

arts

The Art of Living

news



Winter 2026

**In this Issue:
Peter Pan, Rockers,
Tatoos, Witches,
Musicals, Plays, Art
and much more.**



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.

Editor - Bert Markgraf

Contributors:

James Parry - People
Kathryn Lamb - Theatre
Clint Ward - Film Society
Steve Ambler - Chamber Music
Art MacDonals - Memories of Hudson, virtual contributor

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The Hudson Village Theatre Annual Pantomime

Peter Pan," written by Tom Whalley

Preview by Kathryn Lamb

It's December and Panto is back at the Hudson Village Theatre!

This year's offering will be *Peter Pan*, script written by Tom Whalley, and co-directed by Steve Walters and Jean Frédéric Samson. Together, these two have created a Hudson-centric version of this classic children's story about a young boy who doesn't want to grow up.

Watching a rehearsal last week, I was whisked from Hudson to a comfortable nursery in Victorian London, and then on to Never Never Land, a fantasy world inhabited by nasty pirates, crocodiles, gorillas and lost boys. Oh, and a mischievous fairy named Tinkerbell! We've probably all visited this land at

some point during our childhood, but seeing it again at this stage in my life made me realize how much I had missed!

The "Panto", as all of us Pantophiles know has a proud history- a children's story turned into a theatrical event that includes innocent good guys, truly evil bad guys, action that frequently bursts into the audience, and requires its help and participation to cheer and boo, and to warn the heroes when bad things are afoot! All that plus some cross-dressing is

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Kathryn Lily Samson, Dorothy Reynolds, Lexie Wood; Picture by Karen Walker

Spotlight on Chloe Ranaldi

CBC's newly named local correspondent

By James Parry

Even as a youngster, **Chloe Ranaldi** always knew that she wanted to be a journalist. After school, she would spend most evenings at her grandparents'

Chloe Ranaldi looks forward to making sure that people in our region will feel more represented on CBC.

Photo by James Parry



home where the Montreal news was always on during supper. And it was then that she realized that journalism was "one of the most important jobs in the world." She would go on to study Political Science at **Concordia University**, is now completing her Master's Degree in Communication Studies at Concordia and, having spent most of life in the **West** Island, she currently lives in **Montreal** just a 40-minute drive on a good day from her new office in the heart of Hudson.

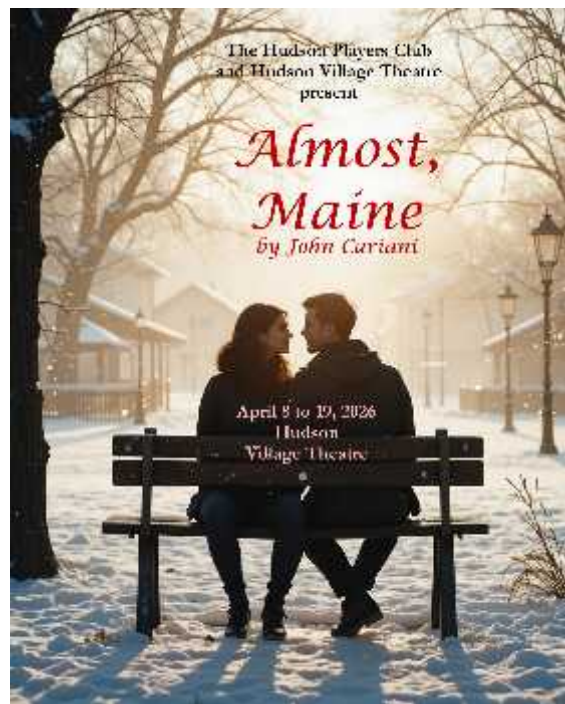
For Chloe is **CBC's** new local correspondent covering the **Vaudreuil-Soulanges** region as part of the network's most recent expansion project. The goal of which is to ensure communities such as ours outside major urban centres like Montreal and **Quebec City** receive the coverage they deserve.

More accustomed to being the interviewer as opposed to the
(continued on page 10)

Hudson Players Club Spring Production

Rehearsals start in January for "Almost, Maine"

Almost, Maine is a charming, magical, and deeply human collection of comedic and poignant love stories, told through a blend of realism and gentle magic. Each scene features two or three characters and takes place on the same winter's night in the fictional town of Almost.



Parrydise Hudson

by James Parry

Have to admit dear readers that I'm not a big fan of Winter. I have never skied whooshing down the slopes and hoping I would land safely and all in one piece at the bottom. Ice fishing on the **Lake of Two Mountains**, which I used to enjoy, is very iffy. If at all possible these past few years. And as for snowshoeing on local nature trails, that just ain't gonna happen. No. I'm definitely more of a Spring and Summer man. When the garden, now silently sleeping and soon to be buried under snow and ice, comes alive again. A true renaissance. Heralding the rebirth of **Mother Nature** in all its splendour and beauty.

That being said, I do love the magic of Christmas and the Festive season and all that this entails. When the landscape is transformed into a carpet of white, although not too deep and topped with too many power outages I hope, and we can all count our blessings at a time when there is so much strife and heartache in other parts of the world that we are indeed fortunate to live in such a wonderful community as Hudson. With its merry myriad of festivities including concerts and choirs, fabulous fundraising sales and auctions including the legendary **Royal LePage Firemen's Christmas Basket Auction** which raised a phenomenal \$41,000 this November, **Breakfast with Santa** for the youngsters, the official **Night of Light** at the **Town Hall**, the **Santa Claus Parade** and, of course, special church services for those of different faiths. But certainly all united in spirit.

Playing Santa Claus For Local Families Less Fortunate

It is also the time for gift giving to family members, loved ones, close friends and neighbours and, at times, to those less fortunate for whatever reason in our immediate community. And was both fascinated and really touched emotion-

ally to learn just before my deadline for this issue of a very special and unique gift-giving initiative.

Namely, **Adopt a Family For Christmas** that was first launched by Quarry Pointer **Bob Johnson** and his very own family four years ago that has since brought much joy, happiness to others not so fortunate.

In essence, here's how it works if you would like to play Santa to support such a cause. Just give Bob a buzz at (514) 213-5321 or contact him by email at

bob.johnson@aptitude4.com

and he will explain it all in greater detail. You can then call **Robert Girard** the Deacon at **St. Thomas Aquinas Church** at (514) 451-1259 who will then give you the name and coordinates of a family to contact.

You then call them personally to make all the arrangements for what is needed and how they would like it to be delivered. Easy peasy!

So how did this all come about in the first place? I asked Bob who was elected Councilor for **Como District #1** in a big win in November.

He answered, "It was around COVID time and my grandson **Max** and I were walking on **Sandy Beach Road** when, right out of the blue, he suggested that we help a family at Christmas. I said, that's a great idea. Let's do it. And it kind of snowballed from there."

"The next step was a meeting Max and I had with **Father Roland Demers**, now Pastor emeritus, who immediately liked the idea and told me to get in touch with Robert as they had a huge number of families in need. We spoke and he told us he would get us a family, which he did complete with name, telephone number and

Father Roland Demers, flanked by Bob Johnson and his wife, Leslie Blake-Coté, in front of the indoor Christmas tree at the St. Thomas Aquinas Church Rectory, are looking to welcome new families to support their Adopt A Family For Christmas helping those who would welcome some much needed gifts from Santa this year.

Photo by James Parry



email address."

"I then called the father and told him exactly what we wanted to do and that I would like him to send me a list of things their family needed and asked him how they would like them to be delivered. After the kids went to bed? While they were still up? To a remote location where we would transfer the presents from our car to theirs?"

"The incredible thing is, every family we have adopted always starts off with a little list of three or four items costing about \$150 at the very most. We always go back and say, No, what else do you need? And every family that we have adopted has insisted that we deliver the gifts when the youngsters are awake, they all thank us from the bottom of their hearts, and we just drop off the presents and leave."

Added Bob. "For the first four years, we did it ourselves and our whole family contributed giving between \$300 and \$500 every year to a family living in **Hudson, Rigaud, Dorion** and **Vaudreuil**, although it doesn't have to be that much."

"Last year, I approached the new Parish Priest, **Father Marceliano Serrato Herrera**, and asked what he thought about me talking at a Mass about the program and hopefully getting others to participate. I believe that there are now eight other sponsoring families who have joined us and every year we get a new family to support. In fact I will be speaking at a Mass in late November to encourage the ones from last year to continue and to get additional families to join in as our target is at least 10 new ones for a total of 20."

In closing, I asked Bob what personal satisfaction the program had given him, his wife Leslie, and their own family?

"The whole thing has changed our Christmases completely. Our grandsons contribute their own money and help shop to pick up

the foods, gifts for the children, even a Christmas tree with decorations, a small freezer, and presents for the parents. In essence, whatever their needs are."

"The experience has blown the grandkids' minds because they have had simply no idea how some of the people we have met live. Our first family, for example, comprised two parents and five youngsters living in two rooms in a converted one-storey motel. Some were single parents with very limited budgets to celebrate the festive season with their children, new from both **Syria** and the **Ukraine**. Seeing the joy on their faces was the best Christmas present we have ever received!"

Well Bob, your ideal target of 10 new sponsor families is now reduced by two. Count me and Mireille, who are so blessed and wanting for very little year-round, in and all ready to sign up for **Adopt a Family for Christmas** this time around. Ho, Ho, Ho!

Meet The 2 Rockers From Creation To Curation

And now let me introduce you to a very creative, artistic, and multi-faceted lady who has just brought the first-ever of its kind store to the heart of Hudson. Namely **Tracy Boccini Nincheri** whose super shop, **2 Rockers Art Supply** and located just opposite the **Fire Station on Main Road**, was launched at the end of November when she described it as more than just a store.

"But rather a place where artists - beginners or masters alike - can find tools, guidance, community, and inspiration. At the same time, representing resilience, reinvention, and the belief that it is never too late to return to what you love most."

Her goal, she said, is to offer Hudson artists and those from around the region, the materials they deserve. Which is why she carries such trusted favourites as **Daniel Smith, Liquitex, Windsor & Newton, Amsterdam,**

Comté à Paris, Faber-Castell, and **Sakura**, along with a full range of tools such as pencils, pastels, acrylics, oils, charcoal, watercolours, canvas, kits, and more.

And how did it all come about? Explained Tracy, "The idea of opening an art supply store began long ago, starting with the simple realization that I needed and thrived being in a creative environment. Hudson is full of artists - painters, sculptors, textile makers, illustrators, photographers, and mixed-media creators - all of them tucked into this charming community surrounded by water, forest, history, and character. And groups like **Hudson Artists**, the **Lake of Two Mountains Artists**, and countless independent creators have been shaping the region's artistic identity for decades. I really believe that Hudson has not only always embraced creativity, but it breathes it."

Added Tracy, "Another factor was the growing gap in access to true fine art materials. **Omer DeSerres'** fine arts section has become increasingly limited. And **Michaels**, while great for general crafts, simply does not support fine art in a meaningful way. I found myself frustrated, ordering products online without ever seeing the real pigment, the true colour, or feeling the texture of a brush in my hand. I missed the experience of stepping into a place that smelled like creativity, where you could sense possibility from the moment you walked through the door.

"In Hudson, every shop radiates warmth, originality, and heart. That creative energy is everywhere. It emanates from the people, the businesses, the community itself. I wanted to build a space that matched that spirit, a place where artists could walk in and immediately feel inspired, supported, and at home."

Intrigued to learn that Tracy, who grew up surrounded by women who she says believed deeply in the

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Joyeuses Fêtes
Happy Holidays



PETER SCHIEFKE
député fédéral - Member of Parliament
Vaudreuil



Head Over Heels, a New Musical

Presented at the Hudson Village Theatre

Preview by Kathryn Lamb

Encore Theatre is very busy re-hearsing for its upcoming musical production, *Head Over Heels* (March 5-15, 2026) at the Hudson Village Theatre. This show, directed by Phillippe Gobeille, with musical direction by Elizabeth Proulx, started out as an Elizabethan play, set in ancient Greece, written by Sir Phillip Sidney. It was transformed in 2015 by Jeff Whitty and James Magruder, and set to the music of the Go-Go's, an all-female pop-rock band from the 1980's. So, we have here an Elizabethan retelling of an ancient Greek story with an 80's musical vibe. Sounds a little crazy but a lot of fun!

The plot begins in an ancient kingdom that has become a bit too-traditional, too rigid, telling people who they should be, how they should live and who they could love. The King is summoned by the oracle who makes four prophecies. The

prophecies are very cryptic and, at first glance, contradictory, but if they come true, they will change the kingdom and its citizens profoundly.

Is this a good thing or a bad? Depends, I guess, on where you stand.

Watching an early rehearsal, the skill of the actors is apparent. There are some very strong voices, and a director who is working closely with the cast, perfecting gestures, developing tonality and intonation, stretching vowels and weaving exciting dance routines. There is lots of sizzle in the dancing, and the dialogue is rich in wit and tongue-in-cheek humour. But there is mystery as well, and unpredictability. You have to pay attention!

Head Over Heels promises to be an energetic and vibrant production - if

a little crazy (in a good way!). It is accompanied by music that will make it impossible to sit still. Every kind of relationship is represented (or mis-represented), and gender fluidity is an acceptable choice. It was written, I think, as a plea for diversity, freedom, openmindedness, and acceptance. And right now feels like the perfect time for this production, "an exuberant celebration of love in all its forms". I am sure Hudson theatre-goers are ready to embrace its message.



Peter Pan

(continued from page 1)

definitely part of Panto's naughtiness and charm.

The rehearsal I attended, even minus the set and costumes was truly compelling. The bad guys were so totally evil, the dame (there is always a dame in pantomime) so lavishly absurd and Tinkerbell so magical.

As I watched the focus and intensity of the actors, ranging in age from pre-adolescence to I won't say how old, as they perfected their lines, inhabited their characters and honed their performances, the professionalism blew me away. I can hear that there are some great singers and interesting musical adaptations. And some of the younger actors already have a few Pantos under their belts!

This is the 23rd annual pantomime at the Hudson Village Theatre, and is an important annual fund-raiser.

As well as an eagerly anticipated theatrical event, the Panto is a testament to community participation, generosity, and volunteerism. There are two full casts of twenty-

Chris Gobeil
Picture by Karen Walker



two actors, who have been rehearsing for months. Volunteers design and sew the lavish costumes and props, paint the sets (and provide space to do this), create the sound and lighting effects, and serve as ushers at the performances. We in this town are lucky to have such a gift.

I am so looking forward to see the finished production - the acting, the choreography, the music, the sets and costumes, the excited audience, and the ecstatic kids. I love the animals in panto - they often steal the show, so I am anxious to meet the gorilla, Nana the dog, and the infamous crocodile. And honestly, if Tinkerbell really needs me to believe in fairies, I can do that!

Peter Pan will play at the Hudson Village Theatre from Dec. 12, 2025 to Jan. 4, 2026 including both matinee and evening performances. For tickets and information, contact the box office at 450-458 5361 or

hvtbox@villagetheatre.ca.

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Hudson Film Society

Hudson Film Festival 2026 faces a Challenge

by Clint Ward

April 21 to 27, 2025 marked the 10th anniversary year of the Hudson Film Festival. The annual event began in 2016 with the name, **Hudson Festival of Canadian Film**. It was a nine film event but set the policy of screening only Canadian content. There were a few naysayers mouthing the question, "Why just Canadian." Over the following years the organizers remained steadfast waiting for the time that question would be silenced. Year two saw an increase to 12 films, still all Canadian. There was a small; increase to 13 films in year 3.

In 2019, year four, the name was shortened to Just the **Hudson Film Festival**. The highlight was the screening of a local film written and produced by Kyle Gregor-Pearce.

When a depressed hitman's zest for life is rekindled by his unexpected friendship with an optimistic young man, he is offered a last chance to redeem himself when forced to choose between continuing along his grim path, or risking it all by shirking his boss and abandoning his assignment. Shot entirely in Hudson and the surrounding areas, and featuring a strong local cast of known Montreal actors "Death of a Travelling Life Insurance Salesman" (or DOTLIS), is a tense dark comedy about redemption, fatherhood, forgiveness, and the power to choose your own path.

It was so popular and ticket sales so robust that a second showing had to be organized at the last minute.

The 2020 edition closed with a film that is still talked about by regular festival goers who were fortunate enough to find a seat for the viewing. **And the Birds Rained Down** (*Il pleuvait des oiseaux*) was a wonderful drama film, directed by Louise Archambault. An adaptation of the novel by Jocelyne Saucier, the film centred on a group of senior citizens living off-the-grid in a wilderness setting, whose

orderly and quiet lives are threatened by changes in their personal group dynamics after the death of the group leader and the arrival of a new outsider.

2021 was the year of the great COVID pandemic and the Theatre was closed. The show had to go on and 16 films were screened to hundreds of homes.

2022 was dedicated to the memory of Jean-Marc Vallée and we began with his film C.R.A.Z.Y. The Festival also featured a world premiere of Guy Rogers' film *What We Choose to Remember*. This was the year we also began using our secondary celebration name, **the Big little Canadian Film Festival**.

In 2023 and 24 we continued with our comfortable programming but in 2025 a change occurred leading to the 2026 challenge.

Many festival goers are telling us that the 10th anniversary edition of the Big little Canadian Film Festival was the best ever. We sold more passes and many more film lovers attended. We attracted 15 guests – directors, producers, writers, actors. Perhaps – well maybe more than perhaps – it was the programing.

Half of our schedule featured films that came from Quebec – not

because we are in this province but because they were extremely enjoyable and well-made films. And the question, "why just Canadian" disappeared. Although we are an English Festival and immune to the dictates of the Language Law, we added French to our printed program book and Festival communications as a courtesy. It all added up to moving the Hudson Film Festival up a level. Our challenge for 2026 is to equal that standard – or need I say this – even be better. It's a lot to think about but looking again at the long list of films available to us, it might be possible.

You can be part of the action right now. Our 2026 passes are available for Christmas presents – details on the advertisement on page 11 in this issue.

One last item; good films are still available at the Village Theatre before the April Festival and the January selection is an excellent example. I have seen the film and think it hovers around the 'master' level. One of today's great film makers, Joachim Trier has given us his 2025 masterpiece, *Sentimental Value* which received a 19-minute standing ovation after it was shown
(continued on page 9)



Scene from "Sentimental Value"

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Never a Dull Moment

A survey of Hudson's cultural events

by Kathryn Lamb

The cultural scene this autumn in Hudson provided us with a rich variety of performances, exhibitions and events that kept us busy, stimulated and often inspired. Some were not-for-profit, some more commercial, but most were put on thanks to our rich cohort of volunteers ready to donate time to the causes dearest to their hearts.

On October 4, Grannies Aid for Africa and the St. James Church Rebuilding Committee organized a sold-out benefit concert, "Harmony for Hope" at St. Thomas Church. They brought together four local choirs for an evening of music that was memorable in every way. The four choirs were the Hudson Community Choir, the Hudson Young voices, the Greenwood Singers and Chants de Coton. Featured in the program were a selection of songs of diverse styles and periods, and, as an added bonus, the choirs and audience had the chance to honor Father Demers on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday!

On October 17, 18 and 19, the Artistes Hudson Artists held their semi-annual exhibition at the Hudson Community Centre. The works on show were exciting and professional, demonstrating various media and styles including

photography, stained glass and sculpture. The event was well attended and voting for the "People's Choice Awards" was fierce!

StoryFest, organized annually by Greenwood, brought us a selection of authors in October including fiction writer André Alexis, historian Eric Andrew Gee, foreign correspondent Brian Stewart, children's author Caroline Adderson and thriller writer David Bergen. Each of the presentations was fascinating, thought provoking, and allowed time at the end for the audience to pose further questions. Next year, *StoryFest* will celebrate its 25th anniversary, and plans are already underway—so stay tuned!



The Hudson Creative Hub put together a program of musical concerts that included crowd pleasers Jeffrey Straker in Octo-



ber, Ian Tamblyn in November, and looking ahead, Steel Rail in February 2026. Their annual Christmas fundraiser featuring renown Montreal baritone Gino Quilico will take place December 14th at St. Thomas Church. Check the website for details:

hudsoncreativehub.org

And lastly, at the Hudson Village Theatre, the Film Society's very popular monthly offerings, and sold-out tribute concerts (The Highwaymen and Persuasion), not to mention plays and the upcoming Pantomime, made sure that life there just never slows down.

So, never a dull moment in this town. Aren't we fortunate!

Hudson Film Society

(continued from page 7)

at the Cannes Film Festival and won the Grand Prix prize. He has been quoted, "It sounds cheesy," he said, "but I wept a lot making this film because I was so moved by the actors' playing members of an arty family in Oslo who cannot talk to each other despite all their supposed sophistication. The actors are my friends. I know that they were being halfway a character and

halfway themselves. And that they were also dealing with stuff," said the maker of *The Worst Person in the World*, which landed the Norwegian two Oscar nominations and won newcomer Renate Reinsve the best actress award at Cannes in 2021. (we screened that film in the Village Theatre in 2023 and many critics thought it should have won the Palme d'Or top prize). Don't miss *Sentimental Value* which will be shown as part of the Monday at the Movies series on January 19

at 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm.

The members of the Hudson Film Society committee are looking forward to accepting the challenge of 2026. In the meantime, we invite our Film Society members to join the December celebration at the Village Theatre on the 15th at 2.00 pm or 7.30 pm. We would also like to wish the readers of Arts Hudson a very wonderful Christmas and enjoyable holiday time.

Chloe Ranaldi

(continued from page 1)

interviewee, Chloe was only too happy to be interviewed for *Arts Hudson magazine* and explain how this all came about and why she just loves our little town and the people here. And here's how it went down.

Q: Tell me about your journalism experience to date?

A: "At 18, I began working for local newspapers, including *The Suburban*, where I covered the West Island, the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region, and Laval. I later became a news editor for *The Concordian*, the university's student newspaper, and gained experience in radio at stations such as 94.7 HITS FM and *The Beat 92.5 FM*. Those early opportunities confirmed that journalism was exactly where I belonged!"

Q: When did you actually join the CBC, where, and in what capacity?

A: "I joined in 2019 as a newsroom researcher and, since then, I've had the chance to do almost every role in the newsroom. I'm a multi-platform news reporter specializing in TV, radio, and web. I am also a trained video journalist, and used to film and edit my own stories. In 2023, I began working as a radio producer and current affairs studio director for Montreal's CBC radio programs. I'm also an assignment editor, helping develop story ideas and, this summer, I worked as a TV producer for the 6 p.m. newscast."

Q: Why did the CBC decide to appoint local correspondents such as yourself not only here but in many other regions throughout Canada?

A: "As part of CBC's local service expansion project, the network has hired more than 30 journalists nationwide including myself and my colleague **Andie Bennett**, who covers the **Laurentians** and **Lanaudière**. Being close to where people live allows us to tell stories that matter to people."

Q: How did you feel when you first learned of your new appointment?

A: "I was very excited! I had applied specifically to be able to cover

the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region. After more than a decade working as a journalist, I knew my strengths include finding story ideas, and telling community and uplifting stories."

Q: How did you feel when you learned that you would in fact be based in Hudson? Did you know the town before?

A: "Amazing! I grew up in the West Island and since I went to **John Abbott College** most of my friends were from **St-Lazare, Vaudreuil, and Hudson**. So I've known the region well and it has always felt like home."

Q: What is your specific mandate and what local towns and communities will you be covering?

A: "I will be covering the Vaudreuil-Soulanges MRC, so about 23 municipalities from **Notre-Dame-de-l'île-Perrot** to the **Ontario** border. I am a multimedia journalist so, depending on the story, my reports will be broadcast on CBC radio, tv, and web."

Q: What are some of the bigger stories you have covered here to date and what has it been like so far overall?

A: "I have done some really exciting projects so far including an overview of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region that was broadcast across Canada. I have also had the very unique opportunity of getting a tour of the new and much anticipated **Ile-aux-Tourtes** bridge and what it would look like. As well as covering the municipal elections for the region in 2025."

Q: A rhetorical question perhaps. But are you open to receiving news tips or whatever from the public and, if so, how should they go about contacting you?

A: Yes! I have a list of story suggestions! I am working my way through them and would love people's input at

chloe.ranaldi@cbc.ca

Q: In closing, how are you liking Hudson and the people here and why?

A: "Hudson is one of the most beautiful places in the province, and I feel so lucky to get the chance to work here. I look forward to my drives to work every day, and being surrounded by nature. On my lunch breaks, I have loved walking on Main Street and trying new cafés and restaurants. Everyone has been so kind and welcoming- and supportive of me in this new role. I look forward to continuing to cover the region. And make sure people feel represented."



Hudson Artists Hold Fall Exhibition

by Denise Sefsik, Special Contributor

The AHA held its Fall art exhibition from October 17th - 19th at the Shaar Community Centre in Hudson. There were many visitors including public officials throughout the weekend to view the beautiful creative and original work of 29 participating artists. There was something for everyone to enjoy: paintings in several mediums, sculptures in different materials, photography and stained glass.

The art show opened up on Friday night with a vernissage, including

wine and cheese with background music. Ms Donna Guilbault of Hudson won the raffle artwork created and donated by Xenia Halmov. The amount raised was donated to the *Le Tournant Valleyfield*, a crisis and suicide prevention centre.

Once again, the popular *People's Choice Award* was held. Visitors to the art show could vote for their favourite piece or pieces of artwork and, at the end of the show, the votes were counted.

The winners were:

1st Place: Mireille Youssef

2nd Place: Hatchiq

3rd Place: Gisèle Lapalme

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped create a wonderful art show and a special thanks to the AHA show director, Johanne Riendeau.

NEXT UP: AHA Spring Exhibition in April 2026. Stay tuned!



Encore Musical Theatre Fundraiser

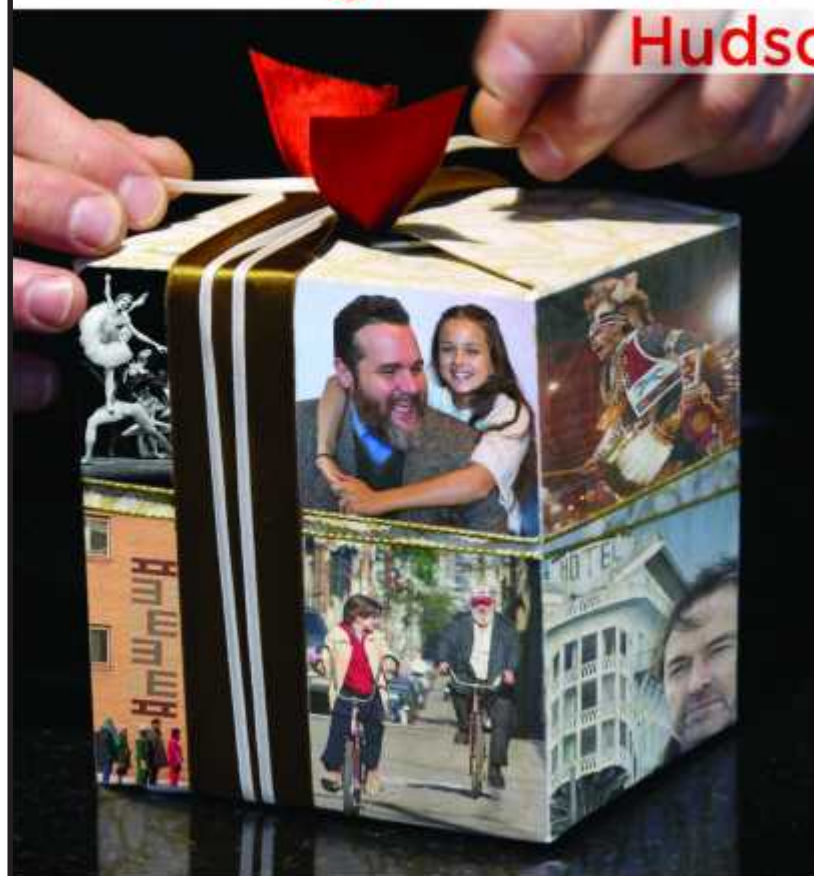
Encore Musical Theatre will hold a fundraiser January 17th at the Hudson Community Centre. The non-profit group hopes to raise money for their upcoming show, "Head Over Heels."

The event will include a three-course dinner catered by Stuart LeBaron and live music by "Hot Mess," with a repertoire ranging from swing to rock and roll. Only 100 tickets are available. For more information see the advertisement on page 10 to your left, or email:

encoremthudson@gmail.com



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THE BIG LITTLE CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL



Parrydise

(continued from page 3)

power of art, that her mother and grandmother were her first mentors, and that art wasn't just a hobby but rather a family language, has had such a diverse professional career to date.

Her first business, **Pour l'Amour de l'Artisanat**, was an arts and crafts shop dedicated to makers and dreamers. She then co-owned a windsurfing shop and would go on to work in the world of industrial design and custom lighting before becoming a resort owner of all things.

Says Tracy, "For as long as I can remember, creativity has shaped not only what I do, but who I am. And after a lifetime of entrepreneurial ventures, creative industries, and design-focused work, everything has circled back to where it started. Art supplies, tools for makers, and a space filled with inspiration. And through all these chapters, one thing remained constant. I kept creating! Regardless of whether I was sketching, painting, exploring textures, or experimenting with tools, art stayed with me. No matter the job title."

"So yes, **2 Rockers Art Supply** was born from experience. But also from nostalgia, passion, and purpose. And it was the natural next step in a lifelong commitment to artistry, craftsmanship, and community."

Adds Tracy, "I have done a lot in my life, worked in many industries, faced every challenge head-on, and reinvented myself

more than once. But all these paths have led me here to a small 1900s farmhouse, two rocking chairs on the porch, and a shop filled with the possibility of art. This is the culmination of what I've lived, learned, and loved."

So welcome to Hudson, Tracy, now your home, rockers and all, and surrounded by artists galore!

The Fine Art Of Terrific Tattooing Comes To Hudson

Ditto for another very specialized talented artist new in town whose studio is located on the second floor of that very same former farmhouse on Main. For he is practicing body art, considered to be one of the oldest forms of art dating back to 3370 BC, more than 5,300 years ago!

In other words, tattooing, which has been practiced across the globe since at least Neolithic times. His name? **Jeff Wiet**. His boutique? **Expressions**.

Have to admit that as somewhat of an artist myself, specializing in black & white pen & ink '*Parry's Pictorials*', I have always been intrigued by tattoos. Not that I

have one nor ever will. But every summer here in our neck of the woods or when on vacation under the sun down south, I have always been gobsmacked at the preponderance of tattoos on both men and women, sometimes covering their whole arms and legs. So to learn more about this world, I recently sat down with Jeff and here is what I learned.

Q: Tell me about yourself Jeff and how you came to be a tattoo artist.

A: "Art has always been in my blood. I come from a family where creativity wasn't just encouraged, it was part of everyday life. My grandfather was a painter and my mother, who remains one of my biggest sources of inspiration, was incredibly artistic as well. Growing up surrounded by such creativity naturally shaped the path I would eventually follow."

Q: What was that path and where did it lead?

A: "I studied *Illustration and Design* at **Dawson College** and it was during my time in CEGEP, at just 20 years old, that I first picked up a tattoo machine. What started out as curiosity quickly evolved into passion, discipline, and a lifelong career. From the beginning, tattooing felt like the perfect blend of technical skill and authentic self-expression."

Q: Hence the name of your studio I assume?

A: "Exactly. The word expressions perfectly describes what tattooing means to me. Body art as a form of personal expression, and art itself as a reflection of individuality."

Tattooist Jeff Wiet and 2 Rocker Art Supply owner, Tracy Boccini Nincheri, are all set and excited to be bringing a new dimension to Hudson's arts world with their studio and beautiful store just opposite the Fire Station on Main Road.

Photo by James Parry



Q: How has this world changed and evolved over the years?

A: "Well, today for example, the ratio of women to men getting tattooed is pretty even. Something that wasn't the case just twenty years ago when the culture was more male-dominated and this shift reflects how much the industry has grown and opened up. In fact the industry never stops evolving, neither do the artists, and over the years the transformation of tattooing has been incredible. They were once considered taboo, something rebellious or frowned upon. But as equipment improved, hygiene standards advanced, and artistic talent exploded, the craft became widely accepted as a legitimate art form. Today, it's recognized for what it truly is. A powerful form of self-expression and an art discipline in its own right."

Q: What have been some of the major advancements in the industry?

A: "They have come from two places. The artists and the inks. Every year, artists push themselves harder, refining their techniques and expanding what's possible on skin. At the same time, pigments, machines, and application methods have improved dramatically, giving us more precision, longevity, and vibrancy than ever before."

Q: What is the process from first contact with you to finished tattoo?

A: "I've always considered myself to be a custom artist and about 90% of my work is individually designed for each client. Every tattoo starts with a consultation where we discuss placement, size, and subject matter. The design is then shaped specifically to fit the body, its flow, contours, and movement."

"Sometimes the artwork is created digitally. Other times it's drawn directly onto the client's skin with pens and markers in a full free-hand approach. No matter the method, the goal is the same. To create something unique, meaningful, and tailored to the person wearing it."

Q: Do tattoo styles and subjects change to use fashion as an example?

A: "Yes, they do rise and fall in popularity. But the classics have never gone out of style. *Realism*, *American Traditional*, *New School*, *Neo-Traditional*, and *Tribal* have all stood the test of time, even as new sub-genres continue to emerge."

Q: Do you personally have a favourite design?

A: "I've created many pieces that I'm proud of but, like most artists, I'm my own worst critic. I'm always striving to improve, push my boundaries, and elevate my craft. As for my personal favourite style, that is *black and grey realism*, and I'm always thrilled when clients come to me with ideas in that direction."

Q: And festive designs?

A: "As for Holiday tattoos, Christmas has never been a major theme. Halloween definitely wins in that category. That being said, most studios create themed flash sheets for holidays, but Christmas tends to be more about gift cards than festive ink."

Q: Any final thoughts Jeff?

A: "Would just like to say that tattooing has given me a career built on connection, creativity, and storytelling. And that every piece I design is more than just ink. It's someone's expression, someone's moment, someone's story. And I'm grateful that I get to help bring those stories to life."

That's quite a story in itself Jeff and, while not signing up for a tattoo myself any time soon, just love your artwork and welcome to Hudson!

**A Gift
That Will Keep On Giving
At Hudson Village Theatre**

Still on the arts scene, **Hudson Village Theatre** recently received a truly magnificent gift from the family of the late **Jean-Claude Olivier**, whose creative vision shaped so many of its treasured Pantos. As the designer behind numerous productions, **JC** as he was affectionately known, created the sets, props, and the unforgettable oleo drapes that became a hallmark of HVT's Holiday shows, (continued on page 14)

Encore Musical Theatre & Hudson Village Theatre present
HEAD OVER HEELS, the bold new musical comedy from the visionaries that rocked Broadway with *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Avenue Q* and *Spring Awakening*. This laugh-out-loud love story is set to the music of the iconic 1980's all-female rock band the **Go-Go's**, including the hit songs, *We Got the Beat*, *Our Lips Are Sealed*, *Belinda Carlisle's Heaven is a Place on Earth*, and *Mad About You*.



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28 Wharf, Hudson, QC

Parrydise

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and his hand-painted scenes brought warmth, humour, and enchantment to the stage delighting audiences year after year.

Says **Kalina Skulka**, HVT's Executive Director, "On behalf of the entire HVT team, we are deeply grateful to his family, who generously gifted us seven of his beautiful oleos. These remarkable pieces now form a treasured part of our artistic legacy and will continue to enhance our productions for years to come and we remain profoundly thankful for the many

years of collaboration and creative partnership we shared with Jean-Claude. His contributions to the theatre and to our community will always be remembered with appreciation and respect."

Perfect Panto Prosceniums at HVT

In closing but still on the arts scene, err make that stage, a big bravo to **Rigaud** resident and multi-faceted artist **Adele Reeves** who has for the first time designed and painted the brilliant backdrops and prosceniums on huge canvases measuring 16 x 13 ft. for **Hudson Village Theatre's Annual Holiday Pantomime** *Peter Pan*

running from December 12 to January 4.

Over the last decade, she has appeared on that stage acting, singing, and dancing and has lent a hand on a variety of productions for panels, props, and masks for director **Glen Robinson**. But then right out of the blue, she got a call from Panto director **Steve Walters** looking for someone to be the set painter this time around. Check out her story on page 18. And should you be in the audience, don't forget to cheer on the goodies and boooo the baddies as loud and as often as possible!

And that's a wrap!

Heralding Heather Hiscox

Who launched a local news initiative from Hudson's Cardinal Brewery

by James Parry

Hudson made the national news for four hours straight in October when CBC's *Morning Live* came to town hosted by the inimitable Heather Hiscox who retired just weeks later after exactly 20 years in that very same role.

Broadcasting from the Cardinal Brewery on Main Road, it was all part of her farewell cross-country tour while promoting the launch by CBC News of three local service expansion bureaus in Steinbach, Man., Lloydminster, Alta./Sask., and right here in Hudson, highlighting the

network's commitment to strengthening local news in what it describes as underserved areas.

One of the highlights of the broadcast certainly had to be when some members of the

Greenwood Singers showed up to serenade her live with a few numbers that, at times, had Heather (centre) even singing along and obviously loving every minute of it.

Jean Kelly, Gwen Murray, Heather Hiscox, Loretta Baerg, and Lauri Tomita.

Photo courtesy of Loretta Baerg



The Night Witch

An original play by Clint Ward

Review by Kathryn Lamb

The Night Witch, the eagerly anticipated play created and directed by Hudsonite Clint Ward, opened at the Hudson Village Theatre early in November.

Entering the theatre, we are confronted with a backdrop covered by photo of a vintage (60's?) pea-green Volkswagen camper van, parked behind two camp chairs, a small table, two canes and two glasses.

Where are we, I am asking myself, and when is this?? The backdrop rises, revealing a darkened stage and two "women of a certain age" obviously friends, in camping attire. They begin to speak, one with a British accent and one with a heavy Russian accent, and it becomes evident they have come to this place to commemorate some personal anniversary. In the back corner sits a black-clothed musician playing a moody, mournful accordion.

A young man enters, a Canadian from Saskatoon, who has come to this place in the forest of Ukraine (for that is where we are) on his own personal quest. He works in a museum of Ukrainian history and has heard a story about a group of female Russian pilots who dropped bombs on the Germans during the second World War.

They flew at night, very low, in flimsy planes, and terrified the Germans, who called them the "Night Witches" He is looking for a remnant, maybe a piece of wreckage, to bring back to his museum. Conversation ensues, one woman is suspicious, the other flirtatious, and off they go to search the woods, where a broken propeller is located.

Back at camp, they celebrate with vodka and dancing, until an idle question, followed by an unthinking answer (fuelled by vodka) yields a revelation that stops

everyone in their tracks!

In Act Two, after a needed intermission, the true stories emerge. All parties are indeed on a search, the Canadian to discover the truth about a legend he has heard about, and the women to commemorate the accomplishments and relationships they had experienced during the war.

For these two were indeed "night witches", veterans of 850 bombing runs, having survived freezing winter temperatures, loss of colleagues, as well as living in caves and tents with no privacy. And even, after all these years, many men still didn't believe that women could fly! The brigade was dissolved in October 1945, after 1100 days - 3 years of bombing, most returning to civilian lives, albeit suffering from headaches, insomnia and other war-related disorders.

The actors, all pros, held us in their spell from start to finish. Steve Walters played Dan, the narrator and visitor from Canada. Susan Gilmore Lombard and Diana Gausden were Nadia and Katia, the surviving night witches. Dramatic lighting (Wil Schonfelder), moody music (Chris Crilly) and the minimal set quietly wove us into a dramatic cocoon. Costumes (Karen Pearce), particularly the medal-decorated uniform jackets in the last act, added a sense of gravity and authenticity. The audience rose together at the end of the performance to show their appreciation.

A question-and-answer session at the end of the show was well attended, considering it was competing with Hallowe'en trick-or-treating and a World Series baseball game. The author explained that while the first act in this play was fiction, the second act, including the existence of Nadia Popova, was, in fact, true. It was an in-

credible story, so thank you Clint for unearthing it and bringing it to life for us.

Clint's passions, which he is well-known for sharing, include film, airplane flying, waterskiing, writing, history and of course the theatre, and to my mind, he makes our town a more interesting and culturally rich place to live.



Amazing Artist Adele Reeves

Creates magical worlds for this year's HVT Panto Peter Pan

by James Parry

To describe **Rigaud**-based artist **Adele Reeves** as multi-faceted is akin to stating that **Michelangelo** only painted ceilings in the **Sistine Chapel** in **Rome**. Her work includes large-scale mural painting, ceramic sculpture, wood carving, helping to create digital FLASH animations for interactive CD-ROM games, and much more.

For example, one of her projects for the past six years has involved working in schools across Quebec facilitating collaborative murals through the Artists Inspire Grants program of **ELAN** (English Language Arts Network). And yet she still finds time to host online animation classes and graphic design for **Microbrasserie Le Castor** in Rigaud while volunteering at Hudson's **Heartbeet Farm**. And, for her first time ever, designing and painting all the backdrops and prosceniums for **Hudson Village Theatre's** Panto production of *Peter Pan* which runs through January 4.

Not that she is any stranger to HVT. For, over the past decade, she has been on stage there acting, singing, dancing and painting while also lending a hand on a variety of productions for panels, props, and masks for director **Glen Robinson**.

So how did she feel when Panto co-director **Steve Walters** called her right out of the blue to ask if she was willing to be the set painter this time around? Laughs Adele, "I was so very happy to get the call from Steve. The timing was perfect and I immediately said YES. I felt very lucky to be thought of in the community as someone who could be trusted to paint large scale sets and, as a mural painter, I've also wanted to have a go at creating such pieces for the stage. Working with all the local talent has been so inspiring and I am so honoured to be part of this year's Panto production."

And what exactly has she created for *Peter Pan*? Explains Adele, "I

have designed and painted the images for the olios and prosceniums and panels for the *Pirates' Cove*, *Marooner's Rock*, the *Darling's Nursery*, magical jungle scenes and other props."

Those prosceniums, I was fascinated to learn, were painted on canvas each measuring an incredible 16 by 13 feet! Where did she find a studio big enough to accomplish everything over a period of two months September and October? Says Adele, "Finding a space large enough to stretch out in was no easy task. But then **Mary Aird** came to the rescue and, when she cleared it with the rest of the Aird family, I set up a studio in their barn at the former and much missed **Finnegan's Market** site. And it has been the most dreamy of spaces in which to create magical sets.

"Once the barn studio was set up, where **James Berryman** the Panto set designer and builder had constructed the massive 12 by 15 foot easel, I began sewing long rolls of

material to create the huge canvas. There was handy scaffolding on wheels that I could roll around and pull the fabric up to stretch and clip in place and then I used house paints to prime and paint it. For two months I felt like I was living a dream peacefully in flow with my paint brush taped to a long stick and each olio took about 15 to 20 hours of paint time."

As to what she was trying to capture in her designs, Adele explained it perfectly. "I was trying to create a magical feeling that would make one want to fly into other worlds. Be it jungle, ocean, or even a drab children's nursery. And I just can't wait to see it all come to life with the lights and actors on stage at Hudson Village Theatre."

Neither can we Adele. And a big bravo for being such an integral part of Hudson's fabulous annual Panto that has been captivating audiences, young and old alike, for it seems forever.

Land ahoy me hearties as Adele Reeves contemplates putting the final touches to her huge colourful backdrop proscenium *Pirates' Cove*.

Photo by John Sheridan



Memories of Hudson

by Art MacDonald

In 1966, just before Christmas, the Hudson High School paper, the Avatar, published a student-written story that resonated with many of the teachers. Although each student had already received a copy of the school paper, some teachers read the article aloud in class, even when the subject was not related at all, such as in Algebra class.

We don't have a copy of the original article but here is a story with the same subject and based on the same premise. Some may think it outdated while other may relate. "Your mileage may vary."

The International Society of Archaeologists is tremendously excited with their new excavation of a village from the previous civilization. With the climate catastrophes and the subsequent nuclear wars, we have very little information about this period

Even now, thousands of years later, many potential excavation sites are still radioactive and we really don't know how ordinary people lived back then. That's why the discovery of an intact village is so important.

Situated on the banks of what was then known as the Lake of Two Mountains in northeastern North America, most of the village is preserved in all its detail. Apparently a dormant volcanic plug called Mont Rigaud erupted unexpectedly and superheated clouds of gas surged down the lake instantly killing every living thing. The area was then buried under several hundred feet of volcanic ash, completely preserving everything for us to discover today.

Archaeologists have uncovered a substantial part of the area and have found that the people of the village were celebrating "holidays." There are cards and digital greetings with "Best Wishes for the Holidays" and Happy Holidays." In particular we have made the following observations.

Almost every household had either a real, recently cut needle tree or an artificial one in their living quarters. These were decorated with lights and ornate baubles.

The significance of these trees

remains a mystery. Archaeologists can't explain why a few real trees were sourced locally but many were brought from special farms far away. The artificial ones mostly came from the other side of the planet.

For a culture to dedicate substantial resources to bringing in and decorating these trees, they must have had a deep meaning. We have not been able to determine what that might have been.

Most households either had eaten or were preparing to eat a roasted large bird called a turkey. Apparently many side dishes turned this meal into a real feast.

The feast seems to have been part of the celebrations that took place at this time. The turkey was merely traditional and our archaeologists don't believe it symbolized a worship of turkeys or of large birds.

Households in general contained references to "Santa" or "Santa Claus," who was pictured as a bearded fat old man in a red suit with white fur trim. Apparently he was said to bring presents in a sleigh pulled by reindeer.

The general consensus among our archaeologists is that this "Santa" holds the key to what is being celebrated. We know that the previous civilization was very materialistic, so it makes sense that they would worship someone who brought gifts.

The root of "Holidays" is "Holy Days," which indicates that the celebrations were of a religious nature. The fact that "Santa" is a word for "Saint" or "Holy" further

supports this theory.

It is not clear how the previous civilization arrived at worshipping a fat old man. Archaeologists are investigating possible symbolism but they have not been able to explain why the previous civilization did not conceive of a more attractive god to bring them gifts.

A fringe group maintains that the people of this village were actually celebrating the birth of a religious figure called Jesus Christ. They have found a few references that call this holiday "Christmas."

Most archaeologists reject this view because there is very little evidence to support it. They believe it is unlikely that such a celebration and feast would have been held for a minor historical figure whose teachings apparently had very little influence on the behaviour of the people of the previous civilization.



Arts Hudson Calendar of Events

December 2025 Events

Greenwood Centre for Living History, 254 Main Road greenwoodcentre.org
Friday December 12th, Greenwood Singers at St. Mary's Church, 261 Main Road, 7pm to 9pm
\$30 Tickets at Que de Bonnes Choses

Hudson Creative Hub, 273 Main Road hudsoncreativehub.org
Sunday December 14th, 3pm, Gino Quilico's "The Secret of Christmas," \$50.00
Fundraiser at St. Thomas Church

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca
Friday December 12th to January 4th, Annual Pantomime, "Peter Pan"
Friday, December 12th, 19th, 26th at 7pm and 26th at 2pm; Saturday, December 13th, 20th and 27th
at 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, December 14th, 21st and 28th at 2pm; Wednesday, December 24th at 11am;
Monday, December 29th at 2pm and 7pm; Tuesday, December 30 at 2pm and 7pm;
Wednesday, December 31st at 2pm

Hudson Film Society, hudsonfilmsociety.ca
Monday December 15th, Monday Night at the movies, become a member, check the website

January 2026 Events

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca
Thursday January 1st to Sunday January 4th, Annual Pantomime, "Peter Pan"
Thursday, January 1 at 2pm; Friday, January 2 at 7pm;
Saturday, January 3 at 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, January 4 at 2pm

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca
Friday January 9th, Freddie James Project, 8:00pm, \$45 plus tax and service fees

February 2026 Events

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca
Wednesday February 4th to Sunday February 15th, \$39 plus service fees
"God of Carnage," by Yamina Reza, directed by Matt Holland
A Dark Comedy that Strips Away the Veneer of Civilization

March 2026 Events

Encore Musical Theatre Company, encoremusicaltheatre.ca
Friday March 5th to Sunday March 15th, "Head Over Heels"
A new musical with songs by the Go-Go's, \$39 plus service fees
Presented at Hudson Village Theatre, 450.458.5361

April 2026 Events

Hudson Players Club, hudsonplayersclub.ca
Friday April 8th to Sunday April 19th, Annual Spring Production
"Almost, Maine," by John Cariani, a charming, magical collection of love stories
Presented at Hudson Village Theatre, 450.458.5361

Hudson Film Society, hudsonfilmsociety.ca
Monday April 20th to Sunday April 26th, Hudson Film Festival
Award-winning films with guests
Give a Festival Pass for Christmas - available on the Film Society website

Have an event you want to promote? Email bert@artshudson.org