

arts

times



us

Greenwood Museum is 30!
StoryFest is 25!



Some members of Greenwood's board of directors
and volunteers.

arts hudson

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ROYAL LEPAGE

Greenwood Centre - More than a Museum

by Special Contributor Karen Molson, Director of Greenwood

"I've lived here in Hudson for twenty years and never knew there was a museum!"

At Greenwood Centre for Living History, we hear this said several times each summer by visitors who stop by. And yet here we are celebrating our 30th season as a museum, still offering guided tours, tea and baked goods on our screened-in porch overlooking the Ottawa River, and hosting a variety of popular events.



When Jean-Baptiste Sabourin's homestead was first built in 1732, it stood alone. Sabourin, grandson of a *fille-du-roi*, worked for the government of France as a militia-man and interpreter. He cleared some of

his land and ran a farm while also trading with the indigenous people across the river.

Long before New France galvanized from a hinterland into a province called Lower Canada, the fur trade still dominated the economy. Jean-Baptiste and his wife Sarah Hansen raised 10 children in this tiny cabin. A fire in the hearth kept the family warm and served to cook their meals. Three

bedrooms on the upper level plus a cellar below ground augmented their home.

It wasn't until 1820 that the home was sold to a family with French Huguenot origins, (continued on page 4)

Never a Dull Moment

by Kathryn Lamb

This spring, Hudson has been a veritable hive of cultural activity. Whatever your interests, whatever your age, whatever your preferred medium, there was something for you!

The **Hudson Artists** held their semi-annual art exhibition and sale at the Community Centre April 17-19. There was an impressive variety of work on display and it was very well attended. The raffle of a painting by Hatchig Ibisoglu raised \$560. to benefit Le Nichoir.

Lobby exhibits continue at the Community Centre, a different artist exhibiting every month. Weekly life-drawing sessions were popular over the winter and attracted a number of loyal participants. The action will move out-of-doors for summer, as the plein-air painting group resumes its activities in mid-May. Consult the AHA website for details. <https://artisteshudsonartists.com/>

At the **Hudson Creative Hub**, a regular series of musical performances kept our toes tapping and the cold winds at bay.

The Sultans of Swing on Mar 25 blended a very cool mix of folk, flamenco, roots and world music into a performance that was exciting, rich, and varied.

Tous Les Temps Perdus with artists Miriam (continued on page 4)

New For NOVA Hudson

by James Parry

Definitely one for NOVA Hudson's history book, it is believed that this is the only pic ever taken of Executive Director Judy Tellier, all the nurses, and President Peter Lang all at one time. The occasion? The Libella Palliative Care Residence's 20th edition of its fabulous, festive, fundraising Happening Gala held at the Château Vaudreuil back in April. For more positive news about this wonderful community-oriented gem that helps so many in our area on the healthcare front, check out Parrydise-Hudson on page 2. It's just what the doctor ordered!

Photo courtesy of Judy Tellier



Parrydise Hudson

by James Parry

Wowwee, don't know about you but in my mind winter is but a memory! And not a too bad one at that. And Spring seemingly sprung so fast that if you blinked you might have missed it. So summer is now upon us with the promise of glorious days to come in our fair little hamlet called Hudson.

Replete with gardening galore, people-packed outdoor terrasses finally open, tourists flocking in from far and wide at weekends, classic convertibles now out of hibernation parading through at slow speed for bypassers to perhaps admire, myriad fundraising events for worthwhile causes, family BBQs, new super shows and events at **Hudson Village Theatre**, ditto at **The Hub** and **Greenwood Centre for Living History** currently celebrating its 30th season in fine style as well as the 25th edition of **StoryFest**, music recitals, art exhibits, and a whole host of other stuff that makes our town so special at this time of year for residents and visitors alike.

Ah, you just gotta love it! And particularly with so much insane and inane traumatic

Judy Tellier, Peter Lang, and Wanda McElheron take a well-deserved break from welcoming shoppers at the new NOVA Decor boutique on Main Road just before this beautiful sofa was sold.

Photo by James Parry



turmoil and political conflict going on in other parts of the world! So without further ado, lets turn the spotlight on some more good news right here in the heart of town.

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED COURTESY OF NOVA HUDSON

Remember that old adage that everything comes in threes? And not always for the best? Well, I was reminded of that recently when I learned that a third **NOVA Hudson** (NH) boutique had recently opened in the very heart of our fair town. And, in this instance it is most definitely for the best as like the other two, **NOVA Boutique** and **NOVA Maison**, it will be raising funds for this wonderful community-oriented gem that does so much for so many on the healthcare front. A charitable, non-profit organization that receives no federal or provincial government funding whatsoever which instead relies on donations, fundraising events, and the proceeds from the boutiques.

Located at the corner of **Main** and **Yacht Club Road** and named **NOVA Decor**, it differs from the other two in that it specializes as its name implies in furniture and home decor. And since its official opening on March 21, the day of Hudson's fabulous **St. Patrick's Day Parade** no less, it has been a phenomenal success and has exceeded all expectations according to **Peter Lang** NH president who assumed the post in 2014 succeeding **Linda Cobett** who, in turn, had replaced **Helen Foody**.

Sat down with Peter on a pair of beautiful genuine antique chairs that were going for a song compared to the skyhigh price that they would be asking for in downtown **Montreal** to learn more and the first thing he told me was not to focus on him but rather on the nurses and all the volunteers and donors who help NOVA Hudson make such an invaluable contribution to the health and welfare of local residents not only here in our little town but also **St. Lazare, Rigaud**, and parts of **Vaudreuil-Dorion**.

That being said, was fascinated to learn that Peter, who in 2002 retired from the electronics business, was originally from **Toronto** and moved to Hudson some 15 years ago to be closer to the love of his life, **Betsy Aird**, who sadly passed away in 2024. As well as her Mom, **Barbara Aird**, who for almost half a century was the matriarch of the much-missed **Finnegan's Market** and who at 98 years young is still living at home with support from NOVA.

As he explained, "When both Betsy and I retired, we wanted to give back to the community by volunteering and joined the Board of Directors in 2011. It was one of the best decisions we ever made in that it helps so many in our community in so many ways. Particularly today when changes in Quebec's healthcare system are impacting on so many residents in the region leaving a lot of them without even a family doctor."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUDY TELLIER TELLS ALL ABOUT NOVA HUDSON

But enough about Peter for which I'm sure he will be grateful. Let's now turn the spotlight on NOVA Hudson itself and who better to tell me all about past, present, and future than its much

respected Executive Director for the past 40 years **Judy Tellier**. And here is what I learned.

Q: *When was NOVA Hudson first formed and how did it all come about?*

A: “Well, in 1985, **Frank Royle, Linda Cobbett, Margaret Lagimodiere, and Helen Foody** got together and successfully fundraised to hire a **VON** nurse for Hudson. She was from the **Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue** branch and was only able to give one day a week which was just not enough for our needs and the **CLSC** was not active in our area at the time. They then hired **Micheline Lemieux** who was the very first nurse of this new **VON** (Victoria Order of Nurses) and today our team now consists of eight nurses most of whom are part time and who all work so hard to fill a very busy schedule.

“In 2009, our first charity shop Nova Boutique was opened selling all donated items of every description and in 2011 we moved to our new wonderful **Hudson Medical Centre**. Two years later, we opened an **Adult Day Centre** at **St. Mary’s Church Hall** that is now **The Hub** and in 2018 we opened our second shop **NOVA Maison**.”

Q: *What exactly is NH’s role and mandate?*

A: “In essence, it is to fill the holes and gaps in the government’s medical system and to help our residents navigate the everchanging medical landscape. This is particularly important for many seniors here who have no family members left in **Quebec** and so the **NOVA** staff can help advocate for care services. Also, and very important, all our nurses live in our area and care deeply about our community. What’s more, our professional staff work closely with our **CLSCs** as well as the **Libella Palliative Care Residence** on **Como Gardens** in Hudson and the **Hudson Medi Centre**.”

Q: *So who are the nurses and professional staff Judy?*

A: “Our nurses are **Wanda McElheron, Betty Swennen, Brenda Lapierre, Anna Maria Westcott, Alexandria Delle Donne, Rena Martakis, and Elizabeth Mackay**. And our Day Centre staff are Director **Nancy Sinclair, Ariane Neal, and Susan Von der Haar** who is a mental health support worker.”

Q: *And the volunteers?*

A: “Far too many to mention as we have almost 200 currently helping us and they are all wonderful people who do office and footcare clinic support as well as at the Day Centre and all three boutiques. They also drive when necessary, move beds and equipment when required and then, of course, we have our wonderful Board of Directors.”

Q: *Can you elaborate on some of the services that NOVA Hudson provides?*

A: “For sure and, with the exception of the Foot Care Clinic, all are absolutely free. When it comes to **Professional Home Nursing Care**, assessments and treatment plans prioritize a patient’s freedom of choice and family involvement. Our nurses are trained to treat and teach symptom management and coping strategies for a wide range of medical problems, including cancer care.

“For **Palliative Care**, when symptoms are well managed, remaining home to the end of life can be realized. This decision is made collaboratively with the patient, their family and the health care team. Our nursing staff bridges the patient to their health care team while providing support to the family during regular home visits.

For **Foot Care**, professional treatment prolongs independent living by maintaining mobility and patients with decreased vision, diabetes, arthritis, circulation, and other related problems that prevent foot health are invited to a weekly clinic for hands-on-foot care provided by our nursing staff.

“And when it comes to **Caregiver and Practical Support**, we realize that caring for a loved one is emotional and can be physically exhausting and, on request, outside home caregivers can be recommended to assist in this role. We also have a large inventory of specialized medical equipment such as electric beds, wheelchairs, walkers and commodes that are available to patients. And we often have volunteer drivers to transport patients without support of family and friends to and from treatment and medical appointments.

“As for our **Mental Health Program**, an experienced mental health support worker is available to provide short-term psychosocial support to clients, caregivers, family members, volunteers and staff and all of which is confidential. It is characterized by

active listening and a neutral non-judgmental space to talk about the challenges of caregiving and this service is optional and accessed through the nurses. Moreover, once engaged, the support worker is active in the circle of care for the patient.

“And last, but certainly not least, is the **Adult Day Centre**. For we realize that social contact and cognitive stimulation promotes healthy connections to others, reduces social isolation, and enhances self-worth, especially in individuals who are disabled or cognitively impaired. To this end, the Centre has developed a full day program of stimulating activities once a week in a local setting, all activities are supervised by a registered nurse, nursing aides, and volunteers, lunch is included, and it also provides sometimes much-needed respite for caregivers.”

Way to go HN and thank you for everything you do! And as I’ve said before and will surely say again, we are indeed blessed to have you looking out for the health and welfare of so many on so many fronts right here on our doorstep. Just what the doctor ordered! And loved the headline in your most recent brochure. ‘*People we know, Caring for, People we Love.*’ It says it all!

To contact **NOVA Hudson**, located at 465 Main Road, Suite 202, call (450) 458-5727. And for **NOVA Decor** at 504 Main Road, call (450) 202-1052. I’m sure they would love to hear from you. Whatever the reason!

QUALITY QUILTING FOR WORTHWHILE CAUSES CREATED RIGHT HERE IN HUDSON

Which I do believe to be the perfect segue into yet another very special Hudsonite and a local community-oriented group of volunteers that for almost the past three decades has been raising funds every two years to donate to local initiatives and primarily **NOVA Hudson** and the **Libella Palliative Care Residence** through the production of hand-sewn and hand-quilted **Charity Quilts**. Namely **Hudson’s Village Quilters** (HVQ) formed back in 1997 by a handful of friends starting out with some 30 members who wanted to share their passion for the art of quilting and its joys and challenges.

Upon learning quite by happenstance that their upcoming **2026 Village Quilters Biennial Show** will be staged at the **Hudson Community Centre** this September 19th and 20th, I checked in with show (continued on page 6)

(Greenwood, continued from page 1)

the Delesderniers. This family added a small addition to the east for use as a trading post. The Delesderniers' only daughter, Mary Cecilia, would marry Robert Ward Shepherd, who went on to establish a steamship line called *The Ottawa River Navigation Company*. This couple's 10 children would, in turn, have their own families, and the home was added on to three more times as the family grew and prospered.

As the decades passed, the area's economy evolved, political changes and events defined generations, all while many extraordinary people who lived here wielded widespread influence. Canada's future was taking shape, partly thanks to these visionary pioneers.

Walking through rooms of this historic house, one moves through time, through political eras, encountering visual and tactile evidence of the inhabitants' belongings, beliefs, practices, tastes, and fashions.

Tea leaves (very expensive in the 19th century) had to be locked up in a "tea

chest" to keep it safe from pilfering. Candlelight was reflected from a rounded mirror to reach the corners of the dining room. Window glass panes reveal the imperfections from the early days of the local glass factory. Costumes on display were worn by various family members including the home's last owner, Phoebe Nobbs Hyde, who was a stage actress.



In the end it was Phoebe who inherited Greenwood. Ever since childhood, cognisant of the Sabourin history and that of her ancestors, the Delesderniers/Shepherds, she'd dreamed that her home could become a museum. In all the years of the house's occupation, the family was careful to keep the structure's original elements intact.

No one had ever renovated or altered the 1732 hearth room, and great care was taken to preserve the rest of the house in its historic context as well. Eventually Phoebe willed her home to the Canadian Heritage of Quebec, which foundation, dedicated to preserving historic homes, accepted to take over its curation. Since 1996, just two years after Phoebe's death, we have welcomed the public to visit Greenwood and learn about the home and its inhabitants' colourful history.

Greenwood's StoryFest is a popular literary festival that takes place in Hudson annually, with authors near and far invited to talk about their books.

*Over the past 25 years, we have welcomed more than 200 Canadian writers who have ranged from being at the highly promising start to the pinnacle of their careers. **Margaret Atwood, Michael Crummey, Emma Donoghue and Russell Banks** are just a few of the festival's many luminaries noted on StoryFest's webpage. What started as a modest speaker series has grown into a well-known and generously supported cultural festival that has consistently been Greenwood's strongest fundraiser.*

(Never a Dull Moment, continued from page 1)

Sekhon and Liza Miller on Apr. 25 presented a program of tunes that drifted between jazz, chanson, and film. The audience loved the mood and music that these artists created.

Songwriter Spotlight Series-Women in Music- May 30-2-5PM (tickets by donation) Celebrating the diversity of our local songwriting community.

Ongoing-Photographic Exhibition "**Nature-Caught in the Act**" in support of conservation group **Creek 53**. Heart-stopping photographs of wildlife up close... fauna, flora, every life form in its natural habitat- I found myself returning for a second, then third time!

Greenwood's first **StoryFest** event of the year, featuring Eliza Reid on April 27 at the

Community Centre, was a sold-out event. Canadian born, former Icelandic first lady, she was interviewed by Brenda O'Farrell of the 1019. She talked about her new book, "*The First Lady Next Door*", and was happy to answer interesting questions from a very curious audience.

On May 19, at a second **StoryFest** event, Montreal cookbook author and food writer Leslie Chesterman spoke to an enthusiastic audience about her new book, "*A Montreal Cook*", interviewed by local media personality Tara Schwartz.

The Greenwood Singers concert at St Mary's Church on May 8 was once again a memorable event. A full house came to enjoy this moving concert of familiar and less familiar tunes arranged in original and interesting ways. This choir, under the direction of Judi Meade, has gifted Greenwood with their music for 25 years now, and we are so very lucky to have this

relationship with them.

Many more musical, historic, and artistic events are scheduled for this summer at Greenwood, as they celebrate their 30th anniversary, so be sure to check the website or Facebook page for details: <http://greenwoodcentre.org>.

In another vein, **HeartBeet Farm**, our local community farm, in its tradition of hosting craft-related workshops, held a *Mosaic Workshop* at the community centre on April 3. It was great fun, and perfect as a group or family activity. On Friday, May 23, they held a Scarecrow-Making Workshop at their farm at 723 Main Road in Hudson.

So Hudsonites and fans of Hudson, be prepared for a busy summer schedule, as plans for the Hudson Village Theatre, Greenwood, Hudson Music Festival, Porchfest, and other activities become available. You'll need a BIG calendar!

Hurry Hard

by Kristen Da Sylva

Review by Kathryn Lamb

Hurry Hard, the latest play to open in the Hudson Village Theatre's busy spring season, is a play about our second favourite winter team sport, curling. It is a game that is played and loved by people of many ages and skill levels throughout cities and small towns across our country. It is not hockey, but has its own advantages, like being not quite so dangerous to life and limb (and teeth)! This play was written by Kristen Da Sylva and directed by Don Anderson.

We find ourselves in the clubhouse of a low-budget curling club, in the small town of Stayner. There is a large crest on the wall that says "Stayner Curling Club", a bar, a few chairs, and a large screen TV. Oh, and an african violet in a pot on a small table- the only feminine note in this otherwise male environment.

The play opens on the TV screen,

where the play's director appears in a natty black-and-white check jacket, tinted reflective glasses and a very loud tie (channelling Don Cherry?). He makes the usual safety announcements to the hilarious laughter of the audience, and credits the video to his 12-year-old nephew. It is an auspicious start.

There is a championship game that day, and the team members and supporters arrive one by one. Bill, a serious man of few words (David Anderson), Terry, Bill's brother and perpetual moocher of money and objects (John Sheridan), Bill's ex-wife Sandy (Jennifer Wade), who is catering the event, and lively Darlene, Sandy's friend and helper (Lisa Vindasius). The next team member to arrive is Johnny, with the bad news that their fourth player has been badly injured in a car accident. Meanwhile, the opposing team, a rival of long standing, will be there any minute!

What can be done?
The match must go on!

The dialogue proceeds, and the conversation is revealing. Much about the characters' past relationships is made clear via humorous and sometimes pointed jibes and quips. ("Women probably invented curling - you know - the brooms!") Also, it never occurred to me that Sarnia was such a hot-spot for honeymoons and vacations! The women discussed the menfolk, along with sex, cupcakes and mincemeat. The men had a lot to say about the women -especially once it became evident that a few

extra team players would be required for the match. Laughter from the audience was pretty steady - it all felt so familiar, so authentic small-town Canadian. Details from their past gradually flesh out each personality and we understand better why they behave the way they do. And soon, thanks to the good acting and clever delivery, we end up rooting for them, that their difficulties would be resolved, and that their issues sort themselves out.

As the plot unfolded, I was engaged, but I couldn't help but wonder how and when the action was ever going to make it to the curling rink. But sure enough, it did, and the "how" was brilliant, possibly the highlight of the evening! I will divulge no more- I just hope you were able to see this play.

And as a parting shot in the final scene, the big curling crest tumbles off the wall to the floor. But the African violet still sits there quietly on its table. Significant, I thought. But maybe that was just me?

Random Poetry

by

Percy Bysshe Shelley

An old, mad, blind,
despised, and dying King;
Princes, the dregs of their
dull race, who flow

Through public scorn, -
mud from a muddy spring;

Rulers who neither see
nor feel nor know,

But leechlike to their
fainting country cling

Till they drop, blind in
blood, without a blow.



(Parrydis, continued from page 3)

organizer and past president for several terms, **Meredith Royds**, who told me that she had first began to sew at an early age, had created her first quilt as an adult and, despite having joined HVQ to learn how to hand quilt it correctly, that it was still not finished! Perfectly understandable, I thought as, since her retirement from a career in corporate communications, she has also devoted so much of her free time volunteering for other groups in town over the years.

For example **Girl Guides, Hudson Yacht Club, Hudson Garden Club, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #115** and assisting in their annual **Poppy Campaign** since 1976, originally running The Legion's **Canada Day** event for six years before the Town officially took over, and still hosting the ever-popular **Legion Pub Quiz** after 13 years.

So how have the quilters themselves contributed to the quality of life for others here in Hudson in addition to their Charity Quilts? Says Meredith, "When plans for the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Palliative Care Residence were first announced in 2008, I began an initiative to make a quilt or two. That idea morphed into the creation of 27 bed quilts and four lap/wheelchair quilts over two-and-a-half years. Since then, our quilters have created and donated dozens more bed quilts to the facility. And we recently shifted our efforts to donating neonatal quilts and lap quilts to **Hawkesbury General Hospital.**"

Adds Meredith, "Some members have also participated in projects for **Victoria's Quilts Canada** in support of cancer patients, **Quilts of Valour Canada** supporting injured **Canadian Armed Forces** members past and present, and **Quilts for Survivors** in aid of Residential School survivors, and other worthwhile causes."

As for the Charity Quilt itself, was fascinated to learn that it has usually taken about a year for the group to hand sew and assemble it and another year to actually hand quilt it. However, adjustments to the process had to be made in recent years because of the number of members able to participate. Explains Meredith, "From a high membership of over 90 quilters, we have come full circle to 30 in our 2025/26 season. Attrition has played a huge part in the decrease. We also hold meetings during the daytime as most of our members are fully retired and there just hasn't

been enough demand to make evening meetings viable. Which is kind of sad as face-to-face socialization and sharing our skills with others is so important to our group."

Never having been able to even sew a button on my shirt, was intrigued to learn what goes in to making a quilt and what exactly is involved in the process. Says Meredith, "By definition, a quilt is usually made of a pieced top, an inner layer of batting, and a backing. The time it takes to make one can vary tremendously from quick baby quilts in a day to magnificent, entirely hand-stitched appliqué quilts that can require many hundreds of hours of stitching. Quilt prices, if a piece is for sale, can be inexpensive for something basic and utilitarian, or in the thousands of dollars for artistic masterpieces. Most people underestimate the time and talent required, and the value of a hand-made quilt."

I'm sure won't be the case for a beautiful 97" x 97" star-patterned Charity Quilt to be shown in September and created by **Phyllis Spriggs**, a founding member of HVQ who is renowned for her meticulous work and classic, tonal fabric choices. It has been expertly long-arm quilted by former member **Phyllis Moody** of **Mad Moody Quilting Fabrics** and proceeds this year will go to **Le Pont Bridging**.

Quilter extraordinaire Meredith Royds puts some of the finishing stitches to this exquisite Charity Quilt created by Phyllis Spriggs and long-armed by Phyllis Moody that will be on display at the 2026 Village Quilters Biennial Show at the Hudson Community Centre in September with all proceeds going to Le Pont Bridging.

Photo by James Parry

As for potential new members and should you be interested in joining, you would be welcome any time whether you are experienced or not but also be available for their meetings on the third Wednesday morning of the month at **St. Thomas Aquinas Church** on Main Road in Hudson. As for donations of fabric, these are only accepted on a case-by-case basis.

Explains Meredith, "Unfortunately, a lot of members have passed in recent years and their families have very generously given HVQ their loved ones' stashes of fabric and quilting supplies. We are using much of it for our charitable endeavours, but we have a lot of it right now. We use good quality, 100% quilting cottons, and cannot accept upholstery or dressmaking fabrics. We sometimes sell estate pieces and collections at our shows, as well, or can direct donors to other groups who can benefit while we deplete our supplies."

Sounds like a win-win formula to me and if it does to you, for general information contact **Anne Laroche** at

HUDSONVILLAGEQUILTERS@GMAIL.COM

and for more info on the show, Meredith Royds can be reached at

ROYDS.MCLR@GMAIL.COM.

Happy quilting! *And that's a wrap!*



The BIG little CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL

by Clint Ward

On Sunday April 26 a small reception in the Village Theatre lobby brought the seven-day cinema adventure to an end. A wonderful food layout was on hand and the bar was busy as those in the crowded room awaited the announcement of the Audience Favourite Film.

Third place was a drama directed by Yan England, based on the young adult novels, *Fanny Cloutier* by French-Canadian writer Stéphanie Lapointe, who also wrote the screenplay. *Fanny* is the director's third feature film. The story of a Montreal teenager searching for the circumstances surrounding her mother's death, such as family ties, friendship, self-confidence, and the weight of grief. It resonated with the audience enough to garner the votes for the bronze position.

A very pleasant surprise was the Wednesday night film that almost made it to the top spot but director Eva Thomas would, I'm sure be quite happy that in a 17-film program of great Canadian movies her small crime thriller story, *Nika and*

Maddison almost won. It featured two very strong performances by Ellyn Jade and Star Slade as Nika and Maddison, two indigenous young women who are forced to go on the run after a police officer's attempt to sexually assault Madison leaves him hospitalized in a coma. To Quote the director's statement, "I want the audience to root for Nika and Maddison like they'd root for their own sisters." It would seem they did.

The Audience Favourite film was, *Ma mère, Dieu et*



Sylvie Vartan (Once Upon My Mother), a wonderful 2025 French-Canadian comedy-drama directed by Ken Scott (2003 *La Grande Séduction*, 2011 *Starbuc*, 2021 *Au revoir le bonheur* – all seen at the Village Theatre). The film was adapted from the 2021 autobiographical novel *Ma mère, Dieu et Sylvie Vartan* by French lawyer and broadcaster Roland Perez, which centres on his experiences growing up with a clubfoot and a

Sephardic Jewish mother who is determined not to let her son's disability stop him from leading a full and successful life. The film received two nominations at the 51st César Awards, including Best Actress for Leïla Bekhti who was the mother of all mothers.

The Festival Experience was alive and well at this year's program of award-winning films and it came to life on April 20's Monday afternoon with a Hudson film about the yearly quest for maple syrup. Director Asia Lis accompanied by Helen Henshaw presented, *Symphony of Spring*, a short film about the seasonal Riversmead sugaring off activity.

Producer Andreas Mendritzki introduced a 2026 Academy Award nominated film, *Perfectly a Strangeness*, written and directed by Alison McAlpine. The short had its world premiere at the Short Films (continued on page 8)

(Film Festival, continued from page 7)

Competition of the 2024 Cannes Film Festival, where it was nominated for the Short Film Palme d'Or. At the 98th Academy Awards, it was nominated for Best Documentary Short Film.

If the search for the elusive Festival Experience is enhanced by the guests at the event, then the Hudson Film Festival began with a loud bang when the opening Monday night film featured a producer of international reputation as the star of the week. Roger Frappiere's over 60-year toiling in the film world is a voice we need to honour. He was able to answer many audience questions resulting from the screening of Dennis Villeneuve's second film, 2001's **Maelstrom** because he was the producer of the film. It was also interesting to see the early work of a filmmaker who has risen to be one of the most successful directors in film today.

Tuesday brought two directors, William Mazzoleni Valin (**Capitaine**) and Isabelle Longnus (**Florent Vollant: Innu**) and a leading actor, Wayne Charles Baker (**Capitaine**). We even had the famous Quebec Innu

entertainer, Florent Vollant live on the screen to introduce his film. On Wednesday Evening there was an interesting audience question session with **Nika and Maddison's** director, Eva Thomas. The guest experience factor continued on Thursday afternoon with director Xiaodan He and her film, **Montreal ma belle**. Then even more Festival Experience in the evening with François Tremblay, the producer of Léa Pool's **On sera heureux (We'll Find Happiness)**.

Saturday was festival supporter Desjardin's day and they provided the

ever-popular free popcorn all day. The film highlight was the 2.30 pm screening of a Canadian Film that did win an Oscar this year and it originated in Montreal. Directed by Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski, **The Girl Who Cried Pearls**, won the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film at the 98th Academy Awards. The music in the film was composed and provided by Hudson's Internationally famous Patrick Watson. We would have loved to have him as an addition to our long guest list, but he was on a World Tour.

The romantic comedy film that closed TIFF in September, **Amour Apocalypse (Peak Everything)** capped the Desjardin day but there were still two more film and guest experiences on Sunday.

At 1.00 pm, **Ben's Screening Room** offered a glimpse of the future as this was the 2-hour presentation of young filmmakers and their short films. Three filmmakers were on hand, Craig Sim Webb, Simon Garex and John Angier. An interesting discussion with the Audience followed,

All that was left before the reception and Audience Favourite announcement was the

closing film, **Shining Light** with director Robbie Hart and Producer/writer Gary Smith in attendance. Gary delivered an interesting introduction to the political history preceding the Vietnam War. Canada was involved more than we knew and as a retired Diplomat he knew all the facts. It was a detailed introduction and added to the film experience to follow. Both Robbie and Gary had attended our Festival last year with their film **Ice-Breaker** and they were keen supporters of the Big little Canadian Film Festival. Gary left Hudson the next morning to drive back to his home in Perth, Ontario. With great sadness, Gary Smith passed away on May 12.

In the days after the week of Cinema a survey was sent to all the pass holders. The return was impressive and the festival organizers have a lot of information to consider. The overall feeling of the response to the 10 questions was very positive. In detail there were some interesting suggestions which could lead to a few changes and improvements so we can all look forward to an even better, BIG little CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL in 2027.



Almost, Maine by John Cariani

Review by Kathryn Lamb

Almost, Maine - as we learn in our programs, is a town that “almost” exists, 150 miles from the ocean, 50 miles south of Canada, but not on any map. It is inhabited by rural people who are neither country hicks nor city sophisticates. They are honest dignified individuals who are trying to navigate the murky waters of a variety of relationships, none of which are straightforward. And because this town doesn’t actually exist, it is allowed to lay claim to a few magical aspects that provide enchantment to these tales.

The audience is presented with eight vignettes of couples trying to figure out if they love each other, how they love each other, should they love each other or

maybe should they pack it in?? These are human interactions - nothing extreme or super-dramatic. But every conceivable emotion appears somewhere, and the sheer beauty and authenticity of their expression blew me away.

In an early scenario, a woman with a broken heart appears in a farmer’s field, hoping to camp for the night. But (and here’s where the magic comes in) her heart is broken into nineteen pieces of slate, which she carries around with her in a small paper bag. It is unbearably poignant!

This episode is followed by a guy’s chance meeting in a bar with a former love. She has moved on, and he obviously has not. A misspelt tattoo provides the magical

ingredient here.

An encounter between two strangers in a laundromat explores the question of how we really experience pain. And in another, a couple struggles to define the physical incarnation of their love. Can we fill large plastic bags with love, or a tiny jewelry box?

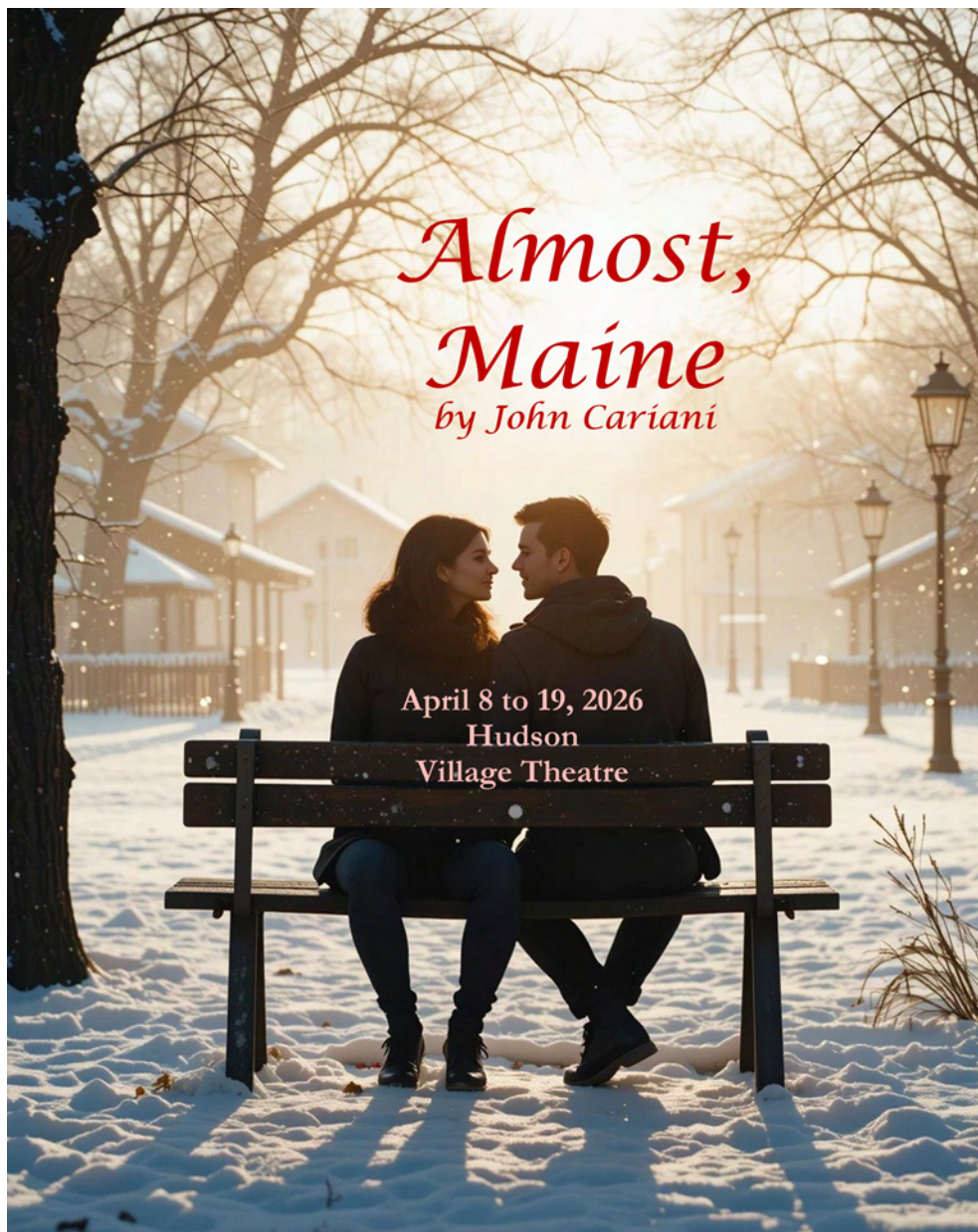
Honest, if painful, communication is the only way forward...the kind where couples struggle to say how they feel, even when it hurts, or is not cool, or when they don’t quite understand it themselves. Because in **Almost, Maine**, this imaginary place, on a certain day, at a magic time, while the northern lights shimmer overhead, clarity and even resolution can happen.

This play was written by John Cariani, and directed by Steve Walters. The set, lighting, video and music transport the audience into the magic. Ten actors make up the cast, often doubling up to play all the roles.

There are eight scenarios plus a prologue, interlogue and epilogue. Each one provides a challenge and teaches us a lesson. Glory’s (Vickie Kuchlein) broken heart is healed by East (James Berryman). Gayle (Alexandra Billingham) desires to reclaim the love she has given to Lendall (Vanessa Williams). Can she? Watching the disintegration of the relationship between Phil (Eric Sauv ) and Marci (Genevi ve Grenier) is unbearably painful. And along with Hope (Christine Priest) and Dan (Wayne Saray), we learn that sometimes late is too late.

On a more optimistic note, the framing scenes (the prelude, interlude and postlude) between Pip and Ginette (Zoe Chilton and Lily Zubis Tanona) soften some of the earlier sadness with the possibility of a youthful, more optimistic outcome. Each vignette encapsulates a singular perspective on the ephemeral nature of love.

As the play ended, there was silence. Then audience rose as one to applaud the performance. For me, it was a remarkable play, with an amazing cast, and I was so thankful to have been there!





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July / juillet

Sunday / **5** / 12 h - 15 h
Dimanche

Gourmet Dinner
August 13th, 2026
Greenwood Centre for Living History

Greenwood Centre for Living History



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Sunday 12 pm - 4 pm	Dimanche 12h - 16h

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INFO
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www.greenwoodcentre.org



Greenwood's consignment Art and Collectibles Sale

Vente en consignation d'œuvres d'art et d'objets de collection de Greenwood

August 30th |
Le 30 Août, 2026
10H - 16H

Centre communautaire
Stephen F. Shaar
Community Centre



Drop off Antiques, artwork, collectables
(No furniture) at Greenwood

Déposer Antiquités, œuvres d'art, objets de collection
Pas de meubles à Greenwood

2026 Music in the Garden Concert Series

Spend your summer afternoons enjoying live music in the beautiful gardens at Greenwood!

- June 21 – Stew & Alice
- July 26 – Broadway at Greenwood
- August 2 – Mario Starnino Jazz Trio
- September 6 – Kat Chapman




Art in the Garden

Bring your inspiration and imagination – we'll provide all the materials! Whether you prefer painting or drawing, enjoy a relaxing creative experience surrounded by the beauty of the gardens.

Join us at 2 PM on: July 23rd, August 6th, August 20th

Head Over Heels

Review by Kathryn Lamb

Encore Theatre's annual musical extravaganza arrived at Hudson Village Theatre in early March, and since spring was so painfully slow in coming this year, we really needed something to warm us up! **Head Over Heels**, directed by Phillippe Gobeille (artistic director) and Elizabeth Proulx (musical director), did the trick!

This musical, which first opened on Broadway in 2018 (text and conception by Jeff Whitty), is an adaptation of an Elizabethan story written by Sir Philip Sydney around 1600. The story takes place in classical times, the costumes were inspired by the Elizabethan period of the author, and the music consists of modern interpretations of songs by the 80's pop group The Go-Go's. So, a fair amount of imagination and time travel was involved in this production.

The plot unfolds, and it is a fairly complicated one, a kind of ancient morality tale complete with romance and magic! An ancient kingdom has over time become too rigid and dogmatic. Its king (Don Anderson) is fierce and autocratic, its Queen (Jennifer Wade) wants more respect, and the two daughters, Pamela (Ava Duquette-Michaud) and Philoclea (Jaqueline Trudel) want the freedom to love whomever they want (sound familiar?). Worth mentioning here, the choreography of Pamela's temper tantrums was pretty impressive!

As the plot moves along, we meet the shepherd Musidorus, (Max Benjamin) who is loveable - especially by his sheep (amazing puppets), and servants Dametas (Candace Holder) and Mopsa (Elizabeth Proulx) who struggle to keep the family from falling apart. The kingdom is in danger it seems, and to save it, a visit to an oracle is required, in this case, a scary, awesome python named Pythio (Matthew Crandall). Pythio makes four dire predictions.

This is not a straightforward tale. Feelings are murky, intentions become skewed, and identities- both gender and personal, are very fluid. You have to pay attention! And looming over everything are the oracle's four predictions that seem designed to be misleading. It is a complex production, but the acting is strong. There are some very good singing voices among the cast members, and lots of great music!

It goes without saying that a show of this size depends heavily on the skills and dedication of its backstage crew - stage manager and technical director Peter Garbacz, set designers Philippe Gobeille and James Berryman, costume designer Karen Pearce, and many, many others who built the impressive sets, sewed the lavish costumes, created the props and controlled the lighting to make it all look perfect!

During the course of this ambitious undertaking, the overall themes of tolerance and acceptance of people with differing beliefs and desires were eloquently expressed. **Head Over Heels** was a huge and beautiful community effort and congratulations are due to everyone involved. Thank you.

Richard III Shakespeare by the Lake see hudsonplayersclub.ca for details



"A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse," and then, for want of a horse, a kingdom was lost.

HUDSON VILLAGE THEATRE 

Conceived & original book by **Jeff Whitty**

Based on "The Arcadia" by **Sir Philip Sidney**

Adapted by **James Magruder**

Artistic Director/Choreographer **Phillippe Gobeille**

Musical Director **Elizabeth Proulx**

MARCH 5-15
MATINÉES
AND EVENINGS

Memories of Hudson - Summer

by Art MacDonald

We knew summer was coming because of the bottle race. Around Easter weekend the annual bottle race was announced and a few dozen kids would assemble at the bottom of Mount Pleasant with assorted bottles.

The idea was to place your bottle in the Viviry Creek at the start line and follow its path down to the finish near the lake. The first bottle to cross the finish line won 25 cents and the Jeakins trophy.

The rules were strict but not strictly enforced. It was usually pretty chaotic. Your bottle had your name in it. The bottles went in and you were only allowed to poke your bottle with a stick if it got stuck, and then you were only allowed to poke it in the upstream direction. No hands, ever.

Kids were everywhere, in the creek and on

both banks, with sticks and with boots full of water. These were the old style rubber overshoes that you don't see any more. They were good at keeping water out but if water got in over the top, they were equally good at keeping the water in. And a good time was had by all.

After the bottle race, the older kids, in grades ten and eleven, had the "Provincials." These were exams held across the province on the same day for a particular subject.

They came in a sealed envelope and the teacher opened it shortly before 9:00 am, placing the exam face down on each desk. Then at 9:00 am, on the dot, we would turn the exam over and start working on it. These were often 3 hour exams and even then it was rare for anyone to finish early. In many cases the mark you got on the exam was your grade for the whole year.

Eventually everyone got their exams written and received the grades. Then there was the grad, in the old high school gym, decorated by the grade tens. And then school was out, with kids generally coming up with very creative ways to get into or make trouble.

There was the ever popular and fairly harmless "pennies on the railway tracks," trick but our kids were much more creative. On pactly the last day of school we were in gym class, practising high jump over on the far side of the field. There was a big stump there, but somehow it had been shattered into little bits. Our gym teacher said it was probably spontaneous combustion, but some of us knew better.

One of the guys had discovered that you could make a quite powerful explosive just mixing common kitchen ingredients, and he needed somewhere to try it out. So one weekend, he drilled a big hole in the stump, filled it with his mixture, put in a fuse, lit it, and ran. Perhaps combustion, but not spontaneous.

Along the same lines, we discovered that if you dropped small balls of aluminum foil into dissolved lye crystals, you generated hydrogen. We spent days filling garbage bags with hydrogen. They would just barely float down the driveway or they would make a nice puff if you lit them.

On a more serious prank level, two guys

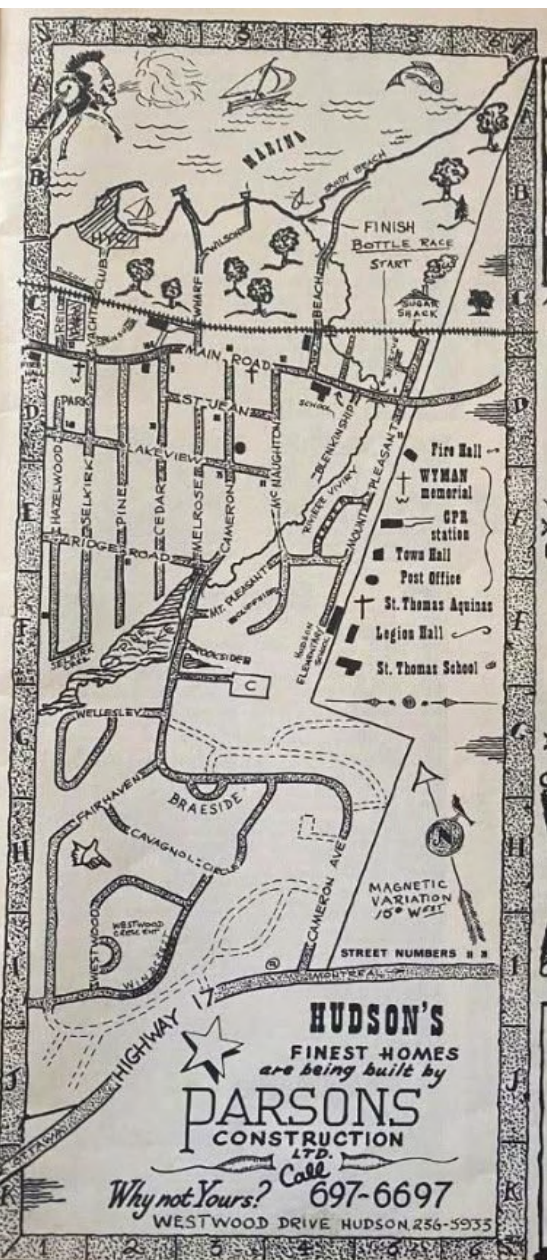
insisted they had tried to kidnap the bull up in Victoria Farms. They said they got into the barn and started leading the bull out but the farmer surprised them. They said that, as they ran away, the farmer shot at them with rock salt and they got some embedded in their rear end. They said it was painful but it dissolved after a while. We all had our doubts about that story.

Of course we were down at the Yacht Club whenever it was good weather. It wasn't as locked down as it is now - kids pretty much came and went, whether their parents were members or not. The only place that was restricted was the pool - you had to have a pool badge pinned to your bathing suit, but even those badges got passed around.

A lot of us had access to our parents' sailboats and a favourite pastime was to sail them up to near the lighthouse and tip them. It often took the best part of an afternoon to get them bailed out and dry again.

We had one Lightning, an eighteen foot open sailboat with a metal centreboard. It was hard to tip and even harder to put upright again. It took two boys standing on the centreboard to get it up. But then it had automatic bailers in the bottom. As soon as you could get the boat moving, you'd push down the bailers and the water would get sucked out.

Too soon Labour Day would come around. And yeah, school never started before Labour Day!



Arts Hudson Calendar of Events

June 2026 Events

Greenwood Centre for Living History, greenwoodcentre.org

June 21st - **Live Music** at Greenwood, 2 to 4 pm, \$15.00

June 28th - **Painting Class** at Greenwood, 1 to 4 pm, \$40.00

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

June 26th to 28th - **Panto Auditions**, Alice in Wonderland, sign up on the website

July 2026 Events

Town of Hudson, hudson.quebec

July 1st - **Canada Day Celebrations**, 12 to 5 pm, Benson Park - family fun and kiosks; 6 to 11 pm, Jack Layton Park - activities for youth and family, dancing, fireworks

Greenwood Centre for Living History, greenwoodcentre.org

July 4th - **Art Exhibition** of Local Artists, 1- am to 4 pm

July 5th - 30 Anniversary **Gala Party**, 12 to 4 pm

July 12th - **Traditional Tea**, 11 am and 2 pm (2 sittings) \$35.00

July 23rd - **Painting** in the Garden, 2 pm

July 25th - **Yoga** Fundraising Sessions, 10 to 11:15 am, \$30.00

July 26th - Encore Theatre presents **Broadway** at Greenwood, 2 pm, \$30.00

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

July 8th to 19th - **"The Rules of Playing Risk,"** by Kristen Da Sylva, directed by Trevor Barrette

Wed July 8 – 2pm, Thu July 9 – 8pm, Fri July 10 – 8pm, Sat July 11 – 2pm & 8pm, Sun July 12 – 2pm

Wed July 15–2pm & 8pm, Thu July 16–2pm & 8pm, Fri July 17–8pm, Sat July 18–2pm & 8pm, Sun July 19–2pm

July 29th to August 2nd - **Feelin' Groovy: A Simon & Garfunkel Live Celebration**

Wed July 29 - 2pm & 8pm, Thu July 30 - 2pm & 8pm, Fri July 31 - 8pm, Sat August 1- 2pm & 8pm, Sun August 2 - 2pm

Hudson Players Club, hudsonplayersclub.ca

Shakespeare by the Lake at Jack Layton Park; **Richard III** - directed by Simon Coté - donation see website for dates and times

August 2026 Events

Greenwood Centre for Living History, greenwoodcentre.org

August 2nd, **Music in the Garden**, Mario Starnino Jazz Trio, 2 pm

August 6th, **Painting** in the Garden, 2 pm

August 13th, Greenwood **Gourmet Dinner**, 6 pm

August 29th, **Yoga** Fundraising Sessions, 10 to 11:15 am, \$30.00

August 29th and 30th, **Theatre on the Lawn**

August 30th, **Art and Collectibles Sale** at the Community Centre, 1 to 4 pm

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

August 19th to 30th, **"Last of the Red Hot Lovers,"** by Neil Simon

Wed August 13 & 20 - 2 pm, Thu August 14 & 21 - 8 pm, Fri August 15 & 22 - 8 pm,

Sat August 16 & 23 - 2 pm & 8 pm, Sun August 17 & 24, 2 pm

Hudson Creative Hub, hudsoncreativehub.org

August 22, **Songwriters Spotlight – Duos & Collaborations**, 2 to 4 pm

September 2026 Events

Greenwood Centre for Living History, greenwoodcentre.org

September 6th, **Music in the Garden** - Kat Chapman, 2 pm

September 19th, **Treasures in the Kitchen**, 10 am to 4 pm

Hudson Creative Hub, hudsoncreativehub.org

September 12, **Fundraising Gala**, 6 to 11 pm at the Falcon Golf Club



*Hilarious and Heartfelt —
Experience a Story
Where a Few
Wrong Moves Can
Change Everything*

*The Rules
of Playing*
RISK

by **Kristen
Da Silva**

Produced & Directed by
Trevor Barrette

**JULY
8-19**

MATINÉES &
EVENINGS

*The Songs, The Harmonies,
The Legacy*

**Feelin'
Groovy**

**A SIMON &
GARFUNKEL
LIVE
CELEBRATION**



**JULY 29 -
AUGUST 2**

MATINÉES &
EVENINGS

*Love, Lust, and
Laugh-Out-Loud
Desperation*

**NEIL
SIMON'S
LAST
OF THE
RED
HOT
LOVERS**

Presented with
**ElenKaren
Prods**

**AUGUST
19-30**

MATINÉES &
EVENINGS



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