

MOSAIC GREY BRUCE
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & COMMUNITY

the owen sounder

vol 5 no 4 winter 2023

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magazines in one
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- Rocklands Market!
- 38th Annual Authors Open House!
- Winterfest!
- Christkindl & Messiah in the Barn!
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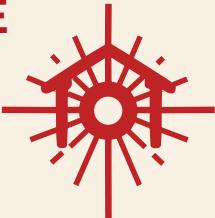
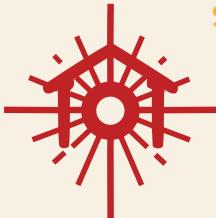
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the owen sounder
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vol 5 no 4 winter 2023

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Established in 1994 and revived in 2020, The Owen Sounder is an independent community magazine which is written, designed, published and distributed right here in Owen Sound. Established in 1993, MOSAIC continues to encourage and support all the local arts and entertainment. Current and back issues also available at www.greybrucemosaic.com and www.theowensounder.ca

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about the front cover:

A sure sign of winter for Owen Sounders is the *Chi Cheemaun* coming home to her berth in the Owen Sound Harbour. This painting by Raquell Yang is included in her new book: *Old Owen Sound: Fresh Perspectives*, a collection of 24 of her watercolour paintings of older buildings, accompanied by their brief histories written by Richard Thomas.

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FROM MY DESK

Anyone who has ever put together a publication knows what happens: you get to the final production stages and realize you haven't told the readers what's inside; you haven't welcomed them to the page; and you certainly don't have enough room left to be as appreciative as you would like to be. Sigh. In brief, thank you as always for your encouragement and support!

We're celebrating the 38th Annual Authors' Open House here at The Ginger Press on Saturday December 9 from 11:00 to 2:00! As of right now, the following authors will be joining us: Joan Beecroft (*20/20 Hindsight*); Mike Davis and Gloria Hildebrandt (*Views and Vistas of the Niagara Escarpment*); Lili Anne Holding (*Mythos and Oykos*); Lynne Porter (*Lake Charles: The Way It Was*); Marilyn Rivers (*Tears Become Rain*); Rob Rolfe (*Don't Look Back: Poems, Prose, and Songs*); Ron Savage (*Exploring Sydenham: 50 Loop Hikes*); Richard-Yves Sitoski (*Butterfly Tongue and Other Plays*); Richard Thomas (*Late Arrival; Early Departure: A Brief History of Owen Sound's Railway*); Raquell Yang (*Old Owen Sound: Fresh Perspectives*); and Eric Zweig (*Engraved in History*). Of course, there will be more. There's always more! Meet the authors, enjoy festive snacks, and celebrate the season with us on December 9. Don't be a stranger!

- Maryann

NEW BOOK

Exploring Sydenham by Ron Savage

Ron Savage wants you to, "slow down; release all of your thoughts and worries, and concentrate on your surroundings. Open your senses and take in the forest's sights, sounds, and fragrances." To help you, he has just published his fourth book, which documents 50 local hiking trails. *Exploring Sydenham* (\$30) is an up-to-date collection of maps, directions, and clues about where to go and what you'll see along the way. The trail length, time it should take to hike, level of difficulty, access, and parking info is provided for each of the 50 loops.

A CALL FOR WRITERS: AGING IN PLACE

JOAN BEECROFT •

Have you ever thought about where you'll spend your last years? Are you planning ahead or already in that place? We frequently hear about the concept of 'aging in place' which, according to the ads on TV, means staying in your own home with all the help and structural modifications you'll need. Some of us are able-bodied and sharp as tacks mentally, and would perhaps like to stay at home. Some of us are losing that edge one way or the other, and realize we will not be able to live where we are forever. We'll need some kind of care. Some of us are younger and live with a degenerative disease that we know will take its toll, and we will need care whether we want it or not. Some of us are unhoused for various reasons and would rather be in a place – any place – before much longer.

We can think about retirement homes and long-term care homes too. That can be confusing: do we want to live in one? We hear about certain ones that let a resident move from level to level, from totally independent living to complete physical care in a locked ward. And we still have questions. Would it be better to be in a publicly owned one that's run by the County? Or a private one which is making a profit for its owners? And what's the difference in the levels of care? What's the difference in staffing levels, meals, facilities, and recreation?

Co-housing is another option. Glassworks is one

such cooperative and Owen Sound has the Ainslie Wood Housing Co-op, too. Condo living is yet another possibility: one-floor living has its appeal for many. We'd like to hear your thoughts on aging in place. What will it look like for you? What are your concerns? What sort of assistance would you need to stay in your own home? What are your thoughts about a retirement home or long-term care? I also should mention the elephant in the room: MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying). Perhaps that's part of your plan?

I am collecting essays for a book tentatively called *Aging in Place: Is it for Everyone?* It doesn't matter where you live now (as long as it's in Grey Bruce). You might be in your own home, or renting anything from a room to an apartment. Maybe you're already living in a retirement or long-term care home, or maybe you're couch-surfing or otherwise unhoused? We'd love to hear from you. Entries from 2 to 5 pages (that's about 1000-5000 words) and longer pieces will be considered. Writers whose piece is selected for publication will receive a copy of the book. If you would rather tell your story than write it, we have people who would do the writing for you. You can use your own name or one of your choosing. Entries can be submitted to bookprojectgreybruce@gmail.com Deadline is December 15, with a plan to publish in the spring of 2024.

NEW BOOK

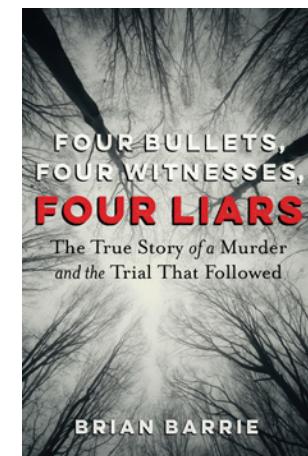
FOUR BULLETS, FOUR WITNESSES, FOUR LIARS
BY BRIAN BARRIE

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Retired criminal court lawyer Brian Barrie has written *Four Bullets, Four Witnesses and Four Liars*, a book based on the true story of a murder and the trial that followed in Owen Sound. In his Foreword to the book, criminal lawyer Brian Greenspan writes: "It has been said that fiction isn't memoir and memoir isn't fiction. Brian Barrie's first novel calls that maxim into question by skilfully and creatively constructing a fictionalized account of the truth and then challenging that truth in a

courtroom drama. Whether described as a gripping murder mystery or as an absorbing exposé of our justice system, this is a wonderful read... The stark reality of the fictionalized account of the interrelationships that led to the death of Jimmy Strutton and to the mystery of the identity of the perpetrator crosses the bridge between fiction and the real world."

Jimmy Strutton was murdered in Sarawak Township on April 26, 1988. Brian Barrie became the lawyer for the



accused, Mae McEachern. *Four Bullets, Four Witnesses, Four Liars* chronicles the back story, the trial, and the epilogue. Brian Barrie will be at The Ginger Press to sign copies at 7:00pm, Thursday November 30.

BEAVER VALLEY DESTINATION STEWARDS

BOB HANN, STACIE HOWE, CATHY LITTLE, PETER MITCHELL, HEATHER REID

Fellow destination stewards, If ever fall tourism was a thing, we have it. The Beaver Valley is one of the most well-loved places in Ontario for spectacular autumn scenery. Trail heads overflow with cars, multiple art tours feature local talent, restaurants ramp up their seasonal offerings and make the most of chilly patio evenings. Cottages fill with families celebrating abundance and blessings. It's a very busy time in the Valley.

All of this is good for local businesses, with one caveat: The driving forces of tourism must sustain and enhance what makes us unique, and not propel us towards more generic offerings. If we lose the uniqueness of our identity, we'll eventually lose the "goose that lays the golden egg", so to speak.

How do we achieve this? By using our uniqueness – our Brand – to create destination appeal. And who do we appeal to? The best tourists are the ones who value our natural and cultural assets as much as we do. They come from many cultures, they are many ages, they have various

walks of life, and a range of spending money. But what they are all coming for is an authentic experience that has an impact on how they see the world – an experience that leaves them feeling more connected to nature, more inspired by local crafts and arts, more intrigued by the flavours of fresh and original cuisine, and more generous in life because of the kindness of the people they cross paths with in the Valley.

As a community, we can collectively choose how we manage our destination. The draft Principles put forward by Beaver Valley Destination Stewardship can provide a framework for making decisions not only about how we present ourselves to tourists, but most importantly how we retain our uniqueness. They are adapted for the Valley from the *Future of Tourism Coalition Principles* (<https://www.futureoftourism.org/guiding-principles>). Please take some time to provide feedback, and let us know if you'd like to discuss them personally with us at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BVDS_Princ_Endorse.



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FOUR VERY GOOD YEARS: THE POET LAUREATESHIP IN RETROSPECT

RICHARD-YVES SITOSKI •

On October 1, 2019, I became the 8th person to hold the title of Owen Sound Poet Laureate. Around the time I was invested, I stated, somewhat sententiously, “poetry is the ultimate use of language. In fact, it’s what leaps over the cliff at the very end of language.” As laureate, it was my job to invite folks to join me in leaping off that cliff. I’m glad to say that many people took me up on that offer. But I also had to reckon with some who declined. This is not a complaint; BASE jumping with a parachute made simply of words is not everyone’s idea of a good time. So as laureate I had to be a little plucky and simply do some cold calling.

Fortunately, I did not need to do much of that, as there were always individuals and organizations willing to hire me to write or perform an occasional piece. To them I am extremely thankful. The real problem I faced had to do with the fact that I arrived along with the pandemic. Doors were shut (sometimes permanently) and we all reverted to becoming pupas, wondering if we would ever sprout wings again and burst our cocoons. Because it was nigh impossible to fulfill my job description to bring the local community to poetry, I decided to find a way to bring the poetry to the community, and while I was at it, the whole world.

So I founded a Zoom reading series that regularly drew participants from all over Canada, the United States, and the UK, and which featured major Canadian poets as guest artists. I took advantage of the enforced down time to establish a serious writing practice that resulted in nearly a hundred poems published in major Canadian journals. I published two full collections of verse and a chapbook. I won two national awards and was short- or long-listed for several more.

Throughout, I also managed to stay true to my mandate, which was to sound the alarm over what we have been doing to our environment. Thus, I published *No Sleep 'til Eden* with the Ginger Press, a book of environmentally themed poems that features the outstanding augmented reality technology of Wil McReynolds's KP9. I also wrote a chapbook of poems on vermiculture in which earthworms were my co-authors (it's available at the library if you want to know how that works!). I also created a series of site-specific landscape art interventions.

Amazingly enough, I also managed to make up for lost time as pandemic restrictions loosened. Since the beginning of my term, I have made over 150 public appearances, most of which were in the past two years. I am grateful to the OSNGUPL for doubling my term to allow me to do these. The ones I am most proud of are the poetry workshops I conducted

for St.-Dominic Savio school, the CMHA, and Grey Bruce Pride.

Then the invasion of Ukraine drew our attention elsewhere, and I found myself with legendary Canadian poet Penn Kemp co-editing *Poems in Response to Peril*, an anthology which unites 48 of Canada's most prominent poets in speaking out against the war. It was a fundraiser for the Canada-Ukraine Foundation's efforts to assist displaced Ukrainian cultural workers and it raised \$3000.

Much as the library seemed satisfied with what I was doing, all good things have to come to an end and so I prepared myself for the end of my term this fall. Wanting to go out with a bang and to thank the community, the library, my sponsors, and the Poet Laureate Committee for my opportunity to serve, I created and performed *Butterfly Tongue*, a one-hour musical stage play that featured a singer-guitarist and 11-person choir. Its positive reception at two sold-out performances at Grey Roots in June gave me momentum to bring the show on the road to the Kingston and London fringe festivals.

I'd like to say that as my term winds down and I prepare to hand the laurels to my successor, I'm decelerating, but that is not the case. As artistic director of the Words Aloud poetry festival, with my dream team of fellow committee members I celebrated poets for the first iteration of Words Aloud since 2019. By the time you read this the festival will have happened and I will probably be in the tub with a well-earned glass of Pinot Noir (worst case scenario: peering at passersby through the blinds, wearing a foil hat).

It's been quite a ride. The laureateship essentially made me the artist I am today and I owe so much to the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library (especially to Tim Nicholls Harrison), to the private sponsors who support the program, and to the committee that selected me. I can't wait to see what my successors will dream up to get poetry out there and to keep it prominent on Owen Sound's artistic scene. Let's hope the community will offer the next laureate the same opportunities to impact lives as I enjoyed.

My final words to you as laureate: leap over the edge of language with them. Attend their events. Read their poems. Buy their books. Support them in every way you can. Make Owen Sound a poetry town. After all, every community is full of poems, we just don't always notice them. Owen Sound is one of the fortunate few cities blessed with a laureate to pick those poems up off the sidewalk, brush the dirt off them, and hold them up to the sun. It's worth celebrating.



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An advertisement for Richard Thomas Communications. It features a green background with white text and several small black-and-white photographs. The main text reads "It's not too early to think about Christmas! This year, give the gift of memories!" Below this, there are two photos of people from the past, a photo of a VHS tape labeled "PIA CANDY", and a photo of a CD and a cassette tape. A section titled "It's time to digitize your old media" lists various formats: VHS, VHS-C, 8mm & Super 8mm film, 3/4" tape, Betamax, BetaSP, miniDV, 8mm tape, DVD, audio cassettes, reel to reel, 8-track tapes, records, mini tapes transferred *with care* to USB, CD, or DVD. At the bottom, contact information is provided: "Richard Thomas Communications 519-270-6513" and "www.richardthomascommunications.com".

An advertisement for Stone Tree Golf-Fitness-Banquets. It features a large image of a person's legs walking on a treadmill. To the left is the Stone Tree logo, which is a green tree inside an oval frame. The text "Stone Tree" is written in a large, stylized font, with "Golf-Fitness-Banquets" in a smaller font below it. Below the image, the text reads "Your full service fitness centre! KEEP YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION! JOIN STONE TREE'S FITNESS CENTRE TODAY!". A green box at the bottom contains the text: "All memberships include club orientation, machine demonstration, general workout technique guidance, towel service, group exercise classes, and sauna. In person and online personal training and nutrition programs are available." and "ENJOY A FREE ONE-WEEK TRIAL MEMBERSHIP. Offer valid until March 31, 2024." Contact information is also provided: "Get in touch today: info@stonetree.ca or (519) 376-7899 x2. 318085 Hwy 6 & 10, Owen Sound" and "www.stonetree.ca".

An advertisement for the Live Music Festival. It features a graphic of a piano and a violin on a colorful geometric background with the year "2024" in the center. The text "Live Music Festival!" is in large blue letters, followed by "April 15-26, 2024". Below this, it says "Entry Deadline: February 16, 2024 (TBA titles due March 8)". A green box contains the text "REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 2023" and "Visit our website to view the class list & rules". Another green box lists "Classes available in: Piano, Speech Arts, Brass, Woodwinds, Bands, Strings, Orchestras, Musical Theatre, Classical & Popular Voice". Below this is a musical note icon and the text "The Grey County Kiwanis Festival of Music" and "kiwanismusicfestival.net/". At the bottom, it says "Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound" and features the Kiwanis logo.

AT THE ROXY

MARCIACUNNINGHAM AND EMMA MCCONACHIE-ANDERSON • • • • • • • • • • •

OSLT's first production of the season, **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**, is masterfully brought to life by cast and crew with performances November 9 to 12, and 15-19. But hold onto your hats, as there are two more OSLT productions to look forward to this season: Get tickets now for **The Ladies Foursome**, a heartwarming Norm Foster play, under the masterful direction of Bill Murphy. This fast-paced golfing tale unfolds from February 8 to 11 (Sunday matinee!) and February 14 to 17, 2024, promising a juicy cocktail of secrets, confessions, and hilarity. OSLT's final 23-24 production is the hilarious musical **Something Rotten!**, directed by Kathleen Cassidy and hitting the stage April 11-14 (Sunday matinee!), 18-20, and 24-27, 2024. Set in the boisterous 1590s, this musical adventure follows the Bottom brothers, Nick and Nigel, as they try to outshine none other than the "The Bard." Auditions for this riotous spectacle will be held at The Roxy on November 25 and 26, 2023; please visit the website for details.

The Slocan Ramblers take the stage December 1 with their bold and dynamic bluegrass band. On December 3, join **Choir! Choir! Choir!**, the Toronto-based singing duo, as they teach the audience an original arrangement to a song you love. **Maggie's Wake: Spirit of the Season** is a Canadian roots band that combines traditional Celtic instrumentation with a contemporary approach, coming to The Roxy December 9. Back by popular demand are the **Mudmen in Concert** on January 19. Experience **Acrobat - The U2 Tribute** on February 23. Returning to the stage is **Shipyard Kitchen Party's Tom Thomson's Wake**, an original folk musical augmented with the high definition images of the artwork of Owen Sound's own Tom Thomson on May 3. **Classic Albums Live Performs: Led Zeppelin - Led Zeppelin II** closes out the Roxy Presents series on May 4.

Roxy Young Company is offering classes, camps, and a blockbuster full-scale production. Join us on December 20 (JR Class) and 21 (SR Class) for the RYC Act 1 performances of **The Rainbow Fish!**; Act 2 classes set sail from January to April, promising a thrilling voyage of team building and performance arts mastery, backstage wizardry, and tech marvels that support the RYC Spring Production. And, we are once again offering a March Break camp at The Roxy. Register your youngster now for these programs, as spots are limited!

RYC's Spring Production is **The Addams Family Young@Part**. Witness Wednesday Addams, the princess of darkness, as she navigates the treacherous waters of love



and secrets. She confides in her father, and now Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before – keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. This is a show not to be missed, running on June 8 and from June 14 to 15, 2024.

The Roxy's newest program, Roxy Star Company (RSC), creates opportunities for adults living with complex needs – including intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities – to participate in theatre. RSC is running monthly workshops, and registration is still available for the final three: Choreography on December 4, Makeup on January 8, and Singing on February 5. In addition, RSC's weekly program will be running again from March to June, 2024, with a heartwarming finale hitting the Roxy stage on June 27. Thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for making this program possible.

For the full Roxy calendar and to purchase tickets, head to www.roxytheatre.ca or call (519) 371-2833. Become a part of The Roxy magic through our membership and donation opportunities, and we also have countless volunteer opportunities! Businesses or individuals interested in sponsorship or advertising are encouraged to contact our Executive Director Marcia Cunningham at marciac@roxytheatre.ca. We look forward to seeing you soon!



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BOOK REVIEW

DON'T LOOK BACK BY ROB ROLFE

REVIEWED BY TERRY BURNS



Rob Rolfe's latest collection of poetry sets the scene right from the title *Don't Look Back* (published by The Ginger Press, 2023), since the work within is, well, all about looking back. This central contrast firmly establishes the atmosphere of contrariness, of opposites existing at the same time, that permeates the poetry, prose, and lyrics that make up the collection.

From the first poem, "Freighter," which juxtaposes the openness of dawn and empty fields with the vertical solid wall of a lake freighter, we encounter a world where sweetness and foulness, predation and generosity, heartbreak and connection, are two sides of every time-worn coin. This sense of opposites carries over into Rolfe's ability to slip from everyday phrasing into sun-splashed turns of phrase, as in "Safe Passage I", where "... a shy deer/waded/upstream/on a bed/of restless/pebbles,"

or in Kagawong, when "... a lone raven/hides out/in the woods/its kra kra/a rift/in/the silence." These delicate touches also serve to relieve the weight of his unflinching depictions of death and putrefaction, something he has in common with the late Patrick Lane, who was also unafraid of depicting life's at times brutal nature.

Don't Look Back is divided into five sections, which roughly correspond to short prose pieces, song lyrics, and Rolfe's signature haiku-like short poems. The subjects range from sensory nature walks; to reflections on the ghosts of past labour leaders, revolutionaries, and soccer icons; to recollected moments, such as clearings in a dim woodland, of childhood and young adulthood spent in London and Montreal; to lyrics to which the reader can hear the far-off cadences of roots and blues music with their themes



of broken-heartedness, loss, patient suffering, and surrender.

The final section, "Six Songs," leaves the reader with the feeling that while we label certain lives and ways of living as 'marginal,' we are all in fact living on the margins; in that we all feel the sense that we are different from everyone else, that something keeps us apart and on the outside even as we strive for connection.

That this feeling can be, if only briefly, bridged by a well-expressed poem or song or piece of artwork, is one of the testaments of the value of art. Rob Rolfe, in his depictions of that experience of marginality, speaks a language we can all understand.

HISTORIC LEITH CHURCH

DONNA PHILLIPS

Join us in the lamp-lit beauty of Leith's "Auld Kirk" for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in word and song at 7:30pm on December 17. The lessons will be read by members of the North-Grey community and there will be congregational carol singing of many old favourites. This is a very popular event and, as seating is limited to 150, we suggest an early arrival to ensure a place. No tickets required. Located at 419498 Tom Thomson Lane in Leith.



FINDING THE SWEET SPOT BETWEEN DOING AND BEING

NEIL BALDWIN

Ever hear someone say they needed a vacation from their vacation? Maybe you've even exclaimed this yourself. Sometimes it's because logistics ended up a mess but more commonly the time away was over-programmed. Lots of activities and outings to cross off the list. Coming and going. Eating here, drinking there. Rush to scenic sunset spot, pose for selfies, record video clips. Then glance at the horizon to realize the sun has set on you.

Here in Grey-Bruce we have the good fortune of an abundance of activities to do, and opportunities to just be. Each of us will have our own balance between doing and being, but my invitation is to step back, consider whether your tendency is strongly one or the other, and explore the experience of moving away from that.

If you're a Type-A kind of person, for instance, try consciously making an effort to just "be" when you next find yourself at whatever constitutes a place of beauty. Focus on what is coming in through your senses; dampen thoughts about what is to be done or coming next. Seriously, grant yourself permission to not do or accomplish anything for a while.

If you happened to read my article on meandering around in a tiny Teardrop Trailer (*Owen Sounder*, Summer

2023) you might guess, correctly, I'm not a Type-A and I'm content without a lot of planned activity or objectives. If anything, I tend toward plentiful gazing and pondering but, hey, in retirement (or as my daughter calls it "repurposing") after three decades as a Counsellor, I'm enjoying these precious moments.

When the trailer is parked back at home, I operate a little venture called SoulTrail which offers personal development experiences in harmony with nature – forest therapy, sound baths, breath work, yoga, and more. It all happens within the context of a Personal Day Retreat, which is largely unscripted except for your choice of experience for part of it. My aim is to provide a perfect, and private, "container" to genuinely take a day off. No other participants to interact with, just a bright airy yurt in the middle of 50 peaceful acres of woodlands and trails. Contact me for more information at soultrain.ca or (519) 794-0129.

Whether you take a vacation, local day trip, or a retreat like mine, if it's a "getaway" then GET AWAY. Away from your regular routine, and surround yourself with new scenery – physically and mentally. Your soul will thank you for the nourishment.

4TH ANNUAL STUDENT MAKERS' MARKET

Are you a student between 14-20? Do you produce a handmade product? The Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) invites you to be a vendor at the 4th Annual Holiday Market from 11:00 to 2:00 on Saturday December 9 at the Sydenham Campus (1130 8th Street East, Owen Sound). We provide the space, tables, square readers, lunch for participants and event promotion. Vendors are responsible for set up and take down, and their own business transactions. Tables are free but registration is required. Contact bec@grey.ca today to reserve your spot today.

MAKE A BIRCH BARK & PORCUPINE QUILL ORNAMENT

GBARTS

On Sunday, November 26, from 10:30 to 3:30, and using materials found and processed by instructor Brittany Jones herself, create a lovely ornament made of porcupine quills and birch bark. You will discuss the harvesting of supplies, plus how to select quills.

Brittany Jones is Anishinaabe from Neyaashiinigmiing First Nation. She is a mother of two, a lover of nature, and a craftsperson. She works with beads, leather, porcupine quills, birch bark, caribou hair, and fabric to create jewellery, moccasins, mittens, medallions, and framed art. She made her first pair of beaded earrings when she was ten years old, under her mother's instruction. It wasn't until she made a pair of beaded vamps for the Walking With Our Sisters project ten years ago that she really developed a passion for beading. After a few years of honing her craft, she began facilitating workshops in her community and surrounding area. Brittany believes that if you have traditional knowledge that was passed on to you, you have an obligation to teach and share that knowledge with others.

Register now for this class (\$125) at gbarts.ca or (519) 371-2200 or 938 2nd Avenue East. Class size is limited.

THE GINGER PRESS PRESENTS

38TH ANNUAL AUTHORS' OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
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GREY COUNTY AND THE GREY ROOTS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES CULTURAL INITIATIVES FUND

LILI ANNE HOLDING •

I am a recipient of the 2023 Cultural Initiatives Fund sponsored by Grey County and the Grey Roots Museum and Archives (GRMA). My project is entitled Alpha to Omega: Owen Sound's Greek Community: Alpha, the beginning of a Greek community established in Owen Sound to Omega, the migration of family descendants to other regions in North America.

This significant ethnic culture contributed to the success of local economics, provided financial stability, supported the development of tourism through cultural and athletic events, and had a municipal and federal political voice, which shaped Owen Sound, Grey County, and Ontario.

I have written two books: *Mythos* (1912-1932), which tells the story of my Georgas grandparents Christos' and Sadie's immigration and establishing their confectionery and theatre businesses while raising their family of ten children in Owen Sound; and *Oykos* (1933-1963) which tells stories of their family through my father Earl's perspective. I am currently in the process of writing my third book which relates to lifetime achievements of my father, uncles and aunts, and their local, provincial and world notoriety through their businesses, sports, and music over the years of 1963-2023.

I have researched and written about other Greek families who lived in Owen Sound over the past century. These families were all connected to Christos and Sadie through

marriages or friendships originating in their homeland villages in Greece.

I engaged videographer Graeme Bachiu, who is a celebrated winner of the 2021/2022 Ontario Historical Society's President's Award for his production *Canfield Roots*. He interviewed Maria Miras Gavaris, Achilles Stavrou, Louis Gavaris, and me, all descendants of the originating Greek families of Owen Sound over the past century.

Through conversations, we told our family stories of immigration to Canada to finally settle in Owen Sound to establish long-time family roots and create a better life for ourselves and our families, and to help homeland community family members.

Graeme, in his creative genius, is weaving the stories and pictures into a narrative video which will be launched in June, 2024, at the GRMA. The video will be made accessible to residents of Owen Sound, Grey County, and other Greek communities in Ontario, Canada and worldwide through YouTube and other social medias.

The Alpha to Omega project – an unreported piece of Ontario history – will be connected to the Hellenic Historical Foundation Greek Canadian Archives at York University. Contact Grey Roots Museum and Archives for information regarding the other successful recipients of the Grey County and the Cultural Initiatives Fund at <https://greyroots.com/community-fund>.

GOING BACKWARDS TO MOVE AHEAD

TRUDY GAHLINGER • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

But why? was the constant and incredulous response when I told people I was moving from Victoria to Owen Sound. It seemed incomprehensible that one could "leave paradise for a small town in the middle of nowhere" as one friend put it. Another friend said: "you're going the wrong way".

It was my oldest sister who suggested Owen Sound when I began to dream of moving. Having lived in cities all my life, I had grown tired of all of it: the constant noise, cars, busyness, lights, expenses. I was looking for a new home with specific criteria in mind: small town, beautiful environment, strong arts community, closer to family, and less costly. Owen Sound had it all.

Arriving here a month ago has been the new start I was

hoping for. Our apartment looks out on a beautiful grove of trees, and I spend many moments watching the flow of patterns as the colours change. I talk to the fishermen catching rainbow trout in the harbour and marvel at their good fortune. The arts community is vibrant and every venture into town brings delightful discoveries: the Artists' Co-op, the Grey Gallery, the Georgian Bay School of the Arts, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, the Ginger Press...

People are kind, helpful and have time for conversation. While large cities have an abundance of services and activities, it can take a long time to find one's way to individual passions and interests. Here, life is simple. The Farmers' Market has only one stall selling eggs, one stall selling apples. How refreshing!

NEW WAYS TO FINANCE THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY GAP

JENN RAE

Communities across southern Georgian Bay and beyond are grappling with the challenge of affordable housing. But affordable housing is not just a local issue – it's a global crisis with profound consequences for individuals, communities, and economies. There are extensive social and economic costs of failing to address this crisis.

The most immediate and heart-wrenching cost of the affordable housing crisis is the impact it has on individuals in need of housing. This can affect individuals and families in a variety of ways – at its most severe, those who are unable to secure stable and affordable housing may experience homelessness and the myriad of risks and challenges that accompany it. Some individuals may find themselves stuck in unsafe or unsuitable housing with no other options available, while others may be limited to living with family members long after previous generations would have flown the nest – not experiencing the typical milestones of young adulthood and feeling despondent about their future.

A lack of affordable housing can lead to longer commutes for those who must travel between their more affordable home and their place of work. Lengthy commutes not only result in lost time but can also lead to decreased workforce productivity and contribute to emissions that drive climate change, another crisis faced by our communities. It can be challenging to recruit and retain employees when there is a lack of affordable housing, which can have a significant effect on a region's economic growth.

The Institute of Southern Georgian Bay will host an in-person event at Meaford Hall on Friday, November 17 from 9:00 to 12:30: New Ways to Finance the Housing Affordability Gap will address the urgent need for, and challenge of, building affordable housing. There is no charge to attend, but pre-registration is required at the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay (<https://tisgb.com>).

Jenn Rae is the Housing Development Coordinator, Town of Collingwood.



Please drop by when you are next downtown. Our exhibitions change regularly. In NOVEMBER John Laughlin is exhibiting a selection of his smaller works, which is followed throughout DECEMBER by a new series of Raquell Yang's watercolours of Owen Sound. Mark your calendar now for the exhibition opening reception and holiday celebration on SUNDAY DEC. 3, 3-5pm



vintage chromolithograph of winter scene by
William Henry Chandler, ca. 1890

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GEORGIAN BAY GARDEN CLUB

LESLIE ANNE DEXTER

The Georgian Bay Garden Club, founded in 1990, began as an initiative by six women, all keen horticulturalists and floral designers. By May, 1993, the Club membership increased dramatically. A Scholarship Committee was formed, and criteria were established for a \$500 bursary, to be awarded to a student from the Owen Sound area pursuing post-secondary studies in horticulture, landscape architecture and/or environmental studies. Bursaries have been awarded annually since 1993. Currently the value of the annual bursary is \$1,000. The Georgian Bay Garden Club raises money for the bursary with a number of fundraisers throughout the year, including garden tours, garage sales, plant sales, and the sale of Christmas urns, which will take place at the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre from 10:00 to 1:00 on November 18. Bursaries are open to students graduating from all secondary schools in the Bluewater District School Board and the Bruce-Grey Catholic

District School Board. The application can be found at <https://georgianbaygardenclubowensound.com> and are accepted until July for the following academic year.

The 2023/2024 recipient is Taylor Legge, who is currently a third year student at the University of Guelph, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a major in Crop Science. Taylor's studies focus on soil science, nutrient management, plant breeding, and agronomy. In addition to her studies, Taylor has volunteered for the Bruce Trail at Cape Chin, and cleaning phragmites off the Port Elgin shoreline. Currently Taylor sits as the president of the University of Guelph Soil and Crop Club, the Vice-President of the University of Guelph Women in Agriculture Club, the Central Student Representative on the Ontario Agricultural College Student Federation, and she is a member of the Bruce County soil and crop improvement association.

CHRISTKINDL MARKET AT GLENCOLTON FARM

The tradition of Christkindl Market dates back to the Middle Ages when city streets and town squares were transformed to street markets during the four weeks of Advent. We've added a twist and brought the Christmas market to the country. Presented by Symphony in the Barn and made possible by Glencolton Farm, the Christkindl Market will take place Friday December 8 from 4:00 to 9:00, and Saturday December 9 from 2:00 to 9:00 pm. Funds raised will benefit Saugeen Academy High School; the event is about giving back to the community and continuing to put the culture back in agriculture.

Located just outside Durham, Glencolton is a fully biodynamic farm, which has hosted Symphony in the Barn with Canada's premier performers and rising stars since

1995. Michael Schmidt, farmer and Artistic Director, has presented full-scale operas, jazz concerts, film festivals, native dance troupes, chambers and full orchestral classical performances.

Christkindl Market will include activities for children and adults such as sing-along Christmas music, horse-drawn wagon rides, candle dipping, Incus Forge Blacksmith demonstrations, chestnut roasting, storytelling, an organ grinder, bannock making, and more. The Artisan Village will include booths from many local craftspeople, and there will be food and hot drinks available. There will also be a special performance of Messiah Amongst the Cows at 8:00pm on Saturday. For more information and tickets for the Christkindl Market as well as Messiah Amongst the Cows, phone (519) 372-6570 or visit christkindlfarm.com.

WINTERFEST

PATTI WATERFIELD

Winterfest, a celebration of local makers and producers, will take place under the canopy at the Owen Sound Farmers' Market from 11:00 to 3:00 on Sundays, December 3, 10, and 17. Get into the holiday spirit with handmade local treats and gifts including art, cards, crafts, and food. There will also be live music and lots of opportunity to meet and mingle. Organized by Michelle Biggins and Patti Waterfield, this is the first Winterfest, a new local holiday tradition!

THE BRUCE TRAIL DREAM

MARIE KNAPP •

In 1959, Ray Lowes had a conversation with Robert Bateman about his dream for the Niagara Escarpment. In 1960 Ray Lowes, Phillip Gosling, Norman Pearson and Dr Norman McLaren met to discuss the vision of a footpath along the entire Niagara Escarpment. The concept of the Bruce Trail was born. Can you imagine the importance of going door to door to gain access to the escarpment? It took courage and stamina as well as passion and vision to make their dream come to fruition. Here we are, the people they hoped to become encouraged by their foresight and taking advantage of the trail for our enjoyment and commitment to the preservation of nature.

The official opening occurred in 1967. Bob and I were living in Toronto in 1968 and joined the Bruce Trail at the Sportsman's Show. We decided to hike the trail south of Hamilton where we met new hiking friends. In 1969, four of us planned a trip to hike on the Bruce Peninsula; we stayed with Ruth Arnsburger and her husband. They were so welcoming and we felt a sense of belonging. Both days they helped us with the shuttle.

As we headed back home, we drove through Owen Sound.



Driving down the steep hill on the old 10th St West gave us a wonderful view of the city. We crossed the train tracks just east of the river and followed the winding route that took us by St Mary's Church and on to Highway 10 toward Toronto.

We loved the Bruce Trail and were intrigued by Owen Sound. It was our experience up here that led us to become members and to move here in January, 1970. We are still here. We meet newcomers to the area hiking on the trail or at Bruce Trail social events. They love that Owen Sound is almost surrounded by the Bruce Trail. It is easy to find new places to walk or hike and enjoy nature in all seasons. The dream of the Bruce Trail continues on. Let's ensure that it remains a place of conservation of nature, a place of peace.

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ROCKLANDS MARKET

MIRANDA MILLER

One sunny Sunday morning in late July, a friend's post surfaced in my Facebook feed: "Come out and see me today at the Rocklands Market!" A quick Google Search revealed the property lies just outside of Berkeley, on Sideroad 60. We found it easily enough. Signage reading "Love only beyond this point!" guided us along the meandering gravel lane, through the forest, and into an open field for parking. A marked walking trail led us up through the field to a second parking lot – this one fully accessible – and the outdoor market beyond.

There, we found all kinds of handicrafts, homemade soaps, art, and local products for sale. Carrie Cathrae-Keeling's display showcased her intricate mandala artworks, as well as her husband's epoxy woodworking. Owen Sound textile artist, Shawna Katz, sat in the shade of a pop-up tent with her mother behind a table laden with her intricate crocheted works.

The owners of a Black-woman owned woodworking shop in London taught a young boy woodburning in the shade of their stunning wood and glass studio display. Rebecca Morelli DJed and sang from a small tent just across the way from a large cyberpunk smoker that puffed away, tended by an aproned woman I soon learned was Tracy Nietvelt-Prentice. The owner of The Market Shoppe in Markdale, Tracy is also the curator of this Sunday market experience at the Rocklands Market property.

The next weekend, I went back to take a watercolour class on 'Embodied Emotions' under a canopy of trees, led by talented local artist Sarah-Rose Irwin. Rocklands was a place where I wanted to spend more time – and to share with friends, too.

In this creatives' paradise hidden away in Grey County forest and farmland, one structure loomed large above us all. It's called The Black House, and the 2700 sq ft angular black steel building is a blank slate suitable for wellness retreats, social programs, weddings and festivals, corporate meetings and retreats, and workshops. And, as I learned upon inquiring about renting the space, it's the creation of award-winning chef, author, and recording artist Roger Mooking.

The Trinidadian-born, Canadian-raised talent is perhaps best-known as the host of *Man Fire Food* and *Everyday Exotic*, both aired on Food Network here in Canada, and as a recurring judge on Chopped Canada. Roger was MC Mystic as part of the Juno-award winning group Bass is Base before releasing six solo albums, and is the author of *Everyday*

Exotic: The Cookbook (2011). Now, he's a part of the Grey County community – and a great addition, at that.

I met Roger in late summer to tour the Black House. What brought him to Berkeley, I wondered? He'd been looking for a place to create a modular facility that blended outdoor and indoor space, he said; something within a few hours of Toronto. In Grey County, on this 12-acre farm parcel punctuated by dense stands of Canadian sugar maple, pine, cherry, heritage apple, and cedar bush, he found the perfect fit.

Over a few short years, Roger has already developed the Rocklands property into several modular spaces that can accommodate different groups and activities, indoors and out. There's a campfire area, a Hog & Maple pit with a Caroline-style whole hog custom pit, and the smoker area with cyberpunk smoker and butterfly grill.

As you peek to your left coming in the lane, you'll spot a magnificent burn vessel from Roger's March, 2023, art installation in Nathan Phillips Square. Working with the City of Toronto, a designer, and an Indigenous Elder, he was lead artist of the exhibit of three metal installations burning in 30' pools of water over 24 hours in the iconic square.

Among the mature trees and natural stone elements, The Black House stands out for its modern design and engineering. Fully accessible, with a ramp and large washroom, The Black House event facility boasts not one but two modern kitchens that could only have been designed by a chef, with a combi-steam oven, convection oven, seven burners (two induction, five electric), a warming drawer, 36" freezer, and 36" fridge, to name a few features.

You may notice a few more accoutrements and found objects from Roger's travels tucked into the Cathedral Dining Room. A pizza box. A Lego sneaker. A sketch of the topography of the area by local Berkeley artists who attend the market. Most of the alcove is dominated by a long table, intentionally designed with no head or foot at the table. And aside from these few personal touches, the white-walled space is a wide open canvas for events of all types.

"I have more breakers in this building than you can imagine," Roger shared with a laugh. "We purposely did that to accommodate all kinds of needs, from AV for presentations and weddings to a full audio or video recording studio."

The building is designed in such a way that it can serve as a festival hub, a wellness retreat facility, an audio or video production studio, or even an art gallery. Roger

is happy to connect event organizers with local vendors including artisans, crafters, and caterers capable of servicing the full gamut of food and beverage needs, from snacks and coffee breaks to full meals at different price points and themes. Those looking to make use of the outdoor live fire components get support staff, as well. The entire space is the product of Roger's imagination and determination. "I drew this Black House and asked the designer and architect to make it legal," he chuckled.

As we toured The Black House, my imagination churned with ideas for my own events. This is a place where creativity can flourish. As our tour came to a close, Roger gifted me a pre-release copy of the book he's co-authored with Nigerian-born Canadian author francesca ekwuyasi. Roger met francesca on Canada Reads, when he championed her first novel, *Butter Honey Pig Bread*. Their collaborative work, *Curious Sounds* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2023), is a dialogue across mediums between the two artists who mirror the arc of life: the Learning, the Living, and the Leaving. Essays and vignettes are interwoven with tracks from Mooking's album *SoundBites*, and photographs shot at Rocklands appear throughout.

This is indeed a special place, in which creativity and connection have the support to kick off and ample space to grow. I'll host another writing event at Rocklands in the



spring, and look forward to visiting the market there in summer. It begins after Canada Day and runs for six weeks on Sundays. Those interested in joining as vendors can reach out to Tracy at The Market Shoppe in Markdale.

Roger says it's his goal to create opportunities for local artists and crafters so they can have a home here at Rocklands. You can explore the space online at rocklandsmarket.com, and email general@rocklandsmarket.com to inquire about hosting your next event at Rocklands Market.

A detailed wood carving of a Santa Claus figure by Jim Scott. The figure has a round face, a white beard, and is wearing a red suit with a white belt and cuffs. The carving is set against a white background.

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Please join us for the SECOND ANNUAL

Downtown Dine Around

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 28

START TIMES: 5:30/6:00/6:30

- **EXPERIENCE** a remarkable three-course fundraising collaborative dining experience at three of the finest eating establishments in downtown Owen Sound.
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- **START** at The Milk Maid. **CONTINUE** at Parkwood, **FINISH** at Fresh Roots. Each restaurant will serve one Downtown Dine Around course; there will also be speakers explaining SOS activities. **THEN**, if you're up for more, head over to Heartwood Hall for their Open Mic Night.
- **TICKETS** (\$85) include dinner and donation to SOS (a tax receipt for \$45 will be issued); and are available at www.downtowndinearound.ca. Ticket includes dinner and donation. Alcoholic drinks are not included; please do not drink and drive. Tickets for Heartwood Open Mic (\$5) are available at the door.

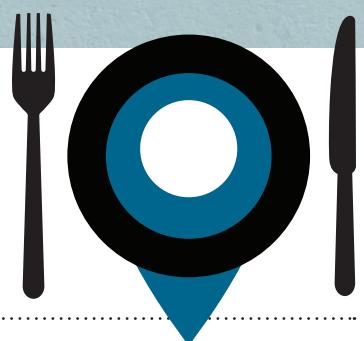


THE MILK MAID



GIVING TUESDAY

HEARTWOOD HALL



POETRY PARTY LAUNCHED

KATE RUSSELL •

A new poetry gathering space has begun at the Nottawa Art Studio and Retreat. Starting auspiciously on Friday the 13th of October, the event features an evening of spoken word poetry and open mic spots. The next event is scheduled for November 17 at 7 p.m.

Kate Russell, poet and creative mind behind Carrot March Productions has teamed up with Lory MacDonald of ArtsFest Ontario to begin what will become a regular poetry evening every third Friday at Nottawa Art Studio and Retreat in Nottawa, just south of Collingwood.

An artist and show producer for Artfest Ontario, MacDonald is a leader in the arts community. Her entrepreneurial passion and creative ideas have inspired artists of all ages. She is dedicated to promoting and providing opportunities for artists to create, exhibit, and sell their work. She is a recipient of the Collingwood Arts & Culture Award.

While the first event featured Wes Rickert, a sound poet who uses everything from toy trumpets to kazoos to accent his absurdist performance poetry, Russell herself brought new poetry from her recent road trip to the west coast poetry scene, and offered open mic spots.

The next Poetry Party is billed as a Laureate Lounge. Owen Sound's own popular and prolific 2019-2023 Poet

Laureate Richard-Yves Sitoski will take to the 'magic carpet' to share his wordsmith talents. Sitoski is the Artistic Director of the Words Aloud festival. He regularly collaborates with Grey Bruce Pride, SHEATRE and the M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre.

Joining Sitoski for the evening will be Collingwood's 2022-2024 Poet Laureate Jillian Morris. As an Indigenous woman deeply curious about people, the natural world, and life, Morris likes to ask questions, examine, explore and wander to tell stories in pieces. She will bring her voice and culture to the event. Also booked for the evening is Tyneisha Thomas (Ty the Poetess) the current Poet Laureate (People's Poet) of Barrie. Thomas will bring her dynamic spoken word style to the mic, offering poems from her book *Bearing Fruit* and promoting her unique style of heart-felt poetry and songs that speak to the soul. The event will be interspersed with open mic opportunities for new and experienced poets to bring their own words to the evening.

Admission to the Poetry Party is by donation and refreshments will be served. Come out and enjoy an evening with local poets at this refreshing new venue located at 2 Townley St., Nottawa. For more information contact carrotmarch@gmail.com.

THE TWO PERSON BOOK CLUB

JOSH RICHARDSON •

The joke goes that if one of us departs, then the book club is in trouble. The book club has two members. We meet semi-irregularly, as Book Club Member #1 says. The majority of the club's time is spent selecting a book. This is a painstaking process. It took approximately two years for us to decide upon our first book. The club's decision-making procedure is simple: both members must agree upon a book.

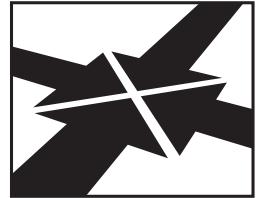
Our first book was *On Violence* by the Slovenian philosopher and psychoanalyst Slavoj Zizek; the second: *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by American historian Timothy Snyder. We are currently reading *The Diaries of Franz Kafka*. The club is not humourless. Both members have copies of *Jewish Comedy (A Serious History)* by Jeremy Dauber, unread. I twice proposed reading Lucille Ball's autobiography *Love, Lucy* to the club. Zizek's *Jokes*, published by MIT Press, is not terribly funny.

The club began in 2015. After many coffees and

discussions about death, politics, American transcendentalism, and Annette Funicello, Book Club Member #1 presented me with a copy of Sanford D. Horwitt's *Let Them Call Me Rebel: Saul Alinsky, His Life and Legacy*. To this day I do not know if Book Club Member #1 read it. There is no guarantee that a book will be read by either club member upon its selection. Numerous books have been selected by the club and remain unread by both members.

What is the purpose of a Book Club which does not read books? The question sounds absurd. Pierre Bayard's book *How To Talk About Books You Haven't Read* may be of some help, but I have not read it. It sits on my shelf dedicated to the books chosen by our two-person book club. I suppose we do not read some of our selections, because it's not the right time to read them. Timing is key, says Book Club Member #1. For example, both Book Club members have put off reading Danish psychologist Svend Brinkman's *Grief: The Price of Love*.

WHAT'S NEW AT INTERSECTIONS



PAULA WILLIS •

Intersections is a non profit woodworking studio in Owen Sound offering wood-focussed learning opportunities for everyone through workshops, demonstrations and community events. This season, we have a multitude of offerings and events for woodworkers of all skill levels.

Our fall series of workshop is well underway: Fundamentals of Woodworking 2 with Pierre Rousseau starts November 17 where our introductory Fundamentals course leaves off. This 10-week course will build on core skills through the process of constructing a uniquely designed chair. Visit our website to check it out!

For those looking for a satisfying weekend experience, Intersections is offering a series of woodturning workshops with master turner Carl Durance leading up to the holiday season. In Introduction to Ornaments (November 11-12) and Advanced Ornaments (November 25-26), you will learn to turn and finish intricate and lovely pieces for tree and mantel. To delight yourself or a youngster, learn to turn and set up a unique Kaleidoscope (December 9).

Looking for that unique Christmas gift? Consider buying a course registration or gift certificate. Looking for a gift for the whole family or group? Contact us to set up a weekend experience. We offer custom group workshops for all skill and experience levels, including tailored workshops to make paddles, charcuterie boards or bowls.

Last but not least, our CNC machine has a dedicated group of members working to make this piece of woodworking technology more accessible. Stay tuned for courses, as well as custom work for sale from our CNC enthusiast members.

We have several special events coming up. Women in Woodworking, from 1:00 to 5:00 on December 3, will feature a showcase from across our area, including a demonstration and discussion led by internationally known woodturner and artist, Marilyn Campbell. We will also participate in Welbeck Sawmill's Woodshow near Durham on December 2 (10 am – 3 pm).

Intersections is also a hub for conversation, consultation about woodworking, and working on your own project. Our open hours are Tuesday to Thursday 10 am – 3 pm and we encourage everyone to stop by and see what is happening in the shop. For more information and to join our email list, please visit our website at www.intersectionsstudio.com, follow us on facebook or email us at info@intersectionsOS.org.



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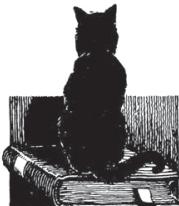


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November 9-11 & 15-18
at 7:30pm

www.roxytheatre.ca 519-371-2833

An Owen Sound Little Theatre Production

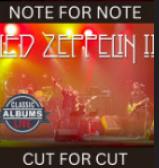
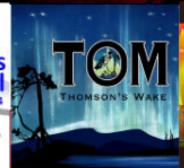
SOMETHING ROTTEN!

Director: Kathleen Cassidy

April 11-13, 18-20, and 24-27
at 7:30pm

April 14 at 2pm

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The Ladies' FOURSOME

Directed by Bill Murphy

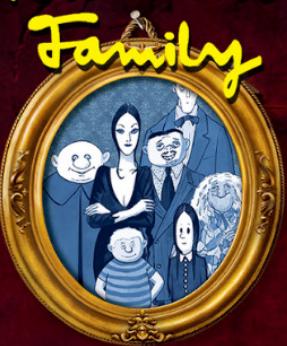
February 8-10 & 14-17
at 7:30pm
February 11 at 2:00pm



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The Roxy Young Company Presents

The Addams Family



Director: Grace McRae

June 8, 14,
& 15 at 7:30pm June 8 & 15
at 2:00pm

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THE ROXY
Owen Sound
Little Theatre



2023-2024 SEASON NOW ON SALE!