



# THE GRAPEVINE

ARTS | CULTURE | COMMUNITY

December 10, 2020 – January 14, 2021 | Issue No. 17.12



## SEASON OF GIVING

SEWING THE SEEDS OF HOPE  
IN ZIMBABWE, P.15

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BIG RED BARN, P.7

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RECORD POPPY SALES FOR  
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# Get Your HANDS ON LOCAL



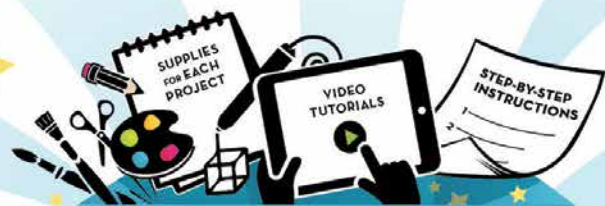
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where you eat, drink and shop  
to get YOUR hands on local.

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## TAKE ARTSHINE HOME

With our new visual arts subscription service, 'Artshine in a Box,' children across Canada aged 4-6 and 7-12 can now experience our enriching art lessons at home throughout the year!

Sign up and each month your child will be mailed a kit that explores a different theme and art medium ~ drawing, painting, pastels, 3D pens and much more!



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**GO TO ARTSHINE.CA / ARTSHINE-IN-A-BOX**

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RING IN THE

*New Year*

with

*T*attingstone Inn  
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To Make Your *Reservation* call: 542-7696



# VOTE! THE 2020 BEST OF THE BUNCH GRAPEVINE AWARDS

It's that time again! Take a moment to consider the destinations, businesses, and organizations that made this difficult year even a little bit better. Let us know who/what deserves to be showered with love, attention, and the glory of being: Best of the Bunch 2020!

**Instructions:** Fill out the survey with your favourite places, businesses, organizations, experiences, and products. You do not need to fill every text box in order to submit the survey!

**SEND YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY TO:**  
GV Publishing Inc. | PO Box 2262 | Wolfville, NS B4P 1A0  
**Deadline: December 31, 2020**

**OR TAKE OUR SURVEY ONLINE:**  
[surveymonkey.com/r/BestoftheBunch2020](https://surveymonkey.com/r/BestoftheBunch2020)



## FOOD & DRINK

BEST RESTAURANT (CASUAL)

BEST RESTAURANT (FINE DINING)

BEST BURGER

BEST PIZZA

BEST SANDWICH

BEST BAKERY

BEST BUTCHER

BEST BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

BEST DESSERT

BEST VENUE FOR DRINKS

BEST PATIO

BEST CRAFT BREWERY

BEST WINERY

BEST CRAFT CIDERY

BEST CAFÉ

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BEST LOCAL MUSICIAN

BEST LOCAL BAND

BEST LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

BEST LOCAL VISUAL ARTIST

BEST LOCAL ARTISAN/CRAFTER

BEST LOCAL AUTHOR

BEST LOCAL THEATRE GROUP/COMPANY

BEST GALLERY

BEST DANCE STUDIO

BEST VENUE TO DANCE

BEST MUSIC VENUE

## LOCAL BUSINESS

BEST NEW BUSINESS (OPENED IN 2020)

BEST PLACE TO SHOP FOR GIFTS

BEST BOOKSHOP

BEST MUSIC STORE

BEST MARKET VENDOR

BEST CLOTHING STORE

BEST JEWELLERY STORE

BEST HOME DÉCOR STORE

BEST HOME RENOVATION/DESIGN STORE

BEST ARCHITECTURE/LANDSCAPING COMPANY

BEST SPA

BEST HAIR SALON

BEST BARBER

BEST SPORTING GOODS STORE

BEST TATTOO PARLOUR

BEST YOGA STUDIO

BEST GYM

BEST NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

BEST U-PICK

## PUBLIC SPACE & EXPERIENCES

BEST PLACE TO GO ON A DATE

BEST PLACE TO MEET WITH FRIENDS

BEST PLACE TO HOLD AN EVENT

BEST PLACE TO TAKE THE KIDS

BEST PLACE FOR A BIKE RIDE

BEST TOURIST DESTINATION

BEST PLACE TO GO SWIMMING

BEST PLACE TO GO SNOWSHOEING

BEST PLACE TO GO SLEDDING

BEST PLACE TO GO HIKING

BEST PLACE TO GO SKATING

BEST FESTIVAL/EVENT

BEST PLACE TO VOLUNTEER

BEST PLACE TO GET CRAFTY

BEST COMMUNITY PROJECT

## COVID-RELATED

BEST LOCKDOWN TAKEOUT

BEST VIRTUAL EVENT

BEST ACT OF KINDNESS DURING LOCKDOWN

BEST LOCAL ONLINE SHOPPING

MOST OVERUSED WORD OR PHRASE OF 2020

BEST LOCAL PANDEMIC PRODUCT

BEST COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE INITIATIVE

## ON THE COVER: DORETTA GROENENDYK

This issue's cover image is taken from *Snow for Christmas* by local author and illustrator Doretta Groenendyk. Her new book, *What if? From Worries to Wonder*, is available in stores and online now!

For more information visit [artbydoretta.com](http://artbydoretta.com)



## SEASON OF GIVING AT THE GRAPEVINE: THE PORTAL

Every year we donate a portion of our sales profit from our Season of Giving issue to a local cause. This year, we're making that donation to The Portal Youth Outreach Association:

The Portal is a registered non-profit charitable organization that is a resource centre for Annapolis Valley youth age 12-24 who are at risk or currently experiencing homelessness. Their mission is to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness in the Annapolis Valley and prevent further youth from becoming homeless.

Youth leave their homes for many reasons, most commonly because it is not safe for them. Homelessness increases the chance that these youth will not complete school, will become victims of crime and exploitation, and will experience increased mental and physical health challenges.

the **P**ORTAL  
youth outreach association

In addition to donations, The Portal is always in need of host homes. Host homes are safe, nurturing and supportive homes in the community that welcome youth aged 16-19 that are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.

The Portal's vision is that with their help, one day, all youth in the Annapolis Valley have a safe, supportive and nurturing home.

To donate to The Portal, or to learn how to become a host home, visit [portal youth.ca](http://portal youth.ca). 🌱

## AVRL NEWS: GET CREATIVE

The Library Can Help!

Angela Reynolds

Ready to make some gifts, but need a little inspiration? Let the library help! With your AVRL card you can get a FREE account at Creativebug. Just visit the library's website to sign up at [creativebug.com/lib/valleylibrary](http://creativebug.com/lib/valleylibrary). You will have access to thousands of classes, patterns,

tutorials, and more. There's plenty of ideas for beginners, kids, and even experienced crafters. From knitting and crochet, painting, sewing, and many crafts too numerous to mention, you can find something to make for that special someone in your life. Get creative today. 🌱

# Join a CSA!

**Reason #2:** We focus on building healthy soil using manures, compost, mulch, and animals in our production. We love soil!



www.taprootfarms.ca

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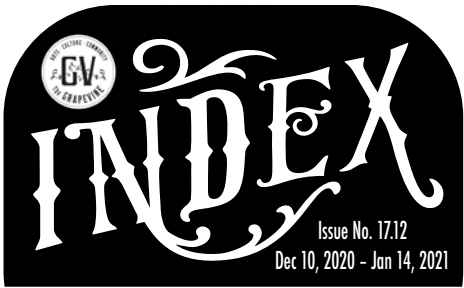


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# THE GRAPEVINE

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## ADVERTISING

**ISSUE DEADLINES:**

★ **DEC. 10 ISSUE:**  
*Mon. Nov. 30, 2020*

**DEPENDING ON THE COMMITMENT LENGTH & COLOUR OPTIONS, RATES RANGE FROM:**

**SINGLE BLOCK** \$45 - \$62

**DOUBLE BLOCK** \$88 - \$123

**FOUR BLOCK** \$168 - \$237

**HALF PAGE** \$427 - \$624

**ARTS EVENT POSTER** \$76 - \$117

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**ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE:** [grapevinepublishing.ca](http://grapevinepublishing.ca) and [issuu.com/thevalleygrapevine](http://issuu.com/thevalleygrapevine)

### WHERE TO FIND US

**WINDSOR:** Fry Daddy's, Lisa's Cafe, T.A.N. Coffee, Mosaic Market

**FALMOUTH:** Fruit & Vegetable Company, Petro-Canada

**HANTSPORE:** Jim's Your Independent Grocer

**AVONPORT:** Cann's Kwik-Way

**GRAND-PRÉ:** Convenience Store, Domaine de Grand Pré, Just Us! Café

**GASPEREAU:** Gaspereau Vineyards, Reid's Meats & Kwik-Way, XTR Kwik-Way

**WOLFVILLE:** Carl's Your Independent Grocer, Eos Natural Foods, Just Us! Café, T.A.N. Coffee, Library, Wolfville Farmers' Market

**GREENWICH:** Avery's Farm Market, Edible Art Cafe, Elderkin's Farm Market, Hennigar's Farm Market, Noggins Corner Farm Market, Stirling's

**PORT WILLIAMS:** Fox Hill Cheese House, Planters Ridge, Sea Level Brewery, The Noodle Guy

**CANNING:** Degraaf's Kwik-Way, ValuFoods, i scream

**NEW MINAS:** Boston Pizza, Captain Sub, Irving Big Stop, Jessy's Pizza, Long and McQuade, Milne Court Petro-Canada, Pita Pit, Swiss Chalet

**KENTVILLE:** Half Acre Café, Jason's Your Independent Grocer, T.A.N. Coffee, Valley Regional Hospital

**COLDBROOK:** Access Nova Scotia, T.A.N. Coffee, Callister's Country Kitchen, Foodland, Vicki's Seafood Restaurant

**BERWICK:** Jonny's Cookhouse, Luigi's Pizza Palace, North Mountain Coffeehouse, Rising Sun Natural Foods, Union Street Café, Wilsons Pharmsave

**AYLESFORD:** Chisholm's PharmacyChoice

**KINGSTON:** French Bakery, Pharmsave, Green Elephant

**GREENWOOD:** Country Store, Tim Hortons (Central Ave + Mall), Valley Natural Foods

**MIDDLETON:** Angie's, Goucher's, Wilmot Frenchy's, Tim Horton, Library

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## CARING FOR OUR STUDENTS AND THE WOMEN WHO FEED THEM

Jenny Osburn | The Union Street Cafe Cookbook | [jennyosburn.com](http://jennyosburn.com)

Colourful salad bars, made-from-scratch meals crafted with love from locally-sourced ingredients, children happily lining up for a wholesome meal served by smiling, fairly-compensated cooks: this is the stuff that school lunch dreams are made of. So WHY is it taking us so long to get there?

Most people do not realize that cafeteria workers rely on sales to children to pay every cent of their wages. Over the past few decades, food budgets and paid hours in many institutions have been whittled down to the bare minimum, meaning workers just aren't given the time to make meals starting with whole ingredients.

Just as troubling is that our school kitchens, built and equipped with public dollars, are *de facto* only available to "paying customers." Though the child poverty rate in the Annapolis Valley is nearly 25%, the pressure to break even doesn't lend itself to just giving away food for free. Policies exist that state hungry students must be fed lunch without shame, but there is no directive to schools on how to accomplish this.

For all the good intentions and hours spent by volunteers, for every healthy school lunch post gone viral, there is a cafeteria worker desperately trying to make ends meet. Nearly all cafeteria workers are women, single mothers among them. Unless they have another significant source of income, the wages from these jobs leave individuals and families well under the poverty line. Estimated annual salaries range from \$6,000 to \$17,000, meaning many work an entire day to make what some of their colleagues earn before the first bell rings.

To add insult to injury, these workers, already earning the least in the entire education system, lose an entire day's pay every time schools close, be it a storm or a planned in-service. This kind of exploitation can lead to high stress, burnout, and ill health.

Currently some of our workers have as few as three hours a day to prepare and deliver lunch for an entire school, order supplies, do the banking, wash the dishes, and so much more. If sales drop, as they have recently due to a new standardized menu, hours are cut accordingly. It's a broken system with terrible consequences for our children's health and well-being.

That's because, at the same time, billions of dollars have been spent by processed food companies persuading us that children don't like real food. So school boards and other organizations have become pawns, unwitting or otherwise, in a battle largely won by enormous food processing companies. The foods they produce may be quick to prepare, but they are often damaging to our health. Starved for time? Chicken nuggets will make them smile and go from freezer to lunch tray in no time! Sales flat? Boost them with our easy-bake cookies, chips, shakes, pizza and poutine!

So much work has been done by passionate people over the decades to counteract this problem, but without proper funding, little of it will last long enough to make a difference. We need to ask ourselves: do we want fairly-treated, engaged cooks preparing nourishing food for our children at school? Is it important to know that every kid in our

community will be fed at lunchtime without shame? Do we want affordable lunches for our children that will set them on a lifelong path of joyful eating and good health? How about the boost to our economy if we sourced the food for all of our students right here in Nova Scotia (about 40 million dollars' worth per year!)?

With so much at stake, we can no longer afford for our cafeteria staff to barely scrape by. We need them to be fully-funded members of our school communities. We need all families to be assured that their children have the right to food at school without fear of shame, whether they can afford the full price or not. Kings County has already committed to providing a portion of the funds needed for a pay-what-you-can or similar program at every school in their municipality, but implementation is still to come.

This issue isn't going away, and the Covid-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the strain on our families. We need to act now. If you have children in school, encourage your principal and parent groups to channel available funds into an inclusive lunch program. And reach out to your MLA and MP: our government representatives need to hear the message that school food is an investment we can't afford not to make.

🍷

*Jenny Osburn ran a restaurant, wrote a couple cookbooks, and thinks that everyone deserves good food. Join the Facebook group Better School Food Annapolis Valley and let's figure out how to make it happen!*

## WHO'S WHO DR. DARCY WORTHYLAKE AND KATE MATHESON

Mike Butler

New Business Alert! New Business Alert! There's nothing more fun than getting to introduce readers to a new business and its owners. This couple have opened WorthyLake Sports Therapy Clinic on Main street in Wolfville and it is very exciting for them, and for you!

Darcy WorthyLake and Kate Matheson grew up here in the Valley, Darcy in Kentville and Kate in Canning, and they knew each other in high school. They both left to go to university, in Ontario and Quebec, and have since spent the last 15 years studying, working, and travelling around Canada and the world.

Darcy studied kinesiology, then went on to chiropractic school in Toronto (which is where he and Kate re-connected). She studied finance, marketing, and small business strategy at McGill. There might be a bit of foreshadow here!

certified practitioners this side of Ottawa and out of only a handful in Canada.

Kate has been an entrepreneur for the last decade (Mathesonandco.ca). She's also a yoga and meditation teacher and for the last three years she has been teaching business and marketing to health practitioners to help them grow their practices, so it's a natural fit to be opening their own sports therapy clinic. Kate runs the business side of things while Darcy is the clinician, the hands-on portion!

"My mission is to show athletes and active individuals of every age and level how good their body can feel, move, and perform when it's functioning optimally," Darcy says. "I don't want others out there living in pain unnecessarily or resorting to medication or surgeries because they think it's their only option. Especially because what can be done today to help heal injury, reduce pain – even chronic conditions, is absolutely unbelievable."

Darcy is coming at this from an experienced angle. He has been an athlete his whole life, but in 2009 when he fractured his spine he couldn't do any of the activities that were a part of his daily life. He spent over a year waiting for the proper diagnosis while living in constant pain. After surgery he was told to rest. Nothing improved. It was only once he took his rehabilitation into his own hands that he was able to retrain his body's natural movement to make a full recovery. It's why he decided to become a chiropractor.

"Over the past decade," Darcy says, "I've worked with athletes of all levels: from the Canadian military helping them return to training after surgery, Hollywood actors and stuntmen, to lead clinician for the Olympic wrestling team in Beijing, and all kinds of professional and recreational athletes in between.



I believe that EVERY athlete should be treated like an elite athlete and I plan to use my practice to make this statement a reality"

When Kate and Darcy are not working, you'll probably find them chasing their two crazy Irish doodles, Penny and Frankie, around Reservoir Park, renovating their 100 year old house, or exploring Nova Scotia through hiking, biking, kayaking, doing yoga, or surfing.

And how has Covid-19 changed Kate and Darcy's business? Well, the personalized approach to their practice has helped them in not having to adapt TOO much in their business. Darcy mentioned, "We see one patient at a time so there's no real overlap. We allow for extra space in between appointments now to further minimize contact with other patients and allow for increased sanitization of spaces. As with all indoor businesses in Nova Scotia, both staff and patients will be required to wear masks inside. We also offer direct billing and contactless payment to make the whole process simple, safe, and stress-free."

To Dr. Darcy and Kate; best of luck and thank you for choosing Wolfville to flourish!

🍷

WorthyLake Sports Therapy Clinic is for athletes and outdoor enthusiasts to help accelerate their recovery, enhance their sport performance, and finally heal those lingering issues without medication, surgery, or never-ending treatment. They're located at 50 Main Street, Wolfville. For more information, visit [worthyLakesports-therapy.com](http://worthyLakesports-therapy.com) or [@worthyLakesportstherapy](https://www.instagram.com/worthyLakesportstherapy) on Instagram and Facebook.



# THE FREE CLASSIFIEDS

This section works on a first-come, first-served basis. Email your classified to: [listings@grapevinepublishing.ca](mailto:listings@grapevinepublishing.ca) and, if there's room, we'll get you in. Or, to reserve a placement, pay \$5 per issue (3-issue minimum commitment). Please keep listings to 35 words or less.

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS:

**Learn violin/viola/cello/double bass:** The ARYO strings program is accepting new registrations for its winter term (Dec-April). Rehearsals will be online or a combination of online and in-person, as circumstances allow. Full information is on our website [acadiaregionalyouthorchestra.ca](http://acadiaregionalyouthorchestra.ca) **INFO:** [aryostrings@gmail.com](mailto:aryostrings@gmail.com)

**In-Person Piano & Voice Lessons:** Susan Dworkin is a resident of Wolfville and for the past 30 years has offered professional, qualified music education to children and adults of all ages. Susan is a professional classical singer and pianist and instructs voice and piano technique. (special Covid-19 protocol in place for everyone's safety and protection). Limited space. Call for details. **INFO:** [susanlisadworkin@gmail.com](mailto:susanlisadworkin@gmail.com) / 902-300-1001 / [armonicmusicstudio.com](http://armonicmusicstudio.com)

## PRODUCTS & SERVICES:

**Professional Branding, Logo and Web Design, Writing, Translation, & Training:** Helping you convey your message effectively since 2006. We offer a remarkably responsive, dependable, and results-driven approach. **INFO:** 902-691-2932 / [michaeltgabrielcommunications.com](http://michaeltgabrielcommunications.com)

**Traditional Chinese Medicine:** Combining Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology to enhance your wellness. 18 years experience! Specializing in Anxiety and Depression, Insomnia, Menstrual and Menopausal issues, Digestive health, Ear Acupuncture for Addictions. **INFO:** Jane Marshall D.TCM, D.Ac located at 112 Front St, Suite 209, Wolfville. 902-404-3374 [janemarshallacupuncture.ca](http://janemarshallacupuncture.ca)

**Astrology and Tarot:** Do you have questions about your health, career or relationships? Are you looking for meaning and direction? Book a reading or join a discussion/study group. Learn and share your knowledge with like minded seekers. Serious enquiries only. **INFO:** [lizannehanks@gmail.com](mailto:lizannehanks@gmail.com)

**Got Mice?:** Do you have a MOUSE problem? Or do you have a HOUSE problem? Got Mice Humane Wildlife Services addresses common and uncommon entry points permanently with guaranteed results. Call for a consultation. **INFO:** 902-365-MICE (6423) / [GOTMICE.CA](http://GOTMICE.CA)

**Errands by Karen Home Blood Collection:** At home Blood Collection has resumed, as well as Errand Services! CoVid screening measures are in effect. Please call or email to book an appointment. **INFO:** 902-790-2626 / [errandsbykaren@hotmail.com](mailto:errandsbykaren@hotmail.com)

**Autism Special Delivery:** Need something moved? No job too small! Covid 19 precautions. **INFO:** 902-300-6335

**Live Joyfully in a Well-Designed Home:** With a focus on sustainability (of our planet and your resources) Deborah Nicholson Decor+Design will guide you with creative solutions for new builds, renovations, and updates. **INFO:** [deborahnicholson.ca](http://deborahnicholson.ca) / 902-691-2931

**Face Masks:** Designer, wonderfully artistic, colourful and very well made cloth face masks available at Charts Cafe on Elm Street in Wolfville as well as via email. These make terrific and easily/conveniently mailed Christmas gifts! Exclusively Made in Canada by local artist Judith Leidl, MFA and Le Galeriste. Motifs include cats, fish, abstract etc. **INFO:** [oriefineart@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:oriefineart@ns.sympatico.ca)

**Interior Painting and Cabinets:** Women in Rollers is the Valley's full-service decorating company. We do accurate quotes, show up on time, and perform to perfection. We even leave your home neat and tidy! We have great references! Complimentary design and colour consultations. Call today for your free estimate. **INFO:** Pamela, 902-697-2926

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. **INFO:** 902-691-2825 / [www.area82aa.org/district3/](http://www.area82aa.org/district3/)

**Write it. Publish it. Better!:** Editing, layout, and design services for businesses, authors, students... anyone! Reports, essays, resumes, newsletters, brochures, and more. 15 years experience, reasonable rates and ultra-reliable service. **INFO:** [david@textanddesign.com](mailto:david@textanddesign.com) / [textanddesign.com](http://textanddesign.com)

## EXHIBITS:

**Kentville Lodge No. 58 Commemorating 150 Years of History:** 1870-2020 – Kings County Museum, 37 Cornwallis Street, Kentville. Through Dec 18 • Celebrating 150 years of the Kentville Masonic Lodge. Including items from the Shriners, Eastern Star, and Daughters of the Nile. Guided tours by appointment only. **INFO:** 902-678-6237 / [facebook.com/kingscountymuseum](http://facebook.com/kingscountymuseum)

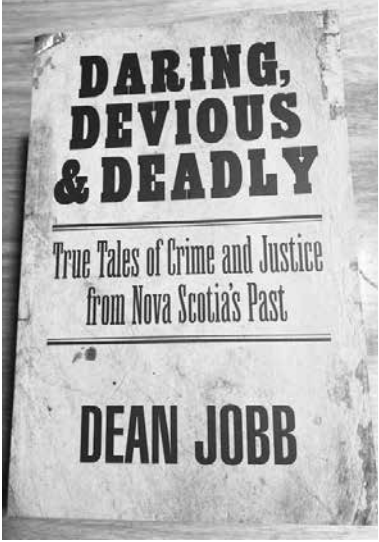
**Steven Rhude:** Harvest Gallery, 462 Main St., Wolfville. Starting Nov 21 • LOVE & LANDSCAPE. Masks are required. **INFO:** 902-542-7093 / [harvestgallery.ca](http://harvestgallery.ca)

## GENERAL:

**Wolfville Lions Christmas Tree Sales:** Daily until Dec. 24 @ Lions Hall, 36 Elm Ave., Wolfville. Wolfville and District Lions are selling Christmas trees! Trees range in price from \$20 to \$30, depending on size. Local delivery is possible for a small fee. Wreaths available for \$15 plain and \$17 with a bow. Drop by and support the important community service work of the Wolfville and District Lions! **INFO:** 902-542-4508

## BOOKS BY LOCALS

Wendy Elliott



### Daring, Devious and Deadly by Dean Jobb

Imagine the staff of a bank walking out the door with the till open as a circus comes to town. Can you conceive of politics leading to pitched battle during a Nova Scotia election? These are the kinds of crime stories that Dean Jobb's *Daring, Devious and Deadly* looks at from the early days of recorded history in this province. Over the years the Wolfville-based writer and professor of creative non-fiction has collected fifteen true stories of murderers, pirates, bank heists, and fraudsters. Jobb, who was once a court reporter, compiled his book by going through old newspapers and court records. It includes mutiny, murder, and the criminal trial of Joe Howe.

I was flabbergasted to read about an election in 1859 that turned deadly due to a toxic mixture of religion and partisan politics. The two sides actually brought weapons to the polls and the confrontation resulted in a death. The story of the Saladin sailors who turned into pirates is equally unreal.

*Daring, Devious and Deadly*, which is published by Pottersfield Press, is at local bookstores like Chisholm's in Kentville, and is also available online.

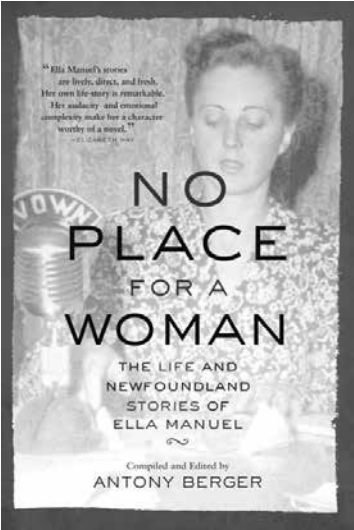
### The Hermit by Jan Coates

Jan Coates is a prolific and award-winning Wolfville writer with a new book out this year.

The Hermit is a young adult novel about 11-year-old Danny Marsters. Danny had expected a fun summer with lots of soccer until developers threaten to build condos on the land the community had worked so hard to transform into the best soccer field in the county. Definitely he didn't expect to discover

a dishevelled man living deep in the woods. Human connections mean that Danny might save the soccer field after all. Loosely based on the story of a real-life hermit, this story of unexpected friendship and close-knit neighbourhood bonds will appeal to anyone who is community-oriented.

Published by Nimbus, *The Hermit* has been called a timely novel full of heart. Coates has a host of popular titles. Last year she published both *Dancing With Daisy* with Running the Goat Press in Newfoundland, and *Say What You Mean* with Nevermore Press in Lunenburg.



### No Place for a Woman by Antony Berger

*No Place for a Woman* is Antony Berger's tribute to his mother, Ella Manuel. This fascinating biography, published by Breakwater Books, is primarily told in her own words.

A native of Lewisporte, Newfoundland, Manuel worked during WWII to evacuate children from Spain and Germany, and then reinvented herself as journalist, sharing real stories of Newfoundlanders. She left her busy ship-ping community in the 1920s, but eventually returned to the island, as a single mother, to settle in Bonne Bay. An accomplished writer, broadcaster, advocate for peace, and staunch feminist, Manuel would leave an indelible mark on the culture she documented and celebrated in her work.

Berger, who lives in Wolfville, expertly chron-icles her life incorporating unpublished radio scripts and brilliant extracts from her private journals to bring Manuel to the page in her own words. *No Place for a Woman* opens an illuminating window on life in 20th-century Newfoundland and preserves the work of a truly original Newfoundlander. 🍷

## MIKE UNCORKED

# A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS

Mike Butler

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Despite the tumultuous year we've all had (by the way, congrats for making it through), we've come to the close of 2020 and hopefully our heads are held high and we're ready for the next round of what's coming our way, good or bad! No matter the events, the holidays are a time to reflect, enjoy, splurge, assist others, and make the best of the year end. Christmas is easily my favourite time of year and here's a list of some fantastic things you can give as gifts to friends, family, and loved ones that support local busi-nesses (who've had a tough time this year!), and can help with the winter blues!

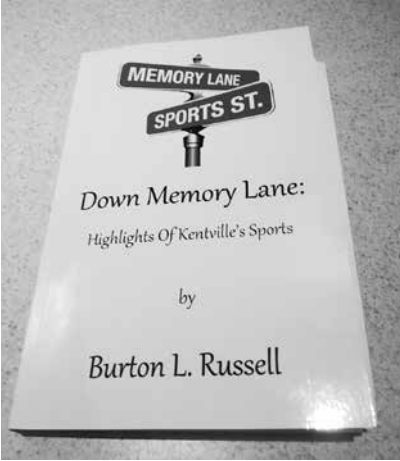
**1. The Big Brothers, Big Sisters Annual Calendar!** This is a great fundraiser from a great organization. At only \$10 each, the BBBS calendar makes a fantastic gift that you can be proud of, as the money goes towards helping the coupling of big brothers and big sisters with youth counterparts. Currently the Annapolis Valley branch has 36 matches but also has a waiting list of 40 waiting to be matched. The BBBS organization is celebrating its 45th anniversary and this calendar is so special. Throughout 2021, there will be 365 daily draws for calendar owners for some great prizes as well as some grand prizes, including airfare for TWO from Westjet! Pick one up soon because there's lots of early bird draws!

For calendar information you can contact Tracy Comeau (902-670-7850 or [tracy](mailto:tracy)).

[comeau@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](mailto:comeau@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)) or visit [bbbsannapolisvalley.ca](http://bbbsannapolisvalley.ca).

**2. Cobble Hill Puzzles at The Market!** I don't know about you, but during my 81 days of lockdown in the spring, I lived on BBC peri-od piece shows and puzzles! When I was a kid, doing puzzles was one of my favourite pastimes and I am proud to say I've reacquainted myself with that hobby in 2020. The Market on Main Street in Wolfville just happens to carry a wide assortment of my brand of choice: Cobble Hill! They're fun pictures, easy to assemble, beautiful for mounting and the selection The Market has is AWESOME! Treat yourself or someone else to a Cobble Hill puzzle. They'll go to pieces over it!

**3. Books!** If I wasn't doing a puzzle during lockdown, I was reading! I pored through about 16 books in my 81 days and rediscovered my love of many genres! We have many bookshops in the Valley: The Odd Book, Wolfville; Reader's Haven, Windsor; Shelf Life and Chisolms, Kent-ville; Books Galore, Coldbrook; and The Inside Story, Greenwood, each with a great selection of books. No matter new or used, books are a great gift and I encourage everyone to pick up a book for a gift this year. With many local authors, there's no shortage of great stories to share. On my Christmas reading list: Burton L. Russell, famous Valley name, has just released his 13th book on Nova Scotia sports, *Down Memory Lane: Highlights of Kentville's Sports*,



and I can't wait to read it. My father owned and operated Everett's Sporting Goods and there's a reference in the book to his business so this is pretty close to my heart. Stop down to RD Chisholms in Kentville and get a copy of Bur-ton's new book! Contact Burton directly if need be at [burtorrussell0@gmail.com](mailto:burtorrussell0@gmail.com).

**4. Coffee, Wine, Beer, and Cider!** Our Valley has quite the incredible selection of wine, beer, cider, and locally-roasted coffee. As I say on the Magic Wine Bus when I'm the tour guide, "Here in the Valley we grow many wonderful things, and then turn them into alcohol!" (and

then require some good coffee in the morning). As a gift of our terrific Valley, pass along some local wine from any of the wineries, beer from The Church Brewing Company (they have great swag too!), cider from Annapolis Cider Com-pany, or some locally-roasted coffee from Just Us!, TAN Coffee, or North Mountain Coffee. Introduce your local friends to something new or send our Valley goods to friends from afar. They might just want to visit this area because of it! Support local and be proud of what we create here!

**5. Donations and Gift Certificates!** Local businesses and non-profit organizations are struggling. This has been a tough year, espe-cially for the arts community, and so many others who've missed out on all their usual fundraising because Covid-19 restrictions have made it difficult to impossible. So, this holiday season, why not make a donation in the name of someone on your list to a local organization that needs it? Organizations like museums, food banks, CentreStage Theatre in Kentville, restaurant gift certificates, school programs, and so much more!

Enjoy your holidays everyone. Be safe and make the most of your time and how you are allowed to use it. Follow the rules, be diligent, and support your local businesses! All the best over the holidays! 🍷



Rob Breznsky's  
FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

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**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): According to Taoist scholar Chad Hansen, "Western philosophers have endlessly analyzed and dissected a cluster of terms thought to be central to our thinking," such as truth, beauty, reason, knowledge, belief, mind, and goodness. But he reports that they've never turned their attention to a central concept of Chinese philosophy: the Tao, which might be defined as the natural, unpredictable flow of life's ever-changing rhythms. I think that you Aries people, more than any other sign of the zodiac, have the greatest potential to cultivate an intuitive sense of how to align yourselves vigorously with the Tao. And you're in prime time to do just that.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): What's the cause of the rumbling at the core of your soul? How do we explain the smoke and steam that are rising from the lower depths? From what I can discern, the fire down below and the water down below are interacting to produce an almost supernatural state of volatile yet numinous grace. This is a good thing! You may soon begin having visions of eerie loveliness and earth-shaking peace. The clarity that will eventually emerge may at first seem dark, but if you maintain your poise it will bloom like a thousand moons.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Author and student Raquel Isabelle de Alderete writes wittily about her paradoxical desires and contradictory qualities. In accordance with current astrological omens, I encourage you to ruminate about your own. For inspiration, read her testimony: "I want to be untouchably beautiful but I also don't want to care about how I look. I want to be at the top of my class but I also just want to do as best as I can without driving myself to the edge. I want to be a mystery that's open to everybody. A romantic that never falls in love. Both the bird and the cat."

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): What would it take for you to muster just a bit more courage so as to change what needs to be changed? How could you summon the extra excitement and willpower necessary to finally make progress on a dilemma that has stumped you? I'm happy to inform you that cosmic rhythms will soon be shifting in such a way as to make these breakthroughs more possible. For best results, shed any tendencies you might have to feel sorry for yourself or to believe you're powerless.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Novelist Tom Robbins says you have the power to change how you perceive the world. You can change reality—and how reality responds to you—by the way you look at it and interpret it. This counsel is especially useful for you right now, Leo. You have an unparalleled opportunity to reconfigure the way you apprehend things, and thereby transform the world you live in. So I suggest you set your intention. Vow that for the next two weeks, every experience will bring you a fresh invitation to find out something you didn't know before.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was re-elected in 2019. During his campaign, the Virgo-born politician arranged to be photographed while wearing the saffron robes of a Hindu priest and meditating in an austere Himalayan cave. Why did he do it? To appeal to religious voters. But later it was revealed that the "cave" was in a cozy retreat center that provides regular meals, electricity, phone service, and attentive attendants. It will be crucial for you to shun this type of fakery in 2021, Virgo. Your success will depend on you being as authentic, genuine, and honest as you can possibly be. Now is an excellent time to set your intention and start getting yourself in that pure frame of mind.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): When author Ernest Hemingway was working on the manuscript for his novel A Farewell to Arms, he asked his colleague F. Scott Fitzgerald to offer critique. Fitzgerald obliged with a ten-page analysis that advised a different ending, among other suggestions. Hemingway

wasn't pleased. "Kiss my ass," he wrote back to Fitzgerald. I suggest a different approach for you, Libra. In my view, now is a good time to solicit feedback and mirroring from trusted allies. What do they think and how do they feel about the current state of your life and work? If they do respond, take at least some of it to heart.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Mistletoe is a parasite that grows on trees, weakening them. On the other hand, it has been a sacred plant in European tradition. People once thought it conferred magical protection. It was called "all-heal" and regarded as a medicine that could cure numerous illnesses. Even today, it's used in Europe as a remedy for colon cancer. And of course mistletoe is also an icon meant to encourage kissing. After studying your astrological potentials, I'm proposing that mistletoe serve as one of your symbolic power objects in the coming months. Why? Because I suspect that you will regularly deal with potencies and energies that could potentially be either problematic or regenerative. You'll have to be alert to ensure that they express primarily as healing agents.

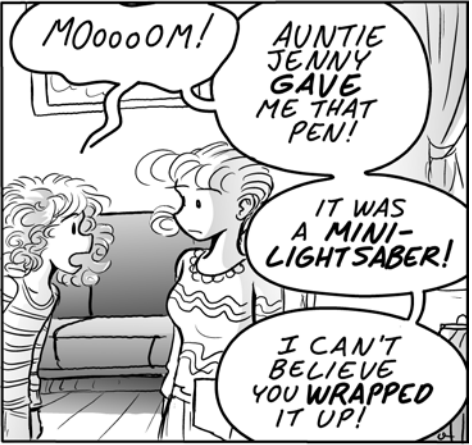
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I'm envisioning a scene in which you're sitting on a chair at a kitchen table. At the center of the table is a white vase holding 18 long-stemmed red roses. The rest of the table's surface is filled with piles of money, which you have just unloaded from five mysterious suitcases you found at your front door. All of that cash is yours, having been given to you no-strings-attached by an anonymous donor. You're in joyful shock as you contemplate the implications of this miraculous gift. Your imagination floods with fantasies about how different your life can become. Now, Sagittarius, I invite you to dream up at least three further wonderfully positive fantasies involving good financial luck. That's the medicine you need right now.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Boisterous Capricorn novelist Patricia Highsmith (1921-1995) once made the following New Year's Eve Toast: "To all the devils, lusts, passions, greeds, envies, loves, hates, strange desires, enemies ghostly and real, the army of memories, with which I do battle—may they never give me peace." Right now I suspect you may be tempted to make a similar toast. As crazy-making as your current challenges are, they are entertaining and growth-inducing. You may even have become a bit addicted to them. But in the interests of your long-term sanity, I will ask you to cut back on your "enjoyment" of all this uproar. Please consider a retreat into an intense self-nurturing phase.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the French city of Strasbourg, there's a wine cellar built in the year 1395. Among its treasures is a barrel filled with 450 liters of wine that was originally produced in 1472. According to legend, this ancient beverage has been tasted on just three occasions. The last time was to celebrate the French army's liberation of Strasbourg from German occupation in 1944. If I had the power, I would propose serving it to you Aquarians in honor of your tribe's heroic efforts to survive—and even thrive—during the ordeals of 2020. I'm predicting that life in 2021 will have more grace and progress because of how you have dealt with this year's challenges.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): There are too many authorities, experts, know-it-alls, and arrogant ideologues trying to tell us all what to do and how to do it. Fortunately, the cosmic rhythms are now aligned in such a way as to help you free yourself from those despots and bullies. Here's more good news: Cosmic rhythms are also aligned to free you from the nagging voice in your own head that harass you with fearful fantasies and threaten you with punishment if you aren't perfect.

*Homework: What's the one thing you don't have that would help you make the biggest improvement in your life? FreeWillAstrology.com.*





# JON WAYNE’S BIG RED BARN

Anna Horsnell

Jon Wayne’s Big Red Barn stands prominently on a slope at the foot of the North Mountain, just north of Berwick in the beautiful Annapolis Valley, and minutes from the Bay of Fundy. Unlike the days when it sheltered pigs, hay, and farm equipment, this fall the barn has resonated with music and laughter from a group of seniors having the time of their lives. Each of them is a professional artisan busily creating on-site and showcasing their artwork in a gorgeous country setting most would envy.

Owner Wayne Dombroski and his partner, singer and songwriter Jon Hemingway, (hence the name “Jon Wayne”), first reinvented the barn as a unique sales location for antique furniture and household items they had inherited. After two successful summers, Dombroski unfortunately suffered a serious stroke and the barn closed its doors until this summer. That’s when friend Debbie Greenwood stopped in for a visit.

Greenwood explains, “In August when I checked in on them, they were privately dealing with Wayne’s health crisis, and because of Covid-19, were isolated from their friends and community. I wanted to help, so I offered to open the Big Red Barn. In the meantime, I had met another artist, Susan Spicer, also in need of a venue. The Barn would be perfect! From the moment Jon opened that barn door and entrusted us with their collection of consignment items and the Barn itself ... I can say, my personal path changed.”

Following several busy weeks of dusting, rearranging, and reconfiguring the space inside, the Big Red Barn prepared to reopen, but the activity had already drawn curiosity. Artist friends, also searching for venues in this time of COVID-19, stopped by. Shoppers missing the usual craft markets pulled into the driveway. Within days The Big Red Barn was carefully coming alive and the momentum took on a life of its own.

The real heart and magic of this story lies behind the scenes. Each person involved is of an age where life has presented tough challenges, and it just happened that this year has been especially rough, even before a global pandemic. Call it serendipity, but in this year of turmoil and stress, these artists not only found each other, but they found a common passion and the desire to make it happen in spite of everything. There was no master plan. They simply followed their hearts and, in the process, they healed.

Greenwood shares that sentiment. “Stories of grief, loneliness, and abuse became compassion, companionship, protection. Deb, Susan, Shannon, Susie, Cathy ... each of us have different personal life experiences, and yet, we all had the same sense that this old barn was a shelter for us collectively, creatively, uniquely. And in amongst us are our two gentle men, Jon and Wayne. Because of The Big Red Barn, we’ve become a family in this strange time of human crisis.”

Spicer nods in agreement. “This year there’s been so much to dread, and the barn has given me something to be grateful for, something positive. The Barn is inspiration and friendship. Jon and Wayne and the other women have been just the medicine I needed. We’re all very different, but there is a common thread of just wanting to do what we love and being successful at it. That pulls us together and gives us all confidence. We help each other, and Jon and Wayne have been so supportive and encouraging. We all need that. I’m just so thankful I made the right choice to do this. It’s



Cathy Williams Knitwear and Quilts

exhilarating. It’s fun. It’s possible. I can’t wait to see what comes next.”

Shannon Graves adds, “The venue itself feels so right for all of us. It’s hard to put my finger on it, but I have a good feeling when I’m there, almost like I’m home and I think the others feel it too. As for our relationship, we have very quickly fallen into a comfortable camaraderie which I think will play a big part in our success here. Being a part of this group of people gives me a rejuvenated sense of wellbeing, which in turn has a positive effect on my creativity.”

Susan Corbin feels the same. “Since I’ve just moved to the Valley, and coming from quite a competitive market in Halifax, I really appreciated the warm welcome. For me right now the barn has been a great place to meet the local creative community.”

Cathy Williams sums it up. “It’s not about “the me and my art,” but what we can do together to make the Barn just as great an experience for our customers as it is for us. Being a member of this group has encouraged me to be more confident in the art that I produce. The colours and the energy that everyone possesses are infectious, and the positivity is refreshing with everything that has gone on this year. I feel very fortunate to have met these wonderful people. The Big Red Barn has a great vibe. We want to keep evolving, to bring it to the next level. Whatever that might be, we’ll have fun getting there!”

The two men behind the name have every right to be proud. Hemingway has not only provided the actual soundtrack to this adventure, but he’s proven to be a handyman extraordinaire, quick to do whatever the Barn needs to work better. Dombroski has been a huge support, encouraging and considering possibilities, and looking forward. Next year, “we have thoughts to add a coffee/tea bar with homemade goodies, background entertainment, and special events for holidays and weekends.”

Stepping into The Big Red Barn, most people immediately smile. This place is an unexpected gem of unique and varied fine art, crafts, and more. The rustic setting is warm and welcoming. There is a feeling of hope and passion and joy. There are artists at work, and very often, Hemingway on keyboard. The power of positivity is contagious. Just what we all need.

Currently The Big Red Barn is open Friday to Sunday, but will close for the coldest winter months. To also check on Covid-19 closure updates, visit Jon Wayne’s Big Red Barn on Facebook, as well as jonhemingway.com. 🐻

# MERRY WINDOWS

Christmas Windows Sure Display Charm

Wendy Elliott

The community was called on to fill some Christmas-themed former clinic windows with charm this past month in Wolfville, and folks stepped up.

What was until recently the location of the Mud Creek Medical Clinic has been transformed with old fashioned toys, furnishings, and Christmas paraphernalia.

Initially, owners Iain and Lis Porter contributed the ample space. Wolfville parks staff member Sheri Eaton took on the important role of arranger with help from Jessica Carrie. Alisha Christie, coordinator of community engagement, and Sarah Anderson of the Wolfville Business Development Corporation both rounded up various elements.

“It was a huge project,” says Christie, smiling as she looks at all the colourful toys. Wolfville resident Peter Riddle loaned some of his vintage mechanical toy trains, and members of the Fezziwig family loaned stage furniture, such as a fireplace. Local businesses, like Casa Bella, contributed decorative items, such as snowflakes. If you haven’t stopped by, take a look this month. Banks Bikes loaned a well-loved bicycle and L’Arche Homefires contributed some of the candles they produce.

Meanwhile in Kentville the windows of the former Hill’s Grills have been stocked with bears, rocking horses, and little rocking chairs. The



Valley Hospital Foundation set up their seasonal display to show off items for a Christmas auction. 🐻

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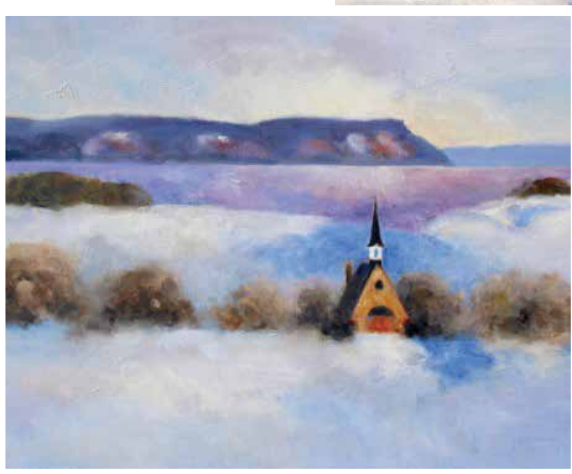

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See Carol Pye Gallery on Facebook for more images and prices.

8 | December 10, 2020 - January 14, 2021





New Dykelands – Don't Ask (left) and Valley Skies – Winter (right) by Bob Hainstock

## ART SPOT: BOB HAINSTOCK

*In a few sentences, please tell us about yourself:*

I grew up with my twin brother on a “Big Sky” Prairie farm and in several small towns before moving to the city to begin a 25-year career as newspaper journalist and author of books on rural architectural heritage. In 1988, my wife Judy and I, and our kids, Ryan and Meagan, moved to the Valley. Two years later I enrolled as a full-time student at NSCAD in Halifax, the beginning of a 30-year career as a starving artist.

*What is your artistic medium? How did you come to this style?*

At NSCAD I majored in printmaking and painting, and continue to split studio time between these two wildly different mediums. With these two techniques, there isn't any emotion that can't be expressed -- no question that can't be asked. And if they had a love child, it would be called mixed media where you can throw away the rule book.

*Where do you work & where can we find your work?*

Judy and I share a 1,000-square foot studio-gallery at 1688 Brow of Mountain Road, overlooking the Annapolis Valley. Judy does her pottery thing in her area, while I have my painting and printmaking areas where I also teach printmaking most Wednesday evenings. My work ends up in one of eight galleries that represent my work in Nova Scotia and Western Canada, including Tides Contemporary Art Gallery in Kentville, Harvest Galley in Wolfville,

Secord Gallery and Teichert Gallery in Halifax, and Visual Voice Galley in Truro (and my own studio-gallery, of course).

*At what point did you define yourself as an artist? At what time of day do you work on your art?*

I've always had a 1960s romantic idea about art and artists and was heading to art school in Los Angeles after high school. Surprisingly I was offered a job as a newspaper writer a few weeks before departure and I chose cheap newspaper ink over American oil paint. But I always told Judy and the kids that I was going to art school some day. It took 25 years but the artist light was always part my future thoughts, sometimes a dull glow, growing to become a demanding glare. And after 55 years of story telling through words or paint, I've decided there are two distinct periods for work -- late at night is when words seem to pour more easily from the computer, but canvas paint flows from the brush best before 12 noon.

*Why art? Why your art?*

I love being a selfish, individual artist, telling visual stories in a manner that is uniquely mine. Sometimes other people agree with what I say. Sometimes they even decide to hang my visual story on their wall. That always surprises me.



*For more information about Bob Hainstock and where to see his paintings and prints, visit [hainstockgallery.com](http://hainstockgallery.com).*

## Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace

**Nova Scotia Works offers tools for employers to move towards a culture of inclusion and diverse representation within the company.**

Prioritizing diversity and inclusion sends a message to your employees and the community, as a commitment to:

1. Building trust and creating a workplace where people feel free to express themselves
2. Actively combating bias and systems of oppression
3. Embracing a variety of styles and voices inside the organization or business
4. Using employees' lived experiences and knowledge to better serve a diverse clientele in the community

### How can Nova Scotia Works help you promote diversity?

- Information about funding and government programs increasing access of targeted groups to job opportunities
- Connecting businesses to external resources and training (ex. Welcoming Workplace, Understanding Autism, Anti-Oppression)
- Access to accommodations and technology depending on unique needs of workplace or individuals\*
- One-on-one or small group support
- Matching job seekers with employment opportunities
- Job skills coaching and post-employment support

Contact NS Works – Community INC in Kentville (902-679-7469), in Windsor (902-798-5627), OR email [irs@communityinc.ca](mailto:irs@communityinc.ca) to find out more about how NS Works can help support diversity and inclusion in your workplace!



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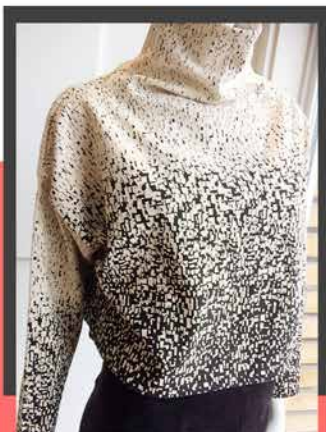


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Santa Sightings!**





Santa was so excited to hear about Wolfville Glows, that he decided he would visit our Town every Friday night leading up to Christmas in December!

**Friday, Dec. 4th - East End of Wolfville**  
**Friday, Dec. 11th - Central Wolfville**  
**Friday, Dec.18th - West end of Wolfville and Main St.**



Visit [www.wolfville.ca/wolfville-glows](http://www.wolfville.ca/wolfville-glows) for the Santa Sighting details!





**Candlelit Historic Walking Tours**  
Host by the Wolfville Historical Society and Randall House Museum

To register email - [recreation@wolfville.ca](mailto:recreation@wolfville.ca)

Join members of the Wolfville Historical Society for a candlelit tour of our bustling town!

Starting at the Randall House Museum, you will walk the downtown streets of Wolfville and hear stories of times that once were. Who knows what you might discover about the people and places that have made their mark in this town we know (or think we know!) so well.

**Tours are by donation**

**Time:**  
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Meet at:**  
The Randall House Museum, 259 Main St

**Dates:**  
Fridays and Saturday evenings in December  
Limited number of people pre-tour




Check out the schedule of events for Wolfville Glows on the Town of Wolfville's Facebook page and at [www.wolfville.ca/wolfville-glows](http://www.wolfville.ca/wolfville-glows)



Parks and Recreation  
[recreation@wolfville.ca](mailto:recreation@wolfville.ca) | 902-542-3019



**Shop Local Punchcard**

PICK UP A SHOP LOCAL PUNCHCARD FROM ANY PARTICIPATING DOWNTOWN SHOPS. MAKE FIVE SEPARATE PURCHASES TO COMPLETE YOUR CARD AND BE ENTERED TO WIN A NIGHT OUT IN WOLFVILLE PRIZE PACK!

VALID NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 21

**PUBLIC NOTICE: WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS**

**Effective December 1, 2020**

The Winter Parking Regulations will be in effect from December 1, 2020 up to and including March 31, 2021 on all streets in the Town of Wolfville.

During the aforementioned period, parking of vehicles on the streets of the Town of Wolfville is prohibited from 12:01 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. and from one (1) hour after the start of a snowstorm to two (2) hours after the storm has stopped.

Physicians, fire and police officials are exempt from these Regulations while carrying out their official duties and operators of commercial vehicles while loading & unloading.

Any person who violates the Town of Wolfville Winter Parking Regulations will be liable to the penalty provided by section 293 of the Motor Vehicles Act.

A copy of the Town of Wolfville Parking Regulations will be on display at the Wolfville Town Hall, 359 Main Street or the Wolfville RCMP Detachment, 363 Main Street and other public buildings within the Town of Wolfville, or visit [www.wolfville.ca](http://www.wolfville.ca).



Mayor Donovan,  
Town Council & Staff  
Wish you a safe and happy

**HOLIDAY SEASON**





MARIE’S OCCASIONAL REPORT

# WRITERS OF THE ROUND TABLE SUCCESSES

Marie Mossman

Have you ever wanted to write a book? How could you get started? Days have slowed because you spend more time than ever cleansing and waiting in line. Whether on the phone, at a store, or in an office, the pandemic both slows us, and speeds up the way days pass. The writers of the Round Table have managed to hunker down with their pencils, ballpoints, and laptops, and turn them into writing sabres. They’ve written and re-written their way to publishing success. The good news stories go like this:

Merry Benezra’s poem, "(New) Here" was published last winter in the 2019 contest issue of *Passager*, a US literary journal for writers over 55 years of age. She wrote her poem after her first summer in Wolfville, and it is a kind of love letter. She is working on the second draft of her novel, *Kinship*. She also had three poems published in the Buddhist Poetry Review in the Summer 2020 issue. Merry tells me, “Knowing that others enjoy reading what I have written brings me a sense of fulfillment that is simply unparalleled.”

Kathy France’s spoken word poem “The Carnival” was published in *Gathering In: Covid-19 Silver Linings*, an anthology of Nova Scotian artists’ responses to Covid-19. The anthology is published by Windywood Publishing of Hubbards, NS. Kathy says, “One morning in the spring I was feeling gutted about the TV round of fear-inducing news about the pandemic. It felt like a macabre carnival. I took that image and ran with it, enjoying the discovery of how different carnival rides, games, or staff each added meaning to the story I crafted around our individual and global responses to the pandemic.”

Marie Mossman’s novel, *A Rebel for Her Time*, is the unique story of Della, a Nova Scotian

woman who lived independently, became educated, nursed in World War I during the Spanish influenza pandemic, and contributed to her community beyond most women of her time. Della’s story is being published by Moose House Publications of Annapolis Royal, and will shortly be available. Marie wrote her story ideas on sticky notes which she put in order to make a sensible storyline. She then explained any gaps in the storyline.

Jim Prime’s *Fish and Dicks*, co-written with Ben Robicheau, is a light-hearted detective novel jammed with belly laughs. Jim knows how to pull the leg of Nova Scotia’s coastal people. *Fish and Dicks* can be pre-ordered from Moose House publishers in Annapolis Royal. Jim says, "It's very satisfying to create stories that make people laugh. And we could all use a few laughs during these tough times."

Muriel Zimmer published “Seeing My Daughter in Other People” in 2019, under her maiden name Muriel Schofield, in the online journal ModernLoss.com. It can be read at modernloss.com/seeing-my-daughter-in-other-people/. Muriel says, “Part of a being a writer is submitting your work and hearing ‘No Thanks’. You become brave enough to put your work out there and not let rejections feel personal.”

*Do you dream of writing a book? It will only happen if you start. You can scratch notes while waiting in a pandemic line, or listening to a robot repeat how important your call is to it. Your story will only get published if you start writing, so do as a wise friend said to me: “Well, do it.”*



Marie Mossman is a Writer of the Round Table.

## CHRISTMAS CHURCH LISTING

As we all know, 2020 has been a very different year, and so our Christmas Services listing is also a bit different. With changing guidelines, it’s best to keep an eye on the news and inquire directly with your faith organization of choice to see what they have planned this year. However you celebrate, The Grapevine wishes you all the best of the season.

Canard Community Church, 1315 Highway 341 (Upper Canard)  
canardcommunitychurch.com

Kentville United Baptist Church, 503 Main Street, Kentville  
kentvillebaptist.org

Holy Trinity Anglican, 45 Main St, Middleton  
parishofwilmot.ca

Orchard Valley United Church,130 Cornwallis Ave, New Minas  
orchardvalleyunited.ca

New Hope Wesleyan Church, 7054 Highway 12, Kentville  
nhwchurch.ca

Hope Centre Family Centre, 9593 Commercial Street, New Minas  
(902) 681-4673

All Saints Anglican, 521 Pleasant St, Kingston  
(902) 825-2326

Covenanter Church, 1989 Grand Pré Rd, Grand Pré  
orchardvalleyunited.ca/small-group-ministries/covenanter-church

St. John’s Anglican Church,164 Main Street, Wolfville  
stjohnsanglicanchurchwolfville.com

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 118 Main St, Wolfville  
corpuschristins.ca

Catholic Church of St. John the Evangelist, 339 King St, Windsor  
(902) 798-2341

St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, 48 Belcher Street, Kentville  
facebook.com/stjosephschurchkentville

Wolfville Ridge United Baptist Church, 1366 Ridge Road, Wolfville  
(902) 542-3419

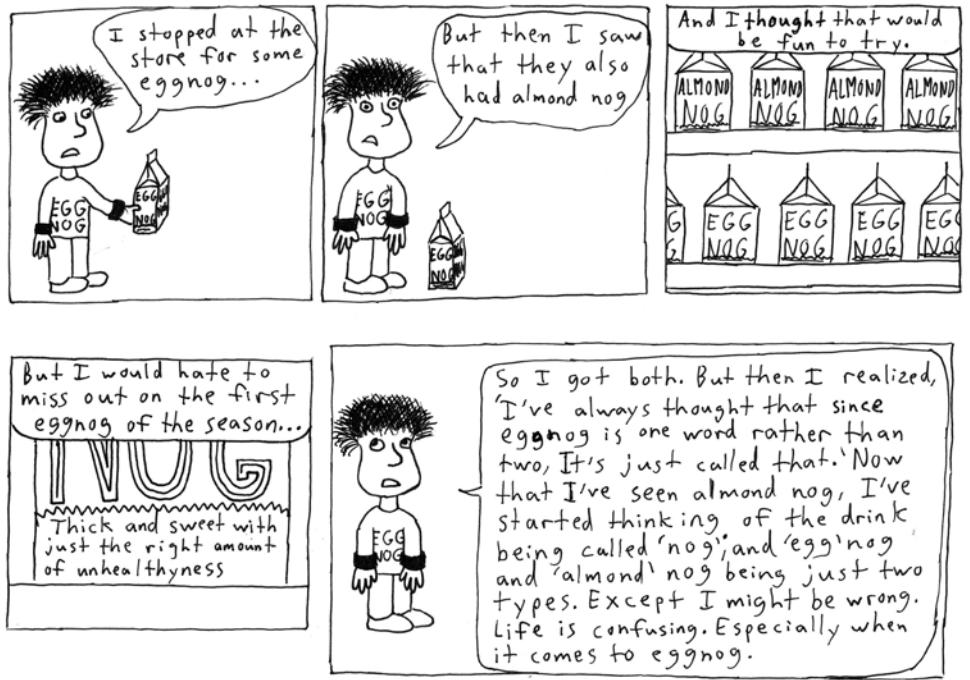
Kings Presbyterian Church, 5563 Prospect Road, New Minas  
kingschurch.ca

Wolfville Baptist Church, 487 Main Street, Wolfville  
wolfvillebaptist.ca

St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, 48 Belcher Street, Kentville  
(902) 678-3303



## NOG by Liam Edelstein, age 12



## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Submitted

Following the widely-acclaimed success this summer of their first ever Stage-to-Screen production, the Annapolis District Drama Group joined forces with Young Company Productions to create a family-favourite Christmastime spectacle that is certain to entertain: a screen-play version of *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. Pandemic-willing, to be screened at King’s Theatre the weekend before Christmas!

With a cast numbering 55, this is probably the largest theatrical production ever in Annapolis Royal, and in a time of constraint due to pandemic restrictions. However, this well-loved tale lends itself quite easily to performance in line with current Provincial guidelines. The screen-play is a newly-crafted adaptation by Simon Bonnington, straight from Dickens’s original text, with Covid-19 very much in mind, and gives the opportunity for several small groups of actors to rehearse and perform the different scenes quite separately from each other.


Inspired by their recent experience of on-location filming, *A Christmas Carol* was rehearsed

and filmed in and around several of the historic buildings in our communities. The O’Dell House Museum and the Sinclair Inn Museum were made available by the kind cooperation of the Annapolis Heritage Society; and likewise the board of the Tupperville School Museum were enthusiastically welcoming, allowing the actors to immerse themselves in these genuine Victorian settings! The Queen Anne Inn, the Carlisle House Inn, and the Historic Gardens, as well as other well-known buildings and establishments, also played host to the production.

Screenings are scheduled for December:  
Thursday 17, 7pm  
Friday 18, 7pm  
Saturday 19, 7pm  
Sunday 20, 2pm

Tickets on sale now, Adults \$15, Youth \$5

Check out the promotional video: <https://youtu.be/lxCl55JeKhc> 🎬



**Annapolis District Drama Group  
& Young Company Productions**

*proudly present*


# A CHRISTMAS CAROL


*by Charles Dickens*

**filmed on location in Annapolis Royal**

December 17, 18, & 19, 7pm  
December 20, 2pm

Adapted for screen by  
Simon Bonnington





**Adult : \$15.00 | Youth: \$5.00**  
Tickets are available from King's Theatre  
209 St. George Street Annapolis Royal, NS  
[www.kingstheatre.ca](http://www.kingstheatre.ca) 902.532.7704 [boxoffice@kingstheatre.ca](mailto:boxoffice@kingstheatre.ca)

December 10, 2020 - January 14, 2021 | 11



VISUALLY SPEAKING

# THE FINAL WORD ON BEST-LAID PLANS

Anna Horsnell

*In January, eighteen local artists shared their goals and plans for this year. In May, we checked in to see how things were going. Who could have predicted what a year it would be? Now, as we count down the last days of 2020, our group of artists are giving their final thoughts on those best-laid plans.*

**Eileen Boyd:** It’s been a crazy year, but I did get rid of a pile of unwanted junk and I did complete some half-finished projects! And I also took an oil painting workshop. Fun! A pretty good year all around.

**Ruth Fishleigh:** More time at home this year has helped develop my discipline for studio time. A new journey into encaustic art is helping me be more spontaneous and relaxed about the outcome of my work. It has helped me loosen up in other media as well. I am enjoying playing and having fun!

**Colleen Gerrits:** Super happy and thankful to have my job back, and am teaching classes again! 2020 isn’t what I or anyone, expected it to be, so I am taking it one day at a time and painting when I can.

**Doretta Groenendyk:** I have a new children’s picture book out this November! Its title is: *What if?* So, I guess, yeah, stories find their way....

**Bob Hainstock:** The year will end with a mixture of accomplishment and uncertainty. I’m very satisfied with studio work, the large volume of paintings completed, as well as outlines for a bunch of new short stories, but uncertainty for the first half of 2021 will dampen expectations at all levels of cultural activity.

**Betsey Harwood:** This was a year of changes. I was unable to paint for a few weeks due to a vision problem. Now my work is somewhat different, a new style to explore. The act of painting brings me joy.

**Ron Hayes:** My November show at ArtCan Gallery with Michael Greer, “While the World was Resting,” was very successful. One big surprise has been the growing interest in my oil painting classes and workshops by people with more time, unable to travel outside the province.

**Anna Horsnell:** What have I learned? Change is certain. Humanity comforts itself through creativity. Art very often has a mind and purpose of its own, and I simply listen and follow the inspiration.

**Judith Leidl:** I’ve launched a line of wearable art and home decor, beautifully made in Canada. This is something I’ve wanted to do for a long time. See more here: [legaleriste.com/judith.jane.leidl](http://legaleriste.com/judith.jane.leidl)

**Ron Lightburn:** I’ve been *plein air* painting close to home and I look forward to working on large canvases inspired by memories of the many pleasurable hours I enjoyed working and lounging in my garden during the spring and summer.



Mermaids by Elizabeth Sircom

**Kate McKenna:** Gratitude. During challenging times, I have still engaged in creative work; photographing nature, processing and editing photos, and creating new textile designs, and “flowing stone” silk robes. Happily, my limited-edition wearable art is available at Lightfoot & Wolfville Winery through December.

**Heather Alexis Porter:** In searching for a noble and meaningful message, I realized that being creative and curious has always been a need which is confirmed even more during these pandemic times.

**Rachel Reeves:** I completed a project this fall for a group exhibition, ‘Object Histories,’ with Eye Level Gallery in Halifax ([eyelevel.art](http://eyelevel.art)). Artists often work in isolation. I find myself wondering how people who typically don’t work alone are managing during the pandemic.

**Twila Robar-Decoste:** All in all, a productive year. The Covid-19 close-down gave me some much-needed rest and in time, renewed enthusiasm. I took part in some group shows, did a lot of writing, and although no oils were painted as planned, I renovated a lovely space to do so next year. Looking forward to 2021.

**Judy Shedden:** I’m still keeping socially distant, so I haven’t had any opportunities to find more venues where I can sell my work. Hopefully things will turn around soon and we’ll get back to normal.

**Elizabeth Sircom:** In the world such as it has become, everything I do seems creative, as if the pandemic were one ongoing creative act and all of us part of it.

**Susan Spicer:** Everything seems to have aligned this year in spite of the pandemic restrictions. I am grateful that the hard work has paid off with my most successful year yet. Here’s to a creative winter!.



## THE DOME CHRONICLES

# SANTA’S EARLY ARRIVAL

Garry Leeson

*In 1972, a boxcar from Toronto containing a menagerie of farm animals and an eager young couple pulled into the station platform in Kingston, Nova Scotia. They were bound for a deserted hundred-acre farm on the South Mountain, determined to preserve the foundations of farmsteads past while constructing a geodesic dome. They were pioneers of the future, armed with respect for tradition and an irrepressible sense of humour. They didn’t call themselves farmers. They were back-to-the-landers. Farming was industry and their calling was sustainability. Over the next forty years, through flood and fire, triumph and catastrophe, they persevered, unwittingly sowing the seeds for the modern small-farm movement.*

By December of 1976 most of our income had to go into materials for the geodesic dome and barn we had been building, and the prospects for Christmas did not look good. It would be a slim Christmas for our two sons, Brenden, age eight, and Timothy, two.

That year I learned about the custom of the city of Halifax sending a huge tree to Boston annually in thanks for the aid that city had provided in the aftermath of the great explosion of 1917. The news on TV about the tree being felled and loaded for the long trip to Boston gave me an idea. We didn’t have much money but one thing we did have lots of was trees: thousands of trees and many of them were soft wood or evergreens – potential Christmas trees!

At the time the term ‘cathedral ceiling’ sounded a little pretentious considering the unfinished state of our home but we did have a good sixteen foot ceiling in our partially finished living room so I decided to go all out for Christmas and give the kids a tree that would be the mother of all Christmas trees.

It seems that everybody has a different idea about the perfect Christmas tree, so cruising our woods for the right one took a lot longer than it would have had I been on my own. Viewed from a distance most of the trees looked good but after they were given the 360° critique by my wife, Andrea, with the help of the two boys, only one special fir tree met with everybody’s approval.

Of course that particular tree was located in the most remote inaccessible spot on our property. I had planned to use my team of horses to yard the tree out but after assessing the narrow twisted route I would have to manage, I settled on singling out my quiet chestnut gelding, Beau, hoping that he would be up to the task on his own.

The next day the old horse stood patiently waiting near the tree while, after several furtive attempts, I finally got my old blue Homelite chainsaw fired up. Of course I had forgotten to sharpen the saw so the procedure was more like gnawing than sawing.

Eventually I did fell the monster and, with a lot of geeing and hawing, Beau and I wound our way out of the woods, skidded through the fields, and landed our prize in front of the huge picture window of the dome.

None of our doors would be big enough to accommodate the tree, but I had thought that problem out in advance — all I had to do was to remove two of the huge triangular Plexiglas picture windows making for about an eight foot hole – it would be a tight squeeze but it seemed possible.

There was just one problem — for now! This was a ton of tree and, even if I were crazy enough to try it, there was no way I could bring Beau into the living room to land it in its final position and there was no way Andrea and I could heave it in.

The horse was still standing in front of the house when inspiration struck — I could still use the horse. I ran out to the barn and retrieved my trusty wooden pulley and rope that I used in the hayloft and brought it into the living room. I secured the pulley to the big stone fireplace located on the far side of the living room and threaded the rope through it, out the window and over to Beau.

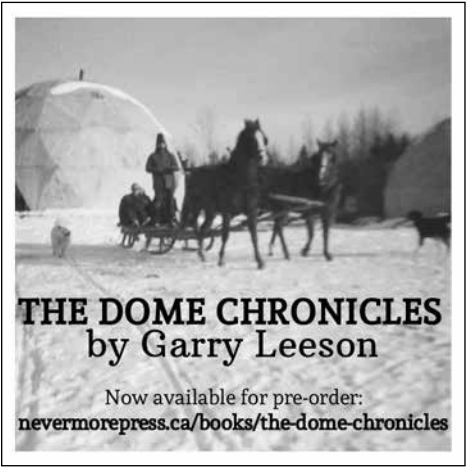
As the horse leaned into his collar and moved forward there was a terrifying chorus of crashing and snapping until Beau stopped — he was at the end of his tether and the butt of the tree was hard against the fireplace — more or less where I wanted it to be. A few of the lower branches had been broken off but nothing that a bit of twine and tape couldn’t fix.

After putting together a large tree stand and fixing it to the base of the tree everything was in readiness. That’s when Andrea intervened with a sensible suggestion, “It would be almost impossible to get the decorations up to the very top so let’s decorate it before we put it up.”

“That’s exactly what I was thinking” I replied, looking off into the distance. So that’s what we did. Then with Christmas carols blasting out, the tree ablaze with coloured lights, I began to hoist the tree into position with the help of my trusty cable come-along. Andrea, Brenden, and Tim stood watching with total amazement. Hallelujah!

Then Andrea remembered one more box of decorations up in the attic, so I headed on up to hunt for those last trinkets. There was only the light from the second floor bedroom to go by up there and I hadn’t installed the floorboards either so I had to make my way carefully across the space, stepping from rafter to rafter. Then it happened — Gene Autry had just begun singing “Hear Comes Santa Claus” when I slipped and my foot, with its shiny black rubber boot, went crashing down through the ceiling above the tree.

I heard Andrea’s terrified gasps as portions of plaster crashed to the floor, and then Tim’s excited little voice asking, “Is that Santa up there?? Did he come early?” 🎅🎄



## FLOWER CART GROUP LAUNCHES \$5.8 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Submitted

The Flower Cart Group is launching a \$5.8 million capital campaign to raise funds for a new facility. The Building Opportunities Capital Campaign is the largest fundraising effort in the organization’s fifty-year history. The Flower Cart Group, based in New Minas, provides opportunities to adults with intellectual disabilities and complex barriers to employment. Participants develop new skills through training in areas including woodworking, baking, and product packaging. The organization also supports members who join the workforce with job skills and with finding employment.

Located in a former school building at 9412 Commercial Street, the Group identified three years ago that their current space no longer fit their needs.

“Our participants come first,” says Paul Randell, board chair and campaign co-chair. “Our new facility will help us to create more opportunities for them and have an accessible, safe, and efficient space for everyone in our organization for years to come.” The capital campaign has over \$4 million, nearly 70 percent, of the total goal in pledges and funding commitments.

The Campaign has been successful in acquiring donations from the various levels of government, corporate and private foundations, and the community. The new social enterprise and vocational training centre will be built at 9503 Commercial Street, next to the Louis Millett Community Complex on land owned by The Flower Cart Group. The organization is contributing almost 20 percent of the total through the sale of their current properties. “Our aim is to begin construction in 2021,” said campaign co-chair Ramona Jennex. “We are certainly in a position where this seems possible thanks

to the incredible support we have from our community. Our donors clearly see the impact their gift has on progress and inclusion in Kings County.” Once built, the facilities will house the majority of the Group’s operations under one roof and create more opportunities for participants.



For more information on The Flower Cart Group and the Building Opportunities Capital Campaign, visit [flowercart.ca](http://flowercart.ca)



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

**Committee of the Whole** – *Municipality of the County of Kings, Coldbrook 6pm* • The meeting will be held in person in the Council Chambers. Face masks are required. You can also listen live by visiting [www.countyofkings.ca](http://www.countyofkings.ca) and following the “Listen Live” link. **TIX:** No charge, but please PRE-REGISTER as seating is limited due to physical distancing requirements. **INFO:** 902-690-2566 / [municipalclerk@countyofkings.ca](mailto:municipalclerk@countyofkings.ca)

**45’s** – *Royal Canadian Legion, Canning 7pm. ALSO Dec 17* • Open to everyone. Covid rules apply. Bar is open. **TIX:** \$2 **INFO:** 902-582-3157 / [brian.d.hazel@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:brian.d.hazel@ns.sympatico.ca)

**Trivia Night** – *Oaken Barrel Pub, Greenwood 7–9pm* • 5 Rounds of trivia, with a \$25 gift card for the top team. Limited seating. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** 902-765-8933 / [info@oakenbarrel.ca](mailto:info@oakenbarrel.ca)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

**Interview Skills** – *Community INC, Kentville 10–11am* • Let us help you pass that final step and get the job. This workshop will review do’s and don’ts, and will help you with those hard to answer questions. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** 902-679-7469 / [irs@communityinc.ca](mailto:irs@communityinc.ca)

**Coping with Job Loss** – *PeopleWorx, Coldbrook NS 2–3pm. ALSO Dec 18* • A virtual workshop to give you tips on coping with job loss. Email to register. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** [rspears@peopleworx.ca](mailto:rspears@peopleworx.ca)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

**Breakfast** – *Lions Club, Kentville 8–10am* • Kentville Lions Monthly Breakfast **TIX:** \$8 adult, \$5 child **INFO:** 902-680-2740 / [vintagemusic1@hotmail.com](mailto:vintagemusic1@hotmail.com)

**Farmers’ Market** – *Farmers Market, Wolfville 9:30am–1pm* • Every Saturday (no market Dec 26 & Jan 2)! Our Saturday morning experience has been around for 27 years and it truly is a staple in our customers’ weekend plans. As we move indoors, we are fortunate to be able to continue to provide a safe and welcoming market. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** [wolfvillefarmersmarket.ca](http://wolfvillefarmersmarket.ca)

**SpeakEasy** – *Community Hall, West Brooklyn 8–11pm* • Terra Spencer brings her brand-new album for an evening of winter tunes and the stories behind them, with opening act Ron Edmonds and the house band! **TIX:** \$20 in advance only. Only 30 tickets available! **INFO:** 902-542-5424

**Adam Delorey** – *Main Street Station, 325 Main St., Kentville 8pm* • Marc’s Comedy Club partnered with Maritime Express Cider Company presents the super funny and talented ADAM DELOREY. Plus opening acts and MC Marc Sauv ! Get your Bubble Peeps together. **TIX:** Table of 8 \$160 (deposit required). Only 10 tables available – text to reserve! **INFO:** 902-433-5230

**Kings Kikima Christmas Sale** – *Lions Club, Wolfville 10am–3pm* • Jewellery, fabric and yarn, art jewellery, silent auction, Christmas masks and more COVID protocol. Funds raised to support children being raised by their grandmothers in Kenya. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** 902-542-7591

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

**Mike’s MASSIVE Movie Sale** – *Lions Hall, Elm Ave., Wolfville 9am–3pm* • Indoor yard sale with hundreds of DVD’s, Box Sets, and Blu-Rays. Plus tons of books, puzzles and other fun things! All proceeds go to Wolfville Area Food Bank. Food donation box available: bring a non-perishable to donate! Masks are required. **INFO:** Facebook: Mike’s Massive Movie Sale

**The Nutcracker - National Ballet of Canada** – *Kings Theatre, Annapolis Royal 2pm* • The National Ballet of Canada’s The Nutcracker is a magical holiday tradition. Enjoy an extravagant dreamscape of wonders, from the glittering, ice-coated world of the Snow Queen to the awe-inspiring splendour of the golden palace of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Reserved seating. Seats are marked to accommodate physical distancing of 6 feet. Face masks are required. **TIX:** \$20 Adult, \$16 Member, Youth free. (tickets.kingstheatre.ca) **INFO:** 902-532-7704

**Sunday Movies at Harbourville Hall** – *Community Hall, Harbourville 3:30–5:30pm* • Harbourville Restoration Society’s Community Connections Program presents FREE Sunday Matinee Movies!. This weeks film is Honeyland. Please reserve your seat. Covid-19 safety protocols are in place. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** 902-538-7098 / [hsrccommunityconnections@gmail.com](mailto:hsrccommunityconnections@gmail.com)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

**Committee of the Whole** – *Municipality of the County of Kings, Coldbrook 9am* • The meeting will be held in person in the Council Chambers. Face masks are required. You can also listen live by visiting [www.countyofkings.ca](http://www.countyofkings.ca) and following the “Listen Live” link. **TIX:** No charge, but please PRE-REGISTER as seating is limited due to physical distancing requirements. **INFO:** 902-690-2566 / [municipalclerk@countyofkings.ca](mailto:municipalclerk@countyofkings.ca)

**Rowan’s Room Online Silent Auction** – *Virtual Event, Annapolis Valley 9am–11:55pm* • Online Fundraising Auction **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** [info@rowansroom.ca](mailto:info@rowansroom.ca)

**Working From Home** – *PeopleWorx, Coldbrook NS 2–3pm. ALSO Dec 21 & 29* • A virtual workshop to help you be successful in working remotely. Email to register or for more information **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** [rspears@peopleworx.ca](mailto:rspears@peopleworx.ca)

**Celebrate Recovery** – *New Hope Wesleyan Church, Kentville 7–9:30pm. ALSO Dec 22, 29* • A faith based 12-Step program for all who need help with hurts, habits & hangups. Are you struggling with broken relationships, stress, anger, fears, addictions? All welcome. Please wear a mask & maintain social distancing. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** 902-678-2222

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

**Coffee & Tea Social** – *Community Hall, White Rock 9:30–11:30am. ALSO Jan 6, 13* • Wolfville Legion is closed for renovations so please join us for coffee/tea & sweets at the White Rock Community Hall. **TIX:** \$2 **INFO:** 902-542-5869 / [wolfvillelegion@gmail.com](mailto:wolfvillelegion@gmail.com)

**Indoor Farmers Market** – *Calkin Building, 38 Cornwallis St., Kentville 10am–1pm. ALSO Dec 23* • Kentville Farmers Market has moved inside! Please support your local farmers and artisans during the Covid-19 pandemic. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** 902-956-1822 / [kentvillefarmersmarket1@gmail.com](mailto:kentvillefarmersmarket1@gmail.com)

**Community Caroling** – *Wolfville Nursing Home, Wolfville 2–2:30pm* • Join the Women of Wolfville and sing-along to some holiday tunes! Let’s raise our voices and raise our spirits! Be prepared to socially distance along the sidewalk while singing. **TIX:** Free! **INFO:** [wolfville.ca/wolfville-glows.html](http://wolfville.ca/wolfville-glows.html)

**Job Search** – *PeopleWorx, Coldbrook NS 2–3pm. ALSO Dec 22, 30* • A virtual workshop to help you with your job search efforts. Contact Ronda Spears, [rspears@peopleworx.ca](mailto:rspears@peopleworx.ca) to register or for more information. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** [rspears@peopleworx.ca](mailto:rspears@peopleworx.ca)

**Trivia Night: Goodbye 2020!** – *AVRL Virtual Program Space, Berwick 7–8pm* • Join us for another round of trivia. This will recap the strange year that was 2020! Ages 18 and up. View the questions and clues via Zoom, and submit your answers via the Kahoot! app or website. Registration is required. Prizes for the top three Trivia Masters! Registration deadline is December 14. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** [valleylibrary.ca](http://valleylibrary.ca)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

**Interview Skills** – *PeopleWorx, Coldbrook NS 2–3pm. Also Dec 23, 31* • A virtual workshop to help you prepare for your job interviews. Email to register or for more information **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** [rspears@peopleworx.ca](mailto:rspears@peopleworx.ca)

**Homemade Wigglebot (A First “Robot”)** – *AVRL Virtual Program Space, Berwick 4–5pm* • Join Alison to make your own robot, the “Wigglebot”. Okay, so technically this is not a robot, but it will make some interesting patterns as it wiggles about. After you sign-up, we’ll send a kit of everything you need to the AVRL branch of your choice for pickup before the class. This is a live online program (using Zoom). Open to ages 10 and up. Registration is limited. Sign-ups will close on December 10. Please indicate which branch you would like the kit sent to. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** [valleylibrary.ca](http://valleylibrary.ca)

**A Christmas Carol** – *Kings Theatre, Annapolis Royal 7pm. ALSO Dec 18, 19, 20, 7pm, Dec 19, 20, 2pm* • The Annapolis District Drama Group is joining forces with Young Company Productions to create a family-favourite Christmastime spectacle that is certain to entertain: a screen-play version of “A Christmas Carol”, by Charles Dickens. **TIX:** \$15 adult, \$5 youth (tickets.kingstheatre.ca) **INFO:** 902-532-7704

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

**Winter Sing-a-long** – *Clock Park, Wolfville 1–2:30pm* • Led by Sarah McInnis & Friends. Join us in singing a collection of holiday songs, to get people (safely) together to share in some familiar holiday fun. **TIX:** donation **INFO:** [facebook.com/musicincommunitiesns](https://facebook.com/musicincommunitiesns)

**Holiday Masquerade** – *Community Centre, Gaspereau 7–9pm. ALSO Dec 20, 1:30–3:30pm* • Singing your favourite holiday classics... join us for a warm & cozy time at the Gaspereau Community Centre! NOTE: Seating arrangements will be in group bubbles (up to 10). Refreshments will be available (cash only). Each table must maintain social distancing from any other table. Face masks are mandatory and must be worn upon arrival and when going to the washroom, etc. **TIX:** \$30 adult, \$20 student/kids, preferably via e-transfer. Contact for info on ticket purchases, and number of tickets / party size. **INFO:** 902-220-8938 / [christmasmasquerade@gmail.com](mailto:christmasmasquerade@gmail.com)

**SpeakEasy** – *Community Hall, West Brooklyn 8–11pm* • Join us for an evening of live music with Eden Row! Open mic and jams are part of the experience. Come and enjoy our infamous SpeakEasy atmosphere, oh so danceable live music, and feature cocktails and snacks! COVID-19 rules apply. **TIX:** \$5 **INFO:** 902-680-2772

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

**Sunday Movies at Harbourville Hall** – *Community Hall, Harbourville 3:30–5:30pm* • Harbourville Restoration Society’s Community Connections Program presents FREE Sunday Matinee Movies. This week’s film is Toy Story 4. Please reserve your seat. Covid-19 safety protocols are in place. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** 902-538-7098 / [hsrccommunityconnections@gmail.com](mailto:hsrccommunityconnections@gmail.com)

**Singing for our Supper – Covid edition** – *Wolfville Baptist Church, Wolfville 7–8:30pm* • Featuring Alan Slipp, Donna Holmes, Rewind & more to help raise money for the Wolfville Food Bank. Bring a cash or food donation, wear a mask, and join us for the fun! **TIX:** Donation **INFO:** 902-585-1382 / [dannaholmes712@gmail.com](mailto:dannaholmes712@gmail.com)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

**Blue Christmas** – *Christian Fellowship Centre, Wilmot 6:30–7:30pm* • Many face sadness, loneliness, illness, depression or loss at this time of year. Join us for a quiet, sensitive, solemn time that recognizes your concerns and offers hope and comfort. **TIX:** no charge **INFO/Reg:** 902-765-2386 / [wilmotbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:wilmotbaptist@gmail.com)

**Ardyth and Jennifer’s Longest Night Concert** – *St. James Anglican Church, Kentville 7–8pm* • The longest night of the year happens on December 21st when the earth is the farthest from the sun. This is the winter solstice and is an important time in many cultures. The concert is virtual this year. For tickets visit [www.stjameskentville.ca](http://www.stjameskentville.ca) **TIX:** \$10 **INFO:** 902-678-3123 / [longestnightconcert@gmail.com](mailto:longestnightconcert@gmail.com)

TIDE PREDICTIONS

*ft Cape Blomidon*

Always check this source for accurate tides:  
Canadian Fisheries & Oceans. [www.waterlevels.gc.ca](http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca)

DEC	HIGH	LOW
10	8:21am	2:33pm
11	9:18am	3:31pm
12	10:13am	4:27pm
13	11:05am	5:20pm
14	11:57am	6:11pm
15	12:47pm	7:01pm
16	1:37pm	7:21am
17	2:29pm	8:13am
18	3:17pm	9:01am
19	4:06pm	9:50am
20	4:56pm	10:40am
21	5:47pm	11:31am
22	••6:40pm	12:24pm
23	7:08am	1:17pm
24	8:01am	2:11pm
25	8:51am	3:02pm
26	9:40am	3:51pm
27	10:26am	4:37pm
28	11:10am	5:22pm
29	11:53am	6:05pm
30	12:35pm	6:47pm
31	1:18pm	7:04am
JAN		
01	2:01pm	7:47am
02	2:46pm	8:32am
03	3:33pm	9:19am
04	4:23pm	10:09am
05	5:17pm	11:02am
06	6:15pm	11:59am
07	7:16pm	12:59pm
08	7:47am	2:02pm
09	8:49am	3:05pm
10	9:50am	4:05pm
11	10:48am	5:03pm
12	••11:43am	5:57pm
13	12:35pm	6:48pm
14	1:24pm	7:09am

THERE ARE NORMALLY TWO HIGH AND TWO LOW TIDES EACH DAY.

• Highest High: 45.3 feet •• Lowest High: 38.7 feet

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

**Christmas Eve Open House** – *Gaspereau United Baptist Church, Gaspereau 3–7:30pm* • Your Family Bubble is invited to have a Reflective Moment. Stroll through the Victorian Decorated Church in Your Bubble. Light a candle, hang a memory ornament, then exit for the next group to enter. All Covid-19 rules apply. Bell Ringing at 3pm and 7:30pm. **INFO:** [facebook.com/GaspereauUnitedBaptistChurch/](https://facebook.com/GaspereauUnitedBaptistChurch/)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

**Public Hearing & Council** – *Municipality of the County of Kings, Coldbrook 6pm* • The meeting will be held in person in the Council Chambers. Face masks are required. You can also listen live by visiting [www.countyofkings.ca](http://www.countyofkings.ca) and following the “Listen Live” link. **TIX:** No charge, but please PRE-REGISTER as seating is limited due to physical distancing requirements. **INFO:** 902-690-2566 / [municipalclerk@countyofkings.ca](mailto:municipalclerk@countyofkings.ca)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

**AVRL Virtual Book Club** – *AVRL Virtual Program Space, Berwick 10–11am* • This month we’ll be discussing An Irish Country Doctor by Patrick Taylor. The AVRL Virtual Book Club is hosted by Barbara at the Berwick Library and is open to anyone who is interested. You can download a copy online or call to reserve a copy. Join the discussion online via Zoom. Registration is required. **TIX:** no charge **INFO:** 902-538-8060 / [valleylibrary.ca](http://valleylibrary.ca)

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## RECORD POPPY SALES FOR WOLFVILLE LEGION

Submitted

Despite gloomy predictions about the success of the Poppy Campaign in this year of COVID-19, the Wolfville Legion reported record sales, announced its president Donn Miles.

“For the last three years,” said Donn, “we have been happy to take in an average of \$12,000 in our campaign. But this year we have received well over \$15,000. For this we have to thank all the people at this end of the Annapolis Valley, who gave so generously, often stuffing \$5 and \$10 bills into our cash-boxes. And more organizations and businesses than ever purchased wreaths for Remembrance Day.”

“We also have to recognize the hard work of our Campaign Chair Peter Tatrallyay, and his team of 22 Legion members who volunteered their time to distribute and collect our boxes, and to staff our table at Home Depot. Peter even put his grandchildren onto the task of counting the cash!” [See photo]

Funds from the Poppy Fund are used solely to assist veterans and their families, with material



assistance in the form of wheelchairs, electric scooters (etc.), to fund bursaries for post-secondary education, and with support in cases of hardship.

A portion may also be used to make the Wolfville Legion building more accessible to those with reduced mobility. 🇨🇦

## SUPPORT MOMS IN MOTION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Submitted

As we are all aware, the holiday season will be even more challenging than usual this year. As some of us prepare for a holiday season at home, others are struggling to make ends meet. Therefore, this year we want to create an opportunity for women to support women.

We invite you to support Moms in Motion this holiday season by donating to the Holiday and Heating Funds. Moms in Motion supports the most vulnerable in our community: new moms and their kids who are living on the margins of poverty. Moms and their kids learn about staying healthy and active while enjoying a safe, supportive environment in a community-based recreational setting. However, the holiday season and winter months are one of the most challenging times for these moms, as they navigate the holiday season and pay bills in the new year.

You can help by donating to:

**The Holiday Fund:** Donations will be used to purchase gift cards for moms to be able to shop for gifts and food for their family this holiday season. Gift cards are a Covid-19 safe option, but more importantly, they allow moms to

choose what is most important for them and their families. Donate by Sunday, December 13!

**The Heating Fund:** Donations will be used to support moms in covering heating and other household bills during an often forgotten about, but especially difficult time of year: the months following December. Donate by January 1!

OR DONATE TO BOTH! Both funds may also go towards purchasing essential items that are often unaffordable, including food, Children's Tylenol, and feminine hygiene products.

You can donate by e-transfer to melissa.grandberg@gmail.com or by cash donation by calling or emailing Alisha at alishaecristie@gmail.com or at 902-694-3057 to coordinate a time for us to collect your donation. In your e-transfer, please note if you would like your donation to go to the Holiday Fund, the Heating Fund or both (not tax-deductible).

Together, let's make holiday magic!  
Thank you so much, in advance, for your donation! 🇨🇦

## SEWING THE SEEDS OF HOPE IN ZIMBABWE

Kate MacInnes Adams

The Give Hope School Project is launching a special project. Sewing machines in both Nova Scotia and Zimbabwe are busy stitching hope for the children of Nyamuwanga. Here in the Annapolis Valley, a dedicated group of women have been busy sewing gift bags and coasters from African fabric. Across the seas in Zimbabwe a seamstress was hired by the society to sew pandemic masks for the children of the Nyamuwanga Primary School.



Wolfville's Spiwe Karipache-Scoggins, a passionate advocate for education, is the co-founder of the registered charity Give Hope School Development Project. Spiwe attended the Nyamuwanga Primary school as a child. Since immigrating to Canada, Spiwe has gathered donations and returned regularly to her homeland with these funds for the school. The Development Project is helping to bring hope to the children of Nyamuwanga. Since its inception in 2011 the project has funded tuition and the purchase of books and uniforms, and now pandemic masks for the children.

This year the pandemic posed a special challenge to the Society. The narrowing of

fundraising options due to Covid-19 restrictions has impacted fundraising efforts. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of these bags and coasters will go to support the education of the children of Nyamuwanga, Zimbabwe. Bags are \$5 and coasters (set of 2) are also \$5. All donations to the Society over \$20 receive an official tax receipt.

Please check our Facebook page for more information about where gift bags are available, and how to donate to the project: facebook.com/thegivehopeproject. 🇨🇦

## HONOUR CHOIR FORGES ON

Wendy Elliott

In normal times this would be the season for school concerts and musical events, but none of us are going anywhere to hear live music. I was amazed last week chatting with Annapolis Valley Honour Choir (AVHC) conductor Heather Fraser just how much her choir is accomplishing despite the fact they can't meet in person.

It takes a minimum of three rehearsal Zooms each week for all of the age groups, and lots of organizing, but Fraser says her choir kids seem to like it: “We have a high retention rate and I'm proud that they've come this far.” Fraser had secured St. James Anglican Church in Kentville as a venue, but a restrictive ruling on singing in groups stopped even physically distant rehearsals. “Maybe in January,” Fraser says, “if things calm down we can pivot to meeting in person.” A video of the choir members singing into their cell phones will be coming out before Christmas, but as she notes, her Facebook memories are reminding her of the excitement and energy and atmosphere of live performances.

Fraser has been able to give her young singers a say in various components of their practices. For example, the older choir members expressed an interest in protest songs from the

1960s. She invited musicians Paula Rockwell and Michael Jonathan to coach small groups on music literacy. Theory instruction was handled online and turned out to be fun, she said. Visual artist and art educator Holly Carr got involved to encourage a different kind of creativity. Musician Amelia McMann, a former AVHC member like Fraser, has shared her knowledge of jazz vocals. Other musicians who've stepped up have been Shelley Moore, one of the original conductors, and Kimberly Cormier. They've focused on vocal repertoire and musicianship. Laura Caswell, of the Neptune Theatre School, offered a short workshop on acting, Fraser said, and Ken Shorley is going to offer some percussion training in January. Meanwhile, she added that the senior members of the AVHC have been connecting in online workshops with other youth choirs across Canada and in South Africa.

Fraser says she misses making live music, but is grateful that the singing and the wider AVHC community continues.



For more information about the Annapolis Valley Honour Choir, visit avhc.ca

## DONATE \$5 TO THE CANNING FOOD BANK and enter for a chance to WIN THIS LOCALLY ILLUSTRATED CHAIR!



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**ValleyEvents.ca**

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Setting and achieving high standards on the job, showing willingness to do great! Keeping a positive attitude and how to express your feelings. Knowing when to admit mistakes and accept responsibility.

**January 12th, 10am- 11:30am:** Time Management, Stress Management  
Setting and following priorities, schedules, breaks, etc. Handling workplace stress without it impacting performance. Learn to adapt with change, both expected and unexpected.

The workshops will also include information on presentation, teamwork, and confidence.

**To register for the workshops, contact us at 902-679-7469 or [irsecommunityinc.ca](http://irsecommunityinc.ca)**

*Visit our facebook page for more information.*  
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