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community magazines  
in one great issue!

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- Owen Sound Community Artist Studio Tour!
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Watercolour painting by Raquell Yang

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NEXT ISSUE: Winter 2024 (deadline October 22, 2024)  
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DESIGN: Shelley Jackson Design  
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Established in 1994 and revived in 2020, The Owen Sounder is an independent community magazine which is written, designed, published and distributed right here in Owen Sound. Established in 1993, MOSAIC continues to encourage and support all the local arts and entertainment. Current and back issues also available at [www.theowensounder.ca](http://www.theowensounder.ca)

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### about the front cover:

Located on the east side of 2nd Avenue West between 4th St West and 7th St West, the Owen Sound Mill Dam is reputed to be Ontario's first fish ladder. Visit in September and October to watch the Chinook Salmon migrate. Drone photograph by John Fearnall of Good Noise Photography.

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# FROM MY DESK

Whoosh! And summer of 2024 is over! We're now on to the excitement of a Grey-Bruce fall with the wonders of changing leaf colours, remarkable food harvests, and getting back to it (whatever your "it" is).

School has reconvened, and we have details on sewing classes, quilting classes, woodworking classes, and so much more. We are also providing hints for your fall reading with great new books by Gwen Lamont (*Tales from Coffin Ridge: A Childhood Exhumed*), Richard Thomas (*Jewel of Georgian Bay: Celebrating 50 Years of the Chi-Cheemaun*), Joan Beecroft (*Aging in Place: Exploring Options in Grey Bruce*, and her other collections of community stories), and Ted Barris (*Battle of Britain*) who visits so regularly he's almost a local writer. And we've got a couple of signings here at The Ginger Press too (check them out below).

And of course, there's the second annual Community Artist Studio Tour featuring a whole whack of artists in and around Owen Sound. And the third annual Wellness Walkabout with ten downtown venues featuring health and wellness opportunities! Find it all in these pages! And enjoy this time of transformation.

### Author Talk with Steven Persen, author of *Fleeing Owen Sound*, Friday Sept 27 at 7:00pm

Ohio resident Steven Persen developed a research passion, particularly for a shipwreck on Lake Superior in 1885, which evolved into his first novel *Fleeing Owen Sound* (\$21.50). Espionage, international counterfeiting, murder, greed, pride, and misguided patriotism all collide with explosive results as his hero discovers the true meaning of courage and learns to fight back. There is no cost to attend.

### Author Talk with D.E. Young, author of *A Short History of the Beginning*, Thurs Oct 3 at 7:00pm

Diana will discuss her new novel, as well as the positives and pitfalls of self publishing. She is the organizer, host, and story curator of the Georgian Bay Story Slam – a live, true story telling competition – and has produced shows in communities up and down the coast of Georgian Bay. There is no cost to attend, and the author will have copies of *A Short History of the Beginning* on offer at \$15.

## WRITE @ YOUR LIBRARY

SARAH CHAMBERLAIN

The 2024 Write @ Your Library creative writing contest, open to students in grades 7 to 12 from across Grey-Bruce, is seeking submissions of short stories and poems. Winning entries will receive up to \$100 and will be published in *Write for 2024*. Submissions are also invited for the cover design with a cash prize of \$100. Be creative! All forms of art are welcome. Guidelines for both contests can be found at public libraries across Grey-Bruce, or you can download them from [www.owensound.library.on.ca](http://www.owensound.library.on.ca). Deadline is October 25, 2024. For more information, and to email submissions, contact [schamberlain@library.onsngupl.ca](mailto:schamberlain@library.onsngupl.ca).

# UNFLINCHING, DIAMOND-HARD PROSE ABOUT A CHILDHOOD EXHUMED

MICHAEL DEN TANDT • • • • •

*Terroir* (/te'rwɑ:r/; from *terre*, lit. 'lands') is a French term used to describe the environmental factors that affect a crop's phenotype, including unique environment contexts, farming practices and a crop's specific growth habitat.

Coffin Ridge Boutique Winery stands on a wind-swept promontory a few kilometres north of Highway 26, on the 2nd Concession of what used to be Sydenham Township, between Owen Sound and Meaford. On a late summer's evening, settled in one of the winery's Muskoka chairs and gazing at the golden, lowering sun, you could be forgiven for thinking yourself lost in the Abruzzo region of Italy. It's a place that makes you say: This place doesn't seem like here.

All the more surprising then to see a memoir appear, a first book by the winery's co-owner, Gwen Lamont, that reads as though she's been hammering out prose in a spartan garret all her life, obsessively polishing phrases like a character out of Albert Camus. The book is astonishing: Not only because of the author's evident skill, but because of the shocking subject matter.

It is a harrowing, at times horrifying, account of Lamont's impoverished childhood and early life. To read it is painful, albeit inspiring. To write it can only have required immense fortitude, discipline and ambition for truth-telling, no matter the cost.

The story of Lamont's childhood in Toronto is one of brief moments of comfort and hope, against a backdrop of extreme poverty, family dysfunction and despair so embedded it is recounted as matter-of fact. Her father, an alcoholic, is a dreamer and con artist, always looking for the next score; her mother so worn down by disappointment that she's incapable of warmth. Amid the family chaos, there are beautiful sketches of early-morning newspaper-delivery outings with her father in Toronto, long before the city became a wealthy metropolis.

Among the book's most shocking sequences is a series



of events Lamont suffered as a teenager – a scheme of her father's to get her teeth fixed, free of charge – but with an enormous catch. The indictment of the Ontario mental-health and education systems of the era is more damning than anything imagined by American novelist Ken Kesey in his bestseller, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

But the story doesn't end there. Lamont flees into a very early and disastrous marriage. She suffers horrific spousal violence and barely escapes with her life. Here again, she describes her suffering with the clinical eye of a skilled prose stylist, but also the knowledge of a social scientist.

For, rather than simply seeking to escape and never return to the horrors of her youth, as many would, Lamont sought to understand it. Her Master's of Social Work thesis was a study of men who murder their spouses or intimate partners. She later earned a Master of Fine Art in Creative Non-Fiction from the University of King's College, Halifax.

There's much that's indelible about this book – both in the framing of Lamont's story and the impact of her words. She has a keen eye for detail and a journalist's ear for dialogue. The effect is one of reading, not a memoir, but a novel – one that rings deeply, excruciatingly true.

The aspect that strikes me most powerfully, perhaps, is the utter lack of self-pity in Lamont's account of an early life so marked by suffering that she buried the memories for years. That she was able to come to terms with her early life is, on its own, remarkable. That she was then able to transform such abiding sorrow, the *terroir* of her childhood, into brilliant, diamond-hard prose, is nothing short of astonishing.

You can find Gwen Lamont's book, published in 2024 by The Ginger Press, in their bookshop and online at [www.gingerpress.com](http://www.gingerpress.com). It is very much worth your time.



*Michael Den Tandt writes about international affairs, politics, strategy and culture. You can find his work online at: [substack.com/@michaeldentandt](mailto:substack.com/@michaeldentandt).*



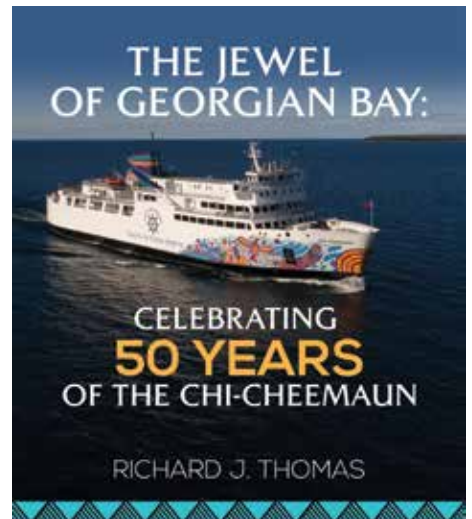
# THE JEWEL OF GEORGIAN BAY: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE CHI-CHEEMAUN A NEW BOOK BY RICHARD THOMAS

On September 29, 1974, the *Chi-Cheemaun* made its first run from Tobermory on the Bruce Peninsula to South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island carrying 140 passengers and 60 vehicles. The ship encountered 14-foot waves on the 28-mile journey and even the most sober skeptics conceded she represented a breakthrough in marine design as she slid easily through them.

Fifty years later, author Richard Thomas has chronicled the history of the ferries connecting the two ports, as well as the construction and maintenance of the remarkable ship

which remains in service to this day. Over 80 enthusiasts have contributed their *Chi-Cheemaun* stories and photographs to make this new book a community project documenting the lives and journeys of those involved in building, operating, and sailing on the Jewel of Georgian Bay.

Copies (\$29.95) are available from The Readers' Haven Bookstore in Tobermory, Grey Roots Museum in Georgian Bluffs, the *Manitoulin Expositor* in Little Current, onboard the *Chi-Cheemaun*, and in person and online from The Ginger Press.



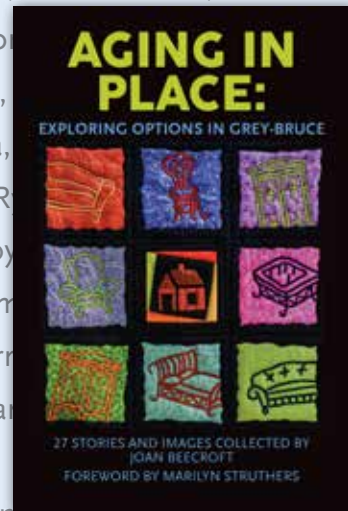
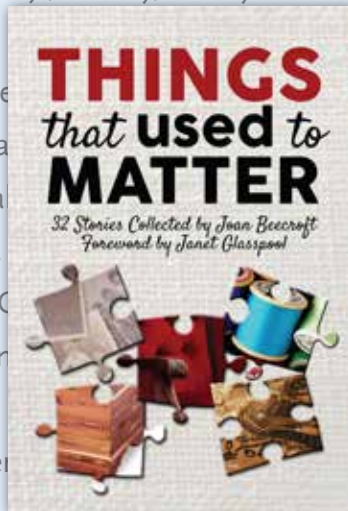
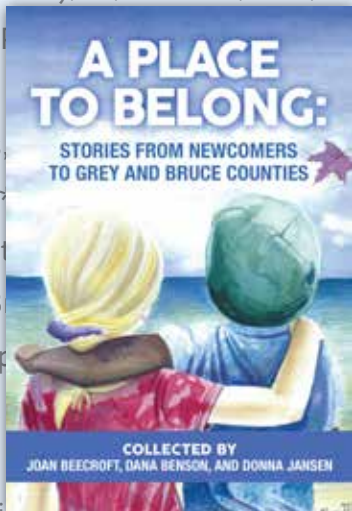
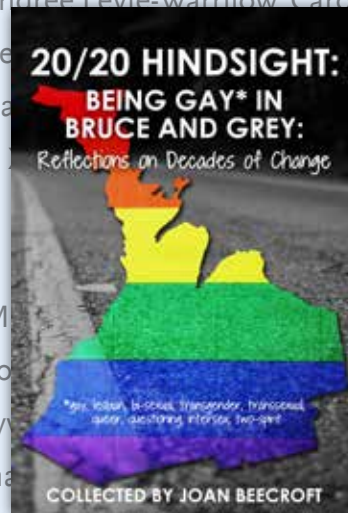
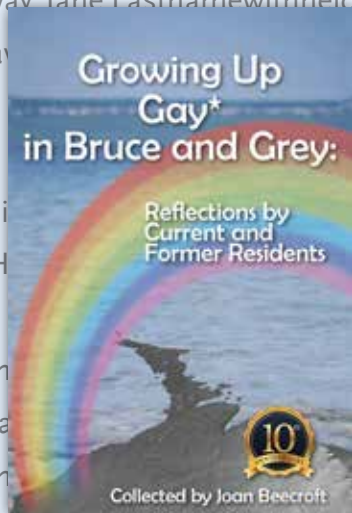
## BLUEWATER QUILTERS' GUILD

The Bluewater Quilters' Guild ([www.bluewaterquiltersguild.ca](http://www.bluewaterquiltersguild.ca)) will host a Learn to Quilt workshop at Pauline's Place Quilting Studio, 769 2nd Avenue East, in downtown Owen Sound. Consisting of eight classes, the workshop will teach how to piece a variety of quilt blocks, put a quilt top together, and use the "quilt as you go" method of quilt construction.

There will be eight classes on Mondays from September 23 to November 25. Registrants can choose either 1:00 to 3:30pm, or 6:00 to 9:00pm sessions. The cost is \$25 for members, and \$65 for non-members (includes a one-year membership to the Guild). For more information and to register, call (519) 371-4787.

# COMMUNITY STORIES

COLLECTED BY JOAN BEECROFT



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# CARRYING THE ROYAL MAIL IN THE BRUCE

ROBIN HILBORN, BRUCE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY • • • • •

The mail must go through, they say – through snow and rain and gloom of night. Even if it means walking 45 miles, and back. In 1852, that was the job of Cowan Keys, the first mail carrier of Bruce County. With Her Majesty’s mail in a satchel slung over his shoulder, he would tramp once a week over the rough trail between Kincardine and Durham. Another postal route ran from Kincardine to Southampton. Mailman John Urquhart walked this route twice a week.

With the opening of the railway to Goderich in 1858, the Royal Mail arrived daily in Kincardine, carried on horseback. The inhabitants of Kincardine had the luxury of getting Toronto newspapers which were only one day old. Other parts of the county waited for years for daily mail.

The next improvement – when the trail was cleared of tree stumps – was the horse-drawn stagecoach which offered daily service to the more populated areas of Bruce County. The bumpy ride was alleviated by stops at roadside taverns and hotels, which provided stabling for the horses. Sometimes the stage got stuck in mud or in a swamp, so drivers welcomed the introduction of the gravel road. For a long time, only the Goderich Road, from Goderich to Southampton, had a gravelled surface, and so was called The Gravel Road.

The Kincardine-Walkerton stage line carried mail for over 50 years before being closed in 1914, when free rural mail delivery replaced the old mail routes. It was the same for the Port Elgin to Owen Sound stagecoach, put out of business when the rural mail system started in 1913 on that route. Further north, the Bruce Peninsula was served by stagecoaches, with Wiarton getting daily mail starting in 1876, by way of a coach from Owen Sound.

The first train to Wiarton, in 1881, replaced the stagecoach, but since the tracks ended there, a stagecoach took the mail to points further north. The Stokes Bay Royal Mail coach took two days to make a round trip from Wiarton, serving Mar, Pike Bay, Spry, and Stokes Bay. During the winter months the coach was converted into a sleigh.

We have the envelope of a registered letter postmarked Feb. 27, 1911, showing how mail from Spry reached Hamilton. It took the Stokes Bay mail coach, reached Wiarton on March 1, left on the train on March 2, was sorted on board in the Railway Post Office in one of the coaches, and reached Hamilton the same day.

In 1881, the Stokes Bay post-office was established, where Wm. Lyons was first postmaster, succeeded by John Gibson and John Shute, who held the office for 23 years. The Tobermory post office also opened in 1881, but there the mail was carried by Benjamin Butchart, who hiked in from



*The North Kepple-Kemble mail coach (here mounted on a sleigh) was driven by Ray West until 1947. [Grey Roots Museum; Bob Pike]*



*The Stokes Bay Mail Coach picks up mail at the Spry General Store & Post Office in 1910. [Muriel Osborne]*

Stokes Bay.

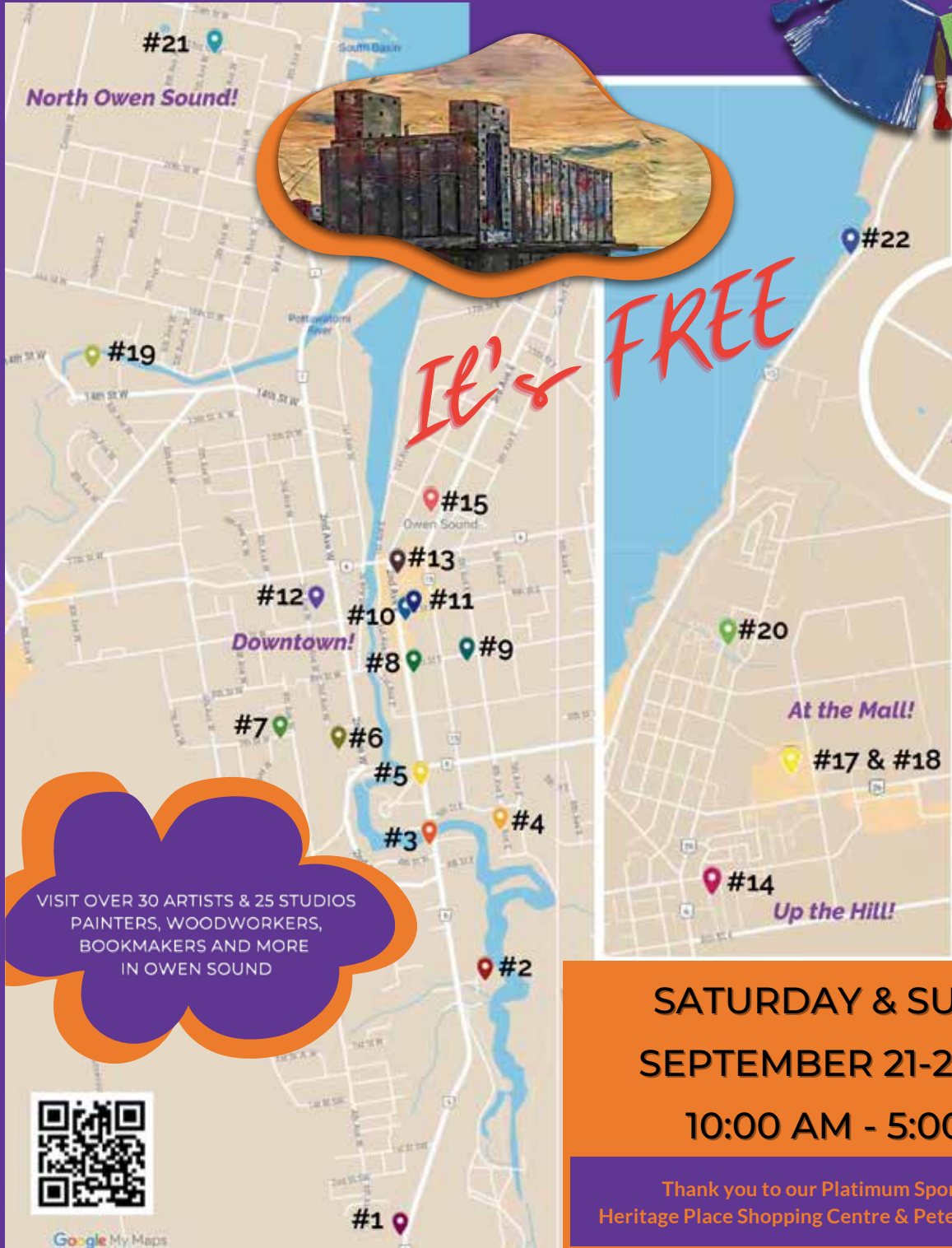
Another stage line serving the peninsula was the North Kepple-Kemble mail coach, running up the east shore between Owen Sound and Wiarton. Ray West drove this coach until 1947, including in winter, when it was converted into a sleigh.

We can also mention the Wiarton to Lion’s Head stagecoach, with daily stops at the post offices in Colpoys Bay, Hope Bay, and Barrow Bay. This stage took passengers, and those who might be stranded in the depths of winter were given a hot meal and a warm bed at the house of the Hepburns of Hope Bay, who kept the post office there for over 40 years.

Stage routes allowed rural mail delivery to start in 1908. When rural mail was extended to all main roads in 1912 roadside mail boxes became a permanent feature of the countryside. Business mail has greatly changed since then, and a transaction which used to take a week now occurs in a minute over the internet.

# OSCAST

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# POTTAWATOMI SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD

TRICIA WEATHERSTON

In 1975, eight people, eager to share their love of fibre and fabric, formed a group which became the Pottawatomi Spinners and Weavers Guild. They were enthusiastic about sharing their skills and their love of handspinning and weaving with each other and the public. Today there are approximately 30 members who travel the length and width of Grey and Bruce counties to come to meetings. The guild meets monthly at the New Life Centre on 4th Avenue West in Owen Sound. Guests are always welcome. Meetings occur on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. For further details, contact Harriet Boon at 519-934-3273.

This summer the guild has had a wonderful program that focused on all aspects of rhubarb. We dyed fibre and yarn with rhubarb, we learned how to create cordage from rhubarb stalks, and shared many wonderful rhubarb recipes.

As we move into fall, our members are thinking about

the annual guild sale, as well as planning for the guild's 50th anniversary in 2025 (stay tuned)! Guild members are always enjoying their crafts of spinning and weaving as they improve skills and learn new ones. The annual sale gives an outlet for members to share their knowledge with the public as well as showcasing the beautiful projects they have been working on all year. All the items are handwoven and/or handspun. There is a fantastic range of handwoven tea towels, scarves, rugs, shawls and bags. Knitters use their handspun to knit hats, mittens, scarves, shawls, toys, holiday ornaments, and socks. The annual sale is held at the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library. This year the sale will be November 1 from 1pm to 5pm, and November 2 from 10am to 4 pm.

Follow us on social media at [www.facebook.com/PottawatomiSpinnersandWeaversGuild](http://www.facebook.com/PottawatomiSpinnersandWeaversGuild), and [pottsguild](https://www.instagram.com/pottsguild) on Instagram.



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**Nipugtug**  
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**9:30am THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26**

*Nipugtug* follows a young Mi'gmau woman as she snowshoes through the forest. On her journeys, she meets and converses with the animals and the trees, who guide her through the challenging and nourishing emotions of learning her Mi'gmau language. A delightful and moving story illustrated with Natalie Laurin's beautiful paintings, *Nipugtug* is written in both Mi'gmau and English for language-learners of every age.

Email [events@bgcfs.ca](mailto:events@bgcfs.ca) with your name and phone number to receive the virtual meeting link to hear Emma's presentation.







# WELLNESS WALKABOUT

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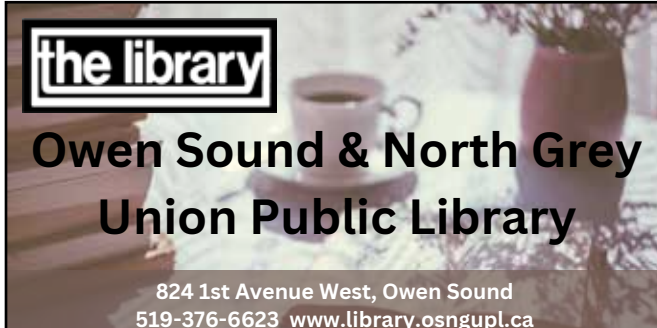
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# AT THE ROXY

EMMA MCCONACHIE-ANDERSON



Owen Sound Little Theatre/The Roxy's 2024/25 Season is ramping up for the fall. We're excited to bring a diverse array of theatre productions, concerts, comedy shows and more to Owen Sound and surrounding communities.

Owen Sound Little Theatre is already preparing for their first show of the season, **The Prom**, which will run November 14-16, 21-24, and 27-30. This heartwarming musical tells

the story of an Indiana high schooler barred from bringing her girlfriend to the prom – and the group of eccentric Broadway folk who infiltrate the town in an earnest, misguided attempt to fight the injustice. With a big cast that's bursting at the seams with local talent this is not a show to miss! You can check out the full season playbill at [www.roxytheatre.ca](http://www.roxytheatre.ca).

The Roxy Presents Series is back with several fantastic shows. You'll be laughing all night at CBC Radio's **Laugh Out Loud** on September 13. You won't want to miss Jason Cyrus when he brings his mind blowing live hypnotist show on October 18. December is overflowing with entertaining shows to see with the popular sketch comedy show **Middle Raged** on December 6, the classic holiday show **Wonderful World of Christmas Graceland Edition** on December 8 and the thrilling interactive singing

show **Choir! Choir! Choir!** returning to the Roxy on December 15. Stay tuned for more great shows coming in the new year. With this incredible lineup of shows there's guaranteed to be something for everyone!

The Roxy Young Company continues to offer youth in our community the opportunity to engage in theatre and showcase their talent and skill. Act 1 classes have started but Act 2 classes (running January to April) are now on sale. Through a series of workshops, participants learn not only about performing but also about backstage elements such as sound and lighting, wardrobe, props, makeup and hair, stage combat, improv and more!

For those eager to secure their seats for these upcoming events, tickets are available on the Roxy website, [www.roxytheatre.ca](http://www.roxytheatre.ca), and by calling (519) 371-2833.

## CELEBRATING OUR ANGLICAN COMMUNITY: 1849-2024

ANNE SEYMOUR

In 2024, we celebrate the 175th year of the Anglican community in our area. Following the completion of a survey of the Sydenham area in 1840, pioneers settled in the townships around the village of Sydenham (Owen Sound), which was surrounded by wilderness. The nearest settlements at the time were Barrie, Goderich and Elora.

In 1845, Bishop Strachan of the Diocese of Toronto visited the area and decided the area was not yet ready for a church to be established. However, Anglican services were conducted from 1846 in various locations by Reverend Rose without the official sanction of Bishop Strachan.

In 1849, Rev. Arthur Mullholland was appointed the first rector of St. George's Church. His parish covered an area

around Sydenham (Owen Sound) to Lake Huron (in the west), Barrie (in the east) and Guelph (in the south). During the next 50 years, many other churches were established in Grey and Bruce counties, including St Paul's, Southampton; Trinity, Wiarton; Christ Church, Meaford; and other churches in the Owen Sound community, including All Saints, Wolseley; Brooke and St. Thomas.

A special service of Baptism and Confirmation to celebrate our Anglican faith over the last 175 years will occur on October 6, 2024 at 3pm at St. George's Anglican Church in Owen Sound. We are fortunate to enjoy the legacy of all our parishioners, whether they come from near, or far, or have experienced a history with other churches.



# RURAL GARDENS OF GREY AND BRUCE COUNTIES

DAWN LONEY • • • • •

Gardeners know what a busy season fall can be. Planting up for the coming season is high on the To Do list. Harvesting produce and preparing for the winter come a close second. This is a great time of year to enjoy our beautiful counties in fall colours and to visit Rural Gardens of Grey and Bruce (RGGB) gardens. Details at [www.ruralgardens.ca](http://www.ruralgardens.ca)

**Fiddlehead Nursery** at 235595 Grey Road #13, Kimberley, is the venue for a Workshop: Creating an Edible Landscape. Ben Caesar will explain how to design a garden using fruit and nut trees, berry bushes, and perennial vegetables to create an edible perennial oasis. The workshop will take place September 22, 2-5pm, email [fiddleheadnursery@gmail.com](mailto:fiddleheadnursery@gmail.com) to sign up (\$40/person). (705) 441-1217

[www.fiddleheadnursery.ca](http://www.fiddleheadnursery.ca)

**Earth Bound Gardens** at 14 Hea Rd, South Bruce Peninsula at Red Bay will feature 26 varieties of apples, 6

varieties of pears, and 4 varieties of plums on-site daily (open 9:00-5:00) and at Lion's Head Market on Saturdays. Brenda Sutherland's nephew, Tim, owner of Oaklane Orchards in Ravenna, will provide the produce. (519) 372-7187 or (519) 534-2483 [www.earthboundgardens.com](http://www.earthboundgardens.com)

**Keppel Croft Gardens** at 504156 Grey Road #1, Georgian Bluffs at Big Bay is the site of Keppel Henge. Bill and Dawn Loney invite you to bring your autumn picnic and enjoy the chance to observe the Autumn Equinox on September 22. The sun's shadow will cross the henge marker stone at 1:15 p.m. EDT. Later in the apple season bring your basket and walk the Nature Trail. It's a chance to take a bite out of an organic unnamed apple and then decide whether or not you would wish to harvest more from the tree. Open Wednesday to Sunday 10-5, or by chance. (519) 534-1090

[www.keppelcroft.com](http://www.keppelcroft.com) [keppelcroft@gmail.com](mailto:keppelcroft@gmail.com)

# OWEN SOUND'S FIRST MODEL TRAIN SHOW!

ZACK McCLEAN • • • • •

Trains are coming to Owen Sound, though they may be smaller than the ones you remember! On September 28th, the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre will host a model train show and sale at the Owen Sound Legion. It will feature vendors coming from across – and even beyond – Grey and Bruce, to sell, trade, and show off train models, layouts, and dioramas.

Train models have been a part of our museum for a long time, as they give us a way to represent local railway history that moves past static photographs and images. Not only that, but modellers create incredible pieces through their careful work and attention to detail. At this show and sale you'll be able to see just how much work and care goes into their creations.

Whether you're an old hand at modelling, new to the hobby, or just think trains are cool, we'll have something for you at this show. Vendors are bringing pieces for sale from indoor to garden-scale pieces, including some items built from scratch. There will be working layouts with moving trains, and plenty of variety in the pieces you can see.

The Owen Sound Model Train Show & Sale runs from 10:00am-4:00pm on September 28 at the Owen Sound Legion, 1450 2nd Avenue West. Admission to the show is just

\$5, and includes admission to the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre as well. For more information, contact [info@waterfrontheritage.ca](mailto:info@waterfrontheritage.ca) or (519) 371-3333.





# INDUCTEES TO BE ENSHRINED IN MUSIC HALL OF FAME

ARNIE CLARK • • • • •

The votes are in for the class of 2024. Five new inductees will take their place in the Bruce Grey Music Hall of Fame (HOF) induction event, scheduled for Sunday, September 29. This year's entertainment legends include the late Neil Raynsford, Sue Murdoch, Gord Cottrill, Peter Irwin, and The Dimensions band.

**Neil Raynsford**, an accomplished drummer and drum teacher entertained with many groups over the years, and subsequent to his move to the East Coast, he became a movie star of sorts, appearing in sitcoms and television productions, including a stint with Trailer Park Boys.



**Sue Murdoch**, who has assumed her late husband's (Bill Murdoch) role on the Music HOF committee, is being recognized for her many years of involvement with groups such as Owen Sound's Teen Tones, the True Country Show band, the Jailhouse Rock group and more recently, Bognor Jam's Ridge River Ramblers. She also served as Artistic Director of the Sweet Adelines for more than 20 years.



**Gord Cottrill** is full of musical talent. He is a master of many instruments and has backed many groups, most notably on the pedal steel guitar, as part of Stompin' Tom Connors' band.



**Peter Irwin** is no stranger to performing. As a youngster he was competing and winning vocal contests. He eventually went on to portray the music of Elvis Presley which led to a championship performance at the former Collingwood Elvis Festival. He has entertained in Memphis at the Elvis World Images event and was selected as the top performer at the People's Elvis Award extravaganza.



The Walkerton-Hanover based group, **The Dimensions**, was one of the region's most sought after acts in Bruce-Grey. Besides entertaining at countless sold-out events, the group performed at such venues as the Royal York Hotel, Casa Loma, and Ontario Place.



The 2024 Music Hall of Fame celebration is being held in the Memorial Hall, Owen Sound Legion. Entertainment starts at 1:00 p.m. The HOF event will also feature live entertainment by the Ridge River Ramblers. Sue Murdoch, Gord Cottrill, Peter Irwin, and surviving members of The Dimensions, who will perform with the Ramblers. Admission tickets (\$25) are available at Bayshore Country Feeds or by contacting (519) 371-3918 or (519) 376-9672.

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# FALL FOR BOOKS IN GREY BRUCE!

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Saturday October 5  
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11:00 – 5:00 books and authors show (no charge)  
and  
7:00 Special guest Wingfield Stories  
author Dan Needles

Tickets: at eventbrite,  
or email: [adultprograms@westgreylibrary.com](mailto:adultprograms@westgreylibrary.com)  
For more info contact [info@westgreylibrary.com](mailto:info@westgreylibrary.com).



West Grey Public Library  
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**FOR THE LOVE OF READING**

Saturday, October 5  
Durham Town Hall  
11am - 8pm

<b>11am Local Authors' Book Sale</b> 12 authors Dozens of stories	<b>1pm Thanh Campbell</b> Orphan 32 A tale of loss, gain and hope	<b>2pm Local Author Spotlight</b> Dazzling! Local authors strut their stuff
<b>4pm The Writer as Reader</b> Panel Discussion 4 local authors	<b>5:30pm Literary Fare</b> Normal	<b>7pm Dan Needles</b>

## LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK FAIR

1:00 – 4:00 Friday October 18 and Saturday October 19  
throughout the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library

The library is hosting a book fair with over 30 authors in attendance! Connect with authors who write poetry, fiction, non-fiction, children and young adult books. Get to know the authors, purchase their books, and enter to win some library themed prizes! No charge.

For more info contact [info@library.osngupl.ca](mailto:info@library.osngupl.ca).



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[www.osngupl.ca](http://www.osngupl.ca) 519-376-6623

# SYDENHAM BRUCE TRAIL YOUTH HIKING PROGRAM

JEANNINE KRALT

Are you interested in checking out the Bruce Trail with kids but not sure where to start; or hoping to get outside more as a family and looking for resources to help? The Sydenham Bruce Trail Club (SBTC) is pleased to announce a new Youth Hiking Program (YHP), launching this fall.

YHP Coordinator Jeannine Kralt created the program to offer more opportunities and resources for families and youth in our region to get outdoors and into nature. The YHP is accessible to children and youth under the age of 18, and available as both an independent self-led program, and as a partnership with other youth-serving organizations in our community. The program will also be supported by occasional family-friendly, guided Discovery Hikes.

Four badges are the core of the program, including a free badge given to any youth who have recently hiked along the Bruce Trail in the Sydenham section (between Blantyre and Wiarton). Additional badges will give participants the

opportunity to observe changes through the seasons, learn more about species found along the trail, or challenge themselves to completing more of the Bruce Trail in Grey County.

We're thankful for the generous support of Community Foundation Grey Bruce, who have provided funding to facilitate the program's launch. The funding has been used, in part, to acquire a canopy to support programming, and to source badges. The Youth Hiking Program is expected to launch on Bruce Trail Day, October 6. Keep watch on SBTC's social media or <https://sydenhambruce trail.ca/> for more details in the weeks to come.

If you are part of an organization interested in talking further about the program, are interested in being involved, or have general questions about the YHP, please contact Jeannine at [YouthHikingCoordinator@sydenhambruce trail.ca](mailto:YouthHikingCoordinator@sydenhambruce trail.ca).

**Fall in love with the River District**

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October 26

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November 16

Festival of Northern Lights  
Nov 16 to Jan 5

Moonlight Madness  
December 6

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# HOGBIN REFLECTING

MARK SFIRRI

excerpted from an article published in *Woodwork* magazine in 2008

Imagine that you're several years into your woodworking career and you have a brilliant idea to turn a piece of wood that's 77" in diameter by 14" thick, over 450 board feet of lumber. Then imagine actually doing it! And doing it over fifty years ago, when variable speed woodturning lathes were still in their infancy and were hardly sufficient for a turning of this magnitude. But that's what Stephen Hogbin did, and while his accomplishment doesn't begin to define him, this feat of engineering and personal bravery resonates with me. At about the same time, I was turning a piece 36" in diameter and 1-1/2" thick, feeling that I was taking my life into my hands. What Hogbin turned was nearly twenty times the mass of my effort. He went on to cut it up into pieces and created two chairs, a table, and a shelf, a concept that he had worked out in miniature as a maquette before taking on the full-sized version. This work served as the centrepiece for an exhibition in Toronto in 1974 that gained Stephen Hogbin international recognition. It announced his arrival on the woodturning scene and on the furniture scene, in one fell swoop.

Stephen Hogbin was born in England in 1942. In the late 1950s, he studied woodworking at Rycotewood College and later studied industrial design and the Royal College of Art. In 1968, Hogbin moved to Canada to teach at Sheridan College School of Design. He decided to stay in Canada, living first in Toronto and later settling in Lake Charles, and then Owen Sound.

In the early 1970s, Stephen was developing vessels in a different way. He turned a bowl that had some honeycombing in the middle of it. He saw several options: throw it away, fill in the blemish, or remove the defect. He decided on the last and cut the bowl in half. He looked at the cross-section and considered different ways of recombining the halves, beginning a series of explorations into cut and reassembled pieces that he called "fragmentals."

"Initially I was attracted by the conceptual possibilities of the process and not too worried about function or beauty. I was rebelling against my industrial design background, maybe even the Establishment," he said. "Clearly, the impulse of the times was to deconstruct established ideas."

...If you read his essays or his books, you get a greater understanding of the depth of thought that goes into the objects that Hogbin made. For example, if his earlier work emerged on the scene today, it seems to me that it would have an even greater impact than it did then, because the

field is so much larger and has a higher profile. Years later, his work is still completely on the cutting edge...Perhaps it's his fearlessness that allowed him to thrive as a creative designer and maker for all these years, never letting what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles get in this way.

*In 2017, Stephen established Intersections Wood Gallery and Studio in downtown Owen Sound which has evolved into Intersections Wood Collaborative ([intersectionswoodcollaborative.org](http://intersectionswoodcollaborative.org)), a vibrant centre for workshops, discussions, community projects, and lectures about wood and woodworking. There is an online exhibition of Stephen's work at [stephenhogbin.ca](http://stephenhogbin.ca). Stephen passed away in January, 2022.*



# THE BALLAD OF JOE COUTURE

ROB ROLFE • • • • •

*tell us the one about joe couture*

well joe couture was a mighty big man  
stood six foot four in his moccasins

but joe wasn't the type to sit around  
so he walked that day into owen sound

when shopkeeper tom asked big joe  
what business he had joe needed some salt

*for his fish so he thought up a plan*  
i'll wager i can lift the heaviest barrel of

salt you have well the man he cast joe  
*a challenging glance but inside he's thinking*

should i take a chance is that so joe  
*if you lift up that barrel and carry it home*

*then it's all yours and no payment owed*  
with that big joe replied please step aside

he snatched up that barrel by its chins  
joe hoisted it onto his shoulders in no time

and flashed a big grin because this was  
a wager he was bound to win and he did

*so that's the one about joe couture*


- Hart Rouge (*The Ginger Press*, 2017)



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Book & Lyrics by: **CHAD BEGUELIN** Book by: **BOB MARTIN**

Music by: **MATTHEW SKLAR** Based on an original concept by: **JACK VIERTEL**

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