

arts

HUDSON



SPRING 2016
Volume 5, Issue 1

Art's Hudson

We're back! In the end we didn't miss an issue due to the strong support of the Hudson Arts community and especially our partners, listed at the top right. We are now a free magazine and we've printed 600 copies that you can
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Village Theatre Announces New Summer Season

by Bert Markgraf

For its 2016 season, the Hudson Village Theatre reverts to the proven Norm Foster and music format but adds a classic and an experimental piece. Artistic Director Matthew Tiffin takes on Noel Coward's *Private Lives* while the theatre has hired Montreal director Alison Darcy for Norm Foster's *The Ladies Foursome*. The theatre is bringing in the other two shows.

The musical show opens the season and is *60s Spotlight*, brought in via the "You Will Love It Live" agency based in Toronto. The show is the brainchild of Peter de Sousa who is the Musical Director at the agency and the founder of the Stealing Dan Band, a twelve-piece rock band playing the music of Steely Dan. He has created a number of musical shows and *60s Spotlight* is his latest project.

The show consists of a band playing live 60s music. Peter plays the keyboards and has recruited seasoned musicians to play the instruments required to perform a wide variety of 60s music. Cheryl Lescom, who has toured with Long John Baldry and Jeff Healey, sings.

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Free

Hudson Village Theatre

2016 Season: Games We Play; Tickets and Passes available now: (450) 458-5361, villagetheatre.ca

Hudson Film Society

Seeing the World Through Film;
hfsoperaandbeyond@gmail.com, hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Hudson Music Festival

The Ultimate Intimate Festival for jazz, blues, rock, pop, electronic, folk and classical; hudsonmusicfestival.ca

Greenwood Centre for Living History

Our Stories are Your Past; Your Stories are Our Future. greenwood-centre-hudson.org

Film Society

Celebrates Successful Festival

by Clint Ward

I guess you might say I am biased to suggest that the March Film Festival was a great event. After all, I have been connected with our local film group for some 10 years now, but it is comments such as these that have suggested it was indeed a memorable occurrence.

"Thank you again for persuading me to buy a full pass to your festival (9 films in 4 days). I really enjoyed every one of your varied programme of movies. They offered me so many different perspectives on life and I appreciated
(continued on page 3)



Karelle Tremblay in *Les Etres Chers*

Hudson Music Festival Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The festival is gearing up to announce this year's season, probably at the beginning of April. Look for special events to mark their 10th year. They write: "There is hardly a more beautiful place for a summer festival than Hudson. Perched on the edge of the Lake of Two Mountains, covered by the starry sky, the Festival has welcomed for the past ten years a range of artists from the four corners of the world. Jazz, blues, rock, pop, electronic, folk and even classical. Ultimately an intimate festival ...



Emerald Rae Trio at the Willow, Photo by Jen Baumeister

Village Theatre 2016 Season

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Among the musicians are drummer/percussionist Adam Bowman who has toured extensively across Canada and internationally, sax and guitar player David Rodenburg, singer and guitar player Johnny Bent of the Duo "Almost Serious" and base player Brandon Sanders of the band "Wormwood Scrubs." The show will include songs by bands such as the The Who, The Beatles, Diana Ross, The Dave Clarke Five, The Monkees, The Rolling Stones and Santana.

The second show of the season, opening at the end of June, is Norm Foster's *The Ladies Foursome*. After the success of his play *The Foursome* a few years back, this show seems a sure hit.

The audience gets to know the four ladies through their conversations while playing a round of golf. These women will discuss any topic that comes up and we become familiar with the comical aspects of their various situations as well as the poignant ones. A good bet for a few summer laughs.

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Hudsonite or Visitor,

Thank you for picking up and reading the new Arts Hudson magazine. If you are a regular participant in the arts, you'll find interesting information in our schedule and event descriptions.

But if you are an arts novice, I have to tell you right away, the arts are subversive and addictive. Continue reading, and you may be forced to become more socially conscious, environmentally responsible, and even worse, a patron of the arts.

The arts draw you in and even have international links. You don't think the globe on our front page is there for decoration. Before you know it, you'll be doing something completely silly, like going to Sicily to visit the Greek amphitheatre in Syracuse.

So, you've been warned. Continue reading, and you'll find yourself buying ridiculously expensive tickets to live theatre and enjoying the performances. You may end up paying hundreds or even thousands of dollars for a work created by a local artist and appreciate it every day.

You'll become convinced that supporting the arts instead of buying things reduces global warming, contributes to the local economy and makes laughing unicorns gallop across the slopes of Rigaud mountain. Well, maybe not laughing ones.

To avoid becoming artistically compromised, stop reading now and run, don't walk, to the nearest big box store. It takes years of retail therapy, buying poorly made cheap stuff you don't need before you can recover from a true arts addiction.

But if you're not afraid, read on. Hudson and the surrounding area have music, theatre, history, paintings, sculpture, pottery and crafts to offer. Arts Hudson brings you the details of when and where the art is available. In future issues we'll discuss more about the role of the arts, what and how to buy and what to look for.

arts hudson

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If you wish to have the Arts Hudson magazine mailed to you, please send your name, address and a \$12.00 cheque made out to Arts Hudson to cover mailing and handling for one year to the address below.

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Random Art: Tibetan Print on Rice Paper



The Hudson Festival of Canadian Film, What a celebration it was!

by Clint Ward

the fact that they were all Canadian films."

"I just wanted to thank the committee for hosting such a great festival this past weekend."

"The Festival was a great success and deserves to become a fantastic Showcase for the best of Canadian films in the years to come."

These written notes that came my way, echo the many verbal comments that were made to all the members of the Film Committee during the 3½ days of the screenings. It just emphasized to me that the crowning celebration of our 10 years was well received and we are all looking forward to March 1 to 4 in 2017 where we hope to improve the experience because of what we learned from our inaugural outing.

In September of 2006 the Hudson Film Society began life by establishing, "Monday Night at the Movies." The third Monday of the month from September to April. Success was immediate and we soon added a weekend Documentary Festival in March and a May Feature Film Festival to round out the season.

The documentary event saw some very good films but a lot of empty seats because docs are a hard sell. May wasn't all that much better because it was the start of the real spring with the bright sunny weather, keeping many in their gardens. We carried on though, because as a Film Society we assumed a responsibility to show documentaries and we hoped the May Festival would catch on.

Then came out 10th year and as part of the celebration the idea was floated that we could combine the two weekend attractions into a single event. By adding a day it would be possible to screen 9 films and the month of March was really a dead time - not much happening - sort of winter, but the days becoming longer. We still

Jeremy Thibodeau from Rigaud, on stage centre, answers questions from the audience after the showing of his film, *The Union*. Photo below and of the audience above right by Peter Mundie



(continued from page 1)

needed a 'hook' and then the thought surfaced to try an "All Canadian" program. Why not? Kingston had been doing it for 15 years! So the Hudson Canadian Film Festival was born - a title, which soon morphed into "The Hudson Festival of Canadian Film."

Programming was easy because the Canadian Film industry had come alive and there were lots of great films to choose from. Particularly from Quebec where much of the product, with English subtitles, was not easily accessible for an English audience in the western region. Finally a program was settled on, consisting of 9 films - 4 documentaries and 5 features with 5 of the 9 having direct connection to our home province.

The 'no brainer' opening film was "The Union." It was perfect because the Director, Jeremy Thibodeau, was a young man from Rigaud. We had shown some of his 'teen-age' produced short films and they were very good. Now he had a feature film of great quality.

"The Union" brought a lot of enjoyment to the Thursday night audience and at the end of the Festival won the vote for the Audience Choice award. On Friday afternoon, "Sleeping Giant" that had won an award at Toronto's International Film Festival and was also nominated for the Canadian Screen Award (won Best Supporting Actor, Nick Serino) was scheduled. The first French language film "Les êtres chers" was screened on Friday night to an almost sold-out audience. Written and Directed by Montreal based Anne Émond it had been selected as one of top 10 films in Canada in 2015 and was also nominated for the Canadian Screen Awards.

Saturday was the big adventure day with 4 films on the program. For fortification, soup and sandwiches were available in the Theatre bar and by 4.00pm nothing was left.

The day began at 11.00 am with "This Changes Everything," a film based on Naomi Klein's book of the same



Al Purdy (left) and Michael Ondaatje (right) in the film *Al Purdy Was Here*.

name and directed by her husband Avi Lewis. It was a hard-hitting entry in the climate change discussion.

Early afternoon was a highlight for many in the audience because "Al Purdy Was Here" was pure Canadiana and spoke volumes about who we are and how proud we can be about our artists - poets, actors, singers, and journalists, unique and talented all. 4.00 pm and it was time for some laughter. One of Canada's best Directors, Philippe Falardeau delivered in spades with his latest film, "Guibord s'en va-t-en guerre." It was the perfect festival tonic - a political farce, very funny and particularly enjoyed by those who were there for the day.

Another highlight, among many so far, was the Saturday night film, which was
(continued on page 4)

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written, directed and produced by two young men who had grown up in Hudson, Forbes Campbell and Daniel Gainsford. With a lot of pre-festival buzz, "Searching for Dragons" engrossed a sold out house - our biggest documentary audience ever. The excitement of a question and answer session after the film led to a lengthy reception, which filled the Village Theatre

Forbes Campbell and Daniel Gainsford answering questions from the audience after the showing of their film, *Searching for Dragons*. Photo by Peter Mundie.



stage with young, and old who partied almost to midnight.

One day to go - and Sunday began with the 5th Quebec connection. "In Pursuit of Peace," a documentary from the respected Montreal filmmakers, Director, Garry Beitel and Producer, Barry Lazar. The subject was the need for a better method of conflict resolution in the world today and Barry Lazar was on hand to answer questions from the appreciative audience.

The inaugural Hudson Festival of Canadian Film came to a close with the screening of "Room," the Academy Award

nominated film with Oscar winning Brie Larson in the lead role. In the week following the Festival it also won 9 times at the Canadian Screen Awards - including, Best Film, Best Actress (Brie Larson), Best Actor (Jacob Tremblay), Best Supporting Actress (Joan Allen), Best Adapted Screenplay (Emma Donoghue) and Best Director (Lenny Abrahamson).

In many ways a film festival is not the same as just going to the movies on a Saturday or Monday night. Picking and choosing a film here or there is risky because pass holders who get in early would have selected the best seats - if any were available at all. The best way to get the most out of it is to jump in and see all the films.

For those who did make the decision to buy the complete pass and take the entire adventure - with soup and sandwiches as well - the reward was palpable and I harken back to the first comment in this report. The organizers of the inaugural cinema celebration hope that even more will take it all in next year when the 2nd Hudson Festival of Canadian Film will take place at the Hudson Village Theatre from March 1 to 4.

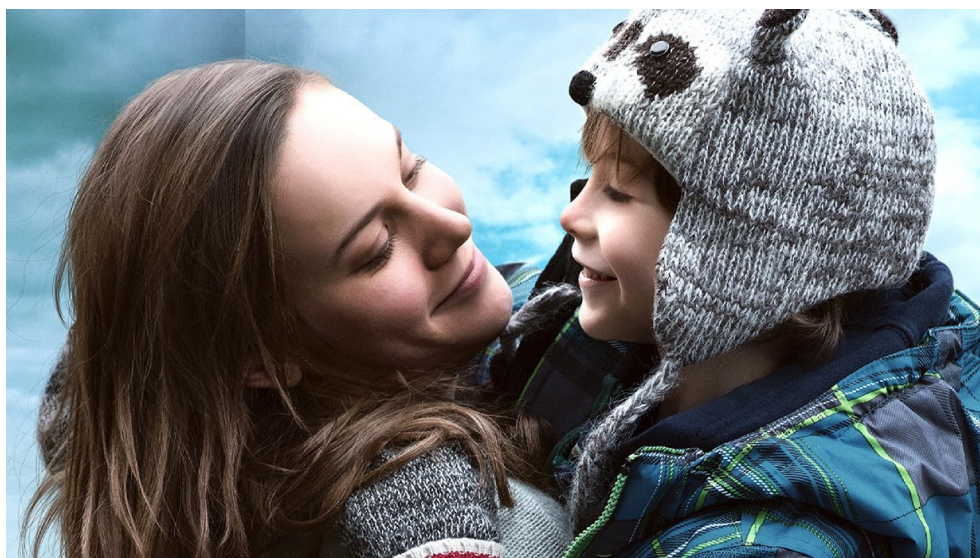
A lot of credit and kudos for the hardworking HFS volunteers, who planned, selected, packaged, and sold the program of films and receptions. An average of slightly more than 60% attendance was achieved. The Festival future looks bright indeed.

The weekend extravaganza is now history but the HD projector will not be out of use for long.

On April 11, as a fundraiser for Greenwood, the film, "Red Army" will be shown. It is not a film about war - or at least the shooting kind - it is a film about the rise of Hockey in Russia and how over many years the Russians changed the way we play our Game. It is an historical document and respected Hockey experts will be on hand to field questions and relate their experiences in International Competition. Tickets are available at the Pure Art Boutique.

On April 17th at 2.00 pm the final performance in the , "Opera and Beyond" series will be screened and it is a modern 20th Century one, "Peter Grimes" by Benjamin Britten. On the following day, April 18, the Hudson Film Society will bring its 10th anniversary season to an end with a 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm screening of this years Oscar winning film, "Spotlight."

To cap the month of April there will be a showing of, "The Lady in The Van" with Maggie Smith - 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm on Monday, April 25th. It is the story of Miss Shepherd, who "temporarily" parked her van in Alan Bennet's driveway in London. It is a fundraiser for Nova and tickets are available at their Boutique store.



Brie Larson and Jacob Tremblay in *The Room*, for which Brie Larson won the Oscar for Best Actress.

Greenwood Getting Ready for Exciting 20th Anniversary Season!

By Terry O'Shaughnessy

As the snow melts and spring begins, Hudson's Greenwood Centre for Living History has been busy planning for the first event of our 2016 season: the screening of the prize-winning documentary *Red Army*.

A special fundraiser for Greenwood to be held on Monday, April 11, *Red Army* recounts the great hockey battles between the Soviet Union and the West. But while it's a film about hockey, it is also about much more than that. *Red Army* is essentially a look at the history of the Cold War through the memorable prism of the great hockey battles that began at the end of the 1960s and continued through the 1990s until Glasnost.

Greenwood will present this screening at Hudson Village Theatre at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, April 11 with very special guests: IGA and Willow Inn owner Mike Poirier who played hockey in the Montreal Canadiens system and was a member of the 1969/70 Team Canada, the precursor team to the famed 1972 series. Senator Jacques Demers, who coached the Montreal Canadiens to a Stanley Cup in 1993, will also be on hand to answer questions following the screening—among others!



It is sure to be a fascinating evening that takes a look at the Cold War history that shaped our lives, and the perfect kick-off to Greenwood's new season which is our 20th anniversary as a "centre for living history."

On Sunday, May 1 we will hold our



Greenwood in hibernation, photo by Heather Markgraf

Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Hall in Hudson. Greenwood's archivist and special AGM speaker Karen Molson will present an intriguing look at the photographs and other artefacts she is unearthing and preserving from Greenwood's remarkably full cache of memorabilia from five generations of a family, culminating with the late Phoebe Hyde who bequeathed her remarkable gift to the public in her wish that Greenwood become a place of history and conservation for the community.

And the Greenwood house and gardens will officially open for the summer season on Sunday, June 5th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. when a very special guest, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Youth) and MP for Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Peter Schiefke, will officiate at the opening of our special 20th anniversary season. Our annual Members Day will be held that day, providing a chance for everyone to meet our new MP!

Many other events are also well into the planning stages for the summer season at Greenwood, especially the 15th edition of StoryFest, our yearly autumn festival that celebrates the brightest lights of Canada's literary landscape. Stay tuned for more on that soon!

Check often for information about events at:

www.greenwood-centre-hudson.org

The Greenwood Centre for Living History is located at 254 Main Road, Hudson, Quebec.



**Art's Hudson
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pick up in various Hudson outlets. Over the next few issues we hope to increase our circulation and add more pages with arts-related material. You may also have Arts Hudson mailed to you for \$12.00 per year postage and handling - send a cheque made out to Arts Hudson to P.O. Box 415, Hudson, QC J0P 1H0. Of course you can still find the whole issue online at artshudson.org, along with archived issues.

You may have noticed a slight change in our logo - the small globe replacing the o in Hudson. This is a nod to the fact that Hudson and its art have links around the world. I've seen actors from Stratford and famous international stars on the Village theatre stage. Last year I met a beautiful singer from Italy, who sang beautifully at the Music Festival. There are works of art created in Hudson that hang on walls around the world. And the globe reminds us of our orientation toward fair trade.

The biggest arts-related event of the past three months was the new Hudson Festival of Canadian Films, organized by the Hudson Film Society. With nine films spread over four days, some sold out viewings and enthusiastic crowds, the new event was a worthy successor to the festival of documentaries and the older film festival it replaced.

Films ranged from the very Québécois, "Les Êtres Chers," to the Oscar-winning "The Room." The former reminded viewers that the Canadian experience is really quite different from what we see in Hollywood movies. Characters walked along deserted shores of large lakes. A good part of the time they wore coats,

Film Society president Clint Ward (left) and former Vaudreuil-Soulanges MP Jamie Nicholls celebrate the success of the film festival that Jamie helped Clint organize. Photo by Peter Mundie.



scarves or ski jackets and sometimes they walked through snow. There was even a power failure.

For the coming three months we'll see a new Players Club production, the opening of the new Village Theatre season and a new initiative by Hudson artisans to create a "Rites of Spring" series of events.

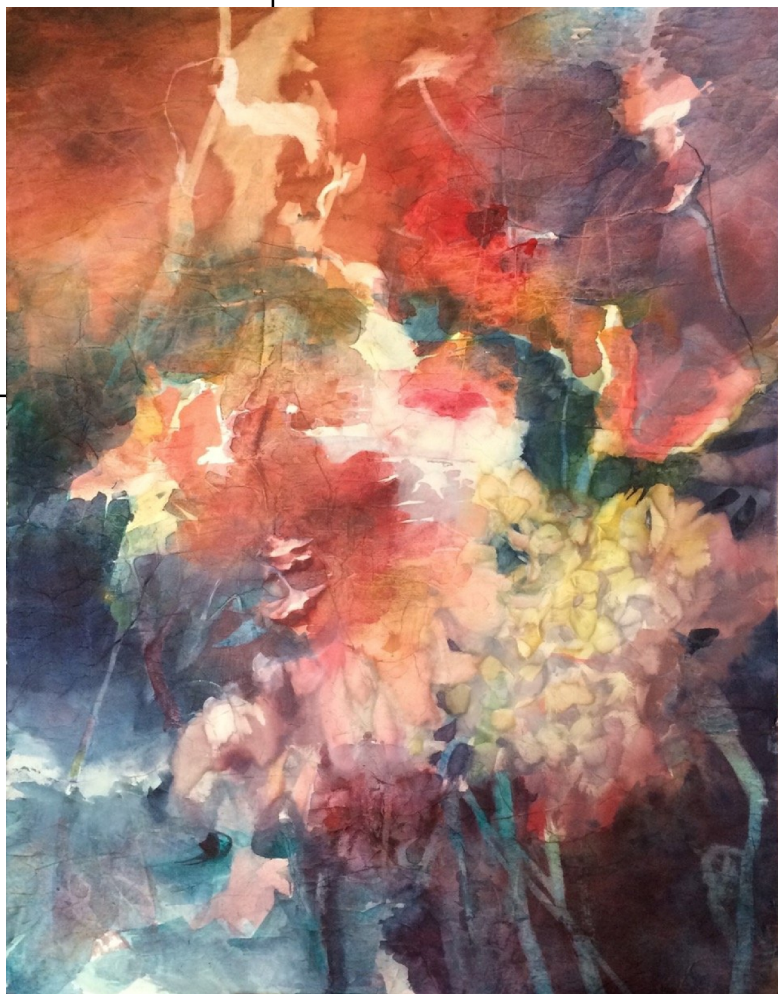
The latter still had not finalized all the details of their schedule when we went to print, but it will consist of many arts-related happenings spread out over the month of May and spilling into June. Quilters, felt-makers and artists will all be involved along with a pop-up boutique at Pure Art.

Details of these and other events

**Studio Tours
Gets a New Committee**

Founder and the main organizer of the Hudson and Region Studio Tours Al Jared has turned the responsibility for the Studio Tours over to a new committee made up of Jen Baumeister, Al Lombard, Bert Markgraf and Shernya Vininsky. The new committee is in the process of finalizing the list of participants for the 2016 fall tour.

Potter Jen Baumeister, and painter Shernya Vininsky, whose works are shown on the right, will be opening their studios along with a broad selection of other artists and artisans.



can be found in the articles of this issue and on the calendar pages at the end of the magazine.

Our next issue will be the 2016 Summer Issue published at the beginning of June and it will cover June to September. The following issues will come out every three months but cover four months of activity, with a one-month overlap. If your arts-related organization has an event or activity you want to publicize, let us know and we'll cover it.

Art MacDonald

Art MacDonald, March 25, 2016



Hudson Rites of Spring In Celebration of the Hudson Artisan Community

by Carol Outram

In Hudson, Arts and Culture is positioned as a major component in the town's future, representing a key in economic development. Supporting this priority are innumerable artisan based groups and organizations - featuring nature, birds, food and farming, fine arts, fine crafts, music, theatre, dance, literature, history, children, gardening, etc. - that annually promote and display their talents.

In 2015, the ARTS ALIVE festival presented a new opportunity for all these groups - one of cultural collaboration: our collective events drew record numbers of visitors, as well as demonstrating the talent, commitment and passion of our residents. And this is something that we would very much like to build upon and perpetuate.

At HUDSON FINE CRAFT we are currently brain-storming 2016, planning the month of May as a celebration of Hudson's artisan community. The concept is to begin the cultural and tourist season with a BANG - a cornucopia of intrigue, excitement and local talent to tempt both residents and visitors.

Our festival theme "THE HUDSON RITES OF SPRING" (inspired by ancient Spring cultural rites from around the

world), will begin May 7th with the biennial exhibition of the HUDSON VILLAGE QUILTERS and a collaborative exhibition, WOMEN'S WORK, with the Hudson Historical Society and Hudson Fine Craft - a historic look at the tools and techniques of textile crafts of the region.

The overall festivities will include a strong visual arts and fine crafts component featuring markets, processions, dancing, workshops, exhibitions, demonstrations, talks and exciting events in praise of artisans.

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Event organizers:
HUDSON FINE CRAFT

PARTICIPANTS:
Hudson Historical Society
War Memorial Library
Hudson Village Quilters
Wyman's Church
Le Nichoir
Hudson Food Collective
Mary Vuorela - Children's Theatre
Artistes Hudson Artists
Greenwood Centre for Living History
Hudson Village Theatre
Hudson Fair Trade
Hudson Garden Club
Pure Art
Que des Bonne Choses

Websites:
meetthemakers.ca



Jamie Nicholls from Artist to MP and Back

by Jamie Nicholls

From May of 2011 to October of 2015, I was the elected representative for our region in the House of Commons. It was a busy, hectic life but I loved every bit of it. The chance to make a change was what had drawn me to my first career as an artist and is a thread which runs through all the work I do.

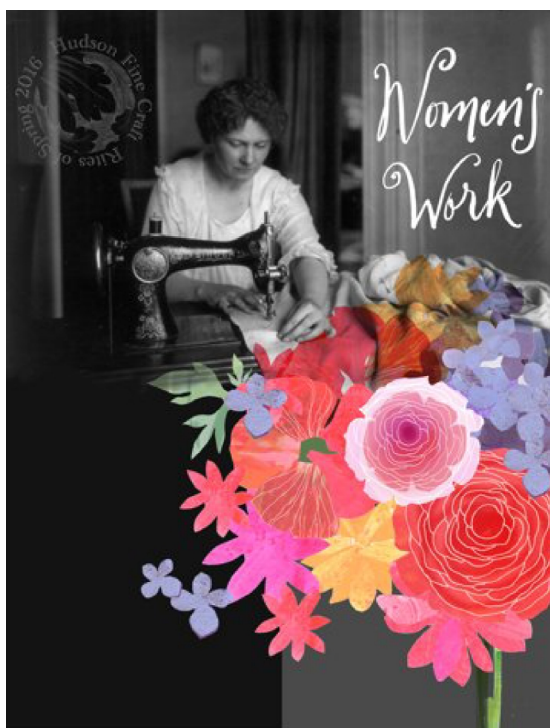
When the results of the last election came in, the following day, an expanse of quiet and repose stretched out. The luxury of time and meditation deepened creative energies within. I began to work in earnest on projects that were previously just kernels of my imagination, born from the long drives from Hudson to Ottawa. The security of my job and its salary were gone but in its place was one of the noblest and oldest elements of human ingenuity: artistic action.

The Nicholls household is a flurry of artistic activity most days. Amanda has weekly auditions and goes for shoots on set. We are both writers. She is writing a book and I am writing two screenplays. My oldest daughter Pera at 11 prefers to do abstracts and origami. When I lost my seat in parliament, she deftly folded a paper orange tulip-a wonderful consolation prize to be sure!

Often when people see us in the village they will ask how we are doing with a hint of concern. "What are you doing these days?" is a question I often get. "Do you have a job yet?" is another. As artists we know that we always have jobs. There is always another project to be completed and if money is short, we have the confidence that the net will appear when we jump. It always has for me.

Back in the late nineties when I had just completed my bachelor of fine arts at art school, I made a go of being an artist in Victoria, organizing shows and working as a graphic designer. It was not "steady" work inasmuch as I had to find contracts.

I moved back to Hudson in 1998 to try to give it a go here. In that short period of time I was back home, I met the woman I would eventually marry sixteen years later (Amanda) and worked for a production artist by the name of Eric Waugh, who worked out of the industrial park in St-Laurent. Somewhere
(continued on page 8)



Jamie Nicholls - Artist to MP and Back (continued from page 7)

in my head, I got the idea that I needed a steady job (even though I had one) and I left Canada for Istanbul to teach. In one of the strangest coincidences in my life, upon arriving at the school I would work at, there was a painting of Eric Waugh's that was hanging behind the principal's desk-in Istanbul.

Things happen for a reason. It was then that I started to trust that things work out no matter what and to ease into the fact that I am an artist who harnesses that creative activity into whatever I do.

It comes down to the question of what I want to use my creativity for. At this juncture I am taking time for my own personal projects. I am working on a biopic screenplay of the life of our former MP

from the 1950s Louis-Rene Beaudoin and another, a lighthearted comedy about newlyweds who go visit a strange aunt and uncle and the trip nearly breaks the couple up. I also am one of the organizers of Hudson's newly minted Festival of Canadian Film.

Every now and then I paint or draw something. The picture you see below was of Sandy Beach in the 1940s from a postcard that I found in the national archives in Beaudoin's fonds.

As for politics, I feel more of a democrat now than ever. I am among the people every day. My hope is that my creativity can move and inspire them to realize the beauty in the everyday moments and how fleeting this life is. It is a precious gift and we should use every day to do well.

Sandy Beach by Jamie Nicholls



Hudson Music Club's Radio Broadway Completes Run at Village Theatre

by Kathryn Lamb

Radio Broadway is this year's offering by the Hudson Music Club to the town of Hudson. In the past, the club has presented shows and music drawn from such diverse sources as Broadway, Gilbert and Sullivan, Cole Porter and Abba.

This year, it's a nostalgic visit back to the heyday of radio. We find ourselves in the live studio audience of DJ Broadway Jimmy, as he hosts a phone-in radio program from right here in Hudson! Listeners call in to request their favorite tunes, while singers stand by, ready to perform whatever a caller requests. And request they do, from all over the country. Tunes from shows like A Chorus Line, Anything Goes, Little Shop of Horrors and

Paint your Wagon. Songs such as I'm a Guy, Delovely and Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye. There are talented performers for every request- solo, duet or ensemble. And great costumes and choreography as well, since we are, after all, in a LIVE studio audience!

Every caller has a story to tell - in fact Jimmy himself has a story - a few failed marriages, a rather cynical outlook and an underappreciated on-air assistant. By the end of the second act, all the callers have been looked after, and things for Jimmy himself seem to be looking up. The strong finale is an emotional medley of hits from Les Miserables, highlighted by a solo from a lovely young Cosette, Eva Conway. This show was produced and directed by Andre Marchand and assisted by Gail

Village Theatre Season (continued from page 2)

The next play, *Private Lives* by Noel Coward, will be the one that showcases the capabilities of our theatre. Last year the corresponding play, *The Glass Menageries*, was critically acclaimed but had poor attendance, partly because of its heavy story line.

With excellent actors under the capable direction of Artistic Director Matthew Tiffin, the theatre hopes that theatre goers will be drawn in by a quality production with a lighter theme.

Written in 1930, the play is a comedy of manners, that is it makes fun of the "manners" and attitudes of the type of people the play portrays. In the case of *Private Lives*, it is members of the British upper class and their attitudes to the relationships between the sexes.

When the play opened in London, the male leads were taken by Noel Coward himself and Laurence Olivier. Reviews were mixed. But the play has been so popular that it has been mounted many times since then, both in London and on Broadway.

Richard Burton has played the male lead and well-known female leads have included Elizabeth Taylor, Maggie Smith and Kim Cattrall.

For the final show of the summer season, the theatre has opted for a physical comedy piece based on Dostoevsky's *The Double*. What would happen if you met someone who looked exactly like you but had all the positive qualities you lacked.

Produced by "Bad News Days" of Toronto, the show explores questions of identity and social status.

This year, the four shows of the season are spread out from May to September, with large gaps when nothing is on. This means you'll have to plan your attendance rather than head down to the theatre to catch a show whenever you want.

Marchand, the music directed by Sheila Engle-Katz, and the script written by James Milvain. Thirteen singers and two accompanists provide the musical numbers from shows that date from the 1940's up until today. Throughout, the singing is vibrant, the harmonies are rich, and the arrangements are imaginative.

But Music Club productions are, I think, a real team effort. The community of singers, stage designers, musicians, costume makers, publicists and front-of-house volunteers it takes to put on a show like this all share a tremendous passion for musical theatre. And it shows. As well, in its 64 years of existence, the club has raised money for several local charities. Bravo!

Reflection

by Vivianne LaRiviere

As an artist it is difficult to stare at a blank canvas. Actually, as I sit and write this it is similarly difficult to stare at this blank canvas as well. The effort in doing so sometimes shudders with uncertainty. A quickening anxiety may arise; breath may be shallow or deep. Who am I, in this moment? What will speak? What do I care for? In other words, who do I imagine myself to be now? How am I beauty-filled? Only in the transcript of letters shaped, as words, motioned through some technological device whether it be keyboard or paintbrush or piano, will summon up the inspiration and the courage to address these questions.

And not furtively, for the results, regardless of how they are judged are stark, and - they are but a quotient. Yet with every strike or stroke, colours of persona come to life. Words come to life embossing the contours of identity, as they traverse the bridge of expression. For we meet the thinker and the heart of this person through these words, these musical notes, these line drawings: these images that did not consciously exist even a moment ago, let alone yesterday.

When I am asked about the performance of my art, whether it be the 'me' as a singer-songwriter, a writer, a poet or a painter, I am left facing the possibility of transformation. The task exceptionally daunting when considered at the existential level. For here is the mercy of what my vocation calls me to do: to express not solely for the sake of expression or art itself, but for the voice of authenticity to be heard.

As this voice of authenticity, the ripples and echoes of my purpose, the mission of my soul if I dare, is to unfold with good spiritual health, and with good cause it must do so charitably. It is a vulnerable undertaking - and awakens the apprentice's portal toward humility. For myself, there is no other meaning. Anything else is happenstance.

I can't speak for others, nor can I dictate the mandates and modicums of art. I must however take responsibility for the beliefs I envelop myself with. As a practical theologian, and a spiritual arts practitioner, I believe in the healing and transformative power of converging art and spirituality: but it comes with a price - practice and discipline.

For I also espouse to the belief that our true nature, the truth of who we are and the truth of who we are to become is

only manifest through relationships of kindness and caring. This is the mark of the spiritual path, and the art of arts: listening. Ultimately, we are called to individualize ourselves as pilgrims on a sojourn, bending our bodies, our minds and hearts, and time to the effervescence of patience and perseverance.

As we unfold into life, as we are beckoning for where and to whom and what we belong, we are also called to know who we are, and where and what to care for. Otherwise we are left to face the dire consequences of a vagrancy of spirit.

Why do I do what I do? To know who I am. As I lay claim of something grander than myself, this 'who am I,' does so that I may become spiritually richer and wiser and humbly adept to deal with the call to care.

Prima Materia by Vivianne Lariviere



Hudson Players Club, Whose Wives are they Anyway by Michael Parker

by Kathryn Lamb

For the last 68 years, the Hudson Players Club has been providing this town with polished theatrical productions. This spring's offering, "*Whose Wives are They Anyway*", is a farce, and guaranteed to thaw out any lingering iciness left over from last winter.

Written by Michael Parker and directed by Montrealese Dan Anderson, this play has been described as fast-paced and hilariously entertaining. It takes place at a golf course (although as a non-golfer, I always thought of golf as pretty serious business) and this alone should make it a great fit for Hudson audiences. Unexpected situations, mistaken identities, and the endearing fallibility of human nature make sure that the talented cast has lots to work with.

Don Anderson, the director, is a twenty-year acting veteran, and director of last year's remarkable production of the Greek tragedy *Lysistrata*. Don has fallen in love with Hudson, and this year is de-

lighted to be back. But this time, he has chosen a play that "has less than twenty characters, and was written sometime since the birth of Christ".

The plot is intricate, with lots of action and split-second costume changes - a challenge for any theatre club - but I rather think this club loves challenges. The characters, played by both veteran and neophyte actors, include Irene Osprey as the sharp-tongued club manager Mrs. Carlson and Fred Aronson as the possibly show-stealing handyman, Wilson. The two golfing husbands (played by Kyle Gregor Pearce and Sean Bird) seem like opposites, both physically and temperamentally, but work together like yin and yang. Jangling defective telephones contribute to the general confusion, and become almost a character in their on right-so kudos to the technical and sound people! The set for this play, designed by Phil Gausden, was specially built in a donated barn space in St. Lazare to accommodate all the complicated entrances and exits that keep this play moving.

In its years of serving the community, the Hudson Players Club has staged a wide variety of productions. They include comedies, tragedies, Shakespearean plays, Agatha Christie thrillers, Theatre on the Lawn at Greenwood and popular evenings of Christmas readings, as well as many experimental pieces. This club seems to have managed to maintain a core of brilliant seasoned actors while attracting enthusiastic and gifted newcomers. And anyone who is interested in backstage work (sets, costumes, lighting, etc.) is also welcome. They hold monthly gatherings throughout the winter, and both members and non-members may attend. March's staged reading was of a radio play written by the Irish playwright Samuel Beckett. The hall was full and the performance was mesmerizing. At 68 years old, it seems like the Players Club is as vigorous as ever.

Whose Wives Are They Anyway plays at Hudson Village Theatre from April 7 to April 16. See the Calendar on page 10 for details or go to the Players Club website at hudsonplayersclub.ca

APRIL



Thursday, April 7th to Saturday, April 16th

Whose Wives are They Anyway - Hudson Players Club

Hilarious farce with a large, experienced cast and a great director

Thursdays, 8:00 pm; Fridays, 8:00 pm; Saturdays, 2:00pm and 8:00 pm; Sundays, 2:00 pm
Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, tickets \$23.00 on the Players Club website hudsonplayersclub.ca

Monday, April 11th

Red Army - Greenwood and the Hudson Film Society

A film about the Cold War, seen through the prism of hockey, with special guests

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, 7:30 pm
\$25.00 at Pure Art Boutique or at the the door, (450) 458-5396; greenwood-centre-hudson.org

Sunday, April 17th

Peter Grimes - Hudson Film Society Opera Series

Britten opera with memorable music, a study of how society deals with outsiders

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, 2:00 pm, \$20.00 at the door or by subscription, hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Saturday, April 16th

Vivianne LaRiviere in Concert

A Benefit Concert for the Syrian Refugees and St.James Church

St. James Church, 642 Main Road, 6:45 - 7:30 wine and gourmet snacks, 7:30 - 9:30 concert
tickets \$55.00, \$100.00 for two, available from Source Sante, Centre Decor and St. James Church office, 450-458-5897

Monday, April 18th

Spotlight - Hudson Film Society

Best Film Oscar winner about the Boston Globe investigation
of child abuse in the Catholic Church

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, by subscription hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Friday, April 22nd

Rabbit and His Cousins - Village Theatre Children's Series

Rabbit celebrates the return of spring with stories and songs from around the world

10:00 am; \$10.00; Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, (450) 458-5361; villagetheatre.ca

Saturday, April 23rd

Hanuman - Village Theatre Children's Series

Based on dance-theatre from India, the story of Hanuman,
son of the wind god and a she-monkey

2:00 pm; \$10.00; Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, (450) 458-5361; villagetheatre.ca

Sunday, April 24th

CréaSon - Déchets d'oeuvre

Sylvain Grenier and Alain Quirion play environmentally themed sounds
with original instruments such as a styrofoam guitar

1:30 pm; free, Saint Lazare Community Centre, 1301 rue du Bois; ville.saint-lazare.qc.ca/en/spectacles

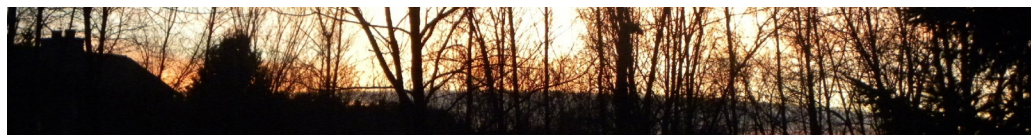
Monday, April 25th

The Lady in the Van - A Film Fundraiser for Nova

Maggie Smith plays Miss Shepherd who "temporarily" parked her van
in Alan Bennet's London driveway

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, \$20.00, tickets at Boutique Nov; novahudson.com

MAY



Sunday, May 1st

Greenwood Annual General Meeting

Karen Molson speaks about her work with Greenwood's photo and document archives

St. Mary's Church Hall, 273 Main Road, 2:00 pm, (450) 458-5396; greenwood-centre-hudson.org

Friday, May 6th to Sunday, May 8th

Hudson Quilters Exhibition and Sale

Biennial Show of Work, demonstrations, talks, Charity Quilt

The Vernissage on Friday, May 6th opens the 'Rites of Spring' Festival

Vernissage/opening Friday evening; Hudson Community Centre, 394 Main Road

Friday, May 6th into June

Pop-Up Shop at the Pure Art Boutique

Hudson Fine Craft products for sale

422 Main Road, Hudson

Friday, May 6th

"Rites of Spring" Competitions

Lilac Photography competition and sewing challenge, to make a unique pin cushion

Greenwood Centre, 254 Main Road, (450) 458-5396; greenwood-centre-hudson.org

Saturday, May 7th

Hudson Fine Craft Exhibition

Presented in collaboration with Hudson Fine Craft and the War Memorial Library

War Memorial Library, 60 Elm, Hudson, (450) 458-4814; warmemoriallibrary.blogspot.ca

Saturday, May 7th and Sunday, May 8th

Womens Work Exhibition

Presented in collaboration with Hudson Fine Craft and the Hudson Historical Society

Hudson Museum, 541 Main Road, Hudson, (450) 458-5026; hudsonhistoricalsociety.ca

Saturday, May 21st

"Rites of Spring" Day

Family activities, May Pole, Morris Dancing, puppet shows,

craft market, Victorian dress (optional), workshops

Hudson Community Centre, 394 Main Road

Wednesday, May 25th

Greenwood Singers

Songs for a mid-summer night

St. Mary's Church & Greenwood Centre, 254 Main Road, (450) 458-5396; greenwood-centre-hudson.org

Wednesday May 25th to Sunday June 5th

Village Theatre - 60s Spotlight

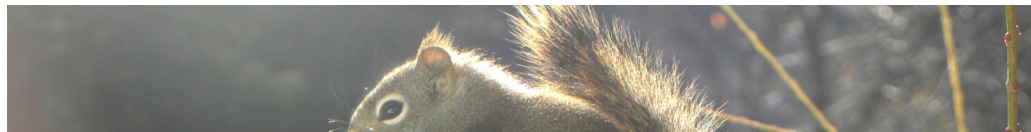
Live concert, band playing songs from the sixties

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 pm; tickets \$31.00 plus tax and online fees

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm; tickets \$33.00 plus tax and online fees

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, (450) 458-5361; villagetheatre.ca

JUNE



to Sunday June 5th 60s Spotlight

Live concert, band playing songs from the sixties

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 pm; tickets \$31.00 plus tax and online fees

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm; tickets \$33.00 plus tax and online fees

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, (450) 458-5361; villagetheatre.ca

Friday June 3rd to Sunday, June 5th Hudson Artists Spring Exhibition and Sale

Many of our local artists exhibit their work and offer it for sale

Vernissage/opening Friday evening; Hudson Community Centre, 394 Main Road; artisteshudsonartists.com

Saturday, June 4th Spring Fling Arts Market

Spring Fling on Wyman's Church Lawn - a market of plants and garden stuff

Wyman's Church, Le Nichoir, Hudson Garden Club,

Hudson Food Collective, Hudson Fine Craft

Wyman Memorial United Church, 513 Main Road, (450) 458-4912

Sunday, June 5th Greenwood Opening

Greenwood opening kicks off the summer season

Lilac photography competition awards

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm; Greenwood Centre, 254 Main Road, (450) 458-5396; greenwood-centre-hudson.org

June through August Greenwood Tours and Tea

Tour Greenwood's historic house and gardens followed by tea on the back porch

Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm; \$10.00

Greenwood Centre, 254 Main Road, (450) 458-5396; greenwood-centre-hudson.org

Saturday, June 18th Centre Le Chenail White Garden Party

Party in white on the island in the Ottawa River in front of Hawkesbury

Centre Le Chenail, 2 St. John Street, Hawkesbury, (613) 632-9555; lechenail1975.com

Wednesday June 22nd to Sunday July 10th The Ladies Foursome by Norm Foster

Ladies version of The Foursome, Norm Fosters golf comedy

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 pm; tickets \$27.00 plus tax and online fees

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm; tickets \$29.00 plus tax and online fees

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, (450) 458-5361; villagetheatre.ca