

# arts

The Art of Living

# fest



# 5

Summer  
2024





## arts hudson

Arts Hudson is published in spring, summer, fall and winter editions by Arts Hudson, a non-profit corporation established under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

It is distributed by subscription (see details at right) and free through outlets in Hudson, St. Lazare and Vaudreuil.

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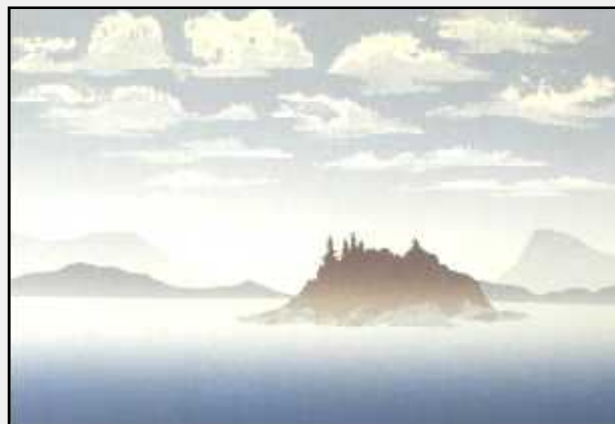
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## Centre Decor

New, bigger and better  
by Bert Markgraf

Centre Décor owner Lea Durocher wants you to know she can help you get the designs you want. In a recent interview with Arts Hudson, Lea talked about the history of the business, her move to the new location, her plans for the business and how she helps customers.

Saturday, July 13th marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of Centre Décor and it has had several owners at many locations. The most recent, all under Lea's ownership, saw the store move from Yacht Club Road, to Main Road and now to the old Atelier building at the corner of Harwood Road and Cote St. Charles. Lea plans to mark the anniversary with a big celebration. She's finalizing making this a really

(continued on page 6)



Where's Lea? Clue - in the middle of things. Photo courtesy of Centre Decor

## Hudson Traders for Unique Gifts

They don't just sell candy  
by Bert Markgraf

When you visit Hudson Traders, the saying, "like a kid in a candy store," applies. Kids come in and there is lots of candy. But long time Hudson resident and owner Debbie Newton has assembled an eclectic mix of non-candy items as well. There are mugs, books, cards and photos. There are posters on the walls and many items have rude or funny saying enscribed

on them. Many are quite unique.

Or did you know that there is an "Emily in Paris" cookbook? How about Mom jokes? There are local-themed items such as various "I Love Hudson" products and there are beautiful photographs of local landmarks such as St. Mary's, the train station and Sauvé's.

(continued on page 6)



Located right beside Restaurant Sauvé, Hudson Traders sells "Sundries."

## Summer at HVT

After a varied, busy and successful spring season, Hudson Village Theatre is preparing for an equally exciting summer. Music and drama vie for the spotlight with a series of events that are guaranteed to enliven anyone's social agenda.

For tickets and further information, call 450-458-5361 or contact hvtbox@villagetheatre.ca. Most productions offer afternoon and evening shows.

Save up to 15% on the price of your tickets by buying a seasons' pass.

June 26-30

### Memories of Rock and Roll

Starring Derek Marshall and Aaron Solomon. Famous disc jockey Allan Freed (played by Derek Marshall) takes us back through Rock and Roll history to listen to all the greats- Elvis, Chuck Berry, Fats Domino, Jerry Lee Lewis and many, many others!

July 10-21:

### Where You Are

A play by Kristen da Silva, directed by Ellen David. Family drama is brewing on peaceful Manitoulin Island. Two retired sisters live quietly in the country raising chickens, making preserves, arguing and appreciating their helpful neighbours. But under all this peace and quiet lies a secret!

July 27:

### Capital Beatles (one show only)

This tribute band from Ottawa promises to bring us all those iconic Beatles tunes that defined our youth!

August 9-10:

### Nine Lives, Eight Near Misses: Life lessons from near-death events

2023 Fringe Hit  
positpaul is a Kungfu cat whose wild and risky exploits have already used up eight of his nine lives. What comes next?? Written and performed by Paul Shanker de Turreil, and directed by Sari Klein. NB.- the Sat. Aug.10- 2PM performance is in French

August 21-25:

### Derek Marshall Sings Bobby Darin

The legendary entertainer Bobby Darin is brought to life by singer Derek Marshall. A dynamite six-piece band accompanies him as he sings and recounts the history of his fabled career.

October 23 - November 3:

### Shirley Valentine

(continued on page 7)



# Parrydise - Hudson

by James Parry

Don't know about you, but I'm getting more than a tad tired of certain negative nabobs constantly carping on social media denegrating our little town of Hudson and bitching about how it is falling apart and going to the dogs. And I'm not refering to the canine species. But rather from residents who have never stepped up to hold public office but who are never behind in criticizing those who have. Pot holes, Sandy Beach, Pine Lake, chopping down the tree canopy willy nilly, new ugly buildings, and on and on it goes.

Why, I have it on good authority that a customer at our local IGA was vociferously complaining just recently that the store was deliberately injecting water in to their pre-boiled lobsters so as to increase their weight and jack up the price. Seriously!

For heaven's sake and with all respect, get a grip guys and gals and let's put it in perspective. There is a wonderful line-up of cultural and social events coming our way again this summer. Also, at least nobody's bombing or shooting at us, we have a roof over our heads, food in the fridge, and a veritable army of dedicated volunteers and exceptional residents in their respective fields that would be the envy of any other



Dr. Donald Boudreau (right) is presented with a prestigious humanism award in Vancouver recently where he also gave the keynote address to a distinguished audience of his peers.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Boudreau

similar community throughout the province of Quebec, if not Canada!

## Just what the doctor ordered

For example, I recently learned that **Dr. Donald Boudreau**, a resident for the past two years, has just been awarded one of the medical profession's most distinguished honours for having devoted his entire professional career to exemplifying humanism in healthcare. In Vancouver, this past April, he was presented a humanism award sponsored by the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.

At a time when our healthcare system, not only in Quebec but throughout Canada, is under attack and in a state of disarray I find it extremely heartwarming to learn that, through his example, he is teaching the next generation of medical leaders that 'being a compassionate doctor is not just a concept to aspire to but a critical need to be met and a guidepost for practicing good medicine'.

Space does not permit a full resume of his impressive professional CV, but here are a few highlights. For over 30 years he has been teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels of medical education. He is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Health Sciences Education in the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences at McGill University. He has authored or co-authored some 70 peer-reviewed articles or book chapters about undergraduate medical education. And he has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of Notre Dame Australia, a consultant on curricular reform at Tsinghua University in Beijing and the United Emirates University, and an educational consultant on an expert panel at the University of Bergen in Norway.

So how does he feel about this latest honour? Says Dr. Donald, who recently retired from his clinical career in pulmonary medicine, "Words cannot exactly describe it but I am bursting with gratitude. As I say to my colleagues, it has opened up a potpourri of feelings including excitement, 'the imposter within', pride, humility, and indebtedness. It is an unsurpassed privilege to be able to top off a career by being the recipient of an award dedicated to humanism in medicine."

He also stresses that his own personal and professional identities were shaped by his

many friends, colleagues, and collaborators while adding, "I endorse the view of the early Confucians in their philosophy regarding the nature of personhood that 'there can be no 'me' in isolation, to be considered abstractly. I am the totality of roles I live in relation to specific others.' And they certainly got that right!"

States **Dr. Kathleen Reeves**, President and CEO of The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, "Dr. Boudreau has led the field in new understandings about what it means to be a humanistic physician and has helped shape medical education at McGill and far beyond. And we are thrilled to join with AFMC to honour his immeasurable contributions."

Dr. Boudreau is so pleased with his new home and he has been most impressed with the welcoming nature of Hudsonites saying: "They greet you enthusiastically with a smile or a wave. They are quick on the draw with a 'Hi', 'Bonjour', 'Allo' or 'Hello'. They politely introduce themselves - and their dogs. They respectfully stop their car for pedestrians. And even squirrels. They are proud of their community and engaged with their neighbours. I only wish I had moved here 40 years ago!"

A belated welcome to the neighbourhood Dr. Donald Boudreau and a big bravo for this well-deserved award!

## On the road again with Lorne Elliott!

And now over to Como just a five-minute drive from 'downtown' Hudson to meet up with Hudson's very own Renaissance man and in the truest sense at that.

Namely **Lorne Elliott**, former radio host with the CBC, comedian, playwright, multi-faceted musician, songwriter, sometimes philosopher, hilarious raconteur, master of the one-liners and author who, by his own count, has written hundreds of hours of original material since starting out as a folk musician in East Coast Canada exactly half a century ago this very year.

Why? Well, he has just published a new novel, his fourth to date, titled *A Few White Lies* and, truthfully, it is a real doozy with Lorne at his witty and satirical best. Upon reflection, make that a real road trip. For it is the story of Thea, a whip-smart, feisty, resourceful, and haiku-writing teenager who flies from Haida Gwaii, an archipelago off British Columbia's West Coast, where she lives with her café-





Lorne Elliott at home in Como on a giant boulder he calls the Whale Rock thought to have been deposited in the forest there by a glacier long ago.

Photo by James Parry

owning mother, to St. John's, Newfoundland. Her heroic, at times hapless, ordeal is to help her ever-floundering, musician-songwriter father, Grady Jordan, drive a purple limousine, which he claims he won at cards - but is this true? - across Canada. Long estranged from her unreliable Dad, and possessing both caustic wit and principled integrity, she must contend - in the author's words -with his 'spurious schemes and uproarious confabulations'.

And when I say across-Canada, Lorne certainly knows of what he writes having criss-crossed this vast country from coast to coast countless times throughout his professional career. Without giving too much away, along the way they become enmeshed with a crazy supporting cast of characters and happenings including Chuck T, a scurrilous and menacing country rock musician, an Indigenous land protest and its media circus, and an opportunistic music star, Daisy Ratzinger, idolized by Thea's best friend, Marcia. En route, like voyageurs before them, father and daughter navigate the rapids and rocks of their relationship, struggling to paddle in synch.

But more than the actual plot itself with its reversal of traditional parent-child roles, what comes through loud and clear is Lorne's deep and loving knowledge of Canada and of our music scene. "I guess its my bailiwick," he laughs while adding,

"The idea for the novel first came to me about 10 years ago but so many things came up along the way that I just never got around to finishing it to my complete satisfaction. Until now that is. And just like my plays, I conceived of one scene at a time and then another and then another until it all came together for the final act. And as George Bernard Shaw once said, 'Writing a play is never difficult, It is either easy or impossible!'"

Adds Lorne reflectively, "My new novel is a comedy of sorts but not just a string of one-liners and in a way it is a take on Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote* or Homer's poem *The Odyssey*. What's more, it gave me the opportunity to share the amazing vastness, landscapes, vistas, towns and small villages, and the sheer beauty of Canada in all its diversity still unknown by so many and still waiting to be discovered."

You certainly gave me the incentive to discover some of those vistas Lorne and, truth be told, some 50 pages into your book I forgot I was reading the printed word. It was so visual I thought I was watching a real Canadian road movie. The next chapter perhaps? Meanwhile, enjoy the ride!

Published by Acorn Press Canada at \$19.95 per copy, *A Few White Lies* is dedicated to his beloved partner, **Francoise Marie Pierrette Doliveux**, a beautiful and gracious lady who played such an important role in Lorne's life who passed away on June 5, 2017.

### Welcome to the side door

And still on the road, as it were, but this time focusing on a journey of positive self-discovery, yet another proud Hudsonite and author has just released his latest book in both English and French intriguingly titled *The Side Door* with the sub head *The way to go to unleash your best self* published by Oxygen Publishing Inc. and dedicated to his beautiful wife, **Joanne**. Namely **Jean-Pierre Martel** who writes of his own intriguing and fascinating experiences in the fiercely competitive world of advertising that convinced him that self-accomplishment can manifest itself in various forms with the real secret being brave enough to take the side door as opposed to the traditional front.

Explains JP, "In essence, the title refers to



Jean-Pierre Martel recently launched his new books *The Side Door* and *La Porte de Côté* at the community cultural centre, Hudson Creative Hub.

Photo courtesy JP Martel.

an alternative path in life that may be less conventional but can lead to more enriching and rewarding experiences and readers will discover the real significance of self-confidence and overcoming fear which will help them gain clarity and discover their true potential. Suppose, for example, you systematically refuse to head towards the main door, the one that everything and everyone seems to want us to take. In that case, you will discover the marvellous side door, which encourages self-control and stimulates your personal quest. You will also enjoy self-fulfillment and resilience by exploring alternative paths and relinquishing conventional front-door expectations. Ultimately, this book aims to empower the reader, to uncover their inner light, and find profound meaning and relevance."

Was fascinated to learn that JP actually published his first novel the same year he obtained his MA Degree in Literature from McGill University after a BA in Literature from Université de Montréal and that, during his Ph D studies and exams, he became professor of language and literature at McGill. It wasn't long, however, before he says he was "attracted and seduced by the fascinating world of marketing and advertising" and would go on to become Creative Director and Managing Partner of several major Cana-



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# MEMORIES of ROCK & ROLL



Starring  
Aaron  
Solomon

and  
Derek  
Marshall



**JUNE 26-30**

A Funny, Thoughtful and Honest Play about  
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## Where You Are

by Kristen Da Silva  
Directed by Ellen David

**JULY 10-21**



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Paul Shanker de Tournell

Directed by Sarit Klein

A car crash full of kids  
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True love, toxic masculinity  
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**AUGUST 9-10**

A Live Music Tribute to  
A Legendary Singer & Entertainer

## Derek Marshall Sings Bobby Darin



**AUGUST 21-25**

An Award-Winning and Inspiring Play  
Filled with Wit and Humour

## Shirley Valentine

by Willy Russell

Directed by Heather Markgraf



**OCT 23 - NOV 3**

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Hudson Village Theatre  
28 rue Wharf, Hudson, QC



## Preview of "Twelfth Night"

The Hudson Players Club Shakespeare by the Lake production

by Kathryn Lamb

TWELFTH NIGHT  
Jack Layton Park.  
18-28 July, 2024, 7:00 pm

This summer, the Hudson Players Club has chosen *Twelfth Night*, as its annual Shakespearean offering to the Town of Hudson. It will be performed at Jack Layton Park, Thursday to Sunday from July 18 to 28 at 7:00PM.

This comedy with its cheeky Shakespearean mix of romance, impersonation, gender confusion and inappropriate relationships is being directed by Raymond Yust, who is new to Hudson audiences. He has trained, taught and worked in productions across the US and has acted in numerous plays and films, Shakespearean and otherwise, from New York to Kansas City to Chicago. Peter Garbacz is the stage manager for this production, James Berryman, the technical director and Jean Frederic Samson, the producer.

In Elizabethan England, twelfth night festivities, usually occurring around January 6, were periods of raucous revelry, often presided over by the King of Misrule. This *Twelfth Night* was written around 1602 (Shakespeare would have been about 36 years old) but was not performed until several years later.

In this story, a pair of twins Viola and Sebastian are shipwrecked off the coast of Illyria (historically located on the Adriatic coast of the Balkans). Viola (Samantha Cicchino) survives the wreck, but believes her brother has perished. To be safe, she disguises herself as a man, takes the name Cesario, and manages to find employment as a page to a local nobleman, the Count of Orsino (Bill Fletcher).

The count is enamoured with Olivia (Fiona Chandler), a noblewoman, who is not interested in him at all. The count sends Cesario, his page, to woo her, only to have her fall for Cesario himself, believing, of course that he/she is a man.

Olivia is surrounded by a coterie of admirers including her servants Maria (Jennifer Wade) and Fabian

(Geneviève Grenier), her jester Feste (Simon Côté), and two gentlemen courtiers (Dave Fisher and Jean Frederic Samson), all of whom hilariously meddle in everyone's affairs. They also delight in shaming and taunting the piteous Malvolio (Steve Walters), Olivia's devoted if somewhat humorless steward.

To confuse things further, Sebastian (Konstantine Malakos), Viola's twin, has been rescued and reappears. Now, we have a full-scale recipe for craziness and confusion, but powerful directing and acting keep the storyline on track!

Watching a rehearsal as the play comes together, I can feel the magic happening. To see the director work with each actor to find the place where the actor becomes the character was truly exciting. As the gestures are refined, intonation perfected, and body movements aligned—the transformation takes place before my eyes. I should not be surprised, though, because everything the Hudson Players Club has ever undertaken has been done with absolute professionalism. Once again, hilarity ensues, along with love, tension and clever satire, as we are carried into another reality—Shakespeare's reality. Be sure to grab your lawn chair and mosquito repellent and head down to Jack Layton Park. You will want to be there!



Random Art  
The Countess in 12th Night

*Twelfth Night*  
by William Shakespeare  
directed by Raymond Yust

18 - 28 July 2024  
at Jack Layton Park  
392 Rue Halcro, Hudson, QC J0P 1H0

Thurs, Fri, Sat, & Sun @ 19:00

Entrance by donation - suggested \$20

## Centre Decor

(continued from page 1)  
special event, which will include artists, artisans, face painting, kids crafts, food and beverages, she says.

Since buying the business from Wendy Tranter 14 years ago, Lea has focused on her strengths while expanding the range of services she offers. Selling paint pays has always been the mainstay but she also offers tiles, flooring, special mouldings and exclusive designs. She can help with kitchens and bathrooms and she gives workshops in re-finishing. Regular artisan and artists' markets are in the planning stage.

The new location has given Lea a big show room with a space for consulting with customers. As we admired the new store she said that it was husband Kevin Gray who did most of the renovating. Kevin owns Kevin Gray Painting, an RBQ and CCQ licensed business, which of course is a great match with Centre Décor.

Lea doesn't just sell paint but specializes in making recommendations that will result in the look customers want. While we were there, a lady came in

and described her hallway. She wanted to paint it to get a warm, neutral look. Lea gave her several options and told her what colours she would need to get that effect. She left with three possible colour chips and was going to return the next day to make the final decision with Lea.

The biggest difference Lea sees in the new location is exposure to new clients. She says that no matter what time of day or day of the week, there is constant traffic going by the store. All these people become aware of Centre Décor and eventually drop in when they need paint or other décor items. As a result, Centre Décor is now open 7 days a week and there is a steady flow of customers.

As Lea settles in to her new location, she is exploring new and additional initiatives. She is adding new products, special designs and exclusive lines. She talked about a 6 to 10 pm monthly night market for local artisans and hopes to add more workshops. It's worth dropping by to have a look at the new show room next time you drive past on the way to Vaudreuil or Rigaud. Lea will be pleased to show you around.

## Hudson Traders

(continued from page 1)  
Gift ideas abound.

We asked Debbie how she would characterize her store and she said that, for a long time she didn't have an answer. "Just recently," she said, "I came across the word "Sundries." That's what I have. Sundries."

A big part of the store is filled with all kinds of candy. Debbie says the kids from St. Thomas next door and big customers. While we were there, kids were in and out. This summer, Debbie says, the store will serve Bubble Tea.

Hudson Traders is quite unique and definitely worth a visit, if only to find some inexpensive and obscure gifts for those special people in your life. The store also operates website with an extensive product line at:

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

You can order online or browse and then visit the store. Debbie is there most days and will be happy to see you.



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# ***Curtains*, An Encore Theatre Production**

book by Rupert Holmes, music and lyrics by Kander and Ebb)

Reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

The first musical comedy to be mounted in Hudson since pre-COVID, played at the Hudson Village Theatre in March. *Curtains*, directed by Glen Robinson, ran for ten days of sold-out performances and standing ovations.

In *Curtains* (book by Rupert Holmes, music and lyrics by Kander and Ebb), a new musical is being rehearsed in Boston. There are hopes that it will be a smash hit, and that good reviews will send it on to Broadway. Instead, on opening night, the leading lady is murdered, and the reviews are uniformly scathing! A death knell for any Broadway aspirations. But now we have a different kind of story, as Boston's finest descend on the theatre to investigate the murder and figure out "who done it?".

The company's producers, director and writers are all potential suspects, and the story becomes more complex. But when Detective Inspector Frank Cioppi (Adam Recine) arrives on the scene to lead the investigation, we have a man who is passionate about musical theatre, and has a great singing voice to boot!

The music and dance routines are

energetic and well-choreographed (Max Deslauriers), particularly those of Nicky (Amanda Caron) and Bambi (Ava Duquette), who along with Georgia (Elizabeth Proulx) lead this amazing "performance within a performance" right through to its (not so bitter) end.

But this is after all a musical, so as well murder, there must be romance. The troubled relationship between writer-composer duo Georgia and Aaron (Mark Watson), and Frank's budding affection for Nicky provide a counterpoint to murder. So, the plot thickens. Who could have committed this crime and what could possibly have been their motive? Hidden emotions and connections come to light, as Frank and his team investigate, and then - Oh my God! Another murder!

I found the musical numbers very clever. Songs like *The Woman's Dead*, *Show People* and *A Tough Act to Follow* were all received by an enthusiastic audience to great applause. One of my favorite numbers, *What Kind of Man*, performed by the whole cast, was a warning to critics everywhere to be fair and not unnecessarily

cruel when writing a bad review. A lot is at stake, people can be hurt, and you could even be the murderer's next victim!

The sets were effective in this production (Lea Durocher), and the props Sylvia Latour) sometimes quite hilarious- I'm thinking of those in the number *In the Same Boat*, and the sad ending of producer Sidney Bernstein. The costumes (Karen Pearce), especially the cowboys and the floozy girls, were clever, and the lighting and sound effects (Adam Walters), seamless. I noticed that most of the performers had mics (Nazareth Costaros), so you could hear them well up into the rafters.

This huge undertaking was captained by artistic director Glen Robinson, musical director Jen Baltuonis, and the organizers of Encore Theatre. Many people were involved, and lent their hands and talent to this production. It was a phenomenal effort. So, I hope everyone involved has had a chance to catch their breath now, because I warn you. Folks are already looking forward to next year!

## **Summer at HVT** continued from page 1

October 23 - November 3

### **Shirley Valentine**

written by Willy Russell, directed by Heather Markgraf

This beloved, award-winning play follows an uninspired, middle-aged housewife from Liverpool as she rediscovers herself when invited on a trip to Greece.

Heather played Shirley Valentine many years ago, twice at Village Theatre and at Lac Brome and the Piggery. She is looking forward to directing this show that she knows so well.

Shirley Valentine is a challenging role as the actress has to find the humour in the play's passages and keep the audience engaged for the full two hours.

Having met this challenge as an actor, Heather can give insights into the role as director and the result should be an excellent show, not to be missed.

Heather visited Greece for the first time last May, spending a month in Athens, Crete and Delphi. She will be talking about her trip and showing pictures at the Hudson Creative Hub on Friday, June 28th at 7:30 am.



## **New Brews on Tues at Cardinal**

The Hudson and Area Women's Arts Collective (HAWAC) is hosting Brews on Tues at the Cardinal on July 23, from 5 - 7 pm. Local musician Briana Doyle, among others, will perform.

"We thought it would be a great way to raise awareness of the collective and get people who support women's voices in the arts out to meet each other and network," said founding HAWAC member Ingrid Phaneuf. Co-founder Susan Walsh Cote performed with the collective at Porchfest 2023, and says the opportunity allowed her to explore her range as an actor.

"The experience encouraged me to try auditioning for roles I might not have otherwise," says Walsh Cote. "That's the aim of the collective," says Phaneuf.

## Skin Flick by Norm Foster

Review by Kathryn Lamb

Early Summer and warm temperatures- this is truly Norm Foster Season in Hudson.

And we think we know Norm pretty well by now (his humour, his naughtiness, misunderstandings and mistaken identity, for sure) however... could we ever associate him with that nasty "P" word? (pornography, that is).

In **Skin Flick**, his clever 2009 play that opened at the Hudson Village Theatre this past May, pornography (granted, a rather amateur and well-intended version) is the plan-of-action dreamed up by a couple of desperate middle-aged boomers as a way to solve their money problems.

Rollie Waters (David Anderson) works for a costume rental agency, and has just lost his job. His wife, Daphne (Vickie Kuchlein), a contract writer,

has no work on the horizon. And their friend Alex (Tommy Furino), a cameraman, has just been fired for inappropriate behavior. In addition, he owes rather a lot of money to his bookie, Byron (Andrew McLennan).

To distract his wife from their financial worries, Rollie rents a risqué b-movie by mistake, and wide-eyed, they watch it. Alex tells them how insanely profitable these ventures can be, and soon, between them, an idea is hatched.

The ingredients are all there- a costume provider, a writer, a cameraman and a motivated investor. Surely, they should be able pull this off. the only thing missing is a credible female lead (Marianna Del Giacco), and that shouldn't be hard to find. What could go wrong?? Luckily for the plot, lots of

things could, and did.

John Sheridan directs this production, bringing life to this story about ordinary people in a difficult predicament, stepping out of their comfort zones, to make extraordinary things happen. The acting was skillful and the action fast moving. The plot came face to face with unexpected emotions, inexperience, phobias and (gasp) love.

The impressive set by Lea Durocher was the perfect backdrop for the complicated unfolding of the story, and the lighting (Kevin Conforti) was subtle and effective.

Congratulations to everyone who helped in bringing this production to the Hudson Village Theatre. By the sound of the laughter and the applause, I think everyone had a great time.

## Parrydisse - Hudson

continued from page 1

by James Parry

dian advertising agencies before founding his own agency, Martel & Co, that he has run for 25 years and that is now part of the Publicis worldwide group of agencies. He has since published a second novel and is now working on a novel saga, *The Chronicles of Elsewhere*, as well as a series of comic strips. Soon available in French as well as in English.

Way to go JP! And if you ever plan on stopping by this summer, please do enter by the side door!

### One for the books!

As I've said before, and will surely say again, if only we could harness the energy of volunteer Hudsonites we could light up the town and forget about possible Hydro outages. One of the best examples being the hundreds of local residents who, over the past decades, have ensured that the community can still enjoy the little **Hudson War Memorial Library** on Elm Avenue that is now celebrating its 75th Anniversary. Believed to be the only self-funded private library in all of Quebec and receiving no grants whatsoever from any

(continued on page 8)



Just some of the dedicated volunteers who help to ensure that the Hudson War Memorial Library continues to play a vital role in the community at large.

Photo by James Parry



# Greenwood Has a New Executive Director

Sandy Racicot takes over the reins and kicks off the new summer season

As Greenwood Centre for Living History enters its 30th season, we are pleased and excited to introduce to



you our new Executive Director. Sandy Racicot has been involved with Greenwood for many years as a volunteer in various capacities, including being on the Board of Directors, and she has a long history of philanthropic involvement in the Hudson and Vaudreuil communities.

She brings considerable corporate and entrepreneurial experience to her new position, and this background will help inform her vision for the future of Greenwood. We believe that Sandy's creativity and enthusiasm will greatly benefit us as we go forward.

We hope that all our Greenwood members and supporters will join us to welcome Sandy in her new role. If you have comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact her at [history@greenwoodcentre.org](mailto:history@greenwoodcentre.org).

Our Annual General Meeting was held on May 26 at the Community Centre in Hudson. Board member Karen Molson, our speaker for this event gave a presentation on the art and science of genealogy, highlighting the families who lived in Greenwood and the stories of their forebears.

On June 11, we were thrilled to be hosting noted journalist Nahlah Ayad, whose newly released book, *The War We Won Apart*, profiles Col. Guy d'Artois and Sonia Butt, a couple who

worked as spies during World War Two, and who later married and moved to Hudson, where they raised their family.

Our summer calendar this year will feature many activities and events that are old favorites, as well as some new additions. Tours and Tea with homemade goodies will be available during opening hours, Wednesday-Saturday 11AM-4PM, Sunday 12:00-4:00. For larger groups, please call first to reserve. Follow our website:

<https://greenwoodcentre.org>

for further details.

UPCOMING EVENTS (please verify our website for updates)

June 20  
(in partnership with Creek 53)  
launch of Chris Buddle's new book, *A Portrait of Astonishing Nature* at the Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre

June 23  
start of Music on the Lawn series  
Sundays 1:00-3:00 PM

July 14  
Traditional Tea

July 18- August 15  
(Thursday afternoons)  
Painting on the Lawn-family activity

August 16, 17, 18  
Theatre on the Lawn

September 14  
Porchfest (Greenwood booth in town centre)

September 21  
Treasures in the Kitchen

October- November  
StoryFest- Schedule to be announced in August - Stay tuned

December  
Greenwood's Old-Fashioned Christmas (dates TBD)

## Town of Hudson Canada Day Activities

SUNDAY, JUNE 30 2024

WELCOME TO THE 2024 EDITION OF  
CANADA DAY IN HUDSON!

3 locations, 3 times the fun!

St-Thomas Park, beginning at 2 pm:

Entertainment:  
Mini-putt and bouncy castles  
Face painting  
Entertainment

Kiosks:  
LGBTQ+ organization  
Hudson firefighters and their obstacle course  
Alibi barn (\$)  
Cardinal Brewery (\$)  
Mikko café (\$)  
Pop culture (\$)

7 pm:  
Speeches, raising of the flag and cupcakes!

O Canada sung by the Hudson Youth Choir

8 pm – 9:30 pm:  
Show by Groove Affair, a non-stop musical experience with a varied repertoire that brings together the greatest hits from the 60s to today! 6 Artists who stand out for their dynamic and entertaining shows!

Community Centre: Films Wapikoni Mobile, beginning at 3 pm

Jack Layton Park: Fireworks, beginning at 10 pm

Bring a picnic and your camp chairs for the show!

# The Hudson Film Festival

*One Summer* voted audience favourite

by Clint Ward

From April 16-21 Hudson was alive with appreciative film fans. Many tagged the 2024 Festival as the best ever with 13 films on the Village Theatre screen and Sunday's *Ben's Screening Room* at The Hub.

After all the audience votes were counted, Louise Archambault's *One Summer* earned the Audience Favourite Award. Her award winning feature film *Gabriele* was screened at the Hudson Film Society's 2014 season of *Monday at the Movies* and the 2020 Hudson Film Festival closed with her very popular, *And The Birds Rained Down*. She is a graduate of Concordia University and is fast becoming one of Canada's top film directors and one critic has posed the question, "Is it time to declare Louise Archambault Canada's humanist filmmaker?"

Archambault's recent offering, *Le temps d'un été*, is further proof that she captures the poetry of life in a way that few artists do." For more than 25 years, street chaplain and parish priest Marc Côté has lived with the poor and the homeless at his church. Exhausted and with bills piling up, Marc faces the prospect of shutting everything down. Like a call from Providence, he inherits a property in the Bas-du-Fleuve region and takes a group of homeless people there on vacation with him. If you missed the Festival screening, you can find it on Apple TV. (See photo below)

Second Place in the Audience voting went to, *My Mother's Men* (*Les Hommes de ma mère*,) a first feature film directed by Anik Jean, a well known singer songwriter. Her heartening feature film debut delves into the curious and poignant world of familial eccentricity, personal growth, and unorthodox last wishes.

Young Elsie is surprised by her eccentric mother's will that asks that her ashes be distributed amongst her five ex-husbands to scatter in a place most significant to each of them. She is determined to honour her mother's memory and the task profoundly changes her life. Anik Jean, who was moved to make the film after the death of her father, masterfully navigates the emotional terrain of Elsie's story and her unconventional family. Elsie's transformative journey is a testament to the profound influence of the people we encounter in life — a poignant tale told with a lot of heart and tenderness. If you haven't seen this film, try Crave.

*Ru*, the third place film, was directed by Charles-Olivier Michaud, and he was able to make the journey to the Village Theatre to outline to the audience, after the film, the challenges of transferring the award winning book (Governor General's Award for fiction, Canada Reads) to film.

*Ru* is a novel by Vietnamese-born Canadian novelist Kim Thúy, first published in 2009. It tells the tale of a woman, An Tinh Nguyen, born in Saigon in 1968 during the Tet Offensive, who immigrates to Canada with her family as a child. The book switches between her childhood in Vietnam where she was born into a large and wealthy family, her time as a boat person when she left her country for a refugee camp in Malaysia, and her life as an early immigrant in Granby, Quebec. The story is told by a first-person narrative.

Worth noting is the film that came 4<sup>th</sup> in the audience voting. It was a 39 minute short documentary film directed by Canadian Ben Proudfoot. *The last Repair Shop* had its premiere on September 1, 2023 at the 50th Telluride Film Festival. On March 10, 2024, it won the Oscar for Best Documentary Short Film at the 96th Academy Awards.

Since 1959, Los Angeles has been one of the few United States cities to offer and fix musical instruments for its public school students at no cost. Those instruments, numbering around 80,000, are maintained at a Los Angeles downtown warehouse by a handful of craftspeople. The film profiles four of them, each specializing in an orchestra section, as well as students whose lives have been enriched by the repair shop's work. The film concludes with a performance by district alumni. It is a wonderful short film and can be seen on YouTube. Don't miss it.

Other highlights of the *BIG little Canadian Film Festival* were the visit of two other film directors. The first was a Zoom recorded interview with Shelley Niro after her film *Café Daughter* that opened the 2024 event.

On Day two, Pascal Plante made his second appearance in Hudson to deliver a mini master class in film making after the viewing of his recent film *Red Rooms*. His previous film screenings at the Hudson Festival were *Nadia Butterfly* in 2021 and *Fake Tattoos* in 2022.

A unique activity of the 6 day event was the visit of Brigitte Berman, the director and producer of the 1986 film, *Artie Shaw: Time is all You've Got*. It won the Oscar for feature documentary in 1987 but for many years was entangled with legal cases as Artie Shaw disputed the ownership of the film. It was lost to the public for those years and only received a New York Premiere in 2023.

During a Question & Answer session after the film, Brigitte explained the challenges she endured to bring her film to the wide audience it should have had so many years ago. The following day she gave a workshop to young filmmakers at The Hub before driving back to Toronto. Festival 2024 is now in the past and organizers are already looking forward to next year for presenting their annual celebration of films from our country.

**Save the dates for the 2025 BIG little Canadian Film Festival – April 21-23.**



*Le temps d'un été (One Summer)*  
directed by Louise Archambault  
photo courtesy of Immina Films



# Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel

A Hudson Players Club production

Reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

***Dancing at Lughnasa*** by Irish playwright Brian Friel presents us with an evocative sepia-toned image of the life of five sisters in a small village in Donegal in 1936. Life was precarious, and the outside world was changing in ways that no one could predict or control. Donna Byrne directed this beautiful and moving production that played at the Hudson Village Theatre from April 4-14.

The Mundy sisters- Kate (Susan Corbett), Maggie (Susan Walsh-Coté), Aggie (Lois Dellar), Rose (Tamsin Horsfall) and Christina (Dawn Hartigan)- live together in the family home and barely eke out enough money to support themselves. Kate has a teaching position at the nearby Catholic school, Aggie and Rose knit gloves that they sell locally, and Maggie looks after the house. There seems to be no marriage prospects for any of them, yet they all yearn for more in their lives- romance, a little fun, dancing or celebration. Seven-year-old Michael, Christina's son, lives with them. Gerry (Eric Tremblay), Michael's father, is a travelling salesman of gramophones. He appears magically from time to time bringing hope and excitement. But he never marries Christina, and disappears just as fast, leaving disappointment and

depression in his wake. What he does leave behind is his alter-ego, a battery-operated radio that, just like him, comes to life sporadically and unpredictably, inciting the sisters to join together in bouts of wild dancing. It is the only time we ever see them experience joy.

Also arriving from the outside world, is their older brother Jack (William Jackson). Jack, is a priest, returning from his missionary posting in Uganda who suffers from unknown ailments, including memory loss, and erratic behavior. He had become over-appreciative of the native customs and pagan celebrations encountered in Africa, and the local Catholic hierarchy is not amused. Thanks to his eccentric behavior, Kate's teaching position is now in jeopardy. When a new knitting factory opens in town, Aggie and Rose's knitting side-line is killed off and all looks bleak. The women are trapped in their lives, in the way poverty and religious tyranny used to trap many women in Ireland.

The story is narrated in part by Michael, Christina's son, beautifully played by Steve Walters. He speaks from the point of view of an older person who understands how and why things happened. Through him,

we better understand the different personalities, and experience effects of outside influences-both harsh disapproval from the Catholic church, and damage wrought upon their fragile existence by the irresponsible behavior of two men.

This play was wonderfully acted by artists whose characters were varied, yet balanced. The tension and closeness they created made me feel a little claustrophobic (in a good way), as if I was inhabiting the same room, the same atmosphere as them. The earth-tones of the costumes and set added a sense of poverty and hopelessness, and yet sensitive lighting and the rich complex colour of the backdrop allowed room to breathe. This could have been an unbearably sad play, and it was sad. But it was never unbearable. That, I think, is the art of this play. Although, my heart was broken several times over the course of the performance, I came out feeling amazed and stunned by the humanity of it.

***Dancing at Lughnasa*** was a production of the Hudson Players Club. Their membership provided the cast members, backstage personnel and technical experts that made this experience possible. Thank you.

## Parrydis - Hudson

Continued from page 8

by James Parry

level of government, it not only serves as a terrific lending library for both youngsters and adults alike but it is a welcoming meeting place where much community interaction occurs throughout the year.

So how exactly is it funded? Through weekly sales at the thrift shop dubbed The Bunker below, monthly book sales, memberships, and special events such as the tremendously successful Art Sale on October 5th this year, as well as special jewellery sales. What's more, once the library's bills are paid, for over 20 years it has been donating any surplus to other local worthwhile causes including LePont Bridging, the Palliative Care Residence, and Greenwood StoryFest as well as many others further afield. The total to date? Over \$700,000 and counting!

Moreover, Bunker donations are also distributed to various organizations including Big Brother, homeless missions and support for new immigrant families as needs arise. Additionally, book donations that exceed its requirements are passed on to children's camps, schools, hospitals and other places where they are always gratefully received.

In celebration of this milestone anniversary, volunteers marched in Hudson's St. Patrick's Day Parade, and various other initiatives include collecting photographs and written memories of the building, digitizing and automating its collection, undertaking indoor decorative improvements, an open house with the date still to be determined, and an historical plaque dedication on Remembrance Day weekend.

Oh yes, there has also been some discussion (continued on page 11) about installing a ramp making for easier access for some seniors who are not as spry as they once were but nothing definite yet.

If not already a member, may I respectfully suggest that you check it out. Membership fees are far less than the price of a new book these days with adults at \$15, children at \$8, and a special family rate for one adult and two or more youngsters at \$30. In doing so, you will be helping this wonderful library carry on well into the future for the benefit of the community at large. Their telephone number is (450) 458-4814.

And that's a wrap!

# Arts Hudson Calendar of Events

## June 2024 Events

### **Greenwood Centre for Living History, [greenwoodcentre.org](http://greenwoodcentre.org)**

Tours and visits of Greenwood starting June 15th,  
Wednesdays through Saturdays 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sundays 12:00 to 4:00 pm  
June 23rd - Music on the Lawn - Sundays 1 to 3 pm

### **Village Theatre, [villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)**

June 21st to 23rd - Panto Auditions, Cinderella, directed by John Sheridan, sign up on the website  
June 26th to 30th - Memories of Rock and Roll, A Christopher McHarge Production

### **Cardinal Microbrewery Events, [cardinalhudson.com](http://cardinalhudson.com)**

Live music every weekend, plus an ongoing program of comedy nights,  
trivia and tasting events - see website for details

### **Chateau du Lac Events - [chateaudulac.ca](http://chateaudulac.ca)**

Ladies' Night Fridays  
June 22nd - Country Night - 10 pm  
June 28th - House EDM Black Light Party - 10 pm

### **Hudson Creative Hub, [hudsoncreativehub.org](http://hudsoncreativehub.org)**

June 26th - Country Dancing - 7:00 pm  
June 28th - Heather Markgraf talks about her month in Greece - 7:30 pm

### **Town of Hudson, [hudson.quebec](http://hudson.quebec)**

June 30th - Canada Day Celebrations  
St. Thomas Park - family fun and kiosks - 2 pm  
Speeches, raising of the flag and cupcakes! - 7 pm  
Live Music - 8 pm  
Community Centre Movie - 3 pm  
Jack Layton Parl Fireworks - 9:30 pm

## July 2024 Events

### **Village Theatre, [villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)**

July 10th to 21st - "Where You Are," by Kristen da Silva, directed by Ellen David  
July 27th - Capital Beatles - one show only - 8:00 pm

### **Greenwood Centre for Living History, [greenwoodcentre.org](http://greenwoodcentre.org)**

Tours and visits of Greenwood,  
Wednesdays through Saturdays 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sundays 12:00 to 4:00 pm  
Music on the Lawn - Sundays 1 to 3 pm  
July 14th - Traditional Tea  
Starting July 18 (Thursday Afternoons) - Painting on the Lawn, family activity

### **Cardinal Microbrewery Events, [cardinalhudson.com](http://cardinalhudson.com)**

Live music every weekend, plus an ongoing program of comedy nights,  
trivia and tasting events - see website for details

### **Chateau du Lac Events - [chateaudulac.ca](http://chateaudulac.ca)**

Ladies' Night Fridays

### **Hudson Creative Hub, [hudsoncreativehub.org](http://hudsoncreativehub.org)**

July 13th - Hub Market - 10 am to 3 pm  
July 24th - Country Dancing - 7:00 pm

### **Hudson Player Club, [hudsonplayersclub.ca](http://hudsonplayersclub.ca)**

July 18th to 28th - Shakespeare by the Lake at Jack Layton Park  
Twelfth Night - directed by Raymond Just - 7 pm



# Arts Hudson Calendar of Events

## August 2024 Events

### **Village Theatre, [villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)**

August 9th and 10th - 9 Lives, 8 Near-Misses, performed by Pail Shanker de Turreil  
August 21 to 25th - Derek Marshall sings Bobby Darin

### **Greenwood Centre for Living History, [greenwoodcentre.org](http://greenwoodcentre.org)**

Tours and visits of Greenwood,  
Wednesdays through Saturdays 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sundays 12:00 to 4:00 pm  
Music on the Lawn - Sundays 1 to 3 pm  
Until August 15th (Thursday Afternoons) - Painting on the Lawn, family activity  
August 16th, 17th, 18th - Theatre on the Lawn

### **Cardinal Microbrewery Events, [cardinalhudson.com](http://cardinalhudson.com)**

Live music every weekend, plus an ongoing program of comedy nights,  
trivia and tasting events - see website for details  
August 16th - Subscription Release - Growler Craft Beer  
August 17th - Pagoda Starling - 7:00 pm

### **Chateau du Lac Events - [chateaudulac.ca](http://chateaudulac.ca)**

Ladies' Night Fridays

### **Hudson Creative Hub, [hudsoncreativehub.org](http://hudsoncreativehub.org)**

August 10th - Hub Market - 10 am to 3 pm  
August 28th - Country Dancing - 7:00 pm

### **Town of Hudson, [hudson.quebec](http://hudson.quebec)**

August 24th - Hudson Day

A wide range of family-friendly activities await you from noon to 5 pm  
at various sites in the heart of Hudson, along Main Road and down Cameron Avenue.

## September 2024 Events

### **Greenwood Centre for Living History, [greenwoodcentre.org](http://greenwoodcentre.org)**

September 21st - Treasures in the Kitchen

### **Cardinal Microbrewery Events, [cardinalhudson.com](http://cardinalhudson.com)**

Live music every weekend, plus an ongoing program of comedy nights,  
trivia and tasting events - see website for details

### **Chateau du Lac Events - [chateaudulac.ca](http://chateaudulac.ca)**

Ladies' Night Fridays

### **Hudson Creative Hub, [hudsoncreativehub.org](http://hudsoncreativehub.org)**

September 14th - Hub Market - 10 am to 3 pm  
September 25th - Country Dancing - 7:00 pm

### **Town of Hudson, [hudson.quebec](http://hudson.quebec)**

September 14th - PorchFest - 11:00 am

**Have an event you want to promote? Email [bert@artshudson.org](mailto:bert@artshudson.org)**



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