

FREE

SEPTEMBER 2010

the *humm*

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & IDEAS



September's Events 24 & 25

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special section 9-14



The Art of Katherine McNenly p.3



MVTM Events 11



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ARTBEAT

by Bill Buttle



"Now look, Mrs. Grimsby! – There must be 100 other reasons why a dog would jump through a plate glass window!"

Readers Write

Haiku For Turbulent Times

Kneel at the altar of now;
breathe. Again, deeply.
Rest in this moment.

— Caroline Balderston Parry
(www.carolinebalderstonparry.com)

Who's Reading theHumm



Doris and Zach Wionzek write: We had a great European holiday in May 2008. Here we are at "the Gornergrat" in Switzerland, checking out theHumm with the Swiss Alps all around us. It was a beautiful day, and after taking the train part of the way down, we hiked back to Zermatt, where there was no sign of snow!

Who's Reading theHumm



(above) **Jake Berkowitz** writes: Rosie brought theHumm down during her visit here in California (in 2008) — a great piece of home away from home. The photo shows the Big Sur coastline. I'm down here in Santa Barbara until mid-December as the Writer-in-Residence at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of California Santa Barbara.

(below) **Barb Booth** writes: We travelled to China for two weeks in 2008 to attend my son's wedding in Macau, and while we were there, we of course spent some time in Beijing! The photo shows the south entrance of the Forbidden City in the background with Chairman Mao Zedong's picture displayed.



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

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may be submitted by email or on disk.

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Thanks this month to:

Ray Clement for cleaning off the shop windows in Almonte after Puppets Up! To Joy, Bob, friends and family for their support in early August when we needed you. And to Rob, for everything, for the past 20 years...

Definitely NOT Photo Journalism

photos by Rod MacIvor

September 12 to October 10
Vernissage September 12, 2-4PM

at the
Philip K. Wood Gallery
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Katherine McNenly — Classical Realism

The art of Katherine McNenly is both extraordinary and comfortingly familiar. At first glance I didn't appreciate fully what I was seeing — it's been years since I've been to the Louvre or the Metropolitan. But when I studied one of her portraits, I realized

by Sally Hansen

that this young Canadian artist from Espanola (near Sudbury) is accomplished in the traditional techniques of the Renaissance Masters.

Her oil paintings glow with rich colours; still life objects are suffused in almost other-worldly light. Her portraits are more lifelike than photographs because they better capture the malleability and the three-dimensionality of the human face and figure on a two-dimensional surface. To my eyes, the depths and textures of her shadows are more realistic than those a professional photographer can coax out of digital hardware and software. As a classical realist, Katherine much prefers to work from life.

I wish I could talk to Ansel Adams about this. This pioneering landscape photographer wrote, "I respect everything in change and the solemn beauty of life and death... and therefore, while man is amidst the immense beauty of objective bodies, he must possess the capacity of self-perfection and must observe and represent his world with full confidence."

Katherine McNenly is well on her way to being able to represent her world with full confidence. She knows she has found the right vehicle. Seven years ago she had a petrifying opportunity to examine her existence in detail. Only one month before her scheduled retirement as a picture framer (so she could paint full time), she contracted life-threatening sepsis. She survived, but it

was a harrowing experience that lasted a full year. She never once wavered in her determination to resume her painting as soon as she was physically able. "It's a calling," she told me; "I could never do anything else."

She expresses her artistic voice so well in her oil paintings that I hesitate to describe it for you in words. Think da Vinci; think Caravaggio. Beautiful examples of her growing mastery of the techniques that began in the early 1400s and created the Renaissance Masters are available on her Still Life and Portrait Galleries on her website at <www.katherinemcnenly.com>. Her original paintings are even more articulate.



Katherine is an enthusiastic adherent of the emerging renaissance of classical realist painting, as epitomized by the Angel Academy of Art in Florence, Italy. While completing her BFA at York University, McNenly had the opportunity to study with the Academy's director, Michael John Angel, over

a six-year period when he was Director of the National Portrait Academy in Toronto. After Angel moved to Italy, she spent four months in Florence studying with two American painters at Atelier Cecil-Graves in the former studio of a 19th century sculptor, with forty-foot ceilings and natural northern light.

Her website mentions her membership in the Canadian Portrait Society and the Canadian Society of Classical Realism. At <www.classicalrealismcanada.com> I discovered that McNenly fully embodies the four principles of Classical Realism: truth to nature, thorough artistic training, beauty, and skillful craftsmanship. It is well worth

reading the expanded definitions of each of these guiding principles to glean an understanding of the passion and discipline that guide McNenly's art. She is fervent in her espousal of her teacher's central tenet: "Those who do not learn from the masters waste their lives re-inventing the wheel. Price-



less knowledge has been sacrificed in the 20th century," Angel claims. "Starting from nothing you can go nowhere, but, stand on the shoulders of giants, and you possess the tools and vision to travel far."

Integral to her chosen artistic style are richly pigmented surfaces that celebrate the beauty of colour. Katherine selects Belgian linen as her canvas, and imports paints of the highest quality from Holland and the US. Many of the paintings created during the height of the Renaissance are outlasting much more modern works, precisely because the attention to "craftsmanship" has fallen out of favour. At the Angel Academy of Art, "A firm grounding in the technical and material aspects is considered essential. The differences between various pencils, charcoals, paints, papers and canvases are taught, together with the preparation of glues and plasters for canvas and panel. The diverse requirements and specific mediums for the various layers of an oil painting are studied, and underpainting-overpainting procedures, as well as the masters' glazing techniques, are examined thoroughly." Katherine's results illustrate the value of the solid grounding she acquired, and the ongoing daily discipline she follows to maintain those techniques. It was cellist Pablo Casals who noted, "The most perfect technique is that which is not noticed at all."

Katherine's list of accomplishments and awards also provides eloquent testimony to the quality of her results. The list is long, but highlights include being a finalist in the Kingston Portrait Competition in 2007, a finalist in the "International Artist Magazine's" 2008 Still Life Competition, and a semi-finalist in the ARC (Art Renewal Center) 2009 International Competition. She also received two grants this year from the Ontario Arts Council in support of her upcoming solo show at The Cube Gallery, 1285 Wellington W. in Ottawa. Titled "Memory and Light," the show runs from September 1st to October 3rd with an opening reception on Sunday, September 5th from 2 to 5 PM.

Katherine is a member of The Catherine Street Art Collective, a group of five artists sharing studio space in The Media Arts Building at 203 Catherine Street between Bank and O'Connor Streets in Ottawa. Her work will be on exhibit in Studio 60 during their Open Studio Tour from noon to 5 PM on the weekend of October 23rd and 24th.

For the past four years she has shared her expertise as Instructor of Traditional Painting Techniques for the City of Ottawa. She also serves on the Board of the Mississippi Mills Arts Council and is a member of the Ottawa Arts Council. You can contact her at 256-7129 or <kathy.mcnenly@sympatico.ca>.

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Artist Trading Card

WHO Katherine McNenly

WHAT Portrait and Still-Life Painter, Oils

WHERE Home Studio at 251 Greystone Cr., Almonte, 256-7129, <www.katherinemcnenly.com>; The Catherine Street Art Collective, 203 Catherine St., Ottawa.

WHEN Sept. 1–Oct. 3, Solo show at The Cube Gallery, 1285 Wellington W., Ottawa; Oct. 23 & 24, 12–5 at The Catherine Street Art Collective Open Studio Tour

WHY “It’s a calling; I could never do anything else.”



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Definitely Not Photo Journalism... Rod MacIvor's "Pretty Picture Show"

What do you call your first post-retirement photography exhibit following a 42-year career as a renowned photojournalist and winner of three National Newspaper Awards? Rod MacIvor's upcoming exhibit at the relocated Philip K. Wood Gallery, situated in Almonte's Heritage Victoria Woollen Mill, is titled *Definitely Not Photo Journalism*. His personal title for the show is "Rod's Pretty Picture Show."

From the sneak preview afforded this Humble writer, I can report with confidence that the photos are gorgeous. Freed from the constraints of photo assignments and deadlines for almost three years, this internationally acclaimed photographer has been focusing on a wide variety of subjects that capture his artist's eye. From his spectacular shots of American Southwest landscapes to a stunning study of the reflections in a drop of water, MacIvor demonstrates his exceptional ability to discern and disclose the awesome beauty of nature. His photographs of birds are as well-composed and executed as his prize-winning images of newsworthy individuals.

MacIvor came to the attention of the Canadian and international public in the 1970s for his photos of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his family, taken while Rod was employed by United Press International as their Ottawa News Pictures Manager from 1970-1980. His photo of Pierre, the "family man", carrying his son Justin under his arm like a football while an RCMP officer salutes their arrival at a Government House garden party, is instantly familiar to most Canadians old enough to remember Trudeau. In 2008 this photo was chosen by *The Beaver* (Canada's History Magazine) as one of ten "images

that influenced the fate of the nation".

When Pierre Trudeau died in 2000, MacIvor was living in Almonte, and noticed a small tribute to Trudeau in the window of Phil Wood's gallery on Mill Street. Together, Rod and Phil collaborated on an exhibit of fifty of MacIvor's best photos of the Trudeau years. The show drew 5,000 people to the gallery, and over 20,000 people viewed the exhibit as it travelled across Canada. Sales of prints raised almost \$20,000 for prostate cancer research. MacIvor treasures his memories of his relationship with the Trudeau family, and is pleased to be known as Margaret Trudeau's first photography instructor. Five of his photos will appear in Margaret's new book scheduled for release this October.

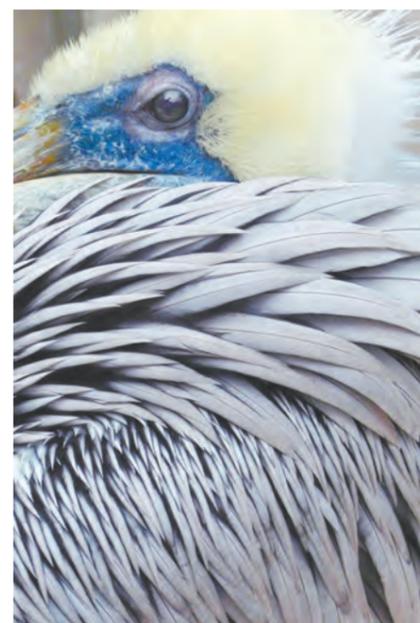
As a photojournalist, MacIvor won three National Newspaper Awards and numerous other awards including The Canadian Press News Picture of the Year in 1999, the 2005 Award of Excellence for Single Sports Photo by the News Design Annual Creative Competition (23 countries), and two international awards from PX3 Paris annual photo competitions in 2007 and 2008. He is now one of the judges in Canada's annual National Newspaper Awards competition.

Rod MacIvor was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, and got his start in photography as a high school student with a summer job at the Ottawa Exhibition. His "badge" earned him access to the entertainment events and he took

his first photos of stars like Red Skelton, Bob Hope and Andy Williams with a \$39 camera. The official Ex photographer, Andy Andrews, was impressed with Rod's fervor and talent and hired him to work for him, taking photos for the *Ottawa Journal*. Rod returned to school at Ryerson University in 1966 to study photographic arts, and he started with United Press International in 1970. Later he worked as staff photographer and Assistant Director of Photography at the *Ottawa Citizen* for twenty-seven years until his retirement in 2008.

Come celebrate Rod's "retirement" with him at the Philip K. Wood Gallery, located above the Heirloom Café at 7 Mill Street in Almonte in the wonderful Victoria Woollen Mill (292-4406). The show opens at 2PM on Sunday, September 12th, with a public vernissage — an ideal opportunity to meet this delightful man whose images are so much a part of Canadian history. It continues until Sunday, October 10.

— Sally Hansen



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The Gardens of Youth

Flavour of the Month

Allow me to let you in on a little known secret... Youth gardens are springing up across Lanark County faster, it seems, than you can read through your seed catalogues. As of this year, there no fewer than four gardens run by and for youth centers: YAK (Perth), Lanark Highlands Youth Centre (Lanark), TYPs (Almonte), and SFDCY (Smiths Falls).

By Susie Osler

In an era of increasing obesity and obesity-related disease, attention deficit disorders, an increased reliance on fast and convenience foods, and a decline in culinary and food production skills, any efforts to bring the "real" back into the food we eat are commendable. Youth centres are taking note and taking the initiative to do something about it. As a result, youth in the county are taking an interest in food — not fast food, but real food — growing, preparing and eating it.

In 2006, the Lanark Highlands Youth Centre was the first to take advantage of support from EcoPerth, developing the garden behind Lanark's municipal hall. Donated materials, labour and seedlings helped keep their start-up costs down. Youth and staff designed and built the garden with the help of volunteers. Youth decided what to plant, and away they went. About twenty kids have been involved this year — their fourth season. They have used their produce for Friday night's cooking program, donated extra produce and meals as thanks to the Lanark Landing and the Civitan (both youth centre supporters), and are planning canning workshops for salsa and pesto. There is palpable enthusiasm for the program. It makes sense on so many levels — connecting youth to the food they eat, the development of useful life skills, and engendering focus and responsibility. There are also big social benefits. The garden has not only created a locus for interaction and cooperation amongst youth, but it has also helped to develop positive relationships between the centre and the larger community.

The success of this garden has spawned the development of the other three. The TYPs (Taking Young People Seriously) garden in Almonte, near the library, is nearing the end of its second year. TYPs partnered with the library to provide programs that focus attention on their garden, such as weekly yoga sessions in the garden and tie-dye workshops. TYPs sold tomatoes, basil and chard, when available, to Food-

ies Fine Foods in Almonte. Extra produce also goes to The Hub — a second-hand store and TYPs supporter. As I write, TYPs is moving to a larger space with a proper kitchen, which will be a welcome addition and will enable them to start incorporating their produce into cooking and meal programs. Meanwhile, they hope to organize a tomato sauce and salsa canning session soon.

I recently visited YAK (Youth Action Committee) in Perth, and talked with program coordinator September Scribailo and several kids (YAK's garden is pictured here). The garden is built in beautifully constructed raised beds on the south side of the old Perth Shoe Factory. They've picked salad greens, tomatoes, potatoes, basil, and more, to include in their snack and meal programs. A local farmer taught a seed-starting workshop this

design and construction of the garden this year. Numerous people willingly offered their unique skills, expertise and enthusiasm to start up this garden. Several organizations also have garden plots here. Aside from SFDCY, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, REAL, and The Link also have plots. Once again, the garden presents an opportunity for exchange and cooperation between people who might otherwise not cross paths. As Colleen Muldoon (manager at SFDCY) indicated in our conversation, "Some kids have gardening knowledge that they can share with other kids... Often kids are familiar with gardening but it is something that only their parents do." The youth garden gives them a place to learn from and to teach each other skills, a sense of ownership, and a valued role to play. Farm visits, as well as the use of



(l-r) September Scribailo (Program Coordinator), Sandy Bartraw (YWCA Eco-Intern), Taylor Andrews, and Jeremy Worger (YWCA Eco-Intern) pose in YAK's garden

spring and the kids tended them until the garden was ready to plant. A garden mural is also underway for the wall behind the raised beds. As a gardener and an artist, it's great to see how growing, cooking, eating, and art come together, around the garden in this case. Beyond the obvious positive effects that gardening typically has on people, it seems also to engender positive and creative energy — perhaps due in part to the mind-blowing creative forces at work in nature that we witness as gardeners! This fall, YAK is hoping to organize a farm tour of a few nearby farms, and continue to develop its cooking program. Much appreciation goes to the Food Bank for their contributions of good whole food that's been used to supplement produce from the garden for the cooking program.

More interesting partnerships are also developing in Smiths Falls. The youth garden is located in a new community garden situated outside the Real Deal store. REAL (Rideau Environmental Action League) took the lead in organizing volunteers in the

locally grown food in cooking sessions, help connect youth to area farmers and underscore the value of food production.

All of the centres wanted to acknowledge the support of EcoPerth and the goodwill of many, many volunteers, businesses, and organizations that have given their energy and various donations to the garden projects. Staff have benefited from the assistance of YWCA Eco-Interns as well. Anyone who is interested in volunteering with some great young people (particularly with gardening, food preparation, and garden construction) is encouraged to contact the centres. Also, growers with an abundance of produce that they'd like to donate, please consider the youth centres. It could be used in cooking sessions — tomato sauce, salsa, apple sauce, or snack and meal programs. At the very least, check these gardens out and see what terrific accomplishments the dedicated and creative youth have made! I look forward to seeing how each of the gardens "grow" in the coming years.

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September 2010 5

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A Foray to France; The CP Railway

A pas de deux for Richard Gill's Show

What do France and the CP Railway have in common? Nothing really, other than both subjects are muses that, of late, have occupied the mind of Burnstown sculptor Richard Gill.

Having produced a new body of work for his show each year for the past 38, he continues to have an insatiable appetite for new material, often historical in nature.

In 1871, British Columbia decided to join Canada, but only if the government agreed to build a continental railway. The rest is history... A history that fascinates Gill and compels him to document the subject in his chosen medium: beautiful and durable sculpted and fired clay. His works capture events such as Lady Macdonald's insistence that she ride on the cow catcher to enjoy the magnificent scenery of the Rockies, and scenes that depict the actual construction of the railway with

Chinese workers, many of whom lost their lives to the big steel.

A foray to France inspired the second part of Gill's fall show. The spring journey began with an overnight ferry from Portsmouth to the port of St. Malo, then to La Rochelle (both were points of embarkation for migrants to the New World). The voyage continued through the Loire Valley, en route to the rugged coast of Brittany. And of course, no visit to France would be complete without a visit to Paris in the springtime.

Perhaps therein lies the *pas de deux* — both are subjects that indeed played significant roles in Canada's history.

The show opens October 1 and continues daily to October 11, at the artist's Fog Run Studio at Bittersweet Gallery in Burnstown. For further information, call 432-5254.

— Cheryl Babineau

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Catch The fiVe in Pakenham

The fiVe, a woodwind quintet based in Ottawa, is making a return appearance at St. Andrew's United Church in Pakenham. The quintet consists of Elsa Slater (flute), David Sale (oboe), Angela Blackwell (clarinet), Bob Brown (horn), and Gordon Slater (bassoon). They will entertain with a musical romp through the back alleys of Europe in a concert entitled **Great Music of the Lesser Knowns**. Featured will be music by composers who lived in the shadows of other composers, as well as music composed by those who deserve to be better known.

The beautiful acoustics in St. Andrew's provide a great setting for such a performance. St. Andrew's is proud that their member and Pakenham's own Dave Sale is a member of this group. The date is Sunday, September 26, with homemade desserts and coffee served at 3PM prior to the concert, which starts at 4PM. Admission is \$12 at the door, students and seniors are \$8, and children under 12 are \$6.

Concert at The Cove

Over the last few years, The Cove in Westport has grown into a formidable venue for not only homegrown, but also world class talent. The popular Blues on the Rideau Series (going into its sixth season), the fourth Annual MUSICwestport Festival, and the thirteenth year of Thursday Jazz Night with The Spencer Evans Trio, featuring co-owners Jeff and Seamus Cowan, have contributed greatly to this venue's attraction. With the musical knowledge and expertise of the Cowan brothers, being members of the Westport Arts Council and trained musicians themselves, this destination can only grow.

The Cowans honed their musical training in Montreal, where they lived for about ten years, studying at McGill University in the Jazz Program. They received training from some of the country's best players, and played alongside some of the best up-and-comers as well. Two of those were Jim and Chet Doxas from Montreal, whose family, along with father George Doxas, has been a fixture on the Montreal scene for several decades.

On Friday, September 17, The Cove is proud to present The Doxas Brothers Quartet, featuring John Abercrombie and John Menegon. This group brings together two generations of musicians at the top of the jazz world, with the common thread being a devotion to great improvising. The group's repertoire is comprised of original works from each band member, and many of the compositions are written specifically for this quartet.

Both in their early 30s, saxophonist Chet Doxas and drummer Jim Doxas have already established international reputations as two of the most promis-



John Abercrombie (above) will be joined by John Menegon and brothers Chet and Jim Doxas (below) at The Cove

ing improvisers of their generation. Bassist John Menegon's credits read like the evolution of modern jazz. Menegon has performed and recorded alongside Pat Metheny, Jack DeJohnette, Joe Lovano, and Lee Konitz, to name very few. John Abercrombie's contribution to guitar and jazz music is undeniable. With an active career spanning over fifty years, Abercrombie is an artist who at once embraces the jazz tradition and creates it. His relationship with the record label ECM has seen Abercrombie produce some of the most important jazz albums in the last thirty years.

The show is \$15, and starts at 8PM. Reservations are recommended. For more information, see <www.chetdoxas.com>, <www.johnabercrombie.com>, or <www.coveinn.com>.



Holy Broadway!?!

Ottawa soprano Cara Gilbertson will join the Ottawa Valley Music Festival when it presents *Holy Broadway!?!* at the Cornerstone Community Church in Almonte on Sunday, September 19. An accomplished vocalist who has performed at the National Arts Centre, Ms. Gilbertson has sung with the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra, the Ottawa Bach Choir, the Strings of St. John's (Ottawa), and at many concerts in Europe. This September she comes to Almonte to lend her distinctive voice to an exciting repertoire of music that encompasses the sacred and, to some, the sacrilegious! Selections from *Godspell*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, as well as music from *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris* will be presented.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and free for children under 12. For tickets and more information, please call Lesley at 754-5217 or Mary at 623-3079, or visit <www.valleyfestival.ca>.



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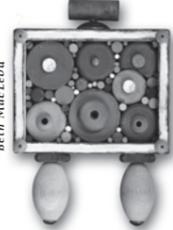
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Recycle Your WEEE!

Effective August 10, the Township of Lanark Highlands is adding waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) to the list of items that residents can bring to municipal waste sites free of charge for recycling.

While a number of neighbouring municipalities host public events to collect and recycle unwanted electronic waste, Lanark Highlands is the first municipality in Lanark County to receive approval from Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) to operate permanent collection depots as part of their regular municipal waste diversion practice. Items approved for recycling under the OES program include computers, monitors, printers, TVs, VCR and DVD players and recorders, MP3 players, cameras, telephones, stereos, radios, and more.

Lanark Highland's program is part of a broader OES electronic waste recycling program — an ambitious initiative to make it easier for Ontarians to safely recycle their electronic waste and keep it out of landfill sites. As of April 1, 2010, 44 electronic items are now accepted at more than 500 approved collection sites across the province, including all waste disposal sites in Lanark Highlands.

Lanark Highlands Public Works Assistant Cathie Green says the Township is determined to preserve landfill space and divert as many materials for recycling as possible. "Following on our launch of the used tire recycling program earlier this year, the WEEE initiative is another way to improve recycling serv-

ices for residents while reducing waste management costs for the municipality."

Green likes the OES motto "Can't give it away? Recycle it!" because it still places the reuse option ahead of recycling. "The three R's tell us to reduce consumption and reuse things whenever possible, and then to recycle what is left over."



Many electronic products contain materials such as lead, cadmium and mercury, which can have negative environmental impacts and cause health and safety concerns if not handled properly. WEEE has been designed as a special diversion program to ensure that unwanted electronics are reused or recycled, and to stem the flow of these materials to landfill or improper processing in developing nations.

"Nearly four in five Ontario households (78 per cent) have at least one electronic product that is not working or not being used. This program makes

recycling easier and encourages consumers and businesses to do what they can to help," said Carol Hochu, OES Executive Director. "The reason to participate is simple — it helps keep hazardous electronic equipment out of landfill, which leads to a greener, healthier environment."

In addition, the program recovers valuable resources such as precious and base metals. There is no better example than the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic medals, which contain recycled metal from electronic waste.

OES has launched an interactive website at <www.dowhatyoucan.ca> to help people find the closest OES-approved collection site to recycle their unwanted electronics.

About OES

The Ontario Electronic Stewardship, a not-for-profit industry organization, oversees the responsible recycling of waste electronics through its network of approved collection sites across the province. Under the banner *Do What You Can*, each Ontario resident and business is encouraged to safely recycle electronic waste.

The program was developed with Waste Diversion Ontario on behalf of the Ontario government under the Waste Diversion Act, 2002. The OES's electronic waste recycling program accepts 44 items of electronic waste including unwanted equipment such as computers, televisions, DVD players, hand-held devices and more. For more information, visit <www.dowhatyoucan.ca>.



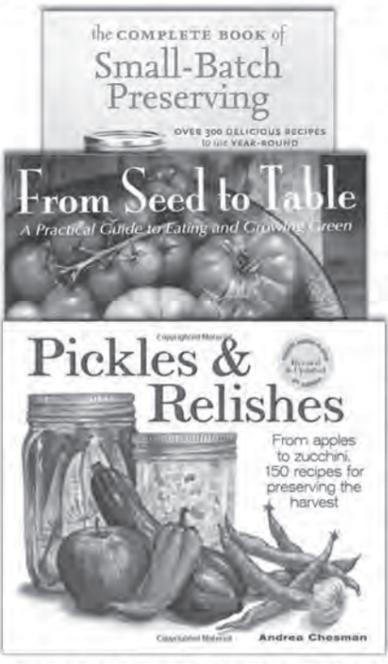
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Planning Ahead for Fall?

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Taught by talented local artists, musicians, dancers, movers and shakers — you'll be inspired to learn and create this autumn!

Get Informed At a Glance

Learn why Mississippi Mills is a natural place to grow at the 2010 "At a Glance" open house on September 8. Explore what the community has to offer at this unique one-stop opportunity where information on local groups and activities is readily available and easily accessed.

Mississippi Mills At a Glance takes place Wednesday, Septem-

ber 8 between 7PM and 9PM at the Almonte Old Town Hall, located at 14 Bridge Street. The event is aimed at residents, new additions and guests.

Gather information about local clubs, associations, services, businesses, and organizations. Register children, adults and seniors in fall and winter recreational activities. Connect with friendly

and enthusiastic exhibitors. Network with event participants and build valuable relationships. Provide feedback to Town staff on services and activities.

For more information, please contact Nicole Guthrie at 256-1077 ext. 22 or visit <www.mississippimills.ca>.

— Helen Gillis

The Joy of Curling

My name is Rob and I'm a curler. It used to be that I would feel vaguely ridiculous making that statement. After all, isn't curling that "sport" that's like bocce ball on ice where they are always yelling "Hurry! Hurry haard!" at each other? It seemed like something I might try in an ironic, hipster sort of way at best. But the truth is: curling stole my heart.

On my first day of curling I had absolutely no experience — I had never thrown a rock, never swept, never watched an entire game on TV without drifting into a coma on the couch. As much as my teammates and I tried to bluff

our way through — we didn't have sliders for our shoes, brooms, or a strong grasp of the rules — our opponents for the evening astutely surmised that we were new to the sport. They graciously turned the first half of our game time into an impromptu clinic.

Our team was made up entirely of novice curlers, but that is not necessarily the best way to start. Most clubs offer a draw that mixes and matches beginning curlers with more experienced members to create balanced teams. In Almonte, registration for the mixed Monday night draw is half price,

which should get some fence-sitters out onto the ice.

Curlers are a friendly, supportive group who go out of their way to share the love of their sport with newcomers. So, if you watched the winter Olympics this past year, saw those Norwegian curlers' pants, and thought: "I'd like to give that a try" — now is your chance. The Almonte club's registration dates are Sept. 16, 7-9PM, and Sept. 18, 9-1PM, at the arena. Find out when your local club's registration happens, grab some friends, and get ready to hurry haaaaard!

— Rob Riendeau

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Almonte Judo Club

Registration and First Class

Wednesday, September 8
Almonte Curling Lounge

Juniors 6–12 years	Register: 6:15–6:45PM
	Class: 6:45–8:00PM
Seniors 13+ years	Register: 7:45–8:00PM
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Theatre News In Our Area

Fall Into the Theatre...

Not surprisingly, there isn't a lot of action on area boards in September. As always, this is the month of preparation, of rehearsals... set design... and getting preparations in line for the coming fall season.

However, over in Almonte, the **Valley Players** are putting the finishing touches on their original comic musical production, *Quilts*

by Ian Doig

From Hell, to be performed at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum as part of Fibrefest 2010. The show opens with a Wine and Cheese Gala on Friday, September 10, at 7:30PM, and tickets are \$20. The run then continues with four more presentations, at 2PM and 7:30PM on September 11 and 12, and tickets for these shows are \$15. The Valley Players are also looking for two male and two female characters, ages between late 30s and early 50s, for their spring production of Norm Foster's *Looking*. Audition dates are Monday, September 27 and Thursday, September 30 at 7PM at Naismith Public School in Almonte. You'll find a play synopsis and further details online at www.valleyplayers.ca.

The Mississippi Mudds over in Carleton Place have a busy few days ahead: on September 7 at 7:30PM and Septem-

ber 12 at 7PM they are holding auditions for eight roles for a new comedy/murder mystery, *Prints Of Darkness*, to be performed on October 30 and 31. On September 8, rehearsals for their December performance of *Nunsense: The Mega-Musical* begin at the Waterside in Carleton Place. And then the next evening, in the Town Hall at 7PM, is an information night for their Youth Theatre production of *Into the Woods, Jr*, which is scheduled for production in February. Auditions for the show will be held on Saturday, September 11, from 9AM to noon in the Town Hall, and rehearsals are called for Monday evenings, beginning September 13. And as if that isn't enough, The Mudds Youth Theatre Choir will be performing at St. Andrews Church from 6 to 8PM on September 11 as part of Sounds of Downtown. For more information about that event, contact Ina Jackson at i.jackson@sympatico.ca.

Fresh from their intense production of *Dark of the Moon* in the Smiths Falls Station Theatre, **Barn Door Productions** is working hard at constructing their own new venue, the Full Circle Theatre on Craig Street (Highway 43) in Perth. While the company doesn't have a target opening date yet, I am assured that it will be sooner rather than later. The first production in the

new, barrier-free space will be *A Gal-a Night Is Enough* — a musical, comic, dramatic and original whirlwind of "stuff" — a celebration of a dream that has taken the Company more than a quarter century to achieve. We'll keep you posted as to their progress as it occurs.

The **Studio Theatre** tells me that they are in preparation for another *Evening of One-Act Plays*, which is planned for mid-October — and, on the audition front, how could any actor pass up a chance to be cast in the classic comedy about the invisible six-foot rabbit, *Harvey*? Audition dates are September 4 and 6 at 7:30PM in the Studio Theatre in Perth, so come on out!

And speaking of auditions, the **Prior Players** in Arnprior will be presenting Norm Foster's *Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun* on November 12, 13, 19 and 20. Helen Bird will be directing, and is looking for a few adult men and women to fill the roles, as well as people to assist with production and back-stage jobs. Auditions will be held on September 7, 8, and 9 at 7:30PM at 193 Fourth Ave. in Arnprior. For more information, please contact Helen at 623-3836.

So there — the fall season here in our area is kicking off with a blast! Be sure to get out and support your local troupes; you'll really enjoy it!



The Valley Players of Almonte will perform *Quilts From Hell* at this year's Fibrefest

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MVTM Presents Aboriginal Workshops

The town of Almonte sits on the banks of the dramatic Mississippi River, once home to the Algonquin peoples and centre of the Canadian wool manufacturing industry. In recognition of this historic juxtaposition, the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (MVTM) is launching a new series of workshops and events connecting the museum and area to some of Canada's most talented Aboriginal designers.

The museum's annual fibre arts festival, Fibrefest, held this year on September 11 and 12, will launch these events with a booth presenting aboriginal designer products.

On September 23 to 25, the MVTM celebrates **Almonte Cultural Days**, starting with a dinner lecture on the 23rd. For \$75, enjoy a glass of wine, a set dinner, and a talk by Marlene Joudry and D'Arcy Moses. Proceeds go to the MVTM improvement fund.

On September 24 and 25, enjoy an outdoor weekend workshop on the Almonte Riverwalk: **Temporary Shelters in Urban Spaces** — A Dene Approach to Creative Survival Architecture — with Dene designer and artist D'Arcy Moses. D'Arcy has spent the last five years in Wrigley NWT, learning and living the traditions of his ancestors, with an emphasis on hunting, fishing and sub-arctic survival. For those of you who prefer indoor craftwork, that same weekend there are two one-day workshops in the Almonte Town Hall in traditional East Coast **Mi'Kmaq quill work**, given by quill work master artisan Marlene Joudry. Learn the

history of Mi'Kmaq porcupine quill work, hear the stories, and learn some of the oldest porcupine quill work techniques.

If your creative interests tend to a more rhythmic nature, why not take the two-day **Algonquin drum making** workshop on October 2 and 3 with master drum maker Maa Taw waapiska kwe (Lorraine Montreuil). She

about the history of the sub-arctic Northwest Territories Dene, research traditional hunting attire and embellishments, and imagine life in the North. Translate this unique experience into your own design, and make a vest or tote-bag embellished with Dene-style appliqué or decoration.

Finish off the season at the **Aboriginal Designer Fashion Show** at the MVTM. The annual Gala will be on October 15th, and a Community Show will follow on the 16th. Canada's aboriginal fashion designers are working to develop an industry to bring about social and economic change. Their unique approach successfully bridges two worlds by mixing authenticity and cultural traditions with today's global lifestyle needs. Runway designers will include D'Arcy Moses, Lorraine Montreuil, Tracey Toulouse, Randy Roy, Marlene Joudry, Dene Fur Clouds Limited, Rannva Simonson and Bruno Henry. Outerwear, knitwear, and accessories for men, women and children will be showcased.

This annual Fashion Show is organized and staged with the help of dedicated Museum volunteers and aims to involve as much of the community as possible. Proceeds go to the MVTM improvement fund. All of the workshops have a limited number of participants, so register soon! For more information on any of the above, contact the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum at 256-3754, 3 Rosamond Street East in Almonte, or see <www.mvtm.ca>.



The MVTM celebrates Almonte Cultural Days with workshops and an Aboriginal Designer Fashion Show. Shown above is some "Urban Fur" by D'Arcy Moses.

is a multi-gifted artist working in leather, fabric and numerous traditional skills, and particularly renowned for her unique hand-painted drums. She makes four painted drums per year, each a collector's piece depicting Algonquin culture and a moment in the life of the drum maker. That same weekend, October 2 and 3, D'Arcy Moses returns to give a workshop on **Dene-inspired Fashion**. In this two-day workshop, learn

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The Mudds: A Colourful Cast of Characters

September is a time of beginnings, a time to plan and start new projects. Members of the Mississippi Mudds are raring to go with a whole new season of live theatre in the works. This local community theatre group with the catchy logo (Mudds is an acronym for MUsic Dance and Drama on Stage) continues to live up to its name with several new productions taking us around the calendar until late next spring. Read on for details about the shows including show dates, ticket sales, or how you too can get involved. With three musicals, a murder mystery, and a purely choral group, there is something for everyone.

New sopranos, altos, tenors or basses are always welcome and no auditions are required. Speaking of singing, watch for the Mudds youth choir presenting their lively tribute to Broadway as part of this year's Sounds Of Downtown organized by Arts Carleton Place.

The Mudds' third Town Hall production this season, a new genre-defying musical entitled *Halfway To Heaven*, opens at the end of April 2011. Details of all activities are available at <mississippimudds.ca> or by calling Tony at 253-2007.

— Judith Scott

Right after Labour Day rehearsals start for *Nunsense: The Mega-Musical*, set to open at the town hall in December. This musical spoof is a favourite with audiences everywhere, with its catchy music, its sometimes dark humour, and its cast of quirky characters. The cast for this show auditioned in June but there are still openings for two basses and three teens.

At the same time, the Youth Theatre branch of the Mudds holds auditions and begins rehearsals for their late February production of the Sondheim musical *Into The Woods Jr.* This delightful family show includes many favourite fairy tale characters in rather unusual circumstances.

Prints Of Darkness is a brand new comedy murder mystery dinner theatre production to be presented in partnership with Tijuana Tilley's restaurant located on Highway 7. The group is pleased to be working in a new location for this Halloween weekend treat for adults. Expect great entertainment and food choices to please any palate.

Meanwhile the Muddsingers resume rehearsals on Monday evenings with repertoire geared towards several Remembrance Day concerts to be hosted in local churches.



Sister Julia tastes the soup...
 (from the upcoming Mudds production of *Nunsense — the Mega-Musical*)

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Sing, Sing a Song...

Are you looking to expand your vocal range, hone your harmonizing skills, make new friends or just sing out for the sheer fun of it? The Fall is the perfect time to start, as most of the community choirs in our area are gearing up for a new season of songs. Here are personal invitations from a few of them.

Tay Valley Choir

Do you love to sing — in the shower, in the car, with others? If your answer is yes, why not join the Tay Valley Community Choir. This group of singers practices weekly and is directed and accompanied by well-known Perth musicians Ann McMahon and Grace Armstrong.

The choir has an eclectic repertoire of inspirational, international, golden oldies and pop songs. The Tay Valley Community Choir creates lovely four-part harmonies and warm, welcoming, country-style concerts. Performances during the year include Christmas and spring concerts and several visits to sing at

Lanark Lodge. Guest artists have included harp, flute and violin players, as well as the St. Paul's Handbell Choir.

The first practice is September 13 (from 6 to 7:30PM) at Glen Tay Public School. Practices alternate between the school and Maberly Hall.

If you are interested in joining the choir, register at the Tay Valley Township office or online at <www.tayvalleytwp.ca>. Early bird registration (before September 10) is \$35 for the fall term or \$65 for both the fall and spring terms. After September 10, registration costs \$45 and \$75. For further information, contact Ann McMahon at 267-4048.

It is not essential to read music to join the choir. What is essential is to love to sing and to love music.

— Marily Seitz

Valley Voices Wants You!

Would you like to learn a variety of music — folk, rock, show tunes, and more? If so, consider joining the Valley Voices, Almon-

te's community choir. Directed by Becky Schweizer, the practices are on Thursdays, from 7:30 to 9PM starting on September 16.

The fee is \$30 per session (fall, winter, spring) to a maximum of \$60 (or pay what you can). You are most welcome to try it out for a couple of weeks. For information please contact Amanda Becking at 256-0134.

— Fern Martin

Goulbourn Singers

The Goulbourn Jubilee Singers, directed by Linda Crawford and accompanied by Doll Creelman, will hold their first practice of the fall season on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:30PM at Stittsville United Church, 6255 Fernbank Road. All singers are welcome, no auditions required. The youth choir, the JJ's, welcomes girls and boys ages 8-14, and will hold their first practice on Wednesday, September 15 at 6PM. For further information, visit <www.gjsingers.com> or call Charlotte at 825-3357 or Elizabeth at 838-6078.

— Charlotte Parry



The Tay Valley Choir in rehearsal



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Satisfy Your Need to Know in Almonte!

So where are you spending your Friday nights? If you find yourself stretched out in front of the TV mindlessly absorbing ads *ad nauseum*, have I got a plan for you! Don Wiles, Almonte's resident professor emeritus, has once again cajoled a bevy of learned friends to improve your Fridays immeasurably. They will present their favourite subjects in a series of lectures that will take you from September to April without a thought of the winter doldrums.

Now, don't get agitated thinking you're going to have to study

up first, that there might be a test, that, heaven forbid, there will be a cost involved. No, these lectures are absolutely *free*, although a small donation is appreciated. Besides, you might even get coffee and cookies to jump-start the evening.

The eighth session of the Almonte Lecture Series will begin September 24 with Blythe Robertson, a local geologist, speaking on meteorites, followed by October's lecture on colour chemistry by Nancy Binnie. In November, Michael Gnarowski returns to

Almonte to give us the low-down on Grey Owl. January will give us a lesson on Ottawa, a city growing up, while February will make us "Pay Attention." In March, just in time to think about spring, Brian McKillop will introduce us to the "Invisible Woman." (Hmm, some of us might want to be going that direction after a winter of eating!) And in April, Ken Torrance will set us up for the gardening season with a lecture on "Soil: the Earth's Skin." Pick up a pocket-sized schedule at Mill Street Books, Baker Bob's, or the

Almonte library, to remind you of each month's offering.

All lectures, about an hour in length, take place at the Almonte United Church, 106 Elgin Street, 7:30PM Fridays. Discussion always follows, so questions can be addressed before you leave with your interest piqued. You

don't have to reserve a spot; just arrive with enthusiasm for learning. Meet friends, open your mind, and what do you know: your Friday nights will begin to be the highlight of your week! Visit <almontelectures.ncf.ca> for more details.

— Glenda Jones

Team Prior Chest Nuts

There's a new, white, 41-foot dragonboat in the Ottawa Valley. In that boat there is a team: Prior Chest Nuts. On that team there is a smile. Yes, there is one big grin because these paddlers are breast cancer survivors. Under the umbrella of the Arnprior and District Breast Cancer Support Group, the idea grew last summer to get a boat so that they, the paddlers, would come.

Thanks to a \$28,000 Trillium grant, the boat, the trailer, the lifejackets, and the paddles have been purchased. Team Prior Chest Nuts can now offer the wonderful experience of dragonboating to breast cancer survivors from Petawawa to Perth and beyond. We are based at the Marina in White Lake. Practice is from 6PM to 7PM on Mondays and Wednesdays. Eighteen hardy souls have signed on and we

have room for many more as we can run another shift on other days. Hey, breast cancer survivor, *we want you!* No experience necessary.

Our plans include racing at Carleton Place on September 11, and attending the Ottawa dragonboat festival next June. Our goals are to provide fun and

exercise for survivors, and to raise awareness of this disease that carries away so many of our dear ones. Our biggest challenge at the moment is finding a coach with level one or two training.

The team contact is Ola, who can be reached at 622-0863. Come join us.

— Jeanette Grant



Arnprior's new dragonboat team Prior Chest Nuts invites all breast cancer survivors in the area to join them!

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Farewell to a Real Treasure

Last summer, when I was working at Stillwater Books & Treasures in Westport, a friend of mine said to me, "It must be fun to work in a shop like that."

"It is," I told her. "It's wonderful. I'm surrounded by great books and charming antiques, and most of the customers are really nice as well. Many are tourists or people who have cottages nearby, so they're always happy. And all the regular villagers are quite nice, too."

by John Pigeau

I would add that I had a great boss — Stephen Scanlon, or Steve, to most who know him (or, to others: "The Most Sarcastic Man in Westport"... but in a good way) — who had a great sense of humour and was really easygoing. I might have added "charming," but I didn't want to load it on, so to speak.

But Steve's easygoing charm was infectious, and you could see that charm all over the store. There was a sign on a shelf next to some delicate antique glassware that read: "Unattended children will be fed chocolate and given a free puppy." That sign was pure Steve. And it's amazing how one funny little sign in a shop created so much joy for so many people. Everybody who ever came through the doors of Stillwater Books & Treasures and read that sign laughed and made a comment about it. (One smart young girl even pleaded with her parents and grandparents to leave the store so she

could claim her dog and chocolate. But her family wouldn't play along. I wonder what would have happened if they had?)

"I love your store," customers would often say to me.

"Me too," I'd tell them. And I could get away with saying that, I told them, because I did love the store. I only worked there part-time. It was Steve who gave the shop its charm. His lovely and talented wife, Shauna, helped add to that charm, to be fair — she has helped Steve with the shop since its inception in 2002, back when he ran it out of their home.

Many of those same people also got a kick out of the "Older Than Dirt" section, where you could find anything from valuable first edition books to classics from the turn-of-the-century (or earlier), to a collection of Nancy Drew mysteries. Elderly women would see the sign, nudge each other, and say, "Hey, that's us!" and laugh and laugh.

Then they would turn to me and say, "You have such a lovely shop."

I would nod. Smile. "Thanks. We do. And I can say that because..."

It was a running theme: People came into the shop in a certain mood, often sun-drenched and yawning, but they always left happy. In that sense, Stillwater Books & Treasures always reminded me of The Shop Around The Corner — the bookstore portrayed in the movie *You've Got Mail*. Steve was like Meg Ryan's character (though they look nothing alike):

smiling and funny and quick with a joke. When he had them in stock, he also liked to give free finger puppets to kids.

He was giddy as a school boy himself. "Hey, it's free finger puppet day. Yay!" Steve was in his element in his shop. He's not the kind of guy you'd find in a stuffy government cubicle (not that there's anything

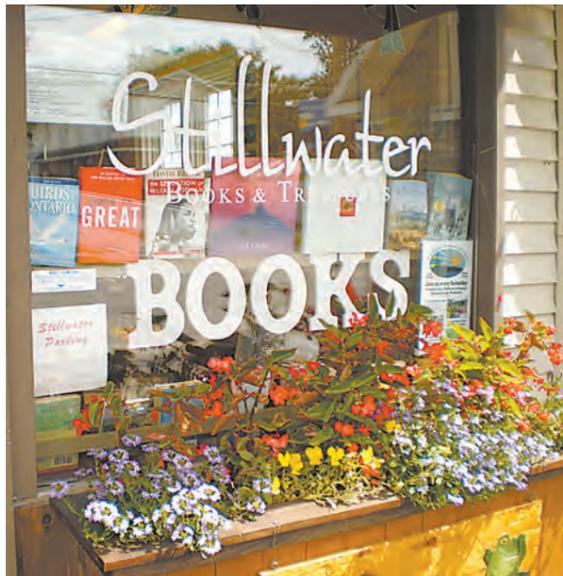
ice boxes and Coca-Cola coolers. And he genuinely liked meeting new people. He was forever asking folks where they were from, typically resulting in a long, friendly conversation, particularly if those people happened to be from Eastern Canada (where Steve grew up) or Ireland, where his mother still lives. But you could be from Antarctica; you'd still get along quite fine with Steve.

Now, at this point, you might be wondering why I'm writing this piece in the past tense. Please don't worry — Steve is healthy and happy. But the sad news is that, by the time you read this, Stillwater Books & Treasures will be closed. Why? A bunch of reasons. The lagging economy, a new job, location, and so on. So, it is a sad time. Westport has lost one of its best shops, and many regulars will be dispirited and wondering where they'll now get their "cottage reading". Alas, all is not lost. When I most recently asked Steve if he planned to open the shop again in the future, he did not hesitate to say, "It's always a possibility."

So, here's hoping. And I know when I say that, I speak for many.

Also: thanks, Steve. You're a good man, Charlie Brown.

— John Pigeau lives in Perth and is the author of *The Nothing Waltz*. His second book, *Highway Mirage*, a collection of short stories, will be out this fall from Hidden Brook Press.



wrong with that!). Or if you did, he'd be drinking Scotch and cracking jokes.

No. Steve liked to sell books. From Alice Walker to Oscar Wilde to Dr. Seuss, he had you covered. He also liked to sell antiques: whirligigs (a whirligig is an object that spins or whirls, or has at least one member that spins or whirls) and tea carts,

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Kellys' Success

Tip of the Month:

Sellers, Buyers and the Balance

As realtors we are often asked whether this is a seller's or buyer's market. Although the answer may mean very little for a specific property, it does help people understand how they will proceed in buying or selling property in general. For the past few years we have been experiencing a seller's market where the sellers have the advantage of improved pricing and hungry buyers vying for their homes. This trend is changing and we are moving into a balanced or transitional market. By definition a balanced market means that there is enough inventory of homes to last for 6 to 12 months based on average home sales. What this really means is that there is no advantage to buyers or sellers. Both parties in a transaction receive value, homes take a reasonable amount of time to sell and both buyers and sellers tend to negotiate with fair market value. No frenzied bidding wars on the one hand and no selling for less than you paid on the other. Real estate returns to a lovely smooth flowing current of peace and tranquility, ahhhhhh.



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Where: Mill Street Books

When: Sat Sept. 18, 8AM-1PM
Sun Sept 19, 1PM-4PM

Why: 50% of sales will go to **SchoolBOX** — a great local organization that helps provide school supplies to children in Nicaragua. Check out

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www.westportartscouncil.ca www.legendofgramparsons.com
A Westport Arts Council presentation

Supporting SchoolBOX

Five years after SchoolBOX began with the simple gift of a notebook and a pencil in Nicaragua, our organization is enjoying a burst of new life. Ottawa Valley youth are taking over! With their passion, energy and love, these amazing young supporters have lifted up everyone in SchoolBOX — from our Board of Directors in Canada through to the children we serve in Central America. Raising funds by cutting grass, hosting concerts, holding garage sales and so much more, these incredible young Canadians have empowered thousands of children to go to school. In fact, with their help, SchoolBOX has supplied 10,000 students and teachers with individual educational supply packages in 2010.

Wanting to take their involvement with SchoolBOX even further, two groups of youth from the Almonte area travelled to Nicaragua to build classrooms for an impoverished community. Both groups worked on the Rueben Dario School in the city of Leon in northwestern Nicaragua. Their monumental efforts helped SchoolBOX to complete their largest construction project to date — seven classrooms, a sports area and four overhauled washrooms. The impact of their efforts will be felt for generations. The secret, however, is that the experience seems to be almost as important for the young Ottawa Valley builders as it is for the children in Central America. Their words on the SchoolBOX Facebook page say it best:

Emily Clapperton: "It was an absolutely awesome trip, and I can't stop thinking about it. I really hope we impacted the people there as much as they impacted us."

Stephanie Rudyk: "It was extremely humbling to see so many

children... all eager to learn and so excited to get their new educational packages. I learned the power that hugs and smiles have when words fail!"

Gillian Mavis: "The experience was absolutely incredible. I advise everyone to go to Nicaragua."

Alison Aldred: "Really amazing trip — I can't even begin to describe how much of an impact it has made on me."

Stuart Douglas: "What SchoolBOX is doing down there is awesome, to say the least. Thanks everybody for the trip of a lifetime. Incredible."

Cassie Smith: "xoxoxo Nicaragua."

Rachael Gardiner: "Nicaragua is fantastic! SchoolBOX is a miracle!"

Join me in celebrating the accomplishments of these amazing youth at the 2010 SchoolBOX Fiesta fundraiser, sponsored by Equator Coffee, on Friday, September 17, at the Almonte Agricultural Hall. Doors open at 7PM. This year's Fiesta aims to be the best yet, with live music, dance performances, presentations, live and silent auctions, munchies and more. Thanks to two incredibly generous donors,



Earlier this year, several area students supported SchoolBOX by travelling to Nicaragua to help build schools. This month, you can support them by attending their annual Latin Fiesta fundraiser on Friday, September 17 in Almonte!

Claire Hunter: "SchoolBox is doing absolutely amazing things at Rueben Dario. I will miss every single one of those kids and all the people we met during the trip."

Andy Bassett: "I didn't want to leave that amazing trip. The kids are incredible, the school is incredible, and the love that everyone receives is incredible."

every dollar raised at the Fiesta will be matched, up to \$15,000. A truly heartfelt thanks to this year's organizing committee for making the 2010 Fiesta fundraiser possible. It is a wonderful gift for SchoolBOX and the children we serve.

— Tom Affleck, SchoolBOX founder and president

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New works by Karen Phillips-Curran will be on display at her Riverstones Gallery in Burnstown at this year's Festival of the Senses on October 2 and 3

Festival of the Senses

This year's Festival of the Senses aims to delight all of your senses with a host of activities, on October 2 and 3, in and around the villages of Calabogie and Burnstown, involving more than twenty organizations and businesses.

Activities will include two major events: the 10th annual Calabogie Artfest, and Richard Gill's annual Open House. Indulge your sense of colour at the Calabogie Artfest, which features the work of twenty-three Ottawa Valley artists at the Calabogie Community Hall. Over in Burnstown, Bittersweet Gallery will delight your sense of artistry with stunning clay relief pieces

by Richard Gill. Nearby, Fog Run Studio and Riverstones Gallery in Burnstown will also be open for the weekend.

Many other businesses will be participating in the Festival of the Senses again this year. Explore the Calabogie Motorsport Park, enjoy refreshments in the private garden of Hank and Henny Schaly, and treat yourself to mini reiki sessions and tarot card readings on Sunday from Wellness with Moira. You can tempt your sense of taste with meals or refreshments from several local establishments, including the Calabogie Pizzeria, Shooters Bar & Grill, Polly's Li'l

Shanty, Pinky's Bar & Grill, and the Calabogie Lodge (the latter is open Saturday and Sunday from 12PM to 3PM). There will be open houses at Fans of Calabogie B&B (with Chinese tea and Asian treats), as well as Taste Funatic Cooking School (on Saturday and Sunday from 11AM to 5PM).

Some activities are free, some require advance reservations, and some have a nominal cost, so visit <www.calabogie.org> for details. Tour maps will be available at all site locations. Watch for festival signs in and around the two villages, and indulge your senses!

15th Annual Fibrefest

The highly anticipated Fibrefest event returns to Almonte on September 11 and 12, at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (MVTM). It will be held in the museum's Norah Rosamond Hughes Gallery and in the North Lanark Agricultural Hall. Both locations will feature fibre art vendors, supplies, and finished goods. There will be demonstrations of knitting, lace making, smocking, weaving, spinning, quilting, penny rugs and more.

There will also be a quilt exhibit, by the Almonte Crazy Quilters, and a special exhibi-

tion, *Uplift*, by master textile artist William G. Hodge.

Fibrefest runs from 10AM to 5PM on Saturday, September 11, and 10AM to 4PM on Sunday, September 12. \$5 admission gets you access to both locations.

As an added attraction, The Valley Players of Almonte and the MVTM are co-producing a musical satire, *Quilts from Hell*, written by Fern Martin and directed by Thora Pugh. The opening Wine and Cheese gala will be on Friday, September 10, at 7:30PM, and entry is \$20. You can also see *Quilts from Hell* on the Saturday

and Sunday, at 2PM and 7:30PM, with a ticket price of \$15. All performances are in the museum's Wool Hall Gallery, and tickets are available at the MVTM.

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is located at 3 Rosamond Street East, and the North Lanark Agricultural Hall is at the Fairgrounds on Water Street. Both are located in Almonte, just 45 minutes west of downtown Ottawa.

For more detailed information about Fibrefest, please visit <www.mvtm.ca>, call 256-3754, or email <info@mvtm.ca>.

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2010-2011 Season

The Almonte Lectures

24 September Blythe Robertson Meteorite Impact on Earth	21 January Alain Miguez Ottawa: A City Grows Up
22 October Nancy Binnie Colour Chemistry	18 February Warren Thorngate The Competition for Attention
19 November Michael Gnarowski Grey Owl: Amiable Fraudster	18 March Brian McKillop The Invisible Woman
22 April Ken Torrance Soil: The Earth's Skin at Work	

All Lectures: 7:30PM in the Almonte United Church Hall

PPAC's Lively Kick-Off

Opening the Perth Performing Arts Committee season on Friday, September 17 is **Ensemble Vivant**, described by John Terauds of the Toronto Star as "Canada's Chamber Music Treasure". They specialize in a diverse repertoire that includes classical, ragtime, Tin Pan Alley, tango and jazz-related Latin stylings. The group embraces new works in both classical and jazz genres and has been recording since 1988 when its debut disc, *Palm Court Pleasures*, was released. They will be joined for this show by the exceptionally gifted and sought-after jazz bassist Dave Young.



Ensemble Vivant starts the PPAC season off on September 17

Other shows in the 2010-11 season include The London Quartet on October 21, *Tru-*

deau Stories on October 28, Dr. Zoo on March 4, and the Sultans of String on April 15. As a special holiday treat, PPAC is also bringing in the inimitable *Jully Black* on Saturday, November 27 as an additional performance, sold separately from the series.

All shows begin at 8PM in the Mason Theatre at Perth & District Collegiate Institute at 13 Victoria Street in Perth. Series tickets are on sale until September 17, and single tickets are available from TicketMaster, <www.ticketmaster.ca> or 755-1111. For more information about this year's season, please visit <www.PerthPAC.org>.

Tri-Valley Awards

Nomination Deadline September 8

The deadline is looming for nominations to the third annual Tri-Valley Conservation Awards, to be handed out during a gala evening on October 20 at the South Nation Conservation conference centre in Finch.

Established in partnership by Rideau Valley, Mississippi Valley, and South Nation Conservation, the awards honour outstanding conservation and stewardship activities, as well as local environmental leaders and groups. The Tri-Valley area covers more than 12,000 square kilometres, from Perth to Bon Echo to Pakenham, into Ottawa, east to Plantagenet, and south to

Morrisburg. Close to one million people live in the combined watersheds.

The deadline for nominations is September 8 at 4:30PM. There are eight categories: primary school (JK-grade 6), intermediate/high school (grade 7-12), college / university, agriculture, community groups, individuals, businesses, and municipalities. Forms can be downloaded at <www.mvc.on.ca>, <www.rvca.ca> or <www.nation.on.ca>.

Projects in which nominees could be involved include tree planting, water quality protection, shoreline stewardship, conservation education and advo-

cacy, natural beautification, and other activities contributing to the health of the watersheds.

If your child is involved in environmental or conservation activities at school, or if you're aware of organizations or individuals who should be recognized, please send in a nomination.

The process is simple. The nominating committee requires a description of projects or activities that the nominees are involved in — three pages maximum — and at least five photos illustrating those activities. Copies of relevant media coverage are also welcome.

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Saturday, September 11



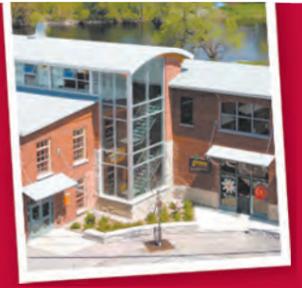
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The inimitable Sheesham and Lotus (above) are the headliners at this year's Sounds of Downtown, set for September 11 in Carleton Place. The Mudds Youth Choir (below) will perform at St. Andrews Church earlier in the evening

Get Your Passport to Sounds of Downtown!

The fifth annual Arts Carleton Place fundraiser "Sounds of Downtown", co-presented with the Carleton Place BIA, is all set for Saturday, September 11, along Bridge Street. The featured headliners are Sheesham & Lotus, and they are sure to liven up the old Town Hall! You'll feel as if you've taken a step back in time as you watch them perform traditional minstrel tunes, the flatfoot buck-dance, hambone hand-jive, playing jaw-harp, fretless and gourd banjos, harmonica, fiddle and banjo. They are sure to get you clapping and tapping your feet.

Before the 9PM concert, check out the other venues on Bridge Street. Performances starting at 6PM are: Next in Line jazz duo at The Good Food Co., the always popular Carleton Place & District Community Band at the Post Office, and a busker at The Granary. A new location this year is St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, where the Mississippi Mudds Youth Choir will be performing Broadway tunes. Stop in at Surrounding Memories to check out our talented local artists in the gallery. The SRC Rock Camp students will be rockin' at The Barge, where later on Brock Zeman will play. Listen and snap your fingers to LiPS' Slam Poetry and the Capital Poetry Collective performing spoken word at Brush Strokes. A new restaurant, Saigon's Delight, will be offering Vietnamese music and delicious samplings. Don't miss the ever popular Kirk Armstrong at St. James Gate Pub at both 7PM and 10:30PM. The Thirsty Moose has acoustic blues with the Night Crawlers at 7PM and Still Dangerous at 9:30PM. Buskers, presented by SRC Music, will be playing along Bridge Street. Ballygiblin's is presenting the talented Brea Lawrenson at 7PM and at 10PM.

Across from the Town Hall, the Moore House will be open with an art exhibition featur-

ing Arts Carleton Place artists, as well as a display co-ordinated by the Historical Society. This is the first time folks can go inside and view the beautiful interior. There will be an official opening in the fall. A barbershop quartet called Wellington Street will be at the Moore House and strolling along Bridge Street from 6-9PM.

Don't forget that the main concert featuring Sheesham & Lotus starts at 9PM. There is a cash bar, 8:30-10:30PM. It's going to be a great show!

Monies raised at the fundraiser go towards two bursaries for graduating high school students pursuing further education in the arts and to the Express Yourself project, an annual week-long arts programme for children at our local public schools.

Buy your passports early. The \$15 passport will get you into all venues *except* the Sheesham & Lotus concert. The \$25 passport is for all venues *plus* the 9PM show. All passports allow for sampling and munching appetizers. What a deal!

To pick up your passport, visit the Train Station Information Centre and Gallery at 132 Coleman Street. Cash and cheques only please. Further details are available at <www.artscarletonplace.com> or by calling 257-2031.

— Ina Jackson



www.thehummm.com

CARLETON PLACE BIA



Business In Action

New owner Shane Charania brings years of restaurant experience to **St. James Gate**, and looks forward to welcoming you to the pub seven days a week. Since Guinness is his preferred beer and Mississippi Lake is his favourite fishing hole, running a pub in Carleton Place seemed a natural choice! Shane is proud to add some of his family's delicious curries to the menu, which will now feature old favourites like fish & chips as well some new Indian and vegetarian options. You'll find an emphasis on fresh, local ingredients, a side of live music on weekends, and a big helping of friendly service at the Gate.



Shane Charania

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Dawn Bone & Dena Comley

Owner Dena Comley welcomes registered holistic nutritionist Dawn Bone to the team at **The Granary**. Dawn will be in the store every Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon to assist and answer questions. The Granary offers a range of bulk foods, vitamins and supplements, natural health and beauty products, as well as new lines of gluten-free and menopause-support products. Get ready for back-to-school with a litterless lunch kit! Check www.granary.ca for information about monthly seminars.



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After studying fashion design at Ryerson and retail merchandizing at St. Lawrence College, it seemed natural for Nancy Code Miller to open her own women's clothing shop. Twenty-six years ago she did just that, and since then **Nancy's Impressions** has been a terrific source of both traditional and contemporary fashions. Open seven days a week with an emphasis on Canadian-made clothing and free on-site alterations, this is the place to go for friendly service and attention to detail. This season you'll find gorgeous clothing and accessories in all the latest fall and winter colours.



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Nancy's Impressions

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For more information contact: cmcormond@carletonplace.ca or 613-257-8049

the *hummm*

September 2010 19

Art: From the Courtyard to the Manor...

Discovery Tour in North Gower/Kars

Discover the latest works of local artists, artisans and producers while escaping to enjoy the back roads of the beautiful countryside. Visit studios, workshops, a fresh produce market/garden centre, and an alpaca farm as well as learning a bit of local history. Enjoy all of this on the 14th annual Discovery Tour in North Gower/Kars/Beckett's Landing on September 11 and 12, from 10AM to 5PM.

by Miss Cellaneous

This year's tour has thirty-one participants at fourteen stops — twelve are newcomers! — all within an 8-km radius of North Gower; an easy one-day outing just 30 minutes south of downtown Ottawa. Admission is free and there are demonstrations at many stops. Donations will be accepted for the North Gower and Area Food Bank.

There will be door prizes at all stops except #4. At stop #8, stretch your legs and feed your soul by walking the Ruhland's Enchanted Gnome Forest. Visit



Karin Rabuka, a new participant on the Discovery Tour, will exhibit her award-winning works in oil on canvas or board

<www.discoverytourhorizon.ca> for details and map. For more information, please call 489-3748.

Leah Hicks at The Courtyard

The Gilded Corner and The Courtyard Café at Davidson's Courtyard, 7 Russell St. W. in Smiths Falls, will be hosting artwork by Leah Hicks from September 10 until October 2. Meet and greet the artist and enjoy refreshments at the Courtyard on Thursday, September 16 from 6:30 to 9PM.

As the artists' bio explains, Leah's relationship with form of art initially began when she was attending art class during her teenage years. It was then she knew this was something she would love to explore and perhaps conquer. She used to do everything with her right hand, but was in a catastrophic car accident that forced her to develop control and accuracy with her left hand. She would like to now think of herself as being somewhat ambidextrous.

Her favourite tools are probably her hands. Using many materials keeps things forever changing. She has used a lot of combinations of colour, allowing the materials to take control when they are applied. She explains: "I don't try and force my will with a brush. We work together with the material." Using texture with a lot of contrast makes her pieces attractive and pleasing to the eye. A story emerges and a focal point arrives to capture your eye and allow it to travel throughout the canvas.

Merrickville Artists' Guild Studio Tour

The Merrickville Artists' Guild Studio Tour and Sale presents a perfect excuse to visit this magical village. What better way to spend a weekend than visiting the nationally and internationally renowned artists and craft-

ing a total of thirty outstanding artists. Use the handy map to choose your own starting point and then watch for the signs. On the tour you will find one-of-a-kind painted bowls, chairs, paddles, fine jewellery, primitive rug-hooking, folk art, fine carving, stained and three dimen-



The Merrickville Artists' Guild Tour would like to introduce you to some of this year's artists. Clockwise, from the top left corner: Pieter Doef, Paul Laberge, Paul Matteau, Linda Hines, Claudette Hart.

people of Merrickville and surrounding area? And, for your convenience, it will take place two weekends in a row: September 25 & 26 and October 2 & 3. Enjoy exploring the town's studios and galleries, watch artists create, and leave with your own original. For twenty-six years, the Merrickville studio tour has been an autumn fixture for lovers of art and craft from Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec.

All in all, there are some twenty-six artists and craftpersons. They include painters, mixed media artists, potters, glass blowers, glass artists, a gourd artist, jewellery, hemp textiles, wood turning and iron work assemblage — something for everyone. Using a full-colour glossy brochure (available in most stores and studios in the village), tourists are able to create their own tour, based on their own interests. All participating studios are marked with distinctive signage to further aid visitors.

For more information on the Merrickville Tour, or to look at and download examples of participating artists work, please visit <www.merrickvilleartists.com/studiotour.htm>.

Westport's Fall Colours Studio Tour

On October 9 to 11, from 10AM to 5PM, Westport area artists welcome you to their studios where you will discover an exciting and eclectic range of juried, high quality, original work. Indulge in fall's brilliant colours as you tour from studio to studio — thirteen on the tour — present-

sional glass, recycled agricultural implements, Celtic-inspired and textured pottery, funky dolls, unique photographic images, gourd birdfeeders and houses, acrylics and oils, abstract wood sculptures, unique creative clothing, basketry, polymer clay jewellery, woodturning, painted wooden pieces, stone cast garden sculptures, hand-knit items and supplies.

The friendly village of Westport offers a variety of restaurants, accommodations and conveniences. Contact Loretta Moore at <hookedonthe-lake@kingston.net> or visit <www.artatwork.ca/westport_studiotours> for more details, including the map.

Ottawa Watercolour Society Show

The Ottawa Watercolour Society presents its 62nd Open Exhibition at the Trinity Art Gallery of the Shenkman Arts Centre in Orleans. This exhibition is a juried collection of new works on paper, canvas, and synthetic papers. It is an open show designed to encourage unique and experimental approaches by artists from Ottawa, Gatineau and the surrounding areas. Several Ottawa Valley artists will be participating.

The exhibition runs from August 26 to September 28. Admission is free, and free parking is also available. The gallery is open from Monday to Sunday, 9AM to 10PM. For more information, please call 580-2787 or visit <www.owswatercolour.com>.

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Carp Fairgrounds, 3790 Carp Rd.

www.WestCarletonArtsSociety.ca
For information 613-839-1918

Rosy Somerville, Jinny Slyfield, Margaret Ciwialkowska, Jacqueline Milner, Linda Chenard, Lisa Lorez, Keith Burnett, Richard Charlebois

... From Westport to the Big Fish!

Art In the Manor

AIM (Art in the Manor) is delighted to announce an exhibition of the work of **Elizabeth Veninga**, in the Fairview Manor hall (beside the Great Room), from September 10 to October 31. Everyone is invited to attend the vernissage on Friday, September 10, from 4PM to 6PM.

Elizabeth Veninga is an artist and teacher who has exhibited locally, as well as in Toronto and England. She expresses in her art the beauty around her, exploring themes in depth by creating a number of works at different times and from different views. Her sources of inspiration include nature, textiles and architecture. Elizabeth also accepts commissions to create portraits of people, houses and animals. In addition to drawings in graphite, charcoal or conte, and paintings in mixed media, Elizabeth also works in three dimensions, producing large steel sculptures intended for outdoor spaces.

AIM is pleased to exhibit Elizabeth's work at the Manor, as it believes that art creates a more home-like atmosphere for residents, patients, staff, volunteers and visitors. That is why AIM encourages the donation of original artwork for permanent display at the Manor and the Almonte General Hospital.

To date, well over one hundred pieces of art have been donated, and AIM continues to solicit donations. Work is selected based on appropriateness and condition, and donors receive a charitable receipt for the full market value of the piece. For more information, contact Gaye Matthews at 256-1122 or at <gayebe@gmail.com>.

Art in the Big Fish!

The West Carleton Arts Society proudly presents *Expressions of Art*, an exhibit and sale featuring the works of over thirty exceptional local artists. This 20th annual show is being held in the spacious Carp Agricultural Hall during the Thanksgiving long weekend, October 9 and 10.

This is a wonderful family outing where you can view the works of fine artists and artisans as well as emerging new artists. Come and admire exquisite watercolours, inventive abstract paintings, spectacular photographs, wood, fabric, pottery, jewellery, and so much more!



Autumn Birch (above) by Cheryl Poulin is just one of many delightful works of art that will be on display at this year's Expressions of Art show in West Carleton

What a perfect opportunity to choose that special piece of art for yourself or a loved one.

The Carp Agricultural Hall is located at the Carp Fairgrounds, at 3790 Carp Road. For more information, contact Rosy Somerville, 839-1918.

Renfrew Art Guild — An Artistic Journey

Twelve years ago a group of four artists in Renfrew came together with the goal of enticing people of a like mind to enjoy

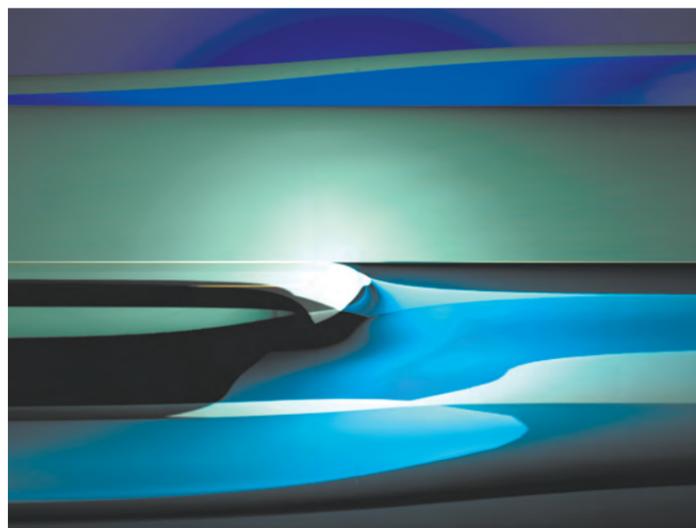
each other's art and company. That was when the Renfrew Art Guild was born.

The acronym RAG is fitting, because every artist usually has a rag in their hand. In the early years the group fluctuated from eight to twelve artists, and then about six years ago it started to grow. This was due in part to the assistance of the local newspaper, which agreed to publish a column each month for the RAG. Usually the column referred to a specific area of interest, whether in reference to a medium or a talent.

The RAG has now evolved into a diverse group of roughly forty artists who work in media including watercolour, oil, acrylic, digital art, pencil, pastel and metal sculpture. The members are from Renfrew, Braeside, Burnstown, Calabogie, Douglas, Golden Lake, Eganville, Arnprior and the Pontiac.

RAG meets at 7PM on the first Tuesday of the month at Trinity St. Andrews United Church in Renfrew. Everyone — be they an amateur or professional — is welcome. Members share knowledge of their media and experiences, with the end result being that many have explored other media and expanded their own creativity.

The Guild has held very successful art exhibitions in Renfrew and Calabogie. The Calabogie show is celebrating their tenth anniversary on October 2 and 3 at the Calabogie Community Center. This has become a well-established exhibition with many patrons returning year after year. Come and help RAG celebrate this milestone in the Guild's journey.



Works by Basil Pessin (including Blue Horizon, above) will be on display at the Renfrew Art Guild's tenth annual show at the Calabogie Community Centre on October 2 and 3



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For information:
Dwyene MacNabb 613-752-2438

Slamming Into the Fall!

Sometimes it is good to step back — take a break or a hiatus to truly appreciate the things that you love. Every year I try to take at least one month off from the slam scene and spoken word poetry events in order to get my mind re-focused. August gave me

by Danielle Grégoire

a lot to think about. The Canadian Festival of Spoken Word is coming up in October, and it is being held in Ottawa. I am the program director and thus have been putting all my energy into setting up workshops, showcases and panel discussions for the national festival. I also competed in what was the most amazing Lanark County slam poetry finals yet. The team that will be representing us at the national festival this year absolutely blew my mind. If you haven't had a chance to check out the burgeoning spoken word scene out here in the county, there will be a few events to attend before our team heads off to the festival in October.

July's Final Competition

The calibre of poetry at the LiPS slam poetry finals on July 17 was so high that the judges had a really hard time scoring the competitors. LiPS was lucky to have had three celebrity judges agree to put numbers to art. Wayne Cavanaugh from Smiths Falls' Jack FM, Ernie Rowe of the CP Cinemas in Carleton Place, and *theHumms*' own Kris Riendeau helped another two randomly-selected judges choose the five members of the team that will head to Ottawa in October to compete with eighteen other teams from across Canada. Lanark County is breaking records too! Not only are we the only rural slam poetry series in the country, but our team has the youngest and eldest members to ever compete at the national level. It is also the only team to

ever consist of five females. Curious as to who these wonderful women are? Well you'll have to come out to our events around the county in order to find out. I will be profiling the team in October, but I suggest you come to meet them before that at one of these events taking place in September.

Sounds of Downtown

On September 11, members of both LiPS and the Capital Poetry Collective will be doing a two-hour poetry marathon at Brushstrokes, in Carleton Place. This will be the fourth year I have taken part in this event, and each time I am astounded at the number of people who



Ian Keteku, the reigning Spoken Word Champion of the World (no kidding!) will perform at the September Potluck & Poetry event in Almonte

of my adult classes, the LiPS slam poetry team, and the Spoken Word Champion of the World. Spoken Word Champion of the World? Now you'll probably ask if I'm being hyperbolic here. I'm not. Ian Keteku, who currently resides in Ottawa, competed at the world championship in France this year, and he brought home the trophy. Keteku is a journalist, musician and poet using his voice to speak for the voiceless. This past June in Paris, Ian was crowned the 2010 World Poetry Slam champion. He has performed all over the world and has shared the stage with some of the greats of spoken word and hip hop. Ian is also part of the acclaimed spoken word troupe The Recipe (2009 Canadian Festival of Spoken Word champions).

All you need to bring is \$10 (or pay what you can) for cover, a dish for the potluck, and an open mind. My favourite part about spoken word is the mingling of generations, cultures and ideologies that go on. It's about creating, and sustaining, community; about getting voices heard. That brings

me to another special guest who will be coming to announce a new chapter of Free the Children, here in Almonte. Almonte & District High School student Sarah Reside has decided to take matters into her own hands and be a part of a movement that is changing the lives of children all around the world. The funds raised on this evening will be split between Almonte's Free the Children and LiPS. I hope to see you, and your delicious pie, casserole or curried dish there. The dinner starts at 6PM and the show starts at 7PM.

The Return of Poetry and Potluck

Every once in a while, I throw a poetry and potluck show out in Almonte, at the United Church Social Hall, in order to bring the best of spoken word into the valley. On September 18, the Spoken Word Plot's Potluck and Poetry show will be holding an unprecedented event. It will feature performances from students from my earlier workshop series in the schools, members

come out for this wonderful night of arts enjoyment. If you end up at Sounds of Downtown, make sure you stop by to catch a riveting and organic night of spoken word poetry from some of the country's top performers. For more information, check out <www.artscarletonplace.com>.

As always, please let me know if you have a poetic or literary event that you would like featured in this Pageful of Poetry by emailing <danielle.gregoire@hotmail.com>.

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Humm Bits:

3rd Annual Bob Pugh Golf Classic

Now in its third year, Macdonald College's alumni golf day will continue to support the Bob Pugh Classic Development Fund to honour former deans of Macdonald College of McGill University. Bob Pugh, a long time resident of Pakenham, is now lending his support to increase the endowment of the Lewis E. Lloyd Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 1999 through the support of classmates, friends and family of Dr. Lloyd in memory of his outstanding contribution to academic and student life.

The Bob Pugh Classic will take place on September 16 at the Anderson Links Golf and Country Club in Ottawa. The event includes lunch and dinner, 18 holes of golf and a power cart. Registration is \$150 per person or \$600 per foursome. Dinner tickets are also available at \$50 per person. For more information or to register a team, contact Anna Duff at <anna.duff@mcgill.ca> or 514-398-7852.

International Films Close to Home

Jennifer Butler has been renting space at the Carleton Place Cinemas for over twenty years, showing internationally produced movies to subscribers from around the Ottawa Valley area. A former member of the Ottawa Film Society, Jennifer never enjoyed travelling home late on a winter's night. When the theatre opened in Carleton Place she approached the owner, asked if she could organize something similar there, and received a positive response.

The Carleton Place Film Society began in 1989 with showings one Monday a month, and has grown to include Sunday screenings at both 4PM and 7PM, as well as Mondays at 7PM.

Subscribers see a total of nine movies from September to May, for a cost of only \$40. Attendance is by subscription only. Jennifer chooses some of the movies shown by the Ottawa Film Society and makes other selections from various sources. Films are shown with sub-titles.

This year's line-up includes *The Eclipse* (Ireland), *The White Ribbon/Das Weisse Band-Ein Deutsche Kindergeschichte* (Austria/Germany), *The Trotsky* (Canada), *The Maid/La Nana* (Chile), *The Last Station* (Germany/Russia), *Captain Abu Raed/Suddar Banat* (Jordan), *Ajami* (Israel), *Mao's Last Dancer* (Australia), and *Sweetgrass* (France/U.K./U.S.).

For more information or to subscribe to this year's season, please call Jennifer Butler at 257-4345.

Every Step Counts

Marilyn Latourell will never forget that day in the fall of 1998 when she received the dreaded news that she had breast cancer.

"It was shocking," the Carleton Place resident says of the diagnosis. "I think when you are younger, you don't really expect that to happen to you."

It did, however, and now, almost twelve years later, as a breast cancer survivor Latourell is doing her part to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research.

As part of these efforts, for the past two years she has taken part in the Canadian Cancer Society's **Taking Steps Against Breast Cancer** walk in Carleton Place, both as a walker and as a volunteer. Last year, she was accompanied in the five-kilometre event by her husband Steve and two daughters, Rebecca and Stephanie.

Latourell will be back again in these two roles at the fifth annual walk, planned for Saturday, September 18, at the Carleton Place and District Youth Centre on Mill Street.

The 2009 walk attracted 127 participants — more than double the previous year's numbers — and they are hoping to match or better that turnout. Not only does the walk raise money for breast cancer research, but it is also a way to celebrate survivors, remember those lost, and enjoy a day in the community with family and friends.

Registration takes place in the morning, from 11 to 11:45AM. The opening ceremonies commence at 11:45AM, followed by the walk. Cancer surgeon Dr. Doug Mirsky will once again be a special guest at the opening ceremonies, while local musician, entertainer and former Citizen of the Year for Carleton Place, Jack Denovan, will provide musical entertainment throughout the event.

"There will be inspiration, entertainment, education, a barbecue and a whole lot of community spirit," says Gerry Leger who, along with his wife Elizabeth, co-chairs the event's steering committee. "We will even have some prizes for the businesses and walkers who dress up themselves or their store fronts, showing their support to the many breast cancer survivors who continue to fight back."

To date, the Canadian Cancer Society has dedicated close to \$90 million to leading-edge breast cancer research in Canada to better understand the disease. This has led to important advances in screening and treatments, and a 30% decline in the death rate for breast cancer over the past two decades. In addition, the Society offers important services to breast cancer patients such as reliable information, support in person or over the phone, transportation, and practical support for

people at treatment centres and lodges.

An estimated 5,400 Canadian women died from breast cancer in 2009, and one in nine will face a diagnosis at some point in their lifetime.

To join the Canadian Cancer Society Taking Steps Against Breast Cancer, register online at <www.takingsteps.ca> or call the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society at 267-1058 or toll-free at 1-800-367-2913. Registration forms are also available in Carleton Place at the BIA office located in the Town Hall, TD Canada Trust, CIBC, Ferguson Graphics and The Granary, and in Mississippi Mills at Levi Home Hardware, JR's Restaurant, the Mississippi Mills Municipal Office, Clayton General Store and Pakenham General Store.

"Taking Steps Against Breast Cancer is a great way for the community to come out and support a great cause," says Amanda Gifford, fundraising co-ordinator for the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society. "It doesn't take a lot of time and it is a good opportunity for family members of all ages to get together and enjoy a leisurely walk."

Adds Leger, "whether you walk one kilometre or all five, come out and make every step count."

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Claiming Column

Grievous Angel, Westport, Oct 2
Spirited Evening Cemetery Tour, Smiths Falls, Oct 2
Julian Fauth, Burnstown, Oct 2
Calabogie Artfest, Oct 2-3
Festival of the Senses, Calabogie/Burnstown, Oct 2-3
Merrickville Artists Tour, Oct 2-3
Artists' Lecture Series, Perth, Oct 3
Ian Tamblyn, Burnstown, Oct 9
Crown and Pumpkin Tour, Almonte & Clayton, Oct 9-11
Fall Colours Tour, Westport, Oct 9-11
Bruce Peninsula, Burnstown, Oct 14
Aboriginal Designer Gala, Almonte, Oct 15
Jason Collett, Burnstown, Oct 15
Pacific Curls, Burnstown, Oct 16
London Quartet, Perth, Oct 21
Almonte in Concert, Oct 22
SRO Tea Dance, Almonte, Oct 24
Trudeau Stories, Perth, Oct 28
Prints of Darkness, CP, Oct 30-31
Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show, Almonte, Nov 5-6
Handmade Harvest Holiday Craft Show, Almonte, Nov 6
Almonte in Concert, Nov 13
Jully Black, Perth, Nov 27
Ottawa Youth Orchestra, Almonte, Nov 28
Nonsense: the Mega Musical, Carleton Place, Dec 3-5, 9-11
Almonte in Concert, Dec 11

Visual Arts

Sundance Studio Tour, Sep 4 & 5 (10AM-5PM), Sep 6 (10-4). A walking studio tour of 21 artists. 1047 Zealand Rd. Maberly
AIM Vernissage, Sep 10, 4-6PM. Works of Elizabeth Veninga (continues to Oct 31). Fairview Manor, 75 Spring St. Almonte
Vernissage, Sep 10, 7-9PM. Featuring Denise Dowdy. Brush Strokes, 129 Bridge Street Carleton Place, 253-8088
Discovery Tour, Sep 11 & 12, 10AM-5PM. North Gower/Kars area. 489-3748, www.discoverytourdhorizon.ca
Vernissage, Sep 12, 2-4PM. Photographs by Rod MacIvor. Philip K. Wood Gallery, 7 Mill St. Almonte, 292-4406
Almonte Area Artists' Association, Sep 13, 7-9PM. New members welcome. 256-5863, www.4a-artists.ca. Almonte Library
Flippin' Art Night, Sep 16, 5-8PM. With artists: Blaine Cornell & Strachan Johnston. Ballygiblin's, 151 Bridge St. CP 253-7400
Creative Spark Artists' Lecture Series, Sep 19, 2PM. Marjolein Dallinga (www.bloomfelt.com). \$5. McMartin House, 125 Gore St E Perth
Almonte Quilters Guild, Sep 20, 7-9PM. New members and guests welcome. Almonte Civitan Hall
Rosemary Leach Show, Sep 23 (5:30-7:30), 24 (4-7), 25 (10-4). Original art in the artist's home. www.rosemaryleach.com. 255 William St. Almonte, 256-7719
Merrickville Artists' Guild Studio Tour, Sep 25-26, Oct 2-3, 10AM-6PM. www.merrickvilleartists.com. Merrickville
Lanark County Quilters Guild, Sep 28, 6:30-8:30PM. Guest speaker w/trunk show: Sharon Pederson. Guests \$10. Info at 267-3178. Lions Hall Perth Fairgrounds
Lanark County Knitting Guild, Sep 28, 7-9PM. All welcome. Guests \$3. Almonte United Church, 106 Elgin St.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
30	31	1 CP Celtic Jam, Ballygiblin's	2 Open Celtic Jam, Naismith's Pub Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove
6 Sundance Studio Tour, Maberly Auditions: Harvey, Perth	7 Green Drinks, Perth Auditions: Prints Of Darkness, CP	8 Pints 'n Purls, Ashton Mississippi Mills at a Glance, Almonte CP Celtic Jam, Ballygiblin's	9 Mudds Youth Theatre Info Night, CP Open Celtic Jam, Naismith's Pub Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove
13 Almonte Area Artists' Association	14 Women's Business Group, Carleton Place Mississippi Squares Open House, Blacks Corners Cold War Cinema, Carp	15 100 Mile Meal Buffet Dinner, Almonte CP Celtic Jam, Ballygiblin's	16 Flippin' Art Night, Carleton Place Film Night International, Smiths Falls Open Celtic Jam, Naismith's Pub Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow
20 Mayan Code Study Group, Appleton Almonte Quilters Guild, Almonte	21 Mississippi Squares Open House, Blacks Corners	22 CP Celtic Jam, Ballygiblin's	23 Rosemary Leach Show, Almonte Well/Septic Workshop, Almonte Open Celtic Jam, Naismith's Pub Yoga Retreat Info Session, Almonte Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove
27	28 Lanark County Quilters Guild, Perth Lanark County Knitting Guild, Almonte	29 Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Arnprior CP Celtic Jam, Ballygiblin's	30 Film Night International, Smiths Falls Open Celtic Jam, Naismith's Pub Terry Tufts, The Barley Mow Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove

Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Sep 29, 6:30-8:30PM. Annual membership or \$5 entry. Guest speaker: Sharon Pederson. 623-3085. 257 John St. N. Arnprior
Calabogie Artfest, Oct 2, 10AM-4PM. Oct 2-3. Free admission. Calabogie Community Centre 574 Mill St.
Poetry & Potluck, Sep 18, 6-9PM. Dinner, performances by students, LiPS & Ian Keteku. danielle.gregoire@hotmail.com. \$10. Almonte United Church
SchoolBOX Book Sale, Sep 18 (8AM-1PM), 19 (1-4PM). 50% of sales will go to SchoolBOX (www.schoolbox.ca). Mill Street Books, 52 Mill St. Almonte
Writers Reading, Sep 19, 1-4PM. Authors read from their works. Helen Humphreys, Ed Broadbent, Roy MacSkimming, etc. \$20, from The Cove (273-3636). Westport United Church

Vine Rhymes, Sep 19, 1:30-4:30PM. Smiths Falls & area songwriters & poets meeting & Jam Session. Walton Shelter, Victoria Park, Lombard St. Smiths Falls
Cold War Cinema, Sep 14, 6PM tour, 7PM *The Road*. Reserve at movie@diefenbunker.ca or 839-0007. The Diefenbunker, 3911 Carp Rd.
Film Night International, Sep 16, 7PM, *Mid-August Lunch*; Sep 30, *The Secret In Their Eyes*. \$35 full series pass; \$25 partial pass (3); \$10 door. Info: 267-1224. Premier Cinemas Smiths Falls
Spiritual Cinema Circle, Sep 26, 2PM. \$2 donation. Info at fp@superaje.com. Myriad Centre, 1 Sherbrooke St. Perth
Disney's Jungle Book, Sep 3 (10:30AM & 7PM) Perth Academy of Musical Theatre. \$10 from 267-9610. Myriad Centre, 1 Sherbrooke St. Perth
Mudds Youth Theatre Info Night, Sep 9, 7-9PM. For February production of *Into the Woods, Jr.* Auditions Sep 11, 9AM-noon. Carleton Place Town Hall, 175 Bridge St.

Theatre

Auditions: Harvey, Sep 4 & 6 7:30-9:30PM. www.studiotheatreperth.com. Studio Theatre, 63 Gore St. E. Perth
Auditions: Prints Of Darkness, Sep 7 (7:30PM), 12 (7PM). Mississippi Mudds comedy/murder mystery, to be performed on Oct 30/31. mississippimudds.ca. Carleton Place
Quilts from Hell, Sep 11 & 12, 2PM & 7:30PM. Valley Players in a play by Fern Martin. Part of Fibrefest. \$15 (\$5 more for festival entry). Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St. E. Almonte 256-3754

Literature

Poetry & Potluck, Sep 18, 6-9PM. Dinner, performances by students, LiPS & Ian Keteku. danielle.gregoire@hotmail.com. \$10. Almonte United Church
SchoolBOX Book Sale, Sep 18 (8AM-1PM), 19 (1-4PM). 50% of sales will go to SchoolBOX (www.schoolbox.ca). Mill Street Books, 52 Mill St. Almonte
Writers Reading, Sep 19, 1-4PM. Authors read from their works. Helen Humphreys, Ed Broadbent, Roy MacSkimming, etc. \$20, from The Cove (273-3636). Westport United Church

Music

PAMT Idol, Sep 4. Perth Academy of Musical Theatre. \$10 from 267-9610. Myriad Centre, 1 Sherbrooke St. Perth
Infest, Sep 4 & 5. Sat night: Rude Boy. Sun aft: The Mighty Popo. \$20 per concert or \$35 for both. 278-0208 or laur_mal@hotmail.com. 6378 McDonald's Corners Rd.
Open Stage, Sep 5 & 12, 5-8PM. 15-30 mins per performer. Lower Reach Park, Smiths Falls
Sounds of Downtown, Sep 11, 6PM-12AM. Music in various venues (6PM), Sheesham & Lotus (9PM). \$25-all venues, \$15-all but Sheesham & Lotus. www.artscarletonplace.com, 257-2031. Carleton Place
Jon Brooks, Sep 12, 2PM. Tickets: 278-0388, MERASchoolhouse@bell.net. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners
BIG*ACT, Sep 17. Live music. Players Sports Bar, Smiths Falls

SEPTEMBER 2010

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<p>📖 Disney's Jungle Book, Perth 🎵 Mario Franco & Son, The Cove 🎵 Live Music, The Stone House 🎵 Billy Armstrong, The Downstairs Pub</p>	<p>🎵 PAMT Idol, Perth 🎵 Infest, McDonalds Corners 🎵 Natural Fibre Festival, Ompah 🎵 Sundance Studio Tour, Maberly 🎵 Ben San Pedro, The Cove 🎵 Auditions: Harvey, Perth 🎵 Keen as Mustard, St. James Gate 🎵 Crimson, The Downstairs Pub</p>	<p>🎵 Infest, McDonalds Corners 🎵 Natural Fibre Festival, Ompah 🎵 Sundance Studio Tour, Maberly 🎵 Jazz Brunch, Fiddleheads 🎵 Music on the Patio, The Cove 🎵 APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak 🎵 Open Stage, Smiths Falls 🎵 Sunday Sessions, Ballygiblin's</p>
<p>🎵 BioBlitz, Red Horse Lake 🎵 AIM Vernissage, Almonte 🎵 Mario Franco & Son, The Cove 🎵 Jazz at the Swan, The Swan at Carp 🎵 Live Music, The Stone House 🎵 Vernissage, Carleton Place 🎵 Fibrefest Opening Gala, Almonte</p>	<p>🎵 Dragon Boat Festival, Carleton Place 🎵 Pickle Festival, Smiths Falls 🎵 Chili Cook-Off, Carleton Place 🎵 Auditions: Into the Woods, Jr., CP 🎵 Doors Open Mississippi Mills Fibrefest, Almonte 🎵 Discovery Tour, N. Gower / Kars 🎵 Quilts from Hell, Almonte 🎵 Mundell's Famous Fish Fry, Pakenham 🎵 Sounds of Downtown, Carleton Place 🎵 Kirk Armstrong, St. James Gate 🎵 Michael Pickett, Neat Coffee Shop</p>	<p>🎵 Fibrefest, Almonte 🎵 Discovery Tour, N. Gower / Kars 🎵 Valley Singles Lunch, Arnprior 🎵 Music on the Patio, The Cove 🎵 Jon Brooks, McDonalds Corners 🎵 Quilts from Hell, Almonte 🎵 Vernissage, Almonte 🎵 Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak 🎵 Open Stage, Smiths Falls 🎵 Sunday Sessions, Ballygiblin's 🎵 Auditions: Prints Of Darkness, CP</p>
<p>🎵 BIG*ACT, Players Sports Bar 🎵 Mario Franco & Son, The Cove 🎵 Live Sound & Flow Yoga, Arnprior 🎵 SchoolBOX Fundraiser, Almonte 🎵 Live Music, The Stone House Bar & Grill 🎵 Ensemble Vivant Quartet, Perth 🎵 Doxas Brothers Quartet, The Cove 🎵 Billy Armstrong, The Downstairs Pub</p>	<p>📖 Book Sale/SchoolBOX, Almonte 🎵 Lantern-Making Workshop, Carleton Place 🎵 Taking Steps Against Breast Cancer walk, CP 🎵 Open House / Flu Talk, Carp 🎵 Poetry & Potluck, Almonte 🎵 Brea Lawrenson, St. James Gate 🎵 Johnny Sphinx & Kool Water, The Downstairs Pub</p>	<p>🎵 Jazz Brunch, Fiddleheads 🎵 Terry Fox Run, Lanark Village 🎵 Watershed Discovery Day, Perth 📖 Book Sale/SchoolBOX, Almonte 🎵 Writers Reading, Westport 🎵 Music on the Patio, The Cove 🎵 Vine Rhymes, Smiths Falls 🎵 Creative Spark Lecture Series, Perth 🎵 Holy Broadway!?, Almonte 🎵 APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak 🎵 Liam Magee, The Cove 🎵 Sunday Sessions, Ballygiblin's</p>
<p>🎵 Breakfast With Soul, Almonte 🎵 Rosemary Leach Show, Almonte 🎵 Mario Franco & Son, The Cove 🎵 River City Junction, Smiths Falls 🎵 Live Music, The Stone House 🎵 Jazz at the Swan, The Swan at Carp 🎵 Almonte Lecture Series</p>	<p>🎵 Merrickville Artists' Guild Studio Tour 🎵 Rosemary Leach Show, Almonte 🎵 Irene Lalonde Memorial Silent Auction, CP 🎵 Harvest Lantern Labyrinth Walk, CP 🎵 Kerrek, St. James Gate 🎵 Live Music, The Downstairs Pub</p>	<p>🎵 Merrickville Artists' Guild Studio Tour 🎵 Music on the Patio, The Cove 🎵 Spiritual Cinema Circle, Perth 🎵 Great Music of the Lesser Knowns, Pakenham 🎵 Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak 🎵 Sunday Sessions, Ballygiblin's</p>
<p>🎵 Brush Strokes presents Denise Dowdy <www.brushstrokesart.ca> 🎵 Baker Bob's Gallery presents "Adrianna Art" by Adrianna Card 🎵 fieldwork presents land art exploration, <fieldwork.blogsome.com> 🎵 Gallery on Main presents works by Guy Cranston and Sharon Fox Cranston <www.galleryonmain.ca> 🎵 Gallery Perth presents "Painting Everyday" with local and regional artists <www.galleryperth.com> 🎵 Heritage House Museum presents "Hats Off to You" <smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse> 🎵 Philip K. Wood Gallery (Almonte) presents photographs by Rod MacIvor 🎵 The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents oils by Deborah Saulnier 🎵 The Mississippi Mills Chamber Gallery presents rug hooking by Donna Sproule 🎵 Fairview Manor Hall presents works by Elizabeth Veninga 🎵 The Gilded Corner & Courtyard Café in Smiths Falls present works by Elizabeth Veninga</p>		

Ensemble Vivant Quartet, Sep 17, 8PM. www.perthpac.org or 755-1111. PDCI auditorium, 13 Victoria St. Perth

Holy Broadway!?, Sep 19, 3PM. Ottawa Valley Music Festival. \$20 adults, \$10 students, under 12 free. www.valleyfestival.ca. Cornerstone Community Church, Almonte

River City Junction, Sep 24, 7PM. Tickets \$12, or season pass (3 shows) for \$30. Reserve at 284-0505. Rideau Canal Museum, 34 Beckwith St. S. Smiths Falls

Great Music of the Lesser Knowns, Sep 26, 3PM. Desserts, 4PM concert with The Five. \$12 adults, \$8 students & seniors, \$6 under 12. St. Andrew's, Pakenham

Jazz at the Swan (The Swan at Carp, Fall-down Lane Carp, 839-7926) 7-10PM. Sep 11, 25

The Downstairs Pub at JR's (385 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-2031) Sep 3, 17 Open Stage, 9PM
 Sep 4 Crimson, 9PM \$4
 Sep 18 Johnny Sphinx & Kool Water \$4

St. James Gate (111 Bridge St., Carleton Place, 257-7530): Live at the Gate Saturdays, no cover (8-10PM).
 Sep 4 Keen as Mustard
 Sep 11 Kirk Armstrong
 Sep 18 Brea Lawrenson
 Sep 25 Kerrek

Fiddleheads (Code's Mill, Perth, 267-1304), Jazz Sundays with Clay Young & guests, 12-3PM
 Sep 5, 19

The Royal Oak (329 March Rd. Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sundays (3-6PM), no cover.
 Sep 5, 19 APEX Jazz Band
 Sep 12, 26 Magnolia Rhythm Kings

The Stone House (3740 Carp Rd., Carp, 839-1091): live music Fri (7-11PM); semi-acoustic jam Saturdays (3:30-8:30PM).

The Cove (2 Bedford St., Westport, 273-3636): Cuban guitarist Fridays 6-9PM, music on the patio Sundays, 1-4PM
 Sep 2, 9, 23, 30 jazz Thursdays w/Spencer Evans Trio, 9-11PM

Sep 4 Terry Cowan & Ben San Pedro, 6-10PM
 Sep 19 Liam Magee, 6-9PM

The Barley Mow (79 Little Bridge St., Almonte, 256-5669): Terry Tufts Thursdays (8-11PM).

Ballygiblin's (151 Bridge Street, Carleton Place, 253-7400): CP Celtic Jam Wed. (8-10PM, davidh@rogers.com); Peter Brown, Roger Plant Sun. (7-10PM)
 Sep 11 Brea Lawrenson, 7PM

Neat Coffee Shop (1715 Calabogie Rd., Burnstown, 433-3205)
 Sep 11 Michael Pickett, \$15, 8PM

Naismith's Pub (411 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-6336): Open Celtic Jam (7:30PM).

Community Natural Fibre Festival, Sep 4 & 5, 10AM-4PM. Workshops, demos, ranch tours. www.silentvalleyalpaca.ca Silent Valley Alpaca, 1120 Donaldson Rd. Ompah

Green Drinks, Sep 7, 5:30PM-7:30PM. People in the environmental field meet for drinks. www.greendrinks.org. The Crown Pub, 71 Foster St. Perth 267-4500

Pints 'n Purls, Sep 8, 6-9PM. Contact: Kelly Plewes 257-2296. Old Mill Pub Ashton

Mississippi Mills at a Glance, Sep 8, 7-9PM. Register for fall & winter activities. 256-1077 x22 or www.mississippimills.ca. Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St.

BioBlitz, Sep 10. Survey of flora & fauna. Info/registration at 267-4200 x3194 or BioBlitzIntern@gmail.com.

Fibrefest Opening Gala, Sep 10, 7:30PM. Wine & cheese, play *Quilts from Hell* by Fern Martin. \$20. MVTM, 3 Rosamond St. E. Almonte 256-3754

Dragon Boat Festival, Sep 11. Race and entertainment in Riverside Park. www.fall400.com. Carleton Place Canoe Club

Pickle Festival, Sep 11. Demos, samplings, sales. Farmers market, wine tasting, entertainment. Centennial Park, Smiths Falls

Chili Cook-Off, Sep 11, 8AM-12PM. CP Farmers Market, 7 Beckwith Street, CP

Doors Open Mississippi Mills, Sep 11, 10AM-4PM. Tour local landmarks & heritage buildings. www.mississippimillsdoorsopen.com. Almonte & Pakenham area

Fibrefest, Sep 11 (10-5), 12 (10-4). Vendors, demos, exhibits, fashion shows, textile appraisal fair, *Quilts from Hell* play, tea room. Fibrefest \$5, play \$15. 256-3754, www.mvtm.ca. MVTM & Ag Hall in Almonte

Mundell's Famous Fish Fry, Sep 11, 4-7PM. Adults \$15, 12 and under \$7, family max. \$40. St. Andrew's Church, Pakenham

Valley Singles Lunch, Sep 12, 12:30-2:30PM. To register, call 256-8117 or 432-7622. The Arnprior Golf Club at Sand Point

Women's Business Group, Sep 14, 7:30-8:30AM. Networking, support & volunteer group. www.wbgroup.ca. Buster's Bar and Grill, 515 McNeely Dr. Carleton Place

Mississippi Squares Free Open Houses, Sep 14 (dancing from 7:30) and 21 (free chili supper & dancing from 6:30). Square dance demos & participation. 257-7188. Brunton Hall, Blacks Corners

100 Mile Meal Buffet Dinner, Sep 15. Sitings at 6 & 7:30PM. \$29.95, reserve at 256-0228. www.herbogarden.on.ca. The Herb Garden, 3840 Old Almonte Rd.

Live Sound & Flow, Sep 17, 7PM. Live vocals & music with yoga, \$20 in adv; \$25 at door. info@hollowtreeyoga.com. Hollow Tree Yoga, 150 John St. N Arnprior

SchoolBOX's Latin Fiesta Fundraiser, Sep 17, 7PM-12AM. Salsa Olé (dance performance, salsa lessons), Star Tools band. \$20 adults, \$10 students at door. Agricultural Hall, Water St. Almonte

Lantern-Making Workshop, Sep 18, 9-11AM. Bring a mason jar. Free, register at 257-7604 or n-lebeau@sympatico.ca. Brush Strokes, 129 Bridge St. Carleton Place

Taking Steps Against Breast Cancer walk, Sep 18, registration 11AM, walk (1-5 km) 11:45. www.takingsteps.ca, 267-1058. Carleton Place Youth Centre, Mill St.

Free Open House / Flu Talk, Sep 18, 12:30-3PM. Tour & Natural Flu Prevention & Treatment talk. Carp Ridge Ecowellness, 2386 Thomas Dolan Pkwy, 422-5590

Terry Fox Run, Sep 19, 1-4PM. Register at noon. 259-2182 x302 or ksymbolic@nlhc.on.ca. Municipal Office, 75 George Street, Lanark Village

Watershed Discovery Day, Sep 19, 1-5PM. Workshops, kids' stuff, entertainment, refreshments, all free. www.tayriver.org, ECOTAY, 942 Upper Scotch Line, Perth 267-6391

Mayan Code Study Group, Sep 20, 8-11AM. Free, potluck breakfast. sajewisdom@gmail.com. Saje Spa, or 330 Wilson St. (rain), Appleton

Well/Septic Workshop, Sep 23, 7PM. Free info session by Rideau Environmental Action League. 256-2277. Union Hall, Wolfgrove Road, Almonte

Yoga Retreat Info Session, Sep 23, 8PM. RSVP w/Barb Pierce at 220-1173, www.risingsunyoga.ca. Almonte Public Library

Breakfast With Soul, Sep 24, 8-10AM. Open discussion, open to all. White Swan Healing Space, 96 Mill St. Almonte

Almonte Lecture Series, Sep 24, 7:30PM. Meteorite Impact on Earth. Free, donations accepted. almontelectures.ncf.ca. Almonte United Church

Irene Lalonde Memorial Silent Auction, Sep 25, 6-9:30PM. Zion-Memorial United Church, 37 Franklin St. Carleton Place

Harvest Lantern Labyrinth Walk, Sep 25, 6:30-8:30PM. Bring or borrow a lantern. 257-1014. Free refreshments, bonfire, music. Victoria School Museum, CP

Lanark County Hayride Barn Dance, Oct 2, 5PM-10PM. Zion-Memorial United, 37 Franklin St. Carleton Place

Festival of the Senses, Oct 2-3. Art, Reiki, gardens, food, open houses. www.calabogie.org. Calabogie & Burnstown

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How Smart is This?

The Reever Report

I'm gittin' out the 'ole saddle there, Nellie. It's not the equestrian championship, but by golly, it's time to ride.

We got our electric bill from Hydro One a couple of weeks ago, and I nearly fell over. Here we are at the height of summer, no lights on anywhere, and the bill was like the depths of win-

by Glenda Jones

ter with Christmas lights a-blazing. Surely our meter had been slopping electricity all over the ground or something. Aghast, I dashed to the files only to find less consumption than last year. Hydro One was playing a cruel joke for sure. Line after line of taxes and charges, debt retirement (how long are we going to be paying for that one!), the great and wonderful HST, and on it goes. However, they are kind enough to pat our hand lovingly and, like a doting granny, explain it all: "electricity leakage", adjustment charges, "variables", the "wholesale electricity system". What gobblede-gook!!

Ah, but they have also included a slick little brochure on how we can help ourselves use less and conserve energy. Here is the best ruse of all: the use less, improve the environment philosophy.

Let's see now, if we use less, we presumably will pay less. That will mean Hydro One will have less money with which to pay off their debts. Interest will accumulate, but have no worries, the lowly consumer, who is being brainwashed that all this conservation is good for the soul, will be only too happy to assume that burden in the form of higher rates to offset the low consumption!! We don't want to think that our grandchildren won't have electricity for their video games, now, do we?

Slow down there, Nellie, don't get all het up. Hydro One has installed one of those Smart Meters so we — and they — can

monitor our electricity use any time they want. It's a new-fangled digital thing that does away with the cute little wheel that whipped around like a tiny train track. I can't make head nor tail of the information, but I'm positive some minion at Hydro One is glued to its every number, just itching to slap the big rate on at any minute. Ever one for enjoying good fiction, I've read the handy dandy brochure with all their fantastic (read: fantasy) suggestions for reducing our consumption, and have decided that all we have to do is change our lifestyle drastically, and we too can be in charge of our own destiny.

Here's the plan. We'll set the coffee to come on at 4AM. It'll be cold when we get up at 7, but we can't make it then because we're into prime time. No more hot breakfasts — can't use the stove. The morning routine will centre on outdoor activities, but only after a fire is laid in the wood stove so the furnace won't come on. The housework is going to suffer, of course — can't use hot water, run appliances, or cook much. But hey, is that really so bad? Lighting is going to be so low with those puny fluorescent bulbs that no one is going to notice. We won't be going out much in the evenings though, since after 9PM we will have to get at the laundry, the dishes, and any other chore that demands electricity. We'll be up most of the night coping with all this.

However, since we'll be up anyway, perhaps we can invite friends over for an exciting evening of scratching lottery tickets — at our age, it's about all one can do sitting around in the dark. We'll light candles for ambiance, cook dinner on the wood stove, and scratch lottery tickets in the hopes of winning enough to pay our electric bill each month!

Every morning we'll run around resetting all the clocks in things, since we're supposed to unplug every appliance in the

house when it's not in use. That's great when we're fumbling in the dark trying to see the time at 1AM.

We'll be tripping over the power bars that control our very lives.

And then, just to satisfy the puritans at Hydro One, we'll sign on for their Conservation Pledge. Hands on hearts here: "I pledge to cut electricity and Hydro One out of my life if at all possible." The environment will be ever so much greener, my grandchildren will be ever so much happier, and we, in the meantime, will be inconvenienced beyond belief!

Come on, Hydro company, what are you thinking? We invented electricity for a reason: to improve the quality of our lives. Just because you can, you don't need to become the demi-gods of conservation and demand that we abandon the very useful and necessary items we take for granted so that you can arbitrarily charge us to use them. Your responsibility is to the consumer — hello, that's us with the empty pockets. Get your act together; develop alternative power sources with your fancy expensive research facilities. Stop grabbing every penny you can in the guise of making us "feel good". We can hardly feel good freezing in the dark.

That's it, Nellie, you dear old nag. (Oh, maybe that's me and not you!) Let's get you back to the barn before it gets dark. Rest up for the next ride. There's an election coming soon, and I guarantee we're going to need a few training rides for that issue.

On a positive note: Happy New Year to everyone as we launch into September with the best intentions to improve our lives and our community. Find the good, or create it, and pass it along to others. Happiness comes from sharing whatever we have. That is true wealth.

— Glenda Jones

Comments? We welcome letters to <editor@thehummm.com>.

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Find Out What Goes on Behind Closed Doors!

Door Open Mississippi Mills Set for Sept. 11

Ever wondered what goes on behind closed doors? Well, Saturday, September 11, is your chance to find out. Mississippi Mills is hosting a **Doors Open** event. These events are held each year in communities across North America and Europe. In Ontario, they are sponsored by Ontario Heritage Trust. So what is a Doors Open event? The idea first originated in France, in 1984, and then spread across Europe to North America. The idea is to open to the public, free of charge, sites of heritage and community interest. What makes this particularly exciting is that many of these sites are not normally open for visitors.

If you have friends or relatives who are new to the area, this would be a great opportunity to show them around. You can walk along the newly opened Riverwalk in Almonte and pop in to have a look at those new condominiums in the Thoburn Mill (one of the original woolen mills in town), then you can stroll over to the Old Post

Office and have Ron show you up the clock tower to see what keeps it ticking. (Just be sure to bring your practical shoes for climbing.) If fine church architecture is your thing, this is a fantastic opportunity to visit several churches, each with their own unique style, ranging from the lovely little Edwardian stone church of St. George's in Clayton to the magnificently ornamented St. Peter Celestine in Almonte, both St. Paul's Anglican and Holy Name of Mary are opening their doors and are well worth a visit to see how well they have conserved the legacy of the original congregations.

And then there is the chance to see how other people renovate their houses — there is a reason HGTV is so popular! There is the Naismith house on County Road 29, originally the home of James Naismith (yes, the basketball guy), which has been very faithfully restored. James would feel right at home on the front porch. There is

the Gillis/Snedden house on Church Street — a lovely example of an "Ontario Cottage" in local stone, and close to it is the "Victorian house" on Country Street, which has won architectural awards for its renovation. Or you could visit the Stonebridge Inn in Pakenham — normally you'd have to rent a room, but today Dorothy will be happy to guide you through and tell you about the mill owners who built it and the many colourful occupants since, who raised everything from chickens to foxes.

But maybe you are more interested in technology. The falls on the Mississippi River have been powering Almonte since the first mills were built there in the 1820s. For Doors Open, the new power generating station in Almonte (Mississippi River Power) will be providing guided tours. Bob Butler (who will be assisting operations manager, Scott Newton, to guide visitors) had this to say: "Scott showed me the new generating station, the old generating station which



Stately St. Paul's Rectory in Almonte is just one of the many stops on this year's **Doors Open Mississippi Mills**, scheduled for Saturday, September 11 from 10AM to 4PM

is now used for water control and switchgear, and the office. I have no doubt that this facility should be considered one of the showpieces of Almonte." You could also drop by one or the local museums. The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum will be hosting Fibrefest during the Doors Open weekend, the North Lanark Museum has a

great exhibit of Music Through the Ages, and the Mill of Kintail — what prettier spot is there to spend an autumn afternoon?

If you'd like to learn more, visit <www.mississippimillsdoorsopen.com> and do come by on September 11, between 10AM and 4PM, at the Old Town Hall in Almonte, to pick up a guide and start a great day of touring.

"Almonte is the perfect community in which to raise a family and grow a business."

Adrian Ayotte is a reliable kind of guy. He has decades of experience in the heating & cooling industry, and worked all over the Ottawa area before opening his own business in Mississippi Mills. Since 2007 he has developed a reputation in this area based on quality products and friendly, dedicated 24-hour service. By hiring locally and becoming closely involved with his community, he is building the kind of company that is likely to endure. And that's a good thing, because he hopes to turn it over to his son in the future. With business practices like that, it's appropriate that he named it **Reliable Heating & Cooling!**



Located at 335 Christian Street (Hwy 29) in Almonte, Reliable is a full-service HVAC operation that provides maintenance, repairs and sales of heating, cooling, and air exchange systems. Their on-site showroom features a wide range of classic and contemporary wood, gas and propane fireplaces. Visit them in person or at www.reliableheating.ca.

Adrian appreciates the loyal customer base in the Valley, and finds that many people don't even get a second quote after getting a word of mouth recommendation for a local company like his. He is doing a great job of giving back — he attends every Chamber Mixer, recently joined the executive of that organization, and even sponsored their golf tournament!

Adrian Ayotte — Mississippi Mills Chamber member since 2007



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This month's Mixer will take place at the **Heritage Court**, 14 Mill St. Free refreshments will be provided, and there will be a cash bar on site.

Join us:

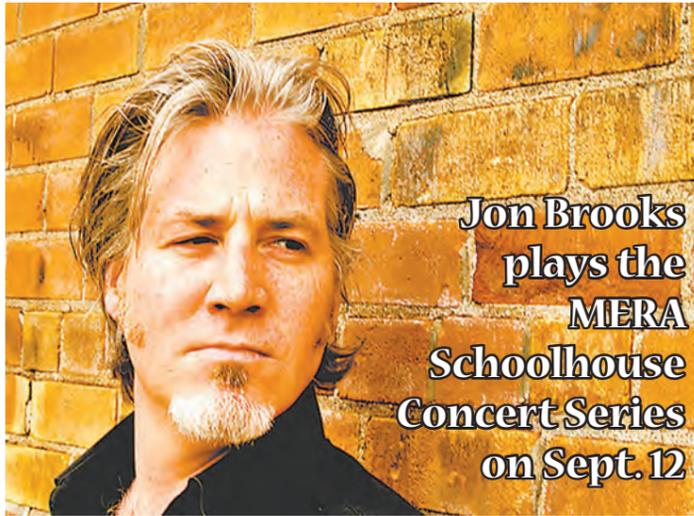
To become a member of the Mississippi Mills Chamber of Commerce please email your request to manager@mississippimills.com. Members who attend our monthly MIXERS are eligible to win a business profile like this one!

Jon Brooks at MERA

On Sunday, September 12, guitar-slinging bard of the topical song Jon Brooks appears in the MERA Schoolhouse Concert Series.

A songwriter dedicated to uniting folk song tradition with today's stories, Jon has an uncanny ability to press his ear against the heartbeat and the soul of the times we live in. In only four years, he has been nominated twice for a Canadian Folk Music Award (Songwriter of the Year), been profiled on CBC's *The National*, named the Musician to Watch in 2010 by the Toronto Star, garnered an OCFE Award, and taken home the top prize at the US Mountain Stage New Song Contest (NPR).

Jon's music is also featured on Neil Young's Livingwithwar-today website, and he recently won both the coveted Kerrville New Folk Competition in Texas and a special spring round of the International Songwriting Competition (out of 15,000 entries), and placed as a finalist in the



**Jon Brooks
plays the
MERA
Schoolhouse
Concert Series
on Sept. 12**

Music2Life Contest (run by Paul of Peter, Paul & Mary fame). All this might not have happened prior to 2006. In fact, upon his return from a 1997 trek throughout war-ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina, Jon quit writing songs and performing, claiming, "I'm at least a thousand books and emotions shy of earning the right to stand behind a microphone." Eight years of musical

silence later — and at the suggestion of one of his Canadian literary heroes, Austin Clarke — Jon wiped the dust off his Taylor Jumbo 615, and there's been no stopping him since!

Catch Jon at the MERA Schoolhouse in McDonalds Corners on September 12 at 2PM. Tickets are \$12 — for more information contact 278-0388 or <meraschoolhouse@bell.net>.

Terry Fox Events in Lanark

Every year on the second Sunday after Labour Day, more than one million Canadians participate in Terry Fox Run events, in approximately 6,000 communities across Canada, and Lanark Village is no exception. This year marks the 15th consecutive year that the Terry Fox Run has been held in Lanark Village. To celebrate this tradition, the North Lanark Community Health Centre, the Township of Lanark Highlands, and community volunteers are issuing a challenge to all local employers, faith groups and community organizations to make this the biggest event to date! Get your friends, co-workers, colleagues

and family to join you for the 1-, 3-, or 5-km walk, run or cycle.

This year is the 30th anniversary of Terry's *Marathon of Hope*, which started on April 12, 1980, in St. John's, Newfoundland, and ended outside of Thunder Bay on September 1 of that year. His objective was simple: inform Canadians of the importance of finding a cure for cancer. With fierce determination, he ran an average of 42 kilometres (26 miles) every day for 143 days. Terry was forced to stop his run when the cancer spread to his lungs. At that point, he passed the torch on to others, saying "Even though I'm not running any-

more, we still have to try to find a cure for cancer. Other people should go ahead and try to do their own thing now."

The Lanark Walk, Run, Cycle event is taking place on Sunday, September 19, at 1PM. The starting location this year has been moved to the Township of Lanark Highlands Municipal Office at 75 George Street in Lanark Village (meet in the back parking lot). Registration begins at noon. Cyclists are asked to wear helmets.

For more information or to volunteer, please call Kara at 259-2182 ext. 302 or email <ksymbolic@nlchc.on.ca>.

HOLY BROADWAY!?!?
Sunday, September 19, 3PM
Cornerstone Community Church
1728 Concession 11
Almonte

Godspell, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Sondheim's Into the Woods, and music by Jacques Brel

Tickets at the door or call 613 623 3079
Adults \$20, Students \$10
kids under 12 are free

OTTAWA valley MUSIC FESTIVAL
www.valleyfestival.ca

Christmas in the Valley Artisan Show

Come shop in a relaxed and festive atmosphere
November 5, 2-9PM
and November 6, 9-4PM

Almonte Community Centre Upper Hall
182 Bridge Street
www.valleyartisanshow.blogspot.com

**The kids are heading back to school.
Time to put your feet up.**

Reflexology has a long list of health benefits. It has been proven to reduce stress, improve circulation, increase energy... and never underestimate the rejuvenating potential of a little "me time" after a fun filled summer of family and friends.

For the month of September, Carmelized invites you to come in, put up your feet and enjoy a relaxing reflexology treatment for half the regular price.

To book an appointment call 613-256-7797 or email carmel@carmelized.ca

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Sept. 17 • Chet Doxas Quartet featuring John Abercrombie (8-11PM)
Sept. 19 • Irish Folk Singer from Westport, Ireland, Liam Magee (6-9PM)
Sundays on the Patio with Kevin Head (1-4PM)
Jazz Thursdays with Spencer Evans Trio (9-11pm)
Friday Cuban Guitar with Mario Franco and son (6-9PM)
Saturday Soirees with Terry Cowan and Ben San Pedro (6-10PM)

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Learning in Almonte
 Two new series start in mid-October:
The Viking Age, by Carl Widstrand
 Tracing the history of the Vikings from their home in Norway down to the Black Sea, across northern Europe to England, Ireland, Iceland, Greenland, and even to Newfoundland.
 Starting Wednesday, 13 October
From Ritual to Renaissance, by Teri Loretto
 The History of Early Theatre, starting in classical Greece and Rome, through the morality plays of the middle Ages and up to Molière and Shakespeare.
 Starting Thursday, 14 October
 These courses are six weeks in length.
 Each comprises one two-hour lecture every week, from 1:30-3:30 in the Almonte Public Library Classroom.
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The Smiths Falls Scene

See You in September

It was nice to see you in July and August. Hopefully, we will see you again in September. And, since you enjoyed the Canal, Railway and Chocolate Festival and Railfest so much, Smiths Falls decided to continue the trend this month with another festival.

Join us on September 11 for the tastefully planned

by Joffre Ducharme

activities and events of the fourth annual **Pickle Festival**, held in our beautiful downtown Centennial Park, on the banks of Ontario's only World Heritage Site, the Rideau Canal. Pickle demonstrations, samplings and sales will feature crispy dills, sweet pickles, tomato relish and much more. Pickled out? Visit the on-site farmers market, partake in the wine tasting, then find a seat and enjoy the entertainers.

How about a few pickle contests to go along with all that pickle fun? Bring in your yummy creations to compete for prizes and bragging rights in the pickle preserves contest. Hmm... wonder if I can volunteer as a taste judge. For the kids, how about a pickle eating contest? The winners are crowned pickle King and Queen for the day. Hmm... wonder if I can disguise myself as a kid. If you would prefer to be a pickle Prince or Princess, just enter the Colour Mr. Pickle contest. Hmm... no! I was never good at colouring.

The festival will also include a heritage component, focusing on preserving the harvest. Come learn about the farming and harvesting practices of our forefathers... and mothers.

In addition to festival activities proper, the town will mark the day with downtown events, including a huge sidewalk sale.

Harvest time, a time of plenty for us, a time where we enjoy the fruits of our labour, is also a time when our thoughts and efforts take into account the plight of some of our less fortunate neighbours, in the ever shrinking global village. A local initiative by the Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL) is aimed at helping a specific community in Africa meet its food supply challenges.

Seeds for Food is a program that collects seeds for families in Saharan refugee camps, so that they can grow food for themselves. Organizers would like seeds of vegetable and tropical fruits, whether they are unopened or partially used commercial seed packets or seeds harvested from the foods we

grow or eat. You can deposit any seeds — labelled please! — in a designated container at the REAL Deal store in Smiths Falls. Seeds donated by September 30 will be mailed in early October. For more information, see <www.seedsforfood.org> or contact Annabelle Twilley at <twilley@superaje.com>.

In order to support their local and global efforts, REAL collects used cell phones through the Phone Back Canada program. Most of the phones collected are repaired and reused. The 30 to 50 percent of their parts which are unusable are recycled. REAL receives \$1 for every phone it turns in to the program. You can drop your phone in the green collection box located near the customer entrance of the REAL Deal during store hours. More information is available at <www.REALaction.ca>.

penses, are donated to the Perth and Smiths Falls' public libraries. Check the Humm calendar for actual screening dates throughout the fall and winter, see <filmnightinternational.blogspot.com>, or contact them at <filmnightinternational@yahoo.ca> or 267-1224.

Our fall menu includes another perennial favourite: the Canal Museum's popular "**Life Along the Rideau**" music series returns this month for another entertaining season. From September to November, concerts are presented on the final Friday of the month. The shows feature local talent, from Kingston to Ottawa, and are presented in the museum's cozy stone theatre which seats 72 people — a wonderful venue for an intimate concert experience. Tickets are \$12 each, or you may purchase a season's pass for \$30. Tickets can



Don't get in a pickle! You'll find plenty of them (pickles, that is) at the fourth annual Pickle Festival in Smiths Falls on September 11. Failing that, check out Coutt's Country Flavours (pictured above), on County Road 18 near Rideau Ferry

On the entertainment front, how about a brand new crop of foreign films? **Film Night International** is back with a cornucopia of satisfying productions, which will be served up at Premier Cinemas on Main Street, generally on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Film Night International is a non-profit group, run entirely by volunteers, in partnership with the Film Circuit, a division of the Toronto International Film Festival Group. The Film Circuit now has almost 200 locations across Canada, screening Canadian and international films in communities that would otherwise not have the opportunity to see them. All of Film Night International's profits, after ex-

be reserved in advance by calling the Rideau Canal Museum at 284-0505.

And, as a final treat, I wanted to mention the **Little Chicago Studios**, a state of the art recording facility right here in Smiths Falls. Managed by respected professionals in the industry, Mark Evans and Tim Greencorn, the studio has produced hundreds of top notch recordings by numerous artists, many of them with names you would recognize. Have a look at their awesome website at <www.littlechicagostudios.com>.

Take care and see you at the falls.

— Joffre Ducharme is a local photographer and writer. Reach him at <cjoffrecare@yahoo.ca>.

theHumm

September 2010 29

Writers Reading and the Cosmic Cowboy

Writers write, we all know that, but I just happen to know that in the village of Westport in early September, Writers Read as well.

The Westport Arts Council (the hardworking folks who brought you the fourth annual MUSIC Westport festival in August) is

by Steve Scanlon

presenting its third annual Writers Reading event. They hold the event at the Westport United Church (at the corner of Spring and Church Streets) from 1PM until 4PM on the afternoon of Sunday, September 19.

This has been a very successful afternoon event for The Westport Arts Council in past years, with authors such as Charlotte Gray, Mary Jane Maffini, Giles Blunt and many other fine word-smiths talking about how they hone their craft and what the end results mean to them. This year will continue the tradition, with the likes of Helen Humphreys, author of four books of poetry, one creative non-fiction and five novels: *The Frozen Thames*, *The Lost Garden*, *Coventry*, *Leaving Earth* and *Afterimage*. Helen was born in Kingston-on-Thames, England, and now calls Kingston, Ontario home.

Trevor Cole, author of *Practical Jean*, touted as “the blackest comedy ever written about the white middle class...” by Bill Richardson, will also be in attendance. Trevor’s other works include *Norman Bray: In The Performance of His Life* and *The Fearsome Particles*.



The Westport Arts Council welcomes Ed Broadbent, among other notable authors, at this year’s Writers Reading event on Sunday, September 19

Coincidence? *Laurier in Love*, Roy MacSkimming’s newest novel, is being released one day prior to Writers Reading, so we can look forward to this event as the unofficial first reading from his latest work. MacSkimming is the author of three novels and three works of non-fiction. One

of his previous novels recreates the final days of Canada’s founding genius, Sir John A. Macdonald (who spent a fair amount of time in our wee village). MacSkimming is also a fountain of information regarding the publishing industry in Canada, his work *The Perilous Trade: Pub-*

lishing *Canada’s Writers* is a great source of information for the fledgling author.

And last but certainly not least, Writers Reading presents Ed Broadbent, former leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, Queen’s University Skelton-Clark Fellow, and au-

thor of *The Threat to Democratic Citizenship*. Broadbent holds a Ph.D. in political science and began his career as a professor of political science at York University in Toronto. He is of course best known for his political career in Canada, which began in 1968 and lasted until his resignation in 1989. He was also deeply involved in bringing peace to war-torn Central America. He remains a voice to be heard, and we, through the efforts of the Westport Arts Council, have been given the chance to do just that.

Tickets for the event are \$20 and are available at The Cove Country Inn (273-3636), Murphy’s Barber Shop (273-2145), and at the door, if still available.

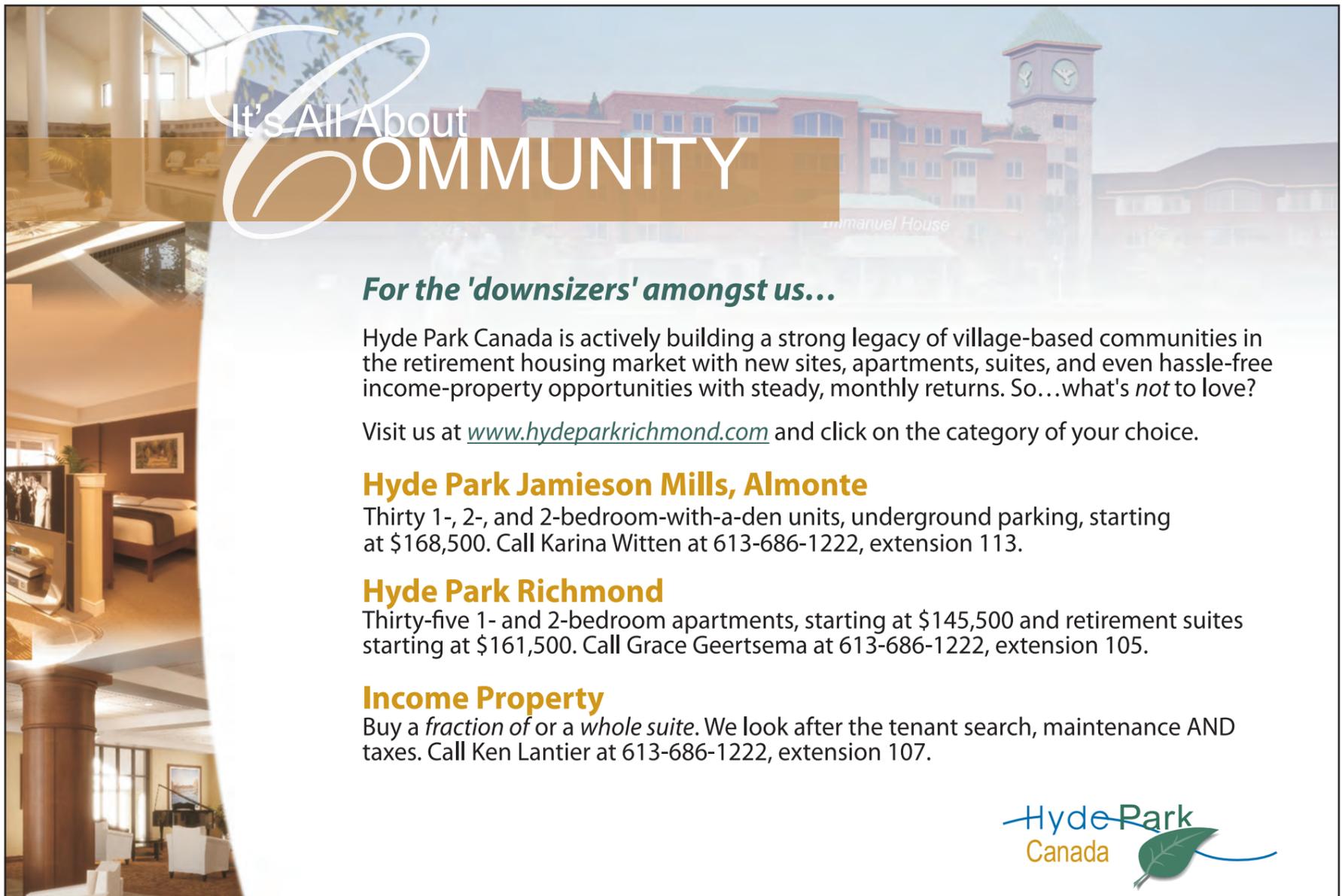
The busy folks at the Westport Arts Council are also presenting the musical *Grievous Angel: The Legend of Gram Parsons*, on Saturday, October 2, at Rideau Vista School. Starring Anders Drerup as Gram Parsons and Kelly Preston as Emmylou Harris, *Grievous Angel* is a theatrical concert about Gram Parsons, the original cosmic cowboy who “lived fast, died young and left a charred corpse.” Parsons was the creative force behind some of the most important recordings of the late 60s and early 70s,

and is hailed as the patron saint of alt-country and Americana. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the usual places: The Cove Country Inn (273-3636), Murphy’s Barber Shop (273-2145), and of course, at the door if still available. Book early though — both of these events, I suspect, will sell out quickly.

And speaking of music, the popular monthly Blues on the Rideau dinner & show series returns to The Cove for its 6th season beginning in October. On offer this year is another superb line-up of artists including multiple Juno, Maple Blues and American Blues Award nominees and winners. Proceeds from all shows go to support local charities. \$27,000 has been raised over the past five years and the goal is to raise \$5,000 more this season. If you love good blues played in an intimate, friendly atmosphere, check out <www.choosetheblues.ca> for full details about the performers, reservations and more.

So, the summer winds down, school winds up and we still have a chance to be entertained throughout it all. Do yourself a favour — take advantage of all that Westport has to offer.

— Steve Scanlon lives and writes in the delightful village of Westport.



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Fairs, Festivals, and Local Government

Election fever is in the air, and soon it will be time to choose our new municipal councils.

Since, as you know, I'm interested in the arts in Mississippi Mills and write for this arts magazine, I decided to do an informal survey of the twelve MM candidates who have declared at the time of my deadline, August 22. With

by Euphemia Lark

only a few days to reply, and during the height of summer, nine responded.

The question that I asked was: **What are your comments regarding the many festivals, fairs and arts events that take place in Mississippi Mills, and how do you see the role of municipal government in relation to them?**

I'd like to thank the candidates who replied and share some of their comments with you.

Brenda Hurrle, candidate for Mayor: "The many festivals, fairs and arts events are very important to our community. They bring together the many different talents of our people to be shared with friends and neighbours, as well as entice those from outside the community to come and visit. These visitors, in particular, spend money at our shops, and several have actually come back to live here. It is imperative that the municipality continue its support of these events, either with dollars or staff and equipment resources. Wherever possible (and it is not always so) increased participation should be sought and made available."

Jane Torrance, candidate for Mayor: "I think the many festivals, fairs and arts events that take place in Mississippi Mills help define us as a vibrant, active and attractive community

that can embrace art and agriculture, can celebrate our history and our future, and can welcome our residents and our many visitors. Furthermore, they are an important economic driver for Mississippi Mills, and we need to recognize that when we showcase our Town, we sell hamburgers, houses, candy, soft drinks and business land and we attract new residents and businesses to our Town. Mississippi Mills has a role to play in supporting these events that achieve both community and economic development as we currently do with staff support, advertising, equipment loans and general "in kind" collaboration. I think Mississippi Mills could make more meaningful financial contributions by measuring the impact of our fairs, festivals and arts events against clearly identified municipal goals and objectives and devising a more equitable funding formula..."

Shaun McLaughlin, Council candidate for Ramsay Ward: "Arts events, fairs and festivals contribute to the economic diversity of the Town and are important contributors to the vitality of the downtown core. If Almonte businesses do well and expand, the increased taxes benefit all wards. The Town should continue to provide a modest, predictable, annual budget that invests in organizations that have a high level of public, business and private support (such as donations, fundraising, and volunteer time)."

Denzil Ferguson, Council candidate for Pakenham Ward: "I believe that Mississippi Mills has been and should continue to be a strong supportive partner of the festivals, fairs and arts events organized and promoted by the many volunteers within our community. As a business person, we welcome them and

must appreciate that they provide a major economic stimulus for business, enjoyment for residents and visitors, and social development for our youth. Mississippi Mills has established itself through the variety of positive events as a "go-to place" where attendees are appreciated, and entertainers acknowledged."

Gary Dalgity, Council candidate for Almonte Ward: "I believe that the many festivals, fairs and arts events are an integral part of the make-up of our community.

revenue to our local economy, place our community in high regard on the national and international cultural maps, and are the place to be when events such as ours are being held. I know that the local government has sponsored and/or assisted in the presentation of these events in the past and must continue to do so into the future."

Chris O'Brien, Council candidate for Almonte Ward: "Of course I am a strong supporter of the cultural sector of

and education. From car buffs to puppet people, sports enthusiasts, family traditionalists, needleworkers, musicians and fashionistas, these festivals provide for all ages and interests a wonderful expression of community of life in a small town as it should be. The role of government as it applies to the arts must always follow the tenets of good governance, accountability, balance and responsible use of its resources... There are several "assists" open to Council. The first of course is hard cash. Being accountable as tax dollars well spent, festival organizers have a dual role to prove worth. One is to count visitors, factor dollars spent in the community, and declare value. The other is much more intangible. Many benefits of these events are internalized by the visitors and participants; as such, these are difficult to quantify. They are, perhaps, far more valuable for this. A family who enjoys a visit in 2005 may move to town and open a business, adding growth in a supportive manner, perhaps providing leadership and an infusion of capital... It is a responsibility of good government, large or small, to support the development of the arts and their expression. It will ultimately pay us back tenfold in the quality of our lives in this, our community."

Duncan Abbott, Council candidate for Pakenham Ward: "Special events in Mississippi Mills perform two important functions. Internally we, along with our friends and families, get to share on a regular basis in aspects of the outside world and of our own community that we would never encounter otherwise. Many of us enjoy the social excitement of planning or assisting in these events. Externally we draw large numbers to town to share in our pleasure and at the same time spend money in our businesses. The total effect is to create a prosperous community where people choose to live out their days rather than just being a 'bedroom' for city people who plan to move eventually to somewhere 'just like here.'"

Philip Wood, Council candidate for Almonte Ward: "The festivals, fairs, art, sporting and recreational events are all part of Mississippi Mills' unique social and cultural fabric. Just as importantly, however, they all contribute to the community's economic stability and growth. All events directly or indirectly promote the town and attract visitors, some of whom even become new residents. Currently the Town supports many of these events through grants or in-kind services and should continue to do so."



With the impending retirement of Mayor Al Lunney (who, along with his sidekick mini-Al has been a big supporter of the arts in Mississippi Mills),

Euphemia decided to survey candidates about their views on fairs, festivals and the role of local government

These events provide a cultural stimulus and a sense of enjoyment for our residents and visitors alike and in doing so present to others across the country the abundance of talent that the people of the Town of Mississippi Mills possess. I believe that these events provide a huge boost in

our Town. Festivals, fairs, and arts are all a reflection of who we are and an opportunity to build community. I see the role of government to be a bridging partner. Last I heard, Council had a Festivals Committee, and I would strongly support its existence. Talent and experience can be shared. Festivals and the arts are a great opportunity to brand the Town. Although I do believe in fiscal responsibility, the Town can offer support in ways other than taxpayers' dollars: through infrastructure support, co-operative branding, beautification projects and more... Why not have a campaign along the lines of "play in your own backyard" in conjunction with a "shop local" campaign? It is very important that we tell each other the worth and opportunities that exist in our community and that we endeavour to support and grow these opportunities."

Bernard Cameron, Council candidate for Almonte Ward: "First of all, these events are a wonderful addition to the quality of community, its diversity, development, entertainment

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