

# the owen sound

vol. 2 no. 1 autumn 2020



**the community  
magazine for  
these times!**

**FEATURING:**

- Moving In  
by Tim Simmonds
  - Moving On  
by Paul Thomas
  - Communication in a  
Public Health Crisis  
by Josh Richardson
  - Glassworks Cooperative  
by Kelsey Carriere
  - Evolution of Grey Garden  
by Anne Dondertman
- ...and lots more!

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vol. 2 no. 1 autumn 2020

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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.

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### about the front cover:

10th Street without a bridge (photograph taken during construction, 2020) by John Fearnall, a photographer, teacher, writer, podcaster and thinker who regularly shares his art and ideas under his pseudonym, Good Noise. You can see more of his work at [www.GoodNoise.ca](http://www.GoodNoise.ca).

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# RE-BIRTH OF A MAGAZINE!

Welcome (back) to *The Owen Sounder*. In the early 1990s, The Ginger Press published a magazine which captured those times. When other projects intervened, we set *The Owen Sounder* aside, but not forever. Today, in the midst of the Covid crisis, it seems absolutely appropriate to bring *The Owen Sounder* back. It's perfect for these times too. Delivered by Canada Post to every household and business in the City, *The Owen Sounder* is now expanded in grand and glorious colour.

As with all the other books and magazines published by The Ginger Press, the content of *The Owen Sounder* is 100% local. Articles and images by a wide range of Owen Sound experts explore what's happening right here, right now, from labyrinths to music to the arts and gardens and more. And we can provide this to you at no charge because of the support of our advertisers, who are, not surprisingly, local too.

I hope you enjoy this new incarnation of *The Owen Sounder*. The plan is to make it a quarterly publication. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch. And don't forget to tell our advertisers that "you saw it in *The Owen Sounder*."

- Maryann Thomas

## OSNGUPL

TIM NICHOLLS HARRISON

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need" – Cicero

The gardens in our community are displaying their summer bounty. We want your library visits to be as bountiful. The library reopened on Tuesday, August 11; library hours are now Tuesday 12 pm to 8 pm and Wednesday through Friday 12 pm to 5 pm and we will not exceed 30 patrons at a time.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library (OSNGUPL), I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we negotiate this challenging time together. Visit the library in person or online ([www.owensound.library.on.ca](http://www.owensound.library.on.ca)). If you have a garden, we have everything else you need. Check it out.



*Mural by Raquell Yang in progress on south wall of Grey Gallery*

# THE EVOLUTION OF GREY GARDEN

ANNE DONDERTMAN • • • • •

**G**rey Gallery at 883 2nd Avenue East in downtown Owen Sound is adjacent to a vacant lot, formerly the site of the Scapis Restaurant which was destroyed in a fire many years ago. For years it has been a bit of an eyesore, an expanse of gravel and weeds, used as a public thoroughfare between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue East.

As downtown residents, building owners and business owners, my husband John Laughlin and I were keen to improve the lot, and make it a more welcoming, attractive and green space. Gardening there is challenging because the ground is basically rubble covered up with gravel, and therefore there is no soil in which to plant.

Raised beds were the obvious answer. We started with

a few small decorative painted boxes for flowering annuals, and graduated last year to six large 8x4ft cedar community gardening boxes perfect for herbs and veggies. However, the space cried out for the addition of larger ornamental plants including shrubs and even trees.

For the entire summer of 2019 the area was a construction site, while the south wall of the gallery was being rebuilt. This past winter I was fortunate to connect with Thomas Dean, the landscape designer responsible for the CMHA Fresh Roots Food Forest & Gardens, as well as the Reconciliation Garden being planned at Kelso Park. We worked together to come up with an initial layout, incorporating the six existing raised beds, and adding three large in-ground

beds for ornamental planting, as well as narrow beds along the two new fences which would secure the site at the east and west.

Thomas has overseen all aspects of the project, including working with local craftsman John Ghent on the design and installation of the two fences, made with locally sourced cedar. The in-ground beds had to be excavated, and then filled with soil, so it was a fairly ambitious project involving heavy machinery. Six downtown residents (including me) are happily growing vegetables in the containers, and I am gradually filling in the new beds beginning with larger plants including serviceberries, a Bloodgood Japanese maple and hollies. Espaliered apple trees are started along the west fence, and Low-Gro fragrant sumac is planted along the attractive painted picket fence facing 2nd Avenue East.

The garden is in memory of Alice MacDonald, John's mother, who grew up on a farm on Gould Lake near Allenford, and was a life-long enthusiastic gardener.

The next stage of the improvement of the space is a colourful mural on the new concrete south wall of the gallery, behind the raised beds. Local artist Raquell Yang had experience creating outdoor murals in Taiwan and is undertaking the project to her own design. Scaffolding is

up, and Raquell is busy translating her elaborate design to the large scale of the wall. She is using brushes and rollers instead of spray paint, and it is exciting to see the mural develop.

The final stage of the Grey Garden project is to design the central space to make it suitable for displaying outdoor sculptures, but plans are still in flux. We would love to hear from everyone with design ideas or suggestions for sourcing the sculptures.

Over the past few months while working outside in the ever-evolving Grey Garden – planting, watering and weeding – I have had the good fortune to speak with many people who have noticed the change in the space, and stopped to ask questions about what is happening. Without fail, the comments have been positive and it is gratifying to hear that people approve of the work being done, and are enthusiastic about the changes.

We welcome visitors to both the garden and gallery, and hope to continue to support the downtown community over the coming years.

*Anne Dondertman and John Laughlin are the owners of Grey Gallery and Garden.*

## AT GREY GALLERY

### JURIED EXHIBITION

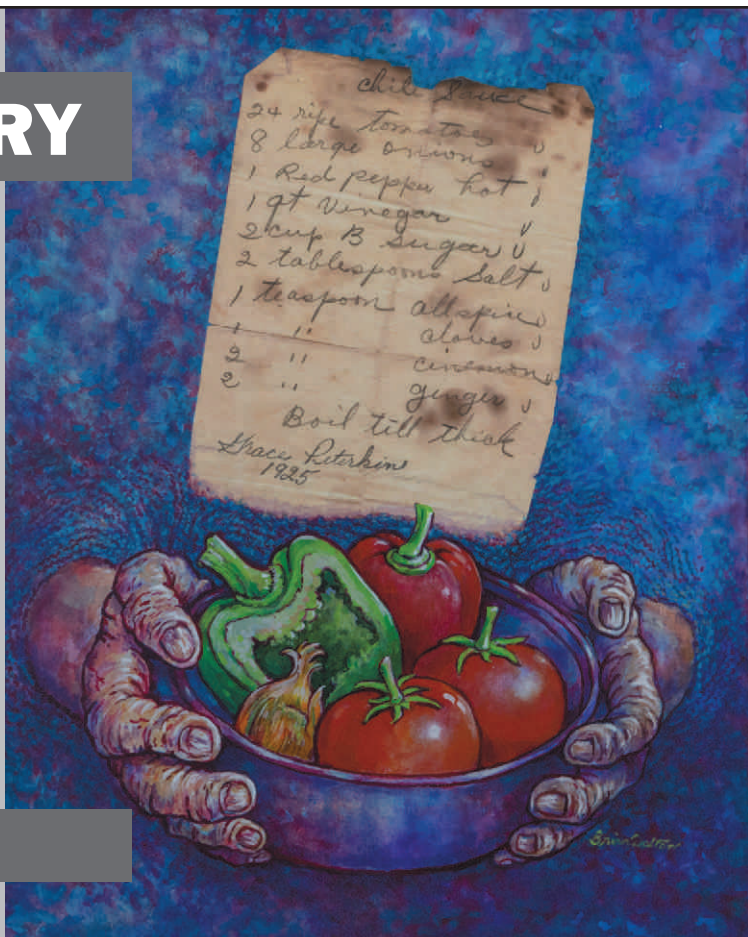
Grey Gallery is hosting a juried exhibition with a culinary theme in downtown Owen Sound (COVID permitting) from **Thanksgiving to December 2020**, and a selection of the winning entries will be included in a full colour cookbook published by Ginger Press.

Be sure to drop by to view our garden-in-progress, and the magnificent mural being painted by Raquell Yang on our south wall.

**883 2nd Ave E, Owen Sound  
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  /ggowensound

*Chili Sauce, Brian Dalton*



# WHAT IS *NO SLEEP 'TIL EDEN*?

RICHARD-YVES SITOSKI

It is a book of 62 poems that just so happens to be Owen Sound Poet Laureate for 2019-2021 Richard-Yves Sitoski's legacy project. It also happens to be a multimedia book published by the Ginger Press that includes augmented reality visual art, animation, and video and audio clips by local artists, all accessible through a free online browser developed by Owen Sound's own KP9 Interactive.

What's it about? In keeping with Richard-Yves's mandate, which is to address environmental and social justice concerns, it is a book of poetry for people who will not rest until they have torn down the last monster home and liberated the last killdeer. It is a book for the pandemic-stricken, for those who are trying to crawl from the wreckage of a century a scant twenty years in. It is a book for those to whom Black lives matter. It is a book for those who grieve with elephants, who soar with penguins, who set up tortoises on blind dates, and who sit down on driftwood logs on Sauble Beach and take out their beat-up Gibson acoustic guitars to sing the blues with piping plovers in the dark of a new moon. It is a book for those of us who will not rest until we have turned the Earth back into paradise.

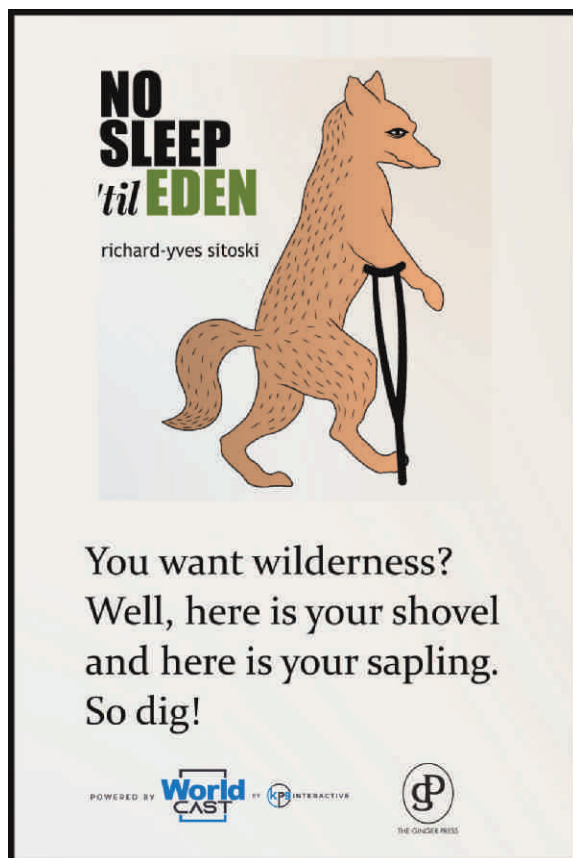
Wait, go back a bit – what's this about augmented reality? Augmented reality (AR) technology allows you to look through your mobile device or tablet at an AR-enabled

printed image (anything from a business card or pamphlet to a poster or book) and have it come to life on screen with videos, audio clips and web links. *No Sleep 'til Eden* features lots of enabled content: videos by the author, as well as paintings, animation and music by Lesley Bankes, Monika Brauer, Bill Dickson, Elaine Doy, Jean Francis, Alan Glicksman, Dave Hawkins, Kailey Lang, Bridget Light, Emily Little, Jim Little, Caroline Menzies, croc E. mores and Chelsea Robert.

When you look at the black-and-white illustrations and target pages through your device, the paintings will pop off the page in full colour, and audio clips, videos and animations will play. It's a first for the area, and one of only a handful of such books in existence. And it is the first poetry book to use technology specifically designed for a range of tablets and devices and that does not require you to download an app. Best yet, KP9 is 100% homegrown, proving that you do not need to be headquartered in Seattle or Waterloo to create state-of-the-art technology.

I'm sold. When will it come out? Glad you asked. Expect *No Sleep 'til Eden* at some point in late fall of 2020. Stay tuned for news about the virtual launch at the Ginger Press.

*Richard-Yves is the Poet Laureate of Owen Sound.*



## I FORGOT THE WATER

RICHARD-YVES SITOSKI

I forgot the water, like stout until the rapids.  
I forgot the rocks, algae covered, mucus on glass.  
I forgot the perch fry suspended above their shadows.  
I forgot the bank, part liquid, part solid, part neither.  
I forgot the mid-century aesthetic of the driftwood.  
I also forgot the bathers, their foam-white limbs.  
And the anglers and their blind faith.  
I forgot the tadpoles, hallucinatory yet too real  
for children's books.  
The garter snakes as well, disappearing in timothy,  
discreet as butlers.  
I forgot the nettles and their thousand syringes.  
I forgot the milkweed and the monarch's exhausted flight.  
I forgot the cheek-hollowing chokecherries.  
I forgot the willow trees and the muck at their bases.  
And the flying punctuation of the goldfinches.  
And the kingfishers like ordnance, and the conning tower loons.  
I forgot all this until I stood to my knees in the river  
and looked down at a pavement of limestone.  
I forgot all this until I saw the present tense  
fossilized like a bivalve, part of the rock,  
a small grey thing that used to be the world.

# ZOOM-SINGING, UBUNTU-STYLE

LOUISE JARVIS • • • • •

How quickly everything has changed in a few months. For many of us, nature has become more beautiful than ever, and our friends and family more precious. Singing together in choirs is becoming a wistful memory, but singing virtually together is still possible, and we all know the benefits of singing!

A few years ago I announced that I was finished learning new technology (after getting a new cell phone that confounded me!) but when Covid-19 happened, I had to learn how to zoom. Then I took an even bigger step and mastered (well, that's exaggerating!) GarageBand. And now I am able to support online singers with all the harmonies, and drums or instrumental backup. It's certainly different from singing in the same room with other people but, if we keep our minds open, we find there are many surprising

benefits with this new technology.

Ubuntu means something very different from "I think, therefore I am." It's an African concept that means "I am because we are." We each benefit from the knowledge and wisdom of others. By supporting and encouraging others, we become stronger and happier. In this ever-changing world, that's a concept to hold on to.

In September, I invite you to join my online one-hour classes in six-week blocks. Each block will have a particular theme: African songs, meditative songs, playful improvisation, and also sight-reading for singers. Please email [lojarvis@gmail.com](mailto:lojarvis@gmail.com) for more information about schedules and fees.

*Louise Jarvis is the Director of the Oh Sing! Community Choir.*

# AM I AWAKE?

DANIEL M.KOLOS • • • • •

I want to become self-aware, to take responsibility for my life and to feel good about myself. How do I achieve these desirable goals? By solving the problem of what is keeping me from them.

Dr. Gabor Maté designed Compassionate Inquiry to reveal the hidden pain of unresolved childhood emotional trauma. He teaches that every child grows up to believe that whatever happened before their memory developed was their fault; Dr. Maté believes we are held prisoner to a child's inability to cope with pain.

How many of us still believe that whatever happens is our fault? We may deny it and fight against responsibility with tooth and nail. Or we may hide from everyone to keep from becoming self-aware, from taking responsibility for our lives, and from feeling good about ourselves.

How long do we have to be held with love and compassion? 24-7! Our parents, doctors and other wise people didn't know that until the 1970s when researchers found that every child should be held as much as possible during their first nine months of life. They called it the "in-arms" stage. We are making slow progress, but the harm done to every child, unintentionally and unwittingly, lives with us throughout our adulthood.

Compassionate Inquiry Coaching brings participants to find and face their pain, their unresolved childhood emotional trauma. It happens inside the body in real time, not in the mind, not abstractly. That hurt child, whose memories we carry in our body now, has been waiting all our life to be found, to be acknowledged, and to be held with love and compassion.

We can do it. We can release that trauma. I learned this when I took the certification course in Compassionate Inquiry. It was a beginning and now I offer to help others begin their own emotional healing journey by connecting to their own emotional core: connecting with the authenticity from which we were all separated by our childhood trauma.

It is that unresolved childhood emotional trauma that keeps us from becoming self-aware, from taking responsibility for our lives, and from feeling good about ourselves. Let's change our awareness and become conscious of what we do. When the Buddha was asked, "Are you God?" he answered, "No, I am awake!"

*Daniel Kolos is a Certified Compassionate Inquiry Practitioner. He can be reached at (519) 369-1129 or [danielkolos123@gmail.com](mailto:danielkolos123@gmail.com).*



# BEST SPOTS IN OWEN SOUND TO SWITCH OFF YOUR MIND

NEIL BALDWIN • • • • •

Every day, we make a lot of choices. A few are significant and require decisions about our own lives and those of others. Many of them are minor choices about the details of daily life. And some are probably decisions we could get away with not making at all. In any case, there's a lot of them. Does the notion of freeing yourself from needing to make choices for a brief period of your day sound appealing? Walking labyrinths offers you the opportunity to do exactly that and, did you know, there are two right in the heart of Owen Sound?

The history of labyrinths goes back 4000 years but they were perhaps most notable in Medieval times as the patterns evolved from linear to a more ponderous path like in the famous labyrinth at the Chartres Cathedral. A modern resurgence began in the 1990s and, in the years since, the applications and audience of labyrinth users has continued to broaden.

Distinct from a maze, a labyrinth has only one path. There are no dead ends, no alternates, no trickery. There are always turns, though the distance between them varies throughout the path, but the path always takes you to centre. And, with rare exceptions, it leads you back out the same way.

The beauty of walking a labyrinth is that it requires no problem-solving or decision-making. The rational brain is relieved of responsibility, leaving the intuitive part of you

freed up to express itself. Your senses open up to experience the present moment.

A labyrinth does cultivate focus, but doesn't require thinking. We've heard how meditation and mindfulness are good for us, like pressing a mental reset button. But, personally, I've been through meditation methods the way some people try different diet plans – and with about the same degree of success.

Labyrinths, often described as a “walking meditation”, are a more active and bodily way to quiet the mind, promote clarity, and experience a lovely dose of peace. Some also come to find it helpful walking the path as prayer or for contemplative time, even discernment and grief. Though the experience can be as modest yet meaningful as a quiet, gentle walk.

Georgian Shores United Church, downtown at 10th Street and 4th Avenue East, offers a peaceful outdoor labyrinth which is a replica of the original Chartres Cathedral pattern. Known as the Owen Sound Peace Labyrinth, it was the result of a community effort by many faiths. Less than five minutes' walk, on the north side of 10th St a bit up the hill, you will find the Canadian Mental Health Association's “Edible” labyrinth. This smaller and wheelchair-accessible path is bordered by over 20 different herbs, berries and flowers.

There are several other labyrinths to be found a short

drive out of town and beyond; look up the Ontario labyrinth locator on [labyrinthnetwork.ca](http://labyrinthnetwork.ca).

Walking a labyrinth, you may at times feel disoriented or lost but it doesn't matter one bit. All you need to do is keep moving along the path and it will always take you to where you need to be in the end. Which is perhaps a bit like life, and perhaps why labyrinths have endured for so long and been

used in so many ways. And perhaps that is why labyrinths are more relevant than ever in these COVID times. Try one, there's nothing to lose.

*Neil Baldwin recently retired full time to his farm near Owen Sound where he has built a modified 7-circuit Chartres labyrinth set within a woodland setting.*

# COMMUNITY FUNDS BENEFIT AREA MUNICIPALITIES

STUART REID

Community Foundation Grey Bruce (CFGB) serves a large region that stretches from Kincardine to Tobermory to Town of Blue Mountains, encompassing 18 municipalities and two First Nations Territories. At present the Foundation manages more than 155 endowed funds with a variety of purposes and granting objectives. So, when individuals or families plan their donations to the Foundation, some will want to have the option of ensuring that their donation benefits their home community. In that instance, the local Community Funds that exist under the Foundation umbrella, are the way to ensure that your contribution benefits charities and non-profits working within a geographic community.

The grants from each Community Fund are disbursed only to projects within that municipal boundary. Community Funds are managed by a volunteer team, often including a representative from its municipality, and exist to enrich the quality of life for the people of that municipality by supporting projects of not-for-profit charitable organizations involved in community wellbeing activities such as affordable housing, food banks, agriculture, recreation, arts and culture, seniors issues, youth welfare or education and life long learning.

Each Community Fund is in place to help the citizens of its municipality to keep their charitable donations working in their own area and to participate in shaping the future by supporting the needs in their own community. Each gift to a Community Fund creates a legacy for generations to come. Of course, with every donation to a Community Fund, donors will receive an income tax receipt in the amount of that donation.

At present, Community Foundation Grey Bruce has five Community Funds under its umbrella. Those Community Funds serve Grey Highlands, Kincardine, Meaford, Saugeen

Shores and Owen Sound. The Owen Sound Fund was established in 2009 from proceeds from Owen Sound's 150th Anniversary Homecoming. The Owen Sound Fund (formerly named the Owen Sound Community Fund) exists to enrich the quality of life for the people of the City of Owen Sound by supporting projects of non-profit charitable organizations within the City. The Owen Sound Fund has clear objectives: to keep charitable donations working in Owen Sound, to shape the future by supporting the needs in Owen Sound, and to create a legacy for generations to come.

All donations to the Owen Sound Fund are invested in a pool of funds under the umbrella of the CFGB. The income earned from the capital of the Fund is then distributed through grants to applicable not-for-profit organizations only within the City of Owen Sound.

The Owen Sound Fund has helped with many worthwhile community projects over the past few years run by a diversity of non-profits including the Owen Sound Fastpitch Association, El Sistema, Owen Sound Rugby Club, the Active Lifestyles Senior Centre, Orchestra North, the Owen Sound Emancipation Picnic and the Tom Thomson Art Gallery. In 2020, the Owen Sound Fund is granting to the Big Brothers Big Sisters' Summer Youth Virtual Challenge and to the Safe N Sound Residence's Grab N Go Snack Pack program.

The Fund is making a big difference in our community and, with every donation, that impact grows. Consider supporting The Owen Sound Fund in your philanthropic planning. Call the Foundation office for more information at (519) 371-7203.

*Stuart Reid is Executive Director of Community Foundation Grey Bruce*

# GEORGIAN BAY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

ALAN MCINTOSH • • • • •

The Georgian Bay Centre for the Arts is a nascent cultural institution destined to become a powerhouse in the arts community, if the two founders have played their cards right. Principals Morag Budgeon (jeweller) and Alan McIntosh (metal artist) have put their talents for creating on hold to start this arts makers space in the old bingo hall on the main street in Owen Sound.

The driving ethos of the project is the education, production and promotion of the arts through the act of making. Whether you are taking a workshop in pottery, working independently on your craft or exploring painting techniques, GB Arts is a public access studio space that will help you achieve your goals. We boast a 10-bench metal studio, 11-wheel pottery studio, a stained glass workshop, a 6-press printing studio and a swing space that is used for the non technical arts such as painting, sculpture, fabric arts and more.

The centre has evolved over the two years since it opened

its doors in a rental space nearby. Initially workshops were sporadic and were tailored to the equipment that was available but presently, with an impressive compliment of equipment, GB Arts offers an amazing variety of classes. As the centre grows, it attracts teachers and participants from further afield, elevating the level of the workshops and the reach of their profile.

The expectation is that GB Arts will increase its scope to become a nation-wide destination for arts excellence comparable to the Banff Centre or the Haliburton School of the Arts. This will take time and a supportive community to achieve but there is every confidence that the Grey Bruce region can be counted on to be a part of this exciting new community arts institution. For more information on upcoming events and to register for workshops, visit [www.gbarts.ca](http://www.gbarts.ca).

*Alan McIntosh is Co-Founder and Manager of the Georgian Bay Centre for the Arts*

## TIME TO WRITE

DAVE CARR • • • • •

It has been a month, maybe more, since I was asked to write something for *The Owen Sounder*. No month has given me a more severe case of writer's block! It has been a recurring suffering, crowding into the front of my brain, my consciousness, even smack in the middle of *Midsomer Murders* and *Echoes of The Canyon* and *Vera*, and even *Tchaikovsky's 6th*. Why? Why now?

I've written before, fairly easily. Thinking way back, I know I was far too young to be opining majestically when I started my contribution to the editorial comments on CFOS in the mid-1970s. But I did...opine, that is. And that led me to becoming the editorial writer; I happily became the scribe framing the official CFOS stance on matters great and small, local and national – until CFOS determined a daily expression of its opinion might not be universally appreciated.

But that did not stop my writing; I had a point, and it was a good one! I moved on to a personal opinion piece, *From Where I Sit*. Later I contributed to *Making Waves* along with a slew of Bayshore broadcasters in several communities. Somewhere in between, I was asked to write for the then-Owen Sound Tribune, and a radio piece called *Crossfire* with *Sun Times'* editor Jim Merriam, something

that became a Friday op-ed item in the newspaper.

I retired officially from CFOS 18 years ago. But I quickly learned I only retired from a job, not from life – not from thinking, assessing, concluding, considering. My point, I have convinced myself, is still a good one. Perhaps the other awareness I absorbed is the changing nature of the world, the society in which I still flourish. And suddenly, it seems, and perhaps more in Facebook than anywhere else (forgive me), I find myself exhorting complete strangers to raise their own voices to right a wrong, express a grievance, or share a good word as needed.

We all have a voice. YOU have a voice! Remember the old song: "All God's creatures have a voice in the choir; some sing low and some sing higher..." And the compilation of our societal changes provides a grand platform for YOUR voice in the choir. You can tweet the Prime Minister, though I never have, and surely I would not tweet the President, although again, I think I could and often think I should. You have instant access to our Mayor, MP, MPP and the world. The point is, it is YOUR voice. And you have things to say. Be polite, be kind, be thoughtful, be prepared for alternate opinions, but go ahead. Write! Express! Opine! Just as I now have. And I hope the editor asks me back.

# Shop Local. Rediscover Grey.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has changed many things about our lives, including how we shop and spend money. It's become more important than ever to support neighbours, communities and locally-owned small businesses. To help them survive and thrive, it's time to #RediscoverGrey!

Rediscover Grey highlights all nine local municipalities in Grey and encourages residents to safely explore and rediscover local businesses, restaurants and outdoor spaces.

Doing your part is easy. Recommend a local favourite to family or friends. Consider locally-owned businesses first for your regular shopping. Buy now and shop later by purchasing a gift card from a local business

on the Grey Bruce Huron Strong website [gbhstrong.com](http://gbhstrong.com). Get outside and explore our hidden gems with Grey County's Outdoor Activity Map.

When you Rediscover Grey, your money stays in our communities and helps to build a stronger economy. Supporting locally-owned businesses in your own backyard creates meaningful employment and ensures our businesses can keep supporting our communities. You also get the added bonus of knowing exactly where your food and products come from.

Find full Rediscover Grey details, Grey County's Outdoor Activity Map, local business highlights, and more at [VisitGrey.ca/Rediscover](http://VisitGrey.ca/Rediscover).

Play safe and stay healthy!



**VisitGrey.ca/Rediscover**  
**#RediscoverGrey to WIN!**

# THE ART-MAKING GOES ON

TERRY BURNS • • • • •

**A**long with thousands of other artists, arts collectives and galleries across the world, the Walter's Falls Group of Artists (WFGA) was faced with some hard choices this year. Not knowing what the pandemic situation would be at the end of August, the group made the decision several months ago to forego its signature annual Show at the Walter's Falls Community Centre, and focus instead on making artists' new work available via its website.

As of August 28, the WFGA invites patrons to visit [waltersfallsartists.ca](http://waltersfallsartists.ca) and browse the collection of fine art and craft you will find there. Unlike a physical exhibition and sale, there is no end to this most unusual 23rd Annual Show – the work will remain available indefinitely. Interested purchasers are encouraged to contact the artists directly via the details provided on each profile, to discuss the work itself, pricing, payment and delivery/shipping arrangements.

Whether in the market for a compelling piece of art or just in the mood to indulge in a virtual art tour, the WFGA hopes that you will take the time to “drop in” and see what its members and guest artists have been up to. These are strange times, but one thing you can count on – artists go on making art!

*Terry Burns works in a variety of media, including pastel, watercolour, acrylic on canvas and mylar, ink, encaustic, and photography, and finds inspiration for her visual art in the natural world. She was the Poet Laureate of Owen Sound (2013-2015).*



*The Bounty, Arlene Saunders*

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[info@owensound.library.on.ca](mailto:info@owensound.library.on.ca)

**the library**

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# TAKE EVERYTHING AS IT COMES

AIDAN WARE • • • • •

“TAKE EVERYTHING AS IT COMES; THE WAVE PASSES, DEAL WITH THE NEXT ONE.”

- TOM THOMSON

These words have been a source of strength and inspiration for me over the past months. We have all faced such unprecedented challenges in our lives and we continue to tread in the shadows of uncertainty. It is in this time that we come to realize we need our artists more than ever – they are the engines of creativity, offering us hope, inspiration, and the courage to face the anxiety of the unknown.

My first few months at the TOM were quiet entries into a rich and storied history. In the strange stillness of the gallery or at the distance of my kitchen table, I explored the landscape. I think of Tom Thomson and how he must have felt out in the wilds exploring his environment – that swelling sense of awe mixed with aspiration. I think about how he defied convention, how he looked at things differently, and how he made people see their world differently.

On my first day at the TOM, I went to visit his grave and, kneeling there in the soft spring sun, I thought about the great north wood landscapes that remind us of this land, strong and free. I thought about how art brings us hope. How from darkness, artists make light.

Now that the Gallery is open to the public again, I am reminded of the tremendous power that art has – to communicate without words, to expose the unseen, to conjure emotions, and perhaps most importantly, to act as a system of healing.

The current exhibition *Mooshknemgog Bmaadziwin / Full Circle* by Emily Kewageshig offers us poetic views of the natural world which remind us that all life is a cycle from birth to death, sunrise to sunset, summer to winter. We are part of a circle that is without beginning and without end.

Steven Driscoll's exhibition *'I closed my eyes, but the light was still there'* uses light to reveal hidden intimacies and to expose powerful instincts. Looking out from under the shadow of this global health crisis, the works provoke thoughts about our deep connection with nature and they



Emily Kewageshig, *Mooshknemgog Bmaadziwin / Full Circle*, acrylic on round wood panel (2020)

poetically perform technologies to describe a narrative of hope and enduring light – something we all need at this moment in time.

We are also celebrating the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Group of Seven with a landmark exhibition titled *The View from Here* showcasing the Gallery's impressive collection. The works selected represent tangible connections between the members of the Group and Owen Sound, the legacy of community donors, and the importance of the Gallery's collection within the larger Group of Seven story.

Although this has been an unusual start to my tenure at the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, it has been an intimate one. I know that we will emerge from this health crisis together and I am confident that together, we will write a new chapter for the gallery; for the legacy of one of Canada's most iconic artists; for our city and communities; for our collective future; and for all the artists who will help us to see our world differently. This wave too shall pass.

Aidan Ware is Director and Chief Curator at the Tom Thomson Art Gallery.

# OWEN SOUND FARMERS' MARKET IS 175!

RICHARD THOMAS • • • • •

The Owen Sound Farmers' Market has been in operation since 1845. The third oldest farmers' market in Ontario features more than fifty vendors with local products ranging from fish and meat to vegetables and crafts.

Initially, the market was in front of the log government house, which was in approximately the same location. By 1879, Sydenham was renamed Owen Sound, and the government moved next door to the newly constructed town hall, which made way for the new waterworks building. Seven thousand feet of 6-inch spruce piping was laid to Creamery Hill, connecting to iron pipes at the top of the 8th Street West hill, which ran to the Waterworks Building. When the tap was turned on, a Civic Holiday was declared to celebrate the arrival of running water. The cost to the consumer was \$6 a year, with an extra three dollars if you had an indoor toilet.

The market continued to operate out of doors, in the market square bordered by town hall, the waterworks building, and the fire hall. A significant change came in the middle of the depression. Owen Sound had outgrown its original waterworks and, when the new one opened, the

building on 8th street became surplus. In 1936, the City moved the market into the vacant waterworks building, and took over management.

In the late 1960s, it nearly came to an end when the City withdrew financial support and management of the market. Public outcry, a petition to the council, and a core group of market vendors managed to save it. In 1970, the Owen Sound and District Market Vendors' Association was formed, took over the management of the market, and runs it to this day.

During the 2020 Coronavirus quarantine, the market continued providing fresh local food through an online shop with Saturday curbside pickup. New floors were installed in the old waterworks building during the shutdown, complementing the massive rebuild of the facility carried out by the City in 2019. There have been many changes over the years, but the core mission of the market remains the same: connecting food producers with consumers.

In addition to the online store at [www.owensoundfarmersmarket.ca](http://www.owensoundfarmersmarket.ca), the Owen Sound Farmers' Market is now open again to the public with reduced hours (9:00 to noon on Saturdays). Patrons are asked to wear masks, use available hand sanitizer and physically distance. Welcome back!



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# PFLAG: FAMILY FOR ALL

JOAN BEECROFT

"PFLAG Canada is proud to be Canada's only national organization that offers peer-to-peer support striving to help all Canadians with issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. We support, educate and provide resources to anyone with questions or concerns. We promise to offer local, practical, and emotional peer-to-peer family support for individuals and their loved ones challenged by gender/sexual identity." - <https://pflagcanada.ca/>

The group name used to refer to "Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays" but a recent rebranding was undertaken because it was recognized that this left out a lot of people who might want and need the information. The name was kept because of the national recognition, and it's now open to everyone.

There is a PFLAG group that meets in Owen Sound, at 7 pm on the 3rd Tuesday each month. Normally we'd meet in the Owen Sound Library, but for now, due to Covid 19 restrictions, we're meeting online via Zoom. A generous donation from Rogers/Fido has made this possible.

Who comes to these meetings? It varies. Sometimes it's a parent wanting to find ways to support their child (a youth

or an adult) through the coming out process. Sometimes it's a family member who wants a better understanding of their child's trans identity. Sometimes it's a trans person looking for social connections in the area, or medical information and referrals. The attendees often share their own experiences and resources. Regardless of who attends or phones or emails, they are assured confidentiality and support, and all ages are welcome.

If you'd like more information, you can contact PFLAG Owen Sound in several ways:

- Facebook message <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAG-CanadaOwenSound>
- email [owensoundon@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:owensoundon@pflagcanada.ca);
- phone 1-888-530-6777 Ext 570

*Joan Beecroft is a retired teacher who was one of the co-founders of Grey Bruce Pride. She volunteers as an area PFLAG leader and with other equity groups. Joan has collected local stories for two books: Growing Up Gay\* in Bruce and Grey and 20/20 Hindsight: Being Gay\* In Bruce and Grey.*

*\* gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersex, two-spirit*



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# GLASSWORKS COOPERATIVE

KELSEY CARRIERE

With our current housing stock accounting for 25% of climate impact and over 700 families on the waiting list for affordable housing in Grey County, the issues facing our community can seem overwhelming in scope and scale. What can each of us possibly do as individuals – and as a small community – to make a difference?

Glassworks Cooperative is addressing these connected (though often conflicting) issues by providing the opportunity to meet our diverse housing needs in sustainable, environmentally responsible ways. Initiated and supported by the successful Beach Community Energy Cooperative in Toronto, our Owen Sound initiative has garnered a groundswell of local support.

What will this innovative community look like? Glassworks Cooperative will form a community land trust to ensure that we have access to affordable, sustainable housing, and green space in the future. We are in the process of designing LEED-certified housing for students, individuals, families, and seniors – both market-rate and geared-to-income – in partnership with community stakeholders. Glassworks Cooperative will produce renewable energy to ensure energy security and help the region meet its United Nations Sustainable Development targets.

In our recent online design charette, members and investors brainstormed such issues as: What does a successful multi-generational community look like? How can we minimize costs with well-designed humble living quarters? How can we build community by maximizing common spaces? How will energy and food production fit into the site? Our ongoing community design process gives Owen Sounders a unique opportunity to shape the future of housing here. “Members are taking real ownership and pride in shaping Glassworks...People are coming up with ingenious ways to balance community and privacy. It is an exciting process,” shares Zoë Thurling, founding and current board member.

Now is the time to get involved; we are in the process of securing funding and the site on which this innovative sustainable community will come to life. We welcome new members, both potential and future residents, and all who wish to support affordable housing and protected green space in Owen Sound. Annual membership ranges from \$25 for unwaged individuals to \$100 for corporate members. Visit [www.glassworks.coop](http://www.glassworks.coop) to learn more and become part of the solution.

*Kelsey Carriere is a founding board member of Glassworks.*

## MOVING IN TIM SIMMONDS

Have you ever stopped to think that maybe it's not an accident you live where you live? In the specific house? In a specific neighborhood? In a specific City? That said, I believe that windows open and doors close for a reason. I was drawn to a career in public service more than 20 years ago. The journey has led me to Owen Sound and, since starting as Owen Sound City Manager in May of this year, I know, without a doubt, I am in the right place.

So when I was asked to contribute to the inaugural relaunch edition of *The Owen Sounder* and briefly highlight, “Why Owen Sound?” I was thrilled to participate. It was easy for me to see that this City honestly has everything – it truly is the place “Where I Want to Live.” Safe streets, a prosperous but affordable lifestyle, excellent schools, the beauty of four distinct seasons and plenty of outdoor attractions thanks to its easy access to the stunning Niagara Escarpment and the Bruce Trail, both outstanding natural features that make for abundant opportunities for hiking, kayaking, mountain biking in the majestic landscape of the surrounding area.

But most importantly, what I've seen in Owen Sound is that people love where they live – they are committed to building relationships. Perhaps that is just the natural way of life here. But from experience, I know this is not easily done and cannot be artificially duplicated.

On my first evening in Owen Sound, I pulled into the driveway and, as I stepped out of the car I was stopped by the next-door neighbour who asked my name, how I was doing, and if they could lend a hand. It felt great! I have found this is what Owen Sound is all about – it is a City filled with people who care about each other – it's a friendly smile and a wave when you walk down the street.

As you'd expect, the loving personality of the people who make Owen Sound home, coupled with its unmatched natural beauty, create a City that my family is now glad to call home. Owen Sound has a fantastic community feel, a relaxed, easy-going vibe, and some of the best artisanal shops and restaurants in Ontario. It is a City that simply cannot be duplicated.

# COMMUNICATION IN A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

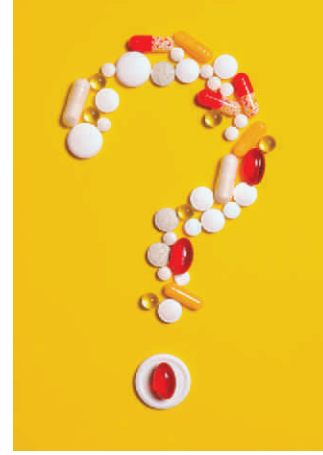
JOSH RICHARDSON • • • • •

In a single week last month, at least six people were poisoned by a toxic drug supply in the Grey-Bruce region and at least one person died as a result. I say ‘at least,’ because we know that our statistics and reporting of tainted drugs is incomplete for a number of reasons; the distrust that people who use drugs have in reporting such incidents to police and the medical community being just one.

Our public health unit continues to fight the good fight and remind the community in its news release that “Addiction is a health and social issue, not a personal choice, and as a result, we must treat it as such.” The release also states that “We must ensure that we continue to prioritize strategies to action this emergency together, as not one single agency or organization can fix this challenging epidemic alone – it will take a coordinated effort from all stakeholders and a shift in the way we view people that use drugs.”

There are two crucial points made here: 1. Prioritizing strategies must look at the way we are currently addressing the situation. Like everywhere in Canada, Grey-Bruce has followed the trends upward in death and injury in the wake of the opioid crisis (2019 was a record year for deaths related to opioid poisoning here with 14 recorded deaths). And, like everywhere else in Canada we struggle to address the needs of people who use drugs: housing, food, primary medical care, and – if and when they are ready – addiction treatment. But how are we to decide what needs are prioritized? We must ask the people whose needs they are. Public health agencies, hospitals, non-governmental organizations, and social welfare groups cannot operate without speaking to the people whom they serve.

2. Coordination of these strategies is not sufficient without communication. Strategizing offers us with instrumental aims, but does not form the bonds with one another that clear and open communication does, not only in inter-institutional communication, but also in communication within our community: We need to hear the stories and needs of people who use drugs and respond to them appropriately.



We have, on a scale not seen before, responded to the public health emergency of Covid-19 with widespread co-operation and communication with the public; this has dramatically changed the course in the spread of the virus. Yet prohibition and taboo prevent us from speaking clearly to our children and one another about how we use drugs, and what needs might be met in their use. People who use drugs are not a homogeneous body; one cannot find ‘the answer’ to meet the needs of a heterogeneous community. But, if we listen to people who use drugs, we may find out where to start.

*Josh Richardson is a Registered Psychotherapist and a Mental Health and Addiction Registered Practical Nurse.*



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# INTERSECTIONS: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

STEPHEN HOGBIN . . . . .

As soon as Phase One finished, Intersections Wood Gallery and Studio opened up for a Forest Walk with Joe Watson. It was really interesting, on a bright beautiful day, to walk the woodlot and see returning trees – some planted and others volunteers – and then experience the mature forest in all its magnificence. We live in a region with many different species so the expertise of a forester who is also a woodworker was insightful. Surprisingly, the walk was bug free! We expect to do it again next spring; there was also some talk of a Winter Forest Walk identifying tree species from their bark.

Intersections is planning a Studio Workshop Tour for later this year, providing a unique opportunity to visit different workspaces for various woodworking disciplines and meet notable woodworkers from the region. This tour will be designed for aspiring and professional woodworkers. How are different woodworking studio spaces set up? What differences are evident for efficiencies, pleasures of working, safety and more? Let us know if you are interested: [Intersections.gallery-studio@gmail.com](mailto:Intersections.gallery-studio@gmail.com)

There are some really interesting ideas developing at Intersections. Bob Hope continues with his erratic rock tables. While the rocks are irregular in form, the work is precisely

carried out. The joinery between the rock and wood frame is unexpected and challenging. Stony landscapes have never been so well attended! The juxtaposition of the rough and the smooth are nicely mind boggling. More later as his designs emerge from the basement at Intersections.

While there are different kinds of woodworking shops, the woodland craft of working outside was best experienced recently through the Willow Basket Making with Vita Bowen. To work with trees and wood, a large workshop is not essential. If you are interested in the simple craft of whittling, let us know. All you need is the right wood and a sharp knife. Wood is our greatest regional material, it is sustainable, renewable and plentiful. We will beat Covid-19 then we need to get on with climate change. Wear a mask and plant a tree.

Join us at Intersections, where a positive experience is in the making. For more information and to register for these upcoming classes, email [Intersections.gallerystudio@gmail.com](mailto:Intersections.gallerystudio@gmail.com). com: September 26: Bonsai Collecting with Kevin Yates | October 17: Tree Felling and Chainsaw Safety with Joe Watson | November 7: Studio Workshop Tour with Intersections | November 21: Beginners' Woodworking with Pierre Rousseau | December 5-6: Simple Hinged Box with Jonathan Cox.

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# CLOSING THE GAP: UNITED WAY CONNECTS THE DOTS FOR RURAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

FRANCESCA DOBBYN • • • • •

I've long been proud of the resourcefulness and generosity of our rural communities. Fully autonomous and 100% reliant on donations, the United Way of Bruce Grey (UWBG) assists over 50,000 vulnerable men, women and children in our community through a variety of programs including utility assistance, safe shelter, emergency food supplies, financial advice, and more. In addition to our own programs and services, we also support other organizations with specific expertise in poverty-related areas.

Local needs are as wide-ranging and diverse as the people we serve. When families suffer the devastation of a house fire, we are there. When students need backpacks and school supplies, we are there. We turn to our communities – Owen Sound, Walkerton, Tobermory, and all rural points between – and without fail, they activate and unite to combat the problem at hand with their volunteers and donations.

The Coronavirus pandemic turned all of that on its head. Nearly every charitable organization, whether autonomous or government-funded, has experienced major interruptions in funding and volunteer support – even the ability to operate at all.

Every person in our region has been impacted, if not by the virus itself then by the impacts of self-isolation and physical distancing. We've been faced with a new challenge: How can we help when it's not a good time to fundraise? The need is still here; in fact, it is greater than ever, especially in rural Ontario where services are few, far between, and typically operating at full capacity. Stress and anxiety are rampant as residents shelter in place, concerned not only about the physical health of their family and friends but also of their financial, mental, and emotional wellness.

We were challenged to find new ways to help. As the needs of our community continue to evolve and other programs are adapting, the UWBG has discovered innovative methods of closing the gaps. I'd like to share with you just a few examples of what this looks like:

- Our local Habitat for Humanity contacted UWBG in mid-March, just as the effects of the pandemic were beginning to hit home here. Their message: "We have four trucks. Tell us how we can help." We had already

been made aware that local food banks were struggling to find toilet paper. Purchasing limits in grocery stores were in effect, and it made no sense to send multiple volunteers on numerous shopping expeditions to meet the need. UWBG was able to connect to a wholesaler through one of our major donors, then arrange for Habitat for Humanity to take on distribution. When their Restore locations had to close and they lost that revenue stream, Habitat asked if UWBG could cover their transportation costs. We were able to apply for grants to do so. Now, those Habitat trucks are also transporting hot meals from our local soup kitchen to local hotels where members of the homeless population are sheltering in place.

- UWBG worked with the Ontario Student Nutrition Program (which runs in-school breakfast programs while school is on) to provide food hampers to vulnerable families with children. Could UWBG be the recipient of the funding and coordinate distribution? Yes! We delivered over 300 hampers to area families. Habitat for Humanity assisted with transportation here, as well.

As a United Way, we have been able to step in and make those connections, bridge the gaps, and coordinate efforts. This gives our donors a deep value-add, as it shows that each organization involved is using available resources to the best of our collective abilities. When you make a donation to the Pandemic Fund (details at [www.unitedway-ofbrucegrey.com](http://www.unitedway-ofbrucegrey.com)), you can be confident that everyone is on the same page. We are doing our very best to reduce any duplication of efforts and get the right resources into the right hands.

Our rural nature necessitates collaboration and creating community. If we each approach the need from "How can we help?" the community as a whole comes out stronger.

*Francesca Dobbyn is the Executive Director of United Way Bruce Grey, a critical community resource on a mission to improve lives and build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action.*

# MOVING ON

PAUL THOMAS • • • • •

Where were you on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1987? On that auspicious day, I know exactly where we were: 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West in Owen Sound, unloading the huge U-Haul that held the contents of our early years. Thirty-three years later, we've reserved the U-Haul trucks once again and have prepared to "upload" with our now aging years. Love it.

Where has the time gone? Well nearly 27 of those years had us at the helm of MarketSide Food Shop & Café. And now for the last six years, we've had to endure the azure and magically amazing waters of Colpoy's Bay at the helm of QuaySide Landing B&B and Catering. Like all good things, an ending is never far off. To say that our pending move is bitter sweet doesn't cut it. How does one say farewell to over 30 years of cultivating friendships and memories? How does one wrap a ribbon around the birthing and raising of two boys and all the tendrils of nurturing kindred spirits implied in all of that? This is not a task for the faint of heart.

Having spent the majority of our lives on the Niagara Escarpment, firstly in Caledon and now on the Bruce Peninsula, I always thought we would see our earthly time through right here. Favourite writers including Wendell Berry and Eric Sloane talk of ceremonial time – of getting to know a place, a landscape, a deep ecology, in its infinite and luxurious detail.

Being rooted to a place is not an option for me. I need the grounding of a sense of belonging to foster not only friendships but my own sense of purpose as well. So what happened? In the winter of 2019, Karin and I got an itch. She had uncovered a page from a flip chart session we had had years earlier that outlined a ten-year plan. Why we had blanked on that I'm not sure, but when it was revealed, the snowball of a new chapter gained momentum. Now, eighteen months later, here we go. Destination? Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia. On the sea.

When there is absolutely nothing wrong with your life, your living, your community, your world, it's hard to explain to folks that it's time for change. According to "the plan", living by the sea has been on the list for decades. According to "the plan", we have always yearned to move east. That our eldest son, Jacob, is now living in Dartmouth, married and expecting their first born next year, has no small part in fuelling this change now. That we will still have the bounty of our youngest son, Eli, and his soon-to-be wedded partner living on the Bruce means we still get the best of both worlds, just reversed.

23 hours, 19 minutes, 4 gas fills, 2 bags of chips, a few



more pit stops, the Highway 30 bypass around Montreal, and the allure of the cheese market in Saint Hyacinthe have become our new norm between here and there. Gratitude knows new bounds. We are so grateful for the years of support we have received here. You have taught us about living and supporting local. You have embraced our business efforts with open arms. Our lives have been so enriched from the culture of this region: music, the arts, sport, entertainment and small business...the list is endless. You have shown us a path of spiritual enlightenment and mindfulness never forgotten. My good friend Buzz Lightyear reminds me often when I'm confronted with a new challenge or roadblock: "... To infinity and beyond..." Nothing is impossible.

And then there's *The Little Engine that Could*. His line: "...I think I can, I think I can..." fostered hope in our kids for years. We rented that video so many times from Central Variety, that the owner finally insisted we keep it! It was the ritual of walking to the store, sharing stories along the way, which gave us hope. That was the point; sharing stories and finding hope. Finding home. Finding our place. So down the mighty St Lawrence we will go. Finding our way to our new home, to our new place, community, network and ecology. Who really knows what lies ahead?

The thing is, we are leaving with bellies full of nourished, cherished and delicious memories. Sauble Beach summer yoga, with Sat Dharam Kaur of Trillium Healing Arts Centre, always ended with a lovely intonation of: "May the long time sun shine upon you, all love surround you, and the pure light within you, guide your way on...guide your way on..." I definitely choose that multi-coloured ribbon of love and unity to wrap up this chapter, right here, right now!

*Eet smakelijk and hartelijk bedankt!*

*Paul Thomas and Karin van der Heyden used to live here... we miss them!*

# SWEETWATER SURREAL

PAUL EICHHORN

The SweetWater Music Festival, like so many other arts and culture organizations, is adjusting to the new realities of the COVID-19 era. The 17th Festival (scheduled for September 18-20) is postponed until September 2021. In its place, we're staging SweetWater Surreal, a multifaceted, multi-platform music experience from late summer to late fall. Musical Director Richard Huizinga says this is the perfect way to describe it: "What we're experiencing is literally surreal."

SweetWater Surreal will provide a variety of music offerings to accommodate the needs and comfort levels of all ages. It will include adapted live performances as well as online/virtual options including opportunities to interact with SweetWater's featured musicians. "After what we've all experienced since March, we need music more than ever," says Huizinga.

It all gets underway in late August with Front Row. This online feature provides up, close and personal opportunities to hear about a performer's life and career as well a short performance sequence. It will run until early 2021 and feature all of the performers originally scheduled to perform at SweetWater 2020. Plus, interactive Q&As will also take place later this fall with the performers.

During the traditional SweetWater Music Festival dates, a new music experience will take place, SweetWater Weekend from September 17 to 20. It will feature a string quartet performing classical faves led by Huizinga and also featuring violinist Marc Destrube, violist Keith Hamm, and cellist Julie Hereish who will perform pop-up concerts in and around Owen Sound and Meaford as well as evening garden concerts for limited audiences. Watch for full details on SweetWater's web site and social media platforms.

Other musical events also being developed for later fall as part of Surreal. Depending on health guidelines, indoor concerts with limited audiences and physical distancing may also take place late in 2020. Outreach and music education activities for all ages will also be happening designed for the "new normal". SweetWater Surreal is designed to be easily adjusted no matter how things evolve on the COVID-19 front. The staff considered this contingency crucial for the organization to move ahead in 2020.

SweetWater is grateful for ongoing support of its many private donors, corporate partners, private foundations (especially the Leflar Foundation), and key public funders (Canadian Heritage, Ontario Arts Council, Municipality of Meaford).

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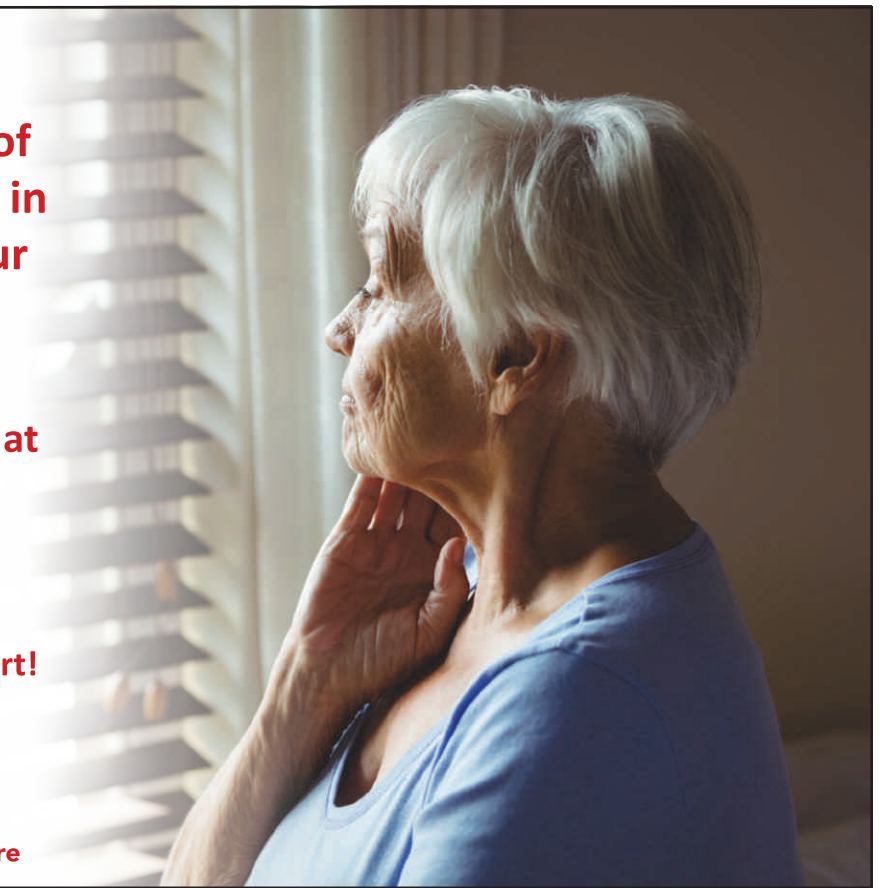
**COVID-19 has  
impacted the lives of  
the most vulnerable in  
Bruce-Grey and your  
help is needed!**

**Please support our  
Pandemic Relief Fund at  
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(519) 376-1560**

**Thank you for your support!**



**United Way  
Bruce Grey  
Change starts here**



# ALL IN

## Ontario

# CHALLENGE

The Nuclear Innovation Institute, NPX Innovation and Bruce Power have partnered to launch the **All In Ontario Challenge**, an online auction, aimed at revitalizing and rebuilding local communities through the COVID-19 pandemic.

100% of the funds raised will go towards the United Ways of Bruce and Grey and Huron Perth and other charitable organizations to help with poverty relief and other initiatives to benefit the local communities.

**Click, bid and win at [www.gbhstrong.com/all-in-ontario-challenge](http://www.gbhstrong.com/all-in-ontario-challenge)**

