

AUGUST 2026

the Humming

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas

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In Praise of Beavers

Beavers: tough but dumb — trees cut down — mosquitos — “ruined” farmland — swampy wasteland.

I’m not claiming to know much, but the commonsense-making of one YouTube video added some information for me. Quick summary for your consideration:

- There used to be ten times as many beavers and 800,000 square kilometres more wetland in North America.
- Mississippi Mills’ wells need ground water; wetlands do that, they store water and let it soak in.
- Quick rain runoff carries soil away. We end up with deep-cut bare-bottomed creeks, depleted land, dry pastures, damaged roads, flooded basements. (Every time it rains our creek is muddy. That’s soil being carried away. A dam would capture that soil from upstream. The Mississippi River (US) is known for its muddiness which settles in the Gulf of Mexico. The breadbasket of the US is washing into the ocean.)
- Wetlands hold soil, control runoff, filter and clean the rainwater.
- Wetlands remain cool in hot summers. Dry soil has less vegetation, gets hot and dries out even more.
- Plants are built of CO₂ from the air; the dead and alive plant matter in wetlands holds carbon and reduces atmospheric CO₂.
- How long until a field or forest near Almonte is on fire? Wetlands keep things wet and lush; the higher water table keeps adjacent land more hydrated.
- Wetlands help birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects that feed them, fish, mammals and therefor humanity.
- Livestock has more food and water.

It seems to me that beavers are life. Their absence impoverishes our land and our lives. Wetlands can regenerate land in only a couple of years, and the benefits are almost instant. Got a creek? People can make a beaver-ish kind of dam almost free, a lot of labour though.

Our property has Wolf Grove Creek passing through. Most of our birds are gone over the past ten years. We had a lot of tree swallows and redwings. We had many more frogs, snakes and crickets. It’s on our minds that the great extinction has begun. Every creek needs a dam. I’m doing it, and hopefully we’ll have our very own beavers.

For more inspiration on a similar topic, watch [the 2026 film] *Ground-Swell*, narrated by Woody Harrelson. Thanks for reading.
— Jack Teertstra



In January of 2025, **Heidi V** sent in this photo and note about her globe-trotting copy of theHumm: “My daughter and I brought an issue of the Humm on a trip to Hong Kong in March 2023. After taking a photo of the Hong Kong Harbour we went to Lamma Island where we gave the paper away to Nick the Bookman. He was sitting beside a well-traveled path outside his house, where he sells used books and talks to friends. “The photo above is from a trip to Germany in December 2024. We visited many beautiful German Christmas Markets; our favourite was Dresden Striezelmarkt. It is the oldest Christmas market in Germany, dating back to 1434. It’s also considered one of the oldest Christmas markets in the world. “We hope that you can use any of these photos in theHumm. We will send a copy to our family in Hong Kong and Germany!”

Humble Thought

“Yes, it’s not everything — but if we can only cheer when it’s everything, we’re going to live sad lives.”
— Daniel Hunter, <wagingnonviolence.org>



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

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By email to editor@thehummm.com

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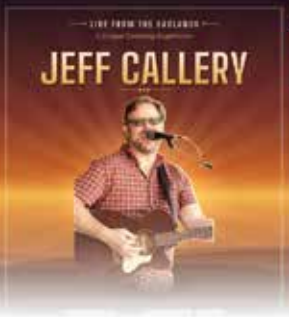
Hummail is a weekly newsletter that we use to further promote independent local performers, creators, businesses and community initiatives. It’s also a great reminder of what’s coming up on the weekend, in case someone has stolen your copy of theHumm...

You can subscribe by using the QR code above or by emailing <kris@thehummm.com>.

TICKETS
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What’s Happening This Month

Live music, theatre, festivals & more – tickets made easy.



DFT PRODUCTIONS presents
The Taffetas
July 30-Aug 2
Almonte Old Town Hall

CROOKED CREEK presents
Crooked Creek at Union Hall
Jul. 31 • 8PM
Union Hall, Almonte

STONE FENCE THEATRE presents
If You Don’t Know, You Wilno!
Aug. 4, 6, Sep. 12, 13, 18 & 20, Oct. 16 & 17
Rankin Culture & Recreation Centre, Pembroke

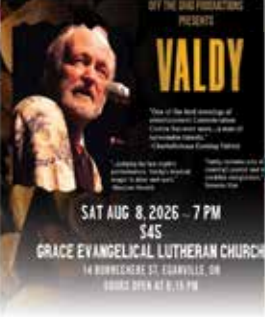
PUPPETS UP! presents
Workshop with Joshua Holden
Aug. 7 • 9AM **LIMITED AVAILABILITY**
Almonte Old Town Hall

PUPPETS UP! presents
MacBeth: “A Tale Told by an Idiot”
Aug. 7 • 8PM
Almonte Old Town Hall

NORTH LANARK REGIONAL MUSEUM presents
Dino Day
Aug. 8 • 10AM
North Lanark Regional Museum, Almonte

PUPPETS UP! presents
Felt Up: The After-Hours Cabaret
Aug. 8 • 8PM **SOLD OUT**
Almonte Old Town Hall

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ARTS presents
Fame Junior, The Musical
Aug. 28-30
32 Park Street, Brockville



REALLY COOL INITIATIVES presents
Seussical Jr.
July 30-Aug 1
St. Joseph’s High School, Renfrew

LIVE FROM THE BADLANDS presents
Jeff Callery
Aug. 2 • 1PM
417 Kenyon Road, Perth

PAINT WITH JANET presents
Ruby Throated Hummingbird
Aug. 6 • 7PM
The Art Hub Gallery, Carleton Place

NORTH LANARK REGIONAL MUSEUM presents
The Gilded Age Tea and Tour
Aug. 7 • 10AM
North Lanark Regional Museum, Almonte

PUPPETS UP! presents
Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival
Aug 8-9
Almonte

OFF THE GRID PRODUCTIONS presents
Valdy
Aug. 8 • 7PM **LIMITED AVAILABILITY**
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eganville

PAINT WITH JANET presents
Practically Perfect Peonies
Aug. 20 • 7PM
The Art Hub Gallery, Carleton Place

SUNFLOWER SOAPS presents
Soap Making Workshops
Aug 29
Anderson’s Y.I.G., Carleton Place

Browse our full event list and buy tickets in minutes at **TicketsPlease.ca**

Liana and Taina Sodonis – Double Your Pleasure

Liana Sodonis literally goes with the flow. Always an artist, about five years ago she discovered a new medium that is perfect for her. In addition to her nature-themed acrylic

by Sally Hansen

paintings, she began creating functional kitchen accessories that pair beautifully grained wood with flowing epoxy ornamentation — embellishing serving trays, coasters, and recently, stunning tables. Her woodworking and resin pieces elevate a cheese and crackers appetizer to new heights.

Her love of nature is apparent in every piece. Many of her coasters and trays take full advantage of the flow of her medium — her oceanic themes capture the colours and frothing of the water perfectly. Her paintings reflect her idyllic environment, nestled in the country at the edge of a very secluded and private lake about an hour from Almonte.

Ten years ago her mother and father, Taina and Frank, rebuilt the family's summer cottage and created a lovely retirement home that their daughter is now repurposing to include an art studio named Stationhouse Studio. Their goal is to have the new studio open next summer.

In the process, Liana's mother Taina has also satisfied a lifelong ambition to be an artist. A few years ago she was admiring a neighbour's mosaic glass art, and her son signed her up to learn how to create stained glass pieces. It was an instant love affair. Like her daughter, Taina's works reflect her love of nature. A loon on the lake, a sunset over the lake, a cardinal



on the wing — her pieces celebrate the beauty and healing properties of immersing oneself in nature. I was impressed to learn that Taina also frequently swims three kilometres with her husband to keep in shape.

Doing What Comes Naturally

This mother/daughter artistic duo exemplify the concept of synergy — the idea that two people working

together produce a better overall result than either could achieve alone. In this case, two talented women, each pursuing her own artistic calling, benefit from each other's endless energy, enthusiasm and encouragement. Every mother and daughter should be so lucky as to have a supportive relationship like theirs.

Taina has encouraged her daughter's artistic proclivities since her youth, intuitively recognizing the healing power of the arts. Liana suffered several traumatic concussions as a teen and into early adulthood, and has been diagnosed on the ADHD spectrum. She also suffers from PTSD resulting from several traumatic incidents in her twenties.

That is why she started painting. As I recently confirmed from reading *Art Cure — The Science of How the Arts Save Lives* by Daisy Fancourt, there is a burgeoning field of scientific research supporting what so many artists have experienced: "... engaging in the arts has remarkable effects on our health and well-being."

This mother-daughter team provides powerful evidence of exactly that with their enthusiastic descriptions of how much they enjoy and benefit from their individual artistic pursuits. Like many of the more than 300 artists I have interviewed, Liana and Taina "go in the flow" the minute they enter their respective studios. Much to my surprise, Taina confesses to having TV murder mysteries playing in the background while creating her beatific stained-glass pieces. It helps to camouflage the noise emanating next door from her daughter's rigorous sanding of the beautifully grained wood she selects as the base for each piece.

Both create art that celebrates their deep appreciation for the natural world. Liana's response to my question of *Why?* she creates her art is deeply moving: "My art grew out of healing — a way to turn the beauty I see in nature into brightness I can share with others, the same way it helped bring me back to myself." Taina's response is equally heartfelt: "I make stained glass to bring my creativity to life." In her case, she knew by grade eight that she wanted to be an artist, but practicality prevailed. First she worked as a cartographer creating maps, and then she took a job with Hallmark Cards in their graphics department, writing programs to generate gift wrap patterns. Then she became a fulltime wife and mom to three lucky children. From our brief acquaintance, I'm guessing her husband is lucky too.

They encouraged their daughter to pursue her love of art and design, and Liana studied Advertising and Marketing Communications Management at Algonquin College. She worked as a marketing assistant before embarking on her graphic design career, and did freelance work for Enbridge and various other clients. Recovering from a concussion, she traveled to Australia with friends. When she was introduced to woodworking, it was an instantaneous connec-



tion; she realized that working with her hands was therapeutic for her concussion symptoms. When Covid struck, she returned home and embarked on her career as a full-time artist, convincing her mother to embark on the journey with her. Stationhouse Studio is their work-in-progress result. The family also owns a small B&B adjacent to their home in Lanark Highlands, not far from Brightside.

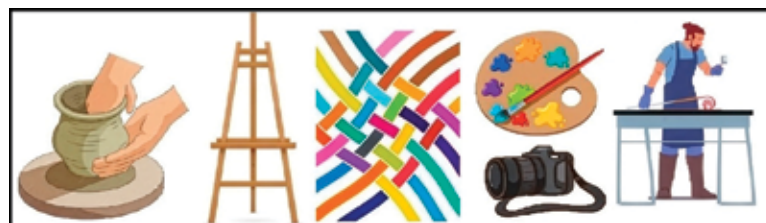
Riverfront Artscape

Both Taina and Liana enjoy taking their respective artworks to various markets and art shows. On Saturday, Aug. 15th, they both are participating in the Carleton Place Riverfront Artscape from 10AM to 5PM at the River Walkway beside the CP Gallery at 210 Bridge Street. Liana's eye-catching woodworking and resin art also is available in Kanata at the gourmet foods and kitchen shop Grace in the Kitchen.

Liana's website at <stationhousestudio.ca> is a prime example of her expertise in marketing

and graphic design. She continues to do freelance graphic design for small local businesses — samples are available at <portfolio.stationhousestudio.ca>. And if you feel like a beautiful drive in the country, you can head out to Lanark Highlands and see where Liana selects much of her wood. Against the Grain Outdoors at 1338 French Line Road is the home of professional chainsaw carver Andrew Schouwstra. When I stopped in, Taina's beautiful stained-glass cardinal was on display (Andrew's eclectic pieces can be seen at <againstthegrainoutdoors.com>).

Check the back of Liana's and Taina's Artist Trading Card at the top of the page for further details. And wish them well in their exciting adventure to create an art destination at Stationhouse Studio!



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Michael Pittman, "Hoods", 2026, 30 x 30 inches

MICHAEL PITTMAN

dark lands and distant shores

August 1 - September 4, 2026

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Michael Pittman, "Distant Shores (Glenveagh)", 2026, 30 x 30 inches

Who Liana and Taina Sodonis

What Liana: Woodworking and Resin Art, Paintings, Graphic Design; Taina: Stained Glass Art

Where Stationhouse Studio <stationhousestudio.ca>, <lianasodonis94@gmail.com>, <tainasodonis@gmail.com>; Liana — Grace in the Kitchen, 255 Kanata Ave., <graceinthekitchen.ca>

When Sat., Aug 15, 10AM to 5PM, Carleton Place Riverfront Artscape, beside the CP Gallery at 210 Bridge St.

Why Liana: "My art grew from healing and a deep appreciation for the beauty in nature that helped me find my way back to myself."
Taina: "I make stained glass to bring my creativity to life"

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Joanne Beaton



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Hold onto your kilts! The North Lanark Highland Games return to the Almonte Fairgrounds on Saturday, August 22. Photo by Hollydays Videography.

41st Annual North Lanark Highland Games

There is a beautiful Scottish Gaelic word, *fàilte* (pronounced fal-chuh), which means a heartfelt welcome. That is exactly what awaits you along the grassy, picturesque banks of the Mississippi River on Saturday, August 22.

For over four decades the Almonte Fairgrounds have come alive, rain or shine, for this favourite summer tradition. From 8AM to 6PM, the beautiful riverside site transforms into a true *céilidh* (pronounced kay-lee — a grand social gathering), celebrating the very best of local Scottish heritage and Ottawa Valley culture. Recognized across the province as the friendliest event on the Ontario circuit, the North Lanark Highland Games offer a perfect blend of historic pageantry, fierce athletic competition, and warm, small-town hospitality.

What Awaits You at the Games?

Prepare to be enthralled by the breathtaking, thunderous roar of the Massed Pipe Bands. The air will fill with the piercingly beautiful and unmistakable drone of bagpipes and the rhythmic beat of drums as up to twenty bands play in unison during the iconic Opening and Closing ceremonies. This year, organizers are thrilled to announce that the Ottawa Caledonia Pipes & Drums (OCaP) will feature as the day's official Duty Band. Leading the parade with pride, precision and flair will be the esteemed Drum Major Darryl Lim.

On the dance stage, watch the intense athletic artistry of up to 120 highland dancers. Competing in traditional dances like the Highland Fling (originally a wild dance of triumph after battle) and the intricate Sword Dance (traditionally danced over crossed broadswords), these competitors display immense strength, precision and grace as they vie for the coveted "Dancer of the Day" trophy.

Witness the power of champion heavyweight athletes in front of the grandstand. From tossing the iconic caber to hurling the hammer for distance, putting the stone, and throwing the sheaf high over the bar, these competitors put on an amazing show for all ages. Keep your eyes on the field for record-

breaking performances and raise a cheer for your favourite athletes!

The North Lanark Highland Games are designed to keep every generation entertained. You can explore the traditional clan tents to learn of your own Scottish ancestry, browse the unique artisans, savour delicious items from the food vendors or share a dram at the beer gardens throughout the day. Children ages 3 to 11 can also enjoy the specialized Kiddie Games section (all for free) where they can try their hand at kid-friendly versions of the heavy events alongside face painting, crafts, and a dress-up tent.

To make your day smooth, it is recommended to park at the Almonte & District Community Centre and take the free shuttle straight to the gate. General admission is \$20 (plus applicable fees/taxes), and children 11 and under are completely free.

Grab your lawn chairs, round up the family, and join your fellow "Scots-for-the-day" for the friendliest Highland Games around, no matter the weather. Kilts are not mandatory, but you are more than welcome to don your tartan!



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Blakeney & Pakenham: The Perfect Sunday Drive!

By Nicola Dunn

I grew up going for drives. Some of my best memories are of travelling back roads in our converted van, with my mum always needing to see around the next bend and my dad happily complying. The tradition of the Sunday drive is in my DNA and road-tripping is deeply, wonderfully rooted in my system. I'm lucky to have a family that also loves adventuring. Last Sunday was incredibly hot, but it's summer, so gallivanting was in order! It was the kind of hot where you could fry an egg on your car hood, should you desire to. A perfect day for a drive, popping in and out of the air-conditioned car to see unique shops, admire some sights and enjoy the scenery of Mississippi Mills.

My family and I started our drive heading to Blakeney. Did you know that Blakeney's original name was Norway Pine Falls? It



also held the names Snedden's Mills and Rosebank before being permanently named Blakeney in 1865. A lot of time has passed since the name change, but one thing has not — it's a beautiful spot. As we entered Blakeney from Martin Street North (from Almonte), I spotted a lovely free library. Being a bibliophile, and the daughter of a librarian, I had to yell "stop please!" My husband, very familiar with sudden stops for photos, bakeries, free libraries or animals, pulled up beside the little blue library so I could peruse the offerings. I stood for several minutes, looking out at the farm fields with the sun on my face, listening to the birds, and enjoying the countryside before selecting a book for later reading.

Turning into Blakeney we passed several historic properties, one coming for sale (oh, I wish!), before crossing the Mississippi River. Parking at the Fish & Game Association Blakeney Park, I wandered back across the bridge on foot to look out at the rapids below and the smooth water on the other side. A mum and child played in the shallows down the trail, while kayakers paddled off in the distance on the glistening waters. What a beautiful sight, pure Canadiana. Returning to the car with thoughts of hiking trails left unexplored and my family asking about the park, we're determined to return another day for a walk and a dip. Onwards to Pakenham!

Driving towards Pakenham allows for bucolic scenery, passing farms, dirt road turn-offs and historical homes dotting the landscape. With music on the radio and the passing Mississippi Mills scenery, it felt like a prescription for happiness and relaxation.

Upon entering Pakenham, we turned to investigate the small beach on Margaret Street. Kids were enjoying splashing amongst the reeds, while across the parking lot two teams played baseball, having a great time no matter the heat. It's impossible, as an adventurer, to go to Pakenham and not stop. The 1840 General Store beckons you to enter. I love any place where you can feel time shift as you enter the doors, and any place that sells baked goods makes me happy. With no room in our bellies for ice cream or more sweets, another vow of returning was agreed to. I still wanted to investigate more, so off I set on foot to wander some of the village streets.

In Pakenham, you can feel the sense of community. From a Free Seedling Stand and an edible garden supporting food security to the friendly banter in the store and the sounds of the local baseball teams' fun in the air, it's clear that Pakenham is more than people living together — it's a community with connection. Pakenham proved to be everything life in a country town should be.

I really love architecture. I could walk or drive all day looking at it, and Pakenham doesn't disappoint. Among its notables are two fantastic structures. Even the scorching sun could not stop me from roaming around both of them. Firstly, the impressive St. Peter Celestine RC Church. The location, at the top of the hill overlooking the village, is beautiful. The church looks like it belongs in Europe. Built in 1892, imagine the stories its walls hold! I am hoping to return to see the inside one day. The outside of edifice is amazingly striking, so I can only imagine the inside. I need to see it in person! Another vow to return.



Photos by Nicola Dunn

Heading down the hill, we drove the short distance to the historic 5 Span Bridge. Built in 1903, it's seen decades of horse & buggies and cars crossing the mighty Mississippi River. Currently under rehabilitation, the view of it is no less spectacular from the banks of the river. I sat for a spell, watching the raging water, pondering the history of the bridge and the labour involved in bringing stones from the local quarry, and the masonry involved. Remnants remain from early days, with large metal spikes hammered deep in the rocks dotting the river's edge. The 5 Span bridge is said to be the only one of its kind in North America. I could have stayed all day in the wonderful spot where the illusion of time standing still permeates.

My wandering ways wanted to continue onwards, but we had some responsibilities to attend to so back home we went, with our Vow-To-Return list in hand. The list is now on our fridge, as a reminder and a terrific excuse to return on another day and continue our adventure. Thank you, Mississippi Mills, for a wonderful Sunday drive!

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KanataArtClub.com

The Kanata Art Club & Studio was created 50 years ago to inspire and support member artists at all levels, by expanding their artistic knowledge and skills.

We offer a dedicated workspace where you can receive one-on-one instruction in small classes, and multi-day workshops that provide a focused environment to help develop and hone your skills.

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Donata Szafian | Oil Painting

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Aug 12	Jono Townsend (6PM)
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Aug 26	Field Trip (6PM)
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The Return of the Perth Lions Garlic Festival!

After a year's absence and with the help of many enthusiastic Lions, Chair Anne Bell has brought this popular local festival back to life. After a one-year hiatus, the 26th annual Perth Lions Garlic Festival will take place on August 8 (from 9AM to 5PM) and 9 (from 9AM to 4PM) at the Perth Fairgrounds. The vendors who will be attending — 60 of them — are over the moon that it is back. As are the merchants in town and members of the community.

The purpose of the festival is to promote Ontario-grown garlic by sharing ideas on how to grow, harvest, cook and enjoy this popular vegetable which is also good for you.

The event provides an opportunity for consumers to purchase different kinds of garlic, as well as assisting in tourism development. It also raises proceeds to distribute to worthwhile community causes supported by the Perth Lions Club.

The Perth Garlic Festival is the local Lions Club's biggest fundraiser, with every dollar raised going back to the community in the form of bursaries, hospital donations, and other worthwhile projects.



After a year's hiatus, the Perth Lions Garlic Festival returns to celebrate "the stinking rose" on August 8 and 9

There will be many things to see and do at the festival — cooking demonstrations, garlic bread sampling, musical entertainment, a beer tent, birds of prey, and many, many more displays.

Excited for its return, Perth Lions and many volunteers are eagerly anticipating next month when "the warm air of Ontario's prettiest town is scented with the pungent aroma of garlic". Find more details at perthlions.ca/garlic-festival.

Something For Everyone — Final Concert

On Saturday, August 29 at 3PM, the Almonte United Church is donating the use of their building for a concert to help local musician Andrew Jahn raise \$10,000 for Lanark County Food Bank — The Hunger Stop. Thanks to the generosity of good neighbours, Andrew has already raised almost \$7,000!

\$10,000 will purchase two months of milk and eggs for food bank clients, 38% of whom are children.

The Hunger Stop is the longest serving food bank in Lanark County — more than 35 years. They serve most of Lanark County North, from Carleton Place to almost Arnprior. They spend \$40,000 per month, up from the \$5,000 per month they spent five years ago. They provide five days' worth of food per month to clients, and receive no funding from any level of government.

For this concert, director and educator Andrew Jahn <8vamusic.net> will be partnering with 18-year-old Master of Ceremonies Hayden Swierenga, and 17-year-old Christian rapper Ronin Hashimoto. Andrew is a multi-genre singer-songwriter, pianist, guitarist, and composer of classical works who sings regularly at the National Arts Centre with the Ewashko singers. He has a heart for young people struggling to thrive and believes in giving back to the community.

Ronin Hashimoto started writing music at age 14. He is now a 17-year-old student at Notre Dame Catholic High School. In his free time, he still enjoys writing and recording rap music. Ronin takes inspiration from a variety of rap's many sub-genres and wants his lyrics to express his love for God. Hayden



Local musician Andrew Jahn is well on his way to raising \$10,000 for The Hunger Stop!

Swierenga, an 18-year-old budding musician, will be the afternoon's Master of Ceremonies. Watch for ticket details as the date draws closer.

Thanks to local media, Andrew has been featured on Carleton Place Tourism's Facebook page, CP Scoop, Reddit, The Lanarkist, and Linda Seccaspina's Tales of Almonte and Tales of Carleton Place.

Shout out to Facebook's Friends in Mississippi Mills, Mississippi Mills' Mayor Christa Lowry, Ashley Kulp of Mississippi Mills, *Inside Ottawa Valley*, Millstone News, *theHumm*, Tickets Please, Oldies 107.7 (Arnprior), and CHRI Radio 99.1 (Ottawa) for their help with advertising prior concerts and this current one.

You can support Andrew's initiative at lanark-countyfoodbank.ca/donate/donate-money. Please put "Something for Everyone" in your description.

The Joy of Reading in the Park

(Complete with Recommendations!)

One of the chief joys of my summer has been reading in the park. It's such a peaceful, quietly enjoyable experience, I often think it's a wonder that it's free. But it is, save for the price of the book in my hands — although, to me, the singular joy I get from reading a good book is priceless.

by John Pigeau

One morning last week I was sitting in the park near my home under a very tall and sprawling elm tree, immersed in a short story from Sigrid Nunez's wondrous new collection *It Will Come Back to You*, when it occurred to me to look up and look around. It wasn't something I'd heard that gave me pause, although there were children cheerfully playing in the water feature nearby and, not far off, several parents pushing their kids on swings — I couldn't hear the children, but I could sense their joy. And the parents looked content as well. The only sound I was aware of was overhead: the murmur of leaves shivering in the breeze. It was a restful sound. And I realized that's what made me mark the page in my book, look up, and take a breath: an invigorating sense of calm.

I felt happy. And grateful.

It's no wonder, really, as science tells us that both reading and spending time in a park or any green space have many health benefits, physical and mental. Reading is said to reduce stress and help us develop empathy. Time spent in green spaces significantly reduces cortisol, which is a stress hormone, while boosting endorphin levels and dopamine production, which promotes happiness. On a sunny day, you're also taking in a lot of good Vitamin D. When you add in a book you're really enjoying, your mood is also sure to improve. I know mine has.

August — with its warm temps and oodles of sunshine — seems an ideal month to venture to the park and lose yourself in a great read. Publishers tend to stack their fall catalogues, but thankfully there are still plenty of first-rate new releases coming out in August, and I would like to highlight a few.

First up is a book I'm really looking forward to from Michael Cunningham, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Hours*. It's called *Unsayable: A Life in Writing*, and it's an intimate memoir portraying a life spent trying to describe the indescribable. If you've read *The Hours*, you know Cunningham does that exceedingly well. He writes truly gorgeous prose. This memoir is already being called a treasure. Susan Orlean (*Joyride*, *The Orchid Thief*) says it's "gorgeous, engaging, and heartfelt... a joy to read." Sounds good to me. In all fairness though, I'm such a huge fan of Cunningham's I'd be picking up this memoir regardless.

I've been hearing a lot about Paul Yoon's novel *Etna*, due out on August 4. It's been on a bunch of "most anticipated books of the year" lists, lauded by the *New York Times*, *Time*, Lithub, the *Chicago Tribune*,

and the *Boston Globe*, and that's not normally a coincidence. The novel is short, at 204 pages (short books are terrific summer reads!) and narrated by an ex-military dog, Etna, who is trying to find its way home in the aftermath of a war. Its journey home through desolate, war-torn landscapes is treacherous, but Etna — a kind-hearted shepherd mix — longs to return to the coastal farm of his puppyhood. The book, said to be elegantly written, is ultimately a parable about finding hope in the bleakest of times. And who couldn't use that right about now?

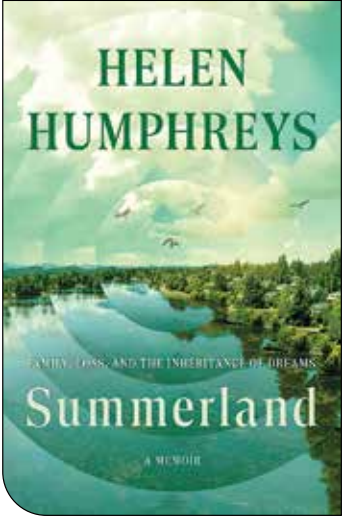
Not many novelists write about small-town life better than Richard Russo. In *Under the Falls*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Empire Falls* returns to those small-town environs, this time with a literary page-turner about a crime that exposes long-held secrets and betrayals among a lifelong group of friends in the small town of Stone Mountain, N.Y. Like most Russo novels, this one is a character-driven, deeply empathetic drama, but *Under the Falls* marks the first time — that I'm aware of, at any rate — that he's taken on a crime thriller. Russo is a remarkably talented prose stylist. I can imagine this book will be a sure-fire winner.

Under the Falls promises to be a perfect summer read. It's due out on August 11.

I'm already a goner for this next recommendation: *Summerland* by Helen Humphreys. Humphreys is one of our best writers, period. Her novels are exquisitely written; her non-fiction richly detailed, fascinating, deeply moving and endlessly thoughtful. *Summerland* is a memoir on "family, loss, and the inheritance of dreams." In it, Humphreys writes about her grandfather and her father, exploring the nature of inherited dreams within a family. Do dreams and desires pass through DNA like a physical trait, from one generation to the next and the next after? What continues? And how does it continue? I can't wait to dive into this one. Helen Humphreys is one of those writers who is simply so good you know she will not disappoint. Her books are worth every penny. You buy them day one, without question. "Here," you say (as "the kids" do). "Take my money." Because you know you'll be generously rewarded. *Summerland* is out on September 1.

As a bit of a bonus: Humphreys will also be appearing at this year's edition of the Kingston WritersFest, in early October. Check my column in the September issue of theHumm for a detailed preview of this year's festival.

Meantime, they are presenting a special event on August 19 at The Spire in Kingston: *Ancient Myths, Modern Nightmares* featuring Yann Martel and Iain Reid. Martel and Reid will be discussing the art of storytelling, translating text to screen, working in Hollywood, and a lot more. Martel's latest novel, *Son of Nobody* is available at a fine bookstore near you, and Reid's latest book, *A New Kind of Clean* — a groundbreaking collaboration with filmmaker Ellie Foubmi — will be out on October 6. Tickets are on sale at <kingstonwritersfest.ca>.



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Harbourside Gallery in Westport Harbour

Discover Art, Antiques, and Treasures
with Stories to Tell

Harbourside Gallery, located at the scenic Westport Harbour, is now open to the public, inviting visitors to explore a carefully curated collection of fine art, antiques, vintage treasures and unique collectibles.

Nestled in the heart of the picturesque Village of Westport with stunning views of the historic harbour, the gallery offers an inviting, coastal-inspired atmosphere in its newly renovated space. Every piece tells a story — from original artworks to rare antiques — making it the perfect destination for antique collectors, art enthusiasts, and those seeking one-of-a-kind gifts.

Current highlights include works by Perth artist Kim Fournier, specializing in beautiful landscapes; as well as an ever-changing treasure trove of art glass, Art Deco pieces, curiosities, and historical items. New arrivals come in weekly, including exceptional pieces such as a 1645 John Speed map, an Art Deco Prohibition-era drinks cabinet, and a King William IV ladies writing desk (c. 1810–1820).

"We're delighted to share this beautiful harbour-side space with the community," says co-owner and resident artist Susan



A new gallery in Westport serves up a selection of local art and carefully curated antiques

Peters. "It's wonderful to see visitors connect with the local artists and the stories behind each piece." Co-owner David Terry adds: "Every antique has a story worth telling and worth enjoying. We're thrilled to welcome visitors and share these treasures with the community and beyond."

Harbourside Gallery is located at 41B Main Street, Unit #9 in Westport. Find more details at <harboursidegallery.com>.

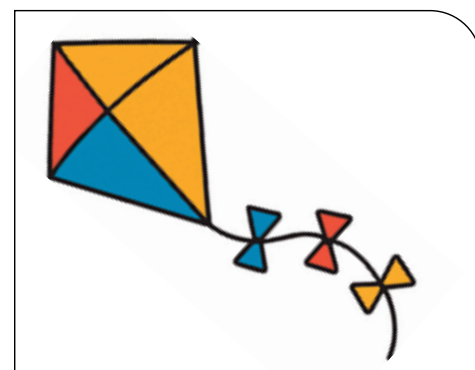
MERA Presents the Soaring Through Summer Festival!

By Louise Ennis

Something is coming to McDonald's Corners! Is it a bird? Is it a plane? On Saturday, August 8, get ready for a day filled with music, creativity, and endless fun at our special event: MERA's Soaring Through Summer. The event takes place at two locations in McDonald's Corners: MERA (McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts at 974 Dalhousie Concession 9A) and the McDonald's Corners Agricultural Society (at 194 Cameron's Road). This exciting family-friendly event is designed to bring joy and excitement to children of all ages!

It starts at the McDonald's Corners Agricultural Hall from 11AM to 4PM with everything related to flight — from arts and crafts to hands-on games and activities and live music. The day is filled with demonstrations of drones and presentations on birds. Children of all ages can immerse themselves in games; build kites, birdhouses and airplanes in the arts and crafts zone; explore award-winning film shorts on flight; and dance along to lively tunes in the music area. Face painting and bubble play will add to the magic, making the festival an unforgettable experience for kids and parents alike. In addition to all the fun-filled activities, numerous community organizations and vendors will be on-site. And of course, no festival is complete without delicious food — there will be plenty of options available to keep everyone fueled for the day's adventures!

The day continues at MERA with art, music and pizza from 4PM to 10PM. Take in the artworks of Michael Flahault, and



On August 8, MERA presents a day full of flight-themed fun and creativity in McDonald's Corners

discover a wide array of works from landscapes and portraits — a must-see! We will raffle off one of his paintings, and the draw takes place at 6PM. Enjoy refreshments from the MERA Café and pizza from MERA's famous pizza oven. At 6:30PM we have a special concert from our favourite musical family, TriPOD, featuring award-winning singer-songwriter Terry Tufts with Kathryn Briggs and Beth Tufts. They will offer a mix of original music (some works dedicated to flight) and cover tunes presented with passion, fun, and a love of music!

Bring the whole family to the Soaring Through Summer Festival for a day of fun, imagination, and community spirit. Special thanks to our volunteers and to Perth and District Community Foundation who help make this happen. For more information, please follow us on Facebook or Instagram and visit <meraschoolhouse.org>.

MUSICwestport Turns 18

A Summer Tradition Comes of Age

There are certain dates that simply belong on the calendar. In Rideau Lakes, the third weekend of August has become one of them!

On Saturday, August 15, the streets of downtown Westport will once again come alive as MUSICwestport celebrates its 18th Annual Arts & Music Open Air Festival — a full day of outstanding live music, local artists, friendly faces and everything that makes summer in the village so memorable!

What began as a grassroots celebration of local music has grown into one of Eastern Ontario's favourite little music festivals, attracting visitors from all over while never losing the welcoming, small-town atmosphere that makes Westport so special. Whether you're a longtime festival regular or making your first visit, MUSICwestport offers the perfect excuse to slow down, wander the streets, discover new music and spend a day immersed in creativity.

This year the festival has added a new element, Toast 'n Jams Open Mic on The Cove Stage from 9–11AM. There is limited space and artists must sign up in advance.

Once again there are two unique outdoor stages, each offering its own musical flavour.

At The Cove Stage, sponsored by The Cove and Kudrinko's, audiences can expect an afternoon of rock, soul and folk-inspired performances beginning at 1PM when powerhouse vocalist Shane Murphy from Montreal opens the festivities with an energetic blend of funk, rock and soul guaranteed to get the afternoon moving. At 3PM, Montreal's Sunfields featuring Jason Kent delivers their signature indie folk rock, combining soaring harmonies with thoughtful songwriting. Closing the stage at 5PM, acclaimed Ontario

band Brooks & Bowskill featuring Jimmy Bowskill (formerly of The Sheepdogs, now a strings wiz in Blue Rodeo) brings their celebrated country, folk, roots rock, wrapping up the afternoon with musicianship that has earned them fans across Canada!

Meanwhile, just a short stroll away, Lockwood Stage, sponsored by WTC and LandArk Homes, celebrates country, bluegrass and roots music. Beginning at 12PM, visitors can browse Artist's Alley, showcasing talented cloggers, face painting, Muskoka chair art and other crafting. At 12:30PM Vicki Brittle opens the musical lineup with her husky voice and engaging indie pop and rock, fresh off a Mariposa showcase! Crooked Creek Bluegrass Band featuring Tim Loten follows at 2:30PM with lively picking and traditional bluegrass, before hometown favourites Dirt Road Anthem, featuring Zach Teal and Shawn McCullough, close out the stage at 4:30PM with some classic country sure to have audiences singing along!

Adding even more excitement throughout the afternoon are the Wandering Minstrels — King of the Swingers, who will be downtown between 11:30AM and 2:30PM. Expect lively performances and spontaneous smiles around every corner as they bring their old-time ragtime sing-a-long jazz music directly to festival-goers.

MUSICwestport has always been about more than music. The festival celebrates the entire village experience, so explore Westport's unique shops, galleries, cafés,

patios and restaurants while taking in the performances. Grab lunch between sets, browse local artwork, cool off with an ice cream, or relax beside Upper Rideau Lake while music fills the air. It's the kind of day where every block has something happening and every conversation feels like catching up with old friends. Thanks to all the local businesses who sponsor the festival!

Kick-Off Party

The festivities actually begin the evening before, because on Friday, August 14 everyone is invited to the MUSICwestport Kick-Off Party on The Cove patio from 6–9PM. The always-popular Dead Root Revival, featuring Westport's Tom Savage, returns to launch the weekend with an evening of high-energy southern style jam rock! Admission is \$25, with proceeds to the Westport Arts Council, helping support arts and culture throughout the community. Call The Cove at 273–3636 for reservations.



Westport is the place to be on August 14 & 15 for great music

And if one day of music isn't enough, Saturday doesn't end when the outdoor stages wrap up.

The celebration continues After Hours at The Cove from 8–11PM, when local favourites Young Petty Stones take the stage. Known for their electrifying performances celebrating the timeless music of Neil Young, Tom Petty, and The Rolling Stones, they'll provide the perfect soundtrack to cap off an unforgettable festival day. Admission is \$25. Call The Cove for reservations.

One of the things that has kept MUSICwestport thriving for nearly

two decades is its ability to combine professional-calibre musicians with the warmth of a community celebration. You'll find visitors discovering their next favourite band, neighbours reconnecting over great music, children dancing in the streets and musicians enjoying the same welcoming atmosphere as the audiences they're entertaining.

Eighteen years is an impressive milestone for any community festival, and it speaks volumes about the volunteers, sponsors, performers, businesses and supporters who have helped MUSICwestport grow from a simple idea into one of the highlights of the local summer season.

So bring a lawn chair, gather some friends, spend the weekend exploring one of Ontario's picturesque villages, and help celebrate eighteen years of music, art and community spirit. We'll see you in Westport on August 14 and 15 — where the music never stops.



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One Small Step into Nature

Discover the Festival of the Wild Child

Every great journey begins with one small step. An acorn starts small before growing into a mighty oak tree. A tiny tadpole transforms into a frog, and a caterpillar slowly becomes a butterfly. In nature, change happens one step at a time — and the same is true for our own connection with the natural world.

For twelve years, the Festival of the Wild Child has encouraged children and families to take their own small steps toward exploring and appreciating the outdoors. Organized by the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust (MMLT), this annual event welcomes approximately 150 participants and 70 volunteers each year for a day of hands-on learning and outdoor adventure.

Held at High Lonesome Nature Reserve on August 22, this year's festival invites visitors to take small steps of discovery throughout the landscape. Peer into a pond to find tiny aquatic creatures, learn to identify pollinators, follow clues left behind by wildlife, or slow down to observe the details of a leaf or piece of tree bark.

Returning favourites include Pond Life, Pollinator Path, Whose Poop?, and the Storybook Tent. Visitors can also follow the magical fairy trail, create leaf and bark rubbings, test their navigation skills with Map It Out!, learn about ongoing scientific studies at the Research Tent, try nature journaling, or follow the self-guided Nature's Path to Wellness trail.

This year, MMLT is also taking steps toward deepening the ways we learn from and connect with the land. We are exploring opportunities to include an Indigenous-led activity that shares Indigenous knowledge and perspectives on nature, offering families another meaningful way to experience nature.



There's so much for kids to explore and discover at MMLT's Festival of the Wild Child on August 22 near Pakenham

Every small step matters — whether it's discovering a creature in a pond for the first time, learning the name of a native plant, or gaining a new appreciation for the living world around us.

The Festival of the Wild Child is made possible through the dedication of volunteers, community partners, and supporters. MMLT gratefully acknowledges the support of the Municipality of Mills whose Community Climate Grant is helping bring this year's festival to life, as well as the Almonte Civitan Club, who will be providing food and cold drinks for purchase.

Come to High Lonesome Nature Reserve at 867 Carbine Road in Pakenham on August 22 from 10AM to 4PM for a day of exploration, discovery, and family-friendly fun. Admission is free for children under 16 and \$10 for adults. Please visit mmlt.ca/events for registration details and more information.

ELECTRIC GALLERY



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Union Hall Blueberry Tea

Annual Community Gathering on August 30

Bring your family and friends to Union Hall's annual Blueberry Tea, scheduled for Sunday, August 30 from 2–4PM. Get acquainted or re-acquainted with your neighbours. Enjoy a freshly baked blueberry dessert along with a cold drink, hot cup of tea or freshly brewed Equator coffee.

Union Hall, a registered charity, has been a gathering place since its construction in 1857. Throughout the years it has been a venue for family celebrations, meetings, and cultural and commercial activities, as well as community events such as the annual Blueberry Tea. Community volunteers continue to

maintain and operate this historic landmark that has touched the lives of so many. Funding from Mississippi Mills, The Hub, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and private donors has contributed toward significant improvements in recent years, allowing the hall to stay open twelve months of the year — with insulation, a heating system, and even air conditioning!

There is no charge for the Blueberry Tea, but donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

Make it a date for Sunday, August 30 at Union Hall, located at 1984 Wolf Grove Road (at the corner of Tatlock Road). Find out more at union-hall.org.

Commemorating the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Reconciliation Through Art

Back Bigger and Better!

Sun. Sept. 27
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Fun for the whole family!
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Almonte Old Town Hall
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Sat. Oct. 3
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The Frybread Queen!
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Sun. Oct. 4
Water Walk
8-9 am Meet @ Almonte Old Town Hall
Traditional Teachings
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10 am - 3 pm • MV Textile Museum
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The Apology: A Search for Justice
3 - 4:30 pm • MV Textile Museum
Donations welcome.
Register for Teachings & Film - TicketsPlease.ca





For further information: info@ReconciliationThroughArt.ca



The CAMMAC chorus will perform in Arnprior on Sunday, September 13

Celebration in Song

CAMMAC Ottawa Valley Chorus performs Mozart's Coronation Mass

On Sunday, September 13 at 3PM, the CAMMAC Ottawa Valley chorus will fill the stunning cathedral of St. John Chrysostom Church in Arnprior with the splendour of Mozart. CAMMAC's annual choir concert unites voices from across the Ottawa Valley — Westmeath, Pembroke, Cobden, Almonte, Pakenham, Carleton Place, Arnprior, Renfrew, Braeside, Sand Point and Ottawa-Gatineau — for an afternoon of joyful celebration.

At the heart of the program is Mozart's *Coronation Mass*. Completed in Salzburg in 1779 when Mozart was only 23, the Mass became famous after being performed for the coronation of Leopold II in 1791, and later Francis II in Prague. Mozart's operatic melodies are bright and stately, creating one of his most luminous and uplifting works.

Mozart's majesty and warmth will be brought to life by the 65-voice choir, full professional orchestra and four highly accomplished soloists with local connections: soprano Kathleen Radke, mezzo-soprano Danielle Vaillancourt, tenor Adam Sperry and bass Jean-Sébastien Kennedy.

Returning Artistic Director Lisa Webber brings extensive choral experience as founder of the Arnprior Community Choir and Two Rivers Musical Productions, and as an active vocal teacher, to lead the CAMMAC Ottawa Valley summer program. Under Lisa's guidance, the singers and musicians draw together into a cohesive, expressive ensemble, moving from the heights of Mozart's soaring brilliance to the quieter beauty of the second half.

Keyboardist Ian Guenette, Director of Music and organist at St. James Anglican Church in Carleton Place, will be featured in solo performances on both the organ and grand piano, making full use of the church's resonant acoustics.

Reflections of Hope and Grace
If the *Coronation Mass* conveys the grandeur of royal pageantry, the works in the second part of the program explore more personal reflections of love, gratitude and hope.

John Rutter's *This is the Day* is a joyous choral anthem celebrating the 2011 wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. Benjamin Britten's lively *Jubilate Deo in C* offers praise and gratitude in this composition originally commissioned for St. George's Chapel and performed at Prince Phillip's funeral service in 2021.

Elaine Hagenberg's *O Love*, inspired by the Scottish hymn written by George Matheson on the eve of his sister's wedding, invites us to let go of past heartache and embrace the beautiful promise of tomorrow.

Canadian composer Eleanor Daley's *Upon Your Heart* transforms the familiar Song of Solomon text, alternating upper and lower voices to evoke the binding strength of love.

The program closes on a resounding note with the jubilant *O Praise Ye the Lord*, supported by pipe organ accompaniment.

Concert Details
Join the CAMMAC Ottawa Valley chorus for a beautiful afternoon of music and community in an unforgettable cathedral setting. The concert will be performed on Sunday, September 13 at St. John Chrysostom Church, located at 295 Albert Street in Arnprior. Doors open at 2:30PM.

Tickets can be purchased at <cammac.ca/ottawagatineau/activities/#valley-concert>. You can also buy tickets in person from White Pine Books in Arnprior (cash only) or at the door based on availability. Admission is \$30 for adults, \$10 for students, and free for children 12 and under.

Food Festival Call for Volunteers

You are invited to participate in the very first Mississippi Mills Multicultural Food Festival! This festival will celebrate the diversity of our community through food. Visitors will have the opportunity to sample authentic dishes from around the world, learn about different cultures, and connect with neighbours from many backgrounds. Thanks to the support of community sponsors, this will be a free event for all attendees

The festival will take place on Sunday, October 11 from 11AM–2PM at the Almonte Old Town Hall. Organizers are now signing

up community volunteers to ensure this inaugural event is a huge success!

Volunteer opportunities include distribution of flyers throughout the community, installing signage, helping with food prep, transporting food to the venue, setting up the event spaces, meeting and greeting visitors, and cleaning up. They welcome individuals, families, young people — community members of all ages and backgrounds!

To learn more about the event and put your name on the volunteer list, please email <pam@mmmff.ca>.

Mississippi Mills

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August - September

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Wednesdays in August

NAISMITH 3 X 3 BASKETBALL
August 8

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NORTH LANARK HIGHLAND GAMES
August 22

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Discover. Connect. Belong.
John Levi Community Centre
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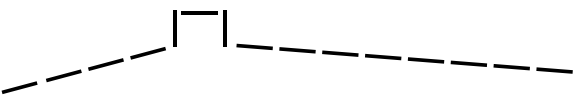
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Perth Dinner & Concert Series

Another Great Line-up for August & September

Since launching in April of 2026, the Perth Dinner & Concert Series is going strong. Founders Linda Grenier and Carol Anne Deneka are pleased to bring another spectacular line-up of talented singer-songwriters playing their original music to the Perth Pizzeria & Restaurant in August and September.

The Perth Dinner & Concert Series is a partnership between outstanding local artists performing original music, the Perth Pizzeria & Restaurant, and Blue Skies in the Community.

Brock Zeman kicks things off on Saturday, August 8. When it comes to storytelling, Brock is a master craftsman. The Canada-based singer-songwriter has spent the past 12 years carving and chiseling Americana soundscapes, drawing from roots-rock and alternative country. But what separates Zeman from his contemporaries isn't a willingness to speak truth — it's his unwillingness to conform to the rules of Nashville and the traditional framework of genre. What gives Zeman's stories force isn't that he's just singing a narrative — he's living it.

Brock has released twelve albums, and a live DVD/digital audio release called *The Pinball Sessions*. He is known as a prolific performer, having given more than two hundred live performances across North America every year for the last decade.

The second show in August features **Courtney Kane** on Saturday the 22nd. Courtney is a 27-year-old Canadian country singer-songwriter from Kingston, Ontario, whose passion for music has shaped her lifelong journey. She rose from local bar gigs to major stages, opening for hometown heroes The Abrams in 2022 and the JUNO- and CCMA-winning James Barker Band at the 2024 Tweed Stampede before a crowd of over 7,000. Along the way she has collaborated with notable Canadian country artists. Her desire to grow led her to Nashville, where she graduated from Dark Horse Institute, sharpening her songwriting and business skills. "If you love country music as much as I do, we'll get along just fine!"

Nathan Sloniowski comes to town on Saturday, September 12. From the eclectic folk of The Ragged Flowers to John Prine's canon in The Maywoods,



Upcoming performers in the Perth Dinner & Concert Series include Courtney Kane (above), Brock Zeman (at left), Nathan Sloniowski, and Jennifer Noxon

Nathan has made a lifetime of celebrating small town stories in song. His latest project is *The Lost Love Letter to a Small Town*, devoted to all the beautiful souls who make creative magic happen across rural Canada.

At the age of 16, Nathan walked into a recording studio called Elora Sound as part of a high school punk trio. The mission — to create and perform original music. Forty-five years, many bands, recordings, cafés, barrooms and festival stages later, he's still at it.

Saturday, September 26 brings **Jennifer Noxon** to Perth. *The Gathering*, Jennifer's new collection of original songs released in early 2026, amplifies our human need to gather in celebration and protest, and to honour and give thanks, while exploring the nooks and crannies of loneliness, love, loss and longing. Jennifer, on guitar, uke and percussion, will be joined by Brendan Gawn on bass.

Jennifer and Brendan love well-told stories, rhythms, and infectious melodies. Their music will be sure to get toes tapping. For those who like to sing, there are sure to be some opportunities to sing along.

Come to the Perth Pizzeria & Restaurant at 23 Gore St. E. from 4–6PM on two Saturdays each month through the end of November. Tickets are \$10 cash, plus the cost of your meal. Reservations are recommended — call 267–3170 Wednesday through Sunday.

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valleyyouthsingers@gmail.com
for more information.





Pinocchio, his friend Dipstick, and a rowdy round up of revelers irresponsibly dance the night away, unaware of the unpleasant fate that awaits them in the youth musical *No Strings Attached*

No Strings Attached at the Station Theatre

What would more than 34 young people do during their summer break? Well, the Smiths Falls Community Theatre is most grateful that they wanted to participate in their summer Youth Musical production of *No Strings Attached*. It's based on the classic story of *Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi, with a book by Patrick Rainville Dorn Music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur.

No Strings Attached is about Carl (Adèle Laferrière) a young lad who has run away from home and is looking for somewhere to belong, so he auditions for a job with the mysterious Professor Pinecone (Xander Duff) and his traveling magical marionette puppet show. He quickly discovers, however, that the position comes with many more challenges than he imagined! In this play-within-a-play, Carl is magically turned into Pinocchio and embarks on a journey of discovery where he meets some interesting characters. He first encounters Geppetto (Ryan Mills) who tries to help Carl/Pinocchio understand his new role. Then Cricket (Olivia Fowler) appears with her entourage of singing bugs, laying down the law with a good old-fashioned guilt trip and promising to "Bug Ya" if he doesn't behave.

After this lesson, the boy-turned-puppet thinks he knows what he needs to do, but then he runs into the Fox (Chloe Bigham) and the Cat (Élise Laferrière), who play him like a fiddle convincing him he can make "Easy Money" by burying the coins Geppetto gave him for school. Destitute, Pinocchio wanders aimlessly, looking for the easiest way to survive while meeting more surprise characters along the way. Being a lazy

puppet, he has no interest in working, so when he encounters the Blues Fairy (Celeste Sawan) he gets caught in lies, resulting in — you guessed it — his nose growing to uncomfortable lengths.

Seeming to learn his lesson after that, he is swayed by the mischievous Dipstick (Bryson Brown) into making another poor decision and ends up joining a group of revellers led by a malevolent Driver (Kaylan Looby) and turns into a donkey! Eventually he finds Geppetto inside the mouth of shark (yep, you will actually see a shark!) and offers to sacrifice himself to free his "father". Fortunately, Trina Tuna (Emma McIlvenna) and her school of tuna fish come to their aid with a strategy that will truly surprise! This all happens with slapstick humour, clever wordplay, and a wide range of musical styles including hip-hop, swing, bluegrass, and good old rock 'n' roll!

With fun dialogue, a variety of modern music and a surprise ending, audiences of all ages will enjoy this new take on an old favourite!

The play runs for 7 performances over two weekends, with 7:30PM shows on August 14, 20 and 21 and 2PM matinées on Saturdays and Sundays, August 15, 16, 22 and 23. Station Theatre now offers seat selection when you order your tickets online at <smithsfallstheatre.com>. Orders can also be made at Special Greetings, 8 Russell Street East in Smiths Falls, Monday through Saturday from 9–5. You can also call the store at 283–2244. Adult tickets are \$25, and students are \$10.



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Save the dates in October, 2026

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SEP 26 CHAFFEY'S LOCK
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OCT 10 PERTH

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NOV 7 ALMONTE

Séan McCann (of Great Big Sea) and Jeremy Fisher together on stage, telling their best stories and singing their most beloved songs.

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B.D. FINCH MUSIC AND QUARTET AGUA VIVA PRESENT:

MUSIC FOR A WHIM

WITH WORKS BY: SHAW, TAILLEFERRE, BEACH, DANISH STRING QUARTET

Performed by: Charlotte Van Barr, Shaina McPhee, Emily Kistemaker, Cal McGowan, and special guest Prasanna Mohile



AUGUST 15TH | 2 PM, DOORS 1:45
B.D. FINCH, 64 MILL STREET

Admission by donation to Almonte General Hospital Fairview Manor Foundation

Three Exhibitions at Sivarulrasa Gallery

Almonte’s Sivarulrasa Gallery is delighted to present three shows in August. The exhibitions run August 1 to September 4. Everyone is invited to two receptions: an Artists Reception for Michael Pittman and Barbara Gamble on August 1 from 2–4PM, and an Opening Reception for the Noreen Young Exhibition on August 2 from 3–5PM.

Michael Pittman: Dark Lands and Distant Shores will run in Gallery I. The exhibition features a new body of work by the Newfoundland-based artist, inspired by his recent residency at a former military installation in Donegal, Ireland. “Much of my work for the past two decades has been informed by a relationship with the physical environment and culture of Newfoundland and Labrador,” he says. “This preoccupation, in fact, began during my studies in Ireland nearly twenty years ago.” The artist draws many parallels between the harsh coastal environment in both locations, and the resilience of residents in the face of adversity. While acknowledging his status as a “visitor”, his explorations delve into regional folklore and economic hardships, uncovering the secret narratives and hidden histories which inform regional identity.

Barbara Gamble: Enchantment will run in Gallery III, featuring 8 works in oil and wax by the Ottawa-based artist. “During the evolution of a painting, I become enchanted when the synergy of subject, imagination, and materials align,” she explains. “The intense spell of creation continues until ultimately, the image exists as a unique presence.” Barbara Gamble has made interpretive landscape paintings for over 45 years. Her works are influenced by experience,

actions, and concerns related to the natural world. Her oil painting process involves the multi-layering of coloured waxes to create luminous surfaces. The resulting dimensional surfaces enhance the light and contrast found in nature.

Noreen Young: Drawings and Illustrations will run in Gallery II. This is a special fundraiser exhibition presented by Sivarulrasa Gallery and Puppets Up! in support of the Noreen Young Award for the Arts. The

exhibition presents a curated selection of 38 works on paper, created by the late artist Noreen Young (b. 1939, Ottawa, Ontario; d. 2025) during her formative explorations in art, when she was known as Noreen Brathwaite, attending Glebe High School in Ottawa and then the Ontario College of Art in Toronto from 1959–60. Four works from the 1960s to 1980s are also included in the show. The estate of Noreen Young has donated the works for sale and Sivarulrasa Gallery is donating its time and services, so that all proceeds (other than sales tax) from the sale of these works will go to the Noreen Young Award for the Arts. The exhibition celebrates Noreen Young’s enduring legacy.

Sivarulrasa Gallery is located at 34 Mill Street in Almonte. For more information, please call 256–8033 or visit <sivarulrasa.com>.



Above, *Untitled (9)* by Noreen Young, 1960, is featured in a special fundraiser exhibition *Noreen Young: Drawings and Illustrations* at Sivarulrasa Gallery. At left, *Attuned* by artist Barbara Gamble, 2026, is featured in her solo show.





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AUGUST 8 & 9, 2026
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OFFICIAL FESTIVAL
PROGRAM

**Featuring puppet performances for all ages
from around the world, street performances,
a puppet marketplace, kids' craft zone
and daily parade.**

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JB Arts • Jonsson's YIG • LG Lee & Sons • Sivarulrasa Gallery

THE SHOWS



BUSTER CANFIELD'S CIRCUS OF INDUSTRIOUS FLEAS

Eldritch Theatre

Toronto, ON · Ages 4 to 444

• **Levi Home Hardware Theatre**

Step right up to Eldritch Theatre's gloriously strange flea circus — a darkly comedic spectacle of industrious insects, staged with puppetry, mask and mischief.

Advisory: audience participation, plus performers



EVERYBODY LOVES PIRATES

Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers

Maine, USA · Ages 4+

• **Levi Home Hardware Theatre**

Lucy and her goofy pal Little Chucky hunt for buried treasure while bumbling pirates keep getting in the way. Featuring 15 hand-crafted puppets and an 8-foot papier-mâché pirate ship!

Advisory: loud sounds, spooky, slapstick



THE BELLHOP

Hilarilar Marionetas

Spain · Ages 2+

• **Stephanie Mols, REALTOR® Theatre**

Inspired by the golden age of the grand hotels: a clumsy, lazy bellhop and a weary receptionist face the same old day — until a demanding, refined guest changes everything. Humour and poetry for all audiences.



ANIMAL ADVENTURE

Rock the Arts Puppets

Carp, ON · Ages 3–10

• **Stephanie Mols, REALTOR® Theatre**

Zane and Zoey go GREEN in Creatureville, setting off on a field-trip adventure to the zoo to learn about the power of choice when it comes to the environment.

Advisory: audience participation



EMILIO'S A MILLION CHAMELEONS

Adam Francis Proulx

Toronto, ON · Ages 3–7

• **Joanne Beaton Theatre**

A puppet-filled musical spectacular! Emilio runs a chameleon circus where a million chameleons do amazing acts — until it all goes wrong. A Dora-nominated comedy about letting your inner sparkle shine.

Advisory: loud sounds, flashing, participation



PAPA

Puzzle Théâtre

Montreal, QC · Ages 4–8

• **Joanne Beaton Theatre**

Daddy is moving and completely lost — he can't find anything, not even his child! Cardboard boxes become an incredible playground in this dreamlike, wordless adventure.

Advisory: non-verbal, mildly spooky characters



PUSS SING BOOTS

Théâtre de Deux Mains

Montreal, QC · Ages 3+

• **EQ Homes Theatre**

A comedy musical inspired by Puss in Boots. A clever cat dressed as a musketeer tricks a king and turns his poor young master into a marquis — then a prince. A puppet show that swings.

Advisory: audience participation, mildly spooky or scary characters, comic violence or slapstick



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MON AMI

Alex and Olmsted

Maryland, USA · Ages 7+

• **EQ Homes Theatre**

Class, cultures and expectations clash when Jacques' American cousin visits him in Paris for a birthday. A 2024 Jim Henson Foundation grant winner blending glove puppetry, live music and audience participation.

Advisory: audience participation, comic violence or slapstick



CINDERELLA

Tanglewood Marionettes

Massachusetts, USA · Ages 4+

• **Thomas Cavanagh Construction Theatre**

A dozen lavishly costumed 30-inch marionettes bring this 18th-century showpiece to life as the pages of a giant book open to reveal each painted setting. Told with wit, style and a few surprises.

Advisory: performers in the audience, mildly spooky or scary characters, comic violence or slapstick



RABBIT AND BEAR PAWS: THE WAY

Little Spirit Bear Productions

Shanty Bay, ON · All ages

• **Thomas Cavanagh Construction Theatre**

An interactive show inspired by Anishinaabe storytelling and the Seven Grandfather Teachings — Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth. Humour, heart and cultural knowledge for all ages.

Advisory: audience participation



THE ZUCCHINI CLUB

Alexander Mantia

Toronto, ON · Ages 13+

• **Vamos Outdoors Theatre**

Join Pasquale Provolone as he defends his beloved zucchini garden from the local wildlife and their vaudevillian antics — magician raccoons, singing skunks, unicorns and more!



YOU HAVE ARRIVED

Little Shadow Productions

New York, USA · Ages 5+

• **Vamos Outdoors Theatre**

A non-verbal, visually stunning solo performance using a large-scale pop-up book and puppetry to tell powerful stories of climate displacement and resilience — inspired by traditional Iranian visual arts and music.

Advisory: non-verbal, themes of loss

THE SHOWS



ALIX ET LE LOUP

Théâtre Tortue Berlué
Montreal, QC • Ages 4+
SAMEDI SEULEMENT (Saturday only)
• **Pêches et Poivres Theatre [Presented in French]**
Connaissez-vous la fable de « L'enfant qui criait au loup » ? Et si le loup n'était pas le monstre des légendes, mais l'ami de l'enfant-menteur ? Un spectacle immersif et abracadabrant sur le mensonge, l'amitié et l'empathie.

Avis/Advisory: sons forts (loud sounds)



GARDEN OF LITTLE SOULS

Théâtre des Petites Âmes
Montreal, QC • Ages 12 months–7 years
An interactive urban garden set at a child's eye level — touch, move and make its stations resonate. Explore at your own pace.

ANIMATION STATION

The Stop Mo Co. (Ottawa, ON)
All ages • Drop-in, no registration
Sunday only, 10AM–3PM
Ever wondered how stop-motion films like Wallace & Gromit, Coraline or The Nightmare Before Christmas are made? Step behind the scenes and help bring Nick, the Puppets Up! mascot, to life! At a professional overhead animation station, visitors of all ages move Nick one frame at a time as he travels the festival — visiting tents, meeting performers and making memories. Every participant adds a few frames to one collaborative film. Want to keep going at home? DIY Nick kits are available at the Merch Tent.

MORE FESTIVAL FUN

all-day activities in downtown Almonte

THE PUPPET PARADE

Saturday & Sunday, 1:45–2:15pm. Join the whole festival as puppets of every size take to the streets of downtown Almonte.

KIDS' STUFF

The famous Kids' Craft Tent with Jeff Banks from JB Arts, the interactive Boxtopia with Department of Illumination, and the Garden of Little Souls are all included with your day pass — or with a \$5 donation if you don't purchase a day pass (you'll receive a yellow bracelet).

FREE STUFF

Experience the magic for free! Watch the colourful parade at 1:45, explore the Marketplace vendors, admire the painted windows, find the nonstop downtown street entertainment, and soak up the joy.

FOOD

Downtown Almonte has many wonderful restaurants — Joe's Italian Kitchen, Almonte Ice Cream Shop, Mill Street Crepe Company, Barley Mow, Ottawa Valley Coffee, Cafe Postino, Moe's Shawarma, North Market, Superior Restaurant, Canadian Cafe, Sarah's Kitchen (boxed picnic lunches) and the food truck at Beckers.

Food vendors include pizza at the Community Oven (by the library) from the Mississippi Mills Youth Centre, BBQ (pulled pork, hamburgers) at Don's Meat Market, fruit and yogurt by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary (on the Alameda), BeaverTails, and Bumpky's Bingsu shaved ice!

PEOPLE MOVERS SHUTTLE

Need to ride up or down the hill? Our two people moo-vers — 6- and 8-person golf carts driven by volunteers — run a continuous on-demand loop between the fairgrounds parking and the bottom of Mill Street. Hail one down and enjoy the ride; please allow first access to folks with mobility needs.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

Thanks to a generous volunteer, ASL interpretation is offered both days at: 11:15 *Animal Adventure*, 12:45 *Cinderella*, and 3:45 *Everybody Loves Pirates*.

ART SHOW

Visit the Sivarulasa Gallery for Noreen Young: Drawings and Illustrations — early works on paper by our very own Noreen Young. All proceeds support the Noreen Young Award for the Arts.

GLORIA GOPHER

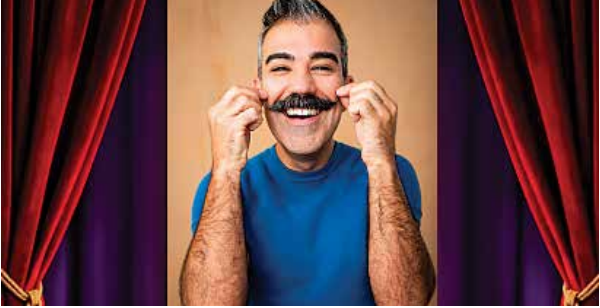
This is the first festival under the artistic direction of Jenny Sheffield, and we hope you enjoy the wonderfully creative content! Although festival founder Noreen Young passed away this spring, her legacy can still be felt across all aspects of the festival and she even attended our start-up meeting in March 2025 and officially handed the reins to Jenny! Please visit Noreen's puppet alter ego, Gloria Gopher, who has been immortalized in stone on the Alameda if you are feeling a little blue. Gloria is sure to bring a smile to your face... sunny days or thunder, your friends are waiting under, under the umbrella tree.

OTHER INFORMATION

Read the FAQ on the Puppets Up! website, and enjoy Almonte's shops and restaurants. The Mississippi Mills information office and Lanark County Tourism booth have more to do in the area.

Need a break? The Chill Out Space at the Almonte Public Library is a quiet spot to relax. Feeling hot? Find the misting tent in Kirkland Park or the Seniors & Family Shady Area on the alameda; the fairgrounds beach and Metcalf Park waterfront are a short walk. Thirsty? Fill up at the OCWA On Tap unit, the Old Town Hall, or the library.

Please, no pets except service dogs or puppet pals.



FRIDAY • AUG 7 • 9:00 AM

IT'S ALIVE! WORKSHOP WITH JOSHUA HOLDEN

Intro to Hand & Rod Puppetry
Almonte Old Town Hall • Workshop • \$75 • Tickets Please
Join Emmy-nominated Broadway artist and puppeteer Joshua Holden for a hands-on puppetry workshop. Participants: those who want to experience joy.



FRIDAY • AUG 7 • 8:00 PM

MACBETH: A TALE TOLD BY AN IDIOT!

Eldritch Theatre (Toronto, ON)
Almonte Old Town Hall • Ages 13+ • \$35 • Tickets Please
A dementedly inspired, one-man reimagining of Shakespeare's blood-soaked king. Best suited for ages 13+ (contains adult themes and spooky vibes).



SATURDAY • AUG 8 • 8:00 PM

FELT UP: THE AFTER-HOURS PUPPET CABARET

Hosted by Joshua Holden
Almonte Old Town Hall • Strictly 18+ • \$35 • Tickets Please
When the sun goes down on Puppets Up! and the kids go to bed, the real party begins! It's wild, it's witty, and it's definitely not for the little ones!

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY · AUG 8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
VAMOS OUTDOORS THEATRE	LEVI HOME HARDWARE THEATRE	STEPHANIE MOLS THEATRE	JOANNE BEATON THEATRE	EQ HOMES THEATRE	CAVANAGH CONSTRUCTION THEATRE	PÊCHES ET POIVRES THEATRE
	Everybody Loves Pirates 9:30 – 10:25		Emilio's a Million Chameleons 9:30 – 10:25	Puss Sing Boots 9:45 – 10:25	Cinderella 9:45 – 10:30	Alix et le loup 9:30 – 10:30
The Zucchini Club 10:00 – 10:55		The Bellhop 10:00 – 10:40				
	Buster Canfield's Circus... 11:00 – 11:45	Animal Adventure 11:15 – 11:55	PAPA 11:00 – 11:50	Happy Birthday, Mon Ami 11:15 – 12:15	Rabbit and Bear Paws: The Way 11:00 – 11:50	Alix et le loup 11:00 – 12:00
You Have Arrived 11:30 – 12:00						
	Everybody Loves Pirates 12:15 – 1:10	The Bellhop 12:30 – 1:10	Emilio's a Million Chameleons 12:20 – 1:15	Puss Sing Boots 12:45 – 1:25	Cinderella 12:45 – 1:30	Alix et le loup 12:30 – 1:30
The Zucchini Club 12:30 – 1:25						
Parade 1:45 – 2:15						
You Have Arrived 2:40 – 3:10	Buster Canfield's Circus... 2:30 – 3:15	Animal Adventure 2:45 – 3:25	PAPA 2:30 – 3:20	Puss Sing Boots 2:45 – 3:25	Rabbit and Bear Paws: The Way 2:30 – 3:20	Alix et le loup 2:45 – 3:45
The Zucchini Club 3:40 – 4:35	Everybody Loves Pirates 3:45 – 4:40	The Bellhop 3:40 – 4:20	Emilio's a Million Chameleons 3:45 – 4:40	Happy Birthday, Mon Ami 4:00 – 5:00	Cinderella 3:45 – 4:30	
You Have Arrived 5:00 – 5:30	Buster Canfield's Circus... 5:10 – 5:55	Animal Adventure 5:10 – 5:50	PAPA 5:10 – 6:00		Rabbit and Bear Paws: The Way 5:00 – 5:50	

SUNDAY · AUG 9

1	2	3	4	5	6
VAMOS OUTDOORS THEATRE	LEVI HOME HARDWARE THEATRE	STEPHANIE MOLS THEATRE	JOANNE BEATON THEATRE	EQ HOMES THEATRE	CAVANAGH CONSTRUCTION THEATRE
	Everybody Loves Pirates 9:30 – 10:25		Emilio's a Million Chameleons 9:30 – 10:25	Puss Sing Boots 9:45 – 10:25	Cinderella 9:45 – 10:30
The Zucchini Club 10:00 – 10:55		The Bellhop 10:00 – 10:40			
	Buster Canfield's Circus... 11:00 – 11:45	Animal Adventure 11:15 – 11:55	PAPA 11:00 – 11:50	Happy Birthday, Mon Ami 11:15 – 12:15	Rabbit and Bear Paws: The Way 11:00 – 11:50
You Have Arrived 11:30 – 12:00					
	Everybody Loves Pirates 12:15 – 1:10	The Bellhop 12:30 – 1:10	Emilio's a Million Chameleons 12:20 – 1:15	Puss Sing Boots 12:45 – 1:25	Cinderella 12:45 – 1:30
The Zucchini Club 12:30 – 1:25					
Parade 1:45 – 2:15					
You Have Arrived 2:40 – 3:10	Buster Canfield's Circus... 2:30 – 3:15	Animal Adventure 2:45 – 3:25	PAPA 2:30 – 3:20	Puss Sing Boots 2:45 – 3:25	Rabbit and Bear Paws: The Way 2:30 – 3:20
The Zucchini Club 3:40 – 4:35	Everybody Loves Pirates 3:45 – 4:40	The Bellhop 3:40 – 4:20	Emilio's a Million Chameleons 3:45 – 4:40	Happy Birthday, Mon Ami 4:00 – 5:00	Cinderella 3:45 – 4:30
You Have Arrived 5:00 – 5:30	Buster Canfield's Circus... 5:10 – 5:55	Animal Adventure 5:10 – 5:50	PAPA 5:10 – 6:00		Rabbit and Bear Paws: The Way 5:00 – 5:50



How a Hobby Became an Obsession

It started innocently as a way to escape the fiery cauldron of last July, something to do for an hour a day until the heat subsided. A chance encounter with World Watercolour Month tutorials by an Ontario artist who seemed to know her stuff led me to believe that with a few materials I might be able to paint something recognizable. Basic supplies were readily available, so off I went.

by Glenda Jones

I hesitantly joined the Facebook group, but it took me a couple of weeks before I posted anything, convinced I might be drummed out of the group, but quite the opposite: we were all beginners, and everyone was encouraging, upbeat, and eager to show off their work.

It was easy to stick to the daily lessons with short sessions that gave me the incentive to do a couple of paintings a day. But wait — due to the myriad ads on the Facebook site, it was obvious I needed better paper and a couple more brushes, and maybe the Beam paints from Manitoulin Island. Okay, I *did* need those and am not sorry. It was Christmas in a box when new supplies arrived.

When we got to September and I was still doing my one-a-day art project, I could see I was on to something more than a summer pastime. This was now a genuine hobby with no other goal in mind but to enjoy the time I spent messing with colour. I got myself a tiny easel where I could prop up my latest work and see if it was “frame-worthy”. Most were not. That didn’t stop me.

I joined the Patreon site so I’d get a new tutorial every couple of weeks, and dutifully worked through the seasons with Christmas cards, snowmen, pinecones, fir trees, shamrocks, Easter bunnies, and spring flowers. The sketchbooks were filling up fast, so I took to doing half-page paintings and using both sides of the paper. I had a couple of books on the go at one time.

Was I becoming obsessed? Maybe. Suddenly I was looking at things with fresh eyes. The tulips were a study in colour blending. The lilacs begged to be a loose floral. The bird-house, even the darn dandelions became fodder for painting. If I wasn’t puddling in the paint pots, I was drawing something on the margin of the newspaper or the memo pad by the phone.

Further, I was checking the Facebook group to make sure I was keeping abreast of everybody’s latest masterpiece. All this was taking time I should have been doing housework (Really? Anything that takes away housework time is a good thing!) or tackling the garden weeds. However, when World Watercolour Month 2026 rolled around this year I was excited for the first day, housework and garden being the last things on my mind.

So here we are at the end of July and what do I have to show for a full year of painting? I’ve got a drawer full of about 300

paintings of every subject you can imagine, from little girls on a beach to those blowsy lilacs. To rein in the pile, I have taken to doing tiny paintings that apparently don’t

I’ve got a shelf of several paint palettes that I use depending on my mood. The Manitoulin Beam paints are especially fine stored in their little round box. There are brushes, too many pencils, my favourite kneaded eraser, a ruler I used in grade school, masking fluid, paper towel, and a spritz bottle. It’s all useful and necessary, and all right, maybe a bit over the top considering the output.

I have a lot more to show for my endeavours though. After our initial Facebook group disbanded, about 8 of us from east to west and now Australia have remained in a smaller group and have become good friends. We’re all women of a certain age, all beginners, all enjoying a new hobby we never thought we’d master. I’ve discovered that I can entertain myself easily for a few hours enjoying the feeling of colour gliding over the paper. I’ve learned to embrace my painting time as therapy, and whatever I turn out is the best I can do on that day. I have nothing to prove, am not intending to sell any of these, but will keep them as a record of what I have learned over the year.

I don’t think it’s an obsession... yet. However, if you see me in an art store, please distract me before I buy every colour of the rainbow, too many sketchbooks, and really, do I need that many brushes??



Our Reeve’s perseverance has paid off in the form of dozens (hundreds?) of tiny, beautiful paintings!

take up so much space — except if you have far too many. I’ve got three different sizes of paper, all where I can grab them easily.



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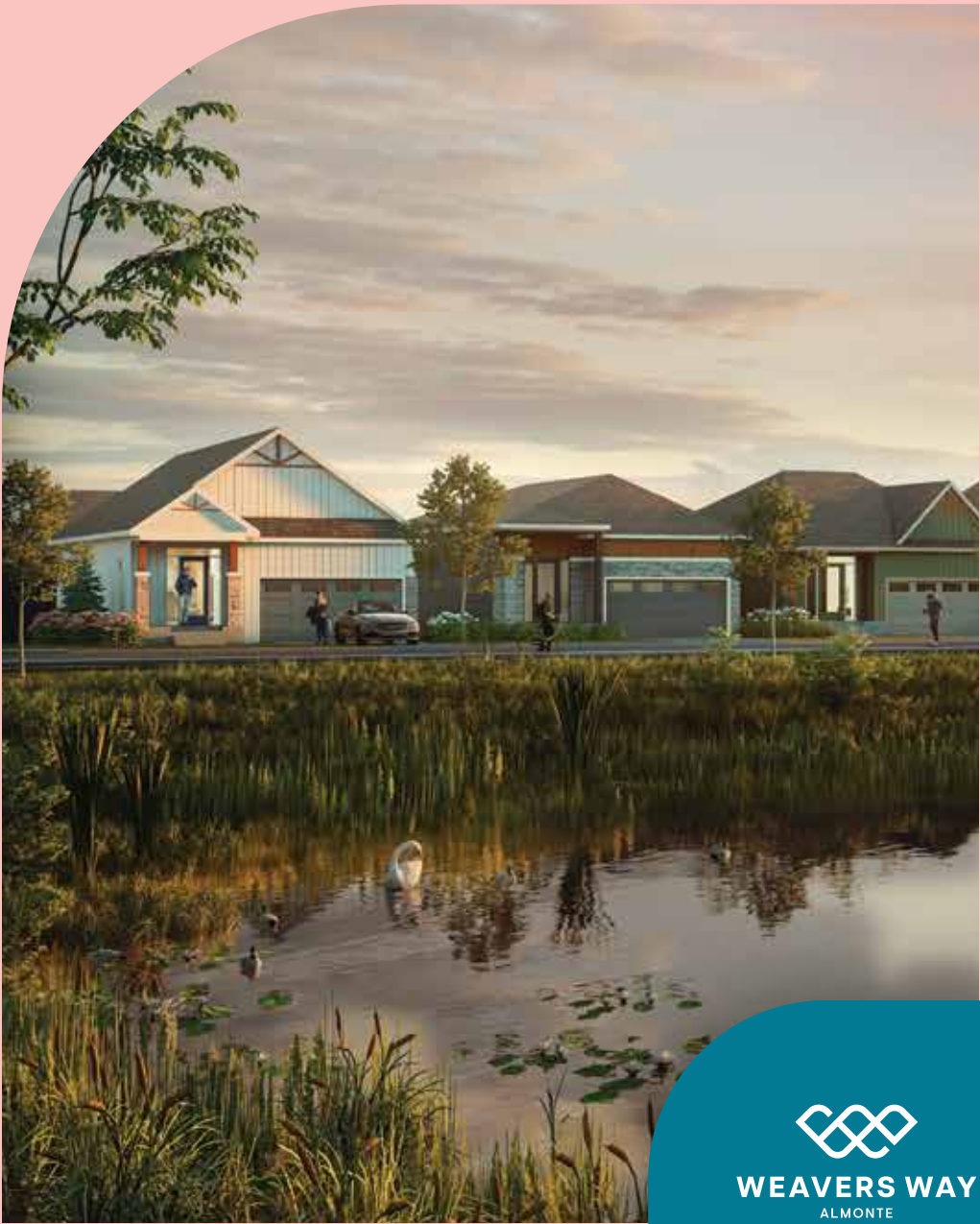
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Which Plant is Your Gardening *Bête Noire*?

Bête noire is a delightful term that I picked up in my government French-language training course many decades ago. It literally means “black beast” and is used to describe something or someone that provokes strong dislike or is a recurring source of frustration or fear in one’s life

by David Hinks

What is your gardening “black beast”? Goutweed invading your prize perennials? Bindweed popping up all over your lawn and vegetable patch? Poison ivy creeping into your garden under the neighbour’s fence?

It’s a tough choice, but my vote goes to goutweed. Although, in my experience, bindweed comes a very close second.

There are two forms of goutweed — a variegated version and the all-green one. If tightly controlled (for example, between a house foundation and a sidewalk), it can be quite attractive, but it has to be watched carefully as it spreads rapidly. Once established, it is nearly impossible to eradicate. The smallest piece of rhizome left in the ground will quickly form a sturdy new plant. The primary vector for dispersal to new areas is human plantings as an ornamental, medicinal or vegetable plant.

The creeping bellflower is another thug that comes into gardens disguised as an attractive perennial plant. It was introduced from Europe as a garden flower. Its blue flowers are commonly seen around town in gardens. Any piece of its white creeping root (rhizome) or its tubers will send up a new plant.

So, how do these annoying plants get into our gardens?

For some, “the answer is blowing in the wind”. Others arrive in a cubic yard of topsoil delivered to your driveway. I have seen a new garden full of a witches’ brew of six or seven of the most invasive weeds that a gardener can imagine. I always try to buy locally from sources that I trust.

Some weeds are there because we failed to do adequate preparation. I always stress the importance of knowing what types of weeds you are digging out when you are preparing your planting beds. For example, dandelions have a long taproot — if you are able to get the whole root the plant will not come back — however, any piece of root left in the ground will regenerate. Perennial grasses are difficult to eliminate as they have long horizontal roots that may stretch half a metre or more. A rototiller will break those roots into little pieces, every one of which will send up a new plant.

Some *bêtes noires* are there because of unintended consequences of our plant choices. A few decades ago, I tried to grow several types of herbal and medicinal plants. Some of those plants rewarded my care and nurturing by growing tangled clumps, spreading rampantly, or flowering profusely and spreading their seed far and wide. Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*) is a very large perennial plant with a branched root that mines minerals from the subsoil and whose foliage can be used to make a manure “tea”. However, if allowed to go to seed, little plants spring up all over the place and in no time at all turn into monsters. Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) has been widely used as a medicinal plant and as a culinary plant. It is a bit of a spreader, and the roots are truly a wicked tangled web. Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) has been traditionally used as an

insecticide and disinfectant. It produces huge amounts of seeds that sprout readily.

Your choice of garden style may not be appropriate to your approach to gardening. An English country garden chock-a-bloc with perennials may require more maintenance than you are prepared to give. On the one hand we want plants that will thrive, on the other hand we want plants that will be well behaved. Our relationship with plants is a complicated one. We think that our new perennial border will be maintenance-free; however, any garden requires a lot of work.

The primary vehicle for the spread of many invasive plants is the automobile! Gardeners plant many invasive plants because they are very attractive. Japanese knotweed, for example, was introduced to North America as a horticultural plant in the late 19th century. It is a very attractive structural plant, resembling bamboo, but is tough to confine.

So, how does one avoid garden nightmares? The first stage is education. The more you know about plants, the better positioned you are to repel invaders. Research plants before you welcome them into your garden. The best control is to not plant it in the first place; or if you must plant it, ensure that it is safely confined.

So, what is one to do if one has a patch of goutweed or Canada thistle that one wishes to get rid of? Attempts to control goutweed in a garden with landscape cloth, bark mulch, and hand weeding are largely unsuccessful. We no longer use chemicals, and it is impossible to dig them out (unless one uses a backhoe). One solution I have used with considerable success is to cover the patch of ground with a heavy black plastic sheet — with a plant such as goutweed it may be



Attractive, variegated, and oh so aggressive, goutweed is a common garden *bête noire*

necessary to leave the plastic cover on for a full growing season. Some plants such as bindweed can be dealt with by cutting every stem that rears its head. Eventually the plant may lose the will to live.

Not all plants that cause us grief are officially classified as invasive. The Ontario Invasive Plant Council defines invasive plants as species introduced outside their natural range that pose risks to the environment, economy, or society. In Ontario, these plants can disrupt forests, wetlands, lakes, rivers and agricultural lands, outcompete native species and alter habitats.

Much more information is available from the Ontario Invasive Plant Council <ontarioinvasiveplants.ca>. Further resources include Landscape Ontario, Conservation Authorities and the Ontario Government.

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Taking place on August 22 and 23 in Westport, Paint the Summer will feature works by Barbara Jordan (above), Fred Fowler (below), and many other wonderful local artists

Paint the Summer 2026!

One of Ontario's premier destination art shows is coming back to beautiful Westport on August 22 and 23. Produced by Rideau Lakes Artists' Association, Paint the Summer 2026 will feature more than 40 talented artists at the WTC Communications Centre (Westport Arena) at 37 Spring Street from 10AM to 4PM on Saturday and Sunday.

Have you got a favourite local artist? Paint the Summer exhibitors for 2026 include Brian Bailey, Leane Bailey, Ben Bennett, Kristi Bird, Ina Black, Margaret Brackley, Carol Burbridge, Jewel Denison, Chris Dickson, Kim Fournier, Fred Fowler, Sue Gibson, Jessica Godin, SJ Headford, Judy Hollinger, Carolyn Huff-Winters, Deborah Jodoin, Barbara

Jordan, Armelle LeBlanc, Bonnie McLean, Donna McPhail, Shirley Mancino, Margaret Martin, Aileen Merriam, Cheryl Oblinski Nickerson, Olga Nienhuys, Doris Power, Pat Purdy, Barb Rielly, Simone Rioux, Lydia Robbins, Shaun Seaman, Barb Sohn, Suzanne Veh (for Ron Veh), Judith Versavel, Kay Wallace, Jen White, Wayne Williams, Laurel Wilson, and Sarah Young-Fowler.

Admission and parking are free (donations to the Westport Food Bank are most welcome) and visitors can browse hundreds of original pieces spanning various styles and media — from abstract impressionism to hyperrealism — in oil, acrylic, ink, watercolour, multi-media and fibre.

In the spirit of community and sharing, Paint the Summer proudly supports the Westport Food Bank. They also welcome back their generous sponsor, Julia Scotland, Broker with Coldwell Banker Settlement Realty.

For more information about Rideau Lakes Artists' Association member artists, shows and events, visit <rideaulakesartists.com> and be sure to like and share the popular daily show campaign on Facebook and Instagram.



Are You Ready for the Green Party?

By Anita Payne and Mike Nickerson

It is not necessary for our world to move deeper into the misfortune of heat domes, forest fires, droughts, floods, and other effects of climate change. These problems can be reduced if we try.

The governments in Ottawa and Toronto put more effort into expanding the activities that cause the problems. The Green Party's priority has always been to establish a peaceful balance on a healthy planet.

Come check out your local Green Party. Our riding associations invite you to our annual get together.

We will gather on Wednesday, September 2 at McMartin House in Perth, with doors opening at 6PM. We will start with a finger food potluck. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided, and we will use real dishes.

At 7PM, guest speaker Jess Lax of the Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaboration (A2A) will speak on The Importance of Wildlife Corridors. We are in both a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis. The A2A corridor runs from around here deep into the

Eastern United States. We need to help wildlife in their travels, not just in protected areas.

After the presentation and Q&A session, we will hold the annual general meeting (AGM) for the Lanark-Frontenac Green Party of Canada EDA, followed by the AGM for the Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston Green Party of Ontario.

Although we are already experiencing the climate crisis, there is still hope that we can prevent the worst consequences. As Bill McKibben said in his recent book *Here Comes the Sun*, every small fraction of a degree that we can shave off warming helps. The transition to solar and wind power is inevitable based purely on the economics, but we need to ramp up implementation. And we need to seek more satisfaction from the wonders that living enables.

If you are ready for the Green Party, we are ready for you!

All are welcome. For more information contact Anita Payne at 267-0881 or <payanita@gmail.com>.

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Riversong Players

Looking Ahead to an Exciting Fall Season

As summer draws to a close, Riversong Players is preparing for an exciting fall season, with young performers hard at work bringing *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* to the stage while rehearsals are also underway for *Finding Neverland*.

Over the past several weeks, participants in the Riversong Players Youth Summer Intensive have immersed themselves in the world of Percy Jackson, developing their acting, singing, movement and performance skills while working together to create a fully staged production of the popular musical.

Based on Rick Riordan's bestselling novel, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* follows Percy Jackson, a teenager who discovers he is the son of a Greek god and embarks on an unforgettable quest alongside his friends Annabeth and Grover. Packed with humour, heart, adventure and an energetic rock score, the musical explores themes of identity, belonging, friendship, resilience, and discovering that the qualities that make us different can also become our greatest strengths.

Public performances will take place from September 18-20 at the Almonte Old Town Hall, and tickets are available now through Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434).

Meanwhile, rehearsals have officially begun for *Finding Neverland*, Riversong's holiday production. Following an enthusiastic response to auditions earlier this summer, a cast of more than 40 performers has begun bringing the magical story to life. Inspired by the creation of Peter Pan, the musical celebrates imagination, hope, family, and the power of storytelling, and will be presented in December at the Almonte Old Town Hall.



Riversong Players young performers are working on bringing both *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* and *Finding Neverland* to the stage this fall

“Watching these productions come to life is one of the most rewarding parts of community theatre,” says Artistic Director Beth Robertson. “Our performers aren't just learning lines and songs — they're building confidence, developing friendships, discovering their creativity, and learning what it means to work together toward a common goal. It's a privilege to witness that growth.”

In addition to its theatrical productions, Riversong Players is developing new community arts programming for the fall, including collaborative initiatives with the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. These projects will provide new opportunities for creativity, storytelling, and community engagement for participants of all ages.

For tickets to *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*, information about upcoming productions, or ways to get involved with Riversong Players, visit <riversonplayers.com> or follow @riversonplayers on Facebook and Instagram.

The Gilded Age Tea & Tour

On Friday, August 7, step back into the elegance of the Gilded Age for a delightful day of history, architecture, and afternoon tea! Your ticket includes admission to the North Lanark Regional Museum, a tour of their Gilded Age exhibit, and light tea and refreshments; an exclusive house and garden tour of the Old Mill Manor by the owner; and a scenic self-guided driving tour showcasing the magnificent Gilded Age homes and landmarks throughout Mississippi Mills.

Tickets are \$30 per person, available from Tickets Please (TicketsPlease.ca, 485-6434), and all proceeds go to supporting the North Lanark Historical Society and Regional Museum. Guests will start their tour at the North Lanark Regional Museum, where they will receive instructions for the driving tour. They will then head to the Old Mill Manor for the house and garden tour. Please note — the last tour of the Old Mill Manor will begin at 1:30PM.



This elegant fundraiser for the North Lanark Regional Museum includes a tour of The Old Mill Manor in Appleton

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New Exhibitions at the Textile Museum

Two new exhibitions are coming to the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum in August. Everyone is invited to attend the vernissage for *Unfinished Journey: Memory, Identity, & Family* by Anne Kelly and *Queer Newfoundland Hockey League* by Lucas Morneau on Saturday, August 8 at 1PM. Both exhibitions will be on display until September 20.

Rooted in themes of memory and identity, drawing deeply from her personal narrative, Anne Kelly weaves together recollections from her travels and experiences of living both in Canada and the UK in *Unfinished Journey*. Her creative process is marked by the thoughtful selection of vintage and reclaimed textiles, which not only add layers of history to her pieces but also evoke a sense of nostalgia and continuity. Her iconic *Unfinished Journey Canoe* is the centrepiece of the exhibition, linking her past, present, and future. Anne's practice encompasses exhibitions, commissions, and contributions to both private and public collections in the UK and internationally.

Lucas Morneau has created *Queer Newfoundland Hockey League* — a fictional hockey league made up of 14 teams, all of which use pejoratives used against the 2SLG-BTQIA+ community as team names. Lucas uses these pejoratives to reclaim the words often used against queer individuals both



Above, *A & T at Charleston, 2024*, by Anne Kelly; below, *Come By Chance Flamers, 2020*, by Lucas Morneau

on and off the ice. The exhibition showcases hand crocheted and rughooked jerseys and crochet goalie masks, using craft practices often delegated as “women’s work”. Employing drag and gender performance as a central tool in their practice, Lucas blends textiles, photography, video, and performance to queer Canadian cultural traditions and pastimes to challenge heteronormativity and homophobia.

“We are honoured to showcase Anne Kelly at the Museum once again — this time for a solo exhibition,” notes MVTM Curator Michael Rikley-Lancaster. “I am always in awe of her intense and beautiful stitching. To me, it’s a mix between the stitching in place of a paintbrush and the incredible stitching of a crazy quilt. I look forward to this journey with Anne, and to sharing it with the community. I am also a super fan of Lucas Morneau’s creations. This series of works was created well before *Heated Rivalry* went viral with a TV show. Lucas is working to break stereotypes; between the sport that some in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community enjoy and the love they can’t ignore. We look forward to this humorous yet poignant exhibition.”



Fall Fiesta

A Fun Camp for Baby Boomers

Fall Fiesta is a four-day September holiday at Red Pine Camp on Golden Lake, a 15-minute drive west of Eganville. Now in its 14th year, it has become an annual holiday for approximately 80 adult campers, many of whom return every year.

Evening program highlights are a wine and cheese reception, live music, musical bingo and progressive euchre. Throughout the week there are daily acrylic painting lessons (no experience required), pickleball clinics, rug hooking, crafts, guest speakers, and the use of kayaks and paddle boards on the waterfront. There is something for everyone at Fall Fiesta and campers can participate in as much or as little as they like.



Boomers can enjoy a fun camp experience from September 7-11 on Golden Lake

Registration can be your choice of days or the full event. Fall Fiesta is an all-inclusive holiday that includes a private cabin, all meals, evening programming and use of the waterfront. The cost for the full event is \$565 tax included. A few activities such as crafts and pickleball coaching have a modest supplemental cost. Meals are served buffet-style and cater to all dietary requirements. Accommodation is in rustic cabins and washrooms are communal.

The website is <fallfiesta.weebly.com>, where you will find the registration link. The programmer can be reached at <catherine_a_loudon@hotmail.com>.





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Mark your calendar for September 12, and don't miss the fall Perth Night Market!

Perth Night Market Returns

Enjoy a Full Evening of Shopping,
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One of Perth's most anticipated events of the year returns on Saturday, September 12, as the Perth Night Market transforms the Town's historic downtown into a lively evening marketplace from 5–10PM. Featuring more than 120 artisans, makers, food vendors, performers and local businesses, the free event offers something for visitors of all ages.

Visitors can browse handcrafted goods, shop local boutiques open late, and enjoy an evening filled with live music, cultural performances, interactive demonstrations and family-friendly entertainment. This year's lineup includes Bollywood dancing with Kuljit Sodhi, performances by Rockabilly Joe, King of the Swingers, Mike Creech, and Ompah Dom, the Rideau Cloggers, a petting zoo from Stealing the Bloom Farm, and an educational Grey Rat Snake demonstration presented by Murphys Point Provincial Park.

"The Perth Night Market has become a tradition for so many people, and every year we look for new ways to make the experience even more memorable," says Kathryn Jamieson, Manager of Tourism and Culture. "From talented local artisans and musicians to unique family activities and delicious food, the Perth Night Market is a wonderful celebration of everything that makes Perth such a vibrant community."

Guests are encouraged to explore restaurants and pubs or enjoy takeout in Stewart Park while taking in the sights and sounds of the evening. To make getting downtown easy, a free shuttle service will once again operate throughout the event, with pickups from designated parking areas around town. Road closures will be in place to provide a safe, pedestrian-friendly environment.

For full event details and updates, visit Perth.ca/NightMarket.

Watershed Discovery Day 2026

Protecting the Tay for 25 Years

Please join the Friends of the Tay Watershed for their 25th annual Watershed Discovery Event for the community on Saturday, August 15 from 8AM to 1PM at the Perth Farmers' Market at the Crystal Palace. It features a morning of information and interactive displays for adults, with interesting and fun activities for children.

Expert organizations have answers to your water questions and updates on current water-related issues in the region. You'll find information and displays from Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Watersheds Canada, Climate Network Lanark, Plenty Canada, Real, Our Turtles, and Ottawa Riverkeeper, along with Friends of the Tay Watershed.

Learn about the programs in place to manage and protect home water supplies, manage watershed water bodies and related resources including wildlife, assist in caring for waterfront properties, and receive updates on current environmental issues in the community. This event will provide information on the crucial role that wetlands and natural environmental systems play in flood and drought control, maintenance of surface and well water, and animal and plant habitat, as well as challenges to them from extreme weather, development pressures and changes in watershed infrastructure.

Children can enjoy and learn from the Paddling Puppeteer at 9:30AM and 11:30AM; participate in Perth Library's Story Hour at 10:30AM; examine water critters by microscope, have fun fishing in the "Fishpond" to see if they can identify the invasive species, and receive a blue heron tattoo.

Renew your membership and have a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to Perth's Maximilian Restaurant. Come to the Farmers' Market to relax and learn with your Friends of the Tay Watershed. Shop and support local farmers, growers, bakers and craftspeople.

The Friends thank their partners the Perth Farmers' Market, the Town of Perth, and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. For more information, please visit them at taywatershed.ca.



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Artists Along a Riverbank in Maberly

Outdoor Artisan Show on Labour Day Weekend

Celebrating its 20th year, the Sundance Artisan Show is an outdoor art show featuring a diverse group of artists in a beautiful plein air setting in Maberly. Pep-



At the Sundance Artisan Show you'll find works by Allan Newell of Heartwood Designs, and many others

pered across two acres of forest, field and riverfront, you'll find work of artisans specializing in various art forms: painting, woodwork, metal, stained glass, fibre-art, leather, jewellery, clothing, blown glass, beadwork, and many more. The artists have been working hard over the year, and are again ready to present to you their wonderful creations. The setting is ideal for relaxing while shopping for the perfect gift for that special someone. Feel free to grab a chair and enjoy sitting by the beautiful Fall River adorned with old mill ruins.

This year's event will be catered by local chef Tim Cota from Tichborne. His red-seal certification praises his culinary prowess, so visitors can expect tasty, homemade treats. For those with a sweet tooth, try Anne Godlewska's "godly" designed chocolates.

As always, parking and entrance are free (although donations are most welcome). The event takes place over all three days of the Labour Day long weekend (September 5, 6 and 7) at 126 Maberly Elphin Rd, Maberly (at the intersection of Hwy 7 and County Rd 36). Hours are 10AM-4PM on Saturday and Sunday, and 10AM-2PM on Monday. Further details can be found at <sundancestudio.ca>.

Art By Blakeney Bridge

By Chandler Swain

I have had the great good fortune of living beside the Mississippi River in Blakeney for 26 years. As we made the hard decision to downsize, we were able to soften the move by finding a lovely little house in Almonte very near the river. Walking everywhere will be a great new adventure, and a new studio will arise there!

In celebration of one chapter ending and another beginning, I have invited three artists I admire to come and show their work in Blakeney with me on the weekend of August 8 and 9. We plan a fun weekend of art and friendship in this place of so many good memories, family weddings, and many other gatherings.

I met Frank Von Boxel as a student here at my summer workshops and now he is making waves as a potter in his own right and continuing his popular painting practice. You can see what he does @franciscus_art. Maria Moldovan has quickly become one of Canada's premier makers of ceramic art since moving to Canada from Romania several years ago, and hopefully will bring some of her wonderful paintings along to our show as well. Find Maria @moldarya. Finally, closing our chapter in Blakeney wouldn't be the same without having my dear friend of 60+ years here too. Robin Hollingdrake and I met in grade school as the two weirdos who could "do art", and we have continued down that road in parallel ways over this whole time. You can find her @robinhollingdrake. She will

bring her colourful lively paintings and collages and be here to help celebrate as we wrap up this chapter of our lives by our precious river.

The Art in My Garden party, art show and studio clear-out sale will take place on August 8 and 9 from 10AM to 4PM each day. Drop by at 178 Blakeney Road, in the village of Blakeney near the bridge!



Ceramic artist Chandler Swain is holding an art show and studio clear-out sale on August 8 & 9

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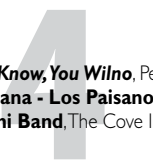
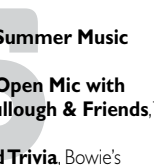
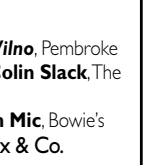
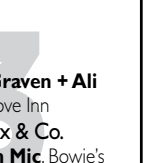
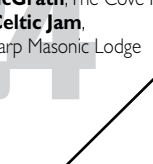
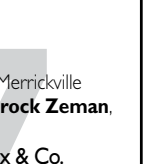
- Livestock Shows
- Pie Booth
- Mojo Magic
- Dancing Tractors
- Dale Wright Band
- The Keepers
- Beauce Carnaval

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Green Party Gathering, Sep 2, Perth
Perth Fair, Sep 3–6
Sundance Artisan Show, Sep 5–7, Maberly
MM Community Open House, Sep 9, Almonte
Almonte Fair, Sep 11–13
Fibrefest, Sep 12–13, Almonte
Perth Night Market, Sep 12
Downtown Music Festival, Sep 12, Smiths Falls
CAMMAC Ottawa Valley Chorus, Sep 13, Arnprior
The Lightning Thief, Sep 18–20, Almonte
Middleville Fair, Sep 19
PARC Studio Tour, Sep 19–20, Pembroke, Arnprior
Jeremy Fisher & Séan McCann, Sep 26 Chaffey's Lock
Learn Traditional Métis Dance, Sep 27, Almonte
Reconciliation Through Art, Oct 2–4, Almonte
Jeremy Fisher & Séan McCann, Oct 3, Arnprior
Jeremy Fisher & Séan McCann, Oct 10, Perth
Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour, Oct 10–11, Almonte area
Perth Autumn Studio Tour, Oct 10–11
Mississippi Mills Multicultural Food Festival, Oct 11, Almonte
Classic Troubadours Live, Oct 17, Perth
Jeremy Fisher & Séan McCann, Nov 7, Almonte
Itty Bitty Art Show, Nov 21–22, Carleton Place
Connie Kaldor, Nov 22, Eganville

Festivals

50th Anniversary Killaloe Craft & Community Fair, Aug 7–9, 1–4PM. Live Music & DJs all weekend. Friday \$40, Saturday \$55, weekend \$80. killaloeair.ca
Puppets Up!, Aug 8 & 9, 9AM. Puppet festival with 70 performances, parades, and family fun. Almonte. \$20–\$140 from TicketsPlease.ca
Soaring Through Summer Festival, Aug 8, 11AM–10PM. A day filled with music, creativity, and endless fun. McDonald's Corners Ag-Hall & MERA Schoolhouse. meraschoolhouse.org
Perth Lions Garlic Festival, Aug 8 (9–5) & 9 (9–4). Cooking demos, tastings, local garlic, beer & refreshment tent, birds of prey, live music. \$5, Perth Fairgrounds
North Lanark Highland Games, Aug 22, 8AM–6PM. Celtic dancing, music and games, kids' activities. NLAS Fairgrounds, Almonte. \$20. almonte-highlandgames.com
Festival of the Wild Child, Aug 22, 10AM–4PM. Register at mmlt.ca/events. Nature activities at High Lonesome Nature Reserve, Pakenham. Free for kids 16 and under, \$10 for adults.. mmlt.ca/events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
General Fine Craft presents new work from June Veenstra (fused glass), Jennifer Noxon (paintings) and Vanessa Ushy Coplan (textile art) <generalfinecraft.com> Mississippi Valley Textile Museum presents <i>Unfinished Journey and Queer Newfoundland Hockey League</i> [from Aug 8], <mvtm.ca> Sivarulrasa Gallery presents works by Michael Pittman and Barbara Gamble [from Aug 1], and Noreen Young [from Aug 2], <sivarulrasa.com> The Arts CP Art Hub presents <i>Adventures in Art</i> , a group art show <artscarletonplace.com> The Corridor Gallery at the Almonte Library presents works by Henry Hamilton [to August 8] and Justin Bordes [from August 9] Hourglass Café presents works by Jennifer Raby <hourglass.place>			
 Monday Musical Residency: Gerald McGrath, The Cove Inn Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge	 If You Don't Know, You Wilno, Pembroke Fiesta Mexicana - Los Paisanos Mariachi Band, The Cove Inn	 Tunes on the Tay Summer Music Series, Perth Wings 'n Tunes + Open Mic with Shawn McCullough & Friends, The Cove Inn Where Is My Mind Trivia, Bowie's	 If You Don't Know, You Wilno, Pembroke Original Thursdays — Colin Slack, The Cove Inn Quit Your Day Job Open Mic, Bowie's Music on the patio, Mex & Co.
 The Lucky Ones, The Cove Inn Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge	 Brian Byrne + Gerry Finn, The Cove Inn	 Tunes on the Tay Summer Music Series, Perth Wings 'n Tunes + Open Mic with Shawn McCullough & Friends, The Cove Inn Where Is My Mind Trivia, Bowie's	 Original Thursdays — Graven + Ali McCormick, The Cove Inn Music on the patio, Mex & Co. Quit Your Day Job Open Mic, Bowie's
 Monday Musical Residency: Gerald McGrath, The Cove Inn Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge	 Tuesdays with Eric and Meghan, The Cove Inn	 Tunes on the Tay Summer Music Series, Perth Wings 'n Tunes + Open Mic with Shawn McCullough & Friends, The Cove Inn Where Is My Mind Trivia, Bowie's	 No Strings Attached, Smiths Falls Music on the patio, Mex & Co. Original Thursdays — Powerhouse Treeoh!, The Cove Inn Quit Your Day Job Open Mic, Bowie's
 Monday Musical Residency: Gerald McGrath, The Cove Inn Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge  Gerald McGrath, The Cove Inn Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge	 Tuesdays with Eric and Meghan, The Cove Inn	 Tunes on the Tay Summer Music Series, Perth Wings 'n Tunes + Open Mic with Shawn McCullough & Friends, The Cove Inn Where Is My Mind Trivia, Bowie's	 Merrickville Art Walk, Merrickville Original Thursdays — Brock Zeman, The Cove Inn Music on the patio, Mex & Co. Quit Your Day Job Open Mic, Bowie's

Local Food

Garlic Nirvana, Aug 2, 9AM–1PM. Lanark County's 6th annual garlic extravaganza. Indian Creek Orchard Gardens, Pakenham. indiancreekorchard.ca

Visual Arts

Artists Reception: Michael Pittman and Barbara Gamble, Aug 1, 2–4PM. Reception for Michael Pittman and Barbara Gamble. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. Free. sivarulrasa.com
Tunic Show, Aug 1, 4–8PM. Multiple artists in many media. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. lanarkcounty.ca/event/tunic-show
Bonnechere Valley Inspired Tour, Aug 1 & 2, 10AM–4PM. Visit bonnecherevalleyinspired.ca for the stops, artists and map. Eganville and area. bonnecherevalleyinspired.ca
Noreen Young: Drawings and Illustrations — Opening Reception, Aug 2, 3–5PM. Opening reception of drawings and illustrations, raising funds for the

Noreen Young Award for the Arts. Sivarulrasa Gallery, Almonte. sivarulrasa.com
Vernissage: *Unfinished Journey and Queer Newfoundland Hockey League*, Aug 8, 1PM. Opening reception for two new exhibitions. Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte. mvtm.ca
Art in My Garden show and sale, Aug 8 & 9, 10AM–4PM. Art by Chandler Swain and friends. 178 Blakeney Road, Blakeney
Riverfront Artscape, Aug 15, 10AM–5PM. River Walkway, Carleton Place, at the CP Gallery. Group show with plein air painting and live music. cpgallery.ca
Paint the Summer, Aug 22 & 23, 10AM–4PM. Over 40 artists in this destination show! Westport Arena. Free admission, free parking. rideaulakesartists.com
Merrickville Art Walk, Aug 27, 11AM–4:30PM. Outdoor art downtown on the last Thursday from May through September. Main Street West, Merrickville. Free. maureenmcauliff.com

Theatre

Seussical Jr., Jul 31, Aug 1, 7PM; Aug 1, 2PM. Dr. Seuss characters spring to life in colourful junior musical. St. Joseph's High School, Renfrew. \$15 from TicketsPlease.ca
The Taffetas, Jul 31, Aug 1, 7:30PM; Aug 2, 1PM. Nostalgic 1950s girl group musical celebrates classic harmony and television magic. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$30 from TicketsPlease.ca
Twelfth Night, Jul 31, 8PM. Barn Door Productions' take on the Shakespearean classic. Crystal Palace, Perth. \$25. bardunderglass.com
Outerbridge Magic - *Mysteries of the Keyhole House*, Aug 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2PM. Ted and Marion Outerbridge blend their family friendly illusions with a spine-tingling true tale. The Pews, Merrickville. \$21–\$40. outerbridgemagic.com

If You Don't Know, You Wilno!, Aug 4 & 6 7PM. Hilarious musical comedy celebrates Wilno's Polish heritage. Rankin Culture & Recreation Centre, Pembroke. \$15–\$89 from TicketsPlease.ca
It's Alive! Workshop with Joshua Holden, Aug 7, 9AM. Learn puppet magic with Emmy-nominated Broadway puppeteer Joshua Holden. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$75 from TicketsPlease.ca
MacBeth: "A Tale Told by an Idiot", Aug 7, 8PM. One-man MacBeth with puppets, magic, and delightful chaos. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$35 from TicketsPlease.ca
Felt Up: The After-Hours Cabaret, Aug 8, 8PM. Adult puppet cabaret unleashes unfiltered mayhem after dark. Almonte Old Town Hall. \$35 from TicketsPlease.ca
No Strings Attached, Aug 14, 20 & 21, 7:30PM; Aug 15, 16, 22 & 23, 2PM. Hip, hilarious musical retelling of the classic Pinocchio tale. Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. Adults \$25, students/child \$10. smithsfallstheatre.com

AUGUST 2026

Sunday

The Taffetas , Almonte Crooked Creek at Union Hall , Almonte Twelfth Night , Perth Seussical Jr. , Renfrew BYOV Happy Hour , Bowie's King of the Swingers , The Cove Inn Field Trip , Bridge Masters Brewing Company	The Taffetas , Almonte Bonnechere Valley Inspired Tour , Eganville Artists Reception: Michael Pittman and Barbara Gamble , Almonte Outerbridge Magic - Mysteries of the Keyhole House , Merrickville Tunic Show , Almonte Seussical Jr. , Renfrew Jeff Callery , The Cove Inn	The Taffetas , Almonte Jeff Callery , Perth Garlic Nirvana , Pakenham Noreen Young: Drawings and Illustrations — Opening Reception , Almonte Bonnechere Valley Inspired Tour , Eganville Remembering Pioneer Days , Middleville & District Museum Head over Heels , The Cove Inn
It's Alive! Workshop with Joshua Holden , Almonte The Gilded Age Tea and Tour , Almonte MacBeth: "A Tale Told by an Idiot" , Almonte Killaloe Craft & Community Fair BYOV Happy Hour , Bowie's Amanda Keeley Trio , The Cove Inn	Puppets Up! , Almonte Perth Lions Garlic Festival Felt Up: The After-Hours Cabaret , Almonte Soaring Through Summer Festival , Perth Killaloe Craft & Community Fair Naismith 3x3 Basketball Tournament , Almonte Dino Day , Almonte Valdy , Eganville Vernissage , Almonte Art in My Garden Show & Sale , Blakeney Mysteries of the Keyhole House , Merrickville Eddy and the Dirty Boys , Neat Coffee Shop Perth Dinner and Concert Series: Brock Zeman Ottawa Guitar Trio , The Cove Inn River City Junction , Bridge Masters Brewing Company	Puppets Up! , Almonte Killaloe Craft & Community Fair Perth Lions Garlic Festival Art in My Garden Show & Sale , Blakeney Head over Heels , The Cove Inn
MUSICwestport Kick Off Party , The Cove Inn Special K , Bridge Masters Brewing Company Downtown Smiths Falls Ghost Walks , Smiths Falls No Strings Attached , Smiths Falls BYOV Happy Hour , Bowie's	MUSICwestport Arts & Music Festival , Westport Riverfront Artscape , Carleton Place Watershed Discovery Day , Perth No Strings Attached , Smiths Falls Music For A Whim , Almonte Outerbridge Magic - Mysteries of the Keyhole House , Merrickville Great Lake Swimmers , Neat Coffee Shop	No Strings Attached , Smiths Falls Perth Citizens' Band Summer/Fall Concert , Perth Head over Heels , The Cove Inn
No Strings Attached , Smiths Falls Odds at Neat Coffee Shop , Neat Coffee Shop BYOV Happy Hour , Bowie's Matt Dickson , The Cove Inn Cait Porteous , Bridge Masters Brewing Company	North Lanark Highland Games , Almonte Festival of the Wild Child , Pakenham Paint the Summer , Westport Porchfest 2026 , Carleton Place No Strings Attached , Smiths Falls Outerbridge Magic - Mysteries of the Keyhole House , Merrickville Perth Dinner and Concert Series: Courtney Kane Jason Kent , The Cove Inn	Paint the Summer , Westport No Strings Attached , Smiths Falls Head over Heels , The Cove Inn
Field Trip , Bridge Masters Brewing Company BYOV Happy Hour , Bowie's Retro Kings , The Cove Inn	Outerbridge Magic - Mysteries of the Keyhole House , Merrickville Something For Everyone Concert , Almonte Birds of a Feather ft. John Wilberforce , The Cove Inn	Union Hall Annual Blueberry Tea , Almonte Head over Heels , The Cove Inn

Music

Tunes on the Tay Summer Music Series, Weekly outdoor evening summer music series with local artists. Terrace on the Tay, Perth
 Aug 5 Spazpup (6PM), Doug Barr (7PM)
 Aug 12 Jono Townsend (6PM)
 Aug 19 Trasnra (6PM)
 Aug 26 Field Trip (6PM)

Porchfest 2026, Aug 22, 1-4PM. Live music at porches, lawns, and driveways across Carleton Place (map online). Free (donations to food bank welcome). carletonplaceporchfest.ca

Pub Listings

Pub Listings

Mex & Co. (Perth, mexnco.com): Thursdays 9–11 PM. Music on the patio, no cover

Jul 31 King of the Swingers, \$10
Aug 1 Jeff Callery
Aug 4 Fiesta Mexicana - Los Paisanos
Mariachi Band, \$20
Aug 6 Colin Slack, \$10
Aug 7 Amanda Keeley Trio
Aug 8 Ottawa Guitar Trio, \$20
Aug 10 The Lucky Ones, Suggested
cover \$10
Aug 11 Brian Byrne + Gerry Finn, \$20
Aug 13 Graven + Ali McCormick, \$10
Aug 14 MUSICwestport Kick Off Party
– Dead Root Revival, \$25
Aug 20 Powerhouse Treeoh!, \$10
Aug 21 Matt Dickson
Aug 22 Jason Kent
Aug 27 Brock Zeman, \$10
Aug 28 Retro Kings
Aug 29 Birds of a Feather ft. John Wil-
berforce

Community

Union Hall Annual Blueberry Tea,
Aug 30, 2–4PM. Blueberry desserts,
cold drinks, tea and coffee. Union Hall,
Almonte. Free (donations welcome).
union-hall.org

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Perth's new summer music series is a resounding success, and is fully booked on Wednesday evenings right up to Labour Day

Tunes on the Tay — Rollin' on the River!

Perth's new summertime music series "Tunes on the Tay" is up and rolling in its inaugural season at the riverside Terrace on the Tay on Mill Street. The series kicked off in late June, and the free 2-hour shows continue Wednesday evenings through to Labour Day.

To date, the lineup has featured a variety of genres and performers including young performers Julien and Joshua Groulx, Perth favourite Matt Dickson, the R&B and blues band Soulfire, folk singers The Rivermen, the acoustic duo Libby & Cal, and the rockin' Three 2 Go band. Response from the community has been positive with folks lining the waterside patio and stone amphitheatre to enjoy the shows.

Series organizer Brian Perkin hopes the outdoor series can dodge this summer's unsettled weather. Perkin says, "We've only had one rain-out so far. July 1 Canada Day was a complete wash-out. As an open-air event, our shows are completely weather dependent. So, with the "super El Nino" system affecting weather patterns, and smoke from the northern forest fires, it can be a real challenge for outdoor events to go off as planned." Perkin adds that any cancelled shows will be moved to Wednesday evenings in September.

Meanwhile, the series is fully booked for its 10-week run. Co-organizer Andrew McIntyre says the response from musicians has been overwhelming. McIntyre states, "We've received lots of requests from performers to take part. It's now to the point where we can't fit everyone in. It's kind of a bittersweet problem when so many have shown interest."

McIntyre says the local business community has also stepped up to help with sponsorship, and the venture is receiving in-kind support from Perth Tourism.

The upcoming Tunes on the Tay Wednesday night shows in July begin at 6:30PM on Wednesdays, while the August and September shows start at 6PM because of the earlier sunsets. These include:

- July 29 — Tim Loten (6:30PM); Peter Brown (7:30PM)
- August 5 — Spazpup (6PM); Doug Barr (7PM)
- August 12 — Jono Townsend (6PM)
- August 19 — Trasna (6PM)
- August 26 — Field Trip (6PM)
- September 2 — umberlune (6PM); Ompah Dom (7PM)

For details, please contact <tunesonthetay@gmail.com>.

My Town Got Me Here!

By Nils Hamster

Dear Almontonians, let's go beyond Hallmark, shall we?

For as long as I can remember, films have been the core tenet of my life. From humble beginnings serving this community at Video-flicks, just as the VHS and DVD era was coming to an end, movies have remained a constant. In the past two years I've become an ambassador of this town and a champion of film with my social media handle on Instagram: @nilshamster / nils on film / your small town movie guy, which has shown tremendous growth and reach.

As the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) approaches its 51st edition this September, this opportunity is ripe and will prove paramount in ushering a new era for yours truly, and it's an honour to once again represent Almonte on a global scale among film enthusiasts and tourists alike.

They say it takes a village, well I'm here asking my village for their support in attending this year's edition. Any contribution directly impacts my ability to travel, have lodging and attend special galas and screening engagements for the festival. Attending

TIFF offers invaluable networking opportunities as an ambassador of Mississippi Mills during this event, including but not limited to local and global brand activations, local news organizations, social media collaborations with fellow cinema

culture accounts, industry socials and celebrity access.

Today's audiences engage with authentic creators. As a dedicated creator, I will provide behind the scenes festival coverage, daily video diaries, premiere reactions, red carpet commentary, film reviews, interviews (where permitted), industry insights and live audience engagements.

I've designed a custom shirt to be worn for the duration of the festival. Displayed on the front:

"My Town Got Me Here" an eye-catching hook that's sure to garner attention and admiration by thousands; last year its 50th landmark edition had 700,000 attendees. Should you so choose, in recognition of your support I will happily adorn your signature, name, or business logo as a visual motif for those who've helped make this all possible. You can support me via e-transfer to <n.hamster13@gmail.com>.

— Sincerely, Nils



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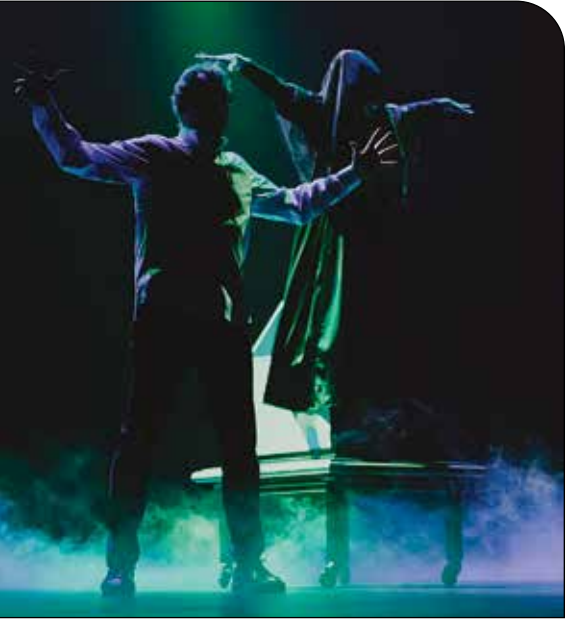
From the Keyhole House to the World Stage

Uniquely Canadian Production Captivates Audiences from the Ottawa Valley to China

Recognized as one of Canada’s leading illusion teams, Ted and Marion Outerbridge have spent more than three decades performing around the world. Hailed as “the most successful magicians in Canada” by the *Montreal Gazette* and “champions of magic” by Germany’s *Bergedorfer Zeitung*, the award-winning duo has appeared in some of the world’s most prestigious performing arts venues.

Yet the production now taking them around the world didn’t begin in Las Vegas or Hollywood. It began with an abandoned Victorian house in Smiths Falls.

Eight years ago, the Outerbridges arrived in the Ottawa Valley knowing almost nothing about the town they would soon call home. A simple act of kindness — a teenager holding the door open for them at a local Tim Hortons — left an impression that would ultimately inspire one of Canada’s most unusual theatrical productions.



Fresh off a tour of China, Outerbridge Magic is now performing *Mysteries of the Keyhole House* on Saturday afternoons in Merrickville

This past May, that story was shared on some of China’s most spectacular stages.

Outerbridge Magic recently completed a 13-city tour across China with *Mysteries of the Keyhole House*, an original theatrical production that combines world-class illusion, dance, storytelling, and Canadian history. The tour carried the performers to the other side of the world, where they played in state-of-the-art 2000-seat theatres. Few could have imagined that the artifacts hidden within the walls of an abandoned Victorian home would become one of Canada’s most unexpected cultural exports.

“What makes this journey remarkable isn’t simply that a Canadian magic show toured China,” says Ted Outerbridge. “It’s that a story rooted in a small Ontario community connected so deeply with audiences halfway around the world.”

The production began with an unexpected chapter in the Outerbridges’ own lives.

In 2018, after decades of international touring that included performances in theatres across North America and Europe, the couple stepped away from life on the road and purchased the vacant 1892 Keyhole House in Smiths Falls. Drawn by the town’s architecture, history and welcoming community, they began restoring the Victorian home while researching the lives of its former residents.

Ted immersed himself in researching the house’s history, uncovering extraordinary stories hidden within its walls. What started as a personal passion evolved into a regular newspaper column, hundreds of thousands of social media followers, and a theatrical production unlike anything the duo had previously created.

Today, *Mysteries of the Keyhole House* has been performed over 200 times. The production first found its audience in theatres throughout the Ottawa Valley before expanding across Canada. Its success led to an invitation to perform at a theatre festival in Bequia in the Caribbean and, most recently, a 13-city tour of China — an extraordinary journey for a show inspired by a single Victorian home in Smiths Falls.

The tour was presented by Poly Theatre Management (PTM), the largest theatre chain and performing

arts agency in the world. PTM first invited Ted and Marion Outerbridge to China in 2017, and after the success of that tour, invited them back for a second engagement in 2026. Over the years, PTM has presented many of the world’s leading productions and performers, including illusionist David Copperfield.

The show’s premise is unique in the world of magic. Rather than presenting magic simply for spectacle, each illusion is woven into authentic stories inspired by the Keyhole House and the people who once lived there. At the heart of the production is Agnes Lamb, a woman who lived in the Keyhole House from 1897 until her death in 1903. Her story, and the enduring mystery of whether she still lingers in the house, inspires many of the show’s most memorable illusions. Believed by many to be the Keyhole House ghost, Agnes guides audiences through a compelling narrative where history, mystery and illusion become inseparable, creating the only magic production based entirely on a slice of Canadian history.

That originality has attracted international attention.

The China tour was officially recognized by the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Canada, which sent a letter congratulating the company on launching its 13-city tour.

During the tour, Ted and Marion Outerbridge were also welcomed by Vice Consul Dylan Lasek at the Consulate General of Canada in Shanghai. The visit highlighted *Mysteries of the Keyhole House* as a uniquely Canadian theatrical production that blends illusion with history and cultural storytelling, while introducing Chinese audiences to a remarkable slice of Canada’s heritage.

The relationships established through that visit continued after the tour. The Outerbridges would later meet with the Honourable Marc Miller, Canada’s Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture, and his Chief of Staff to discuss the production and its role in promoting Canadian history, culture and storytelling on the international stage.

The journey to China itself was anything but simple. Following a 15-hour flight across the Pacific, the company travelled by bus or high-speed rail between cities including Ma’anshan, Kunshan, Suzhou, Nanjing, Qidong and Changzhou. Every performance required extensive technical preparation, with custom-built illusions shipped from Canada by air freight and assembled inside some of China’s largest performing arts venues.

Among the tour highlights was a performance at the Nanjing Poly Grand Theatre, designed by internationally acclaimed architect Zaha Hadid. The 2181-seat venue featured towering LED walls and state-of-the-art stage technology, providing a dramatic setting for a production inspired by a Victorian home built 134 years ago in rural Ontario.

Perhaps the greatest validation came after one performance when a Chinese woman who spoke no English approached the company with tears in her eyes. She had been deeply moved by the story of Agnes Lamb, the Keyhole House ghost. No translator was needed. In that silent moment, the Outerbridges realized that history, loss, hope, and human connection transcend words as a universal human language.

Every presentation of *Mysteries of the Keyhole House* begins with the true story of arriving in Smiths Falls and being welcomed by a teenager holding open the door at Tim Hortons. That simple moment of kindness has become the emotional opening of the show.

“It reminds audiences that the smallest gestures can change the course of someone’s life,” explains Outerbridge. “Without realizing it, that young man became part of a story now being told around the world.”

Catch it Closer to Home!

Before embarking on an Eastern Canada tour this fall, with performances scheduled across New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador, Ted and Marion Outerbridge are presenting *Outerbridge Magic: Mysteries of the Keyhole House* every Saturday at 2PM throughout the summer at The Pews in Merrickville. The family-friendly matinee production offers audiences a rare opportunity to experience the internationally acclaimed show close to home before it once again heads out on tour.



AUG. 14-15, 2026 Westport Arts Council 18th Annual Arts + Music Open Air Festival

MUSICWESTPORT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026
MUSICwestport Kick Off Party with Dead Root Revival

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026
Toast 'n James Open Mic hosted by Shawn McCullough

THE COVE STAGE (ROCK & SOUL) 1:00–7:00pm	LOCKWOOD STAGE (ROOTS & ROCK) 12:30–6:00pm
● Shane Murphy Sunfields Brooks & Bowskill	Vicki Brittle Crooked Creek Dirt Road Anthem feat. Shawn McCullough
STREET PERFORMERS 11:30–2:30pm ● King of the Swingers	ARTISTS' ALLEY AT LOCKWOOD PARK 12:00–2:00pm Cloggers, Face Painting, Muskoka Chairs Local Artists
AFTER HOURS PARTY AT THE COVE 8:00–11:00pm ● Young Petty Stones: The Music of Neil Young, Tom Petty + The Rolling Stones	

2026 Stage Sponsors: WTC, Kudrinko's, SPY ROCK, LANDARK, THE COVE STAGE

www.westportartscouncil.com/musicwestport

FRIENDS OF THE TAY WATERSHED

WATERSHED DISCOVERY DAY

Celebrating Our 25th Anniversary

Sat. Aug. 15, 2026 8am-1pm

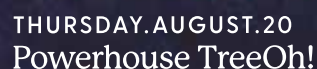
Crystal Palace in Downtown Heritage Perth

Come out to the Perth Farmers' Market for fresh local harvest. Stay to learn about the value and protective care crucial to the health of our watershed.

▶ Informative exhibits	▶ Fish Pond
▶ Paddling Puppeteer	▶ Discovery Tables
▶ Hands-on activities	▶ Story Corner

We All Live Downstream...

taywatershed.ca



**RIVERSONG PLAYERS
PRESENTS**

**THE YOUTH SUMMER INTENSIVE
PRODUCTION OF**

**THE
LIGHTNING
THIEF**

THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL
**MUSIC & LYRICS BY
ROB ROKICKI**

**BOOK BY JOE TRACZ
ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK
THE LIGHTNING THIEF BY
RICK RIORDAN**

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2026
ALMONTE OLD TOWN HALL
TICKETSPLEASE.CA

CAMP HALF-BLOOD

WELCOMES YOU!

PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS

**No
Strings
Attached**

Book by
Patrick
Rainville Dorn

Music & Lyrics by
Bill
Francoeur

A musical adaptation of Carlo Collodi's classic "Pinocchio"

53 Victoria Avenue, Smiths Falls, Ontario



Save the Date



SATURDAY SUNDAY
NOV 21-22 2026
10:00AM - 4:30PM

CARLETON PLACE ARENA
Upper Hall, 75 Neelin Street

Shanti Sivarulrasa Teaching Studio

Shanti Sivarulrasa's teaching studio is now open for registrations. A violinist, composer, and passionate teacher, Shanti recently completed her Bachelor of Music degree at Dalhousie University in Halifax and will begin a Master of Music degree at the University of Ottawa on a Special Merit Scholarship. Excited to be back home in Ontario, she is thrilled to launch her teaching studio in Almonte while continuing to build her career as a performer and composer.

Shanti offers engaging lessons in violin, music theory, and composition for students of all ages and experience levels. Combining the Suzuki and Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) methods with a creative, student-centred approach, she is certified to teach Suzuki Books 1 through 4 by the Suzuki Association of the Americas. To ensure every student receives personalized attention, enrollment is limited to just 10 students, with private lessons scheduled weekly



Composer, teacher, and award-winning violinist Shanti Sivarulrasa is now accepting students at her teaching studio in Almonte

or bi-weekly. As an artist herself, Shanti understands the power of music to enrich students' lives.

Shanti has previously taught violin lessons to students of all ages, including beginners and adults, at Long and McQuade and the Scotia Suzuki School of Music (in Halifax), and has led music workshops at the National Arts Centre (Ottawa) and the YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs (Halifax).

As both a violinist and composer, Shanti is quickly establishing herself as one of Canada's exciting emerging artists. In 2025, she made her professional solo debut with Symphony Nova Scotia, with the orchestra performing her composition *Chrysalis* with Shanti as both the composer and the soloist! Later that year, she was the Artist in Residence with the Ottawa New Music Festival, premiering her composition *First Encounters* for two violins. As a composer, her works have been performed by leading Canadian ensembles including the Array Ensemble (Toronto), Alkali Collective (Halifax), and recorded by the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa). In July 2026, her piece *Looming Together* – inspired by the percussive sounds of the South Asian charkha spinning wheel – was named a winner in the Music Around the Corner Call for Scores competition in Toronto, supported by the Ontario Arts Council, and will be performed by ensembles in Canada and the United States over the coming months.

As a performer, Shanti is a three-time winner of the Dalhousie Concerto Night Competition and served as the Concertmaster of the Dalhousie Symphony Orchestra from 2022 to 2024. She is the recipient of more than a dozen academic and artistic scholarships from Dalhousie University and beyond, including the Elisabeth Meyerhof Scholarship in Music, the Evanov Radio Group Scholarship, and the Djokic Family Prize for Excellence in Performance. She is a two-time winner of Dalhousie University's Jay MacLellan Family Award for Music Leadership and a three-time winner of Dalhousie University's Fountain Prize in Music. In 2023, she was awarded the Music's Future Scholarship by the New York-based Music Performance Trust Fund, recognizing her as a current and future leader in the North American music industry.

As a promoter of music, Shanti is the co-founder and co-creative director of the Nuovo Concert Series, a series she initiated in Halifax dedicated to showcasing new works by emerging Atlantic-Canadian composers. Shanti is currently working towards expanding this concert series into Ontario in 2027.

For more information on lessons in Almonte, visit her website at <shantisivarulrasa.com> or email <shantisivarulrasa@gmail.com>.

Pioneer Days at the Middleville Museum

On Sunday, August 2 from 12–4PM, experience the nostalgia of Pioneer Days with retro 1970s family fun at the Middleville Museum.

Activities include a bubble gum blowing contest, a spelling bee, costume and beard judging contests, sack races and a dress up relay. Enjoy a sample of '70s cuisine at a special food tasting table. Explore the Museum's memorabilia exhibit including videos of the Pioneer Days

grand parades. Claudia Smith will share a horse bridle button collection. Rachel Smyth will speak about the wedding dress exhibit. Layne Sharpe will demonstrate the operation of the barn frame loom and Bill Kemp will talk about his 1915 Model T Ford (weather dependent).

The Middleville Museum is located at 2130 Concession 6D in Lanark Highlands. Admission is \$5 for adults; youth 12 and under are free.



Perth Dinner & Concert Series
Perth Restaurant
23 Gore St E
Saturdays, 4 to 6PM
For reservations call
613-267-3170
\$10 cash at the door
plus dinner as per menu



Aug. 8
Brock Zeman



Aug. 22
Courtney Kane



Sep. 12
Nathan Sloniewski



Sep. 20
Jennifer Noxon



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Mississippi Squares

Learn modern square dancing
Great for your physical, social
and mental health

Mainstream sessions start September 8, 7:30PM

New Brunton Community Hall
2022 Beckwith Park Lane, Carleton Place

First two weeks free trial.

www.eodance.ca/clubWebsites/MississippiSquares



CORONATION MASS

de/by **MOZART**

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other magic!
autres oeuvres magiques!

Lisa Webber,
Artistic Director / Directrice artistique

Kathleen Radke, Soprano **Danielle Vaillancourt, Alto**
Adam Sperry, Tenor/ténor **Jean-Sébastien Kennedy, Baritone/baryton**

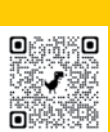
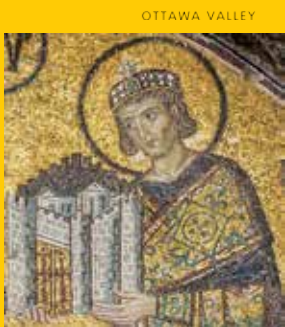
Ian Guenette, Keyboards / Claviers

With professional orchestra / avec orchestre professionnel

Sunday, September 13, 2026 – 3pm
Le dimanche 13 septembre 2026, 15h
Église Saint John Chrysostom Church, 295, rue Albert St
Arnprior

Tickets:
cammac.ca/ottawagatineau/ac/tivities/#valley-concert
White Pine Books, Arnprior
At the door / À la porte

Adults/Adultes: \$30
Students/Étudiants: \$10
Children 12 and under: Free
Enfants 12 ans et moins : gratuit





31st
Almonte

Fibrefest

Celebrate all things fibre with over 80
fibre arts vendors, demos, and workshops!

Vendor Market
September 12 - 13, 2026
John Levi Community Centre
182 Bridge Street, Almonte
Tickets: \$5 (cash or card)

Learn more at mvtm.ca/whats-on/fibrefest/

 Mississippi Valley
Textile Museum



PERTH NIGHT MARKET

PERTH.CA/NIGHTMARKET

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
5 P.M. UNTIL 10 P.M.
PERTH, ONTARIO

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Canada 10 Cents, 1966 & prior.....	\$3.50
Canada 25 Cents, 1966 & prior.....	\$8.35
Canada 50 Cents, 1967 & prior.....	\$17.50
Canada Silver Dollars, 1967 & prior.....	\$35
Canada 1967 Centennial 25 Cents.....	\$6
Canada 1968 Reduced-Silver 25 Cents.....	\$5
Canada \$5.00 Silver Maple Leafs (must be perfect)...	\$80
Canada 1976 Olympic 10 Dollar coins.....	\$81
Canada 1967 & prior Uncirculated Sets.....	\$65
United States 10 Cents, 1964 & prior.....	\$4
United States 50 Cents, 1964 & prior.....	\$20
United States Silver Dollars, 1935 & prior.....	min. \$43
United States 1 oz Silver Eagles.....	\$80
Canada or Australia: any 1 Kilo Silver Coin.....	min. \$2,570

GOLD COINS

Canada \$50 1 oz Gold Maple Leaf (any date; must be perfect).....	\$5,630
Canada \$100 Gold, 22K (1976-1986).....	\$2,615
Canada \$100 Gold, 14K (1976, 1987-2003).....	\$1,308
Canada \$20 1967 Centennial.....	\$2,770
Canada Gold \$2.00 "Toonie".....	\$965
Canada 1/10 oz Gold Maple Leaf.....	\$570
England Gold Sovereign.....	\$1,230
United States \$10 Gold.....	\$2,530
United States \$20 Gold.....	\$5,060
United States 1 oz Gold Eagle or Buffalo.....	\$5,400
South Africa 1 oz Gold Kruggerand.....	\$5,240
Mexico 10 Pesos Gold.....	\$1,260
Mexico 50 Pesos Gold.....	\$6,300
Austria 4 Ducats.....	\$2,310
France or Swiss 20 Francs Gold.....	\$975
Jamaica 20 Dollars Gold 1972.....	\$1,325
Iran 1971 4-piece Gold Set.....	\$8,380
Russia 1980 Olympic 100 Roubles.....	\$2,610

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10 oz .999 Silver Bars.....	\$810
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100 oz .999 Silver Bars.....	\$8,020
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.925 Silver Flatware, Tea Sets, etc.....	per Gram, \$1.60

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10g Gold Bars (must be perfect).....	\$1,825
1 oz Gold Bars (must be perfect).....	\$5,630
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10K Jewellery.....	per Gram, \$60
14K Jewellery.....	per Gram, \$84
18K Jewellery.....	per Gram, \$108

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