

NOVEMBER 2023

# the Hummm

free

Arts,  
Entertainment  
& Ideas



p.28 & 29  
November's Events



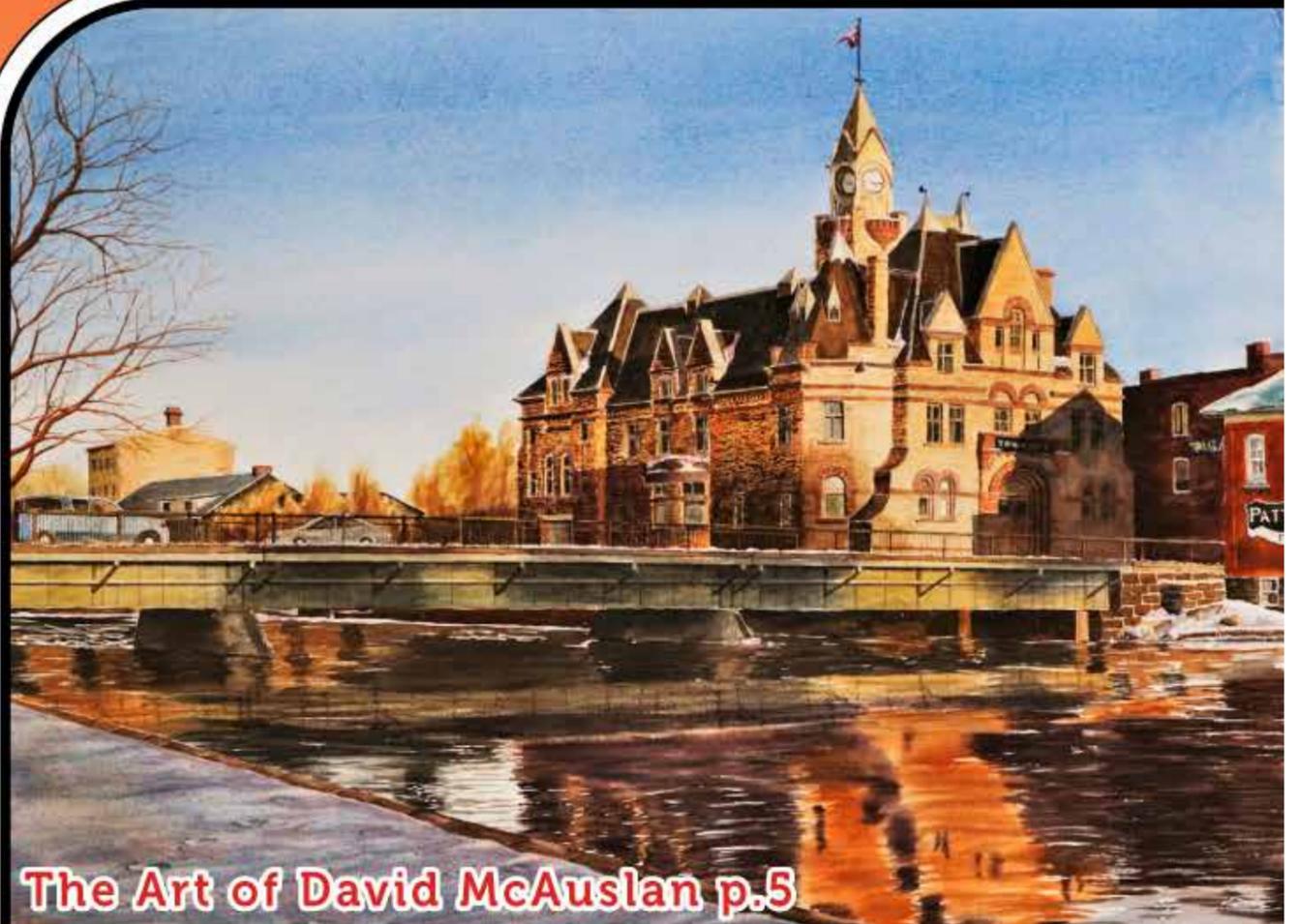
The 2023 Gift Giving Guide



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Spinning Yarns



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Considering Co-Housing



The Art of David McAuslan p.5



## Bring Some Drama into Your Life!

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

- Pat's Picks:** *Clue* by the Mississippi Mudds, Oct. 27–Nov. 4  
*The Viewing Room* by Rural Root Theatre, Nov. 12–18  
*Matilda—The Musical* by Perth Community Choir, Nov. 16–19  
*Spinning Yarns — The Millworkers' Musical*, Nov. 17–26  
*Ethan Claymore's Christmas* by Studio Theatre Perth, Nov. 23 – Dec. 3



Patrick Kelly  
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# THE WINTER ISSUE

In case you missed last month's notice, we have decided to make a slight change to our 2024 publication schedule. Instead of trying to bring our January 2024 issue out right after New Years when many shops and tourist attractions are closed, we plan to publish a Winter Issue that will hit the streets in mid-January and take you through to the end of February. We will then return to our regular schedule of coming out at the beginning of each month.

**The deadline for our Winter Issue is Monday, January 8.** The deadline for our December 2023 issue is still November 20 for content and November 22 for ads. Please email <editor@thehummm.com> for details.

## Thank You, Humm Patrons!

Welcome to our newest patron and supporter: **Terry Watkiss**, who joined theHumm's Production Crew. We truly appreciate your support and that of all our patrons!

If you like what we do, please consider supporting us! A few options include visiting <thehummm.com> for links to our patronage campaign, subscribing to our weekly "Hummail" newsletter (find a link on our website), and telling our advertisers you saw their ad in theHumm. Thanks for *your* support!



Who's Reading theHumm

**Gail Huyer** recently sent in this evocative shot and wrote: "I grabbed a Humm the day before we left for Panama thinking that it would be a good read while on holidays, and then saw that you were looking for pics of people on holidays in that same issue. Here is a pic that my hubby took... we are in Playa Bonita which is just outside of Panama City."

Thanks for taking theHumm on your travels, Gail!



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theHumm is a monthly arts, entertainment and ideas newspaper delivered free to businesses and visitor attractions in Almonte, Perth, Carleton Place, Westport, Pakenham, Carp, Arnprior, Smiths Falls, Burnstown, White Lake, Balderson, and 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.

### Content Deadline:

20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication

### Advertising Deadline:

22<sup>nd</sup> of the month prior to publication

### Subscriptions

cost \$40 (includes HST) for one year (12 issues). Send a cheque with your name and address to: theHumm: 237 Borden Road Mississippi Mills ON K7C 3P1

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### Subscribe to Hummail — it's Free!

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

So far we have sent out over 175 editions of Hummail, and we have over 1600 subscribers.

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



# TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT TICKETSPLEASE.CA



**Clue**  
presented by  
**The Mississippi Mudds**  
October 27–November 4



**One Act Play Festival**  
presented by  
**Eastern Ontario Drama League**  
November 3 & 4



**The Viewing Room**  
presented by  
**Rural Root Theatre**  
November 12–18



**South Lanark Community Garden Fundraiser**  
**Oakfield Rugby Park**  
November 17



**Spinning Yarns**  
The Millworkers' Musical  
**Almonte Old Town Hall**  
November 17–26



**Moonfruits & Tragedy Ann**  
presented by  
**Music at MERA**  
November 19



**Ethan Claymore's Christmas**  
presented by  
**Studio Theatre Perth**  
November 23–December 3



**To Kill A Tiger**  
presented by **Mississippi Mills Film Society**  
November 26



**Comfort & Joy**  
presented by Almonte in Concert  
**Almonte Old Town Hall**  
December 2



**ABBA Revisited**  
ABBA Christmas celebration  
**Farrell Hall, Perth**  
December 2



**A Christmas Choral Celebration**  
**Goulbourn Male Chorus**  
December 2



**It Had to Be You**  
**The Valley Players**  
Tickets on sale soon  
December 3–10



**A Christmas Dream**  
presented by CP Town Singers  
**All Nations Church**  
December 10 & 12



**Ava-Lunch: A Snowfall Fable**  
Family-friendly puppet play  
**Almonte Library**  
December 17



**Mudmen**  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert  
**Studio Theatre Perth**  
December 30



**Folkus**  
Season tickets on sale soon!  
**Almonte Old Town Hall**  
2024 Season

### SELLING TICKETS?

Concerts · Plays · Festivals Setup · Support · Promotion

### WE CAN HELP!



# Showing the Local Love for the Holidays!

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

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

by Kris and Rob Riendeau

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

It is with this in mind that we bring you theHumm's 23<sup>rd</sup> annual **Gift Giving Guide** in both the November and December issues. Our hope is that you'll find two kinds of inspiration in the many lists that appear throughout these issues. As you peruse the various categories, we hope you'll discover the perfect present

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

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

Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday season!

## Gifts To Calm & Soothe

- A ticket to an Almonte in Concert show,** Almonte in Concert .....\$44
- Handmade soap, tub truffles, body whip and body oils,** Cedar Hill Tree Farm..\$8-28
- Soja & Co reed diffuser,** Dandelion Foods ..... \$34.95
- 2.5-hour OMazing Experience: Soundbath and massage,** dOMe Retreat.....\$145
- Gift certificate for massage, sauna & soaking tub session,** Meristem Massage.....\$140
- Lavender sleep pillow from Lavender Lane,** MVTM Gift Shop.....\$20
- "Forest Island" by artist Sandra Gregson,** Sivarulrasa Gallery .....\$700

## Gifts for Lovers of Vintage Treasures

- "World at War" WWII emergency coinage set,** Alliance Coin & Banknote .....\$19.95
- Estate jewellery,** Almonte Antiques & Collectibles.....various
- Vintage jewellery & décor by Tanya Yaxley Beaupré,** The Queen's Crafters..\$5 & up



# Gift Giving Guide Shop Directory

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

- 8008 Lingerie.....Almonte, p.24
- Alliance Coin & Banknote .....Almonte, p.22
- Almonte Antiques & Collectibles .....Almonte, p.26
- Almonte in Concert.....Almonte, p.15
- Art for Aid ..... Carleton Place, p.4
- Bittersweet Gallery .....Burnstown, p.4
- Black Tartan Kitchen..... Carleton Place, p.8
- Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....Pakenham, p.36
- CP Gallery ..... Carleton Place, p.25
- Dairy Distillery ..... Almonte, p.11
- Dandelion Foods ..... Almonte, p.32
- dOMe Retreat.....Braeside, p.10
- Dragonfly Boutique..... Almonte, p.30
- Duffield Design ..... Almonte, p.15
- Fine Batiks .....Perth, p.13
- Folkus..... Almonte, p.36
- Foodsmiths.....Perth, p.24
- Frangipani..... Almonte, p.17
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- Mariposa.....Perth, p.31
- Meristem Massage .....Carp, p.16
- Mill Street Books..... Almonte, p.4
- Mississippi Valley Textile Museum..... Almonte, p.31
- Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets..... p.13
- Peches et Poivre..... Almonte, p.23
- Pure Natural Portraits..... Almonte, p.8
- Ramsay Creek..... Almonte, p.12
- Riverguild.....Perth, p.30
- Rowland Leather .....Merrickville, p.8
- Sivarulrasa Gallery..... Almonte, p.5
- Spark books & curios..... Perth, p.15
- The Book Nook .....Perth, p.23
- The Granary..... Carleton Place, p.6
- The Queens Crafters Antique Market ..Carleton Place, p.27
- Threadwork..... Almonte, p.26
- Vamos..... Almonte, p.7, 24, 26





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[/thegf.co](https://www.instagram.com/thegf.co)

# Setting the Scene for *Ethan Claymore*

By Joseph Nieforth

The heartwarming story of a young recluse widower and egg farmer, *Ethan Claymore* by Norm Foster is Studio Theatre Perth's perfect answer to Christmas entertainment this year.

When you think of a period piece you usually think of showy gowns and men in flashy suits, but what if the play is set in 1995 on an egg farm with flashbacks to early 1960 when the main characters were young? This is what director Marilyn Nicholas-Dahan must evoke on the Studio Theatre stage.

The show stars Steve Oliver, who takes on the role of the withdrawn Ethan Claymore. Ethan runs his egg farm during the age of VHS and without smartphones remotely controlling everything. The business is in debt and the creditors are hovering, waiting to foreclose on the farm.

Along the way the story journeys back in time to 1960 when laminated hockey sticks and CCM or Bauer leather skates were the norm for boys. The flashback scenes are played by Oliver Russell, Mason Bingley, Eric Staines and Ryan Williams. They set the stage for the conflict that separates the brothers for thirty years.

Keen eyes will note that the young performers have appeared on stage before in the well-received Studio Theatre production of *Scrooge*. Since then, they have each worked to broaden their range in the theatre's "Perth Youth Players" (PYP) workshops.

To make these two eras believable, the production must source the props and costuming to make the times live on stage. Closets are raided for some items, along with checking what the theatre already has in storage. Things that aren't easily found are typically acquired through the theatrical tradition of beg, borrow and, if necessary, buy.

As for the story, Ethan Claymore is a widower and, apart from the farm, his main pastime is painting landscapes of his childhood. It's into this scene of solitude that his well-meaning neighbour and friend Douglas McLaren arrives (portrayed by Rob Glass), along with the "shadow being" of his recently deceased brother Martin (inhabited by David Hamilton), on a mission to bring Ethan back to the land of the living.



In this scene from *Ethan Claymore*, Teresa (Mary Ann McIvor) admonishes Douglas (Rob Glas) for misleading her into visiting Ethan (Steven Oliver), who looks on

Through Douglas, Ethan meets Teresa Pike, a schoolteacher who is moving on to a new life of her own. Teresa is played by Mary Ann McKiver, who recently appeared in the Studio Theatre Perth production of *This Year, Next Year*.

Having a ghost, err "shadow being", present means there are some practical stage effects to work out before anyone attends the production. Doors don't really open by spiritual intervention, so ways must be found to help Martin along in his assignment.

All this is handled with the gentle warmth and authentic dialogue we have come to expect in a Norm Foster play. With love and a bit of laughter, we are given a reminder of what is important in life.

The collaborative efforts of Marilyn Nicholas-Dahan, her cast and crew will soon bring all those elements together to entertain and celebrate Ethan Claymore's poignant story.

Performances will take place on November 23, 24, 25, 30, December 1 and 2 at 7:30PM, with Sunday matinées on November 26 and December 3 at 2PM. Tickets are available from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) or at the door one hour prior to performance. To reserve tickets or to arrange group bookings, please contact the box office at <boxoffice@studiotheatreperth.com>.

This production is sponsored by Aspira Carolina Retirement Living.

## Autumn at **bittersweet**

FINE CRAFT & ART



5 Leckie Lane  
Burnstown  
613 432 5254  
burnstown.ca/bittersweet

Fall Hours:  
Thu to Sun 11-5  
and also  
by appointment

## Mill Street Books

### November Literary Events

**Monday November 6, 10:30PM-12:30AM**  
**Iron Flame Midnight Shopping and Book Launch Event**  
Yes, it's happening! A late night shopping event to celebrate the launch of *Iron Flame* and the new edition of *Fourth Wing*.

**Wednesday November 15, 6:30PM**  
**An Evening with Lesley Choyce**  
Celebrating the launch of *The Untimely Resurrection of John Alexander MacNeil*.  
Register at [missmillslibrary.com](http://missmillslibrary.com).

**Monday November 27, 7:00PM**  
**An Evening with Brett Popplewell**  
Author of *Outsider - An Old Man, a Mountain and the Search for a Hidden Past*.  
Register at Mill Street Books.

Both author events take place at The Mississippi Mills Public Library, Almonte Branch

52 Mill St., Almonte  
613-256-9090

[millstreetbooks@gmail.com](mailto:millstreetbooks@gmail.com)  
[millstreetbooks.com](http://millstreetbooks.com)

## Gifts for Cooks & Gourmets

- Cutting boards by Brent Rourke, Riverguild Fine Crafts.....\$50-90
- Gift cards, Black Tartan Kitchen.....various
- Award-winning Ontario cheese, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm.....\$12-16
- Kricklewood lemon sunflower oil, Dandelion Foods.....\$13.95
- Coombe Castle Wensleydale cheese w/ fruit and brandy, Foodsmiths....\$5.29/100g
- Cookbooks, cocktail ideas, charcuterie card decks, Mill Street Books.....\$24-60
- Exotic spices gift sets and exquisite olive oils, Pêches & Poivre.....\$30-80



## Gifts That Give Twice

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

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

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



[artforaid.ca](http://artforaid.ca)  
[artforaidshop.ca](http://artforaidshop.ca)

# David McAuslan — Full Cycle

Painting with transparent watercolours is this eclectic Carleton Place artist's way of celebrating and sharing the people, places and things that have an emotional impact on him. From striking portraits of unheralded cycling greats to captivating portraits of local sights and sites, McAuslan uses his paintbrushes to honour the images that bring him pleasure and stoke his imagination.

by Sally Hansen

For our local readers, his paintings of familiar landmarks like the Carleton Place Town Hall and Pakenham's historic five-span bridge elicit fond remembrances of familiar scenes. Whether it's a weathered barn, a cedar swamp, or a cow and calf in a field, we feel a tug at our hearts as we emotionally revisit thoughtful renderings of favourite landscapes and heartwarming tableaux. For the artist, the entire creative process strengthens his own emotional connection as he strives to share the image in a way that evokes that response.

Surprisingly, a favourite exhibition of McAuslan's art resides in a café in Havana, Cuba. There hang prime examples of his aspiration to pay tribute to under-appreciated cycling champions. Both McAuslan and his wife Anne-Marie are serious cyclists. Anne-Marie is so serious that she has qualified for three world triathlon competitions, and is considering travel to Australia to compete. Dave doesn't compete anymore, but at 191,000km he is closing in on his current goal of 200,000km. He embraces cycling as one of humankind's best inventions — incredibly efficient, ecofriendly, quiet, and great for your health.

Another major benefit of the activity is the friends you make. McAuslan's art display in Havana is the result of requests from a cycling buddy who moved to Cuba, and shares Dave's admiration of former cycling greats. Dave accepted the challenge to learn how to

paint faces, and completed paintings that honour two little-known professional cyclists — American Marshall "Major" Taylor (1878–1932) and Canadian Jocelyn Lovell. According to Wikipedia, "Even by modern cycling standards, Taylor could be considered the greatest American sprinter of all time." Taylor's stunning achievements in the face of systemic racial discrimination eventually earned him his rightful place in cycling history, but sadly, long after his burial in an unmarked pauper's grave.

Wikipedia credits Jocelyn Lovell's victories at international competitions during the 1970s and early 1980s with renewing global interest in Canadian cycling. Described at his death in 2016 by the *Canadian Cycling Magazine* as a colourful character whose actions and words could provoke and divide, Lovell's achievements have established him as a Canadian cycling icon. His crowning moment was the silver medal he won at the 1978 world championships, and he won three gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton the same year. Tragically, in 1983 he was hit from behind by a truck while training near Toronto, and became permanently quadriplegic until his death.

McAuslan is working on additions to his art collection in Havana. He celebrates his love and appreciation for the sport by researching and selecting photos of outstanding athletes to serve as models for his paintings. He has taught himself how to paint portraits. The entire process is a gift to both the artist and then to observers — particularly cycling enthusiasts. Dave also communes with and communicates his appreciation of fine design and engineering with paintings of parts of elite Felt bicycle forks and the extravagant decorative features of Hetchins collector item bicycles. You can definitely make a statement with your bike!

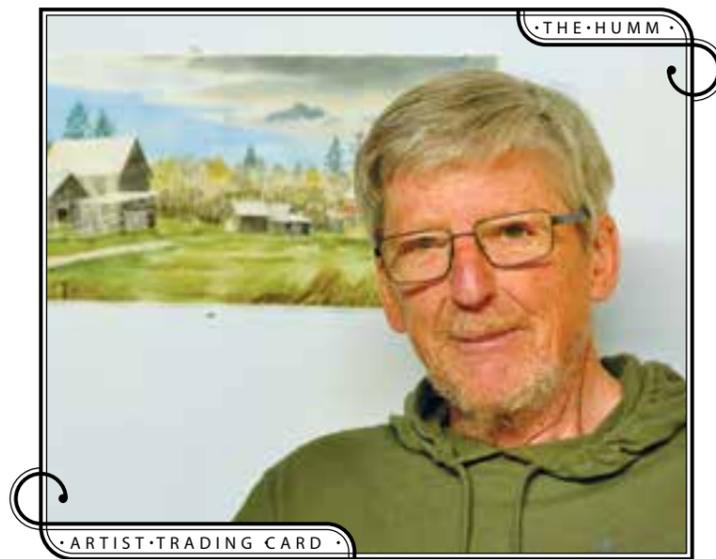


## An Autodidactic Academic

Primarily self-taught, watercolour has always been Dave's chosen medium. With the help of several short courses and the wealth of information in books and accessible online resources, he continues his lifelong artistic expression of his appreciation of all the wonders of life and nature that move him. His professional background reveals a surprisingly different aspect of his personality.

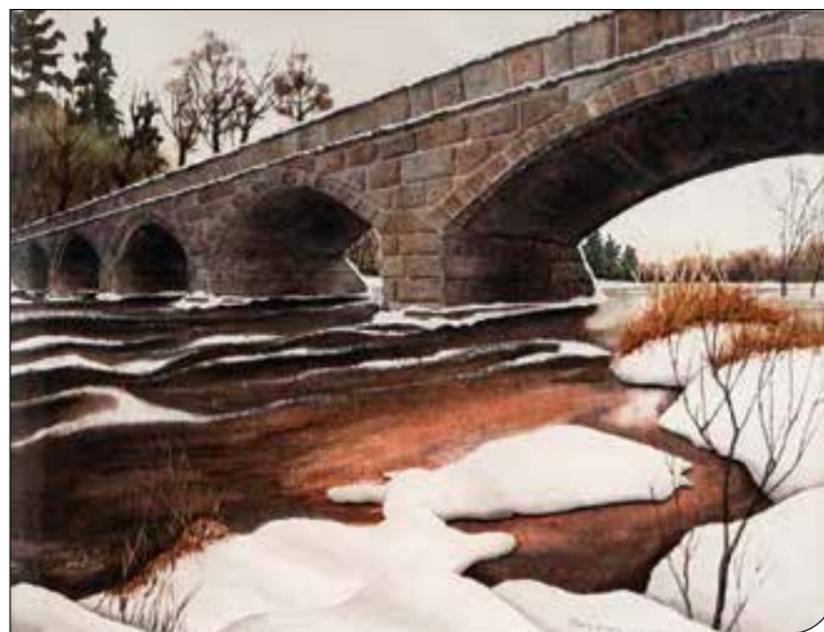
You may have joined me in wondering about the email address on the back of his Artist Trading Card: <mcauslanite@gmail.com>. A google search reveals that in 1988 a new mineral was "Named in honour of David Alexander McAuslan (1943–), former Eastern Exploration Manager for Shell Canada Resources Ltd. who was key to the discovery and development of the East Kemptville deposit (Yarmouth Co., NS)." Dave is justifiably pleased that the doctoral students he mentored decided to name this new mineral after him.

Dr. McAuslan was born in Lachine and grew up in Montreal. After a degree in Geology from McGill University, he earned his PhD in Structural geology at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, where



he also had some family members nearby. After a number of years working in and traveling extensively for the Canadian mining industry, he opted for more stability in his family life and began teaching at a community college in Lindsay near Peterborough. Many artists credit their teachers with being a major positive influence in their lives and careers. It surprised me when Dave described his years as a teacher as a "two-way street. It helped me raise my own kids — it taught me tolerance."

The couple moved to the country near Carleton Place in 1998 when Anne-Marie graduated from the first midwifery program in Ontario



and set up her practice. Dave had always been interested in drawing and enjoyed visiting art galleries with his mother. He took a few art history courses at the Haliburton School of Fine Arts, and eventually took a watercolour course, looking for a creative outlet. He quipped that he has never been inclined to investigate another paint medium since watercolour is so easy to clean up.

## Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Sale

David McAuslan is a member of Arts Carleton Place and will be participating in the organization's eagerly awaited annual Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Sale on November 18 and 19, from 10AM to 4:30PM each day at the Carleton Place Arena. Whether you are looking to treat yourself, or looking for affordable gifts for others, this is a great opportunity to enjoy a relaxed stroll among some of the Valley's finest artistic treats presented by a host of gifted and very creative artists and artisans. And you can get there by bike! McAuslan's artworks are also on display at the new Carleton Place Gallery. As always, coordinates are on the back of David's Artist Trading Card at the top of this page. (Definitely contact him personally for instructions if you are going to Havana...)

Dale Dunning, "Divination", aluminum, 2023

## DALE DUNNING

### Divination

November 10 - December 22, 2023

Artist Reception: Saturday November 18, 2pm-4pm

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

Dale Dunning, "The Weight", bronze, 1985

WHO David McAuslan  
WHAT Watercolour Artist, Cyclist, Geologist

WHERE Carleton Place Gallery, 210 Bridge St.,  
Carleton Place, <cpgallery.ca>  
By appointment at home studio,  
<mcauslanite@gmail.com>

WHEN Nov. 18-19, 10AM-4:30PM, Arts Carleton Place  
Itty Bitty Artisan & Art Sale, Carleton Place Arena  
<artscarletonplace.com/art-shows>

WHY "I thoroughly enjoy making/creating paintings of  
people, places, and things which have an emo-  
tional impact on me and which hopefully will be  
enjoyed by others."

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Joanne Beaton



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# Arts CP Annual Small Piece Art Show & Sale

It's easy to love this time of year. Autumn is always beautiful, with a palette of warm greens, peaches, crimsons and pale golds, and comforting cool breezes combined with cozy cardigans. And best of all, accompanying autumn each year in Carleton Place is the **Itty Bitty Art Show** – with art that is as much a feast for the senses as an autumn day.

The show takes place in the upper great hall of the Carleton Place Arena on November 18 and 19, from 10AM to 4:30PM each day. Presented by Arts Carleton Place, with the financial assistance of the Town of Carleton Place, the Itty Bitty Art Show is a wonderful tradition in our amazing community.

Works will include unique small pieces of art such as silk scarves, pepper grinders, wood bowls and jewellery, as well as exciting and nuanced small pieces of wall art. It provides the opportunity to discuss the art itself, or the creative process, with the artist. It allows families to introduce the arts to their children, to teach them history and culture, respect for design and craftsmanship, and appreciation of the beauty in handmade works of art. The aesthetics will take your breath away — stunning pieces that are handmade with a personal touch or cultural significance, painstaking



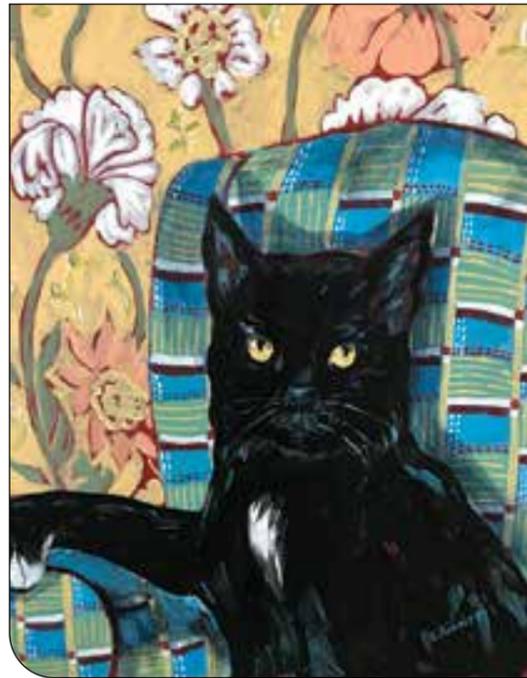
Works by Danielle Beaulieu (above), Cathy Rivoire (at left) and many others can be found at the Itty Bitty Art Show on Nov. 18 & 19

attention to detail and materials. Every artisan at the Itty Bitty Art Show is highly respected for their craft.

Finding the perfect gift for someone this holiday season may seem overwhelming, but the variety and uniqueness of each piece at the Itty Bitty Art Show solves that problem, as each item is as special and unique as the loved ones in your life. Parking and admission are free, and the show is right in Carleton Place, so you don't have to drive far to experience fine art and craftsmanship at the biggest show ever in the Valley, with fifty-two artists and artisans under one roof — some travelling from as far as Kingston and Cobourg to display their creations for you.

This year, the Itty Bitty Art Show will have wider aisles — perfect to allow better viewing of art pieces and more comfort for movement and flow of visitors and artists — and this year there is a door prize of a \$250 gift certificate to Canadian Tire. Due to a rise in Covid cases and to protect the artists, visitors are requested to wear a mask. For more information, please visit <artscarletonplace.com>.

A portion of the sales goes directly back to the community in the form of aid to Core Youth Programs, Interval House Art Programs, and bursaries to each of Carleton Place High School and Notre-Dame High School for continued education in the field of Arts.



With locally sourced artisan products,  
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Chocolate Party Dec. 1-3

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www.granary.ca

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

Sat 9-5 & Sun 10-4



# Savour the Symphony of Giving

## Concert Fundraiser for Lanark Community Garden

The stage is set, and the excitement is building for an unforgettable evening of music, community togetherness, and heartfelt contributions to a worthy cause. Taking place on November 17 at 7PM, the Concert Fundraiser in support of the Lanark Community Garden, presented by the Oakfield Rugby Park, is a must-attend event of the season, featuring two exceptionally talented artists: Jillian Allinson and Ali McCormick.

Kicking off the evening, Jillian Allinson promises to sweep you off your feet with her soulful melodies and heartfelt lyrics. With a captivating voice and impressive skills on the acoustic guitar, Jillian brings a genuine warmth to the stage that will resonate with the audience. Her performance will create the perfect ambiance for an extraordinary night ahead.

Ali McCormick, the evening's headliner, is a force to be reckoned with in the music world. Her unique blend of folk and storytelling has earned her critical acclaim and a dedicated fan base. Ali's mesmerizing vocals and evocative lyrics create a powerful and soul-stirring atmosphere. Her performance will leave an indelible mark on your heart and soul.

While the concert promises an evening of delightful music, it also provides a platform to contribute to a great cause. The Concert Fundraiser is dedicated to supporting the Lanark Community Garden, a vital initiative in providing fresh, locally grown produce to the community.

However, it's more than just a garden; it symbolizes sustainability, education and community unity. Your ticket purchase and any additional donations go directly toward ensuring the Lanark Community Garden's continued success, impacting those who need it most.

So, mark your calendars, invite your friends and family, and come enjoy an unforgettable night of great music, community spirit, and the satisfaction of supporting a worthy cause. Let's create beautiful memories and make a positive change together. Tickets are \$25 plus fees from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).



Ali McCormick, aka the Lioness of Lanark County, will headline a fundraiser for the Lanark Community Garden on November 17

# Merrickville's Makers Market

Christmas in the village begins the first weekend of November in Merrickville. That's when the Merrickville's Makers Market hosts its next spectacular event! The Christmas edition of this popular market will return to Merrickville's Community Centre at 106 Read Street on November 4 and 5 from 10AM to 4PM each day. Admission to the event is free and there is ample parking.

The two-day format allows for lots of space for the makers, and each day will find 30 unique vendors set up to welcome everyone. Fine art or hot sauce, woodwares or exotic soaps and oils will blend with all manner of goods from artists and makers for this indoor market.

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

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

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

Learn about the makers by visiting <MerrickvillesMakersMarkets.ca> or finding Merrickville's Makers Market on Facebook.

# Help for the Humane Society!

Fundraising is an ongoing challenge for staff and volunteers at the Arnprior & District Humane Society (ADHS), so they are very excited about an opportunity to participate in the Charitable Bingo and Gaming Initiative at the Lola Street Capital Gaming Centre. The charitable gaming program is conducted and managed by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) with the goal of returning a portion of gaming revenues to the community.

ADHS's commitment involves two volunteers providing hosting and customer service to Bingo and Electronic gaming clients for two hours a week. In return, ADHS receives a cheque each month for a portion of the proceeds available for local charities and non-profits. An opportunity for a meaningful and regular source of revenue is something any charity can appreciate. Veterinary bills are a major expense for this non-profit organization, and are difficult to anticipate. This new source of funding will be most beneficial.

\$23 million dollars in Charitable Gaming proceeds were distributed to participating local charities in Ontario last year.

The Capital Gaming Centre can accommodate 44 charities. Currently they have 32. Member charities include Minor and Junior B Hockey Associations, Resource Centres, Legions, and a Community Theatre, to name a few. For more information about becoming a member charity visit the Ontario Charitable Gaming Association website <charitablegaming.ca>.



## Feliz Naughty Dog Bake & Craft Show

Another great way to support the Arnprior Humane Society is to come out for their "Feliz Naughty Dog" bake and craft show. This year's event takes place on Sunday, November 12 from 10AM to 3PM at the Nick Smith Centre, located at 77 James Street in Arnprior. It features dozens of local crafters and artisans, as well as tasty treats.

Oct. 21 - Dec. 23  
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum  
mvtm.ca

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Mentored by Noreen Young, members of the Mississippi Mills Youth Centre have been creating puppets in preparation for a play they will put on at the Almonte Library on December 17

## A Puppet Play for the Holidays

By Lucy Carleton

Whoa! Something's gone awry at the Mississippi Mills Youth Centre (MMYC). A local Winter Pretzel Fest is in jeopardy and the villagers are calling on "El Capitaine and Mayor Leaderhosen" to solve the mystery. A quirky beaver and the plucky news reporter Rex Position are already on the case, but they need more friends to help. Who will climb the mountain and ask the giant GORP to lend a hand? Find out how you can take part in this winter adventure story, filled with music and zany puppetry, in the MMYC's December puppet play, *Ava-lunch, a Snowfall Fable*. The MMYC has fired up a team of young people to design and present a full-scale, winter-themed puppet play. In collaboration with the Friends of the Library, they will offer two afternoon presentations on December 17 at the Almonte branch of the library.

Mentored by Almonte's own acclaimed Noreen Young, the MMYC youth are learning all aspects of production, including puppet creation, manipulation, blocking, set design, costuming, scheduling and front of house, as well as the technical roles of sound and lighting. The MMYC's Project Coordinator Joey Graff believes this first-of-its-kind production is an exciting opportunity for the next generation to learn from puppet master Young. A member of the Order of Canada and founder of Almonte's Puppets

Up! International Puppetry Festival and the award-winning TV series *Under the Umbrella Tree*, Young is on hand every step of the way to guide the group as they breathe life into their puppet creations. This family-friendly show will be sure to entertain, so come prepared to laugh and sing along.

Tickets will be available as a donation through Tickets Please ([TicketsPlease.ca](http://TicketsPlease.ca), 485-6434). Showtimes are Sunday, December 17 at 2:30 and 4PM at the Almonte branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library.

The Mississippi Mills Youth Centre serves youth aged 10-18 by offering drop-ins Monday through Thursday from 2:30-7:30PM and on Friday from 2:30-9PM. Structured programs in the arts, physical activity, science and life skills are available to youth during the critical hours when there may be limited access to other supports and services. The MMYC provides free hygiene items, meals and snacks and homework help in a safe, inclusive, and accessible space for local youth.

The Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library (FMMPL) is a fundraising group of dedicated volunteers that works to support and promote the services of the library. FMMPL is always looking for enthusiastic new friends to help support their fundraising efforts. Contact [friends@missmillslibrary.com](mailto:friends@missmillslibrary.com) or visit [missmillslibrary.com/about#Friends](http://missmillslibrary.com/about#Friends).

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# Community Builders Craft Fair at Union Hall

By Linda Camponi

Union Hall is pleased to be hosting its third annual Community Builders' Craft Fair on Saturday, November 4. The hall will be joining forces with other charities and non-profits to raise awareness of their important work and to bring in much-needed cash for their operations. Get a head start on your Christmas shopping while contributing to these community builders!

The **Union Hall Community Centre**, a Registered Charity, was erected in 1857 and continues to be the hub of the community that bears its name. Funded mainly through hall and sign rentals, donations and craft sales, with financial assistance from Mississippi Mills and the Hub/Rebound, the hall is maintained and operated by volunteers. Hand-crafted hardwood cutting boards will be on offer, along with items sewn from repurposed fabric such as one-of-a-kind yoga mat bags, tote bags and aprons.

The **Hub** in Almonte sells gently used merchandise for every shopper at very reasonable prices. All profits are donated to community projects and to our friends and neighbours who need a helping hand. They will be selling jewellery, books, dolls and vintage toys as well as high-quality housewares at this event. The Hub has graciously offered to donate the proceeds from this day's sale to Union Hall!

**Stir It Up Collective** (SIUC) is a non-profit organization with the goal of supporting peoples' recovery from sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation. Partnering with other community agencies and businesses, SIUC offers client-centred wellness,

focusing on somatic healing practices and employment readiness so that participants can enhance their skills and confidence to move forward with their goals. They will be selling SIUC-labelled whole bean coffee from Equator Coffee Roasters, as well as handmade wooden meditation benches in various sizes and styles.

The **Mississippi Valley Textile Museum** conserves and interprets the industrial textile heritage of the area and tells the stories of the millworkers, while contemporary issues are approached through temporary art exhibits. As Canada's first Rainbow Registered museum, it offers a safe and inclusive space for visitors from across the street to across the globe. They will be selling selections from the curated gift shop, which supports local artists and the Museum's operations.

This year we are happy to welcome the **Mississippi Mills Youth Centre**, a non-profit organization providing dynamic, educational and supportive programming to local youth, their families and the community as a whole. MMYC delivers a variety of different programs every week to keep youth safely connected to both their peers and their community. Over the past while, these young people have learned a wide range of new skills during their weekly art program, in preparation for the craft fair. From handmade soap and crystal candles to knit hats and home décor, there's bound to be something that's perfect for you or a special gift!

Join us on Saturday, November 4 from 10AM until 4PM at Union Hall, located at 1984 Wolf Grove Road at the corner of Tatlock Road. There will be a fire in the woodstove to take off the chill, as well as light



At the Community Builders Craft Fair on November 4, you can purchase great gifts while supporting organizations that strengthen our community!

refreshments and beverages, including Stir It Up coffee, for sale at reasonable prices. For information, contact Linda at <camponi@storm.ca> or 613-808-2781 (text preferred).

## Lanark County's First Ukrainian Fest

Lanark County is home to thousands of Ukrainian migrant families and Canadians of Ukrainian descent. On November 5, a celebratory festival will take place at the Carleton Place Arena from 11AM to 4PM. Ukrainian Fest is designed for a wide range of visitors of all ages and origin, and features a bazaar, lunch, activities for kids and adults, performances, and honoured guests the Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, the Member of Federal Parliament, and the Mayor of Carleton Place.

The festival had its roots at a fundraising garage sale organized by Gloria Bradley to help a Ukrainian family when they first arrived in Carleton Place. She shared this idea with her neighbours and Ukrainians who had arrived earlier. With their support, the garage sale was a success, and the decision was made to use

the money raised to start something that would "invest in Ukrainian kids' smiles".

According to the organizers, the purpose of the festival is to "express our gratitude to the local community for supporting Ukrainian immigrants, for supporting Ukraine in its struggle for freedom and territorial integrity, and to present the Ukrainian community living in Lanark County, to introduce the traditions, history, culture, and achievements of modern Ukraine to local residents."

Ukrainian folk artists from Ottawa and Montreal, culinary specialists, creative teams and performers will all take part. Admission is free and all are welcome. For more details, please visit <facebook.com/groups/ottawavalleyukrainians>.

Red Plaid Productions Presents  
**MUDMEN**  
 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert  
**Studio Theatre Perth** 63 Gore Street East  
**Saturday, December 30**  
 Doors 7:00PM • Show 7:30PM • General Admission  
**Tickets: \$35** from [ticketsplease.ca](https://ticketsplease.ca), 613-485-6434  
[mudmen.ca](https://mudmen.ca) NON LLBO Mudmen Inc Event [studiotheatreperth.com](https://studiotheatreperth.com)

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 Zelenka: Magnificat in C major, ZWV 107  
 Biber: Magnificat in g minor, C. 24  
 Leonarda: Magnificat in D major, Op. 19, no. 10  
 and Bach: Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen, BWV 51  
 Myriam Leblanc, soprano  
 Daniel Taylor, countertenor  
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- \$100 gift certificate (for \$80!), 8008 Lingerie.....\$80
- Designer jewellery by Anne-Marie Chagnon & Artglas, Bittersweet.....\$30-250
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- Batik cotton table napkins, set of 4, Fine Batiks.....\$27
- "Book Lover" canvas tote bags, The Book Nook.....\$24 & up
- Recycled fabric tote bags, The Queen's Crafters.....\$5
- Patagonia Snap-T fleece pullover, fair trade certified, Vamos.....\$169



Perth Community Choir Presents  
**Roald Dahl's Matilda**  
 The Musical  
 Book Dennis Kelly  
 Music & Lyrics Tim Minchin  
 November 16-19, 2023  
 Mason Auditorium, PDCI  
[www.perthcommunitychoir.com](https://www.perthcommunitychoir.com)

# Humm Bits

## Guatemala Stove Project Auction & Dance

Support families in Guatemala through a virtual auction presented by the Guatemala Stove Project (GSP)! From November 1–6, visit <a href="http://32auctions.com/GSP2023">32auctions.com/GSP2023</a> to bid on wonderful items such as paintings, crafts, restaurant and retail vouchers, and much more. Proceeds will support the building of chimney-vented cookstoves for Maya families.

The GSP also accepts donations for family and primary school cookstoves, bursaries for girls, and their microloan program. Join in the fun, place your bids, and help support the Guatemala Stove Project!

On November 18, the GSP is holding their annual Fundraiser Dance at the Perth Civitan Hall, with doors opening at 7PM. Featuring live music by Open Road, this fun evening also includes a silent auction, dance, photobooth and snacks. Tickets are \$25 and available by e-transfer to <a href="mailto:info@guatemalastoveproject.org">info@guatemalastoveproject.org</a> — please mention GSP Dance when transferring. They are also available (cash only) from Shadowfax in Perth.

Find more information at <a href="http://guatemalastoveproject.org">guatemalastoveproject.org</a>.

## Auditions for Sleuth

Studio Theatre Productions invites actors to audition for their upcoming production of *Sleuth*. Written by Anthony Shaffer and directed by Jane Stott, this challenging two-hander would be a feather in the cap for any actor who feels they can be on the stage for a full evening of cat and mouse!

Auditions will be held on November 7 and 9, starting promptly at 6:30PM. Participants are invited to come prepared to present a 1- to 2-minute monologue of their choice. The production will go up in February of 2024. Once cast, rehearsals will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. A full two weeks will be taken off from rehearsal leading into Christmas and New Year's.

Copies of the script will be available for 48 hours. Please email the director at <a href="mailto:janebakerstott@gmail.com">janebakerstott@gmail.com</a> to arrange for script loans, or if you unable to make either audition date.

## Curious About Cannabis?

On Tuesday, November 14 from 1–3PM at the ABC Hall in Bolingbroke, Nancy Sendell of Westpot Cannabis Sommelier Services will demystify the language from both cannabis culture and the scientific community. Discover the differences between various cultivars and products. Learn how to find your optimum dose and favourite product. Bring your questions for the Q&A. Admission is \$35, payable by cash or e-transfer to <a href="mailto:nancy@westpot.ca">nancy@westpot.ca</a>. Find more details at <a href="http://westpot.ca">westpot.ca</a>.

## Perth Christmas Farmers' Market

On Saturday, November 18 from 10AM to 3PM, the Perth Farmers' Market returns with a special seasonal market geared towards stocking up for the Christmas holidays. Set inside the Crystal Palace amongst the decorated trees as well as outside with bonfire and seating, the market features live music, food and great locally made crafts to get you into the holiday spirit. Find more details at <a href="http://perthfarmersmarket.ca">perthfarmersmarket.ca</a>.

## CFUW Poverty Report

The CFUW Perth and District Social Justice Committee is proud to present their findings from a year-long report on poverty in Perth and Lanark County — the Poverty Report. Poverty might be hidden, but it impacts us all. On Monday, November 20 from 6:30–8PM, come and learn how Perth and Lanark County compare with Ontario and the rest of Canada with regards to income, housing, poverty, homelessness and food insecurity. This event takes place in person at the Perth Legion or via ZOOM — email <a href="mailto:cfuwpertchanddistrict@gmail.com">cfuwpertchanddistrict@gmail.com</a> to register.

## Perth Lions Club's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On Saturday, November 25 from 2–4PM, everyone is invited to the Perth Lions Club's at the Perth Fairgrounds to help celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This free event will feature music, snacks, displays and a bar, as well as a cheque presentation to the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital. Funds will go towards the purchase of an MRI machine that will provide a critical service to over 3000 local patients each year. For more details, or information about this wonderful community service group, please visit <a href="http://perthlionsclub.ca">perthlionsclub.ca</a>.

## Wonderful Wintery Concert

On December 3 at 2PM, come out and enjoy an afternoon of traditional holiday music presented by the Carleton Place & District Community Band in support of the Lanark Food Bank. The concert will also feature the Zion Memorial United Church Choir, and the audience will be invited to join in the singing of traditional holiday music. It takes place at Zion Memorial United Church, located at 37 Franklin Street in Carleton Place. Admission is by donation to the Lanark Food Bank. Find more details at <a href="https://facebook.com/cpadcb">facebook.com/cpadcb</a>.

# Ready to Sing Again!

The Goulbourn Male Chorus (GMC) is a community-based chorus made up of men from West Ottawa communities and surrounding areas. The Chorus had its first rehearsal on September 20, 2010 with 12 men, and has grown over the years to a typical membership of 24 or so. Since its inception the Chorus has been community-focused, taking part in a range of community events including Remembrance Day Services, community fundraising concerts and performances at local seniors' residences. In addition to these, the chorus stages Christmas and spring concerts. The GMC repertoire consists of traditional male chorus selections, both secular and sacred, spirituals, folk songs, ballads, and some lighter selections. During the festive season, it includes both traditional and modern arrangements of Christmas favourites.

The group has been under the direction of Scott Auchinleck since the fall of 2017. Scott also conducts the Kanata Choral Society and is the Music Director at the Glen Cairn United Church. Bonnie MacDiarmid has been the GMC's accompanist for most of its existence.

As with many other choral groups, the "Covid years" were tough, but GMC managed to find innovative ways to stay and sing together. In the 2020-21 season they met through Zoom, attempting to put together a short performance in the spring by mixing individual voices, using specialized software. This was not quite ready for public consumption, but they did have lots of laughs and some tears trying to perfect the process. In the fall of 2021, they practised in the parking lot of the Glen Cairn United Church under lights strung up between the trees. When it got too cold to sit outdoors, members moved into their vehicles, and, using headphones and microphones, broadcast from the church on an FM station. When



Members of the Goulbourn Male Chorus are delighted to be preparing for a Christmas concert on December 2

allowed back into their practice venue, they sang with masks on and prepared a spring concert that was video recorded without an audience.

Now GMC are back, performing live concerts at seniors' homes and at the November 11 ceremonies at the Carp cenotaph. They will also be presenting their 2023 Christmas concert at Trinity Presbyterian Church on December 2 at 7PM. If you enjoy the rich tones of male voices in harmony, then this concert should be on your pre-Christmas events "must see" list. It may be cold outside, but the GMC presentation of seasonal music is guaranteed to warm you and put you in the Christmas spirit!

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

You can check <a href="http://goulbournmalechorus.com">goulbournmalechorus.com</a> for additional information and links to some past performances.

## Gifts for Husbands & Significant Others

- Leather belts, Rowland Leather .....\$58-65
- Matching bra and panty set (comfortable AND super sexy!), 8008 Lingerie.....\$200
- Sports jerseys and memorabilia, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles .....\$5 & up
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- Big Lebowski Gift Box (robe, Vodkows, mug, recipe & more), Dairy Distillery .....\$89
- BN3TH underwear, Dragonfly Boutique.....\$35 & up
- Cotton fleece Pekoe Patch sweater w/ elbow-patch detailing, Duffield Design..\$175
- Elegant, large face 'Mondaine' watch w/ leather strap, Kehla Jewellery Design...\$425
- "Gift of Cheese" club subscription, Pêches & Poivre .....\$55 & up



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# TNIM Presents *Jigsaws*

## Five Women; Three Generations; See How They Fit!

By Andrea Howard

This fall, Theatre Night in Merrickville presents the Canadian premiere of *Jigsaws* by Jennifer Rogers, directed by Hedly Sorour. The play explores the nuanced relations between mothers, daughters and sisters, three generations of the same family, as they come to terms with changing circumstances and attitudes. It is an actor's dream and an audience pleaser. When *Jigsaws* opened in Perth, Australia in 1988, the playwright explained: "I want to show women as they really are; as funny, bright, interesting, brave human beings who bring immense strength and compassion into one another's lives."

The Merrickville production is born of serendipity. In 2018, author Jennifer Rogers and her partner were visiting Canada and happened to book a stay in Hedly Sorour's B&B. There was no transportation to bring her visitors directly to their lodgings, so Hedly drove to the airport and picked them up herself. Conversation easily led to their shared passion for the theatre, and an enduring friendship blossomed. When Hedly read *Jigsaws*, she loved the play and asked if she could direct it for TNIM. The play had already been put on in London, Antwerp, New Zealand and Connecticut. Jennifer was delighted to have it produced in Canada as well. She went so far as to suggest that Hedly transpose the setting from Perth, Australia to Merrickville!

Since the story unfolds over the Christmas holidays, all references to weather and outdoor activities had to be changed from the dead of summer down under to the winter reality 'round here. Hedly has succeeded in this seamless transformation through workshoping the script with her actors. "As a director, I'm thrilled with the stellar cast of experienced female actors that I've lucked into for *Jigsaws*. Each and every cast member has brought her imagination and wealth of stagecraft to every rehearsal, and it's been thrilling to watch them apply their talents in developing their characters and in refining necessary script modifications."

Indeed, serendipity has played a role in the casting as well, as three of the five seasoned community theatre actors who auditioned were completely new to Theatre Night in Merrickville. And they are perfect for their roles! The full cast features Janet Rice as Emma the matriarch, Andrea Lewandowski and Janet



Janet Rice, as Emma, comforts her granddaughter Alex, played by Jessica Lavigne, in Theatre Night in Merrickville's production of *Jigsaws*

Hilliard as her daughters Sylvia and Pat, and Jessica Lavigne and Dayna Stone as Sylvia's daughters Alex and Monica.

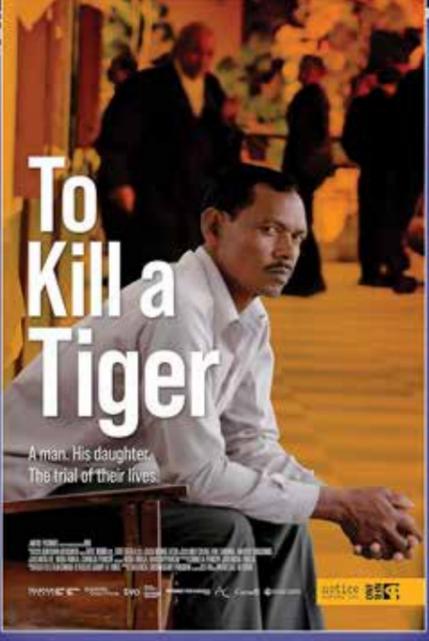
Five women, three generations; see how they fit! *Jigsaws* was written more than 40 years ago. In Australia it continues to be produced as a popular period piece, but its themes of sisterhood and sibling rivalry, mother-daughter relationships, gender roles, family dynamics and the nature of marriage are as relevant today as they were in 1988. The play is rich in metaphor, with dialogue that is intelligent, biting and fresh. Classic female characters of a conventional middle-class family are carefully drawn — archetypes rather than stereotypes of strong but conventional women of the past and free young women of the future. To quote a feminist scholar in her exploration of the text, "The main gift that *Jigsaws* offers to women in the audience, of all ages, from the twenties to the seventies, is a message of hope." It should be noted that there is a brief scene of suicidal ideation.

*Jigsaws* plays Thursday to Saturday, November 23 to 25, at 7:30PM; and Sunday, November 26 at 2PM in the Merrickville Community Centre, located at 106 Read Street. No small part of the magic of a theatre night in Merrickville is the transformation of a big empty room into a full theatre with seating for 150, lighting, a full set and ambiance. You can imagine that this takes the creative effort of dozens of volunteers. As we like to say, it takes a village to raise a curtain!

Tickets are \$20, and are available from <merrickvilletheatre.org> or at the door.

## Mississippi Mills Film Society

# Film Society



Official selection

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**Sunday, November 26, 2PM**

**St. Andrew's United Church, Pakenham**

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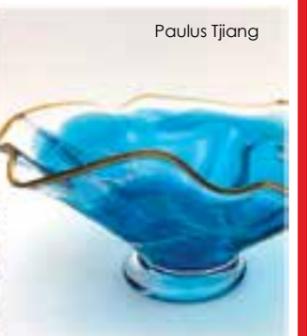
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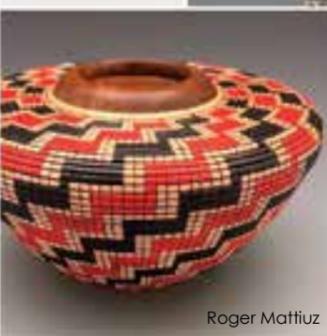
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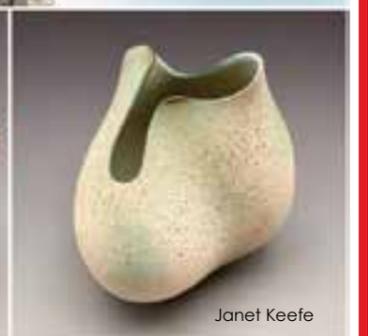
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### Gifts for Art Lovers

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- Gift certificate for local fine art, Carleton Place Gallery ..... various
- Fibre art constructions by Carmella Karijo Rother, General Fine Craft..... \$150-1600
- Heirloom wall art w/ handpainted brushstrokes, Pure Natural Portraits .... \$997 & up
- Gallery gift certificates, Sivarulrasa Gallery ..... \$100.00
- Secrid Goldfinch RFID miniwallet, Vamos Outdoors ..... \$155



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# Presentation on Human Trafficking

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Stir It Up Collective and The Hub will be sponsoring a presentation by Jo-Joe Van Hooser on Thursday, November 30. Jo-Joe is an Equity, Diversion, Inclusion, Indigenization Worker with the Ottawa Childrens' Aid Society.

The presentation will outline some of the things that the public needs to know about human trafficking in urban and rural communities — what people can do to protect themselves. What are the signs that grooming is taking place in our communities? What should children and young people be learning about this issue from grade school all the way to college or university? How and what should we discuss with our children so that they can be aware of the warning signs that human trafficking might be taking place? How can our communities unite to protect themselves from this danger?

Jo-Joe is a Kanehsata:ke-Onkwehonwe-Mohawk grandmother from the Bay of Quinte Mohawks-Tyendinaga Territory, Turtle Clan, with over thirty years of experience working with Indigenous youth and families in the areas of child welfare, gangs, sex trafficking and other forms of criminal activity, as well as Missing and Murdered Indigenous people.

The presentation will be held in Almonte on Thursday, November 30, from 7–8:30PM at



On November 30, Stir It Up Collective and The Hub are sponsoring a presentation on human trafficking by Jo-Joe Van Hooser (above)

the Almonte Branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library. For more information, contact Bill Janes at <info@stiritupcollective.ca>, or 256–2277.

# Hope for the Spring: Maple in the County

By Glenda Jones

You may be cozying up to the wood stove soon, but there are intrepid farmers already planning and hoping that the winter will be kind enough to produce an abundance of maple sap in the spring.

Arlene Stafford-Wilson, the authority on all things Lanark, has produced a stellar history of the maple producing dynasties of Lanark County. Her latest book, *Lanark Country Kitchen*, delivers not only the history of these families, but also the favourite recipes passed down through generations. How these busy people had time to cook such delicacies defies imagination!

Extensive research has been accompanied by personal conversations that illustrate the perseverance required to pursue this age-old tradition. What is clear throughout is that, as one producer said, “maple syrup is in the veins”. That explains why one generation follows the next, tromping through the woods in early spring to clear trails, set up lines and wait for that first drip, drip of sap.

From the Coutts family to the Wheeler family, Fultons, Fortunes, Ennis, Pauls and others, they have adapted to the whims of weather, new technology, and often tragedy in their own ways, to rise to the challenge in ensuing years.

It is apparent that the Ice Storm of 1998 and the Derecho of 2022, along with Covid, had the most significant impact on maple syrup production and sales, but these determined families banded together to

replant, retool and carry on. Each story is unique, each recipe worth trying.

Stafford-Wilson has included material on the production of syrup, grading and judging, as well as on the Maple Syrup Producers Association. Her deep compassion for each family makes this book an ideal read when the trees are bare, the snow deep, and pancakes are on the griddle.

Never take that syrup dripping over the sides for granted. It's nature's gift provided by intense labour honed over generations that makes it very special. Read this book, and then head for the sugar bush.



Author Arlene Stafford-Wilson at a recent launch for her new book at The Book Nook in Perth



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# Holiday Happenings at Heritage House Museum

From Sunday, November 12 through to Saturday, December 16, come see the magnificent artwork featured in the Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum Annual Art Show.

The show features a variety of media, subjects and styles from artists throughout the Ottawa Valley. Some of the pieces from the show will be for sale, at the discretion of each artist.

The show will be available for viewing during the museum hours of operation: Wednesday to Friday from 10AM to 5PM; Saturday and Sunday from 1-4PM (or by appointment).

For further details, please contact the Museum at 283-6311 or email Megan McIlvenna at <heritagehouse@smithsfalls.ca>.

Then from 1-3PM on Sunday, December 3, kick off the holiday season with everyone's favourite Jolly old Soul. Guests will be offered tours of the Museum's period rooms, decorated for the season, while costumed guides in the rooms will share the history of holiday traditions in Eastern Ontario and their origins. Enjoy the sounds of holiday music with a cup of tea or apple cider alongside a homemade seasonal dessert.

Admission for this event is by donation. For more information, please contact the Museum at 283-6311 or <heritagehouse@smithsfalls.ca>.



The Heritage House Museum in Smiths Falls will be full of wonderful local artwork for the season, and their Holiday Heritage House takes place on Dec. 3

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<b>Card and board games</b> , The Book Nook.....	\$15 & up
<b>Vintage board games</b> , Almonte Antiques & Collectibles.....	\$10 & up
<b>A ticket to an Almonte in Concert show</b> , Almonte in Concert.....	\$44

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[facebook.com/heritagehousemuseum](https://facebook.com/heritagehousemuseum)

**Holiday Heritage House**

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

from 1pm to 3pm

Seasonal Music & Activities

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Admission by Donation

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



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 @ 7PM**

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

MISSISSIPPI MILLS BICENTENNIAL

# CHRISTMAS EVENTS



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 @ 1PM**

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



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 @ 5PM**

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

THIS YEAR'S PARADE THEME: 200 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS!

**Kintail Country Christmas**  
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Beautiful Local Gifts  
Family Fun & Connection  
Saturday, November 25

For more information about these events go to [www.events.mississippimills.ca](http://www.events.mississippimills.ca)

# Three New Shows at Sivarulrasa Gallery

Almonte's Sivarulrasa Gallery will present three new exhibitions from November 10 to December 22. *Dale Dunning: Divination* will run in Gallery I. This solo show brings together new works in bronze, steel, and aluminum by Almonte-based sculptor Dale Dunning, as well as older works from the 1980s, showing the artist's remarkable versatility and consistency over several decades. The title of the show, *Divination*, references a method of seeking knowledge of the future or the unknown.

*Greta Grip and Lee Jones: It Gives Me the Feels* runs in Gallery II. For this intriguing and interactive installation, Greta Grip and Lee Jones have developed textile artworks that respond and unravel with human presence. Individuals walking by the installation cause the reflections to unravel until they completely disappear! Artist Greta Grip enjoys pulling the strings of what is traditional knitting and winding it around the digital age. Her work challenges our understanding of what knitting is supposed to look like. Lee Jones is a postdoctoral fellow with the iStudio Lab at Queen's University. Before joining the lab, she completed her PhD at the Creative Interactions Lab at Carleton University, where her thesis focused on e-textiles, hybrid craft, and textile personal fabrication.

*Wendy Robertson: Under Pressure*, a solo exhibition of stunning glacier-inspired paintings by artist Wendy Robertson, runs in Gallery III. This show features six new paintings based on the Athabasca Glacier in Alberta's Columbia Icefield. "As the yearly accumulated layers of snow are compressed, dense ice forms" she says. "The glacier ice flows under its own weight because of the accumulated pressure on



*Ice Fall I* by artist Wendy Robertson is featured in her solo show at Sivarulrasa Gallery

it." The paintings explore the awe-inspiring grace and power of the natural world.

Meet artists Dale Dunning, Greta Grip, Lee Jones and Wendy Robertson at the combined Artists Reception on Saturday, November 18 from 2-4PM. For more information, visit <sivarulrasa.com>.

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Bennett Rosamond (in top hat, played by Darren Brocklehurst) confers with workers from the Rosamond Woollen Mill (l-r Peter McGaugh, Gillian Mills and Jane Torrance) in a scene from *Spinning Yarns*. The show opens on November 17 but the first matinee was already sold out by press time, so get your tickets soon!

## A Mighty & Talented Crew

### *Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers Musical*

By Susan Macaulay

Twenty-five actors mill about, seemingly randomly in a thirty by thirty-five-foot room at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. The excitement, energy and enthusiasm are palpable. Accompanist Colleen Skjaveland, who has been playing since she was six, strikes a few chords on the piano in the corner.

That's the cue. The meandering ceases to be random. The actors create conjoined circles and begin to sing (to the tune of *Christmas in Killarney*):

*"Our show is done, we've had some fun, telling you 'bout how our mill was run, the Rosamonds in Almonte, the years for one hundred and one."*

They belt out the words in harmony as they chasser face-to-face down the centre of the stage and then circle back around.

*"Our town it grew with quite a few workers from England and Ireland too. They brought their skills and talents, a mighty and talented crew"*

In an interesting twist, the lyrics in the last line of the second verse describe the team of people putting the show together. Playwright Fern Martin likely didn't foresee that when she wrote the words, but that's how it has played out. It's early October and the cast of *Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers Musical* is rehearsing the show's finale.

They have another six weeks of practice before they perform in front of an audience. Not surprisingly, their individual and collective performances aren't yet perfect. But they'll be polished and professional by the time the show opens on November 17 at the Almonte Old Town Hall. Director Kris Riendeau will make sure of it!

*Spinning Yarns'* six shows will be sold out (or close to it), audiences will be delighted with what they see (just as they are with most local productions), and a bunch of money will be raised for the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (the recipient of funds generated by ticket sales for this particular production).

That's the way of community theatre in Mississippi Mills. It works. And the success is based on the commitment of volunteer writers, directors, casts and crews that make local productions happen.

Of the forty-five volunteers involved in *Spinning Yarns*, twenty-five are actors/singers/dancers/musicians. They vary in age from under twenty years old to eighty years young (one is a great-grandmother) and range from highly experienced to still wet behind their theatrical ears.

Gillian Mills, a retired teacher, taught vocal music, recorder, band and guitar in some of Mississippi Mills' public schools (Naismith, G.L. Comba and Pakenham) during her thirty-three-year career.

"I just love performing, dancing and singing!" she says. "I studied piano and voice as a child, went to Western University for a four-year music degree in voice and then to teacher's college." Mills also directed school musicals and choirs and was a soloist at the United Church in Almonte for about six years.

Catherine Arbour, on the other hand, is making her stage debut. She is also a retired teacher. "I've helped behind the scenes on previous shows, but this is my first time in front of an audience,"

Arbour says. "It just looked like too much fun to miss out on. The production team behind this project is fantastic in every way; professional, encouraging, knowledgeable, friendly. I'm so grateful they've given me the opportunity to be a member of the cast, playing the role of Dorothy, a millworker." A lot of person hours go into putting a show such as this together. It took playwright Martin two years to research and write the piece. The cast has been rehearsing twice a week for months. Besides the time commitment, there are challenges. "Memorizing even a few lines and the words of several songs does not come nearly as easily as a few decades ago. Now, if these were the Latin names of insects, that might be another story!" says Rob Longair, a retired entomologist.

Realtor Ron Zeitlin echoes that sentiment with a chuckle: "Memorizing lines has been a bit more challenging than I remember! My initial thought of "only 13 lines" soon became I HAVE 13 LINES?!"

With respect to keeping the cast organized and attentive, assistant stage manager Dave Corbishley describes his role as "herding cats." Despite all the hard work and challenges, members of the cast and production team are united in expressing why they are involved. Essentially, because it's fun to co-create something wonderfully entertaining while meeting new and interesting people and contributing to their community.

Like the millworkers they play and honour, they've brought their skills and abilities to the production, a mighty and talented cast and crew.

#### Why Should You See It?

Here are five reasons *Spinning Yarns* cast and crew members say you should come to the show:

- This community is loaded with artistic talent. The calibre is exceptional. I was blown away the first time I went to a local theatre production soon after moving to Almonte. You will NOT be disappointed. (Peter McGaugh, actor)
- What could be better than attending a play written by a member of our community about the development of our community, with actors who live here? (Ron Zeitlin, actor)
- You'll discover so many talents hidden here in Mississippi Mills. From the wonderful acting and singing to the stunning set design and costumes, you'll be amazed at what your local community theatre can do! (Kris Riendeau, director)
- There are wonderful musical moments, and funny scenes, wrapped up in a great learning experience finding out about some of the history of the area. You will love it. (Rob Longair, actor)
- Please come and enjoy the story of the history of our town, including all of the highs and some of the lows. You will leave the show with a happy heart. (Rosalind Reid, actor)

Performances take place at the Almonte Old Town Hall on November 17, 24 & 25 at 7:30PM and on November 18, 19 & 26 at 2PM (but the matinee on the 18<sup>th</sup> is already sold out as of press time). Tickets are available from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) and are \$25 for adults, \$15 for youth under 18, fees included.

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Find works by Heather Lovat-Fraser (above) and many others at the Gift of Art Show

## Gift of Art Show

The artists of the Kanata Civic Art Gallery invite you to the 2023 Gift of Art Show & Sale, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 18 and 19, from 10AM to 5PM each day.

With over 30 juried members, the Kanata Civic Art Gallery has been in the community for thirty years. As a juried gallery, the standards are high — you will see some Ottawa's finest artists. The 2023 show will host artists of long standing and artists new to the gallery this year. This signature event features original fine art in a wide variety of media and styles, including paintings,

photography, textile art, abstract art and high realism. Works range in size and price.

This year 26 artists will exhibit their latest work in the upper halls of the Mlacak Centre, located at 2500 Campeau Drive in Kanata. The show is an opportunity for artists to meet the public and share their inspiration and talents. With free parking, admission and refreshments, this is a great place to shop, relax, and find that perfect gift for the holidays.

During this event the Gallery will hold a fundraiser for Hospice Care Ottawa. For more details, please visit <kanatagallery.ca>.



Hey, uke-lovers! There's a new weekly ukulele club starting up at the Tatlock Hall!

## Tatlock Ukulele Club

By George Turcotte

J'Ukebox George here, writing to tell you how stoked I am about a new Ukulele Club I'm drumming up, which I'll be hosting on Tuesday nights out in Tatlock — at the Tatlock Hall, as a matter of fact! The invitation is open for anyone (largely adults/teens) wishing to join in, jam, learn and have fun on the uke. We're launching our maiden voyage on the last Tuesday of November (being the 28<sup>th</sup>) at 7PM ('til 8:30 or 9 or so) and will continue the Tuesday after that, and after that, and after that again until summer rolls back around. As many of us already

know, the room has fantastic acoustics. We'll be promoting the event through a Facebook group page where we'll be posting news, pics and vids showcasing all the fun we're having.

Also, during the day, prior to the club meet, I'll be offering private lessons on any of the stringed instruments I play, including banjo, guitar, mandolin & Dobro. For further info, find "Tattytown / Lanark Ukers Union" on Facebook or email me at <rhythmrymer@gmail.com>.

So saddle up yer ukes folks, it's ukulele time again!

### Gifts for Parents & Grandparents

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## Enjoy the Magic of the Holiday Season in Perth

Perth Tourism invites you to explore all that the town has to offer this holiday season. Enjoy a weekend in Perth and take some time for yourself to unwind and indulge. With over 20 events planned throughout November and December, the holiday spirit will be sure to surround you while you stroll the streets and explore the beautiful old-world charm of the town.

Bursting with carefully curated boutiques and shops, you'll easily be able to find gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list — and maybe even something for yourself! Art, fine crafts, local fashions and more can be found throughout the community.

Take a break from holiday shopping and take a self-guided tasting tour or themed walking tour, and

stop for a meal created by talented chefs at one of the numerous restaurants and eateries. Warm up with a beverage at a café, or sample some of the unique offerings at the local craft breweries and distillery.

As you wander the streets, you'll notice the familiar sounds of holiday carols ringing through the air. The holiday spirit culminates at the Crystal Palace, which is filled with decorated Christmas trees as part of the Festival of Lights, taking place from November 16 to December 31.

Experience an unforgettable weekend in Perth. Visit <perth.ca/holidayevents> for more information and to stay-up-to-date on details.

## MERA Christmas Fair

The annual MERA Christmas Fair returns to the MERA Schoolhouse in McDonalds Corners on Saturday, November 18 from 9AM to 3PM. MERA (McDonalds Corners & Elphin Recreation & Arts) is a space in Lanark Highlands committed to connecting community members through the arts.

A nutritious lunch, refreshments and baked goods will be provided by Worthewaite Farm. There will also be a bake sale and a raffle featuring donated items from vendors.

This year's Christmas Fair features Fine Chocolate by Ludwig, blacksmith artist Shane Belanger, Molly Forsythe's Critters, Christmas cards by Emily's Creations, cornhusk dolls by Marilyn Nicholas-Dahan, woven baskets by Ankaret Dean, cozy pillowcases by Jycline Labine, pottery by Quintessential Creations & Co., heritage weaving by the MERA weavers, pottery by the MERA pottery studio and woodworking by MERA woodworks.

Art lovers who come to the fair can also enjoy an art show by the MERA Art Circle. This show features the work of Barbara Appleford, Margaret Bruce, Karen Craig, Carol Eldridge, Janina Fisher, Jan Griffiths, Claude Lemay, Sandy McNulty, Helen Mogford and Gloria Shoebridge. From 1-3PM patrons can meet



Works by the MERA potters (like the ceramic gnome above) will be featured at the MERA Christmas Fair on November 18

the artists, view their works and purchase that "must have" piece.

By shopping at the MERA Christmas Fair you are helping to enable this local arts and recreation facility to have music events, workshops, community dinners and much more. For more information, please visit <meraschoolhouse.org>.

Thanks for saying you saw their ad in **THE HUMM!**

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## November

Shop, Stamp & Win  
Nov. 1-Dec. 31

Christmas Craft & Vendor Event  
Nov. 12

Merry & Bright  
Nov. 16

Festival of Lights  
Trees lit nightly Nov. 16-Dec 31

Farmers' Christmas Market  
Nov. 18

Perth Christmas Wish with Santa  
Nov. 18-19

Christmas Craft and Gift Sale  
Nov. 19

Mistletoe Market  
Nov. 24

Once Upon a Christmas  
Nov. 25

Home for the Holidays  
Nov. 25-Dec. 24

CPKC Holiday Train in Perth  
Nov. 27

## December

Festival of Lights  
Dec. 1

Nick of Time Craft Sale  
Dec. 2

Santa Claus Parade of Lights  
Dec. 2

Photos with Santa  
Dec. 3

The Women & Men of the Tay  
Christmas Concert  
Dec. 6

Perth Citizens' Band  
Christmas Concert  
Dec. 10

Christmas at the Palace  
Dec. 16

Perth Community  
Christmas Day Dinner  
Dec. 25

Polar Bear Plunge  
Jan. 1

Enjoy free public skating at the Perth & District Community Centre on Saturdays from 5-6 p.m. and Sundays from 1-2 p.m., sponsored by Norwood & Co. and Perth FireDawgs. Confirm at [PERTH.ca/ICESCHEDULE](http://PERTH.ca/ICESCHEDULE) before your visit.

Learn more at [PERTH.ca/HOLIDAYEVENTS](http://PERTH.ca/HOLIDAYEVENTS)



# Folkus Turns Over a New Page

By Sandy Irvin

As we head into our 21<sup>st</sup> year, Folkus is focusing on renewal and rejuvenation. That includes handing the keys to the car (I mean concert series) over to a new Artistic Director, Steve Wildesmith. While Steve is relatively new to Almonte, he is no stranger to the music community, having played in various musical configurations around Ottawa and area since the '80s. Steve has called a few friends and pulled in a few favours to book the lineup for Folkus 2024. We are looking forward to seeing you all again at the Almonte Old Town Hall for four wonderful evenings of live music.



Tom Wilson opens the 2024 Folkus Concert Series on January 27

## January 27: Tom Wilson

We are thrilled to have Tom Wilson return to the Folkus series (he last graced our stage in 2005). He's a new man now, having discovered and explored his Indigenous roots, toured the country multiple times with Blackie and the Rodeo Kings and Lee Harvey Osmond, and expanded his talents as a painter and writer. *Beautiful Scars*, his powerful memoir of self-discovery, was a national bestseller. Wilson and Lee Harvey Osmond received a 2020 Juno Award for the album *Mohawk*. This is a don't-miss-it night!

## February 24: Nathan Sloniowski and friends

Nathan Sloniowski is a well-known figure in town, sparking up song circles, working with The Ragged Flowers, and lending a musical hand

where needed. His latest project, *The Lost Love Letter to a Small Town*, was written over lockdown, recorded with some crack musicians, and features tales of small town heroes and ne'er-do-wells, based on his upbringing near another stunning Ontario mill town, Elora. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is entirely coincidental. This evening will feel like a homecoming for sure.

## March 23: The Once

The Once are one of Newfoundland's most beloved exports, combining the rich voice of singer Geraldine Hollett with the harmonies and instruments of band-mates Phil Churchill and Andrew Dale. Celebrated for both their haunting originals and illuminating covers, The Once will fill the Almonte Old Town Hall to the rafters with song, with what Amelia Curran calls "perfect vocal harmonies, thick enough to stand on." Don't wait around on these tickets — their shows sell out quickly!

## April 27: The Moth Project

The Moth Project is an original multimedia production from Ottawa-born GRAMMY-nominated musician Peter Kiesewalter (East Village Opera Company, Jane Siberry). Kiesewalter is joined by violinist Whitney La Grange in front of a large video screen for a set

of their own songs and covers, including works by Joni Mitchell, KISS, and J.S. Bach. Weaving music, pictures and words seamlessly together, the Moth Project explores the mythology behind moths and our modern ideas about them. Gorgeous imagery enhances and underscores the storytelling.

Interpretive naturalist Tobi Kiesewalter, of Murphy's Point Provincial Park, will open the evening with a brief talk on the beauty and diversity of moths. His talk features mostly his own photographs of live moths from eastern Ontario, revealing the beauty hiding in our own backyards.

All Folkus shows are still held at the Almonte Old Town Hall in the Ron Caron Auditorium. There's an accessible elevator you can reach from the side entrance. Doors open at 7PM this year, and showtime will be at 7:30. There will be t-shirts and music at the merch table, and beverages, salty snacks and cookies at the bar. We have a Square for payment, but cash is never a bad idea.

Season Passes will be available through our ticketing partner, Tickets Please, in early November (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) and single tickets will be available as of January 1.

Please check <folkusalmonte.com> for any last-minute updates! We are looking forward to seeing you at our shows.

## Gifts for Kids & Teenagers

Happy Hippo zombie bath bomb dust, Dandelion Foods.....	\$5.95
Kid's apron & chef hat set (Santa, elf or gingerbread), Foodsmiths.....	\$37.99
Unique and innovative building block and model kits, Spark Books.....	\$10-120
Jewellery and 3D art by Patricia Aslin, The Queen's Crafters.....	\$1 & up
Art collector bookmarks, proceeds to Art for Aid, Art for Aid.....	\$4.50





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# The Carleton Place Town Singers

By Danette Hanneman

Autumn is here, but before you know it the Carleton Place Town Singers will once again be ready to entertain you with the sounds of the Christmas season!

Our fall session began on September 5, and we are practising weekly to bring you a delightful concert led by our choir director Laurel Tye. Laurel is a well-known music director who has led numerous choirs and musicals, including countless Mississippi Mudds and Junior Mudds productions. We greatly appreciate the time and effort she gives to our choir — her smile and positive attitude are infectious.

We would like to welcome our new accompanist Ian Guenette. Ian hails from Carleton Place and has been playing piano since age 7. When he was 13, Ian discovered the pipe organ and started studying with the organist of Ottawa's Notre Dame Cathedral-Basilica, Jennifer Loveless. He is a graduate of McGill University, studying the pipe organ with Professor Hans-Ola Ericsson, a prominent and world-renowned Swedish organist. Ian is the director of music and organist at St. James Anglican Church in Carleton Place. He was the accompanist for the Arnprior Community Choir for five years before joining the Carleton Place Town Singers. Ian has also accompanied numerous shows for the Mississippi Mudds of Carleton Place, including the very successful *Sound of Music* production this past spring. We are blessed to have him join our singing group.



Town Singers musical director Laurel Tye with accompanist Ian Guenette

The Town Singers are a 4-part non-auditioning choir that began in 2007. We have 67 members, and we welcome you to come out and join us in our spring session in 2024. Our "Christmas Dreams" concerts are scheduled for Sunday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 12 at 7PM at All Nations Church, located at 39 Bridge Street in Carleton Place. Tickets are \$15 each, with free admission for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased from our choir members, the Granary in Carleton Place, or from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). We can't wait to entertain you!

# A New Lifestyle Planning Option

By Karen Bradley

While retirement may mean the end of a career for some, to me this simply meant more time to devote to starting a new one focused on my passion for helping people struggling with transitions in their lives. I was young when my father passed away, and I watched my mother's daily struggles to figure out how to manage her finances and learn the skills she needed to carry on. This impacted me so greatly that it not only fueled my desire to understand how to manage finances and work in the financial industry, but it also ignited a flame in me to start my own business helping others who, like my mother, may be going through similar experiences.

With 35 years of experience as an Investment Advisor Assistant, I also bring strong

organizational skills and compassion to understand the unique challenges that come with life transitions. Whether it's the death of a loved one, downsizing or moving, I can assist people when they don't have all the know-how, time or resiliency to tackle it themselves. My mission is to help establish a sense of clarity, stability and hope for those experiencing such challenges.

When a loved one passes away or suffers ailing health issues, it's entirely normal to struggle with this new reality of feeling helpless and alone, where you find yourself asking what do I do now? How do I pay the bills, settle the estate or get organized in such a way that allows me to sustain myself?

Consider me and my services your peace of mind, through the entire process for as long as it takes for you to build the confidence to continue on your own.

Bradley Lifestyle Planning isn't just about investment reconciliation. It's about taking on the challenges that exist with transitions in everyday life, especially as we age, and making them easier to get through in a clear, purposeful and methodical way that doesn't add to the existing stress that comes along with those challenges. As a single parent who's lost loved ones, executed their wills, downsized and moved myself as well as many others, I know all too well how difficult it is, let alone to do it alone.

Please visit <bradleyplanning.ca> for a list of my services and testimonials, or contact me at <karen@bradleyplanning.ca>. I would be happy to give you a free consultation, and am looking forward to hearing from you.



Karen Bradley assists with the challenges that come with major life transitions

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# Summer at Pine Lake

For every debut author there comes a special day — the day their box of books arrives by courier. There's truly no other feeling like it, and first-time author Alyssa Delle Palme recently got to enjoy that delightful experience.

by John Pigeau

"My publisher, Evernight Teen, is an e-book publisher first. So when my book was released, I was able to see it on my Kindle first, and I thought that was the most exciting thing ever. But nothing compared to the day I received a box of paperback copies on my doorstep," she says. "I remember picking up a copy, seeing the beautiful cover and smelling the freshly printed pages. It's a day I'll never forget."

Delle Palme's book is a young adult coming-of-age story called *Summer at Pine Lake*. Another day she'll never forget is when she got to see her book advertised on a huge-screen billboard in New York City's famous Times Square.

"One of the benefits of being a traditionally published author is that there is a budget for marketing," she explains. "There is a great company in New York City that offers a financially feasible advertising package for smaller publishers, authors and businesses, which places their products and services on a massive billboard in Times Square."

"As soon as I found out the ad was confirmed, I booked a flight to New York City because I had to see it for myself! It was a dream come true to be surrounded by a sea of people in the heart of Times Square, and to see *Summer at Pine Lake* in lights!"

If the name Alyssa Delle Palme sounds familiar to you, it just might be because she is a former Ottawa radio host and on-air sports and entertainment commentator.

As with many first-time novelists, the narrative for *Summer at Pine Lake* had been with Delle Palme for quite some time.

"*Summer at Pine Lake* is a story that has been in my heart for years, but it wasn't until the pandemic hit that I finally decided to write it," she says. "My non-profit nature school, Wild Roots, had closed due to the lockdowns, and writing allowed me to escape the heaviness of the pandemic. It brought me a lot of joy during a dark and stressful time. The most challenging part was getting up at 4:30AM to write. I have three children, and the only time I can write is early in the morning."

*Summer at Pine Lake* tells the story of one complicated, topsy-turvy summer in the life of 18-year-old Sarah Williams. She's just graduated from high school, and her beloved grandmother has died. Grieving, Sarah heads off for the summer with her mother and sister to their grandma's cozy cottage. To complicate matters, Sarah has long been in love with Scott Roberts, her long-time summer neighbour on Pine Lake. They have a history of summers together, but she's tired of waiting for him to come around, frankly, so when she meets a gorgeous Swiss exchange student, she boldly pursues him. Later that summer, though, Sarah's family is rocked by a scandalous secret — and then tragedy strikes unexpectedly, and her entire world is in a tailspin.

That's all made-up stuff, Delle Palme says, but a few kernels of it may be true.

"*Summer at Pine Lake* is a fictional story, but I did draw on real-life experiences. The story isn't a mirror image of my life, but I

do write what I know. Just like the heroine, Sarah, I grew up going to my grandmother's cottage every summer. My grandmother and I had a very close relationship. She has passed away and I miss her very much."

Delle Palme's family has a cottage on Pike Lake in Stanleyville, and she says she's spent every summer of her life there. No longer a radio personality, she works as a Forest Therapy Guide at the Wild Roots Nature and Forest School in Ottawa. No stranger to the joys of nature, she believes most people enjoy a good cottage yarn.

"I think people are drawn to summer stories because in the digital age, we're all craving down-time where we have the opportunity to let our imaginations wander," she says. "Stories with a strong sense of place that remind us about those nostalgic lazy days of summer are the perfect escape."

Judging by readers' reviews on Goodreads and Amazon, *Summer at Pine Lake* is a hit. There are some not-so-flattering comments in several reviews, of course — there always are — but Delle Palme is taking those with a grain of salt.

"I'm thrilled with the overwhelming positive reviews of *Summer at Pine Lake*," she says, but is quick to add, "It did sting when I saw my first negative rating. It's all a learning experience, though. I will take constructive feedback from my readers into consideration when I'm writing my next book."

The book has yet to have an official launch, but when that announcement comes you can read about it by following Alyssa Delle Palme online, she says, or by signing up for her newsletter at [alysadellepalme.com](http://alysadellepalme.com).

If you're looking for a holiday gift (it's never too soon) for the teen reader in your



Author Alyssa Delle Palme in front of a billboard promoting her book in Times Square

life, *Summer at Pine Lake* is available now at The Book Nook and at Sparks books & curios in Perth, White Pine Books in Arnprior, and at Books on Beachwood in Ottawa. Delle Palme says it will be available in more local bookstores soon.

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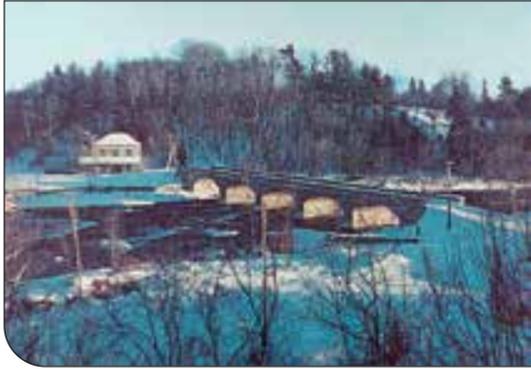
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# Pakenham's Holiday Hop

Join us in Pakenham for the second annual Holiday Hop — a family-friendly day of crafts, gifts and one-of-a-kind shopping. Pakenham is a picturesque spot and a community full of amazing makers, creators and leaders. Holiday Hop is a fun way to explore the talent this hamlet holds!

On Saturday, November 25 there will be so much to see and do, including Letters to Santa with Letter Love at 3 Apples Bakery. Learn to make your own



wax seal with Rhemy and Lila before officially sending your letter off to Santa.

Trundle over to Nicholson's for some festive face painting and take a "sweet" holiday family photo within Erin Carmichael's Photo Op located on the main street. Don't forget to stock up on your reindeer food at 5 Span Feed and Seed — you can learn to make it yourself at their workshop!

Hop over to 1840s General Store & Bakery to meet The Feathered Nest and shop her beautiful and lovingly handmade pieces for baby including hats, bibs and so much more.

Visit Keepers Coffee Bar to explore their selection of handmade curated gift boxes. Keepers is also hosting Emerald & Rust's local farmstand, stocked with beautiful, moody photography and homegrown items. And for a sweet treat, step inside and learn about local cidery Farmgate Cider. Warm yummy samples will be available to take with you when you visit 5 Span Strong Kids at Fred Millar Field from 1–4PM.

Kick off your holiday season with merriment and connection — Come on Over to Pakenham!

## Designing for Life

### An Evening with Paddy Mann

Popular wisdom dictates that if you want to establish an internationally recognized business you must locate yourself in a large urban centre. Paddy Mann is not one to buy into "popular wisdom", and there were plenty of skeptics who questioned her decision to nestle her clothing design business not in the garment district of New York or Toronto, but in the rural village of Pakenham, a place that felt like home.

In her 45 years as a businesswoman, a designer and a committed community member both globally and here at home, Paddy Mann has gained recognition, a diverse and widespread clientele, and a profoundly philosophical understanding of what each of those roles requires. Whether she verbalizes this or not, you come away from a conversation with Paddy knowing that this is a person living a life totally in alignment with her values, the values that also lie at the core of her success.

Learning Again in Almonte is delighted to be hosting an evening called Designing for Life with this local treasure. A born storyteller, Paddy will entertain and inspire you with an inspiring discussion of what it means to run a successful business in a rural village, what it takes to create sustainability in the fashion industry, why we wear what we wear, and how she redefines fashion for



Clothing designer Paddy Mann will give a lecture at the Almonte Library on November 24

each and every customer by listening to who they are and how they want to be perceived. Although these seem like diverse issues, it is more than evident that a respect for and delight in people, community and our environment are the common threads woven through every aspect of Paddy's life.

This lecture takes place on Friday, November 24 from 7–9PM at the Almonte Library. Admission is by donation at the door, but registration is required at <a href="http://learningagainalmonte.ca">learningagainalmonte.ca</a>.



## Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show

By Ludwig Ratzinger

Perth's Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show is back for 2023, and this year it's our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Come celebrate with us and find the perfect Christmas gift for all your special people on Saturday, December 2, from 10AM to 3:30PM in Perth's Crystal Palace, located downtown right beside the Tay Basin.

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

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

Mark December 2 on your calendar and plan to visit the 2023 Nick of Time Christmas Craft Show. Be sure to enter our free draw for a basket of fine gift items donated by participating artisans. Admission is free, and more information can be found at <a href="https://www.instagram.com/nick\_of\_time\_perth">instagram.com/nick\_of\_time\_perth</a>.

### Gifts for \$25 & Under

- Batik cosmetic bag/treasure keeper with 3 zippered sections, Fine Batiks.....\$20
- Pewter Christmas ornaments from Nova Scotia, Mariposa Design..... \$11.95 & 12.95
- Journals, pens, calendars, card decks, puzzles & games, Mill Street Books.....\$5-25
- Blank cards from Retta Rive Designs, MVTM Gift Shop.....\$4.85





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# The Joint Holiday Party

## Small Businesses, Big Celebrations

The holiday season is fast approaching, and with it comes the task of planning and hosting the memorable company party your team deserves. If this is a task that daunts rather than excites you as a small business owner, consider participating in a joint holiday party.

Joint parties offer several advantages.

The festive atmosphere offers the perfect environment for networking. Your team will enjoy dining together at private company tables, while also having the opportunity to meet others and exchange business cards during the cocktail hour or post-dinner mingling.

For those short on the time or resources it takes to plan the perfect celebration, joint parties provide a hands-off approach to planning. The timeline, location, theme, menu, décor set up and tear down, entertainment and bar are all taken care of for you, leaving you with a shorter list of To Dos and decisions to make. Simply purchase your tickets and relax in the knowledge that you and your employees will be tended to all evening by a team of professionals.

Joint parties also allow smaller companies to partake in events hosted in private venues that would typically require larger groups to open their

doors. The fixed venue costs are shared amongst more businesses, allowing you to elevate the level of experience your hard-working team members can receive this Christmas.

If this sounds like your ideal holiday party, consider participating in Stonefields Estate's first annual Small Business Christmas Party. On Friday November 24, Stonefields is opening its doors for an unforgettable evening of holiday cheer and camaraderie.

This event is a perfect opportunity for your team to bond and celebrate your collective achievements from the past year. Businesses can purchase tickets for their employees and reserve one or several tables for the evening. Each \$125 ticket includes:

- A delectable 4-course dinner with guest's choice main course and dessert, crafted by Stonefields' talented executive chef featuring locally sourced ingredients
- The enchanting ambiance of the Loft which will be beautifully adorned with Christmas decorations, creating the perfect backdrop for photos and memories
- Festive musical entertainment by the Dougherty Sisters
- Professionally tended cash bar, offering a selection of beverages to toast to the season and raise a glass with your colleagues.



Photo by Union Eleven

Stonefields Estate near Carleton Place is hosting a joint party for small businesses on November 24

"Christmas is my absolute favourite time of year, and I am so excited to share the magic of the holiday on the estate with local small businesses," enthuses co-owner Stephanie Brown-Malenfant. "Our goal with this party is to give companies that are not large enough to rent our entire space an opportunity to treat their hardworking team to an elevated holiday celebration."

Visit Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434) to view the event menu and to secure your tickets and give your employees the gift of a memorable night out. Spaces are limited, so book early to secure your spot.

Those looking for a personalized event are welcome to contact the Stonefields team directly, who would be happy to discuss hosting a customized private event. Find details at <stonefieldsweddings.com>.

### Gifts To Lift the Spirits

Two tickets to Almonte in Concert, Almonte in Concert.....	\$88
Ribbon-wrapped set of 8 notecards with accompanying stories, Art for Aid.....	\$25
Vodkow Seasonal Flavours collection, Dairy Distillery.....	\$98
1-hour Soundbath, dOMe Retreat.....	\$65
Kathy is always ready to tell you the latest funny story, 8008 Lingerie.....	Priceless!
Series pass to 4 concerts, Folkus Concert Series.....	\$110
"Crossroads" by artist Marina Raike, Sivarulrasa Gallery.....	\$310
Essential oil diffusers for every space, The Granary.....	\$50-75

# It Had to Be You

## Valley Players Almonte Return to the Stage in December

By Juli Heney

They say opposites attract, but few couples are more opposite on the stage than Theda and Vito in *It Had to Be You*. This play is a romp, running from one seemingly unconnected event to another even more outrageously unconnected event until you realize that everything is completely and fundamentally interconnected. Wonderfully funny and relentlessly honest, this play and its two characters are utterly engaging. It runs along at breakneck speed, by turns laugh-out-loud funny and then heart-wrenching — the story of two people who are strongly independent and both committed to their own truths, foibles and follies.

Directed by creative genius Greg Hancock, this delightful two-hander romantic comedy was written by the husband and wife team of Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna. It tells of Theda Blau, a failed actress, health food nut and would-be playwright who wants to find love and success in New York. She is as flaky as they come and at the end of her rope. In comes Vito Pignoli, a macho but kind-hearted producer of television commercials who makes the mistake of sharing a cab with her on a snowy Christmas eve after an audition where they met. She holds him hostage in her apartment and somehow manages to convince him to become her partner both on and off the stage.

Valley Players Almonte are ecstatic to have our new season's inaugural play being directed by Hancock, who has directed productions in theatres stretching from Toronto to Yellowknife. "It is the characters that drew me to *It Had to Be You*," explains Hancock. "They are both such strong, contrary characters, who in some ways are completely honest with themselves and in others have been fooling themselves for years. Their journeys, together and separately, are strewn with pitfalls and pratfalls. Discovering who these people are, bringing them to life with really talented actors, is both a challenge and a real joy. It will be incredibly interesting to me to see which of the characters individual members of

the audience will identify with most: the successful, empathetic and solidly single Vito, or the quirky, unpredictable and unsinkable Theda?"

"In the end," continues Hancock, "the play is about balance, about finding what you didn't even realize you were missing, and in that, finding that balancing your own strengths with those of a very special other can lead to a place that is utterly, unexpectedly fulfilling."

The ineffable Sarah Edwards plays Theda, and is returning to her great love, acting, after a Covid-induced soul search. No stranger to the stage, she played Rosemary Muldoon in Kanata Theatre's *Outside Mullingar* in 2021 and has taken part in their 10-Minute Plays program in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Most recently she played Florence Foster Jenkins in *Glorious: The True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins*. Sarah sees Theda as a true free spirit who lives on her own terms. "No matter how many times life knocks her down, Theda gets up and keeps fighting, but she does it her way. Despite her difficult life, she retains compassion, her optimism and her authenticity."

Playing opposite her is the incomparable Jarrod Chambers as Vito. Jarrod has been on various stages for more than 30 years, including performances with Oshawa Little Theatre's *Touch and Go* and *Old Love*, Kanata Theatre's *Sleuth*, the Domino Theatre in Kingston, Queen's University Musical Theatre and the Phoenix Players. Most recently, he acted in and produced *An Act of Grace*, which won several awards at the Eastern Ontario Drama League One Act Play Festival in 2018, including Best Production and Outstanding Ensemble Cast. Jarrod is excited to return to the stage in *It Had to Be You* after a long pandemic-sponsored hiatus. "Acting in a two-person play is challenging and a bit terrifying, but well worth it for a script as funny as this one and a character like Vito who is put through hell in the best possible way."

Supporting this troupe as stage manager is none other than Val Bogan. Val has been working in



Valley Players Almonte are presenting *It Had to Be You* from December 7-10

theatre in Ottawa for 36 years mostly as a stage manager and director, and is very excited to be working with such an amazing group of folks. *It Had to Be You* remains her favourite play. "I did this play in dinner theatre in the 90s. Working with the amazing cast of Abby Hagyard and Al Baldwin just kept me in stitches all the time. That is why I am so happy to be bringing it back to stage for the Valley Players. Under the Direction of Greg Hancock and with Sarah Edwards and Jarrod Chambers in these roles, I know it will be a great hit with the Almonte crowd." She also happens to be the Vice President of Valley Players Almonte, and thanks the people of Almonte for their support of local community theatre.

*It Had to Be You* is the first offering of the newly relaunched Valley Players Almonte, and what a wonderful way to kick things off! It runs from December 7-10 on the Old Almonte Town Hall stage, and tickets can be purchased from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434). This play is a favourite amongst actors and audiences alike and is sure to please theatre goers of all ages.

For more information about Valley Players Almonte, please visit <ValleyPlayers.ca>.

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# Elevating Polymer Clay to Fine Craft

## Heirloom Holiday Workshops at Stone Manor Studios

Maria Saracino, a master of polymer clay artistry, is renowned for her ability to transform this versatile medium into exquisite, award-winning sculptures. With over 30 years of sculpting and teaching experience, Maria is an ambassador for polymer clay. She shares her craft through in-person and online workshops, making art accessible to enthusiasts worldwide.

Maria's teaching philosophy centres on nurturing artistic abilities and breaking down complex techniques into manageable steps, guaranteeing success for her students. Her dedication to sharing artistic techniques, tips and tricks resonates with learners around the globe, offering them a unique entry into the captivating world of polymer art.

With an impressive array of credentials, Maria's expertise is widely sought after. She currently serves as the President of the National Capital Network of Sculptors, boasts numerous awards from local and international art competitions, and has graced museums and art exhibitions across North America. Maria's instructional talent extends to her roles at the International Art Connection Summit and the Philadelphia Doll and Teddy Bear Conference.

With the holiday season approaching, Stone Manor Studios invites you to immerse yourself in the magic of tradition and creativity with two of Maria Saracino's in-person workshops: "Mr. & Mrs!" on



Polymer clay artist Maria Saracino will be giving two workshops at Stone Manor Studios in November

But the artistic journey doesn't end there! Stone Manor Studios is also hosting Maria's two-day workshop "My Little Elves." In this immersive experience, Maria shares her step-by-step process for crafting a poseable 12-14" elf brimming with personality. No prior experience is required, as Maria's expert guidance will take attendees through every step, from building a body armature to sculpting an elf's face, head, hands and feet, all the way to costuming and accessorizing.

All materials, tools and a bag of bespoke embellishments are supplied to support your ongoing artistic endeavours. The workshop content is also available in a digital format, featuring PDF files and video clips for future reference, which Maria will provide to all participants.

The first day of "My Little Elves" focuses on sculpting and armature creation, while the second day delves into the world of costum-

ing and accessorizing. Maria offers recycled real and synthetic furs for costumes and shares valuable sewing tips and techniques, catering to both experienced sewers and novices. As a delightful bonus, a basket of accessories is supplied for participants, ensuring that each elf crafted is truly one-of-a-kind.

Enhance your experience by staying at the Newboro B&B, partnering with Stone Manor Studios for this special event at a special rate. Immerse yourself in the full experience of this retreat and indulge yourself in the world of creativity in the charming Rideau Lakes.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to be a part of Maria Saracino's extraordinary workshops at Stone Manor Studios. Elevate your holiday celebrations with handcrafted heirloom Mr. & Mrs. Claus ornaments and endearing Little Elves that will become cherished family heirlooms for generations. Create, connect, and slow down the holiday rush for a creative journey guided by a master artist who has dedicated her career to elevating polymer clay to the status of fine art.

For more information and registration, visit Stone Manor Studios at <stonemanorstudios.ca> or contact Kim, Owner & Creative Director, at 851-2536.

November 10, and "My Little Elf Retreat" on November 18 and 19 — a two-day, immersive workshop.

Under Maria's expert guidance, attendees will embark on a creative journey, delving into the intricate world of working with polymer clay. In "Mr. & Mrs!", participants have the unique opportunity to sculpt the faces of our favourite holiday couple — Mr. & Mrs. Claus, adorned with vintage-inspired hourglass wooden spools and finials.

What sets Maria's teaching apart is her commitment to fostering creativity and a genuine love for the craft. Participants won't just leave with two handcrafted heirloom holiday ornaments; they'll also acquire the knowledge and supplies to continue creating independently. Maria ensures that every attendee receives the tools, supplies, and PDF files, along with a comprehensive resource guide.

Mark your calendars for Friday, November 10 from 1-4:30PM, and join us at the charming Stone Manor Studios. The enchanting holiday ambiance, complete with seasonal refreshments, farm-to-table delectables and upscale service is all part of the Stone Manor Studios experience.

### Gifts for Funky People

- Bamboo PJ's, lounge wear and cute outfit to wear out, 8008 Lingerie..... \$80-120
- Canada 25 cent "Shinplaster" banknote, 1923, Alliance Coin & Banknote... \$10 & up
- Vinyl records, Almonte Antiques & Collectibles..... \$5-25
- Series pass to 4 concerts, Folkus Concert Series..... \$110
- Joseph Ribkoff reversible jacket in silver or black, Frangipani..... \$329.99
- Abstract paintings by Jennifer Noxon, Susan Ukkola, General Fine Craft... \$325-1100
- Sterling silver and gold sweater brooch, Kehla Jewellery Design..... \$835
- "Liar (maquette)" by artist Jim Hake, Sivarulrasa Gallery..... \$220
- A variety of fun socks, The Book Nook..... \$10 & up

### Gifts for Lovers of Sweet Treats

- Salted caramels (soft caramels in dark chocolate), Hummingbird Chocolate... \$21.99
- "Just Chocolates", Ottawa Valley Gift Baskets..... \$80.95



# Remembrance Day Ceremony in CP

The annual November 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Ceremony has played a major role in Canada since 1931. Every year, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, Canadians gather in memorial parks, churches, community halls, workplaces, schools and homes to stand in honour of all who have fallen.

Continuing with this tradition, members of the Carleton Place Legion Captain A. Roy Brown Branch #192 are planning this year's parade and Cenotaph Ceremony.

The parade will form up on Mill Street at Bridge Street beside the Town Hall at 10:15AM and march off at 10:30AM. It will be led by Parade Commander Peter Schaffer, Immediate Past President of the local Legion Branch. The parade will march from Mill Street along Bridge Street to Franklin Street and onto Veterans Way in front of the Cenotaph. The Cenotaph Ceremony will begin in Veterans Memorial Park at 10:50AM.

For the first time in a long time, there will be a Pipe Band included in the parade this year. The band will be the MacEoin-Ramsay Pipe Band, led by their Pipe Major Kris Bawden. Another great addition this year will be a fly past — this is the first time in years that there has been a military fly past as part of the Carleton Place ceremony.

Arrangements have been made and approved through the 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron

The local Captain A. Roy Brown Branch 192 Legion Colour Party, led by the Branch Sgt-At-Arms Joel Jordan, will participate in the parade and Ceremony along with a contingent of military personnel from Base Petawawa, as well as veterans and other organi-



zations. The local Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps #211 Lanark and the Navy League Cadet Corps #181 Carlplace will also be participating.

The Carleton Place and District Community Band will also participate, with band member Mike Peckett playing Last Post and Rouse. The lament will be played by the Pipe Major of the MacEoin-Ramsay Pipe Band.

The RCSCC #211 Lanark will be holding an all-night vigil at the Cenotaph beginning at 7PM on November 10 through to sunrise on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Residents are encouraged to visit the Cenotaph to show their support of these young cadets. The cadets will also provide a sentry at the Cenotaph during the Ceremony. Two cadets, one from the Navy League Cadet Corps #181 Carlplace and one from the RCSCC #211 Lanark will also lower and raise the Cenotaph flags during the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Details about road closures can be found at <carletonplace.ca>.

The Royal Canadian Legion encourages all Canadians to wear a Poppy and observe a moment of silence on November 11, to mark the sacrifices of the many who have fallen in the service of their country, and to acknowledge the courage and dedication of those who have served and those who continue to serve.

Poppies may be worn throughout the Remembrance period, including in the evening after Remembrance Day Ceremony. Some choose to remove their Poppy at the end of the day on November 11. Some choose to remove their Poppy at the conclusion of the Ceremony and place their Poppy on the Cenotaph or on a wreath as a sign of respect. This has become a poignant tradition each year at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa as thousands of Poppies are placed on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We also follow this tradition here at our Cenotaph in Carleton Place by having Poppies placed in a box located in front of the Cenotaph following the Ceremony.

We will Remember them!

## Musical Matters

### Concert for the Canadian Veteran Service Dog Unit

On November 12 at 3PM, Musical Matters will present a concert called *We'll Meet Again* with proceeds going to the Canadian Veteran Service Dog Unit. The concert will be held at St. Andrews Church, located at 1 Drummond Street in Perth. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

The program will include songs such as *If I Didn't Care* by The Inkpots, *Lili Marlene* by Marlene Dietrich, *Chattanooga Choo Choo* by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, *Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree* by The Andrew Sisters, *Mairzy Doats* by The Pied Pipers, *I'll Be Seeing You* by Jo Stafford, *We'll Meet Again* by

Vera Lynn and many more! Recorded between 1939 and 1945, these songs helped to boost the morale of service men and women and civilians throughout the Second World War. Information about the war is incorporated into the concert to chronicle these extraordinarily difficult times.

The Canadian Veteran Service Dog Unit trains and provides service dogs to support military and first responder veterans living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Operational Stress Injury. Representatives will be on hand at the concert to share information about this important work.

## Sing We Now of Christmas

By Becky Schweizer

The skies are darkening and the winds are cooling, but we have the answer to the early winter blues! Come celebrate the beginning of the holiday season on December 10 with the Valley Voices, Almonte's community choir, at our concert "Sing We Now of Christmas".

Valley Voices are a new choir with a long history. After our fall auditions we have been working hard with our new accompanist to put together a great Christmas

concert and are very proud of ourselves. It promises to be an evening full of music, laughs and merriment.

"Sing We Now of Christmas" takes place on Sunday, December 10 at 7PM at the Almonte United Church, located at 106 Elgin Street. Tickets are \$15 and are available from Baker Bob's, your favourite choir member, or at the door.

For more information, please email us at <valleyvoicesofalmonte@gmail.com> or follow us on Facebook where we are ValleyVoicesofAlmonte.

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Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 10AM–3PM  
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More Information: 613-435-8929



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- Indigenous-designed blankets and shawls by Mini Tipi, Bittersweet.....\$75-250
- Le Comptoir Aroma hanging pebbles, 3-pack, Foodsmiths.....\$16.99
- Gift cards!, Good Food Co.....various
- 100% cotton throw quilts, Mariposa Design.....\$69.95
- Gift certificate for sauna & soaking tub session for 2, Meristem Massage Therapy... \$75
- Excellent curated new and second hand books, Spark Books & Curios.....various
- Luxe Aran wool/cashmere throw by IrelandsEye, ThreadWork.....\$179

### Gifts for Faraway Friends

- 2023 "O'Canada" coin gift set, Alliance Coin & Banknote.....\$21.95
- Christmas tree ornaments, Dragonfly Boutique.....\$11 & up
- Sumptuous, soft silk Batik scarves, Fine Batiks.....\$50 & up
- Gift cards, personal wrapping and shipping services, Mill Street Books.....various
- Delightful Christmas ornaments, Ramsay Creek.....\$3.99 & up
- Pop-up life-size bouquet in a mailing envelope, Spark Books & Curios.....\$18-22





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*It Had to Be You*, Almonte, Dec 7-10  
 Living Stones Christmas Open Studio, Lanark, Dec 9  
 Sing We Now of Christmas, Almonte, Dec 10  
 Town Singers Concert, Carleton Place, Dec 10 & 12  
 Christmas Market, Smiths Falls, Dec 15-16  
 Ava-Lunch, A Snowfall Fable, Almonte, Dec 17

## 2024

Almonte in Concert, Jan 14  
 Tom Wilson, Almonte, Jan 27  
 SRO Big Band Dance, Almonte, Jan 28  
 Nathan Sloniowski, Almonte, Feb 24  
 SRO Big Band Dance, Almonte, Mar 3  
 Almonte in Concert, Mar 9  
 The Once, Almonte, Mar 23  
 Almonte in Concert, Apr 13  
 The Moth Project, Almonte, Apr 27  
 SRO Big Band Dance, Almonte, Apr 28

## Festivals

**Light Up The Night**, Dec 1, 7PM. Free outdoor Christmas concert in downtown Almonte. Santa & fireworks. [lightupthenightalmonte.com](http://lightupthenightalmonte.com)  
**Pakenham Santa Claus Parade**, Dec 2, 1PM. Hot chocolate & hot dogs after at Stewart Com Centre. Free. [mississippimills.ca](http://mississippimills.ca)  
**Almonte Christmas Night Parade**, Dec 3, 5PM. Follow the parade back to the arena for hotdogs & hot choc & free skate! Free

## Literature

**An Evening with Charlotte Gray**, Nov 2, 6:30PM. *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons*. White Pine Books, Arnprior. \$10 at the door. [whitepinebooks.ca](http://whitepinebooks.ca)  
**Pride & Persistence**, Nov 4, 3:30PM. Stories of Queer Activism with author Mary Fairhurst Breen. White Pine Books, Arnprior. Free. [whitepinebooks.ca](http://whitepinebooks.ca)  
**Midnight Shopping and Book Launch**, Nov 6, 10:30PM. Launch of *Iron Flame* and new edition of *Fourth Wing*. Mill Street Books, Almonte. [millstreetbooks.com](http://millstreetbooks.com)  
**An Evening with Lesley Choyce**, Nov 15, 6:30PM. *The Untimely Resurrection of John Alexander MacNeil*. Mill Street Books, Almonte. Free. [millstreetbooks.com](http://millstreetbooks.com)  
**An Evening with Brett Popplewell**, Nov 27, 7PM. Author of *Outsider*. Almonte Library. Free, register at [millstreetbooks.com](http://millstreetbooks.com).

## Local Food

**Dairy Distillery Tours**, Nov 1, 2-8PM (experience booths, new Vodcow product, bites, giveaways, live music; free); Nov 4, 11AM-7PM (cocktails on tap, buy the 3 seasonal flavours for a discount; \$5). Dairy Distillery, Almonte. [vodcow.com/collections/tours](http://vodcow.com/collections/tours)  
**Almonte Farmers' Harvest Market**, Nov 18, 9AM-1PM. Organic produce, baking, preserves, gifts. John Levi Community Centre, Almonte. [almontefarmersmarket.com](http://almontefarmersmarket.com)  
**Perth Christmas Farmers' Market**, Nov 18, 10AM-3PM. Art, produce, food & crafts vendors for the holidays. Crystal Palace, Perth. [facebook.com/PerthFarmersMarket](http://facebook.com/PerthFarmersMarket)

## Visual Arts

**Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show**, Nov 4-5, 10AM-4PM. Artisans, crafters & bakers. John Levi Community Centre, Almonte. [valleyartisanshow.blogspot.ca](http://valleyartisanshow.blogspot.ca)  
**Merrickville Makers Christmas Market**, Nov 4-5, 10AM-4PM. Free, 30 unique vendors each day. Merrickville Community Centre. [merrickvillmakersmarkets.ca](http://merrickvillmakersmarkets.ca)  
**\$200 and Under Sale**, Nov 4 (10AM-5PM), Nov 5 (10AM-4PM). Original artwork by club members. Kanata Art Club. [kac1.ca](http://kac1.ca)  
**Stone Manor Studios Workshops**, in Newboro. Details and registration at [stonemanorstudios.ca](http://stonemanorstudios.ca)  
 Nov 10 "Mr. & Mrs." polymer clay  
 Nov 12 Painted holiday cards  
 Nov 16 Holiday watercolours  
 Dec 1 Gnome for the Holidays

# WHAT'S ON IN

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p><b>General Fine Craft</b> presents new works by Diana Jackson (ceramic sculpture), Paulus Tjiang (blown glass) and Diane Lemire (silk scarves) &lt;<a href="http://generalfinecraft.com">generalfinecraft.com</a>&gt;  <b>Mississippi Valley Textile Museum</b> presents Carl Stewart's "clò mòr" [to Dec. 23] &lt;<a href="http://mvtm.ca">mvtm.ca</a>&gt;  <b>Sivarulasa Gallery</b> presents <i>Dale Dunning: Divination; Greta Grip and Lee Jones: It Gives Me the Feels; Wendy Robertson: Under Pressure</i> [from Nov. 10] &lt;<a href="http://sivarulasa.com">sivarulasa.com</a>&gt;  <b>Guatemala Stove Project</b> online auction [Nov 1-6], &lt;<a href="http://32auctions.com/GSP2023">32auctions.com/GSP2023</a>&gt;  <b>Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum Annual Art Show</b> [from Nov. 12]</p>	<p><b>Free Dairy Distillery Tours</b>, Almonte  <b>Trivia Night</b>, Bowie's  <b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Almonte  <b>Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine</b>, Waterfront Gastropub  <b>Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove  <b>CP Horticultural Society Meeting</b>, Carleton Place</p>	<p><b>Clue</b>, Carleton Place  <b>Christine Graves</b>, The Cove  <b>An Evening with Charlotte Gray</b>, Arnprior  <b>Big Brothers Big Sisters 50th Anniversary Gala</b>, Carleton Place  <b>Somerset Combo</b>, Perth  <b>Open Stage</b>, Bowie's  <b>Cashmen Ford</b>, Waterfront Gastropub  <b>Perth Duplicate Bridge</b>, Perth</p>	
<p><b>Midnight Shopping and Book Launch</b>, Almonte  <b>Jon McLurg</b>, The Cove  <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</p>	<p><b>Nolan Hubbard</b>, The Cove  <b>Auditions: Sleuth</b>, Perth  <b>Music Trivia</b>, Almonte  <b>SF Bridge Club</b>, Smiths Falls  <b>Ashton Community Outreach Breakfast</b>, Ashton</p>	<p><b>Trivia Night</b>, Bowie's  <b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Almonte  <b>Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine</b>, Waterfront Gastropub  <b>Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove</p>	<p><b>Auditions: Sleuth</b>, Perth  <b>Open Stage</b>, Bowie's  <b>Cashmen Ford</b>, Waterfront Gastropub  <b>Perth Duplicate Bridge</b>, Perth  <b>Somerset Combo</b>, Perth  <b>Dennis Bouwmann</b>, The Cove  <b>Carleton Place Toastmasters Club</b>  <b>Pranxtrs with Marc Giroux</b>, Sharbot Lake</p>
<p><b>Jon McLurg</b>, The Cove  <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</p>	<p><b>The Viewing Room</b>, Woodlawn  <b>Curious About Cannabis?</b>, Bolingbroke  <b>SF Bridge Club</b>, Smiths Falls  <b>Music Trivia</b>, Almonte  <b>Retro Kings</b>, The Cove</p>	<p><b>The Viewing Room</b>, Woodlawn  <b>An Evening with Lesley Choyce</b>, Almonte  <b>Trivia Night</b>, Bowie's  <b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Almonte  <b>Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine</b>, Waterfront Gastropub  <b>Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove</p>	<p><b>The Viewing Room</b>, Woodlawn  <b>Almonte Winter Street Market</b>, Almonte  <b>Meghan Balogh &amp; Martin Smit</b>, The Cove  <b>Merry &amp; Bright Shopping Event</b>, Perth  <b>Matilda</b>, Perth  <b>Open Stage</b>, Bowie's  <b>Cashmen Ford</b>, Waterfront Gastropub  <b>Perth Duplicate Bridge</b>, Perth  <b>Somerset Combo</b>, Perth  <b>Holiday watercolours workshop</b>, Newboro</p>
<p><b>Jon McLurg</b>, The Cove  <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge  <b>CFUW Perth Poverty Report</b>, Perth  <b>Perth Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting</b>, Perth  <b>Almonte Quilters Guild Meeting</b>, Almonte</p>	<p><b>SF Bridge Club</b>, Smiths Falls  <b>Ashton Community Outreach Breakfast</b>, Ashton  <b>Music Trivia</b>, Almonte  <b>Eric Uren</b>, The Cove</p>	<p><b>Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove  <b>Trivia Night</b>, Bowie's  <b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Almonte  <b>Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine</b>, Waterfront Gastropub</p>	<p><b>Jigsaws</b>, Merrickville  <b>Ethan Claymore's Christmas</b>, Perth  <b>Open Stage</b>, Bowie's  <b>Cashmen Ford</b>, Waterfront Gastropub  <b>Perth Duplicate Bridge</b>, Perth  <b>Somerset Combo</b>, Perth  <b>Carleton Place Toastmasters Club</b>  <b>Patrick Dorie &amp; Andrew Ivens</b>, The Cove</p>
<p><b>An Evening with Brett Popplewell</b>, Almonte  <b>CPKC Holiday Train</b>, Perth  <b>Jon McLurg</b>, The Cove  <b>Carp Celtic Jam</b>, Carp Masonic Lodge</p>	<p><b>Steve Stacey &amp; Pat Robillard</b>, The Cove  <b>Ukulele Club</b>, Tatlock  <b>Lanark County Camera Club Meeting</b>, Perth  <b>SF Bridge Club</b>, Smiths Falls  <b>Music Trivia</b>, Almonte</p>	<p><b>Wings 'n Tunes with Shawn McCullough</b>, The Cove  <b>Trivia Night</b>, Bowie's  <b>Duplicate Bridge</b>, Almonte  <b>Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine</b>, Waterfront Gastropub</p>	<p><b>Ethan Claymore's Christmas</b>, Perth  <b>Human Trafficking Presentation</b>, Almonte  <b>Open Stage</b>, Bowie's  <b>Cashmen Ford</b>, Waterfront Gastropub  <b>Perth Duplicate Bridge</b>, Perth  <b>Somerset Combo</b>, Perth  <b>Turpin's Trail</b>, Snow Road Station</p>

**Arnprior Art Loft Grand Opening**, Nov 12, 1-3PM. Meet the artists, view works, light refreshments. Arnprior Art Loft. Free. [arnpriorartloft@gmail.com](mailto:arnpriorartloft@gmail.com)  
**Ity Bitty Art & Artisan Show**, Nov 18-19, 10AM-4:30PM. Numerous artists, items priced \$200 or less. Masks requested. Carleton Place Arena. [artscarletonplace.com](http://artscarletonplace.com)  
**Meet the Artists**, Nov 18, 2-4PM. Meet artists Dale Dunning, Greta Grip, Lee Jones and Wendy Robertson. Sivarulasa Gallery, Almonte. [sivarulasa.com](http://sivarulasa.com)  
**Gift of Art Show & Sale**, Nov 18-19, 10AM-5PM. Works by some of Ottawa's finest artists, supports Hospice Care Ottawa. Kanata Civic Art Gallery. [kanatagallery.ca](http://kanatagallery.ca)  
**Almonte Quilters Guild Meeting**, Nov 20, 7PM. With speaker Monika Henry of Penny Spool Quilts. Almonte Civitan Hall. Guests \$5. [almontequiltersguild.ca](http://almontequiltersguild.ca)  
**Fine Batiks**, Nov 25-26, 11AM-4PM. Indonesian scarves, tablecloths, woodenware. Fine Batiks, Maberly. [finebatiks.ca](http://finebatiks.ca)  
**Lanark County Camera Club Meeting**, Nov 28, 7PM. Improve your photographic skills. Algonquin College, Perth. Free. [lccameraclub.com](http://lccameraclub.com)

## Theatre

**Clue**, Nov 3 (7:30PM), Nov 4 (2PM & 7:30PM). Carleton Place Town Hall. \$25 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434  
**EODL One Act Festival**, three plays each session: Nov 3 (7PM), Nov 4 (1PM & 7PM). Tickets and details at [TicketsPlease.ca](http://TicketsPlease.ca), 485-6434. Urbandale Arts Centre, Kemptville  
**Auditions: Sleuth**, Nov 7 & 9, 6:30PM. Two-hander, email [janebakerstott@gmail.com](mailto:janebakerstott@gmail.com) for details. Studio Theatre Perth. [studiotheatreperth.com](http://studiotheatreperth.com)  
**Jules**, Nov 10-11, 7PM. Film, rated PG. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. \$12. [smithsfallstheatre.com](http://smithsfallstheatre.com)  
**The Viewing Room**, Nov 14-17, 7:30PM; Nov 12 & 18, 2PM. \$20 from [TicketsPlease.ca](http://TicketsPlease.ca), 485-6434. Rural Root Theatre. The Northwind Centre, Woodlawn  
**Matilda**, Nov 16-18, 7PM & Nov 18-19, 2PM. Perth Community Choir's annual musical. Perth & District Collegiate Institute. [perthcommunitychoir.com](http://perthcommunitychoir.com)  
**Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers Musical**, Nov 17, 24, 25, 7:30PM & 18, 19, 26 at 2PM. History of Almonte's Rosamond Woollen Mill. Almonte Old Town Hall. Adults \$25; Youth \$15 from [TicketsPlease.ca](http://TicketsPlease.ca), 485-6434

**Jigsaws**, Nov 23-25, 7:30PM & Nov 26, 2PM. A play about the nuanced relations between mothers, daughters and sisters. \$20 from [merrickvilletheatre.org](http://merrickvilletheatre.org) or at the door. Merrickville Community Centre  
**Ethan Claymore's Christmas**, Nov 23-25 & Nov 30-Dec 2, 7:30PM; Nov 26 & Dec 3, 2PM. It's love and mayhem for the holidays!. Studio Theatre Perth. Adults \$24; Youth \$12 from [TicketsPlease.ca](http://TicketsPlease.ca), 485-6434  
**To Kill a Tiger**, Nov 26, 2PM. Documentary of a family struggling to find justice in the wake of a heinous violation. St. Andrew's, Pakenham. \$15 from [TicketsPlease.ca](http://TicketsPlease.ca), 485-6434  
**The Snow Queen**, Dec 1, 7, 8 at 7:30PM; Dec 2, 3, 9, 10 at 2PM. Family-friendly musical at Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. [smithsfallstheatre.com](http://smithsfallstheatre.com)

## Youth

**Mini Maker Craft Fair**, Nov 4, 10AM-2PM. Vendors ages 6-16 will be selling soap, jewelry, baking, art and more. Carleton Place Library. [carletonplace.ca/library-c234.php](http://carletonplace.ca/library-c234.php)  
**Twas the Night Before Christmas with Santa**, Dec 2, 2PM. Celebrate the 200th year of beloved poem with a book signing with Santa! White Pine Books, Arnprior. Free. [whitepinebooks.ca](http://whitepinebooks.ca)

## Music

**Somerset Combo**, every Thursday 1827 Wine and Cheese Lounge, Perth. [1827wineandcheeselounge.com](http://1827wineandcheeselounge.com)  
**Shari Ulrich with Cindy Fairbank**, Nov 4, 7:30PM. Studio Theatre Perth. \$20-\$35. [harmonyconcerts.ca](http://harmonyconcerts.ca)  
**George Turcotte**, Nov 4, 4-7PM. Calabogie Brewing Co. [calabogiebrewing.com](http://calabogiebrewing.com)  
**Old Tyme Country Dinner Dance**, Nov 5 & Dec 3, 2-6PM. Country music, dancing, 5pm buffet. Musicians welcome. Clayton Community Centre. \$18. 256-0740  
**Pranxtrs with Marc Giroux**, Nov 9, 7:30-10PM. Live music. The Crossing Pub, Sharbot Lake. \$6. [sharbotlakeinn.com](http://sharbotlakeinn.com)  
**Musical Matters Concert**, Nov 12, 3PM. Songs from 1939-1945. Proceeds to Canadian Veteran Service Dog Unit. \$10 at the door. St. Andrews Perth  
**Concert Fundraiser for Lanark Community Garden**, Nov 17, 7PM. Jillian Allinson and headliner Ali McCormick. \$25 plus fees from [TicketsPlease.ca](http://TicketsPlease.ca), 485-6434. Oakfield Rugby Park, Perth  
**Moonfruits & Tragedy Ann**, Nov 19, 2PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. \$25 from [TicketsPlease.ca](http://TicketsPlease.ca), 485-6434

# NOVEMBER 2023

## Friday

## Saturday

## Sunday

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clue, Carleton Place</li> <li>EODL One Act Festival, Kemptville</li> <li>Jordan Dubeau, Urban Angus Steak &amp; Wine</li> <li>Young Petty Stones, The Cove</li> <li>Slo Tom &amp; The Handsome Devils, Bowie's</li> <li>Ken Armstrong, Waterfront Gastropub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clue, Carleton Place</li> <li>Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Almonte</li> <li>Merrickville Makers Christmas Market</li> <li>\$200 and Under Sale, Kanata</li> <li>Mini Maker Craft Fair, Carleton Place</li> <li>Dairy Distillery \$5 Tours, Almonte</li> <li>EODL One Act Festival, Kemptville</li> <li>Community Builders' Craft Fair, Almonte</li> <li>Fall Trails Talk, Merrickville</li> <li>The Herb Garden Holiday Night Market, Almonte</li> <li>Pride &amp; Persistence, Arnprior</li> <li>George Turcotte, Calabogie</li> <li>Cheerfully Made Holiday Market, Almonte</li> <li>Doug Vanderhorden, The Cove</li> <li>Chris Allaby, Urban Angus Steak &amp; Wine</li> <li>Shari Ulrich with Cindy Fairbank, Perth</li> <li>Karaoke, Bowie's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clue, Carleton Place</li> <li>Cheerfully Made Holiday Market, Almonte</li> <li>Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Almonte</li> <li>Merrickville Makers Christmas Market, Merrickville</li> <li>\$200 and Under Sale, Kanata</li> <li>Lanark County Ukrainian Fest, Carleton Place</li> <li>Christmas in Perth Vendor Market, Perth</li> <li>Old Tyme Country Dinner Dance, Clayton</li> <li>Bob Peppin, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Eric Uren &amp; Meghan Balogh, The Cove</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean Pinchin, The Cove</li> <li>Jules, Smiths Falls</li> <li>The Family Name, Bowie's</li> <li>Ken Armstrong, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>"Mr. &amp; Mrs." polymer clay workshop, Newboro</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jules, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Matt Dickson, The Cove</li> <li>Kyle Felhaver, Urban Angus Steak &amp; Wine</li> <li>Classic Covers, Bowie's</li> <li>Rob Kerr, Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feliz Naughty Dog Bake &amp; Craft Show, Arnprior</li> <li>Arnprior Art Loft Grand Opening, Arnprior</li> <li>The Viewing Room, Woodlawn</li> <li>Musical Matters Concert, Perth</li> <li>Bob Peppin, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Eric Uren &amp; Meghan Balogh, The Cove</li> <li>Painted holiday cards workshop, Newboro</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers Musical, Almonte</li> <li>The Viewing Room, Woodlawn</li> <li>Rick Fines and Suzie Vinnick Band, The Cove</li> <li>Concert Fundraiser for Lanark Community Garden, Perth</li> <li>Matilda, Perth</li> <li>umberlune, Bowie's</li> <li>Ken Armstrong, Waterfront Gastropub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MERA Christmas Fair, McDonalds Corners</li> <li>Almonte Farmers' Harvest Market, Almonte</li> <li>Perth Christmas Farmers' Market, Perth</li> <li>Itty Bitty Art &amp; Artisan Show, Carleton Place</li> <li>Gift of Art Show &amp; Sale, Kanata</li> <li>Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers Musical, Almonte</li> <li>Matilda, Perth</li> <li>The Viewing Room, Woodlawn</li> <li>Meet the Artists, Almonte</li> <li>No Principals, The Cove</li> <li>Guatemala Stove Project Dance, Perth</li> <li>Library Bake Sale, Perth</li> <li>Rob Kerr, Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Sierra Levesque, Urban Angus Steak &amp; Wine</li> <li>Karaoke, Bowie's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Itty Bitty Art &amp; Artisan Show, Carleton Place</li> <li>Gift of Art Show &amp; Sale, Kanata</li> <li>Matilda, Perth</li> <li>Moonfruits &amp; Tragedy Ann, McDonalds Corners</li> <li>Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers Musical, Almonte</li> <li>Graven, Bowie's</li> <li>Bob Peppin, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Eric Uren &amp; Meghan Balogh, The Cove</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers Musical, Almonte</li> <li>Jigsaws, Merrickville</li> <li>Ethan Claymore's Christmas, Perth</li> <li>Head Over Heels, The Cove</li> <li>CA &amp; Sonny Folk Show, Urban Angus Steak &amp; Wine</li> <li>An Evening with Paddy Mann, Almonte</li> <li>Patrick Dorie, Bowie's</li> <li>Ken Armstrong, Waterfront Gastropub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jigsaws, Merrickville</li> <li>Ethan Claymore's Christmas, Perth</li> <li>Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers Musical, Almonte</li> <li>Beckwith Christmas Craft Show, Carleton Place</li> <li>Pakenham Holiday Hop</li> <li>Fine Batiks, Maberly</li> <li>Perth Lions Club 70th Anniversary, Perth</li> <li>Chef Night, Westport</li> <li>Santa Claus Parade Hoedown, The Cove</li> <li>Drag Bingo, Bowie's</li> <li>Rob Kerr, Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spinning Yarns: The Millworkers Musical, Almonte</li> <li>Ethan Claymore's Christmas, Perth</li> <li>Fine Batiks, Maberly</li> <li>To Kill a Tiger, Pakenham</li> <li>Jigsaws, Merrickville</li> <li>Bob Peppin, Waterfront Gastropub</li> <li>Eric Uren &amp; Meghan Balogh, The Cove</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethan Claymore's Christmas, Perth</li> <li>The Snow Queen, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Chocolate Party, Carleton Place</li> <li>Gnome for the holidays workshop, Newboro</li> <li>Light Up The Night, Almonte</li> <li>Sing Noel Christmas Concert, Arnprior</li> <li>Ken Armstrong, Waterfront Gastropub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethan Claymore's Christmas, Perth</li> <li>Nick of Time Artisan Show, Perth</li> <li>The Snow Queen, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Pakenham Santa Claus Parade, Pakenham</li> <li>Sing Noel Christmas Concert, Arnprior</li> <li>Twas the Night Before Christmas with Santa, Arnprior</li> <li>Chocolate Party, Carleton Place</li> <li>A Christmas Choral Celebration, Carp</li> <li>A Turpin's Trail Christmas, The Cove</li> <li>Comfort and Joy, Holiday Concert, Almonte</li> <li>The ABBA Christmas Show, Perth</li> <li>Rob Kerr, Al Tambay, Waterfront Gastropub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethan Claymore's Christmas, Perth</li> <li>The Snow Queen, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Wonderful Wintery Concert, Carleton Place</li> <li>Almonte Christmas Night Parade, Almonte</li> <li>Lanark Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Craft Sale, Lanark</li> <li>Holiday Heritage House, Smiths Falls</li> <li>Chocolate Party, Carleton Place</li> <li>Old Tyme Country Dinner Dance, Clayton</li> <li>Bob Peppin, Waterfront Gastropub</li> </ul>

**The Herb Garden Holiday Night Market**, Nov 4, 3PM. Holiday shopping from local small business owners. Herb Garden, Almonte. [herbgarden.on.ca](http://herbgarden.on.ca)

**Fall Trails Talk: "Hike with the Rideau Trails Association"**, Nov 4, 10AM. Presentation, questions and answers about organised group walks on area trails. Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall, Merrickville. Free. [merrickvilledistricttrailsociety.org](http://merrickvilledistricttrailsociety.org)

**Lanark County Ukrainian Fest**, Nov 5, 11AM-4PM. Bazaar, lunch, activities for kids and adults, performances, and honoured guests. Free admission, all welcome. Carleton Place Arena. Free. [facebook.com/groups/ottawavalleyukrainians](http://facebook.com/groups/ottawavalleyukrainians)

**Christmas in Perth Vendor Market**, Nov 5, 11AM-4PM. 20+ vendors all under one roof. Perth Legion

**Music Trivia**, Nov 7-28, 7:30PM. Tuesdays with host Julian Smith, Ottawa Valley Coffee Almonte. \$15 includes a beverage (beer/wine or coffee). [ovcalmonteevents@gmail.com](mailto:ovcalmonteevents@gmail.com)

**Ashton Community Outreach Breakfast**, Nov 7 & 21, 9AM-12PM. With music by Dave Brown and friends on Nov. 7. Ashton United Church. Freewill offering. 791-6246

**Carleton Place Toastmasters Club**, Nov 9 & 23, 7PM. All welcome. via Zoom. [carletonplace.toastmastersclubs.org](http://carletonplace.toastmastersclubs.org)

**Feliz Naughty Dog Bake & Craft Show**, Nov 12, 10AM-3PM. Craft and food vendors, Arnprior Humane Society fundraiser. Nick Smith Centre, Arnprior. [arnpriorhumane-society.ca](http://arnpriorhumane-society.ca)

**Curious About Cannabis?** Nov 14, 1-3PM. With Nancy Sendell of Westpot Cannabis Sommelier Services. Info, Q&A. \$35 cash or to [nancy@westpot.ca](mailto:nancy@westpot.ca). ABC Hall

**Merry & Bright Shopping Event**, Nov 16, 5:30PM. A good old fashioned small town shop & hop with Christmas music and holiday treats. Downtown Perth

**Almonte Winter Street Market**, Nov 16, 5-8PM. Sidewalk sales, music & more. Downtown Almonte. [facebook.com/destinationmonte](http://facebook.com/destinationmonte)

**MERA Christmas Fair & Art Show**, Nov 18, 9AM-3PM. Lunch, baked goods, arts & crafts. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. [meraschoolhouse.org](http://meraschoolhouse.org)

**Library Bake Sale**, Nov 18, 10AM. Get your Christmas baking and support the Library. Perth Library. [allanah.langeland@gmail.com](mailto:allanah.langeland@gmail.com)

**Guatemala Stove Project Dance**, Nov 18, 7PM. Dance with Open Road, silent auction. Perth Civitan Club & Hall. \$25. [guatemalastoveproject.org](http://guatemalastoveproject.org)

**CFUW Perth Poverty Report**, Nov 20, 6:30-8PM. Presentation on a year-long report on poverty in Perth and Lanark County. [cfuwpert.org](http://cfuwpert.org). Perth Legion. [cfuwpertanddistrict.wordpress.com](http://cfuwpertanddistrict.wordpress.com)

**Perth Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting**, Nov 20, 6:30PM. Annual general meeting. St. Paul's United, Perth. \$5 per meeting or \$15 annual membership. [perthhortsociety.com](http://perthhortsociety.com)

**An Evening with Paddy Mann**, Nov 24, 7PM. Speaking about her life as a designer. Almonte Public Library. By donation. [learningagainmonte.ca](http://learningagainmonte.ca)

**Perth Lions Club 70th Anniversary**, Nov 25, 2-4PM. Music, snacks, displays and a bar, cheque presentation to Perth & Smiths Falls Hospital. Perth Lions Club. free. 264-8449

**Beckwith Christmas Craft Show**, Nov 25, 10AM-3PM. 40+ exhibitors. Free admission. Food & cash donations for the Lanark County Food Bank. Brunton Community Hall, Carleton Place. 435-8929

**Pakenham Holiday Hop**, Nov 25, 10AM-5PM. Holiday shopping and entertainment, kids' activities (1-4). Downtown Pakenham. [mississippimills.ca](http://mississippimills.ca)

**Chef Night**, Nov 25, 3:30 and 6PM. Watercolour Westport's Christmas appetizers sampler party and demos. 102 Shelter Cove Dr., Westport. Register at [watercolourwestport.com](http://watercolourwestport.com). \$25.

**Human Trafficking Presentation**, Nov 30, 7-8:30PM. Presentation by Jo-Joe Van Hooser, sponsored by The Hub and Stir It Up Collective. Almonte Public Library. Free. [stirupcollective.ca](http://stirupcollective.ca)

**Chocolate Party**, Dec 1-3. Celebration of fairly traded, sustainably sourced chocolate. The Granary, Carleton Place [granary.ca](http://granary.ca)

**Nick of Time Artisan Show**, Dec 2, 10AM-3:30PM. Gifts & food by local artisans and makers. Donations to The Table welcome. Crystal Palace, Perth

**Lanark Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Craft Sale**, Dec 3, 9AM-3PM. Craft, yard, and Christmas sale. Lanark Legion. 259-3249

**Holiday Heritage House**, Dec 3, 1-3PM. Costumed interpreters, special guests and seasonal decorations. Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls. By donation

**CPKC Holiday Train**, Nov 27, 7:40-8:30PM. Featuring musical performance by Anyway Gang. Perth Rail Yard. [cpkcr.com/en/community/HolidayTrain](http://cpkcr.com/en/community/HolidayTrain)

**Ukulele Club**, 7PM. Tuesdays. Hosted by George Turcotte. For adults and teens. Tatlock Community Hall. [rhythmrtymer@gmail.com](mailto:rhythmrtymer@gmail.com)

**Turpin's Trail**, Nov 30, 7:30PM. Trio playing great original and traditional songs and tunes. Snow Road Community Centre, Snow Road Station. \$15. [snowroadcommunitycentre.com](http://snowroadcommunitycentre.com)

**Sing Noel Christmas Concert**, Dec 1, 7:30PM; Dec 2, 2PM. Tickets available after Nov. 14 from White Pine Books. Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church, Arnprior. Adults \$20; Children 12 and under \$10. 622-7844

**Comfort and Joy, Holiday Concert**, Dec 2, 7:30PM. Toronto Brass Quintet and percussion. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$44 from TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434

**The ABBA Christmas Show**, Dec 2, 8PM. ABBA's hits and Christmas favourites. 19+. Cash bar. Farrell Hall, Perth. \$39 in advance/\$44 at the door. TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434

**A Christmas Choral Celebration**, Dec 2, 7PM. Seasonal music by the Goulbourn Male Chorus. Trinity Presbyterian Church,

Carp. \$20 adults, \$15 students, 10 & under free. TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434

**Wonderful Wintery Concert**, Dec 3, 2PM. Carleton Place Community Band, by donation to Lanark County Food Bank. Zion-Memorial United Church, Carleton Place

## Pub Listings

**Bowie's** (Smiths Falls): Wed Where is my Mind Trivia, 8-10PM (sign-up online); Thu Open Stage, 8PM (casual sign-up); Fri original live music 8:30 & 11:30PM

Nov 3 Slo Tom & The Handsome Devils  
Nov 4 Karaoke, 9PM  
Nov 10 The Family Nam  
Nov 11 Classic Covers, 9PM  
Nov 17 umberlune  
Nov 18 Karaoke, 9PM  
Nov 19 Graven, 8PM, \$20  
Nov 24 Patrick Dorie  
Nov 25 Drag Bingo, 9PM, \$10

**Carp Masonic Lodge**: Mon Carp Celtic Jam, 7PM, \$3

**The Waterfront Gastropub** (CP, 257-5755): Sat Rob Kerr, 3-6PM & Al Tambay, 9:30PM-12:30AM; Sun Bob Peppin, 3-6PM; Wed Open Mic w/Redneck Limousine, 8PM-12AM; Thu Cashmen Ford, 8PM-12AM; Fri Ken Armstrong, 8PM

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

Nov 2 Christine Graves  
Nov 3 Young Petty Stones, 7-11PM, \$85 dinner + show  
Nov 4 Doug Vanderhorden  
Nov 7 Nolan Hubbard  
Nov 9 Dennis Bouwmann  
Nov 10 Sean Pinchin, 6-9PM, \$10  
Nov 11 Matt Dickson, 6-10PM  
Nov 14 Retro Kings  
Nov 16 Meghan Balogh & Martin Smit  
Nov 17 Rick Fines and Suzie Vinnick Band, 7PM, \$100  
Nov 18 No Principals  
Nov 21 Eric Uren  
Nov 23 Patrick Dorie & Andrew Ivans  
Nov 24 Head Over Heels  
Nov 25 Santa Parade Hoedown, 5-9PM  
Nov 28 Steve Stacey & Pat Robillard  
Dec 1 Robert Keyes  
Dec 2 A Turpin's Trail Christmas, 7-11PM, \$85 dinner + show

**Urban Angus Steak & Wine** (Arnprior, 558-5050), 7PM unless noted  
Nov 3 Jordan Dubeau  
Nov 4 Chris Allaby  
Nov 11 Kyle Felhaver

Nov 18 Sierra Levesque  
Nov 24 CA & Sonny Folk Show, 6PM

## Community

**SF Bridge Club**, Tues, 12:45pm. 283-2690. Smiths Falls Legion. 256-4747

**Duplicate Bridge**, 12:45PM. every Wednesday Almonte Legion. 256-4747

**Perth Duplicate Bridge**, Every Thursday at 1PM. 300-9502. St. Paul's United, Perth.

**Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society Meeting**, Nov 1, 7PM. Speaker Janet John's on moth orchids. Zion-Memorial United Church, Carleton Place. Membership \$15, Visitors \$5. [cphorticulture.ca](http://cphorticulture.ca)

**Big Brothers Big Sisters 50th Anniversary Gala**, Nov 2. Celebrating 50 years of mentoring. Live music, 3-course meal, guest speaker. Grand Hotel, Carleton Place. \$50. [lanark.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](http://lanark.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)

**Cheerfully Made Holiday Market**, Nov 4-5, 10AM-5PM. Different makers each day. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$5 (kids under 14 free). [cheerfullymade.com](http://cheerfullymade.com)

**Community Builders' Craft Fair**, Nov 4, 10AM-4PM. Handmade crafts, vintage items & whole-bean coffee, supporting local charities & non-profits. Union Hall, Almonte. [mississippimills.ca/en/play/unionhall.asp](http://mississippimills.ca/en/play/unionhall.asp)

# The “Circle Tor”

Aunt Eva was a lively little woman, raised on the cactus flats around Medicine Hat, Alberta. No one enjoyed a day-trip more than she did, and she was adamant you should make it a full round-trip. She gave us a guided tour, pointing out the old homestead, the house where she worked as a maid when she was too young to be doing that, the bungalow where she raised her family. It was a history lesson in a capsule. We drove for hours, all the time thinking we’d be turning around soon, but suddenly we were back in front of her retirement home, not having backtracked anywhere.

by Glenda Jones

She called this “her circle tor” of Medicine Hat, and to this day we take “circle tors” every time we go somewhere. Here are a few of our favourites, just in case you’re needing diversions. If we are going to Ace Hardware, we go through Almonte on Bridge Street to Highway 29, and thus to Ace. Along Highway 29 we marvel at the beautiful harvested fields, and watch for huge farm machines. A turn at Wilson Street takes us into the serene village of Appleton. The speed limit is 40 through there, but we go even slower to see the golf course, the geese on the river, the flowing weeping willow at the end of the bridge before the falls. Turning the corner past the historic homes and the museum, and left onto Appleton Side Road, we watch for horses, alpacas, wild turkeys and that huge flock of sheep. Now we’re back at the traffic circle. There’s our circle “tor”.

Let’s go to the Ashton Pub! Upper Dwyer Hill goes straight to Flewellyn, which takes us to our favourite haunt. Best to get there in

good time so we can sit in the covered deck area. Sated on good food, we saunter back home on the 9<sup>th</sup> line of Beckwith. It’s a long road that takes us to Cemetery Side Road, and yes, there’s a very interesting cemetery if we want to stroll about in peace and quiet. That road will take us over the highway and back to Appleton Side Road. But there are side roads to explore. If we find ourselves on Golden Line, for instance, we pass the Hunt Club, and if we’re very lucky, see the riders in all their finery on their magnificent hunter horses. No guns, no worries, and lots of beagles chasing about. Golden Line extends to March Road, and then we’re nearly home, not having crossed our path once.

When Wes’ Chips in Arnprior is on the menu, we take Upper Dwyer Hill to get there. We rarely take the four-lane highway because we’d miss the fabulous cattle parlour, the prolific fields, and Hudson’s vegetable stand at Panmure. After Wes’, we head to John Street through Arnprior, see how that lovely little town has transformed itself, and find Daniel Street. Out of the traffic we go, past the famous Antrim Truck Stop with the big rigs, towards White Lake. From there, back through Pakenham, through Almonte and home. We did it again: a full circle.

Here’s the annual pilgrimage that never fails to impress us. Upper Dwyer Hill will take us to Panmure Road and thus to Pakenham. Through Pakenham we forego ice cream and head to White Lake (different route than last time though) where we admire the gardens around Waba Cottage. The road winds up the hill, and we’re out of farm country

and into forests. There are sap lines through some of the woods. We know what that means. And now we start to see the colour! “Look at that tree”, “Isn’t that glorious”?

But wait: the best is yet to come. There’s a look-off at the Hardware Store high above Burnstown that defies all imagination. Best to stop, because as we’re driving we’re always gobsmacked by the scene down a long hill, across the Madawaska River Bridge, to Burnstown. The fall colour is astounding, the river gleams pure blue, the little town is nestled in an elbow of beauty that demands you park and walk around the shops and the restaurants. After an hour or so, we don’t cross the bridge again, but instead head home on the opposite side of the river, past the beach, the cottages, and beautiful homes. We end up in Arnprior and go home on old Highway 7 which passes the kayak builder, an interesting greenhouse and more of those farms we love. Enough for one day, we take the Kinburn Road exit and Upper Dwyer Hill, completing our totally satisfying “circle tor”.

We’re always looking for new routes, and make it a challenge to visit as much of the area as we can. We’ve been down side roads that we’d never have discovered if we kept to the straight and narrow all the time. What’s the worst that could happen when you take the road less travelled? New vistas, new adventures, and spectacular scenery no matter where you go. Just don’t be in a rush, and ignore that big truck in your rear-view mirror that’s gunning to get past you. He’s missing the best part of the trip.



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**FREE EVENT**  
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**Perth Lions Club**  
**70th**  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
**SATURDAY, Nov. 25th**  
**2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**  
at the Perth Lions Club  
located at the Perth Fairgrounds

**SNACKS - BAR - MUSIC - DISPLAYS**

Cheque presentation to the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital towards the purchase of an MRI machine that will provide a critical service to over 3000 area patients a year!

## “clò mòr” Exhibit at MVTM

Carl Stewart’s poignant piece, “clò mòr”, will be exhibited at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum until December 23, 2023. Stewart will be hosting a talk at the Museum on Saturday, November 4 from 2–4PM.

In early 2015, images circulated around the world showing Islamic State militants in northern Iraq executing men accused of committing homosexual acts. The bound and blindfolded men were taunted, beaten, taken to the top of a 100-foot building and pushed to their deaths. These brutal executions are a reminder that there are currently 66 countries around the world, some with legitimate, democratically elected governments, where homosexuality is against the law with penalties ranging from fines and incarceration to execution.

Knowing this, Stewart has created “clò mòr”; 66 unique pieces of hand-woven fabric to symbolize each country where homosexuality remains criminalized. The national flag of these countries serves as inspiration for the colours, proportions and patterns of the fabric. “clò mòr” is Scottish Gaelic for “the great cloth” and speaks to shared humanity, interconnectedness, and the responsibility to respect, defend and care for one another.

“clò mòr” references Scottish estate tweeds, fabrics originally designed as camouflage; a striking metaphor for how members of the LGBTQ+ communities in these 66 countries must, out of self-preservation, hide in plain sight, blend in, and pass, for all intents and purposes, as heterosexual. The inclusion of yarns hand-dyed with dyestuffs from Stewart’s homeland anchors the work and creates a bridge, a safe passage, from there to here, saying “you are welcome here and you are one of us.”



Photo by Lawrence Cook

A new exhibit at the Textile Museum reminds us to fight for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights

Stewart is a weaver working and living in Ottawa, and the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum acknowledges the Canada Council for the Arts, Fibre Art Now, and the Ontario Arts Council for their support in bringing this local exhibit to the Museum.

Fall into winter with  
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102 MILL STREET, ALMONTE

# PCC Presents *Matilda*

By Jacqueline Ramsey

After a rigorous audition weekend where participants were asked to act, sing and dance, *Matilda* was cast this past June. If any play will show the mettle of our young Perth Community Choir cast, *Matilda* is it, and it is shaping up to be quite the spectacle.

*Matilda* is the title character of a book written by Roald Dahl, author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *the BFG*, and so many more. His children's fiction usually has a theme of children living in poor circumstances and being able to triumph in the end. *Matilda* is no exception.

Written in 1988, *Matilda* is a modern Goliath tale. *Matilda*, a gifted young girl, is born to parents who have absolutely no interest in parenting whatsoever. Sending her to the worst school possible, Crumchem Hall, with the worst headmistress possible, Agatha Trunchbull, *Matilda's* resolve is tested. But with new friends, a compassionate teacher, a library of treasured books and a little bit of magic, *Matilda* proves triumphant over adversity — with a few antics along the way.

In early 2011, *Matilda the Musical* was premiered by the Royal Shakespeare Company with music and lyrics written by Tim Minchin and book written by Dennis Kelly. In late 2011 the show was picked up by West End London, and on Broadway two years later in 2013. Since then, it has toured world-wide and has won numerous Olivier and Tony Awards.

It was the desire of Perth Community Choir to continue their mandate of producing quality family entertainment, and after last year's successful run of *Anne of Green Gables* with the focus on our younger members, this year we are extending that focus and showcasing their amazing talents. *Matilda* seemed to be the show that would allow our younger actors to shine and be the headliners.

I am not envious of having to make the decisions when it came to casting the show — especially the titular role of *Matilda* herself — but after jumping through hoops with endless energy, Olivia Martel is playing *Matilda* with understudy Avery Jarbeau, each girl bringing their own personality to the role.

The cast is an assortment of friends and classmates: Addy Brown as Bruce Bogtrotter, Ivy Williams and understudy Emery McLean as Lavender, Adelaide King as Amanda Thrip, Kaia Rewi as Nigel, Caleb Rewi as Eric, Ella Falardeau as Alice, Celeste Sawan as Hortensia, and Max Neron as Tommy. You can't have a school without an assortment of older kids

and bullies and there is a full youth cast filling in the nooks and crannies at Crumchem Hall — and, of course, they can all sing and dance.

Playing the adults in *Matilda's* life are Chris Angel as Mr. Wormwood, a dodgy car salesman; Kristen Widenmaier as Mrs. Wormwood, aspiring salsa dance champion; Duncan King as couch potato older brother Michael; and Courtney Mason as the compassionate Miss Honey. Crumchem Hall needs its Agatha Trunchbull, and thank goodness for Ron Cosens for stepping into her intimidating shoes.

The adult actors portray a motley selection of librarians, lamé wearing dance partners, acrobats, escapologists, mobsters and doting parents, all supporting what may be PCC's youngest main cast yet.

This is not Artistic Director Kristy Tait-Angel's first ambitious undertaking. A life-long lover of musical theatre, Kristy, an elementary school teacher, has directed, produced and starred in many PCC musical, and also directs the yearly junior musical at St. Francis De Sales. Her last large PCC undertaking was 2019's *Shrek*, which may have upped the ante on what this community can produce in terms of production and talent.

A musical is not complete without music. The music and vocals are not easy, and Musical Director Brad Mills (with his impressive falsetto) has meticulously coached us all in our sections of the choir with the help of Grace Armstrong and Leslie Hoyle.

Brad also put together our orchestra. Many of these musicians have been playing with PCC for years, and we are so pleased to be able to see our friends in the "pit" again. We cannot express enough gratitude for our musicians who are instrumental (pun intended) to a fabulous production.

For anyone who knows, a stage production cannot exist without the work backstage. We have a producer, stage management, props manager, costumers, set builders, sound and lights technicians who are all working around the clock ensuring that *Matilda* goes off without a hitch.

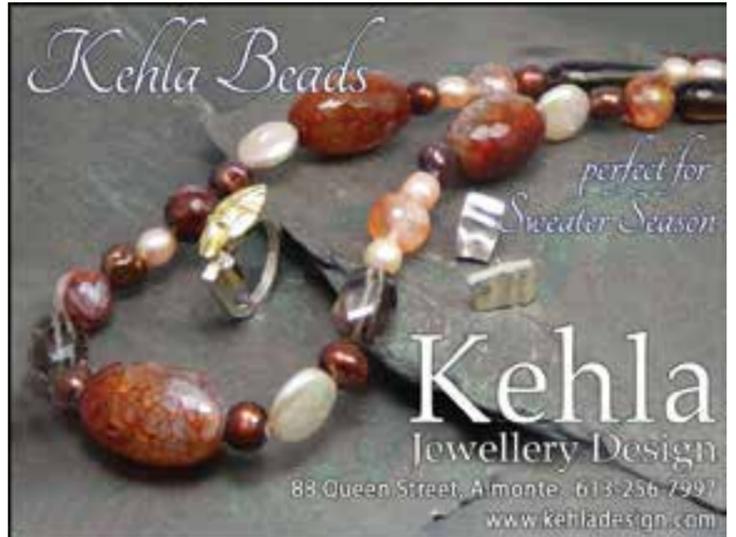
*Matilda* runs from November 16-19, and tickets are already selling fast! Tickets can be purchased through the link at <perthcommunitychoir.com>.

If you enjoy this production and any of the other productions we have performed, check us out on our website and subscribe for audition and show notices, bursary applications and sponsorships programs. See you soon!



Photo by Laura Clairmont

Cast members from the Perth Community Choir's production of *Matilda* take a break from their busy rehearsal schedule to pose for a photo. Left to right are Kaia Rewi, Addy Brown and Caleb Rewi (top row); Emery McLean, Avery Jarbeau, Olivia Martel and Ivy Williams (middle row); Adelaide King and Ella Falardeau (bottom row).



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- Ceramic mugs by Rita Redner and Jane Snider**, Riverguild Fine Crafts.....\$25-40





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# Rick and Suzie, Together Again

The seasoned and dynamic duo of Rick Fines and Suzie Vinnick will appear at the Blues at The Cove Series <coveinn.com> on Friday, November 17, where they will no doubt be at the height of their artistic prowess. I recently sat down (well, via email) with these long-time musical companions to see if they could give us some insight into their partnership and what makes them tick.

by Seamus Cowan

**Seamus Cowan: You two have been playing music together in different capacities for years. How did you first decide to perform as a duo?**

**Rick Fines:** My friend Chopper McKinnon (RIP) told me where I could go and hear Suzie — “a bass player you need to hear” — playing with Back Alley John (RIP). I asked her if we could play some music together and she invited me to her place. We enjoyed ourselves so much, we booked a gig at Rasputin’s right away!

**Suzie Vinnick:** Rick and I met in Ottawa in 1993 through Chopper McKinnon. Rick came up to me at the end of the show, and with a friendly smile said something like “hi and how can I play music with you?” I was so excited! I knew Rick was a member of the band Jackson Delta — I hadn’t had the chance to hear them yet, but I’d heard great things about them and I thought it was so cool that he wanted to get together with me and play music! Rick ended up coming by my place in the Glebe the next day and we did some jamming, and then he booked us our first show at Rasputin’s on Bronson which took place not long after.

Rick had made some great connections via his own solo work and through Jackson Delta, and was kind enough to share them and get us working across the country. Between Rick and me, we continued finding opportunities to perform together and played regularly over the next 20 years (or more...!)

I’ve been focusing more on my solo work, so we collaborate a little less these days, but when we do it’s a treat to play together.

**Writing songs is such a rewarding result solo, let alone creating with someone else. What was the process like for you two when you wrote *Nothing Halfway*?**

**Rick:** We each had some songs to contribute, but the bulk of it was written together in sessions at Suzie’s High Park apartment. I recall writing a couple of the songs on the bus from Peterborough. I recall us sitting looking out the windows on a glorious autumn day while writing *Slow Down Mama*. That image stays in my mind when we sing that song. We had a lot of good times making that album.

**Suzie:** When Rick and I finally decided to dive in and make a record we connected at my place in Toronto a couple of times, and I also headed out to his cottage in Kinmount. Rick and I each had some song ideas we’d bring to the table and get them finished up. We were very productive. It was especially fun working in Kinmount as we’d write, then head out for a canoe or go for a walk through the forest, then come back and write again — the process was nice and relaxing.



In advance of their Blues at The Cove show on Nov. 17, Rick Fines and Suzie Vinnick discuss their musical past and partnership

and they are as much of the experience as the performers. One thing I am really looking forward to is that feeling when the band’s rockin’ and the audience is dancing to some groovy songs that we’ve done for decades. The Cove is the perfect place for that! We always have a good time!

**Suzie:** It’s a gift to get to play music — we get to express ourselves and hopefully make someone’s day a little better than it was before a performance. The recognition (i.e. awards that we receive as artists) is icing on the cake, but in a practical sense it also helps open doors down the road, too. I’m grateful for them all.

**What are some of your favourite moments playing together?**

**Rick:** I love singing duets with Suzie, back and forth and harmony, and of course I love trading guitar solos. That’s something that really developed over the years! We’ve had a lot of laughs and a lot of good times over the years.

**Suzie:** Since 1993, Rick and I have performed across the country from Newfoundland to Yukon, in Germany and in the United States a bit, too. It’s always fun performing with Rick and I have tons of memories of our adventures, too many to list here. Some highlights include recording Rick’s album in Toronto with Colin Linden; heading up to Whitehorse to play the Frostbite Festival in the middle of winter (it was colder in Toronto than in Whitehorse that year!); rocking out on *Rock & Roll* by Led Zeppelin at the Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival in the after-hours venue (folks went crazy!); and many, many nights of music and fun at the Hornby Island Blues Workshop.

Music is such a gift — we get to play and move people and hopefully leave them feeling a little better at the end of the night than when they arrived. We’ve had a lot of fun over the years rockin’ it up for folks at The Cove — it’ll be great to come back and play for everyone again and get them dancing!

**Catch Rick and Suzie at The Cove Inn on Friday, November 17. Find details at <coveinn.com> and make reservations by calling 273-3636.**

Rick brought a bunch of great songs that he’d written to the project, including *He’ll Never Know* and another rockin’ tune called *Calling Out Your Name*. I had co-written a song with Chris Whiteley called *The Lucky One* that Rick and I sang as a duet. Rick brought some cover songs to the record; we recorded a song by Rick’s friend Colleen Peterson and another tune by John Gorka called *Love Is Our Cross to Bear*. We still perform a bunch of the songs from *Nothing Halfway* both in our collaborative shows and our solo shows.

**Since that record, you have been down many other musical roads. Do you have any plans for another collaboration?**

**Suzie:** *Nothing Halfway* was released in 2006 and we still get positive feedback from folks about how much they enjoy the album. Rick and I still play together occasionally; we’ve talked a few times about doing another recording but haven’t made it happen yet. I think if Rick and I were to put something together again it would be whole-heartedly embraced by our fans.

**It must really give you a lot of confidence within the music community to receive so much positive recognition for your work and skills, and at the same time to make so many people happy through your music! Can you describe that feeling?**

**Rick:** For me, feeling an audience moved to laugh or cry is the ultimate reward. Truly there’s no performance without an audience,

## ABBA Revisited

ABBA Revisited is North America’s #1 tribute to the iconic band, and its members have been dazzling audiences across the globe since the year 2001. ABBA Revisited recreates the magic of the band with authentic costumes, spectacular harmonies and note-perfect musicianship, taking their audience on a musical journey back in time.

Come out to Perth’s Farrell Hall on Saturday, December 2 at 8PM, when Dream Rock Entertainment presents a very special ABBA Christmas show by this fabulous tribute band. Tickets are \$39 plus fees from TicketsPlease (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434), or \$44 at the door if available. Seating is at long tables, leaving plenty of room for dancing queens (and kings). This is a 19+ event with a cash bar.

From Vegas to Bermuda, Mexico to Dubai, ABBA Revisited has recreated the fabulous look and sound that fans around the world can’t



Dream Rock Entertainment presents tribute band ABBA Revisited on December 2 at Perth’s Farrell Hall

resist! This show will also feature several show-stopping Christmas favourites.

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**INGREDIENTS:**  
1 cup almond milk  
1 cup pumpkin puree  
1/2 cup maple syrup  
1/2 cup chia seeds  
1 tsp pumpkin pie spice  
1 cup Dandelion First Curcumin Supreme Extra Strength  
1 cup Dandelion First Vitamin D3 1,200 IU

**DIRECTIONS:**  
1. Combine ingredients in a blender or food processor and blend on high for 1 minute.  
2. Open the Health First Vitamin D3 1,200 IU.  
3. Add 1 drop of Health First Vitamin D3 to the mixture.  
4. Blend on high speed until the mixture is smooth and creamy.  
5. Pour the smoothie into a bowl and serve immediately. Enjoy!

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# Carebridge's New Community Coordinator

My name is Violet Bova, and I am excited to take on the role as Community Coordinator at Carebridge Community Support, in the department of Senior Services. This role includes fun activities in the community including things like outings, finding ways to introduce local citizens to our friendly community, and outreaching to existing groups and organizations that citizens can benefit from.

It is very common that as we age we battle loneliness and isolation, which can be detrimental to health. After the events of the last few years, we especially want to make sure our local citizens can do things they enjoy. We do this by providing outings that are accessible and easy to navigate. We also provide exercise classes to help promote being active in everyday life.

We recently went on a trip to MacLaren's Orchard in Burnstown. We were able to enjoy the scenic drive and the smell of fresh apples, and we stopped at Neat Café for lunch. The day was filled with great conversations and laughs all around. We have a couple more outings planned before the year ends. We will be going on a Christmas lights tour on November 23 and Christmas shopping at Bayshore on December 7.

In the last few weeks, we have invited the Almonte Song Circle to gather at the Stan Mills Centre. It is proving to be a success to bring local music into the building where residents and attendees alike can enjoy playing or listening to music.

I have an extensive background in many areas, mainly in healthcare. In recent years, I have worked in Developmental Services. I am also co-author of a book, *Holistic Oracle*, which was released last fall. The chapter I authored touches on community and the importance of connection. I also enjoy volunteering at festivals and events through the summer and sitting on the Folkus Committee as a Social Media Manager.

My family and I are still relatively "new" to Almonte as residents, although I've always been around the area

and have enjoyed the town for my entire life. It was a joyful place to visit and I often thought about living in this beautiful community. Almonte has proved itself to be a wonderful place to call home for myself, my husband and our three children. We have all truly felt welcomed with open arms here.

Since becoming a resident of Almonte, I have worked with Jeff Mills on local projects in the com-



As Carebridge's new Community Coordinator, Violet Bova is encouraging folks to contact her with suggestions

munity. Jeff, who worked with Carebridge (previously The Mills) for many years, is now one of our trusted volunteer drivers. The local projects included 5 Wednesdays in July and Augustafest. The purpose of both these events is to raise money for a splashpad in Augusta Street Park, which will double as a memorial

for the Cole family children who tragically passed away due to a house fire in 1965.

Organizing these events has been a joy! I'm excited to see what else can happen in the community. I believe that opportunities where connection can happen are integral contributors to the strength of a community, and therefore, the overall wellbeing of the individuals that make up that community.

I am passionate about community work, and working for Carebridge allows this passion to be utilized. It has been wonderful being able to work with local citizens and get to know them. This allows me to have a better understanding of where seniors can be supported through outreaching to other resources available in the Mississippi Mills area. While I'm getting oriented in this new position, I'm putting out feelers to see what people would enjoy and how, together, we can strengthen the bonds in this community even further.

To those in the community who are looking to connect with me, I can be reached through email at <vbova@carebridge.ca>. I look forward to making more connections in the community!

**Goulbourn Male Chorus**  
Presents  
**A Christmas Choral**  
**Presentation**

**Saturday, December 2 at 7 PM**  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1817 Richardson Side Road, Kanata  
Tickets: \$20; \$15 for Students 10 and under free  
From [Ticketsplease.ca](https://www.ticketsplease.ca)

## Why Cycle Trails Matter Building Capacity for Cycle Tourism in the Valley

By Jeff Mills

Cycle tourism advocates from across the region (Frontenac, Lanark, Renfrew and Ottawa) came together on September 13 for a one-day "Cashing in on Cycle Tourism" Summit in Arnprior. Presenters from the cycle tourism sector came from Toronto, North Bay, Peterborough and the Ottawa Valley. Participants represented different sectors — business, municipal and county governments staff and council members, non-profits, and cycle tourists of all ages.

There was a healthy vibe of possibility in the room and at the end of the day a group consisting of tourism staff, council members of different municipalities, cycle advocates, business owners and citizens agreed to follow up with the work begun that day. All are in agreement that we have great potential to draw cycle tourists of all ages to our area with all it has to offer — great existing trails, quiet paved and gravel backroads, charming restaurants and cafés, a variety of accommodation offerings, points of interests, museums and natural beauty.

It is widely accepted that trails generate significant economic, health and environmental benefits. Find-

ings that further support the positive impacts of trail development were published in 2020 by the Conference Board of Canada, in a report commissioned by Trans Canada Trail.

### Economic Benefits

- Trail user spending has positive economic impacts as they support local businesses
- Employment generated from the construction and maintenance of trails has positive direct and indirect impacts
- Property values near trails increase

### Health Benefits

- Trails provide a safe space to exercise
- Physical exercise improves both physical and mental health
- Trails are often used for transportation, which may lead to fewer accidents
- Health care costs are reduced in healthy populations

### Environmental Benefits

- Interconnected trail networks, green spaces and corridors support ecology and biodiversity
- Trails can also assist with storm water retention, flood control, carbon reduction, reduction of air and water pollution, and preservation of natural habitats — enhancing urban and rural areas and allowing for future growth.

Learn more about the "Cashing in on Cycle Tourism" Summit by visiting our multi-media report created by local cycle tourism advocate Holly Gallbraith. At <[sites.google.com/view/cashing-in-on-cycle-tourism/home](https://sites.google.com/view/cashing-in-on-cycle-tourism/home)> you can find links to Powerpoint presentations, media pieces, YouTube videos, cycle tourism resources and more! If you are interested in being involved or keeping in touch with this project as it evolves, there's a link on the website where you can leave your email contact information.

— Jeff Mills is involved with Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month and the Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation Alliance.



**Feliz Naughty Dog**  
Bake & Craft Show  
**Sunday, November 12**  
**10AM-3PM**  
Nick Smith Centre  
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A fundraiser in support of  
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**It Had To Be You**  
See our article in this edition for more details.  
DECEMBER 7-10 2023 VENUE: ALMONTE OLD TOWN HALL  
WRITTEN BY: JOSEPH BOLOGNA & RENEE TAYLOR  
DIRECTED BY: GREG HANCOCK  
SET DESIGN: DAVID MAGLADRY  
STAGE MANAGER: VAL BOGAN

# To Everything There is a Season

Like it or not, we are moving into six months of boots and coats. What is a gardener to do? Take on a new hobby? Start a whole lot of greens indoors under lights? Build that greenhouse you have always dreamed of? Move to Florida for six months? Embrace winter activities such as curling?

What would you do if you were able to garden outdoors twelve months of the year? I once had neighbours who hailed from a

by David Hinks

spot in Australia where they could garden all year long. They embraced the changing seasons in Canada as a break from the demands of intense summer gardening. Myself, I resist the approaching fall and winter, but as a gardener in touch with the daily weather I find myself appreciating the rhythm of the seasons and the changing landscapes.

That being said, I must admit that I do enjoy a brief respite from dreary November days. I'm fortunate to have a son (along with his wife and six children) who live in Phoenix, Arizona. Rather than worry about their future as Phoenix drills deeper and deeper into diminishing aquifers, I have learned to appreciate the quiet beauty of nature in the desert (and the warmth).

My very favorite attraction in Phoenix is the Desert Botanical Garden. Their mission is to help us understand, protect and preserve the desert's natural beauty. This garden has 55 acres under cultivation, over 175 staff, over 1000 volunteers, close to a million visitors every year and 50,000 plant displays showcased in beautiful outdoor exhibits. And it is also a great spot to do a bit of birdwatching!

Two areas in particular fascinate me — demonstration beds of vegetables and displays of how indigenous people survived in the desert heat.

I know that I'm not the only gardener in the Ottawa Valley who "occasionally" whines about the challenges that Mother Nature throws at us, but consider the challenges that desert gardening presents. The challenges for Phoenix (Maricopa County) read like the script from a horror movie for gardeners. High temperatures for extended periods of time, low humidity, high solar intensity, and possibility of frost in the cooler seasons. It gets so hot in the summer that tomatoes will not set fruit! In May, June and July there is not much going on in the garden. The optimal growing seasons are spring and fall with relatively short growing time available. One must choose crop varieties that mature quickly.

It is very difficult to overstate the importance of water to growing plants. The abundant rainfalls in July and August this past season in the Ottawa Valley were like a miracle drug for plants. My (non-irrigated) tomatoes produced three times the crop this year compared to the previous year. Similar results were the norm for many other vegetables.

Two of the staple crops for indigenous peoples are corn and beans. Corn has been grown in Arizona for centuries by native Arizonans and is still widely grown by native people today. Most native-grown corn is highly drought tolerant and has adapted to grow in the arid climate with little to no supplemental irrigation.

Dry beans are well suited to the hot Arizona sun and have been grown in Arizona for thousands of years by native people. Beans are a staple providing protein and fibre. There is a huge array of varieties available, with a rainbow of colors, sizes, rich flavours and textures.

There are tons of drought-tolerant, heat-loving bean varieties available. Many of the best are native heirloom beans that have been tended for centuries in Arizona and the southwestern states.

The long frost-free season of southern Arizona is especially helpful to dry bean growers. The dry climate is compatible with letting the beans dry in the field before threshing. Sunscald is rarely an issue for dry beans, and they make a great companion crop for corn or sunflowers. Also, beans have fewer disease problems in arid climates.

If you do find yourself sticking close to home and need a gardening "fix", might I suggest joining a local Horticultural Society as a way to learn from local gardeners, view gorgeous presentations from folks who have travelled near and far, and commiserate with other gardeners about how the winter is dragging on. Oh, and did I mention that there might be butter tarts at break time?

The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) was created by the Province of Ontario in 1906 and has 270



This photo of a gila woodpecker was taken at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phonenix (photo by Sally Hansen)

autonomous local societies and over 30,000 members. Where would I find a local Society? What is amazing to me is the number of societies that are within easy driving distance. Within a fifteen-minute drive from Almonte Old Town Hall there are four societies to be found — if one is willing to drive 45 minutes, one has a choice of an additional ten societies. Society membership often brings other perks, such as discounts at local garden centre. Many "Horts" work closely with Municipal Authorities to beautify our towns. Go to <a href="http://gardenontario.org">gardenontario.org</a> to find the society nearest you.

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# Consider Cohousing

## An Approach that Addresses Healthy Community and the Environment

One of the issues currently facing many Canadians is the lack of affordable housing. The reasons are many; but add in the climate crisis and we are forced to rethink how and where we build, which energy sources we use for our houses, and how we create our communities.

Closely connected to the housing crisis in many ways, there is also a crisis of people feeling depressed, isolated and desolate. Our elders are sequestered away from the rest

by Chandler Swain

of society as we rush about with no time for them, often commuting great distances, losing ourselves in diversions on screens and the need to acquire lots of stuff. We end up having little time for the things that give us a fulfilling sense of community and wholeness.

Could a different approach to housing remedy these ills and give people supportive, diverse, multigenerational, vibrant communities, built in a way that is environmentally sound, and do it affordably?



Photo courtesy of Ottawa Cohousing

The Soul Sisters house, a new 4-person Cohousing Community in urban Ottawa

Cohousing has proven to be a solution to many of these issues. Cohousing neighbourhoods have been popular in Europe, particularly in Scandinavia, for a long time. The philosophy is spreading around the world, in Canada most strongly in British Columbia.

Essentially, members of a cohousing project own their own units, and everyone is responsible for how the whole operates. Simply put, everyone is on the Condo board. Decisions are made by all residents using consensus or other collaborative methods. Here is a nice little primer quote from the website of the Canadian Cohousing Network <cohousing.ca>:

“Cohousing is the name of a type of collaborative housing that attempts to overcome the alienation of modern housing, where few people know their neighbours and there is little sense of community. The future residents are integral to the design and development of the community. Cohousing combines the autonomy of compact self-contained private dwellings with the benefits of shared, spacious community amenities that typically include a large dining room, kitchen, recreation spaces, meeting rooms, children’s play spaces, guest rooms, workshops and gardens. Cohousing neighbourhoods tend to offer environmentally sensitive design with a pedestrian orientation and have documented lower vehicle use than conventional neighbourhoods.”

I recently learned that a Cohousing project is going to be built in the Almonte area. I have followed cohousing for years and really love the concept. As we are thinking about downsizing in the near future, my partner and I knew this was the kind of thing we wanted. We want to stay near our friends and family, be in an environmentally-smart smaller home, and live in a dense, walkable, multigenerational neighbourhood — all things that have been proven to extend healthy lives for seniors and create them for young families. And as we downsize and move into a Cohousing project, our current house will become available for a family that needs it!

Cohousing addresses environmental concerns as well. Home energy and our need to get away from fossil fuels is a major factor in having healthy homes. The opportunity to build new super-insulated, highly energy efficient, passive and/or net zero homes is exciting.

As is the idea of downsizing. Here’s the big advantage for our planet: the smaller our living space, the fewer resources go into building it, and the fewer resources we use to operate it! It should also be less expensive, since the future Cohousing residents get to plan what is built and what amenities are factored in. Cohousing is about smaller footprint living spaces. Outdoor spaces are emphasized — including gardens, play areas and meeting places for casual neighbourhood interaction.

Two things come to my mind as big inspirations for Cohousing for our future. The first is the incredible privilege of my recent travel around Italy (mostly on fast, reliable, electric trains!) all the while musing on why we all love areas like Tuscany so much. This region has fascinating, beautiful small towns, and villages with dense housing and amenities where one

walks, often with lots of elderly people, up quite steep narrow streets. The towns are gorgeous, close enough to commute to big centres if needed, but there is NO ugly soulless sprawl around them. Who is going to pave over precious, culturally-honoured food-growing farmland? The farmland is revered. This link to Italian culture is untouchable. Another approach must be used. Dense housing. Walkable neighbourhoods. Excellent public transport.

Second, we just went to one of our first Cohousing monthly meetings with our fledgling group of about 10 potential households in preparation for acquiring property on which to build our project. One of the first exercises we did to develop a common understanding of how we will go forward was to establish our values as a small core group that will grow to potentially 15-20 “homes.” We brainstormed to come up with four core values to refer to on our way forward, and some in consideration are: kindness, empathy, respect, environmental awareness, and integrity. This fills me with so much inspiration and hope.

More information on Cohousing in the Ottawa/Almonte region can be found at <ottawacohousing.ca>.

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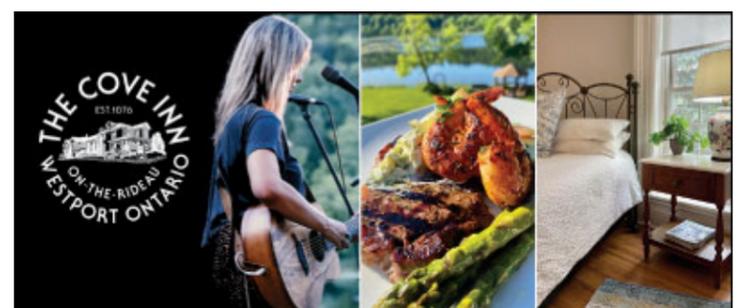
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