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**Bruce Wylie The Man Behind the Mic:
A Community Icon**

**Waxing Nostalgia at
Dragon Records Gananoque**

**Royalty, Regiments and Rehearsals
- The Day the Queen Came to Prescott**

**The Spencerville Mill Museum
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BRUCE WYLIE

The Man Behind the Mic: A Community Icon

By Russ Disotell

How much can one person's efforts impact a community? Well, if you are talking about Brockville and area, and the person is Bruce Wylie, the answer is plenty, with a capital P. His fingerprints can be found all over any number of events that have grown to become part of the fabric of the community.

Fresh out of Ryerson, he applied for a job at Toronto radio station CKFH. He was told the position would never lead to an on-air job and Bruce had his heart set on being a sports or news announcer. He was told of another position at the radio station in Brockville. He arrived in Brockville on April 7, 1971 to interview for a position as the evening announcer. The next evening, he was behind the mic. The rest, as they say, is history. This year, 2017, marks 46 years at the station. When Bruce eventually had a chance to switch to news announcer, he noticed the tenure in the position was short, so he deferred. Eventually he moved to mornings and has been there for 40+ years.

By July, that first year, Bruce was involved in the community. Friends mentioned, Brockville needed a competitive golf tournament,

so Bruce pitched the idea to the station manager. The Bruce Wylie Golf Tournament was born. "We used a poster to attract entrants for the first 3 years. After that we used a mailing list, because people enjoyed it so much." Bruce was all of 22 years old and golfers coming out were a little surprised, as they expected someone much older.

The Bruce Wylie Tournament ran for 20 years, then morphed into the Brockville Sports Hall of Fame Golf Tournament, which is still running after 25 years. "I wanted to offer the best value for the dollar," Bruce says, "I wanted everyone to be involved. People will still say it was the best tournament." Early in its existence it was commonplace to have 300 to 400 people on the 18th hole on the Sunday. There were radio updates, leader boards and the CB club on the course relaying scores.

Later, he also got involved with Riverfest. Everyone remembers Riverfest fondly. For 10 years Bruce did the Golf Tournament and Riverfest. He admits it was a busy time, but says he always had lots of help. "You don't do these things without a great group of volunteers."

In the early 80's, he served on the Board of the YMCA. He recalls it was his second year on the Board and Canarm's owner, David Beatty's first. There was talk of being forced to sell the building, which Bruce and David were against. "People had started raising money, but \$10,000 was still needed. David was the financial man and I was the promotional guy." Bruce ended up doing a radiothon on a Saturday, starting at 8 am, raising the needed money by the end of the day.

Bruce is especially proud of his involvement with both the Brockville and Area Sports Hall of Fame as well as the Brockville and Area Music and Performing Arts Hall of Fame. "In both cases, I didn't want it to be a one-night affair. We always invite past inductees back to welcome the new class." Both Halls have professional categories, because he thinks it is important to recognize "those who made it", so to speak.

Bruce's involvement with the Annual Palliative Care Telethon began with a visit from Bob Crowder to the station. "I knew Richard Crotty and the Musician's Union wanted to help, so I brought the two groups together." Five weeks later Bruce hosted the first Telethon. "It raised \$65,000, I wanted to raise \$250,000. Though it did take a while, it has become part of the fabric of the community, and shows the generosity of the area." Bruce recently resigned as Chair of the Telethon, but still acts as host and will for a while longer.

Many in the community would point to his work during the infamous Ice Storm as having the most impact on the area. He says it was a spur of the moment decision, "to just stay on the air." Bruce was awarded Broadcaster of the Year for 1998 for his efforts. In an ironic turn, Bruce got stuck in a snowstorm and couldn't pick up the award!

Bruce's outlook on his career of community involvement is, "You, as a volunteer, get more from it than you put in. I've been part of many wonderful teams. God has guided my life and without him in it, I would not have been able to do what I've done in Brockville". **LH**

Editor's Note: We should all be grateful that we have such a community oriented individual such as Bruce Wylie in our area. With radio stations constantly changing formats and on-air personalities in cities and other communities across Canada, we are lucky locally that Bruce is on the air every morning on 104.9 JRfm. Thank You Bruce Wylie for your community spirit and involvement to make our area such a great place to live!



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Tom Stormonth of Dragon Records will be happy to help fulfill your dreams on vinyl

WAXING NOSTALGIA

at Dragon Records Gananoque

By Lorraine Payette

Listen up, all you audiophiles, great music on vinyl has come to Gananoque courtesy of Dragon Records. Located in the back of Beggars Banquet Books (BBB) at 126 King Street East, it specializes in high quality vintage sound at reasonable prices.

"We opened our Vintage Vinyl and CD area (the Dragon Records store-in-a-store) in Beggars Banquet Books in November 2016, and carry cleaned and tested used vinyl LPs, 45's, CDs and some DVDs," said Tom Stormonth, co-owner and proprietor of BBB.

Stormonth and his wife, Alison, opened the bookstore in Gananoque on May 22, 2015.

"We loved the area, and had stopped here many times on our way to visit family in Quebec," he said. "We found a lovely home on Howe Island and decided to make Gananoque our hometown."

It wasn't long before they had opened BBB, selling all kinds of books – new and publisher overstock, which are new books at cheap prices, as well as over 75,000 previously loved volumes. In addition, they made Marley organic fair-trade coffee (both beans and freshly brewed), as well as all-natural sodas available to their customers.

"We love the fact that we now have regular customers – locals and tourists – for new, used and trade books as well as records," he said. "Every week, readers come in specifically to talk books with us, and help them choose their next great read."

"Alison, my wife, had never worked a retail job in her life and has blossomed into one of the main reasons customers frequent our store; her lovely demeanour and great

knowledge of books and authors, as well as her uncanny ability to match a great book with a customer's wants and needs."

But something was missing – they wanted more soul. So in November, 2016, they opened Dragon Records, a vintage vinyl and CD "store-in-a-store".

"Our selection of over 3000 vinyl LPs includes Classic Rock, Heavy Metal, Blues, Jazz, Folk, Classical, Country, Spoken Word, Easy Listening, International, Soundtracks, Disco and House," said Stormonth. "We cater to the music aficionado but also have some records for beginners and kids."

As music has wound its way into the store, so has all that goes with it. In addition to the recordings, they are starting to bring in turntables on which to play them, and occasional musical instruments for those who wish to make their own music or to play along. Every item is carefully tested and checked before being put on the shelf, and quality is guaranteed!

"We would love to add new release records and CDs, turntables, stereo equipment, new guitars and accessories to the mix and we are making inroads in those areas," he said.

With some of the older music labels starting to press vinyl again, Dragon Records is hoping to bring it in at reasonable prices to a new and hungry marketplace. The younger generations have discovered that the great vinyl LPs in their parents' and grandparents' collections vastly surpass the sound they get from CDs and MP3s. They have decided they want that quality in their lives, and are willing to search for it. When added to the joys of the bookstore, it is a dream come true for Stormonth. Be sure to pop in and hear what's playing – you are bound to love the sound. **LH**



Dragon Records, located at the rear of Beggars Banquet Books, carries all kinds of items to meet your listening needs



ROYALTY, REGIMENTS & REHEARSALS

The Day the Queen Came to Prescott

By Joan Rupert-Barkley

It was AN EVENT FIT FOR A QUEEN. In 1984, a special committee was set up to organize an event to celebrate Prescott's 150th year of Incorporation and the 200th Anniversary of Settlement. While planning this event, former Mayor Sandra Lawn learned that Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh were also planning a visit to Canada the same year, so she decided to

look into the possibility of Prescott being one of the stops on their visit. Lawn, along with Robin Morris put together a package promoting Prescott. The package, which included coloured pictures of the military pageant, along with documentation about Prescott's Loyalist connections, and a list of medical and security facilities, was presented to the Chief of Protocol. Once

Prescott received approval from the Ontario government through the Office of Protocol, a letter was sent inviting the couple to visit Prescott for Loyalist Days in July 1984.

"We didn't dream that it would really come true," said Lawn.

Then, on February 22, 1984, after several months of waiting, the former mayor along with Robin Morris got confidential word that the Royal Couple would indeed be visiting Prescott as part of their two-week visit to Canada and in conjunction with Loyalist Days that ran from July 14 to July 22. However, Lawn and Morris were informed that no public announcement was to be made until Wednesday, March 7 and they were to tell no one.

Once the public announcement was made, it was determined that there would be an increased amount of organizing, so a separate sub-committee was formed. The Royal Visit Committee was led by Robin Morris. This committee spent countless hours discussing parking, security, agendas and rehearsing how they were to act when meeting the Queen. The Royal Visit was to take place on July 17th. As the day



Former Prescott Mayor, Sandra Lawn escorting Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on the Royal visit to Prescott, September 27, 1984

approached everything was falling into place.

Then, on July 13, the former mayor received a letter from the Prime Minister's office stating that due to an upcoming Canadian election, the royal visit would have to be postponed. The Queen does not make public appearances in Commonwealth countries during a campaign, so her visit to Canada was postponed until the fall.

This royal postponement created more challenges and extra rehearsals for the Royal Visit Committee. New invitations for the VIP and passes had to be re-issued. The date had to be changed on the medallion for the mayor's chain of office, and a new book had to be purchased for Prince Phillip with a revised inscription date.

However, when the Royal Couple finally did visit Prescott on September 27, it was well worth the wait. Spectators arrived at Fort Wellington around 7:00 a.m., even though the Queen was not scheduled to arrive until the middle of the afternoon. The Prescott Recreational Department provided a bus for many of the seniors. Students from South Grenville District High School, as well as students from the Prescott public and separate schools, were dismissed at noon. They walked to the Fort Field with the supervision of their teachers. Many schools outside Leeds and Grenville also bussed some of their students to the historical event. Many of the students waved flags and wore bicentennial buttons. For the arrival and departure of the Royal Family, approximately 160 Air Cadets from Prescott, Smith Falls and

Brockville formed an honour guard around the parking lot at Fort Wellington National Historical Park.

Children played a big role in the Royal Visit. A 32-member children's choir sang "God Save the Queen" and "O Canada" in 2-part harmony. They also sang various songs before the Queen arrived. The children were dressed in Loyalist costumes.

A Victorian-style bouquet, created by Barb Gilmour, was presented to the Queen by Krista Lee Ann Hare, and the book "King's Men: Soldier Founders of Ontario", was presented to the Duke of Edinburgh by Ian MacDonald. Students in Grades 1 to 4 at the four Prescott elementary schools got the opportunity to enter a draw for a chance to present these gifts to the Royal Couple from the children of Prescott.

The Royal Couple were not the only ones who received gifts. The former mayor was delighted when Queen Elizabeth presented her with an autographed photograph of Herself and Prince Phillip in a leather-bound frame.

Sometime after the event, Lawn received official photos, as well as rough footage of the Royal visit. This footage was eventually edited by Chelsea Beckstead and is now available for viewing at the Grenville County Historical Society, the Forwarder's Museum and Fort Wellington.

"The footage shows the human spirit of the entire event. It demonstrates the warmth and interest of the Royal Couple in our community, the reenactors and our people," recalls Lawn.

According to Lawn, the Duke of Edinburgh was well informed about all the regiments and shared a lengthy conversation with her husband Robert during the military pageant.

Queen Elizabeth and the former mayor shared a laugh when a gust of wind blew Lawn's hat off. The Queen then offered Lawn a tip about hat pins.

After the military pageant was over, the Queen unexpectedly walked out on the field and reviewed the troops. Much to the delight of the soldiers, she stopped to speak to many of them.

"One of the memorable things about the Royal Visit was that our small town demonstrated, literally to the world, that we were capable of doing something pretty special. "I believe this was a truly spectacular and historic event that helped propel Prescott into the 21st century," said the former Mayor.

The little town of Prescott has found its way into the history books! **LH**

Editor's Note: This visit was captured and written about specifically in a book "Royal Visit to Prescott": It's Preparation and Staging by Sarah Jane Dumbrille (published 1984). Copies of this book for those interested can be purchased at the St. Lawrence Shakespeare office 206 King St W. in Prescott or you can find copies of the book on-line on the internet.



The Saturday Market is a favourite spot for friends to meet.

HISTORY, TRADITION & COMMUNITY:

Brockville Farmers' Market

By Russ Disotell

With most of the emphasis on Canada's Sesquicentennial, 2017 has become a year for reflection on our history and heritage. Locally, Canada's century and a half is getting most of the press, closely followed by the imminent re-opening of the Brockville Railway Tunnel, Canada's oldest, both worthy of our attention. But lost in the hoopla is a part of the fabric of the community that predates both of these historic events. Most of us are likely to have visited it during the past year, and it is open to the public three days a week. It is the Brockville Farmers' Market.

Long before anyone dreamt of a railway tunnel to the waterfront or Confederation of the British North American colonies, the Brockville Farmers' Market was created. One of Brockville's leading citizens, the Honourable Charles Jones, donated a parcel of land running from the King's Highway (King Street) to the St. Lawrence River for a market on October 28th 1832. The grant contained what is now, East and West Market Street and the land between.

If you think those were simpler times, at least

in terms of bureaucracy, think again. It took a special Act of Parliament on February 13, 1833 to bring about the creation of what was then known as the East Ward Market. This, only after a very contentious debate in the Legislative Assembly that lasted several weeks.

In the mid 1830's the East Market Hall, located at the rear of today's City Hall, was built to accommodate butcher's needs. Market operations were handled by the Board of Police, which offered a few complications. The Clerk of the Market was the Sergeant of Police, who was responsible for the weighing of all produce sold. The market scales were kept at the police station when the Market wasn't open, which meant that after noon, anyone wishing to weigh products had to go to the police station. The challenge? The police station was housed in the Opera House, located at the site of the present-day Brockville Arts Centre.

In 1904 Brockville municipal offices were moved to Victoria Hall, today's City Hall, and the Market became entirely an outdoor operation. For nostalgia's sake, here are some

of the selections available at the 1910 Market and their prices. All manner of produce cost between ten cents and thirty-five cents a bushel. Chickens were a quarter, geese fifty cents and turkeys seventy-five cents. Local beef cost between three and four and a half cents a pound.

Today the Brockville Farmers' Market continues to flourish, with a few changes that might shock the original vendors. I'm sure they never dreamed there would be alpacas on site! Some things remain the same, as it is still recognized as the best spot to find locally grown and raised products. Today the Market is somewhat smaller in area but plays host to over fifty vendors, selling products ranging from the aforementioned local produce and meats to fresh cooked delicacies, maple syrup, seasonal specialties, and works by local crafts people and artisans.

The broad range of vegetables, many new international varieties planted locally, would probably be a surprise to vendors from "back in the day". As well the multicultural offerings in prepared foods, reflecting the twenty first century make up of the region, has changed a great deal. Today you can find Ukrainian, Hungarian, Syrian, German and Chilean delicacies spread throughout the vendors.

Add in music and special events every weekend and you begin to understand why the Market is a meeting place for so many residents. Saturdays you can have a nosh, meet with friends, enjoy the picturesque locale, shop for your week's supplies, chat to the knowledgeable vendors picking up tips, recipes and information on their products and take in some wonderful music by talented local musicians. Tuesdays and Thursdays offer smaller weekday versions of the same hustle and bustle.

The vibrancy of the Market hasn't gone unnoticed. Gusto, the new Canadian food-oriented network headquartered in Ottawa, caught wind of one of Canada's oldest continuous markets and, as this article was written, had sent a crew to Brockville to record a segment on the Market and its vendors.

The Brockville Farmers' Market operates on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays until Thanksgiving weekend, although, if the weather cooperates, many vendors set up on Saturdays until November. Additionally, Christmas Markets are held Dec. 2, 9 and 16 at Wall Street United Church. More information on Market events can be found at www.brockvillefarmersmarket.ca or on their Facebook page. **LH**



THE SPENCERVILLE MILL MUSEUM BRINGS THE PAST TO LIFE

Photos courtesy of The Spencerville Mill Facebook page. Left: Welcome to the Mill Museum; Middle: Alicia Wanless and Micheal Berk, modelling Regency wear available at the Mill Museum; Right: A sampling of items for sale

By Lisa Crandall

Every town, city and village begins as a gleam in the eye of an enterprising individual and Spencerville, Ontario is no different. In 1812 Peleg Spencer identified what he thought was a likely looking spot on the South Nation River and set to work. Over the next hundred years multiple generations of the Spencer family built, rebuilt and ran a succession of mills in the area. In 1912, the Barnard family bought the mills and began to expand the business, upgrading the mill equipment, then taking on the responsibility of acting as wholesalers and distributors of feed supplies, as well as various grades of flour and farm merchandise. A hardware store was added in 1955 and served the community until it closed in 1972.

In 1985, the Spencerville Mill property, a neglected ruin at this point, was purchased by the South Nation Conservation Authority. Since that point, guided by a dedicated Board of Directors and supported by a small army of volunteers, the mill has been slowly brought back to life. Over the years, various parts of the mill have been literally torn down to the ground and rebuilt. The Museum's website is filled with videos and images of each project. Although it is no longer a working mill in its present form, all three levels of the mill have become

functional again, and the mill has changed its name to the Spencerville Mill Museum.

On the main floor, visitors will find the Barnard Emporium, an old fashioned general store/souvenir shop named after the original shopkeepers. The shop features the work of local artisans and a range of handcrafted goodies such as, candles, jams and textile creations. The Emporium is also home to Barnard's Regency Clothier, offering a selection of hand-made Regency Clothing available for rent.

On the lower level, a range of exhibits highlight the intricacies of how the original grist mill operated by harnessing the local river, as well as informative displays about farming in the area in the early 20th century.

On the top floor, there is an ever-changing array of historic exhibits and artifacts, focusing on the histories of the Dutch, German and Swiss immigrant families, who helped to create the community. This brightly lit, wide open space is available for community events such as, weddings and banquets, as well as being used for fundraising events for the mill itself.

In 2017, the focus has shifted to the land surrounding the mill. The Spencerville Mill Foundation, Spencerville Business & Community Connections and the

Edwardsburg-Cardinal Township have all come together with ambitions to raise sufficient funds to enhance the parklands, as a special place for locals and visitors beside the South Nation River. The plan includes, wheel chair accessible paths, gardens, benches, a picnic area, historical panels, an information kiosk and map of village businesses as well as points of interest.

Special events planned for the rest of the summer include, the ongoing Music at the Mill series of live concerts. Spaced throughout the months of August, September and October, the upcoming concerts feature a range of performers, from Classic Soul and Motown, to Celtic Energy and Blue Grass Americana. Other events include, a Vintage Carnival in August, a retro fun fair for the whole family. In September, there will be an eagerly awaited food tasting event called "An Affair with Food & Drink." The focus will be on local food and drink. Then in October, the Masquerade at the Mill costume ball will signal the end of the season for the Mill Museum. **LH**

For specific details of upcoming events at the Spencerville Mill Museum, check out their website at <http://www.spencervillemill.ca>

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The students at TIES preparing a mosaic puzzle canoe for Canada 150



The first publicly displayed TIES canoe project – decorated to look like birch bark, it is being used as a planter at the Lansdowne Community Garden

TIES

Lansdowne Students Refurbish Canoes for Canada 150

By Lorraine Payette

Think about Canadian history and Canadian legends, and the first image that comes to mind is usually a person in a canoe. Whether piloted by a member of the First Nations, a voyageur or a fur trapper; the canoe was transporting goods or people; sitting on the water, the land, or even, flying through the air. The canoe is a symbol of Canada and all she has ever been or hopes to be.

When a 30-year canoe collector decided to pass his collection on, teacher Dionne Running, of Thousand Islands Elementary School (TIES) in Lansdowne was more than ready to accept the challenge.

"His vision was to restore these canoes and donate them back to schools," said Running. "He wanted to have a canoe in every school, the profound message being that canoes built our past and they're part of our future."

Students were delighted to have a part in a project that would show off their skills and heritage. They leaped in happily, bringing in paints and markers, sandpaper and rags, everything they needed to decorate these beautiful old boats.

"We have one at the Community Gardens in Lansdowne," said Running. "That was kind of a joint venture through Kim George

and LAFR (Lansdowne Association for Revitalization). They had a fibreglass canoe that we were going to decorate for them to be made into a garden planter. Fibreglass is very hard to paint, so I said, we have these beautiful canoes, and I thought this would be a much more appropriate purpose for those canoes."

While the boat at the Community Gardens has been painted to look like a birch bark canoe, the latest one represents the interlocking mosaic that makes up Canada. Each piece or tile is hand painted individually by the students, showing what they feel is most representative of Canada.

"We've got some tiles that have pictures, like a teacup and a kitchen with bacon, and some are just colourful ones," said Wesley Pengelly, grade 5. "A lot of students have come and worked on this. I, my siblings, and some other First Nations students painted two different types of medicine wheels. We've got traditional white, yellow, red, and black in the circle window style, and then we've got another style where it's like pizza slices."

"My friend Macy and I have worked on all these puzzle pieces," said Bridget Buell, grade 4. "We drew all of them and there are over 220."

"We have been working on this since May and everybody in the school has a puzzle piece they can do to represent Canada 150," said Quintin Moore, grade 4. "We have over 150 tiles and we have over 150 kids in the school, so it just makes it better and more fun."

"I think this canoe project has gone really well, thanks to Mr. Running," said Trystan Ball, grade 5. "We've done a lot of hard work. Some classes have grouped up with our reading buddies and we've made artwork together."

"It's colourful, it shows different parts of Canada, and it inspires you that in 1867 Canada was made," said William Gamble, grade 6.

Darwin Wagar, Grade 5, agreed.

"We're making it because of the 150th birthday of Canada to celebrate how many years it's been here. I think it's coming along very well." **LH**



Students happily paint their pieces in the puzzle

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WHAT IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE FINAL, “I QUIT”?

By Shelli Warren

When you first hung out your small business shingle, or applied for that perfect Encore Career position you were likely thinking:

- ❖ “I can’t wait to get away from this awful job.”
- ❖ “I just want to be home with my kids.”
- ❖ “This dead-end job is going nowhere.”
- ❖ “I’m tired of working crazy hours and holidays.”
- ❖ “I know I’m worth more than they’re paying me.”

These and many other thoughts go through the heads of every would-be business owner, and every encore career enthusiast. They are often the driving force behind that final, “I quit.”

While they are great for lighting a fire, and inspiring you to make a scary jump to something new, they’re not so fabulous at motivating you to grow and improve. They won’t inspire you to increase your skills, raise your rates, be brave or authentic in your marketing and positioning. They won’t help you find the courage to hire a coach, dust off your resume, place that cold call to your connection or become the face of your brand.

To find the inspiration to make your business thrive, you have to identify the REAL WHY behind what you do.

Passionate Whys

“Passion based” is a phrase that’s found a massive following in the past few years. It seems to be the holy grail of entrepreneurial adventures. For business owners, not-for-profit start-

ups, and laptop lifestyle seekers with a true passion for their field, it can be a strong motivator.

Some people are passionate about a subject, spending all their waking hours learning about the topic. Some are passionate about a market and would do anything to help their ideal client achieve his or her goals.

Whichever type of passion-based person you are, learning to harness that passion will help take your success to the next level. If you are seeking to work in an atmosphere where diversity is embraced, and where the leadership is fostered at every level, clearly communicating your passion will help you become the best candidate at a job interview. As you’re trying to create hype and support, including financial, for your awesome business idea, you’ll want to be able to share it in such a way that it creates a following.

Financial Whys

Maybe you want to retire at 40 to travel the world or to send your kids to an elite private school. Maybe you love fast cars and dream of driving a Porsche.

Whatever your big dream, you knew you’d never make it while putting in time at the day job. While everyone seems to go on and on about those passion-based dreams, the truth is there’s nothing wrong with wanting financial fulfillment. Money is a necessary tool. We need it, and the more we have, the easier life is. Wanting more of it is nothing to be ashamed of, as long as you maintain your integrity and authenticity in pursuit of it.

Philanthropic Whys

Plenty of people go into business so they can have more to give. You’ve no doubt heard of—or maybe even know—entrepreneurs and corporations who use their earnings to fund mission trips, build schools in war-torn, third world countries, and support a variety of charities at home and abroad. Others use the time freedom they’ve built into their business or encore career, to volunteer with local hospitals, animal shelters, and children’s organizations.

To find your own WHY, consider your biggest dreams. If money were no object, what would you be doing? **LH**

Shelli is the woman behind the brand SheConnex. As a Career & Leadership Coach, she specializes in helping people find or create their dream careers and their dream teams. She successfully created her own Encore Career after 25 years with Procter & Gamble and now serves employees, entrepreneurs, and corporations who have a desire to lead with purpose. Visit her on www.sheconnex.com





Crystal Peer



Isabelle Bouchard on the job



Baby Peer nestled inside a cast of his mother's baby bump.



Isabelle Bouchard, self portrait

IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT SHOT

By Lisa Crandall

Beyond the ubiquitous selfie in front of every touristy highlight and a plethora of not quite perfect shots at every social gathering, it is good to know that there are still those who specialize in making sure that every detail and angle of special occasion portraits is perfect. Isabelle Bouchard of Brockville and Crystal Peer of Prescott are two such perfectionists, independent photographers, each with a special vision of how their clients should be presented to the world.

Isabelle Bouchard of Brockville has been shooting professionally since 1999. She considers it her natural vocation, recalling that even as a teenager, she was the one who tended to seek out to collect the family images and their stories. Today it is those stories that she seeks to capture in the timeless and classic images she creates with her camera.

Her speciality is portraiture – corporate portraits, family legacy portraits,

weddings, maternity shots and whatever else her clients need her to capture. For several years she has worked out of a studio in Montreal, but last year she set up a home studio in Brockville. She still travels widely, in Eastern Ontario, to work with a vast range of clients.

She works closely with her clients to achieve their desired result. This includes guidance on what clothes to wear, as well as working with local professionals for hair and make-up. A shoot that includes hair and make-up can take as long as three hours to accomplish. The end result is a “reveal visit” where she presents a wall of the final images in 8x10 or larger sizes, mounted on archival quality mats.

In addition to doing portraiture, Isabelle teaches photography at The Professional Photography Institute in Montreal.

Crystal Peer of Prescott was given her first camera at age 10. Her career began with a two-year photography course at

Humber College in Toronto. She returned to Prescott to be close to her family. After spending several years doing quick turn-around portraits at a local grocery store studio, she decided to strike out on her own as an independent photographer.

Her executive portraits are classically elegant and she travels between Kingston and Ottawa at the request of her clients. It is in her other work that her sense of fun gets a chance to shine. She does sassy boudoir images for her adult clients, but her true speciality lies in working with children. She delights in cake smash sessions with toddlers and looks forward to maternity and infant sessions, perhaps because she is a new mother herself.

The end result of a session with Crystal is a CD package that includes a license to print the images.

Both these photographers have detailed websites that highlight their specific areas of expertise. They are both easy to talk to and committed to making their clients very comfortable, while at the same time, turning out a finished image that enhances the individual and suits the needs of the client. You'll find Isabelle Bouchard (Abelle photographie) at www.abelle.ca and Crystal Peer at www.crystalpeerphotography.com
LH



1000 Islanders Chorus are always a popular group at Brockville Culture Days



Culture Days flag raising 2016 M. Jiggins (representing Steve Clark), M. Plooy DBIA, M. Wheeler author, T. Komery musician, R. Disotell facilitator

CULTURE DAYS

Brockville's Premier Street Festival

By Russ Disotell

Culture Days is an annual three day, cross Canada celebration of Arts and Culture in the community. It takes place, starting on the last Friday of September, which this year means Sept. 29, 30 and October 1st weekend. The mission of Culture Days is to foster appreciation and support of the artistic & cultural life in communities across the country. This event promotes direct interaction between creators and community to increase understanding and appreciation of art & culture, and to affirm that every citizen is the guardian of the cultural life of the community.

That's the official description of Culture Days. In Brockville, the celebration is essentially a community street festival held throughout the downtown. The Brockville DBIA sponsors a street closure on King Street where the bulk of the activities take place on the Saturday, this year, September 30th between 9 am and 4 pm,

2017 is the third year for Brockville Culture Days and it has grown every year as more individuals and groups join in. 2015 saw the festival organized from scratch with six weeks lead time and no budget. It was one of the busiest, fall weekends, according to the Brockville Tourism Office. Buoyed by this success, Culture Days returned in 2016 and was the fifth largest celebration, based on participants, in Canada for cities with populations below 50,000.

In addition to the King Street main hub, there are activities spread throughout the downtown core. One of the most popular sites last year, the Brockville Museum, is returning for 2017. The Brockville Irish Cultural Society held a very successful series of workshops at the Museum last year. These workshops included; how to make Irish soda bread, tin whistle lessons, several beginners Irish dance classes and how to draw a Celtic knot. They are returning with more workshops in 2017. They will be joined by the Creative Stitchers group at the Museum's Henry Street location.

Planning for this year's event continues as this article is being written. It is fair to say there will be more participants than ever as more individuals and groups join the celebrations. This is definitely an event that offers something for everyone, no matter your age or interest. You can expect artists of every stripe; dancers, musicians, artisans, crafts workers, and writers all sharing their passion and expertise. A number of not-for-profit agencies take part to showcase what they have to offer the community in the way of programs and services.

There are far too many participants to list them all, but here are a few to give you a flavour of the event. Brockville 50+ Activity Centre, (formerly the Shepherd Welcome Centre) have been enthusiastic contributors since day one. They will be back with yoga and tai chi demonstrations, as well

as members of their quilting and painting groups. There will be volunteers to answer questions about their many classes.

Transition Brockville is another charter member of the group. Their booth is always a hotbed of activity. Younger attendees are fascinated by the hand cranked apple peeler and corer demonstration, which is always a big draw. This year they promise a full range of demonstrations and talks on eco-friendly techniques to help live a simpler life.

Maggie Wheeler is the Seaway Valley's Queen of Mystery! She will be on hand at Brockville Culture Days, holding the local launch of "All My Worldly Goods", the latest "Lost Villages Mystery." This novel deals with the history of The British Home Children through Faran Mackenzie's ancestry.

New this year is Aaliyah Dance & Friends and Shimmy mob who are going to present different forms of American and Middle Eastern belly dance. Shimmy mob is the largest group dance performed worldwide on World Belly Dance Day to raise funds and awareness of the issues of domestic violence.

Culture Days is a local, grassroots celebration. All of the participants are local and the money from any sales stays in the community. It is also interactive. Participants try to incorporate activities to engage or instruct the public. Where this isn't possible everyone is more than willing to discuss their particular passion.

The event provides you with, not only entertainment and engagement, but a chance to learn more about activities, groups, classes and instruction available in our own community. **LH**

More information on Brockville Culture Days can be found at www.brockvillearts.com or the Brockville Culture Days page on Facebook.

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Beautiful sunset on Charleston Lake



The Englishman Monument erected by Haigh in 1877 on Charleston Lake

THE ENGLISHMAN'S MONUMENT ON CHARLESTON LAKE

By Sally Smid

Charleston Lake has been known as “Queen of the Lakes” and such a title certainly is well deserved. Its rugged beauty, glorious sunsets, and fabulous fishing make it a world class destination in many ways. That is most probably why “the Englishman” spent time on this beautiful lake, beginning in the 1870s, when visitors from distant locations were few. It has been said that he was one of the first to recognize Charleston Lake as a special summer resort.

This distinguished gentleman was William H. Haigh. He first boarded at Edward Duffield’s hotel in the Charleston village, then later at the home of Israel Slack on Slack’s Bay, south of Charleston village. The Kelseys were famed as fishing guides for many years. One of William’s first guides was Sammy Kelsey. Haigh had a houseboat built for himself that was towed about by one of the early steam launches. He was said to be “very wealthy, with a well stocked wine vault” and was even rumoured to have been of royal birth. He did admit to having aristocratic roots, was born in 1841, and left home when he was just 14. He had previously hunted big game in the Rockies. While he was considered to be quite eccentric, he was also very kind and did a lot to help

the needy. Stories were told that if he met a boy without shoes or proper clothing, he would quickly provide some from a store in Farmersville (Athens). He stayed in the area for 4 years, but left the Lake in the winter months. Many presumed that he stayed in Montreal.

One day when he was returning from a fishing trip, he and his guide rowed by a shoal off of Rock House Island, where they noticed piles of loose stones. The Lake was much shallower in those days. It was said that Sammy had the idea to pile the loose stones up “to make a haystack”. Haigh asked him to invite the local “loafers” of the village to come to Slack’s the next day, but did not explain why. When they arrived, he “treated them generously”, then led the way to the shoal, directing them to stack the stones, making a base that was 14 ft. in diameter and 6 ft. in height. In the centre, Haigh placed a pole, then nailed his felt hat to it. For a week, the men continued bringing stones from neighbouring islands to complete the cairn. Finally, it was whitewashed and labelled 1877 on one of the stones.

An announcement went out that it would be christened on the following Sunday.

Haigh was said to have broken a bottle of whisky on the cairn and christened it the “Englishman’s Monument”, a name that has stuck over all of these years. Haigh remained in the Slack home for another year and then departed as usual that fall, leaving his houseboat in Israel’s care. He never returned that spring and nothing was ever heard of him again.

Some believed that he knew he would never return and the erection of the monument was in tribute to all of the wonderful times he’d had at Charleston Lake or was it just one of his many peculiarities?

His houseboat was eventually made into a boathouse which later collapsed, the monument also fell into disrepair. In 1921, members of the Charleston Lake Association decided to repair it. Some summer cottagers worked with local residents to restore it as closely as possible to the original so it might be “preserved for posterity”. At that time, the pole was replaced and a wooden fish was attached on top to help mark the direction of the wind.

Anyone who spends time at Charleston Lake could be just as inspired as Haigh by its beauty. The Englishman built a monument 140 years ago that has been as mysterious as he remains to be for these many years. Is it really such a curiosity or is it an obvious testimonial to the tranquility and exceptional beauty of this amazing lake? The steam launches have been replaced by speedboats, but Charleston Lake still remains “Queen of the Lakes”. Perhaps Haigh’s attraction to the Lake and his interesting response to what he experienced, as a visitor for those years, is really not a great mystery at all! [LH](#)

Much of this information was gleaned from Writer/Historian, Edna B. Chant’s book “Beautiful Charleston” as well as Lois Stanford’s gleanings from “Athens Reporters”



Summertime Mac & Cheese

Prep time 25-30 Min ~ Bake time 25-30 Min.

You'll Need:

450g box elbow macaroni	450g shredded cheddar cheese or marble
1/2 cup butter	450g crumbled Maple bacon
1/2 cup sifted all purpose flour	1/2 cup fresh mushrooms pieces
3-4 cups milk	1/2 cup cheddar & 1 cup bread crumbs
red pepper flakes	(for topping)

Directions:

- Cook macaroni according to package directions and set aside.
- In a medium saucepan melt butter over low heat. Add flour and stir constantly until smooth.
- Turn heat to medium and add milk stirring constantly until thick. (About 10 minutes).
- In a separate skillet, cook bacon until slightly crisp, then cut into small pieces or crumble.
- Cut 1/2 cup mushrooms into pieces and put into skillet and cook with the bacon fat.
- Add pasta, bacon, mushrooms, sauce and cheese. Mix until cheese melts, bacon & mushrooms are mixed in, and pasta is evenly coated.
- Pour macaroni and cheese mixture into a 9x13 baking dish or round casserole dish and top according to taste.
- Bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees for about 25-30 minutes. (If using parmesan cheese and breadcrumbs, take it out when the top looks lightly browned. If using cheddar cheese topping take out when top becomes darkened, but not burnt.).



Uncle Bucks Summer Peach Crisp

Prep: 20 min. Bake: 40 min ~ Makes 9 servings.

You'll Need:

1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup butter, cubed

FILLING:

2 cans (470 ml each) sliced peaches
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup cornstarch

TOPPING:

1-1/2 cups old-fashioned oats
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
5 tablespoons butter, cubed

Directions:

- In a large bowl, combine the flour, brown sugar and salt. Cut in butter until crumbly. Pat into a greased 9-in. square baking dish, pierce several times with a fork to allow air to escape. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
- Meanwhile, drain the peaches and reserve juice in a small saucepan. Stir in the sugar and cornstarch until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in peaches. Pour into crust.
- For topping, combine the oats, brown sugar and flour. Cut in the butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over filling. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until golden brown and bubbly.

Our Communities are what make 'LIVING HERE' Special!



In the Summer and Fall of 2017 Let's Celebrate Canada's 150th Year and make a point to visit our area communities as they put on events to mark this historical year. To celebrate what makes their town or city unique.

- ✓ Whether you explore the Aquatarium in Brockville, or visit Fulford Place or the Brockville Musuem.
- ✓ Take in the history of Fort Wellington in Prescott and then visit the Riverwalk District in Prescott.
- ✓ Look at the beautiful Murals in Athens or have fun at Cornfest in August.
- ✓ Bring your family to the 8th Annual Mallorytown Village Fair in August or take in one of Ontario's oldest running family fairs in Spencerville in September.
- ✓ Take a 1000 Island Cruise in Gananoque or shop in the downtown with their unique shops and restaurants.
- ✓ Check out the river views and diving spots for shipwrecks in Cardinal.
- ✓ Go fishing or boating on the majestic St. Lawrence or visit some great hiking/biking trails in our area
- ✓ Visit scenic Seeleys Bay or join in the fun with Turkeyfest in Lyndhurst with the family in early fall in September.



*Let's Celebrate "Living Here" &
Explore our Communities in 2017
& re-discover what our area has to offer!*



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