

# the Hummm

free

Arts,  
Entertainment  
& Ideas



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January's Events



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Flavour of the Month



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The Drought of 2012

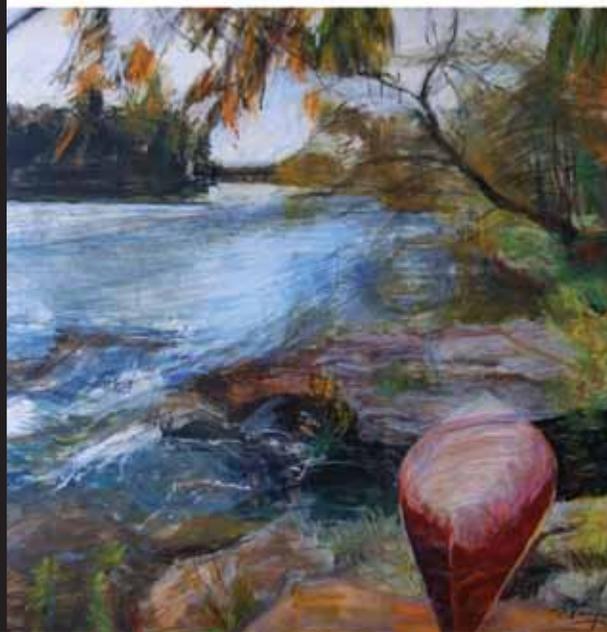


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Sushi in the Valley



## The Art of Elizabeth Veninga p.3



Cheers to our painters for your excellent work during 2012

Sharon Robert Wendy Karen  
Kevin Brent S.J. Terry  
Doug You guys are the best!



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**"But I'm preventing crime! — My wife said she'd kill me if I did this at home!!"**

### Correction

OOPS — we accidentally ran this photo of Peter Dawson in our December issue without crediting the photographer. The photo is by Lois Siegel <siegelproductions.ca/photos.htm>:



### Readers Write

Many a visitor and inhabitant have heard about Almonte's history as a mill town and of events such as the Train Wreck of 1942, but these tend to be presented as individual stories. On December 8, a full auditorium at Almonte's Old Town Hall was silent with wonder as people took in the tales and personalities of Almonte's history, watching the premiere of the documentary *Almonte's Interwoven Past*. If you missed it, filmmakers Robert and Sharon Newton may still have some DVDs or Blu-rays for sale at 256-2483.

Even people new to Almonte can find parts of personal interest, as shown in this letter to the editor:

### Dear Editor,

What an interesting movie at the Old Town Hall about the history and origins of Almonte. As newcomers to Almonte, we were particularly interested to learn about George Stephen, who was born in Dufftown, Scotland, where some of my husband's relatives still live. I, on the other hand, was interested in the woolen mills part. I was brought up in East Yorkshire in Northern England — the woolen mills being located in West Yorkshire! I thought it was interesting that we each seemed to have some connection, however slight, to the subject.

Regards, E. Fraser

### Humble Thought

#### We teach music

not because we expect our students to major in music, not because we expect them to play or sing all their life, not so they can relax, not so they can have fun.

**But so they will become human,**  
so they will recognize beauty,  
so they will be sensitive,  
so they will be closer to an infinite beyond this world, so they will have something to cling to,  
so they will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good, in short, more life.

*Of what value will it be  
to make a prosperous living  
unless you know how to live?*

— The Texas Bandmasters Association

## Does Your Organization Need Volunteers?

In the February 2013 issue of *theHumm* we plan to run our seventh annual "Get Involved, Get Connected" resource for organizations seeking volunteers (and volunteers seeking local organizations). If you are running a community organization or service club, festival, cultural event, museum, conservation area, arts or activities group within *theHumm's* catchment area, we'd like to hear from you! Send us 80 words (maximum) describing what your group does, what type of volunteer opportunities you offer, and how people can contact you, and we'll run them — free of charge! — in our February issue.

Due to space limitations, we can only offer **80 words per organization**, and can only include groups that serve our catchment area (Lanark County and parts of Renfrew County). We are not able to edit down longer entries or brochures, so please send the text as you wish it to appear. Please email all information or queries to <editor@thehummm.com>. All information must be received by January 22 for inclusion in the February issue.



### Happy New Year from the Riendeau Family!

Rob and Kris Riendeau wish all our friends, family, readers, contributors, advertisers and supporters a very happy and healthy 2013. This will be our first year as official "empty nesters", as our daughter Cori leaves for her "Watch Out World" tour on January 20, and son D'Arcy continues his studies at Carleton. Cori will be blogging at <coris-trip.ca>, so Kris would like to take this opportunity to encourage *theHumm* community to check it out and post if you know any friendly people, non-bed-bug-infested hostels or otherwise safe havens in whatever part of the world Cori happens to be traipsing through...

### Join the Conversation Drought of 2012: Impacts and Lessons Learned in the Mississippi Valley watershed

Saturday, January 12, 2013

10AM to 3:30PM

Almonte Old Town Hall

To register contact Suzanne smcfarlane@mvc.on.ca or  
613.259.2421 ext. 225

This is a free event open to all, hosted by Mississippi Valley  
Conservation and Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County

Lunch provided

Full agenda available at [www.mvc.on.ca](http://www.mvc.on.ca)



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

### Submissions

By email or on disk.

### Deadline for ads & content: the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month prior to publication

### Subscriptions

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### Thanks this month to:

all of the amazing individuals and organizations who contributed to *theHumm* throughout 2012. Their humour, intelligence and dedication to their communities send us into our fifteenth year full of hope and happiness!

# Exploring the Enigma of Elizabeth Veninga

Peeling back the layers of Elizabeth Veninga's life is like reading an intricately constructed, beautifully textured and very rewarding biography. I thought I was interviewing an artist who paints wonderful Canadian landscapes with red canoes, and who gives art instruction in an encouraging, relaxed way. She does. In a way, that's like saying Leonardo da Vinci painted a lovely portrait and illustrated a book on mathematical proportion in art. He did.

by Sally Hansen

Veninga will be embarrassed by this article, because she does not toot her own horn. That may be in part because her father, William Robinson, was the Anglican Bishop of Ottawa, and Elizabeth embodies many Christian values like humility and the "importance of sharing your life and reaching out to others." More of that later; first, more about her art.

Like da Vinci, Veninga is profoundly observant of nature. It inspires much of her art — paintings, steel sculptures and most recently, photography. Her mixed media landscapes illustrate her love of the drawn mark — direct, free gestures that capture the mood, texture, and feel of place. She experiments and innovates; combining acrylic paints with acrylic inks, charcoal, Conté, soft pastel, watercolour sticks and gesso.

At the modern home of Gaye Bennett and Bryn Matthews on the edge of the Mississippi River, I was privileged to enjoy Veninga's felicitous river-edge painting. The commissioned 7' x 3½' work hangs high in the kitchen, visible throughout much of the open-concept, high-ceilinged main floor. As the day fades from view outdoors, Veninga's painting draws the healing power of nature indoors.

In 2006 Elizabeth won a Mississippi Mills competition to create a mural honouring the philanthropic couple Art and Elsa Stewart, who were awarded the Order of Canada in the '80s. The mural was installed on the main street of Pakenham in 2006. When the upscale department store Les Ailes de la Mode moved into Bayshore Shopping Centre in Nepean, she was commissioned to celebrate its presence in Ottawa. Veninga created ten paintings for their special in-store restaurant. Her 14-foot diptych portrays two views of the Ottawa skyline — from Hull and from Victoria Island. They also installed her charming portraits of the Bytowne Market, Bluesfest, and

"Skating on the Rideau". In 2008 she had a solo show at the Mill of Kintail, featuring her painting, metal sculpture and photography.

Red canoes became her muse after she and her late husband, Albert Veninga, restored an old canoe in all its red glory. After Albert's untimely death, Elizabeth painted a scene featuring their red canoe as a gift in repayment for a kindness by a canoe-builder friend. Since then this Canadian icon has found its way into many of her landscapes, always rendered exquisitely and effectively.

## A Meandering Path to Art and Soul

The constants that have grounded Veninga in a life that has followed many twists and turns are her Christian spirituality and her love of art. Both her parents encouraged and supported her early love of art. During high school she designed and sewed her father's red Pentecostal priest's stole, created cards, brochures and invitations, and made a carved and painted wooden Victorian fireplace screen for her godmother.

After completing a degree in Biology and English at Trent University, Veninga worked as an assistant curator for National Historical Sites, saving



money to study art and "really experience Europe." She learns (and teaches) "by doing," and thoroughly enjoyed her classical training at the prestigious Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts in London, England. It was there that she discovered her love of sculpting in metal, when she encountered welding among the skills and techniques she explored.

Mixed media painting became her artistic mainstay upon her return to Toronto in the '80s, where she had a studio and eventually worked for the Klonaridis Gallery. Her love is creating art, not



selling it, and in order to support herself she studied horticulture at Humber College, trained as a gardener, and worked at Cullen Gardens in Whitby. After a third gardening job in Guelph, she wearied of the fact that "gardeners did not share my interest in art," and went to Teachers College at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. That summer she spent nine weeks in a canoe working at Quetico Provincial Park.

When she came to Pakenham twenty years ago, she lived for six months in her parents' cabin in the woods without running water or electricity. She remembers it as "having a 20<sup>th</sup> century job (supply teaching) while living in 19<sup>th</sup> century conditions. She moved into The Five Arches Apartments in Pakenham, where she met Albert Veninga who was playing the guitar and singing at one of the communal birthday parties. They eventually moved onto the property known as the Stonebridge Inn, above the former antique store at 4839 Kinburn Side Road. Elizabeth is a performing flutist and chorister, and the two made beautiful music together until his tragic death four years later.

Recalling her intense grief, she states flatly: "Meditation is one of the most profound influences in my life." Years before, during a difficult period in her 40s, her father had gently encouraged her to consider meditation. As she recalls it, "He sat down and wrote for about an hour — then he handed his guidelines to me with no pressure, and said, 'Try it. It may suit you.'" Today she practices meditation for 25 minutes twice daily.

Veninga also practices what she believes in — "the importance of sharing your life and reaching out to others." She loves working with people and is an ardent believer in community. She leads a weekly Christian Meditation group at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Almonte. Like her father, her teaching is not prescriptive; she guides people in discovering their own spirituality and tapping into their own strengths. She also facilitates a monthly Parkinson's Support Group sponsored by Mills Community Support — Home Support (256-4700). She became self-educated on the subject while caring for a woman suffering from the disease.

Those same attributes of caring and sharing characterize her art classes. She is encouraging, fostering an attitude of "just try it — you can do it," motivating students to experiment and discover their own capabilities, and to learn from each other. You can reach her at 624-5931 or by email at <chiselndraw@vif.com> to enquire about her upcoming classes in "Drawing for Fun," Mixed Media Painting" and "Life Drawing". Try it. It may suit you!

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**WHO** Elizabeth Veninga  
**WHAT** Painter, Sculptor, Art Instructor, Community Resource  
**WHERE** 4839 Kinburn Side Rd., Pakenham, 624-5931, <chiselndraw@vif.com>; Art classes in Almonte, starting in January  
**WHY** "Creating art makes me sing."

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## \$1,000 AWARD FOR A LOCAL ARTIST



### APPLY FOR THE 2013 MERA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN THE FINE ARTS AND FINE CRAFTS

MERA (McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts) recognizes a local artist with the MERA Award of Excellence in the Fine Arts and Fine Crafts. The winner is chosen on the basis of their artwork.

Eligible artists must submit their applications by January 31, 2013 and be citizens or permanent residents of Canada and live in the Township of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Central Frontenac, North Frontenac or the Town of Perth.

For more information and application forms, check MERA's website at [www.meraschoolhouse.org](http://www.meraschoolhouse.org).

McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts (MERA) is a not-for-profit community arts organization. This award is funded in large part by a generous donation to the Perth and District Community Foundation.



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THE PERTH  
 &  
 DISTRICT  
 COMMUNITY  
 FOUNDATION

# Standing Room Only!

Almonte's own big band is currently in the midst of their seventh season of presenting Sunday afternoon Tea Dances at the Old Town Hall. Standing Room Only was founded in 2003 by trombonist and Almonte resident Catherine Illingworth. She called on another Almonte resident — former Glebe Collegiate Institute music teacher Stan Clark — to give the band its initial direction. Stan suggested the bare minimum orchestration and Catherine begged, borrowed and coerced the necessary musicians. The band has evolved from its humble beginnings to become a full 15-piece ensemble with members not only from Almonte but also from Clayton, Arnprior, Carleton Place, Oxford Mills and Ottawa.

In 2008, the growing band decided that an elected executive board was necessary for more efficient decision-making. Among the initial executive members, Clayton Lake horse breeder Alan Wilkinson, a founding member and tenor saxophone/clarinet player, was elected as music director. Under Alan's direction, the band honed its existing repertoire and expanded its offerings to include many of the swing era classics of such bands as Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington and Count Basie. While some of these are presented in their original format, others have been customized to showcase the talents of the band's soloists. The band has gone on to include more recent sources, such as the Beatles and Michael Bublé.

In 2011, Glenn Morrison, a former high school music teacher now living in Oxford Mills, joined SRO's trumpet section. Shortly afterwards, at the request of the band, he took over direction of the band's weekly practice sessions at Almonte's Naismith Public School. Glenn's high musical standards, attention to detail, and ability to inspire his fellow musicians has brought the band to a very high performance level, which is being increasingly noticed by both dancers and big band fans alike.

From its inception, and in the tradition of the big bands, Standing Room Only has featured vocalists as an integral part of its

performances. Sandy Faux is the band's current singer. In 2009, Sandy moved to Ottawa from Toronto, where she was a fixture on the city's jazz scene. Since then, with her professional and personal approach to the standards, Sandy has established herself as a one of Ottawa's premier jazz singers.

SRO has played for a variety of audiences and at many venues over its nine-year history. Highlights include Merrickville's Jazz Fest, Almonte's RiverEdge, The Art of Being Green, Puppets Up!, The Young Awards Gala, the Ottawa Swing Dance Society, the Mill of Kintail Bird House Auction, the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, CFB Petawawa Officers' Mess, and "A Country Christmas Remembered" in Spencerville. However, the core of

ways featured a live band. The historic Almonte Old Town Hall is a beautifully preserved venue with a spacious wooden dance floor, natural lighting, and wonderful acoustics. It is one of the few remaining concert halls in Canada with a vaulted wooden ceiling. This adds greatly to the acoustics of the room, which has been used by the CBC for music broadcasts. The authentic period atmosphere of the tea dances is due to this very special venue, as well as such touches as the table decorations and the delicious goodies provided by the Women's Institute.

Concerns had been raised over the past year about the deteriorating condition of the dance floor in the Old Town Hall. Standing Room Only is therefore happy to report that the floor was completely refinished over the



The next SRO Tea Dance takes place on Sunday, January 20 at the Almonte Old Town Hall

the band's activities is the series of Sunday afternoon **Tea Dances** in the Almonte Old Town Hall.

The popular tea dances, launched back in 2006, give the band members a regular opportunity to perform the music they love to play in a period atmosphere, while allowing guests to listen and dance to live big band music. Like the band itself, the tea dances — now in their seventh season — have evolved and been refined into a class act, attracting swing and ballroom dancers from the Ottawa area and as far away as Brockville.

Tea dances are afternoon dances that were popular in the '20s, '30s, and '40s, when big bands were king. They were generally held in hotels and, of course, al-

past summer and is now better than ever. "All the experienced ballroom dancers at the October dance thought the new floor was terrific!" reported a student with Lorna's Dance Collective. The work was paid for by the Town Hall Improvement Fund, which is generated by surcharges included in admission fees to events held at the Town Hall, including the tea dances.

The remaining tea dances of the band's 2012/2013 season will be held on January 20, February 24 and March 24. They run from 1 to 4PM, and doors open at 12:30PM. Admission is \$14 per person or \$25 per couple. For more details, please visit <[sroteadances.org](http://sroteadances.org)>.

— John Haysom

## Happy New Year!

We are escaping for 2 weeks.

Please call ahead or check our website for January hours.

Thanks for your understanding.

— Mary & Terry



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# Notice of Completion

## Enerdu Generating Station Expansion and Redevelopment Project, Mississippi River

Enerdu Power Systems Inc. (Enerdu) is proposing to expand and redevelop its existing hydroelectric waterpower facility, the Enerdu Generating Station (GS). The project site is located on the Mississippi River at 11 Main Street in the Town of Mississippi Mills (Almonte), approximately 50 km southwest of Ottawa and 9 km northwest of Appleton, in eastern Ontario. The expansion will increase capacity from 300 kW to approximately 0.95 MW.

The project is subject to the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Waterpower Projects and is categorized as a project associated with existing infrastructure. An Environmental Report (ER) has been prepared as required under the Class EA. The proposed project has been reviewed in a process consistent with the Class EA for Waterpower Projects, the results of which are described in the ER.

The ER assesses the potential effects of the development on the environment during its construction, operation and maintenance. It was concluded that the proposed undertaking would not result in significant adverse environmental effects. The application of the recommended management strategies and adherence to the identified commitments by the proponent will help to realize this outcome.

The ER is available for a 47-calendar day review period. Both hard and electronic copies of the ER will be available for review and comment from December 17, 2012, to February 1, 2013. Hard copies may be found during the review period at the following public locations:

Town of Mississippi Mills municipal office  
Mississippi Mills Public Library (Almonte branch and Pakenham branch)  
Almonte Post Office

Electronic copies of the ER may be viewed at the OEL-HydroSys website ([www.wesa.ca](http://www.wesa.ca)). Enerdu must receive all comments in writing regarding the proposed Enerdu GS Expansion and Redevelopment Project and/or the accompanying ER no later than February 1, 2013. Please direct any inquiries, comments or requests to:

**Mr. Ron Campbell**  
Enerdu Power Systems Inc.  
9094 Cavanagh Road  
Ashton, ON, K0A 1B0  
T: (613) 257-2918  
rcampbell@thomascavanagh.ca

**Ms. Muriel Kim**  
OEL-HydroSys Inc., a BluMetric company  
3108 Carp Road, P.O. Box 430  
Carp, ON, K0A 1L0  
T: (613) 839-3053, ext. 261  
mkim@wesa.ca

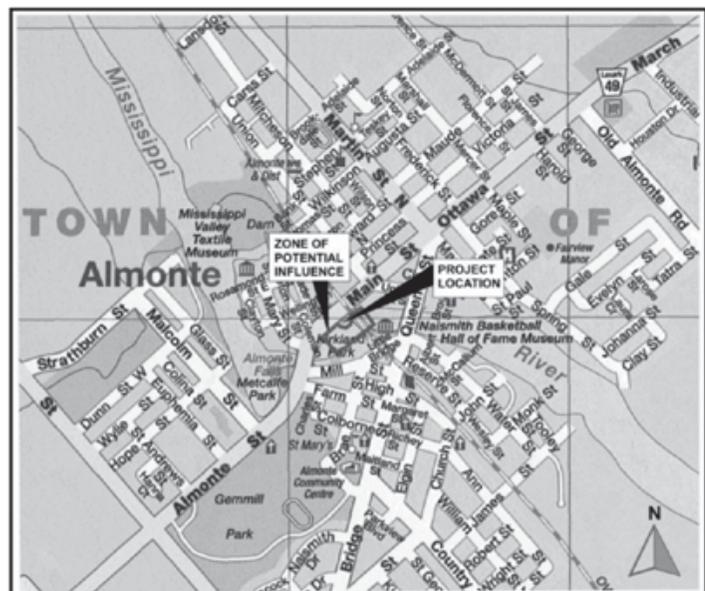
Per the process outlined in the Class EA, interested parties must first attempt to resolve any outstanding issues with Enerdu during the 47-calendar day review period. In the event that issues cannot be resolved during the review period, the concerned party may make a written request for a Part II Order for an Individual Environmental Assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act to the Minister of the Environment at the address noted below. A copy of the Part II Order request must also be sent to Enerdu at the addresses noted above.

### Minister of the Environment

77 Wellesley Street West  
11th Floor, Ferguson Block  
Toronto, ON, M7A 2T5

Requests for Part II Orders must be made in accordance with the provisions set out in the Class Environmental Assessment and must be received by the Minister of the Environment and Enerdu no later than February 1, 2013. A copy of the Class EA for Waterpower Projects is posted on the Ontario Waterpower Association website at [www.owa.ca](http://www.owa.ca).

*Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Environmental Assessment Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and will be released, if requested, to any person.*



Funny You Should Write...

# It's New Years, Baby!

Got a question? Send Miss Write an email at [misswrite@thehummm.com](mailto:misswrite@thehummm.com).

## A note to readers:

Writing this month's column has been particularly challenging for your friend Miss Write. Could it be that the start of a new year has me bogged down with questions of my own? Questions like "What am I going to do to change the world this year?", "Am I on a good track with my career?", "Am I living up to my full potential?", "Should I have another baby?" (*probably not*), "Could I be happier?" and "If I could be happier — how?"

by Emily Arbour

So many questions, so little time to work them out and still manage to write a half-decent entry for a full-decent publication like this one.

This year, under my own advice (*one of the many perks of being Miss Write!*), I'm going to take time for myself to really focus on what's important: what makes me happy and how I can do more of that. Yes, let's do more of that. Like most new years, 2013 feels promising. I hope it does for all of you too.  
— Emily

## Dear Miss Write,

It's that time of year again, and it seems I can't go to the loo without someone wishing me a happy New Year. I appreciate the well wishes, but frankly, I'm not sure what to do with them. HOW do I have a happy new year? What makes January 1 any different than July 17? Because it feels a lot like just another day at the office to me.  
— *Happy days are here again?*

## Dear Happy Days,

You're absolutely right. January 1 is, technically speaking, no different than any other day of the year. It's just another 2" by 2" square on the calendar, another flip of the old (*or, rather, new*) day planner, another notch in the belt of Father Time. (*Though, I have to argue that it's not another day at the office since it's a stat. holiday.*) What it is, however, is a mindset. You've probably heard the phrase "perception is reality", and I think it applies here. All of those well-wishers inviting you to have a "Happy New Year" really do believe that the start of a new year means something. To them, it's a fresh start, an opportunity to do better, a chance to reflect on the year that's just past, try something

new and, with any luck, get a different result. Here's the thing. If you believe the beginning of a new year means a fresh start, then it is one. Ta da!! Like magic! Similarly, if you want to be happier this year, your wish is my command.

All you have to do is change your mind about January 1. It's not a day like any other. It is different. So far, it's the best day of the year! Now go ahead and treat each day that follows just like it, and you're golden. Happy even.

## Dear Miss Write,

I get asked all the time if I'm pregnant. I'm not, and those who ask are always really embarrassed when I tell them as much. What's worse is that *I'm* left trying to make *them* feel better about their blunder when, really, I'm the one who could use a hug. What, in your opinion, would be a good response if ever I'm asked again?  
— *Barefoot. Not pregnant.*

## Dear Barefoot,

Let this reply serve as validation for your plight. I, too, am inclined toward loose fitting tops and empire waists (*So comfy! So cute!*) and have been asked if I'm pregnant more times than I'd like to recall. I've even been asked while carrying my two month old baby, though that time it hurt less knowing that my assaulter was obviously far worse at math (*not to mention manners*) than I. For the record, it is never appropriate to ask a woman if she is pregnant. Unless you are her doctor, an x-ray tech, or driving the cab in which she is about to deliver à la every Rom-Com in which a pregnant woman gets into a taxi, that question is off limits. As for what I think would be a good response to the question posed in any other scenario, here it is. Look directly into the eyes of the inquiring mind and, with the most emotionless, dead-eyed expression you can muster, simply say "No. I'm not." And when they start to blubber about how sorry they are and make some sort of excuse about how "Your shirt" (*which is totally adorable by the way*) "made it look like... err", just don't say anything. This is on them. Not your problem. Now go home and get that hug. You deserve it.  
— *Emily Arbour is a freelance writer (among other things) who lives and works in Almonte. By no means is she an expert in anything but having an opinion and making things up. You can go ahead and take her advice, but you'd probably do just as well asking a three-year-old how to play Monopoly without cheating. The only difference is she doesn't have a column in this fine publication.*

## Almonte Century Home



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# Back Forty Cheese

Welcome to 2013 everyone! My New Year's resolution? To savour. This one word has the potential to affect all aspects of my life — how I walk through the landscape, how I settle into work in the studio, and how I spend time with friends. It may even focus attention on words coming out of my mouth. Naturally, it will also require that I relish the taste of that which goes *into* my mouth!

by Susie Osler

Savouring implies a certain deliberation in noticing. It also implies a kind of openness and sometimes also a responsiveness to what is revealed. It is unhurried, undramatic. It suggests a fullness of experience.

As I write, it is Christmas Eve day. I am savouring the last few moments of quiet before the event of fabulous family descent. Next to me is a lovely, small, handmade plate with a finger smear of cheese "goo" remaining on it. My savouring powers are in training — preparation for both my New Year's commitment and for writing this article about one of the most truly remarkable gifts of the edible kind that this county has to offer. The streak of cheese is left from the piece of Madawaska I have just treated my nose and mouth to. The maker of this particular cheese is Jeff Fenwick of Back Forty Artisan Cheese.

As anyone who frequents the Carp Farmers' Market will know, Back Forty has been offering its fine goods for the last decade or so. Founded by James Keith and his late wife Liz, the four cheeses they developed and sold have become favourites on cheese plates and with chefs across Ontario.

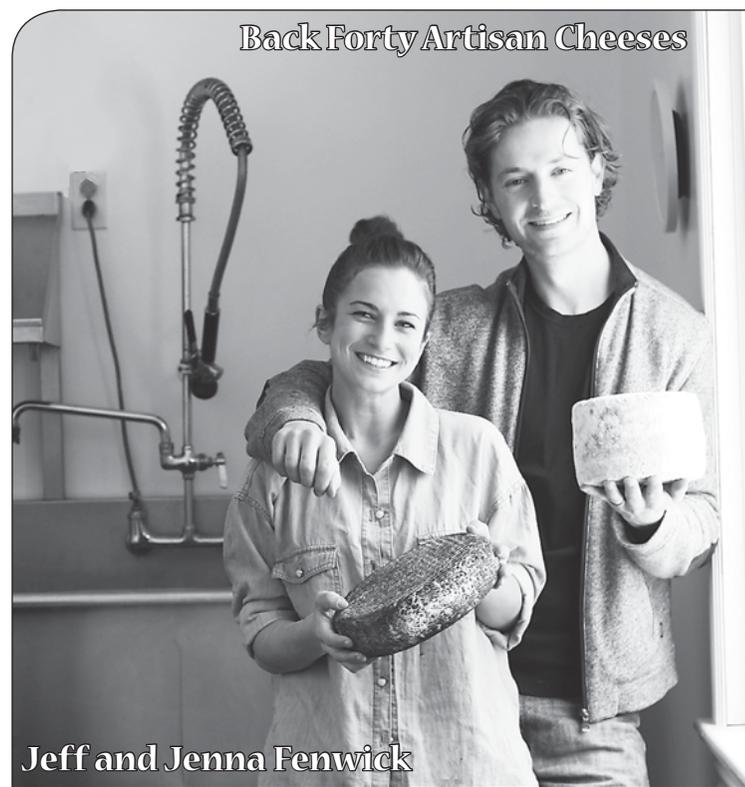
In early 2012, Jeff Fenwick and his wife Jenna bought the business from James, as well as the farm where the cheeses are made in a small cheese kitchen and aging cave. A move to the Lanark Highlands was welcome for this thirty-something couple that had been living in downtown Hamilton for years. And the timing could not have been more perfect. Jeff had recently removed himself from a corporate environment and was ruminating over the possibilities of being self-employed. His previous experience in sales and sales-management, matched with a passion for good food, naturally led him to entertain thoughts of a food-related endeavour. Jenna, a textile artist who had been running her successful business for six years since graduating from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, was also needing a "pause" for

reflection and regrouping. Jenna's parents, who live in the area, heard about the sale of Back Forty and passed the word along to Jeff and Jenna. Cheese-making was not something they had imagined, but a kernel of curiosity was seeded, and they investigated. And here they are a year later — in love with the land, the cheeses, and the shift to country living. They are, as they say, living the dream and truly thriving. Jenna has already renovated an outbuilding into a studio and is back at work with renewed energy, focus and pleasure. Her textile work is gorgeous. I encourage everyone to check out her website <jennarose.ca> for a taste. She also has a hand in the cheese business — lending her artistic eye and photography skills to the presentation end of things as well as helping on market days.

To take over the production of a very highly regarded product must be a bit intimidating, but Jeff has become a cheese-maker extraordinaire in under a year. Admittedly now a bit of a cheese-freak, he's been "studying like crazy", reading everything he can find on cheese-making since taking the plunge into his new occupation. Training your brain to make cheese is one part of the cheese-maker's education, but training your senses is the other half, and that only comes through experience. It seems like a well-balanced combination between technique, science and feel — the analytic and the sensual. Jeff has been lucky to have the support and guidance of previous owner James Keith during this transition of ownership and it has helped him assume his new role as an artisan cheese-maker.

Back Forty's four cheeses are made with unpasteurized ewe's milk delivered from a small flock (about 110) of meticulously kept British Milk Sheep, from a small family farm near Guelph. Sheep's milk is one of the best cheese-making milks, due in part to its subtle, clean taste and higher fat content. It is also higher in nutrients and protein and is easier to digest than cow's milk. By not pasteurizing the milk, the complex flavours, nutrients and beneficial microorganisms are retained. Any unwanted bacteria perish during the aging process (minimum of sixty days).

The cheeses are phenomenal. As suggested in the recipe above, they are wonderful savoured on their own, without condiments or crackers, but perhaps paired with a complementary wine or beer (see tasting notes on their website under "handcrafted cheeses"). The names of the four cheeses are taken from some of the landmarks



Jeff and Jenna Fenwick

### Who They Are

Back Forty Artisan Cheeses, Jeff and Jenna Fenwick  
Watson's Corners, 287-7011  
<artisancheese.ca>, <back40@artisancheese.ca>

### What They Offer

Award-winning, handcrafted, unpasteurized ewe's milk cheeses: Bonnechere, Madawaska, Flower Station Feta, Highland Blue

### Where They Sell

Carp Farmers Market (Saturdays, May–November; Easter Market). Pêches et Poivre (Almonte), Pan Chanco (Kingston), Foodsmiths (Perth), Castlegarth Restaurant (White Lake), Ottawa (see website for list of shops)

### Ambrosia

Buy some Back Forty cheeses. Place on a cheese board. Cut a piece and note the texture, colour and aroma of the cheese. Put it in your mouth (forget the crackers) and let it linger. Savour. For pairings with beverages, see their website.

in the county — the Madawaska and Bonnechere Rivers, Flower Station and Lanark Highlands. I love that the Bonnechere — my personal favourite — can be interpreted as "dear one" and appropriately also "good eating". Both titles are suited as much to this lovingly tended, beautifully toasted, semi-firm cheese as it is to Back Forty entirely. If you have a chance, sit down with a generous piece or two and savour the experience.

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## Looking For Resolution Inspiration?

Look no further than *theHumm* for a wide variety of classes, courses and lessons to get you going in 2013.

Taught by talented local artists, musicians, dancers, movers and shakers — you're sure to find something to get you out and about during the chilly winter months!

Music Matters

# Music Venues: Bigger Isn't Always Better

By the time you are reading this, we will have survived the end of the world and made it through the holidays, so Happy New Year, everyone!

Recently, our family was able to take in a Hawksley Workman

by Tony Stuart

show at Neat Café in Burnstown <neatfood.com>, as an early Christmas present. All of the buzz surrounding this wonderful venue is definitely justified, and I highly recommend that you pay them a visit. They attract some top-notch talent, and I'm looking forward to my next visit.

I've been to many concerts over the years, both large and small, and I think that I'm hooked on the smaller performance spaces. You won't find a bad seat in the house and, at the show we recently attended, we were sitting less than a dozen feet from the stage. This allows for a tremendous amount of interplay between performer and audience. I've seen interviews with famous musicians who say that they really enjoy having the opportunity to play in an intimate setting for a change. I imagine that it must be similar to NHL hockey players who have the opportunity to play an informal game of pond hockey.

Arena concerts will always have their place, and attending one of these shows becomes an event. Last year, my wife Cynthia and I went to Montreal to see U2, along with 80,000 other fans. While it was a great show, we were quite far away from the stage, and we watched most of the show on the big screen. I remember thinking that this experience wasn't very different than watching the show on television. However, the concert was thoroughly enjoyable, and the sound crew did a good job.

In some other arena concerts I've been to poor sound quality has been a major issue. Quite often, the bass, drum, and guitar parts are amplified to the point where vocals become buried, and this really diminishes the experience. I was discussing this with another musician recently, and his theory was that members of the sound crew lose their hearing over time from being exposed to so much noise, and so end up cranking up the volume. There just may be some truth to this!

### Blame it on The Beatles

On August 15, 1965, the four lads from Liverpool were the first rock band to play at an American sports stadium. In this case it was Shea Stadium in New York, in front of 55,000 screaming fans. This was at the height of Beatlemania, and there was so much screaming from fans that most of the band's thirty-minute set couldn't be heard. For that matter, the band couldn't hear themselves. Poor sound quality and over-the-top screaming fans were contributing factors to the decision by The Beatles to quit

performing live and to become a studio band. However, the gate at this first concert set a record for the time at over \$300,000. Money talks, and The Beatles changed the music business forever, as they did continuously throughout their time together.

As I get older though, I think that my arena concert days might be done. I just enjoy the up-close-and-personal aspect of smaller shows, as well as the breaking down of the wall between performer and audience. Places like Neat Café and the Blacksheep Inn in Wakefield provide opportunities to see some fantastic artists. In Almonte and Carleton Place, our wonderful Town Hall auditoriums have hosted many great shows over the years as well. There is also a JazzNhouse series of concerts that have started up in Almonte, and I'm looking forward to attending one of these in the near future.

So, here's to small shows! Bigger is definitely not always better. — *Tony Stuart is the Music Director at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Carleton Place, and a freelance musician.*

## Call for Nominations for the 2013 Mississippi Mills Cultural Achievement and Cultural Volunteerism Awards

These awards are given to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to the arts and culture in the community. Please send name(s) and a brief description of the nominee(s) by **January 31** to

The Young Awards Foundation,  
Box 1275, Almonte, ON K0A1A0, or by email to [awards@youngawards.ca](mailto:awards@youngawards.ca).

Please visit [youngawards.ca](http://youngawards.ca) for details and criteria.



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**Colour and Self-Expression**, 1–3PM

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Introductory drawing skills, proportions, line, shading, parallel perspective; pencil, fineliner pens, etc. Supply list to be provided. \$225

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256-0108 or catherine.blake7@gmail.com

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**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS?**

see page 2 to find out how the February issue of *theHumm* can help!

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**Songs From the Valley Returns for 3<sup>rd</sup> Season**

Like an old friend. Like a favourite tune you hear now and then. That's how local music lovers describe *Songs From the Valley*, the hit music series that has become a tradition in the Ottawa Valley. This February, the series returns for a third exciting season, and the music just keeps getting better and better.

As always, *Songs From the Valley* is a collaboration between Perth's Studio Theatre and the Stewart Park Festival, showcasing the Ottawa Valley's very best musicians. The 2013 series, dubbed "Strings & Things", begins on a quirky, electrifying high note on February 2 with world beat violinist/composer **Jaron Freeman-Fox**. According to his website, Jaron's music "dances down the fine line between the beautiful and the ridiculous", fusing his Celtic and bluegrass roots with Indian classical music and jazz. A protégé of the late violin pioneer Oliver Shroer, Jaron plays his mentor's fiddles and, yes, also wears Oliver's shoes on stage! This unbelievable showman has wowed the MUSICWestport festival with his 5-piece band The Opposite of Everything, and in the past year has also performed in India, Brunei, Indonesia, Ireland, England, throughout the US, and at festivals across Canada, playing for royalty and for crowds of over 100,000. Always in demand as a session musician, Jaron is working on a new album with The Opposite of Everything for release in early 2013, and his current album



Jaron Freeman-Fox (aka "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin") kicks off the third *Songs From the Valley* season on February 2 in Perth

is nominated for two Canadian Folk Music Awards. Need we say more? Don't miss this incredible first concert on February 2!

What's next, you ask? On Saturday, March 23, the second concert in the series welcomes none other than seven-time Canadian Country Guitar Picker of the Year **Keith Glass**. A founding member of the multiple Juno and Canadian Country Music award-winning band Prairie Oyster, this legendary songwriter/guitarist continues to be a formidable presence on our music scene. The audience at this thrilling show will be able to say they were among the first to hear new material from Keith Glass, as he premieres his much anticipated new solo CD.

The final show in the 3-concert series will truly be a breath of fresh air! May 4 will welcome a Kitchen Party hosted by **Smok-ey Rose and Friends** (Darlene

Thibault, Lee Hodgkinson, Ed Ashton), with some outstanding special guests. Almonte's Brad Scott will share his pickin' prowess, while the amazing young Henry Norwood will also sing a few tunes. Veterans Harry Adrain, Judi Moffat and Barry Munroe will share their talents for a foot-stompin' great time.

Tickets for *Songs From the Valley* 2013 are just \$25 per show or \$65 for all three. Why not buy the series and save \$10? Tickets will be available from any Stewart Park Festival board member for cash or cheque (please contact Sue at 267-7902) and also by debit or credit card from Tickets Please, 39 Foster Street in Perth (485-6434).

Heat up your springtime with *Songs From The Valley*, beginning February 2 at the Studio Theatre in Perth. For details visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.

The Millstone

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# Communal Resolutions

New Year's is a time of reflection, a rejigging of what is important to us, a time of personal promises. Most New Year's resolutions centre around what we eat and our levels of physical activity. How often have you heard: "I vow to eat less and exercise more?" Gym memberships and exercise equipment purchases spike. Resolutions sometimes stick, oftentimes are fleeting.

This year, skip the personal resolution in favour of a mutually supported and more communal one. Talk to your family and your friends and embrace winter together. We are, after all, proud

Canadians. See snow as a gift and plan to cross country ski together, make Friday night skate dates, snowshoe at the Mill of Kintail... These days with family and friends are the days you'll always remember as the "good times."

Want to live in a healthy, active, inclusive community? The Town of Mississippi Mills has entered the process of writing a new Recreation and Culture Master Plan. Step up and discuss what is important to you. Watch for community engagement opportunities. Contact: 256-1077.

Get involved with Bicycle Month! June 2013 marks its fifth

anniversary of community physical engagement and the celebration of all things self-propelled and two-wheeled. Consider helping on the organizing committee, or bring your own event to this community-driven initiative. Encouraged are any bicycle-themed events that promote good health through your school, church, business, or community group. Contact <jmills@themills.on.ca>.

Start 2013 by sharpening your skates, waxing your skis, digging out your snow shoes, then gather and enjoy our Canadian winter.

Oh, and leave any guilt behind! — Jeff Mills, Cedar Hill

# ADHS Spreads the Net

Almonte and District High School's Spread the Net team is currently first in the high school division of the nationwide competition! The team consists of four dedicated grade twelve high school students; Colleen Stratford-Kurus, Laura Barrass, Margot Denis and Shelby Featherston.

Spread the Net (STN) is an organization started by Rick Mercer and Belinda Stronach. All funds raised through STN are used to buy insecticide-treated bed nets to fight against malaria. The nets this year are being sent to sub-Saharan Africa. Rick Mercer holds a competition each year between elementary, high school and college/university divisions to see which school can raise the most funds to help put an end to malaria. The

winning school in each division will get to be on the Rick Mercer Report in March 2013. So far we hold the top position, but we need to keep up our momentum.

Our December Coffee House was a huge success! We brought in about \$800 after rental fees. With this amount alone we were able to save the lives of up to 400 children which is incredible, but we can't stop there. We have a rather hefty goal of \$6000 to raise before February 28 but we believe that it is doable, partly due to our generous community. For only \$10 one net can be purchased and can save the lives of up to five children. We will be holding more community events in the future, but in the meantime we also welcome donations.

We would also like to give a shout out to anyone who is in need of accomplishing an odd job. If you need firewood stacked or snow shoveled or anything else you can think of, contact us and we would be more than happy to help you out in exchange for a donation to our cause.

Please consider donating to STN in the New Year and help us reach our goal of potentially saving the lives of 3000 children, and perhaps appearing on the Rick Mercer Report!

You can like us on Facebook at Spread the Net: ADHS to stay updated on future events, to contact us, or if you have any questions.

— Colleen Stratford-Kurus, STN Team Captain

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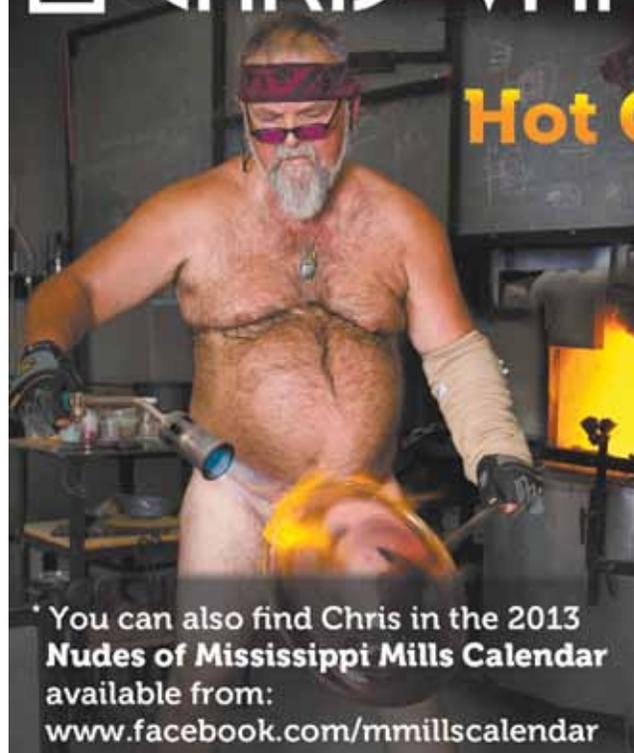
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Hanging Around the Valley

# Facing the New Year with Art!

## Arts Programming Comes to Carambeck

The Carambeck Community Centre in Carleton Place will soon be buzzing with arts programming! The Centre, previously Carambeck Public School, opened its doors officially in October of 2012. Since that time, the Recreation and Culture Department has

by Miss Cellaneous

been working with artists and residents alike to create a variety of programming arts to be offered at the Centre.

"The main goal is to offer a wide variety of programs so that there is something for everyone," explains Community Programmer Jessica Smith. "We plan to offer regular programming year-round for children, teens, adults and seniors alike."

The Recreation and Culture Department has also been working closely with members

of Arts Carleton Place, which is a non-profit arts organization dedicated to empowering artists and residents through the arts. They are very enthusiastic about bringing arts programming to Carambeck.

The two organizations will be hosting an **Open House** at the Carambeck Community Centre on Monday, January 7, from 5 to 8PM. The Open House will provide an opportunity for interested individuals to browse the varied programming, meet the artists, ask questions and see demonstrations of the classes.

Regular programming begins in January and will continue into February. For more information on upcoming programs and workshops, google "Carambeck Community Centre" or call them at 257-1704.

## New Exhibition at OWAA Gallery

*Halcyon Days*, a new exhibition of artwork by members of the Ottawa West Arts Association (OWAA), opens on January 5 at the OWAA Gallery in the Goulbourn Recreation Complex.

Showcasing sensational new works by Ottawa West painters, sculptors and photographers, the exhibition offers something to

please the eyes and spark the imagination. Visitors will also have the opportunity to leave comments for the artists and fill out a ballot for the People's Choice selection. Results of the People's Choice voting will be announced at the end of the exhibition on March 1, and will also be posted online at <owaa.ca>.

The *Halcyon Days* exhibition will be open to the public seven days a week from 7AM to 9PM at the Goulbourn Recreation Complex, 1500 Shea Road in Stittsville. For more information, please visit <owaa.ca>.

## Face Forward at the Mill Street Gallery

The Mill Street Gallery of Contemporary Art is pleased to kick off the new year with an exciting new exhibition! *Face Forward* is a portraiture-themed show featuring more than fifteen artists from all over Ontario. This fantastic array of artists will exhibit their personal perspectives on portraiture through photography, paint, bronze, ink and many more media. *Face Forward* was named in honour of the new year, and explores images of the everyday person, ranging through all ages and every emotion. The artistry is diverse, quickly moving from playful and fun to great intensi-

ty. The exhibition, located in the mezzanine above the Heirloom Café Bistro (7 Mill Street in Almonte), will run from January 14 through to March 31. Come

out and join the artists on Friday, January 18 from 5 to 7PM for the **Face Forward vernissage**. Snacks will be provided by the Heirloom Café Bistro.



The Face Forward show opens on January 14 in Almonte



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Saturday & Sunday, January 12 & 13

**Plein Air Painting in Costa Rica!**  
February 2 to 10

**Winter Session Open Studio begins**  
Thursday, January 10

**Introduction to Life Drawing**  
Monday, January 7 to Wednesday, January 9

**Life Drawing: Head, hands and feet**  
Monday, January 21 to Wednesday, January 23

**Plein Air in Southwest France**  
October 15 to 26, 2013

to register, or for more information: (613) 839-5241  
margferraro@xplornet.ca or www.ferraro-art.com

# Extending the Puppet Season in Miss. Mills

Almonte's Puppets Up! festival is a lot of fun for all ages. It happens on a weekend in August and then it's gone for another year... or is it?

Jeff Banks, owner of JB Arts in Almonte, wants to make the popular annual puppet festival last longer. So, in partnership with Puppets Up!, Jeff is offering a series of eleven puppet workshops in his art store/studio at 64 Mill Street, that will run from January to July.



The **Puppets, Professionals and You! Puppet Workshops!** series is designed for adults, for children, and for parent/child pairs. A wide variety of workshops will be presented by a group of professional puppeteers and experienced artists/artisans in Jeff's spacious art studio behind his art store, right in the heart of downtown Almonte.

Beginning with **Parent and Child Decorate a Latex Puppet** on January 12, followed closely by **Make Your Own Easy-to-Assemble Puppet Stage**, a project for adults on January 27, the workshops will run monthly from January 12 until July 16, just before the Puppets Up! Festival weekend takes place on August 10 and 11.

Jeff reports, "Costs for the workshops will be kept as low as possible and all materials are included in the fee. Best of all, students can take home something tangible from every class — maybe a puppet stage or a marionette or a hand puppet, a script, or even a video tape ready for YouTube!"

For more information about the workshops, including teachers and dates, go to <jbarts.ca> or <puppetsup.ca>. Enjoy the art of puppet making and be part of the puppet family.



Learn how to perform with puppets from Trish Leeper (above), or how to create shadow puppets from Megan Spencer (left)

## Watercolour Plus

Classes at **Carp Home Studio**

Wednesday (*intermediate*)

Thursday (*beginners*)

January 23 or 24 for ten weeks

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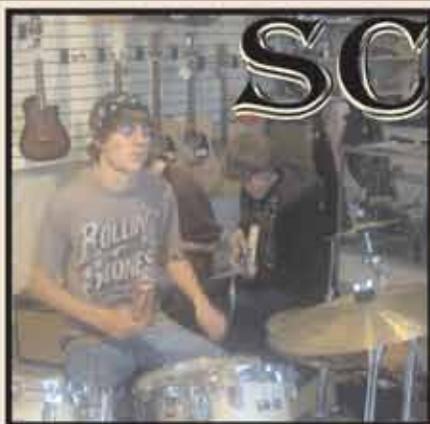
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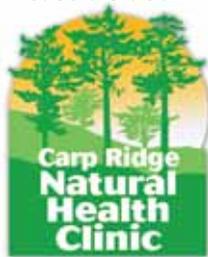
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Postcards from Perth

# Confessions of a Grateful Shopkeeper

I am grateful. I'm sitting behind the display counter in our warm and cozy shop on a slushy, snowy Tuesday afternoon, listening to a Sarah Harmer CD, as a friendly customer browses through our Canadian Fiction section. There are six shopping days before Christmas...

Oh. Hold on. Sorry — I had to stop writing for a minute to serve two happy holiday shoppers. Books, records, CDs, DVDs, lo-

by John Pigeau

cally made Christmas cards — everything is selling! It's that time of year. And I'll tell you (and I think every independent shopkeeper on the planet will agree with me), I'm immensely thankful for every single person who comes through our door this time of year, whether they're new to the shop or a happy regular. I'm thankful that these people get it: shopping local helps little stores like ours. The hard-earned money with which these smiling, merry folks are buying gifts for their loved ones, quite simply, keeps us in business. It sees us through the three typically lean months in the new year and pays the stack of bills we have accumulated preparing for Christmas.

I consider it a blessing — that friendly folks chose to buy gifts at our shop, which really could be Any Indie Shop, Canada.

I have good reason to be grateful.

In 2012, three beloved independent bookshops in Ottawa had to close their doors, basically because they could no longer compete with online booksellers and larger chain outlets. I was saddened when those shops had to close their doors, as were a lot of other people. Those stores breathed life into their communities. They hosted author readings and book launches and musical events; helped out people organizing local fundraisers by donating gift certificates to silent auctions and such. And they were a sanctuary of sorts for some, where you could count on seeing a friendly face, finding great books you likely wouldn't find anywhere else, and meeting like-minded and knowledgeable people.

No one wants to see shops like those close.

So, thank you, thank you, thank you, to everyone who chose to shop locally this year. Your support is truly, deeply appreciated.

For me, it means I can continue work on my second novel (ever think you're living a second-rate sort of life? Templeton Speck does... more to come!), mainly in lulls which inevitably come in the cold, gray winter months. It will also afford me the time to schedule next year's lineup for the First Edition Reading Series, and to apply for Canada Council funding to help bring some of the best au-

thors in Canada to Perth. (If you have a favourite Canadian author who you would like to meet and hear read in an intimate setting, by the way, please let me know and I'll do my best to bring them here. You can email your suggestions to me at [jpigeau@hotmail.com](mailto:jpigeau@hotmail.com).)

I love how all of this ties neatly together: People shopping locally keep businesses alive and, in turn, lots of other great things happen and opportunities abound and the local community benefits. There's no secret formula and it's all fairly simple but again, thank you to the people who get it. You make your community a better place. Truly.

Everyone: Self-five!

### Those Darned Resolutions

Now, on a personal note — or perhaps I should say, on a more personal note — it's time to lay down some resolutions for the new year. Not that I'll necessarily keep them; it's just nice to think positively sometimes and set some goals.

Like sleeping right through the night. Nothing but sweet dreams from the second my head hits the pillow to the moment my alarm clock screams bloody murder at me in the morning. Yes, in 2013 I resolve to cure my insomnia.

Paul Simon once wrote a lyric that seems apt: "I don't expect to sleep through the night." And I believe he meant that "at his age," he didn't expect to. Mr. Simon, I know what you mean. So I'll aim to drink nothing caffeinated after, say, 5PM, lay off the sweets, and read more before sleep instead of trying to get to slumberland by watching sci-fi flicks. I can do it, I know I can.

Also, I think I'll dink around less on Facebook and, instead, work more on my novel. (I mean, dozens of people are expecting it any day now! But no pressure — that won't help me sleep.) It's addictive, this whole social media thing, and it's nice to connect with like-minded folks and old friends and keep tabs on family who live elsewhere. But I've got to stop incessantly reading everyone's status updates. I somehow have over 2,000 friends, and that's a lot of updates! (I could be on novel #4, for Pete's sake, if not for Facebook!) I like to read them as they often offer me fodder for fiction and a few laughs, but it's time to cut back — way back — and to stop commenting so often. "Yes, you should definitely drink at your holiday party!" and "Though I'm not a huge fan of lemons or pecans, that pie looks delicious!" and "Yes, I couldn't agree more: bike thieves are a#\$holes!" I am a man of strong convictions but, seriously, I could better spend my time. And I will. I will.

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

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# Matthew Barber On The Mississippi

Almonte's Folkus Concert Series is very pleased to present Matthew Barber at the Almonte Old Town Hall on January 26, with opening act George Birchall.

Many people think of country and bluegrass as having roots in the American South. The banks of the Mississippi and the Appalachians both figure prominently. But the mountain chains of Appalachia twist up the continent, and the hills of Lanark are the stubs of once-great mountains in the same chain. And here near the banks of our own Mississippi, a little country-ish magic happens once in a while.

Matthew Barber is known to many as a honey-voiced singer and accomplished guitarist. A few more may be aware that he also knows his way around a piano. Others may wonder what a family dinner sounds like at the Barber household, with sister Jill also sitting in. Barber has released seven albums, toured North America, Europe and Australia, and won multiple awards. So it's not surprising that his background in sweet rootsy pop may not have prepared the listener for *Songs for the Haunted Hillbilly*, and yet it's a perfect fit.

The album is a collection of songs written for a hit Montreal musical, *The Haunted Hillbilly*, based on a cult book of the same name (by Derek McCormack). The book and play have a complicated plot, in which a Hank Williams-esque main character, nudie suits, alcohol and

itching powder figure prominently. Barber penned and sings all the country-tinged musical numbers, in the voices of various characters. Recorded in the space of three days in Almonte at Ken Friesen's famously anonymous studio, the album's spare arrangements feature Barber's strong voice and multiple instruments, backed by multi-instrumentalists Joe Grass and Julian Brown (yes, that makes multiple multi-instrumentalists). So it's a country-influenced album, right down to the steel guitar, rather than a straight-ahead country album.

And it's the tale of that recording that leads to his playing here. As Folkus artistic director Amanda Sears puts it: "Matthew was here recording *Songs for the Haunted Hillbilly* when I first met him. He and his bandmates were really nice guys. He was back in town to work on mastering the album, and a few of us were invited over to Ken's studio to listen to the album. It was great, and Matthew was really excited with how it sounded. We hung out for the evening, and he told us about the musical, explaining that he wrote all the songs for the album. He was very relaxed, nice, and obviously passionate about his art. I told him

about the Folkus series and the music we like to bring in. I proposed a coffee date in the morning. We went for the 'Almonte Tour,' around the Victoria Woolen Mill

then back across the river via the train bridge. We then went into the Old Town Hall. He had said he liked Almonte and would be happy to play here, but when he saw the auditorium he just loved it — and he immediately signed on for the series. He's a very easy-going and humble guy; it will make for a fantastic night of music with great storytelling."

Matthew's current live show features songs from the album and a selection of previous hits arranged for a little twang, a little pedal steel. Folkus is very excited that his show will wash up on the banks of our Mississippi on January 26.

Show opener George Birchall is a hometown boy and local favourite, whose live musical appearances are all too rare. George describes his music as "self-aware Canadiana". Atmospheric yet earthy, George's songs allow his sense of humour and warm presence to shine through.

As always, doors open at 7:30 and show time is 8PM. Refreshments and merchandise will be available; debit will not. Details and tickets are available at Mill Street Books in Almonte and at <folkusalmonte.ca>. Singles are \$27 in advance or at the door.

— Sandy Irvin



Matthew Barber with a twist — catch *Songs For The Haunted Hillbilly* at the Almonte Old Town Hall on January 26



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# 2 Women Productions Present Jan Gregory

Early one Friday evening just before the holidays began, Jan Gregory — the next 2 Women Productions' storyteller — drove her car down the hill that leads to our home on Lanark's beautiful Taylor Lake. She had come for a weekend dedicated to plunging into that remarkable creative process that brings a story fully alive. The three of us talked and she re-worked her draft script; we talked some more and she re-worked again. With every word that was changed, the structure of the piece grew clearer, stronger, more vibrant. By Sunday afternoon when she disappeared up the hill on her way home to Montreal, we all knew there was yet more to be done, but we knew also that the bones of the show were firmly in place. We were all of us certain that, when *Ask No Questions: Family Secrets* is presented to audiences at Full Circle Theatre and Neat Café in February, a truly compelling experience is assured.

Jan Gregory is a fine performer with years of experience, both in the theatre and on the storytelling stage. She grew up in the south of England in what seemed to her a perfectly ordinary family — a family that went on holidays together, drove off for picnics, sat down to tea together on Sundays, sang in the church choir. Still, there was cause for wonder. Why, for instance, did she have rather more grandmothers



Storyteller Jan Gregory performs at Perth's Full Circle Theatre on February 7, and at Neat Coffee House in Burnstown on the 10<sup>th</sup>

than were found in most families? Why did her father sit so often sad and silent? And then, later — where had her sister disappeared to? Was she never coming back?

Jan tried to find out, of course, but the answer to her queries was always the same, "Ask no questions, my girl. Ask no questions and you'll be told no lies." Now she takes us into the world of the secrets' unraveling; an unraveling that was desperately needed if she was ever going to discover who she really was.

"In a way," Jan says, "I had become my father. I'd got to a place where the secrets were driving me. They were also holding me apart."

*Ask No Questions* is the story of a very particular family, but everyone will find echoes of their own experiences, since each family bears its burden of

happenings that must not be examined too carefully. Each is somehow enraptured by some secret's power.

Over the last three years, audiences in Eastern Ontario have come to expect a high standard from 2 Women Productions. We promise that *Ask No Questions* will not disappoint.

*Ask No Questions: Family Secrets* will run in Perth's Full Circle Theatre on February 7 at 7:30PM, and in Burnstown at Neat Coffee House on February 10 at 7:30PM. Advance tickets can be purchased at Tickets Please, 39 Foster Street in Perth (ticketsplease.ca, 485-6434). For more information about the series, please visit <2wp.ca>.

— Jennifer Cayley is the co-director of 2 Women Productions, along with her partner Jan Andrews

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1. Familiarize yourself with the available resources for newcomers in Smiths Falls area. Just knowing the programs out there can be extremely helpful to someone new to the area.
2. Show them the ropes! Knowing the necessities for daily living in Smiths Falls and area will empower them so they can transition smoothly into their life here.
3. Make a positive difference in our community. Never underestimate the power of simple acts; making eye contact, offering a smile or a friendly comment helps newcomers to feel accepted and welcomed in the community.

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# Mudds Members Win National Capital Critics Circle Award

The Capital Critics Circle recently announced the winners of the thirteenth annual theatre awards for plays presented in English in the National Capital Region during the 2011–2012 season. The Mississippi Mudds are proud to report that some of their own won an award in the Best Design (Community) division: Jeff Lee and Shawn Millman won for the set of *Noises Off* by Michael Frayn, directed by Brian McManus.

Their journey began way back when Millman saw the fast-paced farce *Noises Off* at Stratford. As a Mudds volunteer, he dreamed of bringing the play to Carleton Place, but thought the challenge might be beyond Mudds' resources. Still, he kept coming back to the idea.

Lee first got hooked as a Mudds volunteer when his father Don pulled him in to help build sets for the 2007 Muddsz musical *Canajun Eh?* Since then, his involvement has increased and diversified, but he still finds working on sets to be a fun and creative outlet.

When Millman finally pitched the *Noises Off* idea to Lee, he found a partner eager to solve the problems of a two-storey set with

multiple staircases and many doors. With encouragement from the Mudds board, and with Brian McManus signed on as director, they were on their way.

One of the first steps was to discuss their design with town staff. The Town Hall has a heritage designation and its historic auditorium has many beautiful features that make it a wonderful place for live theatre, but the original sloping stage is always a challenge to Mudds set designers.

After much deliberation a plan was completed and approved by town staff. It was to create a double-sided set representing the on-stage and backstage areas of the "play within a play". Since two levels were required, the only choice was to build it on the auditorium floor and use the real stage for access.

Then the problem-solving began. Where do you find casters to support a 2200-pound set and nine actors, and yet be able to revolve the entire set at each intermission? At an auto shop in Ottawa they found sixteen, each rated to carry 300 pounds. How many hours do you plan for the set building and painting? Try 48 hours over four weekends. Still not done? Add 24 hours over



Shawn Millman (left) and Jeff Lee won the Best Design (Community) award for their intricate set used in the Mudds' production of *Noises Off* (pictured below)

two more weekends. How do you budget for such a huge undertaking? You recycle as much as you can from previous shows. You ask members to donate or loan any lumber, carpet, paint or furniture they can spare. You shop at Habitat for Humanity; a charitable organization where building supplies can be found at rock bottom prices. And how do you find the person hours (some 500) to complete the task? You depend on Mudds members, family and friends. Lee credits at least twenty-two people as crucial to the success of the set and feels they all have a share in the award. Painters, in his view, are lifesavers when it comes to turning a sturdy but basic set into a finished product. The Mudds are lucky to have a depth of talent in this department.

For the actors who raced or flung themselves up and down the stairs, against walls, and in and out of doors and windows, the set was a dependable rock. For the audience, watching the set re-

volve was all part of an evening of brilliant theatre. In fact, concession sales were significantly down during intermissions as everyone stayed in their seats to watch the crew at work! Applause for set changes is rare but in this production not surprising.

The Capital Critics Circle Award is fitting recognition for an amazing piece of work.

In the New Year, Shawn Millman embarks on a new career in the Canadian Armed Forces. Sadly, community theatre will not benefit from his prodigious talent for a while. But in 2013, watch for other Mudds productions: *Annie Junior*, *Nunsense 2* and *A Christmas Carol*, featuring sets built by Jeff Lee and other talented Mudds members. Want to get involved yourself? Visit <mississippimudds.ca> for more information. To see amazing time-lapse videos of how the *Noises Off* set came together, visit the Mudds' YouTube channel at <youtube.com/themudds1>.

— Judith Scott







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Remembrance Gift Shop - 141 Bridge Street, Carleton Place

Tickets Please (at Jo's Clothes) - 39 Foster Street, Perth



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# An Essential Introduction

Ever since I made the jump from “non-gardener” to “gardener” a few years ago, I have been delving into the many uses of plants. I now grow some to harvest and eat, some to decorate with, and some just for making teas. I wouldn't say that I use plants medicinally, but neither am I immune to their properties — I drink peppermint tea because it tastes lovely but also seems to soothe headaches, and I grate ginger into chicken soup when someone in the family has an upset tummy. However, a medicine woman I ain't.

My vegetal dabbings have led to encounters with essential oils, and I find that sector of the botanic world both intriguing and baffling. Once you start down the rabbit hole of research into their curative properties, you are bombarded with millions of Google hits that run the gamut from ultra-specific scientific studies (which I don't quite understand) to sweeping claims that they will cure all that ails you (which I don't quite believe). My response has been to approach

them cautiously, and to let my own reactions be my guide. When a friend recently invited me to experience an essential oil treatment and



write about it in *theHumm*, my main concern was that I might be asked to ingest them. When she went on to explain that she would be massaging them into my scalp, neck and shoulders, I replied “I'm in!”

And so it was on a very icy day just before Christmas that I found myself at The Beauty Room (located at 103 Bridge Street in Carleton Place) in the very capable hands of owner Darlene Brown. Before we began, Darlene showed me the more than fifty vials of individual essential oils and oil blends in her line of doTERRA pure essential oils. She chose a few to use

on me, including peppermint and ginger as singles, and “Aromatouch” and “Deep Blue” as blends. She explained that her choice of oils was somewhat intuitive, and I was interested to note that both peppermint and Deep Blue are recommended for treating migraine headaches (my nemesis), according to the book *Modern Essentials — a Contemporary Guide to the Therapeutic Uses of Essential Oils*.

After shampooing my hair (but leaving it damp), Darlene proceeded to massage my scalp, neck and shoulders for almost an hour. The massage was heavenly, and the combination of scents was both calming and refreshing. After returning me to my street clothes, Darlene dried and styled my hair, so I was set and ready to take on the rest of the day. I felt like I had given both myself and my hair a special treat! As I was leaving the salon, Darlene's next customer (who had also tried a treatment) arrived and complimented Darlene's “magic fingers”. She reported that her scalp “felt like a million bucks” and that her hair retained the hydrating effects of the oils for ages, even after she had washed it out.

And so I returned to my regular routine, still not an expert in aromatherapy, but certainly with a heightened appreciation for its use in massage. Unlike synthetic scents (which often give me headaches), the naturally derived fragrances in the oils were quite soothing and certainly didn't cause any unpleasant effects. And I concur that Darlene does indeed have “magic fingers”! For more information about doTERRA essential oils, check out [doterra.com/us](http://doterra.com/us). To contact Darlene at The Beauty Room, call 913-7749.

— Kris Riendeau

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# A Celebration of Community Gems

## Call for Nominations for 2013 Awards

Nominations are now being sought for the 2013 Mississippi Mills **Cultural Achievement** and **Cultural Volunteerism Awards**. These will be presented at the Young Awards Gala in Almonte on Saturday, May 25. The awards are given annually to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to arts and culture in the community of Mississippi Mills (and perhaps beyond).

Please send name(s) and a brief description of the nominee(s) by January 31 to The Young Awards Foundation, Box 1275, Almonte ON, K0A 1A0, or by email to [awards@youngawards.ca](mailto:awards@youngawards.ca). Please visit [youngawards.ca](http://youngawards.ca) for further details and award criteria.

The mandate of the Young Awards Foundation is to foster dynamic arts initiatives in the schools of Mississippi Mills. The Gala is the main fundraiser, and has raised over \$40,000 over the past four years. Organizer Julie Argue-Moffatt is always looking for volunteers, so please contact her at [foodiesfinefoods@gmail.com](mailto:foodiesfinefoods@gmail.com).



# Humm Bits

## Wizard of Oz Auditions

Dream of playing Dorothy? Feeling like the king of the forest? Then put on your ruby slippers and come out to the auditions for *The Wizard of Oz!*

After sold-out performances of *Fiddler on the Roof* in 2012, **Two Rivers Musical Productions** is back in 2013 with another epic musical that will give performers the chance to share their talents in this fresh staging of the beloved classic. Director Ron Gardner and musical director Lisa Webber are looking for a special cast to bring this production to life.

Auditions will be held on January 13 and 23 in Arnprior. Rehearsals start February 25 and four live performances will be held June 6, 7, and 8 in Arnprior. Details and the audition package can be found at <tworiversmusicals.ca>.

## Winter Dance for Almonte Fair Fundraiser

A dance to break up the winter blahs was first held in 2011 by the North Lanark Agricultural Society, sponsors of the Almonte Fair, to raise funds to replace the education barn destroyed by an overnight fire. It was so well received, generating a good community feeling, that it is now an annual event (there seems to be no end to the repairs needed to the heritage buildings).

This year, the building to the left of the main entrance (commonly called "The Dining Hall") is now home to the vendors of the successful Almonte Flea Market, held on the grounds from May to September. Unfortunately, there were several leaks in the roof, discovered during the heavy rains of spring, so the roof must be replaced — at a cost of well over \$10,000.

The earliest photo the NLAS has of the grounds appeared in the 1906 prize book. It was built in 1903 at a cost of \$803 and so is the oldest building there, after the grandstand and main hall. After over one hundred years, a new roof is well deserved!

Over the years the Dining Hall has served very diverse functions — a poultry barn, a youth hostel in the 1980s, a dining hall, a beer garden and now a flea market.

Help ensure this history continues, and have a great night at the same time! The **Glen Silverson Band** will provide popular country music, and there will be a silent auction and refreshments, so come out on Saturday, January 12 from 8PM to 12AM, to the Almonte Civitan Hall for an evening of fun. Tickets bought in advance save you \$2 at the door.

Call Alyssa at 256-6263 or Glen at 257-1467 for more information.

## The Reeve Report

# Hanging On by a Thread

Be glad you're not our neighbours! Every morning at 6:40, I open the front door and "loose the hounds" in a barking frenzy down the driveway. I trudge down after them, these mornings in the pitch dark, and stuff my mittened hand in the mailbox to retrieve

for it too! We are lucky to have it, and I know many who count on online papers for everything. I, however, just can't do it, even though I really am trying.

I need that paper for more than the daily news. Without my newspaper, how would I start the fire in the stove every morning? I've been known to sit there, re-reading bits I missed earlier before I consign it to the flames. In what would I wrap the potato peelings if not the day-old newspaper? What would line the compost pail? I don't think the online paper will be much help there.

I despair when I hear of the demise of a bookstore, all in the name of e-books. It may be the wave of the future, but I just want to wave it completely out of my sight. Give me a real book, with print, and a flyleaf telling me about the sort of font that's been used. And I want page numbers, not the percentage of the book I have completed. I have a Kindle that was a real novelty when I got it. But then the battery kept running down just when I'd get to the good parts, and before long, it got relegated to the corner of the counter under a pile of books I am reading. Please, please, go to the book store, and buy books. I don't care if they cost you double the cost of the e-book. Just do it! You will make the owner really happy, you will help out the author, and you will be assured that the battery won't die, the pages won't fade, and the book will be there for years and years.

We have a VCR/DVD player. It's served us well until last week

when we indulged in a video rental, only to find out the disk was a Blu-ray thingamajig. It wouldn't play in our machine, so no movie that night! The young fellow explained that "your VCR isn't even being made anymore." Yikes, it's only about ten years old! When did technology race past me when I wasn't looking? I don't understand half of this stuff anymore.

I'm really afraid that one morning I am going to find there is nothing to which I can relate anymore. Our papers will be gone, our TV will be outmoded, the CBC will disappear — God forbid, I should even breathe that one!! — and our whole life will be dumbed down to technology that is self-serving and fatuous. Sound bites à la Sesame Street will suffice for education, downloading will suffice for entertainment, Facebook and Twitter will suffice for conversation, and I, like a lot of others "of a certain age", will be bereft of everything!

There is hope on our horizon as long as we have people like Don Wiles encouraging us to attend his Almonte Lectures and Learning in Almonte series. We are fortunate to have the arts so close at hand here in the Valley, and to be able to attend things like the Met Operas in Arnprior. I'm holding on to those threads with an iron grip, just so that I can maintain some semblance of familiarity with all good things soon-passing.

I hear a car on the road. Ah, it's the paper guy! All is well — at least for today.

by Glenda Jones

the newspaper. This morning it wasn't there!! I actually peered right into the box, incredulous that our delivery guy didn't make the mad dash during the night.

What to do, what to do? We couldn't enjoy our coffee without the paper; I don't know what the movie times are; and worse even, we didn't get the comic section or the puzzles! I live in fear and dread that *The Citizen* is going to cancel rural delivery. I will pay anything to find that paper there in the morning. I'd even walk all the way to the bottom of our road, just please, please give me print with my porridge.

There is no online newspaper in the world that can replace the handheld, newsprinted sensation of a real newspaper. As much as I admire the local online paper, I can't read it for very long before my eyes glaze over. Yes, the layout is lovely, the pictures bright and clear, and the news updated nearly instantly, but it isn't a "real" newspaper. Nothing would please me more than to see that paper weekly on my newsstand. I'd pay plenty

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Blue Skies in the Community presents  
their annual  
**Little Christmas**  
concert  
Sunday, January 6, 2:30  
At the Maberly Hall

featuring:  
The Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra  
The Prep Orchestra  
The Celtic Heritage Orchestra

\$5 at the door, children 12 and under are free  
For information contact Cindy McCall  
278-2448 or cindyfiddlemusic.mccall@gmail.com




Carole Malcom  
abstraction with trees  
and grasses  
at  
**GALLERY PERTH**  
Code's Mill Building,  
17 Wilson Street East, Perth  
across from the  
New Best Western Hotel  
galleryperth.com



**Wanted: Nanny**

We are 4 loving children (ages 4,4,2 & 1) looking for a full-time nanny (live-out) to play with us at our home in Almonte. You are a creative & outdoorsy caregiver.

Experience preferred.

for details contact  
honkhonk123@gmail.com



**St. Paul's at 150!**

**Open House  
Music and High Tea!**  
Sunday, January 6, 3PM

Come and join us at historic St Paul's to celebrate the kick-off for our year-long 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. Music by our Choir and Organist — followed by High Tea.

Info: 613 256 1771  
St Paul's Anglican Church  
or visit www.stpaulsalmonte.ca 70 Clyde Street, Almonte



Jaron Freeman-Fox, Perth, Feb 2  
**Putnam County Spelling Bee**, Perth, Feb 14-24  
**The Hogtown All-Stars**, Westport, Feb 15-16  
**Magnificent Sevens/Brock Zeman**, Almonte, Feb 16  
**Live at the Met**, Arnprior, Feb 23  
**Annie Jr.**, CP, Feb 22-24, Mar 1-2  
**Sublime Strings**, Almonte, Mar 2  
**Jack de Keyzer**, Westport, Mar 15-16  
**Claytones/Ariana Gillis**, Almonte, Mar 16  
**Treasa Levasseur**, Perth, Mar 22  
**Keith Glass**, Perth, Mar 23  
**Maple Run Studio Tour**, Pakenham, Mar 23-24  
**Live at the Met**, Arnprior, Mar 30  
**Sagapool**, Perth, Apr 12  
**The Roaring '20s**, Almonte, Apr 13  
**\$38,000 for a Friendly Face**, Perth, Apr 18-28  
**Julian Fauth Band**, Westport, Apr 19-20  
**Nunsense II**, CP, Apr 25-28, May 2-4  
**Live at the Met**, Arnprior, Apr 27  
**Smokey Rose & Friends**, Perth, May 4  
**Robin Bank\$ Band**, Westport, May 17  
**Young Awards Gala**, Almonte, May 25  
**Cantata Singers**, Almonte, May 25  
**Live at the Met**, Arnprior, May 25  
**Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month**, June *Proof*, Perth, Jun 6-16  
**Cantores Celestes Choir**, Perth, Jun 29  
**Celtfest**, Almonte, July 5-7  
**The Star Spangled Girl**, Perth, Jul 12-Aug 4  
**Stewart Park Festival**, Perth, Jul 19-21  
**Puppets Up!**, Almonte, Aug 10-11  
**The Marriage-Go-Round**, Perth, Aug 9-Sep 1  
**Highland Games**, Almonte, Aug 24  
**Fibrefest**, Almonte, Sep 7-8

## Visual Arts

**Vernissage - Portraits**, Jan. 18, 5-7PM. Photography, paint, bronze, ink & more. Snacks by Heirloom Cafe., Mill St. Gallery of Contemporary Art, 7 Mill St., Almonte.  
**Almonte Quilters' Guild**, Jan. 21, 7-9PM. Monthly meeting. New members & guests welcome. Almonte Civitan Hall, 500 Almonte St. 256-5858, empeys@xplornet.com  
**Lanark County Quilters Guild**, Jan. 22, 12PM. Mary Ewing talks about Quilts of Valour. Brown bag. Refreshments. Guests welcome: \$3. Perth Lions Hall. 264-9232  
**Arnprior Quilters' Guild**, Jan. 23, 6:30PM. Quilting designs to incorporate into projects; display of local small art quilts. Christian Education Centre, 257 John St. N., Arnprior. arnpriordistrictquiltersguild.com. \$5; \$20/yr

## Festivals

**Pakenham Frost Festival**, Jan 23-27. Winter fun in Pakenham. mississippimills.ca.

## Theatre

**O'Brien Theatre Film Group** presents *Robot and Frank* (Jan 6 at 1PM, Jan 7 at 7:30PM); *The Master* (Jan 13 at 1PM, Jan 14 at 7:30PM); *Midnight's Children* (Jan 20 at 1PM, Jan 21 at 7:30PM); *Arbitrage* (Jan 27 at 1PM, Jan 28 at 7:30PM). O'Brien Theatre, Arnprior. 622-7682, obrientheatre.com. \$10 or buy multi-pass

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>1</p> <p>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge                      🎵 <b>NYE - Everything Zen</b>, Perth                      🎵 <b>NYE Party</b>, The Cove                      🎵 <b>Steve Barrette Trio</b>, The Swan at Carp</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>🎵 <b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub                      🎵 <b>Open Jam w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</p>	<p>3</p> <p>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Curtis Chaffey</b>, Alice's Village Cafe                      🎵 <b>Ali McCormick</b>, O'Reilly's Pub                      🎵 <b>Open Mic</b>, Love That Barr</p>
<p>7</p> <p>🎵 <b>Carambeck Community Centre/ Arts CP Open House</b>, Carleton Place                      🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge                      🎵 <b>Robot &amp; Frank</b>, Arnprior</p>	<p>8</p> <p>🎵 <b>Adult Bereavement Walking Group</b>, CP                      🎵 <b>Brock Zeman</b>, O'Reilly's Pub                      🎵 <b>West Carleton Garden Club</b>, Carp</p>	<p>9</p> <p>🎵 <b>Adult Bereavement Group</b>, Perth                      🎵 <b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub                      🎵 <b>Open Jam w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</p>	<p>10</p> <p>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Curtis Chaffey</b>, Alice's Village Cafe                      🎵 <b>Ali McCormick</b>, O'Reilly's Pub                      🎵 <b>Jazz at Bally's</b>, Ballygiblin's                      🎵 <b>Open Mic</b>, Love That Barr</p>
<p>14</p> <p>🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge                      🎵 <b>PFLAG Carleton Place</b>, Carleton Place                      🎵 <b>The Master</b>, Arnprior</p>	<p>15</p> <p>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</p>	<p>16</p> <p>🎵 <b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub                      🎵 <b>Open Jam w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</p>	<p>17</p> <p>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Curtis Chaffey</b>, Alice's Village Cafe                      🎵 <b>Ali McCormick</b>, O'Reilly's Pub                      🎵 <b>Open Mic</b>, Love That Barr</p>
<p>21</p> <p>🎵 <b>Almonte Quilters' Guild</b>, Almonte                      🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge                      🎵 <b>CFUW Meeting</b>, Perth                      🎵 <b>Midnight's Children</b>, Arnprior</p>	<p>22</p> <p>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman</b>, O'Reilly's Pub                      🎵 <b>Lanark County Quilters Guild</b>, Perth</p>	<p>23</p> <p>🎵 <b>Arnprior Quilters' Guild</b>, Arnprior                      🎵 <b>Auditions - Wizard of Oz</b>, Arnprior                      🎵 <b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub                      🎵 <b>Open Jam w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's Pub                      🌟 <b>Pakenham Frost Festival</b>, Pakenham</p>	<p>24</p> <p>🎵 <b>Open Mic w/Curtis Chaffey</b>, Alice's Village Cafe                      🎵 <b>Ali McCormick</b>, O'Reilly's Pub                      🎵 <b>Mind-Body Healing Talk</b>, Carp                      🎵 <b>Open Mic</b>, Love That Barr</p>
<p>28</p> <p>🎵 <b>Arbitrage</b>, Arnprior                      🎵 <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</p>	<p>29</p> <p>🎵 <b>Brock Zeman</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</p>	<p>30</p> <p>🎵 <b>Adult Bereavement Group</b>, CP                      🎵 <b>Open Celtic Jam</b>, Naismith Pub                      🎵 <b>Open Jam w/Dave Balfour</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</p>	<p>31</p> <p>🎵 <b>Acoustic Open Mic w/Curtis Chaffey</b>, Alice's Village Cafe                      🎵 <b>Ali McCormick</b>, O'Reilly's Pub                      🎵 <b>Open Mic</b>, Love That Barr</p>

**Auditions - Wizard of Oz**, Jan 13 (aft., Arnprior Library) & Jan 23 (evg., Arnprior High School, rm 110). Register online. www.tworiversmusicals.ca.  
**Live At The Met: L'Elisir d'Amore**, Jan. 26, 1PM. O'Brien Theatre, Arnprior. 622-7682, obrientheatre.com  
**Spiritual Cinema Circle**, Jan. 27, 2PM. Films for the heart & soul. McMartin House, Perth. 267-4819, fp@superaje.com. opt. donation

**An Afternoon with the GGs**, Jan. 20, 2-4PM. Ross King & Linda Spalding, 2012 Gov. Gen.'s Literary Award winners, 2012 nominee A.F. Moritz, and three other GG luminaries in an afternoon of readings, conversation, refreshments & signings. Tickets at the Grand Theatre Kingston. Holiday Inn Kingston Waterfront. kingstonwritersfest.ca. \$16; \$12.50 in adv.

## Music

**Fiddlers - Little Christmas Concert**, Jan. 6, 2:30PM. 60 fiddlers: Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra, Prep Orchestra & Celtic Heritage Orchestra. Maberly Community Hall, 172 Maberly Elphin Rd. \$5 (free for under 12s)  
**Luther Wright w/Jenny Whiteley & Joey Wright**, Jan. 11, 8PM. RSVP Findlay House, 207 High Street, Carleton Place. findlayhouseconcerts@gmail.com. \$20

**Jazz House Concert**, Jan. 12, 8PM. Peter Hum Trio. Almonte. jazzn.ca.  
**White Lake Acoustic Jam**, Jan. 12, 7-10PM. Old time, bluegrass, blues, country, folk, gospel. White Lake Fire Hall, 142 Burnstown Rd. 256-5439. \$5 (members free)  
**Winter Dance - Glen Silverson Band**, Jan. 12, 8PM-Midnight. Country music, silent auction, refreshments. Proceeds to new roof for NLAS dining hall., Almonte Civitan Hall, 500 Almonte St. 256-6263. \$12; \$10 in adv.  
**Country & Gospel Concert**, Jan. 13, 2PM. Barry Munro & the Moffatt Sisters. Light refreshments. Fundraiser for SchoolBox., St George's Anglican Church, 2786 Tatlock Rd., Clayton. 256-9010. \$10  
**Traditional Song Session**, Jan. 13, 2-4PM. Join in traditional songs w/choruses. The Barley Mow, 79 Little Bridge St., Almonte. 482-1437, dpbaril@gmail.com, shantyman.ca/TradSing

**Conor Gains Band**, Jan. 18, 7-11PM. Blues on the Rideau. Proceeds to Rideau Waterway Land Trust. The Cove, 2 Bedford St., Westport. Reserve at 1-888-COVE-INN, choosetheblues.ca. \$60+tx dinner & show.  
**Fiddlers' Night/Dinner**, Jan. 18, 6PM. Home-cooked dinner at 7PM, then music & dancing. Monthly fundraiser for Civitan. Almonte Civitan Hall, 500 Almonte St., \$12. Musicians eat free.  
**Pasión**, Jan. 19, 8PM. \$30; \$15 students at 256-4554, almonteinconcert.com, Mill Street Books (Almonte), Remembrance Gift Shop (CP), Tickets Please (Perth) or at the door. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St., Almonte.  
**Almonte Big Band Tea Dance**, Jan. 20, 1-4PM. 15-pc band. 1920s-40s dress optional. Doors open 12:30PM. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St., Almonte. 563-7044, sroteadances.org. \$14; \$25 per couple (cash only)

# JANUARY 2013

## Friday

## Saturday

## Sunday

<p>4</p> <p>♪ <b>Samantha Martin</b>, O'Reilly's Pub</p>	<p>5</p> <p>♪ <b>Kevin Head &amp; Miss V</b>, The Cove</p>	<p>6</p> <p>♪ <b>APEX Jazz Band</b>, The Royal Oak                  ♪ <b>Fiddlers - Little Christmas Concert</b>, Maberly                  ♪ <b>Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan</b>, Ashton Pub                  ♪ <b>Robot &amp; Frank</b>, Arnprior                  ♪ <b>St Paul's Anglican Open House</b>, Almonte                  ♪ <b>Valley Singles Lunch</b>, Carleton Place</p>
<p>11</p> <p>♪ <b>Luther Wright w/Jenny Whiteley &amp; Joey Wright</b>, Carleton Place</p>	<p>12</p> <p>♪ <b>Haitian Night to Remember</b>, Almonte                  ♪ <b>Jazz House Concert</b>, Almonte                  ♪ <b>Karma Yoga Day</b>, Almonte                  ♪ <b>Local Drought Workshop</b>, Almonte                  ♪ <b>White Lake Acoustic Jam</b>, White Lake                  ♪ <b>Winter Dance - Glen Silverson Band</b>, Almonte</p>	<p>13</p> <p>♪ <b>Auditions - Wizard of Oz</b>, Arnprior                  ♪ <b>Country &amp; Gospel Concert</b>, Clayton                  ♪ <b>Magnolia Rhythm Kings</b>, The Royal Oak                  ♪ <b>Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan</b>, Ashton Pub                  ♪ <b>The Master</b>, Arnprior                  ♪ <b>Traditional Song Session</b>, Almonte</p>
<p>18</p> <p>♪ <b>Conor Gains Band</b>, Westport                  ♪ <b>Fiddlers' Night/Dinner</b>, Almonte                  ♪ <b>LiPS Poetry Slam</b>, Carleton Place                  ♪ <b>Steve Barrette Trio</b>, The Swan at Carp                  🖼️ <b>Vernissage - Portraits</b>, Almonte</p>	<p>19</p> <p>♪ <b>Kevin Head &amp; Miss V</b>, The Cove                  ♪ <b>Pasión</b>, Almonte</p>	<p>20</p> <p>♪ <b>Big Band Tea Dance</b>, Almonte                  ♪ <b>An Afternoon with the GGs</b>, Kingston                  ♪ <b>APEX Jazz Band</b>, The Royal Oak                  ♪ <b>Harpist Sharlene Wallace</b>, McDonalds Corners                  ♪ <b>Midnight's Children</b>, Arnprior                  ♪ <b>Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan</b>, Ashton Pub</p>
<p>25</p> <p>♪ <b>Almonte Lectures</b>, Almonte                  ♪ <b>East Meets Vest</b>, Neat Coffee Shop</p>	<p>26</p> <p>♪ <b>Breakfast with the Arts</b>, Westport                  ♪ <b>Matthew Barber</b>, Almonte                  ♪ <b>Lindi Ortega and Dustin Bentall &amp; the Smokes</b>, Neat Coffee Shop                  ♪ <b>Live At The Met</b>, Arnprior                  ♪ <b>Natural Weight Management</b>, Carp</p>	<p>27</p> <p>♪ <b>Arbitrage</b>, Arnprior                  ♪ <b>Magnolia Rhythm Kings</b>, The Royal Oak                  ♪ <b>Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan</b>, Ashton Pub                  ♪ <b>Spiritual Cinema Circle</b>, Perth</p>

- 🖼️ **Brush Strokes** presents David Chapman <brushstrokesart.ca>
- 🖼️ **Gallery Perth** presents Carole Malcom's abstraction with trees and grasses <galleryperth.com>
- 🖼️ **fieldwork** presents new installations by Joan Scaglione, Stefan Thompson, Bozica Radjenovic, Chris Grosset <fieldworkproject.com>
- 🖼️ **Fairview Manor Foyer** presents Alan Mirabelli's photography
- 🖼️ **Mill St. Gallery of Contemporary Art** (Almonte) presents Face Forward, portraits in various media
- 🖼️ **MVTM** presents Hair Lines (to Jan 12), Fabric of a Small Town <mvtn.ca>
- 🖼️ **Ottawa West Arts Assoc Gallery** (Goulbourn Rec Complex) presents "Halcyon Days" <owaa.ca>
- 🖼️ **Palms Coffee Shop** presents Richard Skrobecki's pottery, Shawn deSalvo's photography <palmsonline.ca>
- 🖼️ The **Mississippi Mills Chambers Gallery** presents Gayle Marshall (watercolour portraits), Ian Paige (pottery) — from Jan 11
- 🖼️ The **Almonte Library Corridor Gallery** presents Susan Ukkola (mixed media/encaustic), Chandler Swain (pottery) — from Jan 11

**Harpist Sharlene Wallace**, Jan. 20, 2PM. Blue Jean Classical Sundays. \$25 at door; teens free. MERA Schoolhouse, 974 9th Concession A, McDonalds Corners. 259-2452, meraschoolhouse.org.

**Matthew Barber**, Jan. 26, 8PM. Folkus Concert Series. Opener George Birchall. Tickets \$27 at Mill Street Books or door. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St. 256-9090, folkusalmonte.ca

**The Swan at Carp** (Falldown Lane Carp, 839-7926), jazz, no cover  
Jan 18 Steve Barrette Trio, 7-10PM

**The Royal Oak** (329 March Rd. Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, no cover  
Jan 6, 20 APEX Jazz Band, 2-5PM  
Jan 13, 27 Magnolia Rhythm Kings, 3-6PM

**The Cove** (2 Bedford St., Westport, 273-3636):  
Jan 5, 19 Kevin Head & Miss V, 6-9PM

**Ashton Pub** (113 Old Mill Rd., Ashton): Sundays Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, 2-5PM

**Ballygiblin's** (151 Bridge St., Carleton Place, 253-7400), jazz, no cover  
Jan 10 Peter Brown, Don Paterson, guests, 6-9PM

**Neat Coffee Shop** (1715 Calabogie Rd., Burnstown, 433-3205): 8PM  
Jan 25 East Meets Vest, \$27.50  
Jan 26 Lindi Ortega & Dustin Bentall and the Smokes, \$16

**The Naismith Pub** (411 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-6336): Open Celtic Jam Wed, no charge (7:30-10PM)

**Carp Masonic Lodge** (3704 Carp Rd., Carp): Carp Celtic Jam, \$3/\$25 for 3 mos, all levels, Mon (7-9PM).

**O'Reilly's Pub** (43 Gore St. E., Perth, 267-7994): 8:30PM. Brock Zeman Tues, Open Jam w/Dave Balfour Wed, Ali McCormick Thurs  
Jan 4 Samantha Martin

**Love That Barr** (2496 County Rd. 29, Pak-Enham, 624-2000): Thurs Open Mic (8PM)

**Alice's Village Café** (3773 Carp Rd., Carp, 470-2233): Thurs Acoustic Open Mic w/Curtis Chaffey (7PM)

## Community

**St Paul's Anglican Open House**, Jan. 6, 3PM. Epiphany hymns, high tea. St. Paul's Anglican Church, 70 Clyde St., Almonte. stpaulsalmonte.ca

**Valley Singles Lunch**, Jan. 6, 12:30-2:30PM. Singles lunch, all welcome. To register, call 256-8117 or 432-7622. Buster's Bar and Grill, 515 McNeely Dr., Carleton Place.

**Carambeck Community Centre/Arts CP Open House**, Jan. 7, 5-8PM. Register for art courses, meet instructors, see class demos. Carambeck Community Centre, 351 Bridge St., Carleton Place. 257-1704.

**West Carleton Garden Club**, Jan. 8, 7:30PM-9PM, Donna Christie - houseplants., Memorial Hall, 3739 Carp Rd., Carp. Info: wcgarden@gmail.com., \$5 for non-members

**Adult Bereavement Groups**, Jan 8 (1:30-3:30PM, Starbucks, cnr Hwy 7/ McNeely Ave, CP Walking Group); Jan 9, (1-3PM, Lanark Lodge, Perth); Jan. 30 (1:30-3:30PM, Waterside Retirement Home, CP). 267-6400. Free. rebeccab@chslc.ca

**Haitian Night to Remember**, Jan. 12, 6PM. Caribbean meal & more. Proceeds to Centre Vie Haitian Orphanage. Advanced tickets only. Almonte Presbyterian Church, 111 Church St. 257-7617. \$30

**Karma Yoga Day**, Jan. 12, 9AM-5:30PM. Free classes w/donation (food or \$) to food bank. Rising Sun Yoga, 500 Ottawa St., Unit 2, Almonte. risingsunyoga.ca

**Local Drought Workshop**, Jan. 12, 10AM-3:30PM. Register at smcfarlane@mvc.on.ca, as lunch will be provided. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St. Free

**PFLAG Carleton Place**, Jan. 14, 7-8:30PM. Monthly meeting. LGBT youth drop-in at same time. Zion-Memorial United Church, 37 Franklin St., Carleton Place. 859-0100.

**CFUW Meeting**, Jan. 21, 6:30PM. Speakers: Beryl Stott (x-Canada run), Elizabeth Goldman (CEO Perth Library). All welcome. Royal Canadian Legion, 26 Beckwith St E., Perth. www.cfuw-perth-district.com

**Mind-Body Healing Talk**, Jan. 24, 7-8:30PM. RSVP. Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre, 2386 Thomas Dolan Pkwy, Carp. 839-1198, ecowellness.com. \$20

**Almonte Lectures**, Jan. 25, 7:30PM. Stephen Fai: Carleton's Almonte campus, Almonte United Church, 106 Elgin St., don\_wiles@carleton.ca, almontelectures.ncf.ca. Free - donations accepted

**Breakfast with the Arts, Westport Style**, Jan. 26, 8AM. Monthly potluck to talk about the arts. Doors open 7:30AM, speaker 8:30AM. Grist Mill Artist Retreat, 21 Main St., Westport.

**Talk: Natural Weight Management**, Jan. 26, 1-3PM. Katherine Willow, ND. Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre, 2386 Thomas Dolan Pkwy. 839-1198, ecowellness.com. Free

To ensure that your event makes

it onto our February calendar, please email the information to

[calendar@thehummm.com](mailto:calendar@thehummm.com)

by January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We are also accepting listings

for the Claiming Column

for all of 2013.

# Talking About the Drought of 2012

For many, 2012 started as a nearly perfect year. By spring, many referred to the past winter as *the winter that wasn't!* It seemed we jumped directly from winter to summer, as even March temperatures approached 30°C. The sugaring season was largely bypassed and spring came early and fast; our thoughts turned quickly to summer pursuits. Plants jumped out of the ground and with lots of moisture surged ahead. It seemed a nearly perfect growing season was upon us. Then in June and July heat and the drought took over the watershed. Many felt unprepared for what happened next.

Locally, crops and pastures failed, nurseries hired extra staff just to water plants (two or three times a day), local produce became non-existent, lawns and gardens browned. Wetlands became dry lands. Streams, lakes and wells reached record low levels. Water use was restricted. As aid money and western hay came into the watershed by the end of summer, we were shaking our heads and asking "what happened?"

On January 12, the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County (CSCLC) and Mississippi Valley Conservation (MVC) are hosting a workshop to talk about the impacts of the drought and the low water conditions of 2012. Join us to find out what did happen and to share your experiences.

## 2012 Drought Facts

In the Mississippi watershed:

- Ottawa area experienced 31 days above 30°C (almost four times higher than average)
- July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 were the driest 12 months on record
- July 2012 was the driest since 1931

- There were persistent low soil moisture conditions (low crop yields and *dry* wetlands)
- Some water tables, lake and pond levels, and stream flows reached record lows
- Typical summer river flows were reached in early April; lake levels in mid-May
- Summer flows on the Mississippi River were maintained almost entirely from reservoir lakes
- Limited water flow negatively impacted hydro generation and tourism activities
- Late summer and fall rainfall events in the watershed did not immediately or significantly raise water levels on Mississippi River, thus exacerbating and extending the impacts. Despite the widespread nature of the drought and low water events regionally, impacts varied across the watershed.

## Why This Workshop?

The stewardship council is a public voice working with agencies to maintain a healthy, viable county. It's important to communicate the implications of prolonged dry conditions such as limited recharge, lower base-flows and lower reservoir storage, and their effect on the environment, communities, businesses and landowners dependent on traditional seasonal water levels (surface water and groundwater).

Water managers (such as MVC) must take into account overall changes in water demand and water supply for the short (seasonal) and longer (decades) term. Planning and management is affected by both the needs of the communities and rural residents in the watershed, as well as by environmental demands. Facilitating connections and discussions amongst all watershed stakeholders can help with

this process and help to ensure a smooth transition as conditions change.

CSCLC representative Paul Egginton discusses what to expect from the workshop:

Many different sectors and groups are affected by the low water and drought conditions. We think it's important for everyone to understand the roles and challenges faced by each, as well as their reactions.

MVC has a large role in the communication and monitoring of low-water response in the Mississippi Watershed. Staff will discuss the objectives and operation of the Ontario Low Water Response Program. The lack of local hydro generation during 2012 is an indicator of widespread issues in the watershed; Mississippi River Power Corp's Scott Newton will address this.

Rural municipalities rely on surface and groundwater for drinking and daily use. Mississippi Mills banned watering activities (i.e. use of hoses and sprinklers) in the town of Almonte this summer. Director of Roads and Public Works Troy Dunlop will talk about low water impacts on communities. Local well driller Peter Stanton will discuss implications for groundwater and private wells.

Representatives from NR-CAN, OMAFRA and MNR will share their understanding of impacts and potential adaptations for woodlots, crops, livestock and ecosystems. Speakers from CSCLC will help to put this into perspective and deal with some of the human aspects of the drought.

## Why In January?

The watershed has not yet recovered from the drought of 2012, and precipitation over the winter months will play a huge role



An example of extreme low water conditions on the Indian River at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area in the Mississippi Valley watershed, August 2012 (photo by Stephanie Kolsters, MVC)

in conditions this spring and beyond. Environment Canada's long-range winter forecasts suggest warmer than normal temperatures coupled with normal precipitation amounts. The effects on snowpack accumulation will help determine the extent of recovery prior to spring.

Understanding the breadth and severity of these impacts while they are still fresh in our minds will help us all to plan for future drought events.

## Why Should I Attend?

It is important to get multiple perspectives from both organizations and individuals to address questions or concerns regarding the efforts made by public agencies. We need to understand widespread implications and plan to mitigate effects in the future. By sharing information about how and why steps are being taken by agencies and individuals (digging storage ponds, assessing water supply and/or installing deeper wells, replacing lawns and gardens, installing irrigation systems, installing cooling systems, etc.) we can identify what is and is not working in the

current systems of communication, assistance and mitigation.

Water is an important resource to everyone. Starting and maintaining a dialogue between agencies and citizens and looking toward managing extreme weather and associated low water events will benefit us all.

Furthermore, regardless of what we call it, the reality is that our climate is not the same as it was fifty years ago and it will not be the same fifty years from now. What were once very rare low-water events will occur much more frequently in the future. We will need to adjust our expectations and planning processes to accommodate such changes.

This is an information sharing opportunity and we welcome ideas and opinions as to how we can better adjust to extreme low water conditions and explore what options might be available to us in the future.

Please join the conversation on Saturday, January 12, from 10AM to 3:30PM at the Almonte Old Town Hall. This is a free event and lunch will be provided, so please register by emailing <smcfarlane@mvc.on.ca>.

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# Fiddlers Celebrate the Twelfth Day

Imagine a wintery afternoon in a cozy country hall filled with sixty fiddlers!

What a great way to welcome in the New Year and to celebrate the twelfth day of Christmas.

On Sunday, January 6, at the Maberly Hall, the Blue Skies Community Fiddle Orchestra, Prep Orchestra and Celtic Heritage Orchestra will play together, sixty strong, as they present their annual "Little Christmas" concert. Guitars, mandolins, penny whistles, viola, cello, drums and singers join in the music. And when all three groups play together, the rafters will ring. Be prepared to clap your hands and tap your toes.

The Blue Skies Fiddle Orchestra will fill the hall with classic fiddling and seasonal songs. Carolyn Stewart will lead Celtic Heritage with their distinct brand of fiddle tunes. The Prep Orchestra is made up of mostly beginner fiddlers who are learning to play with others and to follow a director, in preparation for joining the Fiddle Orchestra.

Both the Blue Skies Fiddle Orchestra and Prep Orchestra are directed by Cindy McCall and sponsored by Blue Skies in the Community, an offshoot of the Blue Skies Music Festival, which seeks to bring music to our communities throughout the year.

The "Little Christmas" concert will be held at the Maberly Hall on Sunday, January 6 at 2:30PM. Admission is \$5 (children under 12 are free). Refreshments will be available during the intermission. You won't want to miss this lively and joyous event!



Don't miss the "Little Christmas" concert at the Maberly Hall on Sunday, January 6



## Coming soon to Arnprior

**Westhaven Gate** will soon be unveiled by Phoenix Homes. A new community in the heart of Arnprior with an award-winning line up of single family and semi-detached homes. Choose **Westhaven Gate** and enjoy:

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- 20 minute drive to Kanata
- District Memorial Hospital
- Nick Smith Centre - indoor pool, ice rinks, fitness centre



Words From Westport

## Welcome to Westport, 2013!

Winter is here, but I for one am always happy to see December 21 come, as I love that the days start getting longer. I think I am half bear, as I have this great desire to hibernate, off and on, from November to March!

by Georgia Ferrell

The arts in Westport are seeing a growth spurt with the formation of a new group of primarily visual artists, but of course all artists are welcome here! And our monthly **Breakfast With The Arts — Westport Style** will continue on January 26 at 8AM at the Grist Mill Gallery, located at 21 Main Street across from The Cove Inn <gristmillartistretreat.com>. We will welcome potter and sculptor Delvalle DaSilva-Lewis <delvallesartcorner.com> and delight in her work and her stories.



Catch the 18 year-old sensation Conor Gains (right) on January 18

Another new bed and breakfast is opening, which is a wonderful thing for Westport. Debbie and Malcolm Bird look forward to welcoming you to their **Church Street B&B** on the corner of Church and Rideau Streets. They can be reached at 273-9112, and via their website (coming in March) at <churchstreetbb.com>.

**Blues on The Rideau** continues to enchant at The Cove Country Inn on the third Friday of the month. The Conor Gains Band, from Cambridge, Ontario, will warm up the night of January 18 with their first visit to Westport — they are a rising star on the Canadian blues scene.

### Conor Gains Band

Songwriter and blues guitarist extraordinaire Conor Gains has performed with the BB King All Star Band in Nashville and Memphis, and was invited to the stage by the late Les Paul at New York's Iridium Jazz Club — all before his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Now, still 18 years of age, Gains has been collaborating with fellow Cambridge, Ontario musicians Vic Freitas (drums) and Jeremy Patey (bass) for the past two years. The results have been staggering, and include headlining at the blues stage of the Montreal International Jazz Festival.

As a songwriter, Gains is blossoming and gradually introducing more of his original songs into the band's setlist. The band's debut album *The Junction Sessions* features eleven Conor Gains original songs with special guest Shakura S'Aida, the 2011 Maple Blues Award Winning vocalist, appearing on two tracks.

Just one more reason to visit Westport early in 2013. A wonderful year to all!

**Register online for priority information!**

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## Local Housing and Homelessness Plan Survey Deadline is January 15

Lanark County has a central role in coordinating housing services in our community. We are required by the Housing Services Act of 2011 to create a comprehensive, multi-year plan for local housing and homelessness services and to report regularly on the progress we have made toward improving local conditions. These plans are to be in place by January 1, 2014.

Lanark County's social housing department is seeking public input for the development of a Housing and Homelessness Plan for the County and the Town of Smiths Falls. We want to hear from residents and service providers in order to address gaps in current services. We are asking that they provide input by completing a **Housing and Homelessness survey** at <surveymonkey.com/s/HousingSurveyForCommunity>.

Ontario's vision for affordable housing is to improve access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing, and to provide a solid foundation on which to secure employment, raise families and build strong communities. The local plan will address the entire range of housing issues, from absolute homelessness, where people have no shelter, to homeownership. Our goal is to identify major local housing challenges and determine how we can make things better, as well as who should be working on it. We hope to identify the local resources that we currently have in the community and how we can best use existing programs and services.

Some of the issues which have been identified are: the growth in the population of seniors who have specific housing needs, the lack of emergency housing, the tendency for builders to construct single family homes in high growth areas of the County with limited building taking place in other areas, and the limited supply of supportive housing to address special needs.

For further information on the plan, or if you would like a copy or assistance in completing a survey, please contact Sandy Grey, Social Housing Manager at 1-888-952-6275 ext. 2401.

— Sandy Grey

## Sushi in the Valley!

I learned to love sushi in Renfrew when I discovered the **7 Star Sushi and Grill**. After it opened in the spring of 2009, my coworkers began bringing takeout orders to the office and I got to sample the wares. To my surprise, it wasn't all about raw fish. There were lots of maki, rolls of seaweed and sushi rice, with fillings of vegetables and cooked crab and fish eggs and tempura — very tasty.

Recently, we went as a group to the restaurant to try a variety of dishes. The décor is basic, but Annie On, the proprietor, has added oriental ornaments, and warms the place with her personality. Her son or sometimes her daughter prepare the maki and sushi and sashimi in the front, and Annie does the rest of the food preparation in the kitchen, emerging frequently to serve a dish or engage in conversation with the patrons.

My friend Amy, who has eaten a lot of sushi in different cities and who loves it all, notes that at the 7 Star the portions are larger, and that the fish covers the rice. The fish is very fresh, and is served chilled but not frozen. It melts in the mouth.

We also sampled as appetizers some light and fresh tasting shrimp tempura, and deep fried dumplings with just enough spice. Annie also provided a plate of General Tao's chicken, which was really good. There are a number of Chinese dishes on the menu.

The "buffet" menu allows you to order as much as you want for \$12.99-\$13.99 at lunch or \$21.99-\$22.99 for dinner, with special prices for children and seniors. Unlike a regular buffet, each dish is prepared on order. You can also order by the dish or item.

The only item not popular at our table was the Renfrew Roll. The ingredients (tempura bits, flying egg, mayo and BBQ eel sauce) were all fine, but this roll is deep fried, and this was not to our taste.



**Owner Annie On promises to tempt you with scrumptious sushi at 7 Star Sushi and Grill in Renfrew**

Annie told us that the On family decided to settle in Renfrew because there were no sushi bars here, and they felt they could bring a new experience to the area that featured southeast Asian food and culture. Annie is from southeast China and has lived in Canada for thirty years.

The 7 Star Sushi and Grill is open seven days a week, at 248 Raglan Street, at the corner of Renfrew Avenue West. For more information, visit <7starsushi.com> or give them a call at 433-9947.

— Richard Owen with Tanya Owen



Meet us:

**Upcoming Mixer:**

**Wednesday, January 16**

**Local Immigration Mixer:**

Chéla Breckon, from Local Immigration Partnership of Renfrew and Lanark, will speak about hiring and retaining newcomer employees and the benefits of a culturally diverse workforce. \$20 (\$25 for non-members), spaces are limited so please reserve at [mississippimills.com/events](http://mississippimills.com/events) **8-10AM at the Heirloom Café**

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To become a member of the Mississippi Mills Chamber of Commerce please email your request to [manager@mississippimills.com](mailto:manager@mississippimills.com). Members who attend our monthly MIXERS are eligible to win a business profile like this one!

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For Kathi Norton, selling real estate in the Ottawa Valley and the National Capital Region was a natural way for her to consolidate her numerous skills with her extensive knowledge of the area. After growing up in Almonte (where her father owned Burns Pontiac Buick GM Dealership on Bridge Street), she spent many years in Pakenham as a very busy stay-at-home mom. Between growing up in the area and volunteering for numerous organizations such as the CIBC "Run For The Cure" and the Almonte General Hospital, Kathi has developed a wide-ranging social network, which is key to her personal approach towards her business. As Kathi puts it: "I approach every day with energy, enthusiasm and passion for what I do — my clients deserve nothing less than my total commitment to quality care, excellent service and results".

Kathi specializes in commercial and residential real estate, and with her "Norton Estate Services" she is developing a specific niche in working with seniors on relocation and transition. She is part of a Real Estate Team with her husband Chris Norton, and can be found at the RE/MAX Realty Solutions Ltd. Brokerage at 68 Mill Street in Almonte, or online at [www.ottawahomeswithkathi.com](http://www.ottawahomeswithkathi.com).



An active member of the Mississippi Mills Chamber, Kathi feels that her clients appreciate businesses that participate in the community through volunteer work and involvement in local organizations.

**Kathi Norton — Mississippi Mills Chamber member since 2010**



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# St Paul's at 150!

## Mythical Beast Coming to Almonte...

"Sesquicentennial is a beast of a word," says the Reverend Pat Martin, "and so we decided to call it the 'sasquatch' for short." As St. Paul's Anglican Church celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, a year-long program of events has been planned by Rector Pat and chair of the "Sasquatch Committee" Alex Hughes, plus a whole team of members from its thriving congregation.

"Music will play a big part in our celebrations," states Pat, "with several visiting choirs from as far afield as Toronto and Peterborough, as well as Ottawa and the Valley. Our new organist and choir director, Doretha Murphy, brings a wealth of talent and experience to the church, and has already whipped our voices into shape with a vocal workshop!"

"A highlight will also be the visit of our Bishop, the Right Reverend John Chapman, who will conduct a joint service of celebration to recognise the important role St. Paul's has played in its long history as part of the Ottawa Diocese," says Alex Hughes.

The year-long celebrations kick off with an **Open House** on January 6 at 3PM, to which the entire Almonte community is invited. Epiphany hymns by the St. Paul's choir will be followed by a high tea.

Some of the other anticipated 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events are described below:

On February 10, the Bishop of Ottawa, John Chapman, plans to make his triennial visit to St. Paul's. March will feature a fundraising performance by the cast of Almonte's own renowned improv group, Sage Age Theatre, on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

On April 7, the Esprit Choir from Toronto, along with Con Coro from the Ottawa Valley, will perform a joint concert. May 12 will see Bishop John Chapman return to preach at



St. Paul's Anglican Church in Almonte celebrates its sesquicentennial with a slew of super events!

an Evensong service at which the Venerable Rob Davis will be the cantor. This service marks the anniversary of the laying of the first stone of the Church by founder James Rosamond.

The June 16 service will commemorate the laying of the Cornerstone in 1863 by Dr. Mostyn, and will be attended by members of the Rosamond family, whose ancestor, James Rosamond, raised the funds to build St. Paul's.

Other events planned include a contemporary celebration with a picnic and strawberry social, a boat trip on the St Lawrence, concerts by choirs from Peterborough and Ottawa, an All Hallows Eve party and bonfire in November, and Christmas carolling through Almonte.

"It's an ambitious program of events," says Pat, "but we have a great pool of talented and enthusiastic volunteers in our midst whom I am sure will all make our 'sasquatch' a grand success." Find further information at <stpaulsalmonte.ca>.

### History of St. Paul's

The fine stone church and rectory of St. Paul's Anglican Church are located on the beautiful Mississippi River. Prior to 1863, services were held at the Temperance Hall on Union

Street, rented at \$1.25 a month. Mr. Bennett Rosamond, who brought a small melodeon with him from his own house, provided music.

At the Vestry meeting held in April of 1862, it was resolved on a motion by Mr. James Rosamond, seconded by Mr. Thomas Smith, "... that the new church be erected in the village of Almonte and be named St. Paul's." Its design has been described as "English Parish Gothic".

Campaign chairman James Rosamond laid the first stone on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 1863. The cost of the site, the building and the bell was settled at \$3749. The church was consecrated on St. Peter's Day, June 29, 1864, with the Rev. Peter Slade as Rector at the princely stipend of \$200 per annum.

From the original group of twelve families, they have grown to over 200 individuals and families who are active members of the parish. Photographs of all the Rectors of St. Paul's may be found in the north transept, affectionately known as "the rogues gallery". The stained glass windows and many of the furnishings of the church were offered to the glory of God and in memory of founding families of both parish and town.

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