

MOSAIC
GREY BRUCE
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & COMMUNITY

the
owen sounder

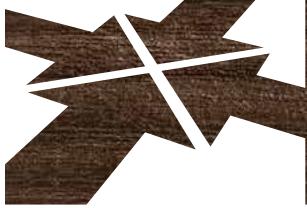
vol 5 no 1 spring 2023



combining two
great community
magazines in one
great issue!

FEATURING:

- Evening with Dan Needles!
- Wordshop!
- Things That Used To Matter!
- Kemble Maple Tour!
- Wonderland is Back!
- ...and so much more!



INTERSECTIONS WOOD COLLABORATIVE

presents

Why Can't Sheep and Trees be Friends?

with

DAN NEEDLES

author, playwright, and winner of the
Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour

SATURDAY APRIL 1

doors open 6:30, at the Harmony Centre, Owen Sound
395 9th Street East, Owen Sound

Enjoy an evening of laughter and storytelling with Dan Needles (author, *True Confessions from the Ninth Concession* and playwright, *Wingfield Farm* series). There will be desserts and a cash bar, as well as silent and live auctions (with auctioneer Rob Snider) featuring works by Stephen Hogbin and others. All proceeds support Intersections Wood Collaborative, a not for profit woodworking studio offering wood-focused learning opportunities for everyone.



tickets (\$35 advance/\$45 at the door)
available online at www.intersectionsstudio.com,
and in person at Intersections (open 10:00 to 3:00 Tuesday to Thursday)

INTERSECTIONS WOOD COLLABORATIVE | 299 10th Street East, Owen Sound

the owen sounder
and MOSAIC

vol 5 no 1 spring 2023

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Established in 1994 and revived in 2020, The Owen Sounder is an independent community magazine which is written, designed, published and distributed right here in Owen Sound. Established in 1993, MOSAIC continues to encourage and support all the local arts and entertainment.

Current and back issues also available at www.greybrucemosaic.com and www.theowensounder.ca

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about the front cover

Painting of the Seldon House by Richard-Yves Sitoski from *Butterfly Tongue*, his one-man show featuring his original artwork, with original songs by David Hawkins and Louise Jarvis. Seldon House, in downtown Owen Sound, was built in 1887 and now operates as The Coach Inn.

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FROM MY DESK

Welcome back! This is such a great time of year as we emerge from the winter hibernation into the enthusiasms of spring. And Grey-Bruce is bursting out all over. There's so much going on!

In this issue of our combined MOSAIC/TheOwenSounder magazine, we cover lots of new books, new events, and new services, along with some pre-COVID happenings which are resurfacing as we get back to getting together.

Find out about the Kemble Maple Tour on April 1st stops at six maple producers; as well it includes a maple-forward meal. You can get outdoors with folks who know what you're seeing by volunteering with the Sydenham Bruce Trail Club as they clean up old trails and build new ones. Register now for this summer's Choir Camp, and help build a boat with Intersections. If you're more of a homebody, you can check out the 27 on-demand music performances at the all-new Heartwood TV station. Get political! Join the Wonderland Choir! Head to downtown Owen Sound for Mother's Day! Take a class at Georgian Bay School of the Arts! Or Upwards Art Studio! Or Intersections! So many opportunities to connect!

We are delighted to include the Junior and Senior winners of the Write @ Your Library writing contest on pages 16 and 17 in this issue. Open to students throughout Grey-Bruce, this is the biggest and longest running local creative writing contest for youth. With over 50 entries of short stories and poems, the jury was challenged to choose the best overall. And here they are! Congratulations to Aria Thomas and Mady Raney (Junior winners) and Amelia Sutter and Teagan Penner (Senior winners). And good luck to everyone working on their submissions for this year's contest. Write On!

Tickets are now available for an Evening with Dan Needles on April 1st. Dan is a wonderful speaker, who provides a rustic philosophical approach to his experiences as a newby farmer living rurally. "Why can't sheep and trees be friends?" he asks as he threads together his love of all things local with all things trees in this fundraiser for Intersections Wood Collaborative. The evening will also include silent and live auctions of beautifully made objects by Stephen Hogbin, Ruth Gowdy McKinley, Kayo O'Kayo, Donald Lloyd McKinley, and other outstanding Canadian artists, along with refreshments and a cash bar. Don't miss this great event!

AND we are bringing back WORDSHOP, a one-day learning opportunity for writers co-sponsored by the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library (OSNGUPL) and The Ginger Press on Sunday, April 16 at The Library. The lineup of local experts leading sessions is phenomenal! Topics covered include Community Storytelling with **Joan Beecroft**; Making Books with **Kari Bronough**; Writing Songs with **Coco Love**; Writing Your Memoir with **Gail Gallant**; How to Research with **Janet Iles**; Writing for Magazines with **Sandra J. Howe**; Writing and Illustrating Books for Children with **Elly MacKay**; Everything You Need to Know About Copyright with **Miranda Miller**; Writing Poetry with **Richard-Yves Sitoski**; and Writing Fiction and Non-fiction with **Richard Thomas**. Register now (\$95; includes lunch and four sessions + so much more) online at <https://www.osngupl.ca/wordshop> or in person at OSNGUPL, 824 1st Avenue West in Owen Sound. See you soon!

- Maryann

BUTTERFLY TONGUE

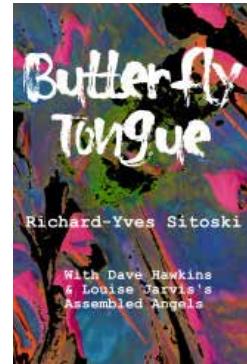
MARY LITTLE • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

"I came from the foundry with silver dollars in my eyes and made for perdition like a northbound train on a southbound track..." Thus begins *Butterfly Tongue*, Owen Sound, Ontario's Poet Laureate Richard-Yves Sitoski's one-man show, which features Sitoski's original artwork, and original songs by Deep Blue Honey arranged and interpreted by David Hawkins and Louise Jarvis with the Assembled Angels ensemble.

This is not a poetry reading: it is a full one-hour theatre piece. The scene is set in 1972, the year prohibition was repealed locally. We follow our hapless narrator – a welder at Black Clawson-Kennedy with a penchant for patronizing bootleggers – as he staggers from the newly-wet Seldon

House tavern and wanders through the city, licking his wounds after his recent doomed love with Susan, a truly remarkable woman with two things on her back: a monkey, and an angel's wings. The story is at once wrenching yet full of dry humour, as the tough narrator's defences get broken down and his hard-boiled comments get replaced by sublime pathos.

Butterfly Tongue is Sitoski's swan song as Poet Laureate, and a gift to the community which has brought him so much. Over the past four years he has had the privilege of bringing poetry to the community, and bringing the community to poetry – tasks which he pursued with zeal and joy. It's only fitting that he culminate his tenure in style, with a performance extrav-



aganza! What's more, there will also be an illustrated book of the play to be published by the Ginger Press and featuring three other plays.

Butterfly Tongue will be held at the Grey Roots Museum and Archives auditorium on June 8 at 7pm, and June 10 at 2pm. Tickets (\$26.25) are available in advance and can be purchased at <https://www.ticketpro.ca/>. (The show contains a content warning for alcohol and drug use, as well as overdose death, which are all alluded to but never described.)



Are you ready to make a difference?

Join the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay (TISGB) to create a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable region focused on:

- Arts and Culture
- Business and Innovation
- Green Economy
- Social Finance and Housing

Time is of the essence. Immediate action is required. The Institute is leading the way for community conversations and special projects, informed by our commitment to progress. Artists, business owners, philanthropists, municipal and nonprofit leaders, and residents who are passionate about our region and looking to make a difference are critical to our collective success.

Connect. Share knowledge.

Help develop collaborative initiatives. Join our newsletter (www.tisgb.com) to learn how you can get involved.



www.tisgb.com

WORDS ALOUD RETURNS FOR 2023

RICHARD-YVES SITOSKI •

Poetry fans, at long last, we're back! After a pandemic-related hiatus of four years, Words Aloud (formerly the Words Aloud Spoken Word and Storytelling Festival) is returning to Grey-Bruce this fall, with an afternoon of poetry at our former home at the Durham Art Gallery (DAG) on Saturday, September 9, and a weekend of poetry to be held at several locations in Owen Sound and Meaford from Friday, October 20 to Sunday, October 22. We invite all lovers of the written and spoken word to come and be moved by our top-flight roster.

The September event will feature some of Canada's most exciting multimedia and visual poets, in keeping with the DAG's mandate to present the most stimulating visual art: **Gary Barwin** is one of our most creative

poets, both a seasoned performer and visual artist; **Daniel Scott Tysdal** will entertain and provoke thought with his puckish verse; and **Kevin Heslop** will present his poetry films, which have been garnering attention nationwide.

The October event will kick off with an introductory evening at the Craig Gallery in Meaford, when the always engaging spoken word artist and musician **Janice Jo Lee** takes the stage. We will also feature a tribute to local spoken word legend **Bob Menzies**, and an open mic. Saturday night's main stage at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library will showcase former Peterborough Poet Laureate **Sarah Lewis**; independent press legend **Stuart Ross**; and Edmonton spoken word powerhouse **Brandon Wint**. At Sunday's noon stage, **Kim Fahner**

will bring her northern lyricism to the festival; Lenape poet **Dan Lockhart** will address some necessary issues; the one-person cultural industry that is **Penn Kemp** will dazzle us with her soundplay; and as a special guest, the now-local poetic legend **Barry Dempster** will be honoured.

As always, workshops will be the cornerstone of our festival. On Friday, Lee, Ross and Wint will be making visits to local schools, and there will be opportunities for adults to take poetry master classes with Lockhart and Kemp on Saturday.

Ticketing information, prices and final venue selection will be provided in the summer edition of this publication. For all questions, please contact me at r_sitoski@yahoo.ca. Hope to see you at Words Aloud 2023!

REMEMBERING TED MYATT

MAGGIE BISHOP •

Back in the late 1990s, I relocated back to Owen Sound, my hometown, to take care of a senior parent. It hadn't changed a whole lot since my departure in the early 1980s. There were, however, a few interesting changes and my comment at the time went something like this: "Owen Sound is hanging on by its teeth and fingernails, but it is finally coming into the '60s."

That comment was actually a compliment. One of my first challenges upon making Owen Sound my home again, was to find a job. I did a few networking tactics, and put my name out to various enterprises that seemed interesting and included some of my lifestyle choices such as healthy, organic food items. One of the places I applied to was the Ginger Press Bookshop & Cafe. I even got hired.

It was through this unique enterprise that I became acquainted with Ted, and many other individuals who were employed there and/or frequented the shop for books, food, and good coffee. Ted enjoyed chatting and his conversations would cover a variety of topics from local issues to what was happening in the country whose border we share, and

around the world. Many times, his sidebar comments were intuitive and bang-on.

Ted was the epitome of the big gentle bear. He was a large man with a big voice and a very gentle side. His voice would carry throughout the store and his laughter was infectious. His interests were many and his knowledge extensive. On many levels, he was the epitome of a Renaissance Man. How many men do we know who enjoy knitting? Knitting in itself requires a log of dexterity; something I seriously lack. When Ted wrote the three articles on knitting very colourful socks published here [*The Owen Sounder, summer, fall, and winter 2021 issues, available at www.theowensounder.ca*], he showed us how detail-oriented he could be and that all those colours were for fun.

Ted's passing was sudden and will leave a void that won't be filled; he is missed by many. My condolences go out to his family, to those who were his "family by choice," and his friends. I am glad to have met him and been able to work with him. He certainly kept things interesting.

Rest in peace, Ted.

IN HOME PET EUTHANASIA

ROBYN BUDGEON, DVM

Offering in-home euthanasia for your beloved pet is a service all veterinary clinics in the area have traditionally been pleased to offer their clients. It is a lovely way to honour a long-standing relationship with a client and their beloved pet. Often, the veterinary team has been caring for these pets since they were puppies and kittens. To say goodbye to a dear patient in their safe and happy space is appreciated by everyone.

During the pandemic, for a variety of reasons, veterinary clinics became increasingly busy. Recently there have been fewer veterinarians available to step in and meet the increased demand. As the request for appointment times and veterinary services outstripped the availability of veterinary teams, providing an in-home euthanasia service for their client's pets was something that most clinics had to forego in order to meet the needs of their busy practices.

To fill this much-needed gap, I opened a veterinary in-home euthanasia practice for pets in July 2021. I provide this service to pet owners in Owen Sound and the surrounding areas. The College of Veterinarians in

Ontario – the regulatory body governing veterinarians in this province – has accredited Brooke Mobile Veterinary Hospice Services for palliative care and in-home euthanasia visits for pets. Needless to say, the affection with which veterinarians regard animals is not reciprocated by the animals. For most pets, the trip to the vet clinic is the most stressful event they have to endure. It hurts people to ask that of their dear pet for their final moments together. People don't want their pet confused, stressed or angry. Clinics can be noisy and busy. For some people, grieving openly in a public setting is difficult. All of these stressors can add up to make some people dread taking their pet to their vet's office for euthanasia.

It may reassure you to know there is an alternative available to you if you are considering or planning the end of life experience for your dear pet. Please visit www.animalsintransition.ca for a description of services, prices and hours of service.

Robyn Budgeon, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, is the owner and operator of Brooke Mobile Veterinary Hospice Services.

BOOK REVIEW

Orbit

BY DIANNE JOYCE

BOOK REVIEW BY RICHARD-YVES SITOSKI

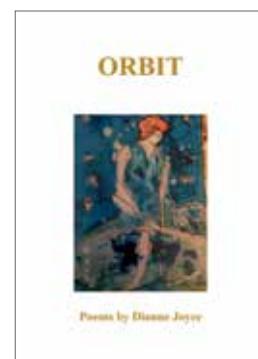
I like a poem that doesn't take the easy way out. I don't mean one that's difficult to apprehend – quite the opposite – but one that confronts a situation head-on. Dianne Joyce's poems in her chapbook *Orbit* possess this directness. The situations she deals with range from the personal to the political, but the poems at their heart never compromise. "Why is it so difficult to love and to evade love in seeking out / the truth?" she asks in "Stanley Park Photo: Vancouver", a poem which addresses the pain of nearly losing oneself in tortured family

memories, where evading love might just be a survival mechanism.

One of the poems which best reveals the chapbook's power is the superb "Cycling". This meditation on time possesses a wonderful contradiction in that it has a powerful conclusion quite in opposition to the endless nature of its subject matter. The arresting image of a world "fleeing as if chased by something greater than itself" is a line I would love to have come up with. It's a beautifully upsetting image of the truth of

something that seems bigger than the universe of which it is a part, a thing we can't escape, yet which will never seize all of us at once: a thing which will get us individually, at some unexpected juncture.

Orbit is full of such felicities, and I urge you all to grab a copy and savour it. Poems such as these possess the paradoxical power of being able to slow down time's cycling as you read them, and we all need that. *Orbit* (\$10) is available from The Ginger Press Bookshop.





The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library
and The Ginger Press
present

WORDSHOP

a one-day experience for beginning and experienced writers

9:30 TO 4:00 SUNDAY APRIL 16 AT THE OWEN SOUND LIBRARY

featuring sessions with these local experts:

- ⇒ **JOAN BEECROFT** - Community Storytelling
- ⇒ **KARI BRONOUGH** - Making Books
- ⇒ **COCO LOVE** - Writing Songs
- ⇒ **GAIL GALLANT** - Writing Your Memoir
- ⇒ **JANET ILES** - How to Research
- ⇒ **SANDRA J. HOWE** - Writing for Magazines
- ⇒ **ELLY MACKAY** - Writing and Illustrating Books for Children
- ⇒ **MIRANDA MILLER** - What You Need to Know about Copyright
- ⇒ **RICHARD-YVES SITOSKI** - Writing Poetry
- ⇒ **RICHARD THOMAS** - Writing Local Fiction and Non-fiction

plus networking with local writers,
opportunities to connect with existing literary groups
and create new ones, open mic, book table, and a delicious box lunch!

Registration (\$95) now open.

Participants can sign up for four sessions
online at <https://www.osngupl.ca/wordshop> or at
The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library.
824 1st Avenue West Owen Sound



Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library



THE GINGER PRESS



United Way
Bruce Grey

Committed to improving lives and creating opportunities for a better future in our local community:

- over \$4,000,000 invested in over 60 community partners and projects through direct grants
- over 33,000 backpacks to low income children throughout Grey-Bruce, saving parents over \$2,500,000 in essential school supplies
- over \$4,500,000 in utility support and over 6,000 households assisted
- over \$18,000,000 raised and reinvested back into the community

By supporting local initiatives, United Way of Bruce Grey has provided much-needed support in times of need, helping to make our communities stronger and more vibrant.

We're 25 in 2023! Help us help!

DONATE. VOLUNTEER.

To show your #LocalLove, call (519) 376-1560
or 1-800-794-1728 or mail manager@unitedwaybg.com
or mail 380 9th Street East, Owen Sound ON N4K 1P1
or visit www.unitedwayofbrucegrey.com.



United Way
Bruce Grey
Change starts here

WHY CAN'T SHEEP AND TREES BE FRIENDS?

NORMAN RAGETLIE

Enjoy an Evening with Dan Needles, author, playwright, and winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, on Saturday April 1 at the Harmony Centre in downtown Owen Sound. This evening of laughter and storytelling is a fundraiser for the Intersections Wood Collaborative, a non profit woodworking studio which offers wood-focused learning opportunities for everyone.

Dan Needles, a local author living near Collingwood, is the author of the very popular *Wingfield Farm* series which have played at Stratford, the Royal Alex in Toronto, and across Canada. For 30 years, he has been bringing the characters and stories of his mythical Persephone Township to life, carrying a message of neighbourhood and the power of farmer thinking. According to the *Globe & Mail*, "Persephone Township may not be on the map, but it is somewhere near the Canadian psyche."

Intersections Wood Collaborative (IWC) emerged from the legacy of world-recognized artist Stephen Hogbin. Now formally incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation,

IWC continues to be a welcoming place for those who share Stephen's infectious optimism for a better future through the arts; programs include classes in woodworking and design, as well as group projects, and activities which show respect and care for trees and the environment. Information and registration details on current classes is available at intersectionsstudio.com.

The Evening with Dan Needles will include desserts and a cash bar, as well as silent and live auctions (with auctioneer Rob Snider) featuring exquisite works by Stephen Hogbin, Ruth Gowdy McKinley, Kayo O'Kay, and others. Doors open at 6:30pm at the Harmony Centre, 395 9th Street East, Owen Sound. Tickets (\$35 advance/\$45 at the door) are available online at www.intersectionsstudio.com; and in person at Intersections (open 10:00 to 3:00 Tuesday to Thursday at 299 10th Street East, Owen Sound). All proceeds support the IWC in providing wood-focused learning opportunities for everyone.

NEW BOOK

Things That Used To Matter: 32 STORIES COLLECTED BY JOAN BEECROFT

FOREWORD BY JANET GLASSPOOL

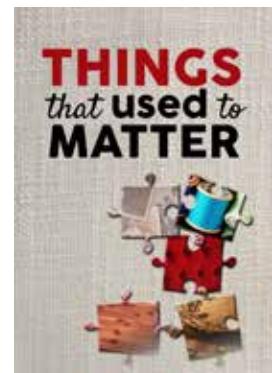
When Joan Beecroft put out the call for *Things That Used To Matter*, she had no preconceptions about what contributors would write about. She just knew the idea had resonance and wanted to see where it went. Thirty-two writers were also intrigued with the concept and took the time to share what it meant to them.

Listed alphabetically, the following contributors present a remarkable variety of things that used to matter to them: Margaret Stewart Anderson, Cornelia Baines, Sylvia Bell, Janet Boyle-Jackson, Jill McFadden Bartley, Norah Brown, Jan Chamberlain, Fely Clarke, Amanda Crocker, Thomas Fairbairn, Jeff Feltis, Liz Head, Terri Hope, Jean Koroway, Jane Lastname withheld, Andrée

Levie-Warrilow, Caroline Menzies, Bea Miller, Miranda Miller, David Morris, Rachel Oliver, Lee Pollard, Dave Robinson, Michelle Scobie, Richard-Yves Sitoski, Teen Sivell, Nancy Stewart, Deene Surreal, Harsh Vardhan, Liz Willmott, Lynn Wyvill, and Ms X.

From makeup during the masked days of COVID to a spouse, "this book challenges readers to think deeply about things that lose their importance or appeal over time, and the reasons for changes in perception," writes Janet Glasspool in her Foreword.

Things That Used to Matter (\$24.95) is Joan Beecroft's fourth collection of community stories. It is available now at The Ginger Press.



KEMBLE MAPLE TOUR

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The sap is running and the Kemble Maple Tour is ready! Taking place on April 1st from 9:00am to 4:00pm, in and around Kemble, this year's event features six maple production tour stops (Kemble Mtn Maple Products; Jim and Sharon McGregor; Miners' Maple Syrup; Paul and Connie Morris; Regal Point Elk Farm; and Ralph and Marilyn Suke) as well as a fantastic maple-forward meal at the Kemble-Sarawak United Church. Passports (\$15/adults; \$10/children; \$40/family of 2 adults + 2 children) are available until March 25 at the Kemble Post Office, Josie's Fashions in Wiarton and Bayshore Country Feeds in Owen Sound.



SPRUCE THE BRUCE!

• • • • • • • • • • • • •

Beautiful settings attract people. Attractive storefronts help create a more vibrant and welcoming atmosphere on main street. Make your vision come to life with grant funding from Spruce the Bruce. Businesses that take a little more care with the exterior of their storefront by adding a fresh coat of paint, new signage or even a few strands of twinkly white lights, attract more customers and increase sales. Eligible

downtown businesses in Bruce County can apply for grants to help cover the costs of the following: façade improvements - up to \$4,000; fascia sign - up to \$1,000; perpendicular sign - up to \$750; awning - up to \$1,000; and patio - up to \$4,000.

Did you receive a grant before but have plans for another exterior improvement? You might be eligible for funding again! Visit sprucethebruce.com to find out more.

BE A VOLUNTEER

MARIE KNAPP • • • • • • • • •

“Your Most Important Work Is Always Ahead of You.” That is the tag line of a book called *Living Life in Crescendo* by Stephen R. Covey and Cynthia Covey Haller. Our most important work is not necessarily in paid employment. For many their employment is over, or is not fulfilling. Retirees want to have a sense of purpose and feel useful. If your paid employment is not fulfilling but is necessary, where can you find your sense of purpose? Is something meaningful missing? One option is volunteering.

For younger very busy adults, there are volunteer opportunities that give you the opportunity to get out of the house and meet other like minded people. It can give you moments of inspiration and distraction from the incessant mind chatter. Two or three hours a month may be enough to uplift your spirit. More if you have the time. Retired folks initially may go through a phase of redecorating or decluttering but then what? Playing golf or travelling serves you well but what about serving others, sharing your skills and talents to help others? Incorporate the things you love into

something valuable to others. With the staff shortages in most areas your help as a volunteer would be beneficial to you, and appreciated.

Do you love the outdoors? Are looking for meaningful volunteer work? Do you want to help maintain our environmental commitments? Do you want to provide a safe natural place for the public to enjoy nature? Our local Sydenham Bruce Trail Club is looking for more volunteers. We have four openings on our local Board. Our Trail Director is looking for help with trail building and maintenance with tasks that vary in time commitments, and work effort. Our Land Steward Director has over 40 Bruce Trail properties to manage and appreciates the work of his volunteers in stewarding their assigned properties. As an inclusive organization, we welcome and respect people of all races, cultures, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities. If you want more information about volunteering with us, please email publicity@sydenhambrucetrail.ca telling us what you are looking for and I will direct you to the right person.

COME SING AT CHOIR CAMP 2023!

ARLEN WIEBE AND MATTHEW ALLARD • • • • • • • • • • • • •

We are very excited to announce a new event in Grey-Bruce called Choir Camp 2023. Happening July 10-14, 2023, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Owen Sound, Choir Camp will be five days of large and small choir rehearsals, singing and music workshops, a mid-week concert by the Canadian Chamber Choir, and an end-of-week concert of our camp choirs.

We are inviting adults of all ages and students age 14+ to attend our camp. All singers are welcome, whether they can read music or not, and regardless of singing level or ability. We are thrilled to bring two very impressive choral professionals to Owen Sound to lead our choirs and workshops: Dr. Elaine Choi and Dr. Julia Davids.

Dr. Elaine Choi will lead our mass choir and workshops on singing and conducting. Originally from Hong Kong, Elaine is very active in Toronto as the artistic director of the Pax Christi Chorale, the director of music at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, the conductor of the University of Toronto Soprano/Alto Chorus, and the founding artistic director of Babel (an SATB choral ensemble whose mission is to bridge cultures through choral music).

Dr. Julia Davids is the artistic director of the Canadian Chamber Choir. She and the choir will lead a vocal workshop for the Choir Camp singers, as well as put on an evening concert for the Grey/Bruce community. Julia has led workshops and master classes for choirs and conductors throughout Canada and the U.S. Originally from London, Ontario, Julia is a professor and director of choral activities at North Park University, Chicago. She is co-author with Stephen LaTour of *Vocal Technique – A Guide for Conductors, Teachers, and Singers*, which was the winner of Choral Canada's 2014 award for best choral publication.

Choir Camp 2023 will also be supported by many local choral and vocal professionals: Lauren Best (voice teacher, Owen Sound); Louise Jarvis (conductor of Oh Sing! Choir, Owen Sound); David Sereda (music theatre specialist, Meaford); Linda Finlay and Jane Siegel (conductor and accompanist from the Paisley Concert Choir); Matthew Allard (music director at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Owen Sound); Maria and Byron Ballagh (Sing! Show Chorus directors, Hanover); Robert Tite (conductor and clarinetist, Markdale); Cydney Morris (vocal soloist and music student at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo); Yuki



Okumoto Stocovaz (accompanist and piano teacher, Hanover); Jannet Taylor (performer originally from Malawi, now living in Tara); and Kathleen Boohyun Kim (voice teacher and music director, Aurora).

We hope to include a wide variety of musical styles at Choir Camp including classical, folk, musical theatre, a cappella, popular, music of various cultures, and more. Everyone who loves to sing and make music together will find something fun and challenging to do!

You can register for Choir Camp 2023 and learn more on our website, www.choircamp.wordpress.com, on Facebook at "Choir Camp 2023", and on Instagram at "choir_camp_2023". Sign up for our mailing list if you would like to receive our monthly emails. Please help us spread the word!

BUILD
A SOLID
LONGTERM
PLAN



Think about the legacy you want to leave. Plan. Perform. Live.
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Tel: (519) 364-3132 • advisor.sunlife.ca/whitehead.beckett

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We connect business owners with training, mentorship, and a community of entrepreneurs.

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WWW.CATAPULTGREYBRUCE.COM



WARMING STRIPES: WEAVING THE WEATHER

ANN SCHNEIDER

I am a weaver and I am a climate activist. In 2022, the two came together for me. Respecting and caring for the environment has always been a priority for me. After the debut of the locally made documentary film “Resilience: Transforming Our Community” in 2019 at the Roxy Theatre in Owen Sound, I became very involved in the development of the Georgian Bluffs Climate Action Team (GBCAT), then the regional network GBCAN (Grey-Bruce Climate Action Network) and also became a community member on the Georgian Bluffs Municipal Climate Action Committee.

The next few years flew by with Zoom meetings, webinars, designing and presenting climate engagement workshops, books to read, more presentations, petitions, Earth Day and more. In the spring of 2022 I began to feel overwhelmed by the whole thing. I needed a change. Reading Canadian scientist Katherine Hayhoe’s *Saving Us – A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World* taught me that if you want to open dialogue about climate change, you need to start with that person’s interests.

Katherine told the story of a young woman wondering how to speak to her grandmother about the changing climate. Because the grandmother liked to knit, Katherine told her granddaughter that people have been knitting warming striped scarves, based on the work of climate scientist Ed Hawkins, using shades of red and blue to indicate annual temperatures, rather than graphs that most people would not relate to.

I researched Hawkins’ work and decided I wanted to weave a warming-stripes rug to represent the temperature changes in the Owen Sound-Wiarton area from 1880 to 2021. That seemed like the right way for me to change tracks. Scientist John Anderson gave me the annual temperature data and helped me understand what I would be working with. I shifted from nothing but climate action work to a



John Anderson and Ann Schneider

craft I loved: designing, selecting fibre, and weaving on my loom. This slowed me down and, as I wove each year’s stripe, I reflected on the stories of my life and the area I love dearly. I was also part of a group that developed the “What To Do Climate Engagement Wheel” and accompanying workshops. In hindsight, I realized, with weaving I was doing what those workshops suggested – do what fits for you, using what skills you enjoy.

Little did I know that when I was part way through the rug that Liz Zetlin, the director of the Resilience film, would find out about the project and ask to film the process. The 15-minute film Warming Stripes – Weaving the Weather was the result. What was initially a private process for me has become public. *Resilience: Transforming Our Community* and *Warming Stripes: Weaving the Weather* can be viewed on YouTube. That came with some discomfort and adjustment, but working with John and Liz has been really rewarding. All of us hope the rug and the film can become another tool to help people talk about climate change and move to action.



BROOKE
MOBILE
in home VETERINARY
euthanasia HOSPICE
for pets SERVICES

519 265 4639
animalsintransition.ca
contact@animalsintransition.ca

WOODWORKERS AND BOAT BUILDERS TOO

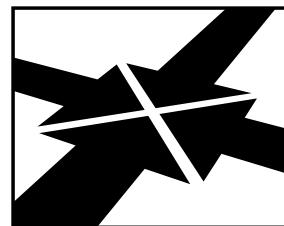
MICHAEL SIMPSON

Intersections Wood Collaborative (IWC) is off and running this spring with a variety of woodworking courses for both novice and experienced woodworkers. Courses may be found by going to the IWC website at www.intersecctionsstudio.com. Questions? Contact us at info@intersectionsos.org

One of our current IWC group projects is building a canoe. Initiated by Stephen Hogbin with the assistance of instructor Pierre Rousseau in the winter of 2020, a volunteer group of woodworking enthusiasts started to learn how to build a cedar strip canoe. At that time, members were partici-

pating in a series of educational talks about wooden boat building. Work temporarily ceased in March 2020, due to COVID. The project was restarted in the summer of 2022 by reengaging with the original group who continued to make progress and is scheduled to be completed shortly.

The canoe uses modern cedar strip construction in which thin strips of wood are edge glued together and then laminated under a layer of fiberglass fabric bonded with epoxy resin. The fiberglass greatly reinforces the wood strips and the epoxy seals the wood from getting wet. The resulting boat is



lightweight, robust, low maintenance, and durable. We are looking forward to getting the canoe out of the workshop, getting it wet, messing about in it, and watching it come to life.

If you are interested in participating in projects such as this, please let us know at info@intersectionsos.org.

HEARTWOOD TV

ZOË THURLING

"We can now offer 27 fantastic on-demand shows, recorded at Heartwood Hall in Owen Sound in partnership with Wiretone Records," says Greg Bottrell, co-owner/manager of Heartwood Hall and Executive Producer of Heartwood TV. "Thanks to the support of FACTOR Canada, not only are we able to beam the carefully curated artists our audiences love right into their phones and devices, whenever and wherever they want," he says, "but also, we've produced visual assets that help artists to expand their reach and promote their acts."

David Chevalier, President of Wiretone Records and Producer of Heartwood TV, says, "Heartwood TV brings exceptional sound, professionally mixed, and a front row experience with seven cameras home to our audiences near and far. We're excited about building on the region's reputation not only as the origin of immense talent, but also as a musical destination."

These concerts were performed in front of a live audience at Owen Sound's beautiful Heartwood Concert Hall in the fall and winter of 2021/22 and live-streamed via heartwoodhall.ca with the support of FACTOR Canada. Musicians available to rent now on Heartwood TV include The Soul Motivators, Sultans of String, Jack de Keyzer, BEAMS, MacKenzie Blues Band, Madison Violet, Bad Luck Woman & Her Misfortunes, Freeman Dre &

Lon Tron Silver with Derek Downham, Drew McIvor, and Marshall Veroni. Concerts rent for seven days and are available on a name-your-price basis with the suggested price of \$10 and a minimum price of \$5. Visit heartwoodhall.ca/tv to watch on your favourite device. The Heartwood TV Vimeo channel also offers separate rentals to view on your set-top box through using the Vimeo TV app.

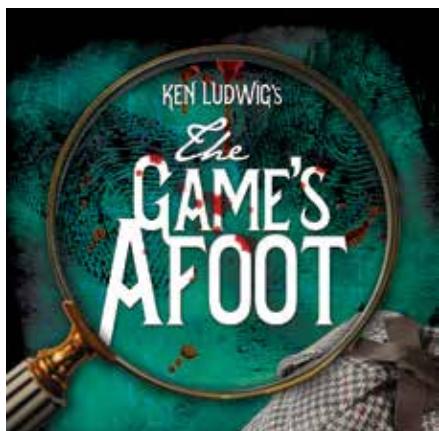
Heartwood Hall accommodates up to 186 guests and offers two performance stages – one large and one informal – with PA, superb sound, a beautiful long bar, catering-ready kitchen, artist green room, lighting, sound mixing, seven-camera HD livestreaming, videography and video projection capabilities. For more information and event bookings, visit <https://heartwoodhall.ca> or contact Greg Bottrell at heartwoodvenue@gmail.com

Wiretone Records represents local musical talent from Grey-Bruce and beyond. With a growing roster of emerging and established artists, it offers music recording, producing, engineering, promotion and distribution capabilities. Wiretone Records also is proud to offer full creative from concept to release, video live streaming, production and post-production services. For more information visit <https://wiretonerecords.com> or contact David Chevalier at david@wiretonerecords.com.

AT THE ROXY THEATRE

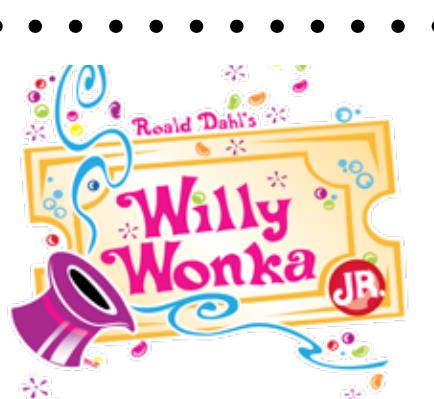
EMMA MCCONACHIE-ANDERSON

Spring is finally on the horizon and The Roxy remains as busy as ever! Owen Sound Little Theatre (OSLT) just finished its run of locally written play *You, Me and a Bit of Driftwood*, that dazzled audiences with its technological achievements while managing to stay relatable in its characters and story. Congratulations to local playwright Samantha Colwell-Castles on her play's debut on the Roxy stage.

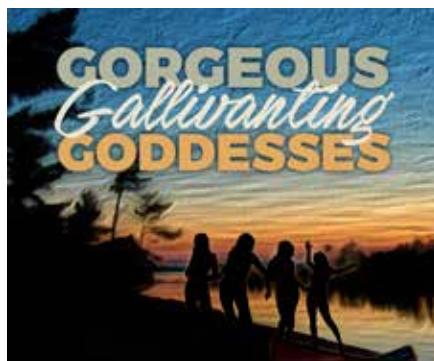


With two productions down this season, OSLT is moving on to the next one. Ken Ludwig's *The Game's Afoot* is moving in to prepare for its two week run, April 6-8 and 12-15. This hilarious who-done-it farce follows acclaimed actor of the 1930s, William Gillette, who invites his Sherlock Holmes co-stars to his eccentric Connecticut mansion for a Christmas Eve celebration. When one of the guests is murdered it's up to Gillette himself, who employs the persona of the master detective he's made famous on the stage, to track down the killer before the next victim appears. *The Game's Afoot* is directed by John Flynn.

Hot on its heels is the Roxy Young Company's production of *Willy Wonka JR.* This hour-long show, based on the popular book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl, follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy



Wonka as he stages a contest by hiding golden tickets in five of his scrumptious candy bars. Ticket winners receive a free tour of the Wonka factory, as well as a lifetime supply of candy. Four of the five winning children are insufferable brats, but the fifth is a likeable young lad named Charlie Bucket, who takes the tour in the company of his equally amiable grandfather. The children must learn to follow Mr. Wonka's rules in the factory – or suffer the consequences. The show runs May 12-14 and is directed by Grace McRae.



Not long after, the OSLT is putting on their final show of the 2022/23 season, *Gorgeous Gallivanting Goddesses*. This play is written by another local author – Sheilah Spurr – and it will be skilfully directed by Bill Murphy. The witty comedy follows four close female friends who go on a wilderness canoe trip in northern Ontario. This three-act play takes place at the same wilderness campsite over three different decades. The canoe trip

is an adjustment for the women as they are removed from modern amenities, comforts, and the distractions and crises that their regular lives bring to them. For each woman, this is a thought-provoking journey into the self and their relationships with each other as they come face-to-face with their true selves. *Gorgeous Gallivanting Goddesses* runs June 15-17 and 21-24.



The Roxy Star Company is a new opportunity for adults living with physical and mental disabilities, allowing them to participate and perform in theatre related projects. Roxy Star Company aims to create an environment where theatre is inclusive and for everyBODY; it is running every Thursday from March 9 - June 22. A public performance talent show will take place at The Roxy on June 29. Don't miss your chance to come out and support the participants!

There is also a variety of additional music and entertainment other promoters are bringing to The Roxy. For more information on all of our upcoming events please visit our website, www.roxytheatre.ca, or call the box office at (519) 371-2833. You can also check out our membership and donation opportunities and help support The Roxy, our vibrant local theatre. We look forward to seeing you soon!

MORPETH

ROB ROLFE

Like so many of my generation, I was a passenger on Leonard Cohen's musical journey, from the days of Suzanne and So Long, Marianne, until his death of old age in 2016. I admired him as a poet, and wanted to write like him, chanting erotic, confessional lyrics telling of lovers and intimacies I hadn't yet experienced in my own life. Instead, I'd get chided for writing like an old man at such a young age. My friend Karl grew up on a fruit farm near Chatham. He had introduced me to the music of Fred Neil, slipping a record from its cover with a photograph taken at the corner of Bleeker and MacDougal streets, in the heart of New York City. We'd drink homebrew on the farm, then take off in his Volkswagen down back roads to the lake, talking late into the night about girls we knew but were too shy to date. Karl still lives with his wife on the farm, though its productive years are behind it. Recalling our midnight drives, I remember passing through a tiny village called Morpeth, just north of the lake. Archibald Lampman was born there in 1861. He was a highly regarded poet. If we had known what he'd done, coming from such a small place, it might have sparked a flicker of hope in us that we could do the same.



We hope you will visit Grey Gallery when you are next downtown. Our exhibitions change regularly.

MARCH: Raw Materials: Work on and with Wood by John Laughlin

APRIL: Artist's Books (group show)

MAY: Figure Drawing Revisited (group show)



Watercolour painting by Raquel Yang

TIME TO THAW

BILL HAWKES

This past while, many of us have had lots of time to prepare for the coming of spring. As an Owen Sound resident, I just look out the kitchen window for clues on how to dress for the weather. For now, our little place on the planet does not experience dramatic weather events.

Weather language provides us with fine metaphors for our changing scene. Spring cleaning may represent an image for one's personal, internal work. Likewise, the spring thaw may refer to those parts of oneself that need to melt. As individuals and in our social lives, are there parts of us needing to thaw out?

Here in Grey-Bruce, land and people are very closely related to seasonal changes. As a getting-along-in-years senior, I do, however, tend to pay more attention to Father Time than to Mather Nature.

Yes Grey-Bruce, there is the wind-chill factor of loving you. But really, folks, it's just for some of the year!

REBOUND OWEN SOUND

MICHELLE MANN

Rebound is a collection of Owen Sound residents who care about the city and those who live here. Originally formed by Michael Craig (who recently moved on to an elected position with the Bluewater District School Board) and Jan Chamberlain (former Owen Sound councillor) prior to the most recent municipal elections in October 2022, Rebound aimed to address the glaring lack of diversity in general, and women specifically, elected to city council. In addition, Rebound members were concerned, and still are, with economic inequality, homelessness (a very pressing concern at election time considering winter was fast approaching), poverty, healthcare, the future of Owen Sound, climate action, affordable housing and other local issues and initiatives.

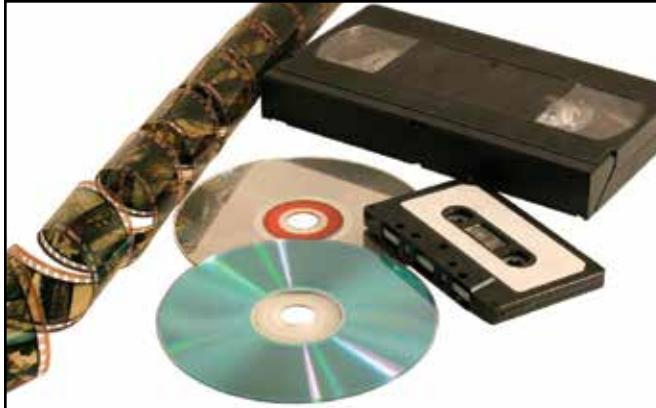
Post election, Rebound members have been encouraged by the addition of three new political faces to this council's session including two women and one person of colour. Progress! Additionally, the city, in conjunction with the county, has stepped up its awareness of, and solutions for, local homelessness with the Support Outreach Service, longer hours of operation for the Safe 'N' Sound community drop-in

centre, the creation of the short-term shelter program and the expanded 211 call system are all parts of a more fulsome approach to ever-growing local and even national problems.

Rebound looks within and outside our own community to find inspiration and progressive action. We seek to apply lessons other communities have already learned with regard to the multitude of pressing societal issues that we are experiencing here at home, and we seek our own, home-grown solutions as well.

Consider attending some council meetings in person or virtually. Pose a question 24 hours in advance through the city clerk (bbloomfield@owensound.ca). Stay informed by registering for the city's new interactive space called Our City (<https://ourcity.owensound.ca/>).

And join your Rebound neighbours in making a difference. The next Community Conversation hosted by Rebound Owen Sound will be March 23 at 7pm at the Harmony Centre on 9th Street East, Owen Sound. A panel of housing specialists will discuss solutions. If you can, please bring a donation for Safe 'N' Sound.



Some things improve with age. Wine. Cheese. Your home movies do not. Save your family memories before they age to the point of no return.

I can digitize: 8mm & Super 8mm film, 16mm film, VHS, Betamax, 8mm tapes, miniDV, SD cards, audio cassettes, records, reel to reel and can also do international VHS & DVDs.

Richard Thomas Communications
www.richardthomascommunications.ca
519-270-6513

An advertisement for the Owen Sound Farmers' Market. The top half features a circular logo with a rooster and the text 'Owen Sound Farmers' Market 1875-2020'. Below the logo, the text 'Owen Sound Farmers' Market' is displayed. The central focus is a large, bold, yellow text 'YES, WE ARE OPEN!' set against a dark circular background. Below this, the text 'The Market is open Saturdays 8am-12:30pm' and the website 'www.owensoundfarmersmarket.ca' are shown. The bottom half of the ad contains the text 'Celebrating 175 Years! in downtown Owen Sound featuring 50+ local vendors'. At the very bottom, the address '114 8th Street East 519-371-3433', operating hours '8:00am to 12:30pm every Saturday', the website 'www.owensoundfarmersmarket.ca', and a wheelchair accessibility icon.

THEATRE COLLINGWOOD

ERICA ANGUS •

Hello Theatre Friends, I am so excited that in 2023 Theatre Collingwood will present so many great storytellers and I know you'll be delighted. The office is buzzing these days with excited patrons purchasing their tickets and with all of us working hard to get everything ready for a great year of theatre!

This spring, we'll have more programs for seniors and we are especially excited about the ladies' "burlesque class for daring dames" that we are running for mature ladies with instructor Kat Salvador. Starting April 27 for six Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00pm, there is no previous experience necessary. Registration is \$120 at theatrecollingwood.ca.

I know I have recently been asking for "porches" for our Porchside Festival to be performed on. Ideally, I am looking for historic homes in Collingwood with porches, and the ability to have 60-100 people seated in the yards; however, I

am open to all suggestions. The commitment is for two days in July. Thank you for considering this.

For this year's Summer Theatre program, we are "bringing it home" by staging most performances at the Simcoe Street Theatre, making it easy for you to dine pre-show in our local restaurants. Accessibility will continue to be a priority.

What we do at Theatre Collingwood is really about bringing people together to tell stories in different ways. At the heart of it all, we are about enriching lives in a positive and entertaining way. I would like to take this time to thank our dedicated Board Members, our volunteers, all of our staff, and most of all, YOU! Together, we create the magic. For more information on programs, and to sign up, please visit theatrecollingwood.ca or phone 1-866-382-2200 or email info@theatrecollingwood.ca.

WONDERLAND IS BACK!

COCO LOVE •

Who's ready to sing? I'm bringing back the Wonderland Singers Choir Owen Sound! Starting March 20 at 7:00pm (come at 6:45 to socialize) for six weeks at the Harmony Centre in downtown Owen Sound, this in-person choir will sing a small handful of songs – soulful, joyful, spirit lifting. Everything will be taught by ear. For more information and to register (\$100) go to <https://wonderlandsingers.com/local-choir>. Wah hoo!

IS INTUITIVE EATING THE LATEST FAD?

ANNA JEAN BRADLEY • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Thankfully, no, it's just the opposite. It's an antidote to the shockingly ineffective fad diet roller coaster that has become a multi billion dollar industry keeping us locked in frustratingly unproductive cycles. Most of us want to eat in a way that will support our health. We're living longer but experiencing more chronic disease. We know that food can play a huge role in our health. Meanwhile educated and seemingly intelligent "experts" are loudly contradicting each other as they promote their own pet products – whether that's supplements that will fix everything or a diet that demonizes whole food groups or requires you to count and measure macros at every meal.

There is actually one diet that has mountains of indisputable evidence and research supporting it. But guess what? It's not actually a diet!! The Mediterranean "diet" is a way of eating. It has no forbidden foods, no counting or restricting, no excluded food groups. It teaches us about proportion and

rhythm in a system that supports health yet does not exclude pleasure, community, and celebration.

Intuitive eating as a teachable anti-diet methodology has actually been around for a couple of decades, long enough for evidence to amass in support of this seemingly counter intuitive way of approaching finding your own personal proportions and rhythms for eating. Ideally, instead of adopting a diet or a dietary label, we develop a flexible way of eating that we love and that loves us back.

I've added a two-week program to my offerings because the support of a group and a coach can go a long way towards unpacking the old, and integrating new ideas and habits. We live in an area with abundant and healthy local food choices. Let's learn how to incorporate them into our own way of eating with ease, confidence and enjoyment! Interested? Get in touch today with me today at greenheartstudio@mac.com or greenheartgardens.ca.

WRITE @ YOUR LIBRARY

SARAH CHAMBERLAIN •

Now entering its second decade, Write @ Your Library is the biggest and longest running local creative writing contest for youth, partnering public libraries across Grey and Bruce Counties and the Ginger Press to provide young writers from our region with the opportunity to be recognized for their creative achievements. We are grateful for the support of the Ginger Press and their commitment to local culture. Through them we are able to share the creative talents of our young writers with people from across the region.

We are pleased to present the winning entries for Write @ Your Library. This year's judges – authors Richard Thomas and Cathy Hird and Owen Sound Poet Laureate Richard-Yves Sitoski – had the serious task of making the selections from stories and poems submitted by over 50 young writers from across Grey-Bruce. We hope you enjoy these winning stories and poems. If you would like to read more, you can pick up a copy of the *Write for 2022* anthology at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library or visit <https://www.osngupl.ca/write-your-library> to read all the winning stories and poems online.

Watch for information about the 2023 Write @ Your Library contest and call for submissions in September. If you would like to find out more, please contact Sarah Chamberlain, Youth Services Assistant at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library at schamberlain@library.osngupl.ca or (519) 376-6623 ext. 5220.

JUNIOR POETRY – FIRST PLACE

THE CHILDREN OF 2040

MADY RANEY

JUNIOR POETRY – FIRST PLACE

THE CHILDREN OF 2040

MADY RANEY

The vibrant green of summer fades away,
As hungry mice and chipmunks stow their hordes.
The sun sinks faster every single day,
As grape vines dry into brown twisted cords.
The birds take flight and spread their feathered wings,
As viridescent summer slowly dies,
Warnings of frost the breezes' whisper brings,
Harkening to the greenery's demise.
Farewell bright world, now is summer's passing,
Winter, washed in grey shades, the world must fade,
Longer shadows the sun is slowly casting,
Shift of green to white in a snowstorm raid.

But there is one more colour before death,
That comes in the red of autumn's breath.

JUNIOR SHORT STORY – FIRST PLACE

AN UNEXPECTED INTERRUPTION

ARIA THOMAS

A noise caught Martie's attention. A small sweet voice cooed from the jar he carried at his hip. He looked and saw Thistle, his beautiful tadpole daughter, swimming around her jar humming softly.

"Hello, Thistle," Martie said. "How are you doing my love?" Of course, Thistle, not being able to talk yet, said nothing, but Martie was sure she felt comforted by the sound of his voice. Thistle looked up at her father for a few more moments and took up humming and swimming once more. Martie continued his hopping with a little bit more pep in his step.

A while later, Martie felt a crisp breeze dance by him. He watched as the last glimmers of the sunset were pulled down by twilight. Martie was so tired that he was struggling to keep his eyes from closing. He needed to find a place to sleep. No matter, he would just ask a plant for some shelter.

You see, most animals, if they ask politely, can persuade plants to do their bidding. Today Martie and Thistle needed a safe place to sleep and he didn't hesitate to ask a pink water lily for lodging. Courteously, the lily agreed and Martie and Thistle carefully navigated through the tangle of petals.

Once they were comfortably settling in the petals, something unexpected happened. Martie saw little blue lights dancing on the horizon and they seemed to be getting closer. As the lights neared the pond, he realized that the lights were Borrowers carrying little blue lanterns. They were carrying little bags with rolls, pots and pans dangling from the sides. It seemed that they were on the move looking for a new place to live.

Martie and Thistle watched them quietly walk beneath the trees....*read more at <https://www.osngupl.ca/write-your-library/>*

SENIOR POETRY – FIRST PLACE

AUTUMN

TEAGAN PENNER

To the children of 2040 I am fearful.

By now the world is doomed and I am sorry we have brought this upon you.

This is not your sentence to serve nor your burden to bear.

It was unfair of us to assume that this battle would not resume.

To the children of 2040 I am worried.

No longer will you know of trees and a nice cold breeze or anything clean, but instead of cities and smog filled with disease.

To a place not of peaceful oceans but of a pond of sludge.

To a world where scientists believe 500 species will be deceased.

To the children of 2040 I am appalled.

The fact we were forced to believe that global warming and climate change were nothing more than just a figment of our imagination,

that the ice caps melting, and waters are rising were the new norm,

that we were told that our solutions were insignificant,

that our voices were irrelevant.

To the children of 2040 I would like to apologize.

For not being able to see that plastics were flooding our seas,

for not being able to save something as simple as a tree,

for leaving this mess of a world for you to save.

To the children of 2040 I am sorry.

SENIOR SHORT STORY – FIRST PLACE

ROCKS IN THE RIVER

AMELIA SUTTER

A noise caught Martie's attention. A small sweet voice cooed from the jar he carried at his hip. He looked and saw Thistle, his beautiful tadpole daughter, swimming around her jar humming softly.

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Martie and Thistle watched them quietly walk beneath the trees. The light from their lanterns cast large, humanlike, shadows across the pond and then just as quickly they disappeared into the night.

Just when they thought they were going to settle in for the evening, a wondrous sound caught their attention. A sweet tune drifted through the starry night. Thistle's head rose to the top of the water in her jar. She obviously wanted to see where the sound was coming from....*read more at <https://www.osngupl.ca/write-your-library/>.*

BOOK REVIEW

Between the Sand and the Sea

BY ROB RITCHIE

BOOK REVIEW BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS



You could place bets on it. As a child, no matter how under the weather, the first whiff of a salt sea breeze brought me back to life. Still does. The sea and the sand anchor me, so I was more than primed for Rob Ritchie's fourth novel *Between the Sand and the Sea*. Having often walked the beaches of Southampton and Sauble, I felt at home in his fictional Lake Huron town Pyette Beach where the main character Erin unexpectedly finds herself seeking momentary refuge from her school teacher-married mom life. I also happened to be staying on a beach while reading the novel but, unlike Erin, I didn't quite "cut through the surface of the water slick as an arrow." Nevertheless I did share her tactile sensations of water as refuge.

However, I could have been in an ice fishing hut in Siberia and I would still connect with the descriptive prose of this novel in which water becomes an "integral component" of Erin's quest to escape not just a loveless marriage but a "story-less life" fearful that at the end of it all she would be thinking "this is it?" That's not a unique story, but Ritchie's exploration of the subject and the characters he builds to tell it are.

I found this a deliberately slower read than his previous novel (*A Song With No Words*). We get to see the brush strokes as Ritchie paints Erin's search for permission: to be a writer, to ignore the inner voices that scoff at her, to leave her husband to his latest obsession, and, most of all, permission to get close to Meg.

Meg is a waitress at the diner in Pyette who genuinely cares about her customers having "gleaned snippets about their lives through the residue of overheard conversations". She loved to talk; they just want their coffee enroute to the golf club. Despite her name tag, Meg is never more than "Darlin" to them. She is also Indigenous and occasionally seeks anonymity in a double life where she isn't expected to be a spokesperson for her heritage; where she can just be herself.

The dramatic twists and turns of Erin's budding (and

first ever) relationship with a woman is the core of the book but, as I've come to expect, Ritchie delivers so much more. He captures the patina of Ontario's small beach towns, from the tensions that come with tourist invasions to the unsettled legacy of racial injustice. Where the same geography that attracts the visitors is "decried by locals bitching about dunes being cordoned off to protect some bloody birds' nests."

He seems to enjoy images; from "hidden roads that tease adventurous travellers into trusting there is a reason they must be explored" to the true nature of beauty: "it did not sit and pose, it ran and played and danced, maybe even swam." He also has a collection of delightful asides: Folk Clubs are "full of folks more interested in the make of the guitar than the music that came out of it." (Ritchie of course is a successful professional musician now playing with RPR.) He can also poke fun at arts radio show hosts, while painting a chilling portrait of sailors' wives anxiously frozen by the phone during the November gales on Georgian Bay.

Ritchie also has some fun with his own work using Erin's writing group as a vehicle. As part of her attempt to find herself, Erin finally submits a story to the group. It's about Meg. Ritchie uses the group to criticize and admire the very techniques he himself has just used. It's clever and fun but it also raises an interesting issue. The youngest member of the group criticizes Erin for appropriating Meg's Native heritage. When the others defend Erin, the youngster retorts with, "said the white woman to a room of white women."

This reminded me of a question I had been asking myself from the beginning. Given our times, can a male write a book that is almost exclusively populated with female characters? To me, this book proves he is one. *Between the Sand and the Sea* (\$19.95) is available from The Ginger Press.

Christopher Thomas is a former Artistic Director of the Meaford International Film Festival and retired CBC Radio & TV Host/Producer.

TAKE MOM DOWNTOWN FOR MOTHER'S DAY

MICHELINE MANN

Mother's Day 2023 is quickly shaping up to be a uniquely fun day in downtown Owen Sound. Following the great success of their November Handmade Holiday Market at Heartwood Hall, the craft show organizers – sisters Micheline and Miguelle Mann – are mounting another carefully curated spring-themed, one-day craft show event.

On Sunday May 14, why settle for the usual brunch fare and carnations when you can give Mom the gift of time spent with her family doing something fun and beautiful? Bring her to the Mother's Day Handmade Market hosted both at Heartwood Concert Hall (one flight up) and right next door at Sabitri's Global Cuisine Restaurant (street level). For just a toonie entry fee (12 and up), you will find tarot card and psychic readings; on-the-spot pet portraits (bring a photo) by the talented Chelsea Roberts; homemade soups by MelanieD's; adult beverages (bar is OPEN!); fresh artisanal bread from Crust and Crackle; body products; pottery; potted flowers; hand-foraged and blended teas; and various handcrafted items for gardening, weddings and Mom. No franchises – all handcrafted.

On this magical Sunday, there are ample downtown

attractions. Besides all-day free parking, folks can catch the 2:00pm matinee of Willy Wonka Jr at the Roxy Theatre (<https://tickets.roxytheatre.ca>). The Georgian Bay School of the Arts (<https://gbarts.ca/>) is offering a high tea service and a fashion trunk sale directly across the street. And everyone's favourite upcycled homegoods store, Heartwood Home (<https://www.heartwoodhome.ca>) will have the coffee on and the doors open! Of course the Artists' Coop is always open on Sundays (<http://artistscoop.ca>) and is a must visit any day of the week.

Best of all, Sabitri's Global Cuisine Restaurant will also be open (<https://www.sabitris.com>). If you have not eaten here, this may be your opportunity. As well as providing a second venue for the craft vendors to display their spring wares, Sabitri's will have its bar open and a fragrant and delicious array of finger foods (samosas, momos etc) will be available to order during the fair. Take a break from viewing all the crafty wares with a glass of wine and a Nepalese snack.

Make Mother's Day 2023 something special! Come check out downtown Owen Sound and bring your thirst, your appetite, your spring shopping list and your Mom!

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NADIA DANYLUK •

Nearly a year into library services opening back up after two years of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library is excited to see our membership numbers climbing again as we welcome new faces and old back into our beautiful library building. It can be hard to keep up with all of the resources and services available at the Library that stretch far beyond our standard books, magazines, DVDs and audiobooks.

Through the Library's online resources patrons now have access to the Library 24/7: stream movies and tv series with Kanopy, research a major purchase with Consumer Reports, learn a new language with Mango, develop a new skill with LinkedIn Learning, read magazines and newspapers from around the world with PressReader, research a health concern with Gale Health and Wellness, or download an ebook or audiobook with Libby. There is so much available to the modern library patron. As long as you have your Open Card, you need never leave the comfort of your living room.

If you do choose to venture into the Library, there is always a wonderful selection of programs and events for all ages, or you may choose to sit and read in front of a SAD light or by the fire in the century-old Carnegie wing. Visit the Library's website to see a current list of all upcoming programs; you'll find options including story time for preschoolers, LEGO Club for school age kids, and a ukulele jam for adults. There's also the "Library of Things" to explore: binoculars for birdwatching and stargazing, ukuleles, puzzles, board games, toys, snow shoes, and passes for Ontario Parks, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and Harrison Park Pool.

So, what are you waiting for? Come by the Library to get your Open Card today and start exploring the world of knowledge and experiences in your very own backyard.

Nadia Danyluk (MLIS) is the Deputy Chief Librarian of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library.

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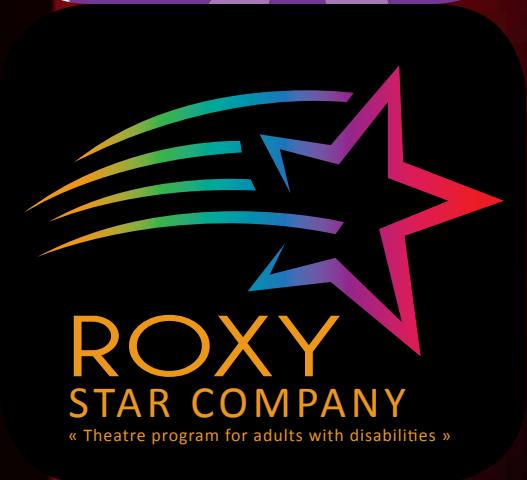
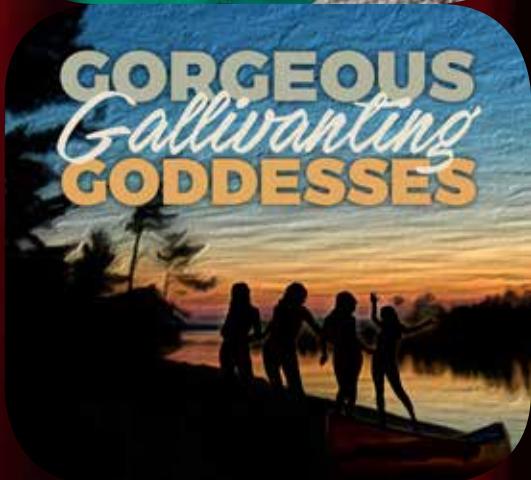
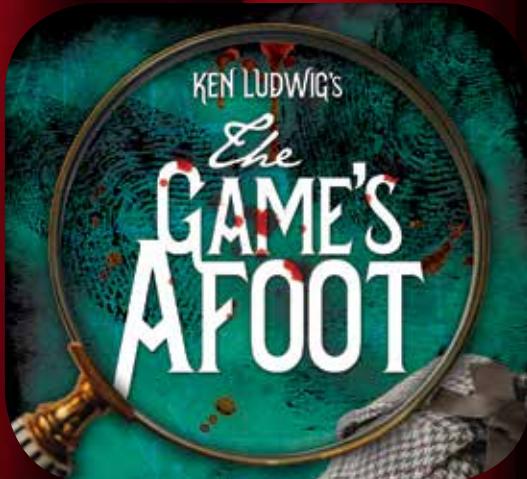
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