

# the owen sounder

vol. 3 no. 3 fall 2021



**the community magazine for these times!**

- FEATURING:**
- Eat Local Grey Bruce Dinner Gala!
  - The Library Adult Poetry Contest Winners!
  - Ghost Walks!
  - Wisdom of the Worm, Part 2!
  - Wonderland Singers!
  - ...and so much more!



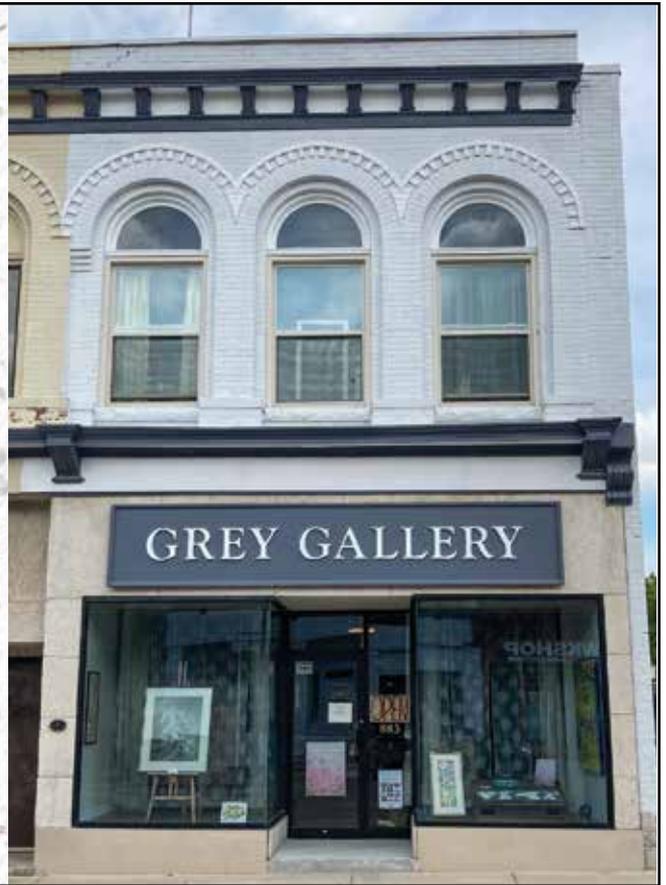
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Current and back issues also available at  
www.theowensounder.ca.

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### about the front cover:

Remember our June ArtWalk? Raquell Yang won first prize for her delightful painting "A Corner of Owen Sound" shown on our front cover. Raquell is an artist from Taiwan who graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree and now lives and works in Owen Sound. She is a versatile artist who works across media and genres, and blends western and Asian influences in her work. Contact Raquell at her Facebook page Raquell Yang Art Studio or her Instagram: @raquell7531.

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# FROM MY DESK

Everything this fall is coming up books! It's time to move away from your screens and celebrate the possibilities that exist in words on paper. The Ginger Press is launching a record-setting four books this month. We are also supporting a couple of additional book launches from other publishers. We will be practising COVID protocols at all events, so don't forget your mask and please stay home if you're not well. It's so exciting to have these events and we want everyone to be safe. Read on!

1. On Saturday September 18 at 2:00pm, at Heartwood Hall in downtown Owen Sound, we will host The Great Big Fat Greek Book Launch. Author **Lili Anne Holding** has written *Mythos: The Story of Owen Sound's Greek Community 1912-1932*. She's also making baklava for the launch! *Mythos* tells the story of the arrival and settlement of the author's family in Owen Sound (Lili Anne is the daughter of Earl Georgas). Lili Anne is a graduate of our recent Publishing Accelerator course. Autographed copies of *Mythos* (\$30) can be reserved at (519) 376-4233.
2. On Sunday September 19 at 2:00pm at the picnic pavilion in Harrison Park, we will host the launch of *A Place to Belong: Stories from Newcomers to Grey and Bruce*. Nineteen stories from recent newcomers have been collected by **Joan Beecroft, Dana Benson, and Donna Jansen**. Copies of *A Place to Belong* (\$24.95) can be reserved at (519) 376-4233.
3. The Flesherton Library will host the launch of *House of Refuge: Grey County's Home for "Poor, Old and Friendless Folk"* chronicled by Frederick Gee from 1904 to 1907, and collected by **John Butler**. The House of Refuge was built in 1904 on the site of what is now Markdale's Grey Gables. John Butler has transcribed newspaper columns written over 100 years ago, to provide a fascinating look at the lives and conditions of residents and staff. Copies of *House of Refuge* (\$30) are also available at The Ginger Press. Contact allenw@greyhighlands.ca for details of this Library fundraising event.
4. On Thursday September 30 at 7:00pm The Ginger Press will launch *Sturgeon Bay*, the latest collection of poems from **Rob Rolfe**. Copies of *Sturgeon Bay* (\$24.95) are available at The Ginger Press.
5. On Wednesday September 29 at 11:00am, Bruce Grey Child and Family Services will host a Zoom presentation of *Jigging for Halibut with Tsinii'* with author **Sara Davidson**. Details on pg 5.
6. On Saturday October 30 at 2:00pm at Jest Arts in Durham, **Jenny Parsons** will launch her self-published novel *Higgsfield Follies*. There will be ice cream and a brass-and-drum band! Jenny is a graduate of our recent Publishing Accelerator course.

And that's a whole lotta new books! What a wonderful range of subjects from a remarkable range of authors. I hope you will be able to join us at all the launches to learn more about the books and meet the authors. And, of course, I hope you will want to add all these books to your own book shelves!

- Maryann

# 2021 LIBRARY CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST FOR YOUTH

NADIA DANYLUK . . . . .

Attention young writers! The 2021 Write @ Your Library creative writing contest is seeking submissions of poems and short stories from students in grades 7 through 12 from across Grey-Bruce.

This long-running contest has supported and shared with the community the literary talents of our local youth for over two decades. Winning entries receive cash prizes of up to \$100 and have their work published in the Write for 2021 anthology, available at all participating public libraries. Submissions are also being sought for the cover

design of the 2021 anthology, which also receives a \$100 cash prize.

Guidelines for the contest can be picked up at public libraries across Grey-Bruce or downloaded from the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library's website: [www.owensound.library.on.ca](http://www.owensound.library.on.ca). Participating Libraries include: Bruce County, Grey Highlands, Hanover, Meaford, Owen Sound & North Grey Union, Southgate and West Grey.

Email submissions to [ndanyluk@owensound.library.on.ca](mailto:ndanyluk@owensound.library.on.ca) by Friday, October 29, 2021

# EAT LOCAL GREY BRUCE GALA

CALLUM BATTEN . . . . .

Eat Local Grey Bruce (ELGB) is a vibrant community of eaters, growers and makers of food, supporting each other in their commitment to local food production, ecological practices, healthy eating, and meaningful employment. This co-operative non-profit empowers all its members to participate in an equitable and vibrant food culture by giving all members and employees a voice, and prioritizing transparent communication; making sure food is grown and made fairly, with an emphasis on environmental stewardship; having healthy, local food accessible to all; working to break down barriers of cost, mobility, time, and skills; and educating everyone on food-related issues so there is growing awareness and understanding on the part of all eaters, growers and makers of food.

On Saturday, October 2, you are invited to enjoy an evening

of Trivia with Ross, community connections and a full course dinner prepared by the amazing chef Zach Keeshig from Naagan, all from the comfort of your own home! All the food will be sourced from our diverse array of ELGB producers and everyone is welcome to participate. The food will be delivered to your door by 5:00pm. The Eat Local welcome and Trivia with Ross will begin at 7:00. There are two menus to choose from: Option 1 will include Big Rock bison osso busso; and Option 2 is vegan and gluten-free. Yummo!

This Gala Dinner is a fundraiser to support the work of ELGB in providing sustainable food systems and delivery options for those most at risk. For more information and to purchase Gala tickets, visit [eatlocalgreybruce.ca](http://eatlocalgreybruce.ca) or email [eatlocaloutreach@gmail.com](mailto:eatlocaloutreach@gmail.com).



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# A STOCKING IN THREE PARTS

## PART 2: THE HEEL

TED MYATT . . . . .

So how was that? You sailed through working the leg of the stocking? (You haven't started yet? Head over to [www.theowensouder.ca](http://www.theowensouder.ca) for Part 1 of making the Christmas stocking.) If the work has been sitting for a bit, put a tape measure on it, and ensure that the work still measures 11 inches/27.5 cm. Sometimes when knitting sits for a bit it can relax and change. If it's a little short, add another couple of rounds to get it to length. If it's a bit too long – don't worry. Another inch or so won't be that noticeable. Count your stitches and ensure there are 72 of them.

Today we're going to make the heel of the stocking. Look at any culture in the world that has traditionally made and worn socks and stockings, and you'll likely find there is a typical way the heel of the sock is formed. The fabric has been formed into a more-or-less cup shape to fit the wearer's heel. Some approaches for this are more complicated than others. Some heels are integrated right into the tube of the sock; some are inserted after the basic stocking is completed. We're going to use a relatively modern approach that gives a good result, using only basic knitting techniques. You work paired increases in two locations on the sock every 2nd round, until the circumference of the tube has increased by nearly 50%. Then you work back and forth in rows, decreasing at both ends, to form the cup of the heel. At some point you might think, "This is nuts. It's never going to work." But trust me and continue on. It will work.

Abbreviations: k = knit; p = purl; k2tog = knit 2 together; SSK = slip slip knit; p2tog = purl 2 together; M1L = Make 1 Left; M1R = Make 1 Right. (M1L and M1R are specific forms of increasing.

Essentially, you lift the tiny length of yarn running between 2 stitches onto the tip of the left needle, and knit under that strand, twisting it to form a stitch. For very clear instructions for both M1L and M1R, please see this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DzdIT-a8K8>

To set up, ensure that you have a locking stitch marker in the first stitch of the round. Starting with that stitch as number 1, count forward 19 stitches and put a locking stitch marker into that 19th stitch. Now count backwards, beginning with the last stitch of the round, and put a marker into the 19th stitch. Let's do a pair of setup rounds for the increases:

Setup round 1: k18; M1R, k marked stitch. K34, k marked stitch. M1L, k18.  
Setup round 2: knit all stitches. (There are now 74 stitches the needles.)

Work the following pairs of increase rounds a total of 15 times:

Round 1: knit to marked stitch; M1R, k marked stitch. K 34, k marked stitch. M1L, knit to end of round.

Round 2: knit all stitches.

Be sure to work the final Round 2. You will have increased 16 times on both sides of the tube, increasing 32 stitches, and have 104 stitches in total on your needles (72 + 32). Now work back and forth in rows to form the cup of the heel. (Remember to slip the first stitch as if to purl from Row 2 onwards.)

Row 1: k2, SSK, k1. Turn

Row 2: slip 1, p5, p2tog, p1. Turn.

Row 3: slip 1, k6, SSK, k1. Turn.

Row 4: slip 1, p7, p2tog, p1. Turn.

Row 5: slip 1, k8, SSK, k1. Turn.

Row 6: slip 1, p9, p2tog, p1. Turn.

Row 7: slip 1, k10, SSK, k1. Turn.

And so on. You see what is happening? With each row, the number of stitches between the slipped stitch at the

beginning of the row and the decrease increases by 1. A useful tip is that the number of stitches between the slip and the decrease is an even number on knit rows, and an odd number on purl rows.

Keep working back and forth until you get to

Slip 1, k30, SSK, k1. Turn

Slip 1, p31, p2tog, p1. There will be 76 stitches in total on the 2 needles.

Take a breath: we're almost done the heel. It's time to shift from working in rows to rounds, for two final rounds. Ready?

Slip 1 stitch as if to knit; k32; SSK; k40, k2tog, k16. You have finished the round, and there are 74 stitches on the needles.

Final round: k16, SSK, k38, k2tog; k16. You have finished the round and there are 72 stitches on the needles.

And you have finished shaping the heel! Lay the work flat on a table or the floor. See how it looks like an unfinished sock? In the next and final instalment, we'll work the foot portion of the stocking and finish the toe and your stocking will be complete. See you in the next *Owen Souder*.





# FROM WILD OATS TO OATMEAL

BILL HAWKES

**M**y personal Wild Oats time was, in fact, quite tame. In the main, my deeds were suitable for all audiences. (I now indulge in some selective amnesia.)

When looking at a usual trajectory of a life, the movement would probably be presented as travelling from the folly of youth to the frailty of aging. In between there would be a substantial middle period that could generally be placed between the ages of forty to sixty-five years.

The middle years may, for some, be a very creative and productive time. Overall, there would have been no major disruptions. The road may appear to have been both paved and smooth. For others, mid-life comes with a mid-life crisis.

The sense of life trajectory is gone. You are stopped on your life path, if not de-railed. The disruption may last a long time. If you subsequently reach a point where you are able to look back, that in itself is a blessing. Moving toward and through one's senior years provides an opportunity for reflection, even if the yield is slight.

Now, at 77 years of age, you would think that I might have some advice to offer. I have none. But I do have much to be grateful for. I know that some of us look back, with all the detours included, and feel that the journey, in some odd way, was both worth it and as it should be. Today, many who made it through will just smile and say, "Pass the porridge, please."

## JIGGING FOR HALIBUT WITH TSINII'

BY SARA DAVIDSON

MARYANN THOMAS

**T**hose of you who know me, know that pride for my family exceeds all bounds. So, of course, in these days of online virtual experiences, my definition of "local" expands to include family members from further afield. How exciting for me to announce that Bruce Grey Child and Family Services (BGCFS) will be hosting my niece Sara Florence Davidson reading from her new book via Zoom on Wednesday September 29 at 11:00! Sara lives near Vancouver; she is my sister Susan's daughter. She is also a brilliant Haida educator and scholar with a PhD in Literacy Education.

In honour of National Truth and Reconciliation Day, BGCFS will host a Zoom presentation of Sara reading her latest book – *Jigging for Halibut with Tsinii'* – which is based on the experiences of Haida artist Robert Davidson

(Sara's father) with Tsinii' (his grandfather). This beautiful story highlights intergenerational knowledge and authentic learning experiences. A boy and his grandfather go fishing; they watch the weather; jig for halibut; row with the tides; and, of course, much more is learned from Tsinii' than how to catch a fish.

You are invited to join this virtual reading. To register, please send an email with your contact information to [events@bgcfs.ca](mailto:events@bgcfs.ca). There is no charge. And you can get Sara's books from The Ginger Press. She and her father have written *Potlatch as Pedagogy: Learning through Ceremony* (a model for learning that is holistic, relationship, practical, and continuous; \$26); and two children's books: *Jigging for Halibut with Tsinii'* (\$21.95), and *Learning to Carve Argillite* (\$21.95).

*Buy & Read Local!*

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT G.B. ARTS?

MORAG BUDGEON • • • • •

The Georgian Bay Centre for the Arts is a dynamic downtown creative space where art is taught, made, and even eaten! (Have you tried our Palette Cafe yet? This licensed restaurant is serving up some excellent food.) After a summer of classes under The Big Tent on the riverbank out back, September classes will return to our inside studio spaces while curbside eating continues at our outdoor street patio.

Upcoming classes include:

• **HANDBUILDING CLAY BIRDS WITH JAN MOK**

This craft is very immediate and satisfying. Learn the tips and techniques to create charming bird forms in a variety of sizes. After you have made the birds, you will decorate with underglazes in preparation for firing. The final pieces will be glazed in clear glaze or, if you are an open studio member, you can finish the piece yourself. 10:00-2:00pm, Sunday, September 18 \$80

• **MIXED MEDIA EXPRESSIVE JOURNAL CLASS WITH HEATHER MURRAY**

If you are feeling stuck creatively or are seeking a new way to add art to your everyday life, then this class is for you! Using collage, found papers, and a simple repertoire of supplies, you can use this form of expression to relax, convey ideas, or develop your own visual story in journal form.

6:00-9:00pm Thursday, September 23 \$65

• **BARN QUILTING WITH ALAN MCINTOSH**

GB Arts has developed this workshop to re-create barn quilts in miniature using salvaged lath. Participants will learn the basics of cutting, painting and assembling a star pattern. The skills acquired in the workshop can be used to continue your own exploration of this picturesque folk art style.

6:00-9:00pm Monday, September 27 \$65

For more information on these and other upcoming classes, and to register, visit [gbarts.ca](http://gbarts.ca) or phone (519) 371-2200.

# THE TROUT HOLLOW TRAIL IN MEAFORD

LINDA READER • • • • •

On September 18, the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy Inc. (EBC) is organizing a grand opening to celebrate the acquisition of their latest nature reserve, the Trout Hollow Trail in Meaford from 10am until 4pm with free guided nature hikes, refreshments and local speakers. The Trout Hollow Trail was generously donated to EBC by the Knight Family of Meaford to preserve its unique cultural, ecological and historical significance into perpetuity for the citizens of Meaford and beyond.

From 12:30 until 2pm Robert Burcher, local historian and expert on John Muir – the young and very determined botanist who lived in Trout Hollow from 1864 to 1866 – will be leading a trail hike on the History of Trout Hollow.

Robert is the author of a book on John Muir, *My Summer of Glorious Freedom*, and is keen to share the significance of John Muir both in Canada and as the founder of the Sierra Club in the United States. Robert says, “For over 100 years an overgrown abandoned sawmill site at the edge of Meaford contained an unknown secret. This had been the home for two years in the 1800s of John Muir the famous American environmentalist, National Park creator and founder of the Sierra Club.”

In the 1990s a group of local citizens came together to



honour that unknown fact. Called The Canadian Friends of John Muir, they worked hard with the landowner to preserve the site. With the rise of environmentalism world-wide, the valley has become a pilgrimage site for those who revere the name John Muir.

“The history hike into Trout Hollow during this event is a ramble of less than five km into the steep and beautiful valley of the Big Head River. Although it is on the edge of Meaford, the quietness and lack of any modern civilized intrusions is a great delight. During the hike, I will not only talk about John Muir but will also interpret the remains of the first electrical power development for Meaford and show the scant remnants of a grist mill that existed after the time of Muir.” Robert adds, “Wear sturdy shoes; bring hiking poles, water and snacks.” For more information and to pre-register for this free event, visit [owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca](http://owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca).

# CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VIVIAN MCCAFFREY • • • • •

What do scholarships for young women graduating from local secondary schools or community college, Scientists in School at Alexandra Community School, Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* at the Roxy, public lectures by Ted Barris, and fundraising for local non-profit organizations have in common? They are all initiatives supported by the Canadian Federation of University Women Owen Sound and Area (CFUW).

CFUW is a national, non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with a mission "to improve the status of women and to promote human rights, public education, and peace." The local chapter recently celebrated its 30-year anniversary. Despite the name, our local organization is open to every woman who supports our goals and values.

In addition to our community involvement initiatives, we offer a wide array of activities and interest groups designed to expand members' horizons, and foster social connections. As a new member to the community, I was particularly attracted by the organization's art explorers, a

group led by a local artist. We also have a healthy lifestyles group that organizes local walks and hikes, a knitting and crafts group, a book club, and a new one – Women Who Wonder – that draws members together to discuss emergent issues.

During the period of COVID-19, we have worked diligently to keep members actively engaged through online programs and social meet-ups through Zoom. The Program Committee organizes monthly speakers from September through June. Topics this year have included long-term care, an Earth Day panel, and presentations from local organizations that serve to expand our knowledge of what's going on in our community. We look forward to when we can provide in-person programs again while continuing to serve the members with a variety of online activities.

For more information, check our website: <https://www.cfuwowensound.com/> You can access the membership forms provided through the "Membership" tab. We hope to meet you soon!

# GEORGIAN BAY CONCERT CHOIR

ANGELA LESSARD • • • • •

Georgian Bay Concert Choir (GBCC) is a 50-voice choral ensemble which was founded in 1972. We are fortunate to call the acoustically superior Harmony Centre in Owen Sound our home. This amazing concert facility can hold 700 people and even has its own grand piano.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Norman Reintamm as our new Conductor and Music Director. Norman succeeds Dr. Regan MacNay, who is the Director of Choral Activities at Transylvania University in Lexington (Kentucky). Norman comes to us after a tenure of 13 years with the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra in Toronto. His career has taken him to various parts of the world, including many years in opera houses in Northern Europe and Scandinavia. He taught at the Estonian Academy of Music (Tallinn, Estonia) and the Sibelius Academy (Helsinki, Finland).

Norman was fortunate to study with Sir David Willcocks and Sir Norman del Mar at the Royal College of Music (London, England). As a recitalist he has played and recorded in North America and Europe, notably at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City and Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto. When not rehearsing or performing, Norman may be found teaching young pilots how to fly at the Brantford Flight Centre or sending out Morse code to various parts of the world on his ham radio station from his home in Ceylon, Ontario.

GBCC is getting creative this year and exciting things are happening! Guest artists and safe events will take place throughout the season. Details at [www.georgianbayconcertchoir.org](http://www.georgianbayconcertchoir.org). And, we're looking for new members. If you love to sing, get in touch now at [info@georgianbayconcertchoir.org](mailto:info@georgianbayconcertchoir.org).

# CONNECTIVITY: A BALANCED PATH

STEPHEN HOGBIN • • • • •

A stay in hospital is a sure way of getting some solid reading done. The first book I read while there was Peter Wohlleben's *The Heartbeat of Trees: Embracing our Ancient Bond with Forests and Nature*. The author also wrote *The Hidden Life of Trees*. His new book is a good but sad read about the abuse of forests and the implications of getting it wrong as global warming bears down on us. It does, however, provide lots of insights on ways forward.

The second book I read was on a similar theme by renowned Canadian forester Suzanne Simard. *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* is a fascinating account on so many levels of how plants communicate through their roots in the soil. Take a walk in the woods and, beneath your feet, is a network of roots and fungal activity as vibrant as the experience above ground. Suzanne's work as a forester is original and so relevant for the future health of forests. The forestry industry is changing its practices due to her research. The science is brilliantly folded into her personal life; it is much like a suspenseful autobiography which brings clarity to the science and understanding of how trees in the forest connect and grow symbiotically.

There is a different kind of connectivity that interests me. It is the continuum of planting trees, walking in the

woods, harvesting trees, working the wood into useful and beautiful objects, and living with the beauty of the wood transformed by the skilled hands of a maker. The process is all good especially as it locks up carbon the trees have collected, which is a help to global warming.

Seeing, feeling, and sensing the continuum are outside some people's appreciation as technology gains more value in the human experience. There is no flashy technology with this view of the continuum, although technology is used to shape the forest and its wood. Searching out this balanced experience is hugely rewarding personally and environmentally.

Intersections' Beginners' Woodworking (September 18 and 19) with Pierre Rousseau introduces participants to fundamental approaches for working wood. The nature of different woods and how to work them with hand tools will be the focus of this class. Each participant will make a shelved coat rack that demonstrates best tools to use and safe ways of working in the studio workshop. It is simple and easy for beginners to grasp how to get started with woodworking. This class is open to all with a maximum of 6 participants. Contact [intersections.gallerystudio@gmail.com](mailto:intersections.gallerystudio@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up (registration is \$190 + tax with a material fee of \$20).

# OWEN SOUND FARMERS' MARKET

## VENDOR PROFILE: DONALD'S HONEY

Donald's Honey is a small, family-run apiary and market garden located right here in Owen Sound! Dayna and Gabriel are extremely passionate about living a sustainable lifestyle and knowing where the food we eat comes from and how it is grown. They manage around 200 hives and garden about two acres. Their gardens are filled with perennial fruits, herbs and medicinal plants as well as a small permaculture orchard where over 30 different types of fruit trees, shrubs and vines are grown. All practices in their bee yards and gardens are organic, chemical free, and done with the bees, plants and mother nature's best intentions.

In addition to honey and the market garden, Dayna and Gabriel now offer pollination services for crops requiring honey bees in Grey County, and consulting for those interested in starting their own permaculture garden. Get in touch with

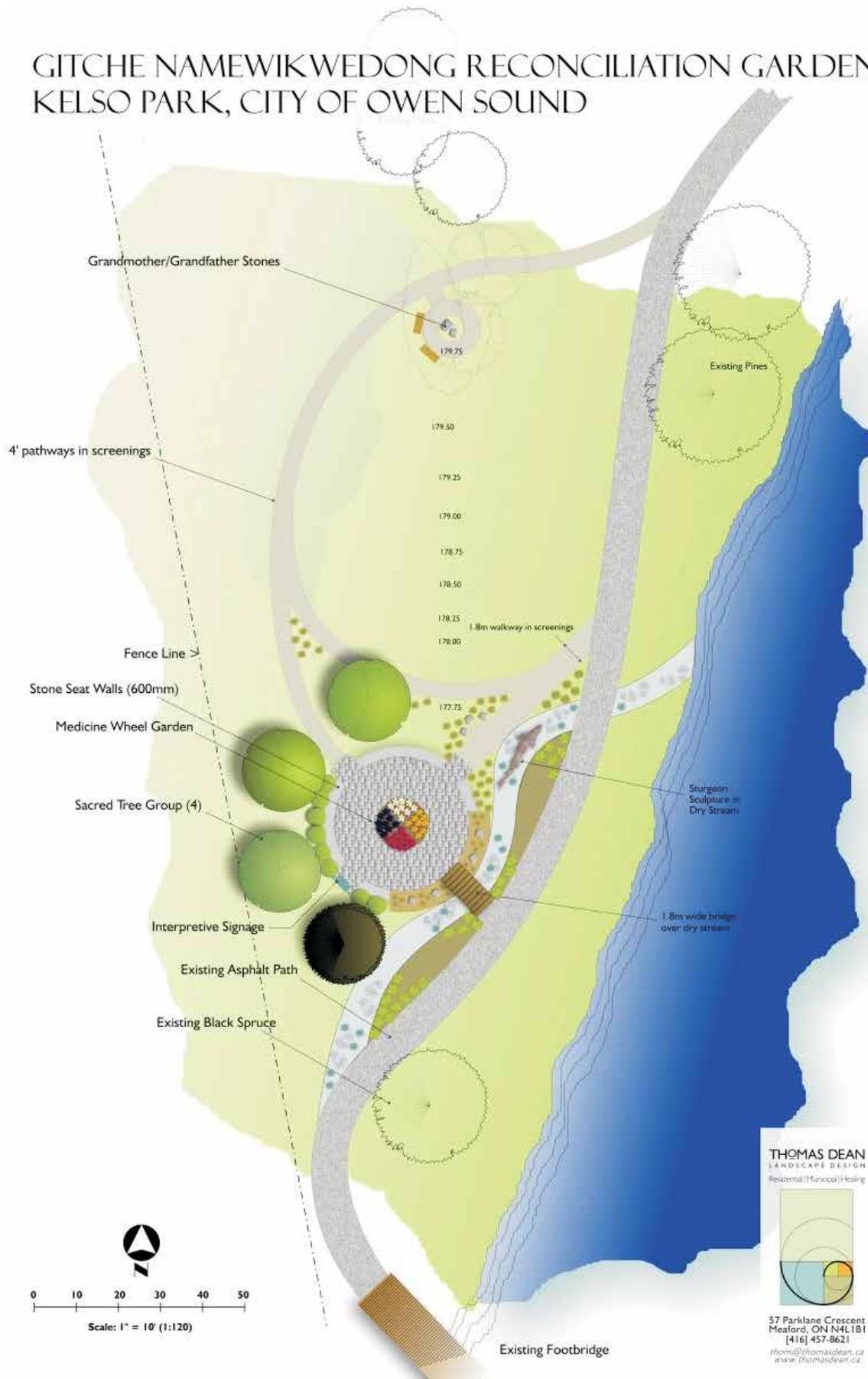
Donald's Honey directly at (519) 477-1818 or [contactdonaldshoney@gmail.com](mailto:contactdonaldshoney@gmail.com). And stop by and say hello to them this Saturday morning at the Owen Sound Farmers' Market (open 8:00 til 12:30). Be sure to pick up a jar of their ginger honey – it's great!







# GITCHE NAMEWIKWEDONG RECONCILIATION GARDEN KELSO PARK, CITY OF OWEN SOUND



# WISDOM OF THE WORM, PART 2

RICHARD-YVES SITOSKI, OWEN SOUND POET LAUREATE 2019-2022 • • • • •

Wherein I take up the thread of my article about poetry and vermicomposting, which appeared in the Summer Owen Sounder (available at [www.theowensounder.ca](http://www.theowensounder.ca)).

At the core of sustainability is the soil itself: its composition, its flora, its fauna, and its mycology. The role of worms in the chain of soil creation and sustenance has been known since time immemorial; their role in agriculture has been appreciated almost as long, and their role is becoming increasingly important in the composting of organic waste in urban settings.

I feel it is important to promote composting as an easy solution to the disposal of organic scraps. So far, Owen Sound does not have an organics collection scheme, and it is incumbent upon citizens to collect their green waste and bring it to a central composting site. Until and unless the city decides to collect organic waste, we, as citizens, only have ourselves to rely upon in the production of compost – in creating something that mitigates soil nutrient depletion and eases the burdens placed on urban and agricultural eco- and biosystems.

Two local practitioners of vermicomposting are Julie Lamberts and Lauren Alexandra Seyler. Julie runs By the Bluffs, a permaculture nursery. She represents what people in an agricultural area can do to keep their soil renewed. Lauren vermicomposts in the comfort of her downtown Owen Sound apartment and gives the worm castings, in the form of nutrient-rich tea, to a local gardener. She represents what urban residents can do to foster citizen-based food production.

I interviewed them in February and March of this year, respectively, and was given access to their worm beds to read poetry to the worms(!) and feed the worms the texts of my poems. The project involved bringing the equivalent of one office shredder hopper of poem fragments (written on scraps of re-used paper, such as the verso of drafts of previous poems, etc.) to each given worm bed, documenting the procedure of integrating the shreds into the worm mulch, returning to document the worms' progress midway through the process, and eventually documenting the finished results, including the immediate castings, and the plants and soil that resulted during high growing season. Samples were collected and catalogued throughout the duration of the project and a summative poem on soil and plants was composed. The poem accompanies this article.

Ultimately, in creating and transforming the poems, the worms were enlisted in as readers, editors and publishers.

They were an ideal audience, consuming every word of the poetry on offer. The poetry can be said to have been brought back to the earth whence everything originates, completing a communicative cycle that starts when trees (plants) are harvested to make paper, but also connecting homo sapiens to a species close in configuration to our own invertebrate ancestors. The project can be looked upon as a form of environmental art that allowed nature to re/claim culture, instead of the other way around, and do so in urban and agricultural settings that we often think of as being outside nature, but which decidedly aren't. Because nothing is outside nature.

## WORMWORDS WORMWARDS

the planet shrinks with osteoporosis  
your hand is a shovel blade  
the city is a 10,000-year dream  
your foot is a compass point  
trees are not disappointed paper  
the moon will never turn its back on us  
your foot is a stone pyramid  
a lake cups water in its hands that even rocks may drink  
a leaf is an apron for wiping our spills  
a flower is a visa for a sun on assignment  
walking means falling but hitting the ground on your terms  
breathing means sharing  
life doesn't have all day  
a child is the conviction that morning follows night  
a worm signs the earth with a flourish  
a worm will never turn its back on you  
you are a worm waiting to happen



# NEW BOOK

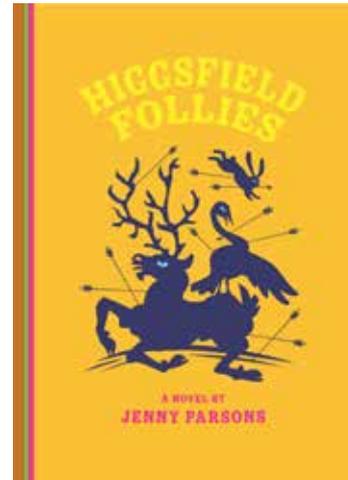
## HIGGSFIELD FOLLIES

JENNY PARSONS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

I woke up with an idea, found a pen and paper pad, and began a novel. Much ink and many reams were wasted. To never finish it required an intervention that never came. Someone should have stopped me.

My husband had the chance, but no – he brought me coffee in bed, every morning. Sometimes he even served peeled fruit. Who can resist this kind of treatment? I had to stay in bed and write, so he could worship me. With the fruit. And even the occasional refill.

The spelling mistakes of the first draft would make a seventh-grader cry. Unfortunately, I knew people who were amused by the game of searching and destroying such errors. They combed through multiple drafts relentlessly, never once suggesting that colossal leaps of logic, for example, may indicate a lack of talent. No, they said little about the novel's contents or its merits. Only that they didn't need all the apostrophes. I blame them for letting this happen to you, dear reader. This book.



Now it's up to you to save yourself. Do not come to the book launch on Saturday, October 30, at Jest Arts of Durham. And if you are foolish enough to be drawn in by a promise of free ice cream, then be smart enough to: Not Bring Cash! Do not buy a book that no one has had the courage to curtail. Be brave. Do not come at 2pm with \$25. Even if you want to hear the brass and drum band that will be playing at 3 o'clock. Save yourself. Stop the madness. And if you succeed in resisting this in-person book launch, absolutely – do not order your copy online at [www.jestarts.ca](http://www.jestarts.ca)!

### the library

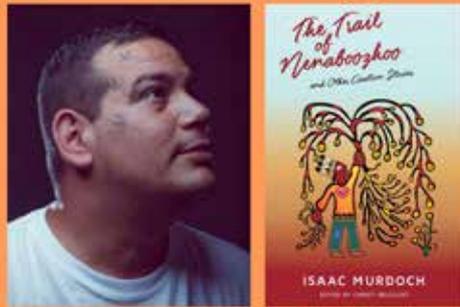
#### THE OWEN SOUND & NORTH GREY UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY IS OPEN!

1:00pm - 8:00pm Monday  
10:00am to 8:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
10:00am - 5:00pm Friday and Saturday

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30 is National Truth & Reconciliation Day. Begin or continue your learning journey to honour those impacted by residential schools by stopping by the library and checking out the many resources available to acknowledge and commemorate this day.

The Library continues to provide online resources, available to members, at our virtual branch, [www.owensound.library.on.ca](http://www.owensound.library.on.ca). Check us out!

**the library Author Visit**



**Bombghiizik Isaac Murdoch**  
Thursday, September 30th @ 8 pm  
For Zoom link, please ask library staff.

Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library  
824 1st Ave W, Owen Sound  
(519) 376-6623

# 2021 ADULT POETRY CONTEST @ THE LIBRARY

.....

Congratulations to these winners of this year's Adult Poetry Contest! Thank you to all the participants who put "pen to paper" and created beautiful and compelling works using GIFT as the theme.

## A GIFT HAT

*by Jennie Hoekstra*

I am knitting you a hat  
With moments I've stolen  
From other things.  
I'd like to say I think of you,  
With every knot and click,  
But really I am thinking about  
What is wilting in the crispier,  
And what is that sound,  
And conversations I don't want to have.  
I worry the hat will be too big  
Or too small  
Or too crudely homemade.  
I worry you will wear it when you see me, just to be kind.  
And that my eyes will flit self consciously to the top of your head.  
I worry it may be left on a bench  
And even the birds will think it strangely unbecoming;  
Unworthy of their unravelling.  
I worry it may one day sit unwanted on the shelf of a charity shop.  
Surrounded by thousands of other stolen hours  
from other women's hands.  
Our quiet rebellions, unnoticed.  
Yet despite my thousand worries,  
I am thankful for this moment  
To be still,  
And quiet,  
And appear meditative,  
And maybe moderately talented,  
And just a little bit productive.  
And so I am knitting you a hat.

I hope that you will like it.

## GIFT

*by R. W. Menzies*

Inside the robin's nest,  
smear-coated with mud to hold together raw materials:  
coarse fescue, selected twigs, and found feathers,  
cushioned with tender, forest-green grass,  
the newest brood is begging for food.  
A cacophonous mix of shrill chirps and persistent peeps -  
the egocentric demands of the newly born,  
inexperienced in the vital ways of survival  
other than the first hard labour: birth,  
and the innate urge to break free from shells;  
shells, once perfect in their design and function,  
now fractured blue vessels discarded immediately  
and scattered like shattered Blue Willow China  
on the ground around the trunk of the birthing tree.  
The nestlings have burst into a world that has  
little to no compassion for the vulnerable and ignorant,  
but are blessed by the raw gifts  
of the newly being: life, food, voice, and parents who nurture.  
Soon they will grow the stronger feathers needed for flight.  
But first they must receive the crucial, pivotal gift:  
the lessons of the elders given to the impetuous young, eager  
to fly,  
eager to explore the wondrous, sensory assaults beyond the nest.  
They must learn to listen: an essential tool for a long, safe life -  
hunting to eat without getting cornered and eaten themselves.  
Eventually they will build their own nests,  
and sing the dawn's song they have learned:  
I'm alive! I'm well! I'm here! And how are you?  
Past being born, past the patience given to novice,  
addle-brained fledglings,  
and finally to flight!  
Gifts upon gifts in a caring, communicating community.

## 2021 ADULT POETRY CONTEST @ THE LIBRARY

### BIRTHDAY HAIKU(S)

by Barbara Eastwood

Unwrapping the gift.  
Big, bulky, awkward carton.  
Styrofoam peanuts!

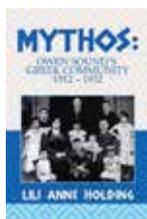
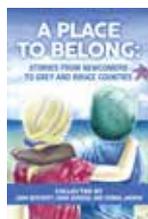
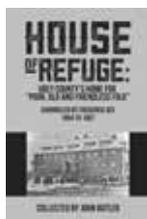
Another present.  
Shiny paper, tidy bow.  
Chocolates again!

Pull off the paper.  
Why so much tape and ribbon?  
I do not need this!

Forget the presents.  
I will blow out the candles.  
And eat all the cake!

## NEW BOOKS FROM THE GINGER PRESS:

- House of Refuge: Grey County's Home for Poor Old and Friendless Folk
- A Place to Belong: Stories from Newcomers to Grey & Bruce Counties
- Mythos: Owen Sound's Greek Community 1912-1932
- Sturgeon Bay: Poems



# FUTURE OF FOOD INFO AND NETWORKING SESSION

Join partners across Grey, Bruce and Simcoe counties at 10:00am on Wednesday, September 22 for a morning (online) of information and networking about the future of food. This is an exploration of emerging trends and opportunities from the last 18 months. Jo-Ann McArthur from Nourish Food Marketing will offer a presentation on current agri-food trends as we move forward out of the pandemic. What do you need to know to best position your food business for success? Sandra Kahle will lead participants in a facilitated networking session to help identify and refine opportunities for local businesses in light of the trends report. Space is limited, register now at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-future-of-food-registration>



## WONDERLAND SINGERS

COCO LOVE ALCORN

Hello singing friends! What are you up to this fall? Feel like singing with...me? The Wonderland Singers Fall Choir will be weeks of singing, jamming, harmony, rhythm, improvisation, creativity, exploration and fun, led by (award winning!!) singer Coco Love Alcorn.

This Zoom singing experience will run Tuesdays from 2:00pm to 3:30pm (September 28 to December 14) and Wednesdays from 7:00pm to 8:30pm (September 29 to December 15).

What do we sing? Cover songs, Coco songs, music of the moment, playful singing games, call and response phrases, soulful songs, happy songs, and tender songs. We laugh, we sway, we dance, we breath deeply...we sing, we sing, we sing...And you're all invited! For more information and to register, contact <https://wonderlandsingers.com/fall-2021>.

# THE POTTER'S FIELD

ALY BOLTMAN • • • • •

**G**reenwood Cemetery in Owen Sound is home to Potter's Field, where more than 1200 people lie in their final resting place, without markers to honour lives lived or individual histories. Potter's Field, also known as the Indigent Lot, came into use in 1858 and was a burial ground for more than 130 years. Newborns, stillborn, toddlers, orphans, seniors, Indigenous people, the working poor, the incarcerated and the homeless are buried there.

Many from Owen Sound's historic Black community, including many who escaped on the Underground Railroad and their descendants, share this overlooked resting place, at this northern terminus of the Railroad. These were citizens who faced systemic racism, often resulting in deep poverty.

In 2018, John and Shirley Reaburn of Georgian Bluffs volunteered to fund a monument to honour the people buried in Potter's Field. Our community is grateful for their commitment to social justice and for their generosity. This substantial memorial, inspired by the windows of the first local British Methodist Episcopal Church, is built of



*photograph by Michael McLuhan*

solid granite and case bronze. The community dedication is scheduled for Sunday, October 17 at 1:00pm. Email [ospfproject@gmail.com](mailto:ospfproject@gmail.com) for more information.

## NEW BOOK

### STURGEON BAY: POEMS BY ROB ROLFE • • • • •

**I**n his latest collection of poems, Rob Rolfe writes about the global pandemic, and Black Lives Matter protests; he tells historical stories set in Grey-Bruce and elsewhere, and reflects on his own childhood and youth growing up in

southwestern Ontario, and his current life in Owen Sound. COVID permitting, Sturgeon Bay will be launched at The Ginger Press in downtown Owen Sound at 7:00pm Thursday September 30. Here are three poems from Sturgeon Bay:

#### LITTLE BIRDS

bright squalor  
of a ragged  
shoreline field  
the last mauve  
and blue  
flowers fading  
(some call them  
weeds) like  
receding stars  
as clouds grow  
ever darker  
dried up leaves  
flutter like  
defiant flags or  
little birds

#### BLACK LIVES

why kill him  
if black  
lives matter  
with placard  
in hand  
walk in beauty  
marching for  
justice  
walk in beauty  
into tear gas  
or worse  
walk in beauty  
let all the old  
shackles  
fall forever

#### FISHING

the sun is  
a white  
furnace in  
a bleached-  
out sky  
i am here  
at the front  
gate of  
a foundry  
set to work  
but not  
wanting to  
on a good  
day to  
go fishing

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**Christopher Neudorf**  
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

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- ✓ Make life more affordable by reducing costs on prescription drugs, child care, housing and more
- ✓ Build a clean-energy economy that provides better jobs and better wages
- ✓ Close the loopholes and increase enforcement so the richest 1% pay their fair share

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**NDP**  
**Jagmeet Singh**

# “OMG, IT’S A MONEY CLIP”

JAN CHAMBERLAIN

“What’s a money clip?” What a picture! There they were – my two granddaughters, Sylvia and Liz, with their friends, Rebecca, Marcus, and Alex – all sitting on the floor around the open treasure chest of Sally’s keepsakes. Sally, my daughter and my granddaughters’ aunt, had kept a lot of special treasures from her Port Elgin Pumpkinfest days, and her marriage to Rick Hunt, as well as photos and her jewellery collection. Each thing held its own special memory. All were being gently handled and discussed.

I only got the chest a few weeks ago. We lost Rick last winter to throat cancer, the same cancer his father had had. Sally died in 2014 from the same liver cancer that her father, George, had had. Rick’s siblings had cleared the house and thoughtfully brought me Sally’s treasures. Memories.

When my granddaughters wanted to show their friends from Richmond Hill a bit of Owen Sound, I was pleased to take them downtown. We started at The Bleeding Carrot for our vegan lover’s lunch. And they loved lots more than the food, as they explored all the recycled items offered by Patti’s Show Off Home Stuff. Our memory conversations were well started over such a great lunch venue.

Then we visited Morag at the Georgian Bay Centre for the Arts across the street. She toured our gang and left quite an impression of how that business had to re-imagine itself through COVID-19. We just had to take some of the GBArts curbside craft kits home.

From there we went next door to The Owen Sound Artists’ Co-op. We viewed and viewed and everyone finally made their purchases. (The girls have also given me lots of ideas of what they would like for Christmas.) What a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Next into Birgit’s Cafe, to sample the new chocolate specialties. WOW! Then into Kokoro’s for another WOW – a tour of the salt cave and all things relaxing.



I was so pleased to show off this downtown of mine, creating new memories with these fine young folks.

Finally, I said, “Let’s pop into Coates and Best. I want to get a guest book so you can leave some notes about your visit. (They were staying at their Dad’s new place at Cobble Beach.) To my surprise, they loved all the art supplies and we made more purchases along with the guest book.

Back at my place, it was easy to introduce Sally’s treasure chest and another very special hour was spent as each one chose a keepsake. So Marcus got the money clip and a cigarette case, Rebecca got a ring and a bracelet, and Sylvia immediately put on a watch that fit her small wrist perfectly and closed with a clasp just like one her mom owns. Alex chose a chain-link necklace and Liz went away with the musical jewellery case.

Grief work goes on and on and can take many forms. This special day spent with very special people and filled with special memories, felt like a real celebration of both Rick and Sally. I was reminded of a saying I saw recently on Facebook: “When we lose someone we love, we must learn not to live without them, but to live with the love they left behind.” It was a perfect reflection for the way this special day unfolded.



*You are invited to attend*

the launch of  
**HIGGSFIELD FOLLIES**  
a novel by Jenny Parsons

**2:00pm, Saturday October 30**

at Jest Arts  
148 Garafraxa Street North, Durham



# AND SUMMER TURNS TO FALL...

MARCIA CUNNINGHAM

Greetings from the Roxy Theatre! All around us are signs that summer is winding down. The sun is setting later, the nights a bit cooler... and so we reflect on the summer of '21 and look forward to fall and our upcoming Owen Sound Little Theatre (OSLT) Season.

We were thrilled to finally open our doors and welcome friendship and music back into our theatre with Summerfolk46. We are excited to share that we now have live-stream capabilities in-house at the Roxy! Look for future concerts and shows to be live-streamed, giving patrons near and far the ability to enjoy Roxy and OSLT productions both in the theatre and at home.

July saw us running two amazing sessions of the Roxy Summer Break Camps at Kelso beach. You can watch these great performances at home by visiting [www.roxytheatre.ca](http://www.roxytheatre.ca) and scrolling to "We've Got Virtual Shows" to buy access to these inspired performances.

The 21-22 OSLT Season has been announced: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night* (Nov/21), *A Red Plaid Shirt* (Feb/22), *Born Yesterday* (April/22) and *Matilda Jr.* (May/22). Tickets and Flex Passes are on sale now. Members get front-of-the-line access, and seating may be limited due to COVID restrictions, so purchase your membership now to get front of the line!

In September, the Roxy Youth Program is launching Act 1 of the Roxy Young Company – an opportunity for youth aged 10-18 to learn all aspects of theatre including

performing (singing, dancing and acting) and backstage elements such as props, costumes, sets and tech. Act 2 will continue the fun in January and become the program through which OSLT's production of *Matilda Jr.* will emerge.

We are also offering Roxy Workshops – 10 workshops will be available on a variety of topics ranging from choreography to lighting, and acting to stage combat. There are both youth and adult workshops, and they will be held in socially distanced groups in the Roxy Theatre. The first is September 11, 2021 – Acting 101 with Corry Lapointe – sign-up is now open!

September 24-25 brings a little love to the theatre as Roxy Presents *Love Letters*, directed by and starring Corry Lapointe and Bill Murphy. A.R. Gurney's *Love Letters* is a tender, tragi-comic, and nuanced examination of the shared nostalgia, missed opportunities, and deep closeness of two lifelong, complicated friends. Roxy Presents looks forward to welcoming Corry and Bill back to the stage, and theatre-goers to our audience. Tickets are on sale now.

For further information, please visit [www.roxytheatre.ca](http://www.roxytheatre.ca) or call (519) 371-2833. While you are on the website, you can also purchase an OSLT membership, make a donation, and help support live theatre and music at the Historic Roxy Theatre in downtown Owen Sound.

*Marcia Cunningham is the Executive Director of OSLT/Roxy Theatre.*

# GREY ROOTS IS OPEN!

ZAK ERB

Grey Roots Museum & Archives as well as the Moreston Heritage Village have now reopened; museum staff are once again ready to welcome guests inside the museum and archives. "It's been a long wait, but we've used our time well," says Jill Paterson, Grey Roots Manager. "We've got some great new exhibits and experiences that we've really been able to polish during the shut down."

Visitors will enjoy several brand new exhibits including "Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign", a study of historical local business signage from Grey County, and the "100th Anniversary of the Owen Sound Transportation Company"

which examines the company's fleet and features artifacts from several historic vessels. The Ontario Museum Association award-winning exhibit "Facing the Flames" also returns, as does access to the Grey County Archives.

Public Health guidelines require that all guests screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entry, and that masks be worn at all times while inside the facility. Indoor spaces have been structured to ensure that two-metre separation can be maintained between visiting groups, and capacity limitations will be in effect. Visit [greyroots.com](http://greyroots.com) for full details and operating hours. Visitors are asked to book in advance at [greyroots.com](http://greyroots.com) or over the phone at (519) 376-3690.

# COMING TOGETHER AGAIN: SWEETWATER 2021

PAUL EICHHORN • • • • •

The SweetWater Music Festival (September 16 to 19) returns in 2021 with a full programme of music featuring internationally acclaimed Canadian musicians performing classical, jazz, and contemporary music. The four days of amazing music for the first-time features concerts and events outdoors, indoors, and online.

“After the great response to our outdoor concerts during SweetWater Surreal in 2020, we obviously wanted to continue to offer these unique venues in 2021,” says Artistic Director Edwin Huizinga. “It’s great to be able to perform music back in a concert hall but we feel it’s important to provide a variety of options to our audiences including online music programming.”

SweetWater 2021 includes four Mainstage Concerts. The Friday and Saturday night concerts at 7:00pm at the Harmony Centre in Owen Sound will focus on classical repertoire. The musicians will include Huizinga, members of the Rosebud String Quartet (Aaron Schewbel, Keith Hamm, Sheila Jaffe, and Leana Rutt), pianist Philip Chiu, and cellist Julie Hereish.

The Saturday Late Night Mainstage concert at Heartwood Hall is headlined by Ventanas featuring multi-talented vocalist Tamar Illana. They will offer up reimagined Mediterranean melodies and flamenco grooves with contemporary interpretations of ancient ballads as well as some original music. Finally, the Sunday Matinee Mainstage happens outside at a breathtaking venue along the Sydenham River for Being Lost. Narrator and trombonist Tom Allen is joined by clarinetist Jeff Reilly, vocalist Patricia O’Callaghan, harpist Lori Gemmell, and saxophonist Pete Gemmell.

This year SweetWater is also offering a special Celebration Concert on Thursday, September 16 at a picturesque outdoor setting near Annan featuring a performance of Schubert’s String quintet in C major D956. The concert will also include

a performance by the Tamar Illana Flamenco Trio.

And there’s more...four noon-hour, outdoor Community Concerts bring music to where you live. It begins with the roots, cross-genre sounds of Harrow Fair on Thursday, September 16 at the Meaford Rotary Harbour Pavilion. On Friday, the Tamar Illana Flamenco Trio performs at Grey Gallery Gardens in downtown Owen Sound. Saturday’s concert features the multi-talented Coco Love Alcorn at the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Arboretum Pavilion. Sunday’s concert is headlined by the Rosebud String Quartet at the Owen Sound Farmers’ Market. Each concert will also have an opening act featuring four of this year’s Next Wave Showcase finalists. Everyone is welcome to attend and donations are appreciated.

After a year off, the community play-along Classical Jam returns on Saturday, September 18 at the Grey Sauble Conservation Area Arboretum Pavilion at 1:15. And on Sunday, the String Instrument Showcase, featuring some of Canada’s top instrument makers, sets up shop at the Owen Sound Farmers’ Market as part of our noon Community Concert. Plus, some of this year’s Mainstage Concerts will be live-streamed and Front Row, the online series about musicians, returns with new episodes throughout this fall. Many of this year’s SweetWater 2021 performers are featured in these segments which include short performances as well.

SweetWater will be taking special precautions to ensure the health and safety of audience members, performers, volunteers, and staff. They have consulted the local health unit to develop strict COVID-19 safety guidelines for all events. Attendance will be limited at all events to ensure physical distancing between patrons. To find out more, purchase tickets, and to see full details about the entire SweetWater 2021 lineup, go to [sweetwatermusicfestival.ca](http://sweetwatermusicfestival.ca).

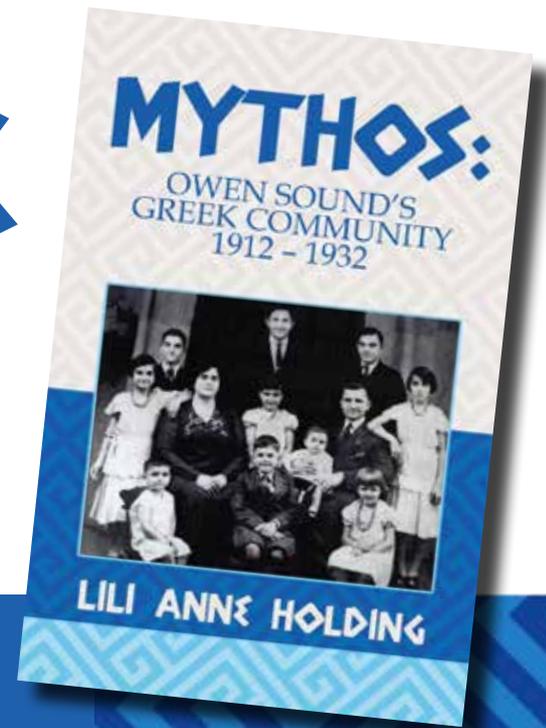
## GHOST WALKS

EMILY JOLLIFFE • • • • •

The Billy Bishop Museum is hosting a series of Ghost Walks which explore Owen Sound’s haunted history of spirits, murders, shipwrecks and more. Beginning at 7:00pm on Sunday evenings at least until September 26 (contact the Museum at 519 371-0031 for possible October

dates as well), the Ghost Walks are rain-or-shine events, about 2.5k, and are suitable for ages 12+. Please wear comfortable shoes and a mask. For more information and to purchase tickets (\$10), visit [www.billybishopmuseum.org](http://www.billybishopmuseum.org).

# MY BIG FAT GREEK BOOK LAUNCH



PLEASE JOIN US  
TO CELEBRATE THE PUBLICATION OF

## **MYTHOS:** OWEN SOUND'S GREEK COMMUNITY 1912 - 1932 BY LILI ANNE HOLDING

**2:00PM SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18**  
AT HEARTWOOD HALL IN DOWNTOWN OWEN SOUND

Author Lili Anne Holding (daughter of Earl Georgas) has researched and written her family history from their arrival at Ellis Island aboard the ship Patris in the early 1900s, to the successful business career of her entrepreneurial grandparents Christos and Sadie Georgas, who settled in Owen Sound in 1916.

Everyone is welcome to attend. There is no charge, but due to COVID protocols, you are asked to pre-register at the Ginger Press Mythos Facebook event page. Autographed copies of Mythos (\$30) can be reserved at (519) 376-4233.

Register: [www.facebook.com/gingerpressbookshop](http://www.facebook.com/gingerpressbookshop)



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