



# the owen sounder

vol. 6 no. 2 summer 2024

An aerial photograph showing the town of Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada, nestled along the northern shore of Lake Huron. The town's grid-like street pattern is clearly visible, along with various residential areas, parks, and industrial buildings. The surrounding landscape consists of green fields and forests. The deep blue water of the lake contrasts with the green land.

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## FEATURING:

- ArtWalk 2024!
- Roselawn Bowling Club!
- Walter's Falls Art Show!
- Bruce Grey Music Hall of Fame!
- Blue Mountains Arts & Crafts Walk!
- Summerfolk Music Festival!
- ...and so much more!

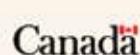


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NEXT ISSUE: Fall 2024 (deadline August 15, 2024)  
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Established in 1994 and revived in 2020, The Owen Sounder is an independent community magazine which is written, designed, published and distributed right here in Owen Sound. Established in 1993, MOSAIC continues to encourage and support all the local arts and entertainment. Current and back issues also available at [www.theowensounder.ca](http://www.theowensounder.ca)

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#### about the front cover:

Pilot Zach Raynsford took this photograph looking south over Owen Sound in May, 2024

#### published by

The Ginger Press  
848 2nd Avenue East, Owen Sound ON N4K2H3  
[www.gingerpress.com](http://www.gingerpress.com)  
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# FROM MY DESK

Welcome to Summer 2024! We are bursting at the seams this season with a profusion of exhibitions, events, anniversaries, performances, memories, tours, workshops, opportunities, and so much more. Definitely get your daytimer out as you wander through these pages so you won't miss any of the excitement Grey-Bruce offers over the next few months.

Here at The Ginger Press, we're looking at another amazing year of publishing a whole whack of remarkable new books: *The View from Coffin Ridge: A Childhood Exhumed*, a memoir by Gwen Lamont was launched at two incredible sold-out events at Coffin Ridge Boutique Winery in Annan. *The Jewel of Georgian Bay: Celebrating 50 Years of the Chi-Cheemaun* by Richard J. Thomas was launched during the Chi-Cheemaun Festival in Tobermory. Also this summer, look for *Aging in Place*, a new collection of local essays, narratives, poems, and sketches by Grey-Bruce writers assembled by Joan Beecroft. And, although we didn't publish *The Vascular Plants of the Bruce Peninsula* by Joe Johnson, we are pleased to carry his self-published encyclopedic revised and updated volume detailing the many species to be found in Ontario's most famous botanical destination.

The Ginger Press Bookshop is now 100% Grey-Bruce content: we carry the finest selection of new and experienced local books in the universe! Although we're only open Thursday to Saturday from 10:00 to 2:00 (our most recent books are also available online at [www.gingerpress.com](http://www.gingerpress.com)), we spend the rest of our time working on local literary projects such as this magazine. And we've published over 150 local books to date. Please stop by for a browse soon!

- Maryann

## BLUE MOUNTAINS ARTS WALK

#### FRANZ GREENFIELD

Grab a hat and a pair of walking shoes for an event where art meets the great outdoors! Happening on July 6 from 10am-4pm, this one-day, self-guided tour takes you through the charming villages of Thornbury and Clarksburg to discover unique galleries, cafes and shops and enjoy the works of local artists, artisans and crafters.

After grabbing a map, start your adventure in downtown Clarksburg or downtown Thornbury and stroll along the scenic streets of Marsh and Bruce to the opposite village. All along the way, there will be lots to experience: musicians performing in the downtown cores; artists and artisans displaying and creating on the lawns of homes and churches; discounts and specials at shops and restaurants; stunning displays of artwork in galleries; and more. You can expect to see a wide range of handmade crafts, artwork and specialty items such as paintings, pottery, jewelry, textiles, woodworking, glasswork and sculptures, photography – make sure you bring a bag!

Get all the details and a sneak peek on the day by checking out the Walk's interactive map at: [TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca/Blue-Mountains-Arts-Walk](http://TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca/Blue-Mountains-Arts-Walk).

# KEPPEL CROFT GARDENS

DAWN LONEY •

This has been our 47th spring clean up at Keppel Croft Gardens. We used to be blasé about the autumn leaves and just hope the west winds would blow them away. Usually they did. Now that the garden has matured and the trees are so much bigger, there are plenty of leaves to keep us busy even in the spring.

The celebration for the Summer Solstice will be held, weather permitting, on June 20. Bring a picnic, join the Tai Chi practitioners in the garden, and, with the Bluewater Astronomical Society celebrate the shadow of the Pointer Stone in Keppel Henge passing over the solstice line.

Our Nature Trail meanders back to the bush. The arboretum is on the trail. The side trail to the east will take you to Painter's Point, a great place for a view of Georgian Bay and there's a picnic table waiting for you! Our mown

trail is not a challenging one. The walk back to Painter's Point takes about 20 minutes. On the way you will pass our Birdie Bunkie shelter which is a great place for bird watching at the edge of a small stream and the bush. We have binoculars and a bird identification book for your use there, and benches for resting spots. A resident phoebe nests in the overhang – please don't disturb her!

Thinking of a crafty morning or afternoon out with friends? Come to make tuffa plant containers under Bill's direction. Contact us about a date and time that suits you. We have lots of tables and chairs so bring your picnic and relax in the gardens. Remember that Bill has plants and some trees for sale, all grown here at Keppel Croft, 504156 Grey Road 1, Georgian Bluffs; or contact (519) 534-1090; or [www.keppelcroft.com](http://www.keppelcroft.com) for more information.

## LANDING IN THE LAP OF LITERACY

STEVEN MOREL •

I have happily landed at South Grey Bruce Youth Literacy Council (SGBYLC) as their new Program Coordinator. I am thrilled and honoured to carry on the legacy of this organization as previously helmed by Dyan Jones, Kimm Culkin, and our fabulous volunteer Board of Directors. For over twenty years our organization of volunteers has been providing South Grey-Bruce youth with welcomed help in literacy and numeracy.

Alas, it is a challenging time post-pandemic, as school closures and online learning have left many students behind in both literacy and numeracy. Historically, SGBYLC has never had a 'wait list' per se, but we do now. We have a real need for experienced volunteer tutors and teachers to help out with as little a commitment as forty-five minutes a week. As a

youth-centric organization, we are the "ounce of prevention" that can greatly reduce the knock-on effects of growing adult illiteracy in today's society. We are working hard to align partnerships throughout Grey-Bruce and with our local school boards so that all oars are pulling in the same direction!

One-on-one, in-person learning helps to focus our learners and rewards our volunteers with tangible, positive feedback that they are making a difference. If you, or someone you know, are looking for a rewarding volunteer experience, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. For more information, please visit our website at [www.sgbyletteracy.org](http://www.sgbyletteracy.org) or reach out to me, Steven Morel, Program Coordinator at (519) 364-0008 or [info@sgbyletteracy.org](mailto:info@sgbyletteracy.org).

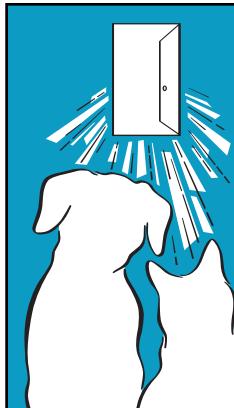
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# ROSELAWN BOWLING CLUB

JOHN FEARNALL

As a long time member of the North Sydenham Bocce Club, my love for throwing balls must have been what originally led me to the Owen Sound Roselawn Bowling Club about three years BC (Before Covid). At the time, I knew very little about the game and even less about the club. One of the biggest surprises was how long the game has been played in the area. The Owen Sound North Bowling Club, which would eventually become Roselawn and merge with St. George's when it burned down in 1998, was formed in 1919, one year before Owen Sound was incorporated as a city.

Although lawn bowling has a rich history, today's game is not as antiquated as many think. We don't only wear white, we aren't all senior citizens (although some of our best players are in their 90s), and we're not terribly traditional – last year, we hosted "Bowling On Grass," the world's first cannabis-friendly lawn bowling tournament, at our club.

The most interesting thing about the game is that the bowls (not balls) have something that has caused a lot of problems in our world the last few years – bias. In this case, the bias is caused by the shape of the bowl and makes the game much more challenging as this bias makes the bowl curve or 'curl'. In fact, you can think of lawn bowling as the summer equivalent to curling. We even share the same positions – lead, second, third and skip. Although my personal favourite thing about lawn bowling is that you can play barefoot, something I



wouldn't want to try while curling.

Roselawn offers a few different ways to play: Members play socially Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from late May to September. If you prefer a little more competition, we offer a league night in June and July. There are also district, provincial, national and international competitions for players to pursue. And, this year, for the first time we are going to host a drop-in night on Wednesday evenings starting in June. No commitment necessary.

Probably the most difficult thing about the game, at least in Owen Sound, is finding the club. I lived here for 40 years before I knew it existed. It is located at 1555 5th Avenue West. Heading north on 4th Avenue West, turn left after the bridge and before Harrison Field on to 15th Street West. Then take your first right and you'll find the club halfway up the block. For more information, please visit [www.roselawnbowls.ca](http://www.roselawnbowls.ca). You can also find Roselawn on Facebook and Instagram.

## FAMOUS OLD DOG, INTRIGUING AUTHOR, HISTORIC PARK – AND A LEISURELY WALK IN NATURE!

SHARON MANSION

These are all components of a sunny Sunday Tour of Beautiful Joe Park, located at 162 Edwin Street beside the Bighead River in downtown Meaford. In July and August (excepting July 21), if it's sunny (aka not raining), visit the park between noon and 2:00p.m. Experts from the Beautiful Joe Heritage Society conduct 30-minute walking tours of this remarkable 8.5-acre park where Canada's most famous dog is buried.

Don't know about Beautiful Joe? You're not alone. He was once known around the world, because of his book that spear-headed the kindness to animals' movement...but his story was nearly forgotten. The Beautiful Joe Heritage Society, a volunteer-run charity, recognized this and, back in 1994, set out to revitalize his story and were the visionaries and creators of this unique place that every animal lover should know about.

Once you are in the park, the footing is level and benches are strategically located should you need a rest during the informative tour. You will learn about Joe's story and that of the author, as well as the history of the park and its monuments. The cool shade is an oasis on a hot summer day and the park is quite tranquil and very relaxing. Friendly, leashed pets are welcome. Tours are free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

A picnic pavilion with running water and hydro is on-site and can be booked through Municipality of Meaford Parks Department (519) 538-1060. A few picnic tables are generally available throughout the park and a port-a-potty is provided from May to September. Private or group tours at other times can be arranged with Beautiful Joe Heritage Society by email: [admin@beautifuljoe.org](mailto:admin@beautifuljoe.org).

# THE WALTER'S FALLS GROUP OF ARTISTS: SOME VARIETIES OF CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

The Walter's Falls Group of Artists (WFGA) is calling all art lovers for their 27th annual exhibition and sale, known as The Show. The WFGA's trademark mix of high-calibre 2- and 3-dimensional art and craft means that visitors are sure to enjoy browsing the Show, perhaps to walk out with the perfect piece for their own collections or an ideal item for a wedding or Christmas gift.

Though the member and guest artists of the WFGA are all committed to presenting an array of fine art and craft, their artistic journeys are varied. Some hold degrees in the visual arts, while others don't have formal training but have pursued

life-long arts practices. Some engage in art-making full-time. Some worked at art in their younger days and are now returning to it after raising families and following other careers. Still others have embarked on their creative journeys late in life. Several pursue visual art-adjacent careers as gallerists, or in film, theatre, or literature. Whatever the origin story or path to visual art, visitors to the Show can be assured of a well-spent couple of hours amid an elegant display of compelling paintings, sculpture, ceramics, wood-turning, and, for the first time this year, photography. Artists will be on hand for a friendly chat about their work.



## *Nesting Bowls by Vince Bowen*

Do drop by the Walter's Falls Community Centre on August 23 (7-10 pm), 24 (10 am to 5 pm) or 25 (10 am to 4 pm). Admission is free and there is plenty of street parking around the hall. Please note, at the present time this historic building is not barrier-free.

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A young girl with curly hair, wearing glasses, a blue jacket over a white t-shirt, and denim overalls, is smiling and holding several books. She has a blue backpack on her back. The background is a solid yellow color.

# REMEMBERING PETER CIOKAN

JOHN FEARNALL

I'm not sure when I first entered Foto Art in downtown Owen Sound, but my guess is it was somewhere around the end of the last century – when photography started to catch my eye. Although I was a relative newbie, Peter Ciokan, the long time owner, was quick to answer all of my questions about cameras, lenses, printing and framing. Within a month of that first meeting, I found myself in the store's basement (where my Uncle Dave worked as Peter's bookkeeper for years) using the large matte cutter that lived there with lots of other photographic equipment and history Peter and his family had collected.

I don't know much about the pre-Peter store other than he took it over from his parents. But I can tell you Peter and Foto Art had a profound effect on my photography and, in turn, on my life. And I know he did the same for many other local photographers. Peter was incredibly supportive of the local photography community. He created the Spectrum Gallery in the back hallway of his store to showcase the work of local photographers. I was honoured to show my work there twice. I also had the opportunity to discuss my work with the OS Camera Club, which, at the time, hosted their meetings in the back room of Foto Art. Peter always made space to promote and support local books, calendars, and events.

Peter had an amazing collection of cameras and was incredibly knowledgeable about all things photographic. He always encouraged me to try cameras and lenses before I purchased them emphasizing how important it was to hold a camera in your hand. Sometimes he even let me take the equipment home and try it before I decided to buy. When I did buy, he was always willing to match his big competition. And when he knew he could not get a good price on something, he was quick to send me elsewhere, although he always reminded me what a horrible job Wal-mart did printing photos. He even had an album of examples.



*Peter Ciokan - Courtesy: Grey Bruce Business Journal*

One day, when I walked into the store, he asked me if I had a flash. When I said "no" he grabbed one and gave it to me. He told me to pay for it as I could. That was Peter. But he was more than just a business owner. He loved to talk. We had many great chats about photography, as well as education and local history and even our shared struggles.

Last year, when Peter was having problems getting staff, I offered to work for him on Saturdays. It was a good learning experience for me in many ways. But, in particular, it taught me how valuable and respected he was in the community. And how important small businesses are in maintaining community – something he championed.

I didn't see Peter while I was working for him. I'm not sure many did during the last few years of his life. But I did talk with him on the phone occasionally. And I would get text messages out of the blue, especially during March, as Peter had fallen in love with one of my favourite sports – college basketball. I'm so happy I was able to give something back to him in exchange for what he gave to me and to our community. His name will always be connected to the visual history of Owen Sound and area. As it should be. Thank you, Peter.

## THE OWEN SOUND MEMOIR SERIES

ARLEN WEIBE

Emelia Symington-Fedy from Shuswap, B.C. is the next author featured in our Memoir Series. Her recent memoir, *Skid Dogs*, was included on CBC Books' list of the best Canadian nonfiction of 2023. Alternating between her adult and her teenage self as she examines her coming of age, the narrative explores her female friendships in the small town of Armstrong, BC, sexual violence, and the psychological wounds of growing up. Emelia will be in Owen Sound to give a book reading and discussion with Owen Sound Poet Laureate Rebecca Diem (7:00 Friday June 21) and writing workshop (1:00 Saturday June 22) at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library. Learn more at [owensoundmemoirseries.com](http://owensoundmemoirseries.com).



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BLUE MOUNTAINS  
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JULY 6, 2024 | 10AM-4PM

# READING TO EDNA

MICHELINE MANN

Sometime starting back in 2001, through ongoing workshops hosted by the Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning, and for several years after, memoirist, Glenys Stow, coached an ever growing population of local writing enthusiasts in the art of memoir writing. I know this not because I participated, or even knew about the workshops, but through my many clients whom I serve through my business called FETCH, which provides pet care, concierge, and in-home senior companion services.

As I came to know each new senior client, I learned that many were committing their memories to the page. Is this what will happen to us all? We reach a certain age and *kapow*, we become authors eager to document our lives? Each of these clients had taken Glenys's courses and, inspired by her infectious enthusiasm, they felt emboldened to record their memories. One, Edna Burri, even assembled her many personal memories into a book and had 100 copies printed. She called it *An Enthusiastic Canadian*.

Edna is a locally well-known force-of-a-woman who has had dementia for the past three years. She had a meaningful and busy career, raised two daughters and, with her husband, Tom, faced and triumphed over many of life's hurdles and challenges. They did it together, fearlessly and with a bottomless well of mutual admiration and love.

One of Edna's interests and talents was writing and so she joined a writers' group initially inspired by Glenys's work and guidance. And, just prior to COVID, when it became evident that Edna's mind was changing, Tom made the herculean effort to locate her many essays, assemble them into a book, and rush them to print before all of her fine writing and beautiful memories were forever lost.

The story thus far is enough to moisten the eye but it doesn't end here. Indeed, through a series of happenstance occurrences, I came into the employ of Tom and Edna just this past summer. Amongst the many things I did to support them (cook, plan and host dinner parties, host family events, manage the kitchen, accompany one or both on various outings etc.), I also sat with Edna on Thursday nights when Tom enjoyed the rare evening away to play bridge.

Edna did not like to be apart from Tom. With him out of sight, her confusion and agitation accelerated. This could lead to feelings of anger and helplessness. She did not enjoy puzzles or colouring or sitting by the television. Taking Edna for walks could prove problematic as she would lose trust in me; feelings of being lost in her own neighbourhood

would surface and then we'd really be in a mess.

How could I both engage and distract Edna for the four hours that Tom was gone? In my desperation, I picked up a copy of *An Enthusiastic Canadian* and began to read Edna's essays aloud to her. Boy, was this a bit of wizardry I luckily happened upon!

When I read Edna her own memories, it acted like a tonic. She smiled, was less agitated, and became so much more lucid. I would pause at some of the more remarkable anecdotes and ask if she remembered this specific moment or that. Edna would smile and reply that yes, she did, and then she would often elaborate. These moments of reading Edna's life aloud to her were magical, humbling, and bonding.

As Edna's reader, I loved being immersed in her history as detailed in those pages and I was endlessly entertained by the grit of her stories. It was even more gratifying to have found a way to bring some happiness back into her previously rich life. And she really was a good writer. She spun metaphors and well-crafted descriptions with beauty and skill. Edna's writing evoked in me a longing for simpler times. I would often choke up as I read aloud.

In those moments, I could get away with reading three or four of the essays before Edna would be up and on the move again. But those were precious moments of peace and stillness while we bathed in the golden light of her rich memories. As my time with the Burris drew to an end, Edna was less inclined to listen to her essays; she was vexed by a sense that she should be "doing something" and off she would go in search of a way to use her time in some more meaningful and active way.

As these things go, my employment with Tom and Edna terminated when Edna relocated to a memory facility in Collingwood. There she leads a different sort of life, one I hope holds some happiness for her. I know I will always remember those moments spent with her, reliving her life through her words. But, more importantly, Edna's 10 years of effort has left her friends and family with an assemblage of recollections to be enjoyed and handed down to future generations.

The act of writing her memoir gave Edna a focus for her innate writing skills, a place to house her precious memories and, in the end, the book itself was a gift of a calming tonic which I could use to help ease her confusion and anxiety. Who knew a memoir could do all that?

# OWEN SOUND ARTISTS' CO-OPERATIVE TURNS 30!

DON SANKEY

The Grey Bruce area of southern Ontario is home to hundreds of talented artists welcomed by the beauty of the Escarpment and the pastoral feeling here. In the summer of 1994, a large group of area artists got together and identified a need for a gallery/retail place. On September 20, 1994, the Owen Sound Artists' Co-Op (OSAC) was incorporated and officially launched. For the first three years of operation, we were located in the Heritage Place Mall. In the summer of 1997, we moved to Grey County Mall until the Mall closed. OSAC then searched for a new space and relocated to 279 10th St East. We were very successful there, but the artists wanted more space.

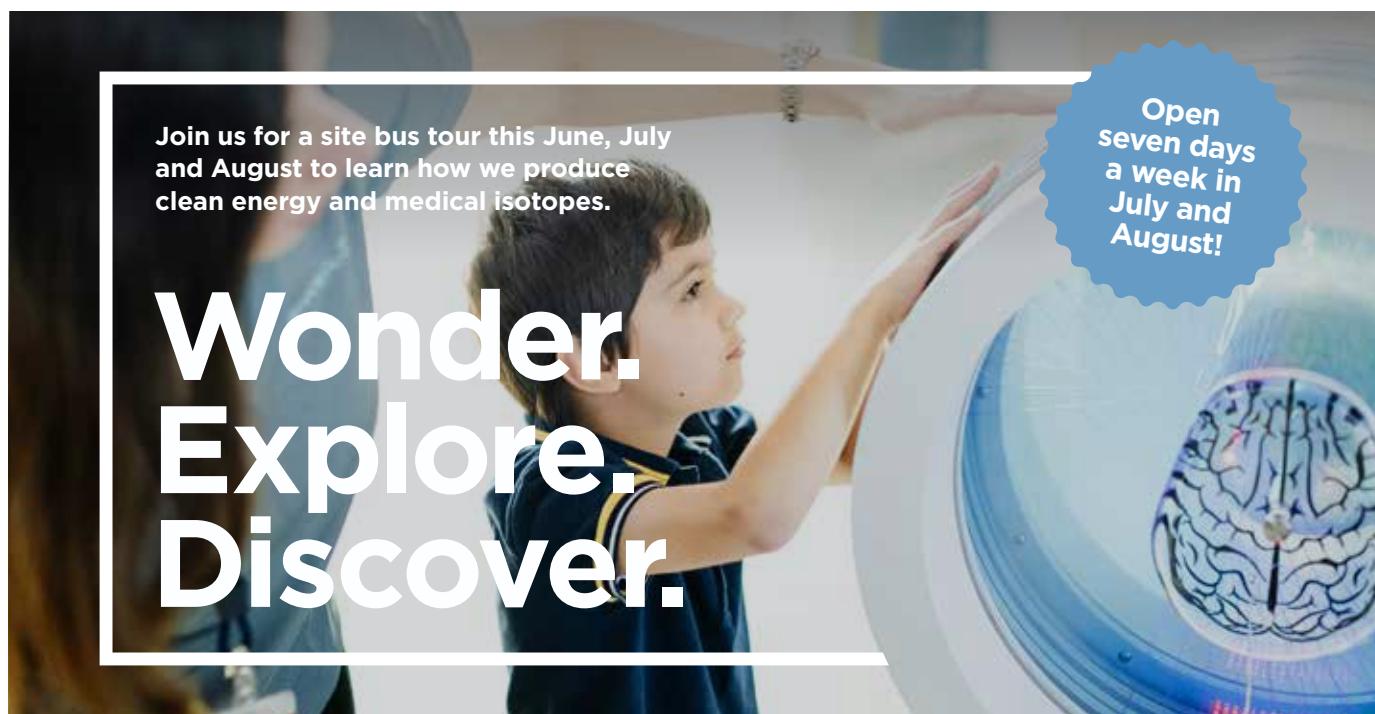
In the winter of 2014, OSAC moved to the McKay Building; we're still here. This larger store allows artist members to create larger displays and provides an increase in visitors and sales, as well as the expansion of creative projects, an increase of memberships, a guest artist program, monthly art shows in the Legacy Gallery, and a Food Gallery where

local foods and related products are sold. The Co-Op has been very successful!

OSAC is run according to a constitution, bylaws, and written policies drawn up by members. Decisions and planning are handled by a nine-member Board of Directors elected by the membership. Each member is responsible for helping out with the operation of the store. From day one, we have operated on principles of courtesy, respect, and support for each member in the group.

A community of artists and friends has grown around the store, which has helped us meet the many challenges that have come our way. We are proud to be strong after 30 years as a co-operative and look forward to many more years here.

Join us on June 26 for a 30th anniversary celebration starting at 6pm. For more information, visit OSAC at 942 2nd Avenue East, in downtown Owen Sound, or our website [www.artistscoop.ca](http://www.artistscoop.ca), or phone (519) 371-0479.



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# ARTWALK

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

### 10:00 TO 3:00 SATURDAY JUNE 22

#### SCHEDULE •

Take a walk downtown! These eleven venues will have special demonstrations, exhibitions, new product information, art and craft activities, door prizes, and opportunities for learning more about our dynamic arts community. Pick up your ArtWalk passport at any venue, and get it filled out to win our amazing Grand Prize!

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Ahnii! And welcome to our retail store offering gifts of healing featuring First Nations art, jewelry, traditional wear, crystals, natural products and much more. Miigwetch!

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10:30-noon: Japanese paper card making with Raquell Yang.  
1:30 – 3:00: Japanese paper bookmaking with Kari Bronaugh.  
+ Exhibits of figurative paintings by Heidi Berger and ceramic sculpture by Jim Hong Louie.

#### HEARTWOOD HOME • 939 2ND AVE E

Find unique and unusual things. We sell antiques purchased at farm auctions, locally made furniture and crafts, and unusual and hard to find plants.

#### INTERSECTIONS WOOD COLLABORATIVE •

##### 299 10TH ST E

Observe woodturning class in progress with Carl Durance. Find out more about upcoming classes and membership perks.

#### OWEN SOUND & NORTH GREY UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY • 824 1ST AVE W

Contribute to an Alien Invasion! Design your own extraterrestrial and their spacecraft and watch as they take over Youth Services. For added fun, use chalk to decorate our sidewalk with your artwork.

#### OWEN SOUND ARTISTS' CO-OP • 942 2ND AVE E

Enjoy the work of 45 local artists!

#### OWEN SOUND FARMERS' MARKET • 88 8TH ST E (8:00 – 12:30)

Find the ArtWalk poster on a vendor's table (location will change throughout the morning), show your ArtWalk passport and receive a ballot for the chance to win \$100 market bucks!

#### TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY • 840 1ST AVE W

2:00 Summer exhibitions opening

+ Exhibition of works by Tom Thomson.

#### UPWARDS ART STUDIO • 975 2ND AVE E

11:00-1:00: Princeton Catalyst tools demo.

1:00-3:00: Make a puppet for ages 9-adult (\$5 materials fee).

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

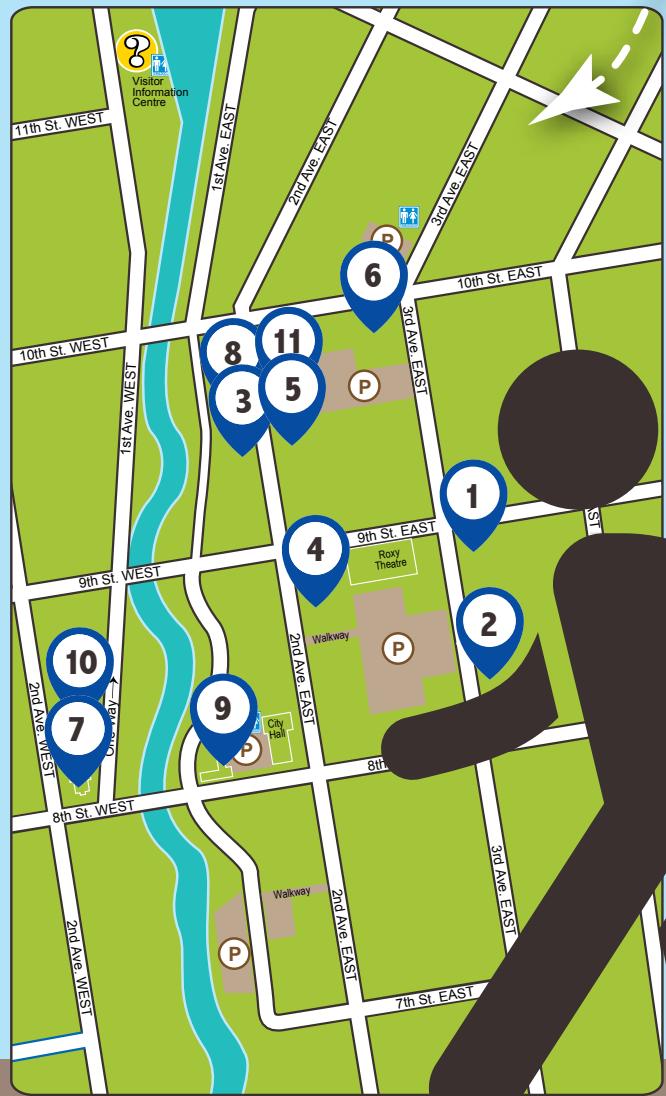
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**A CELEBRATION OF ART AND ARTISTS IN DOWNTOWN OWEN SOUND**

- 1. ALL MY RELATIONS**  
895 3rd Avenue East
- 2. CURVEY LINES  
ART SCHOOL & PRINT SHOP**  
817 3rd 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**  
10th Street at 3rd Avenue 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
- 10. TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY**  
840 1st Avenue West
- 11. UPWARDS ART STUDIO**  
975 2nd Avenue East





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**All My Relations**  
Your First Nations Gift Shop  
in Downtown Owen Sound

**Ahnsil**  
And welcome in to All My Relations Gift Shop. A retail store owned by Trish Meekins and Robert Rice that offers gifts of healing, featuring First Nations art, jewelry, traditional wear, crystals, natural products and much more!  
Migaweton

[www.allmyrelationsgiftshop.ca](http://www.allmyrelationsgiftshop.ca)  
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for your chance to win.

The Grand Prize: a selection of amazing ArtWalk gifts!

# AT THE ROXY

EMMA MCCONACHIE-ANDERSON •

As the curtain falls on the 2023/24 season, Owen Sound Little Theatre/The Roxy bids farewell to a series of unforgettable performances and memorable moments. From gripping dramas to uproarious comedies, the stage came alive with a diverse array of productions that captivated audiences of all ages. The final show of the season, the Roxy Young Company's rendition of *The Addams Family* concluded in mid-June, leaving a lasting impression on audiences. The excitement doesn't end there, as the Roxy Young Company prepares for upcoming summer camps, keeping young theatre enthusiasts engaged until Act 1 classes commence in the fall. Keep an eye on the Roxy website for updates on their much-anticipated spring 2025 production of *Alice in Wonderland JR.*

Looking ahead, Owen Sound Little Theatre (OSLT) has already set the stage for another exceptional season. Kicking off in November is the popular musical *The Prom*, followed by *Prelude to a Kiss* in February, *The Play That Goes Wrong* in March, and *7 Stories* in June. Patrons can take advantage of Flex Passes with Early Bird pricing

available from June 12 until July 12 when regular pricing takes effect.

In addition to its mainstage productions, the Roxy Presents Series promises an array of thrilling events for theatregoers. From CBC's *Laugh Out Loud Comedy Festival* to the mesmerizing talents of *Jason Cyrus LIVE!*, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Winter brings the popular *Middle Raged, Wonderful World of Christmas Graceland Edition*, and the harmonious melodies of *Choir! Choir! Choir!* In the new year, beloved acts including *The Mudmen* and the *Owen Sound Reel Festival* return alongside exciting new shows *Hyprov: Improv Under Hypnosis* starring Colin Mochrie (of *Who's Line is it Anyway?*) and Asad Mecci.

Roxy Star Company continues to create opportunities for adults living with complex needs, including intellectual, developmental or physical disabilities to participate in theatre, through workshops, classes and a final talent show, this year called *The Sound of Stars* on June 27 at 7:30pm.

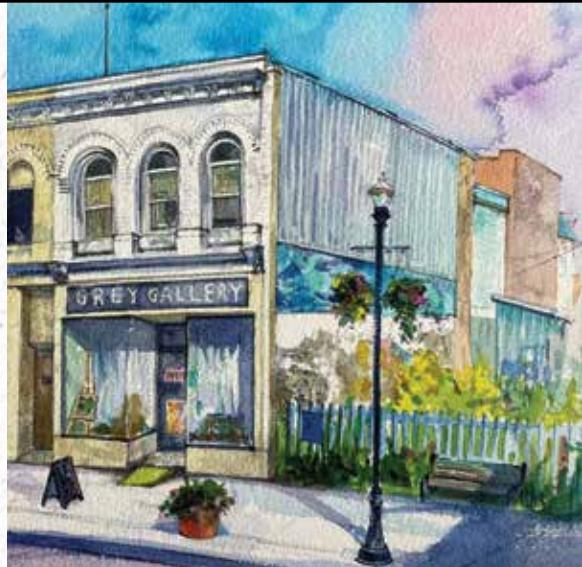
Tickets for these upcoming events are available at the Roxy box office, [www.roxytheatre.ca](http://www.roxytheatre.ca), or (519) 371-2833.



GREY GALLERY

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

We welcome visitors and there is always something interesting to see in the gallery and our garden next door. May-June Heidi Berger portraits of women; May-July Jim Hong Louie ceramic sculptures; July Cindy Norton paintings and sculptures.



Watercolour painting by Raquel Yang

Note our summer hours:  
Open 10am-5pm Thurs-Fri, 10am-4pm Saturday,  
and noon to 4pm Sundays in July and August

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/GGOWENSOUND

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# EXPANDING VISUAL ARTS GROWTH IN OWEN SOUND

AMELIA KRAEMER AND CAROLINE TREMBLAY • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Owen Sound boasts a rich tapestry of arts and culture deeply rooted in its picturesque surroundings and historical significance. Against this backdrop, our local visual arts community has experienced a revitalizing with the help of two local artists: Amelia Kraemer and Caroline Tremblay. They are the driving force behind the Owen Sound Community Artist Studio Tour and the Urban Easel. The Tour has become a platform for over 30 local artists to open their studios to the public, showcasing their diverse talents, ranging from painting to glass working to metal working to woodworking. These artists work altogether to foster artistic camaraderie and community engagement.

Urban Easel, the reimagined Owen Sound Art Banner Project, underscores the vital role of public art in enriching urban spaces and fostering community pride, enhanced by support from local businesses and community services.

As Owen Sound continues to evolve as a vibrant hub of creativity and expression, Caroline and Amelia hold



## Owen Sound Community Artist Studio Tour

a collective vision of community art that enriches lives, and fosters accessibility and public appreciation, while celebrating the diversity of talent at our doorstep. Through events like these, Owen Sound's artistic community thrives, while reflecting our community values of collaboration, inclusion, and creative transformation in shaping the cultural landscape of our region, city, and neighbourhoods.

Check out Urban Easel now along the Owen Sound harbour. The Studio Tour happens this fall September 21-22. Stay up to date on all the events related to these projects at <https://osstudiotour.ca/>. Follow the Tour on Facebook and Instagram @osstudiotour.

## THE SHOW

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

Friday, August 23 7-10  
Saturday, August 24 10-5  
Sunday, August 25 10-4

**Walter's Falls Community Centre**

We look forward to welcoming visitors and patrons to our annual exhibition and sale of fine art and craft – please join us!

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

**An Evening with Dr. Brian Goldman**

Medical Watchdog.  
Emergency Room Physician.  
Bestselling Author.  
Host of award-winning radio show  
“White Coat, Black Art”.

Thursday, October 24, 2024  
UNIFOR Family Education Centre, Port Elgin  
Tickets at [brucemuseum.ca](http://brucemuseum.ca)

# SUMMER CLASSES AT UPWARDS ART STUDIO

AMELIA KRAEMER •

Aaaah summer...how happy we are when you arrive! We love summer in the studio. There is always so much going on at Upwards. We have one hour classes for kids aged 6+ Monday mornings, 10:30-11:30am, Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-2:30pm, and Thursday mornings, 10:30- 11:30am. Price for the one hour classes is \$20 each. They begin July 8 and end August 15. We are also offering Specialty Summer Programs, such as Polymer Clay Adventures, and others that are a little longer on Wednesday mornings from 10:30am-12:00pm. The price for these classes is \$30 each. These classes are recommended for kiddos 7+. Finally, we haven't forgotten your teens. Their classes are Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-3:30pm and are for those 13+. These two-hour classes are \$40 each. We limit all classes to eight children for each so be sure to sign up early to avoid disappointment.

This summer we are introducing Artful Teaching: Art Activity Workshop Series for educators of every level. Teachers, don't miss this opportunity to revitalize your classroom with innovative art activities that inspire creativity, critical thinking, and expression. Join us for an enriching workshop series that empowers educators to ignite artistic passion in their students while meeting educational objectives:

- **Primary Teachers:** Sunday July 14 from 1:00-4:00pm
- **Junior Teachers:** Sunday July 21 from 1:00-4:00pm
- **Intermediate Teachers:** Sunday July 28 from 1:00-4:00pm
- **Senior Teachers:** Sunday August 11 from 1:00-4:00pm.

To view and to register for any of our excellent summer programs and workshops please visit: <https://upwardsartstudio.com/events/>, or call (519) 370-0448, or sign up in person at 975 2nd Avenue East in Owen Sound's scenic River District.

## RURAL GARDENS OF GREY AND BRUCE COUNTIES

DAWN LONEY •

Rural Gardens of Grey and Bruce counties is a collaboration of local growers bringing gardens and community together. Visit [www.ruralgardens.ca](http://www.ruralgardens.ca) for a full listing of members and special summer garden events and attractions, including:

- **Summer Solstice at Keppel Croft Gardens, Big Bay**  
11am - 2 pm, June 20, weather permitting.  
Bring your picnic lunch and join in with the Tai Chi club before the Bluewater Astronomical Society presentation in Keppel Henge. [www.keppelcroft.com](http://www.keppelcroft.com)
- **Create a Food Forest Workshops** at Fiddlehead Nursery, Kimberley 2-5 pm on June 22, July 21, August 17, September 22 for Ben Caesar's tour featuring his in-depth garden design for an edible landscape using

applied ecology and permaculture. Harvest, prepare, and taste garden produce. [www.fiddleheadnursery.ca](http://www.fiddleheadnursery.ca)

- **Music in the Garden Concert Series at Earthbound Gardens, Red Bay.** 2-4pm Sundays July and August. Bring your own chair. [www.earthboundgardens.com](http://www.earthboundgardens.com).
- **Yoga for all levels** at Bluewater Lavender Farm, Wiarton June 20, 30, July 6, 7, 20, 21, August 3, 17, 31. [www.bluewaterlavender.com](http://www.bluewaterlavender.com).
- **Wiarton Lavender Festival in Wiarton's Bluewater Park** July 27-28. [www.bluewaterlavender.com](http://www.bluewaterlavender.com).
- **Grey-Bruce Garden Tour** a fundraiser for playground equipment for Peninsula Shores School. July 13-14. [www.ruralgardens.ca](http://www.ruralgardens.ca).



### LONGING OF THE SOUL

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and let it speak."  
Sant Baljit Singh Ji



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519.376.8628  
[trish@trishmeekins.com](mailto:trish@trishmeekins.com)  
[trishmeekins.com](http://trishmeekins.com)  
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November 1st & 2nd, 2024

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# **GRAND OPENING: BRUCE GREY MUSIC HALL OF FAME**

The late Bill Murdoch, co-founder of the Bruce Grey Music Hall of Fame (HOF), would be thrilled. The first phase of the Music Hall of Fame's return was recently completed at the Royal Canadian Legion, Owen Sound, Branch 6, in the North Atlantic Room. Staff of RC Renovations have installed back-drop wall panels and display cases, while Benedict Electrical has installed electrical servicing and overhead and display case lighting. Hall of Fame signage was crafted by staff at Street Signs.

The rebirth of the Music HOF was made possible by a special membership vote held at the Owen Sound Legion. A large contingent of Br. 6 members were on hand, voting unanimously in favour of seeing the HOF re-location to the Branch: "The membership of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 6, Owen Sound fully supports this new era of the Bruce Grey Music Hall of Fame. We look forward to all the HOF brings to our Branch and the community," says Ed Yates, President, Br. 6.

Bill Vanstone, a HOF committee member and former President of the Hepworth Shallow Lake Legion, was overwhelmed by the Owen Sound decision: "We lost everything when the Hepworth facility was destroyed by fire," he noted. "Everybody said we (the HOF) were done. Bill Murdoch didn't buy into that. He wanted us to continue, to open a new HOF. Things didn't work out at Hepworth, but Bill would be so pleased to see the Owen Sound Legion step up with a huge vote of support."

Sue Murdoch echoed the same message. Sue, who has

assumed her late husband's role as a HOF director, stated that the BGMHOF has taken a giant step forward thanks to the amazing support of the Owen Sound Legion, HOF directors, the renovation team, and the many financial donors. She added a special message of thanks to Arnie Clark: "He's been the heart and soul of the HOF project. We would be nothing without him. Bill would be so proud of Arnie's work." Sue also stated the HOF project "is Bill's legacy. The Murdoch family couldn't be more proud to see his dream rise again and become a reality."

The HOF committee is already planning its annual induction event, scheduled for Sunday, September 29, 2024 in the Memorial Auditorium, Owen Sound Legion, Branch 6. Nomination applications for inductee consideration will be accepted up to August 5, 2024. Nomination forms are available on the HOF website or by contacting (519) 371-1152.

A grand public opening of the "new" HOF is set for 2:00, Sunday, June 23. The matinee event, will include live entertainment in the Legion Club Room, featuring the Ridge River Ramblers. Formal opening of the Music Hall of Fame gets underway at 3:00 p.m. in the Legion's North Atlantic Room. Free admission, with HOF donations welcome at the door.

The Music HOF will be open for visitation during regular Legion hours, excluding times the hall is reserved for other activities and special events. Check-in at the Legion office for public access and direction.

# A PLACE FOR SELF DISCOVERY

SARA IRBY

Embark on a journey of self-discovery and transformation at your local Know Thyself as Soul Centre (KTS), located in the heart of downtown Owen Sound. This is a space dedicated to personal growth and spiritual exploration in a supportive environment. All our programs are free of charge.

At the KTS Centre, you can also attend one of our regular presentations on Sant Mat. This is an age-old, spiritual way of life that includes developing respect, trust, and love for all and discovering our full potential as human beings. It is a lifestyle in harmony with higher values that nurtures our soul through

meditation – the regular contact with the inner Light and Sound. This contact is made available through a living spiritual teacher. Presentations are offered every week at 6:45 pm on Wednesdays, and 9:45 am on Sundays. Learn more at [www.knowthyself.org](http://www.knowthyself.org).

KTS Centre also hosts numerous charity activities such as sandwich making, food and hygiene drives, and clothing drives for local organizations. Our aim is to make a positive impact in the community. We look forward to meeting you! Know Thyself as Soul Centre: 908 2nd Ave East Suite #203. For more information: 1-888-382-8282

# WALKING ON THE BRUCE TRAIL: A GROWTH EXPERIENCE

MARIE KNAPP • • • • • • • • • •

Sometimes I walk alone or I may lead a small group on a meditative walk along the Bruce Trail. Starting out I am a bit tense, perhaps ruminating about some challenges. I want to let them go but they can cling like burrs to my socks. But that soon changes.

I invite all my senses to become involved in a merry dance to nature's magical rhythms. I breathe in the energy of the woods. As tension leaves, I pay attention to the trees and plants. Step by step my body moves to a new rhythm, not a real dance, but a rhythm resembling the flow of the swaying branches and leaves of plants. I become more aware of the aroma of the new growth. I slow down my pace.

I remember being on a Forest Bathing hike. The purpose of the different exercises was to guide us in deepening our awareness. I felt the variation in the bark of different trees. I noticed fungi remembering how it serves the tree. I felt the ground beneath my feet and remembered the depth of life below the surface. Trees support each other through fungi on



the root systems linking roots of one tree to another. It is a community. Perhaps this is a model we could learn from?

The Bruce Trail is more than a place to hike. It is a place for reconnection with nature, for learning and growing, for being in touch with your true self. It is a place for your soul to be nourished. There are such wooded areas just off the trails in Harrison Park that serve this purpose well. If this interests you, why not try it?

For more information, and a schedule of upcoming local hikes, go to [www.sydenhambrucetrail.ca](http://www.sydenhambrucetrail.ca).

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# UNITED WAY BACKPACK PROGRAM

KRISTY ANDRE •

The United Way of Bruce Grey's Backpack Program stands as a beacon of hope and support for low-income children, illuminating pathways toward brighter futures. By addressing a fundamental need – educational support – the program fosters positive outcomes that ripple through communities, creating a legacy of empowerment and opportunity. At its core, the Backpack Program ensures that children from financially strained households have access to essential school supplies, reducing bullying, levelling the playing field, and eradicating barriers to success. This initiative not only equips students with the tools necessary for academic achievement but also instills a sense of belonging and dignity, affirming their worth and potential.

Since its inception in 2005 the Backpack Program has provided over 35,000 backpacks to children in Bruce and Grey. It's estimated that this has put over \$2.5 million dollars back into the hands of the parents to purchase shoes, clothing, and food. In 2023, 21 agencies and eight schools, in addition to self-referring parents, distributed 2,470 fully stocked backpacks, a 5% increase in need from 2022, and a 13% increase from pre-pandemic (2019) levels. The cost

of the program increased 20% from 2022 to 2023 with a whopping 57% increase from pre-pandemic (2019) costs.

Beyond the immediate impact on individual children, the Backpack Program creates a ripple effect that reverberates throughout the community. By investing in the education and well-being of low-income children, the program helps break the cycle of poverty, opening doors to brighter opportunities and economic mobility. As these children grow into empowered adults, they become catalysts for positive change within their families and communities, inspiring others to reach for their dreams and pursue a path of success.

In essence, the United Way of Bruce Grey's Backpack Program is not merely a charitable endeavour; it is a transformative force that uplifts individuals, strengthens communities, and paves the way for a brighter tomorrow. Through its commitment to empowering low-income children, the program embodies the ethos of compassion, equity, and opportunity, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all who benefit from its support. For more information, and to make a donation to the Backpack Program, call 519-376-1560 or visit [unitedwayofbrucegrey.com](http://unitedwayofbrucegrey.com).



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SCAN ME

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# COMMUNITY WATERFRONT HERITAGE CENTRE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

NICOLE EGAN •

Located in the historic CN Rail Station on Owen Sound's harbourfront (at 1155 1st Ave West), the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre (CWHC) celebrates 10 years of its current iteration this summer – and you're invited to join the party all season long. First established by a volunteer group of history enthusiasts in 1978, the then-called Marine Rail Heritage Centre opened to the public in 1985 with the aim of preserving, and expanding upon, Owen Sound's history as a thriving port.

While much has changed over the years in and around Owen Sound, and at CWHC itself, the intent of the passionate volunteers who keep this waterfront community hub running hasn't. This is a place for community, for the sharing of stories and experiences.

The CWHC is home to exquisite ship models, CNR and CPR memorabilia as well as artifacts, archival photos, and interactive stations. Each season, it hosts temporary special exhibits, and this summer is no exception. Local storyteller Richard Thomas supported the curation of an exhibit on the famously ill-fated King's Royal Hotel, which operated in the former McLauchlan Park at Balmby Beach, five kilometres north of Owen Sound, between 1902 and 1916. Thomas is set to publish a book about the hotel later this year, stay tuned for launch event details as the CWHC gets ready to host a heritage event like no other!

In addition to the Museum, make sure to check out our newly added giftshop, complete with lots of locally made wares, all of which support



*King's Royal Hotel, 1902*

CWHC's operations. Ask for a tour of the dining car (which is available to rent for private functions and is set to host CWHC fundraising events this season as well!) and for even more good, donate to ring the bell! CWHC is open daily from 10am to 4pm, from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving. Admission is \$5.

## A CELEBRATION OF CROKINOLE AT THE CARGILL MUSEUM

KEVIN MCKAGUE •

Our newest exhibit explores crokinole's origins in rural southwestern Ontario and traces the evolution of the game since its early origins through an exhibition of antique crokinole boards and related artifacts. The origin of the word crokinole comes from the French word croquignole, meaning a small, crunchy biscuit – a reference to the small round discs used as playing pieces.

The exact origins of crokinole are unclear, but it is believed to have been invented in rural Southwestern Ontario. The earliest written reference to crokinole is from 1867 and mentions the game's popularity in Canada. The earliest known crokinole board was made by craftsman and wagon maker Eckhardt Wetzlauer in 1876 in Perth County, Ontario, as a birthday present for his son Adam. The first references to crokinole boards for sale are from the P.C. Allan Company of Toronto in 1889 and the T. Eaton

Catalogue in 1892. The earlier ancestors of crokinole include the British game of squales, which had a round board and involved flicking discs toward the centre with a finger, and the Indian game of carrom which uses similar techniques on a square board with pockets in the corners.

The oldest known crokinole board from 1876, is part of the collection at the Joseph Schneider Haus, a national historic site in Kitchener, with a focus on Germanic folk art. By the early 20th century, crokinole had quickly spread throughout Canada as a popular pastime, particularly in rural areas.

The Great Rural Canadian Game of Crokinole exhibit launches on Friday June 28 with a presentation and discussion by Kevin McKague at 2:00 p.m. at the Mill Pond Galley, 203 Cargill Road in Cargill. The exhibit is open from Thursdays to Sundays 11:00 – 4:00 until Labour Day.

# WOMEN POWERING UP AT INTERSECTIONS WOOD COLLABORATIVE!

PAULA WILLIS •

Jennifer Hart exudes enthusiasm about teaching women to use power tools. "If you get, give. If you learn, teach," she says. Hart is one of Intersections Wood Collaborative's most popular instructors. Her workshops focus on teaching women how to safely use power tools to build confidence and independence. And, she says "once the mystery is taken out of tools, there's no reason we can't have a laugh or two."

Intersections is a non profit woodworking studio in Owen Sound offering wood-focussed learning opportunities for everyone through workshops, demonstrations and community events. Women are not typically the group that come to mind when thinking about woodworking, but on any given day at the Intersections studio, you will find women leading and taking workshops, working on independent projects, and volunteering to keep the organization strong.

Shawn Benninger has already taken two of Hart's classes, her first introduction to woodworking. "Jennifer Hart is a

very skilled instructor! Learning from her and understanding the safe practices has made me more comfortable and confident working with the tools," says Benninger. She is already planning her next project. Hart says stories of people who, like Shawn, continue with woodworking and take on new challenges, are what give her the most satisfaction.

Recruiting instructors like Hart has been an intentional effort to make woodworking education more accessible. Kim Wamsley, a member of the Board of Directors, was in touch with Hart as soon as she learned about her. "Jennifer's background is the perfect fit for Intersections. And she's fun." Wamsley shares that Hart had a long career teaching woodworking at Lee Valley Tools before moving out of the city. Hart will be offering workshops at Intersections Wood Collaborative through the fall and winter again. For more information or to join our email list, please visit our website at [www.intersectionswoodcollaborative.org](http://www.intersectionswoodcollaborative.org); email us at [info@intersectionswoodcollaborative.org](mailto:info@intersectionswoodcollaborative.org) or follow us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/intersectionswoodcollaborative](https://www.facebook.com/intersectionswoodcollaborative).

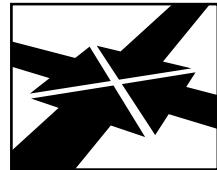
## COME SING WITH US!

ARLEN WIEBE AND MATTHEW ALLARD

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Choir Camp is happening again this summer on July 15-19 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Owen Sound. Choir Camp will include a mass choir, small choirs, workshops, a variety-style concert with tenor soloist **Matt Chittick**, and a Friday evening concert featuring all our Choir Camp singers and ensembles. **Dr. Elaine Choi** and **Dr. Mark Ramsay** will share the leadership of our mass choir. **Matt Chittick** and **Lauren Best** will lead vocal workshops and masterclasses, **Louise Jarvis** will lead an acapella small choir and teach campfire ukulele, **Jennifer Noxon** will lead songs with body percussion, and **Matthew Allard** will lead a medieval/Renaissance small choir.

The registration fee is \$325 for adults (ages 25+) and \$200 for students (ages 14-24). For more information and to register, please visit [choircamp.wordpress.com](http://choircamp.wordpress.com). If you enjoy singing, learning, and performing choral music, this is the week for you!



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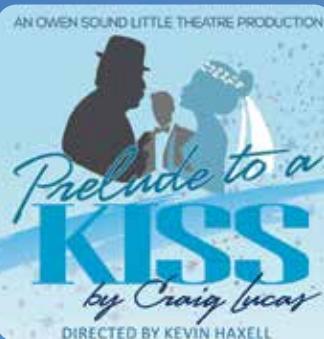


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— ON SALE JUNE 12, 2024 —



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June 2025

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