

arts

times

The Art of Living



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Fall 2025

Painting "First Swim" by Heather Markgraf Lowe

arts hudson

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Greenwood StoryFest 2025

An impressive array of authors coming this fall

by **Special Contributor Karen Molson**

Greenwood's StoryFest, Hudson's annual literary festival, is featuring a stellar line-up of accomplished writers again this year. On different dates throughout October and early November, six authors, many of them multiple award winners, will speak at the Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre. The range of genres include short stories, biography, literary fiction, journalistic memoir, and popular history.

First in line was journalist and author Andrew Coyne, who came to Hudson in June and spoke to a sold-out audience. Other seasoned writers (in order of appearance) André Alexis, Eric Andrew-Gee,

Caroline Adderson, Brian Stewart, Brendan Kelly and David Bergen offer a colourful palette of talent and interest. They are all engaging speakers of critical acclaim.

"Other Worlds", by Alexis is a new collection of nine superb short stories.

Andrew-Gee's biography of Dr. Wilder Penfield and Dr. William Cone and the development of neuroscience, "The Mind Mappers", is captivating.

Adderson's short story collection, "A Way to Be Happy" made the Best Book lists for The Globe & Mail and the CBC.

In his book "On the Ground", well-known foreign correspondent Brian Stewart reflects on a life in which he witnessed some of the most galvanizing events of our time.

Brendan Kelly looks at the unwavering popularity of the Montreal Canadiens in the context and backdrop of Quebec's own colourful history.

And David Bergen's 12th novel, "Days of Feasting and Rejoicing", is a riveting psychological drama about an American woman living in Thailand.

But that's not all! In addition,
(continued on page 4)

Monday Night at the Movies

20th year begins on September 15th

by **Clint Ward**

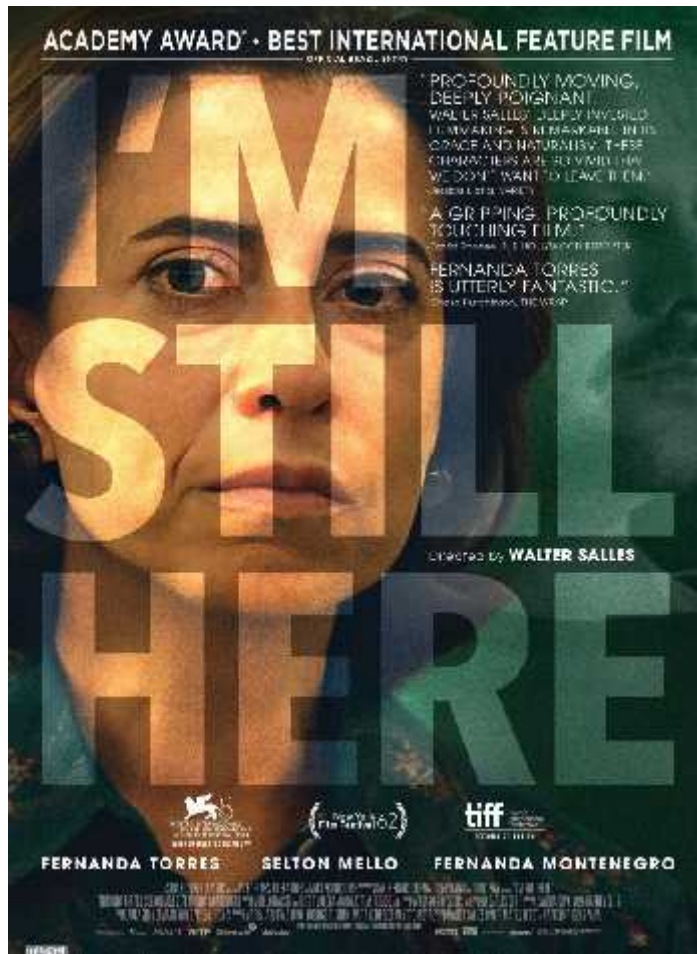
Seems like a long time but a 20th anniversary is worth celebrating.

One tradition the Hudson Film Society tries to keep in place is to open the season with the winning Academy Award International Film. This year it is a powerful true story from Brazil, *I'm Still Here*.

"As Brazil faces the tightening grip of a military dictatorship, Eunice Paiva, a mother of five, must reinvent herself and her family when authorities abduct her husband.

Carried along by Fernanda Torres' superb

performance, it poignantly explores (continued on page 9)



Fall at HVT

After a summer of sold-out shows, Village Theatre has a busy fall planned. First up in September is the annual Bowser and Blue visit, with two shows originally scheduled and a third added later.

The October schedule starts with a Chris McHarge production of the Highwaymen - On the Road Again and then continues with Clint Ward's new play, *The Night Witch*. For more information on Clint's play, see page 12 where the playwright gives details about his work.

Then in November the theatre returns to music with Persuasion playing the best of Santana. And finally in December it's the biggest productions of the year, the Panto.

Last year's Panto author, John Sheridan, is taking a break because it's time consuming to write one of these pieces. Instead, we have a traditional British Panto in *Peter Pan*, co-directed by Steve Walters and Jean Frédéric Samson.

See you at the theatre.

Parrydisse - Hudson

by James Parry

Hard to believe dear readers that, at time of writing, summer is almost over with fall bowing in officially on September 22, like it or not. As for me, I always enjoy the changing of the seasons. Well, almost! For after fall comes winter and all that this entails as we know only too well. And what a summer is was. Torrid heat waves, low rainfall, drought, water restrictions, wild fires galore across Canada and the resultant hazardous smoke drifting our way and literally blocking out the sun, annuals and even perennials in the garden wilting long before their time, and parched lawns - many of them cut far too low and too often in my humble opinion - turning to dust. Yup, certainly one for the record books!

A CARING COMMUNITY

For me too in a way. In that I didn't use my trusty 25 year-old 'coup de grass' push and pull lawnmower or do any gardening at all for some two months this summer. For the simple reason that I was not physically able to do so. For back in July, when carefully moving some gardening furniture around on the back deck, I tripped, went head over heels, landed on the edge of a glass table, and pulverized my left collar bone - my clavicle to be precise - and smashed my shoulder to smithereens. Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!

Three days later, on a Sunday no less, I was under the scalpel of **Dr. Sevan Ortaasian** at the **Lakeshore General Hospital** and was released that same evening with a metal plate and screws holding it all together with instructions to take my meds, avoid any strain, wear a sling at all times, and not to hold anything heavier than a coffee cup in my left hand until I saw him again. Full or empty? I didn't ask. And fortunately, I am right handed!

So why am I relating this personal tale of woe? Because so many magical things came out of it. And all to re-enforce my long-held belief

after 40 years of living in Hudson with my beautiful **Sunshine, Mireille Lemelin**, that we are indeed blessed to call this community our home. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those friends and neighbours who spontaneously, and without being asked, came to our aid in so many ways.

Driving me to the hospital on several occasions for follow-up, ditto to the **CLSC in Rigaud**, where the nurses and staff at both places were so caring and professional despite their heavy workload and long hours and all too often with little acknowledgment or thanks for what they do every day. And often six days a week.

With our ageing population here in our neck of the woods, I am sure that this is a scenario going on all over town 12 months a year. In some cases involving **Nova** nurses and volunteers, **CLSCs**, **Meals on Wheels**, and professional caregivers. And all with little fanfare whatsoever. As it should be I guess. But here's our personal shout out to those who made it more bearable for us as I was walking around and feeling as useless on the home front as a one-armed wallpaper hanger!

Michael Elliott: Former Councillor, Mayor, and my regular medium-double-double coffee companion and driver to **Tim Horton's** on **Cote St. Charles**.

Lynn Sandquist: Chauffeur extraordinaire and a long-time true friend in so many ways.

Donald Boudreau: Always there with a ride anywhere or do some shopping when we needed it.

Julie & Graham Leadbeater: Who, despite their demand-

ing critical roles at the **Auberge Willow Inn**, would regularly surprise us with scrumptious home-made meals all ready to pop in the microwave.

Bob Johnson: **Quarry Pointer** running for Councillor in **District 1 in Como** come the November 2 municipal election and whose wicked wit and British sense of humour kept me in stitches, pardon the pun, during the toughest times.

John Gausden: The perfect 'grass cutter'. And he and his beautiful wife, **Genevieve**, are expecting their first baby - a daughter - at the end of October.

Kalina Skulska: Executive Director of **Hudson Village Theatre**, which has seen so many hit sold-out shows in recent months, for her constant care and concern.

And to all those who offered to help in so many ways whenever needed. You are the best guys and gals. And should you ever need a shoulder to lean on, you know where to find us. And I will be there with bells on. But certainly not a sling!

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!

Still on the medical scene and speaking of proud Hudsonite and recently retired respirologist **Dr. Donald Boudreau**, for such a modest and

Flanked by Quebec Minister of Higher Education Pascale Déry (at left) and Quebec Education Minister Bernard Drainville, Dr. Donald Boudreau accepted this prestigious award at a ceremony in Quebec City this summer.
PHOTO COURTESY OF AMÉLIE CARON



unassuming guy, he sure is coming in for prestigious honours from his peers and politicians for his many contributions to medical education. Not only in **Quebec** but throughout **Canada**.

For as I learned recently when he accompanied me to the Lakeshore for further xrays, he has just been awarded two more such honours. Namely, being named to the **Ordre de l'excellence en éducation du Québec** for his considerable achievements and work to raise the profile of education in Quebec society. As well as the **2025 Duncan Graham Award for Outstanding Contribution to Medical Education** by the **Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada**. Both accolades recognizing 'an individual who has made a lifelong contribution to medical education'.

Just for the record and without getting too technical and academic, he is an Associate Professor and scholar at the Institute of Health Sciences Education (IHSE) and a former member of the Department of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences whose research career has focused on undergraduate medical education, notably on professionalism and the humanities in medicine. As a physician-educator, he has previously served in numerous leadership roles at **McGill University**, including that of Associate Dean, Medical Education and Student Affairs, and Interim Director of IHSE. What's more, he has published approximately 70 peer-reviewed articles or book chapters and so I'm just hoping he will not find fault with this little article!

Says **Lesley Fellows**, Vice-President (Health Affairs) and Dean of the **Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences**, "Dr. Boudreau's impact on generations of McGill medical students and those who teach them cannot be overstated. It is wonderful to see his career-long commitment to humanism and excellence in medical education recognized by these awards."

Adds, **Elizabeth Anne Kinsella**, IHSE Director, "Throughout his career, Dr. Boudreau has made

visionary and sustained contributions to medical education through his scholarship, leadership, and dedication as a teacher and mentor. His work on physicianship, humanism in medicine and the healing curriculum has had a transformative impact, shaping the philosophical, theoretical and practical foundations of medical education at McGill and beyond."

For his part, Donald simply sums it up this way. "I am enormously grateful for the support given to me by the leadership, colleagues and staff at the Department of Medicine of the McGill University Health Centre, the Dean's office of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Institute of Health Sciences Education. The academic home provided by McGill University is unparalleled in its ability to stimulate and to nurture. And I have been privileged to count myself as one of its members."

Way to go Dr. Donald. Next time we meet, and doing my best **Bugs Bunny** imitation, I'm going to ask you "What's up Doc?" Ah, there again, perhaps not. But I'm sure you will continue to amaze us. And all in your retirement no less. Bravo!

BUON APPETITO COURTESY OF ZEINA

And still on the topic of education as it were, but this time relating to cooking and culinary delights, let's head over to sunny **Italy** but again with a local twist. For that is where long-time hair stylist in our area **Salon Odyssey** on **Harwood**, **Zeina Abdul Karim**, whose eponymous **Kitchen** cooking classes in her

St. Lazare home have been such a hit for the past 10 years, is conducting such classes for nine days this September. Caught up with her just prior to press time to learn more about this multi-faceted lady who started working in the hairdressing bizz when only 15 years old as an assistant to her aunt, went to hairdressing school after High School graduating a year later, and has been doing it ever since for the past 40 years including 28 of those years in the **Hudson/St. Lazare** area. And here's how the interview went.

Q: "As a very successful hairdresser in our region, why did you decide to create Zeina's Kitchen a decade ago?"

A: "Because I love everything about food and it's always been easy to prepare a lot of food in a short period of time. I did some catering, weekly meals, for about four or five years in the past. But Zeina's Kitchen is different and I do a few things under that umbrella, such as cooking classes, wine tasting evenings with my husband **Robert** who is a sommelier, as well as one day-themed Escapades in our home and retreats up until now in **Costa Rica**. I have a lot of years of cooking experience in that I started

(continued on page 8)

Hosts Zeina Abdul Karim (fourth from left) and her husband Robert (to her right) enjoy a day under the sun with just some of those Canadians enjoying her recent creative cooking down in Costa Rica.

PHOTO COURTESY ZEINAABDUL KARIM



Greenwood StoryFest

(continued from page 1)

Greenwood is also hosting a StoryFest for Kids event to welcome young families to hear Adderson read from her brand-new children's book, "A Pond, A Poet and Three Pests", and to do some fun activities related to the story.

Adderson will also be leading a Writing Workshop for adults wishing to learn more about how to create believable characters in their stories. She will be sharing her insight into the aspects of characters to highlight in terms of descriptions, development, and dialogue, and working with participants to create three-dimensional characters of their own.

Tickets (\$20 each) for the author events are available online at:

<https://www.greenwoodcentre.org/storyfest/>

or at **Que de Bonne Choses** (as a cash purchase only)

A pass for all six author events is available online (for \$100, a \$20 saving).

Tickets for **StoryFest for Kids** are \$10 or \$20 per family

The two-hour **Character Development Workshop** is \$60.

For additional information, please see the ad on page 6.

Hudson Artists Fall Exhibition Community Centre

artisteshudsonartists.com

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Saturday, October 18th
10 am to 5 pm

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The Odd Couple by Neil Simon

Performed at the Hudson Village Theatre

reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

The Odd Couple, written by Neil Simon, debuted on Broadway in 1965, becoming a film in 1968, and then a TV series in 1970. This production at the Hudson Village Theatre, was directed by Adam Leblanc and Robert di Loreto and sold out almost immediately. Extra performances had to be added.

The play opens before it opens - a bunch of guys around a poker table talking guy-talk while they wait for a final player. The theatre's opening announcements (welcome, fire exits, etc.) are given a few minutes into the performance, over a loud speaker by a disembodied voice with a pronounced New York accent.

On stage we see a messy apartment, earthy colours, newspapers spread over an armchair and underwear (male, I think!) dangling from a lamp. I can smell the sweaty testosterone! These guys are good friends, aging comfortably. They know almost everything about each other's lives, and meet weekly on Friday evenings for a regular poker game.

The apartment is Oscar's (Adam LeBlanc). Recently divorced, he doesn't much care about neatness. The clutter stays more-or-less the same week to week, and the beer spilled on one guy's leather jacket stays there.

Slouched around the poker table, we meet Speed (Adam Recine), Roy (Mike Mastromonaco), Vinnie (Andrew

Richardson). and Murray (Michael Mast), a cop. They have differing but complementary characters, and they are waiting for Felix to appear. Felix, we learn when he arrives, has just been kicked out by his wife.

The timing of the dialogue between actors is perfect, and gut-wrenchingly hilarious. Teasing and jokes are unrelenting, yet you can perceive the fondness they have for each other, and their determination to sort Felix out.

Felix has nowhere to go and Oscar agrees to let him stay. But Felix talks all the time, is a neat-freak, probably borderline OCD, and not easy to live with.

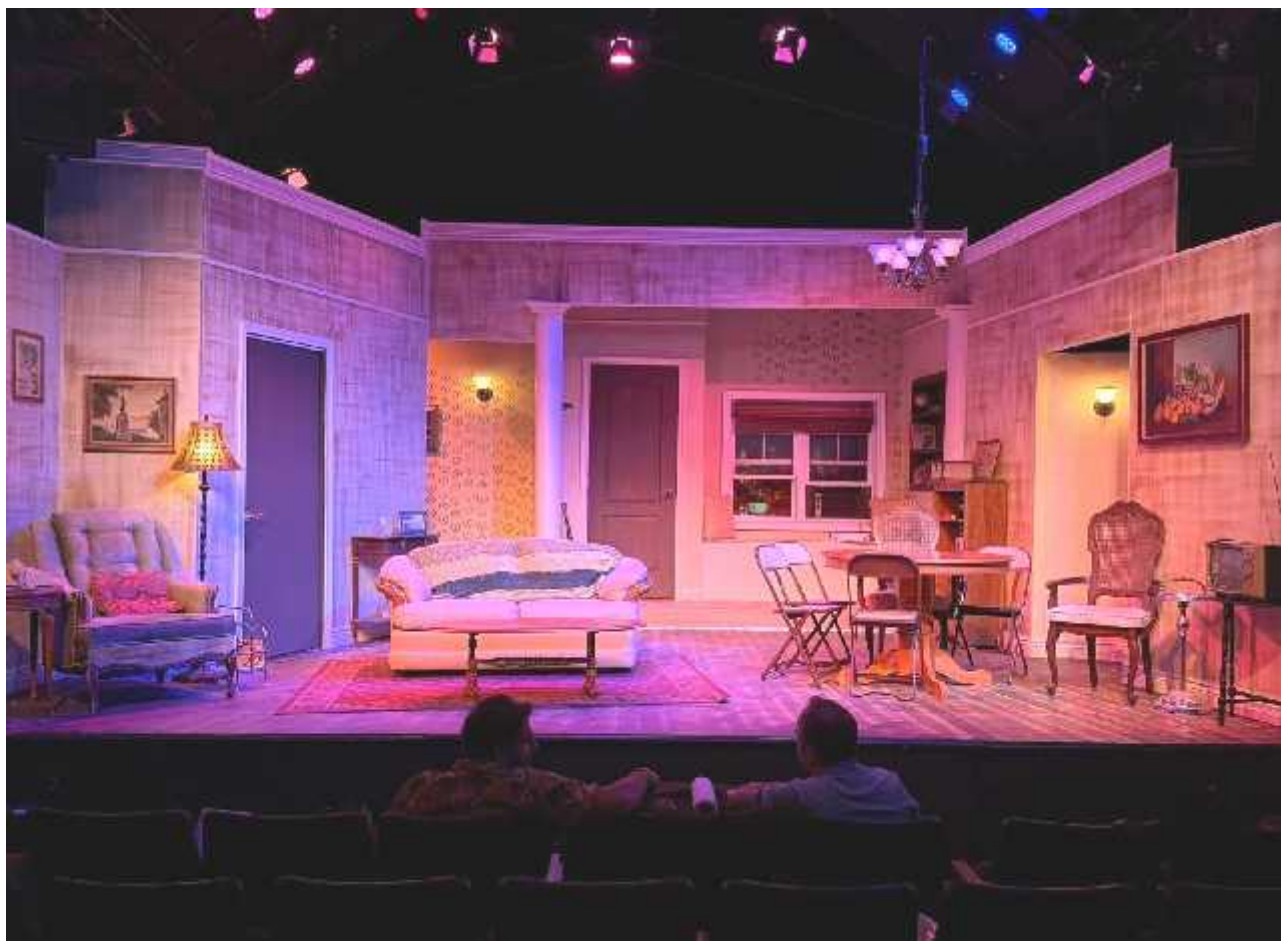
Like most old-school guys I know, these ones are not good talking about feelings. "You're not nothing, Felix" they tell him as "Straighten Up and Fly Right" is

playing in the background.

Also, like a lot of guys, they think there is no situation in existence that a little female company can't improve. A pair of British sisters living upstairs (Karine Dion, Emanuelle Estephan) provides Oscar with a plan. What could possibly go wrong with this???

It's easy to say "you had to be there", but in this case it's true. The tone of the dialogue throughout was consistent and spot-on - not always an easy thing to accomplish. The set (James Berryman, Lea Durocher) and costumes (Karen Pearce) oozed New York in the 60's. Background musical choices were subtle but delightful, and the technical effects seamless. The theatre was packed, and frequently howling with laughter.

What more can I say? You had to be there.



Greenwood STORYFEST 2025



André Alexis

Other Worlds

Jeu 2 oct | Thurs, Oct. 2 | 19:30



Eric Andrew-Gee

The Mind Mappers

Mar 7 oct | Tues, Oct. 7 | 19:30



Caroline Adderson

A Way to Be Happy

Dim 12 oct | Sun, Oct. 12 | 19:30



Brian Stewart

On the Ground

Mar 21 oct | Tues, Oct. 21 | 19:30



Brendan Kelly

Habs Nation

Mar 28 oct | Tues, Oct. 28 | 19:30



David Bergen

Days of Feasting and Rejoicing

Mar 4 nov | Tues, Nov. 4 | 19:30

VENUE - LIEU

All of these author events will take place at the
Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre

Tous ces événements d'auteurs auront lieu au
Centre communautaire Stephen F. Shaar

394 rue Main, Hudson, QC J0P 1H0

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A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Performed in the amphitheatre at Jack Layton Park

Reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

On a beautiful July evening in the amphitheatre at Jack Layton Park, I watched the Hudson Players Club present Shakespeare's 1596 comedic play, **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. The multi-generational audience of theatre lovers ranged from newborn through to very senior, and the temperature was perfect. Inevitable background noises of motorboats, helicopters and picnickers gradually faded into the background, as we entered into another world, another time.

This play, set in ancient Athens, centres around the marriage of Theseus, King of Athens, to Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons. As often happens with Shakespeare, this main plot is supported by subplots, one of which concerns a foursome of younger Athenians that are experiencing relationship difficulties that they don't seem able to resolve.

Another subplot involves a rough troupe of local amateur players called "The Mechanicals", who dress in overalls, work belts and peaked caps. They want to perform a dramatic piece for the upcoming wedding celebration, but their play-of-choice is Ovid's myth of Pyramus and Thisbe. This is a tragic love story that ends very badly, and seems rather an odd choice for a wedding. There is a further subplot, just to complicate matters. The fairies inhabiting the forest around Athens are plotting their own mischief!

Creating magic out of such a complicated story in an outdoor setting, with so many diverse characters requires real skill. And thanks to the efforts of director Raymond Yust, aided by his amazing actors and wonderful costumes, magic was created!

The young Athenians, dressed in contemporary attire, seemed modern and assertive - especially

the women (Amy Perez and Polina Lopotova). The physicality of their performances was impressive. Their feuding, including a few "knock-em-down, drag-em-out" quarrels, kept the audience in thrall, and the scene where Hermia jumps Demetrius from behind was priceless. She could be my new role model!

As the play progressed, I felt we got to know the characters as real people. Each of the mechanicals was quirky and individual - Quince the director (Sage Clahane), Snug, the un-scary lion (Simon Côté), Starvling, playing Moonshine (Sharon Adams), and Snout who manages to plays a wall! (Geneviève Grenier). How does one even begin to play a wall? Together, they formed a hilarious troupe! Not forgetting, of course, Bottom (Steve Walters) as Pyramus and Flute (Tamara Lavoie) as the pink clad floozy Thisbe, whose desperate attempt at CPR on her dying lover was possibly the high point of the evening.

The fairy kingdom inhabiting the forest wove a different magic. Elegant Titania (Jennifer Wade) and impressive Oberon (Jean



Frédéric Samson), as king and queen, ruled over a realm that was, in its own way, as powerful as that of the Athenians. (Oberon's sculptural coif and chartreuse boots were worthy of special mention.) The fairies, including the delightful Puck (Ash Samson), who was a little resentful at being blamed for his love potion mix-up, created their own world.

The costumes throughout were brilliant (Karen Pearce) and added an extra layer of richness to the storytelling. Bottom's asses head was wonderful.

As the play ended and darkness came over us - (literally and metaphorically, as night was falling over Jack Layton Park), Titania and Puck have the last word, and the play ends.

Pure magic!
Thank you, Hudson Players!

Parrydise Hudson

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chopping parsley with my dad and making Tabbouleh at eight years old.

"Zeina's Kitchen started with me creating one or two cooking classes a month with a maximum of eight people at a time and I teach my favourite creations - Mediterranean to Asian to Italian and much more - while sharing my cooking techniques and helpful tips.

I know that many struggle with inspiration and know-how when it comes to cooking and I help them with all this and, plus, it's so much fun to cook and eat together what we made around my kitchen counter."

Q: "When did you first take a group of like-minded fabulous foodies outside Canada?"

A: "I took my first group on a **Costa Rica** vacation to discover different areas in 2023. A year later, I created my first cooking retreat with 12 participants. The theme was about *Cooking With Your Senses* and it said it all. I taught them to use all of their senses to learn how to cook, taste, and create. Learning to see and smell, taste and hear while we cook is an absolute must! We went again with 11 women earlier this year and our next **Costa Rica Retreat** is in February 2026 and it is sold out already!

Q: "This is your first one in Italy. Why Italy and what will be different this time around?"

A: In fact, this is the first time we will take a group to Europe. Robert and I have a special love affair with Italy's wine, food, and scenery and this will be our fourth time there together. But it is not a retreat. It is a culinary vacation with a tour guide and driver to every stop.

Discovering the beauty of **Tuscany** is our goal and we take part in a private cooking class, a food tour, and three wine tastings. Robert and I have already been to all these places such as **Rome, Sienna, the Chianti Region, Montalcino, Montepulciano, and Perugia,**

neighbouring Tuscany in **Umbria**, and this is why we chose it as our itinerary.

Q: *Forgive me for asking perhaps a more personal question but a little birdie told me that you and Robert were in Italy for something very special not too long ago."*

A: "That's absolutely true! Our first European vacation was in **France** to celebrate our 15th wedding anniversary. We went back to celebrate our 30th where we visited the **Amalfi Coast** and **Sicily**. Last year, we celebrated our 33rd anniversary here in Canada. But last September we did go back to Italy to discover the beauty of **Cinque Terre** and revisit **Tuscany** to prepare for this upcoming trip on September 14 for which we received so much help from **Michelle Girouard** of **Voyages le Village Hudson** who was the link between us and the tour company in Italy. She did such a fantastic job at communicating our needs and booking the group. I am indeed a lucky girl! Whether I am behind the hairdressing chair or behind my kitchen counter, I feel so fulfilled and happy.

As well you should be Zeina. Who is considering a culinary trip to France in September next year and season 11 of Zeina's Kitchen starting again this October. All I can add is *Buon*

Viaggio! And for scrumptious pics of Zeina's food creations check out her Instagram: @zeinasdreams.

CALLING ALL CORRIES

Would like to close this column with yet another personal anecdote pertaining to the British soap/docudrama, **Coronation Street**, still running after some 65 years and shown here on **CBC** five days a week. For it was exactly 21 years ago this very month (September) that Mireille and I launched the first ever luncheon of the **Hudson Coronation Street Appreciation Society** at the aforementioned Auberge Willow Inn overlooking the **Lake of Two Mountains** and with absolutely no membership fee whatsoever.

It was on a whim that I thought it might be fun to bring Corrie fans from far and wide together over a real pub lunch in convivial company the first Sunday of every month. And, as it was my idea in the first place, I gave myself the grandiose title of **Founder & President for Life** (HCSAS), put a little plug in my column in the local paper, and showed up about eleven that first morning secretly worried that few people, if any, would show up. Was gobsmacked when about 60 actually

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"Forget the script! Just keep talking about your private lives."
ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF JAMES PARRY



Monday Night at the Movies

continued from page 1

a nation's upheaval through one family's search for answers."

I'm Still Here is a 2024 political biographical drama based on Marcelo Paiva's 2015 memoir. It stars Fernanda Torres and Fernanda Montenegro (Torres' mother) as Eunice Paiva, a mother and activist coping with the disappearance of her husband, the dissident politician Rubens Paiva (Selton Mello), during the military dictatorship in Brazil.

The film had its world premiere in September 2024 at the 81st Venice International Film Festival, where it received a 10 minute standing ovation and unanimous praise for Torres' performance, and won the Best Screenplay award. At the 82nd Golden Globe Awards, Torres won Best Actress for the Drama Film category. At the 97th Academy Award, the film was nominated for Best Actress (Torres) and Best Picture, and won Best International Feature Film, becoming the first-ever Brazilian-produced film to win an Academy Award. Soon after its November release in Brazilian theaters the film was the target of an unsuccessful boycott by the Brazilian far-right, which denies that the military regime was a dictatorship.

In Hudson Film Society's 19 years they have been fortunate to screen 16 International Film Oscar winners. The International Film was formerly known as the Best Foreign Language Film. A change went into effect in the 2020. Canada has only won once with Denys Arcand's, *The Barbarian Invasions* in 2003. Here are the 16 films ranked in order of what I feel

are best to worst. They are all worth searching for.

1. *Lives of Others* (Germany)

In 1983 East Berlin, dedicated Stasi officer Gerd Wiesler, doubting that a famous playwright is loyal to the Communist Party, receives approval to spy on the man and his actress-lover Christa-Maria. Wiesler becomes unexpectedly sympathetic to the couple, then faces conflicting loyalties when his superior takes a liking to Christa-Maria and orders Wiesler to get the playwright out of the way.



2. *Parasite*. (South Korea)

A gripping psychological tale that explores the depths of human depravity and the lengths one will go to for survival.

3. *Drive My Car* (Japan)

Two years after his wife's unexpected death, Yusuke Kafuku, a renowned stage actor and director, receives an offer to direct a production of Uncle Vanya at a theater festival in Hiroshima. There, he meets Misaki Watari a taciturn young woman assigned by the festival to chauffeur him in his beloved red Saab 900. As the production's premiere approaches, tensions mount amongst the cast and crew, not least between Yusuke and Koji Takatsuki,

a handsome TV star who shares an unwelcome connection to Yusuke's late wife. Forced to confront painful truths raised from his past, Yusuke begins — with the help of his driver — to face the haunting mysteries his wife left behind. *Drive My Car* is a haunting road movie traveling a path of love, loss, acceptance, and peace.

4. *Tsotsi* (South Africa)

A South African hoodlum named Tsotsi lives by a code of violence, and he and his gang of thugs prowl the streets of Johannesburg, attacking those who fail to give them what they want. After casually shooting a woman and stealing her car, he discovers her baby in the back seat. Instead of harming the mewling infant, he takes it home and cares for it. The child acts as a catalyst for Tsotsi to regain his humanity.

5. *The Secret in Their Eyes* (Argentina)

Hoping to put to rest years of

unease concerning a past case, retired criminal investigator Benjamín Espósito begins writing a novel based on the decades-old unsolved mystery of a newlywed's murder. Benjamín attempts to make sense of the past. The journey through his memories sets him on a thrilling emotional path that leads to a shocking realization.

6. *Departures* (Japan)

Soon after buying an expensive cello, Daigo Kobayashi learns that his orchestra is disbanding. Daigo and his wife move back to his hometown in northern Japan, where he answers an ad for what he thinks is a travel agency but is, in actuality, a mortuary. As he learns and carries out the rituals used in preparing the

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Monday Night at the Movies

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dead for their final rest, Daigo finds his true calling in life.

7. *Zone of Interest* (United Kingdom)

The commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss, and his wife Hedwig, strive to build a dream life for their family in a house and garden next to the camp. Dispassionately examining the ordinary existence of people complicit in horrific crimes, *The Zone of Interest* forces us to take a cold look at the mundanity behind an unforgivable brutality.

8. *Amour* (France)

Retired music teachers Georges and Anne have spent their lives devoted to their careers and to each other. Their relationship faces its greatest challenge when Anne suffers a debilitating stroke. Georges bravely ignores his own age-related discomfort to take care of her and his promise that she will never go back to the hospital.

9. *Ida* (Poland)

In 1962, Anna is about to take vows as a nun when she learns that she is Jewish. She embarks on a journey to discover her family story. Splendidly acted, and beautifully photographed, *Ida* finds director Pawel Pawlikowski revisiting his roots to powerful effect.

10. *The Counterfeiters* (Austria).

Salomon Sorowitsch lives a mischievous life in Berlin during the Nazi-era. He suddenly gets arrested and thrown into a concentration camp. Salomon exhibits exceptional skills there and is soon transferred to an upgraded camp. Hand-picked for his unique skill, Salomon is forced to produce fake foreign currency.

11. *A Fantastic Woman* (Chile)

A transgender singer faces scorn and discrimination after the sudden death of her older boyfriend. Subtle and tender, *A Fantastic Woman* handles its timely, sensitive subject matter with care.

12. *The Salesman* (Iran)

After their flat becomes damaged, Emad and Rana, a young couple living in Tehran, Iran, must move into another apartment. Once relocated, a sudden eruption of violence linked to the previous tenant of their new home dramatically changes their lives.

13. *A Separation* (Iran)

When Nader, a bank employee, refuses to leave Tehran, his wife, Simin, sues for divorce in the hope that she can make a better life for their young daughter abroad. Needing someone to care for his senile father while he's at work, Nader hires Razieh, a married woman whose chador hides her pregnancy. One day, Nader shoves her, and she has a miscarriage, leading Razieh's husband to take him to court.

14. *Another Round* (Denmark)

Four high school teachers consume alcohol on a daily basis to see how it affects their social and professional lives. Take one part deftly directed tragicomedy, add a dash of Mads Mikkelsen in vintage form, and you've got *Another Round* — an intoxicating look at midlife crises.

15. *In a Better World* (Denmark)

Anton is a doctor who travels frequently between his home in Denmark and a refugee camp in Africa. He and his wife, Marianne are experiencing marital strife and his son, Elias is a victim of school bullying. When a new boy, whose mother recently died, moves to town and befriends Elias, it provides solace for both father and son. After a reckless act, however, things turn tragic.

16. *The Great Beauty* (Italy)

An aging writer bitterly recollects his passionate youth. Dazzlingly ambitious,

beautifully filmed, and thoroughly enthralling, *The Great Beauty* offers virtuoso filmmaking from writer/director Paolo Sorrentino.

The 3 Oscar films not programmed are *Roma*, *All Quiet on the Western Front* and *Son of Saul*.

As well as opening in September with, the 2025 Oscar winner, an October film has been selected. *The Penguin Lessons* is a 2024 comedy-drama film starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. The script was adapted from Tom Mitchell's 2015 memoir that chronicles his experience as a British teacher who travelled to South America to teach at a boys' boarding school. He visited a beach in a Uruguayan resort where he stumbled on many dead penguins soaked with oil. He noticed one penguin still alive, and he rescued it, bringing it to his hotel to clean and feed it. After that, the penguin kept following him. 120 critics' reviews are positive. "*The Penguin Lessons* is elevated by a winning performance from Steve Coogan with a little help from a lovable pint-sized companion."

Monday at the Movies opening with the Oscar winning political drama, *I'm still Here*, followed by a light comedic story with a loving penguin is a good start to the 20th anniversary season. As the season continues more titles and information can be found at **hudsonfilmsociety.ca**

There is a saving becoming a member of the Film Society and embarking on the 8-film cinema adventure. A monthly Newsletter is a bonus



Bed and Breakfast, by Mark Crawford

reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

There are many reasons why a play might have a strong impact - a compelling story line or virtuosity of performance. Maybe it asks profound questions, or seems to align itself with what's happening in the larger world. *Bed and Breakfast*, a play written by Mark Crawford in 2015 seems to hit all these targets.

Produced and directed by Trevor Barrette, *Bed and Breakfast* opened at the Hudson Village Theatre in June. It featured Jonathan Patterson and Stephen Maclean Rogers as Brett and Drew, a gay couple, a pair of city dudes from Toronto. When Brett's Aunt Maggie dies, leaving her house in a small town in the country to him, they decide to leave the city. They see themselves as "gay pioneers" and plan to use their combined skills of organization and hospitality to open a bed and breakfast. The house is in the part of town where "the porch swings end and the porch couches begin," so not really fancy. Yet they soon make friends, including a local café owner (a gay woman), and a few quirky locals. (the weirdly dysfunctional Cody, and Dustin, a talented baker of cinnamon buns.)

But this play has one set and two actors, total!

First the set - a huge king-sized bed facing the audience, in a keyhole-

shaped alcove, very artfully lit. All of the action happens here - the only variation being whether the bed is occupied or empty, or if the duvet is rumpled or smooth. But amazingly, nothing more is needed!

Also, amazingly, the two actors manage to twirl and morph themselves into more than twenty personalities during the course of this play. And they do it convincingly, hilariously, poignantly, whatever is needed. This requires incredible skill and choreography, but the actors pulled it off.

Everything is going smoothly until the pair decide to organize a Santa Claus parade in aid of town spirit. Santa is procured, the bed morphs into a sleigh, and everything is great until the unthinkable happens.

This is a very human play, and as a result, raises profound questions. How do we build our homes, our communities? How should we treat our friends and neigh-

bours even if we don't share all their beliefs? Hate, homophobia, discrimination still exist in our world. How can we defend ourselves and support each other?

The audience was on board with Brett and Drew from beginning to end, laughing, hurt, tearful, outraged. I cannot personally imagine the amount of energy and skill it took to perform this play but it was a real triumph, a "tour de force". The standing ovation at the end of the play showed that the audience agreed.



Parrydise Hudson

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did all eager to get a good seat!

And for the next 12 years, right up until the time The Willow was sold by then owner **Michel Poirier** of **IGA** fame, the tradition continued rain, shine, sleet or snow, for a total of some 144 fun-filled gatherings with a different colour theme each month as well as fabulous door prizes bought by Mireille through the sale of raffle tickets. Looking back through our guest book, I see that we had many guests not only from throughout **Canada** but also from the **United States, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Ireland, Scotland, Wales** and, needless to say, **Jolly Olde England**. Many of

them visiting family or friends here in our neck of the woods but all diehard Corrie fans.

Or so I thought. But was later to learn that even many of the regulars had never watched a single episode of the show. They just loved the company, camaraderie, lots of laughs and - certainly for the ladies - something to dress up for and look forward to once a month. New and lasting friendships were made and the fab pub grub at a very reasonable price was enjoyed by one and all with the staff joining in the fun.

Sadly, when The Willow was no longer available to us, we decided to call it a day. For sure, we were approached by other pubs in Hudson, **Vaudreuil-Dorion**, and

even the **West Island**, with some even offering to pay us to take it there. But none of them were really suitable in terms of size, a private room, choice of menu, and the look and ambience of a real British pub. And besides, how could we continue to call ourselves the Hudson Coronation Street Appreciation Society if we were meeting somewhere in **Dorval** in a Greek or Chinese restaurant! So to all you Corries who may be reading this and remembering what fun we had for 12 whole years, thanks for the memories. And who knows? Perhaps we might even plan a reunion one day at the legendary **Rover's Return** with the first round on me!

Cheers. And that's a wrap!

The Night Witch

by Clint Ward

A play about brave young women in war time, that will take you on an emotional journey leaving a lasting impression.

**October 29th to November 2nd
ONLY 7 SHOWS!**

Hudson Village Theatre
villagetheatre.ca/the-night-witch

In the early days of aviation, the skies belonged to men. Few women dared to pursue a career

as pilots; the names of Amelia Earhart, Amy Johnson and Jackie Cochran stand out, but they were rare exceptions. Aviation was a man's domain. Yet, times would change – and change they did.

World War II sounded the call for a new era. In Great Britain, the Air Transport Auxiliary, a civilian organization of 1,320 pilots, took on the dangerous task of delivering aircraft from factories to combat squadrons. Among them were 168 women, flying shoulder-to-shoulder and on equal terms with their male counterparts, proving their skill and resilience. Their adventures were the topic of my play *Spitfire Dance*, which opened at Canada's War Museum in Ottawa in 2014 followed by a run at the Village Theatre.

In 1942, Russian women, driven by patriotism and courage, demanded the chance to defend their homeland from invading forces. Unlike most wartime nations, which relegated female pilots to non-combat roles, the Soviet

Union allowed its women to take to the skies and engage the enemy.

Three regiments with female aviators were formed, one of them entirely comprised of women – the legendary night bombers who came to be feared by German soldiers as, *die Nachthexen*, the "Night Witches."

The *Night Witch* is their story – a tribute to young women who faced the perils of war with unmatched bravery. They said, "we were volunteers. It was our free will, and that which is done at the call of the heart is always done better than that which is done out of obligation."

With words and music as the canvas, the tale will come to life in a story of courage, sacrifice, and the unbreakable spirit of women in the heat of battle. What starts as a curious encounter soon unravels into a tapestry of shared histories, painful truths, and the quiet ache of things unsaid.

The Cast, from left to right:

Chris Crilly, Diana Gausden, Susan Gilmore, Steve Walters

Photo by Karen Walker



Memories of Hudson

Tales that might have happened

by Art MacDonald

Yes, I grew up in Hudson, and there was absolutely nothing to do. We were a bunch of 15 and 16 year olds in grades 10 and 11 at Hudson High and we just wanted to hang out, listen to music, drink a bit of beer and chat with our friends. There was nowhere we could do that.

We'd gather at Ben's, today it's the Viviry, but then it was a soda bar with pinball tables. We'd play pinball and if we won a free game, we could treat ourselves to an ice cream float. We figured out that we could lift the end of the pinball table and keep the ball in play. Old man Benson found out what we were doing and screwed the legs to the floor.

We tried going to the Chateau but then it was raided by the QPP, the Quebec Provincial Police as it was known then. All us underage drinkers were taken to the police station in Vaudreuil. We had to phone our parents to come and pick us up. We weren't charged or anything. I guess the police thought making the parents come out past midnight was punishment enough. They were right too - I wasn't allowed out for a week.

Then we went down the road to the Belle Plage Inn, in Vaudreuil. Luckily I wasn't there but it got raided too.

A teen disco opened up in Dorion so a bunch of us went. It was pretty lame - a few French kids in the corner who seemed upset that us Anglos were invading their space, but I mean, they were playing all English songs.

We left and decided to go to a bar on the main drag. I think it was Miss Dorion, although that may have been the strip joint. We ordered real mixed drinks. I think I had a John Collins and some of the guys had screwdrivers. Then two QPP squad cars pulled up in front of the bar and we had to run

out the back door, leaving half of our expensive mixed drinks.

An old guy in Como said we could hang out in his basement. The QPP raided the place, I mean raided a private house! They asked the owner whether he knew we were down in the basement drinking beer and he said, "Of course. Where else are they going to go?" The police broke up the party but didn't take us to the station because we were there with the permission of the owner.

Of course it was better in the summer. We could gather in the sand pits that were left over from building the Trans Canada. "The Gobi" the guys called it. There'd be a bonfire, music, beer and we'd all have a great time. Further up there was a shack called the Pink Pussy. The joke was that it was named after the owner's hairless cat. I never went, but apparently it saw some "action" from the older kids.

When summer was over we started having house parties. They weren't very wild and we were careful not to break things. Sometimes the parents were home and sometimes they weren't, but we had fun. There'd be a little beer, a bit of kissing and necking in the corner, a bit of cuddling on the couch, and some close dancing as the night went on.

Well, there was the time this chubby blonde girl surfaced from behind the couch with her panties down. That was a bit of a scandal. If a guy tried that with me he'd be missing a few teeth and he'd have a bloody nose. Use your elbows my dad told me, and I would too. It helped that I wasn't one of those skinny, weak girls.

Some of the parties went on late but my parents didn't mind. I remember once walking home from Como to Hudson Heights because I didn't like the guy who

was offering me a ride. It was magical, walking by moonlight, because Como had no street lights. Some houses were still lit up, some people were watching TV. The only creepy part was going by the St. James cemetery.

I told my dad and he said he often did that walk as a kid when his family lived in Hudson Heights. He had a summer job doing some work for a Como family. To get home he'd usually catch one of the trains from Como. It cost 50 cents but if you got on the train far away from the conductor, he wouldn't get to you to sell you the ticket before you got off at Hudson Heights.

Sometimes my dad would babysit the family's kids, and if the parents were late, he'd miss the midnight train and he'd walk back. We compared notes and he said there was a lot of farmland back then. It was nice to think I was doing the same walk as my dad did.

Then there was the epic Como party that didn't just go on until the wee hours of the morning. It was still going during the larger hours of the morning, like ten and eleven. This would have been fine if everyone had left quietly, but one girl decided she absolutely had to pee on the yellow line down the middle of the road in Como. The trouble was, the St. Mary's parishoners were on their way to Sunday service and they had to wait for our girl to finish.

So when I came down for lunch the next day, my parents had just come back from Sunday service St. James and they seemed preoccupied.

"Um, do you know that girl who peed on the road in Como?" my father asked. "Yeah," I said, "She's usually pretty normal. Don't know what got into her."

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Memories of Hudson

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My parents were not happy. I could see they were wondering if this was a new teenage trend and they would at some point come across their daughter crouched down in the middle of the road.

So I said, "Look, even if I got completely drunk, which I never do, I would never go pee anywhere except an actual toilet. Anything else would never even cross my mind." They seemed satisfied after that.

So it's 25 years later and I'm back in Hudson with a career, a husband and two lovely teenage daughters. I've got them in everything - Christmas Panto, acting classes, soccer, tennis, piano lessons. They're not growing up they way I did. And I wonder if it's better, because I loved the hands-off way I grew up.

I told my husband about walking home to Hudson Heights from Como and he said, "I wouldn't want our girls to do that. I'd go and pick them up." Well, my dad would have come to pick me up but it never occurred to me to call him. The deal I had with my parents was I could do what I liked as

long as I didn't get into trouble and didn't cause any.

Lots of my friends' parents were the same. We were taught to figure things out for ourselves and solve any problems that came along. We knew that if we couldn't handle a situation, our parents were there to help, but we tried not to ask for that help, and mostly, we did Ok.

I remember when we drove into the ditch on Birch Hill. The road is pretty narrow and there were deep ditches either side. My boyfriend's parents had one of these tiny English sports cars, which he was allowed to drive. I think it was an MG Midget.

We were visiting a friend up at the top of Birch Hill and, when we left, my boyfriend backed up out of the driveway, across the road and into the ditch on the other side. The ditch was so deep you could just see the nose of the little car sticking out.

Our friend got the key to the family station wagon and drove it out to try and tow the car out of the ditch. We got some rope but it broke. We used double the rope but it still broke.

Just then our friend's father ar-

rived back from work. He parked his car and came out. I remember thinking, "Great. Here's an adult who is going to help us." He said hello to everyone, looked at the car in the ditch, laughed and disappeared into the house.

My boyfriend ended up having to call a tow truck. Cost him twenty dollars. To put that in perspective, it was four weeks of paper route money.

That dad was like my parents. As long as it's not life-threatening, let the kids figure it out. We did and we learned stuff.

But that's not how we do things now. I just wonder if it's better. I don't know, I really don't.



ART SALE



The War Memorial Library Shop (the "Bunker") will be selling donated art and silver and gold jewellery.

100% of all proceeds support the War Memorial Library and other charities.

T: 450-458-5923
E: wmlbunkershop@gmail.com

**OCT 4
10-4 PM**

Hudson Community Centre
394 rue Main, Hudson

Sample work for sale: Lauren Harris signed print



Charley's Aunt by Brandon Thomas

Performed in the Garden at Greenwood

Reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

Charley's Aunt stopped by Greenwood in August for a delightful three-day visit, thanks to the efforts of the Hudson Players Club. This play, directed by Taras Stasiuk (no stranger to Hudson audiences), was originally performed in 1892, in an era when, in the director's own words, "chaperones were taken for granted". In this incarnation of the play, he wanted a more timeless feel, something shorter and simpler (the original was 2.5 hours long) that could work in an outdoor setting. Essentially the same dialogue was used, rearranged somewhat, with emphasis placed differently to bring the characters a little more up to date. It was a rehearsed reading with books, but the audience quickly forgot that.

Two young men, friends from Oxford, are pining after two ladies who are under the thumb of the same strict guardian/uncle This

uncle, a pompous curmudgeon. wants nothing to do with the young men. One of them, Charley, is expecting a visit from an aunt from Brazil, Donna-Lucia D'alvadorez (what a beautiful name). whose presence could serve as a chaperone, allowing the two young couples to meet and visit together. But when Donna Lucia is delayed, an unwilling replacement is located, then coerced, and the action rapidly goes sideways. Deception misunderstanding, accusations and desperation follow as the plot takes one hilarious wrong turn after another.

Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham, (Simon Côté and James Berryman), the two young men, and Kitty Verdun and Amy Spettigue (Dawn Hartigan and Vickie Kuchlein), the two young women, seem remarkably modern, despite superficially deferring to

their elders. They know what they want and are clever enough to conspire to get it. The real Donna Lucia (Diana Gausden) is very clever and lovely, while the mock Donna Lucia. (Phil Gausden) is rather simple but memorable. Phil also doubles as the sweetly disolute Lord Fancourt Babberly, his two opposing personae providing much of the hilarity in this play. Chris Gobeil and Dave Fisher are perfect as the pretentious Stephen Spettigue and James' controlling father. Despite displaying a pronounced victorian flavor, this play addresses themes that are timeless and universal - love, deception, class issues, parental control and male dominance.

Great acting in an idyllic setting with a perfect view - how good can it get? In the words of the director, "You can almost hear Phoebe laughing!"

Super Sculptures Signed Leo on Public Display in Vaudreuil-Dorion

by James Parry

Former Hudsonite artist and sculptor, **Leo Schimanszky**, who moved to **Vaudreuil-Dorion** almost a decade ago, is turning heads there in his inimitable style. Well, not exactly him. But rather four of his large colourful steel and fibreglass sculptures - titled *Upright Figure*, *Nanny*, *Head*, and *Butler* - recently installed on pedestals outside the new **Town Hall/Library** complex and public square in the very heart of the municipal hub and running through until the end of October.

Explains **Karine Marin**, Chef de Section Arts & Culture, "I was first introduced to Leo by **Lynda Clouette-Mackay**, president of the **Hudson Music Festival** and I was very impressed and fell in

love with his works at first sight. He told me that he had become very attached to our town over the past 10 years and that he could see how the complex was taking shape and progressing every day from his home nearby. Also that he would like some of his sculptures to be a part of it. And so they are. We also took this opportunity to develop a pilot project that will see more art displayed in public places in the future and open up other initiatives of a similar nature."

Says Leo who, together his wife **Jeannine**, celebrated their **50th Golden Wedding Anniversary** at the end of August, "I am so honoured to have some of my sculptures on display in this very public and prestigious location and I thank Karine and the Town of Vaudreuil-Dorion for this unique opportunity."



Local artist Leo Schimanszky together with Karine Marin, Cheffe de section - Arts et Culture Ville de Vaudreuil-Dorion, in front of one of his four fibreglass and steel sculptures now on public display in the town's hub until the end of October.

PHOTO COURTESY KARINE MARIN

September 2024 Events

PorchFest Hudson, hudsonporchfest.ca

Saturday September 13th, 2025, 9 am, all through downtown Hudson

Hudson Film Society, hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Monday September 15th, "I'm Still Here" at Hudson Village Theatre, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

Friday, September 19th at 7:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday September 20th and 21st at 2 pm
The Comedy and Music of Bowser and Blue

Greenwood Centre, greenwoodcentre.org

Sunday September 21st, Music in the Garden, Jennifer Dahl & band, 2 pm

Town of Hudson, hudson.quebec

Saturday September 27th, Culture Day, Community Centre, 11 am to 5 pm

October 2025 Events

Greenwood Centre, greenwoodcentre.org

2025 StoryFest, all authors at the Community Centre

Thursday October 2nd, 7:30 pm, André Alexis, *Other Worlds*

Tuesday October 7th, 7:30 pm, Eric Andrew-Gee, *The Mind Mappers*

Sunday October 12th, 1:30 pm, Caroline Adderson, *A Way to Be Happy*

Tuesday October 21st, 7:30 pm, Brian Stewart, *On the Ground*

Tuesday October 28th, 7:30 pm, Brendan Kelly, *Habs Nation*

Hudson's Annual War Memorial Library "Off The Wall" Art Sale

Saturday, October 4th 10am - 4pm, Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre 394 Main Road, Hudson

Hudson Chamber Music, hudsonchambermusic.ca

Sunday October 5th, Trio Timia, St. James, 4 pm

Hudson Creative Hub, hudsoncreativehub.org

Saturday October 25th, Jeffery Straker, Live in Concert, 8 pm

Hudson Artists, artisteshudsonartists.com

Friday October 17th, 7 pm to 9 pm (vernissage), Saturday October 18th, 10 am to 5 pm
and Sunday October 19th, 10 am to 4:30 pm, Hudson Artists Fall Exhibition at the Community Centre

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

October 8th to 12th, The Highwaymen - On the Road Again

October 29th to November 2nd, The Night Witch by Clint Ward

Hudson Film Society, hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Monday October 20th, "The Penguin Lessons" at Hudson Village Theatre, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

November 2025 Events

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

November 1st and 2nd, The Night Witch by Clint Ward

Saturday November 8th, The Best of Santana, by Persuaion, 8 pm

Greenwood Centre, greenwoodcentre.org

2025 StoryFest, continued, all authors at the Community Centre

Tuesday November 4th, 7:30 pm, David Bergen, *Days of Feasting and Rejoicing*

Hudson Creative Hub, hudsoncreativehub.org

Saturday November 22nd, Ian Tamblyn, Live in Concert, 8 pm

December 2025 Events

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

Starting December 12th, *Peter Pan* - the Panto

THE HIGHWAYMEN LIVE

Hit Music from Four
of Country Music's
Biggest Legends

LIVE 9-Piece Band
On Stage

OCTOBER 8-12 MATINÉES & EVENINGS



Willy Waylon Johnny Kris

The Night Witch

A PLAY ABOUT BRAVE YOUNG WOMEN IN WARTIME

by Clint Ward

OCTOBER 29 -
NOVEMBER 2
MATINÉES & EVENINGS



The Best of SANTANA by

The Ultimate Tribute Band
To The Music Of Carlos Santana

PERSUASION

LIVE FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY
NOVEMBER 8 @ 8PM



PETER PAN

By Tom Whalley



Directed by Steve Walters and Jean-Frédéric Samson

Annual Holiday
Pantomime

DECEMBER 12
- JANUARY 4

MATINÉES & EVENINGS



A few of the Oscar winning & nominated movies that we have enjoyed in recent seasons.

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