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June | July 2019



Celebrating 110 Years of History
St. Lawrence Park Brockville

Summer Sweet Treats & Eats
in Downtown Brockville

Lyn Heritage Place Museum
One Man's Architectural Legacy

A Touch of Olde Magick in Prescott

Thousand Islands Playhouse
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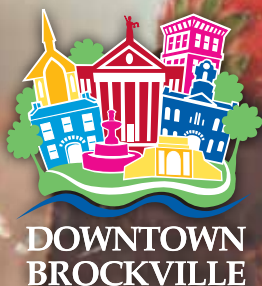
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Discover Your Inner Foodie In Downtown Brockville



Cover Photo by
Diann Turner

Living Here

Living Here Contact us: 613-342-0428
24 Peden Blvd, Brockville, On
www.livingherebrockville.weebly.com

Publisher/Advertising

Jon Marshall
jmarsh46@bell.net

Editor

Catherine Heritage

Contributing Writers:

Lorraine Payette, Sally Smid,
Lisa Crandall, Jonathan Vickers,
Diann Turner, Andi Christine Bednarzig,
Brian Porter

Advertising Sales:

Catherine Heritage
cateheritage@gmail.com | 613-342-0428

Living Here Magazine is locally owned by
Marshall Enterprises and is published

5 issues every year and distributed free in over 200+ locations throughout Brockville/Prescott/Gananoque and surrounding communities. The publisher assumes no responsibility for opinions expressed and reserves the right to edit or refuse contributions that are discriminatory or derogatory.

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(printed in Brockville by Henderson Printing)

Letters to the editor: jmarsh46@bell.net
Advertising: 613-342-0428, Jon Marshall

www.livingherebrockville.weebly.com

For those who would like to subscribe to Living Here, so you never miss an issue, you can for just \$25.00 (includes HST) This will give you 5 issues (1 full year) and will cover the cost of shipping and handling

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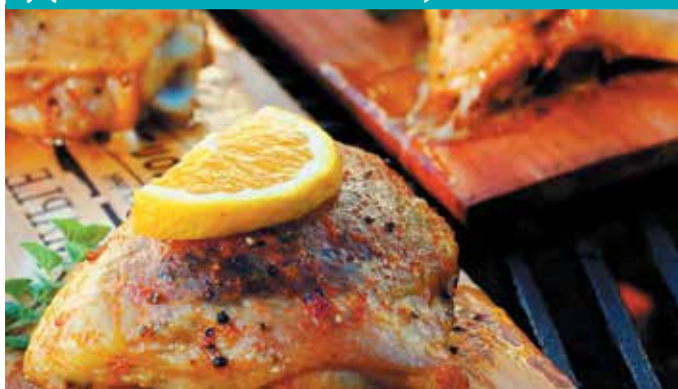
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Uncle Bucks Maple Oregano Grilled Chicken

Prep time: 40-45 minutes ~ Cook time: 10 minutes
Total time: 55 minutes ~ Serves 6

What you'll need...

- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 cup reduced sodium soy sauce
- 3 tbsps. olive oil, divided
- 1 shallot, minced
- 2 tbsps. fresh oregano
- 1 tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- Kosher or sea salt and fresh ground black pepper, to taste.
- 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts or boneless skinless chicken thighs butterflied

Bonus ingredient- Bourbon 1.5 oz

To Create:

- ➔ In a small bowl, combine maple syrup, soy sauce, 2 tbsps. olive oil, shallot, lemon juice, (bourbon), Dijon and garlic; season with salt and pepper to taste.
- ➔ In a gallon size Ziploc bag, combine maple syrup mixture and chicken; marinate for at least 30 minutes or overnight, turning the bag occasionally. Drain the chicken from the marinade, discarding the marinade.
- ➔ Preheat grill to medium high heat.
- ➔ Brush chicken with remaining 1 tbsp. olive oil; season with salt and pepper to taste. Add chicken to grill, and cook, turning occasionally, until chicken is completely cooked through, reaching an internal temperature of 165 degrees F, about 10 minutes.



Uncle Bucks No Bakey Key Lime Pie

Prep time: 10 Minutes ~ Chill time: 5-6 hours in fridge
Serves 10

What you'll need...

Crust:

- 1 prepared graham cracker pie crust (170g approx.)
- Can find at grocery stores, dollar stores, Walmart

Filling:

- 2-3 packages cream cheese room temperature (250g x 2 or x 3)
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/3 cup key lime or lime juice
- 1 tbsp. key lime or lime zest
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream, cold

To Create....

- ➔ In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with an electric mixer until smooth.
- ➔ Add sugar, lime juice, lime zest and vanilla, beat until smooth.
- ➔ Add cream and beat on low until assimilated, then beat on high until thickened and fluffy, until stiff peaks are formed.
- ➔ Spread into pie crust, cover and refrigerate for at least 5-6 hours or until firm.
- ➔ Slice and serve with sweetened whipped cream as desired.



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Far Left:
Dominion Day
July 1, 1927

Left:
Reynolds' Pavilion,
1950's

All images from Doug Grant

CELEBRATING 110 YEARS OF HISTORY

St. Lawrence Park Brockville

Special Contributor: Brian Porter

In 1900 Brockville was a town of 8500 people, with only two open green spaces – Court House Square and Victoria Park, former site of the graveyard for St. Peter's Anglican Church. There was a small park at the Waterworks pump house on Water St. The waterfront was an industrial area, all in private hands.

Our story begins a generation earlier, in the 1870's, when the Thousand Islands were being sold. Citizens in Brockville, Prescott and Gananoque lobbied the government of Sir John A. Macdonald not to sell the islands, but preserve them as parkland.

In 1883, Mayor Ezra Halladay and town council leased 29 islands for residents to use and finally purchased them fifty years later, in 1933 when Fred Wolthausen was mayor.

In 1887, Mayor George Dana and Council discussed purchasing the 33-acre riverfront property from the James Rivers family. (Rivers was manager of the Molson Bank 1873 – 85).

John Harris Fulford, older brother of Senator George Fulford, advocated "the advantages and necessity of a public park," but was not supported.

Twenty years later came the time for action – it was now or never. The newly established Brockville Board of Trade had a dynamic and colourful secretary, named William Shearer. He was a real estate broker who worked out of the Victoria Building. His slogan was "Let Brockville Flourish". In 1907, John Harris Fulford was mayor and the Board of Trade went after the "unused and untidy" Blockhouse Island, "for the benefit of the town." About 1910 a breakwater was extended west from Blockhouse Island.

Rumours began swirling that Melzar Avery, from Sharbot Lake, was going to buy the Rivers' waterfront property known as "The Pines," in order to harvest pine trees.

William Shearer took the lead and offered \$1000 (approx. \$23,000 in 2019 dollars) towards the purchase of the adjacent property of the late Judge George Malloch west of "The Pines" for a public park. He offered to help buy "The Pines" if the town would buy the Malloch property to make a larger park. After extensive and acrimonious debate in council in 1908, they decided the Malloch property would make a better park, because of the fine river frontage of 630 feet (189 m) and 855 feet (256m) back to the highway.

Mayor Charles S. Cossitt argued that the natural beauty would be a magnet for tourists as well. It was the only suitable public access to the river. The land was priced favourably and would be a good investment. Others argued against, complaining that taxpayers would be burdened with the debt for thirty years and that it was too far to walk, that there were costs to light, maintain and police. Besides, 29 islands were already leased. So public pressure was applied. Children were recruited. On June 29, 1908, school children marched to Court House Square carrying small tree branches and banners, reading "For My Sake, Vote for the Public Park".

The ratepayers were consulted and voted yes. On August 5, 1908, the land, now half the size offered for sale in 1887, was purchased from Archie Malloch for \$7500 (approx. \$170,000 in 2019 dollars). \$8000 was debentured over 30 years at 5% interest.



St. Lawrence Park, 2009

On April 5, 1909, town council under Mayor William H. Kyle passed a by-law officially creating St. Lawrence Park.

This beautiful park, with its granite out-crops, white pines and sandy beach, overlooks some city owned islands and is still a jewel of natural beauty and a beehive of summer activity for Brockville families and tourists alike.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. William Shearer and those public-spirited citizens and children of Brockville, one hundred and ten years ago. **LH**

We are grateful to Brian Porter for this valuable account of Brockville's History and the photo's supplied by Doug Grant. Their efforts to educate and inform individuals of Brockville's history through the years has been an invaluable resource to the community.

SUMMER SWEET TREATS & EATS in Downtown Brockville

By Andi Christine Bednarzig

Ahh, it's summertime, and Downtown Brockville on a beautiful sunny day offers many opportunities to shop at some interesting boutiques and retailers. What is really a lot of fun is to visit some unique Café's and Restaurants that offer some really intriguing and delicious food fare for the "Foodies" of all ages.

It was with this in mind that I decided to investigate with what I call the "Summer Sweet Treats & Eats Stroll" in the heart of downtown Brockville to find out what sumptuous treats I could find and taste to satisfy my "Sweet Tooth Cravings"

Here are some of the places I visited and what truly outstanding owners and food treats or desserts they had to offer:



Boboli Café

Owner: Kathy Lewis
613-498-2957
32 King St. W.

For 26 years Kathy Lewis has been rising early to bake fresh fruit pies, chunky jumbo cookies and delectable cakes from recipes of her own creation at her café. Boboli, named after a romantic garden in Florence, is one of Brockville's oldest established businesses.

When asked what peoples' favourite treats were, Lewis replied that customers are anticipating her seasonal strawberry rhubarb pie. She picks the berries and rhubarb stalks herself, bakes everything from scratch, using no preservatives or thickeners.

Her diverse clientele includes travellers between Montreal and Toronto who pull off the 401 for some bold, beautifully-crafted coffees and sumptuous desserts. She's also served Americans who cross the border from the U.S. to have a taste of her home baked goodness.

"Last week I sent a cake to New York City," she said.

Sampled were a mixed berry pie, with plump burgundy fruit and a crunchy crumble topping. Also, on sample, was a silky-smooth marble cheesecake, which perfectly melded the cocoa and vanilla flavours.

No wonder customers keep returning to this funky bistro-themed café. Just look for the orange Vespa in the window!



Tait's Fresh Start Bakery

Owner: Jay Leroux
613-865-8800
31 King St. W.

Website: www.taitsfreshstart.com/
or follow on facebook: @taitsfreshsince1908



Since 1908, Tait's bakery and deli has been tantalizing Brockville residents with custom made birthday cakes, seasonal delights, and exquisite charlotte russe (assembled with lady fingers, Bavarian cream and fruit).

"The classic carrot cake," explained Pam Parr, a forever smiling employee, "is from a recipe from an old Chatelaine Magazine."

Owner, Jay Leroux and head baker, George Miedema, fill the trays behind the glass counter with time-honoured treats and new creations.

On weekday lunchtimes, Leroux is busy in his immaculate kitchen with preparations for the Meals on Wheels Program. Currently, the team is experimenting with diabetic friendly cuisine as well as gluten-free desserts.

Sampled were a mille-feuille crisp, paper thin layers of puff pastry between creamy custard, coated with a thin white glaze and a drizzle of chocolate. Also tasted was the popular carrot cake, chock-full of walnuts and carrot threads, with smooth cream cheese icing.

Step into this old-fashioned, bustling deli and sample a treat your grandparents may have enjoyed while courting or try something exotic and new.



The Sweet Life Café

Owners: Jenn and Shawn Mills

613-803-8882

7 King St. W.

Follow on facebook @thesweetlifecafe

Natural light streams through the large windows at The Sweet Life Café. The Tuesday morning Brockville Walking Group has congregated at a long table as Shawn Mills is busy ensuring that all coffee cups are filled.

For six years, Shawn and his wife Jenn have offered their sumptuous baked goods at the Brockville Farmers' Market. An opportunity arose, and they were able to open their own place. They can now offer their treats year-round. Jenn explained that her recipes have been gleaned from the internet and from her mum's friends' cookbooks.

Jenn offered two customer favourites to sample; a scone with plump blueberries with a lemony drizzle; and a cinnamon bun, which was not at all doughy, and had a bit of a crunch. When asked how his pastries turned out so incredibly light, Shawn replied enthusiastically that sour cream is an integral ingredient in making this tasty treat so successful!

A close stroll from the harbourfront, a stopover at this bright, cheerful café, and its lighter-than-air pastries will leave you on cloud nine.



Cosies British Tea Room & Café

Alison and Paul Goodyer and son Nick

613-865-9179

45 King St. W.

Fb page: Goodyercosies

Website: <https://cosiestearoom.com/>



Step into an authentic British Tea Room, with Union Jack motif and miniature double decker buses. Cosies also houses a vast collection of tea pots and bone china cups donated by customers.

Alison and Paul Goodyer brought a bit of England with them when they emigrated from Devon. In 2017, they opened their own traditional tea room in partnership with their son Nick.

The Goodyers make their own signature flaky, buttery pastry for their many creations, such as eccles cakes, a round pastry with a nugget of currants, brown sugar and butter tucked inside. This recipe, according to Alison, was handed down from Paul's mother.

Recently enjoyed was a Cream Tea comprising a steaming pot of tea, a crock of clotted cream and strawberry jam made from local berries, alongside a scone. The clotted cream, as explained by Nick, is made by the Goodyers, involving a 12-hour cooking process.

Nostalgic for a British tea and sweets? Visit Cosies and be prepared to be charmed.



Mrs. B's Variety & Dairy Bar

Owners: Dave and Donna Fitzpatrick

613-498-0377

45 King St. E.



Blink and you'll miss one of the last of old-fashioned convenience stores around.

At Mrs. B's you'll find ever smiling Dave Fitzpatrick or his wife, Donna, at the register, dispensing and verifying lottery tickets, reaching behind the register (for secured) tobacco products, preparing UPS packages for delivery, and ringing up sales.

Shelves are lined with chocolate bars, candy, assorted gums, and stacks of translucent plastic containers of wiggly gummy worms, jellies and other sweet treats.

Reach into a fridge for a refreshing Tim Horton's Ice Cap, Peak Ice Tea, an Energy Drink, or a Classic Coke in a glass bottle.

A freezer holds tubs of Kawartha Ice Cream, a local Canadian, family-owned dairy company.

Why Mrs. B's? The shop was originally owned by Mrs. Belanger. When the Fitzpatricks purchased the business 10 years ago, they kept the business name and it remains one of the favourite old-time convenience stores in the area!

Keep Mrs. B's in mind for a cool treat when strolling the hot sidewalks on the sweltering summer days ahead. **LH**



Lyn Heritage Museum – On the Outside (left) and the front view (right)

LYN HERITAGE PLACE MUSEUM

One Man's Architectural Legacy

By Diann Turner

I pulled up to the Lyn Museum on a Spring afternoon this year and found myself drawn in, at once, by a myriad of interesting things. Curbside appeal was fantastic! There was history in the air, and more! A polished 1950 Ford Custom Deluxe car was parked outside. The museum, a brick edifice enhanced by stone, wagon wheels, old implements, fences, spoked windows and a welcoming front porch, instantly piqued my curiosity. Inside, I was welcomed by two dedicated volunteers: John Mack and Patricia (Mrs. Orval) Ladd. I was pleasantly overwhelmed by their affable welcome, and the inspiring, esthetic museum, with its ingenious rooms and eclectic collections. I was in for a history lesson in a town I had only breezed through for decades with nary a thought for what had gone on before. It was time to slow down and acquaint myself with this place!

The inception of Lyn Heritage Museum and its evolvement is owed almost entirely to Orval Leslie Ladd, born September 28, 1930 in the village of Lyn. He spent his entire life here. In his school years, Orval began to fancy a cute little girl riding to school on a little bicycle. He married Patricia Clow in 1953. They raised four children and guarded their romance as if it were a precious jewel. Orval loved building things and constructed

several unique houses. Continually inspired by Popular Mechanics magazine, his dwellings became masterpieces of creativity combined with the restoration of relics.

In 1999, this building was a derelict, abandoned garage and a business venue for Stewart's Bus Line, followed by Howard's Bus Line. At one time, gas pumps out front served the community but at this point, it was a less than auspicious pigeon palace. That is, until September, when visionary Orval, not inclined to velleity, saw potential everyone else overlooked. A retired salesman from Myer's Pumps, the artistic, energetic, gifted man rolled up his sleeves and got to work! The self-taught electrician, dabster, carpenter and mason recruited volunteers. He had just entered his seventies and understood preserving Lyn's history could only be realized if a dedicated place was created that could incorporate salvaged materials, pictures and stories. He wanted the town's original flour mill, long since torn down, to be the central fixture in the museum's design. Orval completed seventy-five percent of the grunt stone work to accomplish this feat and the visual beauty of it is stellar.

Orval's philosophy was indeed an admirable one: "Why should I chase a golf ball around a field when I can be productive?"

Lyn was founded in 1748 by United Empire Loyalist, Abel Coleman and his brother, Richard. Obtaining a land grant, Abel built the mill in 1788 and named the area Coleman's Corners. After several years, the mill began to prosper and thriving businesses began to spring up, including tanneries, saw mills, brick works, a shoe factory, a last factory, a foundry, a blacksmith shop, woolen mill, flax mill, bakeries, cheese factories, stores and five hotels. The town became Lowell in 1837 and was changed to Lyn in 1838, which is a Scottish word for waterfall. The Grand Trunk Railway had a station in Lyn and the Brockville Westport line had a station below the mill that ran from 1886 to 1949. The Colemans bought water rights and dams were installed in Graham, Temperance and Centre Lakes to supply enough water to run the mills. A canal was hand dug from Centre Lake to Lee's Pond. Churches were built, and schools sprang to life.

In its heyday, Lyn had more industry than nearby Brockville. However, change was inevitable and with the advent of electricity, Lyn's manufacturing base slowly dwindled into obsolescence. Decades began to blur details, generations passed on. A school reunion in Lyn, circa 1998, drew one thousand people, floods of stories and a

mess of pictures. It was then that Orval began envisioning a museum that would display the everyday accoutrements of days gone by.

"Howard's Bus Line was going to tear the building down," said Pat Ladd, "but donated it instead to the already existing Lyn Heritage Committee." In July 2000 the museum opened to the public. People must have been overcome when they saw Orval's skilled craftsmanship. His labour of love paid off and Pat is to be credited to this day for giving Orval permission to "live" at the museum!

I naively thought I could zip through the museum, but two hours later, I was still scribbling. Pat passed on memories to me which were not just of her own past, but of the history that surrounded it. She rode on a sleigh that her grandfather drove to the mill, loaded with grain to be ground into flour. She skated on the mill pond in winter and picnicked beside it in summer. She remembers druggist, C.M. Taylor, and led me to the table and chairs from his Ice Cream Parlour. She shared that during WWI, soldiers marched through Lyn on the Ottawa-Kingston route, and camped here overnight.

In WWII, soldiers trained down by Lyn Pit. Fires in Lyn were frequent. John Mack said that a self-driving wood-fired steam thresher rolled through town one year, threw sparks and buildings went up in flames. The former schoolhouse, still standing, was two roomed, with grades 1-4 on one level, 5-8 on another. Joe Hudson did an egg project in high school and went on to develop Burnbrae farms, now Canada wide. The Mallorytown Telephone Exchange was once across the street from where the museum is today.

The financial contributions of various local people were integral; Harold and Betty Krugel, of Harold's Demolition, generously donated \$50,000. Following Harold's passing, Beverly took an interest in the museum and donated her time and money. Another local lady left her entire estate to the museum. Burnbrae Farms donated enough for the upstairs room to be completed and Mary Hudson's name graces an egg-shaped sign. Trillium grants funded the stair lift and the ramp walkway.

A self-guided tour is available and walks you through the various rooms and displays.

These include Orval's Room, where his incredible scale model of the village as a thriving business centre commands attention; The Krugel Extension; The Pioneer Room (remembering our past); The Mary Hudson Room; The Walkway; and the Blacksmith's Shop (which comes alive with a blast of heat). Combined, these rooms tell tales of a bustling industrial town where multiple churches filled with worshipers, school houses that educated children, mills and factories employed people. Inevitable progress ripped through the area; the automobile replaced the trains, electricity superseded water power, technology surged and what was, became a distant memory. Museums educate future generations and bring clarity to the past. Pioneers laid the foundation for the life we enjoy today.

Thank heavens for folks like Orval and Pat Ladd, the donors, and all the volunteers for this storehouse of memorabilia. Orval's efforts prove that it is not what we take from this life when we leave that matters, it is what we leave behind. The museum welcomes any photographs or artifacts that you may have, which could be of historical value. **LH**



Above: Orval Ladd, Founder



Above Middle:

Pat Ladd, Widow of Orval Ladd & Volunteer at Lyn Museum



Above Right: Orval Ladd's Scale Model of Lyn In Its Heyday

Right: John Mack, Volunteer at Lyn Museum

Far Right: John Mack's 1950 Ford Custom Deluxe Car

Below: Cooking in the 19th Century

Below Middle: Forge at Lyn Heritage Museum

Below Right:

Lyn Heritage Museum's recent Acquisition, school desks



Editor's Note: If you're interested in taking in some of Lyn's historical past, their hours are: Sundays, 1:00pm to 4:00pm, from the end of May - September, or by appointment @ 613-342-3785. Their website is www.lynheritagemuseum.com

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The couple in the mural photo are the Mural Artists Filipinas and Keith Heine

HISTORIC MURALS, Part of Athens Revitalization

By Sally Smid

The expression "Painting the Town" took on a whole new meaning over 30 years ago in Athens! After Reeve John Dancy took a trip to Chemainus, B.C. in 1985 and discovered the benefits of painted outdoor murals, he spearheaded a mural initiative in his rural village. Artists were invited to submit sketches that related to Athens' rich history and a committee chose which would receive contracts. Each artist received \$3700 and they worked 250 hrs. apiece. The paints were donated by Sico and Ramsy Pro Hardware. Grants and local donations helped to offset expenses.

The first works were *Main Street* by Andrea Green, *The Train Station* by Lorrie Maruscak and *Turkey Fair Day* by Mary Lynn Baker. Later came *Old Hartley Saw Mill*, *The Gathering* and *As the Pages Turn* by Pierre Hardy, *Charleston Lake Picnic* and *Hwy. 42 East of Athens in 1890* by Baker, *The Village Bandstand* by John Hood, *Farm Life* by Cathie McGuire and *Athens High School Graduation* by Dan Sawatzky. There are also murals inside Main St. Pizza and in the Joshua Bates Centre. Artists worked hard researching the individual subjects. They all mentioned how much they enjoyed

connecting daily with area residents who passed by to watch them work and often commented about their connections with the history depicted by the mural.

At one time thousands visited Athens when it was declared "The Home of the Murals" and the first in Ontario to feature such murals. Busloads were hosted by tour guide and historian Lois Schroeder. The murals were featured on CTV's Regional Contact, Montreal's CFCF, Kingston's CKWS and a variety of publications. Not everyone was happy with this busyness and some disliked the idea of their quiet village becoming a "tourist trap".

The murals gradually began to weather and fade, compromising the artistry involved. Building demolitions destroyed the favoured Mill mural and the Farm Life mural. A fire destroyed the mural honouring Edna Chant. The Turkey Fair and Bandstand murals needed to be refurbished. There are now two new paneled murals. One on the west side of Freshmarket, the Joshua Bates mural, which was designed by Tony Endhoven and painted by students of Athens Christian School.

Residents were thrilled to see the Charleston Lake Picnic scene being refurbished and brightened up by artists Dave and Diane Sheridan last summer. It is hoped that the special paints and finishes used will give the mural a longer life. The duo plans to do similar work on the Main St. mural this coming summer. The Harvest Cafe now features two photo murals that give tribute to the early troops and an early Main St. scene. A new paneled mural featuring the B & W Railroad was just completed by artist Keith Heine in tribute to his father Herb. These murals are less susceptible to weathering, less costly, and more easily repaired.

The Mural program is revitalizing Athens in a variety of ways, and is sparking a new interest in local heritage as community spirit is bolstered. This is thrilling to the local Heritage Society and Museum that realizes the potential for the murals to further preserve and promote area history. The group looks forward to eventually connecting the new murals to the 7 heritage interpretive signs and the unique historical buildings in a new walking tour, which will play an important role in the revitalization of this rural community. **LH**



All photos credit to Lisa Crandall



Far Left: Proprietor Sherry Spring tweaks the window display at Olde Magick in Prescott.

Top left: Basic smudging supplies are among the many items available

Above: Angels at reasonable prices are a staple at the store.

Left: An eye-catching display of polished stones invites even the most casual of shoppers to dip their fingers into the treasures available at Olde Magick.

A TOUCH OF OLDE MAGICK IN PRESCOTT

By Lisa Crandall

The secret to being successful when you are a small independent business is to be unique and Olde Magick in Prescott definitely qualifies. Proprietor Sherry Spring works hard to make everyone who walks into her store feel welcome. She has created a calming space filled with spiritually oriented objects that appeal to a wide range of people – angel figurines, Buddhist prayer flags, aromatic incense, polished stones, hand blended teas and books on a broad spectrum of spiritual paths. She laughingly describes it as being a little bit Harry Potterish because “It’s invisible to most people until they need something, then suddenly they notice it as they are walking past.”

In addition to selling things the old-fashioned way, the shop also offers an array of classes in the evenings. These classes are led by Spring and/or other local experts. Participants are invited to learn how to read palms, cast horoscopes, do Reiki, create a personalized Book of Shadows, hand craft straw brooms (also known as besoms), make a range of jewelry, such as chakra bracelets, twisted metal rings, dousing pendulums, and tree of life suncatchers. The list is ever changing and often repeating. The classes are very popular and Spring prides herself on the point that “supplies are NOT extra” when you arrive for the class. She also offers special classes for kids during the summer and March Break periods.

Along with the DIY classes, Spring offers a popular item she calls the Magick Bag.

Each month she creates a bundle of products around a theme that she offers at a discounted price. Essentially, it is \$50 worth of product for the discounted price of \$35. It is always a surprise and must be prepaid. Past themes have included working with crystals, candle magic and creating a personal altar.

The shop also features a regular rotation of ‘readers’ who can be booked through the store to help those who are in search for answers or guidance. These readers are all from the local area and well known in their own sphere. They include Balam’s Daughter (aka Virginia Ostler) – Tarot Card Reader, Peter Thompson – Intuitive Clairvoyant, George Bishop – Life Coach, Handwriting Analyst, Medicine Card Reader and Judy McKay – Intuitive Oracle, Energy Facilitator.

There is even a small yoga class that practices at the back of the store. Reiki sessions can also be arranged in a small private space at the very back of the store.

Beyond making her space available to local healers and readers, Spring also goes out of her way to support Canadian suppliers. Her geodes come from western Canada and many of her other products are local, including Natural Guild Body Products, Kandy’s Felting and Witchy Stones, Mystical Skais Jewellery, and Mystical Kreations – Wiccan Wood Products. Several new products are also on the horizon, but Spring will be announcing those on her Facebook Page when they become available. She

uses Facebook to keep in touch with her customers who travel from as far afield as Montreal or occasionally cross the border coming up from Ogdensburg and other American locations to visit her store. She is happy to ship items across Canada and even internationally. Look for her Facebook page at Olde Magick.

Spring is also a member of the Prescott Business Association and is excited to be a part of an organization committing to encouraging local success stories. She supports local fundraising events with gift certificates and welcomes the new customers that such opportunities bring her. **LH**

Editor’s Note:

Sherry is a practicing Wiccan Witch who connects to her spirituality through nature, community, and the inner self. Sherry offers workshop and classes on the customs and practices for beginners and experienced modern witches in their quest to bring traditional ritual to a busy lifestyle.

Olde Magick is found at 123 King Street W. in Prescott. It is open Tuesday and Wednesday until 5PM, Thursday and Friday until 6PM, Saturday until 4PM and closed Sunday and Monday.

Visit the website @ oldemagick.ca



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CELEBRATION OF PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

By Andi Christine Bednarzig

Rainbows shone bright in Brockville and Gananoque this summer as Pride Week was celebrated. This event brought together members of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) community, their families, friends and supporters.

The rainbow flag has long been a symbol of LGBTQ pride. There may be variants of the flag with additional stripes, but the symbology is universal. Red represents life, bright orange stands for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, calming and cool blue for serenity and lilac, the last colour of the rainbow, stands for spirit.

According to Ryan Northrup, Social Media & Events Coordinator of Brockville Pride, during the initial stages of Pride, local businesses were offered rainbow stickers for their entrances to allow customers to know they are an LGBTQ safe space.

"Most businesses still have these stickers visible in the storefronts," Northrup said.

Brockville Pride Week kicked off this year with a flag raising ceremony on June 3rd, 2019 at 11:00 am at the top of the Railway Tunnel and Pride Committee and members of City Council attended this event.

Later that week, on June 8th, the Brockville Pride Parade commenced at noon, at the park beside the Brockville Rowing Club. The parade continued to Hardy Park, where the Rainbow Village Fair featured vendors, food services, and entertainment.

According to Northrup, parade participants usually fall between 200-300 persons, with about 500-750 spectators.

Brockville City Councillor, Leigh Bursey recalls the first parade in 2011 as a march

for civil rights and social justice, and to commemorate the loss of a LGBTQ community member.

Bursey has been a strong advocate of the event. He worked hard to persuade his colleagues to see an opportunity for micro economic tourism, by providing a venue for activities, events and vendors, as well as to educate and create a fun event.

Alongside local businesses, church groups and medical workers, the Brockville Police have played an active and supportive roll. "It's mutual respect back and forth," Staff Sergeant, Tom Fournier explained.

According to Northrup, the Brockville Pride community is still growing and building on previous years' successes. "Everyday our community gets a little more prouder of our LGBTQ+ involvement. We will continue our work of building a proud community."

Councillor Bursey agrees that things have come a long way since being stopped and shamed while out with his Grandmother about his endorsement of Pride Week. He also recalls however, being offered a hug while out and about in Brockville. "It's the first time my city has ever felt like a home to me" they had told him.

Later in the summer, Gananoque will host its own Pride Week from July 18 to July 21. The town of Gananoque has celebrated Pride in previous years. The newly-incorporated, not-

for-profit organization, 1000 Islands Pride, Inc., aims to provide an annual summer Pride and Arts festival.

The rainbow flag will not be flying high however, as the Town of Gananoque has a bylaw prohibiting two flags on one pole, though the rainbows will be prominent at the parade on July 21. This colourful parade will start at 1:30 p.m. behind City Hall, ending up at Joel Stone Heritage Park on Water Street, where the village fair is set up for the next two days. Various artisans will feature woodwork, art, photography and jewelry.

Roger Dodier CEO of 1000 Islands Pride, Inc. has also found the community to be very supportive.

Celebrations will begin before the actual Pride Week in July in Gananoque.

On June 22, 1000 Islands Pride, Inc., in collaboration with the Royal Theatre and a show of performers, will offer impersonations of your favourite stars, such as Celine Dion, Cher, Marilyn Monroe, Diana Ross, and Dolly Parton. The show will be hosted by a Joan Rivers impersonator. (it is advised to keep it an adults only event and not to bring young children)

On the first day of pride week on July 18th, A Meet and Greet will be held at Stonehouse Pub in Gananoque, with staff and organizers of 1000 Islands Pride, Inc. to meet and enjoy some entertainment. **LH**

Check out the website and Facebook pages for continuing updates and additions. Happy Pride!

**Gananoque: www.1000islandspride.ca / Facebook @1000 Islands Pride Inc.
Brockville: www.brockvillepride.com / Facebook @Brockville Pride**



Turpin's Trail in concert
L-R: Noah St. Amand, Jon McLurg, Chris Murphy, Brian Flynn

GETTING YOUR CEILIDH ON with Turpin's Trail

By Lorraine Payette

When Chris Murphy, Brian Flynn, Jon McLurg, and Noah St. Amand of Turpin's Trail appear onstage, things are going to get lively. It isn't just the impish grins or the pile of musical instruments that gives them away. It's something else, something almost subliminal, just waiting to pull you along and get you started.

"We met through the Kingston music scene," said Murphy. "Jon and I met Brian at the weekly folk club jam that was held at the RCHA Club and we met Noah through his brother-in-law Matt Baetz of Longshot Studios, a recording studio in Kingston that Jon and I have recorded at for many years. We have been playing together in various forms as long as we have known each other. Jon and I were two-thirds of the trio Crooked Wood (formed in 2004) and both Brian and Noah sat in with that band on occasion. Crooked Wood eventually became Turpin's Trail."

They play a variety of pieces from the Irish/

Celtic tradition and traditional folk songs, to a lot of their own original music using many different musical instruments. Murphy plays guitar, 5-string and tenor banjos, Irish Bouzouki, mandolin, button accordion, penny-whistles and bodhrán; you'll find Flynn playing fiddle, mandolin, trumpet, Irish flute and bodhrán; McLurg will be on guitar, cajon, mandolin and 5-string banjo; and St. Amand helps keep it together with the upright bass.

"We got together first as a band in 2012 to promote/support my solo album – 'Finally Coming Home' – recorded in Cape Breton and produced by internationally-acclaimed musician J.P. Cormier," said Murphy. "We mostly play in the greater Kingston area (west to Picton - Waring House, north to Perth/Westport - The Cove Inn, east to Gananoque - The Royal and the Firehall Theatres), but we have done a couple of tours to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland (notably headlining the Brimstone Head Folk Festival on Fogo Island, NL, in 2017).

"We had a crazy whirlwind tour of Cape Breton Island one long weekend – we drove straight there and back; we got a flat tire outside of Sackville, NB, and we had a black bear run out in front of us on the way home

driving through the night."

When they aren't performing to sold-out crowds throughout the area, they work at different jobs in the community. Murphy is a full-time musician who teaches guitar when not performing, as well as being the organist/music director at Inverary and Battersea United Churches. McLurg is a support worker for individuals with autism. Flynn works as a supply teacher, and St. Amand is self-employed as a web developer.

"Our families have always been extremely supportive of our musical endeavours," said Murphy. Flynn's children love Dad's music so much that they decorated his violin with a collection of brightly coloured stickers to remind him that they are out there cheering him on.

Fans will be disappointed to know that there will be few chances to see Turpin's Trail in its full form until after the summer. Murphy will be moving to Newfoundland from June through August. He has been offered an artist's residency with the Shorefast Foundation on Fogo Island for the month of August and the chance to perform around the island. But they plan to be back in September. **LH**

For tour dates and other information,
please go to www.turpinstrail.com.



Filling the ice house at the Chantry cheese factory around 1930, photo courtesy of Rideau Lakes History and Genealogy.



This is the equipment used to help cut ice as part of the local harvesting business.



This long saw is on display at the Drive-shed by Delta's Old Stone Mill and was used in the ice harvesting business.

ICE HARVESTING, An Important Industry in Days Gone By

By Sally Smid

We take a lot of things for granted in this modern age, such as reaching into the fridge for milk or into the freezer for some ice cream. Before mechanical refrigeration, snow and ice, cool streams, springs, caves and cellars were used to refrigerate food. Frigididaire's first self contained unit was available in 1923, but was not perfected for some time. This made the ice harvesting industry very important for a period of time.

Very cold winters, as the one we've just experienced, would help ensure an adequate ice supply, but there were also warmer seasons or "open winters" which resulted in "ice famines", a shortage of ice.

The business of ice harvesting, also known as the "frozen water trade", involved specialized ice-harvesting tools for procuring ice from local waterways. It also included a network of ice houses. The industry created a reliable supply of jobs for off-season farmers. On Jan. 31, 1946, the Prescott Journal reported: "Harvesting of the 1946 ice crop on the river is expected to get underway. Despite the unusual mild spell in early January, the ice

is said to be from 11 to 12 inches thick and as clear as crystal throughout. Bartons and Wards will again be cutting west of the Town while Paul Curry will be harvesting in the channels to the east."

The process began with an oblong grid that was etched onto the ice with a marking saw, then came the task of sawing. When a large, rectangular raft floated free, long-handled bars were dropped to break the blocks. The cakes, often weighing more than 300 pounds, could be steered using a pike pole to direct the ice through the water. They were loaded onto a horse-drawn sled, or a truck in later years, and taken to nearby ice houses for storage. There are memories of the "ice man" making regular home deliveries. Sawdust had to be washed off of the blocks which were carried with ice tongs. The blocks had been buried in sawdust for storage in the ice house. The blocks would need to be trimmed to fit into the iceboxes.

During the latter half of the 19th century ice boxes were in use in homes. These were wooden boxes lined with tin or zinc and insulated with various materials including cork,

sawdust, and even seaweed to hold blocks of ice in an upper chamber and "refrigerate" the food. A drip pan collected the melt water and had to be emptied daily. Natural ice was harvested and distributed for commercial and home use. Ontario's many cheese factories were some of the largest clients. There are memories of dripping train cars in the yard of the B&W that could be identified as being filled with cheese packed in ice.

Breweries also made use of the earliest factories. Often a dairy, meat, ice business or the local Co-op offered customers a frozen food locker service. Meats, poultry, fish, fruits, berries and vegetables could be prepared on site or at home and then could be kept frozen in rented lockers. By the mid-1940s, most consumers agreed that freezing vegetables and berries was an attractive alternative to the "hot work" of canning.

With the arrival of modern fridges and freezers, the ice harvesting business came to an end. It is only the very senior community members that can recall cutting lake ice and the old "ice boxes", an often forgotten part of our local history. **LH**

THE EVOLUTION OF OUR LOCAL TELEPHONES

By Sally Smid

Today there seems to be an obsession for instant communication with Texting, Instagram, Twitter and more. Cell phones are often a cause for distraction and preoccupation.

In the mid-1800s communication involved letters and post cards carried on horseback and stagecoach. Then came the telegraph with offices in many railway stations. Telephones followed with the negotiations for bringing telephone service to Athens taking place in 1890, the year of its incorporation.

The first switchboard was installed at the store of Arza Parish. The Bell directory includes Athens in 1900 with James Ackland, named as local telephone exchange manager in 1902. "At a meeting of the Plum Hollow and Eloida Rural Telephone Co., it was decided to install a switchboard in Athens and to canvas for subscribers," notes the Athens Reporter in 1909. Early subscribers included Dr. Cornell, Spence, Foster, Thompson, the B&W Railway, then later, the Armstrong House, House of Industry, Dr. Lillie, and the Pierce Mill. Watson Parish installed a submarine cable, so his Charleston Lake cottage could be connected to his Athens business. By 1910 there were 100 subscribers with early records indicating that the charge for a call to Brockville was 25 cents. In 1911 the telephone switchboard was located in the Kendrick Store at 2 Main St. E. (the current Freshmarket) later moved next door along with the GNW Telegraph System, Coon's Shoe Store, and Earl Construction. All were destroyed by fire in 1917, the same year that a group of local farmers formed a district company to serve the area. Bell took over in 1958 with the exchange located in the brick building west of Crest Hardware, now Sundial.

The first phone service had a system of party lines with a different ring for each customer. There are stories of neighborhood busybodies listening in to find out "the local gossip", often the source of many rumors. It seemed that the weaker the signal, the more parties were listening in on the line. You could ask a party to hang up if you had an emergency call to make, but you could

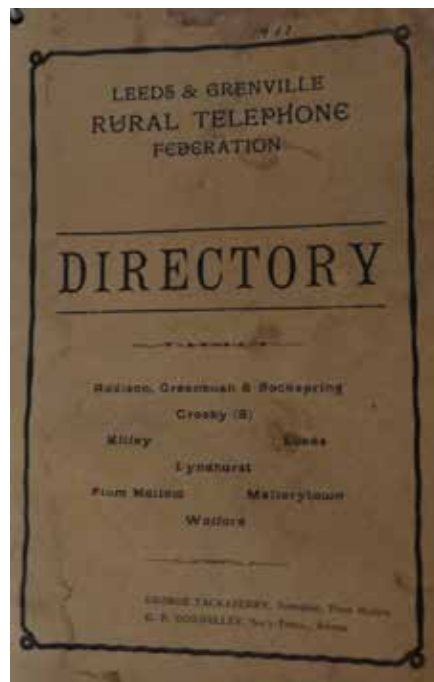
depend on that party picking the phone back up to find out just what that emergency was! The operators known for their courteous "number please" to customers, seemed to know everything that went on in the village and were often very helpful with advice and information, usually knitting between calls.

Ardie Parish was the manager of the telephone service. An entertaining story is told of a call going into the switchboard one night to request a call to the fire department after the caller discovered that the Anglican Church was on fire. "Which church is that," Ardie inquired. "The one across from Kerr's new house," came the answer. Ardie questioned further, "Kerrs have a new house now? I didn't know that..." "Ardie," the caller shouted. "Call the fire department!" The church could not be saved, nor could that last telephone office on Main St. beside the hardware store, which was eventually demolished.

Athens was one of the first in Ontario to change to a number plan with direct dialing in 1964, ending the need for the local switchboard. The Athens Bell building is now located on Church St. It houses the intricate dial service equipment. There are reports that a few folks are still on a party line and have rotary dialing. Amazing changes in communication and telephones have taken place over the years, and there are many cherished, community memories that have been made along the way! **LH**



This telephone switchboard is similar to the ones used in the area in the mid-1900s



One of the early telephone directories in the area.



Telephones have evolved in many ways over the years.

All photos courtesy of Athens and Area Heritage Museum

THOUSAND ISLANDS PLAYHOUSE HONOURS GORD BROWN



By Lorraine Payette

Summer brings visions of swimming, camping, canoeing, kayaking, all those things that build character and lasting memories. It also is a time to enjoy live theatre performed by seasoned professionals, drawing crowds from around the world. Sometimes it all comes together in a way that makes everything bigger and better than before.

"Early in 2018 I was told that the stage at the Springer Theatre would not be able to support the productions that we had planned for the season," said Brett Christopher, Managing Artistic Director for the Thousand Islands Playhouse. "That extra \$20,000 expense could have been catastrophic. We really didn't know what to do."

Long before the Playhouse came into existence, the Springer had been the home of the Gananoque Canoe Club. Many young people had learned about boating off of its docks, and had gone on to greater things in life. One of these young people was Gord Brown, best known as MP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, who had a life-long interest in and passion for sports and the town where he grew up. Although his interest in hockey was better known, he had never forgotten his happy times with the GCC.

Christopher visited the MP in his office and was soon hooked up with Tom Russell of the Thousand Islands Community Development Corporation. Working together, it wasn't long before the funding was in place and the new stage well on its way.

"Gord made many of the investments in the Thousand Islands region possible by virtue of the work he did to bring Eastern Ontario development programming to the area," said Russell. "It's from that pot of money that we've been able to invest in the Thousand Islands Playhouse and so many other wonderful initiatives throughout the area."

In late March, TICDC provided \$10,000 for the project. Combining the funding with community support from Stephen Anderson (Andrecon Inc.) and Ken O'Connor (Gananoque Home Hardware) in the form of

labour and building materials, the stage was replaced and ready for the new season.

Sadly, MP Brown died unexpectedly in early May 2018, before the project could be completed. The entire region was in shock, and the Playhouse wanted to find some way to pay tribute to this man who had helped them so much.

"To honour his love of hockey and Gananoque, a centennial silver dollar was embedded into the stage at 'centre ice' by his brother Jeff Brown," said Christopher.

"Our parents collected silver dollars for us back in the sixties, and I couldn't think of a more fitting place to put one in Gord's memory," said Brown.

The Playhouse wanted to go a step farther and keep MP Brown's memory alive at the Canoe Club. They decided to dedicate \$1 from each ticket sold to their production of *The Canadian* (which ran in July/August 2018) towards a bursary in MP Gord Brown's name at the Gananoque Canoe Club. The GCC, former tenants at the Playhouse's dockside theatre location, was a cause near and dear to the former MP who had been a champion kayaker with the club in the 1970s.

On September 25, 2018, the TI Playhouse proudly presented a cheque in the amount

of \$5,252 to the GCC to create a bursary in memory of MP Brown.

"I felt that it was imperative that we find some way to celebrate his legacy and to follow in his footsteps by giving back to the community," said Christopher. **LH**

Above: A young Gord Brown with one of his medals for kayaking (property of the Brown family)



The silver dollar placed at "centre ice" in the Springer Theatre stage in honour of Gord Brown (From Playhouse video, "Gord Brown's Silver Dollar")



Brett Christopher, Managing Artistic Director, and Melissa Pearce (centre) of the Playhouse presenting a cheque in the amount of \$5,252 to the Gananoque Canoe Club to create a bursary. The money represented \$1 from each ticket sold to the 2018 production of "The Canadian"

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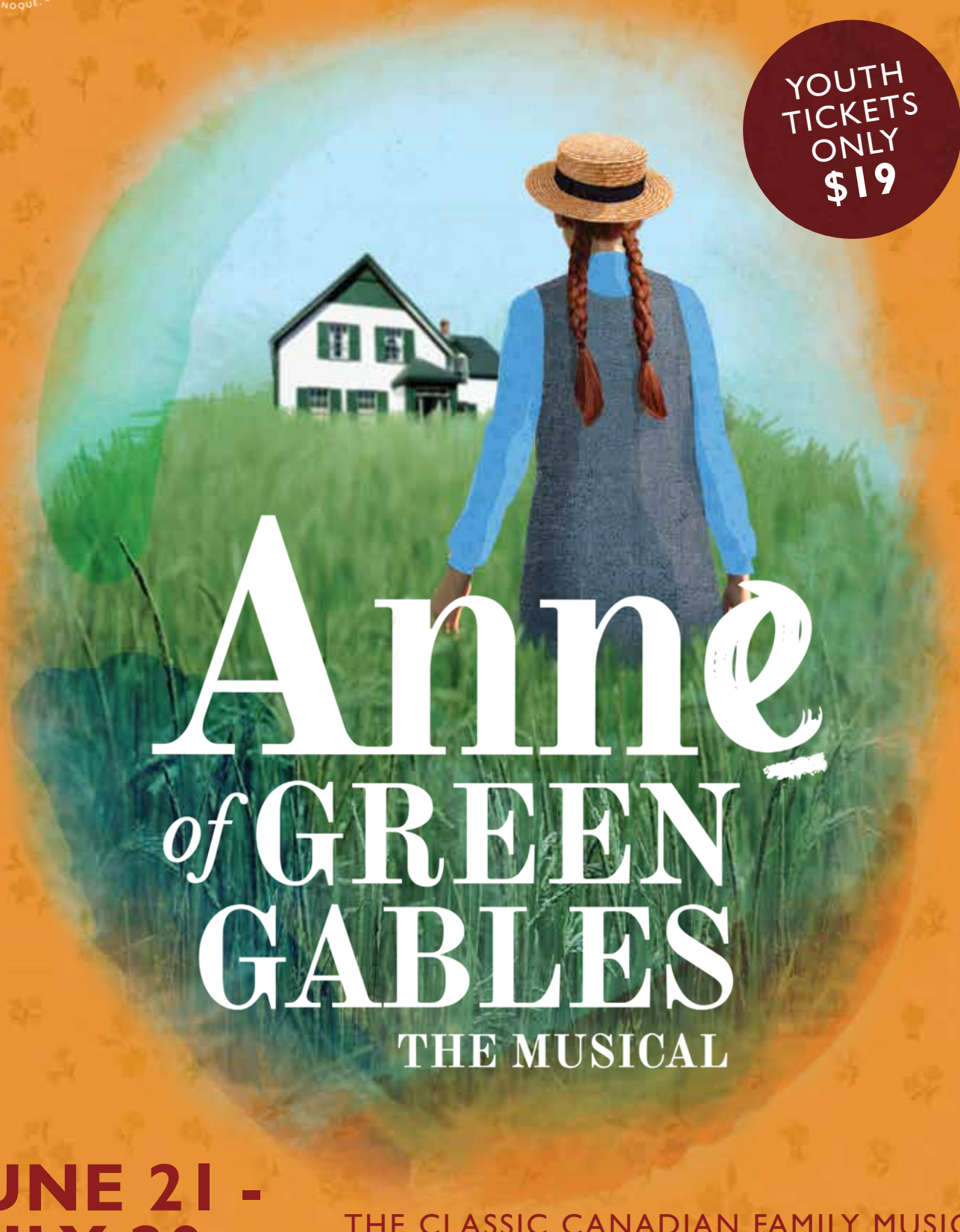
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