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MOSAIC

MARCH 2011
VOL. 18 NO. 6

The Good People: Know Our Stories, Know Us

View this award-winning*, original exhibit
at Grey Roots Museum & Archives!

* Recipient of an Ontario Museum Association 2010 Award of Excellence.



GREY ROOTS
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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Life at the Roxy: An Insider's View

by Aly Boltman

"What is erotic, like taste in art, is subjective." Kelly Borsheim, Artist

By the time you read this, **Seeing Red**, the adults' only Valentine's Day celebration of burlesque and erotic art and the brainchild of the Owen Sound Little Theatre (The Roxy) and The Tom Thomson Art Gallery of Owen Sound, will have come and gone. Over the past few months, it garnered its fair share of excitement, raised eyebrows, Tweets, heated Facebook posts and rollicking dinner conversation.

Just what is it about the (nearly) naked human body that stirs so much debate among us? The human body has inspired some of the finest art and literature in the world, opening our minds and arguably advancing civilization as a whole. And yet, so many of us require a buffer in our lives, a literal or figurative protective layer that keeps us from fully embracing the erotic present in nature. I am the first to hide myself in oversized clothes, baggy jeans and boots, most comfortable in cozy anonymity. That said, my preference for old denim doesn't deny me the pleasure of appreciating the human body, and its natural counterpart — art. In the words of poet Remy de Gourmont, "Aesthetic emotion puts man in a state favourable to the reception of erotic emotion... Art is the accomplice of love. Take love away and there is no longer art."

Seeing Red was so much more than the sum of its parts, more meaningful than public opinion or personal taste. It was a shining example of a creative partnership in an era when arts and culture organizations need to work more closely together than ever before to stay current, relevant, and afloat. It was a chance to build capacity. It was an experimental sharing of resources, contemporary competencies, supporters and talents. It was an event that allowed the Tom Thomson Art Gallery a chance for the public to see their impressive erotic art collection that rarely sees the light of day, and that had never before been exhibited in its entirety as a collection. It was a viable way to serve a different segment of our population that is limited in its options for creative adult entertainment. It was a chance to help raise valuable funds for two hard

working arts and culture organizations by attendance of one event. It was an opportunity to bring burlesque troupe **Les Coquettes**, professional dancers and singers to the Roxy's stage whose style has been influenced by the historic, *Folies Bergere* Parisian burlesque of the 19th century. And finally, it was a salute to the Roxy Theatre's early vaudeville days as the Griffin Theatre, and Owen Sound's infamous roots as the "Corkscrew City". Only a town with a history so bawdy could have kept our fair city in a state of perpetual prohibition until 1972...quite a feat.

In other news, The Roxy is thrilled to welcome back **Colleen Bullock**, our former box office manager, from her maternity leave. Colleen returns, of all days, on Valentine's Day! We're also thrilled to announce that The Roxy has been chosen to receive funding to hire a Rural Development Officer through the Foundation for Rural Living (<http://www.frl.on.ca>). This means, we will have a nearly full-time additional staff member, for almost a year, to help us with our fund development initiatives, administration and planning. The Owen Sound Little Theatre has also been fortunate to receive a generous \$11,000 Trillium Foundation Grant which will allow us to fix our leaking roof and replace three of our air conditioning motors which gave out during last summer's memorable heat wave.

In early February, Norm Foster's *Office Hours* graced the Roxy Stage, led by a new director to the OSLT, **Stephanie Fowler**, and presented by a dynamic cast that included many newcomers to the Roxy's membership. **Chris Patterson** of the *Arrogant Worms* will bring laughter aplenty to the theatre on February 27th at 2:00 pm. **Kevin Fox**, a marvelous cellist, singer, songwriter and guitarist, will bring his eloquent and stunning self to the stage on Saturday, March 5th. And, if you think you don't know Kevin Fox (www.kevinfox.ca), think again. If you consider yourself a fan of Canadian music, you have likely and unknowingly sent a hurrah to Kevin Fox. Known as "Canada's most ubiquitous side-man," Kevin Fox has arranged, accompanied, written for

or performed with dozens of dazzling pop/rock/roots and folk musicians, including Delores O'Riordan (*The Cranberries*), Kathleen Edwards, Celine Dion, Sarah Harmer, Jim Cuddy, Chris Murphy (*Sloan*), Raine Maida, Tom Cochrane, Chantal Kreviazuk and Shayne, just to name a few. He's also a seasoned chamber performer and composer, seamlessly crossing the lines between chamber and pop music.

Kevin Fox may slay with a bow, but on April 7th, *Macbeth* will wield the dagger at the Roxy. Directed by **Michael Rea** and starring professional Shakespearian actor **Tom Albrecht**, *Macbeth* will recreate Shakespeare's genius villain, who forfeits our admiration, but not our sympathy. **Don Buchanan** has created an original music score to accompany this classic production.

Until then, keep warm and creative.

Aly Boltman, is Theatre Manager,
of the Roxy Theatre

21st Annual

THORNBURY WINTER ANTIQUES SHOW
March 12 & 13
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sunday - 10am to 4pm
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MOSAIC

Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

March 2011

Vol. 18 No. 6

MOSAIC

A composition created by inlaying various sizes of like pieces so as to form one picture.

Established in 1993

MOSAIC is the only publication in Grey-Bruce dedicated 100% to encouraging and supporting the arts and entertainment specifically in the Grey-Bruce area.

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Copies of MOSAIC are delivered free of charge to the general public at specific drop-off stops in Grey and Bruce from Tobermory in the North, Kincardine in the West, Mount Forest in the South to Collingwood in the East and many places outside of this area.

We welcome your letters and suggestions as your opinions are important to us and help us better understand what you desire to see and read in MOSAIC.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CENTENARY 1911 – 2011

Strong Women, Strong Canada, Strong World

International Women's Day (IWD) was first declared in 1910, at a time when women's oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more vocal and active in campaigning for change. The first IWD event was held in 1911, and has annually grown to become a global day of recognition and celebration across developed and developing countries alike.

On March 8th 2011, one-hundred years later, International Women's Day will once again be celebrated by women's organisations and governments around the world, by holding large-scale events that honour women's advancement to ensure that women's equality is gained and maintained in all aspects of life. Thousands of events will be held to inspire women, and celebrate achievements ranging from political rallies, business conferences, government activities and networking events through to local women's craft markets, theatrical performances, fashion parades and more.

Think about the women, in your own family, who lived in 1910, 1911 and 1912. Consider the stories of women from Grey and Bruce counties. Did they have work? If so, how much were they paid? Did they attend school? How much education did they have? When answering these questions for yourself, you have uncovered some of the reasons for International Women's Day.

In Owen Sound, **A Celebration of Women in the Arts** will be held on **March 9**, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Bayshore Community Centre. The evening will feature displays of artwork, which will also be for sale by local women, who will demonstrate their work, including pottery making, music, poetry and more. Each artist will contribute one piece of her art towards a Silent Auction. Meet local women in the arts and other women in the community. Delectable refreshments and music will be provided.

Proceeds from the evening will be contributed to The Women's Centre Grey Bruce. Get to know the talented women in this area, and help support the Women's Centre. Make a difference, think globally and act locally! Make everyday International Women's Day.

This IWD celebration is sponsored by the Zonta Club of Owen Sound and area. Tickets are \$12 in advance from the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library, the Ginger Press, or \$15 at the door.

A Celebration of Women in the Arts will include these local musicians, dancers and artists: Lucy Zhang, Carol-Ann Barrett, Susan Sparks, Bonie Goudie, Eleanor Pauling, Elaine Davidson, Terry Burns, Judy Gray, Oya Pitts, Sheila Milne, Michelle Matthews, Zoe McDougall, Shelly Strong, Caroline Menzies, Eldora Taylor, Emily Bi, Suze Laporte, Theo Janson, Raven Fire and Shelley Jackson.

For more information phone 519-371-3200.

The 36th Annual Summerfolk Music & Crafts Festival August 19th, 20th & 21st, 2011

This exciting festival is fast approaching and the Georgian Bay Folk Society welcomes all volunteers. The Summerfolk Festival is an outstanding success each year due to the dedication and care its volunteers take each day of every festival.

-- WANTED -- 'GREENING' CREW

The Summerfolk Festival is in need of a Greening Crew. Needed are individuals who are knowledgeable and resourceful regarding composting, recycling and a greener tomorrow. If you are concerned about the environment and want to make a difference, please consider being a volunteer on the Greening Crew at the festival. All suggestions are welcome. Any and all events presented by the Georgian Bay Folk Society are in need of the same support. Volunteers are needed throughout the year for many reasons. Please step forward if you have time to spare. The GBFS offers opportunities to enjoy and share music, create and experience memories and connect with new and interesting people.

Contact the GBFS office at gbfs@bmts.com or call (519) 371-2995

HOUSE CONCERTS

From the first time singer/songwriter Will Matthews drove through Meaford last spring, he knew it felt like home. Being raised near Lake Erie, he missed being near the water, and while exploring the area around Meaford, he found that it had a lovely waterfront and much more — a quaint and charming little town perfect for songwriting inspiration was always at hand.

Moving from Cambridge to Meaford happened quickly, and by July of last year Will was writing new songs with his toes in the sand at Memorial Park and at other spots in the area. He quickly broke the local ice by writing the theme song for the *Scarecrow Invasion and Festival* in Meaford, and performing it during the event's parade, and on the Meaford edition of Breakfast Television. There were also many good opportunities to play his music at area bars, clubs and rooms in surrounding towns like Owen Sound, Collingwood.

However, after moving to Meaford, he found that his new hometown didn't have the places to play and hear live music that the other towns in the area did. So, not being one to wait for someone else to

do something, Will decided to invite musicians into his home-studio to play house concerts — the new trend that sees music lovers open their homes to give artists a place to play, and local residents a reasonably priced evening out filled with music. The fall saw five concerts — of note were Jory Nash and Ariana Gillis, both former Summerfolk alumni.

This spring there will be more concerts at Will's studio — Heatlamp Studio, in Meaford.

On Friday March 11, Jess Reimer from Manitoba will be playing. On Saturday April 9, Mike Agranoff will make the trek from New Jersey to play in Meaford as well. The concerts are always open to the public and Will, and his partner Julie, would love to see you at these shows. Admission is \$15 and all the proceeds go to the artists.

For more information visit
www.willmatthewsmusic.com or
www.heatlampsstudio.ca.

Phone 519-500-3798 for more details about these concerts and Will's music/bookings.



Will Matthews



SUNDAY, APRIL 10
3:00 PM

Meaford United Church

Put a new spring in your step!

Come join the
Valley Concert Band
as we welcome Spring 2011...

*Old favourites to lighten your heart
Marches to tap your toes
Soundtracks to make you sing
Jigs to get your feet a-dancing*

Tickets \$8

Free for young people under 16

All proceeds to cover Band expenses. Help us continue to support community events. Thank you!

The poster features a black and white profile photograph of a woman with short, curly hair, looking down and to her right. The title 'Pearls & Politics' is written in a large, elegant, cursive script font above the subtitle. The subtitle reads 'Grey County's Women of Distinction' followed by 'An Original Exhibit'. Below the subtitle, it says 'Opening ceremony March 8th, 1:30 p.m., the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day'. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'GREY ROOTS MUSEUM & ARCHIVES' with a stylized leaf or root design.

Photo Credit - Yousuf Karsh, Library & Archives Canada

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It was rapid industrialization and economic expansion at the turn of the 20th century that led to women becoming increasingly interested in improving their station in life and gaining the right to vote. Since 1911, International Women's Day has been marked on the 8th of March with global celebrations of the economic, political and social achievements of women, along with efforts to bring awareness to the struggles of women worldwide.

Celebrate the women in your life at Grey Roots Museum & Archives with the captivating exhibit, *Pearls and Politics: Grey County's Women of Distinction*, opening March 8, 2011. Grey County has a long history of strong, politically minded women, and one of our most famous female voices was **Agnes Macphail**. Agnes took her seat as a member of the Progressive Party for Grey County in 1921 and became the first female Member of Parliament, just one year after women's right to vote became universal in Canada.

The first women in Grey County politics were not those elected to office, but rather those working in administrative positions. **Violet Mercer** of Markdale was hired in 1918 as town treasurer and paid \$75 per year. Pearls and Politics also tells the stories of our elected female politicians beginning in 1938 with **Jean Honsinger**, of Meaford, who became Grey County's first municipally elected female politician. The stories continue to present day, including senior staffer, **Sharon Vokes**, who is currently our County Clerk and Director of Council Services. Although women were given the right to participate in municipal politics at the end of the First World War, it would not be until World War II that women became actively involved. **Alice Clement** of Meaford became Grey County's first female mayor when elected in 1958. The first female Grey County councillor to hold office was **Marion Calder** from Durham in 1954 — she went on to be elected mayor in 1960. The first female Warden of the County of Grey, elected in 1982, was **Lois Urstadt**. **Arlene Wright** of Owen Sound presently wears the chain of office.

Join Grey Roots for the opening of *Pearls and Politics: Grey County's Women of Distinction* at 1:00 pm on March 8th to meet some of the amazing women featured in the exhibit. You also won't want to miss the musical talents of the female singing group, "O'Various", under the leadership of Sue Seguin.

Also back by popular demand is the Grey Roots original exhibit, *Chains of Office: Municipal Government in Grey County*, which highlights the symbolism of local government, both upper and lower tier, and how its activities mirror the ideals and values of the day. *Chains of Office* presents a relevant topic peppered with some quirky facts from Grey County's rich 150 year history, such as a by-law to monitor the speed horses might travel through town, and another to ensure that bread was free from foreign objects and weighed at least four pounds!

As a complement to *Pearls and Politics*, be sure to view, **Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire: A Century of Service**. Although all Grey County chapters have now disbanded, some members remain active. Their compassion for the everyday soldier has never abated and recent projects include sending knitted items to troops in Afghanistan. To learn more, view the virtual exhibit online at www.greyroots.com.

Looking for something for the kids to do this March Break? Join Grey Roots for **March Break KidsCamp**, a weeklong adventure

exploring the ancient cultures of Rome, Greece, Maya, India and China, from Monday, March 14 to Friday, March 18, 2011, 9 am to 4:30 pm. Create a Roman mosaic, participate in the Grey Roots 2011 BCE Olympic Games, write in Mayan hieroglyphs, dance the afternoon away in India and celebrate an ancient Chinese festival. Enroll early to guarantee your place in history! **March Break KidsCamp** is open to participants ages 5 to 12, for \$125.00 per child (Grey Roots members \$110.00 per child). Prices for individual days are \$27.50 for non-members or \$25.00 for members. Contact Grey Roots or visit the website for further details.

From March 15 to March 19, 2011, Grey Roots offers fun-filled **March Break Family Activities**, including family-friendly movies at 2:00 pm daily and scavenger hunts. It's so much fun, the kids won't know they're learning! All activities included with admission.

Join historian, Walter Crowe, for the **Grey Roots Spring Lecture Series** featuring **The Wonders of Church Buildings in the Middle Ages**. These lectures are highlighted with intriguing photographs and take place on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm in the Grey Roots Theatre, from March 22nd to April 12, 2011. Lectures are free with admission, with complimentary refreshments following.

École Saint-Dominique-Savio, Le Jardin des Découvertes and Cultural Center, in collaboration with Grey Roots Museum & Archives, is pleased to invite you to our **9th Annual Maple Syrup Festival du sirop d'éryable**, taking place on Saturday, March 26, 2011 from 8:00 am to noon. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride around Moreston Heritage Village. Listen to stories of Grey County's past in the Log Cabin. Watch the blacksmith demonstrate his trade in the pioneer blacksmith shop. Take in spinning and other pioneer demonstrations. Enjoy some of the many family activities around the village: taffy pull, live entertainment, sheep shearing, and children's games. Come on out, make a French-Canadian connection and enjoy a fun-filled day for the whole family!

Museum & A Movie features family-friendly films every Saturday in the Grey Roots theatre at 2:00 pm. Enjoy the theatre's big screen and sound.

With so much to see and do at Grey Roots Museum & Archives, **becoming a member** is a great value and the best way to keep up with what is happening. For only \$40* for an individual, \$30* for a senior, or \$60* for a family (*plus HST), you get free admission to both Grey Roots Museum & Archives and Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre (through our reciprocal membership agreement) for one year. Members also receive a subscription to *Grey Matter*, our quarterly newsletter, invitations to exhibit openings and discounts at the Grey Roots Gift Shop, on programming and facility rentals. A membership makes a great year-long gift!

Grey Roots combines Museum, Archives and Tourism services and is located at 102599 Grey Road 18 – just west of Inglis Falls and a few minutes south of Owen Sound, in the Municipality of Georgian Bluffs. Beginning after Thanksgiving Day Weekend until Victoria Day Weekend, Grey Roots is open Tues. to Sat., 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

For information on any of the programs or services at Grey Roots, please refer to our website at www.greyroots.com or call 519-376-3690 or toll free 1-877-GREY ROOTS.

Sheep In The Vineyard



Featherstone Vineyard has been trying something new and unique in the Niagara wine industry, by 'employing' a small flock of sheep to eat grape leaves.

In a unique combination of quality winemaking practice and ecological soundness, Featherstone Estate Vineyard and Winery, one of two featured wineries at this year's 12th Annual Vintner's Dinner, is 'employing' a small flock of sheep to eat their way through

the grape leaves that need to be removed from the fruiting zone on the vines. This enhances fruit quality by exposing the grapes to more sunlight and air circulation.

In 2007, winemaker **David Johnson**, co-founder and owner of Featherstone, spent eight weeks in New Zealand, where the use of sheep in vineyards is commonplace. Sheep like to eat, and the tender young grape leaves are very appealing to them. "Sheep are ideally suited to the job," said Johnson. "They can't reach very high and aren't interested in eating the tart, unripe grapes. Using sheep to thin vines is a holistic approach that appeals to us a lot. And of course, there's the added bonus that they fertilize as they move through the vineyard."

Featherstone is also unique for its use of birds of prey in controlling nuisance starlings and pest birds that eat the

grapes in the fall. It's all part of their ecologically sensitive practices.

Second featured winemaker of the evening will be **Sue-Ann Staff**, of Sue-Ann Staff Estate Winery. She recently launched her own brand from the grape growing property, in the Niagara region, where her family has farmed for 200 years.

Both Sue-Ann Staff and David Johnson will speak at the 12th Annual Vintner's Dinner, April 9, at the Stone Tree Golf & Fitness Club, on Highway 6 & 10, just south of Owen Sound. They will discuss their wineries and their wine choices for the meal — *excellent wines, good food and great friends*.

For more information about the Vintner's Dinner and Wine Auction, contact the Georgian Bay Symphony at 519-372-0212

COMING SOON to the Historic Roxy Theatre, Owen Sound

Roxy Children's Series Chris Patterson



Sunday, February 27 at 2:00pm
Tickets \$12 each

It's all fun for kids of all ages with
Chris Patterson of **The Arrogant Worms!**

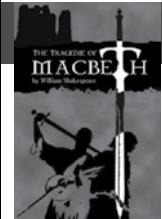
Roxy Music Series Kevin Fox

Saturday March 5 at 7:30pm
\$31 Adult, \$28 Senior, \$11 Student

Kevin Fox, "a cellist and guitarist of rare
talent" creates "soaring, roots-infected
chamber pop music"



Owen Sound Little Theatre's *Macbeth - "the Scottish Play"*



April 7-9, 13-16 at 7:30pm
\$23 Adult, \$20 Senior, \$11 Student

A fresh look at Shakespeare's greatest tragic character,
Macbeth, a villain who forfeits our admiration but not
our sympathy. Original Music by Don Buchanan.

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The 12th Annual Vintner's Dinner & Wine Auction

Saturday, April 9th
Stone Tree Golf & Fitness Club
Highway 6&10 south of Owen Sound

Excellent wines, good food and great friends
Book your table now for the social event of the year.

Featured Vintners
Sue-Ann Staff Wine*Featherstone Estate Winery

Sponsored by Tony & Diana Ersler,
Canadian Tire Owen Sound

Tickets \$100 (partial tax receipt)
Call 519-372-0212

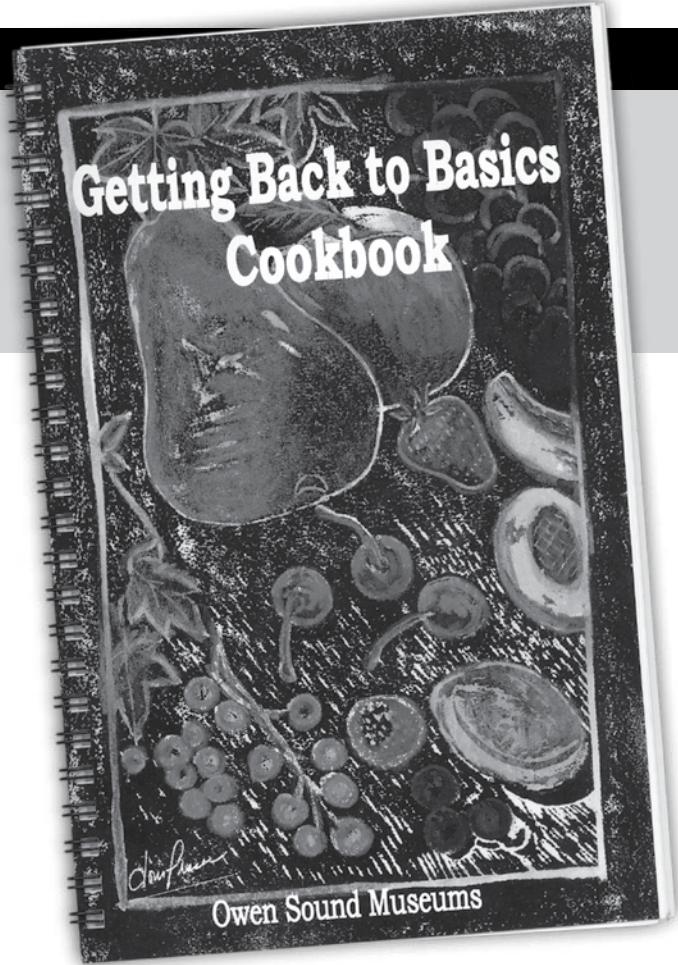
NEW BOOK:

Getting Back to Basics Cookbook

..... by Owen Sound Museums

Getting Back to Basics cookbook can be found in local bookstores in Grey Bruce

Getting Back to Basics is not just a cookbook, but it is also a tangible reminder of our past. You'll find tempting recipes and nostalgic reminiscences of bygone days when families hungered for some of the heritage of the land they once called home. Many traditional recipes were handed down from generation to generation, but often there was no written record of the meals or the ingredients. The womenfolk in the family simply passed on the instructions for preparing them by memory. You'll also find the true Canadian traditions of planting, caring for, harvesting, preserving and enjoying the fruit and vegetables from gardens and fields served year round on Canadian tables. Until recently, this heritage was fast disappearing, but fortunately, Canadians are beginning to realize the unique blend of old and new ingredients and traditions that have been carefully united to bring good food, simply served to our tables and communities. *Getting Back to Basics* also includes precious memories, stories and legends of warm kitchens, hearty fare and tasty desserts to whet your appetites.



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EXHIBITIONS EDUCATION EVENTS GIFT SHOP

3 NEW EXHIBITIONS UNTIL MARCH 20, 2011

Natalka Husar: Burden of Innocence
LauraLee K. Harris: Water—The First People's Women
Convergence: 48th Annual Juried Exhibition of Fine Art

ARTIST TALK February 20, 2011 / 2pm

LauraLee K. Harris

LIVE ART February 26, 2011 / 11-1pm

Improvised performance and music lead by Alan Glicksman



TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY

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tomthomson.org

IMAGE: Tom Thomson at Lake Scugog, Fall 1910

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**THE
MOSAIC**

C.R. AVERY WOWS

in off-season WORDS ALOUD event

by Ruth Mittelholtz

Spoken-word artist C.R.Avery's dynamic mix of blues, poetry and rock and roll, backed by local blues/jazz band Big Bad Wolf, delighted an appreciative crowd at the Williamsford Mill Great Books and Café, Saturday evening, January 22. Having enjoyed his performance last November at the Words Aloud 7 Festival at the Durham Art Gallery, in which he sang poetic verse, while simultaneously beatboxing, pounding the piano and adding wild harmonica, I was pleased to learn that Words Aloud artistic director, Liz Zetlin, had arranged to bring him back for an extra performance, as a thank you to their loyal audiences and supporters. C.R. has been described as Bob Dylan in the body of Iggy Pop, colliding with Little Walter, the Beastie Boys and Allen Ginsberg.



Joel Dawson, C.R. Avery and Brian O'Rourke at the Williamsford Mill
Photo by: Myke Dyer

As audience member writer Bonnie Gardiner told me in an email, "It was worth braving the minus 21 degree weather to be welcomed by the warmth of the full house at the Williamsford Mill. A true performer, C.R. Avery melted away the winter chills with his satirical and spontaneous humour that he combined with mournful harmonica blues."

The favourable acoustics of the Mill, along with the sound system set up for the performance, allowed us to fully appreciate the poetic intricacies of the lyrics for which he is so well known. "He sculpts words. Like butter. I don't recall thinking that about any other poet," is how it was put by another writer in the audience, Dawna Proudman, a Words Aloud co-artistic director in the festival's founding years. References to the always adventure-filled, sometimes lonely, life of a touring performer throughout Canada, the U.S. and Europe, sympathetic observations on the pathos and grit of downtown street life in his home city of East Vancouver, and personal relationships were themes explored in witty and unexpected turns of phrase. Musical style ranged from softly lyrical to raw and dynamic.

In Dawna's words: "C.R.'s intense love of the blues and his enthusiasm for hitting the right word, like the right note, punching home line after line, makes him a mesmerizing performer. While he played his words, piano and harmonicas, he simultaneously cued the musicians. The result was extremely inclusive. Watching the band's response to C.R.'s words added an intimate sense of theatre to the night."

I was intrigued by C.R.'s beatboxing and the vocal control required. If like me (before the performance), you have no idea what beatboxing is, here's Wikipedia's definition: "Beatboxing is a form of vocal percussion which primarily involves the art of producing drum beats, rhythm, and musical sounds using one's mouth, lips, tongue and voice. It may also involve singing, vocal imitation of turntablism, the simulation of horns, strings, and other musical instruments." One of C.R.'s pieces Saturday evening was a tour de force of the sounds of boxing punches (the sport) and sung narrative verse about . . . a boxer, of course.

I arrived about an hour early to grab a pre-performance bite to eat at the Mill's Café, and was thrilled to find that C.R. and Big Bad Wolf were meeting for the first time and rehearsing. They launched into a quick run-through of program excerpts, as C.R. showed how he would cue them. It was an interesting behind-the-scenes look at how quickly these professionals could pull together the music and the theatre for a seamless program.

And, it was a nice accompaniment to the homemade vegetarian lasagna from Mill owner/chef Tamara Bolton's menu featuring 'comfort food' – perfect for a cold night.

Big Bad Wolf is made up of musicians, Brian O'Rourke on electric guitar, Joel Dawson on upright bass and Simon Jo-Keeling on drums. Brian is the music director and driving force behind the band and its arrangements. He says his love of



C.R. Avery at the Williamsford Mill
Photo by: Liz Zetlin

music spans many genres, but he's chosen to play the blues for its authentic sound, and because it is at the root of most of the music we hear today. Brian tries to find original recordings for all their music selections and then takes the song and puts his own interpretation on it.

Brian told me that after about 20 minutes of rehearsal, in the brief time left before the show, they talked about music: L'il Walter, Willie Dickson, Chuck Berry and all the greats. They knew then they were talking the same language. Brian, Joel and Simon all count improvisation among their musical skills, Brian and Joel having developed their expertise in Humber College's Jazz Program.

Brian says the name Big Bad Wolf was a bit of a coincidence, but the connection to the great blues master Howlin' Wolf was not missed.

The next day about 15 people showed up for the advertised workshop with C.R. Some of us were interested in what we could learn about writing creatively from this wizard with words, some in performance, and two nine-year-old boys said they'd heard that "an awesome beatboxer" would be there and they hoped to learn how to beatbox. How did all that turn out? Dawna: "I can't imagine anyone else running a writing workshop, giving beat-box lessons to kids (big and little), and then improvising on the piano as the writers performed their poetry, all in the space of a two hour "workshop."

Bonnie Gardiner had this to say: "Working with C.R. at the Sunday noon workshop was as crisp as the weather. C.R.'s

unpretentiousness was refreshing. His suggestion of killing clichés in writing, by uniquely pairing words together, gave my pen new life. I was awed by his ability to improvise and respond in the moment to the written words being presented by participants."

For me, a sometime poet with an uninformed affection for blues, C.R.'s brief exercise introducing one of the basic patterns of blues lyrics has given me a new structure to play with in future writing. Write a line, repeat it, and add a rhyming line, giving three lines in all. During the following performance section of the workshop, it was amazing, entertaining and gratifying to listen to the wonderful short blues pieces the participants had composed and now sang or spoke to C.R.'s piano accompaniment.

The beatboxing performance by the two boys and C.R. was pretty awesome too.

C.R. Avery has donated recordings of his live performance to Words Aloud, as he says, "to entice donations for the festival and as a thank you for the work your community does in keeping art alive." They will be available for download soon, on the Words Aloud website.

If you'd like to learn more about any of the above, check out these websites: C.R. Avery: www.cravery.com; Big Bad Wolf: www.bigbadwolfjazzandblues.com (includes itinerary); Words Aloud Festival: www.wordsaloud.ca; Williamsford Mill Great Books and Café: www.greatbooks.ca

On the Stage
Joel Plaskett Emergency
March 9

Jason McCoy's One Man Show
April 6

Pauly Shore *comedy*
April 13

Hawksley Workman
alternative/pop April 30

Quartetto Gelato
classical / latin / tango May 6

In the Galleries

Grey County Artists
The Best of Grey County
February 21 - March 18

Balancing Act:
Invasive Alien Plants
Margaret Walsh Best
April 26 - May 28

2nd Annual Fine Art
Juried Show
Meaford Hall
May 30 - July 2

meafordhall.ca
877.538.0463

Meaford Hall
Arts & Cultural Centre

Call to High School Artists

High School Juried Fine Art & Photography Show

Local High School Students
March 20 - April 16

High school students of Grey Bruce and Simcoe Counties will have their own juried show at Meaford Hall.

Two categories: fine art and photography will be selected by local artists to win prize money and hang in the Galleries at Meaford Hall.

Registration forms available online or at Meaford Hall.



Winter Shadows – like letters on a page

(Mostly) Recent Works by Donna Morey

Exhibited at Chesley Public Library, March & April 2011

I hate winter, but since I live in this neck of the woods, finding something beautiful about it helps me endure it. In winter, the landscape is at its barest, starker and most basic form. The winter colours have very little variation, they are either monochromatic or of a very restricted palette. When sharply angled light allows for shadows, the high contrasts are like letters on a page spelling, "Hey, it's cold out here!" But on days when a groundhog can't see his shadow, you're in luck — the subtle colours tell you that winter's almost over, even if you're in the middle of a blizzard!

I paint in acrylic because, as a medium, it's very versatile and allows me to change my mind. I've been painting in acrylic since first introduced to it in my high school art classes. My favourite rendering technique is to slightly exaggerate the colour, and design elements from photographs I have taken of ordinary scenes. I'll be driving by and find myself suddenly attracted by an everyday composition, like how trees relate to one another, or the sharp transitions between a fence line, a river bank, a snowy field and the sky. Most of the paintings in this exhibit are of rural scenes outside my back door, or those that I pass on my way to work or weekly grocery shopping. Finding beauty in the everyday, and transposing it to canvas has become an enjoyable and defining purpose in my life.

Although I wasn't literally "born with a paintbrush in my mouth"¹, I have been painting since I was five—or six—years old. My early, recognised talent allowed me to attend special art classes at the high school level, which in turn prepared me for the Illustration Program at Sheridan College.



Winter Landscape

After college, I toiled for twenty years in commercial arts and advertising, before becoming a library worker, but I always found time to produce at least one or two large paintings a year that were just for me.

My paintings have been exhibited in local art shows on the Bruce Peninsula, and I have had the honour of being "artist in residence" at the Flowerpot Island Light station. Recent life changes and an encouraging partner have re-instilled my passion for painting, and increased my artistic productivity. Most of the paintings in this exhibit are winter scenes from Bruce or Huron Counties and painted within the past year, but the French River painting, while still a winter landscape, is from a different place and a different period in my life. Few people have seen it prior to this show. I hope everyone will enjoy seeing these paintings as much as I enjoyed creating them.

¹Anna Mernisky, art instructor, Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, circa 1974)

Winter Landscape



Snowbound

by Gail Peck

Weighted down with snow
bound to the ground
white wind-cord laced
landscape silenced
white noise;
tree rake silhouettes
earth bound
and snowbound
below a whiteout sky.

Dreams look southbound
watching through
freeze frame windows
an icy world
waiting for release.

Snowbound.

Gail Peck is a member of
Grey Bruce Writers

Learn the Art of **WOODTURNING**

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bowls, pens, bottle stoppers, oil
lamps, pepper mills, and more.

Registration and more info at
mapleseedgallery.ca



Mapleseed
GALLERY

WATERLIFE

The Film Screening & Invitational Art Sale
Featuring Talented Artists of our Region
Fundraising Event for Youth Literacy
Saturday, May 14 ~ Victoria Jubilee Hall

We promise you an exceptional evening that reflects on water, its beauty and essentiality. The South Grey Bruce Youth Literacy Council is thrilled to be the catalyst of this dynamic fundraising event at the Victoria Jubilee Hall in Walkerton on May 14, 2011. Come view the Art Show, acquire a great art piece and view the award winning film *WATERLIFE*, all in one amazing night and you will be supporting Youth Literacy in our region! The Youth Literacy Council and its energetic volunteer base is the charitable organization that provides free tutoring for Youth and Family Literacy Outreach in our region. The Saugeen Ripples of Change Youth Group is also to be honoured.

The ARTicles Art Show is back by popular demand! This is the return of the sell-out fundraiser art show and sale of shadow boxes for Youth Literacy that had avid patrons lining up before the doors opened at the past show in Durham. The Youth Literacy Council takes the show to Walkerton this year and is coupling the event with the screening of the NFB film *WATERLIFE*. The art pieces will be open for preview at the Victoria Jubilee Hall for the week prior and available for acquisition at the "literacy and numeracy" based price of \$123. Some 75 shadow boxes will comprise the show, as curated by artist, Susan Lindsay. Patrons are well aware of this opportunity to acquire some amazing art while supporting a dynamic organization supporting youth in our region, all within one great evening out.

The film *WATERLIFE*, tells the epic story of the Great Lakes by following the cascade of its water from northern Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean, through the lives of some of the 35 million people who rely on the lakes for survival. Providing Earth with 20 percent of its surface fresh water and its third largest industrial economy, the Great Lakes are a unique and precious resource under assault by toxins, sewage, invasive species, evaporating water and profound apathy. They are also one of the planet's great preserves of extraordinary wilderness beauty and a bounty of unique species. *WATERLIFE* blends these realities with a dreamlike fluidity as it pours through the lives of some amazing characters.

Of note, *WATERLIFE*'s director, Kevin McMahon, one of Canada's most innovative documentary filmmakers, will be present at this evening's showing. Its producers include Mark Achbar, creator of the controversial hit *The Corporation*. Gord Downie, leader of The Tragically Hip and a Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, narrates *WATERLIFE*. Topping off this epic cinematic poem is a fabulous sound track featuring Sam Roberts, The Allman Brothers, Dropkick Murphys, Sufjan Stevens, Sigur Ros, Robbie Robertson, Daniel Lanois, Phillip Glass, Brian Eno and a new song by The Tragically Hip.

Attend this evening of art, film and reflection.

For more information contact: Youth Literacy Council
519 364-0008 info@sgbyouthliteracy.org and see next month's MOSAIC.

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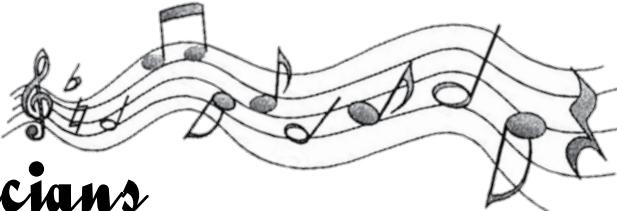
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Band Breathes New Life into Communities and Musicians



by Gillian Bigl

If you play a wind or brass instrument, you need to join the Valley Concert Band. If it's been a while since you last heard the Valley Concert Band, it's time to check us out again. Let me tell you why....



Valley Concert Band

I first heard the Valley Concert Band in 2002 at the annual St. George's Garden Party in Clarksburg, Ontario. My husband and I had purchased our house in Meaford that spring, but I still commuted to Toronto, looking forward to the days when I could spend both my leisure and working hours by the shores of Georgian Bay.

Music always catches my attention. I had played flute in high school and bought my own instrument through a "layaway" plan, once I had my first part-time job. Working full-time, raising a family and being only an amateur flutist, opportunities were limited in the city to play, so for many years my flute gathered dust. That afternoon, as I listened to this very 'local' community band, I asked myself whether or not I might one day want to join them. I quickly laughed it off, telling myself they were all 'older', their style of music didn't fit with me (especially the marches), and I didn't want to be seen in a jacket reminiscent of my days in junior high school! And, while I may not have the talent or training for the symphony, I wasn't convinced I wanted to suffer through versions of *Abba* music which made my skin crawl. But little did I know what I was missing. I eventually found work in the area, and over the next couple of years attended many more local events. The Valley Concert Band was often part of local fundraisers, and I started to recognize the value it added to our communities.

The band started in June 1990 with five members, and the first concert was a Fundraiser for Skiers with Special Needs at the Craigleath Ski Club. The band slowly grew in numbers, with Saundra Lake joining as conductor in June 1993. Saundra continues to lead the band, now grown to 20 members who come from Collingwood, Thornbury, Clarksburg, Meaford, and Rocklyn. They perform at strawberry socials, parades, Fall Fairs, Remembrance Day concerts, nursing homes and any number of invitations at community events in the area.

It was September 2006 when, at the consistent nudging of one of the band members, I reluctantly agreed to sit in on a couple of rehearsals. Lo and behold, by the second rehearsal, I was hooked. As anyone who has ever been a member of a choir, band or orchestra knows, there's something special about being part of a grand musical sound, not to mention how much music lifts your soul on practice nights, even when you thought you'd prefer to just stay home in your pyjamas! Camaraderie, pride in a final performance after months of hard work! Music really does breathe new life into everyone it touches.

We meet Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Thornbury. During the last couple of years, we've gained some new members, some new music and a renewed momentum for the quality of our performances.

Feel free to visit book us for your next fundraising event. Better yet — come and check us out at our upcoming concert: **Sunday, April 10th at 3:00 PM** at the **Meaford United Church**. We hope to raise enough funds to cover our expenses so we can continue supporting community events.

For further information phone Gillian Bigl (519) 538-0338



Grey Wellington Theatre Guild

Proudly Presents
Two Spring Productions!

Mariion Bridge

By Daniel MacIvor

**April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 at 7:30 p.m.
Matinee: Sunday, April 3 at 2 p.m.**

The Foursome

By Norm Foster

**May 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m.
Matinees: Sunday, May 15 at 2 p.m.**

All performances \$15 at the fully-accessible
Harriston Town Hall Theatre,
68 Elora St. S.

For information or tickets call, 519 338-2778
www.guelpharts.ca/gwtg

Drama with a Sense of Humour



Comedy and drama will be served up in equal measure, with a distinctly Canadian flavour by the Grey Wellington Theatre Guild (GWTG) this spring.

First up for the guild is *Marion Bridge*, playwright Daniel MacIvor's moving tale of three sisters drawn back to their Nova Scotia home by the imminent death of their mother. Directed by GWTG founder Patrick C. Smith, the show features veteran performer Flora Burke (*Shirley Valentine*, *Wait Until Dark*) of Mount Forest, and two actresses taking on their first major role with the guild. Marja Hillis, of the Mount Forest area, appeared in the GWTG production of the musical *Annie* last fall, while Kelly Lenselink, of Harriston, made her stage debut in *The Cemetery Club* in the fall of 2009.

Smith began performing as a youngster in England and studied at the London School of Music and Drama. He landed his first professional role in Oxford at the age of 17 and has been constantly involved in theatre ever since. He has appeared in, or directed (sometimes both), roughly 90 productions at amateur and professional levels since he came to Canada. Directing a multi-faceted drama like *Marion Bridge* is an opportunity he couldn't resist.

"It's a play I've wanted to do for some time," says Smith. "It's challenging. The author really managed to separate the characters, even though they are sisters. It's interesting to see how their relationships change as the play progresses." While primarily a drama, the play is not without a sense of humour. "There's a lot of comedy in it, but it's very subtle comedy." A Governor General's Award winner, *Marion Bridge* was filmed in 2002, with MacIvor converting his script to a screenplay.



Cast of *Marion Bridge*: l-r Marja Hillis, Kelly Lenselink, Flora Burke

Under the direction of John Hogg, the play features Scott Cooper of Drayton, Trent Heipel of Walkerton and Harriston residents Dan Bieman and Patrick Raftis. Cooper was on stage most recently when the guild staged the female version of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*; Heipel was last seen in the comedy *Noises Off*; Raftis has appeared in productions ranging from *The Sound of Music* to *The Amorous Ambassador* and Bieman first appeared on stage, playing multiple roles, in *Annie*.

The GWTG operates from the historic Harriston Town Hall Theatre. The group draws actors and audiences from the entire Grey-Wellington area and beyond, and has staged over 100 productions since its inception in 1973. The guild has a long history of staging both well-known favourites and innovative modern shows. In recent years, such popular musical productions as *Oliver*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, and *The Sound of Music* have played on the GWTG stage.

The guild stages productions each spring and fall, but in recent years has often added a third production, either around Christmas or in the spring. "We're becoming an increasingly active and diversified group and we're always glad to welcome new members, whether they are interested in performing, or working behind the scenes," said GWTG president Peggy Raftis.

In the past 18 months alone, the guild has staged *The Female Odd Couple*, the musical *Annie*, a summer children's production and offered a series of acting classes. Last spring the group hosted *A Grand Talent Competition*, which featured performers from across southwestern Ontario competing for one grand in prize money. *Marion Bridge* runs April 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9. *The Foursome* will be staged May 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15.



Cast of *The Foursome*: l-r Dan Bieman, Scott Cooper, Trent Heipel, Patrick Raftis

Next on the boards is Norm Foster's golfing comedy *The Foursome*. Foster, a Canadian, has set his comedy at Windemere Golf and Country Club, but this story could play out on any set of links. Four college buddies get together for a round of golf, while attending a class reunion. While they haven't kept in touch, they waste no time catching up and are soon bickering, heckling and betting back and forth throughout a chaotic contest anyone, golfer or not, will quickly relate to.

For tickets (\$15) or information call 519-338-2778 or check out the GWTG website at www.guelpharts.ca/gwtg

At the Thomson Art Gallery

Three new exhibitions kick off the New Year

Convergence: 48th Annual Juried Art Exhibition

To March 20, 2011

Featuring work by artists from across the province, *Convergence* showcases a broad range of media including painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking and craft. The exhibition aims to reward excellence and innovation in artistic production. Three

jurors took on the task of selecting the exhibition from over 260 works of art submitted. Gordon Hatt, Executive Director, Contemporary Art Forum Kitchener + Area (CAFKA), Laurie Carmount, curator Agnes Jameson Gallery and Alan Glicksman, Visual Artist and Improvisational Musician. The jury for *Convergence: 48th Annual Tom Thomson Art Gallery Juried Exhibition* was held on Monday November 30, 2010 with 263 works to choose from, competition was stiff and the jurors had an extremely difficult time narrowing the final selection down.

Natalka Husar: Burden of Innocence

The artist takes her lifelong obsession with painting and the Ukraine, her ancestral home, into new territory and presents three interwoven, though unresolved, narratives in the form of a history play in three acts. Born in the United States and living in Toronto since 1973, Husar explores the idea ethnicity

from a feminist perspective. This touring exhibition follows on to the Mackenzie Art Gallery in Regina after leaving The TOM. A definitive catalogue, *The Husar Handbook*, that accompanies the exhibition was co-published by the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, MacKenzie Art Gallery, McMaster Museum of Fine Art, and Tom Thomson Art Gallery. The *Husar Handbook* features five probing essays by: Gerta Moray, Toronto based art historian and professor emeritus, University of Guelph; Carol Podedworny, Director and Chief Curator, McMaster Museum of Art; Stuart Reid, Executive Director, MacKenzie Art Gallery; Dawn Owen, Curator of Contemporary Art, Macdonald Stewart Art Centre; and Meeka Walsh, Editor, *Border Crossings*.

Laura Lee Harris: Nibi-Anishinabe Kwewag: Water-The First People's Women

The Artist has dedicated this show to the "Stolen Sisters", the nearly 600 young Anishinabe women murdered or missing in the last 30 years. Working with plywood, Harris conducts a conversation with the 'Standing People' (trees); the grains, knots and rings of the tree reveal the secrets of its life and prompt the artist to travel on an intimate journey of self and its deepest connection to Mother Earth.

For further information contact the Tom Thomson Art Gallery,
840 First Avenue West, Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 4K4.
www.tomthomson.org

NEW BOOK:

Early Voices

Portraits of Canada by Women Writers, 1639-1914

By Mary Alice Downie and Barbara Robertson with Elizabeth Jane Errington

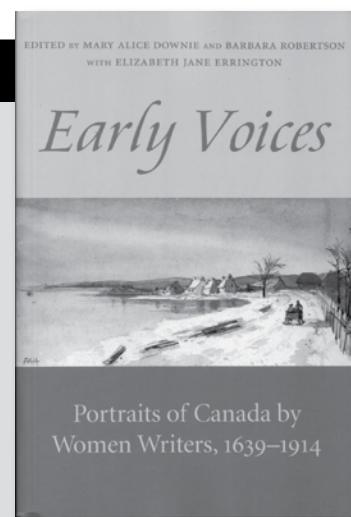
Published by Dundurn Press • www.dundurn.com

Early Voices compiles the writings of 29 women, known and unknown, professional and amateur, to present a distinctive portrait of Canada from the 17th to the early 20th century. From the Maritimes to British Columbia and the Far North, our country is seen through the eyes of the women who witnessed pivotal moments of our history. From a Loyalist mother who describes her first hard winter in New Brunswick, to a seasick nun recounting her dangerous voyage from France, women from all stations of life contribute their vision of Canada's developing legacy. The high-born wives of governors general and a fisherman's wife in Labrador recount their daily activities. A famous children's author describes the

delight of canoeing, and a German general's wife describes the customs of her new home. Their experiences captured in *Early Voices* collectively show how the women of early Canada shaped their home and contributed to the richness of culture that our nation would become known for worldwide.

Mary Alice Downie has written and edited 28 books for children and adults. Her many books include *Some Brought Flowers* with Mary Hamilton, and *The Well-Filled Cupboard* with Barbara Robertson. She lives in Kingston, Ontario.

Barbara Robertson, now deceased, earned degrees in history from the University of



Toronto and Queen's University. She was also the author of *Wilfrid Laurier* and co-editor of *Ottawa at War*.

Elizabeth Jane Errington is currently dean of arts at the Royal Military College and also teaches at Queen's University. Her research interests center on life in 19th century Upper Canada. She lives in Kingston, Ontario.

THE PAPER REMEMBERS!

by: A.J. Vandevrie

Back in the 1960's, this true story was told. When missionaries arrived in the Phillipine jungles, they discovered that the aborigines there were unable to *read* or *write*. The missionaries' job was to transliterate the *spoken* language into a *written* language. The aborigines were intrigued that the missionary was able to write something on a piece of paper, and the following week read what had been written on it the week before! One day an aboriginal man arrived at the mission camp and asked one of the missionaries to write on a piece of paper, "I love my wife, my children and my family."

A week later, the man went back to the camp and asked the missionary if the paper had remembered what he had said last week. To the man's amazement, the missionary read from the paper exactly what the man had said the week before, "I love my wife, my children and my family." The man excitedly exclaimed, "The *paper* remembers!"

How often do we, in the Western part of the world, ever think of a piece of paper as *The Paper Remembers*. Paper is so common place that it is used to start a fire, scribble on, paint on, write on, print on, tear into pieces, fold, mutilate, crumple up, use as package filler, glue, cut, and shred, to name a few. Whatever we do to the paper, it retains its "memory". If scribbled on, the next day the scribble is still there, if crumpled, still crumpled, if printed on, it's still there, ... and so on.

Think about it: *The Paper Remembers*, in the form of books, innumerable volumes and writings of History, Religion, Education, Engineering, Math, Social Studies, Culture, Folklore, Languages, Poetry, Humanity, Philosophy, Art, Music, Songs, Science, Astronomy, Guidelines, Instructions, Politics, Laws, Rules & Regulations, and more.... Phew! Paper is a wonderful medium, or, *substrate*, so called in the world of art. It comes in many forms, sizes, textures and shapes, too numerous to mention them all, but a few are listed here:

1) **Newsprint paper** — is inexpensive, is thin, tears easily, wrinkles when wet, used in schools; used for quick sketch.

- 2) **Drawing paper** — various weights 50lb–110lb; mostly sketchpads.
- 3) **Computer paper** — letter printing, pencil drawing, pen and ink drawing (ink may bleed);
- 4) **Vellum paper** — also called Onion Skin paper, is thin; often used for overlays in greeting / invitation cards, and in books.
- 5) **Water Colour Paper** — from 90lb to 300lb. — multi-purpose: to draw and paint on, ink on, washes etc.
- 6) **Parchment Paper** — for drawing, inking, calligraphy, writing, card making, to name a few.

Paper Sizes 'n Shapes — Large and small, from 50 page 3"x 5" to 18"x24" sketchpads — single sheets from 8.5"x11", 12"x12"sq, up to 30"x 40"— also available in rolls 9'w x 50' long often used as backdrops in theatres and studios.

Paper Textures: — Smooth = Hot Press - great for smooth application of inks; Medium = Cold Press -all purpose; Rough textured papers — usually 300lb weight — wrinkle free — great for textured watercolour, acrylics, and even oils.

All of the above mentioned papers will "remember" whatever you put on it, or how you shape it, or in what pieces you cut it into- and that's a good thing! Over time, some papers will yellow. It's noteworthy that most art papers made today are acid free, and don't yellow at the rate of papers from yesteryear. A painting done on today's paper substrates will stand the test of time when properly matted and framed.

I think we all agree that *the paper remembers* when we read a book, or we view the drawings and paintings of yesteryear. We are able to examine the concept, the style, the subject and the expression of the artist who applied the mediums available to the paper substrates of the day. Paper is the most used medium substrate worldwide, because it helps us to *Remember!* Have a wonderful paper day.

A.J. Vandevrie is the owner/operator of A.J.'s Art Supplies in Walkerton

CALL FOR ENTRY THE BLUE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS 31ST ANNUAL JURIED ART SHOW

This prestigious show is one of the premier events in the Collingwood area. This year, for the first time, it will be held in the

B.M.F.A. Arts Centre
163 Hurontario Street, Collingwood from the 8th until the 30th April, 2011.

Entries for all varieties of Visual Arts and Crafts will be received
on Saturday, April 2nd from 10.00am till 4.00 pm at the Arts Centre. Juried: Sunday, April 3rd.

Artists and Artisans are invited to submit one or two recent works in any medium. Entry fee is \$15 per piece.
High School Students may enter free this year.

Jurors for the show are: Ron Ball, Sonya Hayes and Peter Miehm.

Three prizes awarded in each adult category:

1st Prize \$250, 2nd prize \$200 3rd prize \$150.

Students' category: 1st prize \$100, 2nd prize \$75 and 3rd prize \$50.

Opening Reception and Awards presentation will be held at the Arts Centre on Friday
April 8th from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. All are welcome.

For additional information & entry forms phone the B.M.F.A. 705-445-3430 or visit www.bmfa.on.ca.

At the Meaford Hall

by Jennifer Brebner

For the past 100 years, Meaford Hall has showcased music, drama and art, and this coming season is no exception.

ON STAGE:

On March 9th we have **Joel Plaskett Emergency**. Joel is hailed as one of Canada's best songwriters. His latest release, "Three" is a masterpiece featuring an eclectic blend of styles, ranging from drum-machine rock 'n' roll, to stripped down acoustic folk, to a deep-country vibe and rollicking pop. A songwriter's holy trinity – "Three" marks another landmark in the career of this great Canadian songwriter. Peter Elkas, who will open the evening, is a Canadian Indie rock singer / songwriter "soulful and smooth, but with a rough edge."

On March 15th, we have the *Colin James* acoustic duo. The buzz and excitement about this show has already made it a sold out performance.

For March break we have **The Velveteen Rabbit** on March 17th at 2:00 pm. This beautiful tale is a modern children's classic, in which a stuffed toy rabbit learns what it means to be REAL. A splendid dramatic adaptation portrays a young child's world of special toys, played by one superb actor and a cast of kids you may know! "When a child loves you for a long time, not just to play with, but really loves you, then you become REAL," explains the Skin Horse in the story. The presentation is an excellent introduction to the world of theatre, with some of the roles played by children themselves! With a one-hour rehearsal, and a new set of participants for each performance, the children are let in on the secret that will make them look like they've been practicing for weeks!

Following this great children's theatre, we have four days of Meaford Community Theatre in a production called **Harvest Moon, March 24 – 27**. Enjoy an entertaining and light-hearted glimpse into life in St. Vincent Township and Meaford 100 years ago, when people worked together for the fall harvest and barn raisings, and Meaford was a thriving commercial centre. Fairs, quilting bees and picnics were popular events and people travelled many miles with a horse and buggy, or sleigh, to socialize with their neighbours and friends. Harvest Moon is a true community production, written, produced and performed by talented local actors who portray the farm families and townsfolk in their community in times past.

As April begins and things get warmer and sunnier, **Jason McCoy** comes to the stage on April 6th. Canada's country singing sensation is a non-stop, one-man show featuring his own and Road Hammer chart toppers, interwoven with new songs, humour to rival any stand-up comedy act, and intimate stories exploring family, fun and faith. McCoy is a five-time Juno Award Male Country Vocalist of the Year nominee.

Pauly Shore brings you tears of laughter on April 13th. A wildly goofy, deliberately obnoxious standup comedian, Shore shot

to fame on MTV, and later moved his established "weasel" persona into feature films. A regular guest on Late Night and Howard Stern, Pauly Shore pushes all the boundaries with his wildly funny stories and commentary on sex, women and politics. He just finished shooting his second Showtime special in Vegas, and has a new CMT show starting end of January called Meet the In-laws that he's the host of. Language and content advisory.

We end the month with another one of Canada's Juno Award winners **Hawksley Workman** on April 30th. With 12 albums to his name and a live show that is second to none, Hawksley Workman has become a beloved Canadian cultural icon, celebrated from coast to coast.

We round out the season with **Quartetto Gelato** on May 6th. This ensemble has been dazzling audiences for more than a decade, with their exotic blend of musical virtuosity, artistic passion, and charismatic anecdotes. Classical in training – eclectic by design – Quartetto Gelato not only thrills its audiences with its multi-instrument mastery, but also with the bonus of a brilliant operatic tenor. With a performance repertoire, that travels the globe including classical masterworks, operatic arias, the sizzling energy of tangos, gypsy and folk songs, the group's theatrical stage presence and relaxed humour establishes an intimate rapport with audiences worldwide.

IN THE GALLERIES:

Grey County Artists started on February 21 and runs to March 18. Come and view an exciting collection of work from Grey County Artists as they celebrate the beauty of Grey- "Beautiful... Naturally". Grey County is famous for the Blue Mountains, for the 240 km of Bruce Trail along the Niagara Escarpment, for the Beaver Valley, for its rivers, lakes, and waterfalls, and for Georgian Bay. Let our artists inspire you with their vision of the Best of Grey County .

This is our first year for having a High School Student fine art and photography **juried show** from **March 20 to April 16**. Selections will be chosen by local artists to win prize money and hang their work in the galleries.

Balancing Act: Invasive Alien Plants, an exhibition of water-colour paintings by Canadian Artist Margaret Walsh Best, will be on display from **April 26 to May 28th**. This project examines, through research and visual representation, how a small plant can alter an ecosystem forever.

Our **Second Annual Fine Art Juried Show** from **May 30 to July 2**, draws upon the works of artists from Grey, Bruce and Simcoe counties for exhibition in the beautiful, light-filled galleries. Two categories: fine art and photography. Registration forms are available by emailing info@meafordhall.ca

Continued on page 15.

Meaford Hall continued from page 14.

ON THE SCREEN:

We feature films every other Thursday. We started the year off in January with the *Dragon Tattoo* series, followed in February with *Force of Nature, the David Suzuki Story*.

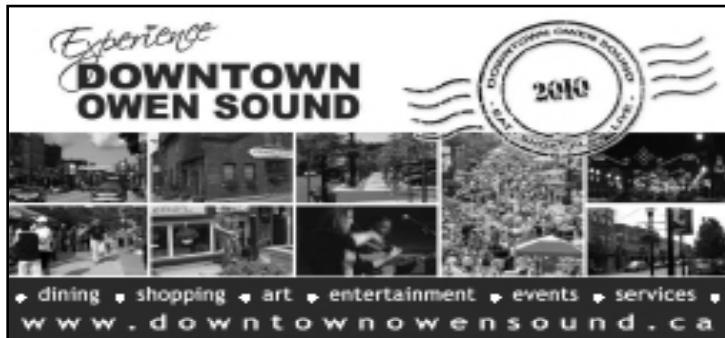
Incendies will be shown on **March 3rd**. A special presentation at TIFF, subtitled, follows two siblings as they unravel the mystery of their mother's life and the family she left behind in Lebanon. French and Arabic, subtitled in English.

March 17th, will feature the great film **Get Low**, a movie spun out of equal parts folk tale, fable and real-life legend about the mysterious 1930's Tennessee hermit who famously threw his own rollicking funeral party... while he was still alive. Rated PG-13.

Mao's Last Dancer will be here **April 7th**. A drama based on the autobiography by Li Cunxin. At the age of 11, Li was plucked from a poor Chinese village by Madame Mao's cultural delegates and taken to Beijing to study ballet. In 1979, during a cultural exchange to Texas, he fell in love with an American woman. Two years later, he managed to defect and went on to perform as a principal dancer for the Houston Ballet and as a principal artist with the Australian Ballet. Rated PG.

We wrap up with **Mid-August Lunch** on **April 21st**. Gianni is a middle-aged man living in Rome with his imposing and demanding elderly mother. His only outlet from her and the increasing debt into which they are sinking, are the increasingly frequent quiet sessions at the local tavern. As an Oriental saying goes, 'Moments of crisis are moments of opportunities'. These appear during the celebration of the holiday of *Ferragosto* on 15 August. That's when everybody leaves town to have fun. Opportunity knocks on Gianni's door in the most unexpected way. Italian with subtitles.

Meaford Hall Arts & Cultural Centre, located in downtown Meaford.
For further information visit
www.meafordhall.ca or call the box office at 519-538-0463.



A logo for Nia featuring a stylized "i" and "N" intertwined. To the right, there's a wavy line graphic. Text includes "dance, get fit, have fun!", websites "www.nianow.com", "www.NiaGreyBruce.com", and "www.niac.ca/on". Below the logo, names and contact info are listed: Wendy Roman (Owen Sound, Lion's Head, Tobermory, email wendy@rhythmwood.ca, phone 519-793-4687), and Vita Wind (Hanover, Durham, Markdale, email vitawind@rogers.com, phone 519-986-7526).

CALL FOR ENTRY

The Walkerton Branch Library is pleased to present its **Annual Walkerton Library Juried Art Show** which runs from April 27th to May 14th, 2011.

Art will be received Friday, April 8th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 9th from 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The awards ceremony will be held Wednesday, April 26th at 7:30 p.m. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank. Entry fee is \$5.00 per entry, with a maximum of three entries per artist. Entry is restricted to residents of the following municipalities—**Brockton, Hanover, South Bruce, West Grey and Arran Elderslie**.

There are 7 categories:

Painting – Oil or Acrylic

Painting – Watercolour

Drawing – Includes pencil, charcoal, pen and ink and pastels.

Mixed Mediums – Any combination of mediums in its completion includes collage. Printmaking is also included in the category

3 Dimensional – includes any three dimensional work or sculpture and stained glass.

Photography – Traditional – This will include film or digital work on photography paper.

Photography – Manipulated – This will include film or digital work with significant manipulation, mixed medium, printed on any surface.

Artists will be asked to list the medium used. This information will appear with the art when it is hung for the show. The categories will be used for judging. Please note, entries must be original works, completed in the past two years and not previously shown in the Walkerton Annual Juried Art Show. Work must be ready for display, equipped with hooks and wires if applicable. Show committee reserves the right to refuse any work that is not suitable or unstable.

Prizes awarded in each category for first, second and third place winners.

Special Youth Category for 18 years and under, (Sponsored by A.J.'s Art Supplies). First, second and third prizes will be awarded. Plus a Popular Vote Award, (Sponsored by Wilfred McIntee & Co. Real Estate), which will be decided by viewer's ballot and announced at the end of the show.

Information and entry forms may be obtained at the Walkerton Branch Library, 253 Durham St. Walkerton, ON. Phone 519-881-3240, email walib@brucecounty.on.ca or visit the Bruce County Library web site www.library.brucecounty.on.ca

From the Front Burner

by Paul Thomas



Imbibition: the displacement of one fluid by another immiscible fluid. Imbibition processes include spontaneous imbibition, constant influx, quasi-static imbibition and dynamic invasion with constant flow rate of the displacing fluid (from Wikipedia) imbibition: drink in, assimilate (ideas, etc); drink (liquid); inhale (air etc) (from Oxford Dictionary)

Let's throw out the myths of gloomier times of the year up here on the Bruce, because from where I sit, the view doesn't get any better. Yes, it's January, I know, but today the sun is shining and I've been out on the deck soaking up my requisite dose of vitamin D: glorious; inspirational; hopeful and frankly who would want to be anywhere else? I've just returned from having hip surgery in Toronto, and now have the luxurious opportunity to convalesce looking out over the vastness of the Fishing Islands in their white winter garb. So what better place to generate some thoughts and share some ideas about things culinary? I love to use imbibition as a launching pad for recipe development stories in the kitchen and would like to share one with you here.

Over the fall we've taken on, for the first time at MarketSide, a high school co-op student. While we were looking forward to having some extra help in the kitchen, we knew it would mean spreading ourselves out to allow this student to be brought into the workings of the kitchen and feel a part of the process. In this light, one of the things that has always kept us fired up has been the chance to exchange: to offer a transparency between sourcing, cooking and presenting our fare. It builds connection and community and instils an honesty that is simple and quite delicious.

Having someone new in the kitchen demands that we reflect on and evaluate the layers of our production methods. To make it interesting, stories are often told of how an item, or a process, has evolved over the years. We bring into a product all that we have been and all that we are at any given time. That I studied plant physiology and plant propagation in university usually finds its way into story time somehow. (All those thousands spent and for what you ask?) I use the process of imbibitions not only as a means of explaining what is happening to the anise seeds when we pour hot water over them, but also as a metaphor for taking on new challenges and stretching our own creative culinary development in the kitchen. Heck, if a seed can ready itself to take on new characteristics as it swells, then we too need to be ready to take on new ideas and an awareness to cultivate new opportunities to connect the dots that push us into new culinary territory. You know, those moments when you're working away on something that you've been doing forever, and suddenly there's an "ah ah" when you can see the process in a new context. I suppose it can be likened to a mindfulness in the kitchen — being totally present as the transition occurs between an assemblage of ingredients and the production of a product.

Like the seed, we are changing. We are taking stock of our moment in the present and assessing how any given process can be fluid enough to allow the variables of the day (mostly quality and variety of ingredients), to create delicious food. This process probably explains an organic spontaneity in our daily offerings. Are you still with me? I feel that our co-op student has provided us with this chance to share in our production process,

and in turn we have rekindled our own awareness and observations of how we can tweak or fine-tune our foods during this process. Sounds like a win-win-win evolution to me!

The culinary challenge this time will be to create a **BISCOTTI**. Biscotti is a twice baked biscuit originally from Italy and typically sweet. Also typically, it is an accompaniment to a glass of fine wine or cup of coffee, tea or other hot beverage. This past holiday season, we discovered savoury biscotti from an old MarketSide faithful friend. Where have I been? Our task is to make a biscotti to accompany your delicious soup from my last article in the November/December issue of MOSAIC. By the way, how did it go? This biscotti is an absolutely delicious and simple way to flavour a winter's victual. It's so flexible that, once you have the basics down, you can add your own favourite flavourful variations.

The basics go something like this:

2 eggs
1 cup grated sharp cheese
pinch salt
1 tsp. baking powder
1 cup flour

Whisk the eggs and add the rest of the ingredients. (You can use a food processor, if you want, otherwise by hand will work fine.) Turn out on a counter and work mix together. Form into a flat log about 6 cm wide by 15 - 20 cm long by 2 cm high. Bake in 350 oven 25 - 30 minutes. Remove and cool 10 minutes. Slice on the diagonal about 1 to 2 cm thick and return to baking sheet in oven for 15 minutes. Then turn pieces over and bake a remaining 10 - 15 minutes.

Try your own variations like chopped olives, parmesan cheese, cayenne pepper, rosemary, sun dried tomato, maybe a curry ... the list is endless. It's one of those things that once you have the basic chemistry down, you can use it to clean out the fridge of leftovers...remember *imbibition*... the notion that an idea can serve to take you on a new culinary adventure. Be open, be creative and enjoy! After all, it's January and from where I sit, something fresh, hot out of the oven is a welcomed treat!

Paul Thomas is the co-owner/operator of
MarketSide Food Shop and Cafe in Owen Sound



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Email: crymble@bmts.com

Ellen Crymble, Broker

The Leaf WANTS WISDOM

The Leaf, the only literary journal featuring words from the Queen's Bush and Bruce Peninsula, seeks manuscripts on the theme WISDOM for the spring 2011 issue.

Writers are welcome to interpret the theme in poetry, personal essays, author profiles, or book reviews during the month of March only. The editors will not consider fiction, as this issue will include the winning entries from the twelfth annual acrostic story contest. Manuscripts need to arrive in hardcopy either by mail or hand delivered to The Brucedale Press office in Port Elgin by March 31. Writers of book reviews should query first by e-mail to brucedale@bmts.com.

"We are also interested in hearing from artists who work in pen and ink or other media that prints well in black and white" says publisher Anne Duke Judd.

Poetry should be no longer than 30 lines; essays and profiles up to 2000 words. Book reviews usually around 300 words. Full guidelines are available on The Brucedale Press Web site or by e-mail.

The Leaf appears twice yearly, and is available by subscription for \$12.00/year to Canadian addresses. Single copies of most issues are still in print. Issues 26 and 27 at \$8.00 each; numbers 15 through 25 at \$5.00 each plus HST.

Singers in Accord

There is a relatively new choir in Owen Sound and anyone can join. No auditions or special skills are required. OSSIA, an acronym for "Owen Sound Singers in Accord" and also a musical term meaning an alternative, is a group composed of people who love to sing. Some confessed that they sang, "only in the shower" before they joined, but are now happily learning to sing with others in harmony. Together, they are discovering the natural "high" that comes from singing in community.

The songs are drawn from different cultures and traditions. There are rounds, layered songs, and four part harmonies. Some are moving and spiritual, some are just fun, and all are taught by ear, and some with the help of written music. OSSIA was formed by Louise Jarvis, after taking a course in Community Choir Leadership Training in Victoria, BC, with a 300-voice community choir called the Gettin' Higher Choir.

The next full session of OSSIA will run for 12 weeks beginning on Monday, March 21st, and continue on Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and Fridays 12 noon—2:00pm. It will end with a concert. The proceeds of the concert, after expenses, will be donated to a local charity.

*For further information about the location and fees,
please email lojarvis@gmail.com
or call Louise 519-371-8227.*

Visitors are welcome to observe the current session.

The View* from* Woodford: YOUR CELESTIAL FORECAST FOR 2011

..... by Christina Richa Devi

All around me, I see the entire planet earth in transition, with the past left behind and not yet fully integrated into the future. We step into 2011 in that state of transition, excited, bewildered, overwhelmed, longing to be completely renewed.

From a planetary standpoint, I would say that, in 2011 we are called for strong innovation, transformation of old values and habits, and envision the most impossible to become possible. It will be a fast, chaotic and dynamic year, summoning us from the core. At quite a tempo, I might add.

This accelerated motion seems to capture the character of the times ahead. The pace will speed up, particularly during the first half of the year. A new phase of your life is now actively in the making!

What do you want to create? Sun and Mars will stand strong for your beliefs for the next six months. By mid May, this will be a new world in many ways, as the ongoing challenges with the world climate, the environmental hazards, the increasing inflation, the fragility of the internet and our own precarious health, will ask for lots of letting go and aim for something that none of us have seen or done before. We are pioneers now.

The need for autonomy and breaking away from any form of external control will be tremendous — almost unstoppable. This powerfully expressive and uncompromising energy awakens the primal self in people: the warrior, the creator, and the dissident. At its best, it is a call for freedom — a myriad of seeds will be planted to eventually remodel all forms and structures of our lives.

In simple terms, I strongly encourage you to utilize the energy of the first months of 2011, particularly until the end of June. Step out of your comfort zone and advance your life. Despite economic strain and collective insecurities, it is a time to break free from unfulfilling life conditions. This will be a time to dismantle the shackles of the past.

Do risk and be prepared for an acceleration of all activated processes. This time is unique: truly, a portal to a new dimension of yourself. You will be inspired to follow your truth in all autonomy and without compromise. Onward and upward — we are all in this dance together. May we awaken to the realization that only conscious community will ensure our survival.

*Christina Richa Devi is a local professional astro numerology consultant with twenty-two years examined and integrated experience in the cosmology of planetary yoga.
email: ompalace@fastmail.fm or www.ompalace.ca*

IODE Canada

by Doreen Fawcett

IODE Canada is a national organization dedicated to one woman's vision to improve the lives of others.

More than 50 years ago, my best friend contracted a deadly disease; it was tuberculosis. Moreover, her baby girl, at risk for developing the disease was consigned to more than a year in isolation at the Preventorium in Toronto.

The Preventorium, now demolished, was established in 1912 by IODE, originally known as Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire, for children in danger of becoming infected with TB. My friend missed months of her baby's early development, and saw her five-year-old son only through her hospital window during her nine month long treatment. We were living with the family at the time, which meant regular TB tests, and wondering if any of us would test positive. We were fortunate none of us contracted this deadly disease.

When our families were reunited, I promised myself that one day I would join IODE. It wasn't until I moved to Owen Sound that the opportunity came, and I was invited to join the Capt. Wm. F. Owen IODE in the 1980's. This patriotic organisation has quietly accomplished their good works without much fanfare, since founded in 1900 by Margaret Poulson Murray. Born in Paisley, Scotland, she married a Scottish professor, and came to Canada when he was eventually posted at McGill University in Montreal. In England at the outbreak of the Boer War (1890), she met many women wanting to help, but hamstrung without channels to contribute.

Upon her return to Canada, she formed an organisation based on patriotism, loyalty and service. IODE today has more than 4000 members in chapters in all provinces and territories of Canada. Although several chapters in Grey County have disbanded, White Cloud Chapter in Wiarton, Bruce County, is still active.

In 1905, several young Owen Sound women established Earl Grey Chapter, meeting monthly in Owen Sound homes. Grey Roots Museum holds early minute books detailing the chapter's activities and listing members' names. Details of their history can be accessed from Grey Roots web site.

Daughters of Earl Grey members, some of whom were students at Owen Sound Collegiate Institute (OSCVI), were among charter members of Capt. Wm. F. Owen IODE in 1936. Records show that in 1995 there were 44 members, including two charter members who had served continuously for almost 60 years. After 65 years of service, Capt. Wm. F. Owen IODE chapter disbanded on June 3, 2002. A subsequent chapter, Annie Jaffray Eaton, formed in 1987 also disbanded on May 2, 2001.

Artefacts from Owen Sound IODE chapters will be on display Grey Roots Museum and Archives in March with an event

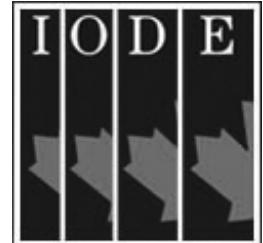
planned during Archives Awareness Week. March 7, 2011.

And the Preventorium? A former Preventorium nurse contacted me a few years ago to share photos of nurses, as well as little ones being cared for in the 1940's. The fascinating history of this medical facility is documented by Toronto City Archives and can be accessed on line.

Related web links:
National IODE web site:
<http://www.iode.ca/default.aspx>

Provincial IODE web site:
<http://www.iodeontario.ca>

Archives of Toronto
has background of Preventorium at:
<http://tinyurl.com/4l3dtkm>



IODE Life Member Wanda Bart with artefacts she recently donated to Grey Roots Archives. Wanda joined Earl Grey IODE in 1968, served as Regent twice and was Provincial Councillor for Grey Bruce counties from 1976 to 1980. Now living in Stratford, Wanda is a member of the Perth Regiment IODE.

Self, community and ethics fused with aesthetics

Stephen Hogbin

Adapted from a talk given at a conference at MIT in 2010

Context and circumstance are great drivers of creating and making.
Like it or not, it is essential to work with the hand (physically) and the mind (intellectually) wherever we live and whatever our circumstances. The hand and mind hardly exist without context.

When starting to investigate the subject of mind and hand I established ten ethical considerations that should fuse with aesthetics:

1. Select materials from your region to reduce transportation costs.
2. Construct the object to last four generations.
3. Use the right amount of material for structural soundness.
4. Throw nothing away (if possible). Reduce, reuse, refinish, recycle.
5. Use no toxic finishes.
6. Reject boring work, except sanding. (Doing anything well is not boring.)
7. Develop your own inner life as well as your community life.
8. Charge reasonable amounts for yourself and the client.
9. Design for a context rather than a museum.
10. Consume less, fix it up, pass it on.

Before making things, it is important to consider who we are, what we want to be and the context in which the work will be made. Self without context or community creates a vacuum; ultimately there is no enrichment. Just like plants that need fertilizer, we also need appropriate amounts of manure to keep us healthy! To be relevant in one's community it is essential to pay attention to one's thoughts, feelings and actions as well as the context being worked. Making is fusing: minds with hands, self with community, technology with humanity, and present with future.

Concept enriches form. What's the big idea behind the work? Is it material/technical, social, religious or political and how will it influence the form of the object and instruct the maker?

Ethics and aesthetics are always present in making. While putting this presentation together, I tried two approaches to making chairs: the first was driven by ethics and the second was driven by aesthetics. I had a pile of offcuts with all sorts of dimensions and different woods from

other projects with which to work. I was trying to be ethical and use up waste material; that much the two chairs had in common. The first chair I worked with lots of short pieces which suggested a linear structure that might be bolted together. My garden chairs were getting close to the end of their life and had become difficult to mend. I resolved to solve this problem as well. The design emerged from thinking about effective structures using linear elements. The joinery or fixing method developed from the possibility of replacing parts when they broke or wore out. At each stage in the design process, I considered the most ethical way forward.

The second chair was about making a dramatic formal statement about chair-ness. The long strips enabled the big curving gesture and there were just enough to make a basket form. The seat was laminated from larger short lengths of wood. I got lucky with the grain pattern that flowed together so easily. The means of construction is similar to the first chair, so replacement parts are also possible. The chair doesn't work in my home because it's too big but there may be a client out there who would take it as a treasured aesthetic object. By the way, the first chair took three days to make and the second was slower at close to a week. The aesthetics of economy through materials, means and time can also influence the finished aesthetic of the chairs.

The matrix of inclusion and fusion became evident while making the chairs. What are the main elements to consider when designing today within an environmental ethical framework? This is one community of people with whom I strongly identify. How does the ethical imagination get hold of the problem?

Origins of material: How were the materials harvested? How far have they traveled?

Con-struct-ural integrity: Is the construction and structure sound and able to carry the load?

Designing in time: Will the object live for generations? Is it capable of being recycled or repaired?

Reflective and contextual practice: think through all aspects of design and a good fit for context.



Bell Chair - aesthetics first
Ash 47 x 36 x 27" - 2010



Inventory Chair - ethics first
Various woods 34 x 24 x 24" - 2010

IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL PUBLISHERS AND THE CHILDREN'S BOOKS THEY PROVIDE

by Nadia Danyluk

(excerpt from comments made at the launch of *Est: The Story of a Bear, Twice-told* by Brian Barrie and illustrated by Bonita Johnson deMatteis on January 27 at The Roxy)

In my role as a librarian at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library, I pretty much spend all day, every day, surrounded by books and working to get books into the hands of children, teens and parents in our community.

I am really looking forward to putting *Est: The Story of a Bear, Twice-told* up on display and seeing the book go home to be shared with many different families. Congratulations and thank you to Brian Barrie and Bonita Johnson de Matteis for giving us another gem of a picture book to add to an already incredible wealth of locally published materials.

As a librarian, people often talk to me about the end of print books. I think that's because some people view librarianship as a somewhat archaic profession, not unlike blacksmiths (apologies to the blacksmiths in the room). I disagree with that particular view of my profession: many librarians are at the forefront of the digital revolution, and libraries themselves are constantly evolving in what they offer their communities. I also disagree with that particularly apocalyptic view of print literature.

Studies show that traditional books remain an important aspect of not only our academic development, but also our development as citizens. Those who read books are more likely to vote, volunteer, and participate in cultural activities like visiting a museum or theatre.

A healthy tradition of local publishing, like we have with the Ginger Press, speaks to a few things. For one, it tells me that we are in a community that places a strong value on books. It also means we can rest assured that, in a world that sometimes seems like it's moving towards homogeneity, the histories and stories that are unique to our time and place are being preserved for future generations.

There is something magical for a child, or anyone really, in being able to place themselves in a book. In past books by Brian and Bonita, we have been able to recognize streets, houses and sometimes even people. Who doesn't get a bit of a thrill of insider's knowledge when you are intimately familiar with part of the world inside a book? In *Est*, we may not be able to see our houses and streets, but I think we can still see ourselves in concerned parents, adventurous children, and dare I say, even grumpy old bears? But this is a local story in another sense: it is a modern day folk tale, a bedtime story told to a child in this place that came from the imagination and experiences of a member of our own community.

A picture book. A book for children. There are those who think this is a simple thing. But it isn't. I read a rather sad little article in the *New York Times* a few months ago entitled "Picture Books No Longer a Staple for Children." It described how the sales of picture books have been falling and that book sellers and librarians have been noticing a trend with parents to be pushing chapter books on children as young as four. All this stemming from a, frankly erroneous, view that picture books are not as worthy or are more immature than chapter books. Thankfully I can't say that I've found this to be the case at our library:

families still take home picture books by the armload.

The language and stories contained inside a picture book are, in fact, often more mature and advanced than those in many chapter books. We see this evidenced in *Est*, in the way that Brian explores the issue of truth in a way that only a lawyer can. Picture books are meant to be shared, which means there is a bigger person available during the reading to explain concepts or words that may be challenging to young readers. Early chapter books, meant to be read alone, have neither advanced language nor mature concepts.

Picture books hold a very special place in the republic of childhood. They allow for the closeness that comes in the quiet time between a child and adult or older sibling as they share a story. Imagine all of the learning that is happening when a parent patiently shares a picture book with a child and lingers over the picture and explains words and concepts. Imagine where else that conversation might go.

I would argue that picture books also provide children with their very first lesson in art appreciation. How many adults do we know who breeze through an art gallery, stopping only to take a cursory look at the paintings on the wall? Can they take in all that a painting has to offer in about 30 seconds? Picture books provide children with a wealth of images, and they will linger over those images intently. Not only do we need to be aware of the artwork to get the whole story in a picture book, sometimes there are little clues or surprises hidden away as a treat to those who are really paying attention. For all of their wonderful qualities, a chapter book, with its pages of black and white text, cannot hope to achieve that level of connection with our youngest listeners and readers.

So thank you to the authors and illustrators who continue to create books for us to enjoy, and thank you to the publishers who ensure that those writers and illustrators are able to connect with us, and thank you to those of us who keep reading the books that they so generously share with us.

Nadia Danyluk is Children's Librarian at the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library



NEW BOOK:

Est: The Story of a Bear, Twice-told

Owen Sound lawyer Brian Barrie and illustrator Bonita Johnson deMatteis have collaborated to produce a full-colour children's book titled *Est: The Story of a Bear, Twice-told*. Based on the ongoing bedtime stories Barrie told his children for many years, this latest book explores the meaning of truth and explains the possible invention of skis. "Sometimes," says Barrie, alluding to his court-room experience, "the opposite of truth is truth. With this book I wanted children to consider that there can be more than one version of what's going on. And I also wanted them to witness the challenges and joys of winter." *Est: The Story of a Bear, Twice-told* includes a brave young heroine and hero, as well as a fierce bear, and a caring community. Set in a remote mountain village, it tells the story of what can happen when two children disobey their parents' warnings and set off on an adventure.

Written for young children, *Est* has remarkable illustrations by Owen Sound artist Bonita Johnson de Matteis. Her previous children's books include *Threads: Piecing Together the Underground Railroad* and *Twas the Night Before Christmas* (set in Owen Sound). "I found it very moving to work on the pictures for this book," she says. "The concept of a story holding two truths is something I think children need to learn. Also, the importance of being confident and resourceful are essential parts of this book."

Publisher Maryann Thomas of The Ginger Press says, "This wonderful new book is an entertaining contribution to



children's storybooks. It gently introduces young listeners to new concepts as two brave children face danger and save themselves with their own ingenuity. This author and illustrator team have really hit their stride with *Est*, their third book together."

Est: The Story of a Bear, Twice-told was launched at The Roxy in Owen Sound on Thursday January 27. In addition to short talks by the author and illustrator, and Nadia Danyluk, the Owen Sound Library's children's librarian, there was an exhibition of original artwork from the book as well as a display of handmade bears by Phyllis Brittain. Autographed hardcover (\$50) and softcover (\$24.95) copies of *Est: The Story of a Bear, Twice-told* are available at independent bookstores throughout Grey and Bruce.

CALL FOR WRITERS

Last October, the Grey Bruce Peace and Justice Coalition ran a well-attended panel presentation entitled "Growing Up Gay* in Bruce and Grey." Seven people — including youth, teachers, parents, and agency representatives — told personal stories on the topic. Members of the audience contributed their own stories as well. Questions were asked: "Why is it still so difficult in this era of human rights legislation? What can be done to get these stories out to the public at large? Where do we go from here? What can we do to change things here at home?"

The impact on those present was powerful: some were moved to tears when they heard how difficult it can be for our young people who come to the realization that they are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgender and begin the process of coming out to themselves, to

their families, to their friends and colleagues and teachers.

Maryann Thomas, owner of The Ginger Press, has offered to publish these stories in order to increase understanding of the challenges faced by those who grew up gay* in this area, and/or are still faced by gay* youth today. Your story can be a part of this book: it can be a few paragraphs or several pages in length. It can be prose or poetry. It can focus on a particular event in your life, or it can be about a period of time. It can be from your past or present. Age is no limit, nor must you still live in Grey-Bruce. Your story can be included anonymously, or you can have your name attached. The important thing is to be heard. Stories for *Growing Up Gay in Bruce and Grey* can be submitted by email to book project coordinator Joan Beecroft at bookprojectgreybruce@gmail.com

by March 15. Submissions can also be sent to or dropped off at The Ginger Press, 848 2nd Avenue East, Owen Sound, N4K 2H3.

*gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, queer, questioning, intersex



ZONTA presents: A CELEBRATION of WOMEN in the ARTS

100th Anniversary of International Women's Day!

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Wednesday, March 09, 2011, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Bay Room, Bayshore Community Centre, Owen Sound
Tickets \$12.00 in advance or \$15.00 at the door
For more information: call 371-3200

Tickets available from:

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- The Ginger Press, 848 2nd Ave. E. Owen Sound
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Join other women in our community to support local women in need.
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