

NOVEMBER 2024

the Hummm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas



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November's Events



The 2024 Gift Giving Guide



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The Wizard Is... Odd!?



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Winter Wonderettes



The Art of Shane Belanger p.3



Patrick Kelly
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Bring Some Drama into Your Life!

The November calendar is replete with offerings from community theatre troupes throughout the area. From original musicals to hilarious comedies, there's something to tickle every fancy. And if you get a dramatic urge to "play" along, give me a call!

Pat's Picks: *Sex Please, We're Sixty* by Rural Root Theatre, Nov. 5-10

The Wizard Is... Odd?! in Almonte, Nov. 8-17

A Christmas Carol by Perth Community Choir, Nov. 14-17

The Winter Wonderettes by Studio Theatre Perth, Nov. 28 - Dec. 8

Seasons of Love a Mississippi Mudds showcase, Nov. 29 & 30

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Calling All Christmas Stocking Stuffers!

It's that time of year! The Lanark County Food Bank — The Hunger Stop is already preparing to put a little Christmas cheer in client's homes with its 16th annual Sandy Claus Stocking Drive.

The Sandy Claus Stocking Drive was started by Sandy Schappert sixteen years ago — an idea sparked when her late husband Hank remarked while volunteering at the Food Bank that recipients often said: "this is the only gift I get to open on Christmas morning."

"Collecting stockings begins right after Thanksgiving because with clients only coming in once a month, we have to start distributing in mid-November to be sure everyone has a happy Christmas morning," explains Tammy Parent, LCFB Manager.

Stockings can be filled with toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, multi-blade razors, nail file, nail clippers, shaving cream, after-shave lotion, moisturizing lotion, loofa, hairbrush, comb, dental floss, deodorant, and soaps of all kinds. Sweet treats are always popular too!

If you'd like to donate a stocking full of toiletries and goodies, please mark them His, Hers, or Either, and drop them off at the Food Bank Donations and Deliveries door on Monday or Wednesday from 9:30AM to noon, Thursday from 4–6PM, or Sunday from 1–3 PM, at 84 Mill Street in Carleton Place, or contact Lynn at <lynnyoungusband@gmail.com>.

Your generosity will put a smile in someone's heart Christmas morning!



Who's Reading theHumm

Tony Sharpe sent in this photo of him looking very sharp indeed, and wrote: "It seems theHumm enjoys cosmic fame... Doctor Who's home planet Gallifrey is millions of years and light years away from Almonte. But when he heard about this thing called Humm, the Doctor travelled in his space-time vessel TARDIS to investigate.

For the uninitiated, TARDIS (Time And Relative Dimension In Space) is huge – it's "dimensionally transcendental" (i.e., much bigger inside than out). Wherever it lands it's supposed to disguise itself as something so ordinary that nobody notices it. It landed in 1960's Britain once and disguised itself as a police box like this. Unfortunately, its "chameleon circuit" broke down and ever since it has been unable to change its appearance..."



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

Submissions

By email or on disk.

Content Deadline:

20th of the month prior to publication

Advertising Deadline:

22nd of the month prior to publication

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Subscribe to Hummail — it's Free!

Do you know about our weekly e-newsletter called "Hummail"? We use it to further promote independent local performers, creators, businesses and community initiatives. It's also a great reminder of what's coming up on the weekend, in case someone has stolen your copy of theHummm...

So far we have sent out over 220 editions of Hummail, and we have over 1800 subscribers.

We would love it if you would subscribe too, and we promise not to share your email address with anyone. You can subscribe at <thehummm.com>, or by emailing <kris@thehummm.com>.

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CP Gallery, Carleton Place
Ongoing



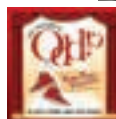
Eastern Ontario Drama League One Act Play Festival
Studio Theatre Perth
November 1-3



Turpin's Trail
Zion Memorial United Church
Carleton Place
November 3



Campbell Woods
Art house music series
CP Gallery, Carleton Place
November 7



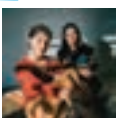
The Wizard Is...Odd?!
A Hummm Team Production
Almonte Old Town Hall
November 8-17



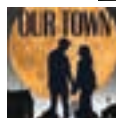
Derek Seguin
Stand up comedy
Studio Theatre Perth
November 9



delve
with Rose Graceling-Moore & Hypatia Rae
Almonte Readers & Writers
November 14



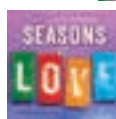
Tragedy Ann
Sublime vocal harmonies
Music at MERA
November 16



North Grenville Community Theatre Our Town
Kemptville
November 21-24



Winter Wonderettes
presented by
Studio Theatre Perth
November 28-December 8



Seasons of Love
A Mississippi Mudds Showcase
Carleton Place Town Hall
November 29 & 30



Learning Again in Almonte
Lectures and Classes
Almonte
Ongoing



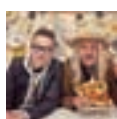
The Second Wife's Story
Step back in time
Matheson House, Perth
November 2, 16 & 30



Sex Please, We're Sixty
Rural Root Theatre
Constance Bay
November 5-10



Lanark County Interval House
Violet Femmes Gala
Almonte Civitan Hall
November 8



Danny Michel & Steve Poltz
Together again!
St. Paul's, Perth
November 8



Serenity and Shift
One-day retreat
Carleton Place
November 10



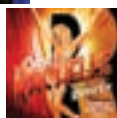
Fundraiser Concert
for the South Lanark Community Garden
Perth
November 15



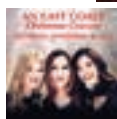
The Great Escaper
Mississippi Mills Film Society
St. Andrew's, Pakenham
November 17



Real Love
Tribute to Kenny Rogers & Dolly Parton
St. Paul's United, Perth
November 23



Cabaret Rachelle
Celebrate with The Hub/Rebound
Almonte Civitan Hall
November 29



The Ennis Sisters
An East Coast Christmas
St. Paul's United, Perth
November 30

Shane Belanger — Having a Whale of a Time

Pareidolia is the tendency to see faces or other patterns in response to an ambiguous visual stimulus. If you've ever spotted a hidden dragon in the clouds, or the man in the moon, you've experienced pareidolia.

Blacksmith artist Shane Belanger uses his extraordinary gift for detecting elusive creatures in the random patterns of wood. The Lanark Highlands artist exploits his innate ability to create striking wooden and steel sculptures. He combines incredibly shaped

Just six years ago, Shane's wife Janice Egan gifted him with a three-day iron forging class. In two years he would be retiring from an arduous and highly stressful career as a project manager responsible for major industrial construction projects. He was battling an alcohol addiction, and at loose ends. The gift changed his life. By the end of the three days he knew he had found his future. He bought the propane forge, anvil, hammer and tongs that he needed, and began to practice. He started by fashioning red-hot steel into hooks and other basic objects. From his construction work he understood the science of steel — how to manipulate and change it. He watched the History Channel's "Forged In Fire" blacksmithing competitions. And he "practiced and practiced and practiced" to attain the skill required to fashion red-hot steel into the shapes he envisioned.

Eventually Belanger tired of making swords and hooks and metal bowls. He loved wood, and after

by Sally Hansen

pieces of live-edge wood with hand-forged steel adornments such as teeth and fangs, creating inspired renditions of whales and fish and birds.

Some are massive — seven feet long and very whale-like! Most impressive is how natural, how organic, how perfectly at home they look hanging in a completely unnatural setting. They are awesome; each is a beautiful tribute to the wondrous creatures who share our fragile world, and to Shane's innate artistry.

Belanger's work is bold but meticulous. It is hard to keep your fingers off his compelling figures. Fortunately, you don't have to. They are configured to withstand above-freezing outdoor weather, and many are displayed on patios and around swimming pools. It occurs to me that it would be tempting to convert an upscale swimming pool area into a marine-themed showcase. In addition to his stunning natural-finish pieces, he offers painted wooden sculptures for more rustic settings.

A member of the Ontario Blacksmith Artist Association, Shane creates his eye-catching hand-forged pieces from recycled steel, metals, and live edge woods from the Lanark Highlands, reimagining discarded materials into unique works of art. It has been three years since he has had to purchase steel, and he would be delighted to recycle your volunteered fireplace insert too.



buying a wooden whale, he realized he could "do better." He did, and people loved them. He started selling them through word of mouth, and eventually sold over two hundred painted whales at numerous local craft markets. Somewhere along the way he learned how to select and work with a wonderful variety of live edge wood pieces that speak to his pareidolia. Now he is planning ahead to continue to



indulge his physically demanding passion as long as his body allows — "I can always get a power hammer," he confides.

Born in Belleville, he chose engineering at Loyalist College when his then girlfriend announced she wouldn't marry anyone who didn't go to college. He landed a job straight out of school as a construction foreman in Ottawa, and stuck with a stressful and largely unfulfilling career until he retired. "My mother was a painter, and I always felt a creative urge," he told me. "It used to drive me crazy working with architects — they got to be both engineers and artists at the same time." Now he is so fulfilled by his blacksmithing and wood artistry that he no longer struggles with an alcohol addiction.

His new career is very therapeutic. When I comment that his prices are extremely modest, he explains that his real satisfaction comes from having someone enjoy one of his original artworks in their home. No two are alike. He hammers metal components out in an oak stump, so each piece is organically shaped, and the mutating stump is discarded as it succumbs to the heat and pressure. His stunning sculptures also enable him to contribute generously to causes he supports. The whale he donated to the Captain Paul Watson Foundation (a public charity that supports ocean conservation) was successfully auctioned off to raise funds for the protection of fin whales.

When I asked about the unusual name — Gaibhneithe Wood and Steel — on his business card and email address, he explained that both he and Janice have Irish ancestry, and Gaibhneithe is the Gaelic word for forge, or forging. Janice manages the business side of their after-retirement adventure, and Shane reports that she is also a discerning critic.

The couple enjoy the social aspects of their artistic venture. Each show is a new adventure, with new customers and fellow artists. Recently Shane Belanger joined the ranks of the Artisan Village — Smiths Falls' burgeoning cultural hub — and he is having a whale of a time as one of their "Creative Residents". He and Janice appreciate the collegial atmosphere, and the large central showroom is the perfect venue for his stunning artworks. He also is a member of Arts Carleton Place's new Art Hub.

Itty Bitty Whales

Belanger has created a scaled-down version of his phenomenal whale sculptures, and will be displaying them on November 16 and 17 at the Arts Carleton Place Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Show in the Great Hall of the Carleton Place Arena. I checked, and he is offering his "baby whales" for less than \$200. Way less, in some cases. Regardless of your budget, you will enjoy browsing his sculptures and the creations of a wonderful assortment of the area's artists and artisans.

Forge ahead to view coordinates to Shane Belanger's outstanding artistic achievements itemized on the back of his Artist Trading Card at the top of this page. And look forward to a whale of a time next spring at Artisan Village — he's working on a walrus, and has chosen an octopus as his next challenge.

Gifts for Art Lovers

- Limited Edition signed archival print, proceeds to Art for Aid, Art for Aid.....\$195
- Plein air paintings by Julie Poulin, Arts CP Art Hub.....\$350-650
- Original art by local fine artists, Carleton Place Gallery.....various
- Paintings and prints by Almonte's Jennifer Noxon, General Fine Craft....\$200-1200
- Introductory pottery wheel lesson for two, JB Arts.....\$125
- Silk and textile framed art by Darian Lajoie, MVTM Gift Shop.....\$125 & up
- Etchings by Franc Van Oort, Riverguild Fine Crafts.....\$60 & up
- Gallery gift certificates, Sivarulrasa Gallery.....\$100
- "Northern Arc" puzzle of a painting by Kurt Swinghammer, TheOccurrence....\$33
- Canvas prints in all sizes, Under My Roof.....\$99 & up



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WHO Shane Belanger, Gaibhnithe Wood and Steel

WHAT Blacksmith Artist

WHERE Artisan Village, 10 Maple Ave., Smiths Falls, <artisanvillagesmithsfalls.com>, 613-619-4155, <facebook.com/gaibhnithe.woodandsteel>; <gaibhnithe@gmail.com>

WHEN Nov. 16 & 17, 10AM-4:30PM, Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Show, Great Hall on the upper floor of the Carleton Place Arena, 75 Neelin St., Carleton Place

WHY "It's so much better than alcohol."

ARTIST TRADING CARD

Cabaret Extravaganza!

Celebrating 50 Years of The Hub | Rebound

By Paddy Vargas

Join us for a night of unfiltered fun and laughter as we celebrate The Hub's 50th anniversary! Founded by The Almonte Community Coordinators, A.C.C. (The Hub and Rebound), our organization has spent the last five decades enriching our community through dedicated service, all thanks to the staff and volunteers who have made it possible. To honour their contributions, we're hosting a special staff and volunteer appreciation night — headlined by the world-traveling, award-winning comedian Rachele Elie. Returning to Almonte, Rachele will bring her raunchy, side-splitting Cabaret to the Almonte Civitan Hall on Friday, November 29.

This isn't just a show — it's a tribute to the heart and soul of our stores and community. If you would like to show your appreciation to our staff and volunteers, please consider a donation to our building fund to ensure the sustainability of our two stores for decades to come. Donations can be made on our website at <thehubalmonte.com/donate>.

Get ready for an unforgettable evening featuring a sizzling lineup of comedy, music, burlesque, and some tantalizing surprises that will leave you laughing well into the night! Plus, don't miss your chance to participate in our 50/50 draw, where you could walk away with some extra cash while supporting a great cause.

Tickets are just \$25 per person and available now through Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). Doors open at 6PM for a cocktail hour, so come early



Comedian Rachele Elie will host one of her signature Cabarets in celebration of The Hub and Rebound on Friday, November 29

to enjoy drinks, snacks and live music before the show kicks off at 7PM.

Need a Fabulous Outfit?

If you're still on the hunt for that perfect cocktail look, pop by The Hub to discover a range of quirky, stylish outfits with just the right amount of sparkle!

Please note — this event is for guests 19+. Tickets are limited, so grab yours early and don't miss this evening of fun, laughter and celebration!

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Joanne Beaton

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To arrange your private viewing, call Joanne.

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The Beatles Come to St. Andrew's United

On Saturday, November 23, St. Andrew's United Church in Pakenham presents a concert commemorating the 60th anniversary of the music, entertainment and cultural phenomenon that was The Beatles. Come out and enjoy this celebration of their timeless music. Hear your favourite Beatles tunes, take a journey through their history, and hear some fun facts about a band that not only revolutionized music but also left an indelible mark on popular culture. From their humble beginnings at The Cavern Club in Liverpool to the heights of the band's career, The Beatles have left a legacy like no other.

The concert will feature Peter Brown playing and directing the St. Andrew's Choir, and will welcome special guests Ian Douglas and Dave Arthur as well

as community friends who love to sing. It starts at 7:30PM, and tickets are \$20 at the door or by e-transfer to <stachoirevents@gmail.com>. Find more details at <standrewsunitedpakenham.org> or by calling 624-5593.

Then on Saturday, November 30 at 2PM, St. Andrew's presents **Fashions from Laura** — a fashion show featuring clothing from a proudly Canadian brand that offers contemporary, high quality and timeless fashion in every size from petite to plus. Enjoy cheesecake during intermission, freshen up your fall wardrobe, and find something special for Christmas or New Year's Eve!

Tickets are \$15, available by calling Shirleen at 850-6679, at the door or by e-transfer to <standrews-specialdinners@outlook.com>.

Gifts for Funky People

- Japanese Silver "Bu" ingot coins (19th Century), Alliance Coin & Banknote \$75
- Vinyl records, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles..... \$5-25
- Funny novelty socks, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm \$15
- Series pass to 4 concerts, Folkus Concert Series \$130
- Blown glassware by Paulus Tjiang, General Fine Craft \$35-395
- Wonky pots, JB Arts \$15
- "Reflex" by artist Sarah Anderson, Sivarulrasa Gallery \$400
- Introductory private dance lesson, Total Rhythm Dance Studio \$35

Gifts to Lift the Spirits

- Two tickets to Almonte in Concert, Almonte in Concert \$88
- Set of 8 notecards with accompanying stories and envelopes, Art for Aid \$25
- Series pass to 4 concerts, Folkus Concert Series \$130
- "Floral Action #8" by artist Barbara Gamble, Sivarulrasa Gallery \$480
- All natural candles blended to match classic book titles, The Book Nook..\$19 & up
- Essential oil diffusers for every space, The Granary \$50-75
- One month unlimited fitness classes, Total Rhythm Dance Studio \$60



The Wizard is... Odd!?

A Hilarious and Odd-ly Relatable Original Musical

By Susan Macaulay

Playwright Rob Riendeau might have chosen to set *The Wizard is... Odd!?* in Almonte, instead of in a nameless small town. Locals would most certainly have recognized aspects of friends, neighbours and/or family members in the characters on stage.

Equally, Rob might have situated the play in Pakenham or Perth, Carleton Place or Clayton, Ashton or Arnprior, or any other small town in Ontario for that matter. Had he done so, theatre-goers might have elbowed a companion and whispered: "Doesn't Tim the Tinman remind you of John who lives around the corner from me?" Or "Gee, Sue is so much like my sister Sally, it's uncanny."

Truth be told, I expect those kinds of reactions to occur anyway, because the characters — and the play's storyline — are real and relatable, despite it being a play within a play that's based on a fantasy.

The plot is simple. A dad and his daughter move from the big city to a small town and stumble on a community production of *The Wizard of Oz* in which they unwittingly become involved. Hijinx and hilarity ensue. And yet, in the midst of the fun and the laughter, the story gets you thinking about the universal themes that run through all of our lives.

For example, you may never have had to leave home, like young Emily does in *The Wizard is... Odd!?*, but, like me, you may be able to identify with her frustration.

"Don't you get it?" says Emily (played by Fern Marwood) to her dad Henry (played by Darren Brocklehurst) as they pack up their belongings in the opening scene. Her hands are balled into tight fists by her sides. "I live here! My friends are here. My WHOLE LIFE is here!"

The future is unknown. We must all let go of people or things we love at one time or another, whether it happens because of a move or some other unwanted circumstance. Loss is part of life. So are wanting to fit in and at times feeling as if we don't belong, judging people unfairly and then regretting it later, doing things we don't fully agree with to please others, and treating people with less respect than they deserve. We are only human after all.

The play captures the characters' struggles with empathy and tenderness. Rob has written about the tougher parts of being human with gentle grace, and the funny bits with incisive humour. His wife Kris, who directs



This charming original musical-within-a-musical about a small-town theatre troupe trying to put on *The Wizard of Oz* opens in Almonte on November 8

the piece, has done a masterful job of helping the actors bring out the best and the worst in their characters in ways that will keep audiences in stitches (punctuated by the occasional tear).

On the unequivocally delightful side of the coin, the ten original songs are fabulous, each in their own special way. Two of the tunes — one a solo and the other a duet — are soulful and full of longing. They may elicit the need for a tissue. Two more are clever and close to the bone. Two are raucous, rowdy, and accompanied by energetic and creative choreography. Another has a distinctly country feel and includes line dancing. And a solo sung by the immensely talented Bonnie Vallentyne (who plays Sue, who in turn plays the Scarecrow) is just plain hilarious. I love them all.

As I have watched the show evolve over the past year, I have been newly impressed each week by the acting, improvisational and comedic skills of the cast. They really are a talented bunch. And they can't wait to sing, dance and perform for you at the Almonte Old Town Hall in November. I hope you can join us.

The Wizard is... Odd!? is being produced by Humm Team Productions and sponsored by Aussie Tree Care, Fluid Coffee, 750 Southwest Financial, and others who prefer to remain behind the scenes for the moment. Sponsorship money and a portion of ticket sales will go to support Climate Network Lanark.

The show opens on November 8 and runs for two weekends. Get your tickets at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) — they're going fast! In the meantime, follow *The Wizard is Odd?* on Facebook for behind-the-scenes fun and frolics.



Photo by Susan Macaulay

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mudmen.ca NON LLBO Mudmen Inc Event studiotheatreperth.com

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The Sky's the Limit at MMLT's Fundraising Gala

Submitted by the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust

On Friday, November 15, you are invited to the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust's (MMLT) social event of the fall — The Sky's the Limit Gala. This fundraising event will be held at beautiful Temple's Sugar Bush, and promises to be an unforgettable evening, dedicated to supporting MMLT and its mission to conserve lands and protect nature for future generations.

We are pleased to announce that Jill Heinerth, world-renowned Canadian cave diver, writer, photographer, and filmmaker will be the guest speaker for the evening. "Jill will captivate you with her remarkable adventures — think swimming with polar bears and being part of the team that discovered Shackleton's shipwreck Quest, to name a few," says Britta Runtz, MMLT Director and Chair of the Gala Planning Committee.

Jill has over 30 years of experience exploring underwater caves, shipwrecks and mines across the globe, has worked with Director James Cameron and collaborated with National Geographic, BBC and Discovery Network. "Jill will take us on a journey through her extraordinary explorations, demonstrating how environmental conservation is as boundless as the sky itself. Her passion for protecting fragile ecosystems will inspire us all to take action," adds Runtz.

"This event is more than just an opportunity to learn from one of the world's most accomplished explorers; it is a call to action. Together, we can reach for the sky while diving deep into efforts that safeguard ecologically sensitive ecosystems for future generations," says Stacie Lloyd, MMLT's Executive Director.

Jim Bryson, National Folk Award-nominated singer-songwriter and record maker, will also make an appearance at the MMLT Gala, with his fine vocals and guitar in hand!

While you mingle with others who are passionate about conservation, nature and the environment, MMLT will be serving gourmet hors d'oeuvres and local beer from Perth Brewery.

Wrap up the evening by bidding on exclusive packages in the auction, such as a private garden consulta-



The Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Gala will feature world-renowned cave diver, author and filmmaker Jill Heinerth as guest speaker on November 15

tion with Ed Lawrence, an exclusive Robert Bateman package, a special Nature by Runtz slideshow, a Knife-ware Ottawa Cut Like a Chef class, and so much more!

MMLT's vision is a beautiful Mississippi Madawaska wilderness protected for all time, where all species thrive and people engage with nature. We hope to see you at The Sky's the Limit Gala on November 15 at Temple's Sugar Bush, located at 1700 Ferguson's Falls Road in Lanark. Doors open at 6:30PM. Information and tickets can be found at mmlt.ca/event/mmlts-the-skys-the-limit-gala.

Founded in 2003, MMLT is a nonprofit registered charitable organization taking direct action to legally protect and steward ecologically sensitive lands across the Mississippi River watershed, north to the Madawaska River. MMLT lands have ecological, biodiverse, aesthetic and cultural value. They are places where natural habitats and species can thrive and where people are encouraged to engage with nature for its physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual benefits.

Come to the Merrickville Makers Market!

Believe it or not, the Christmas season in Merrickville begins the first weekend of November. That's when the Merrickville's Makers Market hosts its next warm and welcoming event!

The holiday edition of this popular market will return to Merrickville's Community Centre at 106 Read Street on November 2 and 3 from 10AM to 4PM. Admission to the event is free and there is ample parking.

The two-day format allows the Makers Market to showcase their full membership, as each day you will find thirty unique vendors proudly displaying their artistry. Fibre art and hot sauce, woodwares and exotic soaps and oils will blend with all manner of goods from artists and makers for this indoor market.

Margaret Armour, spokesperson for the group and a participant herself, believes the market serves as an invitation to visit the charming and historic village. "We have several sponsors who help us make the event a success each time we hold one. This relationship is important to everyone's success, and we encourage all market-goers to stay and explore the many shops, restaurants and businesses in town."

While this is the Christmas version of the event, not everything is Christmas themed. Some artists and makers focus on seasonal wares, while others offer items that are not specific to one time of year. Regardless, it's a perfect occasion to get your Christmas shopping all finished up in one weekend!

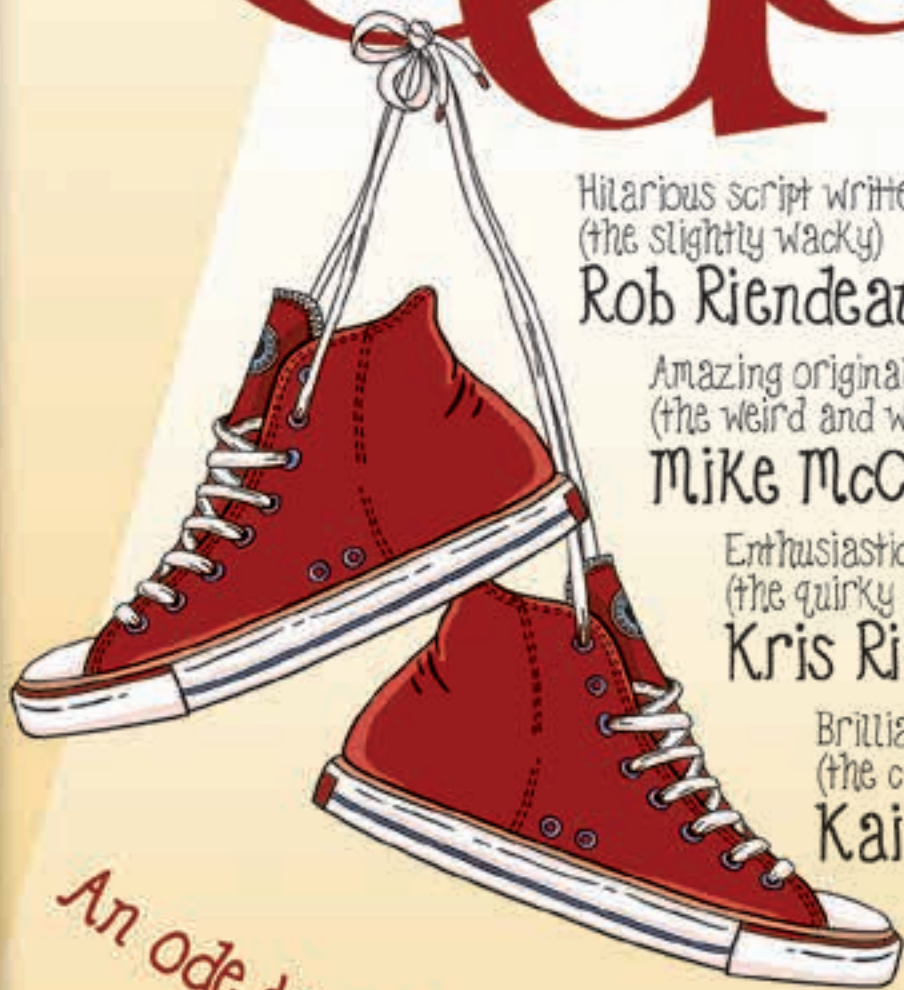


The Merrickville Makers Market takes place on November 2 and 3

Somewhat different from a studio tour, the market offers attendees an opportunity to explore and learn about many creative disciplines. Members of the group are eager to speak about the creative process and engage visitors in discussions about their own work or the collective maker experience. There is lots to see, lots to learn, and lots to take home from some terrifically talented people. Market-goers might even be inclined to explore their own creativity after seeing the many talented makers! Learn more about them by visiting merrickvillesmakersmarkets.ca.

THE WIZARD IS...

Odd!



Hilarious script written by
(the slightly wacky)

Rob Riendeau

Amazing original music written by
(the weird and wonderful)

Mike McCormick & friends

Enthusiastically directed by
(the quirky in a good way)

Kris Riendeau

Brilliantly crafted set design by
(the creative and colourful)

Kairiin Bright

An ode to oddball small-town musical theatre

At the Almonte Old Town Hall November 2024

Evening performances at 7:30 on Fri 8 • Fri 15

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10th Anniversary Show at Sivarulrasa Gallery!

Sivarulrasa Gallery celebrates 10 wonderful years in Almonte on Saturday, November 16 from 2-5PM with the opening of their 10th Anniversary Show!

The Gallery's largest exhibition of the year will feature works by 28 artists from across Canada, including artists based locally in Mississippi Mills as well as from coast to coast: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

The 10th Anniversary Show will cover all exhibition spaces in the Gallery, including Galleries I, II, III and the Salon Room. New works featured include sculpture, paintings, drawings, watercolour works, photographic works, and works in mixed media. Pieces range in size from small maquettes to large and immersive paintings, to suit all budgets and tastes. This is a perfect, festive time of the year to add original Canadian art to your collection or to start collecting!

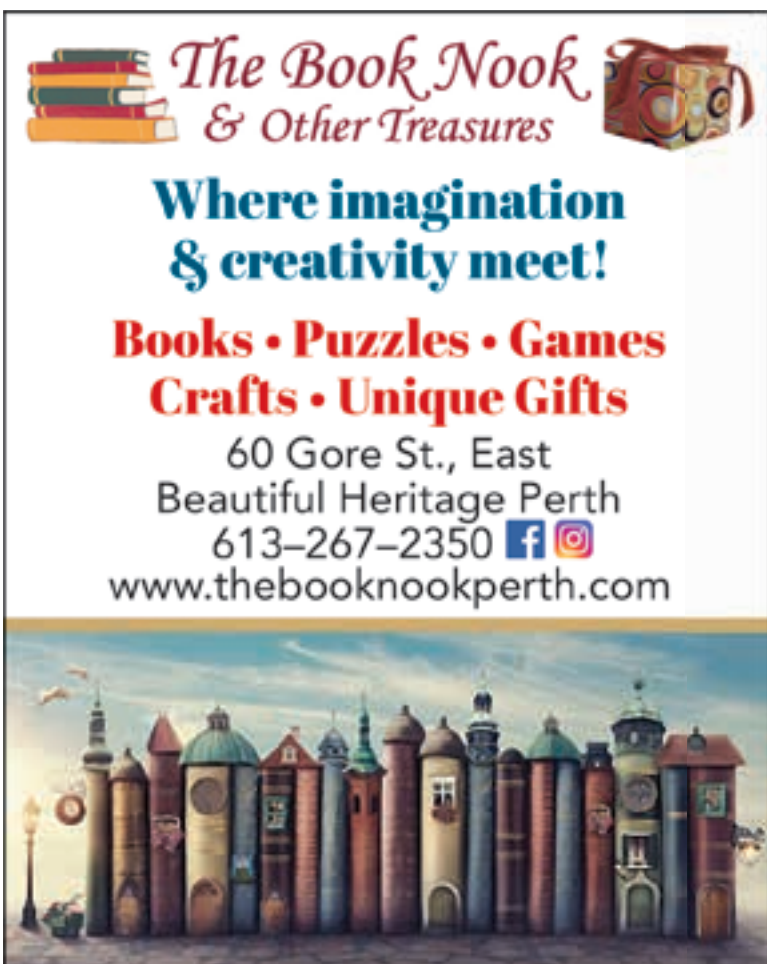


Summer Still Life, a watercolour work by artist Cathy Ross, will be featured in the 10th Anniversary Show at Sivarulrasa Gallery in Almonte

Park, Sue Adams, Susan Tooke, Wendy Robertson, and William Liao.

Meet the artists at the 10th Anniversary Vernissage/Artists Reception on Saturday, November 16 from 2-5PM. All are welcome at the gallery, which is located at 34 Mill Street in Almonte. For more information, please visit sivarulrasa.com.



The extra-special 10th Anniversary Cake will be cut by artist Eric Walker, whose 20-foot train, *Montreal Commuter (train) de banlieu*, a work in oxidized metals, plywood and hundreds of nails, will be featured in the show!



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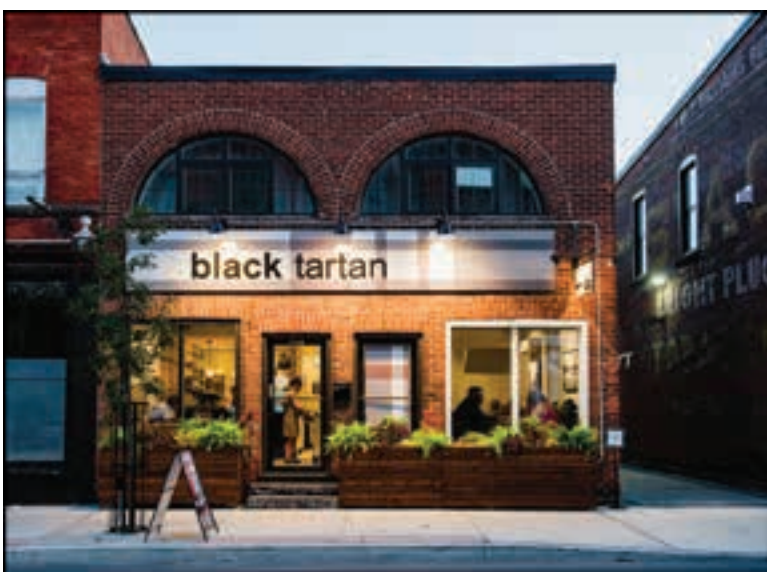
60 Gore St., East
Beautiful Heritage Perth
613-267-2350  
www.thebooknookperth.com

Featured Artists

The following artists will be participating in this special show: Barbara Gamble, Carol Bajen-Gahm, Catherine Gutsche, Cathy Ross, Dale Dunning, Deborah Arnold, Elaine Carr, Eric Walker, Gayle Kells, George Horan, Jane Irwin, Jeannie Polisuk, Jenny McMaster, Jihane Mossalim, Jim Hake, Karen Haines, Lise Leroux, Louis Thériault, Marina Raike, Mary Pfaff, Michael Pittman, Sanjeev Sivarulrasa, Sarah Anderson, Sherry

Gifts for Kids & Teenagers

- Soft acrylic yarn crochet stuffies by Knotty Crochet, A Bunch of Whimsy.....\$3-25
- Art collector bookmarks, proceeds to Art for Aid, Art for Aid.....\$4.50
- Assorted Christmas stuffies, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....\$15-60
- Beginner soapstone carving kit, JB Arts.....\$28
- Innovative building block, model kits & train sets, Spark Books & Curios.....\$10-120




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Saturday

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Gifts That Give Twice

Art For Aid works to support First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth art and cultural education programs through access to quality program supplies, awareness and fundraising efforts.

You can purchase Art For Aid prints, art cards, bookmarks and more online or at The CP Gallery, 210 Bridge Street in Carleton Place.



Supporting Canada's First Artists
Art For Aid Project
a program of I Love First Peoples



artforaid.ca
artforaidshop.ca



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Showing the Local Love for the Holidays!

Here at theHumm we're big on local economies. The retail and service businesses in the small towns that we cover play a huge role in the cultural life of those towns. Each store, restaurant, or small enterprise attracts and serves a particular clientele — some inside the community, some from outside. Some

for everyone on your list. But we also hope that you'll be inspired to investigate even more of the independent, locally owned and run businesses throughout our coverage area. In doing so, you're likely to encounter not only friends and neighbours, but also some old-fashioned small town peace and joy —not to mention amazing customer service!

The gifts we buy locally do double-duty by giving pleasure to the recipient and at the same time supporting the business of a friend or neighbour. Many shops and galleries feature works by area creators and/or gifts that are eco-friendly. The money you spend in your community tends to circulate back into the local economy too, so you'll be contributing to a wonderful ripple effect.

We would like to thank the participating merchants for taking the time to send in their Gift Giving Guide suggestions, and thank our readers for shopping locally and thereby supporting both the shops and our paper. To see photos of many of these items, subscribe to our free weekly Hummail e-newsletter! Find details at <thehummm.com>.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday season!

by Kris and Rob Riendeau

businesses host their own special events; others join together with local festivals to make the whole experience more vibrant. Many provide support in cash or in kind to local initiatives. All of them add their own particular flavour to the delicious mix that is small-town Ottawa Valley. A healthy local economy is an essential component to a healthy community.

It is with this in mind that we bring you theHumm's 24th annual **Gift Giving Guide** in both the November and December issues. Our hope is that you'll find two kinds of inspiration in the many lists that appear throughout these issues. As you peruse the various categories, we hope you'll discover the perfect present

Library After Dark A Night of Music with Jeremy Lyall

Library After Dark returns to the Perth & District Library on Saturday, November 9 with a night of music with accomplished local singer-songwriter Jeremy Lyall.

Library After Dark is a special fundraising concert series that offers a chance for people who love music to see top-notch artists in a unique, alternative space.

"After being hidden away for too long, it's time to let these songs of mine out into the light of day for Library After Dark," says Jeremy Lyall. "Along with fellow musicians Kalil Bailey and Isaac Matthews, we've been cooking them up in the kitchen and look forward to playing them for you this November 9, along with some selected covers, at the Perth & District Library. These songs come of a youth growing up on an apple farm, a career in film production, and a life interested in what lies buried and hidden in us and in the world. They offer a lyrical glimpse of some of the things found, felt, and experienced along the way. The distinct musical voices of Kalil's percussion and Isaac's guitar have given them a groove and feel that has me very excited to announce our forthcoming album for the new year".

Doors open at 7PM and music starts at 7:30. You can also enjoy a beverage from the cash bar at the library during the show. Tickets are \$30 and available for purchase online in advance at <perthunionlibrary.ca/library-after-dark> or at the door.



Catch Jeremy Lyall and friends at the Perth Library on Saturday, November 9

Handmade Gifts

- Bee Brilliant candles, hand poured in Beckwith,** A Bunch of Whimsy.....various
- Friendship necklace by Glee Jewelry, handcrafted in Canada,** Acquisti Life.....\$25
- Jewellery by Wendy Southin,** Arts CP Art Hub.....\$25-75
- Chainsaw carvings,** Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....\$50-400
- Batik tulis cotton tablecloth 56" x 96",** Fine Batiks.....\$90
- Happy Hooves locally made lip balm,** Foodsmiths.....\$5
- Merino wool & silk scarves by Diane Lemire,** General Fine Craft.....\$90-260
- Finger puppets, ornaments & birdhouses made in Nepal,** Mill Street Books..\$17-50
- Embroidery by fibre artist Juanita Sauve,** MVTM Gift Shop.....\$50 & up
- Painted silk & wool scarves by Jean Down & Mette Baker,** Strévé Designs...\$79-160

Gifts Made in the Valley

- Citrus marmalade with sea buckthorn berries,** A Bunch of Whimsy.....\$5-10
- Acrylic landscape paintings by Patti D. Clarke,** Arts CP Art Hub.....\$100-1000
- Sterling Sweater Dress in buttery bamboo fleece,** Duffield Design.....\$159
- Thermohair socks,** Foodsmiths.....\$19.95-43.99
- Walking stick, hand-crafted from fallen branches,** Miss. Madawaska Land Trust...\$30
- The Lanark County Sampler,** Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....\$68.95
- Leather, suede, shearling, silk and wool clothing,** Strévé Designs.....various
- Locally crafted soaps and bath products,** The Granary.....\$5-20



Gift Giving Guide Shop Directory

Here's an alphabetical list of the shops that are participating in the November Gift Giving Guide, followed by the town in which they are located and the page on which you can find their ad. Great gift suggestions can be found throughout this issue, organized in categories. Happy local shopping!

- A Bunch of Whimsy.....Carleton Place, p.31
- Acquisti Life.....Carleton Place, p.12
- Alliance Coin & Banknote.....Almonte, p.22
- Almonte Antiques & Collectibles.....Almonte, p.30
- Almonte in Concert.....Almonte, p.11
- Art for Aid.....Carleton Place, p.19
- Arts CP Art Hub.....Carleton Place, p.21
- Black Tartan Kitchen.....Carleton Place, p.8
- Carleton Place Gallery.....Carleton Place, p.24
- Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....Pakenham, p.13
- Dandelion Foods.....Almonte, p.20
- Duffield Design.....Almonte, p.8
- Fine Batiks.....Brooke Valley, p.19
- Folkus Concert Series.....Almonte, p.17
- Foodsmiths.....Perth, p.25
- General Fine Craft.....Almonte, p.6
- Good Food Co.Carleton Place, p.6
- JB Arts.....Almonte, p.24
- Meristem Massage Therapy.....Carp, p.15
- Mill Street Books.....Almonte, p.30
- Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust.... Lanark County, p.30
- MVTM Gift Shop.....Almonte, p.30
- Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets.....p.33
- Pêches & Poivre.....Almonte, p.8
- Riverguild Fine Crafts.....Perth, p.6
- Sivarulrasa Gallery.....Almonte, p.3
- Spark Books & Curios.....Perth, p.19
- Strévé Designs.....Perth, p.16
- The Book Nook.....Perth, p.8
- The Granary.....Carleton Place, p.11
- TheOccurrence.....Merrickville, p.5
- Total Rhythm Dance Studio.....Carleton Place, p.16
- Under My Roof.....Arnprior, p.21
- Vamos Outdoors.....Almonte, p.5, 29

**Beckwith Township
Christmas Craft Show**
Saturday, November 30th from 10AM–3PM
Beckwith Recreation Complex

Over 40 Exhibitors — Shop 'til you Drop!

Free Admission & Free Parking

Cash and Food Donations will be collected for
the Lanark County Food Bank

More Information: 613-435-8929

Tripoly & the Grenville Troubadours
 present
Comfort and Joy
 A sing-along concert of traditional carols and more!

Friday, December 13th at 7pm
Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls

TICKETS: \$20 IN ADVANCE / \$25 AT DOOR

Reserve by email at: secretary@unitedsf.ca
 or call 613 283-4444
 or purchase online at: ticketsplease.ca

THE BEATLES
 come to St. Andrew's

**Music Director:
Peter Brown**

with special guests:
**Ian Douglas
 Dave Arthur
 & David Sale**

St. Andrew's Choir
 Community friends
 who love to sing!

Sat Nov 23, 2024
7:30 p.m.
 St. Andrew's United
 Church in Pakenham

Tickets \$20
 at the door
 or by e-transfer
 before Nov. 20 to
 stachoirevents@gmail.com

ALMONTE Readers & Writers NOVEMBER PROGRAMMING

debe In close conversation with
**Rose Graceling-Moore &
 Hypatia Rae**
 NOVEMBER 14 - 6:30-8:00pm
 Admission: Pay-what-you-can via [Tickets.Please](#)

The Real Art of Writing Haiku
 An Art of Writing workshop led by
Claudia Radmore
 NOVEMBER 23 - 3:00-5:00pm
 Registration \$40.00 via [Tickets.Please](#)

Lanark Lit
 AWARDS GALA & READING
 Mississippi Mills Public Library
 Sunday, DECEMBER 8, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.

Mississippi Mills EKF MISS STREET BOOKS MISSISSIPPI MILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY EQUATOR

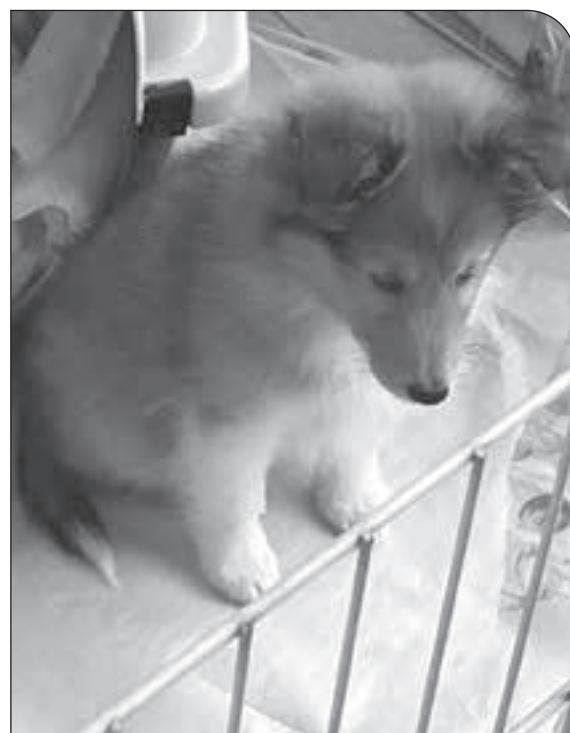
www.almontereadersandwriters.org

The Reever Report

I'm Not Imelda Marcos

I don't have shoes for every occasion. If I smile a lot or wear a colourful jacket, no one will look down and see what's on my feet. There are two pairs of Birkenstocks in the closet, the requisite rubber boots, two pairs of winter boots, and one pair of "all-season" loafers to go with everything. I don't wear high heels anymore for fear of breaking my neck falling off them. I don't want fancy sandals because I step right out of them. So as you can see, I try to buy only those shoes that fit my lifestyle.

by Glenda Jones



I'm going to need a good pair of dog trainers to raise this new sassy girl in our household. Meet Sonia Celeste!

However, since I'm not one to sit in a rocking chair for long, I do need proper sporting shoes. I need good cross trainers for agility, something waterproof for the wet grass days, and fashionable gym shoes for our exercise classes.

My present running shoes having been relegated to garden shoes, it was time to start the interminable quest. For weeks I looked at others' shoes, and had my mind set on what I wanted. Someone told me they find the best shoes online, but I couldn't imagine ordering, getting, trying on, returning. I needed a foot-on experience. There was nothing for it but a full excursion called The Great Shoe Expedition.

I only do this once every few years because it's such a trial to me. I started close to home, shopped local, etc., but came up empty-footed. (Found other things I liked and bought those instead.) I had another week of wearing the worn-out numbers until one of my classmates suggested they take up a GoFundMe collection. I was desperate!

Now I got serious! We hit several stores in the first circle on the map. I felt like Goldilocks — some too tight, some too loose, and dear Lord, some far too expensive. I'm not running marathons here, just running the dogs! When I told the far-too-athletic-looking clerks that I run my dogs in agility, some gave me a blank look indicating they had no idea about my sport. Some were only interested in showing me the fanciest thing on the wall display, and others implied that maybe I should be looking for a lace-up oxford. REALLY?? "So endeth Day Two of the Quest".

By this time I think Alan was ready to tie cardboard to my feet and call it good. But no, we soldiered on to the next circle of doom on the map. I decided to try places that might not be so judgemental or frankly uber-athletic. The window displays looked inviting in a few places, but the reality was disappointing: never the right size or style. Just not what I wanted.

The Quest had become so frustrating we detoured into the favourite wine haunt for some liquid comfort to take home. There was a small shop next to the LCBO, and there in the window, practically calling to me was the very pair I wanted: vibrant cross train-

ers with crazy coloured soles. Oh please, please. Let them fit! And they did! Shoe number one bought and bagged! "So endeth Day Three".

Now, you'd think I would have stopped there, but I still needed the waterproof shoes and the exercise shoes. Once more into the car and one more exasperating hunt. In a fit of inspiration I returned to the one shop I missed on the first go-round, and quietly checked out the sales rack before one of the staff approached. You will hardly believe this: she was an experienced lady of my own vintage. She had dogs, she lived in the country, she was a runner herself, AND she really knew what she was selling. I felt like I'd met the Fairy Shoe Mother.

With no hesitation, she understood my predicament exactly, and I swear shook her magic wand and pulled out the very pair I needed. They fit perfectly, didn't look gigantic on Size 9 feet, and mercy alive were on sale. I was on the verge of wiping away tears of joy when she said she also had another pair I might like to try, the perfect exercise shoes. So there I stood, perfect shoes one on each foot, doing a happy dance in her store, with her nearly as excited as I was.

Alan too could appreciate the significance of the moment, knowing it was the last time he'd have to endure days of sitting in shoe stores while I tried on far too many pairs. Celebration was definitely in order. Off to A&W we went: happy wife, happy life, and all the new shoes I'm going to need for two years.

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**CHRISTMAS
CAROL**
the musical

Music by
ALAN MENKEN
 Lyrics by
LYNN AHRENS
 Book by
**MIKE OCKRENT and
 LYNN AHRENS**

November 14, 15, 16, 17
www.perthcommunitychoir.com

Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show

Perth's Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show is back for 2024, and this year it's their 31st anniversary! Come celebrate and find the perfect Christmas gift for all your special people on Saturday, December 7 from 10AM to 3:30PM in Perth's Crystal Palace, located downtown right beside the Tay Basin.



This year's show features a great lineup of new artists and artisans as well as many returning favourites. Expect to find gourmet chocolate, fashion accessories, fine woodworking, unique pottery, jewellery, photography and much more. The show's philosophy is to keep the quality as high as possible by featuring original juried works from over twenty gifted artisans. Plan to enjoy sweet treats and home-cooked food while chatting with artisans and neighbours. Soak up the ambiance of the Christmas music and festive decorations adorning the Crystal Palace. Shop and know that you are supporting local artisans while buying some of the best work that the area has to offer.

The show will once again be supporting Perth's food bank — The Table Community Food Centre. Cash donations would be greatly appreciated. Look for the donation box near the main entrance to the Crystal Palace. Please give what you can!

Mark December 7 on your calendar and plan to visit the 2024 Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show. Be sure to enter the free draw for a basket of fine gift items donated by participating artisans. Admission is free, and more information about the show can be found at facebook.com/nickoftimePerth. If you would like to be considered as a vendor at next year's show, follow on social media for more information.



This year's Nick of Time Christmas Craft show will be replete with wonderful gifts by Dagmar's Designs (above), Fine Chocolate by Ludwig (left), and lots more!

Gifts for Cooks & Gourmets

- 3-course table d'hôte menu, Black Tartan Kitchen..... \$79
- Kricklewood boxed set of 4 infused sunflower oil 100ml, Dandelion Foods...\$29.95
- Gourmet Inspirations sample cooking sauce box, Good Food Co.....\$25
- Exotic Spices gift sets and exquisite olive oils, Pêches & Poivre.....\$30-80
- Serving bowls by Clement Hoeck, Riverguild Fine Crafts\$30 & up

Gifts to Divert & Entertain

- Vintage board games, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles.....\$10 & up
- A ticket to an Almonte in Concert show, Almonte in Concert.....\$44
- Gift Cards, Black Tartan Kitchen.....various
- Series pass to 4 concerts, Folkus Concert Series.....\$130
- Miniature DIY dollhouse room, wooden model kits, Spark Books & Curios...\$50-80
- Games and puzzles for various ages, The Book Nook.....various
- "Sushi" 504-piece jigsaw puzzle & feast for the eyes, TheOccurrence.....\$28



ARNPRIOR & DISTRICT
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THE 4TH ANNUAL FELIZ NAUGHTY DOG CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

Sunday November 10th
10am to 3pm
Nick Smith Centre at
77 James Street, Arnprior

With locally sourced artisan products, speciality foods and zero waste options you can feel good about gift giving this year.



Join us for our Annual Chocolate Party Dec. 6 & 7

Don't forget to get your fresh turkey orders in

Helping you achieve Health, Naturally

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107 Bridge St. Carleton Place

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Open: Mon-Wed 9-7, Thurs & Fri 9-8

Sat 9-5 & Sun 10-4



ALMONTE IN CONCERT 2024-25

J.S. Bach's Long Walk in the Snow

Julia MacLaine
cello

Carson Becke
piano

Lori Gemmell
harp

Tom Allen
storyteller/
trombone

Meghan Lindsay
soprano

Saturday, December 7, 2024
ALMONTE OLD TOWN HALL 7:30 PM
SINGLE TICKET \$44
Tickets available online at ticketsplease.ca

'Tis the Season
 with LONDON TRIO PLUS
 Enjoy an evening with Ottawa's premiere
 Gospel singers.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 7:30PM
ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH
 225 EDMUND ST., CARLETON PLACE
 LIVE MUSIC IN CHURCH • WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION
 Tickets **\$35** Available at the Church office
 Monday to Friday 9AM to 1PM
 613-257-3178 www.stjamescarletonplace.ca



The Carleton Place & District Community Band will play a fundraising concert for the food bank on Dec. 1

Ring in the Season

Come out and enjoy an afternoon of traditional holiday music presented by the Carleton Place & District Community Band in support of the Lanark County Food Bank — The Hunger Stop. In addition to the 40 musicians in the band, this concert will also feature choirs from the Zion-Memorial United Church and St. James Anglican Church. Audience members will

be able to participate in the singing of traditional holiday music.

The concert starts at 2PM on Sunday, December 1 at Zion-Memorial United Church, which is located at 37 Franklin Street in Carleton Place. Admission is by donation to the Food Bank, and you can find more details at <facebook.com/cpadcb>.

Carleton Place Winterfest

Winterfest is a free, family-friendly event for all ages to kick off the holiday season. Get together and mingle in the beautiful downtown Carleton Place dining and shopping district and embrace the wintry weather and holiday spirit. Enjoy roaming carolers and entertainers, free horse-drawn wagon rides, and a Night Market with sidewalk sales and a local vendor market.

An assortment of activities will be taking place in Carleton Place on November 23, making it the perfect time to plan a trip to spend the day. These include the Children's Shopping Event (Zion Memorial Church), Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus (Information Centre) and live entertainment at local businesses such as the Carleton Place Gallery and Coastal Consignment.

Market Square will be an ideal place to begin or end your adventures, as there will be entertainment for all

ages starting with Ottawa's own Monkey Rock Music at 4PM. This one-hour interactive show is suitable for children of all ages, and participants will be invited to join the band! Then at 6:30PM, Carleton Place's very own Small Town Socials will liven up the party. If you have seen this band before, you know their upbeat personalities create a party atmosphere that will leave you no choice but to get up and dance.

Enjoy the vibrant hometown atmosphere and bask in the warmth of the community as you peruse holiday displays, shop the holiday sales, enjoy delicious seasonal treats and warm drinks and plenty of fun and games.

Come on out to Winterfest on November 23 from 4-8PM in Downtown Carleton Place and the Market Square Pavilion at 7 Beckwith Avenue!

Holiday
Gift Guide

Her Him Jewelry
 Footwear Accessories Gifts

ACQUISTI LIFE
 apparel | footwear | home

515 McNeely Ave., Carleton Place
 www.acquistilife.ca

Gifts for Hosts & Hostesses

- Hummingbird Chocolate sampler box**, Dandelion Foods.....\$24.95
- Niagara region small-batch wines**, Good Food Co.....\$16.50-27.50
- Candles, napkins, duo of cheeses & accompaniment**, Pêches & Poivre.....\$6.50-30
- Ontario pure beeswax candles in many sizes and shapes**, The Granary.....\$20-70



Carleton PLACE WINTERFEST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
MARKET SQUARE PAVILION - 7 BECKWITH ST
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES
 NIGHT MARKET & SIDEWALK SALE
 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, CAROLING
 PHOTO OPS & WINTRY FUN

FREE TO ATTEND
 LIVE PERFORMANCES BY:
MONKEY ROCK MUSIC
SMALL TOWN SOCIALS & MORE

LET'S CELEBRATE THE WINTER SEASON
COME HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

SMALL TOWN WINTRY FUN
WARM DRINKS & WARM HEARTS



The Winter Wonderettes opens at Studio Theatre Perth on November 28

The Wonderettes Return to Perth

By Ben Bennett

When four talented young women impressed director C. Lee (“CLee”) Bates with their performances in the Studio Theatre Perth’s production of *9 to 5: the Musical* back in 2016, they were invited to have a chat about another project she had in mind.

Little did they know that would bring them back to the same Perth stage the following year, and then again the year after that. And now they are coming back again — seven years later! And again, CLee is the director.

The Winter Wonderettes, created by American writer Roger Bean, is one of a series of musicals that follow the fortunes of four high school friends through a prom night, a retirement party and two reunions. All are great excuses to relive some golden oldies and some classics, with lots of singing and dancing strung together with a simple storyline.

The setting for *The Winter Wonderettes* is a gathering to provide the entertainment for the Christmas staff party at Harper’s Hardware Store in 1968. And the party is a way for us all to get into the Christmas spirit *this* year.

Perth audiences were introduced to Betty Jean (Lindsay Williams), Cindy Lou (Lauren Bailey), Suzy (Courtney Mason) and Missy (Justine Sousa) in the first in the series, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, in 2017. The team was back in *Marvelous Wonderettes – Dream On* in 2018, with Cait Porteous filling in for Courtney. The original foursome is back for the new show.

The Wonderettes will sing, dance and act their way back into the hearts of any audience members who saw the previous productions, notes CLee, who wasn’t actually planning to take on the director’s role this time. But someone had a chat with her, too.

“I thought I was retired from all this! Thankfully, Justine, Courtney, Lauren and Lindsay, along with (musical director) Brad Mills, applied a wee bit of pressure to bring me back for one last show.”

She says you needn’t have seen either of the previous shows to become instantly engaged with the characters and “delighted by their hopes, dreams and struggles”. Many theatre-goers will recognize these performers from a variety of past Perth shows, including:

Sister Act, *9 to 5*, *Little Women* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

The Winter Wonderettes is perfect holiday entertainment. Audiences will find themselves singing along to a variety of classic Christmas songs, such as *Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree*, *Winter Wonderland*, *Sleigh Ride* and *Santa Baby*, just to name a few of the many familiar songs in the production.

Brad Mills, who was musical director for the previous *Wonderettes* shows, is back for this one (more reunions!).

Audiences will notice some suitably groovy dance moves on the stage, courtesy of choreographer Dani Corbishley, no stranger to the Perth musical productions, whose fancy footwork was seen last year in *Nunsense*.

In the show it states that the costumes were made by the marvellous Missy, but they were actually created by the show’s costume manager Ann Hawthorne. She was able to incorporate some fabric from a previous *Wonderettes* show into this year’s costumes.

“CLee had a stash of left-over fabric from jumpsuits that they made in the last show, which she passed along to me. I was inspired by a dress I saw at Stratford this year, also set in the same period. Using their signature colours and 1968’s stylish Winter Collection from Butterick patterns, the designs aim to capture the Wonderettes’ sparkle and individuality”.

Carolee Mason, another Studio Theatre veteran, who directed *Scrooge* last year as well as *The 39 Steps*, returns as stage manager for *The Winter Wonderettes*.

CLee is very glad to be back. “It’s my happy place. As far as I’m concerned, this is nothing less than a professional team, from the performers to the many experienced behind-the-scenes contributors, to whom I am deeply grateful.”

The musical opens on Thursday, November 28, and runs until December 8, with Thursday and Friday performances starting at 7:30PM, and Saturday and Sunday matinées at 2PM. Tickets are \$27 each and can be purchased from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) or at the door if still available. For more information, please visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 @ 7PM

Don't miss this heartwarming annual outdoor Christmas concert in downtown Almonte. Come early and enjoy food & drink from the many tasty vendors. Twinkle fairies, carols, stories and more! The evening ends with an appearance from Santa Claus and a spectacular fireworks show performed to 'Hallelujah!' (approx. 8:30PM).

MISSISSIPPI MILLS

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

PAKENHAM



SANTA CLAUS PARADE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 1PM

After the parade, head to the Stewart Community Centre for hot chocolate and hot dogs sponsored by the Pakenham & District Civitan Club. They will also be collecting food donations. **Free public skating begins after the parade!**

ALMONTE

Christmas Parade



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 5PM

The Almonte Scouts will collect food donations along the route. After the parade, head to the John Levi Community Centre for hot chocolate and hot dogs sponsored by the Almonte Lions Club. **Free public skating begins after the parade!**

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Holiday Night Market

NOVEMBER 28, 5-8PM



MILL STREET



Mississippi Mills

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.MISSISSIPPIMILLS.CA/EVENTS



Standing Room Only will play for ballroom and swing dancers in Almonte on Sunday, November 24

SRO Fall Tea Dance

The classic big band Standing Room Only (SRO) is staging a dance for ballroom and swing dancers on Sunday afternoon, November 24. The dance will be held in the auditorium on the third floor of the historic Almonte Old Town Hall, located at 14 Bridge Street. Doors will open at 1PM and dancing is from 1:30-4PM. Admission is \$16 at the door or \$30 per couple (cash only). Reservations are not required.

Light refreshments including delicious treats and a range of non-alcoholic beverages will be available at very reasonable prices (cash only). The Almonte Old Town Hall has its own parking lot, and there's lots of additional parking on nearby streets. For more information, please visit srobignband.ca or facebook.com/srobignband.

Strumming, Singing and Fluting!

A Concert for the Young and Young at Heart

Join the Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library on Sunday, December 1 for another Live @ the Library concert. This performance is designed for the young and the young at heart — the perfect way to introduce classical music to the entire family.

Gertrude Létourneau, a multi-talented flutist and singer with a background in therapeutic music and education, invites young listeners to let their imaginations run free as she weaves the sounds of four different flutes into a musical adventure. Gertrude will be joined by Garry Elliott, Ottawa-based guitarist and teacher of classical and jazz guitar at Carleton University. Together, they skillfully present adaptive concerts, focusing on performances accessible to everyone including individuals from the disability community. In 2024, they performed these accessible and inclusive programs at CHEO and at Ottawa's Chamberfest.

A native of St-Césaire, Québec, Gertrude holds a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Ottawa and a master's degree in performance from the University of Montreal. She furthered her studies with a Licentiate in Performance and Communication Skills from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama

in London, England, and trained under Geoffrey Gilbert in Florida.

Gertrude is an active freelance flutist and singer who performs regularly in various retirement homes and has worked as a therapeutic musician at Perley Health in Ottawa for 23 years. As a member of the Music and Health Research Institute at the University of Ottawa, she conducts workshops titled "Building Bridges," aimed at helping musicians better connect with their audiences through performance and communication technique.

Garry has collaborated with Steve Boudreau on two CDs featuring their original compositions, *Pre-Dawn Skies* and *Opus 2*. In 2009, Gertrude and Garry recorded their CD *Habanera* at the Almonte Town Hall, showcasing their musical talents and synergy.

The Friends of the Library are happy to bring this duo back to Almonte for a family-friendly concert on Sunday, December 1 at 2:30PM at the Almonte branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library. Come in from the cold, bring the kids, and inspire young minds and hearts.

Tickets are available by donation at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).

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with Jennifer Cayley
Wednesday, November 17, 7-9PM

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ALMONTE FARMERS' MARKET

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday November 16 *Harvest Market*
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Saturday December 7 *Holiday Market*
9-1 John Levi Arena - Upper Hall
almontefarmersmarket.com



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Bookin' It

Perth WriterFest — Read All About It!

When you think about it — and frankly, you don't have to think too hard — Perth is a perfect place for a writer's festival. And this November, it's finally happening.

Peter Dixon and Heidi Stepanek, proprietors of Spark Books & Curios, are organizing the inaugural Perth WriterFest, which will take place Saturday, November 9 at McMartin House.

by John Pigeau

"This area is a hotbed for the arts in general and celebrates many artistic forms, and now, we believe, it's time for Perth to celebrate the literary arts," Dixon says. "We hope that the Perth WriterFest will become an annual tradition of entertaining, educating, and inspiring all who love good writing."

The inaugural festival features four very talented authors: the multi award-winning Tim Wynne-Jones, newcomer Coltrane Seesequasis, historical fiction novelist Gwen Tuinman, and Sara Power, a gifted short story writer whose debut, *Art of Camouflage*, might justifiably be called one of the best books of the year.

Attendees are in for a day of "delightful interviews, readings, discussions, and socializing." Spark Books Assistant Manager Katherine Hooton will interview Sara Power, and beloved author Tim Wynne-Jones will talk to Coltrane Seesequasis about the young author's new fantasy novel, *Secrets of Stone*. Local historian Susan Code McDougall sits down with Gwen Tuinman to discuss Tuinman's highly praised novel *Unrest*, which delves into frontier Ottawa (Bytown). Wynne-Jones, an Officer of the Order of Canada and the author of thirty-eight books, will also be reading from *The Emperor of Any Place*. Any literary discussion with Mr. Wynne-Jones is an honour and a pleasure for all in attendance.

That part of the festival is free. Space at McMartin House is limited, though, so pre-registration is required — and you can do that by contacting Spark Books & Curios by phone (466-0555) or by email <spark.perth@gmail.com>.

There is a special "add-on" event too — a unique, inspiring, hands-on short story workshop led by Wynne-Jones and Power. That begins at 10AM. There is a \$20 fee for the workshop portion of the festival (money very well spent, in my opinion), and registration is required.

Recently, I had the pleasure of interviewing Sara Power about her dazzling short story collection, *Art of Camouflage*. She says she's excited about her first visit to Perth and is looking forward to participating in the morning workshop.

"Oh, I can't wait!" she says. "Writing workshops can do a lot of different things, but this one will focus on some generative practices and collective feedback; getting those stories on the page. We need to have something to work with, and getting started is often the hardest part. Sometimes we just need that push to remind us that the story is page-worthy."

No stranger to workshoping stories (she's done so academically and, in recent months, professionally), Power adds, "The power of a workshop will always depend on the group, but I trust the process."

Power's debut was released by Freehand Books in May, 2024. Advance praise for the book was wildly enthusiastic. "Fiercely intelligent, funny and tender," wrote acclaimed novelist Caroline Adderson, "*Art of Camouflage* is a remarkable debut." And Commonwealth Writers' Prize winner Lisa Moore raved: "Power's prose is lightning quick, making the dark that follows illumination even darker. Shot through with brilliant images and an elegant fluidity, these stories are striking, subtle, and ultimately spectacular."

Power has since crisscrossed the country touring the book, reading in independent bookshops in Leth-

bridge, Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa, Kingston, Montreal, and St. John's, plus an art gallery in Cornwall, as well as appearing as a featured author at the Ottawa International Writers Festival, Ochre Fest in Ochre Pit Cove Newfoundland, and the beloved Writers at Woody Point Festival in Woody Point, Newfoundland. By all accounts, readers, booksellers, fellow authors, and audiences have all been similarly impressed by Power's short story collection and by her affable and dynamic performances.

The stories in *Art of Camouflage* are about the lives of girls and women caught in the military's orbit. I asked Power, who is a former artillery officer in the Canadian Forces, if she's had much feedback from readers about military life.

"I find it endlessly interesting to think about the layered lives of girls and women, and the transience



Author Sara Power (above) will be at the inaugural Perth WriterFest, along with Tim Wynne-Jones, Coltrane Seesequasis and Gwen Tuinman

of military life can be a particular experience," she said. "A curious sort of tension haunts relationships that are temporary, and it's compelling to imagine characters that have to start over again and again — the reinvention, the self-preservation, the relationship of the story and the character to time. I like to lose myself inside these types of possibilities."

"I can't even tell you how wonderful it has been to meet readers. As a new writer, I'm thrilled when a reader reaches out to tell me how a story touched them. It's everything. A nice lady approached me after one of my readings and shared that she grew up in the military. She was weepy when she spoke about one of my stories. I'll never forget it."

Art of Camouflage is a remarkably good book, an exceptional debut from a clearly gifted writer. Though they're often tender and "fiercely intelligent," as Caroline Adderson put it, a thread of uneasiness often weaves its way through the hearts of these stories. I asked Power if that was intentional.

"I definitely think about tension when I'm writing," she told me. "I follow the writer/teacher George Saunders, and in one of his podcasts he discusses the transfer of energy in a story. He asks his students to identify what is happening with the energy at different parts of the narrative; when it revs and builds, when it is transferred, when it is released. It's a useful way to think about the flow of power and autonomy of characters, and what revelations might arrive when people are pushed to their limits."

She has enjoyed working with shorter forms of fiction, too.

"One of the reasons I love the short story form is because of its ability to compress and distill a human experience," she said. "I'm working on a novel right now, and it feels like a vastly different writing style. I know a short story is finished when I feel that I can't pull anything out without the entire thing falling apart. I think novels might be a bit more forgiving, but really, what do I know?!"

A lot, I would argue. Sara Power knows a lot.

Our Town

By Darrell Nunn

North Grenville Community Theatre (previously known as Kemptville Players) has been entertaining the community for over fifty years. This year we have chosen to present Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* at the North Grenville Municipal Centre in Kemptville from Thursday, November 21 to Sunday, November 24.

We have been working hard on this production for months. With a cast of about 25 and an additional 20 supporting volunteers, this is one of our larger productions. We are very excited about it.

Our Town is one of the most famous, most beloved American theatre classics. In translation it has also been performed in Europe and Asia with great success. Its uni-

versal human themes transcend geography and culture, and yet it is also quintessentially North American.

In America, in the anguished aftermath of 9/11, it was frequently performed to help reaffirm the great truths of the human spirit.

What? No set? A "stage manager" who speaks directly to the audience and periodically interrupts or thanks the characters? After the first possibly unsettling moments, you will become deeply immersed in the characters and story.

Our Town could easily be your own town. Although set a hundred years ago, it remains very relevant to our here and now. We strongly believe that you will recognize yourself in some of the characters.

If you have ever been in love, felt insecure, been protective of a child, grieved a loved one, felt despair and/or hope, or laughed out loud as you reminisced about your life, you will find parts of yourself in this story. If you have ever looked back and reflected upon your younger self, you will find yourself in this play.

To begin with it may seem very ordinary, but its deliberate simplicity reveals profound truths. Watching a live performance is a very special kind of intimacy. Come to the theatre and immerse yourself in all the joys, sorrows and humour of a typical small town.

Shows take place at 7:30PM from Thursday to Saturday, and at 2PM on Sunday. On the Sunday there will also be luncheon available before the show. Find more information at <NGCT.ca>. Tickets are \$25 and available from TicketsPlease.ca or in person at B & H Your Community Grocer in Kemptville.

— Darrell Nunn is the Director of NGCT's production of *Our Town*



Chad Wolfe plays the part of the Stage Manager in Thornton Wilder's iconic play *Our Town*

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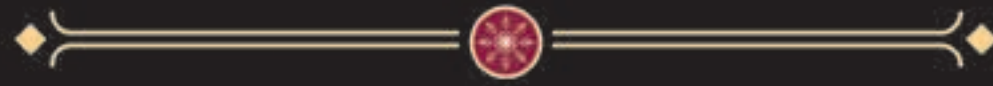
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w s/g Mike Wattie

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Shop the Season: Holiday Markets & Shopping Events

Perth Farmers' Harvest Market (November 2)
Kris Kringle Craft Fair (November 3)
2nd Annual Christmas in Perth Vendor Market (November 3)
Shop Stamp and Win BIA Event (November 12-December 31)
Perth Farmers' Christmas Market (November 16)
Holiday Knitting and Bake Sale (November 16)
Christmas Craft & Vendor Market (November 17)
Once Upon a Christmas Downtown Perth Event (November 23)
Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show (December 7)
Holly Jolly Art Show (December 7 and 8)

Sounds of the Season: Concerts & Holiday Shows

PCC: A Christmas Carol, The Musical (November 14-17)
Winter Wonderettes (November 28-December 8)
CPKC Holiday Train (November 28)
Christmas with the Ennis Sisters (November 30)
The Second Wife's Story (November 30)
Women & Men of the Tay: I'm Dreaming (December 4)
Festival of Lights Drone Light Show (December 6)
Christmas at the Palace (December 14)
Perth Citizens' Band Christmas Concert (December 15)

Santa's Stops: Where to See Him in Perth

Find him at Once Upon a Christmas (November 23)
Bring your own camera to Code's Mill (November 23 and 30)
Book your photoshoot with Spring Children (November 30)
Reserve your photo session with Michale Fyke Real Estate & Perth Museum (December 1)
You won't want to miss the Santa Claus Parade (December 7)

Holiday Happenings: Extra Festive Fun in Perth!

Christmas Urn and Wreath Workshops (throughout November)
Perth Civitan Annual Business Christmas Party (December 14)
Polar Bear Plunge (January 1)

Find all the details and more at
[PERTH.ca/HolidayEvents](https://perth.ca/HolidayEvents)





Makers, Music, and Memories in Perth

Get ready for a magical holiday season this year! Perth Tourism invites you to enjoy its many fun-filled holiday experiences — whether you're searching for the perfect gift, capturing memories with Santa, or immersing yourself in the music of the season, Perth has it all!

The Perth Tourism team has curated the copious events of the holiday season into three distinct themes: Makers, Music, and Memories, making it easier for you to find what resonates best with what you're looking for.

"There's so much happening in Perth this holiday season, and we've themed it all to help you quickly discover the experiences that best match your holiday vibe," says Kathryn Jamieson, Manager of Tourism and Culture.

With countless holiday markets, including the Perth Farmers' Christmas Market, Once Upon a Christmas, and the Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show, **Makers** from Lanark County and beyond will be showcasing their best. You'll have no trouble finding unique, handcrafted items to complete your gift list!

The **Music** scene is on point here in Perth, with tons of opportunities to soak up the sounds of the season. The CPKC Holiday Train, Women and Men of the Tay Choir, and Perth Citizens' Band Christmas Concert are just a few of the festive performances happening and will be sure to lift your spirits. Keep an eye on the town's event calendar for details on upcoming shows and concerts.

Most importantly, the holidays are for making **Memories**... especially those with Santa. You'll find him at Code's Mill, at the Santa Claus Parade, or book a time to snap a photo with him at Spring Children or the Perth Museum.

Celebrate the season and make the most of this special time in Perth by exploring everything this charming town has to offer. Whether you're planning a day out or a weekend getaway, Perth has something for everyone — from holiday shopping in local boutiques and stores to tasty bites and bevies at breweries and eateries. Visit <Perth.ca/HolidayEvents> for a full list of activities and events to plan your perfect holiday experience.



Spark books & curios presents

Perth WriterFest

NOVEMBER 9, 2024
McMartin House
125 Gore St. E.
1-5 PM
(free with registration)

Registration required for both afternoon & morning workshop.

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Featuring:
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Sara Power
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Writing Workshop with Tim & Sara
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STUDIO THEATRE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

WINTER WONDERETTES

Written and Created by Roger Bean

"The girls are back and ready to rock 'round the Christmas tree"

DIRECTED BY C. LEE BATES



Performance Rights for Winter Wonderettes are handled exclusively by Steel Springs Stage Rights www.stagerights.com

Vocal Arrangements by Roger Bean & Brian Baker Musical Arrangements by Brian Baker

See our article this edition

7:30 PM shows	2:00 PM shows
Thurs Nov 28	Sat Nov 30
Fri Nov 29	Sun Dec 1
Thurs Dec 5	Sat Dec 7
Fri Dec 6	Sun Dec 8

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Pick up a printed copy in-store and scan the QR code for a delicious Holiday Pumpkin Spice Smoothie recipe.

dandelion foods

“Art is Magic” Show & Sale in Merrickville

Step into a world where Art is Magic at the Merrickville Arts Guild’s renowned art show, taking place on Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, from 10AM to 4PM at the Community Centre (106 Read Street).

MAG is excited to welcome a wonderful mix of fresh talent and familiar faces this year! With many new artists joining the Guild, visitors can look forward to an even broader array of creative styles and media, alongside the impressive works of long-standing members.

Discover the captivating creations of over twenty talented artists showcasing an eclectic mix of pottery, jewellery, photography, folk art, oil, acrylic, watercolours, Indigenous moose and caribou tufting, painted traditional drums, ceramics, exquisite glass beads, woodworking, sculptures, fibre arts, wearable art and mixed media.

While you explore, enjoy live entertainment by the incredibly talented musician Anya Perry, who will perform sets on Saturday at 11AM and 2PM, and on Sunday at 2PM. Don’t forget to enter for a chance to win exciting door prizes. Relax and refuel at the Starving Artist Café, where you can indulge in a delightful selection of savoury treats! Free admission and free parking make this the perfect weekend outing in the enchanting and friendly village.

Nestled along the Rideau Canal, the historic Victorian village of Merrickville is a true gem, and one of Ontario’s prettiest



You’ll find works by Laura Kingsbury (above) and many other artists at the MAG Art is Magic Show & Sale

destinations. With its beautifully preserved 19th century charming historic buildings, Merrickville exudes timeless elegance and picturesque scenery.

You won’t want to miss this exciting, vibrant mix of artistry and history — where Art is Magic everywhere in Merrickville!

Tea for Three

Toronto Jazz Trio Coming to Perth

Tea For Three is a dynamic jazz trio fronted by vocalist Annie Elgie, featuring pianist Steven Noronha and bassist Paul Trevor Sandberg. Emerging stars in Toronto’s vibrant music scene, each member brings a diverse background in genres spanning RnB, jazz, folk, and experimental sound. Together, they explore classic standards

and original compositions influenced by the rich tapestry of American songbook traditions and the profound legacy of Black American music.

Annie Elgie and friends were featured in a house concert in Perth in January and thoroughly impressed all present. They were encouraged to return to play a bigger venue to share their passion and expertise.

Annie has a personal link to Perth: her parents, Bill Elgie and Leslie Hoyle have been involved in musical theatre since they moved here in 2021.

Tea for Three will be performing a concert in Perth on Sunday, November 17 at 2PM at St. Paul’s United Church, with admission by donation.

For Perth and area jazz fans, this performance is a “must see”.



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- Silver jewellery by Almonte’s Meredith Kucey, General Fine Craft...\$30-350
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- Signed copy of Louise Penny’s “The Grey Wolf”, Mill Street Books.....\$40
- Carnelian & silver pendant by Stephen Clark, Riverguild Fine Crafts.....\$300
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Guatemala Stove Project Events

A group of volunteers will be heading to the highlands of western Guatemala from February 1–10, 2025, and while working with local masons to build cookstoves, will experience the resiliency and joy of the Maya people and witness their great need. When those volunteers return, they will continue the 25-year mission of the Guatemala Stove Project (GSP) — raising funds to help Maya families.

You too can assist the GSP in helping Maya families and fighting climate change this month, right here in eastern Ontario. Simply participate in the online auction taking place from November 4–10 at 32auctions.com/2024GSP where you can donate a stove, micro-loan or educational bursary, or purchase an interesting gift. The GSP will also be holding a fundraising dance at the Perth Civitan Hall on Saturday, November 16 featuring the music of Open Road and a silent auction.

Guatemala is among the poorest nations in the western hemisphere, and Mayan families living in the western highlands are the poorest of the poor in Guatemala. Like so many families living on the margins around the world, they cook their meals over open fires. Incredibly, fully 30% of the world's population uses solid fuel to cook!

Cooking over an open fire creates two problems. First, smoke from cooking in a small, enclosed space

creates toxic indoor air pollution that reduces the life expectancy of every member of the family. This pollution hits mothers and small children particularly hard, as they spend the most time near the fire.

The GSP raises money to fund cookstoves and works with NGO partners in Guatemala to have them built by Guatemalan masons of concrete, mortar and steel. The cookstove's chimney removes the smoke from Maya households. The enclosed firebox shields children from open flames and greatly improves fuel efficiency. This saves the limited resources of families and helps to break the cycle of poverty. Over the past 25 years the GSP has funded the building of over 8,000 family cookstoves and 55 larger school cookstoves. These stoves have improved the health, life expectancy, and overall wellbeing of over 50,000 Maya people!

The second problem with cooking over open fires is its inefficiency and the release of large amounts of carbon dioxide. Efficient GSP masonry cookstoves reduce the amount of wood burned by half. This means half as many trees are cut down for fuel, which reduces local deforestation. It also means over 2 tonnes of carbon are saved each year by each stove! Over its lifespan each cookstove would more than offset the average carbon footprint of a typical Canadian



You can assist the Guatemala Stove Project in helping Maya families by contributing to their online auction or attending their annual dance on November 16 in Perth

(calculated at 14.2 tons in 2019). When considered collectively, GSP stoves will have offset over 175,000 tonnes of CO₂.

A GSP cookstove is a very powerful “machine” to improve lives and fight climate change. To learn more about the work of the GSP, please visit guatemalastoveproject.org.

“Real Love” in Perth

Tribute to Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of country music magic on Saturday, November 23, at 7:30PM, as St. Paul's United Church in Perth welcomes the “Real Love” Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton Tribute Show. Performed by award-winning country artists Alan Turner and Laurie Lynn, this concert promises to be a night filled with classic hits and the timeless charm of two country music legends.

Alan and Laurie bring Kenny and Dolly's legacy to life, taking audiences on a journey through six decades of unforgettable songs. Fans of all ages are invited to sing along, tap their feet, and reminisce as they enjoy the legendary hits that made Rogers and Parton household names. This dynamic duo's on-stage charisma and heartfelt chemistry will make you feel like you're spending an evening with the real Kenny and Dolly.

The show has wowed audiences across North America, offering a faithful recreation of the original country icons' stage presence and vocal harmony. Whether you're a longtime fan or discovering these classic hits for the first time, the “Real Love” tribute show is sure to be a heartwarming experience, filled with songs that speak to love, life, and memories that last a lifetime.

Tickets are \$34 in advance and are available at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). If there are still seats available, tickets can be purchased for \$39 at the door. Don't miss this chance to experience an evening of timeless country music in Perth. Get your tickets early, as this is sure to be a popular event for country music lovers and those seeking a night of nostalgia and great entertainment.

Gifts for Parents & Grandparents

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- “Murad” smoking Santa puzzle based on a 1942 ad, TheOccurrence.....\$28
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Putting the Garden to Bed

Getting out in the garden last month needed no encouragement as we were treated to spectacular October weather. I am always in favour of doing as much clean-up as possible in the fall; our spring can be incredibly short.

November brings lots of leaves to rake, and I like to keep a few trash cans of dry leaves next to my composter. When I throw a bucket of kitchen scraps in the composter in the winter I will add some leaves. Remember that successful composting requires two parts of “dry” (high carbon) materials to one part of “wet” (high nitrogen) materials.

by David Hinks

Some perennial ornamental plants are best cleaned up in the fall. The leaves of hostas become very mushy and are easier to clear in the fall. I cut the stems to about two inches — just long enough so I can see where they are in the spring. Many other perennial flowering plants are worth leaving over the winter. The larger sedums have strong erect stems that will show nicely against the snow (depending on how much snow we get of course...). And there are some flowering plants, such as coneflowers, that have strong stems with seeds that many birds are fond of.

It is amazing how many vegetables can still be harvested in November as they have built-in tolerance for cold. They include Swiss chard, sorrel, kale, salad greens, spinach, Brussels sprouts, carrots and beets. The same is true for many of our herbs such as parsley, sage and thyme. This underlines the importance of knowing the growing requirements of vegetables and how they fit with the realities of the Ottawa Valley climate.

Once the ground is frozen it is time to turn our attention to some of the jobs that have been neglected. The first is to clean all of the garden tools, sharpen and cover metal parts with a bit of oil, and hang them in a safe place in the tool shed. The next is to make a record of each growing bed, the date it was planted, and the variety of vegetable planted.

One other thing that I like to do this time of year is to create a written inventory of all the left-over seeds. I create a record of the vegetable variety, the source of the seed, the year that I bought it and approximately how many seeds are left. Many seed packets contain enough seeds to produce many more plants in a year than I could conceivably want. I find it extremely wasteful to throw out partial seed packets knowing that seeds may remain viable for many years. And often I will purchase

larger packets of seeds than I need for one year since, for example, for twice the price I'm getting four times the number of seeds.

The following are approximate ages at which seed of good initial viability stored under cool dry conditions will still provide a satisfactory rate of germination: beans — 3 years; beets and Swiss chard — 4 years; cabbage family (broccoli, cauliflower, collards, cabbage, kale, kohlrabi, Brussels sprouts) — 5 years; corn — 1 to 2 years; cucumbers — 5 years; eggplant, tomatoes and peppers — 4 years; onions — 1 to 2 years; parsnip — 1 to 2 years; peas — 3 years; pumpkin, and squash — 4 years.

I toss out any seeds that I will never plant or ones that I have serious doubts about the germination rate. Nothing is more disappointing than preparing the growing space and planting the seeds for a crop that is very time-critical, waiting for the seed to germinate, and then seeing nothing happen. For vegetables such as squash or pumpkin that are planted directly in the garden on Victoria Day there is not a lot of leeway if they are to ripen before the first fall frost.

Nasty cold days pass more quickly when time is spent planning next year's gardens. One of my objectives in planning is to ensure that we are helping the pollinators. A monoculture of grass may have great curb appeal, but it requires high inputs of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and water, and has no benefits for our beleaguered pollinators.

Much of the high cost of maintaining lawns can be attributed to the use of Kentucky Blue Grass to achieve an instant lawn. It has aggressive rhizomes (roots) that knit together to produce a very strong sod. Other grasses such as fescues do not have this aggressive rhizome production. Kentucky Blue requires full sun, good drainage and fertile soil — it is not well suited for our climate as it becomes dormant under drought conditions and becomes vulnerable to the grubs of several beetles. Other grasses such as fescues, which are started from seed, do very well in shady, dry, low-fertility areas. Ground covers such as clover do not need to be fertilized and are not attacked by grubs.

My recommendation is to get off the lawn maintenance treadmill. Plant beds of flowers and vegetables, or if you need a flat area for the kids and pets to romp on, I can think of two possible approaches. The first is to rake out the dead areas, spread some compost and then over-seed with clover and fescue seeds. The second approach, and my preferred one, is to just let all those ‘weeds’ that you have been fighting have free rein. There are many plants that make quite suitable lawn plants. Many stay green and visually appealing through the heat of summer; some are quite drought-tolerant, and most have flowers and are very pollinator-friendly. One of the most visible is the lowly dandelion — it provides essential early pollen for pollinators, it is edible and it remains green through the seasons due to its deep tap-root — yet it remains public enemy number one for most gardeners.

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Check Out *The King's New Clothes!*

By Heddy Sorour

A thoughtful and quiet man of many talents, Keith Stanton has played a number of choice roles with Theatre Night in Merrickville. But this fall he'll be treading the boards as Baron Grumbleguts in the pantomime *The King's New Clothes*, written by Peter Bond and Bob Heather. As the name suggests, the Baron is not the nicest of characters.

"He's deliciously evil. In this role I want to be king, and the only way I can do that is to steal the kingdom from my brother," says Stanton with a grin.

His evil plan is to turn the king into a laughing stock and persuade the residents to proclaim him the rightful king instead. Naturally, he's aided by a few other characters, although his choice of cohorts is questionable. Will he succeed? The only way to find

out is to attend this fun, funny and colourful theatrical romp, complete with music and dance.

The show opens on November 21 and runs until November 24. Just four performances — two evenings and two matinées.

As enjoyable as pantomimes are both to perform and watch, the journey from casting to performance is both fun and fraught.

"Directing a pantomime with this many characters is challenging, in our busy world," says Bronwen McKnight, an experienced director. "Getting 20 people into the same space at the same time isn't always smooth sailing!"

McKnight has directed musicals in the past and has a good handle on integrating song and dance seamlessly into the plot. In this production she's aided by Wendy Earl as the music director, supported by drummer Gary Roberts, and Lynn Surrette as the choreographer.

Given the size of the cast, there are a number of "new-to-theatre" cast members, including children as young as 10.

"We have a number of experienced cast members and about six new ones, and the more experienced thespians are guiding the less experienced and the children, so I'm really happy about that," explains McKnight. About half-way through rehearsals, McKnight says the production is really starting to take shape.

"The cast is gelling, and as actors learn their lines and blocking they're starting to have fun with the play and interact with the audience," adds McKnight.

The King's New Clothes is a new take on the tale of *The Emperor Has No Clothes*, and even features the song made famous by Dany Kaye.

As large as the cast of a pantomime is, there's another army working behind the scenes. This includes the producer, stage managers, set designers, painters, costume designers, sound, lights, make-up, hair, musicians, and all the people who build the set and risers and who support the actors backstage.

"Last time I stage managed was in 2005, with 52 people in *A Christmas Carol*, so I thought this would

be a breeze," says stage manager Vicki Graham. "This is different — there are a lot more moving parts, with song and dance."

This isn't the first pantomime Theatre Night in Merrickville has produced as a fall production, and it likely won't be the last. As challenging as these productions are, they are audience-pleasers and a great way to reach out to younger audiences.

Produced as a classic English pantomime with a Canadian twist, this production has all the necessary elements: a dame, a comedic duo, a prince, a princess, the evil Grumbleguts, music, dance and a lot of audience participation!

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children under 10, and can be purchased in advance online at <merrickvilletheatre.org> or with cash at the door. Evening performances start at 7:30PM on November 21 and 22, and matinées start at 2PM on November 23 and 24.



Keith Stanton as Baron Grumbleguts in *The King's New Clothes*, which opens on November 21

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MERA Christmas Fair

The Annual MERA Christmas Fair returns this year! Come on out to the MERA Schoolhouse (974 Dalhousie Concession 9A) in McDonalds Corners on Saturday, November 16 from 9AM to 3PM. Since 2005, MERA (McDonalds Corners & Elphin Recreation & Arts) has hosted this Christmas Fair where local artisans offer wonderful and unique items for sale. A nutritious light lunch will be provided by the MERA café. There will also be a bake sale and a draw featuring donated items from vendors.

This year's Christmas Fair has sixteen vendors: Fine Chocolate by Ludwig, basketry by Ankaret Dean, corn-husk dolls by Marilyn Nicholas-Dahan, repurposed wood by Brian Roche, wire crochet and gemstone jewellery by Kat Stevens, functional fused glass by Kevin Kepler, handcrafted lampwork beads and fused glass by Homestead Studio Glass, woodworking by Tim Booth and Barry Russell, dried flower arrangements and knitwear by Ruth Anderson, wire wrapped jewellery by PJ's Pretties, cards and artwork by Emily Wilson, honey and health & wellness products by Wild Thyme Homestead, handmade heritage weaving by the MERA Weavers, one-of-a-kind pottery by the MERA Pottery Studio, and artworks by the MERA Art Circle.

By shopping at the MERA Christmas Fair, you are helping to support this local arts and recreation facility so that they can continue to offer music events, workshops, community dinners and much more. For more information, please visit <meraschoolhouse.org>.

Photography by Linda Krakow Eaman

Linda Krakow Eaman has had a camera in her hand since she was a child growing up in Montreal, photographing her family's travels and making prints in her father's basement darkroom. While university and her early career took her in other directions, photography has remained a constant throughout her life, sometimes as a hobby and, for almost 20 years, as a business focused on portraits and events. After living in Silicon Valley and in London, England, in 2020 Linda and her husband moved home to Canada. They now live on beautiful Wolfe Island, Ontario, where you're most likely to find Linda tending her chickens and garden, or wandering with a camera and a sketchbook. Linda's website and blog can be found at <LKEphotography.com>.

Linda says "Photography is how I see the world. I am a photographer of life: from street scenes to landscapes, insects to elephants, portraits of loved ones and of strangers. Photography adds depth to every experience, helping me connect with



MERA will host their popular annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, November 16. Drop by on November 3 to meet photographer Linda Krakow Eaman, whose work is shown above.

people, cultures, and the world around me. And it allows me to share that with others; a photograph can tell a story and open a window to another place and time. In recent years I have found myself turning increasingly to nature. It's a respite from the challenges of the world, and a never-ending source of wonderment. Moving to the country has brought me closer to nature, figuratively and literally — and my camera is never far away. Our travel has become more nature-focused too, from camping in Algonquin Park, to watching puffins in Scotland, to a magical safari in Botswana. Immersing myself in the natural world has fed my soul and brought me joy. I share these images in the hope that they will do the same for you."

Linda will be exhibiting her photography at MERA for the month of November. Please join her for a Meet the Artist event on November 3 from 2-4PM.

Gifts for Faraway Friends

Sumptuous, soft silk Batik scarf, Fine Batiks.....\$50 & up
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Itty Bitty Art Show in Carleton Place

Perhaps the magic of winter's first snow hasn't arrived, but whatever the weather is outside, entering the Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Show is like stepping into a magical place. The warmth of the people and the brilliance of all the colourful art will immediately lift your spirits. The show runs Saturday and Sunday, November 16 and 17, from 10AM to 4:30PM each day.

Located at the Carleton Place Arena (75 Neelin Street), there is lots of free parking and admission is also free. There is an elevator and two stairways leading to the Upper Great Hall show location.

There are two great door prizes to be won. One is a gift certificate from Canadian Tire and the second is a piece of art from one of the participating artists. Please remember to fill out a form!

In the Upper Great Hall of the Carleton Place Arena, 52 artists, all members of Arts Carleton Place (ACP), will be showing their creations. There will be small paintings, jewellery, sculptures, photography, wood turning, art cards, calendars, silk scarves and much more.

Everything in the show is priced at \$200 or less, with many treasures to be found for under \$50. This is the best show to find the perfect gift for everyone on your holiday shopping list, including yourself! The

variety of artwork that you will see is impressive and the quality is unsurpassed.

Each artist will be present in their booth, ready to answer any questions you may have. It's a great opportunity to meet the person behind the art and learn about their creative process. The show is family-oriented, so bring the kids and introduce them to the world of art and artisanal works.

Students from both local high schools will be volunteering during the show. They will be performing a variety of essential tasks, all of which help make the show run smoothly and enable the artists to be available to talk to everyone who stops by their booth.

A portion of the proceeds from show sales will go to the ACP Bursary Program. A bursary is awarded to one graduating student from each of the Carleton Place and Notre Dame High Schools who plans to continue their education in the field of the arts. There will be a donation jar at the entrance, and visitors are encouraged to consider donating to the ACP Bursary. The goal is to cover, at a minimum, one semester of tuition.

ACP would like to take this opportunity to thank the Town of Carleton Place and MyFM 88.1 for their support.



Find gorgeous art by Denise Guillemette (above) and over 50 other artists at the Itty Bitty Art Show on November 16 & 17

Gifts for Husbands & Significant Others

- Sports jerseys and memorabilia, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles.....\$5 & up
- Art House Music Series holiday bundles (5 or 10 tickets), CP Gallery.....\$135-310
- "Gift of Cheese" club subscription, Pêches & Poivre.....\$55 & up
- Lanark Sheepskin slippers, Riverguild Fine Crafts.....\$110
- "Fish" 1008-piece jigsaw puzzle of Great Lakes fish, TheOccurrence.....\$33
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- Adult licorice, Pêches & Poivre.....\$17-60
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Rock & Roll Christmas, Perth, Dec 7
Nick of Time Craft Show, Perth, Dec 7
Holiday Makers Market, Lanark, Dec 7
Holly Jolly Art Sale, Perth, Dec 7-8
Comfort and Joy, Smiths Falls, Dec 13
Kintail Country Xmas, Almonte, Dec 14
St. Paul's Xmas Concert, Perth, Dec 15
Mudmen, Perth, Dec 28

Festivals

Once Upon A Christmas, Nov 23, 10AM-4PM. Music, hot choc, Santa, wagon rides at Perth; Crystal Palace. downtownperthbia.ca/events.html

Literature

Author Peggy Blair, Nov 2, 2-4PM. By donation to the Merrickville Library, register at 791-4733. Merrickville Legion

Diana Beresford-Kroeger with Ed Lawrence, Nov 5, 6:30-8:30PM. Discussing *Our Green Heart*. Register at missmillslibrary.com. Almonte Library. Free.

An Evening with Tim Cook, Nov 7, 6:30-8:30PM. Historian will speak about his latest book *The Good Allies*. Register at missmillslibrary.com. Almonte Library. Free.

Guest Author Saturdays: Molly O'Connor (Nov 9, 11-4); **Scott Mainprize**, (Nov 23, 10-5); **Mary Jane Maffini**, (Nov 30, 1-5). A Bunch of Whimsy, Carleton Place. Free. abunchofwhimsy.com

Perth WriterFest, workshop on Short-Story Writing, Nov 9, 10AM-5PM. 4 authors. Morning workshop: \$20. WriterFest afternoon: free. Perth Museum. facebook.com/Sparkperth

The Road to Traditional Publishing, Nov 11, 7-8:30PM. Discussion led by Elysia Rourke. Almonte Library. Free. almontereadersandwriters.org

Delve — Author Conversation, Nov 14, 6:30PM. Writing romance stories that span genres. Equator Coffee, Almonte. Pay what you can at TicketsPlease.ca

The Art of Writing Haiku, Nov 23, 3-5PM. Workshop with Claudia Radmore. Almonte Library. \$40 from TicketsPlease.ca

Local Food

Harvest Market, Nov 2, 8AM-1PM. Perth Farmers' Market, Crystal Palace. Perthfarmersmarket.ca

Almonte Farmers' Harvest Market, Nov 16, 9AM-1PM. John Levi Community Centre, Almonte. almontefarmersmarket.com

Christmas Market, Nov 16, 8AM-1PM. Perth Farmers' Market, Crystal Palace. Perthfarmersmarket.ca

Visual Arts

Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Nov 2-3, 10AM-4PM. Artisans, crafters & bakers. John Levi Community Centre, Almonte. valleyartisanshow.blogspot.ca

Makers/Crafters Market at PBR Art Gallery, Nov 2 & 23, 11AM-4PM. Artisan Village at the Falls, Smiths Falls. artisanvillagesmithsfalls.com

Merrickville Makers Christmas Market, Nov 2-3, 10AM-4PM. 30 unique vendors each day. Merrickville Community Centre. Free. merrickvillagemakersmarkets.ca

Meet the Artist, Nov 3, 2-4PM. Photography by Linda Krakow Eaman. MERA, McDonalds Corners. meraschoolhouse.org

Lanark County Camera Club Meeting, Nov 6, 7PM. IAlgonquin College, Perth. Free. lccameraclub.com

\$200 and Under Sale, Nov 9 (10-5) & 10 (10-4). Original artwork by club members. Kanata Art Club. Free. kacl.ca

MAG Art is Magic Show, Nov 9-10, 10AM-4PM. Art show by Merrickville Arts Guild members. Merrickville Community Centre. mag-artists.ca

Common Threads, Contrasting Cloths, Nov 16, 2-4PM. Virtual curatorial and artist talk via Zoom, mvtm.ca

Meet the Artists - 10th Anniversary, Nov 16, 2-5PM. Works by 28 artists from across Canada. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. sivarulrasa.com

WHAT'S ON IN

Monday **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday**

The **Guatemala Stove Project** is holding an online fundraising auction [Nov 4-10] at 32auctions.com/2024GSP
General Fine Craft presents new works by Meredith Kucey (silver jewellery), Bruce Cochrane (wood-fired ceramics), and Jay Li (oil paintings) generalfinecraft.com
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum presents *Common Threads, Contrasting Cloths*, works by Sue Clark and Judi Miller mvtm.ca
Sivarulrasa Gallery presents their 10th Anniversary Show with works by 29 Canadian artists [from Nov 16] sivarulrasa.com
Art in the Manor presents works by Sarah Jaynes [to Nov 21], and works by Charles Spratt [from Nov 28] Fairview Manor Lobby, 75 Spring St., Almonte

4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Diana Beresford-Kroeger in Conversation with Ed Lawrence, Almonte 🎵 Sex Please, We're Sixty, Woodlawn 🍴 Cooking Connections, Perth 🎪 Grand Opening, Carleton Place 📺 Ashton United Church community breakfast, Ashton 🎵 Nolan Hubbard, The Cove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Sex Please, We're Sixty, Woodlawn 🎵 Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough, The Cove 📺 MFNC Monthly Meeting, Arnprior 📺 Lanark County Camera Club Meeting, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Sex Please, We're Sixty, Woodlawn 📺 An Evening with Tim Cook, Almonte 🎵 Original Thursdays - Shane Murphy, The Cove 🎵 Campbell Woods, Carleton Place 	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕯️ Remembrance Day Ceremonies 🎵 Monday Musical Residency - Jon Jones, The Cove 📖 The Road to Traditional Publishing, Almonte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍴 Cooking Connections, Perth 🎵 Ashton United Church community breakfast, Ashton 🎵 Teagan McLaren, The Cove 	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough, The Cove
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Monday Musical Residency - Jon Jones, The Cove 📺 Connecting End of Life Care, Perth 📺 Almonte Quilters Guild Meeting, Almonte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍴 Cooking Connections, Perth 🎵 Ashton United Church community breakfast, Ashton 🎵 Cassie Noble with opener: Gamekeeper, The Cove 	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough, The Cove
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Monday Musical Residency - Jon Jones, The Cove 🎵 Boreal, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍴 Cooking Connections, Perth 🎵 Sarah Burton, The Cove 	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough, The Cove
			28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Our Town, Kemptville 🎵 Voices for Change: Addressing Youth Homelessness, TBD 🎵 Social Swing Dance with Revival Swing, Almonte 🎵 Eric Uren, The Cove 🎵 Music Night Concert, Snow Road Station 🎵 The King's New Clothes, Merrickville 🎵 Ben Caplan, Neat Coffee Shop
			28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎵 Winter Night Market, Almonte 🎵 Meghan Balogh & Martin Smit, The Cove 🎵 CPKC Holiday Train, Perth 🎵 Crystal Shawanda, Neat Coffee Shop 🎵 Winter Wonderettes, Perth 📺 Art in the Manor: Charlie Spratt, Almonte

Itty Bitty Art & Artisan Show, Nov 16-17, 10AM-4:30PM. \$200 or less. Free. Carleton Place Arena. arts.carletonplace.com

MERA Christmas Fair & Art Show, Nov 16, 9AM-3PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. meraschoolhouse.org

Fine Batiks, Nov 16-17, 23-24, 11AM-4PM. Sale of Indonesian scarves, tablecloths, woodenware. Maberly. finebatiks.ca

Gift of Art Show & Sale, Nov 16-17, 10AM-5PM. Kanata Art Gallery. kanatagallery.ca

Almonte Quilters Guild Meeting, Nov 18, 7PM. Almonte Civitan Hall. \$35 annual membership; Guests \$5. almontequiltersguild.ca

Art in the Manor: Charlie Spratt, Vernissage Nov 28, 7-9PM. Fairview Manor, Almonte. almontehospitalfoundation.com

Artistic Creations, Nov 29 (3-8PM) & 30 (9AM-4PM). West Carleton Arts Society's sale of works priced at \$200 & under. westcarletonartsociety.ca. Mess Hall, Carp

Art & Fine Craft at PBR Art Gallery, Nov 30, 11AM-4PM. Artisan Village at the Falls, Smiths Falls. artisanvillagesmithsfalls.com

Beckwith Christmas Craft Show, Nov 30, 10AM-3PM. Donations for the Lanark Food Bank. Beckwith Rec Complex. 435-8929

Theatre

One-Act Play Festival, Nov 1 (7PM) & 2 (1PM & 7PM). Studio Theatre Perth. \$24 from TicketsPlease.ca. studiotheatreperth.com

IF, Nov 1-2, 7PM. Family movie with Ryan Reynolds. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$12 at the door. smithsfallstheatre.com

Sex Please, We're Sixty, Nov 5-8, 7:30PM; Nov 9-10, 2PM. Lighthearted comedy. Northwind Centre, Woodlawn. \$20 from TicketsPlease.ca

The Wizard is... Odd!?, Nov 8 & 15 (7:30PM), 9, 10, 16, 17 (2PM). A hilarious original musical by Humm Team Productions. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$32 adults, \$22 youth from TicketsPlease.ca

My Penguin Friend, Nov 8, 2 & 7PM. Film. Studio Theatre Perth. \$12 at the door. studiotheatreperth.com/film-club-fridays

Derek Seguin, Nov 9, 8PM. One of Canada's top comedians. Studio Theatre Perth. \$50 from TicketsPlease.ca

A Christmas Carol: the Musical, Nov 14, 15, 16, 7PM; Nov 16-17, 2PM. Perth Community Choir presents this classic tale. PDCI, Perth. PerthCommunityChoir.com

Comedy-Ilusions, Nov 15, 7PM. Stand-up. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$25. smithsfallstheatre.com

Living Below the Line, Nov 15, 7PM. Heart-warming film about poverty. Studio Theatre Perth. By donation. studiotheatreperth.com

The Great Escaper, Nov 17, 2PM. Movie with Michael Caine. St. Andrew's United Church, Pakenham. \$15 at TicketsPlease.ca

The King's New Clothes, Nov 21-22, 7:30PM; Nov 23-24, 2PM. Tickets at merrickvilletheatre.org or at the door (cash only). Merrickville Community Centre. \$20 adults, \$5 kids.

Our Town, Nov 21-22, 7:30PM; Nov 23-24, 2PM. Iconic play by Thornton Wilder. N. Grenville Municipal Centre, Kemptville. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434

Winter Wonderettes, Nov 28, 29, Dec 5, 6 (7:30PM), Nov 30, Dec 1, 7, 8 (2PM). 60s-era holiday tunes and dances. Studio Theatre Perth. studiotheatreperth.com

Cabaret Rachele, Nov 29, 6-9PM. Stand-up, burlesque and drag, hosted by Rachele Elie, presented by The Hub/Rebound. Almonte Civitan Hall. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca

Seasons of Love, Nov 29-30, 7:30PM. An evening of music, song and theatre. Carleton Place Town Hall. \$60 at TicketsPlease.ca. mississippimuds.ca

Youth

MMYC Haunted House, Oct 31-Nov 1, 5:30-9PM. Mississippi Mills Youth Centre, Almonte. \$10. facebook.com/MississippiMillsYouthCentre

Mini Maker Craft Fair, Nov 2, 10AM-1PM. Over 15 vendors ages 6-16. Carleton Place Library. carletonplace.ca/library-c234.php

Music

Rocky Horror Halloween, Nov 1, 7PM. Themed dance. Code's Mill, Perth. \$28.

Old Tyme Country Dinner Dance, Nov 3, Dec 1, 2-6PM. Clayton Community Centre. Adults: \$20 / Children 6-10: \$13. 256-0740

Turpin's Trail, Nov 3, 7PM. Zion-Memorial United Church, Carleton Place. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca. zion-memorial.ca

Tea for Three Jazz Trio, Nov 17, 2PM. Dynamic vocalist, pianist and bassist from Toronto. St. Paul's United - Perth. Admission by donation. elgiehoyle@gmail.com

Campbell Woods, Nov 7, 7PM. Live music, local treats and art. Carleton Place Gallery. \$30 from TicketsPlease.ca. cpgallery.ca

Danny Michel & Steve Poltz, Nov 8, 7:30PM. St. Paul's United - Perth. \$45 from TicketsPlease.ca

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MMYC Haunted House, Almonte Community Conversation, Almonte Perth Pumpkin Parade, Perth Wood & Wire Tour, The Cove Cait Porteous, St. James Gate Rocky Horror Halloween, Perth One-Act Play Festival, Perth IF, Smiths Falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-Act Play Festival, Perth Community Builders' Craft Fair, Almonte Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Almonte Merrickville Makers Christmas Market, Merrickville Mini Maker Craft Fair, Carleton Place Makers/Crafters Market, Smiths Falls Author Peggy Blair, Merrickville Head Over Heels, The Cove Jono Townsend, CC's on the Rideau Mom to Mom's Sale, Almonte The Second Wife's Story, Perth IF, Smiths Falls Harvest Market, Perth Rotary Women's Fair, Carleton Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Almonte Merrickville Makers Christmas Market, Merrickville Kris Kringle Craft Fair, Perth Annual Christmas in Perth Vendor Market, Perth The McMillan's Camp Boys, The Cove Old Tyme Country Dinner Dance, Clayton Meet the Artist, McDonalds Corners Annual "Hunters' Dinner", Lanark Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh, The Cove Turpin's Trail, Carleton Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wizard is... Odd!?, Almonte Sex Please, We're Sixty, Woodlawn My Penguin Friend, Perth The Goddamsels, The Cove Violet Femmes Gala, Almonte Joe Vaughan, St. James Gate Danny Michel & Steve Poltz, Perth Paul Collins, Neat Coffee Shop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wizard is... Odd!?, Almonte Perth WriterFest \$200 and Under Sale, Kanata MAG Art is Magic Show, Merrickville Coins & Strings, Almonte Snowflake Bazaar & Cookie Table, Carleton Place Molly O'Connor, Carleton Place Sex Please, We're Sixty, Woodlawn The Weekend Specials, The Cove Chris Allaby, Urban Angus Steak & Wine The Roger Plant Trio, CC's on the Rideau Library After Dark: Jeremy Lyall, Perth Crown Lands, Neat Coffee Shop Derek Seguin, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wizard is... Odd!?, Almonte \$200 and Under Sale, Kanata MAG Art is Magic Show, Merrickville Sex Please, We're Sixty, Woodlawn Remembering Local Veterans, Middleville Ecotay Christmas Market, Perth Feliz Naughty Dog Bake & Craft Show, Arnprior Scott Woods' Yee Haw Tour, Carleton Place Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh, The Cove
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wizard is... Odd!?, Almonte A Christmas Carol: the Musical, Perth Festival of Lights (trees lit), Perth "The Sky's the Limit" MMLT Gala, Lanark Musical Matters Concert, Perth Spencer Scharf, Carleton Place Comedy-Ilusions, Smiths Falls Living Below the Line, Perth Ali McCormick and Gentle Sparrow, Perth Shane Koyczan, Neat Coffee Shop The Human Rights, The Cove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wizard is... Odd!?, Almonte Itty Bitty Art & Artisan Show, Carleton Place Ali McCormick and Gentle Sparrow, Perth Makers/Crafters Market, Smiths Falls Christmas Market, Perth Fine Batiks, Maberly Almonte Farmers' Harvest Market, Almonte MERA Christmas Fair & Art Show, McDonalds Corners Bake and Knitting Sale, Perth A Christmas Carol: the Musical, Perth The Second Wife's Story, Perth Common Threads, Contrasting Cloths, contact for link Meet the Artists - 10th Anniversary, Almonte Musical Matters Concert, Perth Guatemala Stove Project Dance, Perth Tragedy Ann, McDonalds Corners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wizard is... Odd!?, Almonte Itty Bitty Art & Artisan Show, Carleton Place The Great Escaper, Pakenham Gift of Art Show & Sale, Kanata Traditional Storytelling Then and Now, Almonte Fine Batiks, Maberly A Christmas Carol: the Musical, Perth Christmas Craft & Vendor Market, Perth Tea for Three Jazz Trio, Perth Sunday in the Country with Shawn McCullough Band & Guests, The Cove Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh, The Cove
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The King's New Clothes, Merrickville Our Town, Kemptville The Family Name, The Cove Paranormal Investigation, Smiths Falls Tom Watson, Carleton Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once Upon A Christmas, Perth Our Town, Kemptville Scott Mainprize, Carleton Place Fine Batiks, Maberly The King's New Clothes, Merrickville The Art of Writing Haiku, Almonte Carleton Place Winterfest, Carleton Place Santa Claus Parade Hoedown, The Cove Alanna Brown, Urban Angus Steak & Wine Amanda Keeley, CC's on the Rideau Trivia Night for MMYC, Almonte The Beatles Come to St. Andrew's, Pakenham Real Love: Kenny & Dolly Tribute, Perth Joel Plaskett, Neat Coffee Shop Makers/Crafters Market, Smiths Falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Town, Kemptville The King's New Clothes, Merrickville Joel Plaskett, Neat Coffee Shop Victorian Christmas, Middleville SRO Tea Dance, Almonte Eric Uren & Meghan Balogh, The Cove Fine Batiks, Maberly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter Wonderettes, Perth Art in the Manor: Charlie Spratt, Almonte Artistic Creations, Carp Cabaret Rachele, Almonte Wendell Ferguson, CC's on the Rideau Rick & Lindsay, St. James Gate Seasons of Love, Carleton Place Devarrow, Neat Coffee Shop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter Wonderettes, Perth Art in the Manor: Charlie Spratt, Almonte Artistic Creations, Carp Seasons of Love, Carleton Place Beckwith Christmas Craft Show, Carleton Place Mary Jane Maffini, Carleton Place Fashions from Laura, Pakenham East Coast Experience, The Cove Tis the Season with London Trio Plus, Carleton Place Christmas with the Ennis Sisters, Perth Ian Sherwood, Smiths Falls Michael Bernard Fitzgerald, Neat Coffee Shop Art & Fine Craft, Smiths Falls The Second Wife's Story, Perth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter Wonderettes, Perth Art in the Manor: Charlie Spratt, Almonte Holiday Heritage House, Smiths Falls Old Tyme Country Dinner Dance, Clayton Ring in the Season Concert, Carleton Place Christmas Concert, Carp

Cooking Connections, Tuesdays, 10AM-1PM. Socially-inclusive cooking workshop. The Table, Perth. facebook.com/thetablecfc

Perth Pumpkin Parade, Nov 1, 6-8:30PM. Bring jack-o-lanterns downtown; vote for faves! Stewart Park, Perth. perth.ca/events

Community Conversation, Nov 1, 9AM-4PM. A conversation about the future of Mississippi Mills. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$20 at TicketsPlease.ca

The Second Wife's Story - Matheson Housewarming Party, Nov 2, 16, 30, 10AM-1PM. 1840s housewarming party. Perth Museum. \$125 from TicketsPlease.ca

Rotary Women's Fair, Nov 2, 10AM-4PM. Crafts, baked goods and more. Carleton Place Arena. carletonplacerotary.ca

Mom to Mom Sale, Nov 2. Almonte Civitan Hall. \$2 entry. almontecivitan.com/shop

Community Builders' Craft Fair, Nov 2, 10AM-2PM. Supporting local charities & non-profits. Union Hall, Almonte

Annual "Hunters' Dinner", Nov 3, 4-6:30PM. Watsons Corners Community Centre, Lanark. \$20 Adults; Children 2-12 \$10; 5 & under free. 259-5454

Kris Kringle Craft Fair, Nov 3, 10AM-3PM. Lions Hall, Perth. facebook.com

Christmas in Perth Vendor Market, Nov 3, 11AM-4PM. Perth Legion. facebook.com

Grand Opening, Nov 5, 10-5. Peruse the shop; enjoy some cake! A Bunch of Whimsy, Carleton Place. abunchofwhimsy.com

MFNC Monthly Meeting, Nov 6, 7PM. Monthly meeting. Guest Speaker: Arnprior Curling Club. Non-members: \$5. mfnc.ca

Violet Femmes Gala, Nov 8, 6:30PM. Support LC Interval House. Almonte Civitan Club. \$100 at TicketsPlease.ca. lciih.com

Coins & Strings, Nov 9, 3-6PM. Rarities, new coins, chamber music. Alliance Coin & Banknote, Almonte. alliancecoin.com

Snowflake Bazaar & Cookie Table, Nov 9, 11AM-2PM. St. James Carleton Place. No entry fee. ccpdnolan@gmail.com

Remembering Local Veterans, Nov 10, 10AM-1PM. War exhibits, piper, and stories. Middleville Museum. middlevillemuseum.org

Ecotay Christmas Market, Nov 10, 10AM-3PM. Ecotay, Perth. ecotay.ca

Feliz Naughty Dog Bake & Craft Show, Nov 10, 10AM-3PM. Craft and food vendors, Arnprior Humane Society fundraiser. Nick Smith Centre. arnpriorhumaneociety.ca

Festival of Lights (trees lit), Nov 15, 4PM. Decorated Christmas trees lit from 4PM. Crystal Palace, Perth

"The Sky's the Limit" MMLT Gala, Nov 15, 6:30PM. Fundraising event for the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust. Temple's Sugar Bush, Lanark. \$125. mmlt.ca

Guatemala Stove Project Dance, Nov 16, 7PM. Dance, silent auction. Tickets at door or pbrackenbury@gmail.com. Perth Civitan Club. \$25. guatemalastoveproject.org

Bake and Knitting Sale, Nov 16, 10AM. All proceeds to the Perth Library. Perth Library. allannah.langeland@gmail.com

Traditional Storytelling Then and Now, Nov 17, 7-9PM. Storyteller Jennifer Cayley. Almonte Library. Pay what you can at TicketsPlease.ca. learningagainmonte.ca

Christmas Craft & Vendor Market, Nov 17, 10AM-3PM. Come on out and do some Christmas shopping. Perth Legion

Connecting End of Life Care, Nov 18, 6:30PM. Raising funds for hospice palliative care. Perth Legion. thehospicehub.ca

Voices for Change: Addressing Youth Homelessness, Nov 21, 6-8PM. A forum featuring actionable strategies. Location TBD. Free. cornerstonelanding.com

Paranormal Investigation, Nov 22, 6:30-9:30PM, 10PM-2AM. Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls. \$20/\$60. hhm-nv-investigation.eventbrite.ca

Trivia Night for MMYC, Nov 23, 7PM. Proceeds to Mississippi Mills Youth Centre. Bring or join a team! Tickets from mmyc.ca/store. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$25

Carleton Place Winterfest, Nov 23, 4-8PM. Carolers, horse-drawn wagon rides, Night Market, sidewalk sales. Downtown CP. carletonplace.ca/event/winterfest

Victorian Christmas, Nov 24, 12-1PM. Festive fun for the whole family! Middleville & District Museum. middlevillemuseum.org

Winter Night Market, Nov 28, 5-8PM. Food, drink, specials & entertainment. Downtown Almonte. downtownalmonte.ca

Fashions from Laura, Nov 30, 2PM. Fashion show. \$15 from 850-6679. St. Andrew's, Pakenham. standrewsunitedpakenham.org

Holiday Heritage House, Dec 1, 1-3PM. Costumed interpreters, guests and seasonal decorations. Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls. by donation. facebook.com

Library After Dark: Jeremy Lyall, Nov 9, 7:30PM. Perth Library. \$30. perthunionlibrary.ca/library-after-dark

Scott Woods' Yee Haw Tour, Nov 10, 2PM. \$45 from scottwoods.ca. Carleton Place Arena. 256-9010

Musical Matters Concert, Nov 15, 7PM; Nov 16, 3PM. Celtic Music. St. Andrews Perth. \$15 at the door. pccweb.ca/standrewsperth

Ali McCormick and Gentle Sparrow, Nov 15-16, 7:30PM. Fundraiser for South Lanark Community Garden. Oakfield Rugby Park, Perth. \$25 at TicketsPlease.ca

Tragedy Ann, Nov 16, 7:30PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. \$30 from TicketsPlease.ca. meraschoolhouse.org

Social Swing Dance with Revival Swing, Nov 21, 7-9PM. Hillside Reformed Presbyterian Church, Almonte. \$5 cash. facebook

Music Night Concert, Nov 21, 7PM. The White Family Band. Snow Road Com. Centre. \$15. snowroadcommunitycentre.com

The Beatles Come to St. Andrew's, Nov 23, 7:30PM. Concert commemorating 60th anniversary. St. Andrew's, Pakenham. \$20 at the door. standrewsunitedpakenham.org

Real Love: Kenny & Dolly Tribute, Nov 23, 7:30PM. All the hits with country artists, Alan Turner and Laurie Lynn. St. Paul's United Perth. \$34 at TicketsPlease.ca

SRO Tea Dance, Nov 24, 1:30-4PM. Dance to big band. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$16 ea/\$30 couple, cash only. facebook

Boreal, Nov 25, 7PM. Pre-paid reservations required. Oakfield Rugby Park, Perth. \$30. 613-267-7902

CPKC Holiday Train, Nov 28, 7:40-8:30PM. Featuring musical performance by Tyler Shaw and Shawnee Kish. Perth Rail Yard. Free; donation to The Table

Ian Sherwood, Nov 30, 8PM. Canadian Folk Pop. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$40. smithsfallstheatre.com

Tis the Season w/ London Trio Plus, Nov 30, 7:30PM. Gospel singers. St. James Carleton Place. \$35. stjamescarletonplace.ca

Christmas with the Ennis Sisters, Nov 30, 7:30PM. St. Paul's Perth. \$50 at TicketsPlease.ca. elgiehoyle@gmail.com

Strumming, Singing & Fluting, Dec 1, 2:30PM. All-ages concert. Almonte Library. By donation at TicketsPlease.ca. 485-6434

Ring in the Season Concert, Dec 1, 2PM. Carleton Place Band. Zion-Memorial Church, CP. By donation to the Lanark Food Bank. facebook.com/cpadcb

Christmas Concert, Dec 1, 3PM. Concert by the Goulbourn Male Chorus. Trinity Presbyterian Church, Carp. \$25 adults, \$15 students. goulbournmalechorus.com

Pub Listings

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

Nov 1 Wood & Wire Tour, 6-9PM. \$10

Nov 2 Head Over Heels

Nov 3 The McMillan's Camp Boys, 1-4PM

Nov 5 Nolan Hubbard

Nov 7 Shane Murphy, 7-10PM

Nov 8 The Goddamsels, \$10

Nov 9 The Weekend Specials

Nov 12 Teagan McLaren

Nov 14 Doc Maclean, 6-9PM, \$10

Nov 15 The Human Rights, 8-11PM, \$40

Nov 17 Shawn McCullough, 1-4PM, \$10

Nov 19 Cassie Noble w/ Gamekeeper, \$10

Nov 21 Eric Uren, 7-10PM

Nov 22 The Family Name, 5-9PM

Nov 23 Santa Claus Parade Hoedown, 5-9PM

Nov 26 Sarah Burton

Nov 28 Meghan Balogh & Martin Smit

Nov 30 East Coast Experience, 7-11PM, \$85 Dinner, Show + Charity

Urban Angus Steak & Wine (Arnprior, 558-5050)

Nov 9 Chris Allaby, 6PM

Nov 23 Alanna Brown, 6PM

CC's on the Rideau (Rideau Ferry, 267-6060)

Nov 2 Jono Townsend, 6:30-9:30PM

Nov 9 The Roger Plant Trio, 6-9PM

Nov 23 Amanda Keeley, 6:30-9:30PM

Nov 29 Wendell Ferguson, 6:30-9:30PM

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

Nov 8 Paul Collins, \$35

Nov 9 Crown Lands, \$48

Nov 15 Shane Koyczan, \$50

Nov 21 Ben Caplan, \$47

Nov 23 Joel Plaskett, \$50

Nov 28 Crystal Shawanda, \$45

Nov 29 Devarrow, \$35

Nov 30 Michael Bernard Fitzgerald, \$30

St. James Gate (Carleton Place, stjamesgatecp.com): 7-10PM

Nov 1 Cait Porteous

Nov 8 Joe Vaughan

Nov 15 Spencer Scharf

Nov 22 Tom Watson

Nov 29 Rick & Lindsay,

Humm Bits

Addressing Youth Homelessness and Trafficking

On November 21, come out for an impactful evening focused on raising awareness about youth homelessness and trafficking in our community. This forum will feature expert guest speakers who will share insights, personal stories, and actionable strategies to combat these critical issues. The event is organized by Cornerstone Landing Youth Services in partnership with Stir It Up Collective, dedicated to empowering youth and creating sustainable change. Your voice matters — come learn how you can make a difference!

Admission is free and the event will run from 6–8PM at a location to be determined. Contact <info@cornerstonelanding.org> or call 430-4441 for more information, or visit <cornerstonelanding.com>.

Storytelling Then and Now

If the words “once upon a time” resonate with you, be sure to register for the upcoming lecture Traditional Storytelling Now and Then. Storyteller Jennifer Cayley has been engaging listeners for over 25 years with a repertoire ranging from epics to fairy tales. This evening presentation will include some storytelling as well as a reflection of how oral traditions have changed.

This event, organized by Learning Again in Almonte, takes place on Wednesday, November 27 from 7–9PM at the Almonte Branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library. Admission is by donation, but registration is required at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). For further information, check out <learningagainalmonte.ca>.

Scott Woods’ Yee Haw Tour

Scott Woods, the “Flippin’ Fiddler”, brings his upbeat, family-friendly show to the Carleton Place arena on Sunday, November 10 at 2PM. Find more details and reserve your tickets at <scottwoods.ca> or call toll free 1-855-726-8896. Proceeds from this show will support St. George Anglican Church in Clayton.

Civitan Clubs Make a Real Difference

By Amy Booth

The Connectwell Therapeutic Riding Program is celebrating 39 years of providing therapeutic riding lessons in Lanark County. This program has grown to include more than 128 riders — 70% of whom have physical disabilities; 99% of whom have developmental disabilities or mental illness.

With no ongoing government funding, all funds are raised through grants, donations, and fundraising activities, so community support is vital to success. Enter the Civitan Clubs...

In early 2020, the Civitan Club of Lanark was asked to help to purchase a new horse for the riding program. They quickly contacted four other Lanark clubs, who all decided to help with the purchase of Shane (a lovely young paint gelding). In 2023, the Civitans once again rallied and helped purchase another horse named Palmer (a Quarterhorse/Morgan cross). Both were purchased primarily through the proceeds from Radio Bingo.

Ken Fournier of Lanark Civitan says “The Lanark & District Civitan Club is pleased to assist in the funding of the Therapeutic Riding Program and especially in joining together with four other Civitans in Lanark County to purchase two of the horses needing replacement. We realize how important this program is.” Ross Munro from Almonte Civitan echoes: “For decades, the Almonte Civitan Club has been a proud supporter of the riding program. We are happy to be able to continue to support this wonderful program and the work they do. Civitan Clubs provide support to people and organizations in their communities with focus on persons with intellectual challenges; making Civitan and Therapeutic Riding a perfect match for ongoing support.”

Earlier this year, discussions began with all five clubs regarding ongoing funding to help support these two horses. Civitan Clubs from Perth, Smiths Falls, Almonte, Lanark, Pakenham and Carleton Place all agreed to an annual contribution to support, shelter and feed these two fabulous therapy animals.

As a beautiful coincidence, the following heartfelt testimonial was written just days ago by an anonymous someone who saw the two Civitan horses in action:

“Heading out of a small town is an ordinary road lined with ordinary lanes that lead to ordinary homes and farms. I turn onto one of these ordinary lanes on a rainy Wednesday morning, not very happy that I had made a commitment that I would go along just once. A farmhouse, a barn, a coverall arena, just like so many I have seen over the years that cover our countryside. I’m about to enter a coverall that will truly change my view of this ordinary farm.



Palmer and his favorite people — Ross Munroe, Ron Legge, Gayle Truman, Ken Fournier, John Findley, Heather Cooper, Carolyn Trenholme, Ginny Findley and Freda Fournier

“I am met by two gentle giants, five volunteers, three of them young ladies, and two special riders ready to go. I am asked to help my buddy onto his mount. This giant is truly massive yet so calm. I’m in awe of his strength and confidence. I watch as these angels of mortal and beast go through a well rehearsed dance. The lazy-boy recliner ride, the backwards ride and the trot. All in perfect harmony. When 1200lbs wants to go right, 105lbs digs into the ground to calmly persuade left is the way we want. Even the barn swallows do their job of keeping the ride free of pests and entertain one special buddy with their aerial acrobatics.

“It’s time to dismount. A special buddy slides down past the saddle to the ground. His arms wrap around the front leg of a truly special animal, while kissing 1400lbs goodbye until next week. While I can understand why the adult volunteers would want to do this, the three young ladies are truly special. To be so altruistic at a young age is something very rare. The world would be such a beautiful place if we could all be like the five I met on that not so ordinary day.”

The worldwide mission of Civitan International is to build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs, with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities.

If you have some time, and you are a community-minded person who likes to help others, perhaps now is the time to reach out to your local Civitan Club and see how you can be a part of this great organization.

The Smiths Falls club in particular is looking for new members this winter. Please reach out if you can help. Contact Debbie at <infosmithsfallscivitanclub@gmail.com>. Find the Perth & District Civitan Club at <perthcivitan@gmail.com>, the Carleton Place & District club at <president@carletonplacecivitan.com>, the Lanark & District club at <bking@caleres.com>, the Pakenham & District club at <civitanpakenham@gmail.com>, and the Almonte Civitan club at <info@almontecivitan.com>.

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The 2025 Folkus Line-Up

By Steve Wildesmith

Taking place at the most beautiful venue in Almonte, our very own Old Town Hall, we kick off the 2025 Folkus season on January 25 with **Whitehorse**, an incredible Canadian husband-and-wife duo that have a pedigree that puts them in the company of Canadian music hall of famers. Luke Doucet and Melissa McClelland are Whitehorse, and together they make incredible music. If you have not heard of their band you have likely heard them individually, as both Luke and Melissa are sought-after studio players. For the past 20 years they have been part of Sarah McLachlan's touring band.

Our February 22 show will be a lovely intimate evening beginning with Almonte songwriter Mike Wattie. Mike will serenade us with some of his original songs, and his playing, wordsmithing and performance will keep us smiling in our seats.

Our headliner for February is the one and only **Steve Poltz**, a Halifax native who has spent much of his musical career in Nashville working for himself and co-writing with his musical friends. His band the Rugburns had a major label deal, as did Poltz as a solo performer. And Steve even cowrote a gigantic hit, Jewel's *You Were Meant for Me*. Poltz is an itinerant singer-songwriter in the tradition of Woody Guthrie, the troubadours of yore, but with a much better sense of humour.



Maria Doyle Kennedy is slated to play this year's Folkus Concert Series in Almonte

You don't look at your watch during a Steve Poltz show. You're riveted to the man, the stories and the music. There is no down time, your mind doesn't wander, even if you've never heard any of the songs before. Poltz is just that good. Even after thousands of shows (but who's counting?), he hits the stage with the same energy and always declares: "This is the greatest show of my life."

It's why he's quietly emerged as the kind of live phenomenon celebrated passionately by a diehard fanbase worldwide and renowned as a festival favourite. It's why his music has crept into pop culture via collaborations with everyone from Jewel and Billy Strings to Molly Tuttle, Sierra Hull, Nicki Bluhm, Oliver Wood, and even the late Mojo Nixon. It's why after over a dozen albums, he's still creatively firing on all cylinders and critically acclaimed by the likes of Rolling Stone, Associated Press, Billboard, and many more.

Our March 22 show highlights the talents in our own neck of the woods, as the evening begins with Almonte's own Jen Noxon and the Brindled Cats, featuring Jennifer Noxon, Brendan Gawn and Rob McMurray. After their unique presentation, the evening continues in the company of **Lynn Miles and Keith Glass**.

Coming from a country renowned for having outstanding singer-songwriters, Lynn Miles is considered Canadian songwriting royalty. With a JUNO Award

in 2003 for Roots Traditional Album of the year, Lynn subsequently scored JUNO nominations in 2006 and 2011. She has taken home six Canadian Folk Music Awards, including three for Songwriter of the Year.

Lynn was a staff songwriter for LA-based publisher Criterion Music alongside Lyle Lovett, Rosanne Cash and Rodney Crowell. Her first record deal was with Rounder Records in the US and Continental Records in The Netherlands. She is currently signed to True North Records in Canada.

On her newest album, *Tumble WeedyWorld*, she sings about the differences between people, which ultimately only demonstrates how we are so much the same. Her emotive voice carries each lyric with breathtaking clarity and heart-wrenching honesty. This album has been nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award for Album of the year.

Together Keith and Lynn create a musical performance that moves through the vast repertoire of Lynn's many albums, leaving the audience sweetly satiated.

Our last show of the season required some jostling and a quick decision to move the from our traditional last Saturday of the month to the first Saturday of April in order to capture my personal "wild card" show. Just as last year I managed to get "The Moth Project" and give our series something very different, this season we will be blessed with **Maria Doyle Kennedy**, a connection I owe to my wife Cara Wildesmith, as she was friends with Maria's husband Keiran. We have seen this amazing couple several times in the past decade, and I had been in touch with Keiran and Maria for the past year hoping to book them. As fate would have it, a few weeks ago, she wrote me and said she would be doing a show at Hugh's Room in Toronto as she travelled enroute from Ireland to the USA to do filming for one of her many theatrical commitments, and would fit Almonte in if we could get our hall for April 5.

Maria Doyle Kennedy is best known as an accomplished actress; however, her life partner is Keiran Kennedy — an extremely talented multi-instrumentalist who has a history of musical accomplishments himself, not the least of which was a long stint in the popular band Hothouse Flowers, and we have found a side of Maria that is equal to her acting abilities in the form of song.

Her official bio reads: "Polymath Maria Doyle Kennedy has sustained a varied and eclectic career in the Arts for more than 3 decades. Music is her first love, and following time spent in several bands she set up her own record label in 2000 and has released 11 solo albums to date. Maria's most recent album, *Fire on the Roof of Eden*, was listed in their albums of the year by *The Irish Times*, and Hot Press described her as "one of Ireland's most accomplished vocalists and a national treasure."

Maria and Kieran have been made artists in residence in Kilruddery, where they are currently writing and recording a new album. Together they weave an intimate evening that is both captivating and charming. Maria is a consummate storyteller, and with Keiran supporting her voice as she sings her songs of life and love and lessons learned, the result is a most memorable evening.

This year's subscriber tickets go on sale at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) on November 1. Our subscriber tickets are for all 4 shows, the price is \$130 plus fees, and sales are limited to 150 passes, allowing 30 singles tickets to be sold for each show. Singles will go on sale on January 1, at \$60 for the January show, \$38 for February and March, and \$50 for April.

Hope to see you there!
— Steve Wildesmith is the Artistic Director of the Folkus Concert Series



Experience *Snowfall* with The Valley Voices

By Becky Schweitzer

The holidays are on their way, and The Valley Voices invite you to reserve a night to breathe with music and stories before the final push sets in. Our *Snowfall* concert will take place on Sunday, December 15 at the Almonte United Church. Music of the season will be sung by our small but mighty choir. Unlike the music in the mall, you will not know all the tunes ahead of time! However, we might tempt you to look it up afterwards to add to your holiday playlist.

This year we are also bringing back a beloved part of our Christmas concerts — the stories. As an adult, there is something truly magical about listening to stories like we did as children.

The Valley Voices are Almonte's original community choir. We sing in harmony accompanied by the wonderful Kathleen Deck. We have two concerts a year, this Christmas one and one in June. We do have a few openings for new members, so if you are interested in joining in January, please email <valleyvoicesofalmonte@gmail.com> to arrange your audition.

Keep an eye out for more information as we get closer to *Snowfall*!



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Spend an Upbeat Night with Mudmen!

Canada's Celtic rock heroes are bringing their high-energy performance to Studio Theatre Perth on Saturday, December 28. Known for their fun, powerful shows, Mudmen have been entertaining fans across the country with their unique blend of Celtic rock for over 25 years.

Originally called "The Campbell Brothers," they have come a long way since they first caught the attention of EMI Records in 1993. Now made up of Robby and Sandy Campbell, Colin Amey, Andy Gingerich, Alex Showdra and Emmett Glancie, Mudmen continues to deliver exciting performances that keep their audiences on their feet.

Their music has been featured in video games, TV shows like *The Black Donnellys*, and even WWE Wrestling. With over 3000 shows under their belt, Mudmen know how to put on a show. They've performed at major events, including Canada's Walk of Fame ceremonies and alongside legendary bands like ZZ Top and The Guess Who.

In an interview, band member Robby Campbell shared what keeps Mudmen going after all these years. He explained, "If you don't believe in what you're doing, it won't connect with the audience. We adjust our performances depending on the crowd, whether it's telling stories in a theatre or rocking out in a rowdy beer tent."

Robby also reflected on some of the band's biggest career moments. From performing at NHL events to playing for the Queen, these experiences have left a lasting impact. "Meeting and performing for the Queen is something we'll never forget," Robby said. "And hearing Ron MacLean say, 'Mudmen, we love 'em' on Hockey Night in Canada was a career-defining moment."



Mudmen will rock Studio Theatre on Dec. 28

Mudmen's sound has connected with fans of all ages. Robby believes their music is popular because it's fun and makes people feel good. "Our music brings out all kinds of emotions. You'll cry, laugh, dance, and just have a good time," he said.

Don't miss your chance to experience Mudmen's unforgettable live show on December 28, at Studio Theatre Perth. The concert starts at 7:30PM, and doors open at 7. Tickets are available now at Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).

Get your tickets today and get ready for a night of Celtic rock fun!

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"Cavendish II" by artist Wendy Robertson, Sivarulrasa Gallery	\$400
Palliser zero gravity chair with heat & massage, Under My Roof	\$3599 & up

Mill Street Books

November Literary Events

Due to popular demand, we are delighted to present a repeat engagement of this wonderful event.

Tuesday November 5, 6:30-8:30PM
Diana Beresford-Kroeger in conversation with Ed Lawrence
 Discussing Diana's latest book: *Our Green Heart*

Thursday November 7, 6:30-8:30PM
An Evening with Historian Tim Cook
 To celebrate the launch of his new book, *The Good Allies*.

Register at missmillslibrary.com. Books will be available for purchase and signing at all events. Payment via cash or e-transfer.

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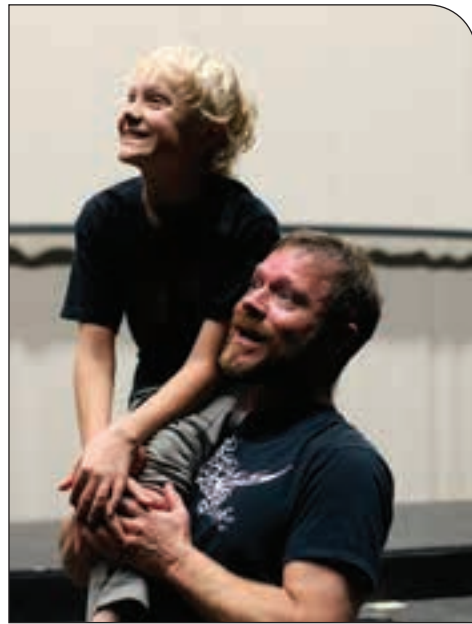
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PCC Presents A Christmas Carol

Get ready for a magical fall outing with Perth Community Choir's presentation of *A Christmas Carol, The Musical*. This enchanting performance features beautiful music and melodies composed by Alan Menken, with lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. The production showcases a brilliant ensemble with a multi-age cast ranging from 8 to 76 years old, for which Perth Community Choir (PCC) has become well-known.

In her directing debut for PCC, Director/Choreographer Kristen Widenmaier has eagerly awaited the opportunity to bring this show to life and is excited to share it with audiences. She brings her own stage experience to the production, having performed in numerous shows, including her recent role as Mrs. Wormwood in last year's production of *Matilda*. Ron Cosens serves as the Assistant Director, assisting with scenes and their arrangement. Alex Guerin takes on the role of Musical Director, leading the music and vocals for this year's performance. She has organized the orchestra and is working with the cast on their vocals, with support from Mary-Ellen Grigor and Chris Angel.

David Bird will be taking on the iconic role of Ebenezer Scrooge this year, drawing on his deep understanding of the story to deliver a compelling performance. Eli McKean Kerr, a newcomer to the Perth theatre community but with plenty of stage experience, will portray the Ghost of Christmas Past. Ron Cosens, well-known for his entertaining delivery, will bring depth to the character of the Ghost of Christmas Present. Kristy Tait-Angel, who directed last year's show, will make a return to the PCC stage and deliver an eerily fantastic performance as the Ghost of Christmas Future. Gaelan Cosens,



Tiny Tim (Gaelan Cosens) gets a ride from Bob Cratchit (Josh Gallant) in rehearsal for *A Christmas Carol*

a familiar face in the ensemble over the past few years, will take on the heartwarming role of Tiny Tim. Josh Gallant, known for captivating the audience, will play the role of Bob Cratchit. The talented Lara Klymko will bring her unique touch to the character of Marley — a performance not to be missed! Expect to see many new and familiar faces as part of the large ensemble, playing various roles throughout the show, making it a memorable night out.

A Christmas Carol, The Musical runs from November 14–17. Tickets are selling fast! Secure your seats now at <perthcommunitychoir.com>. Don't miss out on this extraordinary musical experience!

Holly Jolly Art Show Coming to Perth

Just in time for Christmas! For one weekend only — December 7 and 8 from 10AM to 4PM — the Rideau Lakes Artists Association (RLAA) is presenting its holiday-themed Holly Jolly art show and sale. The show will feature a wide variety of original and affordable fine art, presented by more than 35 talented and accomplished artists.

Come immerse yourself in this beautifully curated display of fine art including original paintings, limited-edition prints and cards, handmade jewellery, pottery, fibre art, wearables and other unique gifts. Every item is one-of-a-kind, designed and created by a local RLAA artist. Plus, every item is affordably priced, with all artwork — even the largest pieces — priced under \$200 for affordable gift giving.

The show is being held at the Perth Legion, located at 26 Beckwith Street East, and both parking and admission are free. The 2024 Holly Jolly show and sale will be supporting the Table Community Food Centre (Perth Food Bank) with donations of cash and/or non-perishable food items.

Come treat yourself or someone you love to an original work of art this season! For more information on Rideau Lakes Artists' Association, visit <rideaulakesartists.com> or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

The 2024 Holly Jolly show is generously sponsored by Julia Scotland, an avid supporter of the art community and a Broker with Coldwell Banker Settlement Realty in Perth. Contact her at 390-0401 or <julia-scotland@coldwellbanker.ca>.



Find adorable felt lambs by Dayle VanAlstine at the Holly Jolly Art Show on Dec. 7 & 8

A BUNCH OF WHIMSY
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Welcome to A Bunch of Whimsy, your new local boutique in Carleton Place!

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The Human Rights bring their roots-reggae vibes to The Cove Inn on November 15

The Human Rights

If you're looking for a musical experience that'll make you feel like every little thing's gonna be alright, come out and dig the roots-reggae vibes of The Human Rights on Friday, November 15 at The Cove Inn in Westport.

The Human Rights first came together in 2007, around the talents and vision of lead singer and Toronto reggae lion Friendliness (Big Sugar, Culture Shock, Truth And Rights), drummer Eric Woolston (Maylee Todd, The Hooded Fang), versatile bassman Tyler Wagler, and the band's original keyboardist Bernie Pitters, who passed away in 2023 and in whose loving memory the band continues forward. The Human Rights quickly gained a reputation as Toronto's house reggae band, sharing the stage and often backing the likes of The Wailers, Gregory Isaacs, Beres Hammond, John Holt, Freddie McGregor, Sanchez, and other top international reggae artists. In 2014, much-loved Toronto vocalist Trésón joined the band, giving The Human Rights

a distinctively powerful two-man front line that seamlessly moves between modern roots reggae, lovers rock, soul, R&B and dancehall vibes.

By the end of 2024, The Human Rights will have played over 250 festival and club shows across Canada and the United States. Their live highlights include The New Orleans Reggae Festival, Austin Reggae Festival, Hillside Festival, Harbourfront Centre, Roy Thomson Hall, The Phoenix Concert Theatre and many other top venues across North America. They have released three full-length albums, including their 2016 self-titled record which was produced by Canadian music icon and Big Sugar founder Gordie Johnson, and their most recent LP *Reggae Strong* (2021), which is dedicated to Bernie Pitters. Their fourth album is expected in early 2025.

A dinner and show package is available for this concert, starting at 7PM. The music will run from 8:30-11PM. Visit <coveinn.com> or call 273-3636 to reserve your seats!

Kintail Country Christmas

Save the date for this year's fabulous holiday festivities at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area, hosted by the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. Taking place on Saturday, December 14 from noon-6PM, Kintail Country Christmas will feature activities for endless family fun — horse-drawn carriage rides, photos with Santa, a woodland scavenger hunt, crafts, hot chocolate and much more!

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit the MVCA website at <mvc.on.ca>. Admission is only \$20 per car, and if you make a \$10 donation to the Mill of Kintail you can pick a scheduled time to get a photo with Santa himself! All proceeds from this event will benefit the historic Mill of Kintail location.



This year's Kintail Country Christmas festivities take place on 14 December

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Winter Night Market

Almonte is the Destination on November 28

Destination Almonte cordially invites everyone to come out to the Winter Night Market, taking place on Thursday, November 28 from 5–8PM. Shops in downtown Almonte will be open late, with live musical performances on Mill Street. You'll also find sidewalk sales, vendor popups, street treats, a holiday photo-op, and lots of small-town fun. This is a wonderful way to visit all your favourite shopping and dining destinations in the friendly town.

New for 2024 — Mill Street shops will be open until 7PM on Thursday and Friday nights in December!



Downtown Almonte will host a Winter Market on the evening of Thursday, November 28

What is Destination Almonte?

The leadership team of the Destination Almonte Association has been meeting monthly to move forward with the collective mission of promoting Almonte as a premier travel destination for visitors and a cherished hub for the local community. In addition to organizing seasonal markets on Mill Street, the DAA organizes seasonal scavenger hunts like Where's Waldo in July and Elf on the Shelf in December, has a new website <DestinationAlmonte.com> and social media presence to provide more information to the public about

all activities taking place in town, and hosts membership meetings and socials to keep local businesses updated and to foster camaraderie and collaborations.

New members from retail, service, or home-based businesses are invited to join at any time to enhance the friendly town experience for everyone. Destination Almonte also invites any small pop-up vendors or food stands who wish to participate in the quarterly Night Markets to contact <info@destinationalmonte.com> for more information.

Living Below the Line

A Powerful Story of Poverty and Resilience

On Friday, November 15 at 7PM, the Lanark Basic Income Network (LBIN) will host a special screening of *Living Below the Line* at the Studio Theatre in Perth. This powerful and moving filmed production is based on the lives and stories of individuals living in poverty in the Waterloo region. The play was co-created by Watercourse Theatre and fourteen individuals who shared their personal experiences with systemic poverty — tackling issues like stigma, resilience, and hope. The production originally debuted live in June 2022, with enthusiastic reception and nearly a thousand attendees in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

Living Below the Line breaks stereotypes about those living below the poverty line, using storytelling and innovative theatre to bring attention to the complexities of poverty. The actors, who have lived these stories, present an authentic and visceral portrayal of the struggles they face. After the screening, attendees will have the opportunity to engage in a live Zoom “talk-back” session with two of the co-creators, who will share more about their experiences creating the

play and answer questions from the audience. With its focus on poverty, resilience, and system-level barriers, *Living Below the Line* is an important piece of theatre that gives voice to stories rarely heard.

LBIN, the event's host, is committed to raising awareness of the benefits of a basic income. LBIN advocates for basic income as a means for ensuring that people have the resources they need to meet their basic needs. Basic income is essential for those who, like the actors in this play, are striving to be free of poverty.

Admission to this event is by donation (pay what you like), with half of the proceeds going to support LBIN's ongoing advocacy efforts, and the other half benefiting Watercourse Theatre, which continues to create important works of social impact. Don't miss this opportunity to experience a unique and heartfelt portrayal of poverty, along with the chance to directly engage with some of the play's creators. For more information about basic income and LBIN's advocacy work, please visit <lanarkbasicincome.ca>.

Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets

Treats from the Ottawa Valley!

Looking for that perfect gift idea? Consider ordering a gift basket from **Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets**. Baskets are created showcasing locally sourced fine food items including **Balderson Cheese; Snark Coffee; Mississippi Meadows Honey; michaelsdolce** gourmet jams; **Temple's Sugar Bush** maple syrup; **Mrs. McGarrigle's** chutney, mustards, spices and vinaigrettes; **The Mix Company** gluten free mixes and dips; **Village Treats** chocolates; and **Top Shelf Preserves** salsa and red pepper jelly.

Select from many basket ideas ranging in price from \$30.95 for the **Lil' Taste O' The Valley** to \$214.95 for **The Office Commendation** — or let us design a custom basket creation for you! We deliver locally and ship throughout Canada using CanadaPost & FedEx Ground.

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Mill of Kintail Conservation Area

Saturday December 14, 2024
from 12pm - 6pm

Visit mvc.on.ca for more information

OBC
Lisette Cantor

Johann Sebastian Bach Christmas Oratorio

Myriam Leblanc, soprano
Daniel Taylor, countertenor
Charles Daniels, tenor
Geoffrey Sirett, baritone
Theatre of Early Music baroque orchestra

Saturday, November 30, 2024 • 7 PM
St. Francois d'Assise Church
20 Fairmount Avenue • Ottawa

Information - Tickets
www.ottawabachchoir.ca

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GMC Gears up for Christmas

The Christmas season just wouldn't be the same without a choral concert or two, and the Goulbourn Male Chorus (GMC) is once more stepping up to the plate to offer their unique style and rich tones in a celebration of Christmas.

If you were among the 100 or so folks who attended their Mother's Day/Spring concert performance a few months ago, you will know that a GMC concert isn't just about men singing, but includes guest musicians and singers, audience participation, and of course opportunities to raise money for local charities.

This year, GMC will be presenting their 2024 Christmas concert at Trinity Presbyterian Church on December 1 at 3PM.

The Goulbourn Male Chorus is a community-based chorus made up of men from the township of Goulbourn and surrounding West Ottawa communities including Kanata, Carp, Carleton Place and Constance Bay. Their repertoire is broad and includes traditional male chorus selections — secular and sacred, spirituals, folk songs, ballads, modern pieces including some lighter selections, and even "pop". Many of their arrangements are unique, created by a chorus member specifically for the vocal ranges in the ensemble.

In addition to their Spring and Christmas concerts, GMC often performs at seniors' homes and local events for charity fundraisers.



Hear the Goulbourn Male Chorus on December 1

The chorus welcomes men who enjoy singing and comradery to join them at 7PM on any Tuesday evening at Trinity Presbyterian Church, located at 1817 Richardson Side Road. You don't need to be able to read music. You only need a love for music and sharing a few laughs with like-minded men. Oh yes, following most practices, several of the group can be found at the Cheshire Cat Pub reviewing the night's practice notes.

So why not pick up a couple of tickets for the concert on December 1 (they are \$25 general admission and \$15 for students) — it will get you into the Christmas spirit. Visit goulbournmalechorus.com for additional information and links to past performances.

Gifts for Lovers of Cozy Spaces

- Unscented & lavender rice heat bags by Tease Creations, A Bunch of Whimsy.....\$30
- Nakiska slide slippers by Sorel, soft for comfort and warmth, Acquisti Life.....\$110
- Gift certificate for a private sauna & soaking tub for two, Meristem Massage.....\$75
- Excellently curated new and second hand books, Spark Books & Curios.....various
- Merino wool knee blankets, The Book Nook.....\$69
- Decor-Rest 59" swivel cuddle chair, Under My Roof.....\$1699

Gifts for \$25 & Under

- Batik cosmetic bag/treasure keeper with 3 zippered sections, Fine Batiks.....\$20
- Holiday ornaments assortment, Foodsmiths.....\$6.49-23.99
- Journals, pens, calendars, cards, puzzles and games, Mill Street Books.....various
- MMLT animal friends tote bag, Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust.....\$20
- Woven cards by Studio Three Fibre Arts, MVTM Gift Shop.....\$8



Holiday Heritage House

Sunday, December 1, 2024
from 1pm to 3pm

Seasonal Music & Activities

Costumed interpreters greet guests inside the stunningly decorated Victorian museum. Go for a horse-drawn wagon ride, enjoy seasonal drinks and homemade treats, scavenger hunts, bake oven demonstrations and more! Be sure to take in a visit from a jolly old soul!

Admission by Donation

Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum
11 Old Slys Road, Smiths Falls
613-283-6311

A Time for New Romance

By Jessie Carson and Jenn Snider Cruise

Ah the classic romance novel... filled with drama, excitement, obsession, elation, heartbreak... the highs and lows of relationships. Who doesn't love a good love story? Even though you may not consider yourself a reader of romance, romantic relationships have endured as a popular narrative force of fiction for generations. Lately, however, the romance genre has been undergoing a popular renaissance, and more and more writers are exploring genre-bending romance with others like fantasy, sci-fi, paranormal, and noir.

In general, readers of the genre know that there will be a happy ending for the characters, and sometimes this is what we need — to know that, above all, love endures. But romantic novels can give the reader much more than a blissful resolution; they can also share stories of characters dealing with grief and loss, give us a glimpse into long-lasting friendships, and bring us into magical realms or other worlds. For those of you paying attention to such things, sales for romance novels have been increasing since 2020, clearly indicating that there's a hunger for these kinds of human stories. All of this is resulting in new writers of romance playing with form and blending styles in ways we haven't read before, and we're here for it!

For all those readers and writers out there compelled by these passionate narratives, join local writers Rose Graceling-Moore and Hypatia Rae on November 14 for an enlightening conversation about the romance genre, its versatile nature, and its ability to encompass various subgenres with playful, meaningful, and surprising outcomes!

As two authors exploring romance writing, Rose and Hypatia will discuss what makes for a great romantic tale, how to build readership across genres, how they approach romance tropes, and how to world-build both "real"

world and fantasy worlds. With distinct styles, they will delve into similarities and differences in how they craft love stories in their respective genres, and offer inside views into what connects them to this popular genre of fiction — with Rose concocting sweet and spicy contemporary romance complete with magical elements, and Hypatia taking you to far-off places in her second world romantic fantasies (romantasy).

Presented by Almonte Readers & Writers, the event will include short readings from both authors, and questions from the audience about reading or writing their own romantic fiction. We would love to see you there — on Thursday, November 14 from 6:30–8PM at Equator Coffee in Almonte. Admission is pay-what-you-can at the door or in advance from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).



Delve into the world of romance on November 14

Gifts for Lovers of Sweet Treats

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- Sustainability sourced chocolate for every taste and diet, The Granary\$5-20



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