's United Church, Perth.

NOVEMBER 2011

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Edition Reading Series, Perth Anything Goes, Perth Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Almonte Guatemala Stove Project Benefit Dance, Perth Handmade Harvest, Almonte Kelly Prescott, Anders Drerup, Adam Puddington, The Cove Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anything Goes, Perth Candy Cane Bazaar, Carleton Place Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Almonte Forty Creek, The Downstairs Pub Free Art Class/Demo, Smiths Falls Handmade Harvest, Almonte Kevin Head, The Cove Lanark County Genealogical Society Mtg, Perth MacBeth, Full Circle Theatre, Perth Stittsville Artists Studio Tour Sweet N Low, St. James Gate Women's Fair, Carleton Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Evening of Country & Gospel, Franktown Anything Goes, Perth Celtfest 2012 Fundraiser, Almonte Jazz Vespers, Carleton Place Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Meet Matt Carkner (Senators), Almonte Stittsville Artists Studio Tour Talk: Women in the Military, Appleton Valley Singles Lunch, Amprior Young Awards Volunteer Info Night, Almonte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anything Goes, Perth Jazz Night, The Cove Naismith is Colourblind (And He Can't Drive), Almonte One-Act Play Festival, Perth Open Stage, The Downstairs Pub The Long Weekend, Amprior Vernissage, Brush Strokes, Carleton Place Memoirs of a Genderless Warrior, Burnstown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anything Goes, Perth Brea Lawrenson, St. James Gate Christmas Bazaar, North Crosby Dignity House Hospice Dinner/Dance, Perth Hoot For Hospice, Renfrew Armouries, Renfrew Kevin Head, The Cove, Country Inn, Westport Naismith is Colourblind (And He Can't Drive), Almonte Natural Strategies to Manage Stress, Carp One-Act Play Festival, Perth Posse, The Downstairs Pub The Long Weekend, Amprior White Lake Acoustic Jam, White Lake Memoirs of a Genderless Warrior, Burnstown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Naismith is Colourblind (And He Can't Drive), Almonte Vernissage, Westport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Edition Reading Series, Perth Beckwith Youth Dance, Beckwith Donald Ray Johnson & Maurice John Vaughn Band, The Cove Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp The Long Weekend, Amprior The Rakish Angles, Carleton Place Violet Femmes Gala, Almonte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte in Concert, Almonte Christmas Bazaar, Almonte Dale Wright Band, The Downstairs Pub Derek Favreau, St. James Gate Donald Ray Johnson & Maurice John Vaughn Band, The Cove Gift of Art Show & Sale, Kanata Ottawa Cape Breton Session, CP Ric Denis & 3, Foodies Fine Foods The Long Weekend, Amprior The Unsettlers, Neat Coffee Shop Vine Rhymes, Smiths Falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Traditional Sing, Almonte Capital City Chorus, Smiths Falls Castlegarth Food Tasting, White Lake Gift of Art Show & Sale, Kanata Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Music Jam & Potluck, Bolingbroke On Stage For Kids, Almonte Waldorf Christmas Fair, Stittsville
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Month of Sundays, Perth Almonte Lecture Series, Almonte Breakfast with Soul, Almonte Family Movie Night, Beckwith Festival of Lights, Perth Open Stage, The Downstairs Pub The John Prine Experience, Foodies Fine Foods Try it, Buy it Fashion Show, Almonte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-Day Christmas Party, The Cove Christmas Craft Show, Carleton Place Festival of Good Cheer, Perth Flying In The Dark: A Blind Woman's Story, Perth Folkus: Royal Wood, Almonte Goulbourn Jubilee Singers, Stittsville MERA Christmas Fair, McDonalds Corners Mr. Fezziwig's Victorian Xmas Party, Almonte Photos with Santa, Almonte Red Trillium Studio Tour, West Carleton Santa Claus Parade, Westport, Carleton Place Johnny Spinks & Kool Water, The Downstairs Pub A Month of Sundays, Perth Joe Chalmers, CP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Month of Sundays, Perth SRO Big Band Tea Dance, Almonte APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Red Trillium Studio Tour, West Carleton Spiritual Cinema Circle, Perth

- Artemisia Gallery presents local fibre artists (Nov 5-27)
- Brush Strokes presents the batik art of Jennifer Raby & Friends <brushstrokesart.ca>
- Baker Bob's Gallery presents Dennis Morrow's nature photography, giclee & paper prints
- fieldwork presents land art - OOH,AH,WOW by Karina Bergmans <fieldworkproject.com>
- Heritage House Museum presents Annual Art Show & Sale from Nov 5 <smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse>
- MVTM presents "Naturescence" - nature-inspired art quilts by Elaine Quehl & Catharina Breedyk Law <mvtm.ca>
- Palms Coffee Shop presents paintings by Pierre Langevin & pottery by Richard Skrobecki's <palmsonline.ca>
- Read's Book Shop presents drawings & watercolours by John Hodgkinson <readsbookshop.com>
- Village Idiot Gallery/Philip K. Wood Framing present *Through the Lens of Rod McIvor*, from Nov. 12, 292-4406
- The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents Studio 7 Painters, mixed media
- The Mississippi Mills Chamber Gallery presents Stephanie Ford Forrester

- Folkus: Royal Wood**, Nov. 26, 8PM. \$27 / \$12 from folkusalmonte.ca, Mill St. Books, or at door: Almonte Old Town Hall
- Goulbourn Jubilee Singers**, Nov 26, 1:30 & 7:30pm. Christmas concert. Stittsville United Church, 825-3357, gjsingers.com.
- Standing Room Only Tea Dance**, Nov. 27, 1-4PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, 692-5380, sroteadances.org. \$12 at door (cash only)
- St Andrew's Day Celebrations**, Nov. 30, 6-10PM. Music by The Skirmish. Kilt & Castle Pub, 78 Brockville St. Smiths Falls.
- Czech Boys Choir**, Dec. 1, 8PM. PPAC. Tickets Please, 485-6434. Perth & District Collegiate Institute, Perth. perthpac.org.
- The Swan at Carp** (Falldown Lane Carp, 839-7926) Nov 4 & 18 Steve Barrette Trio play jazz 7-10PM.
- The Royal Oak** (329 March Rd. Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, no cover. Nov 6, 20 Magnolia Rhythm Kings, 3-6PM Nov 13, 27 APEX Jazz Band, 2-5PM
- St. James Gate** (111 Bridge St. Carleton Place, 257-7530): Live at the Gate 8:30-11PM. no cover Nov 5 Sweet N Low Nov 12 Brea Lawrenson Nov 19 Derek Favreau Nov 26 Joe Chalmers
- The Downstairs Pub** (385 Ottawa St. Almonte, 256-2031) Live music Sat, 9PM. Nov 5 Forty Creek, \$5 Nov 11, 25 Billy Armstrong, 9PM. no cover Nov 12 Posse, no cover Nov 19 Dale Wright Band, \$5 Nov 26 Johnny Spinks & Kool Water, \$5
- Fiddleheads** (Code's Mill, Perth, 267-1304): Oct 2, 9, 23 Sunday jazz brunch with Clay Young & guest, 12-3PM.
- Neat Coffee Shop** (1715 Calabogie Rd. Burnstown, 433-3205): 8pm Nov 15 Sue Foley & Peter Karp, \$25 Nov 19 The Unsettlers, \$16 Nov 24 Pavlo - Greek God of guitar \$65
- The Barley Mow** (79 Little Bridge St. Almonte, 256-5669): Open Mike w/Jumpin' Jimmy Leroux Tues (7pm); Terry Tufts Thurs (8-11pm).
- Ballygiblin's** (151 Bridge Street, Carleton Place, 253-7400): Jazz at Bally's w/pianist Peter Brown, Don Paterson. No cover.
- The Naismith Pub** (411 Ottawa St. Almonte, 256-6336): Open Celtic Jam Wed, no charge (7:30-10pm).
- Foodies Fine Foods** (34 Mill St. Almonte, 256-6500): Dinner & live music, \$40, 6pm. Nov 19 Ric Denis' Van Morrison tribute Nov 25 The John Prine Experience
- Carp Masonic Lodge** (3704 Carp Rd. Carp): Carp Celtic Jam, \$3 or \$25 for 3 mos, Mon, no charge (7-9pm).
- The Cove** (2 Bedford St. Westport): Nov 4 Kelly Prescott, Anders Drerup, Adam Puddington, \$10, 8-11PM. \$10 Nov 5, 12 Kevin Head Sat 6-9PM Nov 11 Spencer Evans Trio 9-11PM. free
- Nov 26 Santa Claus Parade Party w/Kevin Head, Angler Management, free

Community

- Fall Fashion Show**, Nov. 2, 7:30PM. Anglican Parish of Huntley hosts. Carp Agricultural Hall, 839-3195. \$12
- Foodsmiths' Anniversary Event**, Nov. 2, 8AM-8PM. Samples, basket draws, cake. Foodsmiths, 106 Wilson St. W. Perth.
- Toastmasters Club**, Wednesdays, 7PM. Courtyard Cafe, Smiths Falls.
- Candy Cane Bazaar**, Nov. 5, 9:30AM-1:30PM. Crafts, food, baking. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 39 Bridge St. Carleton Place.
- Lanark County Genealogical Society Mtg**, Nov. 5, 1:30PM. Archives Lanark, 1920 Concession 7, Perth.
- Women's Fair**, Nov. 5, 10AM-4PM. Business showcase for Interval House. Carleton Place Arena, 75 Neelin St. Carleton Place.

- Meet Matt Carkner (Senators)**, Nov. 6, 1-2PM. For Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Willow, Heritage Court, Almonte. 223-0415.
- Women in the Military**, Nov. 6, 2PM. N. Lanark Regional Museum, Appleton. 256-4221, appletonmuseum@hotmail.com.
- Valley Singles Lunch**, Nov. 6, 12:30-2:30PM. To register, call 256-8117 or 432-7622. Jim's Restaurant, 54 Elgin St. W. Amprior.
- Young Awards Volunteer Info Night**, Nov. 6, 7PM. Foodies, 34 Mill St. Almonte. 256-6500, foodiesfinefoods@gmail.com.
- Tay Valley Cross Country Ski Club AGM**, Nov. 7, 7PM. Dufferin Square Board Room, 105 Dufferin St. Perth.
- West Carleton Garden Club Meeting**, Nov. 8, 7:30-9PM. Creating Holiday Decor. Carp Hall, 782-1212, \$5 for non-members
- Women's Business Group Mtg**, Nov. 8, 7:30AM. Buster's Bar and Grill, 515 McNeely Dr. Carleton Place. wbgroupp.ca.
- Christmas Bazaar**, Nov. 12, 10AM-2PM. Lunch \$8. White elephant table, silent auction. North Crosby Community Centre
- Hoot For Hospice**, Nov. 12, 5PM. Ladies' night, music & food. Renfrew Armouries. 432-8080, hootforhospice.ca. \$40
- Natural Strategies to Manage Stress**, Nov. 12, 1-3PM. Open house/free talk. Carp Ridge EcoWellness, Carp. 839-1198.
- Almonte Coin Club**, Nov. 14, 7PM. All welcome. Show and tell. Alliance Coin & Banknote, 88 Mill St. Almonte.
- Gluten-free Cooking Demo/Book Signing**, Nov. 17, 7PM. Kathy Smart, author of *Live The Smart Way*. Equator, 451 Ottawa St. Almonte. 256-9090.
- MVFN Lecture**, Nov. 17, 7:30PM. "Flying Squirrels Respond to Climate Change". Almonte United Church, 257-3089. \$5 for non MVFN members
- Christmas Bazaar**, Nov. 19, 10AM-2PM. Lunch, baking, crafts, attic treasures. Almonte United Church.
- Castlegarth Food Tasting**, Nov. 20, 1-4PM. Featuring the best of their shop & ideas for Xmas. Castlegarth Restaurant, 90 Burnstown Rd. White Lake. 623-3472.
- Waldorf Christmas Fair**, Nov. 20, 10AM-3PM. Music, vendors, puppet play, cafe. Ottawa Waldorf School, 1 Goulbourn St. Stittsville. 836-1547, Free
- Green Liquid Refreshments**, Nov. 21, 7PM. Green conversation sponsored by REAL. Coffee Culture, 2 Russell St. E. Smiths Falls.
- Westport Christmas Fashion Show**, Nov. 22, Noon-2PM. The Cove 2 Bedford St. Westport. 1-888-COVEINN, \$25
- Almonte Lecture Series**, Nov. 25, 7:30PM. Ottawa - a city grows up. Almonte United Church, almontelectures.ncf.ca. Free
- Breakfast with Soul**, Nov. 25, 8-10AM. The White Lilly, Heritage Court, Almonte. www.lillywhite.ca. Free
- Festival of Lights**, Nov. 25, 6PM. Bonfire, Perth Citizens' Band, fireworks. Crystal Palace, 63 Gore St. E. Perth. 267-1100.
- Try it, Buy it Fashion Show**, Nov. 25, 7PM. Judy Joannou Designs. Almonte Community Centre. 256-6479. \$20
- Christmas Craft Show**, Nov. 26, 10AM-3PM. Beckwith Public School. C.P. 435-8929.
- Festival of Good Cheer**, Nov. 26, 10AM, Old-fashioned Xmas shopping with free entertainment. Perth. 267-1100.
- MERA Christmas Fair**, Nov. 26, 10AM-5PM. Fine crafts, baking, cafe. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. 278-0388
- Westport Santa Claus Parade**, Nov. 26, 2PM.
- Carleton Place Santa Claus Parade**, Nov. 26, 5PM. For Lanark County Food Bank. downtowncarletonplace.ca.
- Mr. Fezziwig's Victorian Xmas Party**, Nov. 26, 7PM. Music, fine art auction. Textile Museum, Almonte. 256-3754. \$20; \$15 in adv at Baker Bob's & MVTM.
- Almonte Horticultural Soc. Mtg**, Nov. 28, 6:30PM. Potluck supper. Cornerstone Community Church, Almonte. 256-5155

Hey, Wait For Me!

In August, our old computer collapsed in a dishevelled heap. Talk about tech trauma! We were forced into Windows 7 with new toolbars and programmes, and it's a constant challenge. Alan couldn't get it to print envelopes for about two weeks, it wouldn't file my pictures the way I wanted, our address book was a mess — the whole thing has been a trial and a nuisance. Besides, the Help button is just a trick to make me crazy. I'm persevering, but it's not easy. Will I ask for a tutorial? Maybe, if I can find a fifteen-year-old who wants about two hundred vol-

by Glenda Jones

unteer hours! I feel like this machine is laughing at my senior ineptitude, and I'll never catch on to all this new jargon.

A trip to the library is enough to put me into old lady syndrome. Since they got rid of the wooden drawers full of little file cards, I have the distinct impression that the librarians are holding the books captive because they know how the computer works and I don't. I can't find a thing on that system. First off, I need a user name and it might as well be Mrs. Stupid. I feel totally antiquated! If you don't use the very wording their system demands, you are NOT getting your book. You can't just go in there with a vague notion that the book is about — well, you know, some old guy who crossed the desert in a dune buggy — and expect to find it. *In my day*, you could look up "dune buggy", "desert", or even "old guy", and likely find the book inside a couple of minutes. A lot of time could slip by as you perused the cards in the little file, finding all sorts of side trips to explore. Not now though. Further, if you've forgotten your Dewey Decimal system, you are one step closer to dinosaurism in the library, since you can't just go to a particular section, and scoot along the shelves until you find your chosen book. One day, I'll put my pride in my pocket and ask for help from the aforementioned fifteen-year-old, and hope he doesn't treat me like an alien.

Here I am, trying to be Mrs. Cool Queen in this tech-savvy world. I have a Kindle! What can I say: it was a gift. It's fun to sit in my jammies and slippers and "shop in the Kindle store" before I "download" (that's tech-talk for get it from my computer) a book. However, that can be expensive too as it "uploads" to my good old Visa. Besides, I just don't feel comfortable having Amazon hanging over my shoulder and recommending other books to me. It's all right for Mary at Mill Street Books to know what I'm reading, since it's likely we're read-

ing the same thing, but should everyone and his auntie have to know? I'm not ever going to "blog" what I thought about the book. Some poor author could have hurt feelings, or some irate reader could come after me with all his verbal guns a blazing. The Kindle is a cute bit of electronic madness to carry around, and I'm sure it's adding to my image as a with-it woman.

Now, if that doesn't convince you that I am a 21st century girl, get this one: I am learning how to maintain a website! You can check out <sageage.ca> to see my endeavour in its simplest form. I'm not taking all the credit, as a very professional friend got me started, but now I can go into the site, add news, put in some "pics" as we call them, and adjust things from time to time. I'm waiting for some comments to pour in so I can respond. It's so much fun doing this, until I hit a snag and can't figure out how to correct it without the urgent phone call to Mr. Techy to help me. It always turns out to be something very simple. He's a patient man, let me assure you.

I was beginning to think maybe I'm not such a ditz when along comes that new camera/phone thing with about a thousand "apps". I watched a little girl knee high to a grasshopper use it to "scramble her playlist and share on Facebook." I have no idea what an "app" is, but it will get you everything Google stores, plus modern music or your friends' fine prose — "Wassup?"... "LOL." "OMG", that isn't even English!

So what have I mastered in this new era of technology? One new computer that is conspiring to drive me crazy, two digital cameras that should have made me Mrs. Karsh they are so loaded with gear, three TV remotes, my new Kindle, and my websites to manage. However, I don't know a thing about Facebook, thankfully — social networking is leaving me in the dust. I have no need for "apps" — I don't have a clue about an iPhone, an iPad or an MP3 player. I can't download music nor work a video camera. I love my phone with the cord attached, I light candles when the lights go out, a real conversation beats email any day. I use a pencil, real paper and an envelope for a letter. I find my way with a map. I watch my TV programmes when they are on or not at all. I love a live concert, a trip to the theatre. I can't see my cute little Kindle replacing the personal contact I get in the bookstore, the come-hither scent of new books unread, or the lure of a colourful cover.

The tech stuff is fun, but when the Blackberries went sour a few weeks back, I had a private chuckle. "Put 'em on the shelf, and get out there and live, for heaven's sake!"

Humm Bits

Musicians Wanted!

A new monthly acoustic jam in White Lake is looking for musicians — old time, bluegrass, blues, country, fiddle, folk, gospel and more. They meet on the second Saturday of the month (November 12 and December 10 in 2011), from 7 to 10:30PM, at the White Lake Fire Hall, 142 Burnstown Road. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Singers, pickers and players of all ages are encouraged to come out, and listeners are welcome too, although seating is somewhat limited. For more information, please call Wayne at 256-8675 or David at 623-0567.

Getting the Word Out

Have you ever dreamed of publishing a book, but thought it was impossible? The odds are not good — over 99% of manuscripts are rejected by editors and publishers every year. Unless you're a celebrity or a politician, that dream of seeing your words in print can seem impossible, but as protagonist Simon Peters says in Nerys Parry's debut novel, "sometimes... the unimaginable does happen."

Meet Ottawa author Nerys Parry at Mill Street Books in Almonte on November 24 at 7PM, when she will talk about the pleasures and pitfalls she experienced during her eleven-year journey to bring her novel, *Man and Other Natural Disasters*, to print, and the surprising lessons she learned along the way. Attendees will walk away with tips on how to get their books or stories published, and inspiration to keep their literary dreams alive.

Book Lovers Wanted

Do you love books? When you've read a great book, have you ever wanted to meet the author who wrote it? Ever wanted to hear them read from that book, or maybe ask them if they write in their pajamas?

If you answered "yes" to any two of those questions, you might wish to help out with the **First Edition Reading Series** in Perth.

The series began last January and has flourished, bringing in Governor General award winning authors, Giller nominees, and some of the best and brightest novelists and poets in the country. Participants have included Terry Fallis, Steven Heighton, Zoe Whittall, Tish Cohen, Phil Hall, Rebecca Rosenblum, and Diane Schoemperlen, to name only a few. Coming in November are Metcalf-Rooke award-winner Claire Tacon (*In The Field*) and mystery-thriller writer Andrew Pyper, who has written five international bestselling novels, including his latest, *The Guardians*. (Please see *theHumm* calendar for more details about those readings.)

In the new year, the series will be expanding — more readings, more authors — and with all of these fantastic writers wanting to come to Perth to read, First Edition organizers could use some assistance. If you are interested in helping out on reading nights or volunteering to do some administrative work (no, no... the exciting kind!), please contact John Pigeau at Backbeat Books, Music & Gifts at 466-0663, or by emailing <jpigeau@hotmail.com>.

Many thanks, and happy reading!

2nd Annual Hoot For Hospice

On Saturday, November 12, women from across the Ottawa Valley will be dining and dancing in Renfrew at the 2nd annual Hoot for Hospice, presented by Mulvihill Drug Mart. The event begins at 5PM with decorating your table at the Renfrew Armouries, and will include dinner, live entertainment, dancing, door prizes and both a live and silent auction.

The evening will once again be a ladies-only event to share good food, music, friendship, laughter and fun. Due to popular demand from last year's Hoot, entertainment will be provided by Yellow Brick Road and dinner by Margi's Catering. Teams are asked to come with a team theme, and prizes will be awarded to the best-decorated table at the party.

Proceeds go to Hospice Renfrew — a small, comfortable, home-like palliative care residence that provides end-of-life care to people throughout Renfrew County and the surrounding area who are experiencing life-threatening or terminal illness.

Tickets to this event are \$40 — \$240 for a table of 6 and \$320 for a table of 8 — and are available at Stone Meadows in Renfrew and Mulvihill Drug Mart in Pembroke. Come join in, and let's make Hoot for Hospice 2011 the talk of the town! For more information, visit <hootforhospice.ca> or call Jo-Anne Dowdall-Brown at 432-8080.



Come Join Our Gold Party!

Broken or unused gold jewellery?

Leary of the Travelling "Road Shows"?

Why not join us in a heritage mill setting for one of our popular *Gold Parties*. We pay you the highest cash prices in the market, while you enjoy refreshments in a fun and secure environment.

Contact our hostess, Kathy,
for your exclusive invitation today!

Our next party: Tuesday November 22nd, Almonte
kathyduncan@rogers.com

Alliance Coin & Banknote
88 Mill Street, Almonte
613-256-6785 www.alliancecoin.com



Curiosities
30 Mill St., Almonte
256-7943
Antiques & Collectibles

Small furniture,
old tools, textiles, cameras,
books, military memorabilia,
china and glass

Designs For a Busier Town

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

Dear Miss Write,

I'm writing for design advice. I live in a modest, character-filled old

by Emily Arbour

home. I love home décor, but regardless of how many design magazines I read, I can't seem to get it right. I visit friends' houses and envy the way they are able to pull together a room and reflect their own style in the way they decorate. When I try to funk things up, it ends up looking contrived. What am I doing wrong?

Yours truly,
Design-Challenged

Dear DC,

Decorating a home is harder than it looks. However, I do have a few universal tips I'm happy to share.

If we can learn anything from decorating shows (*even the terrible ones*), it's that a little paint can go a long way. The trick is selecting the right colour. Most people want their homes to feel warm and welcoming, so it's important that you choose a warm palette. It sounds like you want to be able to accessorize, so I would recommend going neutral. I made the mistake of painting my living room turquoise and, as much as I love how it sends a "well *somebody's not afraid of colour*" message to visitors, it really limits the colours I can bring in the room.

Secondly, don't hang your pictures too high. I'm no statistician, but I'd say about 68.35% of all people can't hang pictures to save their lives. When I enter a room and the pictures are too high, I feel inferior. Like, "Oh. What. I'm not good enough to see your pre-

vious artwork?" When hanging yours, stand directly in front of where you think you want it. The middle of the frame should meet the middle of your eye. But only if you want your guests to think you don't hate them.

Now for the bric-a-brac. The miscellaneous curios. That knit cat you brought home from your Mexican honeymoon. There is one golden rule as to how you filter the items that go on display in your house. You have to love it. If your mother gave you a hand-carved mahogany elephant for Christmas and elephants aren't your thing, please don't put it on your mantle. Put it in a shoebox under the guest bed and allow it to make an appearance on the bedside table when she comes to visit.

With the items you *do* love, create vignettes. Display them together in clusters and consider things like lighting and height to create dimension and interest. Put a lamp on a table alongside a small standing frame, a vase and that so-ugly-it's-cute cat on an overturned old crate.

And just like that you've mastered the art of home décor.

Meow, Miss Write

Dear Miss Write,

I volunteer with a group that promotes our local downtown. This year, more than ever, we have been attracting a great number of visitors from all over. Everywhere that is, except our own backyard. Sure, there are the regular local shoppers, but there are so many more who only make a trip downtown when they are entertaining tourists, if ever.

How do we small-town downtowns get more locals to shop and eat locally, year-round so that these businesses can stay alive?

I have long been contemplating a plan that would see me going door-to-door, but I haven't had that kind of time since... well, since never.

Advice?
A Puzzled Downtowner

Dear PD,

As a former shop owner and small-town resident myself, I have a pretty well-rounded perspective on this matter. Unfortunately, if I had the answer, I most certainly would have done something about it while I still owned my business... but that doesn't mean I don't have some ideas. We need to figure out where these locals are shopping if not at home. Is it the big box stores? The malls? Other small towns? Wherever it is, what do they offer that you don't? When you take away the historic scenery and first class ticket to heaven everyone who contributes to a small town's economy is promised, what else are consumers looking for?

Without having done any real research (*it's hardly necessary when you know everything*), I think it's safe to say that it is convenience, cost, and variety of products and services (or CCVPS) that matter most. I don't care how passionate anyone is about the "shop local" movement. If the stores are closed at four o'clock on a Friday, you can't find what you're looking for, and if the same item costs significantly less at Bayshore, it's not likely business will repeat. But, if the shops are consistently open and carry interesting products at reasonable prices? (*Note: they don't even have to be reasonable if the stuff is cool enough.*) Now you've got something.

So talk about it. Remind locals that one of the best things about being local is having a downtown they can be proud of. Get together and start dreaming up creative ways to get the good word out. Maybe it's a mailer that goes out to every home with a directory of all the shops and services. An invitation to a restaurant crawl. A challenge encouraging locals to

do their holiday shopping within a 5km radius of their homes.

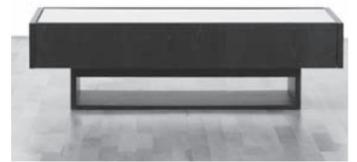
Whatever it is, decide and own it. Then do it.

And if not everyone wants to participate, get together with the ones who do and do it anyway.

Sincerely, Miss Write
— Emily Arbour is a freelance writer (among other things) who lives and works in Almonte, Ontario. By no means is she an expert in anything but having an opinion and making things up. You can go ahead and take her advice, but you'd probably do just as well asking your mailman why your modem kicks out every time you try to mail in your column. Only difference is he doesn't have a column in this fine publication.



A self-described expert in home décor (among many, many other things), Miss Write does not advise hanging your paintings and photographs so high that you give your guests the impression that they're just not good enough (or tall enough) to appreciate your good taste (see above, but do not emulate). She does recommend making vignettes from your bric-a-brac (especially if you are choc-a-bloc with bric-a-brac... see below left)



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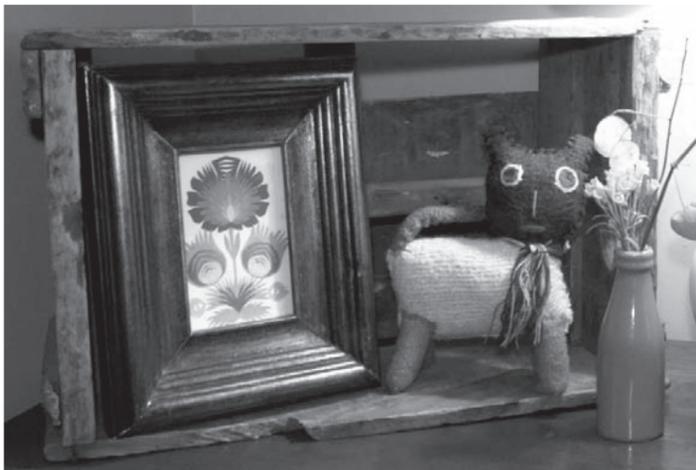
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Heidi Stepanek as Reno Sweeney belts out a tune in rehearsal for PCC's 30th anniversary production of Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*. It will be performed at the Mason Theatre in PDCI on November 3-6 and 10-12

Anything Goes in Perth!

2011 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the **Perth Community Choir** producing exciting big-cast musical theatre featuring local artists. Cole Porter's classic *Anything Goes* will be brought to life by the singing, dancing and acting of the talented and energetic cast directed by David Bird, accompanied by an outstanding group of musicians led by Peter Woodwark. As the S.S. American heads out to sea, two unlikely pairs set off on the course to true love... proving that sometimes destiny needs a little help from a crew of singing sailors, an exotic disguise, and some good old-fashioned blackmail. Peppering this hilariously bumpy ride are some of musical theatre's most memorable standards including *I Get a Kick out of You*, *It's De-Lovely*, and of course, *Anything Goes*.

Anything Goes on stage at the Mason Theatre at PDCI on November 3, 4, 5 and 10, 11, 12 at 8PM, with a matinee on Sunday, November 6, at 2PM. Tickets are \$22 and available at Tickets Please! by calling 485-6434, visiting <ticketsplease.ca>, or stopping by Jo's Clothes on Foster Street in Perth. There is special pricing for the Thursday evening performances of \$12 for children under 14 accompanied by an adult, or anyone with a valid student ID.

theHummm Interview

Those Who Can, Write Plays

Marianne Mullan Directs Own Play at EODL

Over the past few months, amateur theatre troupes have been gearing up for the annual Eastern Ontario Drama League (EODL) One-Act Play Festival. This year's festival is being held at Perth's Studio Theatre from November 11 to 13, and features several en-

explore your characters in a more meaningful way.

Why did you choose to explore the theme of bullying? Were you drawing on any personal experience?

This is a very personal play. I have written it using either my own experiences or ones that I have witnessed in my job as a supply teacher in local schools. Unfortunately, many of us have been bullied in school. High school, especially, is a horrible time that you somehow must live through. Your only hope is to find your group (for me, it was the drama nerds) because there is safety in numbers. I am very fond of "The Ugly Duckling" story. Many of us aren't ducks. We're swans. It often takes time to realize that. However, for all too many teens, it's hard to accept that things will get better one day.

What kind of impact do you hope the play has on those who see it? Would you like to see it produced by others in the future?

I hope that people will understand that bullying affects you for life. Many people I know can't remember any science or math equations from high school, but they can still tell you the name of their bully and what was done to them over the years. Not surprisingly, the bully often forgets about his or her behaviour, but the victim carries it with them for life. Yes, I would like the play to be produced by others in order to spread the word that the education system needs to recognize all forms of bullying and to ensure that they are not tolerated.

You are working with two seasoned amateur actresses — what has their involvement brought to the process?

I am so blessed to be able to work with my outstanding team:

Kate McDonough, Carolyn Lawrence, and producer Tove Hunding (and my son Glen as my sound and light guy during the performances). They are all so hard-working and immensely talented. Kate and Carolyn have discovered qualities in their characters that I hadn't recognized until they began this journey with me. I am very proud of them and look forward to working with them all again.

Why have you chosen to premier the play as part of the EODL festival rather than on its own in a non-competitive environment?

I really don't worry that this is a competitive event, but I do like that my play will be seen by a large and knowledgeable audience. This is very rewarding. Frankly, if we don't win anything during the event, I'll still be extremely proud of our team. When you are adjudicated (this is our third year in the competition), you are told what you did right and what you could improve upon. However, sometimes I look at what they say as just their opinion and I am content with my choices. I am of the opinion that you have to take a stand based on the availability of your resources and what your cast and crew are comfortable doing. This is, after all, a community production, and the input I receive from Kate, Carolyn and Tove is equally valuable. Having said all this, depending on what is said after our performance, I might alter some of the play in order to make it more agreeable to a wider audience. We'll see.

For tickets or more information about this year's Eastern Ontario Drama League One-Act Play Festival, please visit <studiotheatreperth.com> or call 326-0437.

by Kris Riendeau

tries by troupes from the Valley, Ottawa, and as far away as Peterborough and Haliburton. And while most directors have chosen to produce plays written by established playwrights, Marianne Mullan from the **Valley Players** of Almonte has both written and directed her play, entitled *Those Who Can, Do*. The principal character is a supply teacher who is still haunted by having been the victim of bullies as a child. Marianne, herself a supply teacher, spoke to *theHummm* about undertaking this very personal project.

TheHummm: As I understand it, most directors in the EODL one-act competition are working with plays written by other people. What motivated you to write and direct your own show?

Marianne Mullan: I find that there are very few plays written in which middle-aged women are the sole characters, and because this demographic is the usual one to come out to our auditions, I decided to write my own play. Furthermore, I have been meaning to write my own play for years now and the time was right. As for directing it, this is the third one I've directed for the EODL. I love working on a one-act play with a limited number of actors. This way, you can really

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Classic British Comedy Never Grows Old...

... especially when it's *A Month of Sundays*, about two British gentlemen who are, well, growing old.

This award winning comedy by renowned playwright Bob Larbey has been performed around the world since it was written in 1985. And the latest production opens at the Studio Theatre in Perth on November 24.

Norma Cummings, a veteran actor who has lately turned her hand to directing, says her actors have truly captured the essence of Bob Larbey's comedy.

A Month of Sundays is a bittersweet emotional rollercoaster ride — plenty of laughs, but some tears, too — as it looks into a future we may not all want to acknowledge: the realities of aging. And most of the actors don't need to put on British accents — the two leads are Brits themselves.

Well-known local actor David Parry and Kanata's Barry Caiger play Cooper and Aylott, two retirement home residents facing the challenges of the aging process. Cooper is frail but with a sound mind, while Aylott is fit as a fiddle, but acquiring a few "cobwebs in the attic." The story revolves around the monthly visits from Cooper's daughter and son-in-law, who would frankly prefer not to make the trip. But Cooper and his family endure the obligatory visits — on the first Sunday of each month — and eventually there is a satisfying meeting of the family's hearts and minds.

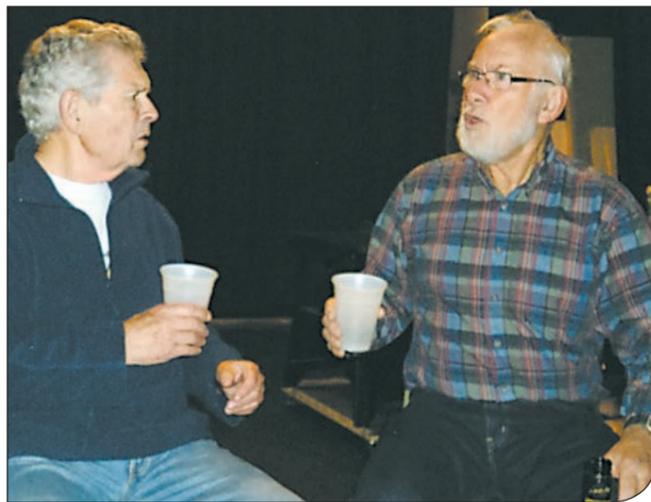
Throughout, there are touching moments as Cooper's protective shield of acid wit is lowered in scenes with young Nurse Wilson (played by Perth newcomer Sidney Wilson), who is closer to Cooper than his own daughter, and Mrs. Baker, the home's cleaning lady (stage veteran and fellow Brit, Janet Rice of Carleton Place). *A Month of Sundays* also stars Lombardy's Brenda Reinkeluers as Cooper's daughter Julia, and Perth actor Alfred Von Mirbach as the son-in-law, Peter.

Director Norma Cummings says the show is for everyone who loves live theatre with heart. "It's about relationships we can all relate to. It's funny, poignant and honest."

The play's author, Bob Larbey, is one of Britain's foremost comedy scriptwriters. He is perhaps best known for the acclaimed TV series *A Fine Romance*, starring Dame Judi Dench and Michael Williams, which won both the Broadcasting Press Guild Award and the Pye Award for Best Comedy of 1982. *A Month of Sundays* won the London Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy of 1986.

A Month of Sundays is on stage at the Studio Theatre in Perth November 24 to 26, and December 2 and 3, at 8PM. There are Sunday matinées on November 27 and December 4 at 2PM.

Tickets are available in Perth at the Book Nook (cash only) and at Tickets Please (485-6434), which accepts credit cards and phone orders. A convenience fee applies. For students with ID, tickets (at the door only) are just \$10. For more details, please visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.



Barry Caiger and David Parry must feel like they've been in rehearsal for *A Month of Sundays*... Fortunately, the show opens in Perth on November 24!



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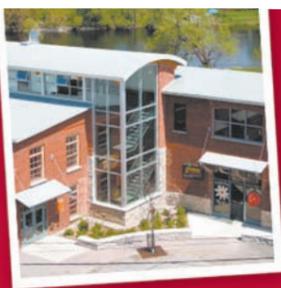
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A Magical Place

The magic of the holiday season has so much to do with special, feel good traditions. With so many options in Mississippi Mills, dare we mention again how lucky we are to live here?

Almost fourteen years ago we moved to Mississippi Mills when our children were five and one. The holiday season has always been special for our family as we have a roster of local activities planned. We're big fans of this season so we always have decorations out before anyone has finished their Halloween candy. One of our favourite holiday traditions has been to visit the **Mill of Kintail Country Christmas** celebration. Father Christmas, stories by the fire, and a sleigh ride are just a few of the good reasons to enjoy this special weekend at Mill of Kintail. As we have mentioned in previous Humm issues, the Mill of Kintail is a wonderful place to visit in the colder months. The trails are groomed throughout the winter for hiking, snow shoeing, and skiing. Wear your woollies and bring your family out for hot apple cider and laughter December 10, 10AM to 4PM. It is \$15 per vehicle plus bring some extra change for yummy snacks. See you there!



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Stop & Smell the Chocolate

Turn On, Tune in, Burn Out

Ok... seriously people. People... seriously. We cannot keep going like this. And by "we" I mean me, but I mean you too. Well, some of you.

I have written about dealing with stress, savouring the joys in life and seeing the cup half full (or car half paid). But do I listen to my own advice? No I do not.

I am writing this column at the last minute because, to be honest,

more peace, but I like to make up for that by constantly arguing with myself (there's that Crazy Line again). So I decided to stop beating myself up. There would be no plans to renovate the entire house, doomed to fail before they begin. No commitments, even to myself, to stress over.

Step 3: Calm Home, Calm Mind? Worth a shot. Your home should welcome you with open arms, and those arms should not be full of To Do lists and remonstrations. In other words, the first thing you see upon entering should not be dirty dishes and laundry and papers to file... nor should it be the obvious yard work you've been avoiding (such as downed trees and partly dug garden edging). You get the picture.

Step 4: Get Some Help. I was too cheap for a therapist, but bought Deepak Chopra's Stress Free app for my iPhone and *The Relaxation & Stress Reduction Workbook*, and listened a CD of Eckhart Tolle's *A New Earth* that a friend had given me. Having these resources made me feel like I had an arsenal at my disposal with which to fight stress — ahem — I mean, to embrace relaxation. And to be honest, I think that bombarding my mind with all of these ideas was the biggest help (aside from the actual time off), as it allowed me to feel like I was actually doing something (instead of waiting to feel better) and reminded me that how I feel is completely reliant on me.

Step 4b: A Little Help from Your Friends. The ever-helpful internet was pretty firm in its belief that you should *not* isolate yourself in these situations, so I made sure to keep in touch with friends.

Step 5: Have Some Fun! I gave some thought to what I enjoyed doing, and did a little bit of everything: took a road trip, went on a nature walk, read a novel, dined with friends, sang in the car, watched movies, ate good food, attended a concert, redecorated, played Dance Dance Revolution and Rock Band, and just generally had a good time. When I caught myself breaking into song in the shower, I knew my plan was working.

Step 6: Be Patient. By day 3, I was thinking "Am I relaxed yet?... How about now?!" I do not think this helped. But on day 6, I felt my shoulders begin to relax, and day 7 was sublime.

And now, after a full week back to regular life? I'm good. My shoulders still relax on command and I take time for self-care, like getting to bed in good time and playing badminton. My only medication: one chocolate truffle per day. So far, so good.

I share all of this with you because I know there are some who are going through similar stressful times. We are so damned busy these days — e-calendars allow us to schedule every minute. It's easy to get wrapped up in the day-to-day and forget the big picture. If my article has made one of you smile or take time for yourself, I am a happy camper. And hey, I smiled several times in writing this, so... success!!

by Rona Fraser

I wasn't sure how my month would turn out. Would I be happily skipping down the road, smiling at squirrels and waving at children? Or would I be rocking in the corner of a rubber room, talking to an imaginary squirrel about the children who were coming to eat my brains?

You see, by the end of September, I was feeling completely overwhelmed. It was not the fault of any one job or volunteer commitment or person — wait, yes it was — it was MY fault. But hey, let's not play the blame game.

So, there I was, going from one commitment to another, taking no time to myself to simply relax. I even lost the *ability* to relax. What the?! How does that *happen*?! Well it did. On the rare day that I had completely free (about once a month), I felt completely lost and tense. How did I deal with this inability to mentally handle days off? I stopped taking them! Problem solved.

Wake up!!

Then I had a bit of a wake-up call. No, it wasn't when I could no longer digest wheat. Nor when I realized I was always exhausted. It was when I was volunteering at a local event in September, buzzing around, taking care of last minute details, and a friend stopped me and said "Smile..."

I tried... but I couldn't. Well, I could, but it was kind of a sickly will-you-leave-me-alone-now smile, which felt a little too close to crazy and lasted only a second. I knew something was very wrong — I'd long prided myself as someone who could keep their cool in high-pressure situations, with a friendly smile for everyone.

So there I was, seeing the Crazy Line approach, and wondering if I would step over it. What to do... Google it, of course!! Or see a therapist, but the internet is cheaper. So the world wide web diagnosed me with burnout (and a bunch of other things — do not self-diagnose with the internet, boys and girls.) and I devised a cunning plan. A plan so crazy, it just might work...

Step 1: Take a Week Off! Well, the internet recommends more than one week, but maybe the internet should take a reality check! With several jobs and volunteer commitments, arranging seven days off in a row is an achievement.

Step 2: Cut Yourself Some Slack. Some may think that living alone means

On Stage For Kids

On Stage For Kids is proud to once again present a fun-filled season of entertainment to the families of Almonte and surrounding areas. They are a non-profit organization whose goal is to provide quality entertainment for children and their families. Run by a committee of volunteers, On Stage For Kids has been offering family-friendly entertainment since 1987. The series is comprised of four engaging shows for children aged two to ten.

First up, on November 20, is the nearly world-famous **Dufflebag Theatre**, presenting their version of the Christmas classic, *A Christmas Carol*. Audience members are asked to come up on stage and join in the action as Dufflebag Theatre takes the story through some unexpected twists and turns. The show promises to be a fun and humorous way to start the holiday season.

The series continues into the new year with **Waterwood Theatre Projects** and their January 29 presentation of *Mouse Tales*. Using traditional

hand puppets, mouth puppets and a variety of sets and props, fun characters relate stories on traditional cat and mouse themes. Children and adults alike are sure to be entertained, and the show's use of both verbal and non-verbal presentation makes it accessible to all.

February 26 is sure to be a thrilling show as On Stage For Kids welcomes **Aboriginal Experiences** and their presentation, *The Gift*. Using mask and movement, the performers share with the audience the traditional Algonquin legend of how the eagle was given his white head. Following this, the audience will be treated to a Spirit of Dance, featuring contemporary movement, scripted narration, and performances of Pow Wow dance.

The season wraps up on March 25 with ventriloquist **Tim Holland's** show, *The Puppet Tamer*. Through magic, juggling, clowning and audience participation, the dangers of taming ferocious and uncooperative puppets will become evident to the audience.

All shows take place at 2PM at Naismith Memorial Public School, 260 King Street, Almonte. Tickets are available at Kentfield Kids in Almonte, Read's Book Shop in Carleton Place, and at the door on show days. A series pass is \$22 for a single pass or \$75 for a family pass; individual tickets are \$9. Further information about On Stage For Kids can be found at <onstageforkids.com>. If you're interested in being part of the backstage action and excitement, the committee would love to welcome you as a new member. Please contact Karen at 451-0323.



Tim Holland brings *The Puppet Tamer* to Almonte as part of this year's On Stage For Kids season

Ottawa Grows Up – And Out

Should we fear the spreading behemoth? Only time and Alain Miguelez will be able to tell us. On November 25, Mr. Miguelez, planner for the City of Ottawa, will speak at the Almonte Lecture Series. (This lecture was to have taken place last season, but weather intervened, and the lecture was rescheduled.)

Watching our own community expand into a veritable outreach of Ottawa is enough to make us aware of the giant on our doorstep. Seeing how the planning process affects City of Ottawa growth should be of interest to those whose work takes them daily into the city, and to those who have exchanged the urban lifestyle for a smaller centre. Mr. Miguelez has been part of the planning process and will provide insight into the growth, both negative and positive, of Ottawa as it has transitioned from

a small city into an urban centre with the largest land mass of any major city in Canada.

The dichotomy of urban and rural interests makes the planning of Ottawa a particularly interesting project. Structuring suburban growth, transportation systems, infill projects, and commercial development while dealing with three levels of government pose difficulties that planners have to consider.

As always, Almonte Lecture Series organizer Don Wiles has chosen someone with great expertise to deliver an evening of thoughtful information. The lecture will be held at 7:30PM on Friday, November 25, at Almonte United Church. Although there is no admission charge, your donations keep the series alive.

— Glenda Jones

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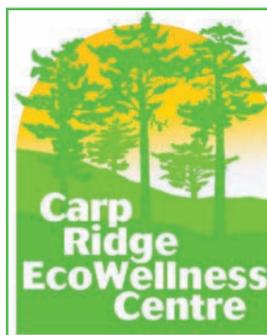
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EODL One-Act Festival

A Weekend of Quality Entertainment

The Eastern Ontario Drama League One-Act Play Festival is shaping up as an outstanding event with a number of award winning community theatre companies from all over Eastern Ontario taking part. Some are longtime participants, some are recent, and one is a new entrant. Plays range from comedies, both light and dark, to dramas, to a murder mystery — a great weekend of quality entertainment.

Ottawa Little Theatre has been presenting its high quality entries since 2002, and last year swept the awards in five major categories including Best Production and Best Director. This year they will present *The Third Life of Eddie Mann*, an award winning play by New Brunswick author John Spurway, about a former school teacher who is about to kill himself by jumping from the 6th floor of a hospital.

Tara Players is a long-time participant in the one-act festival and also the recipient of numerous awards. Their entry, *Bedtime Story* by Sean O'Casey, concerns a respectable young man, John Jo, who wakens to find himself beside Angela, a flirtatious woman who is not at all cooperative about leaving before she is discovered.

Theatre Night in Merrickville returns to the festival after a hiatus of three years. This small company has won numerous awards including Best Production. This year, they present Daniel MacIvor's *This is a Play*, a tongue-in-cheek look at a theatrical production.

The Peterborough Theatre Guild is also a regular participant and, along with winning many awards themselves, they have donated an adjudicator's award to the festival. They will present *House*, a thought provoking one-man play, also by Daniel MacIvor.

Kemptville Players are another regular in the festival, and this year present the classic *Trifles*, a murder drama that proves the old adage that little things mean a lot.

Studio Theatre in Perth has taken the opportunity to present two plays for this festival. A relative newcomer to EODL, they have come on the scene with a bang, winning awards in each of the two festivals they have entered. This year they present Norm Foster's *A Christmas Tree*, a lighthearted comedy in which two strangers arrive at a tree lot on Christmas Eve and find only one tree left for sale. And because the festival was one entry short, Studio Theatre took the opportunity to reprise the first act of their popular summer production: *Mail-Order Annie* by Carl Cashin. This act had originally been a one-act play.

The Valley Players of Almonte are also relative newcomers to the festival, but have distinguished themselves well. They will present *Those Who Can, Do*, an original play by Marianne Mullan.

Highlands Little Theatre from Haliburton is making its debut in this festival with a challenging drama-turned-farce: *Gosforth's Fete* by Alan Ayckbourn.

Plays are presented on November 11 and 12, with an awards brunch on Sunday, November 13. Tickets for this exciting event are \$15 per session or \$45 for all three sessions. There are also tickets available for the awards brunch at \$30 and for the hospitality suites following the performances at \$5 each. There is an \$80 package deal that includes all sessions, the brunch and two hospitality suites. Tickets must be purchased by cash or cheque (no credit or debit payments please) from the Studio Theatre. Cheques should be made payable to Studio Theatre and sent to PO Box 611, Perth, ON K7H 3K4. Tickets may be picked up at the box office on Friday afternoon on November 11 and Saturday, November 12, between 9AM and 7PM. These will not be mailed out. For further information see the Studio Theatre website <studiotheatreperth.com> or call 326-0437.

Standing Room Only!

On Sunday, November 27, you can combine a scenic late fall afternoon drive to Almonte with dancing to one of the area's best big bands, in an authentic period setting. The second tea dance of the season will be held from 1 to 4PM in the Old Town Hall at 14 Bridge Street in Almonte. This is the sixth season of these very popular dances, which are hosted by the well-known fifteen-piece big band Standing Room Only, with vocalist Sandy

Faux. The doors open at 12:30PM and admission is \$10 at the door (cash only) plus a \$2 building improvement surcharge. Reservations are not required. Light refreshments will be available at very reasonable prices. The Almonte Old Town Hall has its own parking lot, and there's plenty of additional parking on nearby streets. For more information, visit <roteadances.org>.

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More Theatre News!

Well things start off with a rush this month, on November 5 at 2PM and 8PM, in Perth's newest venue, The Full Circle Theatre. They bring to their stage the first of what we hope will be an ongoing series of cooperative ventures with other companies in our area. The **Mississippi Mudds Youth Troupe**

by Ian Doig

is bringing their production of William Shakespeare's *MacBeth* to the Full Circle for two performances on one day only. Call 267-1884 or visit <barndoorproductions.ca> for more information. Based on feedback from people who saw this production in Carleton Place, this is a truly spectacular performance, and a wonderful way to introduce young people (although not small children, due to the nature of the play) to Shakespeare.

Over in Almonte, the **Valley Players** are changing some of the performance dates for their production of *Naismith Is Colourblind and He Can't Drive*. The dinner-theatre-with-vignettes performance at the Civitan Hall on November 5 has been can-

celled, and instead another full performance has been added at the Almonte Old Town Hall. There will still be 7:30PM shows on Friday, November 11 and Saturday the 12th, and now there will also be a 2PM matinee on Sunday, November 13. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7 for children and youth, and \$35 for families, and are available at Mill Street Books, the Pakenham General Store, and the Information Centre at the Old Town Hall.

Seeing we're in the swing of things now, here are a few items coming up at the beginning of December. At 7:30PM on December 1, 2 and 3, the young performers of the **Perth Academy of Musical Theatre** are presenting their take on that old favourite, *Guys and Dolls*, on their stage at the Myriad Centre, followed a week later by *GLEE*. Tickets are \$10, and please call 267-9610 for more details.

On the audition front, **Studio Theatre Productions** is announcing new audition dates for *An Inspector Calls*: October 31 and November 2. They will be held at the Studio Theatre Perth at 7PM. For details contact David Parry at 326-0426 or <david_parry@sympatico.ca>.

And finally, **BarnDoor Productions** is preparing its Christmas show and it's not too late to get involved! It's David Jacklin's original adaptation of Charles Dickens's "other" Christmas story, *The Chimes*. This will be an exciting, musical, multi-media production that is bursting with energy, and will be mounted in the Full Circle Theatre, BDP's new home. For more info please contact <barndoorproductions-theatre@gmail.com>.

Editor's note: for full articles about other productions taking place in November, please see pages 6, 10, 12, 21, 30, 31 and 34. There really is a lot going on!



New Performance Dates!

After a hugely successful but short run in Carleton Place, the Mudds Youth Troupe (above) will be taking their production of *MacBeth* to Perth for two shows on November 5. The Valley Players of Almonte have also added a date to the run of *Naismith Is Colourblind and He Can't Drive* — there will now be a matinee on Sunday, November 13.

Military Talk and Display

The **North Lanark Regional Museum** will be hosting a talk entitled "Proudly She Served: Women in the Military 1885-1945" on Sunday, November 6, at 2PM. The talk will be given by Ottawa historian Glenn Wright, author of *Canadians at War, 1914-1919: A Research Guide to World War One Service Records*, and numerous other family history and genealogy articles. He is currently preparing research guides to Canadian involvement in the South African War (1899-1902), and to the Nursing Sisters and other Canadian women who served in the First World War.

In addition, the museum will be opening its annual military display. This year's focus is on the service men and women from the local area who participated in World War II. Included in the display are the recently donated artifacts belonging to Dr. Fred Snedden, who served with the Army Medical Corps in India and Burma during the war and was decorated for his service. Dr. Snedden was born in Pakenham and had a medical practice in Almonte from 1948 to 1954.

The military exhibit will be open from 11AM to 4PM on weekends during November or by appointment. The North Lanark Regional Museum is at 647 River Road in Appleton. For more information on the talk and display, contact <appletonmuseum@hotmail.com> or 256-4221.

Join Us!

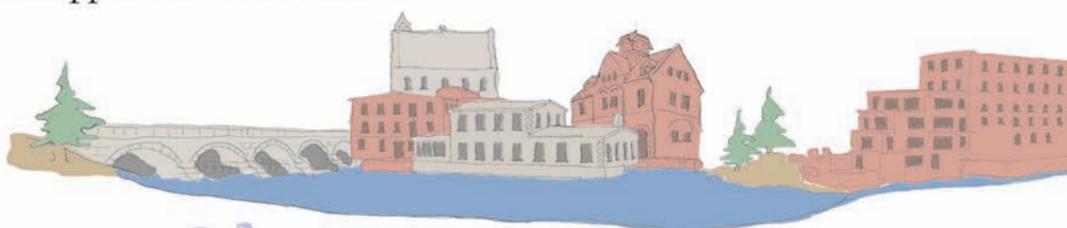
BUSINESS AWARDS GALA

Wednesday, November 16, 6PM
Almonte Civitan Hall

The Mississippi Mills Chamber of Commerce invites you to join us in celebrating the individuals and businesses that showcase the energy and entrepreneurial spirit of our community.

The award program includes a buffet dinner, Peter Brown on keyboard, and will feature guest speaker Michelle Valberg, award winning Canadian photographer known for her creativity, entrepreneurial spirit and community commitment.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of 8 and are available through Don's Meat Market in Almonte, Nicholson's in Pakenham and online at MississippiMills.com/events/.



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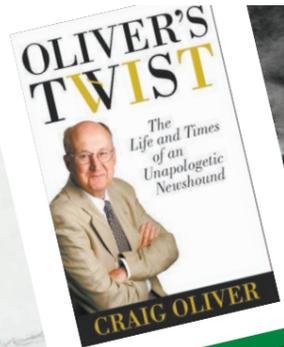
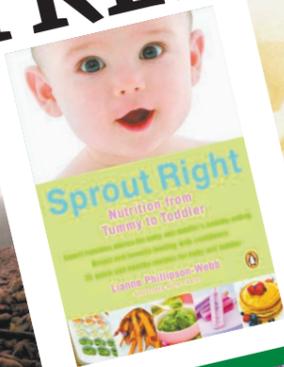
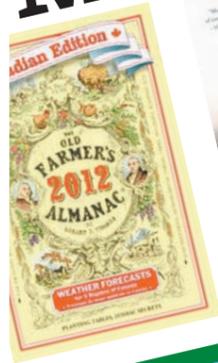


Awards

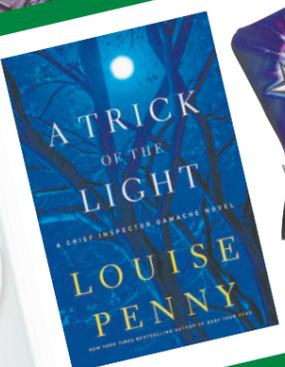
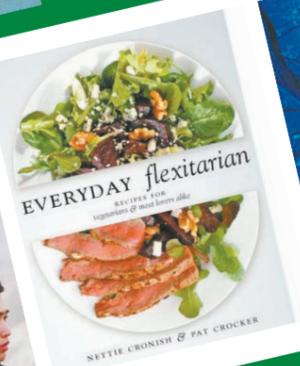
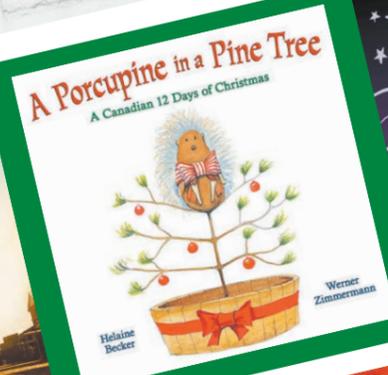
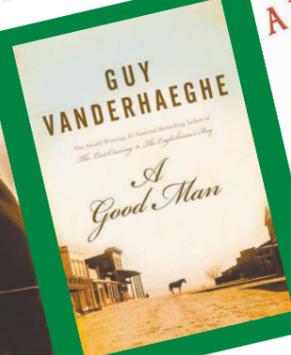
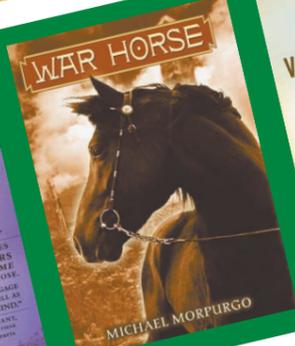
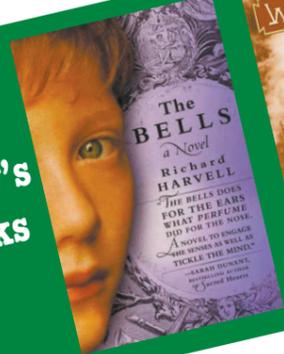
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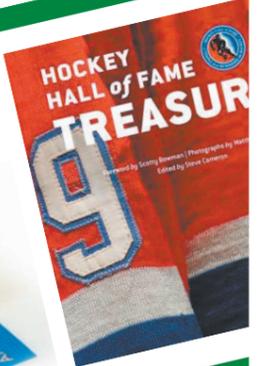
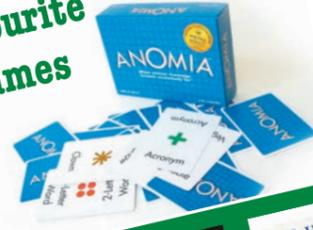
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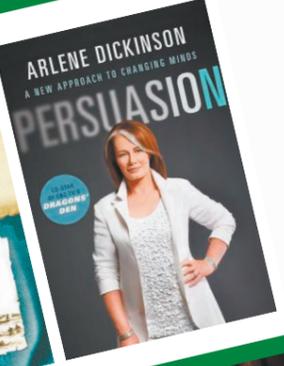
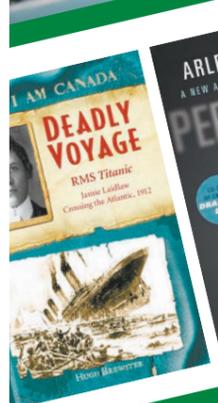
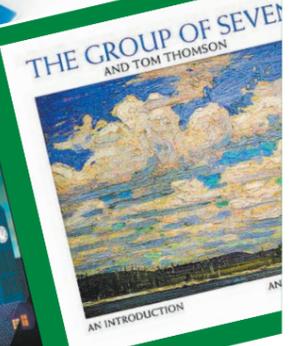
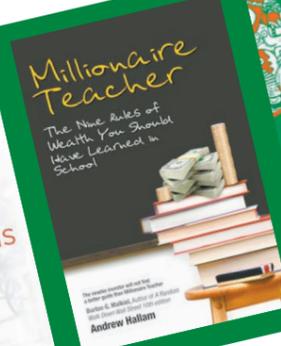
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Picks



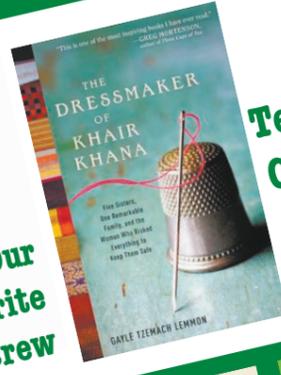
Mary's
Favourite
Games



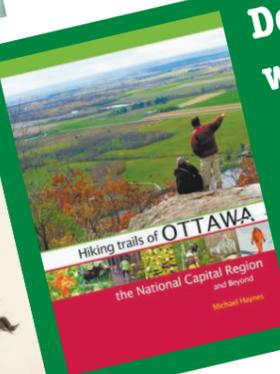
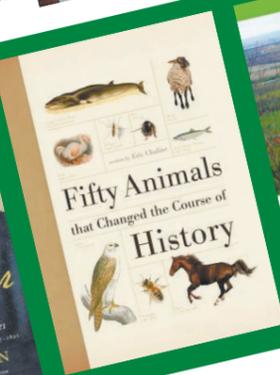
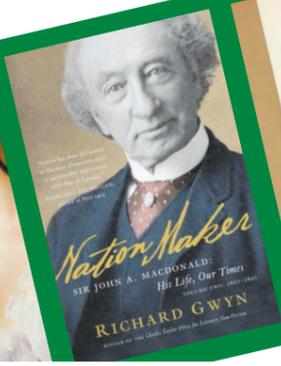
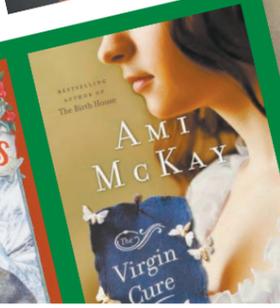
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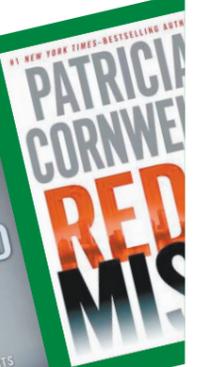
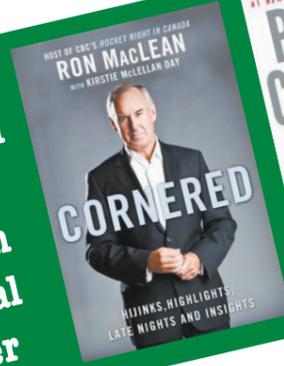
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