

the owen sounder

vol 6 no 4 winter 2024



combining two great
community magazines
in one great issue!

FEATURING:

- Third Annual Downtown Dine Around!
- 39th Annual Authors' Open House!
- A Magnificent Failure: The King's Royal!
- Christkindl!
- Grey Grannies!
- CWHC Country Christmas!



EAT. DRINK. SHOP. PLAY.
2024

Christkindl Market



DEC 6&7TH | FRI 4-9PM SAT 2-9PM

\$25 ADVANCE \$30 AT THE DOOR
CHILDREN FREE

BENEFITS GREY BRUCE HOSPICE CHAPMAN HOUSE

GLENCOLTON FARMS, DURHAM ON
PHONE: 519-372-6570

the owen sounder and MOSAIC

vol 6 no 4 winter 2024

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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.theowensounder.ca

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about the front cover:

Painting of the King's Royal Hotel (1902-1914) by Erdmann Knaack from *A Magnificent Failure: The Story of the King's Royal Hotel and the Balmy Beach Pavilion* by Richard J. Thomas.

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FROM MY DESK

As we lurch forward into the “rest and relaxation” season, there’s more than ever happening here. These pages are bursting with the creative vitality to be found in this region. We’re excited that Grey County has appointed a Culinary Ambassador and look forward to seeing how renowned chef Roger Mooking represents our growers and producers and chefs and eating establishments beyond our borders. *Read all about it!* After ten years, the Harmony Centre has become a significant community hub; it contains studios, classes, choirs, cultural events, and so much more. *Read all about it!* We introduce you to the Grey Grannies of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, a thriving group based out of Thornbury working to raise funds which are sent to Africa to assist grandmothers raising their grandchildren tragically orphaned by HIV and AIDS. *Read all about it!* And, as a special seasonal treat we include a Christmas story written by the late Andrew Armitage about a seasonal dinner celebrated in 1887. *Read all about it!*

DOWNTOWN DINE AROUND

The third annual Downtown Dine Around is on Tuesday November 26. This remarkable fundraising progressive dining experience takes place at three wonderful restaurants in downtown Owen Sound. Each venue will feature one course, introduced by the owner/chef, as well as a speaker from one of the programs we are supporting which assists with medical, mental health, and social supports to those who need it. Tickets (\$100) include dinner, donation (a tax receipt for \$50 will be issued), and a River District swag bag, are available now at www.downtowndinearound.ca.

39TH ANNUAL AUTHORS' OPEN HOUSE

Once again we have assembled some of the finest local authors to celebrate the season. But this year we're doing it all on a Sunday – Sunday, December 1, from 11:00-3:00 to be precise. Meet your favourite authors and learn about their latest projects. Discover the latest local books and get autographed copies for everyone on your list! Everyone welcome; no charge; free parking!

CHRISTKINDL MARKET 2024 AT GLENCOLTON FARMS

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. Now, in Grey County, the tradition of Christkindl has been brought to the country at Glencolton Farms near Durham, on December 6 (4:00-9:00pm) and December 7 (2:00pm-9:00pm). This very special seasonal event will include activities for children and adults such as Christmas sing-alongs, horse-drawn wagon rides, candle dipping, chestnut roasting, storytelling, and music, as well as booths from many local craftspeople, food, hot drinks, and so much more! Christkindl is about giving back to the community and continuing to put the culture back in agriculture. This year's event will benefit Grey Bruce Hospice Chapman House. Tickets (\$25/advance, \$30/door, children/free) are available from www.christkindl.com.



COMMUNITY GROUPS THRIVE AT HARMONY CENTRE

Since the grand old building was saved from an uncertain fate some twelve years ago, Harmony Centre has emerged as a cultural nucleus that stands as a testament to the spirit of community life. Situated at the corner of 9th Street East and 4th Avenue East in downtown Owen Sound, the building was formerly Knox United Church, built about 1856. Now, according to the people who run it, Harmony Centre remains among the least understood venues of its kind.

Harmony Centre is a performance hall, a community centre, a meeting space; a place to work, to practice, and to network. While the building's centrepiece is the famous 650-seat Greaves Auditorium, its other lesser-known spaces give Harmony Centre its driving energy. In fact, many are unaware that the sprawling structure also boasts a large multi-function room, banquet hall, commercial grade kitchen, board room, as well as practice rooms, studios, and office space. That's where the spirit of Harmony Centre lives. Walking into the building on any given day, one is immediately struck by the infectious energy of the place.

Harmony Centre today is indeed a beacon of creativity that reflects the diverse interests and passions found

in the region: it's home to music and vocal instructors, fitness and wellness groups, small businesses, multi-media artists, and a wide array of community organizations and charities; within its walls you can enjoy everything from square dancing to drumming, to choirs, yoga, meditation, karate, and more.

As a charitable organization, Harmony Centre's mandate is to serve the community. Groups and individuals based there enjoy low, and in many cases, subsidized rent. Harmony Centre performances are frequently pay-what-you-can events so they're accessible to all segments of society. We operate as a social enterprise. Our priority is to remain available and accessible to the whole community. Our mission is to enrich our region by providing a place to share, create, educate, and perform.

So far, Harmony Centre has enjoyed a good deal of success meeting these objectives. So much so in fact that it has attracted major government and private sector funding to modernise the 150-year-old structure. New windows, high-efficiency heat pumps, ramps, and accessible washrooms, state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems – all improvements that reflect a real



commitment to the place by people whose business it is to find – and fund – well-run and promising ventures.

But Harmony Centre's most valuable assets are its volunteers. We're always delighted to welcome new energy and talent to our organization; we encourage members of the public to consider volunteering as an usher, join our maintenance crew, enquire about sitting on the board of directors or one of our committees, or explore opportunities for creative collaboration with the organization.

To find out how you can contribute to this success story – and benefit from it – visit Harmony Centre’s website at <https://harmonycentre.ca>.



SEASONAL ART DREAMS AT UPWARDS ART STUDIO

AMELIA KRAEMER

The weather is definitely changing, making us think about indoor activities. That means it is a perfect time to visit us at Upwards Art Studio. Keep your mental health at its peak with ART. Especially with dark, grey days ahead – add colour to your life (see what I did there?) to uplift your spirits and help beat the winter blues. Ha! Even Seasonal Affective Disorder has its colour.

Just in time for the holidays, we have introduced a series of curated boxes of art supplies to make gift giving easy. Each box contains top quality art supplies that you'll LOVE. All of the items selected for these boxes are from our favourite Canadian distributors. We at Upwards fiercely believe that art is for EVERYONE. No matter your abilities. See all the options in-store or online at: <https://upwardsartstudio.com/product-category/curated-gift-boxes/>.

If you prefer to do your shopping online (no judgment) we offer you a couple of different options. You can order in

advance, we'll get your order together, and you can just pop in to pick it up whenever it's convenient. Or we can ship it to anywhere in Canada for a flat rate of \$25. For orders over \$250 the shipping is free. We also ship internationally. View our full selection at <https://upwardsartstudio.com/shop/>. You can create multiple wishlists to share with friends and family. Or use it to create yourself a shopping list.

Make lasting holiday memories with our seasonal workshops. Most classes are designed for the whole family. We offer: Mixed Media Holiday Garland, Hand-painted Napkins and Printed Napkin Rings; Laminated Bookmarks, Laminated Ornaments, Encaustic Ornaments, Encaustic Cards, Mixed Media Ornaments, Mixed Media Magnets, Gelli-Plate Printed Gift Wrap, and Gelli-Plate Printed Cards. Sign up in-store or online at: <https://upwardsartstudio.com/series/festive-crafts/>.

THE GREY GRANNIES (GREY AND SIMCOE WEST)

KATHRYN MCMILLAN

The Grey Grannies of the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) meet at 10:00am on the first Monday of every month at Grace United Church, 140 Bruce Street South, Thornbury. As members of the SLF Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, our goal is to raise funds which are sent to Africa to assist grandmothers raising their grandchildren tragically orphaned by HIV and AIDS. The grandmothers are now able to provide better nutrition and education for their grandchildren. Also, SLF is making a difference in educating their communities on prevention of HIV and AIDS.

This Sisterhood in Canada, the UK, Australia, and Africa celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the SLF by creating a 20th Anniversary Solidarity Quilt. The quilt

pieces were made by women of all nations, brought to Canada, assembled and named "Nurturing Generations Under the Canopy of Sisterhood." The quilt has travelled to cities across Canada and we are pleased to announce it, and an accompanying quilt, "No One Left Behind," will be on display at the L.E. Shore Library, 173 Bruce Street South, Thornbury on December 7, 2024. An Original Art & Craft Sale (watercolour, acrylic, jewellery, etc.) will help to raise funds for our African Grandmothers. Join us December 7 from 10am to 4pm. A speaker from the SLF will present at 11am.

The Grey Grannies welcome new members. You don't have to be a grandmother to join!

POTTAWATOMI SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD TURNS 50!

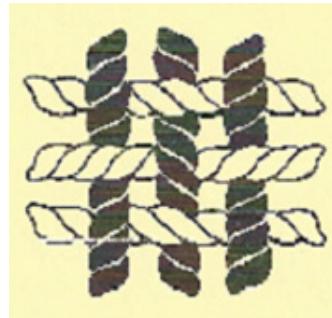
TRICIA WEATHERSTON

Happy 50th Anniversary to the Pottawatomi Spinners and Weavers Guild! The founding member was Elinor Bartlett who, in 1960, made a move from Kingston to Owen Sound. She left behind the rich friendships that develop in a guild to move to an area where she knew no weavers. Weaving and spinning by nature are solitary practices, so after a year of no contact with weavers, Elinor placed a two-line advertisement in the personal column of the local newspaper: "Weavers, would you like to discuss weaving. Call..." That simple sentence brought eight weavers together to talk about and share their craft. After 15 years of meeting in each others' homes, they formed the Pottawatomi Spinners and Weavers Guild in 1975.

Elinor was a strong believer that guilds nurtured old and new friendships alike, that sharing a craft was knowledge gained, and well as inspirational. In 2009, the Bartlett family presented the Guild with an endowment fund in Elinor's memory to aid in bringing-in 'special' instructors/

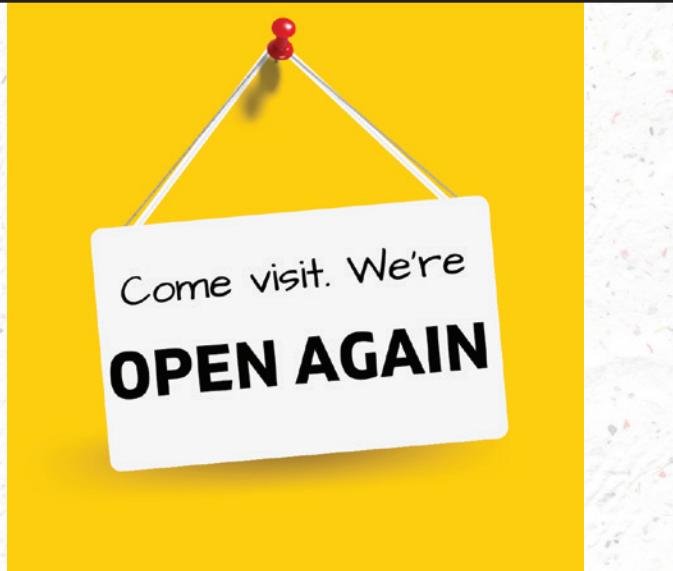
speakers – a grand legacy indicative of Elinor's generous spirit. In April, 2025, our anniversary celebrations will commence with a show-and-tell, and a display honouring the early members of the guild.

Today, Pottawatomi Spinners and Weavers Guild remain strong advocates for all things weaving and hand spinning. We meet monthly, on the second Tuesday, at the New Life Centre on 4th Avenue West in Owen Sound. We have a lending library that boasts many books and magazines. Guests are always welcome. For further details contact Harriet Boon at (519) 934-3273. Follow us on facebook at PottawatomiSpinnersandWeaversGuild and on Instagram at pottsguild.



Don't pass us by next time you are downtown.

We are very happy to be able to welcome you back better than ever, after renovations following a flood. Our exhibitions change frequently so stop by often.



REGULAR HOURS:
Open 10am-5pm Thurs-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat;
and closed Sunday to Wednesday

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MUSIC & THEATRE WORKSHOPS FOR OLDER ADULTS

JOAN CHANDLER •

Discover the joy of creating when Sheatre joins Grey Roots Museum & Archives for the winter with the “Out of the Blue(s)” music and theatre workshop series. Beat the winter blues. Create something out of the blue instead. Older adults, you are invited to explore artifacts, let them inspire your imagination, and share your own stories while building a new musical play together.

“This will be an exciting challenge to find ways to write songs and scenes inspired by past life, but also about this community now,” comments David Sereda, who will be leading the workshops along with Joan Chandler. “The conversations that spring up when you handle an artifact or an old photograph can be quite lively,” says Chandler. “They volcanize a whole new world in art.”

No previous theatre or singing experience is needed to join. Just curiosity and a desire to play. Using theatre games, improvisation, song, storytelling, free-form writing, art, memory, video, and constructive daydreaming, participants will compose original songs and scenarios. These might include songs to while away the winter, or to whip up the band. Scenes may reminisce about winters past – remember the winter of ’77? Or be about winter in a different country. Or about what our winter life is now. Or...

Where will this workshop lead? To an accumulation of fun. And to a show. What will it be about? “We never know,” say the artists. Every outcome is different in style and story because the people involved are different. During the later sessions, the group will discover how to collaboratively craft a show from their creations, polish it up, embody it, and present it to an audience. The workshop focuses on the creative process, rather than the creative product. Not everyone needs to perform. There are always other things to

do. The bottom line is – have fun!

Chandler, Sheatre’s Artistic Director, conceived, wrote and directed “The Ballad of Kennedy’s” – a musical about the old BCK factory – back in 2001. Sereda joined the company the following year. Together they went on to produce the “Brush” workshops and “TOM” the musical about the life, times, art, and legacy of Tom Thomson. “Snow Wonder” followed, ultimately becoming a play with a multi-generational creative cast, show-stopper original music, the rattle of the cash box whizzing around the ceiling at McKay Brothers store, and snow stories piled up in drifts. “I’m Just a Kid Again” with the Southampton Museum portrayed a day-in-the-life of kids from a one-room schoolhouse, inspired by an outrageous class photo found in the archives. “I had the most fun in my life!” commented Elizabeth, a 92-year-old participant in that project.

The fun will run on Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 1:00 from January 20 to March 26 at Grey Roots. Lunch follows at 1:00 pm. Participants will not only enjoy playing/creating together. As a bonus, they’ll also be able to attend a weekly artist’s chat series after lunch. Our first guest is author-storyteller Lenore Keeshig-Tobias.

“Out of the Blue(s)” is made possible by the generosity of the Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility and Grey Roots Museum & Archives. To make the workshop available to all, there is no fee for registration; however, Sheatre suggests a minimum donation of \$100 for this nine-week creative experience. The group size is limited. To learn more about Sheatre, visit www.sheatre.com. To inquire and to register, please contact Joan by email at engage@sheatre.com or (519) 534-3039.

Billy Bishop
Museum

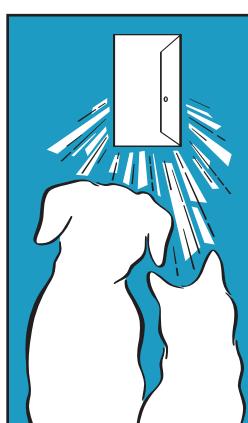
948 3RD AVENUE WEST
OWEN SOUND



RECOGNIZING LOCAL VETERANS FROM GREY-BRUCE-OWEN SOUND FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE BY SHARING THEIR STORIES

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whose life has turned upside down.



NEW BOOK

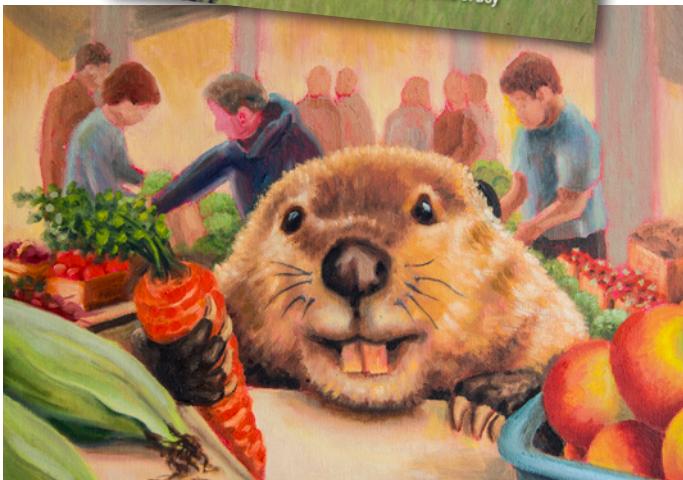
OWEN'S ADVENTURES

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED

BY ELAINE DOY

• • • • • • • • • • • •

One day, a beaver really did climb up out of the Sydenham River and went for a walk downtown. Well documented on social media, his journey delighted the community and inspired local artist Elaine Doy to create a popular series of paintings imagining his adventures. The beaver became known as Owen, and the paintings evolved into this charming picture book. (\$14.95)



REFLECTING ON THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT

SANDRA J. HOWE

Would you like to deepen your capacity for service to humanity, explore life purpose, grow personally, and help transform society? The Baha'is of Grey-Bruce invite you to walk a path of service with us by learning and working together. We begin our studies with the book, *Reflections on the Life of the Spirit*, developed in Columbia, and used in many languages throughout the world. Small groups gather in a study circle to read, and further understanding.

The text starts with brief quotations from the Baha'i Writings which focus on essential spiritual attributes such as truthfulness and kindness: "Let deeds, not words, be your adorning," and "backbiting quenches the light of the heart and extinguishes the life of the soul," help us develop inclusive community. This study book also explores the topics of prayer, and life and death. Prayer is as necessary to our souls as good food is to our bodies. Through long practice we can learn to live in a state of prayer: "Strive

that your actions, day by day, may be beautiful prayers." The discussion on life and death focuses on the nature of the soul, the purpose of human life, turning toward God, and the journey of our souls after death.

While all the quotations are directly from the Baha'i Writings, people of all faiths or none are warmly welcomed to join a study circle. The book takes several sessions to complete, and the group forms a cohesive, trusting, caring circle together. From this place of connection, we reach out to serve in many ways.

Baha'is are followers of Baha'u'llah whose teachings guide humanity toward a peaceful, prosperous, sustainable world for all. We offer study circles regularly on weekends, weekdays, and evenings to accommodate various schedules. Youth and adults are invited. If you want more information or to participate, call Sandra at (519) 477-1537 or email bahaisofsaugeenshores@gmail.com. General info on the Baha'i Faith is at www.bahai.org

Owen Sound Farmers' Market

YES, WE ARE OPEN!

The Market is open Saturdays 8am-12:30pm
www.owensoundfarmersmarket.ca

Celebrating 175 Years!
in downtown Owen Sound
featuring 50+ local vendors

114 8th Street East 519-371-3433
8:00am to 12:30pm every Saturday

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DINOSAUR DISCOVERIES
ANCIENT FOSSILS, NEW IDEAS

COMING MAY 2025

GREY ROOTS MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (amnh.org), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; The Field Museum, Chicago; the Houston Museum of Natural Science; and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh.



KNOW FARMS, KNOW FOOD AT OSFM

MORAG BUDGEON

The Owen Sound Farmers' Market (OSFM) holds a special place in the landscape of Owen Sound. Most everyone knows the story of this year round market, but here is a quick recap: Originating in 1845, it is one of the oldest continuous Farmers' Markets in Ontario, moving to its current location in the old Waterworks building in 1936. The wooden tables still used today were built that year! In 1970 the vendors assumed the mantle of the market and formed the Owen Sound and District Market Vendors Association, becoming a registered Not for Profit Co-operative. Through a longstanding and successful partnership with the City of Owen Sound, OSFM uses the city owned building and, in exchange, has undertaken the stewardship of the old waterworks building. The City is responsible for everything on the outside and the Market is responsible for everything on the inside of this historic building.

In 2019, Phase 1 of the River District revitalization was undertaken and the new market square and garage-door-canopied area were unveiled, expanding the number of vendor spaces and providing better cover from the elements for outdoor vendors, extending their selling season.

The market has had many vendors and managers

throughout its history, and each individual person, producer, grower, maker or small business has contributed to the atmosphere and longevity of this well-loved and cherished institution. Many vendors stay for decades, some for years, and some for only a season. For fledgling businesses, it is the cheapest storefront in Owen Sound.

Families have grown up and grown old here, passing the tradition of Saturday morning market to their descendants. It is a safe and welcoming central hub to meet friends and family, re-stock your pantry, share a meal or discuss the weekly happenings. Market vendors and customers are culturally diverse and the market tradition has often been an important part of welcoming newcomers to the area and introducing them to the friendly people and abundant local goods available in these scenic surroundings.

Each new manager works with the Board of Directors to keep the market fresh and current, setting the tone and eventually leaving their mark and memories for the next guardian. Recently there has been shift in this position, heralding another era of new adventures and innovations at market. Keep an eye on the Owen Sound Farmers' Market. 2025 is going to be a great year!

Please join us for the THIRD ANNUAL

Downtown DINE AROUND

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 26

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

- **EXPERIENCE** a remarkable three-course fundraising collaborative dining experience at three remarkable eating establishments in downtown Owen Sound.
- **HELP** Supportive Outreach Service (SOS) which provides medical, mental health, and social supports to people in downtown Owen Sound and beyond. The United Way of Bruce Grey assists with many of the unfunded needs that emerge in this work.
- **START** at Fresh Slice. **CONTINUE** at Papi's. **FINISH** with Boon Bakery at The Ginger Press. Each restaurant will serve one Downtown Dine Around course; there will also be speakers explaining programs we're supporting.
- **TICKETS** (\$100) include dinner, donation (a tax receipt for \$50 will be issued), and a River District swag bag, and are **AVAILABLE NOW** at www.downtowndinearound.ca. Alcoholic drinks are not included; please do not drink and drive.



BOON BAKERY
GLUTEN FREE • DAIRY FREE



United Way
Bruce Grey





Roger Mooking

GATHER IN GREY COUNTY

OLIVIA YALE, GREY COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER •

Grey County is excited to announce the launch of the Gather Campaign with Roger Mooking, Grey County's first Culinary Ambassador. The Gather Campaign will showcase the region's rich culinary heritage and vibrant agricultural community through engaging storytelling and digital content.

Chef Roger Mooking is an award-winning Trinidadian-born, Canadian-raised chef, musician, artist, and television host. He is best known for hosting the television series "Man Fire Food" and "Everyday Exotic," and has made numerous appearances on shows such as "Chopped Canada," "Today Show," and "Iron Chef America." He is also the Program and Culinary Director of Rocklands Market in Berkeley, Ontario, where he shoots "Breaking Bread with Roger Mooking,"

bringing global celebrities to Grey County, broadcast on Amazon Live.

"Being able to showcase the beauty and bounty of the County is a dream come true. I fell in love with Grey County the moment I stumbled upon it. It has the immediate feeling of home, and I want the rest of the world to realize the magic that is in this very special pocket of Ontario," Roger so enthusiastically says.

The full-feature Gather campaign, consisting of seven engaging videos, will officially launch on February 17, 2025. The videos feature 14 operators across Grey County, including producers, vendors, and food operators, highlighting the region's local yet diverse food and agriculture, and its leading role in producing alfalfa, hay, sheep, beef, and apples. This initiative promotes unique

[gath-er]

and authentic experiences that connect visitors with the local community, offering memorable interactions with the county's landscapes and culinary gems.

This campaign marks the beginning of a multi-year effort to leverage Grey County's strengths in agriculture and tourism, aiming to attract visitors and new residents by showcasing the region's beauty and sustainable lifestyle, while fostering community pride and celebrating the tradition of hard work and entrepreneurship in our region.

AT THE ROXY

EMMA MCCONACHIE-ANDERSON

Owen Sound Little Theatre/The Roxy's 2024/25 Season is underway. We're thrilled to see the community come out and fill our seats and are excited for you to see what we have coming up this season.

Next up is *Prelude to a Kiss*, a romantic comedy running January 30 - February 2 and February 5-8, 2025. This play follows Peter and Rita who meet each other at a party in NYC, fall in love quickly, and decide to marry. At Peter and Rita's wedding, a mysterious old man insists on kissing the bride. While honeymooning, Peter gradually realizes that the woman by his side is not his wife and that the wedding kiss caused Rita's soul and



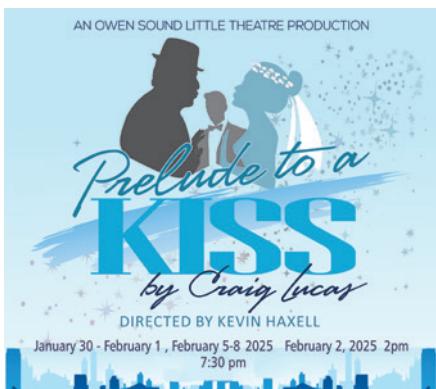
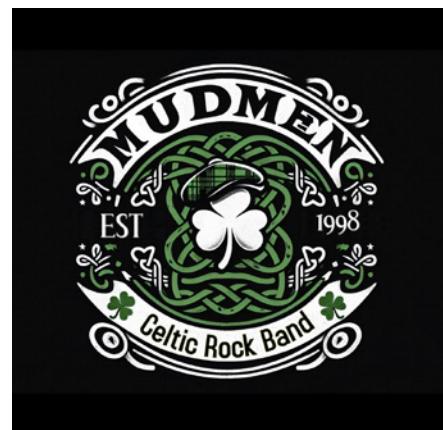
the old man's to change places.

The Roxy Presents Series continues with several diverse, fantastic shows. We welcome back the popular sketch comedy show **Middle Raged** on December 6, the classic holiday show **Wonderful World of Christmas Graceland Edition** on December 8, and the thrilling interactive singing show **Choir! Choir! Choir!** on December 15. In the new year the Mudmen return on January 9, the unique comedy experience **Hyprov: Improv Under Hypnosis Starring Colin Mochrie and Asad Mecci** is on February 14 and the Owen Sound Reel Festival will run on February 22.

The Roxy Young Company is

gearing up to begin rehearsals for **Alice in Wonderland JR**, which will run from April 25 to May 3, 2025. Act 2 class registration is now open for three different age groups, 7-9, 10-12 and 13-18. Meanwhile, the Roxy Star Company continues its workshop series, featuring wardrobe, makeup, and singing sessions in the new year. Regular classes will begin in March, leading to a final performance on June 26.

For those eager to secure their seats for these upcoming events, tickets are available on the Roxy website, www.roxytheatre.ca, or by calling (519) 371-2833.



COUNTRY CHRISTMAS DANCE PARTY

JAN CHAMBERLAIN

The Community Waterfront Heritage Centre will host a fundraising Country Christmas Dance Party from 2:00 to 5:00 (doors open at 1:00) on Sunday November 17 at the Owen Sound Legion Auditorium. It's an afternoon of country tunes with live entertainment by the Ridge River Ramblers and Arnie Clarke. This event is funded in part by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. Everyone is welcome to attend. Tickets (\$20) will be available at the door.



CHRISTMAS AT THE PATERSON HOUSE, 1887

ANDREW ARMITAGE

On December 15, 1887, the *Owen Sound Times* reported that the Board of Commerce, “retired today to the Paterson House where, at noon, a sumptuous repast was served.” It was the annual Christmas dinner of the town’s most successful businessmen plus a few judges, lawyers, doctors, and a man of the cloth or two.

The Paterson House was only a year old back in 1887. Dr George Paterson had torn down the old City Hotel and built his own establishment, complete with fancy brick work, capped by an even fancier cupola. When it opened for business in September, 1886, the Paterson House was declared to be one of the best conducted hotels in Canada.

And in this day, over one hundred years ago, the port of Owen Sound was one of Ontario’s boomtowns. The “Chicago of the North” they called it and all up and down Poulett Street, the merchants’ wealth mixed with the town’s fancy new downtown Christmas decorations.

In the days before local option, when the threat of total abstinence was still only the subject of Sunday sermons, the Board of Commerce’s dinner began with a hearty glass of Gooderham and Worts’ best Canadian whisky. The toast to the Queen was made with French brandy, and dinner’s many courses were accompanied by a never-ending pouring of port, sherry, and the finest Madeira.

Board of Trade President John McLaughlin, Canada’s

cookie king, as the town called him, was prevailed upon to make a state of the town address: “Limitless,” the rotund Owen Sound confectioner declared the future to be. And he sat down to an immense plate of fresh oysters on the half shell, just brought in by train from Toronto.

With their good wool suits with proper vests, watch fobs, and cravats covered with an immense white linen napkin, the burgesses of Owen Sound ate plates of tripe and onions, pickled pigs’ feet, side dishes of stewed potatoes, ham omelettes, broiled chickens, mounds of candied carrots, salmon cutlets, and deliciously cooked hot rolls with pats of guinea-gold butter. Dinner was followed by well-made tea and coffee with jugs of fresh, thick cream.

For dessert that December day there was white pot pudding, baked Alaska, fruit cobbler, and gooseberry fool. The last crumb consumed, the men of the Board of Trade leaned back in their cane chairs, Cuban cigars tilted toward the podium, and listened to speeches.

And then they left the Paterson House dining room to go back to the Bank, to the McCory Block, to their barristers’ offices, or the newsroom of the *Times*. “Another successful Board of Trade Dinner,” headlined the *Times*. “Opportunities in 1888 are unlimited,” the reporter wrote, after stifling an after-dinner burp.

JOIN THE 2025 CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

AMY GAVILLER

Have you ever wondered what policing is really like? The Owen Sound Police Service Citizens’ Police Academy (CPA) is an opportunity for interested community members to take a deep dive into the world of policing operations here in Owen Sound. Launched in 2023, the Program runs annually for eight weeks at the police station at 922 2nd Avenue West, Owen Sound.

Each week different subject matter experts present on such topics as complex criminal investigations, forensic identification techniques, police communications and dispatch, technical surveillance and digital evidence, and the courts and criminal justice system.

The program is free of charge and is open to everyone

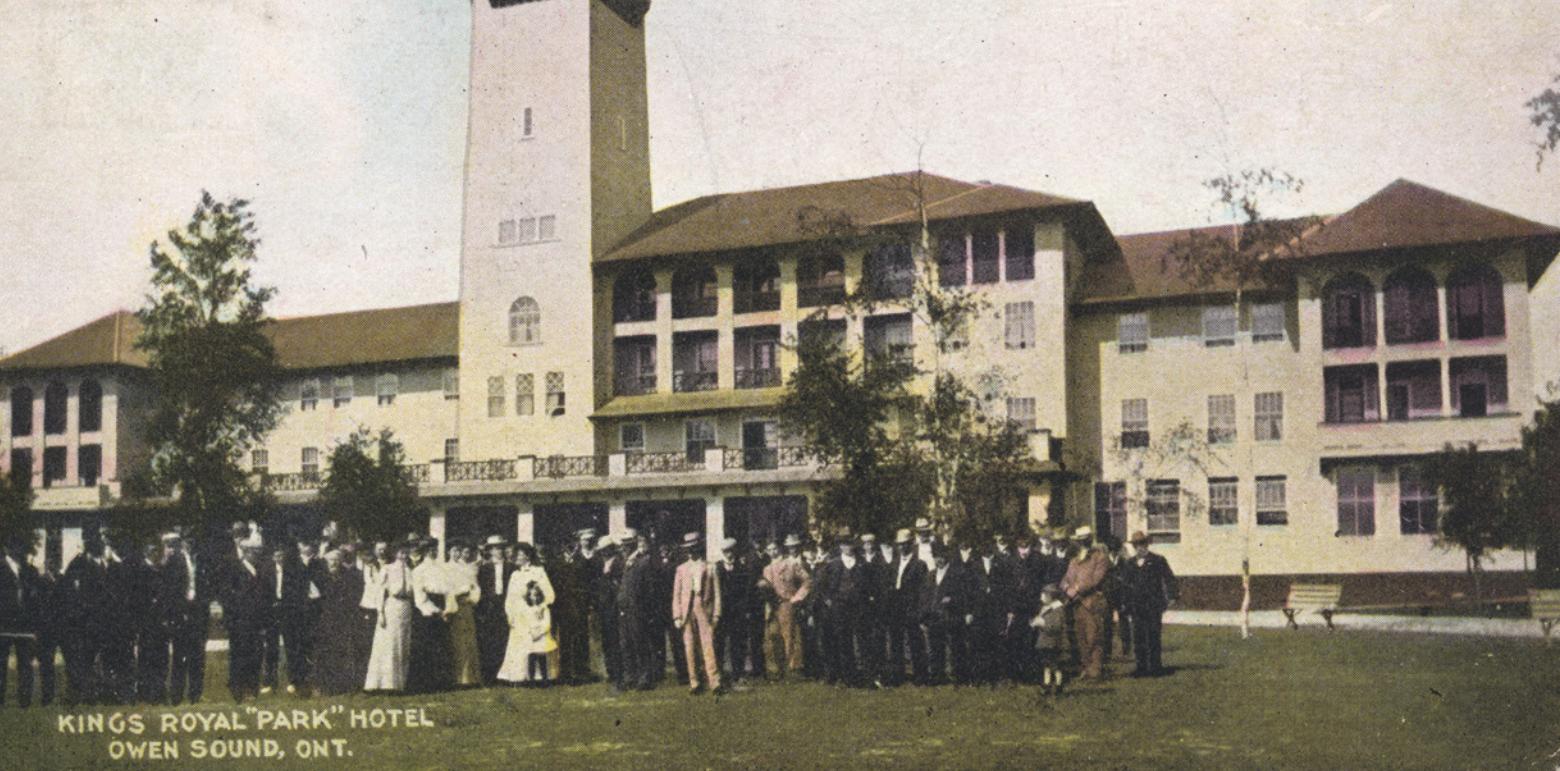
OWEN SOUND

POLICE



with an interest in policing and a desire to learn. Candidates must be at least 18 and, due to the nature of the course curriculum, a security check will be conducted. The class size is limited.

The next session will run from January 15 to March 5, 2025. For more information and to register, contact agaviller@owensoundpolice.com.



NEW BOOK

A MAGNIFICENT FAILURE:

THE KING'S ROYAL HOTEL AND THE BALMY BEACH PAVILION

BY RICHARD J. TH

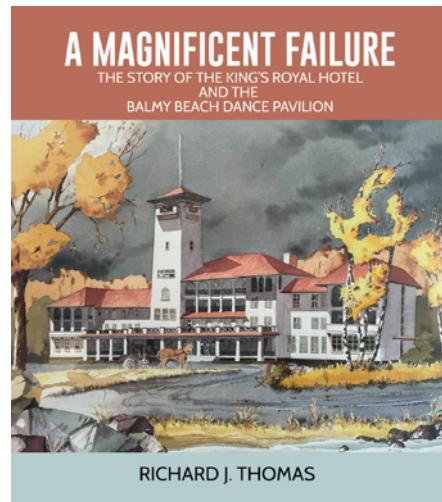
In 1902, the King's Royal Hotel was built on the waterfront just 12 miles north of Owen Sound. Intended to rival the finest resorts around the world, this grand and glorious establishment featured 110 elegant rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, elegant dining rooms, and comfortable indoor and outdoor lounging areas. It even had its own generator to power electric lights which could be seen for miles. On opening day, 10,000 people travelled by boat to see the wonders that had been created. (The road from Owen Sound was still just a mud track.)

In 1914, the King's Royal Hotel was totally demolished. It never lived up to its potential, due to a combination of bad weather, bad management, and bad luck.

In his most recent book, local historian Richard Thomas chronicles the rise and fall of this remarkable

establishment. *A Magnificent Failure: The Story of the King's Royal Hotel and the Balmy Beach Dance Pavilion* documents the initial excitement from investors and patrons, the years of attempts to make it viable, and its ultimate demise. Out of the remnants of the King's Royal rose the Balmy Beach Dance Pavilion which hosted top-end talent such as Tommy Dorsey, Bobby Gimby, and Louis Armstrong. It too succumbed, but that was due to the arrival of rock and roll.

"It began with a dream," writes Richard Thomas, "and now the King's Royal Hotel and the Balmy Beach Pavilion have been consigned to the past. Today there is nothing to indicate there was once a luxury hotel or dance pavilion on Balmy Beach. Only a few old cottages, many built from the bones of the King's Royal, take us back to another age over a century ago, when



there was such hope on the shores of Owen Sound Bay”

A Magnificent Failure, published by The Ginger Press, is now available instore (848 2nd Avenue East, downtown Owen Sound) and online (www.gingerpress.com) for \$24.95.

SPECS AT THE CWHC

LYNDA CHIOTTI •

The Community Waterfront Heritage Centre (CWHC) has introduced the Social Prescriptions Engage Cultural Seniors (SPECS) program, a new initiative aimed at improving senior well-being in Owen Sound and nearby areas through cultural and community engagement. Supported by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program, SPECS operates on the concept of social prescribing, which connects individuals to non-medical community activities to boost overall health and quality of life.

Through SPECS, seniors can enjoy a variety of cultural experiences, including historical presentations at the CWHC, tours at the Billy Bishop Museum, art exhibitions at the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, and social afternoons at the library. Most activities are free, with certain events offered at discounted rates for seniors. The program is intended to foster social connections and provide enriching experiences that support a fulfilling life for older adults.

SPECS addresses the broader social determinants of health, acknowledging that well-being extends beyond physical health alone. It offers seniors opportunities for learning, social interaction, and active community involvement. Participants

can receive guidance from a "link worker" who will help match them to activities suited to their interests and needs. This program exemplifies a holistic approach to senior care, aiming to enhance both mental and emotional wellness through cultural immersion and social engagement.

Interested seniors can contact the CWHC for more information (519-371-3333 or specs@waterfrontheritage.ca) or to get started, and volunteers are invited to help run the program.



CONVERSATIONS WITH THE KAGAWONG RIVER

RICHARD-YVES SITOSKI

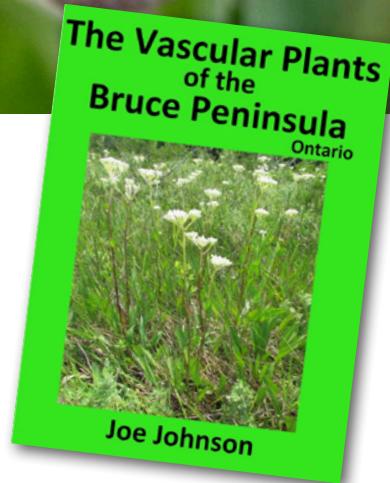
Sophie Anne Edwards is an environmental artist and writer who works on and off the page, at her desk, and in the bush. Her first collection of poems, *Conversations with the Kagawong River*, is a history of a river including Treaty history, the author's personal connection, and an exploration of inter-species collaboration.

Presented by Words Aloud, Sophie will be reading from her new book at The Ginger Press in downtown Owen Sound at 7:00pm on Monday November 18. This event will be of interest to all who love our natural world. Everyone is welcome to attend. No charge.



VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE BRUCE PENINSULA

REVISED AND UPDATED
BY JOE JOHNSON



Joe Johnson arrived on the Bruce Peninsula in 1971. An avid naturalist, he became the recognized authority on the vascular flora he found there. The Bruce is Ontario's most famous botanical destination for its rare orchids, rare ferns, and the many other interesting species it shelters. Joe knew where the alvars, cliffs, wooded rock outcrops, and shoreline fens were located and what plants grew there. He has written the only comprehensive guide to be published since 1940, answering questions such as How common is it? When does it bloom? Where else on the Bruce does it occur? What is the

usual habitat? And many more.

In *Vascular Plants of the Bruce Peninsula* (\$35), almost 100 species are illustrated by colour photos, often in both flower and fruit, as well as several pages of detailed maps. This book is the culmination of over four decades of detailed and exhaustive observation, a combination of personal insight and specific scientific knowledge. This comprehensive modern flora, a botanical travel guide, is the plant book that all visitors to the Bruce with an interest in natural history will need.

END-OF-YEAR MEDITATION RETREAT

SAT DHARAM KAUR AND HAR-PRAKASH KHALSA

Would you like to end the year with two days of meditation, yoga, and reflection? Do you benefit from spiritual practice in a shared group setting? We invite you to join us in an end-of-year in-person meditation retreat in Owen Sound to nurture stillness, equanimity, and peace. We will be practicing mindfulness meditation, Kundalini Yoga, pranayam, and mantra, with group discussion to connect and reflect. The objectives of the Retreat are to metabolize your experiences of the past year; arrive at a place of stillness and equanimity; develop mindful awareness; acknowledge your growth and achievements; nurture self-compassion; learn tools for self-regulation; and set intentions for the new year.

Workshop leaders will be Sat Dharam Kaur, a Kundalini Yoga teacher trainer and instructor, author, and naturopathic doctor practicing in Owen Sound; and Har-Prakash Khalsa, a student of Zen meditation who went on to become a certified Kundalini Yoga instructor and teacher of Mindfulness meditation in the systematic style of Shinzen Young. He also offers private online mindfulness coaching, and supervises solo retreatants at his off-grid farm near Owen Sound.

The Retreat will take place at Trillium Healing Arts in downtown Owen Sound from 9:00 to 5:00 on December 28 and 29. For more information and to register (\$150), contact harprakash01@gmail.com.

THE OCCASIONAL BOOK CLUB

MARYANN THOMAS • • • • • • • • • • • •

Every now and again, a book comes along that just seems to need further discussion. The last one was *The Power of Myth* by Gabor Maté. And now there's *Revenge of the Tipping Point: Overstories, Superspreaders, and the Rise of Social Engineering* by Malcolm Gladwell. So what's a bookseller to do? I get a few copies in (breaking my own rule of carrying only books with local connections) and convene a meeting of The GP Occasional Book Club.

Published twenty-five years after the publication of Gladwell's *The Tipping Point*, this new book traces the rise of a new and troubling form of social engineering, and offers an alternate history of two of the biggest epidemics of our day: COVID and the opioid crisis. With his characteristic mix of storytelling and social science, Gladwell offers a guide to making sense of the contagions of the modern world. Sound interesting? Drop by, pick up a copy, and join us for the discussion at 7:00pm on Thursday November 28.



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Moonlight Madness
December 6, 2024



Moonlight
Madness

SHOP LOCAL ♡ SUPPORT LOCAL



CELEBRATE ONE YEAR WITH *THE OWEN SOUND CURRENT* & HELP SUPPORT INDEPENDENT LOCAL JOURNALISM

MIRANDA MILLER, EDITOR •

As *The Owen Sound Current* marks its first anniversary, we're celebrating a milestone that couldn't have been achieved without the support of our readers. Since our official launch on November 1, 2023, this online digital publication has become a trusted source of news and a platform for local voices, publishing five days a week (excluding holidays) and reaching an impressive 4,000 to 6,000 readers each weekday – sometimes many more than that!

What makes *The Owen Sound Current* unique? We're committed to delivering news that matters to Owen Sound and surrounding communities – without ads or corporate influence. As a fully independent, locally-owned publication operated by The Ginger Press and edited by myself, Miranda Miller, we focus exclusively on the issues that impact our readers, with in-depth coverage of municipal politics, public safety, socioeconomic developments, and much more.

Meta's Canadian news ban, corporate greed, shrinking newsrooms, and the widespread failures of traditional models are all significant challenges threatening the sustainability and reach of local journalism. These forces limit access to credible news, erode

community engagement, and contribute to the decline of independent media, leaving many regions underserved and underinformed.

We launched last year to ensure Owen Sound retains a vibrant, strong community news publication. Over the past year, we've expanded our coverage significantly, archiving more than 1,350 articles that include everything from council meetings to community events. Full subscribers have open access to these archives, so you can look back anytime to learn more about the issues that matter to you.

With more than 100 pieces of original reporting and over 50 letters to the editor to date, *The Owen Sound Current* isn't just a news outlet – it's a place for conversation and connection. Through community polls and subscriber-only comments, readers can actively engage with stories that shape their community.

Paid subscriptions are \$18 per month, or \$198 per year (an 8% discount from the monthly rate) and give readers access to more content plus commenting capabilities. To ensure we can continue growing and supporting a diverse array of local voices, we're asking those who are passionate about



supporting independent journalism to consider becoming Sustaining Supporters. At a suggested annual contribution of \$500, this subscription level directly supports our Writers' Fund by helping us compensate local contributors and freelancers fairly for their valuable insights and stories. Our operating costs are fully covered by subscription rates, allowing us to invest \$302 from each Sustaining Supporter's annual rate right back into amplifying other voices in our community.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to continue expanding our reach and deepening our impact. Your support can make a meaningful difference, helping us keep journalism local, authentic, and accessible. Join us in protecting local media – subscribe today and be part of the story. Together, we're building a stronger, more informed community. Learn more at OwenSoundCurrent.com.

NEGRO CREEK MEMORIAL LAND DONATION

• •

For many years the Black community of Grey County has recognized the significant historical importance of the Negro Creek area as an original settlement of various Black families. The Negro Creek Committee members extend their heartfelt thanks to James Douglas (a direct descendant of one of the early Black settlers of Negro Creek) and his family for their generous donation of two acres of land that will be the site of the future Memorial to the early Black settlers of Negro Creek. This donation

reflects our shared ancestral heritage and helps us all give voice to the forgotten.

We would also like to recognize the Negro Creek Committee's Community Friends for their unwavering support and express our sincerest gratitude to all town council members for their cooperation in working with the Douglas family to make this donation possible.

For more information on this project please visit the Negro Creek Community website.

ANCESTRAL WHISPERS WITH BEN STIMPSON

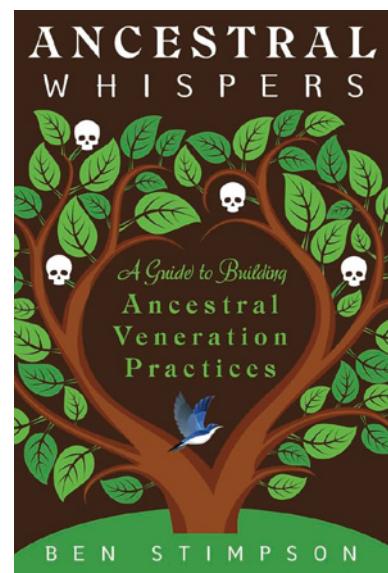
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Local author Ben Stimpson will discuss his recent book *Ancestral Whispers* at 7:00pm on November 27 at The Ginger Press in downtown Owen Sound. Exploring ways for readers to connect with their ancestral context and access these connections through a spiritual lens, the book is a cross-over between the metaphysical and mindfulness community.

Ben is a bibliotherapist, lecturer, student, and spiritual director who has developed courses on the power of story and folklore. *Ancestral Whispers* provides exercises and journal prompts specially designed to help readers develop an authentic, living practice.

He also encourages the exploration of the elements of pilgrimage and reflections on personal beliefs.

Everyone is welcome to attend this talk. Copies of *Ancestral Wisdom* will be available for purchase.



Celebrating 30 YEARS

"From a tiny seed, a mighty trunk may grow."
-Aeschylus

**Community Foundation Grey Bruce
is celebrating its 30th anniversary!**

As a registered Canadian charity, the Foundation creates grants to support community wellbeing through a wide range of projects, from youth programs and scholarships to environmental stewardship to local festivals to food and housing security.

Visit our website to see how your donation can make a lasting positive difference in Grey Bruce.



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39TH ANNUAL AUTHORS' OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
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- Beth Gilhespy *Walking Through Time: Exploring the Sydenham Bruce Trail*
- Gloria Hildebrandt *The Gift of Land*
- Lili Anne Holding *Mythos, Oykos, Bios: Greek History in Owen Sound*
- Freddy Laliberté *Heydays at the June Motel Cookbook*
- Gwen Lamont *View from Coffin Ridge: A Childhood Exhumed*
- Jenny Lee Learn *The Giant Pumpkin*
- Elly MacKay *Frostfire*
- Barbara McLean *Shepherd's Sight*
- Barry More *A Thing of Beauty*
- Patrick Lima *Tracks in the Snow: Poems and Essays*
- Richard-Yves Sitoski *Butterfly Tongue and Other Plays*
- Richard Thomas *A Magnificent Failure: The King's Royal Hotel*
- Raquell Yang *Heritage Owen Sound: Fresh Perspectives*

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Stephen Lewis Foundation



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The Grey Grannies of the Stephen Lewis Foundation
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AN OWEN SOUND LITTLE THEATRE PRODUCTION

the PROM

Director: CORRY LAPOINTE Musical Director: DON BUCHANAN
Book & Lyrics by: CHAD BEGUELIN Book by: BOB MARTIN
Music by: MATTHEW SKLAR Based on an original concept by: JACK VIERTEL

NOVEMBER 14-16, 21-24 & 27-30 AT 7:30PM
NOVEMBER 24 AT 2:00PM - 2024

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by Craig Lucas

DIRECTED BY KEVIN HAXELL

January 30 - February 1, February 5-8, 2025 February 2, 2025 2pm
7:30 pm

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DIRECTOR: JOHN FLYNN
BY: HENRY LEWIS, JONATHAN SAYER & HENRY SHIELDS

MARCH
20-23 & 26-29, 2025

AN OWEN SOUND LITTLE THEATRE PRODUCTION

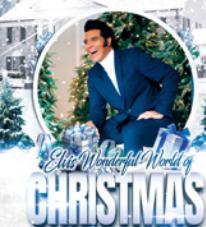
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