

arts

The Art of Living

magazine



us

Fall 2026

arts hudson

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Trekking 1,000 km through Peru to the Amazon Basin Taking One Step At A time for Pure Art and building a home by James Parry

Would like to introduce to a truly extraordinary young Hudsonite. He is 24, was born and raised in Hudson, went to **Westwood High School** before studying commerce at **John Abbot College**, currently works as an animal caretaker with **Humane World for Animals**, primarily at their **Care and Rehabilitation Centre** in **Vaudreuil**, has assisted in an animal seizure, and with veterinary clinics elsewhere in **Canada** and the **United States**. Oh yes, and as you read this, he is currently hiking mostly solo 1,000 km or so in **Peru** for a most worthy cause. Our local **Pure Art Foundation** here in Hudson and to build a home for a family of nine down there and support their work in the little village of **Pucallpa** in the **Amazon Basin**.

His name? **Kerrsens Bridges-Parkinson**. And I caught up with him just before his departure to learn more about what must surely be an

adventure of a lifetime. And here's how the conversation went.

Q: *This is quite a trip you are going on to put it mildly. Tell me about some of your other travels.*

A: "Travel has probably been one of the biggest influences on who I've become. Over the last few years, for example, I've spent a significant amount of time travelling, particularly through Latin America and Southeast Asia. I've backpacked, volunteered, hiked, lived in hostels, taught English, worked with different organizations and tried to experience places in ways that go beyond simply visiting the major tourist attractions.

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*Living his passion, Kerrsen hikes through the mountains all alone taking one step at a time.
Photo courtesy of KBP*

Town of Hudson Journées de la Culture

Come Discover, Create and Celebrate!

What happens when you give yourself permission to try something completely new? You might pick up a paintbrush, step onto a stage, discover an art form you've never encountered before, learn a few dance steps, or simply see creativity

through someone else's eyes.

On September 26 and 27, the Town of Hudson invites residents of all ages to do exactly that as we celebrate the 30th edition of Les Journées de la culture with two days of free cultural activities right here in our community.

Launched in 1997 and coordinated by Culture pour tous, Les Journées de la culture has grown into a province-wide celebration of arts and culture. Every year, communities across Québec open their doors to cultural discovery through

(continued on page 4)

Never a Dull Moment

by Kathryn Lamb

Hudson Music Festival, *Bowie Revisited*, photo by Howard Wilcox



We have enjoyed a busy summer season in Hudson this year, with lots of cultural events and activities that we will fondly remember as the days get shorter and the weather a bit chillier.

Apart from the plays discussed elsewhere in this magazine, the **Hudson Village Theatre** presented a wonderful evening with the unforgettable music of Simon and Garfunkel. "Feeling Groovy", the songs, the harmonies, the legacy was presented by Aaron Solomon and Kaden Brett Forsberg backed by great musicians. Spectators were singing along (they

knew all the words!) and dancing in the aisles!

The **Hudson Music Festival** celebrated their 20th anniversary by hosting a series of successful music events that livened up the centre of town from July 20- August 2. These included performances by Grapes of Wrath (Kelowna, BC), Serhuy Salov and Thomas Chartré (Ukraine and Montreal) and well-known Montreal guitarist Jordan Officer. A highlight on Saturday evening, The Bowie Revisited Show had spectators of every age on their feet and moving to his music!

Greenwood hosted several notable summer events including their first outdoor art sale followed by a thirtieth anniversary party on the weekend of July 4 and 5, both of which were well attended and very successful. An ecstatic crowd came out to see a presentation of

(continued on page 4)

Parrydis - Hudson

by James Parry

Where on Earth did the summer go! For here we are already heading into Fall with this edition of *Arts Hudson* magazine first launched some 20 years ago. And despite all the sad strife and conflict around the world, wars, wildfires, floods, earthquakes, terrible tariffs and political turmoil - much of it due to a certain meglomaniacal **Marmalade Messiah** who will remain nameless - my beautiful Sunshine, **Mireille Lemelin** never fails to remind me almost daily that we are indeed blessed to have lived for the past 40 years in such a peaceful and wonderful little town called **Hudson** that we will always call home. And I couldn't agree more!

So, as my mandate with the magazine is to write about people who, quietly and never actively seeking to promote themselves, let's turn the spotlight this time around on some fabulous folk who live here or nearby. One an artist, another a budding documentary cinematographer, and four guys in an upcoming band with a most unlikely name. Intrigued? Then read on dear readers!

PAINTER BARBARA FARREN GOES FAR FOR HER ART

Perhaps it is only natural that this beautiful little town of ours has long been home to a plethora

of artists, sculptors, and handcrafters whose myriad creations often boggle the mind. And in a most positive way given its natural scenic beauty, gorgeous gardens, quaint old homes and even barns, the river and lake, nature trails, fantastic flora, feathered friends galore, and wonderful wildlife. Truly a constant source of inspiration for not only artists but, I hope, for all who live here.

In writing for *Arts Hudson* magazine for the past 10 years or so, I have profiled quite a few and this Fall issue is no exception. For earlier this year, I bumped into, almost literally, long-time Hudson painter **Barbara Farren**. I noticed that she was limping, walking with a cane, and obviously in a bit of pain. Being the nosy parker that I am - sorry, make that investigative journalist - but also out of genuine concern, I asked her what had happened.

"I've just got back from attending two important artistic happenings in the United States," she told me. "And between the two that were just a few days apart, I slipped on some wet wooden steps as it had been raining and tore a ligament in my leg. It was extremely painful but I did make it to the second one although not many people realized that I had a serious injury. It was quite an ordeal but I guess I managed it well although I was badly limping." Ouch!

Added Barbara, "My lady friends that I met at the same hotel we were staying at were very kind and generous. One in particular was an acupuncture doctor from upstate **New York**, and on the banquet night I needed help to walk home especially across the huge multi-laned highways they had at the hotel location. She helped me with ice and medications and then some sort of telepathic healing treatment she did by telephone. I have no idea but I had to stay still for 15 minutes while she sent some sort of mental healing to my foot. And I have to say it did feel better after she did that. I was so grateful for her help."

And right there and then, I just knew that I wanted to profile this multi-faceted, quiet, unassuming artist, originally from **Southern Ontario**, whose paintings I have seen over the

years including her fantastic **First Nations** series as well as her **Hawkesbury Portrait of a Town** project for which she painted 80 portraits of residents there over a 12 month period.

Intrigued to learn that it was her Mom, who had studied architecture and painted when she could, who first got her started. "I discovered that I could draw quite easily and I would later go on to study at the **Ontario College of Art** for four years in the Drawing and Painting class. But that only after I failed to get into Architectural Studies," she explained. Well, I guess architecture's loss was art's gain! As to why she has always specialized in watercolours and what inspires or motivates her, her answer was both honest and refreshing. "Because I could carry my gear just about everywhere and just paint on my lap. And besides, it was much less expensive than oils or acrylics. Beauty inspires me constantly. I see it everywhere. In little things and big things and I'm partial to intimate scenes, up close, not grandiose.

"I love to paint farm animals because I grew up around them so I feel a connection. Also birds and wildlife although this is more difficult as I paint from my own drawings and photographs. As well as faces and people in natural situations. My love of clotheslines is well known because they always tell a story. And I love trees in every season. Especially the bare branches of winter."

Regarding her brilliant First Nations series, she told me that she had discovered the **Powwows** at **Kahnawake** across from **Montreal**. "I was blown away by the colours, the movement, the drums, the Grand Entrée, and how they welcomed non-Native people to their spiritual sacred celebration. And I wanted to capture some of that in watercolour."

And the Hawkesbury series? "This was my big project after my bout with breast cancer. I needed something very challenging to get me back into the world again and, luckily, I found the right person in **Lynda Clouette-Mackay**. She knew how to put it all in place and fortunately it was very successful. It was a fundraising event and we had a final exhibition at the **Hawkesbury Cultural Centre** in 2017."

And now to those two events south of the border. The first was **The Figure Society Inaugural Symposium** staged in **St. Louis**,



Artist Barbara Farren, photographed here in her studio, is full of creative plans for the year to come.

Photo by Alex Farren

Missouri, for three days for about 40 artists and instructors who love to draw, paint, or sculpt the figure and usually nudes. "It was marvelous. There was no real instruction happening but once in a while there was discussion on certain topics. As far as I know, there was only one other Canadian there and he was from **Calgary**."

The other was the four-day **Portrait Society of America** held in **Atlanta, Georgia**, with some 700 attendees. Said Barbara, "I have wanted to go to this for at least eight years but it is often in **Washington, DC**, and it is much more expensive to go there. It was only nine days after the Figure Society and my busted foot. But I had missed it so often I decided to attend it as well. No regrets! It is always about the portrait and I realized it really is a teaching event. However, you could get your work critiqued by well-known professionals which was very helpful and you could go three times for different critiques. There were also demos on different subjects and some art history as well which I found absolutely fascinating."

Added Barbara, "On the last day we went to an amazing museum. The **Booth Western Art Museum** just outside of Atlanta and the largest permanent exhibition space for western art in the whole U.S.. The sculptures alone are worth the visit. And the great thing about my whole stay south of the border is that I didn't hear anyone talking politics!"

As to what the future holds for Barbara, who this year alone has exhibited her paintings not only in Montreal but also further afield in **Vancouver** and **Granville Island, BC**, one of them is a project that she has been working on for almost two years now. Namely, to invite Master international artists to conduct workshops in **Montreal**.

Explained Barbara, "This idea was suggested to me by the renowned artist **Shane Wolf** because he is French-American apparently and speaks fluent French. I had studied twice with him online and then signed up for a five-day workshop with him in **Yorkshire, England**, in September 2024. Somewhere in our communications he had mentioned he would love to give a workshop in Montreal.

"Then when I met him personally in England, he again reiterated that he would love to come to Montreal to do just that. So at that point, and only then, did I seriously start to consider the prospect of creating and hosting my own series of workshops in Montreal. To my knowledge there is little of that kind of education going on considering the number of artists and art schools there. I had always had to travel abroad or to the U.S. to get that calibre of teaching. It

was becoming more and more expensive and really I was beginning to feel it wasn't good value for the money anymore."

Added Barbara, "I spoke about it to some friends and they decided they wanted to help me get it off the ground. And for that length of time, from 2024 to the present, I have been working on it. The biggest challenge, however, is finding the space since I do not have a large studio myself where I could host an instructor, students, and models if necessary. Presently, I have three confirmed and I also have some amazing Asian artists friends who work in watercolour that would love to come here too. So we continue to look for the appropriate space and, with any luck, we will be putting on a few next year. And our first one with Shane is scheduled for September 17-19, 2027."

Bravo Barbara. Do keep us posted!. To learn more, check out her website at www.barbarafarren.com

And now let's turn the spotlight on filming and documentaries and again with a local twist.

FILMING A DOCUMENTARY DOWN IN PERU

Namely 24 year-old **Mitchell Aboud**, who went to **Westwood Senior High** in Hudson, studied Arts, Literature and Communications at **John Abbott College**, entered **Concordia University** in the **Film Studies** program before switching to creative writing in his third year, who has lived all his life in **Saint-Lazare**, and who is currently filming a self-financed documentary on his friend's 1,000 km hike through Peru. (See story on page 8).

So how did it all come about? Says Mitchell, "Kerrsen has gone on several large hikes around the world and we've talked about possibly meeting up in the past. But because of work and school, it never panned out. The timing and purpose of this trip made it a no-brainer."

And what will this entail? "In terms of the production team behind the documentary, I will be going solo, but me and two other high school friends will be joining him during the final leg of his walk. We don't know how many kilometers it will be, but we're estimating it will take three to four

days. We've already started filming as he prepares for his journey. And the documentary will continue once I arrive and meet up with him. It will also include the building of the house after the walk in **Pucallpa** with the help of the **Pure Art Foundation**.

What format will it take and what kind of length are you envisaging? "The documentary is a blend of interviews, voice-over, and cine?ma?ve?rite? or as it is known in English, fly-on-the-wall. Up until this point, the documentary is quite formal in its approach, with planned interviews. But once we're in Peru, and as we get closer to his departure, the documentary will be more observational.

"In terms of length and when and where we will show it, it is still undecided. We'll get a better idea once the filming has finished. Once Kerrsen leaves for Peru, we don't know how this documentary will unfold because we don't know how and where Kerrsen will be once we see him. We will be following the story that's unfolding in front of us. We have already started editing the footage that we shot, but it's tough to say when we think we'll be finished. We're a group of four people working on the

(continued on page 6)

Tucking into a well-deserved deluxe pizza after their recent hike in the Adirondacks, Mitchell (left) and Kerrsen are looking forward to their next adventure together.

Photo courtesy of Mitchell Aboud.





Les journées de la culture

**Saturday, September 26
and Sunday September 27**

Les Journées de la culture is a province-wide celebration bringing arts & cultural activities to everyone — and it's completely **free**!

Saturday, September 26

**Visual Arts/Comics and Storytelling
with Raeven Geist-Deschamps**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Community Center

The Thrill of Acting with Hudson Players Club

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Community Center

Sun Prints with Marion Ellisalde

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Community Center

Puppet Show with Mary Vuorela

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Hudson War Memorial Library

**Community Dances with
L'Association Québécoise des loisirs folkloriques**

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | Community Center

Sunday, September 27

Watercolour Workshop with Gisèle Lapalme

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Hudson Creative Hub

Puppet Show with Mary Vuorela

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | Hudson War Memorial Library

Cyanotype Workshop with Stephanie Rault

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Benson Park
(In case of rain - Hudson Creative Hub)

Freehand Henna Workshop with Indu Khaitan

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Hudson Creative Hub

Bollywood Dance Workshop with Kuljit Sodhi

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | Hudson Creative Hub

WOW

Ça fait du bien!



For more information
visit hudson.quebec



Never a Dull Moment, continued from page 1

Broadway tunes, sung by members of the Encore Theatre Group on July 26, as well as a lively Bollywood event, including dancing and delicious food on Aug. 22." Jazz in the Garden", on August 2, became "Jazz in the Dining Room" due to inclement weather, but sounded lovely nevertheless! The annual "Theatre on the Lawn" took place August 29 and 30, featuring "The Plays the Thing", presented by the Hudson Players Club. And on August 30 Greenwood's first ever Art and Collectibles Sale happened at the Community Centre.

Storyfest, an authors series under the auspices of Greenwood, welcomed food writer Leslie Chesterman and cartoonist Terry Mosher (Aislin) to pre-season sold-out events at the Community Centre. The full line-up of authors scheduled for their annual autumn series, will soon to be posted on the **Storyfest** website. Stay tuned.

The Hudson Creative Hub hosted concerts by Duo Chartré Salov on August 3, as well as another of its popular Spotlight Songwriters Series- Duos and Collaborations programs on August 22. An exhibition of the work of folk artist Linda Standing will continue into September.

The Hudson Fine Craft group has mounted a diverse exhibition of multi-media works by several of its members called "Ignite" in the Rigaud Library. It is there until early September.

Venturing a little farther afield the **Lakeshore Association of Artists** will be holding its exhibition, "Expo by the Lake" Sept. 19 and 20 at Centennial Hall in Beaconsfield, 288 Blvd. Beaconsfield. from 10:00- 5:00. rain or shine. Definitely worth the trip!

Journées de la Culture, continued from page 1

hundreds of free, accessible and participatory activities.

This year's theme, La culture fait du bien, celebrates the power of culture to enrich our lives, bring people together, spark curiosity and change the way we see the world.

Over the course of the weekend, Hudson residents can explore visual arts, theatre, storytelling, dance, puppetry and hands-on creative workshops led by artists and cultural organizations from Hudson and beyond.

Whether you already have a creative passion or haven't attempted anything artistic since elementary school, you're invited to jump in. No experience required; curiosity will do nicely!

For the Town, participating in Les Journées de la culture is an opportunity to celebrate Hudson's vibrant cultural life while making artistic experiences accessible to everyone. Culture isn't something that only happens on a stage or hangs on a gallery wall. It is something we can experience, create and share together.

So clear some space in your calendar for September 26 and 27, bring a friend or the family, and come try something new.

All activities are free. See the full program in the ad on the left and start planning your weekend!

Rules for Playing Risk by Kristen Da Silva

Performed at the Hudson Village Theatre

reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

Garfield is a grumpy, rumples, retired firefighter who lives alone in a rundown house. He is resentful of anybody or anything that might disturb his existence. But he has health issues, and must tolerate regular visits from a feisty caregiver, who subjects him to indignities he doesn't think he needs.

On top of that, he must now adjust to the arrival of a teenage grandson he hasn't seen since the boy was one year old. This boy, Brandon, has gotten into some trouble. He is under house arrest, and his mother, who still works, is unable to take care of him. A generation gap yawns between these two, where every conversation is rooted in different attitudes, different focus, different intensity, even a different dialect of the English language! What could they possibly have in common?

Some serious relationship-building is needed here. And could there be a more potent metaphor for what might provide that than a board game? A board game, in this case, called Risk, requiring both luck and strategy, where the goal is (I looked it up!) world domination!

Their game has been going on for some time now. The floor is littered with plastic bottles and cereal boxes, and things are getting heated.

Garfield is concentrated on trying to plot his next move. Brandon, on the other hand, wants to talk about his dad, whom he never met! His father was in prison and died before Brandon was born, and no one will give him any information. Family secrets can be toxic and yes, this conversation is in trouble!

Over time and over the gameboard, Garfield and Brandon come to an unsteady accommodation, as they plan their attacks and manage to communicate on a certain level. They both have experienced trauma, and both have hidden anger. But their relationship could still develop into something really special. Special, that is, if they learn to speak the same language, to open up to each other, and yes, to take a Risk!

This play was written by Canadian playwright Kristen Da Silva and directed by Trevor Barrette. The dialogue is sharp, and

beautifully delivered by the actors.

Sarcasm and irony trump sentimentality as the characters become people we begin to care about and start rooting for. Matt Holland as Garfield becomes the old guy, complete with attitude, antagonism and a little bit of pathos. Brandon (Ryan Hill) is a kid totally insulated by his ear phones, cell phone and the Internet from his own trauma. We all know a kid like him, who makes us want to laugh and weep at the same time. And what can we say about Maggie (Anne-Marie Saheb), who keeps the action moving forward with her unclouded observations and threats of enemas and other terrifying procedures! She is brilliant.

The set was spot on - you could almost smell it. Up close, amid the chaos, I could pick out a rotary phone, a turntable with vinyl records, a toilet plunger, and Astro-turf. It was totally retro!

And you could tell the audience loved this play. Thanks to great acting, and great directing, we were with these guys from start to finish. Kudos are due as well to the talented backstage crew whose handling of the lighting, music and technical effects added so much to the production.

The Rules of Playing Risk, played at the Hudson Village Theatre from July 8 to 18, and was the first play of its summer season. We look forward to what lies ahead!

**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

Greenwood StoryFest 2026



25 years of
celebrating
Canadian writers!

25 ans à la
découverte des
écrivains canadiens !



Hudson, Québec

Greenwood StoryFest 2026

Centre Communautaire Stephen F. Shaar
19h 30 / 7:30 p.m.

MON, APR 27: ELIZA REID
THE FIRST LADY NEXT DOOR

TUE, MAY 19: LESLEY CHESTERMAN
A MONTREAL COOK

SUN, AUG 9: TERRY MOSHER
JEAN DRAPEAU'S BABY: AISLIN'S 1976
MONTREAL OLYMPIC SCRAPBOOK

TUES, OCT 6: MICHAEL CRUMMEY
THE ADVERSARY

THURS, OCT 8: ANITA RAU BADAMI
ASHA IN HER GARDEN

FRI, OCT 23: GAIL ANDERSON-DARGATZ
THE ATLAS KEEPER

SUN, OCT 25: MICHELLE GOOD
ELIZA SUNSHINE

SUN, NOV 1: MARY WALSH
A BRASSY BIT OF AGING CRUMPT

SUN, NOV 8: PETER MANSBRIDGE
A NOBLE PROFESSION

www.greenwoodstoryfest.org

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THE 1019 REPORT

THE 1510 WEST



HUDSON

MAISON HUDSON



HUDSON

MAISON HUDSON



(Parrydisse, continued from page 3)

documentary and with **Suited5 Productions** we are often busy making corporate ads for companies, so the timetable for this documentary isn't determined. If I'd have to make a guess, I'll say during the first half of 2027."

And between now and then? Says Mitchell, "We will release a video including the first section of the documentary when he leaves for Peru. You'll be able to watch it on **Kerrsens.com** and **Suited5.com**. Ideally, we'll show the full documentary in front of an audience for the goal is for his message to reach as many people as possible."

So much for the specifics, but just had to ask. Have you hiked much yourself Mitchell?

"I haven't hiked much, but I've started getting into it more recently. Being active and playing sports has been something me and Kerrsen have shared since we first met. We were on the same football team when we were younger, and basketball has been a core part of our friendship since high school. It's not uncommon for us to drive downtown and play with whoever's on the court. It's a great way to meet people."

In closing, like him, you are also embarking on a new adventure. How do you feel about this? Explains Mitchell, "I am so grateful to be part of something greater than me and see Peru with my own eyes. I've never been to South America, so the environment will be unlike anything I'm used to. **Robert** and **Brigitte McKinnon** of the Pure Art Foundation are wonderful people, and I'm looking forward to working alongside them. Kerrsen was inspired to do this project after volunteering last year, so I know this trip has the power to really change people. I'm excited to meet the family, spend time with the people who live there, and learn more about this world."

Way to go Mitchell! I'm sure you and your small team at Suited5 Productions will come up with a winner and can't wait to see it!

HOW CAN THIS BAND FAIL TO BE A HIT?

And now to music. Over the years, I've had the good fortune as a journalist to have conducted one-on-one interviews with some internationally-renowned singers, bands, and groups of virtually every stripe and genre. In **England**, as a young reporter for the *Middlesbrough Gazette* back in the early 60's, I actually interviewed **The Beatles**, **The Rolling Stones**, **Tom Jones** and **Englebert Humperdinck** (both of whom are still giving shows at **Place Des Arts** in **Montreal** every other year incidentally) and even **Freddy and the Dreamers** who were big back then,

believe it or not. Here in **Canada**, I've done the same with the legendary **Dame Vera Lynn** and the **Irish Rovers**. Go figure!

But never ever have I met, let alone interviewed, a self-described hard rock/metal/punk band. Until now that is. Comprising four young talented and committed local guys with a passion for their music and with the most unlikely name of **Fail To Be**. Three of whom work at the **IGA** in **Hudson** and the other at **Canadian Tire** in **Vaudreuil**.

So a big hand folks in sequence for **Jack Simpson** (21) lead guitar and vocals who studies at **John Abbott College**. **Josh Leblanc** (22) rhythm guitar and backing vocals who graduated from the sound engineering program at **Vanier College**. And another two John Abbot students, **Vittorio Di Biasio** (18) bass guitar, backing vocals, and **Chase Cowan Rosenfeld** (18) on drums.

Caught up with Jack and Josh recently. Where else but at IGA during their break where I first learned about the group? And my first question just had to be, How did you come up with such a crazy name as Fail to Be?

Replied Jack without missing a beat, "It comes from an obscure trash metal band from the early 90's called **Sanctus** which has a song with that title. Before that, we went by the name of **Cholera Pit**. But I would also like to add that we don't have one specific genre." Holy moley, I thought. That's setting the record straight, pardon the pun.

Equally fascinated to learn that Jack and Vittorio, who go all the way back to primary school and who were into similar music genres, originally formed a guitar duo in mid 2024 and so naturally thought it necessary to jam. Then along came Josh and Chase and the rest, as they say, is history. Albeit very recent!

"In fact," says Jack, "We like to keep a steady rehearsal routine and jam once a week in Chase's basement when all goes to plan. We also practice consistently on our own time. We

all have different influences, which is interesting in the creative aspect of the band ranging from **The Beatles** all the way to **Slipknot**. We like to listen to all kinds of music and take what we like from what we hear and include it in our own material. For example, **Green Day**, **Linkin Park**, **Metallica**, **Pantera**, **Black Sabbath**, **Nirvana** and **Guns N Roses**. And our local heroes include **Rush**, **Sam Roberts** and **The Tragically Hip**."

As for the band's first official gig on stage, this was at the **Hudson Community Centre** in May last year. How did it go down? Explains Jack very philosophically, "For a first gig, it went relatively well. However, the environment wasn't really suited for our style of music and they didn't supply the best audio equipment." Which certainly won't be the case with their next gig



The boys in the band (from left to right) Chase, Josh, Vittorio, and Jack, ham it up for the camera while taking time out from rehearsals for the upcoming Battle of the Bands in September.

Photo by James Parry

on September 12 at **Chez Maurice** in **St. Lazare** when they compete in the legendary **Battle of the Bands**. Adds Jack, "It's an audience based voting system so the more people on our side the better chance we have of winning."

What's more, if you have seen them on stage before you could well be in for a surprise. For up until quite recently, they were a trio until Chase joined on drums and Josh gave up the sticks to play rhythm guitar.

Meanwhile, the band is currently working on an EP of five to six songs with Jack and Josh contributing most of the writing and arranging, while Vittorio and Chase are also contributing with ideas and riffs or perhaps even suggesting something different altogether.

(continued on page 10)

What the Film Society is Offering

by Clint Ward, President

Let me start off by stating that this is my unfiltered view and does not necessarily represent the opinions of other committee members of the Society. My love of film, not necessarily as an art form, I was too young for that, began some 84 years ago. My mother gave me 35 cents for a haircut, and I would take that to the barber's school where it could be done for 10 cents. That would leave me with a quarter which was enough for entrance to the Saturday Movie Theatre. We got a lot for 25 cents – the Movietone News Reel, a cartoon, a trailer for the next week's film, a short film series and the main film – maybe even two if it was a double feature. In high school it became the major part of a date night. It wasn't until 56 years ago that film started to be more than entertainment but maybe something reaching the art realm. 49 years ago, I became a TIFF regular, and film began to be a major influence in my cultural life. 21 years ago, I was one of the founders of the Hudson Film Society. Perhaps the conclusion might be, Movies have been a big part of my life, and all those years have earned the right to have an opinion or two.

The three years of the Pandemic had a big effect on how we encounter our movie desires. During the three years, many movie theatres closed and the making of Home Theatres flourished. Giant TV screens became the centre of that experience. Streaming services provided the content and almost overnight staying home to watch a movie was a preferred activity. Maybe we should rethink that.

Sean Baker, director, writer, producer of **Anora** – the 2025 Oscar winning film said in his acceptance speech - "We're all here tonight and watching this broadcast because we love movies. Where did we fall in love with movies? At the movie theater. Watching a film in a theater with an audience is an experience. We can laugh together, cry together, scream and fright together, perhaps sit in devastated silence together. And in a time in which the world can feel very divided, this is more important than ever. It's a communal experience you simply don't get at home." "Filmmakers keep making films for the big screen, I know I will. Distributors, please focus first and foremost on the theatrical releases of your films. Parents, introduce

your children to feature films in movie theaters and you will be molding the next generation of movie lovers and filmmakers. And for all of us, when we can, please watch movies in a theater and let's keep the great tradition of the moviegoing experience alive and well. If we don't, we'll be losing a vital part of our culture."

Swedish actor, Stellan Skarsgard won the 2026 Golden Globe Supporting Actor award for his performance in **Sentimental Value** and in his acceptance speech he said, "I could spend the next 6 minutes to thank everybody in the credits of the film – even though they know I love them. Hopefully you'll see it in a cinema because they are an extinguished species now. In a cinema when the lights go down and eventually you share the pulse with some other people. That's Magic! Cinema should be seen in Cinemas!"

A new 2026 documentary film, **"The Last Picture Shows"**, is a loving tribute to a piece of our collective history that is vital to hold onto. As long as cinephiles and lovers of culture and social gatherings exist, the cinema as an experience outside the house will never die."

This is what the Hudson Film Society is offering – an experience outside the house where the magic of Sean Baker's description comes to life. Or the hope that Stellan Skarsgard details is realized. Or a valued Cultural experience remains as part of our lives. We are fortunate to have an active intimate theatre in our Town and the opportunity to enjoy the social gathering of the best kind of the film experience once a month in the Fall and

Winter and during our yearly seven-day Film Festival in April. And as a bonus the local film society programs the best of Canadian and International films that have real stories to tell. Films that Elevate & Inspire - Transform & Entertain - Surprise & Challenge.

The 2026/2027 **Monday at the Movies** season begins on September 21 with a new film by an Oscar winning director and the emergence of a new star actor. In Academy Award-winning director Daniel Roher's first narrative feature, Leo Woodall stars as a gifted young piano tuner whose heightened sense of hearing draws the attention of criminals, who see his talents as useful for opening safes as well as for tuning Steinways. With his once-promising musical career over, he works across New York with his mentor Harry Horowitz (Academy Award-winner Dustin Hoffman), encountering a range of characters, including composition student Ruthie (Havana Rose Liu), with whom he forges an unexpected connection. Niki's safecracking work threatens his budding romance with Ruthie and pulls him into increasingly dangerous territory. Announcing Leo Woodall as a compelling star talent, **Tuner** enhances its nifty caper setup with a smart sense of humor and vivid characterizations.

The October film was suggested by a long-time member of the Film Society Committee, the late Michael Whalen. To honour his memory, we will be screening his film choice by his favourite French

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Tuner, with Leo Woodall and Dustin Hoffman



Peru, continued from page 1

"I've done things like walk the Camino de Santiago in Spain, hike across Costa Rica, backpack extensively through South America and Southeast Asia, travel across Vietnam by motorbike, and spent time volunteering in Peru and elsewhere.

"Originally, I think I was drawn to travel mostly because I loved adventure and the unknown. Over time, though, my relationship with travel has changed. I've become much more interested in how it can connect us with people, challenge the way we see the world, and hopefully allow us to contribute something rather than simply consume experiences."

Q: *When and why did you first become involved with Pure Art?*

A: "Pure Art has actually been part of my awareness for most of my life. Growing up in Hudson, I remember going into the Pure Art boutique as a kid to buy gifts for my mom. So although I wasn't involved with the Foundation at that point, it was always this organization that existed within my community.

"My actual involvement began when I joined them for their build trip to Pucallpa in October 2025. By that point I had already spent quite a bit of time travelling and volunteering, and the opportunity really aligned with the direction my life was beginning to take. I loved that it combined travel with something tangible and purposeful, while also being connected to an organization from the community where I grew up. I went there expecting to help build a house. I don't think I realized how deeply the experience would affect me or that it would ultimately become the catalyst for what I'm doing now."

Q: *Could you elaborate?*

A: "My role was essentially to be part of the volunteer team building a home for a family there. We were physically involved in the construction while also spending time within the community. It was honestly an incredible experience. I fell in love with the people, the culture, and especially the strong sense of family and community I encountered there.

"At the same time, it was confronting. You have this beautiful experience of seeing what one home can mean to one family, while simultane-

ously becoming much more aware of the scale of poverty and inequality around you. I remember leaving with two almost conflicting feelings: immense gratitude for what we'd been able to contribute, but also a feeling that we had barely made a dent. That stayed with me.

"Eventually it led me toward a realization that has become central to this project: I can't solve every problem I encounter, but that can't become an excuse for doing nothing. I can take responsibility for the actions that are within my control."

Q: *So how and why did you first decide to undertake this marathon hike?*



Kerssen and his cinematographer friend Mitchell Aboud (right) take a break while hiking together in the Adirondacks in New York State earlier this August.

Photo courtesy of Mitchell Aboud

A: "The idea grew organically out of that experience in Pucallpa. I knew I wanted to return to Peru, but I didn't want to simply go back and backpack around the country. Over the past few years, I've started questioning my own relationship with travel. After a while, I found that simply seeing beautiful places and doing cool things wasn't fulfilling me in the same way anymore.

"I started feeling that travel without some form of purpose could become very consumptive—you arrive somewhere, take in everything it has to offer you, and then move on to the next place. The Pure Art trip showed me another way of travelling. So I started thinking about how I could combine two things I care deeply about. Adventure and service.

"Eventually, that became **One Step At A Time**. a roughly 1,000-kilometre journey across Peru to raise money for Pure Art and help fund another home for a family in Pucallpa. Building that home is the tangible goal, but the purpose of the project goes deeper for me. I want to encourage people, including myself, to question

what we're doing with our time, energy, and opportunities. The problems of the world can feel so enormous that it's incredibly easy to convince ourselves our individual actions don't matter. I don't believe that's true. We may not control the entire world, but we do have responsibility for our next step. That's really what One Step At A Time means."

Q: *What is our planned route?*

A: "This has changed considerably since the original idea. Initially, I was planning to begin in Cusco and walk toward Pucallpa. However, the Pope's visit to Peru, including Pucallpa, coincided with the period when Pure Art had originally planned its next build. They had to move the dates of the build, which meant I also had to move the dates of my expedition.

"That forced me to reconsider the route, and in the end I actually think it created something even more meaningful. I will now begin in **Trujillo**, on Peru's Pacific coast. Trujillo already has personal significance for me because I volunteered there teaching English two years ago. From there I'll head toward the **Andes** and **Huaraz**, eventually taking on the **Huayhuash trek**, one of the most spectacular high-altitude trekking regions in the Andes.

"From there I'll continue east across Peru, eventually descending from the Andes toward the **Amazon Basin** and finishing in **Pucallpa**, where my experience with Pure Art began. However, some of the exact route after Huayhuash will remain flexible. On an expedition like this, I don't think it would be responsible to pretend that I know exactly what every kilometre will look like before arriving. Weather, road and trail conditions, safety, accommoda-

tion, resupply, and information from people on the ground will all influence the exact path.

“What I love about the new route is that I’m essentially connecting two places in Peru that have already played important roles in my life. I’ll begin in Trujillo, where I previously volunteered, and finish in Pucallpa, where this project was born. Geographically, I’ll also experience an incredible cross-section of Peru. Beginning at the **Pacific Ocean**, climbing high into the Andes mountains, and ultimately descending into the Amazon.”

Q: *I believe you are aiming to complete it in about 50 days. Correct?*

A: “That’s the goal. It’s difficult to give an exact distance or number of days before actually being on the ground, but that’s what I’m aiming for. That works out to around 20 kilometres per day on average, but I definitely won’t be walking exactly 20 kilometres every day. There will be relatively easy days and extremely difficult ones, especially once elevation becomes a major factor. The 50 days gives me a framework, but adaptability is going to be essential.

Q: *Will you be hiking solo and where do you plan on staying overnight?*

A: “For the majority of the expedition, I’ll be walking solo. However, three of my closest friends - **Mitchell Aboud**, **Bradley Mastine**, and **Luca Zourikian** will eventually join me in Peru. Bradley plans to join me for roughly the final week or two of the walk. Mitchell and Luca will arrive for the last few days, and then all three will join me and Pure Art for the actual house build.

“Mitchell is also helping document the project. (See separate story in **Parrydis** on p. 2) He’s part of **Suited 5 Productions**, a production company created by several friends, and he’s already been filming the preparation and lead-up to the expedition for a mini-documentary. My friend **Zach**, whom I’ve known since kindergarten, is also heavily involved with the documentary through Suited 5.

“Accommodation during the walk will be a mixture of camping and whatever safe local accommodation is available such as hostels, hospedajes, and other small places where I will feel secure. I’m also carrying a complete

camping setup because there will inevitably be stretches where there simply isn’t accommodation available. Part of the adventure for me is accepting that I won’t know exactly where every night will end.”

Q: *Given at times the difficult, steep, and perhaps even treacherous terrain and the challenges that this poses, how has this factored into planning your route?*

A: “It’s been one of the biggest considerations. A thousand kilometres sounds difficult on its own, but the distance doesn’t really tell the whole story. I’m beginning at sea level, climbing into the high Andes, taking on terrain in the

purity of being able to say I walked every conceivable kilometre. If information on the ground tells me a particular stretch is unsafe or genuinely unreasonable, I’m willing to adapt. The challenge is finding the balance between making this a genuine expedition and not taking unnecessary risks simply for the sake of saying I followed a particular line on a map.”

Q: *What do you expect to be some of the most memorable highlights of this adventure and why?*

A: “The incredible thing is that I suspect the moments I remember most won’t necessarily be the ones I’m expecting. Obviously, I’m incredibly excited about the landscapes. Walking from the Pacific coast into the Andes, hiking through Huayhuash, and eventually watching the environment transform as I descend toward the Amazon should be extraordinary.

“I’m also excited about the physical challenge. There will inevitably be moments where I’m exhausted and don’t want to keep walking, and there’s something about discovering how you respond in those situations that has always attracted me to these kinds of adventures.

But some of my favourite memories from travelling have come from things I could never have planned such as meeting someone on the side of the road, being welcomed into a community, getting completely lost, having a plan fall apart and discovering something better because of it. I’m expecting the human interactions along the route to become some of the most meaningful parts of the journey.

“And then there’s Pucallpa. After roughly 1,000 kilometres, arriving on foot at the place where this entire idea began, and then being joined by some of my oldest friends to help build another home for a family that truly needs and deserves it, is going to be incredibly emotional.”

Q: *A rhetorical question I guess, but how did Robert and Brigitte McKinnon of Pure Art here in Hudson react when you first told them this adventure?*

A: “They were incredibly receptive. When I first properly presented the idea to them, they were enthusiastic and supportive, which meant a lot



Kerssen enthalls youngsters when volunteering last year in the little Peruvian village of Pucallpa and helping to build a house there.

Photo courtesy of KBP

Huayhuash region, and eventually descending into the heat and humidity of the Amazon. That means I’m preparing for dramatically different elevations, temperatures, weather conditions and environments within one expedition.

“I’ve spent a lot of time thinking about water, food, resupply, camping, elevation, navigation, weather, and where there are settlements along the route. Safety also takes priority over the

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And so the rehearsals continue. And how do their families feel about their aspirations? Says Jack in what has to be the epitome of an understatement, "They are all quite supportive and are involved with what we do. I mean they even let us play late at night very loudly and attend all our gigs."

With such commitment and dedication how can these young guys possibly fail! And to learn more, you can find them on instagram:

@fail_to_be

And that's a wrap!

director François Ozon who deftly walks a tonal tightrope with ***When Fall is Coming***. It is a darkly funny thriller given genuine humanity by the storytelling that is never unclear unless it's meant to be. If you have a taste for cozy unease, Ozon knows the recipe better than most and is aided by the sympathetic, sinuous performance of Hélène Vincent, in the lead role of a grand-mère who may not be as simply sweet as she first appears.

A very interesting film selection has been made for November as the film is the feature directorial debut of Hasan Hadi and was filmed entirely in Iraq, using mostly untrained actors. While people across 1990's Iraq struggle to survive, 9-year-old Lamia has been selected to prepare a cake to celebrate the President's birthday. In a landscape of fear and scarcity, where basic ingredients are nearly impossible to find, Lamia sets out on a determined journey throughout the big city in search of eggs, flour, and sugar. Accompanied by her grandmother, her loyal friend Saeed, and her pet rooster Hindi, she navigates vendors and police officers along the way. This detail-rich and tremendously moving moral fable uncovers harsh realities in Iraqi society without departing from the earnest perspective of its knee-high protagonist, and without diminishing the dignity or value of her hopes and dreams. ***The President's Cake*** is a very unique cinema experience.

If you would like to join the idea that the best way to see cinema is to do it in a cinema with an audience to share and enhance the experience then become a member of the Hudson Film Society. Go to the website for information and a membership form.

hudsonfilmsociety.ca

"For me, the Cinema is not a slice of life, but a piece of Cake"

Alfred Hitchcock

Parc Centennial Park



L'association des artistes du Lakeshore

Un tiers des recettes sera versé à
Services Communautaires On Rock.

Don de tableau par **Martine Legrand**.

Beau temps, mauvais temps | Rain or shine

Lakeshore Association of Artists

One third of proceeds will benefit
On Rock Community Services.

Painting donated by **Martine Legrand**.

Greenwood StoryFest 25th Anniversary

by Karen Molson, special contributor

Read on!

As most readers of Arts Hudson already know, Greenwood's StoryFest is joyfully celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. But do you know about our amazing fall line-up? Read on!

For this anniversary year, we have invited back some of StoryFest's favourite authors from the last two and a half decades who have brand-new or very recent award-winning books, to take part again in Hudson's very own special literary festival.

The literary luminaries begin arriving October 6th when beloved Newfoundland writer **Michael Crummey** is our guest. His novels have consistently become national bestsellers, and he has been awarded national and international prizes for his works of fiction and poetry. His latest novel, *The Adversary*, was the winner of the 2025 Dublin Literary Award.



Photo by Chris Bellew, Fennells Photography

Anita Rau Badami comes to StoryFest on October 8th. Another bestselling novelist, she has been recognized with numerous awards, including the prestigious Orange Prize for Fiction, the Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction, and the Marian Engel Award. Her latest novel, *Asha's Garden*, tells the story of an older woman in Montreal who finds sanctuary in her garden, where a tree is reaching the end of its life. Asha re-examines her traumatic past and finds new clarity about who she is and how she can transform her life.



On October 23rd, **Gail Anderson-Dargatz** comes to town! This compelling author's first novel, *The Cure for Death by Lightning*, was a finalist for the Giller Prize and also won awards in the U.K. and British Columbia. Her other novels, including *A Recipe for Bees*, *The Spawning Grounds*, *The Almost Wife* and *The Almost Widow*, were all bestsellers and nominated and shortlisted for a series of prizes.



Her new novel, *The Atlas Keeper*, follows the life of a young woman who finds an atlas filled with maps that have special power to send her to pivotal points in her life. Ultimately, she finds herself at a crossroads having to choose between a familiar path or an uncharted one.

Acclaimed Cree writer **Michelle Good** will be here in person on October 25th! Her first appearance before a StoryFest audience had to be online because of COVID. She will be sharing her new and immediately bestselling novel, *Eliza Sunshine*. This story, which spans generations, examines the multilayered effects of the 19th century decimation of the buffalo across Canada's Prairies.



A widely known comedian, the creator and star of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, none other than **Mary Walsh** makes a return appearance on

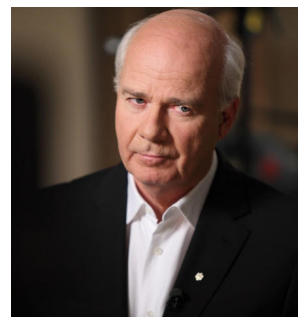


November 1st. She will be here with her disarmingly vulnerable and wickedly hilarious collection of essays titled *Brassy Bit of Aging Crumpet*.

Winner of numerous Gemini and other Canadian Screen awards, she has produced and also starred in award-winning series and feature-length television presentations. Her debut novel, *Crying for the Moon*, was a Canadian bestseller.

Currently working on several other projects, she is an outspoken advocate for mental health and addiction awareness, among other good causes. An Order of Canada Member and recipient of the Governor General's Lifetime Achievement Award for the Performing Arts, her new "memoir in pieces" is both sharply insightful and wryly funny.

Last but not least, StoryFest's 2026 welcomes, for the first time, one of Canada's most respected journalists, **Peter**



Mansbridge, on November 8th. The former chief correspondent for CBC News, anchor of *The National*, and host of *Mansbridge One on One*, as well as a distinguished fellow of the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto, a two-term chancellor of Mount Allison University, and an Officer of the Order of Canada, has too many awards to list here.

He will discuss his new co-authored book, *A Noble Profession: Inspiring Stories of the Teachers Who Shape Our World*.

Join StoryFest 2026 in its 25-year celebration of welcoming the best of Canada's writers! More information, along with tickets and passes, can be found at www.greenwoodstoryfest.com

Köln 75



Every one of these movies below played on our screen last season,
curated with care, and with TIFF.

We have a great selection in the works for 2026/27!

Join us today at hudsonfilmsociety.ca



Sentimental
Value



Meet the Barbarians



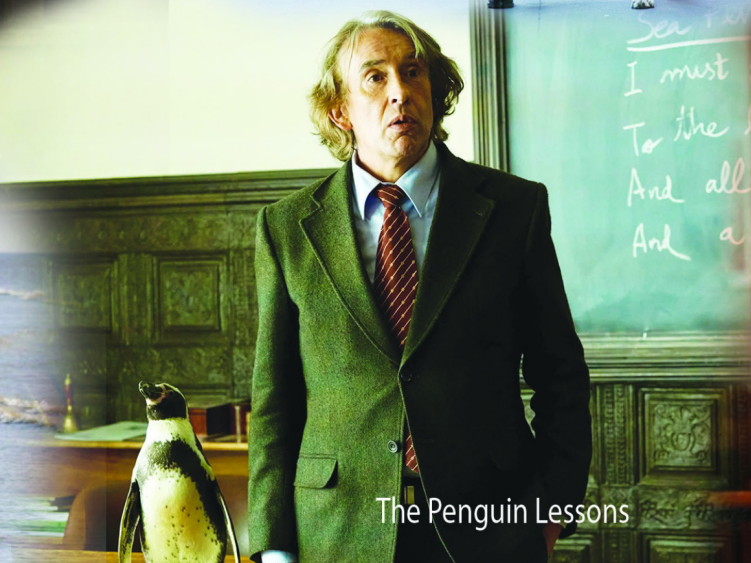
Blue Moon



The Friend



The Marching
Band



The Penguin Lessons



I'm Still Here

Last of the Red Hot Lovers by Neil Simon

Performed at the Village Theatre

Reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

Barney Cashman is a middle-aged guy with a lot going for him- successful business, loving wife, friends, social life, but it doesn't seem to be enough. This is the sixties after all, a time of free love, fast living, sex, drugs, and Barney feels he is missing out. An affair, he thinks, with someone more exciting or exotic? A little younger perhaps? And why not his mother's apartment, in the afternoon, empty when she is out doing volunteer work? Worth a try!

Coming into the theatre, the set is perfect- dark tones, discrete lighting, venetian blinds- total vintage feel. Barney enters the flat- cautiously, hangs his hat on the coat stand, places his briefcase on the table and carefully closes the venetian blinds. In the briefcase, a bottle of Scotch and two tumblers. You understand that Barney is a painstaking person. He brings what he needs, and will take it with him when he goes. A little OCD, Barney owns a fish restaurant, uses hand sanitizer a lot and smells his fingers to make sure. The doorbell rings.

Elaine is exotic, wrapped in fur, harsh in manner and makeup. Barney is nervous, defensive, not the relaxed man-of-the-world he would like to be. She is soon

bored, and they argue- but cleverly, pointedly, their comments fitting so neatly together that it sounds like they have been arguing like this forever. "Are you really as cold as you say you are?" "I need gloves to take off my underwear!"

Cigarettes are the dealbreaker. He didn't think to bring any, and she finally goes off to find some.

Barney is discouraged, but not giving up. He thinks he has learned a thing or two. For his second assignation, he is still careful, but brisker. His dark suit has become light coloured, his tie, brilliantly coloured. His briefcase now holds cigarettes and two bottles of booze, one scotch, one vodka. The doorbell rings and we meet Bobbi, a chattering, flowerchild, considerably younger than himself and traumatized by her roommate, a "Lesbian Nazi vocal coach". She does manage to make him feel protective and teaches him to smoke pot, to the tune of "What the World Needs Now is Love Sweet Love" But progress? I'm not sure.

Lastly, we meet Jeanette, a woman whom Barney actually knows. Jeanette dresses in dull neutral colours, wears fairly shapeless garments, and clutches her pocketbook to her chest like a lifejacket. Jeanette's thing is

guilt, sadly, and she is ashamed of herself for what she is doing.

Barney is not very lucky. He has invited three women over to help him feel better about himself, but each one has made him feel worse. The problem, it seems might be in Barney himself.

This play was acted in totality by two actors, Glen Bowser (Barney Cashman) and Karen Cromar (Elaine, Bobbi, and Jeanette). They have a long history of acting together, and the precision and skill of their performances was the evidence of that. Delivery of the dialogue was spot-on, and the eloquence of their body language and facial expressions brought the characters to life (all four of them!)

Credit is also due to an amazing set, designed and constructed by Adele Reeves and James Berryman, and the costumes, by Karen Pearce.

The Last of the Red-Hot Lovers, by Neil Simon opened on Broadway in 1969, and is absolutely a work of the 60's. It presents us with a funny yet profound critique of the shifts in behavior, morality, and expectations going on at that time.

I still remember those years, and found this play to be both entertaining and wise.

Richard III by William Shakespeare

performed by the Hudson Players at Jack Layton Park

reviewed by Kathryn Lamb

The nasty civil war politics of 15th century Britain, which culminated in the War of the Roses and the Battle of Bosworth Field created a backdrop for Shakespeare's memorable play, *Richard III*. Richard was a particularly unsympathetic character, reputedly handicapped and hunchbacked.

According to popular history, he acquired the throne through pretty nefarious means (even by medieval standards), so he was a natural for the role of villain. And what a villain Shakespeare created!

Steve Walters, in a tour de force, played the role of Richard III. Richard was sneaky and twisted, calculated and ruthless. Skillfully directed by Simon Côté, Steve's performance demanded our attention from start to finish throughout this long,

and complicated play. I have to say that, of all the roles have seen Steve perform over the years, this is the first without a single comedic line!

The acting was strong among the supporting cast as well, with great performances by Fiona Chandler (Queen Elizabeth), Jennifer Wade (Duke of Buckingham), and Genviève Grenier (Mayor of London) standing out. I enjoyed watching Bill Fletcher (Archbishop, assassin), Eric Sauvé (Hastings), Jean Frédéric Samson (Earl of Richmond) and Christopher Olsen (Earl Rivers, Tyrrell) as they conspired and plotted, murdered or were murdered, trying to figure out whose side they were on!

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Peru, continued from page 9

because this isn't exactly a conventional fundraiser. That's one of the things I love about working with Pure Art. There is a direct human connection to what we're raising money for. The kilometres, donations, social media posts, and documentary eventually lead back to something very simple. A family having a roof over their heads!"

Q: *And perhaps another rhetorical question. Have you always been interested in walking and hiking and why?*

A: "Definitely. I've always been very active. I played football for years, I've boxed, snowboarded and I've always loved being outdoors and challenging myself physically. Over the last few years, long-distance hiking in particular has become really important to me. I've walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain, crossed Costa Rica, coast to coast, on foot, and completed hikes and treks including Salkantay in Peru and Acatenango in Guatemala, among many others.

"There's something about walking that I find very pure. Life becomes incredibly simple. You wake up and you know what you have to do: put one foot in front of the other. You can't really cheat a long-distance walk. Motivation will disappear eventually, and then you have to learn consistency, patience and resilience. It's funny because those lessons are basically what this entire project has become about. One step at a time, literally."

Q: *How would you describe the support of the local community so far?*

A: "This has actually become a really important part of the project. Pure Art itself is rooted here, and the majority of the donations I've received so far have come from people in and around Hudson. Back in May, I also had the opportunity to speak locally about the project and explain what I'm trying to accomplish. But more than anything, I've been incredibly grateful for how supportive people have been. Whether that's donating, sharing the project, reaching out to me, or simply taking an interest in the journey.

"There's something really special to me about a project rooted in a small community like Hudson ultimately helping a family thousands of kilometres away in the Peruvian Amazon. It reinforces the entire philosophy behind One Step At A Time. None of us has to do everything. But when a community brings together a lot of seemingly small contributions, they can become something much greater."

Q: *Since May, have you been doing any special training for this marathon walk?*

A: "I've been trying to prepare in ways that fit naturally into my life. My job actually helps quite a bit because I run regularly with the dogs at the Care and Rehabilitation Centre. Outside of work I've been hiking in the surrounding areas, often with my own dog, and training at the gym. I also have the benefit of having done several long-distance walks and difficult treks before, so I have a pretty good understanding of what my body feels like after walking day after day.

"I think one of the biggest things I'm preparing for isn't a single huge physical effort. It's repetition. I don't need to be capable of walking one enormous day. I need to be capable of waking up after that day, putting the backpack on again and continuing.

A huge amount of preparation has also been logistical rather than physical: route planning, navigation, gear, camping systems, food, water, safety, communications, and figuring out how to be self-sufficient in remote areas."

DOCUMENTING THE TREK

Q: *How long have you known Mitchell, Bradley, and Luca who will be filming and documenting your adventure?*

A: "Mitchell and I met in Grade 7 and became friends through football. Actually, there's a really cool full-circle element to this trip. We were all part of the same football group growing up, and now all four of us are going to end up together in Peru for the final part of this project and the house build. Mitchell has become really aligned with what the project represents and has brought a perspective to it that I really value.

And there's another childhood connection behind the camera. Zach, who is also heavily involved with the documentary through Suited 5 Productions, has been my friend since kindergarten. So although I'm walking most of the expedition solo, this has become something that involves people I've known for a huge portion of my life."

Q: *And how do you feel about having this terrific trek documented for posterity?*

A: "I'm incredibly excited. I've been trying to commit much more seriously to documenting my experiences and expressing what I'm learning through them. This expedition feels like something that deserves more than a few social media clips. What makes having Mitchell involved especially exciting is that he knows me so well. He's not simply a filmmaker arriving in Peru and meeting the subject of a documentary. He knows who I am before this journey starts.

"I think that gives us an opportunity to docu-

ment not only the physical adventure. The landscapes, the exhaustion, the difficult moments. But also what happens internally throughout those 50 days.

The documentary isn't intended to just be, 'Look at this guy walking across Peru.' I want it to explore *why* I'm doing it, the people and communities I encounter, what the project means, and how the experience changes me. Having Mitchell and the rest of Suited 5 helping tell that story makes me really excited about what we can create."

Q: *In conclusion, when you return to Hudson, what do you hope to have taken away from this once in a lifetime experience?*

A: "The biggest thing I'd want people to understand is that One Step At A Time isn't really just about walking across Peru. The walk is the vehicle. At its core, this project is about trying to understand what it means to live purposefully and take responsibility for the impact we have on the world around us.

"One of the most difficult realizations I've had through travelling and volunteering is understanding how enormous and deeply rooted many of the world's problems actually are. And also recognizing that I'm not separate from those systems. I participate in them too. That realization can be incredibly overwhelming. You start thinking *What difference could I possibly make?*

"I'm going to walk 1,000 kilometres and hopefully build one house. That's not going to solve global inequality. I know that. But I've also realized that understanding the magnitude of a problem cannot become an excuse for inaction. I don't believe you do the right thing because you're guaranteed the outcome you want. You do it because you believe it's the right thing to do.

"I can't control everything happening in the world. None of us can. But we can take responsibility for the next step. That's why the project is called One Step At A Time. Maybe no single step changes the world. But standing still certainly won't. And I believe that when enough people begin moving in the right direction together, those individual steps can become something much greater than any one of us."

In closing, should readers wish to support Kerrsen and this wonderful initiative go to One Step At A Time Movement – GoFundMe and you can find out more at Kerrsen.com. His current fundraising goal is \$12,000. Bon voyage Kerrsen and keep on trekking!

Memories of Hudson

The Trains, the Tracks and the Station

by Philip Habib, special contributor

The back of our property at 448 Main Road (then 86 main Road), ran parallel to the railway track, which at the time was the busy and well travelled "chemin de fer" for the daily commuter trains from Rigaud to Montreal, freight trains, and for the "Canadian", noted for its famous all stainless steel panoramic "dome" car, the interior of which was adorned with stunning murals by leading Canadian artists including Group of Seven members. Genuinely worthy of its celebrity status, this gem crisscrossed the expansive and beautiful Canadian landscape..."The first and only all-stainless steel 'dome' stream-liner in Canada" boasted the CPR.

In 1960, at the tail end of an era when coal was king, Paul, my twin brother and I would sometimes saunter over to the nearby Hudson train station with our father, and marvel in awe at the steam powered locomotive - that enormous black iron horse, chug a chug chugging along the iron road as it approached the station.

The silver tinged rails, shiny, triumphantly gleaming and glinting in the sun from uninterrupted use, were bounded on the north side (Lake of Two Mountains) by a duller, rusty brown, lesser used railway siding; the abundance of trees on that side was their deep verdant green backdrop in summer and beautiful chromatic tapestry in autumn.

On the south side (Main Road), behind the Wilson Company, was the two storey reddish/maroon wooden clad train station, another secondary little used siding, and the early morning arriving Pontiacs, Chevrolets and Ford motor cars, parked facing the stone dust commuter platform, patiently and expectantly waiting in the dirt parking lot for their owners to return from their commute into Montreal - no Japanese, Korean or German cars parked in that lot.

Sometimes, we would walk east on the tracks, towards Como, making our way down to the lake on the rail spur that spun off the tracks just west of Beach Road and end up at the big cylindrical shaped Shell oil tanks perched high up on metal stilts just a stone's throw from Lucien Mallette's Lawn Boy place. And on our way, we'd pick up chunks of gravel from the gravel bed

that lay under the rails and between the fat brown wooden railway ties and pitch them at the greenish coloured glass insulators atop the tall wood telegraph poles adjacent to the track...our aim, pretty inaccurate, I don't think we hit many, if any....We played in the woods down there for hours on end.

Deliberately, slowly, unhurriedly, constant steam pressure pushing giant steel pistons back and forth; the locomotive, hauling its commanding charge, with herculean like strength, greyish white fumes belching from its imposing stack, majestically eases into the station. Gigantic black iron wheels tamely spinning in tandem gently squeal and hiss to a halt just in front of the **HUDSON** train station, its welcoming letters proudly displayed in bold black capitals for all to see. Now stationary, the locomotive is just feet short of the RR Xing on Wharf road, beside that humongous (to us) welcoming boulder located near the commuter train platform.

The smooth, almost polished like boulder had a slight slope to it. Flanked on one side by the station and the other side by Wharf Road, it was a pretty magical rock for us. Despite its dissimilarity in appearance, the rock was, somewhat, to a lesser degree, comparable in its popularity and magnetic draw as a play area as that iconic green wedge shaped rock on the shore of the Lake of Two Mountains near the HYC club house ...One God's creation and the other man's &/or woman's creation, we knew

those two rocks well and enjoyed playing on and around them often!

And when that marvelous gigantic tubular shaped steam apparatus on wheels and its load was temporarily shunted off, standing idle on the siding, and fortune came our way because our timing was right, the train man would invite us to visit the inside of the big reddish brown caboose coupled at the rear. This wooden shelter on iron wheels, complete with kitchen, was a respite, a home away from home, for the hardworking and weary traveling train crew. What more could two young boys ask for? We were in railway heaven! Today, only a distant memory, we lucky kids got to experience all of this in real time. And that magnificent and proud locomotive, Canadian Pacific No. 2816, eminently worthy of more than a mere gold watch, retired after completing its final mission on May 26, 1960, after racking up more than 3.2 million kilometres in active service in various capacities.

Indeed wistful and fond memories of an era, when steam powered locomotives were at the precipice of their twilight years, indelibly inked in the museum of our minds. And now, only to be experienced in antique railway exhibits or books or on some sort of electronic device.

To the east of the Habib property, was the old post office and, immediately next door to the west, Clara Clark's house, bordering



Wharf Road at the corner of Main. Ronnie Clark's (Clara's son) house was just north of her place, next to the tracks and, if we were lucky, Mr. Clark would give us permission to hike across his property and we'd take that short cut to get to Wharf Road and the train station.

The shortcut through Clark's property over to Wharf Road and the train station saved us valuable time and we often played at the station, especially on and around that giant boulder. We'd place coppers on the tracks, patiently waiting to retrieve and examine the flattened result of our experiment, needlessly wondering if somehow their placement might inadvertently cause a train derailment. And we would gingerly tight wire walk those narrow steel rails, carefully and deliberately placing one foot in front of the other, arms spread eagled for balance (kind of like the flying Wallendas) challenging each other to see who could "tight rope" the furthest distance without staggering and falling off.

When we were on our bikes over there, we would ride them on the train platform and head for the wooden ramp adjoined to the baggage room which was on the track side of the building. The baggage ramp resembled an inverted V which was flat at the top, its width maybe 5 feet, doubled as a great launch pad for our bicycles! We were sort of like amateur BMX stunt riders of the day. We had some close calls... no worries though... really nothing more than a few scrapes and bruises. Monsieur Piche, the Station Master and his wife lived at the station, upstairs on the second floor above the telegraph/ticket office and adjoining waiting room. From time to time we would get admonished for our dare devilish behaviour and other rambunctious antics



around there.

As they were approaching the RR Xing at Wharf Road and passing behind our property onward to their ultimate destinations, we'd hear the huge black iron behemoths and later, the diesel juggernauts roar by, the former, propelled by coal-fired steam and the latter, powered by diesel fuel, each with their distinctive smells permeating the air.

As its D.E.W.* the massive steam locomotive, announcing it was unstoppable and warning to "stay out of the way!" would rocket by sounding a repetitive and ear piercing blow of its steam whistle, emitting grand plumes of vapour. The big diesel goliath, at earth shaking, break neck speed, signalling again and again its impending presence with a cacophony of deafening well timed blasts (one long, two short and one long) of its air horn while simultaneously spewing grey/black whiffs of foul-

smelling fumes into the virgin country air. These impressive machines ruled the rails, their power unmistakable, and indeed awesome.

On occasion we'd get really lucky and happily watch and excitedly wave, as the small four wheeled gold/yellow rail handcar, (they were a lot more fun to watch than the motorized putt putt cars we'd also see from time to time) the handles vigorously pumped up and down in sync like a seesaw rising and falling, by a crew of two men in blueish grey work overalls, wheel its way forward on its way to conduct track inspections and maintenance somewhere down the line.

All to say, for sure, fond and forever memories of seemingly endless fun living in Hudson in another time near the tracks .

***Distant Early Warning**

Richard III, continued from page 13

The young actors were great too - Ash Samson, Cameron Carruthers, William Grenier McDermott and Lexie Wood - congratulations! And the musical score deserves a mention, especially the recurrence of the late 60's hit "I Did It My Way" which seemed particularly appropriate here.

We are lucky in Hudson to have this magical outdoor arena to perform Shakespeare, despite the unpredictable intervention of noise from boaters, picnickers and weather. Shakespeare by

the Lake, performed every summer by the Hudson Players Club, is always a memorable community event! I particularly loved this year's minimal set of a massive rustic throne - the perfect symbol for what I believe this play is about - a quest for power.

In recent years the legend of Richard III and his alleged murder of the two princes in the tower has spawned several conflicting versions. These have inspired clever modern film versions. contesting that Richard was a victim of

political machination and character assassination, and that the real villain was his successor, Henry V!!.

But of course, Shakespeare didn't know this, and so his villain had to die, in this case on Bosworth Field in 1485 murdered by several of his former supporters after a reign of barely three years. A true tragedy.

September 2026 Events

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

Soulville - A Tribute to Aretha Franklin, Jewelle McKenzie; Friday, September 11th and Saturday, September 12th at 8 pm

PorchFest Hudson, hudsonporchfest.ca

Saturday September 12th, 2026, 10 am, all through downtown Hudson

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

The Comedy and Music of Bowser and Blue; September 16th and 17th at 2 pm; Friday September 18th at 7:30 pm

Greenwood Centre, greenwoodcentre.org

Saturday September 19th, Treasures in the Kitchen, 10 am - 4 pm

Hudson Creative Hub, hudsoncreativehub.org

Sunday September 20th, Linda Standing Folk Art Artist, opening reception 2 - 4 pm

Hudson Film Society, hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Monday 21st, "Tuner" at Hudson Village Theatre, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Hudson Historical Society, hudsonhistory.ca

Helen Henshaw - The Architecture of Samuel Douglas Ritchie; Wednesday September 23rd, Community Centre, 7 - 10 pm

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

Storms - A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac; Friday, September 25th and Saturday, September 26th at 8:00 pm

Town of Hudson, hudson.quebec

Journées de la Culture, Community Centre, September 26th and 27th, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm; see story on page 1 and ad on page 4

October 2026 Events

Village Theatre, villagetheatre.ca

Saturday October 3rd 6:00 pm, Annual Fundraising Gala - Breaking Ground, Building Dreams, at Whitlock Golf and Country Club

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

Saturday, October 3rd 10am - 4pm, Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre 394 Main Road, Hudson

Greenwood Centre, greenwoodstoryfest.org

2026 StoryFest, all authors at the Community Centre, October 6th to November 8th, 7:30 pm; see story on page 11, ad on page 5

Hudson Creative Hub, hudsoncreativehub.org

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

Hudson Film Society, hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Sunday October 18th, "When Fall is Coming" at Hudson Village Theatre, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Hudson Artists, artisteshudsonartists.com

Hudson Artists Fall Exhibition at the Community Centre

Friday October 16th, 7- 9 pm with vernissage, Saturday October 17th, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday October 18th, 10 am to 4:30 pm

Hudson Historical Society, hudsonhistory.ca

Philip Habib - Memories of Hudson, see also article on page 15; Wednesday October 28th, Community Centre 7 - 10 pm

November 2026 Events

Greenwood Centre, greenwoodcentre.org

2026 StoryFest, continues until November 8th, all authors at the Community Centre; see story on page 11, ad on page 5

Hudson Creative Hub, hudsoncreativehub.org

Sunday November 8th, Jessica Rhaye with Preeper & MacKay, Timeless folk traditions, 8 pm

Hudson Chamber Music, hudsonchambermusic.ca

Sunday November 8th, Callista Trio: Elizabeth Dolin, cello, Laurence Kayaleh, violin and Lucas Porter, piano St. James Hall, 4 pm

Hudson Film Society, hudsonfilmsociety.ca

Sunday November 15th, "The President's Cake" at Hudson Village Theatre, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Annual Holiday
Pantomime



HUDSON
VILLAGE THEATRE



ALICE in Wonderland

by Tom Whalley



Directed by
**Katie McHugh &
Jean-Frédéric Samson**



DECEMBER 11 - JANUARY 3

MATINÉES AND EVENINGS



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