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Winter 2018, Volume 7, Issue 4

magazine



**Art Gifts
Film Festival
Annual Pantomime
New Artistic Director**

arts hudson

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Art's Hudson

by Art MacDonald

An early cold snap and a missing Indian Summer (are we even allowed to call it that anymore?) had Hudson residents bundled up and sporting umbrellas as they went about their Christmas shopping and enjoyed some theatre, films and Christmas events. The annual Santa Claus parade went on as scheduled on a rainy, cold Sunday with Santa, below, under an umbrella.

Just like the parade, many artsy events carried on despite the weather. James Parry writes about the stained glass windows at St. Thomas Church, an innovative farm-to-table concept and a local artist concerned about climate change. We have a new artistic director at Village Theatre and Kathryn Lamb has the interview. The annual Hudson Film Festival is coming up in the spring and the Panto at Village Theatre is selling out quickly. Our winter edition covers a lot of ground although Hudson is quiet in January and February with only the odd film, comedy night, Burns night or opera to lure people out of hibernation (see our calendar of events).

This fall, the Greenwood StoryFest brought authors and literary fans together for a successful series of events while at Village Theatre the new Clock Master Productions presented the world premiere of David Fennario's *Fessenden Follies*, in a break from Fennario's usual type of work in that it was a revue rather than a

formal play. Everyone had fun with the steam punk theme and Kathryn Lamb reviews the revue on page 7 of this issue.

In her *Along the River's Edge* column, Vivianne LaRiviere looks for meaning in today's Christmas celebrations and we can pass the depths of winter looking forward to the March concert of the Chamber Music Series.

We at Arts Hudson wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we'll continue to bring you artistic stories from our region. All art has a story behind it; the artist tries to present the story and, if the viewer can see it, the link is closed and the art has great value. We try to help close a few links.

Art Macdonald

Santa Claus Parade

Photograph by Heather Markgraf



Parrydise by James Parry

The Art of Stained Glass, The Art of Farm to Table, The Art of Global Warming and more.

To parryphrase celebrated and inspirational American writer and poet, Stanley Horowitz, 'Winter in Hudson and environs is an etching, spring a watercolour, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all.' How simplistic, yet so visually stunning!

In the coming months and starting officially on December 21 when winter makes its debut, our landscape will have been transformed from an artist's vibrant palette of reds, golds, burnished orange, and crimsons to white. Which, according to physicists isn't actually a colour at all because it does not have a specific wavelength. Whatever that means. And yet check out any paint store and you will find a mind-boggling choice of options. Go figure!

But it is a time when Mother Nature will sleep for yet another hopefully never-ending cycle. Snowbirds, and I'm not just talking about our feathered friends and if they haven't already, are heading south to Trump Land albeit in decreasing numbers. And non-skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers alike and such as myself will tend to hunker down for the seemingly-endless woeful winter months to come. Ah, but life surely goes on in this wonderful community of ours with so much to see and do and with so many positive people who help make it happen all year round.

THE ART OF STAINED GLASS

People like Father Roland Demers, the beloved priest of Hudson's St. Thomas Aquinas Church since 1985 who has nothing but praise for all those from throughout the region and many of them non-Catholics who converged on Reid Hall in the basement there recently for a wine and cheese reception to sponsor a window. Yup, a window!

You see, all 29 windows in the 132 year-old church and two of them incorporating stained glass are in urgent need of replacement and repair. Well, guess what? Even before



Father Roland Demers
with stained glass window
Photograph by James Parry

the evening was over, some \$201,000 was raised for the cause. And that's in addition to \$175,000 donated this past August at a very special golf tournament at Whitlock Golf and Country Club in Hudson and all going to pay for excavation and renovations to the basement hit by severe flooding, a new kitchen, new wiring, and repairs to the rectory roof.

Do the math folks. That's an incredible total of \$376,000 raised in just one year for this beautiful landmark building on Main Road in the heart of Hudson! And with enough left over this time around to install a sophisticated liturgy screen in the church as well as completely update the rectory kitchen.

Says Father Demers, who prior to being appointed to St. Thomas for the Parish of Vaudreuil was Chaplain at nearby La Cité des Jeunes High School for 16 years and Pastor at St. Patrick of the Island Church in Pincourt from 1979 to 1985, "Words simply cannot describe how I feel about this wonderful outpouring of love and concern for our church. At both events, the generosity and sense of caring on the part of so many was so evident and spontaneous. And I really do believe that Hudson is the perfect example of the perfect Canada with its acceptance of different cultures and faiths for the good of all in the community."

Adds Father Demers, whose 'flock' comprises some 2,000 families from throughout the immediate region, "And what particularly moved me was the fact that so many who came and contributed were not of the Catholic faith but who wanted to support St. Thomas Church and help ensure that it will still be here for generations to come. And now with a completely refurbished basement and, come next year, great windows!"

Two of those windows, incidentally, are being dedicated to Father Demers himself and, in my humble opinion, rightly so. For I was fascinated to learn that at the age of 83 he still conducts an average of 100 baptisms a year in addition to numerous weddings and funeral services, holds Mass seven days a week, regularly visits the infirm and elderly and their families, while all the time attending meetings that are all part of his role as Parish Priest in our community.

A sentiment shared for sure by all those on the Window Sponsoring Building Fundraiser Phase 11 committee which first met in May, 2018, comprising Roberta & Greg Yeldon, Manny & Maxine Perra, Louise & David McAleer, Donald & Louise Thevenot, Carol & Dick LaRonde, Christine & Mark Serre, Claudia & Anthony Snell, and Carolyn Schooner.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

A big bravo to them and everyone who contributed to the campaigns in whatever manner and, in the words of Father Demers himself, "God bless you all." Truly a cause for celebration!

THE ART OF FARM TO TABLE



Speaking of celebrations, I recently attended a very special evening in convivial company at an exquisite little restaurant in Rigaud called Ferme Champêtre de la Rive on the banks of the river there and what a wonderful couple and story I discovered. Courtesy of owners, Shelley Edwards and her hubby Bruce De Waele, who started a small 3-acre all-organic vegetable family farm there back in 2006 supporting community shares of weekly baskets and selling at local farmers' markets.

Six years later, and now with full accreditation as an official field-to-table restaurant, they added pigs, chickens, hens, and turkeys to their product line and converted a section of their house - the oldest part dating back to 1900 - into a large dining room serving dinners once a week only. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Today, this exquisite jewel of a 24-seat restaurant that serves dishes mostly of produce from their farm - with the exception of dairy, spices and cooking oils and if they don't grow it they try to source it locally - is usually booked four to six weeks in advance. Hardly surprising, I must say, given

my first experience there and subsequent conversations with other local residents who had also visited on other occasions and who had nothing but rave reviews to share!

The pre-determined six-course menu is both a delight for the eye and the palate served up in inimitable style by De Waele while Edwards, who graduated in 1990 from the Culinary Institute of Canada, Prince Edward Island, and who worked in several different restaurants and hotels before opening Herb's in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, is busy in the kitchen cooking up her most creative concoctions and ensuring that all flows seamlessly.

Explained Edwards over a post café, "When I first opened the restaurant, I wanted the atmosphere to be homey with country charm and I like to think that the food is unique, fresh and flavourful."

Added De Waele, who grew up on a farm in the region whose father once raised hogs - about 1,200 at their busiest time - and who studied agriculture at McGill University, "Although my career path did not lead to full time work in agriculture, I am now so pleased to be the waiter-host at our Table Champêtre and sharing that vision with Shelley."

For the record, the restaurant, 112 Chemin du Bas de la Rivière, is open only on Saturday nights although it is available for groups of 12 to 24 sometimes on other occasions upon request.

Reservations are a must and the fixed-price menu varies every week depending upon what inspires Edwards at the time. And oh yes, did I mention that it is also BYOB and is believed to be one of only about 20 true Table Champêtres in Quebec and the only one in all of Vaudreuil-Soulanges!

For further info, check out their Facebook page at table champetre de la rive or call (450) 451-6087. And bon appetit. Farm to table style!

THE ART OF GLOBAL WARMING

And now getting back to Mother Nature who - or should that be which? - I mentioned at the beginning of this



column, for many years people passing his former Hudson home on Côte St. Charles between Windcrest and Route Harwood and myself included - would stop and stare in wonder at the outdoor sculptures in what Leo Schimanszky transformed into a veritable art gallery of his very own.

Well, for the past year since downsizing and moving to Vaudreuil and in this era of ever-conflicting controversy over climate change and global warming, this Austrian-born multi-faceted artist has been working on an incredible multi-media painting titled Smog City that has to be seen to be believed. Check it out on page 11 of this issue!

And that's a wrap!



Leo Schimanszky
working in his studio
Photograph courtesy of Leo
Schimanszky
(continued on page 11)

Interview with Dean Patrick Fleming, New Artistic Director of Village Theatre

by Kathryn Lamb

Dean Patrick Fleming considers himself a lifelong storyteller. In fact, he lives to tell stories both as an actor and a director. And Hudson Village Theatre's new Artistic Director loves Hudson as well. He first worked here as an actor, when theatre was still being performed under a tent next to Mon Village Restaurant.

Dean's most recent involvement here was as director of last summer's production of *Art*, which earned two nominations at this year's META (Montreal English Language Theatre) awards. He came out for a chat with Arts Hudson on a cold November afternoon accompanied by his dog Miley.

Dean has acted or directed in more than fifty productions in his lengthy career, for organizations such as Concordia, the National Theatre School and more recently, Georgie Productions, where his imaginative and beautifully staged versions of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Jungle Book* and *the Little Prince* (among others) reached young audiences that would never otherwise have had access to live theatre. Hudson fans will remember his productions of *Chapter Two*, *Apple*, *The Affections of May*, and *Sylvia*.

Dean understands that audiences in Hudson really love live theatre. They come with the expectation that something exciting is about to happen. So how do you speak to a really broad audience - both to encourage people who have always supported you and yet attract new viewers?

The story must have a wide scope, he says, and humour is key. According to Dean, humour is at the core of everything in the theatre. Once people

laugh, then the drama can begin!

In Dean's view, actors and directors inform each other, and to attract good actors, it is important to be able to get teams together in good time. The story needs to be told so well that we get past the story and into simply caring about the characters. Actors, if they are good, really lose themselves in their roles. The fact that the actors often come out of their lives to work in Hudson can give added focus to their work.

Next summer's calendar is not yet finalized, but Dean confesses that he is hoping for a slightly longer season - (maybe four plays!) as well as the musical productions that round out the schedule. Three out of four might hopefully be Canadian.

When a play is well written, he explains, it draws great actors, and he

wants us to know that we can count on the quality of the plays. Live theatre fails if you try to put television on stage.

On a personal note, our new artistic director lives in Montreal with his partner, who is also involved in theatre, and two sons, neither of whom have, thus far, expressed a desire to go on stage. He continues to mentor two projects at the National Theatre School.

Two years ago, as a solo endeavor, he undertook the arduous Camino pilgrimage to St Juan de Compostela in northern Spain.

And Dean is very excited to be working with the Village Theatre board, and to be part of the upcoming renovation plans that will soon be transforming our theatre. Stay tuned for further developments!

Dean Patrick Fleming is the new artistic director of Village Theatre, seen at Hudson Gallery Plus with his rescue dog Miley.

Photograph by Heather Markgraf



The Film and Opera Series Continue at Village Theatre

Film screenings – 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm - are held at the Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, on the 3rd Monday of the month from September to April. Opera and Beyond is presented one Saturday a month from October to April at 2:00 pm. Tickets are by subscription or at the door, subject to availability.



January 21, 3.00 pm and 7.30 pm, *Transit*,
Nominee for Best Film at the 2018 Berlin International Film Festival.

January 19, 2.00 pm. *Il trovatore*,
Verdi's Masterpiece of superlative music and action





Upcoming Events

Tickets and Information are
available at villagetheatre.ca
or call 450 458 5361

Live Comedy
Saturday, Feb 2 - 8pm

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Guests



Lorraine Klaasen
TOWNSHIP MEMORIES
accompanied by
Mongezi Ntaka

Live in Concert
Friday, March 8 at 8pm



HVT *Winter* MUSIC SERIES

AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC WITH
HARRY MANX

THURSDAY, APRIL 25 at 8pm



A Benefit Presentation
Fundraiser for Village Theatre

Neil Simon's
RUMORS
A Farce of a
Dinner Party
Directed by Steve Walters



MAY 2-12, 2019

Hudson Film Festival

Start with a Celebration, End with a Warning

by Clint Ward

And in between, enjoy the best of Canadian Cinema that the Hudson Film Festival – number 4 – will deliver.

The opening day will be a celebration of human kindness, compassion and hospitality. On February 27 at 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm, the poignant new 84-minute documentary, *You Are Here: The Come From Away Story* tells of how the small community of Gander, Newfoundland welcomed more than 6,500 'Come From Aways' on September 11, 2001.

vilian airliners within reach of the U.S. were ordered to land at the nearest airport, 38 wide-body planes arrived at the Gander airport. With no warning and with no time to prepare, a city of only 9,000 residents played host to more than 6,500 frightened, exhausted, and hungry passengers who "came from away."

The documentary highlights the real-life passengers who were looked after during those five unforgettable days, including a couple who met, fell in love,

and ultimately honeymooned in Gander; the pilot of an American Airlines jet whose life was turned upside down; and a U.S. businessman who was so touched by his hosts' generosity that he went on to create Good Samaritan initiatives in cities such as Austin, Texas.

You Are Here: A Come From Away Story Focuses On The 9/11 Heroes Who Inspired a Hit Musical. The remarkable story of how Gander supported the 'Come From Aways' was brought to life as the original Canadian musical *Come From Away* in 2013. It became one of the most talked-about openings on Broadway in 2017 and was nominated for seven Tony

Awards. *Come From Away* is currently on stage in Toronto at the Royal Alexandra Theatre and is slated to be at Ottawa's National Arts Centre from August 20 to September 1.

A major highlight of the Festival will occur on Thursday night, the last day of February, as young filmmakers display their offerings during the evening which honours the life of young filmmaker, Ben McKinnon and is aptly titled *Ben's Night*. During the event last year

there was an incredible buzz and energy as many short films were introduced by their young auteurs, each awarded with rounds of applause. A ballot for films of the evening will be available and a winner will be announced during a closing reception.

The Organizing Committee is busy studying a long list of great Canadian films that have been released in the past year and remaining selections will be announced in January and February. These will fill Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This year a new 5 Film Pass will be introduced enabling the pass holder to select from the program of up to 10 films, offering choice flexibility. The Festival adventure program will lead to the closing Sunday film which bears the warning.

Anthropocene: The Human Epoch is a Canadian documentary film, which premiered at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival. The third film in a series of collaborations between award winning filmmakers Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier with photographer Edward Burtynsky, following *Manufactured Landscapes* (HVT 2007) and *Watermark* (HVT 2014), the film explores the emerging concept of a geological epoch called the Anthropocene.

An asteroid slams into Earth and catalyzes the extinction of roughly 75 percent of the plants and animals at the time, including all of the dinosaurs besides birds. A gang of ice sheets that sprawled across the planet begins to recede, leaving behind massive changes on Earth's continents. Events like these are classic boundary markers in the geologic record, a shift from one time period to another marked by a pronounced physical change to the Earth. The asteroid crash 65.5 million years ago marks the boundary between the Late Cretaceous and Paleogene periods; the retreat of the glaciers kicks off our current epoch, the Holocene.

A group of scientists believes that the next big boundary marker between epochs is happening right now. Caused not by a giant rock from space or scouring ice sheets — but by people. Right now, people are melting the last great



The cast of COME FROM AWAY
Photo by Matthew Murphy, 2017

The film travels deep within this unique tale to shine a light on the actual Newfoundlanders and passengers. This includes the mayors of Gander and Appleton, community workers, police officers, TV reporters, and more – all real-life people who worked tirelessly alongside countless others to comfort and care for their unexpected guests.

When U.S. airspace was completely shut down in the hours following the terrorist attacks on 9/11, and all ci-



manity's massive re-engineering of the planet, and was four years in the making. From concrete seawalls in China that now cover 60% of the mainland coast, to the biggest terrestrial machines ever built in Germany, to psychedelic potash mines in Russia's Ural Mountains, to metal festivals in the closed city of

glaciers of the Holocene; people are creating deposits of plastic, metal alloys, even plutonium that will leave a mark basically forever; and meanwhile, thanks to agriculture, appetites and even fashion, people may drive the sixth mass extinction in Earth's history.

So in August 2016, after 10 years of study, this mixed group of scientists announced in Cape Town that, like the asteroid and glaciers before us, people deserve their own new epoch in the official rock record. They're calling it the Anthropocene - meaning, "new age of man" - and recommending its adoption into official geologic time, like the Holocene or the Paleogene.

Anthropocene: The Human Epoch is a cinematic meditation on hu-

Norilsk, to the devastated Great Barrier Reef in Australia and surreal lithium evaporation ponds in the Atacama desert, the filmmakers have traversed the globe using state of the art camera techniques to document evidence of human planetary domination, showing a provocative and unforgettable result of our species' breadth and impact.

While it's one thing to be apprised of the alarming fact that humans move more sediment than all of

the world's rivers combined, it's another proposition entirely to lay eyes on what that actually entails through the graces of Burtynsky's trademark aerial tableaux. The staggering images captured here are at once surreal and sobering: Anthropocene will forever change the way you see the world.

"Both shocking and beautiful, the film impresses itself on the viewer with the awesome scale of the imagery - and with the urgency behind it. We have entered an epoch in which human activity is shaping the planet more than any natural force. Anthropocene bears witness that something's got to give."— Kate Taylor, *Globe & Mail*.



The Fessenden Follies - A Steampunk Review

by David Fennario, Directed by Glen Robinson, Produced by Clock Master Productions
Review by Kathryn Lamb

A world premiere does not occur too frequently in Hudson, no matter how wonderful we consider our town and our theatre to be. But this past November, the latest play by award-winning playwright David Fennario opened at the Hudson Village Theatre to very excited audiences. Fessenden Follies, A Steampunk Revue, directed by Glen Robinson was a visually gorgeous production that paired professional actors with local talent in an original and ambitious project.

In order to fully appreciate this endeavor, but without wanting to be too pedantic, I found myself in need of a few definitions. First of all, "Steampunk", a word I had heard but didn't quite know the meaning of, is a "subgenre of science fiction that has a historical setting and typically features steam-powered mechanical machinery, rather than current technology, and employs an aesthetic inspired by nineteenth century Victorian industrial culture". Steampunk harkens back to authors such as Jules Verne, H.G. Wells and Mary Shelley. Secondly, a revue, (as opposed to a play!) is "light theatrical entertainment consisting of a series of short sketches, songs or dances typically dealing satirically with topical issues". This work is structured as a review.

Reginald Aubrey Fessenden (played by David Anderson), born the son of an Anglican minister in East Bolton Quebec in 1866, was an inventor who designed the first wireless transmission of human speech. It had been his childhood dream to do this, and it led him to work with Thomas Edison, who himself believed such a thing was impossible. Nevertheless, on December 23, 1900 Fessenden succeeded in transmitting the human voice a distance of one mile. For the next six years, he continued to work on his invention, until in 1906, he

succeeded in transmitting a voice message, a piece of music by Handel, and a Bible reading to sailors at sea. Nevertheless, Guglielmo Marconi, his great rival, was given the credit, and Fessenden's later life was spent struggling to gain recognition and patents for his numerous discoveries.

This production is a series of sketches highlighting different moments in Fessenden's career. It was a lush, richly textured show that featured costumes by Tina Struthers that were intricate and elegant. Lea Durocher's set design filled the stage with huge gears and pulleys, dividing it vertically and horizontally into different areas. This allowed the action to occur simultaneously on different levels, and made possible the wonderfully syncopated typing pool that was the rhythm section backing up the on-stage band. In authentic Steampunk fashion, the action felt like it was happening inside a giant pocket watch.

The play proceeds in a busy and (appropriately) mechanical way, prodded along by a live broadcaster.

Other contemporary scientists including Edison, Rutherford, Osler and Fleming all make appearances and have their say, as well as Fessenden's arch-rival, Marconi. Sometimes the action is a bit hard to follow, and not everything was clearly heard, but my attention was held from beginning to end.

Talking to cast members afterwards, the experience of being a part of this production was not only an exceptional one, but great fun as well. From the initial audition process to the luxury of working on stage with a live band (J. P. Vialard, musical director)), to the countless choreographic touches that accompanied each role (Kerwin Barrington, choreography), it was a labour of love for all involved.

Fessenden Follies is the first production of Clock Master Productions, an independent arts company based in Hudson, Quebec and founded by Glen Robinson. It is a community-driven company that hires professional artists to work alongside volunteers. We look forward to future productions.





Along the River's Edge by Vivianne LaRiviere

" 'Tis the Season..."

We often talk about 'faith,' and 'birth,' and 'joy' while celebrating the festive season which is upon us. We begin to hear choir rehearsals as we plod along village streets. The capitalist reminders of 'pre-boxing day sales,' and the barrage of tinselled social media begin to pop up everywhere. 'Sip and shop' are common, as are open houses, craft fairs, and an array of other lovely events to cater and attend.

It can be the craziest, busiest time of the year, before the true poetry of winter actually sets in as we are called to hibernate – like bears. Allowing the sullenness of January and February help us restore some sanity, and sensibility to our lives. For in the dead of winter there is solitude. As there is in every other season, day, hour...moment even. But somehow the hush of winter makes it sometimes a little easier to sink into the welcome of silence.

For one moment – pause. Stop actually. And listen deeply. For in the stillness, speaks truth. For myself, the breath of the silent mind is truly paradise. Reminds me of the infamous "Silent Night." For...It is a silent place, a holy place. A space that is "calm and bright." I would wish this peaceful joy for everyone. Peace of mind leads to peace.

The imagery of a baby born in a manger seems to have more impact on me this year, as we face the largest mass exodus in history. With refugees and migrants fleeing worlds of turmoil and hell. As to the people sleeping outside, with no lodging, food or promise of what tomorrow may bring, looking for signs of hope in a starry sky doesn't seem to be so far fetched either. Children wish on stars. And we definitely could use some wise men, wise and kind men, and loving men to come to help shift the patriarchal and colonizing paradigms. And we would definitely benefit from mothers named 'Mary.' Who stand tall with courage in the face of corruption and extreme adversity, as we watch many of those suffering in the world being crucified.



A good atheist friend of mine reminded me that Holy Scripture has no more relevance. And yet, we endear ourselves to the many other forms of soliloquies and poetry that speak to the human condition, that regardless of past, seems to find a way of repeating itself.

Yes, there are troves of injustices written in black and white, and there are the voices of angels that speak between the lines. Sometimes we take things for granted, and forget what reading between the lines really means. We lose ourselves in attachment, and in a time of year such as this, in shopping.

Maybe Linus had it right as he recites judiciously his take of 'what Christmas is all about,' in the favoured tale of "Charlie Brown's Christmas." Though not for everyone, as he is after all speaking about 'Christmas.' And yet we know other faiths also extoll such wisdom in the context of their own faith and beliefs. Even scientists are in awe of the stars, and for some, an occasional miracle.

Linus reminds us that there are ways beyond our fears, and how peace

is possible. We may be naysayers of the language, and the 'truth' of history, and yet myth ascribes to the greatest truth of all; their mechanics harbouring the ways possible for us to think abstractly, and yet justly in the context and backdrops of our time. Regardless of what we believe, or don't believe, may we come together and share in the truth of maybe what 'Christmas is all about,' says Linus: "And on earth peace, and goodwill toward men." May it be so.

I wish you all as gifts the joy of unexpected grace, and the sublime depth of understanding, compassion and empathy in your own lives. As you extend your benevolence toward the other, may you be reminded of your own spiritual poverty as the richness of the poor grows your heart into the shape of the wise. And may you know love.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Solstice, Happy Hanukkah, and any other configuration of the festive and joyful season brings to you and yours. May we all come together in peace as we strive to bring the Light of Love into the world.

See you in the New Year!



Hudson Film Society - www.hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Transforming
the way people see the world
through film

Don't Forget the Panto

While many performances are likely to be sold out by the time you read the Arts Hudson Winter Issue, there are often a few open seats left for January dates. This year's Panto, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, is an original panto-esque take on the traditional story. You will, quite literally, never have seen it done this way before.

Pantomime productions are very popular in England and there is a whole industry with inexpensive panto scripts available on line. In the past, directors have often made use of such scripts and adapted them with local references.

This year director John Sheridan is presenting a whole new original work which he wrote. As usual, the script is based on a fairy tale, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, but John approaches the tale from a Canadian angle and includes all the standard panto traditions.

John is himself an actor and a Hudson-based graphic designer who has done extensive work for Village Theatre and other local clients. He and his family became Panto fans and eventually moved to Hudson as they got to know the village and its active cultural scene.

In this panto, look for the cross-dressing, audience interaction and general tomfoolery, or in this case, johnfoolery. Donna Stewart does the



choreography, Christine McCaffrey is in charge of costumes and J C Olivier designed the set. The Hudson Village

Theatre Panto runs until January 6th with a detailed schedule and on line ticket sales at village.theatre.ca.

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The Art of Global Warming by James Parry

Local internationally-acclaimed artist Leo Schimanszky creates Smog City

To raise greater awareness of global warming

and its harmful impact on the world for this and future generations

Call it what you will. Climate change, global warming exacerbated by man-made use of fossil fuels, or simply what Mother Nature seemingly does naturally every few millennia - if not longer - dramatically transforming the face of our fragile blue planet Earth.

Regardless, what is certain is the fact that with winter now upon us - and certainly earlier than usual in our neck of the woods - the debate and controversy will continue to blaze on the front burner or around the proverbial office water cooler for years to come. Both in the political arena and in the realm of public opinion.

Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, through his carbon dioxide-emission tax controversy, is obviously on one side of the fence on global warming while his counterpart south of the border, President Donald Trump is a firm denier on the other side of the wall, dismissing man-made contributions as a complete hoax.

This despite the fact that, just a couple of months ago, The International Panel for Climate Change reported that the disastrous effects of global warming will hit us much sooner and harder than previously forecast and his own Republican government recently stated unequivocally that it is a reality.

Indeed, the committee of United Nations scientists predicted that by 2040 we could see rising temperatures, super storm surges, coastal erosion, widespread flooding, drought, devastating wild fires such as those recently seen in California, food scarcity, sinking cities such as New York, Tokyo and London, as well as increased levels of smog unless the use of fossil fuels is drastically reduced.

All of which brings me to local internationally-renowned sculptor and

(continued on page 12)



Edition 100/1



"Smog-city"

Schimanszky

©2018

(continued from page 11)

artist, Leo Schimanszky, who until recently and for the past 35 years lived in Hudson before downsizing and moving to Vaudreuil and who is passionate about the need to combat global warming before, in his own words, it is too late.

Hence, his latest creation, exactly a year in the making this month of December, titled *Smog City*, a 28 x 36 inches multi- coloured mixed media (including acrylic, oil, and plaster) painting on a wooden panel and just reproduced in serigraphy form in a limited edition run of 100 on acid-free paper, sized 19 x 13 inches and each hand- signed and numbered with the fingerprint of the artist in a different colour.

Says Schimanszky, whose sculptures and paintings have taken pride of place over the decades in prestigious galleries and exhibits throughout Canada, the U.S., and Europe as well as in public and

private collections throughout the world, "Trump may call global warming a hoax. But it is real. I see it from the human perspective, not from a chart of mere statistics. We must really put the brakes on. For I want future generations including my young grandson to grow up in a world, or at least something very much like it, that we ourselves have been fortunate to enjoy for most of our lives."

Adds Schimanszky, a long-time environmentalist who loves walking in the woods, picking mushrooms, studying nature in all its forms, fishing, and who recently celebrated his 75th birthday, "The whole eco system is now off kilter and anyone with a healthy mind can see what is happening. And while I sometimes secretly fear that global warming is unstoppable, I remain an optimist, not a pessimist!"

As for *Smog City*, Schimanszky, who emigrated to Canada some 50 years ago from Vienna, Austria, says it portrays a universal city that could

be anywhere. Encompassing architecturally and symbolically old historic parts of town, soaring skyscrapers, office blocks, traffic, inter-connecting roads and highways, people, and pollution.

It truly is spectacular and for more information on this extraordinary and most passionate artist and his latest work go to his website at schimanszky.site,

call (579) 638-1265, or

e-mail him at

leoschimanszky@live.com

You will be amazed!



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Hudson Chamber Music Series: Park Brothers Guitar Duo

by Steve Ambler

Concerts take place at St. James Church Hall at 4:00 pm on Sundays. Tickets cost \$25.00 at the door and \$20.00 for seniors. Visit www.hudsonchambermusic.ca/ for more details and for the schedule.

The Hudson Chamber Music Series' 36th season continues apace in the new year after two extremely successful concerts in the fall. The Park Brothers classical guitar duo will give a recital on March 10.

Both Alex and Wesley Park began their musical studies at an early age on the piano, and played together as a piano duo. They began playing the guitar in their teens and studied the classical guitar as undergraduates

Competition.

Alex is currently pursuing his Master of Music degree under Andrew York at Cal State Fullerton. He also teaches at the Pangrazio Music Conservatory in Los Angeles.

Wesley is pursuing a Masters in Music degree at the University of Southern California and teaches at MozArt Music Academy in Tarzana, California. Several of their performances are available on YouTube, and further information on the duo can be found at

<https://www.parkbrothersguitar.com>.

The programme for their recital is eclectic and will have something to please all tastes, spanning musical history from the Renaissance to contemporary music via Mozart and Debussy.

The recital starts with three anonymous pieces from the Renaissance, transcribed by Patrick Russ and Christopher Parkening. There will be some Bach favourites including Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring and Alex Park's arrangement of the Bach/Gounod Ave Maria based on the C Major Prelude from the Well-Tempered Clavier.

No classical guitar recital would be complete without exploring the Hispanic repertoire, and the programme includes works by de Falla (The Miller's Dance and La Vida Breve), Granados (the Intermezzo from Goyescas), Mexican composer Manuel Ponce (Gigue), Rodrigo (De los alamos vengo, madre) and Tarrega (Recuerdos de la Alhambra).

The duo will also perform Mozart's Laudate Dominum and Debussy's Clair de Lune (the latter arranged by Alex Park). The contemporary works are two shorter pieces, Sunburst and Evening Dance,
(continued on page 14)



Alex and Wesley Park

Like all of our concerts, it will take place at 4 pm in St. James Church Hall (642 Main Road in Hudson). The Hall is an ideal setting for chamber music with an unparalleled view of the Lake of Two Mountains and acoustics that have attracted the attention of CBC Radio, which has recorded several of the concerts.

All concerts are followed by a reception where audience members can chat with the musicians. Individual tickets will be available at the door (\$25, \$20 for seniors).

at Pepperdine University under Christopher Parkening, one of the world's preeminent guitar soloists. The piano duo became a guitar duo, and the brothers have gone on to perform together on several continents.

Competing as a duo in the 2014 Pacific Guitar Competition, they were finalists in the chamber mixed division category. Alex won the prestigious Thomas Osborn Concerto Competition in 2016 playing the Concierto de Aranjuez by Joaquin Rodrigo. Wesley was a finalist in 2014 in the junior division of the Pacific Guitar

(continued from page 13)

composed by Alex Park's teacher
Andrew York.

Our final concert of the season on April 28 will feature Jessica Tong on violin and Michael Sheppard on piano (replacing pianist Adam Golka due to scheduling conflicts). Stay tuned for further details coming in the Spring edition of Arts Hudson. More detailed bios of our musicians and a complete rundown of our 36th season can be found at

<http://www.hudsonchambermusic.ca/>.

The Hudson Chamber Music Series is dedicated to bringing world-class chamber music to the Hudson area, without the commute to the city and without the big-city prices.

Jessica Tong



Michael Sheppard



Random Art

William Blake's The Ancient of Days



"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened"

Book of Daniel

Greenwood: The Year in Review

by Special Contributor Audrey Wall

We have had another busy and productive year at Greenwood - our 22nd season was celebrated with a "Hats Off to Greenwood" theme, honouring volunteers who have worked so tirelessly to continue the traditions begun over two decades ago! Greenwood continues to move forward as an important cultural centre and an integral part of a very dynamic community.



"Hats off to Greenwood"

Audrey Wall, Audrey Gray and Bill Young

We have now had over 50 artifacts conserved at Greenwood as part of our Adopt-an-Artifact program: they contribute to the overall improvements made to our historic home and showcase diverse elements of the house and its history. This effort is due to a very special Conservation Committee (Jeanna McClintock, Donna Seaman, Margaret Waller and Andrea Johnson).

Our gardens were lovingly cared for by Susan Ruddick this year, and her efforts really made our unique lakeside property look beautiful. We were fortunate to have had two exceptional summer students, Katie Miller and Bailey O'Farrell, for a second season, and they gave a record number of guided tours to our guests this summer. The house was open from Wednesdays through Sundays for tours and tea.

Our regular events - Films, Treasures in the Attic, concerts by the Greenwood Singers, StoryFest for Kids and Theatre on the Lawn, were very well attended. The Vintage shop in our garage, organized by Julia and Rich Curry, continued to attract new visitors to Greenwood. StoryFest, our annual literary festival, had a record number of guests (11) - including hockey legend Ken Dryden and classical

guitarist Liona Boyd - and continues to attract a growing group of enthusiastic ticket holders and partners. Our hardworking StoryFest Committee is already sending out invitations for our upcoming StoryFest season- our 18th season!

New events this year included a special play "Letters to Phoebe", written by Christine Davet and performed in our garden; a musical afternoon with Karen Cromar, Glen Bowser and Dan Gallant, as part of our Members Day; and a very special Pre-StoryFest event with Canada C3's Geoff Green. Also new this year were regular Sunday afternoon teas with scones!

As of this writing at the end of November, we are about to celebrate our final events of the year, the Greenwood Singers Christmas concert and Old Fashioned Christmas, popular favourites for all of us.

We are very grateful for the wonderful community that continues to embrace us, and for our many volunteers, members, and Board Members who support and maintain this historical treasure so that future generations can continue to experience our rich history.



Apple Pies
June Kendall

What's On this Winter

While some Arts and Cultural organizations take a break until Spring, many have started to operate year round. Village Theatre, Le Chenail Cultural Centre in Hawkesbury and the Film and Opera Series all have events during January and February and the Hudson Gallery Plus opens again in February after closing early January.

HVT Presents an Evening of Live Comedy

GINO DURANTE LIVE

& Special Guests

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2 8PM






David Acer Heidi Foss Paul Baluyot



Musiciens:
Kim Richardson, voix / voix
John Sydney, piano
Karl Thompson, contrebasse
Dan Wilson, drums

KIM RICHARDSON

Mes chansons d'amour

SAMEDI - 19 h 30
SATURDAY - 7:30 PM
16 FEV
MAISON DE L'É

\$25
MUSIQUE
MUSÉE

WHISKY JAZZ

MÉMOIRES DE ROBERT BURNS / ROBERT BURNS MEMORIES
DÉGUSTATION & MUSIQUE / MUSIC & TASTING



VENDREDI - 19 h 30
FRIDAY - 7:30 PM
25 JAN
MAISON DE L'É

\$60
MUSIQUE
MUSÉE

MUSICIENS:
Didier Chetani, piano
Ravi Markey, percussions, contrebasse
Frédéric Alane, contrebasse

A Burns Night est une célébration de la vie et de la poésie du poète Robert Burns, l'auteur de nombreux poèmes écossais. Les soirées sont traditionnellement tenues à l'anniversaire du poète le 25 janvier.

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December



until Sunday January 6th

Le Chenail Cultural Centre Art and Craft Market

Idyllic location in a historic building on an island in the Ottawa River in front of Hawkesbury
Centre Culturel Le Chenail, 613 632 9555, 2 rue John, Hawkesbury ON, K6A 1X3 (Maison de l'île)

lechenail1975.com

Wednesday, December 12th

Carols for a Mid-Winter Night

Greenwood Singers

St. James Church Hall at 642 Main Road, Hudson QC, from 7:30 pm
Greenwood Centre, 254 Main Road, 450.458.5396

greenwood-centre-hudson.org

starting Friday December 14th to Sunday January 6th

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Annual Pantomime

Queen Elvira against Snow White and friends with a cast of (almost) thousands

Hudson Village Theatre, 450.458.5361, 28 Wharf Road, \$23 tax and fees included

villagetheatre.ca

Sunday December 16th

Greenwood Old Fashioned Christmas

Stories, Poems, Cookies, Christmas Drinks

Greenwood Centre, 1:30 and 3:30 pm, 254 Main Road, 450.458.5396

greenwood-centre-hudson.org

Monday December 17th

Finding Your Feet

Hudson Film Society

Older sister helps sibling through a tough time by joining a community dance group

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

hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Saturday December 15th to Sunday December 23rd

Christmas Market

Hudson Gallery Plus

Art, Christmas Crafts, Gifts, Cards and Hudson-themed Products

Hudson Gallery Plus, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, 448 Main Road, (450) 458-1319

galerieplus.ca

Wednesday December 19th

Christmas Party

Arts Hudson and Gallery Plus

Drop by for Prosecco and Hors d'Oeuvres

448 Main Road, Hudson, 450-458-1319, info@galerieplus.ca

5:00 pm, to 8:00 pm

artshudson.org and galerieplus.ca

(December continued on next page)

January



(December continued)

Sunday, December 23rd

Festival of Nine Lesson and Carols - St. James Church

642 Main Road, Hudson, Quebec, 450 458 5897; 8:00 pm

parishofvaudreuil.com

Monday, December 24th

English Family Mass - St. Thomas Aquinas Church

413 Main Road, Hudson, Quebec; 450 458 5322; 7:00 pm

st-thomasaquinas.org

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist - St. James Church

261 Main Road, Hudson, Quebec; 10:30 pm

parishofvaudreuil.com

January 2019

to Sunday January 6th

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Annual Pantomime

Queen Elvira against Snow White and friends with a cast of (almost) thousands

Hudson Village Theatre, 450.458.5361, 28 Wharf Road, \$23 tax and fees included

villagetheatre.ca

Saturday, January 19h

Il trovatore

Film Society Opera Series

Verdi opera "The Troubador" about love, mistaken identity, death and revenge

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, 2:00 pm, by subscription

hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Monday, January 21th

Transit

Hudson Film Society

War-time drama set in France with unusual twists

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

hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Friday January 25th

Whiskey Jazz

Celebrating Robert Burns

Idyllic location in a historic building on an island in the Ottawa River in front of Hawkesbury

Tasting and Music, \$60.00, 7:30 pm

Centre Culturel Le Chenail, 613 632 9555, 2 rue John, Hawkesbury ON, K6A 1X3 (Maison de l'île)

lechenail1975.com

February



Friday February 1st to Sunday March 31st

Alison Robin Smith - Faces of Canada

Thirteen Portraits from across the nation - free admission

Centre Culturel Le Chenail, 613 632 9555, 2 rue John, Hawkesbury ON, K6A 1X3 (Maison de l'île)

Saturday February 2nd

Gino Durante Live and Special Guests

Village Theatre's Annual Comedy Night

Hudson Village Theatre, 450.458.5361, 28 Wharf Road, 8:00 pm, \$29.00 plus tax

villagetheatre.ca

Saturday February 9th

Yoel Diaz Ensemble - Jazz Cubain

Jazz band at the Cite des Jeunes theatre organizedd by the Hudson Music Festival

Theatre Paul Emile Meloche, 400 Ave St. Charles, Vaudreuil-Dorion, 514.295.6017; \$30.00, 7:30 pm

Wednesday February 13th

Vernissage and Re-Opening Gallery Plus

New artists, new prints, new artisanal works, jewelry

Refreshments and Hors d'Oeuvres

448 Main Road, Hudson, 450-458-1319, info@galerieplus.ca

5:00 pm, to 8:00 pm

galerieplus.ca

Saturday, February 16th

Film Society Opera Series - Patience

Gilbert and Sullivan's musical comedy satire on aesthetics

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, 2:00 pm, by subscription

hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Saturday February 16th

Kim Richardson - Le Chenail Cultural Centre

Idyllic location in a historic building on an island in the Ottawa River in front of Hawkesbury

Love Songs, \$25.00, 7:30 pm

Centre Culturel Le Chenail, 613 632 9555, 2 rue John, Hawkesbury ON, K6A 1X3 (Maison de l'île)

Monday, February 18th

Leave No Trace - Hudson Film Society

A character study of a homeless army veteran and his daughter who live in a public park.

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

hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Wednesday, February 27th to Sunday, March 3rd

Hudson Film Society - The Hudson Film Festival

Wednesday Evening, Opening Gala

and Ben's Night, in honour of Ben McKinnon

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, (450) 458-5361,

festival tickets by subscription online at villagetheatre.ca

or tickets per film at the Village Theatre box office 20 minutes before each showing.

hudsonfilmsociety.ca

March



to Sunday, March 3rd
Hudson Film Society - The Hudson Film Festival

Wednesday Evening, Opening Gala
and Ben's Night, in honour of Ben McKinnon

Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, (450) 458-5361,
festival tickets by subscription online at villagetheatre.ca
or tickets per film at the Village Theatre box office 20 minutes before each showing.
hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Friday, March 8th
Lorraine Klaasen

South African songs and music

Hudson Village Theatre, 450.458.5361, 28 Wharf Road, 8:00 pm, \$39.00 tax and fees included
villagetheatre.ca

Saturday March 9th
Sally Folk - French Pop Songs

De l'eau dans le vin tour at the Cite des Jeunes theatre
organizedd by the Hudson Music Festival

Theatre Paul Emile Meloche, 400 Ave St. Charles, Vaudreuil-Dorion, 514.295.6017; \$30.00, 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 10th
Hudson Chamber Music Series

The Park Brothers - Guitar Duo

St. James Church Hall, 642 Main Road
4:00 pm, \$25.00 at the door or \$70 subscription (\$20.00 and \$55.00 for seniors)
hudsonchambermusic.ca

Monday, March 18th
To Be Announced
Hudson Film Society

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

Monday March 25th
Film Society Opera Series - L'Elisir d'amore
Bubbly Italian comic opera

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

March 2017
St. Patrick's Day Parade
Organized by the Town of Hudson
and the Hudson Commercial Development Society (SDC Hudson)
Dates to be announced

email: info@hudsonparade.com; hudsonparade.com
sdchudson.com

The Back Page

In this 1489 painting of the Annunciation by Sandro Botticelli, the painter tries to imagine what the virgin Mary's reaction might have been when the Archangel Gabriel appeared and told her she was to give birth to the son of God. But there is more to Mary's story.

Imagine you are a young Jewish girl living in Nazareth. You're engaged to a local carpenter boy Joseph but still live with your parents, Anne and Joachim. One day, there you are relaxing and looking out over the garden of the family home and an angel, with wings, appears and tells you you're going to become pregnant with the son of God, while remaining a virgin. This is the background that Botticelli imagined when he painted Mary as being shocked and initially refusing to believe this.

Of course Mary was already specially chosen at that point. While

she was conceived normally by her parents, according to Catholic doctrine God intervened, lifting from Mary the burden of original sin in what is known as the Immaculate Conception. In some accounts, Mary was then raised in a convent and betrothed to an old widower, Joseph, who already had several other children from a previous marriage. In this scenario, Mary would have accepted the angel's appearance and his proposition, in keeping with other paintings showing the Annunciation. She was already prepared for a holy purpose and may even have been waiting for a sign of some kind.

The latter scenario is supported by the fact that Joseph pretty well disappears after Jesus grows up. Once Mary gives birth to Jesus in the Virgin Birth, the family flees to Egypt to avoid King Herod's plan to kill all the first-born of Bethlehem. Joseph brings the family back after Herod's death but is not mentioned in later accounts.

In any case, Mary listened to the angel and apparently agreed. One account has her saying what in today's slang would translate as, "Ok, bring it."



Hudson-Related Arts Websites

Rita Shellard's Paintings - art-inspiration.ca

Hudson Artists Group Paintings - artisteshudsonartists.com

Barbara Farren's Paintings - barbarafarren.com

Jeweler Louise Seguin - bijouxartlou.ca

Marcel Braitstein's sculpture - braitstein.com

Daniel Gautier's Art - danielgautier.ca

Greenwood Centre for Living History - greenwood-centre-hudson.org

Annual Literary Festival Run by Greenwood - greenwoodstoryfest.com

Hudson Galerie Plus, Markgraf Prints and Local Artists - galerieplus.ca

Heather Dubreuil Fibre Art - heatherdubreuil.com and heatherdubreuil.blogspot.ca

Christine Hunt's Art Classes for Children and Adults - huntartstudio.ca

Sandy Ferguson's Ballet Classes - hudsonballet.ca

The Hudson Chamber Music Concerts - hudsonchambermusic.ca

Hudson Dance School - hudsondancecenter.com

Monthly Movies at Village Theatre - hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Hudson History and Books - hudsonhistoricalsociety.ca

Hudson Music Festival - hudsonmusicfestival.ca

Hudson Players Club - hudsonplayersclub.com

Artist Joanna Olson - joannaolson.com

Hudson Comedian Lorne Elliott - lorne-elliott.com

Enamel Painter Lorraine Bouchard - lorrainebouchard.com

Mandy Van Aarle Online Gallery - mandyvanaarle.daportfolio.com

Jen Baumeister's Pottery - mapleleafpottery.ca

Shopping for Art with a Mission - pureart.ca

Robin Grinnell's Paintings - robingrinnellartist.com

Rosalie Levi, Sculptor and Visual Artist - rosalielevi.com

Christine Davet's Literary Magazine - sundayat6mag.wordpress.com

Annual Tour of Hudson Area Artists' Studios - studiotourhudsonandregion.org

Artist Susan Porter - susanporterart.com

Vaudreuil-Soulanges Arts Website - talentsdici.com

Heather Markgraf's Professional Theatre Company - theatrepanache.ca

Vivianne LaRivière's Spiritual Website - theartofsoulcare.com

Hudson's Theatre - villagetheatre.ca

Hudson's Volunteer-Operated Library - warmemoriallibrary.blogspot.com

