



**arts**

**hudson**

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**Hochelaga, Hudson Film Festival**



## arts hudson

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## Art's Hudson by Art MacDonald.

The Hudson Arts Scene is becoming more lively as new initiatives flourish and existing events become bigger or better. Some of the spaces that have been for rent are filling up and there are lots of plans for spring and summer.

The Hudson Arts Council is up and running although they are still looking for one member to fill one of the positions. Mayor Jamie Nichols gives some background and the purpose of the council while James Parry writes more about its mandate. Ideally the council will become another way the arts and culture in Hudson can be promoted and expanded.

The Players Club spring production this year is a stage version of Ken Kesey's book, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." Kesey's themes are often anti-authoritarian and this story has a particularly ominous twist. Kathryn Lamb spoke with the director and has more details in this issue. Of course, Kesey might be having us on. After all, cuckoos don't build nests.

Another successful film festival for the Hudson Film Society. The Festival is now simply called the Hudson Film Festival but it still highlights Canadian Films. Organizer Clint Ward writes about the films and the festival guests that graced the festival this year. Read about festival highlights such as the visit by the mayor of Gander, Newfoundland, the screening of a locally made work or the epic film about Montreal, "Hochelaga."

Also in this issue, we have details about the coming Village Theatre professional summer season. It's new artistic director Dean Fleming's first time programming a season of shows at Village Theatre and there is a great mix of well-known hits and more obscure gems. Find out what's playing and get your tickets early because they will be in short supply this summer.

The Music Club has just completed their run of "Drowsy Chaperone" at Village Theatre and the theatre has a number of musical events planned for the spring. At the beginning of May, the theatre is also mounting Neil Simon's "Rumors" as a theatre fundraiser - the show will be directed by Hudson Players Club veteran Steve Walters.

A couple of years ago local writer James Parry surprised everyone including himself by starting to draw wild and wonderful images of, as he put it, "fantastic fauna, creative critters, fearsome fish etc." After selling many works privately, he was featured in a re-opening vernissage at Hudson Gallery Plus.

Awesome alliteration aside, Parry's pen and ink drawings are detailed black and white patterns that, on closer inspection, yield images of all kinds of animals, birds, fish and, always, at least one mouse.

Of course we cover the final chamber music concert and bring you a retrospective of the last Panto, which was unique in many ways. Vivianne's column deals lyrically with her piano and James writes about rocking horses and sculptors. Hudson's two artist groups are planning their annual spring exhibitions, the Hudson Artists at the Community Centre and the Lake of Two Mountains Artists Association at St. James Church.

And speaking of the St. Patrick's Day Parade (well, now we are), it is coming up. Our Back Page feature shows a small British parade transplanted to a street of Rome during the Roman Empire. Looking at the painting, I try to visualize the Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade transplanted to such a street. Perhaps a subject for a future Back Page.

*Art MacDonald*

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# Hudson Launches Arts and Culture Council

Working with the administration  
to help build a better economy for the community

by James Parry

*"You've gotta have heart  
All you really need is heart  
When the odds are sayin  
You'll never win  
That's when the grin should start"*

Hard to believe perhaps, but it has been 65 years since it seems just about everyone in **North America** was warbling the above lyrics following the debut of one of the most successful **Broadway** musicals ever, *Damn Yankees*. Well, substitute the word art for heart and you've gotta admit that our little town of Hudson has it in spades!

For decades, Hudsonites have been excelling in virtually every facet of the visual and performing arts - much of it on a purely volunteer basis - reflecting a rich culture that has been supported and enjoyed not only by local residents but also by visitors from far and wide. But never has it been really recognized and promoted as a single entity that can build an economy for the benefit of all. Until now!

Welcome to the **Arts, Recreation & Culture Council of Hudson (ARCCH)** formally established this last February and which you are going to be hearing a lot more about in the coming weeks and months.

Its mandate? To assist the Town in developing a cultural plan for our community, complete with mapping of cultural resources and strategic advice for Council on culture matters.

Its mission? To advise on all matters cultural in order to build a sustainable community that fosters positive change through creativity and innovation. Also to provide the policy and planning foundations for a healthy, vibrant and engaged citizenry who use arts and culture to build community and place.

Its vision? Intertwined and in partnership with the French-speaking and Indigenous communities of our

region, it will be the cultural expression and dynamic force for the English-speaking community of **Vaudreuil-Soulanges**.

Explains Mayor Jamie Nicholls, "We are very excited about this most positive initiative as ARCCH will assist us in keeping culture a priority for our town and the recommendations that stem from it will assist the **Town Council** to integrate our culture into all their decisions as well as to make Hudson a place where artists and creative people feel at home. What's more, the way we have set up the council, its vision, mission and mandate, is to ensure that we maximize potential for funding from federal and provincial bodies."

Adds Nicholls, "Any town that wants to build an economy on culture as a main element, however, requires a cultural plan. Hudson has never had one. We know that we have a lot to offer and we need such a plan, specifically for culture, that tells us how to become the cultural hub that we really desire to be. And I'm delighted that the people who have stepped forward have so much experience and expertise to share. It is an action-oriented group that takes



"The way we have set up the council, its vision, mission and mandate, is to ensure that we maximize potential for funding from federal and provincial bodies."

## Jamie Nicholls, Mayor of Hudson

pleasure in getting things done and I'm so much looking forward to working with them and moving the culture dossier forward."

The mayor also has nothing but praise for the previous **Ed Prévost** administration that he says set the foundation for putting culture at the centre of the town's future. Says Nicholls, "One of the central elements to their strategic plan was 'Where the arts meet nature'. They consulted the population widely and a great majority  
(continued on page 2)

## Hudson Launches Arts and Culture Council

continued

of voices wanted to see culture given its due as an important element of our economy and expression of our identity as a town. So we have a lot to build on. We're certainly not starting from scratch."

He also stresses that the new entity will not incur any expenses right now other than the presence of three town officers comprising himself and Councillors **Helen Kurgansky** (District 1, Como) and **Barbara Robinson** (District 4, Fairhaven) who represent the Town and the occasional snack and coffee budget for its monthly working sessions to be held at Halcro Cottage.

Explains Nicholls, "In essence, the way it will work is similar to that of crown corporations which are created by government but managed at arms-length. This means that the

government doesn't interfere with their day-to-day operations. We're not there yet though. The Arts and Culture Council is starting off strictly as an advisory body to council. And the idea is that, in the future, it will eventually become its own entity that raises its own capital for its operating budget."

In researching this article, I was fascinated to learn that Jamie Nicholls is himself a talented artist in photography having lived in **Istanbul, Turkey**, from 1998 to 2003 and where he exhibited at the **French Cultural Centre** because of their entente with **Quebec**.

"Having worn two hats over the years, that of an artist and that of an elected politician at both the federal and now municipal level, I want to lend a hand to young artists in our midst by providing leadership in the

cultural sector, says Nicholls. "And not only in terms of readily identifiable art forms such as photography, painting, theatre, sculpture, music, writing, and so much more, but also in what I like to describe as intangible assets which are not necessarily manifest in physical form. They include stories and legends, shared beliefs, customs and rituals, as well as digital cultural expression and historical heritage. For example, the stories and exploits of the many Air Canada pilots who made their home and raised their families in Hudson. This is something that Hudson can be proud of and is worth preserving, promoting, and sharing with the world."



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# One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, by Ken Kesey

Produced by the Hudson Players Club, directed by Donna Byrne  
Article by Kathryn Lamb

*Three geese in a flock..  
One flew east  
One flew west  
One flew over the Cuckoo's nest....*  
(Children's rhyme and schoolyard chant)

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, a novel written by American author Ken Kesey, was published in 1962, and almost immediately turned into a Broadway play (1963) by Dale Wasserman. The film version (1975) directed by Milos Forman won all five of the top Academy Awards that year.

Who would have thought that a story about a group of inmates in a mental institution would achieve such popularity? But it did. And now, the Hudson Players Club and director Donna Byrne are bringing the play to the Hudson Village Theatre from April 4 to 14.

In the words of the director, "I chose this play because I was captivated by the subject matter and the colorful, intense characters. This drama took me on a journey of tears & laughter. It kept me on the edge of my seat".

Randle McMurphy (David Anderson) is a clever, charming and calculating felon, confined to an Oregon penal institution, who decides that the physical workload might be less if he can get himself transferred to the state mental hospital. There, he finds himself among a sad but quirky group of male inmates, bullied, infantilized and numbed into a robotic state. There is less work here, for sure, but no freedom either of action, or of thought, or of ideas or association. The authority lies within the iron fist of the frozen, emotionless Nurse Ratched (Lisa Vindasius). She is backed up

by a couple of bullying aides and a passively intellectual doctor (Simon Côté).

The other inmates represent a full range of age, personality, pathology and degree of sadness. They see themselves as powerless, but their dialogue is not bleak, and is overflowing with subversive humour.

There are sixteen cast members, and not one of them is a caricature. The cunning and mischievous McMurphy cannot help but attempt to plot schemes to create fun, and undermine the status quo represented by Nurse Ratched and her minions. He tries a plea of democracy to change the hour of the work bee, so that the patients can watch the World Series on TV. He survives a session of electric shock treatment, and creates a friendship with a tall indigenous inmate reputed to be deaf and dumb (eloquently played by Nick Fontaine). And finally, he orchestrates a party with a few surprise guests - of the female and lusty variety - as a gift to his fellow inmates.

But the status quo is a tough force to uproot. And although creativity is its greatest threat, the battle is not always fair. The conclusion of this play, and the resolution, if you can call it that, is shocking, and has to be experienced.

I watched a rehearsal of this play, and was mesmerized. The cast appears to have great chemistry, and is working hard to develop their roles. The title is taken from a rather mysterious nursery rhyme quoted above, and it is fair to say that the cuckoo's nest is the mental institution, and that Randle McMurphy is the goose that flew over, indeed got trapped in it.

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, although several decades old, is not afraid to ask big questions. What is society allowed to do to people and take away from people to protect them and to protect ourselves? Again, in the director's words, "Talking openly about mental illness breaks down social stigma and creates public awareness. All the characters in the play are like you and me except that somewhere along their journey something broke inside of them. Taking the blanket of shame away is a huge step forward".

Once again, the Hudson Players Club has taken on a challenging play, a classic. But sophisticated audiences here have come to recognize and expect quality performances from this group. For tickets or information, contact

[hudsonplayersclub.ca](http://hudsonplayersclub.ca)

or call 438-923-6828.

Photograph by Valerie Provost



# Sterling Guests Featured at the 4th Hudson Film Festival

by Clint Ward

The annual Hudson cinema adventure began on Wednesday February 27 with a documentary detailing the extreme situation facing the 9000 inhabitants of Gander, Newfoundland. The terrorist activity of 9/11 caused the entire airspace over the United States to be shut down and hundreds of airplanes flying the North Atlantic had to immediately head for the nearest airport not in the US.

Gander was the landing spot for 38 wide body jets containing some 9000 passengers and crew needing shelter and food for an undetermined number of days. This, in a town boasting only 500 hotel rooms! Hudson Festival organizers thought inviting the mayor of the time to illuminate how this almost impossible challenge was met would add veracity and interest to the opening day.



Mayor Claude Elliott introducing the *Come from Away* film

Photograph by Vivianne LaRivière

Mayor Claude Elliott accepted the invitation and came to our community on the evening of February 26. The following day he attended the regular monthly lunch of an organization of retired airline pilots who had all experienced Gander Airport in their careers. He arrived at the Village theatre shortly before the 2:00 pm opening and delivered an excellent introduction to *You Are Here: A Come From Away Story*.

Following the astounding history the film presented, he answered all the questions the audience asked. He admitted to seeing the musical *Come from Away* 38 times and delivering his explanation of the 5 days at least 200 times. He repeated the performance again for the evening show and continued his conversations during the Gala reception that followed. There couldn't have been a more perfect guest.

On Thursday afternoon there was a chance to see a cinema version of a very famous Canadian play called *Drawer Boy*. The acting was very good and it was clear the adaptation came from a play. It will be on the Village Theatre stage in July giving viewers a comparison opportunity.

Thursday evening is called Ben's Night in honour of a young filmmaker that left us before his talent was fully realized. The evening is always devoted to short films by young filmmakers of any age, and the program was filled with cinematic gems. The evening voting deemed that a lovely heartfelt film titled *Celia Found* directed by Rowena Woods was awarded first position.

The awe that mountainous landscapes evoke is universal and Friday afternoon brought that forth via the big screen with the B.C. film, *This Mountain Life*. The film described a bitterly cold 2300-kilometer ski trek from Canada to Alaska through the treacherous Coastal Mountains completed by a young woman and her 60-year-old mother. Their adventure was interspersed with portraits of high-altitude human endurance:



Mohawk Actor Wahiakeron George  
Photograph Vivianne LaRivière

the gripping story of an avalanche burial; a group of nuns who inhabit a mountain retreat to be closer to God; an impassioned alpinist; a focused snow artist; and a couple who has been living off grid in the mountains for nearly 50 years. *This Mountain Life* was a riveting examination of human passion set high in the peaks of British Columbia.

The showpiece of Friday was the evening screening of the third collaboration between award-winning photographer Edward Burtynsky and acclaimed filmmakers Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier. Spanning numerous countries, the film revealed in stunning images how our mania for conquest defines our relationship to the Earth - and Anthropocene: The Human Epoch was



a mesmerizing and disturbing rumination on what drives us as a species, and a call to wake up to the destruction caused by our dominance.

The film was followed by an audience discussion led by Hudson's Mayor, Jamie Nichols and Ryan Young, a Municipal Councillor from Sainte-Anne de-Bellevue who chairs their Advisory Committee on Environment.

Saturday saw a program of 4 films making it a challenge only for the cinematic brave ones. Beginning at 10:30 am with *Falls Around Here* and ending with *Stan & Ollie*, the day also included two other remarkable films.

Wayne Gretzky earned the nickname "The Great One" and that moniker reflects his approach to the game of hockey, his artistry, and his intuition on the ice. He's one of few people who can honestly claim to be the best in his profession.

Sports might be the starting point for the conversations during *In Search of Greatness*, directed by Gabe Polsky, but the implications of the documentary translate to virtually any field. By having the best of the best reflect upon their roads to glory, the doc asks how one defines success in one's respective field and how one achieves that goal. Every Wayne Gretzky in hockey finds a Meryl Streep

in acting, every Pelé in soccer has an Alice Munro in literature, and for every Jerry Rice in football, there's a Duke Ellington in composing.

The highlight of the day was the screening of a feature dramatic film by a young Hudson actor who wrote and produced it largely by tenacious talent, ambition and fortitude. So many came to see *Death of a Traveling Life Insurance Salesman* that a second showing of the film had to follow the first screening. Fortunately there was just enough time between the third and fourth films of the day. *DOTLIS* garnered the Festival's Audience Favourite award.

A very pleasant surprise was the Sunday film, *The Fireflies are Gone* directed by Sébastien Pilote. The film, featuring two wonderful performances by, Karelle Tremblay and Pierre-Luc Brillant, was a delight and viewers quickly understood why it was awarded, Best Canadian Feature Film at last year's Toronto International Film

Festival.

A perfect ending to the annual Film Festival was the ambitious and creative François Gerard film, *Hochelaga: Land of Souls*. Even though Montreal recently marked 375 years of History, Gerard's film spanned almost 800 years where the souls of all centuries and all cultures came together.

As icing on the cake it was perfectly introduced by a very engaging Mohawk actor, Wahiakeron George. He held the audience spell-bound both before and after the film and then joined 63 film stalwarts at Le Cozy Café for a celebratory dinner to mark the end of the Hudson Film Festival 2019.



Kyle Gregor-Pearse

Photograph Vivianne LaRivière



Sold Out!

Photograph Vivianne LaRivière

## Local Dedicated Volunteers Join Pure Art in Peru

Helping to improve the quality life  
of youngsters and families in the slums of an Amazon frontier town  
by James Parry

While the rest of us were still battling winter earlier this month here in Hudson and environs, some 59 volunteers including many from our local communities and each of whom had paid all their own expenses, were soaking up the sun in an **Amazon** frontier town called **Pucallpa** in **Peru**.

But it was not all vacation time. For they were there helping to make life better for both young and old in that community as part of the 12th trip to date organized and hosted by **Robert** and **Brigitte McKinnon** of the fair trade **Pure Art Boutique** located in the heart of Hudson at 422 Main Road.

Explained Robert, "The volunteers are from **Hudson, St. Lazare, Rigaud, Vaudreuil, the West Island, Montreal** and **Ottawa**. And this year we are completing two new homes - **Casa Hudson#8** and **Clair's Casa** - bringing the total of current Pure Art homes to 30. In fact, eight of these homes have been financed through donations by Hudsonites, **Leslie Blake Côté**, and her husband, **Bob Johnson**, and their bridge-playing friends."

Also this time around, they were helping to build three new classrooms in a local school which opened for classes on March 11.

Added Robert, "**The Pure Art Hub of Hope** now has five structures completed comprising a medical centre, sewing centre, day care, and **Commodore** which is an after-school program building.

There are about 300 children currently enrolled in the **Pure Art One School for All** program, with 15 university students and five graduates from the university. And there are also 15 children in the day care, and some 30 women in the sewing program."

A big bravo to one and all for this continuing all-volunteer initiative. And as they say in Spanish, the official language of Peru, 'gracias por todo lo que hacen!' Thank you for all you have done!



Leslie Blake Côté and Bob Johnson  
Photograph Robert MacKinnon

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# Hudson Chamber Music Series Season Finale

by Steve Ambler

The final concert of the 36th season of the Hudson Chamber Music Series features Jessica Tong on violin and Michael Sheppard on piano (replacing pianist Adam Golka due to scheduling conflicts).

It takes place on April 28 at 4 pm in St. James Church Hall (642 Main Road in Hudson), a venue that audiences and performers appreciate for its wonderful acoustics and unparalleled view of the Lake of Two Mountains. The concert will be followed by a reception where audience members can chat with the musicians. Individual tickets will be available at the door (\$25, \$20 for seniors).

Jessica Tong has garnered international acclaim as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. She is a recipient of the Canada Council Grant for Professional Musicians and the David Ouchterloney Award for Most Promising Young Artist. She has won top prizes at the Eckhardt-Gramatté, Toronto Symphony, Canadian Music and Yellow Springs International Chamber Music Competitions. She was recently appointed the Chamber Music Director for the Composers Conference and Chamber Music Workshop at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. A more detailed bio and sample performances are available on her web site at

<https://www.jessicatong.com>

Michael Sheppard is the 2003 recipient of the APA Classical Fellowship Award sponsored by the American Pianists Association. He is a native of Philadelphia and resides in Baltimore, where he works at both the Peabody Conservatory and the Baltimore School for the Arts and often performs as part of the Monument Piano Trio. He has appeared in solo recitals and chamber music concerts throughout the United States as well as in France and Italy. Committed to new music as well as the traditional repertoire, he is an accomplished composer as well as a performer. A selection of his solo performances is available at

<https://www.youtube.com/user/realpianistcomposer>.

The programme for the recital includes complete sonatas for violin and piano by Mozart (the *F Major Sonata K377*) and Robert Schumann (his *Violin Sonata No. 3 in A Minor*) as well as Mendelssohn's *Violin Sonata Fragment in D Minor* and Enescu's *Impressions d'Enfance for Violin and Piano*.

Mozart was instrumental in the development of the classical violin and piano sonata. He composed a large number of them and the manuscripts of 36 have survived. The *F Major* sonata is the 25th in the series.

When he composed the sonata, Mozart was settling into his new life in Vienna after his dismissal from the service of the Archbishop of Salzburg. While the piano was clearly the dominant instrument in his early sonatas, this sonata is in a more mature style with a sophisticated interplay between the two instruments.

Schumann wrote three sonatas for violin and piano. They are later works than his better-known string quartets and piano quartet and are particularly complex both dramatically and psychologically.

The third sonata has a valedictory character. Its slow movement and finale were initially part of a joint work with Johannes Brahms and Albert Dietrich composed for Brahms' long-time collaborator Joseph Joachim. Schumann later added two additional movements.

The Mendelssohn

Fragment was composed when he was fifteen or sixteen years old and is a testimony to his prodigious musical talents. The Enescu piece is one of his three most important works for violin and piano and, like much of his music, is chock full of allusions to Romanian folk melodies.

More detailed bios of the musicians and information about our 36th season can be found at



## Andrea Blanar 2019

My works most frequently portray our endangered coastal regions. The salt water marshes that I depict have become for me the focal point in which life's experiences are reinterpreted. They are in themselves shrines, and in the process of creation I re-enact my pilgrimage to these "sacred" sites. Their vast spaces reassuringly confirm my insignificance within the order of nature. Paradoxically the marshes empower me by situating me concretely within that order. Because of my central European origins, my work remains informed by medieval art. It is often three-dimensional, layered with personal narrative and embellished with clay sculpted pieces.



The Works of Andrea Blanar are exhibited at the Hudson Gallery Plus  
448 Main Road, Hudson, QC; 450.458.1319, [info@galerieplus.ca](mailto:info@galerieplus.ca)

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# Along the River's Edge

by Vivianne LaRiviere



Out of the darkness...  
Came the light.

I reminisce about a grace  
- ancient and true.

From times in my crib,  
spoken as if in a monastic cell.

I didn't know where you  
came from.  
Or why you went away.  
I had an expression of  
loneliness that could not  
be named.  
What could possibly be  
'lonesome' for an infant?

I was too young, too  
vulnerable; too alone.  
I missed you when you  
were gone,  
And I missed you when  
you were here.



Motherless.

Impregnated with  
sound,  
Imbued with imperfec-  
tion.  
Desires known, and  
unknown.  
The touch of all of the  
forgotten and frozen  
hours.  
And lovers.

Pathways beyond  
memories.  
Streets with houses.  
And houses with  
streets.  
All with dust.  
Blueprints of intimacy -  
written in dust.  
Designs of vulnerability,  
some transparent.  
Some not.  
Sung with dust.



Skid marks and shadows,  
Resonance of bells,  
And cathedrals.  
Of pasture and mountain.

And good friends, some  
who still live.  
Some who live: still.

Others still sound.



Out of the darkness...  
Comes the light.  
Tellement d'histoires.

'Been playin' all of my  
life.

I was saved.  
Amen.

# Parrydis Hudson

by James Parry

So here we are in Spring folks, officially at least as of March 20, although you would never know it by the bergs of snow and ice still flanking our streets and driveways and icicles hanging from the roofs. Ah well, hopefully we are on the downward slope as it were - and not too slippery - to more bucolic days ahead when we'll all be out again enjoying the rebirth of nature and indulging in our favourite summer pastimes and hobbies.

Speaking of which, I would like to introduce you to two long-time Hudsonites who have been busy over the winter months devoting quite a bit of their free time pursuing a most unusual hobby. Both of whom, it might be said, are off their rockers while horsing around having fun.

But before you jump to the wrong conclusion and lest this be misconstrued, permit to explain. Both are British idiomatic expressions implying 'slightly crazy' and 'engaging in aimless recreation or frivolous time-wasting fooling around'. Intrigued?

Yves Legault and Josée Baribeau with their unique gift for Jacob David.

Photograph by James Parry



Then read on and welcome to the world of wooden carved rocking horses. Said to date back to the **17th Century** when they first appeared in **Europe**, although some conflicting sources note **Medieval** manuscripts including references to such steeds, and long before they became a children's toy and a must in every kid's nursery. At least for those families that could afford one.

## QUEEN VICTORIA LOVED THEM

In researching this article, I was gobsmacked to learn that only a very few of these early rocking horses still survive in museums and private collections, including one of the earliest ridden by **King Charles I** of **England** when he was knee-high to a grasshopper and obviously long before he had his head chopped off. And who, incidentally, is the ancestor of the late **Diana, Princess of Wales**, and mother of **Prince William, Duke of Cambridge**, and **Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex**.

**Socrates'** children are also said to have ridden them in one form or

another. **Queen Victoria** was an unabashed fan with several custom-crafted models in her private collection. And the predecessors of the rocking horse may be seen in the rocking cradle, the tilting seats used during the **Middle Ages** for jousting practice by knights of the realm or their chivalrous competitors from far and wide.

Gadzooks. Who would have thunk it! And now back to the tail, sorry make that tale, of our two Hudsonites who - pardon the pun - are carrying on this wonderful artform right here in our neck of the woods!

## MOST CREATIVE CAR-VER

First up, **Yves Legault** of Hudson's **Pierre Auto Body** fame who is recognized not only in **Quebec** but also throughout **Canada** and even south of the border as one of the undisputed masters of rebuilding, repainting, and restoring classic and vintage cars to their former glory.

Intrigued to learn that it is something he has been doing, albeit initially on a more modest scale, for some 50 years starting at the age of 10 when he would play hooky from school to work for another former bodyshop just down the street from his home on **Bellevue** where he still lives today with the love of his life for over 45 years, business partner, and fellow artist, **Josée Baribeau**.

As a teenager, believe it or not, she lived on the very same street just a couple of houses away and, as an artist in her own right, has created watercolours and macrame works that have been sold around the world.

More accustomed to horsepower under the hood, over the Christmas holidays Legault decided to create his very first rocking horse for a neighbour's child. His name? **Jacob David**, now seven months old. Why? "Because we fell in love with little Jacob and wanted to give him a gift that he could grow up with and have fun with," Yves told me in this exclusive interview for *Arts Hudson*.

Not that this was his first foray



into the art of woodcarving. For over the years and for himself and Josée alone, he has also created bowls and exquisite life-size reproductions of birds including cardinals, chickadees, gold finches and even a magnificent rooster.

But never anything on this scale which all stems from a chunk of a pine tree felled by fellow Hudsonite, **Neil Gabriel**, and given to him some 20 years ago and with rockers of ash from his own property, a saddle sculpted from darker apple wood that was a gift from a client in the **Gaspe**, and a woolen tail and mane.

Says Legault, "Unlike my work with cars when I am always under pressure, with a deadline to meet, and so many different bodies to satisfy apart from the actual client, I find woodcarving so relaxing and rewarding. I can set my own pace, working a few hours a day if I want, and never having to worry when it will be finished. It is totally free-style and I can literally do whatever I want."

So does this super steed have a name? "Not yet," laughed Legault. "We are leaving that up to Jacob when he is old enough to talk!"

#### ELLIOTT EXTRAORDINAIRE

Meanwhile, was surprised to learn that Hudson's former mayor, **Michael Elliott**, has handcarved a whole herd of them over the years for his grandchildren and for so many local worthwhile causes as his personal contribution to their fundraising campaigns. All created in his heritage log cabin-workshop dating back to about 1750 on his property off **Turtle Pond Lane**.

Says Michael, who has built such Hudson landmarks as the town houses on **Stephenson Court**, **Lancaster Place** at the corner of **Main** and **Cameron**, **St. Mary's Church Hall** after the original was gutted by fire, and the lych gate at nearby **St. Mary's Church in Como**, "I just love creating them for the joy that they will bring to others and perhaps something that the youngsters will, in turn, pass on to their families as they get older and may have children and grandchildren of their own," Elliott told me while taking a brief break from



Michael Elliott spruces up the rocking horse he created 10 years ago for his granddaughter Beatrice. Photograph by James Parry

creating yet another model.

For Michael, it all begins with a sketch to scale, selecting the appropriate woods, and then meticulously cutting and shaping it using a bandsaw, chisels and other small intricate tools that I've never even heard of.

Explains Michael who, by the way, is also a hobby maple syrup producer, amateur beekeeper, passionate lavender grower, and planter of all the tulips at the **Cenotaph at Hudson Legion Branch #115 on Beach Road**, "For the body of the horse, I like to use clear pine because it has no knots in it and for the runners I use maple, and walnut for the seat and stirrups. The mane is butcher's twine, the ears leather, and I always finish with a clear, non-toxic varnish that is safe for the children to touch."

His first, he said, was for his grandson, Troy, who is now 22. And a question I just had to ask

him. Did he have one when he was a kid? "I sure did," he replied. "And I loved it. Which, I guess, is why I enjoy making these so that other youngsters can have as much fun as I did riding their very own rocking horse."

#### WOODN'T IT BE LOVELY!

Still on the woodcarving scene, meet self-taught passionate artist **Normand St. Vincent** who lives in **Rigaud** and who has carved out his own very special niche when it comes (continued on page 12)

Normand St.-Vincent with his latest fantastical bird carving. Photograph by James Parry





(continued from page 11)

to transforming natural wood into unique veritable works of art. It all begins when he collects roots and twisted branches before sculpting them.

Says St. Vincent, whose pieces - including a mind-boggling collection of walking sticks - are now on display at **Galerie Plus, 448 Main Road, Hudson**, "When I begin sculpting, I never know what the end result will be. I just go with intuition, trusting that the wood will finally reveal its secrets, slowly tracing the contours, observing crevasses, sinuosity and veins until the possibility of a form comes to life demanding a detail, an expression."

"And then I dig, shape, polish, and curve the yielding wood while perhaps integrating new materials and allowing the piece of wood to finally take its place. To stand proud. And to allow me personally to discover mysteries or odd things lying under the bark." Check it out. Like me, you will surely be amazed!

## QUIRKY PERSPECTIVE

Speaking of Galerie Plus, permit me on a personal note and together with **Mireille Lemelin**, to mention that I was delighted to have a recent vernissage there of my very own

**Parry's Pictorials** comprising black and white pen and ink quirky interpretations of the beauty of nature that surrounds us.

The definition of pictorial being a view of an object (actual or imagined) as it would be seen by an observer who looks at the object in a chosen direction or from a selected point of view.

After all, and in a broader sense, isn't that also true of all art? That beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Whichever way you look at it!

Yours truly with GaleriePlus owners, Bert and Heather Markgraf, at the recent vernissage of Parry's Pictorials.

Photograph by Mireille Lemelin



**The Arts, Recreation & Cultural Council of Hudson (ARCCH) is seeking a new member of the council to fill the vacant seat on council for Intangible Cultural assets.**

UNESCO defines intangible cultural heritage as :

Traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.

The importance of intangible cultural heritage is not the cultural manifestation itself but rather the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next. The social and economic value of this transmission of knowledge is relevant for minority groups and for mainstream social groups within a State, and is as important for developing States as for developed one.

If you are interested in filling this position please contact Mayor Nicholls by e-mail: [jamien@ville.hudson.qc.ca](mailto:jamien@ville.hudson.qc.ca)

**ARCCH cherche quelqu'un impliqué dans la domaine de patrimoine culturel immatériel pour siéger sur notre Conseil d'administration.**

UNESCO définit le patrimoine culturel immatériel:

Les traditions ou les expressions vivantes héritées de nos ancêtres et transmises à nos descendants, comme les traditions orales, les arts du spectacle, les pratiques sociales, rituels et événements festifs, les connaissances et pratiques concernant la nature et l'univers ou les connaissances et le savoir-faire nécessaires à l'artisanat traditionnel.

L'importance du patrimoine culturel immatériel ne réside pas tant dans la manifestation culturelle elle-même que dans la richesse des connaissances et du savoir-faire qu'il transmet d'une génération à une autre. Cette transmission du savoir a une valeur sociale et économique pertinente pour les groupes minoritaires comme pour les groupes sociaux majoritaires à l'intérieur d'un État, et est tout aussi importante pour les pays en développement que pour les pays développés.

Pour exprimer votre intérêt: [jamien@ville.hudson.qc.ca](mailto:jamien@ville.hudson.qc.ca)



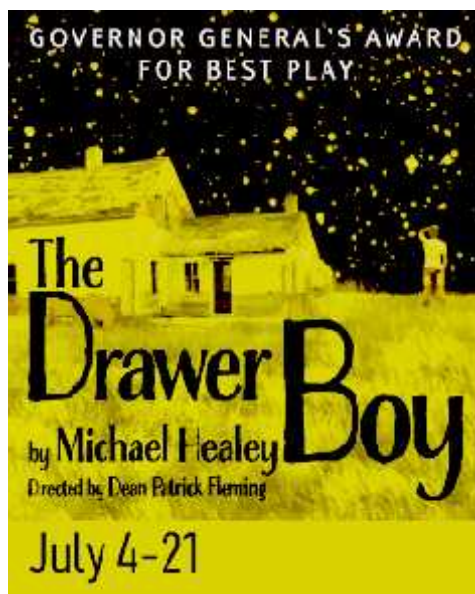
# Hudson Village Theatre 2019 Professional Season

## Press Release

### Filled with Laughter, Music and Unforgettable Stories

Hudson Village Theatre's (HVT) 2019 professional theatre season pays tribute to the power of storytelling with a trio of humorous and compelling productions that will enchant audiences. Artistic Director Dean Fleming's inaugural season features timeless pieces of Canadian theatre that have delighted sold-out audiences around the world.

The season opens in July with Michael Healey's award-winning play *The Drawer Boy*. This beautifully written, funny, and heartwarming play examines the effect a young actor has on two farmers when he shows up on their farm one day asking for room, board and their stories in exchange for free labour.



Starring Michel Perron, Brian Dooley and Curtis Legault, HVT's production of *The Drawer Boy* will delight audiences with this captivating tale about the joys of friendship, storytelling and memory. A multiple award-winner, including a Governor General's Award for Best Play in 1999, the play has remained an audience favourite ever since.

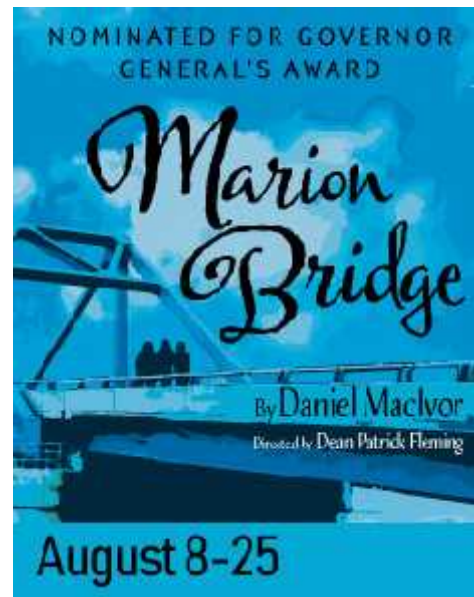
**Sheer Magic...a moving tribute to art's healing power...the crowd stormed to its feet, cheering with an enthusiasm usually found only at rock concerts.**

**- John Bemrose, Maclean's**

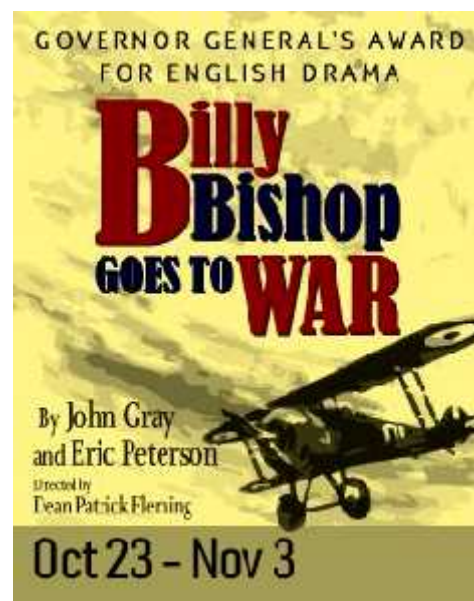
In August, the humorous and poignant *Marion Bridge* by Daniel MacIvor will take centre stage at HVT. Three estranged sisters reunite at their childhood home in Cape Breton to care for their mother. Played by Leni Parker, Kathryn Kirkpatrick and Stefanie Buxton the sisters hold a bitterly comic vigil and learn to live with each other after so many years apart, discovering the meaning of family, hope and the possibility that their lives can be different from what they have come to accept. Nominated for a Governor General's Award in 1999, this life affirming story and its universal theme of family relationships will connect with audiences.

**A sparkling swift script, beautifully structured, with snappy, funny lines that dart in and out quickly like swallows not interrupting the emotional drama of the story.**

**- Mooney on Theatr**



*Billy Bishop Goes to War*, the iconic two-man musical that has captivated audiences for decades will be at HVT in October. Four decades after its premiere in Vancouver, the enduring story of irreverent hero and



<p>2018 – 2019 Season St. James' Anglican Church</p>	<p>www.hudsonchambermusic.ca CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES – SÉRIE DE MUSIQUE DE CHAMBRE</p>	<p>Saison 2018 – 2019 Église St-James</p>
<p><b>April 28 / le 28 avril 2019</b></p>		
<p><b>Michael Sheppard, piano &amp; Jessica Tong, violin / violon</b></p>		
<p>Pianist Michael Sheppard has performed solo recitals and concertos around the world, as well as across the USA, including several solo Weill (Carnegie) Hall recitals and a solo Kennedy Center debut. He gives master classes, teaches regularly and plays with some of the top singers and instrumentalists around; he also coaches singers, instrumentalists, and conductors. He has worked closely with fellow composers John Congliano, Christopher Theofanidis, Michael Hersch, Robert Sirota, and with the late Nicholas Maw.</p>		<p>Violinist Jessica Tong has garnered international acclaim as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. She is a German DAAD Scholar, as well as the recipient of the Canada Council Grant for Professional Musicians, the Elizabeth Massey Award, and the David Ouchterloney Award for Most Promising Young Artist. She has also been a top prizewinner at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition, the Toronto Symphony, Canadian Music and Yellow Springs International Chamber Music Competitions.</p>



Canadian WWI flying ace Billy Bishop remains one of the most critically-acclaimed and widely produced plays in Canadian theatre.

Written by John Gray and Eric Peterson, it's a tour de force performance that will see Bruce Dinsmore bring over 17 characters to life in this imaginative, funny and amazing tale of the unlikely hero from Owen Sound. The play has been staged on and off-Broadway, at the Edinburgh Festival, London's West End and Los Angeles, among other locations, and has been translated into several languages, including French, Danish and German.

**Billy Bishop is a high-flying ace of a show, capturing the humour, the hellfire and the derring-do of an extraordinary career ... The score is filled with vintage replicas of the kind of songs that sent men rushing in--and out--of battle.**  
- New York Times

#### TICKETS & SHOWTIMES

\$35.00 plus tax and service charge

2 pm matinées  
(Wed., Thurs., Sat., & Sun.)

8 pm evenings  
(Thurs., Fri., & Sat.)

[villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)



# GALLERIE +

Hudson Galerie Plus, 448 Main, 450.458.1319, [info@galerieplus.ca](mailto:info@galerieplus.ca)

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# Remembering Snow White - Hudson Village Theatre Pantomime

by Kathryn Lamb

Panto 2018, an original take on the story of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, took over the Village Theatre during the holidays and sold out every performance. The show was written and directed by Hudsonite John Sheridan, and performed by a double cast of more than fifty people, not to mention a backstage army of dozens more.

A pantomime takes a well-known children's story and gives it a "panto" twist, including certain conventions (rather than rules) such as cross dressing, truly evil villains and audience participation. It has been customary, in this genre to use a prepared script (usually British), but John felt we in Hudson deserved a "Canadianized" version. So he wrote one.

His version of the show opened with a "barely" godmother (a god-mother-in-training) who couldn't quite remember what fairy tale she was in. He created an animated mirror, an Elvis impersonator, a prince who had

no sense of direction; and a multi-coloured collection of dwarfs with names like Bossy, Sweaty and Gassy (who farted....). It was energetic, hilarious and had the potential at any moment of descending into chaos. But it didn't.

John credits his hardworking and professional team for the success of *Snow White*. The set (designer J.C. Olivier) was clever and visually effective allowing the action to shift from a forest to a bakery to a castle. Christine McCaffrey's costumes and Donna Stewart's choreography were a delight. Adam Walters and Roy Vuorela took care of the lighting and sound respectively. And finally, stage manager Shelley Walters and technical director Andrew Richardson managed to seamlessly tie the whole thing together!

Planning for pantomime starts in the spring, when a core group is formed, and then, after casting happens in September, rehearsals move into full speed.

Double casting is both a burden and an advantage, says John - a burden because it cuts rehearsal time for each actor in half, but an advantage because actors get to see each other playing their roles - a kind of mirroring effect.

And pantomime, stresses John, is a community building effort, allowing for intergenerational contact in a safe creative environment. It requires parents and families to drive, feed and sew for cast members, and over the years, many family groups have been involved. His personal favorite moment this year was watching the first dress rehearsal and seeing the creation that he had written at his kitchen table in his pyjamas come to life!

I watched this production in the upper bleachers of the theatre, tightly surrounded by a wild crowd of preadolescent youths, fueled and energised by enthusiasm and copious quantities of junk food procured during the interval. But when I asked

them at the end of the show (in the interests of research!) how they liked the performance, they were unequivocal. It was awesome!

The Village Theatre Pantomime, over its eighteen-year history, has become an eagerly anticipated Hudson tradition. I can hardly wait for next year!



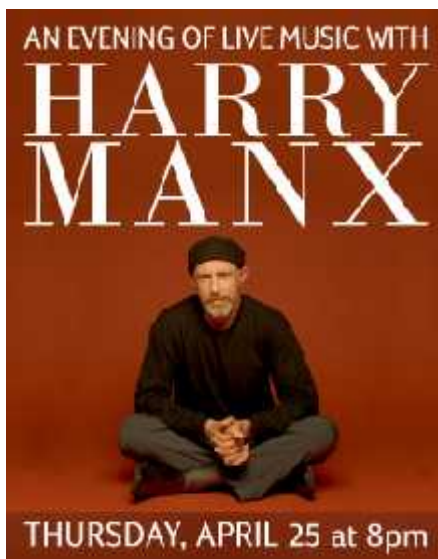
Hudson Film Society - [www.hudsonfilmsociety.ca](http://www.hudsonfilmsociety.ca)

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the way people see the world  
through film

## Hudson Upcoming Events

Annual and New Events to Watch for Over the Next Few Months

### Hudson Village Theatre



May 3rd, 4th and 5th  
Vernissage Friday, May 3rd

### Photo Expo

April 27th and 28th  
10:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Hudson Community Centre

### Photo Expo Participants

Diane Piacente  
dpiacente@videotron.ca

Diane Skinner  
tutukiana@gmail.com

Annie Sevigny  
a.sevigny@videotron.ca

Michael Green  
mike@michaelgreenphotography.ca

Pierre Peltier  
ppeltier@gmail.com

Marlene Luce Tremblay  
marlene.luce@gmail.com

Tania Ellerbeck  
tania@royallepage.ca

Katinka Ruben-Michaud  
katinka@katinkaphoto.com



Photograph Tania Ellerbeck



May 18th & 19th

Vente et  
**ART EXPO**  
& SALE

Eglise St. James' Church Hall  
642 Main Road, Hudson

Sam/Sat 10:00 - 17:00  
Dim/Sun 12:00 - 17:00



Galerie - ART EXPO - Gallery



# MARCH



until Sunday March 24th

## **The Drowsy Chaperone - Hudson Music Club**

Hilarious production of this "show within a show"

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm; Saturday March 23rd and Sundays, 2:00 pm  
Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, tickets \$24.00/\$28.00 on the Village Theatre website  
[villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)

until Sunday March 31st

## **Allison Robin Smith at Le Chenail Cultural Centre**

Faces of Canada Art Exhibition, an 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); 2:00 to 4:00 pm  
[lechenail1975.com](http://lechenail1975.com)

until Sunday March 31st

## **James Parry at the Hudson Gallery Plus**

Pen and ink pictorials of crazy critters,  
fabulous flowers, fancy fish and fantastic fauna

Hudson Gallery Plus, 448 Main Road, Hudson  
450.458.1319, [info@galerieplus.ca](mailto:info@galerieplus.ca); Wednesdays through Sundays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
[galerieplus.ca](http://galerieplus.ca)

Saturday March 16th

## **St. Patrick's Day Parade**

10th Annual Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade with Queen, her court  
the Grand Marshall and Irish Person of the Year

1:00 pm downtown Hudson  
email: [info@hudsonparade.com](mailto:info@hudsonparade.com); <http://www.hudsonparade.com>

Monday March 18th

## **Hudson Film Society - The Guilty**

Danish thriller about a kidnapping  
with an unorthodox presentation using a single venue.  
Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, by subscription  
[hudsonfilmsociety.ca](http://hudsonfilmsociety.ca)

Monday March 25th

## **L'elisir d'amore - Hudson Film Society Opera Series**

Comic opera by Gaetano Donizetti featuring  
a landowner, a peasant and a love potion.  
Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, 2:00 pm, \$20.00 at the door or by subscription  
[hudsonfilmsociety.ca](http://hudsonfilmsociety.ca)

# APRIL



**Wednesday April 3rd to Sunday May 5th**  
**Heather Dubreuil - Cityscapes**

Heather's works of fibre art with a vernissage 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, April 3rd.  
Hudson Gallery Plus, 448 Main Road, Hudson, QC; Wednesdays through Sundays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
450.458.1319, [info@galerieplus.ca](mailto:info@galerieplus.ca)  
[galerieplus.ca](http://galerieplus.ca)

**Thursday April 4th to Sunday April 14th**  
**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest - Hudson Players Club**

Ken Kesey classic about fighting authoritarianism, set in a mental institution  
Thursdays, 8:00 pm; Fridays, 8:00 pm; Saturdays, 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm; Sundays, 2:00 pm  
Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, tickets \$22.00/\$25.00 on the Players Club website  
[hudsonplayersclub.ca](http://hudsonplayersclub.ca)

**Saturday April 13th**  
**Shane Murphy Live - Chateau du Lac Hudson**

Shane Murphy brings complete mastery to the guitar, laying down a visceral red-blooded blues folk that oozes sincerity and authenticity.  
Chateau du Lac, 460 Main Road Road, 10:30 pm, \$8.00 online, \$10.00 at the door  
[chateaudulac.ca](http://chateaudulac.ca)

**Saturday April 13th**  
**Autorickshaw**

Musique du monde, from India  
Paul Emile Meloche Theatre at Cite des Jeunes, 7:30 pm, \$30.00, tickets at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca)  
[tpem.ca](http://tpem.ca)

**Monday April 15th**  
**Shoplifters - Hudson Film Society**

Family who shoplift to survive take in a little girl,  
but as the film progresses, we learn more about this family.  
Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, by subscription  
[hudsonfilmsociety.ca](http://hudsonfilmsociety.ca)

**Saturday April 20th**  
**Messiah - Hudson Film Society Opera Series**

1741 English language oratorio by Handel  
based on Psalms book of the King James version of the bible.  
Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, 2:00 pm, \$20.00 at the door or by subscription  
[hudsonfilmsociety.ca](http://hudsonfilmsociety.ca)

**Thursday April 25th**  
**Harry Manx - Hudson Village Theatre**

Evening of Live Music with Harry Manx, a synthesis of Blues and Indian Ragas  
8:00 pm; Saturday March 23rd and Sundays, 2:00 pm  
Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, tickets \$24.00/\$28.00 on the Village Theatre website  
[villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)

**(April continued on next page)**



MAY



(April continued)

**Saturday April 27th and Sunday April 28th**  
**Second Annual Hudson Photography Exposition**

Exhibition of nine Hudson area photographers  
Hudson Community Centre, 394 Main Road, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, free admission

**Sunday April 28th**  
**Hudson Chamber Music Series**  
**Jessica Tong and Michael Sheppard**

Jessica Tong, violin and Michael Sheppard, piano  
St. James Church Hall, 642 Main Road, 4:00 pm, \$25.00 at the door or \$70 subscription  
[hudsonchambermusic.ca](http://hudsonchambermusic.ca)

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**Mai**

**to Sunday May 5th**  
**Heather Dubreuil - Cityscapes**

Heather's works of fibre art  
Hudson Gallery Plus, 448 Main Road, Hudson, QC; Wednesdays through Sundays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
450.458.1319, [info@galerieplus.ca](mailto:info@galerieplus.ca);  
[galerieplus.ca](http://galerieplus.ca)

**Thursday May 2nd to Sunday May 12th**  
**Village Theatre - Rumors by Neil Simon**

Chaos at the 10th wedding anniversary celebration  
of the deputy mayor of New York  
Saturdays and Sunday at 2:00 pm; Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm;  
tickets \$25.00 plus service fee; Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road, (450) 458-5361  
[villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)

**Friday May 3rd to Sunday May 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](http://artisteshudsonartists.com)

**Saturday May 18th and Sunday, May 19th**  
**Lake of Two Mountains Artists Spring Exhibition and Sale**

Rita Shellard's artists group exhibits their work and offer it for sale  
St. James Church Hall, 642 Main Road, Hudson  
[ltmaa.com](http://ltmaa.com)

**date to be announced (see web site)**  
**Greenwood Singers**

Spring concert,  
St. Mary's Church, 261 Main Road and Greenwood Centre, 254 Main Road, 7:30 pm; (450) 458-5396  
[greenwood-centre-hudson.org](http://greenwood-centre-hudson.org)

# JUNE



**Saturday June 1st**

## **Sharon, Bram and Friends Farewell Tour**

Two thirds of Sharon, Lois and Bram trio, Josh Oskrdal Series

tickets \$40.00 plus tax and service charge, 2:00 pm

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

[villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)

**Sunday June 2nd (Date to be confirmed - check web site)**

## **Greenwood Opening**

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm; Greenwood Centre, 254 Main Road, (450) 458-5396

[greenwood-centre-hudson.org](http://greenwood-centre-hudson.org)

**From June 5th**

## **Heritage Section**

### **Paintings from Hudson Collections**

Paintings from the private collections of Hudson area residents,  
many showing historic and contemporary Hudson landmarks and activities

Hudson Gallery Plus, 448 Main Road, (450) 458-1319

[galerieplus.ca](http://galerieplus.ca)

**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](http://greenwood-centre-hudson.org)

**Saturday June 8th and Sunday June 9th**

## **Hudson Town-Wide Garage Sale**

Get rid of your junk together with everyone else at the same time,  
proceeds to a local charitable organization

18:00 am Saturday to 4:00 pm Sunday; permit \$20.00 from the twon website

[hudson.quebec](http://hudson.quebec)

**(date to be confirmed - check web site)**

## **Greenwood StoryFest for Kids**

Literary and cultural kids-oriented event

11:00 am to 3:00 pm; Greenwood Centre, 254 Main Road, (450) 458-5396

[greenwood-centre-hudson.org](http://greenwood-centre-hudson.org)

**Saturday June 15th**

## **Citadel & Compagnie, contemporary danse, Toronto**

Elvis & Man in Black, James Kudelka

Paul Emile Meloche Theatre at Cite des Jeunes, 7:30 pm, \$30.00, tickets at eventbrite.ca

[tpem.ca](http://tpem.ca)



# The Back Page

## "Spring"

Lawrence Alma-Tadema  
(Dutch, 1836 - 1912)

Spring, 1894, Oil on canvas  
178.4 × 80.3 cm  
(70 1/4 × 31 5/8 in.), 72.PA.3

The J. Paul Getty Museum,  
Los Angeles

This "Spring" painting by a Dutch painter living in England was hugely popular in its time and many prints were made. They were a favourite collector's item or just decoration in some British households.

One reason for the popularity was the wonderfully detailed Roman architecture and the beautifully drawn faces, hair and flowers of the young girls. Painter Alma-Tadema was known for his knowledge of ancient Rome and for his detailed work.

The painting celebrates the season by means of a procession through the streets of Imperial Rome. But when you look closely at the individual girls and women, something may perhaps not seem quite right.

In fact, these are not Romans but rather English girls, modelled on friends and family from Holland and England. English girls were often sent out into the British countryside in spring to collect flowers and that's the scene here, transposed into a highly accurately rendered Roman street. Although the girls and women are wearing Roman tunics and everything else is authentically Roman, the look of the crowd remains English.

It makes you wonder how else we could transpose things. Perhaps we could place our St. Patrick's Day Parade into a Roman street or our Santa Claus Parade somewhere else. It took this painter four years to complete the painting, but with Photoshop, it could be done quickly.

On the other hand we could transpose some of the painted European spring scenes, with flowers and lightly clad nymphs etc., into our snowy spring scene. It was minus twenty-something the other March morning, well into spring elsewhere.



## Hudson-Related Arts Websites

**Rita Shellard's Paintings** - [art-inspiration.ca](http://art-inspiration.ca)

**Hudson Artists Group Paintings** - [artisteshudsonartists.com](http://artisteshudsonartists.com)

**Barbara Farren's Paintings** - [barbarafarren.com](http://barbarafarren.com)

**Jeweler Louise Seguin** - [bijouxartlou.ca](http://bijouxartlou.ca)

**Marcel Braitstein's sculpture** - [braitstein.com](http://braitstein.com)

**Daniel Gautier's Art** - [danielgautier.ca](http://danielgautier.ca)

**Greenwood Centre for Living History** - [greenwood-centre-hudson.org](http://greenwood-centre-hudson.org)

**Annual Literary Festival Run by Greenwood** - [greenwoodstoryfest.com](http://greenwoodstoryfest.com)

**Hudson Galerie Plus, Markgraf Prints and Local Artists** - [galerieplus.ca](http://galerieplus.ca)

**Heather Dubreuil Fibre Art** - [heatherdubreuil.com](http://heatherdubreuil.com) and [heatherdubreuil.blogspot.ca](http://heatherdubreuil.blogspot.ca)

**Christine Hunt's Art Classes for Children and Adults** - [huntartstudio.ca](http://huntartstudio.ca)

**Sandy Ferguson's Ballet Classes** - [hudsonballet.ca](http://hudsonballet.ca)

**The Hudson Chamber Music Concerts** - [hudsonchambermusic.ca](http://hudsonchambermusic.ca)

**Hudson Dance School** - [hudsondancecenter.com](http://hudsondancecenter.com)

**Monthly Movies at Village Theatre** - [hudsonfilmsociety.ca](http://hudsonfilmsociety.ca)

**Hudson History and Books** - [hudsonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://hudsonhistoricalsociety.ca)

**Hudson Music Festival** - [hudsonmusicfestival.ca](http://hudsonmusicfestival.ca)

**Hudson Players Club** - [hudsonplayersclub.com](http://hudsonplayersclub.com)

**Artist Joanna Olson** - [joannaolson.com](http://joannaolson.com)

**Hudson Comedian Lorne Elliott** - [lorne-elliott.com](http://lorne-elliott.com)

**Enamel Painter Lorraine Bouchard** - [lorrainebouchard.com](http://lorrainebouchard.com)

**Mandy Van Aarle Online Gallery** - [mandyvanaarle.daportfolio.com](http://mandyvanaarle.daportfolio.com)

**Jen Baumeister's Pottery** - [mapleleafpottery.ca](http://mapleleafpottery.ca)

**Shopping for Art with a Mission** - [pureart.ca](http://pureart.ca)

**Robin Grinnell's Paintings** - [robingrinnellartist.com](http://robingrinnellartist.com)

**Rosalie Levi, Sculptor and Visual Artist** - [rosalielevi.com](http://rosalielevi.com)

**Christine Davet's Literary Magazine** - [sundayat6mag.wordpress.com](http://sundayat6mag.wordpress.com)

**Annual Tour of Hudson Area Artists' Studios** - [studiotourhudsonandregion.org](http://studiotourhudsonandregion.org)

**Artist Susan Porter** - [susanporterart.com](http://susanporterart.com)

**Vaudreuil-Soulanges Arts Website** - [talentsdici.com](http://talentsdici.com)

**Heather Markgraf's Professional Theatre Company** - [theatrepanache.ca](http://theatrepanache.ca)

**Vivianne LaRivière's Spiritual Website** - [theartofsoulcare.com](http://theartofsoulcare.com)

**Hudson's Theatre** - [villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)

**Hudson's Volunteer-Operated Library** - [warmemoriallibrary.blogspot.com](http://warmemoriallibrary.blogspot.com)