

# the owen sound

vol. 2 no. 4 summer 2021

A wide-angle, fisheye aerial photograph of Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada. The image shows a large body of water (Owen Sound) in the center, surrounded by a mix of residential and commercial buildings, parking lots, and green spaces. The horizon is visible at the top and bottom of the frame, creating a circular effect.

**the community  
magazine for  
these times!**

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- Downtown Artwalk  
+ Urban Sketchers
- Summerfolk
- Symphony in the Barn
- ...and so much more!



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**SUMMERFOLK 46**

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MANAGING EDITOR: Maryann Thomas

DESIGN: Shelley Jackson Design

EMAIL: maryann@gingerpress.com

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### esteemed contributors

Aly Boltman, Nancy Brown, Morag Budgeon,  
Lesley Chalmers, Joan Crowe, Marcia Cunningham  
Nadia Danyluk, Anne Dondertman, Paul Eichhorn,  
Virginia Gallop, Kristine Hammel, Bill Hawkes,  
Dave Hawkins, Stephen Hogbin, Sandra J. Howe,  
James Keelaghan, Ted Myatt, Monica Norris,  
Rachel Oliver, Sebastian Ostertag, Josh Ritchie,  
Rob Rolfe, Richard-Yves Sitoski, Paul Wagenaar

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### about the front cover:

This eye-catching view of the Owen Sound Harbour was taken by John Fearnall, a photographer, teacher, writer, podcaster and thinker who regularly shares his art and ideas under his pseudonym Good Noise. You can see more of his work at [www.GoodNoise.ca](http://www.GoodNoise.ca).

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# FROM MY DESK . . . . .

**P**hew! We made it! Preparing this issue of *The Owen Sounder* was fraught with the challenges of changing and confusing and sometimes counter-intuitive local, provincial, national and international COVID-19 protocols: Open? Closed? Open a little bit? Take-out? Eat outside? Pickup? Family bubbles? Work bubbles? Groups of five? Groups of ten? You know the dance!

We are delighted this issue to be introducing you to COVID cartoonist **Rachel Oliver**, who has been producing a cartoon *every single day* since March, 2020. Her acerbic wit highlights much of what we're all experiencing. See page 19 to get your name on her distribution list.

We sincerely congratulate **Summerfolk** and **Symphony in the Barn** and **SweetWater** and **Orchestra North** and all the other organizers for tenaciously moving forward with their annual summer programs. We all need their music more than ever, and they're working hard to make it happen somehow, somehow. There's not a lot of programming details here due to changing protocols, but we've provided contact information for you. Get in touch and give them all your support – financial and audience – to make sure they're here for us in years to come.

AND, we've taken the huge plunge and brought back the award-winning downtown event ArtWalk! Eight galleries will have special exhibitions and demonstrations from 10 to 4 on Saturday June 26. We've added the Urban Sketchers Outdoor Art Competition – artists will be painting outdoors during the day (rain or shine) throughout the downtown. Programming details will be posted as they become available at the art walk urban sketchers page on Facebook.

Stay safe and healthy!  
- Maryann Thomas

# SUMMERFOLK 2021

JAMES KEELAGHAN . . . . .

**W**e want you to know that we are planning for a Summerfolk in 2021. It won't be a normal year, but we're hoping for live music, should health guidelines allow. If we all do our part, keep a distance, mask, and stay safe now, then live music can rise again this summer. Details will be posted at [www.summerfolk.org](http://www.summerfolk.org) as they become available. Our favourite song written by the immortal Stan Rogers carries more meaning this year than ever. Let's all sing together now:

*Rise again, rise again!*

*Though your heart it be broken and life about to end*

*No matter what you've lost, be it a home, a love, a friend*

*Then like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again!*

# RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

PAUL WAGENAAR . . . . .

Imagine you have 200 people coming for dinner, every day. Like a competitor on a TV cooking show, you won't know what your ingredients are until 10am. A recipe for a disaster? No! This has happened six days a week at Owen Sound Hunger and Relief Effort (OSHaRE) since the pandemic began. Fortunately, there are other resources. Over 900 volunteer hours are used to prepare the almost 8,000 take-out meals generated each month, while conforming to Covid-19 safety guidelines.

Each morning, the mystery food is delivered by Food Rescue partners. Amounts vary: one day just a few boxes arrive; the next it might be over 1,000 pounds in 40 boxes. To the end of April 2021, contributions from grocery stores, restaurants, drug stores, and community members have exceeded 26 tons of diverted food.

Volunteers weigh and sort all donations. Much of the produce must be used immediately as it has a limited shelf life. Some is shared with other community food organizations. The produce that cannot be used is composted. The vast majority is cleaned and prepped for use by staff who have figured out a menu for that evening. The volunteers

begin cooking so they can be ready at 4:30pm when the doors open and they start serving the hot meals in a smooth efficient way, greeting each guest with a smile and a hello. Utilizing procedures developed by Public Health, the masked-up guests maintain social distancing.

At 6pm, the doors close and clean up begins. By 6:30, the lights are off and the volunteers leave. More than 200 food insecure people have been fed and the game of "what's for dinner?" begins again the next morning.

OSHaRE has provided more than 100,000 meals since the pandemic began. Supported by all levels of government, area funders and countless donors, they make the alleviation of hunger their core value. The daily United Way Food Rescue run helps to support OSHaRE with transportation of the rescued food. In the past 16 months, more than 70 tons of food has been rescued and repurposed into meals throughout the region, with OSHaRE as the hub.

*Paul Wagenaar is Food Security Co-ordinator at United Way Bruce-Grey.*

# JOSH RITCHIE COMBINES MUSIC AND ACTIVISM . . . . .

Local singer-songwriter Josh Ritchie is set to release new music with an EP in preparation of his second album *Love At the End of the World*. In a three-track sneak peak of what's to come, Ritchie brings a new level of maturity to his award-winning songwriting; lyrics inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement call for change and deal with the wealth of emotions that come with standing up for equality.

It was the act of leading a Black Lives Matter march in his home town of Wiarton that inspired Ritchie to begin writing this body of work. He combined themes of leading a protest with the raw and ugly emotions surrounding systemic racism and police brutality into a thought-provoking trilogy of songs. The protesters who marched in solidarity to support the Black Lives Matter movement can be heard in the dying embers of the record. Without that experience, this EP would never have been written. These songs are set to release on the one-year anniversary of the event with the hopes of continuing the narrative and fostering change.

Ritchie has always admired music with a strong message. With influences including U2, Hozier, Jimi Hendrix and John Lennon, he learned to love and appreciate a good protest song. He believes that art helps drive culture and it can even go on to define a generation and that artists of all genres have a duty to help fuel that culture to be more accepting and understanding. This EP is his own humble attempt to help do so.

Fans of Ritchie's music will know of his poignant, moving lyrics delivered by his charming and intimate vocals; they should expect nothing less here. He articulates the cascading emotions of this record with bone-chilling accuracy as he leads you on a journey from painful outrage to triumphant hopefulness all while making one thing absolutely clear: Black Lives Matter.

Ritchie's new EP is available to pre-save now on Spotify and will be released to all music streaming platforms on June 13. Be sure to follow him on social media @joshritchiemusic because even more new music is just around the corner. For more information contact [joshritchiemusic@gmail.com](mailto:joshritchiemusic@gmail.com).



# MUSEUM RELEASES NATURAL HISTORY FILMS

MONICA NORRIS • • • • •

Have you ever imagined what creatures lived in the waters covering the Georgian Bay area 450 million years ago, and what they might have looked like? Wonder how the Niagara Escarpment formed, and what makes it so special? The Craigleith Heritage Depot has released two new films, *Craigleith Fossils* and *The Niagara Escarpment*, that focus on the natural history of Grey County. These short documentaries are the latest in the museum's award-winning film series REEL History.

Examine the fossils of ancient sea creatures that can be found in the shale and limestone of the larger rock formations that form the Niagara Escarpment. See the amazing environment, watch interviews with advocates and experts, and learn from the Craigleith Heritage Depot museum's collection. Made and produced in The Blue Mountains, these documentaries explore the area's amazing natural history features. The museum teamed up with talented local filmmakers, Mountain Goat Film Company, to create these stunning films that highlight the natural wonders of the Blue Mountains.

The geological landscapes in Grey County have provided environments for unique ecosystems to flourish for millions of years, allowing for a rich biological diversity both in the past and in the present. Life depends upon the abundance of resources the area holds. Studying ancient life can reveal clues about how the earth's environments



*Shale containing a complete Trilobite fossil from the Craigleith area. From the Craigleith Heritage Depot museum's natural history collection. Photo taken by the Georgian Bay Photography Club.*

have changed over time and how animals adapted or did not. With today's global climate crisis at the forefront of concerns, observing and learning from our natural history is relevant in continuing our efforts to live in a world that is habitable. These films reveal the value of our local natural environment and encourage viewers to explore and support the biodiversity that we all want to preserve.

Watch these newly released films on the Blue Mountains Public Library YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheBlueMountainsPublicLibrary> and go to the REEL History playlist, where you can watch all the museum's award-winning films on local cultural and natural history.

Congratulations to Mountain Goat Films for receiving a 2021 Telly Award for *Craigleith Fossils*!

# SWEETWATER NEXT WAVE SHOWCASE

Paul Eichhorn • • • • •

The SweetWater Music Festival is once again providing a virtual stage for aspiring, emerging musicians during its third annual Next Wave Showcase (June 16 to 30). They decided to go this route due to COVID-19 restrictions, but they also found it offered a much larger audience and a wider range of performers to take part from across Ontario.

The 2021 Showcase will feature 10 performers selected by SweetWater Artistic Director Edwin Huizinga from a record number of applicants. The lineup includes string performers, pianists, and vocalists ranging in age from 14 to early 20s. It gets underway on June 16 with a Showcase preview featuring a welcome by Huizinga. Over the following days, each

performer will be highlighted individually. Along with their performance, each will provide a brief introductory video to talk about themselves and the piece they are performing. Huizinga will select the Top 4 performers to be part of a special Mentorship/Internship Program during SweetWater 2021 (September 16 -19).

Everyone is welcome to tune in and watch the performances via SweetWater's website or one of our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube). The performances will remain online for the rest of 2021. To find out more and see details about the entire 2021 Next Wave Showcase lineup, go to [sweetwatermusicfestival.ca](https://sweetwatermusicfestival.ca).

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# RIDING THE RAILS: OWEN SOUND HARBOUR TO BEN ALLEN

SANDRA J. HOWE . . . . .

Summer is a great time to get out and explore local trails. Especially with current travel restrictions, we are adventuring close to home. Riding our historic rail trails is a fun option. Fresh air, exercise, learning local history, and meeting our native flora and fauna are all part of the pleasure. One simple yet fascinating journey takes you by bike or foot from the west side of the harbour along the old GTR/CN rail corridor to Ben Allen. “All aboard!”

The Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) completed a branch line from Park Head to Owen Sound in 1894. In 1923, Canadian National assumed ownership of the GTR, and continued to run a busy passenger and freight service. The present Community Waterfront Heritage Centre (CWHC) was built in 1931 by CN as a train station to replace the original GTR Station. Hop on your bike here and head north along the harbour.

In the late 1800s this area was full of industry and rail yards. Pass by the boat launch and grain elevators, and cross the arched bridge over the Pottawatomi River into Kelso Park. Follow the waterfront path or go straight through the parking lots at Kelso Park. This area was originally the Newash indigenous community and, after the 1857 treaty, it

became the village of Brooke.

Notice the blackness in the parking lot gravel, remnants of coal storage and rail activities. At the north end of Kelso, the trail starts a slow uphill grade along Grey Rd.1. Trains cannot climb steep grades so rail trails make very easy pedalling. Soon you cross the road and continue northwest through woodlands and suburbs.

The trail curves toward the west, ascending gradually. Overhanging forests provide cool shade. Flowers and shrubs bloom. Much of the old rail bed is raised, providing lovely woodland views. Birds, bees, and butterflies are plentiful. Once across Range Rd., you join the Georgian Bluffs Multi-Use Trail. The Bruce Trail, ATVs, horses, bikes, and hikers all share this route so be courteous and cautious. This section has a friendly rural feel. Continue on to the summit at Ben Allen. A “ben” in Scotland is a mountain so I imagined this was the origin of the community name. Turns out, Ben Allen (1830-1912) was also a local politician and merchant. The return journey is mostly downhill easy cruising. From CWHC to Ben Allen and back to CWHC is a leisurely two-hour ride. Enjoy!



# UPDATE: GEORGIAN BAY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

MORAG BUDGEON • • • • •

**L**ike so many others, we had to face hard truths and make decisions regarding our business plan for the Georgian Bay Centre for the Arts (GBArts). After much consideration, we decided to continue our artistic mission and offer art and craft projects to make in the safety and comfort of your own home. Suitably dubbed Curbside Craft Kits, they became an instant success for those wanting to express themselves creatively.

It started with a bird glass window mosaic with all the materials cut (so much glass to cut, so many bleeding and cramped hands!) and supplies included. The selection grew to include barn quilts, cold wax painting, felted cactus pin cushions, five-activity craft kits for kids, more mosaic patterns and string rainbows.

As the pandemic wore on, we looked at our shelves of generously donated craft supplies. We reached out to several community service groups and offered them kids' craft kits for their clients. In a flurry of activity, with help from a few stalwart volunteers, we produced and donated over 500 small craft kits and activities that children could make at home. Our craft revolution was in full swing!

During the second lockdown, we paired a weekly

take-away dinner prepared by our chef Marnie Weiss in our Palatte Café with a craft project. The cheeky 'Craft Dinners' became a sensation: they provided a bright spot during an otherwise bleak winter lockdown. The experience we have gained from the craft kits led to an order from a local organization for 1050 kits for their clients. We are so grateful that we had this contract to keep us busy through this most recent lockdown and are able to give our café staff some hours (and stay solvent!). Our intention is to continue with the Curbside Craft Kits in whatever form they will take next: Cottage Craft Kits? Travel Craft Kits? Car Craft Kits? Outdoor Craft Kits? Group Craft Kits?

A global pandemic is a twist we never saw coming when we opened The Georgian Bay Centre for the Arts in the late fall of 2019. But we adjusted and moved in an unexpected direction. I congratulate all businesses that were able to re-invent themselves quickly and efficiently this past year. Covid-19 has proven how resilient and adaptive we can all be when there is no other option!

For a list of all upcoming classes, Curbside Crafts Kits, and info about The Palette Café, visit [www.gbarts.ca](http://www.gbarts.ca).

## OWEN SOUND FARMERS' MARKET VENDOR PROFILE: SWEET THINGS FROM DEJONG ACRES

**O**ne of the friendliest faces at the Owen Sound Farmers' Market is that of Anita DeJong. Her Sweet Things booth is tucked into the southeast corner of the building. The DeJong farm, located near Lake Charles just north of Owen Sound, specializes in producing locally grown fresh and frozen meat. Their lamb cuts are shoulder, leg, chops, rack, ground and shanks; they also have lamb garlic sausage and lamb burger patties, as well as premium washable lamb skins. The pork, from their new Berkshire herd, is available whole for roasting and cut. Rabbit, a lean white meat that is healthy, sustainable and gaining in popularity, is available whole or legs and saddles. Anita makes a lovely rabbit pie as well. The poultry – including chicken, turkeys, geese, and ducks – is available whole and cut. There's fresh duck eggs too!



And Anita bakes up a storm on a regular basis with a variety of scones, meat pies and other sweets and savouries arriving regularly from her kitchen. Visit Anita Saturday mornings at the Owen Sound Farmers' Market from 8:00 to 12:30, or take a drive to Lake Charles to experience her farm store. Check hours and availability first at (519) 379-7728.



# URBAN SKETCHERS: 'SEE THE WORLD ONE DRAWING AT A TIME'

ANNE DONDERTMAN • • • • •

The fact that the Urban Sketchers movement was started by a journalist is perhaps telling, as the now global movement is grounded in the idea of being truthful witnesses, and capturing what is seen from the artist's own direct observation. In 2007, Seattle journalist and illustrator Gabriel Campanario started a group, and later a blog, to promote journalistic drawing. It attracted a large number of followers who were passionate about sketching and storytelling, and in 2009 Urban Sketchers was established as a non-profit organization, 'dedicated to fostering a global community of artists who practice on-location drawing'. On-location drawing (as opposed to drawing from memory or from photographs) is seen as a tool to tell the stories of our surroundings, particularly in cities, towns and villages. The other crucial element of the movement is the idea of community, forging connections between artists around the world who create and share their work according to the Urban Sketchers approach, as

exemplified in their manifesto:

1. We draw on location, indoors or out, capturing what we see from direct observation.
2. Our drawings tell the story of our surroundings, the places we live and where we travel.
3. Our drawings are a record of time and place.
4. We are truthful to the scenes we witness.
5. We use any kind of media and cherish our individual styles.
6. We support each other and draw together.
7. We share our drawings online.
8. 8. We show the world, one drawing at a time.

Our area has its own local group dedicated to urban sketching – Grey-Bruce-Sketchers on facebook. During Art Walk on June 26 there is an opportunity for artists of all levels to join the movement by sketching outdoors in Owen Sound's downtown core. Organizers have worked with the city and local public health to



ensure a safe experience for artists and onlookers alike. Pre-registration is essential, locations are pre-assigned and social distancing is in effect. Contact [maryann@gingerpress.com](mailto:maryann@gingerpress.com) for details. At the end of the day each artist may, if they wish, submit one artwork for judging and exhibition. All the submissions will be exhibited in downtown storefronts for two weeks following the event, and first and second cash prizes will be awarded.

Another key principle of Urban Sketchers is that sketching in public creates opportunities for positive interaction. When visiting the downtown galleries during ArtWalk, make a point of looking out for the artists, whose locations are marked by balloons, along both sides 2nd Avenue East and at the Farmers' Market, Jervis Bay Park and Queen's Park.

## STARDUST

BILL HAWKES • • • • •

We know that the Owen Sound night sky is exceptional. In our corner of the cosmos, night viewing is to be envied. As for the greater universe, one thing that we now know is that it is beyond huge. One new estimate puts the universe at about 93 billion light years in diameter. To think that, as a child, I thought the walk home from school was long!

Back on Earth, my Owen Sound friends and I may one day ponder the night sky together. Meanwhile, we for sure like to ponder issues of the day together. Our views and values are very much tested by the times. For some of us, our

very worldview may be in need of significant change. For others of us, small things now matter the most. We focus on acquiring and sharing coping skills. (The is a category where many of us find ourselves.) We mix and match it all as best we can.

I called a young friend recently to ask how he was doing. "When folks ask these days how I am doing, I say 'Sixty-five percent.' Sixty-five percent is the new 'Great!'"

He then asks me how I am doing. "About the same," I say. "Sixty-five percent."

"Splendid!" he says.

# UPDATE: INTERSECTIONS WOOD GALLERY + STUDIO

STEPHEN HOGBIN • • • • •

A *diamond is forever* as the saying goes. Wood, on the other hand, is prone to decay; however, the TVO program *Digging for Britain*, shows that the remains of wood can survive for thousands of years when the conditions are right.

Above my desk and computer there is an artwork by Australian artist, Norman Creighton, that includes fossilized wood. It is the cross section of half a log, probably the resilient Eucalyptus River Red Gum tree. Ingeniously, the log looks huge as there is a tiny model of a small sawmill made from silver just beneath. In Australia they refer to these sawmills as “spot mills.” The mill is taken to the tree to convert it into timber boards. (The language is interesting as the wood is referred to as timber rather than lumber, a fine and interesting distinction. Timber is assertive and alive whereas lumber is lazy by comparison: Lumbering around lacks a certain athletic ring. And then there is the need for lumbar support! The piratical retort of *Shiver me timbers*, however, makes it clear waves are beating on the ship’s timbers. *Shiver me lumber* just does not cut it!) Wood will last a long time when treated properly against the waves of time.

Trees collect carbon and diamonds are made of carbon. Diamonds and trees are, in my mind, related. They each have

their own brilliance of colour, texture and density. Recently I had a commission to make two engagement rings from wood. No diamonds needed!

Once diamonds are dug out of the ground, that’s it; trees, however, can be planted again and again. So really, trees are forever and diamonds? Not so much. Simplistic logic or profound truth, trees are our future: they capture carbon and eventually reveal a life well spent.

In case you haven’t heard about this devastating fire just south of Saugeen Shores, please read on. On March 24, the woodworking shop of Claire and Elaine Stoltzfus was totally destroyed by a massive fire, probably ignited by a lightning strike during an extreme thunderstorm. A number of Intersections members, including myself, have often visited the Stoltzfus’ shop, enjoying a chat with Claire and Elaine and acquiring some amazing wood from their enormous collection. Much of their wood was completely lost in the fire, along with their vast array of woodworking equipment. A fundraiser has been initiated by Rachel Stoltzfus, daughter of Claire and Elaine, to help the family cope with this enormous loss. Anyone wishing to participate is encouraged to do so through this Go-Fund-Me link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/stoltzfus-woodshop-lightning-fire-relief-fund>.

# PERSEPHONE MARKET GARDEN

KRISTINE HAMMEL • • • • •

P ersephone Market Garden (PMG) is a small family farm located just west of Owen Sound. It offers a CSA (Community Shared Agriculture) program in which members sign up for a share and receive fresh vegetables from mid-June to the end of October. Shares are fully customized, so you only get the vegetables you actually like to eat. Each share is accompanied by a newsletter with tips on storage and preparation, along with recipes. Pick-ups at the farm and delivery options are available. Our goal is to make it easy for you to connect with local agriculture and eat fresh, local and delicious produce.

For six years, PMG has offered subsidized vegetable

shares to members of the local community with financial barriers to accessing fresh, local produce. The application for a subsidy is simple: send a note to [kristine@persephonedays.ca](mailto:kristine@persephonedays.ca) that briefly explains why you would like our fresh vegetables and what financial barriers you are facing to healthy eating. No financial details necessary!

The season is just getting underway. Deliveries start in mid-June. Get in touch today to inquire about the availability of subsidized and regular shares.

*Kristine Hammel and her family grow 40 types of herbs and veggies, lots of trees, and big dreams about nurturing soils, ecosystems, and communities. <http://persephonedays.ca/>*

# WISDOM OF THE WORM

RICHARD-YVES SITOSKI • • • • •

As Owen Sound Poet Laureate, I have a mandate to create art pertaining to nature and sustainability. Mindful of this, in January I decided to turn away from COVID related concerns back to sustainability issues. Wanting to get right into the nitty gritty of our relationship with the planet, the first thing I thought about was, well, grit – how we take the soil for granted, without really appreciating where it comes from and how it benefits us.

Enter the lowly worm. The role of worms in agriculture has long been acknowledged, and their role is becoming increasingly important in the composting of urban organic waste, but the little superstars never seem to get their due in song and story. I decided to write poems not just in honour of, or even to, but in collaboration with the red wigglers that are hard at work enriching our lives. And so, WormWords.

The project revolves around composting, and thus, impermanence. I was inspired by Tibetan prayer flags, which are hung in high places and inscribed with traditional prayers, mantras and good wishes. Over time, as the winds blow through them, and as the flags fade and disintegrate, the sentiments are released and get dispersed on the breeze and cover the globe.

For WormWords I composed poems meant to be fugitive, to last a brief time: the time it takes to print them, send them to the shredder, and work them into the mulch as bedding for the worms to break down and transform into something new. It all hinges on the fact that something created by people – poetry – while important in a social sense, is not necessary for our continued physical existence on the planet, but what the worms can create from it – nutrient-rich castings – absolutely is. It would be a true collaboration.

I visited two people who practise vermicomposting: Julie Lamberts, who has an agricultural operation up the peninsula,

and Lauren Alexandra Seyler, who vermicomposts within Owen Sound city limits. It was important to include both urban and rural practitioners, as an indication that vermicomposting is something we can all do. I interviewed both on the importance of vermicomposting to them personally, and the importance of vermicomposting not only to agriculture and sustainability, but to how humans exist on this planet.

I then read aloud the following poems in proximity to their vermicomposting bins:

1)  
walking this earth at first light  
means leaving the path you walked yesterday  
the dirt under your shoes  
might be the same dirt and the sky  
the same sky  
and the trees the same trees  
then again they might not  
you can never step on the same soil twice

2)  
we speak in refuse  
we hear in plants  
mulch is the translation

3)  
on a sunlit day a worm  
writhing with the planet below  
or is it above?

For the subsequent steps in the project and its ultimate result, you'll have to wait for the next issue of *The Owen Sounder*! I would like to thank Julie Lamberts, Lauren Alexandra Seyler and Laura Jillian; the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library; and private sponsors David Madill, John Tamming, and Andrew Armitage.

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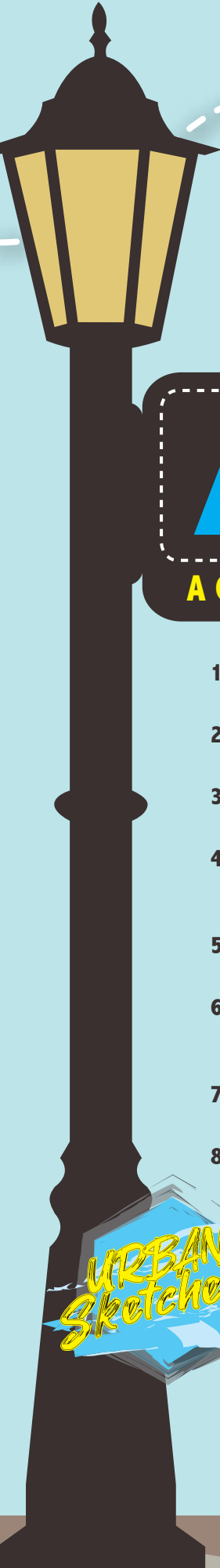
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WOOD GALLERY & STUDIO**  
10th St at 3rd Avenue East
5. **JEAN FRANCIS STUDIO**  
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6. **OWEN SOUND & NORTH GREY  
UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
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7. **THE OWEN SOUND ARTISTS' CO-OP**  
942 2nd Avenue East
8. **TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY**  
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**URBAN  
Sketchers**

**AND:** Urban Sketchers Art Competition featuring artists working outdoors throughout the downtown!

**NOTE:** Approved spaces for Urban Sketchers are limited; pre-registration is required by 5:00pm Friday June 25 at Grey Gallery. For more information, go to the art walk urban sketchers page on facebook.or phone (519) 376-4233.



# ARTWALK!


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  - outdoor artists
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# PLAY MUSIC, GET OUTSIDE, REPEAT!

SEBASTIAN OSTERTAG • • • • •

As surprising as it might seem, when the Orchestra North Owen Sound team got together to brainstorm ideas for this summer, we were excited at the possibilities for musicians in Grey-Bruce. With incredible local musicians, supportive arts organizations, world class artists who are passionate about performing and teaching, and families who are always eager to share their music with us, we knew we had the ingredients for something special. The result is not one, but two amazing programs this summer: Orchestra North US and Orchestra North Live.

Orchestra North UX, from July 12-16 is an online program running from 10:00-11:45am each morning (so you can get outside and enjoy the summer afterwards!). With programs for musicians of all ages and abilities, participants will get to play, learn and collaborate with our incredible artists, while getting exclusive access to faculty concerts, trivia, and other events. The program will culminate with a Festival Finale on Friday July 16. Tuition starts at \$120.00 (catch that early bird!) and family rates, bursaries, and financial aid are also available.

Amazing faculty are what makes Orchestra North UX so special. This summer we will be welcoming violinist Aaron Schwebel, concertmaster of the National Ballet of Canada to our team. Aaron is an incredibly accomplished violinist, and highly sought after chamber musician, and we look forward to him sharing his dedication and passion for music with our participants. Orchestra North UX will also feature members of Interro String Quartet, local viola virtuoso Jasmine



Schnarr, violinist/pianist Reanne Kruisselbrink, principal clarinetist of the Georgian Bay Symphony Rob Tite, cellist Sarah Steeves, and many more.

Orchestra North LIVE! is a chance to be part of the music in a safe and engaging way. Throughout the week of July 12-16, special pop up concerts and ensembles will appear in downtown Owen Sound. Listen to our amazing faculty perform, or bring your own instrument to join in our professionally led PALS (Play-A-Long-Symphony). With a keen eye on public health, we will announce the details of this program on our website. With so much going on, I invite you to learn more and register at [www.orchestranorth.com](http://www.orchestranorth.com), or find us on social media. If you know of a musician who might enjoy our programming, or would like to learn more about financial aid, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Have a great summer, and see you at Orchestra North!

## A QUIETLY PROUD OWEN SOUNDER

LESLEY CHALMERS • • • • •

I was thinking about the glorious history of Owen Sound. We have Billy Bishop – the WW1 flying ace – whose cousin I grew up with living across the street. There is Tom Thomson, the artist. And Agnes Macphail and Nellie Mooney McClung – two icons of Canadian women activists. All were rugged individualists.

Although my mother and father moved to Owen Sound in 1951, they did not go to kindergarten here so they can't be proclaimed Old Owen Sounders. My mother, Jill Chalmers, is 94 now, and has been in Owen Sound for 70 years. She was very active in education as a supply teacher and tutor for West Hill Secondary School. She was also the representative for Grey/Bruce for The University of Western Ontario for many years,

during which time she earned her own degree and helped countless others earn theirs. Education was very important to her; we children rarely had to go to the library as our homes were filled with overflowing floor-to-ceiling bookshelves.

Owen Sound enjoys the clean, fresh waters of Georgian Bay, with the blessedly warmer waters of Lake Huron just a hop, skip and a jump away. Our rivers and lakes are teeming with fish and are always clean enough to swim in. We have great farmland, once you pick the rocks of the escarpment out – hence the abundance of stone fences.

While the hallowed halls of O.S.C.V.I. are no more, I am proud to be a grade 13 graduate of that fine institution. Looking back on my upbringing, I wouldn't change a thing.



# A GOOD NEWS STORY FROM THE INGLIS FALLS ARBORETUM ALLIANCE

NANCY BROWN • • • • •

If you are not familiar with the Inglis Falls Arboretum located on Inglis Falls Road just south of the Owen Sound, you are missing out! According to Wikipedia, an arboretum is a botanical garden containing living collections of woody plants and is intended at least in part for scientific study, conservation, or educational purposes. It can play an important role in the preservation and management of trees and provide a place where endangered species can be protected. The Inglis Falls Arboretum is all of this and more. It is also used for meetings, recreation, dog walking, day camps, inspiration, and picnics. Trees from around the world have been planted in a five-acre section beginning in the 1960s; over the last 20 years, the Arboretum has seen the addition of a considerable collection of woody plants along a 1.4 km trail in a 21-acre section that are native to Grey Bruce.

This beautiful outdoor space is about to get even better

thanks to the efforts of the Inglis Falls Arboretum Alliance (IFAA) who have successfully secured a grant for their “Fulfilling the Dream” project. The IFAA is a volunteer committee of Grey Sauble Conservation Authority who help with planning, planting, and maintaining the Arboretum located at the Grey Sauble Conservation Administration Centre. The funding from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation grant will help create a more recognizable and educational arboretum through the labelling of tree, shrub, and woody vine specimens. This project will fulfill a 60-year-old dream of having a fully labelled arboretum where anyone can come and learn the identification of trees in our midst and from around the world. Funds will allow us to source and purchase of woody plants native to Grey Bruce, along a 1.4 km trail in a 21-acre section.

*Nancy Brown is Chair of the Inglis Falls Arboretum Alliance*



**GREY GALLERY**

We thank you for visiting Grey Gallery whether in person or at our online shop. Drawn to Nature, a celebration of plants from weeds to trees continues in June, followed by The Lucid Line, an exhibition of drawings by Lydia Knox, John Laughlin, Barbara Sprague and others.

Our regular hours are Wednesday to Saturday from noon to 5pm. Be sure to visit the adjoining garden as well as the gallery.

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*John Laughlin, Talk to the Hand*

# A STOCKING IN THREE PARTS: PART 1

TED MYATT • • • • •

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.*

**K**nitted stockings and socks – along with mitts, hats, scarves, and sweaters – have been hung by the chimney or fireplace around the world for ages, since the fire provided warmth to hasten the drying of wet winter woolies and other clothes. No-one knows when someone decided that a stocking was an idea place for a small gift at Christmas – a doll or toy, a book, perhaps some candy or exotic fruit. (Tradition holds that if the stocking owner had been judged as “naughty”, they received only a lump of coal.) That Clement Clarke Moore penned the above words in his poem “A Visit From St Nicholas” in about 1837 suggests that the practice of hanging stockings by the fireplace to hold small gifts at Christmas time was pretty well established.

But why only at Christmas? Knitters of all skill levels can easily create a stocking suitable for gift receiving at any time of the year. It is simply an oversized-sock: a bent tube closed at one end. For novice knitters, it is an excellent opportunity to use basic knitting skills on a garment about the size of a sweater sleeve that doesn't have to fit anybody. The project requires the equivalent of about 1 or 2 skeins of yarn, making it an excellent way to use up part skeins, working stripes or colour patterns of all kinds. You can use traditional Christmas colours, or coordinate with your home decor. Use the recipient's favourite colours, or those of their favourite superhero or sports team, or their alma mater.

Experienced knitters will have a canvas to display their skills, working intricate cables, twisted stitch patterns, knit/purl brocades, or complex Fair-Isle type jacquard patterns. Crafters can appliqué stars and trees, embroider the name of the stocking owner. Heck, get out the Bedazzler you've got in the bottom of your toolbox. Remember that ball of fancy fuzzy shaggy yarn you bought in a moment of weakness? Perfect for a fake-fur effect on a stocking cuff! Bazinga!

The point is, knit a Christmas stocking. Knit them for every member of your family. Make them plain or simple. You have no idea that you might be creating family heirlooms. A friend told me that during the Christmas family check-in over Zoom last year, he and a cousin gleefully compared the stockings made for them by their grandmother over 50 years ago.

In truth, nowadays many Christmas stockings are not hung by a chimney. They're found on Christmas morning



*Stocking knitted by Tim TenClay. Yarn is Caron “Skinny Cakes” in Rainbow colourway. Image courtesy Tim TenClay.*

lying at the foot of a bed or on a chair somewhere in the house.

Over three instalments in *The Owen Sounder*, I'll present instructions to knit a simple stocking with a garter stitch cuff, using basic knitting skills. You can fold the cuff down, or leave it unfolded. Follow along, and you'll have at least one to hang by your chimney for Christmas 2021. All you need to know is how to cast-on, knit, purl, simple decreases, and a basic increase method. Don't know how to do some of these things? Google and youtube will provide instructions for everything you need.

Two sample stockings were knitted for the pattern. Each was worked using 1 cake of “Carron Cakes” by Yarnspira-



tions on size 4 mm needles, at a gauge of 20 stitches per 10cm/4inches. These stockings are amply sized.

**Materials and supplies:** yarn; 2 circular needles in the size needed to achieve the gauge; a few locking stitch markers or small safety pins; a large needle suitable for darning in ends.

**Gauge:** Aim for 19 to 20 stitches per 10 cm/4inches. Consult the yarn label for the recommended optimal gauge, but make it snug. You want a firm fabric to hold all the goodies.

**Needles:** I recommend you use 2 circular needles rather than a set of 5 double-pointed needles to work this project. The stitch count significantly increases to form the heel, and there will be too many stitches to fit on 4 needles. If you want to work with double-pointed needles, you'll likely need 7 in total to work the project. That said, some knitters will prefer to use double pointed needles to work the toe shaping. As

the stitch count decreases, it is awkward, but do-able, to use 2 circular needles. Not sure how to knit a tube using 2 circular needles? This video will show you how: <https://www.berroco.com/learning-center/how-videos/how-knitting-two-circular-needles>

**Abbreviations:** k = knit; p = purl; k2tog = knit 2 together; SSK = slip slip knit; p2tog = purl 2 together

**Method:** Cast on 72 stitches, and divide them evenly on the 2 circular needles. Put a locking stitch marker into the first stitch. Join the work into a round, and work about 2 inches/5 cm in garter stitch, i.e, alternate rounds of knit and purl to form garter stitch ridges. This completes the stocking cuff. Now work the leg of the stocking, knitting in rounds til the work, measured from the cast-on edge, is 11 inches/27.5 cm.

In the next instalment, we'll work the easy magic of shaping the stocking for the heel. While you're waiting, why not start another stocking?

# POTTER'S FIELD AT GREENWOOD CEMETERY

ALY BOLTMAN • • • • •

More than 1200 people lie in their final resting place at Potter's Field in Greenwood Cemetery in Owen Sound, with no marker to honour a life lived or to note their 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, stillborns, toddlers, orphans, seniors, Indigenous people, many from Owen Sound's historic Black community, the working poor, the incarcerated and the homeless are buried there.

In 2018, at Owen Sound's Doors Open cemetery tour which I led, 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.

Throughout 2018 and 2019, the public provided input towards the monument's design, undertaken by a volunteer committee, working with Sanderson Monuments. This substantial memorial, inspired by the design of the first local British Methodist Episcopal Church's arched windows and the Black History Cairn designed by Bonita Johnson deMatteis, is built of solid granite and cast bronze. It was installed at Greenwood Cemetery in December, 2020, and covered for the winter. As a result of continuing restrictions due to COVID-19, the committee has been unable to schedule a spring gathering and the monument has now been uncovered. It is located at Greenwood Cemetery, north of the chapel on the east side of the ravine.

York University Professor Naomi Norquay is leading a complementary Potter's Field research project, in partnership

with Grey Roots which aims to learn about those interred at Potter's Field and an interpretive plaque to be installed at the memorial site this fall will be funded by The City of Owen Sound.

Senator Wanda Bernard Thomas eloquently summed up the importance of this monument in 2019: "Creating a monument for Greenwood Cemetery to recognize the many marginalized community members who died and were never recognized is a meaningful gesture in reconciling our histories of anti-Black racism and colonialism. Unmarked graves are one of the many ways our ancestors have been erased, dehumanized, mistreated and devalued...This monument is an example of how communities can enact justice for our forgotten ancestors." Owen Sound Mayor Ian Boddy, a relative of John Boddy, the first person interred in Potter's Field in 1858, said: "The Potter's Field Monument celebrates and recognizes more than 1000 unidentified – but not forgotten – interred people.

For more information, please email [ospfproject@gmail.com](mailto:ospfproject@gmail.com)





# MUSICIANS OUT OF WORK

DAVE HAWKINS • • • • •

When the venues shut down, musicians with gigs playing live music were put out of work. For some music makers this has been devastating. There are many types of musicians. Some play for fun, some play for a chance to be with friends, some play for extra spending money. Full time musicians, who have made music their life's work, have been hit the hardest with this pandemic.

Playing live concerts can be the greatest revenue stream for many full time musicians. Spotify and YouTube are not sharing much of their profits with the majority of content providers. Selling CDs or downloads from your website has less demand now as people listen to music in different ways.

Musicians are creative types who have found ways to deal with this new reality. Many have taken this time to write and record. Others are teaching or exploring other creative activities. Few of these alternatives provide the income that was lost from performing live.

There are muscles flexed when you perform live music. You must concentrate deeply for 3 to 4 minutes for each song. You must flex muscles in your vocal chords and diaphragm if you sing. You must perform complicated and

delicate manoeuvres with your hands or feet or your lips and tongue depending on the instrument you play. You must be willing to engage a group of people and be in the spotlight for a period of time. All of these muscles can and do atrophy.

The longer the venues are not allowed to have live music the more musicians will give up playing. Less people will be drawn to create and perform. All of society loses if that happens. There are a variety websites taking donations and distributing funds to specific areas in the musician community. You can look up you favourite artist/performer and donate directly and add encouragement to them to hang in there.

People gathering in the future may look different than it has been in the past. The sooner we are able to gather safely the better it will be for musicians and the many people who love live performance.

*David Neil George Hawkins has been immersed in the music community in Grey and Bruce for 35 years from retail to performance to hosting events. Search "David Neil George Hawkins" on YouTube for his original creations. And subscribe!! Contact Dave at davehawkins100@gmail.com.*

# NEW BOOK FIRST BOOK OF ONTARIO WILDFLOWERS

JOAN CROWE • • • • •

This excellent full-colour guide to local wildflowers is by Joan Crowe, a local botanist. With over 150 photographs by local photographers including Lottie Chapman, Merle Gunby, Marg Gaviller and Walter Crowe, the *First Book of Ontario Wildflowers* also includes an introduction to flowering plants and an overview of their identifying features.

The *First Book of Ontario Wildflowers* describes what to look for when you find a new flower so you can identify it. The height, stems, leaves and flower arrangements and shapes

are all considered, along with the fruits, if there are any.

Joan dedicates the book to her parents: her mother, Mary Whitelock, won first prize for the best hyacinth at school in London, England, in 1910 and was given *A First Book of Wildflowers* by M.M. Rankin. Its elegantly worded descriptions were Joan's introduction to wildflowers and she still refers to the book occasionally. Her father, Ted Morgan, passed his knowledge of wildflowers on to Joan as they walked together on Chincford Plains and in Epping Forest.



Recently republished by The Ginger Press, *The First Book of Ontario Wildflowers* is now available for \$24.95.

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# UPDATE: THE ROXY

MARCIA CUNNINGHAM

**G**reetings! The weather is warming, up and, despite the spring lockdown, the staff and Owen Sound Little Theatre (OSLT) volunteers have been busily Zooming away and planning for summer.

Although OSLT made the difficult decision to postpone our July performances of *Much Ado About Nothing* to 2022, we are planning to be at Kelso Beach with our Summer Break Camps. These 2-week sessions will bring participants together to learn about the performing arts through theatre games, improvisation and an introduction to musical theatre. We are holding the camps outdoors to provide a safer environment for the participants and opportunities for the youth to enjoy the Kelso Beach amenities. Participants will use their new skills as they perform a Cabaret-style production on the final night of their camp on the Amphitheatre stage that will be videotaped and presented to a small audience (if permitted at that time). Participants can expect to have fun and gain confidence while learning something new and building friendships along the way, at beautiful Kelso Beach. Register now for Junior session for ages 8-12, M-F July 5-16; and Senior session for ages 13-18, M-F July

19-30. Spaces are filling quickly so don't hesitate to reserve a spot for the active and creative young person in your life.

We are also excited to be planning our 2021 annual golf tournament on August 19 at Legacy Ridge Golf Club in Owen Sound. It's been a difficult year but, with the support of our returning event sponsors, Scotiabank and Benedict Electric, we have come out swinging! The money raised from this year's tournament will go towards the necessary costs of maintaining our historic building in preparation of when we can re-open our doors to the public. There will also be a raffle and auction. Tickets are on sale now, so don't delay!

For further information, and to register for the Roxy Youth Summer Break Camps and the OSLT Charity Golf Tournament, 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 Executive Director of The Roxy*



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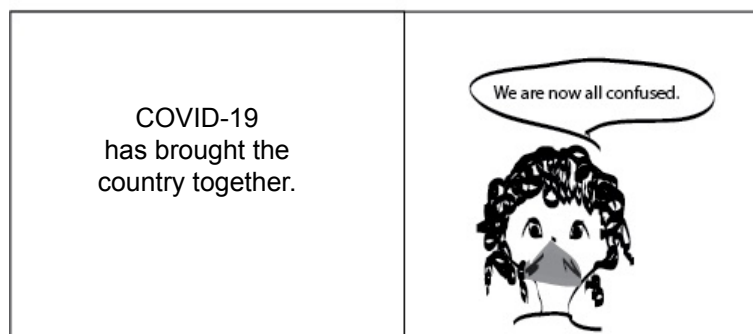
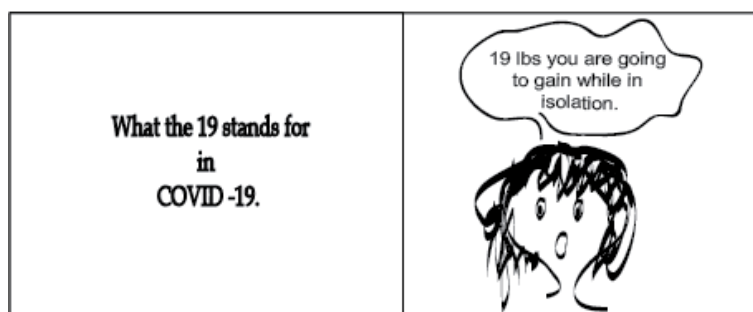
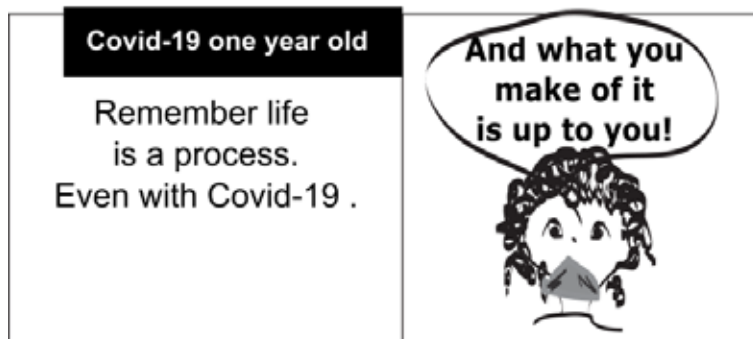
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# COVID-19 CARTOONS

RACHEL OLIVER • • • • •

I have been a cartoonist for over 40 years. When Covid-19 started and we headed into lockdown, I started doodling to help calm myself down. Then, on March 17, 2020, a cartoon came to me. That's the way my creativity works. Things just strike me as funny and I try and capture the feeling for others. I sent the Covid-19 cartoon out to a few friends. The response was great! Remember back then when Covid-19 was only supposed to last a few weeks? I thought I could do a cartoon a day; I figured I wasn't the only one confused by the mixed messages we were getting and thought humour might be a way to help us cope. Now, 434 days later, I'm still doing a Covid-19 cartoon every day. There's so much material to work with! If you would like to be added to the distribution list, contact me at [rachel@bmts.com](mailto:rachel@bmts.com). You can see more of my work at [www.racheloliver.com](http://www.racheloliver.com).



# GREY COUNTY BLACK HISTORY SUITE

ROB ROLFE • • • • •

## Back Line

weary farms scrub bush split-rail fences  
on dark roads you enter a covert land  
it begins when you leave the back line  
an eerie trickle of streams with a memory  
of black settlers log cabins and wolves

## North Star

it was such a hard journey here  
trekking north into bush valleys bogs  
backs bent clearing a way into this  
stubborn land bringing nothing but  
a strong faith and our scarred hands

## Marl Lake

a hidden lake an exodus a clouded past  
dark days and the weight of the land  
made bearable by whisky and worship  
the bright face of the lake the marl  
dredged up from the silent sunlit water

## Owen Sound

in early days the sound was wide open  
and lake boats clogged the harbour  
life muscled its way up from the docks  
into mudtown there it was damnation  
or salvation a choice at every corner

## The Cairn

there are no footprints or signs  
of fugitive slaves by the river this cairn  
speaks in a language of whispers  
the stones have travelled long distances  
to grace these ruins

*Rob Rolfe*

*Earlier versions of this poem appeared in  
Saugeen (Quattro Books) and Northern Terminus:  
The African Canadian History Journal.*

# CUE THE MOO-SIC! SYMPHONY IN THE BARN IS BACK!

VIRGINIA GALLOP • • • • •

Launching its 26th season, Symphony In The Barn (SITB) is excited to reunite for its celebrated three-day summer festival (July 30 - Aug 1) with a celebration of Beethoven's 251st birthday by presenting all five Piano Concerti. Our festival features internationally renowned soloists, accompanied by a 14-piece string orchestra, led by conductors Kevin Mallon and SITB founder Michael Schmidt. This summer we welcome back pianista prodigy Sunny Ritter (Vienna / T.O.), Karolina Kubalkova (Toronto/Scotland), Richard Herriot (Toronto), Kati Gleiser (Owen Sound), and Francine Kay (Princeton University), with concert master, Emmanuel Vukovich (Montreal). Additionally there will be world premieres by co-artistic directors Kevin Mallon and Kati Gleiser.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our renowned five-course orchard dinner will be replaced with farm-baked goodies and refreshments pre-ordered and delivered directly to our seated audience. The creation of "pasture crop-circles" will ensure our audience is safely distanced and seated throughout our open air pasture, enjoying concerts under the stars. All our performances will be live-streamed and available to our increasing audience.

As SITB continues to find its place between converging worlds of live performance and a new digital reality, projects such as a new podcast as well as a short film project entitled *Milking with Musicians* emerge, thanks to our team of enthusiastic and ultra talented supporters. Additionally plans are afoot, (or shall we say a-hoof?) to provide subscriptions to gain access to a newly established digital library of rare historical classical recordings. As usual we revisit well loved

and valued SITB extras such as the opportunity to attend pre-concert chats and interviews with performers, and to deepen the connection among classical music lovers across a virtual network.

SITB is an acclaimed classical music festival set in Grey Bruce. Founded in 1995, SITB brings together internationally renowned artists, performance installations, and the tastes and sounds of idyllic farm life. Events may include First Nations dance, classical chamber and orchestral performances, and integrated farm-to-table concert collaborations. SITB presents local talent as well as international artists from across Europe, Russia, the US and Mexico. Collaborations with indigenous communities give voice to our First Nations' communities in deeply memorable immersive experiences. Our extraordinary local organic culinary experiences have featured some of Canada's top chefs, and have been praised by *The Toronto Star*.

SITB continues to expand its "agri-culture" vision with the purchase of a new concert venue, Saugeen Academy (SA), housed in the historic Hanover Baptist Church. Named in honour of the Saugeen tributary river, SA will become a cultural hub of education, culture, and community. Saugeen Academy will host a chamber music concert series, music and arts lessons, a string orchestra, and will house a newly inaugurated Waldorf High School. The first Saugeen Academy concert will take place during SITB Festival Weekend, Sunday August 1st at 2pm. For more information and tickets, visit [www.symphonyninthebarn.com](http://www.symphonyninthebarn.com).

*Virginia Gallop is Executive Director of Symphony in the Barn.*

## GET OUTSIDE THIS SUMMER

NADIA DANYLUK • • • • •

The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library has so much more than books to offer their patrons. This year the Library has added Community Passes to their collection. So far these include Ontario Parks and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority day passes. Harrison Park Pool passes will be available in July. Community Passes are loaned for one week and can be placed on hold using the Library's online catalogue. This is a great way to get outside and explore your local area.

Want to learn more about the nature around you while hiking in a Grey Sauble Conservation Area or Provincial Park? The Library has you covered for that as well. Just ask

for their "Natural Resources at the Library" brochure for a list of books you can borrow on subjects such as flower, animal track, rock and tree identification, learning to camp, outdoor cooking and survival skills.

The Library acknowledges the support of Ontario Parks, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and the City of Owen Sound for helping make these passes available. To contact the Library call (519) 376-6623 ext. 5 or email [info@owensound.library.on.ca](mailto:info@owensound.library.on.ca).

*Nadia Danyluk is Deputy Chief Librarian at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library*



*Symphony*  
IN THE BARN

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# FESTIVAL WEEKEND

All Five Beethoven  
Piano Concerti

Welcome  
Back!

**July 30 — August 1, 2021**

**For more information, contact:**  
[symphonybarn@gmail.com](mailto:symphonybarn@gmail.com)

**Tickets available at:**  
[symphonyinthebarn.com](http://symphonyinthebarn.com)



## Plan ahead for parking.

If a parking lot is full, do not park on the road. Where roadside parking is allowed please park only in designated areas and do not park on both sides.



## Check our Website.

Tourism information for the County of Grey can be found on **VisitGrey.ca**.



## Keep dogs on leash.

Keep pets on a leash, on the trail, and under control at all times.



## Pick up litter.

Always clean up after yourselves. Pack out what you bring in, including pet waste.



## Stay on the trail.

Follow the marked trail, respect private property and trail closures.



## Read all signage.

Observe signs noting permitted uses and trail rules.



## Observe COVID-19 protocols.

Be aware of and obey all applicable federal, provincial and local emergency orders and by-laws.

