

**MOSAIC**  
GREY BRUCE  
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & COMMUNITY

# the owen sounder

vol 7 no 2 summer 2025



combining two great  
community magazines  
in one great issue!

## FEATURING:

- Summerfolk Turns 50!
- The Great Flag Flap!
- Moving Upwards!
- ArtWalk 2025!
- Fabulous Festival of Fringe Film!
- And so much more!



# Summerfolk

*est. 1976*

## MUSIC & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

*Kelso Beach at Nawash Park, Owen Sound*

MacMaster Leahy Family · Delhi 2 Dublin · Ron Sexsmith

Samantha Martin and Delta Sugar · Danny Michel · Lemon Bucket Orkestra

Trout Fishing In America · Catherine MacLellan · Al Simmons

Amanda Braam and  
The Paper Cranes

Amber May

Big Little Lions

Bill Garrett and  
Sue Lothrop

Boreal

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Coco Love Alcorn

Conor Gains

David Newland

david sereda

David Woodhead  
and Precious Little

Ella Frank

Emm Gryner

FAN Club

Inn Echo

JD Crosstown

John Wort Hannam

Josh Ritchie

Kailey Jane Hawkins

Kobo Town

Laloland

Larry Jensen

Luke Wallace

MacKenzie Blues Band

Mia Kelly

Morgan Barrie

Paige Warner

Prairie Comeau

Rebecca Diem

Rebekah Hawker

Ryan Young

Sechile Sedare

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The Commune

The Pairs

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Tim Harrison

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Good Noise

the owen sounder  
and MOSAIC

vol 7 no 2 summer 2025

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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](http://www.theowensounder.ca)

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#### about the front cover:

Photographer John Fearnall captured the Summerfolk 2018 crowd reflected in the sunglasses of Samantha Martin as she performed on the main stage with her band, Delta Sugar. Samantha and her band return to play this year's Summerfolk.

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# FROM MY DESK

Summer is here! Start Saturday June 21 with the Sunrise Ceremony at the Gichi-Name Wiikwedong Reconciliation Garden at Nawash Park marking National Indigenous Peoples Day and the summer solstice (5:30-8:00am). Then meander ArtWalk 2025 from 10:00-3:00 visiting a dozen arts-related businesses and galleries hosting special events and exhibitions in downtown Owen Sound (see pages 12-15 for details). Then there's the 9th Street Pride Block Party and Parade from 2:00-9:00, a community collaboration with live music, DJs, food trucks and more. Oh, it's also Doors Open celebrating local heritage in and around Owen Sound from 10:00-4:00.

This issue of TheOwenSounder/MOSAIC magazine is jam-packed full of great local places to visit and things to do. Check out the night sky on the Bruce. Watch an NFB movie launch in Owen Sound. Go to the drive-in theatre in Hanover. Visit Flowerpot Island. For sure, don't miss Summerfolk 50! And. And. And. It's all here to explore. Have a great summer!

- maryann

# SUNDAYS IN THE MARKET SQUARE

MORAG BUDGEON

What to do on a Sunday? Where to eat? My Mother would lament in her golden years that every day felt like Sunday, with no structure or routines. But now we've got Sundays in Market Square! On Sunday of the May long weekend, Owen Sound Farmers' Market hosted a Car Boot Sale. Although the weather was cold and wet, over 20 stalwart vendors set up their car-boot-sale wares (aka garage sale items, antiques, bric-a-brac, crafts, clothing, and whatnots) and over 300 people came downtown to find food vendors, live music, treasures, and a general atmosphere of convivial harmony and friendship.

So now the last Sunday of every month will forthwith be known as Car Boot Sale Sunday in the Market Square. Apply to be a vendor, or come down on Sunday, June 29, from 10am to 2pm, have some lunch, enjoy some music, and perhaps find that rare Boba Fett action figure to round out your Star Wars collection!

Sundays in the Market Square is hoping to expand; maybe EVERY Sunday will be booked for an event? Sunday will become the new Saturday! For more information visit [owensoundfarmers-market.ca](http://owensoundfarmers-market.ca).

# CALLING ALL WRITERS: A 3-WEEK KICKSTART LANDS IN BERKELEY THIS JULY

MIRANDA MILLER

If you've been feeling stuck, scattered, or unsure how to take the next step in your writing life, I've got just the thing for you. This July, I'm bringing Writing for Fun & Money back to The Black House at Rocklands Market in Berkeley, Ontario — and this time, it's more than a one-day workshop. It's a 3-week writing kickstart for aspiring and early-career writers who are ready to write more, earn more, and take their writing seriously (without taking all the joy out of it).

We start with a virtual group call where you'll set goals, connect with other writers, and get prepped to hit the ground running. Then we'll meet in person on Sunday, July 13, for a day of hands-on learning, dedicated writing time, peer feedback, and a delicious lunch in the heart of

Grey County. Finally, we'll reconvene virtually for a group coaching session where you'll get live feedback on your pitch or writing sample and leave with clear next steps to take your writing forward.

Your \$299 registration includes the live group calls, full-day in-person event and meal, and a printed workbook packed with writing prompts, templates, and real-world tools I've developed over 20+ years as a working writer and editor. Space is limited to keep it personalized and collaborative.

If you're ready for structure, inspiration, and support from someone who's built a writing career from the ground up, this is your sign. Visit [Miranda-Miller.com](http://Miranda-Miller.com) to learn more and reserve your spot.

## SEEING-MAKING-SEEING: THE SHOW OF THE WALTER'S FALLS GROUP OF ARTISTS

TERRY BURNS

One of the pleasures and wonders of art appreciation is getting up close and really examining the piece's intricacy and complexity. We view the work in all its detail, and then marvel at how its more minuscule elements – its finest brushstrokes, the subtleties of its glaze, the warp and weft of a weave – disappear as we move further away and yet are vital to the integrity of the whole work.

As art critic, writer, and artist John Berger noted, we also "see" an artwork in the context of our upbringing, experience, training, and societal traditions and attitudes. This is what makes every work of art, no matter how old,

new again; because each viewer (or listener, or handler), relates to the artwork in a unique way.

The Walter's Falls Group of Artists invites you once again to this seeing-making-seeing experience, as it holds its 28th annual exhibition and sale called The Show, taking place August 22, 23 and 24 in its home venue of the Walter's Falls Community Centre (unfortunately not a barrier-free venue). The captivating array of finely crafted artwork will be sure to stimulate and entertain browsers and serious art collectors alike. More information about The Show and participating artists can be found at [waltersfallsartists.ca](http://waltersfallsartists.ca).

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# THE GREAT FLAG FLAP

JOAN BEECROFT •

It's been 20 years. TWENTY years! How can it be 20 years since Owen Sound raised its first Pride flag? It was the basic six-colour rainbow-striped version then, and what we now call The Great Flag Flap had quite an impact on City Hall and the people who live here.

In June, 2005, the Elementary Teachers Federation (ETFO) Bluewater Local Human Rights Committee asked City Council to raise the Pride flag. Mayor and Council agreed. On the morning of June 24, we expected a brief and quiet ceremony on the front steps of City Hall. It started that way, but a local radio announcer noticed and went on air about "something going on at City Hall...better get down there." And people came in droves. There were 80+ supporters and a small, mostly silent protest group complete with the quasi-religious signs we've come to expect. Brief words were spoken by me and the acting mayor, the flag went up, and then we all went to work.

The next day the proverbial shit hit the fan. Letters to the editor of the Sun Times ran for a few weeks – some

pro, some con. The City's flag policy was changed. No, it was completely locked down so that only a very few governmental flags could ever be flown. Things stayed that way for 12 years despite a quiet and sustained effort to get several Councils to see the reasons for raising flags of all community groups, but the flag policy wasn't changed until 2017 and it's a really solid, inclusive one now. Coincidentally "/sarc" that was the year after Owen Sound Police Service raised the Pride flag at the police station. City Hall was closed for renovations then, so for a couple of years the flag was raised at the Bayshore arena instead. But the renovation plans at City Hall changed: they decided to add a community flagpole around the corner of City Hall, and raise all community flags there.

Does that feel to anyone else a bit like being shoved off to the side? And the flagpole is relatively close to City Hall, flanked by trees that have grown up around it, so flags don't catch a lot of breeze or attention. But the Pride flag is raised there, and so are many others throughout the year. And that's a good thing.

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# SUSTAINABLE TOURISM SUPPORTING CONSERVATION ON THE PENINSULA

CAELI MAZARA • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

In 2018, the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association came up with the idea of developing a tour company that would offer excursions on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. The idea behind this venture — later named EcoAdventures — was to encourage local, sustainable tourism; instil visitors and residents alike with a passion for conservation in the beautiful and unique spaces of the Peninsula; and funnel proceeds back to the projects that the Biosphere Association undertakes. Since that time, EcoAdventures has been hosting day hikes, night hikes, caving tours, snowshoe treks, fatbiking adventures, canoeing experiences, skiing tours, overnight events, and escape rooms — all in support of the fragile and precious ecosystems of the Saugeen Bruce.

Sustainability is at the core of EcoAdventures' operations. Local guides lead tours away from higher-traffic destinations such as the Grotto except in the off-season, and shoulder season experiences are offered to encourage visits during quieter times of year. EcoAdventures also partners with other organizations such as Bruce Peninsula National Park and Cape Croker Park to deliver relevant and impactful programming all year long.

Upcoming adventures include Cyprus Lake Forest Escape, an escape room experience at Bruce Peninsula National Park. This hour-long challenge for teams of 4-6 will have participants cracking codes, searching for clues, and racing against the clock.

Launching this year is a brand new nocturnal escape experience hosted by Bayside Astronomy — a must for stargazers and puzzlers alike.



Brave the Caves returns in June at Greig's Caves. This is a perennial favourite for all ages, but especially popular with kids. Take a deep dive into the history of the ancient Georgian Bay sea caves and explore the incredible hidden caverns of the Peninsula.



Following on the heels of the extremely popular Owl Prowls (February to April), EcoAdventures will be offering night hikes throughout the spring and summer. These nocturnal tours are an exploration in the nighttime ecology of the Peninsula's forests, wetlands, and shore-lines.

Learn more about EcoAdventures at [myecoadventures.ca](http://myecoadventures.ca) and about the conservation work of the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association at [BPBA.ca](http://BPBA.ca).

## JOURNALLING WORKSHOP

BONITA JOHNSON DEMATTEIS • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Are you wondering about journalling? Would you like to delve a little deeper into self discovery? Are you interested in documenting where you're at for future self reflection and self affirmation?

Since the days of "Dear Diary," journalling has taken on many beautiful and creative forms. Chronicling has become therapeutic. By making daily entries, you will begin to notice patterns and perspectives. Journalling can help make sense of any past trauma or events, be they happy or frightening. Your journal becomes your witness to healing; it documents

the journey to becoming the champion of your life.

Join us at the Ginger Press on Sunday, June 29 from 11:00am to 4:00pm for the Journalling Workshop. Hosted by Bonita Johnson deMatteis, RP, and Rebekkah Williams, RP, we will explore creative ways to narrate your self affirmation. Everyone has a story worth telling, especially if it is one you write to yourself.

For more information and to register now (\$95 includes supplies and lunch) go to [www.nemesisgroup.ca](http://www.nemesisgroup.ca). Spaces are limited.

# THE ROXY OWEN SOUND LITTLE THEATRE

EMMA MCCONACHIE-ANDERSON • • • • • • • • • • • • •

With summer on the horizon, the Owen Sound Little Theatre/The Roxy is winding down its 2024/25 season with a handful of amazing performances. The final show of the season is *7 Stories* directed by Gerrard Morrison, in June. This Canadian written play is a visually striking, dark comedy about a man on the ledge of a seven-story apartment building contemplating jumping. As he deliberates, he is constantly interrupted by the inhabitants of the apartments on the seventh floor, who are all too wrapped up in their own stories to ask about why a strange man is out on the ledge. You don't want to miss this darkly funny, thought-provoking journey through the absurdities

of life and human connection, get your tickets today! The show runs June 12-15 and 18-21.

The Roxy Star Company is gearing up for their final showcase on June 26. Come see the talented participants of the program sing, dance, and act in this uplifting and joyful talent show: *Starstruck: Where Every Star Deserves To Shine!*

With one season ending we are moving on to another. Season's tickets for the OSLT's 2025/26 season are on sale with early bird pricing in mid June. Keep your eyes on our socials and website for more information. Tickets are available on the Roxy website, [www.roxytheatre.ca](http://www.roxytheatre.ca), or by calling (519) 371-2833.



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# THE SPACE BETWEEN CULTURES, FILLED WITH STARS AND SHEPHERD'S PIE

MIRANDA MILLER

Last summer, I started seeing posts popping up in local social media groups: ‘*Host Families Needed for International Students*.’ I scrolled past, then paused. Could we do it again? Should we? You may have seen them. The notices come out each year around the same time – late spring, into summer – as MLI Homestay seeks out host residences for students from Japan, Argentina, Sweden, and elsewhere. Each is looking for their own great Canadian learning experience.

Our family had hosted an exchange student from Australia for a semester about a decade ago. It was a great experience. But the kids were younger. We didn’t seem as busy with work back then. This student placement was for the entire school year. One son’s already off at university, it’s all so different now. But, but, but.

And yet I couldn’t stop thinking about it.

So I asked my husband and sons, what do you think? Everyone was surprisingly receptive. We reached out to MLI Homestay and were put in touch with local coordinator, Adriene Mackenzie. More than just an advocate for the program, she’s also an experienced host who has provided stays for six students over the last eight years. “I keep in contact with the students, and enjoy seeing how their time in Canada has helped shape them into amazing adults,” Adriene says.

It’s a great opportunity to learn about a different culture and see our wonderful area through fresh eyes, she told us. Indeed, this has been one of the biggest bonuses of our experience this past school year: you get to see Grey-Bruce through fresh eyes.

Our student, Taku, is from Tokyo, Japan. From the beginning, his sense of wonder and awe was catching. Driving home with the family one night shortly after he arrived, Taku was wowed by the stars he could see from the car. We pulled onto a sideroad, drove about halfway down, and parked to go for a walk.

Taku was floored. He’s seen the moon, he told us, but never so many stars. There’s too much light pollution in Tokyo. Since then, he’s been out to a Sidewalk Astronomy demonstration, witnessed the Northern Lights, and stayed up late spotting meteors in the backyard, all right here in Owen Sound.

We’ve gone hiking at Inglis Falls and Jones Falls, tobogganing at Harrison Park, and skating at the rec centre. Cheered on the Attack and lamented the Leafs. We’ve been to ball games and shows in Toronto, and toured behind the falls at Niagara Falls. Family friends even took Taku ice fishing on

Lake Simcoe.

And don’t worry – it’s not all go-go-go. While trips and activities are fun, they’re not mandatory, and MLI Homestay offers group trips the students can join if they’d like to explore more of Canada during their time here. Host families don’t need to pack an agenda with activities for their guest. The real magic is how students are incorporated into everyday life.

Maybe Saturday mornings at the Farmers’ Market are part of your routine, or Solidarity Sundays at the Harmony Centre. Take your student along. Introduce them to optional local activities. Taku loves the gym and soccer, for example, so he got a YMCA membership and joined a few local leagues. He’s enjoyed meeting up with friends at Dairy Queen, Pokemon raids at Harrison Park, and learning how to cook poutine and Shepherd’s Pie at home. These are just part of everyday life for Canadian teens – and that’s precisely what makes it all such an exceptional experience for an international student.

Now, with just a short time left in the school year, we’re making the most of our time together. Before Taku returns to the hustle and big-city pace of Tokyo, we’ll get a few swims in at Sauble Beach, enjoy Harrison Park some more, and spend three nights on Flowerpot Island as volunteer lighthouse keepers. And while we’re packing in the fun, I find myself quietly taking stock of how much this experience has enriched our lives, too. Yes, being a host family is a big change, and it’s definitely a commitment. But man, is it ever a lot of fun.

MLI Homestay is now looking for host families for exchange students from Japan and Spain, beginning in the fall (September 2025 to June 2026). Two of them will be attending St. Mary’s High School in Owen Sound. Remuneration is provided to host families. To learn more and fill out your host family application, visit [MLIHomestay.com](http://MLIHomestay.com).



Adriene Mackenzie, MLI Homestay’s local coordinator for our region, and her student Alvaro during their visit to Alberta in May 2024.



# MOVING UPWARDS!

AMELIA KRAEMER • • • • • • •

We are thrilled to announce that Upwards Art has moved to Heritage Place Shopping Centre! This exciting new location offers 2,000 additional square feet for our vibrant workshops and expanded art supply retail section.

While we miss the creaky floors of our old space (we keep getting surprised by customers sneaking up on staff), we are embracing the new, spacious layout. We're even considering installing a motion door bell to help us know when visitors enter the store. Our expanded retail space means we can bring in more of what you're looking for. We've already had requests for additional lines of watercolour paints, enamel paints for models, more mechanical pencils, and the full line of Tri-Art paints. Have a suggestion? Let us know! We're committed to stocking the art supplies you love and need.

We are also thrilled to announce the expansion of our workshop selection with more opportunities for social and community-oriented classes, and we'll be collaborating with regional guest instructors to offer fresh perspectives and techniques. Let us know what classes and topics you'd like to see on our calendar. We are also exploring the possibility of inviting international instructors on a regular basis. After hosting the Canadian Encaustic Conference this September, we'll have a clearer understanding of how to make that happen, including arrangements for accommodations, visas, and transportation.

Upwards Art is proud to be collaborating with Artcures to provide programming that supports disenfranchised communities, including those with intellectual and physical disabilities, those on the spectrum, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and allies, racial minorities, teens, and seniors. Our goal is to make art accessible to everyone and foster an inclusive environment in which creativity thrives.

While we're sad to leave the Owen Sound River District, we remain committed to our local artistic community. Upwards Art continues to support and participate in local events, including hosting the Canadian Encaustic Conference this September and taking part in the 2025 Owen Sound Community Artist Studio Tour. Plus, take a walk along the harbour to enjoy this year's Urban Easel banners, showcasing local creativity.

Check out our new workshops and events by visiting our online calendar at [upwardsart.com](http://upwardsart.com). Be sure to subscribe to our newsletter to stay up to date on all our exciting offerings and community involvement. We look forward to seeing you at our new location and continuing to make art accessible, fun, and community-focused. Your creative journey awaits!



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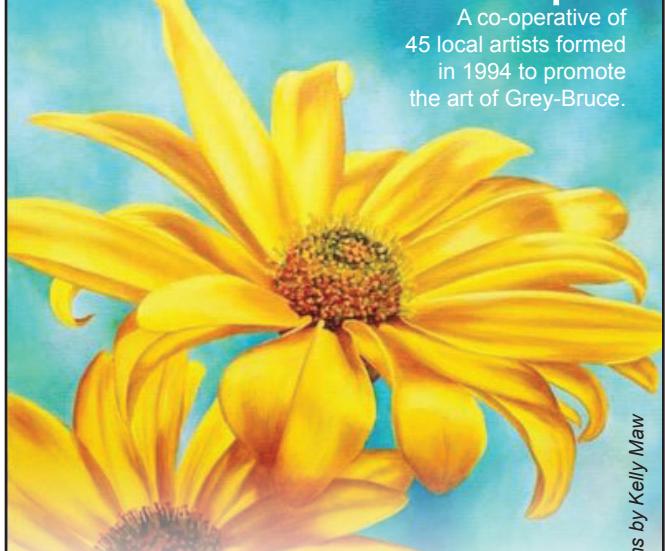


Visit [www.ruralgardens.ca](http://www.ruralgardens.ca) for descriptions, locations, hours, and admission fees.

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# FLIXBUS LAUNCHES NEW SEASONAL EXTENSION

MERRILL LEEDOM • • • • • • • • • •

FlixBus has expanded its service to Sauble Beach, Southampton, and Port Elgin, making it easier and more affordable than ever to enjoy a beach getaway this summer. "We're thrilled to offer Ontarians and visitors a convenient, sustainable way to reach some of the province's best-loved beach towns," said Karina Frayter, head of communications at FlixBus North America. "This route extension reflects our commitment to connecting more communities across Canada and giving travellers easy, budget-friendly access to top seasonal destinations."

The new service will operate daily, seven days a week, linking major hubs

including Toronto Union Station Bus Terminal, Toronto Pearson Airport, Barrie, Wasaga Beach, Collingwood, Blue Mountain Village, Thornbury, Meaford, Owen Sound, South Bruce Peninsula Visitor Centre, Sauble Beach, Southampton, and Port Elgin. Travellers can connect seamlessly from Toronto and Pearson Airport, integrating with FlixBus's broader Eastern Canada network and allowing for weekend trips from the city.

Passengers can look forward to a modern onboard experience, including free Wi-Fi, comfortable seating, power outlets at every seat, and the convenience of reserving their

**FLIXBUS**

seat in advance, all at an affordable price point.

"We're excited to welcome FlixBus to Sauble Beach," said Mayor Jay Kirkland. "This expanded route offers a safe and affordable travel option that opens our region to more visitors and new opportunities. It's a win for local businesses, residents, and tourists alike." Tickets for the new route are available now at [flixbus.com](http://flixbus.com) and via the FlixBus app.

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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.

**GREYROOTS.COM**





# FLOWERPOT ISLAND REMINDS US WHAT'S WORTH PROTECTING

MIRANDA MILLER • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

The first time I stepped onto Flowerpot Island, I was a kid...wide-eyed, mud-smeared, and certain I was the bravest explorer ever to set foot on that stretch of shoreline. Decades later, I still feel that same sense of wonder every time I visit.

*Flowerpot Island: Then and Now* is a practical guide I have written for visitors, but it's also a reflection on what this place has meant to people over time — and what it can still teach us if we're paying attention. The towering sea stacks are what most people come to see, but there's far more here once you start looking closer.

Flowerpot Island is within the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, whose people are part of the Anishinaabek, the broader cultural and linguistic group that includes the Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomi Nations. Their relationship with this land and water stretches back thousands of years. That history, and its continued presence today, deserves space in how we understand

and experience this place. With guidance from an Elder, the book's cultural history chapter honours this long-standing connection and invites readers to reflect on the responsibilities we all share as guests here.

This uniquely beautiful place is part of a larger story, written into the limestone of the Niagara Escarpment and passed down through generations. Long before the lighthouse was built, these waters were home to the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. Archaeological sites on the island, such as the Glen site, are reminders of that enduring connection.

The settler history of the island is more recent. The lightstation, once home to generations of keepers and their families, offers a window into a life shaped by isolation and resilience. Thanks to the ongoing work of Friends of the Bruce District Parks Association volunteers, the lightkeepers' dwelling is open as a living museum. It's a rare chance to step inside a preserved piece of Great Lakes history.

Tourism on Flowerpot Island has



grown rapidly in the last decade. With that growth comes both opportunity and pressure: on trails, on ecosystems, and on the quiet experience many visitors seek. *Flowerpot Island: Then and Now* is meant to help visitors prepare, understand, and tread lightly. Whether you're planning a visit or simply curious about what lies beyond the shoreline, this book is an invitation to see Flowerpot Island more fully, not just for what it offers us, but for what it asks of us in return. The book will be available instore and online at The Ginger Press this summer.



# Welcome to our new location!

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UPWARDS  
ART



# OWEN SOUND HOSTS CANADA'S FIRST ANNUAL ENCAUSTIC CONFERENCE

AMELIA KRAEMER

We are thrilled to announce the first annual Canadian Encaustic Conference, taking place right here in Owen Sound from September 5 to 7! This exciting event, coordinated by Upwards Art, will bring together encaustic artists, instructors, and enthusiasts from across Canada and beyond to share their passion for this unique and captivating artform.

Encaustic painting involves a heated wax medium to which coloured pigments have been added; it was developed thousands of years ago in Greece and is an ideal medium for assemblage, mixed media, and collage.

The Encaustic Conference will feature three full days of presentations and demonstrations led by some of the most talented encaustic artists from around the world. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn new techniques, explore creative approaches, and engage with a vibrant community of fellow artists.

The highlight of the conference will be the keynote presentation by David Gauntlett, a leading voice in creative innovation, on Saturday afternoon. We'll also gather for the Connect Banquet on Saturday evening at the Best Western Inn on the Bay—a great chance to meet fellow artists, celebrate our award recipients, and honour Andrea Bird's legacy within the encaustic community.

One of the key features of the conference will be the vendors' room, located at the Bayshore Community Centre throughout the event. You'll have the chance to purchase

art supplies and artist software at discounted rates from a range of suppliers. Whether you're stocking up on encaustic materials or looking for digital tools to support your practice, this is the place to shop.

In addition to the main conference, there will be numerous pre- and post-conference workshops held at various local art studios, including Upwards Art, Grey Bruce Makers Space, Harmony Centre, Harrison Park Community Centre, and Georgian Bay School of the Arts. And you don't need to sign up for the conference to attend the workshops, and vice versa—feel free to participate in whatever suits your interests.

The Encaustic Conference will also include a range of art exhibitions to showcase the diverse work of encaustic artists. Confirmed exhibitions will be hosted at Grey Gallery and The Gathering Table, with more opportunities in the works. If you are interested in hosting an exhibition, please reach out to Amelia at [info@encausticconference.ca](mailto:info@encausticconference.ca).

This conference is not just about learning—it's about building connections. Whether you are a seasoned encaustic artist or new to the medium, the Canadian Encaustic Conference will offer a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in creative exploration right here at home.

Don't miss out on this incredible event! Stay updated on the latest conference news and registration details by following us on social media and visiting [encausticconference.ca](http://encausticconference.ca).

# ARTWALK

## A CELEBRATION OF ART AND ARTISTS IN DOWNTOWN OWEN SOUND

### 10:00 TO 3:00 SATURDAY JUNE 21

#### SCHEDULE • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •



Take a walk downtown! Discover a dozen remarkable venues featuring art, artists, and arts-related classes and supplies.

Visit the Galleries! Meet the Artists!

No Charge! Free Parking! Door Prizes!

Self Guided Walking Tour of Arts Venues throughout  
the Downtown

#### 1. Bluewater Quilters Guild • 769 2nd Avenue East [bluewaterquiltersguild.ca](http://bluewaterquiltersguild.ca)

Established in 1987, the Guild now has over 150 members; it is a vibrant quilting community where creativity, learning, exploring and mutual support thrive. Visit our studio to see demonstrations of quilt top piecing, fabric collage quilting, slow stitching and hand quilting by our members. Learn about upcoming Beginner Quilting classes and the benefits of becoming a member of the Guild.

#### 2. The Gathering Table • 777 2nd Avenue East [thegatheringtableowensound](#) on Instagram

The Gathering Table is a unique art studio and retail space that celebrates the art of entertaining. Blending creativity with curated lifestyle offerings, it features a gallery wall showcasing original artwork, and a handpicked selection of stylish home décor. Designed to inspire gatherings and elevate everyday moments, The Gathering Table is where art, hospitality, and taste come together seamlessly.

#### 3. Georgian Bay School of the Arts • 938 2nd Avenue East [gbarts.ca](http://gbarts.ca)

Dedicated to inspiring artistic excellence, and encouraging practical skills development while providing inclusive and creative education programming, GBArts accommodates fully equipped studios for jewellery, pottery, printmaking, stained glass, painting, textiles, mixed media, and digital arts. Artist instructors will be on hand to demonstrate and discuss upcoming classes.

#### 4. Grey Gallery and Garden • 883 2nd Avenue East [greygallery.ca](http://greygallery.ca)

We are a small independent commercial art gallery with a focus on figurative art and works on paper. During ArtWalk, Daciana Dao and John Laughlin will be jointly exhibiting. Next door, we have Grey Garden, which offers a peaceful space in the heart of Owen Sound.

#### 5. Heartwood Home • 939 2nd Avenue East [heartwoodhome.ca](http://heartwoodhome.ca)

We carry antiques, locally made furniture and crafts, and unusual plants. For ArtWalk, we will show work by Lori Campbell, a textile artist who makes landscapes and small sculptures of animal life by upcycling vintage wool blankets, which she hand dyes, wet felts, needle felts, and often embellishes with embroidery and beads.

#### 6. Intersections Wood Collaborative • 299 10th Street East [intersectionswoodcollaborative.org](http://intersectionswoodcollaborative.org)

Intersections Wood Collaborative is a not-for-profit woodworking studio offering wood-focused learning opportunities for everyone. Stop by and see examples of fine woodworking and woodturning made by our artists, instructors and students, and learn about upcoming workshops.

#### 7. Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library • 824 1st Avenue West • [osngupl.ca](http://osngupl.ca)

Since 1914, the Library has been providing community space, resources and programs for young, old and everyone in between. In conjunction with the launch of the TD Summer Reading Club, we will have a mural activity for children in the Youth Services Department. Visitors can also check out displays featuring books on art and art instruction.



## 8. Owen Sound Artists' Co-op • 942 2nd Avenue East

[artistscoop.ca](http://artistscoop.ca)

With more than 45 member artists, the Co-op will provide ArtWalkers with a remarkable overview of the local art scene. Artists will be present to talk about their work. Artist Shirra Benson, who works with oils, will be doing a Plein Air demonstration on the street.

## 9. Owen Sound Farmers' Market • 88 8th Street East

[owensoundfarmersmarket.com](http://owensoundfarmersmarket.com)

(open 8:00-12:30)

We feature 50+ local vendors, including ten amazing local culinary artists with savouries and sweets from world cuisines. During ArtWalk, we will also host Market fundraisers including local artist Raquell Yang doing caricatures (\$25) and make-your-own collaged buttons (\$5).

## 10. Pottawatomi Spinners & Weavers at Grey Gallery •

883 2nd Avenue East

[facebook.com/PottawatomiSpinnersandWeaversGuild](http://facebook.com/PottawatomiSpinnersandWeaversGuild)

Established fifty years ago, this group recently celebrated its 50th anniversary as a community organization consisting of weavers, spinners, knitters, basket-makers, lace-makers and dyers. As guests of Grey Gallery for ArtWalk, members will be explaining and demonstrating their crafts.

## 11. Riverside Yarns • 928 2nd Avenue East

[riversideyarns.ca](http://riversideyarns.ca)

Founded over 15 years ago, Riverside Yarns is a destination for fibre lovers and makers of all kinds. For ArtWalk, we will host a sale of exquisite handknit items made by our community and donated to support the Bluewater Friendship Sponsor Group to help a young refugee family find safety and security in Owen Sound.

## 12. Tom Thomson Art Gallery • 840 1st Avenue West

[tomthomson.org](http://tomthomson.org)

Named in commemoration of the iconic Canadian landscape artist whose work and legacy it honours, the Gallery currently features three exhibitions including Safekeeping, a show that explores environmental issues through the lens of youth who respond to works in the Gallery's collection. A recent bequest of three new Tom Thomson oil sketches is on display as part of the exhibition.

plus

## 13. Art in the Backyard • 382 2nd Avenue S.E.

(open 1:00-5:00)

Local artists and musicians gather here to showcase their individual talents such as painting, drawing, singing, and performing. We are hosting 15 artists, as well as the band G.R.I.N.D, and Wil McReynolds on guitar. It's a little far to walk, but parking is available at South End Fellowship Baptist Church next door.

Fill out your ArtWalk Passport (available at every venue) and drop it off to win the ArtWalk Grand Prize (retail value \$500+)!



## ART IN THE BACKYARD Show & Sales Event

Featuring 15 Local Artists  
Live Music from 3:00-5:00 pm

June 21st from 1:00-5:00 pm  
382 2nd Ave. S.E., Owen Sound

Parking available at South End Fellowship Baptist Church

Your public art gallery



VISIT THE GALLERIES! MEET THE ARTISTS!  
SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND WORKSHOPS!  
NO CHARGE! FREE PARKING! DOOR PRIZES!  
SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF ARTS VENUES THROUGHOUT THE DOWNTOWN

**SATURDAY JUNE 21**  
**10:00 - 3:00**

# ARTWALK!

A CELEBRATION OF ART AND ARTISTS IN DOWNTOWN OWEN SOUND

1. **BLUEWATER QUILTERS GUILD**  
769 2nd Avenue East
2. **THE GATHERING TABLE**  
777 2nd Avenue East
3. **GEORGIAN BAY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**  
938 2nd Avenue East
4. **GREY GALLERY**  
883 2nd Avenue East
5. **HEARTWOOD HOME**  
939 2nd Avenue East
6. **INTERSECTIONS WOOD COLLABORATIVE**  
299 10th Street East
7. **OWEN SOUND & NORTH GREY UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
824 1st Avenue West
8. **OWEN SOUND ARTISTS' CO-OP**  
942 2nd Avenue East
9. **OWEN SOUND FARMERS' MARKET**  
88 8th Street East (8:00am-12:30pm)
10. **POTTAWATOMI SPINNERS & WEAVERS AT GREY GALLERY**  
883 2nd Avenue East
11. **RIVERSIDE YARNS**  
928 2nd Avenue East
12. **TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY**  
840 1st Avenue West
13. **plus ART IN THE BACKYARD**  
(15 more artists; 1:00-5:00)  
382 2nd Avenue S.E.



**Bluewater  
Quilters'  
Guild**

769 2nd Ave E, Owen Sound, ON

Website: <https://www.bluewaterquiltersguild.ca/>  
Email: [info@bluewaterquiltersguild.ca](mailto:info@bluewaterquiltersguild.ca)

**Bluewater Quilters Guild**



**Join us and Find out how the Bluewater Quilters' Guild can spark your creative sewing journey!**

**Intersections  
Wood  
Collaborative**



A not-for-profit woodworking studio offering wood-focused learning opportunities for everyone.

299 10<sup>th</sup> St E, Owen Sound N4K 1S4  
[info@intersectionswoodcollaborative.org](mailto:info@intersectionswoodcollaborative.org)  
[www.intersectionswoodcollaborative.org](http://www.intersectionswoodcollaborative.org)

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**LAURIE COISH**  
~ YOUR HOST ~

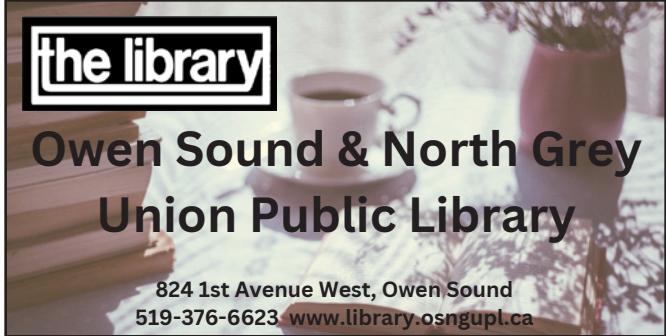
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777 2nd Ave E, Owen Sound  
[thegatheringtableowensound@gmail.com](mailto:thegatheringtableowensound@gmail.com)

GOURMET FOODS  
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ART GALLERY



**the library**

**Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library**



824 1st Avenue West, Owen Sound  
519-376-6623 [www.library.osngupl.ca](http://www.library.osngupl.ca)



adult & kid art classes  
**GBARTS.CA**

**POTTAWATOMI SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD**  
*Show & Sale 2025*  
November 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>



At the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library  
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm - 5 pm  
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 4 pm  
Spinning, weaving and handmade items

**GG GREY GALLERY**

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226-664-2776

[f](https://www.facebook.com/ggowensound) [@ggowensound](https://www.instagram.com/ggowensound) [GGY.Gallery](http://GGY.Gallery)



**artists' co-op INC.**



942 2nd Ave East  
Owen Sound  
519 371 0479  
[www.artistscoop.ca](http://www.artistscoop.ca)

**H HEARTWOOD HOME**



939 2nd Ave E, Owen Sound  
(519) 470-2500 [www.heartwoodhome.ca](http://www.heartwoodhome.ca)

**OWEN SOUND FARMERS MARKET .COM**



SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT  
OWEN SOUND FARMERS' MARKET  
OPEN SATURDAYS YEAR ROUND 8AM TO 12:30PM

# GREY GALLERY – SEVEN YEARS AND COUNTING

ANNE DONDERTMAN

The Victoria Day weekend in May 2018 was the date we opened the doors of Grey Gallery. We had purchased the historic building in downtown Owen Sound in January, and had begun renovations so we could make a residence on the second floor, but that summer we lived in our trailer at Sauble, and greatly enjoyed our picturesque and peaceful commute.

At the time we opened, there was a handful of other commercial galleries downtown in addition to the Tom Thomson Gallery, and it felt good to be joining an exciting and vibrant arts community. Although our initial idea had been to showcase the work of Gallery co-owner John Laughlin, along with some collectables and books, we soon found there was considerable interest from local artists in exhibiting with us.

That fall of 2018 we held the first of a series of exhibitions by Raquell Yang. Over the course of the next seven years we have curated and exhibited the work of more than 30 artists in solo or dual shows, as well as 200+ artists in juried or invitational group shows. The majority of the artists are regional, and it has been a privilege to make the work of so many talented and creative people available for the public to view. The ability to browse, to chat with the curators, and to meet the artists in person, is valuable and cannot be replicated online.

Although we hosted a few workshops early on, we soon realized that other venues including the fledgling GBArts were doing a much better job of that, and we restricted our efforts to life drawing. From the fall of 2018 until now with only minor interruptions, we have run weekly uninstructed drop-in sessions, thanks to a wonderfully talented group of models.

Another initiative that started the first year was ArtWalk. Due to the efforts of Maryann Thomas at Ginger Press who does the bulk of the organizing and promotion, we have carried on ever since, with some modifications due to COVID. Each year we have had about ten participating venues, and it has become an anticipated event in June.

Grey Gallery welcomes collaborations with other businesses and organizations and the annual Lunar New Year exhibition is a good example. When the exhibition could no longer be shown at the Tom Thomson Gallery we began to host it and it has always been a fun experience, giving both hobby and professional artists a chance to participate.

In 2024 we collaborated with Amelia Kraemer, the

organizer of the Owen Sound Community Artist Studio Tour, and exhibited the work of all 30+ artists participating in the tour. This September we will be collaborating with Amelia again in connection with the Canadian Encaustic Conference. We are excited to be exhibiting the work of an elite group of national and international artists who are participating in the conference.

Over the years, we have sharpened our focus on the type of work we exhibit, and, for the most part, our mandate now is figurative work and works on paper. The interest in paper also began the first autumn we were open, with Washi Weekend, and that event resulted in Grey Gallery becoming a reseller for the Japanese Paper Place, making quality Japanese decorative and art paper available to artists and craftspeople in our region.

Grey Garden is another aspect of our presence in downtown Owen Sound. We purchased the vacant lot adjoining the gallery so we would have parking, but there was no doubt that it was an eyesore. As the site of a former fire it consisted of rubble and gravel and was used as a thoroughfare between 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

In the late fall of 2019 after an unexpected rebuild of our south wall we had a beautiful new surface just crying out for a something, and Raquell Yang stepped in and created the amazing 50-foot mural entitled Transformations. We decided to continue to transform it into a welcoming downtown space, creating some plantings, adding outdoor sculpture, and making it available as an event venue. During the summer of 2020, under the direction of Thomas Dean, we added fencing, excavated beds and planted trees and perennials.

The garden has hosted many community concerts and events, and continues to be a work in progress. Last summer we worked with Sound Outdoors to add a small rock and gravel garden, and this spring we will be acquiring additional sculptures. We are always interested in collaborating with individuals or groups who are looking for a downtown outdoor venue.

So, despite having to cope with building challenges, COVID, a recent flood, and downtown decline, we are still here, with plans for outstanding exhibitions right through to the end of the year. Whether you are an artist, an art lover, or just someone who is curious about what we do, we hope you will stop by the gallery and garden next time you are downtown. Help us to keep Owen Sound as an art destination in our region and beyond.



**caserofood.ca**  
**OWEN SOUND + SAUBLE BEACH**



# RURAL GARDENS OF GREY AND BRUCE

DAWN LONEY •

All Rural Gardens of Grey and Bruce members, their locations, specialities, open hours, and events are listed on [www.ruralgardens.ca](http://www.ruralgardens.ca). Some of the highlights for the summer of 2025 include:

**Bluewater Lavender Farm:** Christine and Mass Arezzi welcome you to their award-winning, family-owned-and-operated lavender farm near Wiarton. Enjoy Yoga in the Lavender Field.

**Annual Grey Bruce Garden Tour:** Eight stunning gardens from Big Bay to Holland Centre July 12 and 13, 10 am – 4 pm

**Second Annual Wiarton Lavender Festival** at Bluewater Park, Wiarton. Celebrate all things lavender with vendors, food, drinks and live music. Yoga session at 10:30 and an open farm invitation during the festival. July 26 and 27.

**Earth Bound Gardens** (Red Bay, Bruce Peninsula) Brenda Sutherland, John Close, and Judy Larkin offer more than plants sales and gardens to view! There's something

wonderful about a garden full of music. Bring your lawn chair on Sunday afternoons in July and August for garden concerts.

**Fiddlehead Nursery** (Kimberley, Beaver Valley) Join Ben Caesar at his permaculture nursery where he propagates his plants for sale using natural soil mixes and fertilizers without pesticides, fungicides or herbicides.

**Folmer Gardens** (Walkerton) Brian and Jana Folmer invite you to the largest privately owned botanical gardens in southwestern Ontario. Thirty acres of gardens and greenhouses offer lots of inspiration.

**Gingko Footprints** (Annan, near Owen Sound) Good news! Emily Bi and Dennis Zhang have extended their celebration Among the Peonies to two days: June 13 and 14.

**Keppel Croft Gardens** (Big Bay, near Wiarton). Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy in the gardens at Keppel Croft. The Nature Trail has two picnic spots. Swimming is invigorating at the Big Bay beach.

# REACHING OUT IN FRIENDSHIP

SANDRA J. HOWE •

The Baha'i Community of Grey-Bruce is reaching out in friendship to neighbours, families, co-workers, and like-minded groups across the counties. Our intention is to help build unity in the community. When we feel connected, we are better able to read our local reality, work together toward common goals, and live happy and productive lives of service. Being of service is the highest aim for Baha'is. Baha'u'llah, the Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith said, "Let your vision be world-embracing, rather than confined to your own self."

In Owen Sound, Baha'is gather regularly to share prayers and food with friends and neighbours. They work with refugees, choirs, and community groups, help with climate action, and work at the repair cafe. Maybe they live next door?

Along the east side of the Sydenham River, the Baha'is have planted, and continue to tend a lovely grove of London plane

trees. We hope you will visit them to enjoy quiet moments of reflection.

The Saugeen Shores Baha'is have been very active in the community recently. A dedicated team prepares, and serves the community supper every other month in Southampton. Other churches, and individuals undertake this service as well, providing a delicious meal twice per month through much of the year.

We also hold regular Community Campfires that are open to everyone. This provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know neighbours, share prayers and conversation, and have fun together. We play yard games, roast marshmallows, and enjoy snacks. The next gathering is on June 21, 2-4pm, in our backyard in Southampton. Please RSVP to Sandra at (519) 477-1537. We look forward to chatting with you soon!

# THE MILK MAID IN MEAFORD

SARAH MILLER • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Here we grow again...exciting news, cheesy friends! We are opening another new location — this time in Meaford! Much like we did last year in Port Elgin, we are once again expanding in our typically collaborative Milk Maid way, by setting up WITHIN The Cook's Cupboard at 29 Sykes Street North in Meaford. As you probably already know, The Cook's Cupboard is a truly unique and amazing store where you'll find all sorts of high-end kitchen essentials, tools, small appliances, and gourmet food.

We'll be offering the same 50+ varieties of local and international fine cheeses and cured meats that we carry in our Owen Sound and Port Elgin locations. We'll also be offering our custom-made cheese and charcuterie boards, perfect for events, dinner parties, celebrations, picnics, and more.

As you know, our Owen Sound location is not just a cheese shop, it is a gourmet food shop and fully licensed bistro as well. We serve up lots of yummy cheese-inspired dishes, such as grilled cheese and other sandwiches, soups, salads, charcuterie boards, baked goods, and more, and a large selection of wine, beer, cider, and non-alcoholic beverages. While we won't be offering this sort of dining



in our new Meaford location, we will be stocking some of our grab-n-go food items including our beloved grainy and pasta salads, charcuterie-to-go boxes, and more.

And some extra good news to those who have missed Hoof'n'it Butcher in Meaford: much like us, The Cook's Cupboard is also becoming home to them, so this whole arrangement truly is a match made in foodie heaven for us all!



Established in 1957, Southampton Arts provides the opportunity for all ages to explore a variety of art forms taught by Ontario's finest artists and educators. We also host exhibitions and special events. Get in touch today for more information.



201 High Street Southampton (519) 797-5068  
[info@southamptonartscentre.com](mailto:info@southamptonartscentre.com) [www.southamptonartscentre.ca](http://www.southamptonartscentre.ca)

# 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL OWEN SOUND MODEL TRAIN SHOW AND SALE

ZACK MCLEAN •

The Community Waterfront Heritage Centre will host its second annual Model Train Show and Sale at the Owen Sound Legion from 10:00 to 3:00 on Saturday, September 13. Come to see not only model railway equipment in a variety of scales, but also working layouts. A variety of vendors will help you find that special piece you've been looking for to add to your layout. Also, if you're looking to sell your Z to G scale locomotives or other railway paraphernalia, it's just \$20 to register a six-foot table.

Admission is just \$5 and includes entry to the CWHC. For more information, contact us by phone at (519) 371-3333 or email at info@waterfrontheritage.ca or drop by the CWHC at 1155 1st Avenue West, Owen Sound; this summer we're open Thursdays to Mondays from 10:00 to 4:00.



## United Way Bruce Grey

### Backpack Program 2025 needs you!

Please donate now so every Grey-Bruce student who needs one will receive a fully stocked backpack.

With your help, we have distributed **37,964 backpacks** since 2005!

Visit us at 380 9th Street East, Owen Sound, or call (519) 376-1560 or [Backpacks4Kids.ca](http://Backpacks4Kids.ca) online.



United Way  
Bruce Grey  
*Change starts here*



# DOWN NORTH GARLIC COMPANY: A FLAVOURFUL JOURNEY FROM FARM TO TABLE

MORAG BUDGEON

## ROOTS OF A DREAM

Not everyone grows up knowing their calling, but for Andrew Russell, founder of Down North Garlic Company, destiny came knocking unexpectedly. While climbing the ladder in retail management, he faced the challenge of balancing irregular hours with raising young children. A chance job posting for a management role at a garlic farm — a field he knew little about — changed everything. With minimal farming experience and only a vague idea of what a garlic bulb looked like, Andrew took a leap of faith, applied, and landed the job. That moment sparked a passion for farming and an obsession with garlic that defines him today.

At the farm, Andrew immersed himself in every facet of the business, from cultivation and production to marketing and logistics. These skills became the foundation for his future venture. Though he loved his work, the farm's location far from his family's roots in Grey County tugged at his heart. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it provided the perfect opportunity to return home to his family's land and lay the groundwork for Down North Garlic Company. In fall 2022, the business officially took root, growing steadily each year while bringing its flavourful garlic and products to homes across Grey County.

## A FAMILY LEGACY IN CHATSWORTH

Down North's garlic grows just outside Chatsworth, Ontario, on land purchased by Andrew's grandfather. Coming from a family of educators — school principals and teachers

— Andrew wasn't raised to farm. Instead, his grandfather and father, passionate outdoorsmen, nurtured his deep appreciation for the land. The family farm, where his grandparents still live, remains a cherished retreat for hiking, hunting, and embracing nature's beauty. Andrew feels fortunate to complement these traditions by cultivating chemical-free garlic in the property's existing fields, sustainably growing food for his community while providing for his family.

## THE "JUST DO IT" PHILOSOPHY

Building a business is never a straight path, and Down North embraces the twists and turns with a bold mindset: "Just do it!" Whether experimenting with new products, refining farming techniques, or even launching a garlic-inspired apparel line, every idea starts with a simple question: "Is this something we'd find value in?" If the answer is yes, they dive in.

The Owen Sound Farmers' Market serves as their testing ground, where they gauge customer reactions before fully committing to new ventures. For Down North, no idea is too outlandish — if it doesn't work, they learn and

move forward, never letting fear of failure hold them back.

## GROWING STRONG

In just a few short years, Down North Garlic Company has blossomed from a small operation into a thriving local business. Starting with chemical-free garlic, they've expanded into a diverse retail lineup featured in stores across Grey and Bruce counties and on the menus of local restaurants. With plans to broaden their product range and retail presence, Down North is committed to making their wholesome, locally grown garlic accessible to all.

More than a business, Down North is a family and a community. Andrew and his team are deeply grateful for the support of their customers and local businesses, whose collaboration and encouragement fuel their growth. From their vibrant stall at the Owen Sound Farmers' Market (open every Saturday from 8:00am to 12:30pm) to their online presence at [www.downnorthgarlic.com](http://www.downnorthgarlic.com) and Instagram (@downnorthgarlic), Down North invites you to join their journey and savour the fruits of their labor.



# SUMMER IN THE CITY: FREE CONCERTS IN OWEN SOUND

JENN WRIGHT •

The City of Owen Sound will host free live concerts again this summer. Eleven performances will be part of the TD Harbour Nights concert series, and thirteen will be delivered as part of the Mid Week Music series. Owen Sound residents and visitors can dive into the vibrant energy of live outdoor music from June through September.

The Harbour Nights concert series includes Souvenirs - A Tribute to John Prine (June 15), The Mike McCarthy Band (June 22), Paige Warner (June 29), Mackenzie Blues Band (July 6), Maggie's Wake (July 13), Cara Smith (July 20), The O'Deadlys (July 27), Suzie Vinnick (4:00pm, August 10), and Bradley Hale (7:00pm, August 10). All performances take place at 1155 1st Ave West, Owen Sound, adjacent to the City's beautiful inner harbour at 7 p.m., with an additional 4 p.m. performance on the final Sunday. Grey County Rogers TV will live-stream the series as part of their weekly programming.

The events are free, but donations are greatly appreciated. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and arrive early for the best seating. The complete lineup of musicians and vendors can be found at [www.harbournights.ca](http://www.harbournights.ca).

Mid Week Music also has an impressive roster of musicians and collaborators this summer, at 4:30pm on Wednesdays. Mid Week Music kicks off with Ryan Knight (June 18) at Harrison Park Island, which is also International Picnic in a Park Day. Be sure to grab your lawn chair, a picnic

basket, and join us for a great evening of music. The lineup for summer includes Rock the Sound Choir (June 25 at the Owen Sound Farmers' Market), a Youth evening featuring local musicians (July 9 at the Billy Bishop Museum Pollinator Garden), Rob Elder (July 16 at the Westside Boat Launch), The Bellebottoms (July 23 at Community Waterfront Heritage Centre), Mid Life Crisis (July 30 at the Owen Sound Farmers' Market), Grey Road 1 (August 6 at Mudtown Station Brewery & Restaurant Patio), Drew McIvor (August 13 at Harrison Park Island), John Hume and Jon Zaslow (August 20 at Grey Gallery Gardens), Ain't She Sweet (August 27 at Owen Sound City Hall), Emily Power and Rick Fairburn (September 3 at the Boardwalk in the River District), and an evening of music with a stellar group of Youth musicians from the Youth Discoveries Summerfolk program (September 10 at the Owen Sound Farmers' Market). The full lineup can be found at [www.owensound.ca/midweekmusic](http://www.owensound.ca/midweekmusic).

Donations to support community initiatives such as these are accepted on-site, but thanks to the generosity of sponsors, the events are free.

In inclement weather, concerts will be held indoors at The Harmony Centre's Greaves Auditorium. For more information, please contact Jennifer Wright, Events and Activation Coordinator, at (519) 376-4440 ext. 1237 or [jwright@owensound.ca](mailto:jwright@owensound.ca).

# STEP INSIDE CREATIVITY AT OWEN SOUND'S ANNUAL STUDIO TOUR

AMELIA KRAEMER •

Get ready to immerse yourself in creativity at the 3rd Annual Owen Sound Community Artist Studio Tour! Mark your calendar for September 20-21, from 10:00am to 5:00pm, and prepare to explore the vibrant art scene that thrives right here in Owen Sound.

This self-guided tour is a unique opportunity to visit over 30 local artists in their creative spaces. From paintings and woodworking to fused glass and fibre arts, you'll encounter a wide range of artistic expressions and have the chance to meet the artists behind the work. Whether you're an art collector, a creative soul, or just curious, this tour promises to inspire and delight. The best part is it's completely free. Pick

up a map from our website or at participating locations, plan your route, and spend the weekend discovering new



Owen Sound  
Community Artist  
Studio Tour

favourites. Whether you're looking to add to your collection, get inspired, or simply enjoy a cultural outing, the Owen Sound Community Artist Studio Tour is an experience not to be missed! Follow us on social media @osstudiotour to stay updated and visit our website at [osstudiotour.ca](http://osstudiotour.ca) for more details. See you on the tour!

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### Canadian Encaustic Conference

Three days of demonstrations and presentations on art, creativity, and encaustic painting, held in early September at the Bayshore Community Centre. Featuring 35 pre- and post-conference workshops across five locations in Owen Sound, led by influential instructors from around the world.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. David Gauntlett, Canada Research Chair in Creativity, The Creative School, at Toronto Metropolitan University.

For more information and to register visit:  
[encausticconference.ca](http://encausticconference.ca)

# HERE COMES SUMMER!

MARIE KNAPP EdD

Hola Summer! There were days during the winter, when the snow kept falling more and more every day and I felt stuck in a season of cold isolation. However, as I open the door today, my heart bursts with joy upon the visual overwhelm of lilacs, peonies, geraniums, and lupines, swaying to the dance beat of numerous birds.

Today I plan to hike on the Bruce Trail at the top of Inglis Falls. The surrounding sensual experience of the outdoors is waiting to welcome me. I take a step forward cautiously in harmony with a new sound. Was that a frog perhaps, or a toad? Or maybe it was the mysterious call of a Pileated Woodpecker. Doing up my shoelaces, I check to ensure I am ready to experience the outdoors – hat, sun screen, water.

I must breathe. I certainly must breathe in the sumptuous moist summer air and let it tickle my throat and nudge my nasal passages. I take a big sigh. It is Saturday morning and the air is tainted with the fragrance of coffee and...is that bacon cooking somewhere? A delicious aroma teases my awakening taste buds just as a large lilac branch sways in front of me mimicking a fan.

I look up and my eyes take in the tops of large trees as I notice the expanse of the forest. Tall above me branches sway. It feels spiritual. It is a spiritual experience. I feel my heart fill as I continue along a familiar path of the Bruce Trail. The white blazes marking the route give me a sense of

calm – of a familiarity that leads me to a place of peace and awe.

The rough week gets left behind. News reports are quietly replaced by the sounds of nature. I bring my awareness to the present moment, quietly replacing news with the mindful walking I recently learned. I feel the earth beneath my feet. All my senses are awakened. This is the only reality I know at the moment. It feels healthy. My body responds with all that is good. I feel grateful. I am energized. I have embraced summer.



# FABULOUS FESTIVAL OF FRINGE FILM

JULIE RENÉ DE COTRET

Founded in 2002, the Fabulous Festival of Fringe Film was established by the Grey Zone Collective (GZC) as a way to bring contemporary and unconventional arts into the public realm. The GZC was established to collaborate with and showcase arts in rural settings, which are alternative, unconventional and exceptional. Current members include Phil Hoffman, Tony Massett, Julie René de Cotret, Debbie Ebanks Schlums, and Clayton Windatt.

Collectively these perspectives inform our current mandate: to present and commission experimental, interdisciplinary and interventionist forms of time-based work in accessible settings; to give exposure to emerging artists while celebrating established cultural producers; to highlight our rural context that has always already been a location inhabited by diverse Indigenous peoples and a site of cross-cultural

negotiation; to situate Indigenous people, persons of colour, Queer, young, disabled and otherwise marginalized peoples into the rural narrative as those belonging and not “Other” to rural Canada; and to present international films maintaining dialogue within globalized contemporary art contexts reflecting the global relationships of rural residents.

Join us on Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory for screenings, performances, workshops, talks, meals and more! Rejoignez-nous sur le territoire de la première Nation Ojibway de Saugeen, pour des projections, performances, présentations, ateliers, repas, et plus! Admission is free! For more information and program listings, visit [fabfilmfest.org](http://fabfilmfest.org). Showings will take place July 11, 12, 13 at the Durham Art Gallery and the Durham Conservation Area, July 18 at the Hanover Drive-In, and July 20 at the Durham Art Gallery.

# OWEN SOUND CURRENT: TELLING LOCAL STORIES THAT MATTER

MIRANDA MILLER •

In Owen Sound and across Grey-Bruce, local stories shape our sense of place. They tell us what's happening in our neighbourhoods, celebrate the people who are making a difference, and reflect the rhythms of our daily life. *Owen Sound Current* was created with one simple goal: to keep our community informed, connected, and represented in a way that's accurate, respectful, and timely. We believe local journalism is essential. It helps communities stay engaged, builds trust through transparency, and gives a voice to people and issues that might otherwise go unheard. From city council updates to cultural events, from in-depth reporting to everyday milestones, our work is focused on the people and places that make this region unique.

We're also committed to sharing a diversity of perspectives. Thanks to the generous support of our Sustaining Supporters, we're able to publish Community Columns – first-person stories and opinion pieces that reflect a broad range of voices and lived experiences across our region. Their ongoing support helps ensure that *Owen Sound Current*

remains a platform where more people can be heard, and more stories can be told.

*Owen Sound Current* is building a lasting archive: a record of our commu-nity's evolution over time. We want future generations to look back and understand what mattered here, and why. That's why we approach every story, big or small, with the same level of care.

We also believe news should be accessible and welcoming. Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the area, we invite you to explore the stories that reflect your community and to share your own. Our doors and inboxes are open.

At its best, journalism isn't just about information. It's about education, rela-tionships, and belonging. And that's what *Owen Sound Current* is here to build.

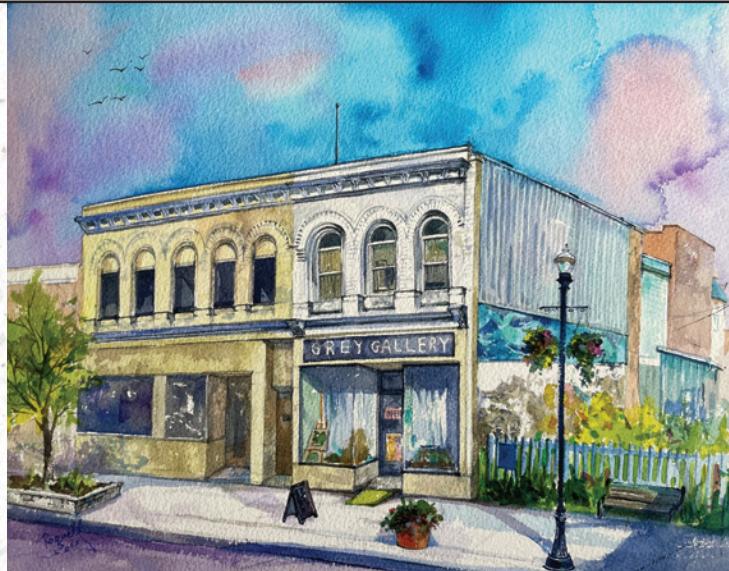
Visit us at [OwenSoundCurrent.com](http://OwenSoundCurrent.com) to read our latest coverage, subscribe for updates, and reach out with your ideas. Your voice matters, and together, we're building a more connected, better-informed community.



We invite you to visit  
Grey Gallery when you  
are next downtown.

In June and July we feature work by Daciana Dao and John Laughlin, and in August we will host an exhibition of paintings by the renowned figurative artist Tom La Pierre (1930-2010).

Our exhibitions change frequently so stop by often.



Watercolour painting by Raquel Yang

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and closed Sunday to Wednesday

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# GOLD OF ANOTHER KIND — THE LOST LEGACY OF GEORGIAN BAY AN EVENING WITH ALLEN SMUTYLO

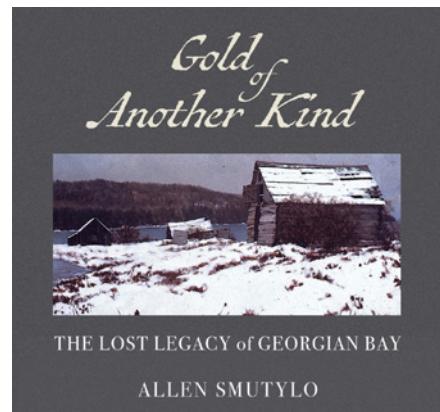
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Governor General's nominee and award-winning artist Allen Smutylo's new book, *Gold of Another Kind – The Lost Legacy of Georgian Bay*, is a historical, as well as a personal, account of the once staggering quality and quantity of three natural resources that were native to Georgian Bay waters and vicinity. A special event featuring a book talk by Allen, hosted by The Ginger Press, will take place at the Rumpus Room in Owen Sound at 7:00pm on Wednesday June 25.

Based in Tobermory for many years, Allen's writing and artwork have focused on experiences around Georgian Bay as well as some of the most remote places in the world including the Canadian Arctic as well as the west, east, and south coasts of Greenland, Iceland, Alaska, Labrador,

the Amazon, Antarctica, the Himalaya, the Ganges, Baja, Rajasthan, Patagonia, West Africa, Morocco and Mongolia.

In his new book, Allen reaches back into Georgian Bay history through the memoirs and journals of early explorers, fur traders, Jesuits, shanty men, river runners, lumber barons, commercial fishermen, and Native accounts, to uncover a story of an unbridled frenzy, driven by obsessive greed for the 'unclaimed' resources of a virgin land. However, as he points out, this coveting and exploiting a natural resource is hardly unique to Georgian Bay. Although the details are different, what happened here, has happened, and continues to happen, almost everywhere. By better understanding this, the author hopes to give readers a clearer perspective on how to navigate



THE LOST LEGACY of GEORGIAN BAY

ALLEN SMUTYLO

the future. From his experiences in Newfoundland, Antarctica and West Africa, he concludes that the human appetite for abusing an 'open' resource isn't confined to any one area or people, or to the distant past.

*Gold of Another Kind – The Lost Legacy* is layered with story-telling, photographs, paintings, humour, and adventure from Allen's 55 years of living, painting and travelling on Georgian Bay. Autographed copies (\$40) are available now at The Ginger Press. Tickets for an Evening with Allen Smutylo (\$40) include a copy of the book and are available instore and online at [www.gingerpress.com](http://www.gingerpress.com).

## NFB LAUNCH IN OWEN SOUND!

JOAN BEECROFT

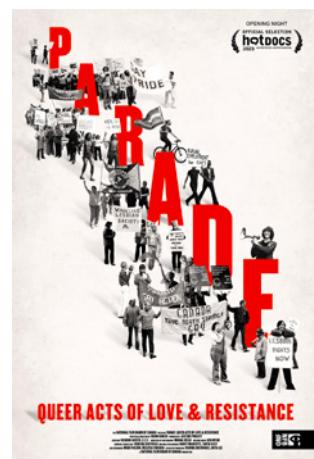
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Have you ever been to the national launch of a National Film Board movie? Here's your chance! On Sunday June 29 at 7:00pm, Pflag Canada Owen Sound Chapter will be screening *Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance* at the Rumpus Room, 239 9th Street East, in Owen Sound. How timely a performance, as June 29 is the anniversary of the Stonewall uprising!

This film "captures pivotal moments that sparked Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ movement, honouring the activists and elders whose resistance led to the rights we have today. Through rarely seen archival footage and first-person accounts, audiences are brought to the front lines of the struggle. From police raids to early drag shows, community organizing to the House of Commons – the complex history of the country's diverse communities is brought to

life. Key milestones illustrate the power of taking it into the streets and underscore how easily the rights we've fought for can be revoked, making the documentary essential viewing for all Canadians. Unflinching, bold, enraging, hopeful; *Parade* is a vital new chapter in the queer canon." —NFB website

Doors and bar open at 6:30. Film starts at 7 pm. Tickets (no charge) are available at [www.gingerpress.com](http://www.gingerpress.com). All are welcome. Questions? Email us at [owensoundon@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:owensoundon@pflagcanada.ca).





# THE SHOW

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition and Sale

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### Walter's Falls Community Centre

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# DANIEL LANOIS RETURNS TO MEA FORD

JENN BREBNER • • • • • • • •

Daniel Lanois, the highly acclaimed legendary producer, musician visionary, songwriter, and vocalist, is set to return to Meaford Hall for a rare live performance this August 7 and 8. His long-standing working relationships with Eno, Peter Gabriel, U2, Emmylou Harris, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, and many more have produced some of the music industry's greatest hits. Immerse yourself in the extraordinary sounds of the Daniel Lanois Trio, live in an intimate setting, featuring Jermaine Holmes on drums and vocals, and the mighty Jim Wilson on bass and vocals, blending together in a powerful three-part harmony. Tickets are available at [www.daniellanois.com](http://www.daniellanois.com).

## FOOTSTEPS

too often my footsteps  
outpace my heart  
leaving me to ponder

which one am I the one  
moving forward  
or the one left behind

- Rob Rolfe

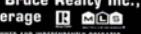


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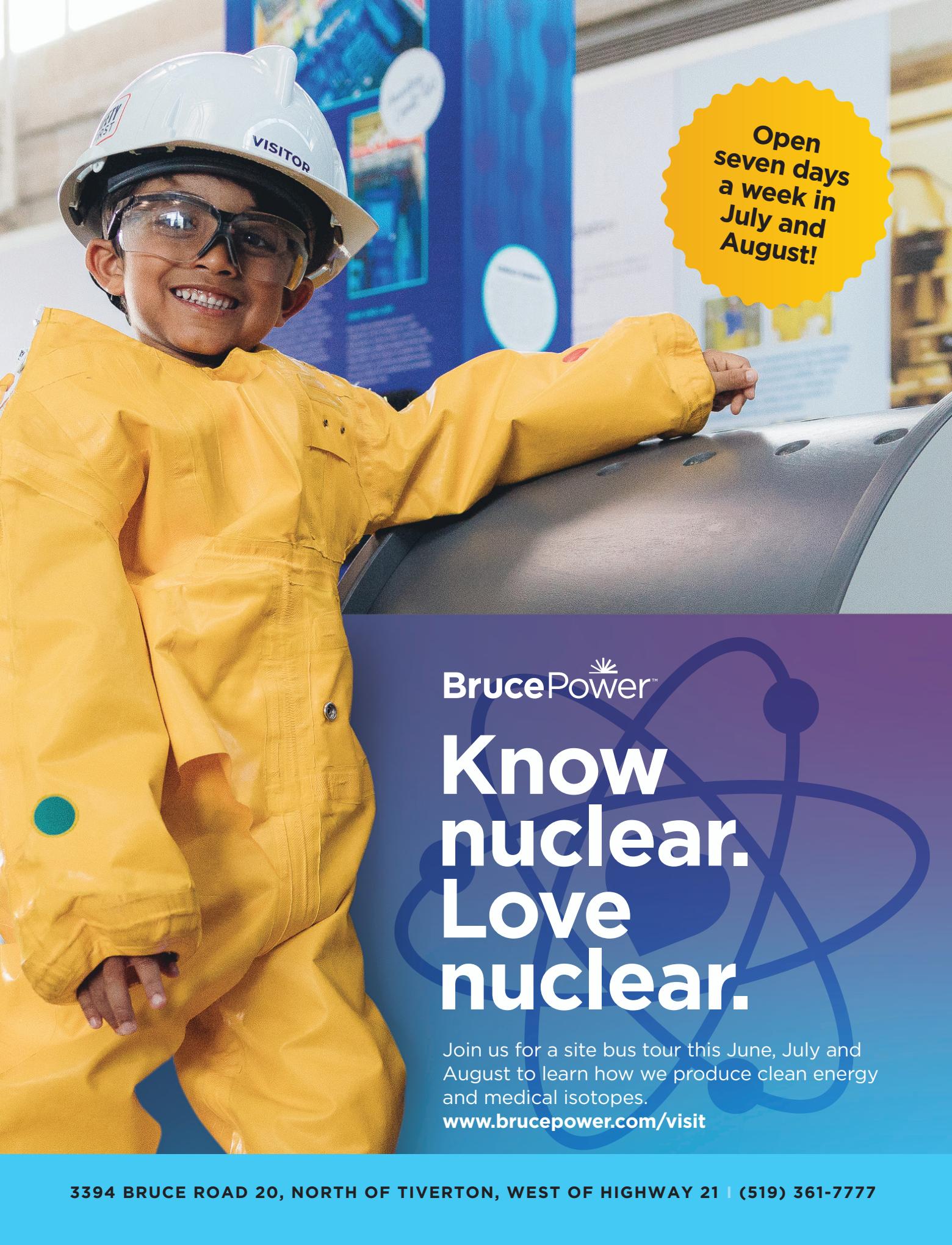
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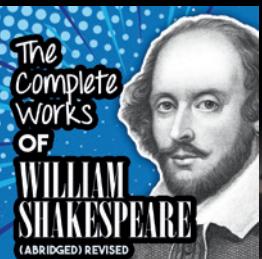
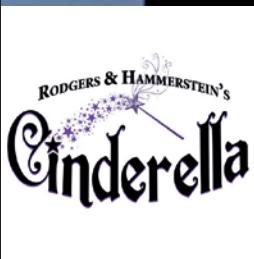
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