DINNER & COMEDY
Yuk Yuk’s Comedy Club
Includes: Buffet dinner and show with some of Canada’s best comics.
Available every Friday or Saturday 8PM show in Nov–Dec

DINNER & RODEO
Metroland Media Agriplex
Includes: Buffet Dinner & Rawhide Rodeo Show
Available Dec 11, 18 & New Year’s Eve

DINNER & DANCING
Carousel Room
Includes: Roast beef buffet, LG Group Gaming Package, London’s finest DJ and cash bar.
Available every Friday & Saturday of Nov–Dec

DINNER & RACING
Top of the Fair Restaurant
Includes: Roast beef buffet and best view of live harness racing.
Available every Friday of Oct–Dec

Details online at westernfairdistrict.com
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• Literary • Museums
Seeking London’s Original Blue Boxes from 1990

SEARCH PROFILE:
- Must be blue
- Still recycling after all these years
- May be held together by duct tape
- Likes to stay out all night at the curb
- Likes to hang out with other Blue Boxes
- Dedicated to helping families recycle
- Colour has ‘faded’ due to age (hey, I am 25 years old!)

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
1. Send your photograph holding an original 1990 Blue Box PLUS a paragraph on why you recycle (100 words or less).
2. Provide consent that your photograph and story can be used on the City of London website/social media.
3. Submissions that meet all rules will be eligible for draw prizes.
5. Visit www.london.ca/recycle for other participation rules.

Notice of Collection of Personal Information: The personal information collected for this program is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used to administer the program. The winning submission will become part of the public record, may be viewed by the general public, and may be published on a City of London internet webpage. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the Division Manager of Solid Waste Management, 300 Dufferin Ave., P.O. Box 5035, London ON N6A 4L9, 519-661-2500 ext. 1812 or wabbott@london.ca

London’s recycling program is 25 years old – you have made a difference.
Western Fair District (WFD) is the host location for dozens of exciting events during the course of any given year. But visitors can also enjoy ongoing attractions at WFD, including harness racing, fine dining and hilarious comedy. Since 1961, the Raceway has been the place to watch the best in Southwestern Ontario harness racing. Races are run on a half-mile track, and visitors can enjoy the thrill of live competition every Monday and Tuesday at 6:15pm, and every Friday at 7:15pm, between October and May.

As well as providing live racing entertainment, the Raceway also simulates other competitions from international locations; 23 tracks per day, to be precise. Simulcast hours of service are 11:30am-1am, and programs are available at kiosks all day ($2.50 each).

Contests are also a big part of the fun when attending the Raceway. On Friday nights during race season, Battle of the Fans gives contestants a chance to up their winnings with a $30 betting voucher provided by the track.

Another contest - Luck of the Draw - asks a selected contestant to pick four numbers out of a drum and play them during a race, using funds from the track. And listeners to Classic Rock 98.1 want to pay close attention, as every week the radio station is giving away a night out with dinner for two at the Top of the Fair Restaurant.

WFD fine dining pairs a sumptuous meal with a panoramic view of the racetrack. The Top of the Fair Restaurant is a London institution, and features five food stations with something certain to please any palette. Monday night is pub night at the restaurant. Doors open at 5:30pm with an 'a la carte' menu in effect. On Fridays, enjoy a delicious buffet dinner before taking in the evening's entertainment on the track. Please note: reservations are required.

The Top of the Fair Restaurant can easily accommodate groups of 10 to 500 and will work with clients to create a memorable night at the races. Normal group rate (20+) is $28.99 per person. During the holiday season (November-December) the price is $29.99 per person.

Seniors Day offers people aged 55 years or older a chance to get OLG and Raceway gaming vouchers, a free Raceway program and Top of the Fair buffet for $25.99. Call 519-438-7203 ext. 252 to reserve a spot.

On the other side of WFD’s entertainment offerings, Yuk Yuk’s Comedy Club is the place to be if you want side-splitting humour from some of today’s hottest comedians. Sizes times at the licensed venue are Fridays at 8pm, and Saturdays at 8pm and 10pm.

Tickets can be purchased at the club’s on-site box office one hour prior to the show. Tickets are also available online until 6pm on the night of the show and from Grandstand Guest Services daily until 9pm.

Yuk Yuk’s welcomes headliners Eman El-Husseini and Ian Siostra to the comedy club in October. El-Husseini’s act covers a wide range of topics, from how lesbians are the new gentlemen to the date of her parents’ wedding anniversary - September 11th. Siostra, meanwhile, is a Gemini Award-nominated actor and comedian whose charismatic, take-no-prisoners style is seamlessly blended with family-focused observational humour.

For ticket prices and more information on the Raceway, the Top of the Fair Restaurant or Yuk Yuk’s, visit the Western Fair District online.

- Chris Morgan

Halloween is creeping up

Halloween - it’s the one time of the year where dressing in disguise is acceptable and trespassing on strangers’ properties is encouraged. Kids of all ages carefully assemble the perfect costume, plan their route, and hunt down the largest bag they can find in order to collect as much candy as possible.

Those too old to hit the ‘trick-or-treat’ circuit stock up on confectionary, and ready themselves for an onslaught of Elves, Minions and zombies to come knocking as the sun goes down on October 31st.

Halloween as we know it in this part of the world is descended from several celebrations, notably the Celtic festival Samhain, where the custom of wearing masks was meant to fool and ward off spirits, since the veil between worlds was thought to be thinnest at the end of harvest.

Trick-or-treating has its roots in the Middle Ages, when children and poor adults would go door-to-door to beg for food in exchange for a prayer or a song.

As for trick-or-treating in today’s world, keeping little ones safe is a top priority. Just like with swimming, trick-or-treaters are advised to use the buddy system. Stay on porches; decline any invitations to enter residences.

Make sure kids’ costumes aren’t too darkly colored, and enhance visibility by reflective markers and flashlights. Drivers must be extra vigilant on Halloween.

Resistance to snack on the haul before returning home (Parents too). Candy tampering is relatively rare but foreign objects and compromised packaging is hard to spot under the night sky. Be safe, have fun and happy Halloween from SCENE!

- Amie Ronald-Morgan

SPOOKY IDEAS FOR HALLOWEEN AT FOREST CITY SURPLUS

When it comes to tracking down items for that one-of-a-kind Halloween costume, Forest City Surplus (1712 Dundas Street E.) is the place to go.

FCS has long been billed as the local destination for supplies during the scariest time of the year, and a perusal of the store’s inventory confirms that fact.

“This year we got in some huge lots of surplus Halloween gear,” FCS marketing director Tim Hodges told SCENE recently.

Among those items is a selection of premium kids Halloween costumes being sold at 50 percent off the original big box store prices. Witch and superhero costumes, capes, even costumes for babies are available, as well as outfits from Spiderman, Toy Story, Monster High and other entertainment franchises.

Normally costumes like these would retail for $24-$40 but at FCS, that’s just for starters. Hodges talked about some of the other seasonal items that have been used to dress up mannequins around the store.

“My favorite is the biochemical jackets. One of our staff paired it with a demonic mask and it’s pretty spooky,” Hodges said.

“The combination of the two has a pretty apocalyptic look to it – I mean, it’s a demon wearing the Elba-type suit, so it’s quite frightening to see.”

As well as biochemical jackets with built-in respirators ($8.99) and a scary Halloween mask ($5.99), there are 6-ft life-size jointed witch decorations ($5.99), five-colour camouflage face paint kits with mirror ($5.99), blonde ladies wigs ($8.99) and medieval-style wooden swords ($9.99) among many, many other accessories, accoutrements, hats, masks, shirts, jackets and decoratively painted shields. Yes, shields.

FCS is also holding its popular annual Halloween costume contest, which gives entrants a shot at winning prizes in two categories – 13 and older and 12 and younger.

In category #1 – 13 and older – the top prize is a $150 FCS gift certificate, second prize is a $100 FCS gift certificate and third prize is a $50 gift certificate.

In category #2 – 12 and under – the top prize is a $50 gift certificate, second prize is a $30 gift certificate and third prize is a $20 gift certificate.

“This is a perfect time to dress up and enter the contest, really. We’ve got a variety of our custom-made, handmade costumes to choose from, and a wide range of accessories to go along with it.”

- Chris Morgan

Trick-or-treaters should travel in packs – never go out alone

A horrific costumed mannequin created using wares from Forest City Surplus

Long-time participants will note that the rules of the Halloween costume contest have changed this year. Votes do not determine the winners, but votes will get the ten most popular costumes to the final judging round. Judges at Forest City Surplus will determine the winners.

Entering this year’s contest is as simple as coming to FCS (1712 Dundas Street E.) in costume.

Contestants will be photographed and added to the store’s online voting competition.

When voting begins at 12am on Friday, October 23, Google Plus and Facebook ‘like’ links will appear by your picture, allowing supporters to vote for their favorite outfit.

Voting will end at 11:59pm on Tuesday November 3 with winners being announced on Friday November 6.

“We suggest that competitors enter early to maximize their chances of getting votes in the contest,” Hodges said.

- Chris Morgan
London is pumped to have the GNC Championships returning to Centennial Hall (550 Wellington St.) on November 21. Like previous events of its kind, entrants compete in the categories of bodybuilding, fitness, figure, physique and bikini for a shot at qualifying for the Ontario competition, held in Toronto each year. 

SCENE recently spoke with organizer and event co-founder Jim Morris about this year’s contest and the people he hopes to attract to the event. “This is a regional event. Anyone in the province who’s a member of the Ontario Physique Association can enter this show. It’s open to newcomers and to those who failed to qualify, or have to requalify for the Ontario championships,” Morris said.

“I’m trying to attract people who are fans, friends and families of the competitors; basically, the people who have watched them go through the process of getting ready for the event,” he said.

“I’m also targeting people that want to get motivated about their own fitness goals, people who get inspired by attending these kinds of shows, so much so that they might actually compete,” he added.

The reasons for choosing to participate in a bodybuilding contest are varied and personal, depending on the individual. But whatever the initial motivation may be, the variety of different competitive categories in contests such as these allows bodybuilders to focus their efforts on creating a certain kind of physique, Morris said.

“We have so many different categories for men and women now that allow to individuals to create the kind of bodies that they want,” he said.

“Huge, muscular bodies – common in extreme body building – may not be as attractive to the mainstream, so now we have the men’s physique category, a beach body-type where competitors have less muscle and a more streamlined build; tight, firm abs, with wide shoulders and a small waist,” Morris explained.

“On the women’s side, there’s ‘bikini’, which is a comparable category. It focuses on shape, a small waist, nice hourglass figure, beautiful skin and good look. There’s some genetics there, but there’s training involved as well,” he said.

In addition to the competition, the GNC Championships will also host a guest bodybuilder who will make a presentation to entrants and attendees at some point during the day.

“Dennis Wolf is a top International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness pro male bodybuilder. He placed fourth in the Mr. Olympia this year – the most prestigious bodybuilding event in the world, and did very well on the European tour. He’s originally from Germany but living in Las Vegas. He’s a big guy – 6 feet, at least, and 275 lbs,” Morris said.

Onsite registration and weigh-in for all competitors participating in the 2015 GNC London Championships occurs at the Hilton London (300 King St.) on Friday, November 20 starting at 6pm.

Tickets for the show are only available for sale at the door on the day of the event. Prejudging begins at 10am ($25) and the finals get underway at 6pm.

Western International Week returns this November 16-20 to celebrate the university’s diverse community of students, faculty and staff. The five-day event – which is open to campus communities, alumni, and the people of London – offers attendees a chance to develop greater understanding and appreciation of individuals and perspectives from other parts of the world.

“International Week at Western started about three years ago, and we really wanted the event to be an opportunity to celebrate diversity and explore all the international opportunities and learning experiences we have on campus,” said Kris Dundas, a communications officer with Western.

“That can be anything from exploring all the different opportunities the students have to go abroad, or discussing important international and global themes here at home. It’s an opportunity to celebrate what we have as a community, and also connect with people around the globe and locally as well,” she said.

In 2014, International Week events were held in every faculty of the university, over 80 events in all. There were film, music and art exhibitions, workshops, panel presentations, cooking classes and information sessions. Attendees can expect more of the same type of thing this time around, Dundas said.

“This year we have a really strong line-up of events coming together. There are a variety of academic events as well as social events - events with food that people obviously enjoy very much,” she said.

“Many of our key events really focus on a number of themes. One is a presentation about the way in which we go about our international learning. There is a lot of concern and questions about sending students abroad and whether we are doing it ethically, responsibly, and in true partnership with the communities where the students are being sent,” Dundas explained.

“The presentation is meant to get us thinking about how we go about doing international learning and activities in a global education setting. So that event is definitely more on the academic side,” she added.

International Week isn’t just about how people at Western – or in London - see the world. It’s also about how the world sees us, and the importance of sharing local history with people who come to call London ‘home’.

“We have a really interesting partnership with the London community this year. We’re having a downtown London cultural tour, which is happening on November 20,” Dundas said.

“We’re selling tickets at a nominal price for that because it’s an opportunity for anyone – but we’re targeting international students and also domestic students - to learn more about London’s cultural history. It’s called ‘Downtown London: Then and Now’,” she said.

As a consequence of being involved with planning International Week, Dundas spoke about several events she will be attending at this year’s festivities.

“I’ve had lots of favorites from over the years,” she said.

“One of them is The Don Wright Faculty of Music’s ‘Songs of Many Lands’ show, which features vocal program students performing songs in different languages. It’s absolutely fantastic,” Dundas said.

“When we open the week’s events – on November 16 at our University Community Centre - we’ll be having a number of multicultural performances happening during the afternoon. I’m really looking forward to that as well.”

For more information on Western International Week, visit the event website, email intlweek@uwo.ca, or call 519-661-2111 ext. 89309.

- Chris Morgan
GLOBO the Open 50/person(gl) Email: news@scenemagazine.com. Please include: Venue Name, Address, Event.

6th system& Tools 19-4615. A CON
11pm. $ Come & see your displays at our Adult Student's Kid - New Giving Back. 1600 S. St. & T
70 & 07. CR laughs. A £-

09-12 pm. $-

 rahim. C 1000 (St. Kilda Ave.) - Euchre, every Tues, 1 p.m. Cribbage, every Thurs; Bridge, Wed & Thurs: An afternoon for seniors & older. 535-694-2919.

PHILADELPHIA CHARMING GARDENS 420 (North St.) - Mental Health Walk-Run, 25, 9:00 am. Come participate in the Mental Health Walk or Run to help children, adolescents & adults affected by mental health issues. 537-499-4774.

SPRINGFORD PARK (1703 Commissioners Road) - Annual Jingle Bell Walk & Run for Arthritis, 9, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for arthritis sufferers. 717-777-4966.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL GREEK (472 Richmond St.) - Harvest of Hope, 9:00 am - 9:30 pm. Harvest of Hope Dinner & Dance raises funds for the Educate the Child (ECh) school building project in Africa. Enjoy African & Caribbean cuisine courtesy Indigo Cuisine, win prizes & live music. 713-670-1862.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL (354 Richmond St.) - 3rd Annual Alex Clark Memorial Concert, 26, 7:00 pm. A beautiful concert to remember a much-loved friend of ours. Donations will be taken towards the fund supporting the annual Alex Clark Music Award at Medway High School - a fitting way to remember a wonderful musician, organist, choir leader & teacher who inspired & challenged all those with whom he worked. 519-434-3225.

CMC SHRINE CENTER (464 Clifton Rd.) - Annual Ot- hepole Tea, 25, 4 - 5 pm. A cup of tea, see our Club displaying & social activities & hear the story from an adult. 519-661-2002. C M. ACF 11/2015 - 345 Richmond St. - Christmas, Nov. 11, 8 - 2 am. $-

MARRIOTT HILTON (7171 Dundas St.) - 2015 Hallo- ween at the Hilton, Nov. 24, 10 - 4 pm. You will find unique vendors with the most beautiful array of homemade items including wooden & natural materials toys & dolls, felted creations, instruments, accessories for pets, home & garden, paper, paper chairs, purses, games & much more! Enjoy time in our cafe with homemade soup & bread, baked goods, coffee & tea, & 519-838-8862.

MIDDLESEX-LONDON HEALTH UNIT (50 King St.) - Com- munity Environmental Health Services - Giving & Gaining Back, 22, 29 Nov 4, 12, 19, 26 & Dec 3, 1 - 3 pm. The Middlesex-London Health Unit is offering weekly training sessions in Environmental Management. Free Email. ln@llh.on.ca

MCM SHRINE CENTER (464 Clifton Rd.) - Annual Ot- hepole Tea, 25, 4 - 5 pm. A cup of tea, see our Club displaying & social activities & hear the story from an adult. 519-661-2002.

BIRKETT MILL (_709 graduated Rd.) - 6th Annual MS Night Inn, 24, 10 - 11 pm. Dinner, prizes, Silent Auction & Cash Bar. Let's Make a Deal theme, costumes are optional. $40, Team of 5 $250, Team of 6 $325. 416-433-1380.

THE LISTINGS
Social Life

**D I G E S T**

**Social Life**

**DIGEST**

**FEATURES**

**RED REIGN: JUSTIN TRUDEAU AND THE LIBERALS SURGE TO POWER**

It took 78 days to arrive but when Canadians finally went to the polls, they spoke loud and clear. After enduring one of the longest electoral campaigns in the nation’s history, voters in regions across the country were in the mood for change on October 19. And change is what they got.

The Liberal Party of Canada — led by 43-year-old Justin Trudeau — had the momentum going into Election Day and managed to translate that public support into a 184-seat majority.

“Sunny ways, my friends, sunny ways,” Trudeau told party faithful at a victory rally in Montreal.

“This is what positive politics can do. We beat fear with hope. We beat cynicism with hard work. We beat negative, divisive politics with a positive vision that brings Canadians together,” he said.

It’s been said that the Canadian electorate doesn’t so much vote in a new government as much as vote out the old one.

No doubt that message was obvious to incumbent prime minister Stephen Harper and the governing Conservatives, who faced a severe drubbing from voters at the ballot box and lost 60 seats in the House of Commons.

Following their election defeat, Conservatives announced via press release Harper’s intention to resign as Conservative Party leader, but reported he would stay on until a replacement could be found.

The 56-year-old Harper told supporters at a rally in Calgary that it had been “an incredible honor” to serve as prime minister of the country.

“We put everything on the table, we gave everything we have to give, and we have no regrets whatsoever,” Harper said of the Conservative campaign.

“The disappointment you also feel is my responsibility and mine only,” he added.

The NDP moved to third-party status after the election, losing the role of Official Opposition to the Conservatives. Voter support for the party in Quebec — the same support that proved so decisive in the 2011 federal election — eroded, leaving the NDP with only 44 seats in the House of Commons.

“With this election, Canadians have asked us all to work for them,” 60-year-old party leader Thomas Mulcair told disappointed party members following the election.

“We will not let them down,” he said.

The remaining seats in the House of Commons will be occupied by MPs from the Bloc Québécois (10) and the Green Party of Canada (1).

In the four ridings that comprise London’s electoral zone, the shift to Liberal red on the national level was mirrored by the local races.

Liberal candidate Peter Fragiskatos defeated Conservative incumbent Susan Truppe in London North Centre, while Kate Young took London West for the Grits by beating veteran Conservative MP Ed Holder.

Irene Mathyssen of the New Democrats managed to hold onto her seat in the riding of London-Fanshawe, and Karen Vecchio kept Elgin-Middlesex London

**REMEMBRANCE DAY: ALWAYS REMEMBERED, NEVER FORGOTTEN**

On November 11, 1918 at 11am, after four devastating years, the First World War came to an end. Countries and continents would be forever changed; almost 30 million military personnel were killed or maimed.

“Canada’s contribution was significant, unprecedented and costly. The country came out proud and victorious, heading towards national autonomy within the British Commonwealth, while mourning the loss or injury of 250,000 Canadians,” the Canadian War Museum states.

There are several ways to join with others on November 11 to pay tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace.

The annual march to the Cenotaph in Victoria Park is a tradition in London. Last year over 10,000 attended - one of the largest turnouts ever for Remembrance Day ceremony downtown.

The 1st Hussars Museum, located at 1 Dundas Street, is open special hours on Remembrance Day from 1pm to 4pm. Here, visitors can view artifacts from 1st Hussars participation in 20th century conflicts, including D-Day Invasion during WWII. Extended hours will also be observed at The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum at Wolseley Barracks.

The museum will be open from 10am to 8pm; all are welcome to observe the remembrance ceremony conducted by 4RCR in the Parade Square. Veterans will be on site throughout the day to interact with the public. Other activities will be available as well.

In our nation’s capital, a Remembrance Day service will take place at the National War Memorial in downtown Ottawa; in Toronto, services take place at the Cenotaph at Old City Hall.

- Chris Morgan
Friends of the London Public Library

In September 1993, a small group of Londoners gathered together to form The Friends of the London Public Library. Since those early days, the organization’s founders have been joined by hundreds of volunteers, who have worked to raise funds to enhance programs and advocate on behalf of the library’s interests.

The not-for-profit is run by volunteers, and the group manages The Library Store, which is located in the Passageway across from Central Library. The store is open six days a week and sells a wide array of materials, including books, CDs, DVDs and even vinyl LPs.

Donations of such material are welcomed by the Friends. Many individuals donate their book, DVD and CD collections, and even a few businesses give books to the store.

In mid-October, the group’s annual book sale was held at the Western Fair District’s West Annex. This is a popular community event which provides a perfect opportunity for the public to stock-up on their reading or listening material.

The Book For Every Child program is also a Friends initiative, run in partnership with the library.

This year’s campaign runs from November 7 – December 21 with the purpose of raising money for new books to give to children who would otherwise not have a book of their own.

Chapters, Indigo, Coles, Oxford Books and the Book Store at Western are participating in the program. The public can visit any of these businesses, choose a book for a child, and receive a discount for the purchase.

Being a friend adds your voice and support to the London Public Library. If you are interested in becoming a member of the group, annual membership dues are $5 for seniors, $10 for individuals and $20 for a family. Membership in the group has benefits. Friends receive a 10 percent discount at Oxford Books, and a 20 percent discount on Fridays at The Library Store.

Members will also receive an invite to a preview night reception, where they will get first chance with the merchandise before the annual book sale is open to the public.

For more information on The Friends of the Public Library, contact 519-661-2448 or email at friends@plp.london.on.ca

- Chris Morgan

Annual Book Sale is a Popular Local Event

Local & Provincial Digest

Jobless levels up in September

Unemployment in the London-St. Thomas economic region rose nearly a percentage point in September, reporting its highest since the end of last year. According to Statistics Canada, the region lost 2,700 jobs in September, pushing the unemployment rate to 7.3 per cent – an increase of 0.7 percent. The jobs report showed 2,200 additional residents claimed unemployment last in September, while the regional labour force declined by 700.

Ontario saw a drop of 34,000 jobs in September as losses in full-time employment were partly offset by gains in part-time work. The province’s jobless rate stands at 6.9 percent. Nationally, StatsCan reported the Canadian economy added 12,000 jobs in September, but that unemployment grew by one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.1 percent.

National Waste Reduction Week & 25 years of blue boxes in London

National Waste Reduction Week kicked off October 19, putting special focus on the need to reduce, reuse and recycle – this week and every day of the year. As a part of Waste Reduction Week and helping Londoners know how to properly recycle is one more step we are taking to help make London a healthier and greener place to live, work, learn and play,” Mayor Matt Brown said.

Initiatives are underway to draw attention to the cause. One promotes the issue of cartons and cups - these items are recyclable and belong in the blue box for containers, not the paper bin. Those who over 18 stories high

-240,000 recycling trucks lined up nose to nose from London to Quebec City and back again (a lineup up almost 2,000 kilometres in length)

-We have recycled enough paper to save over 4,000,000 trees

-And we have reduced Greenhouse Gas emissions equivalent to taking all the cars in London off our roads for over one year

“Looking back, in 1999, we collected 5 items in the Blue Box: steel and aluminum cans, glass bottles, newspapers and 2 litre plastic soft drink bottle,” commented Jay Stanford, the Director of Environment, Fleet & Solid Waste, Environmental & Engineering Services at City Hall.

“Every time we expand the number of items that we collect, Londoners respond enthusiastically and positively. One year ago we added hot and cold beverage cups and ice cream cartons because we heard from Londoners a meetings and events that they wanted these recycled.”

“Some items are more challenging to recycle such as foam plastic and plastic bags. City staff are working with other municipalities, the Province of Ontario and industry to help find sustainable solutions so more materials can be recycled.”

Check out london.ca/recycle for more details.

Londoners currently divert 45 percent of waste.

Talks with support staff, elementary teachers hit impasse

Provincial negotiations with Ontario’s English-speaking elementary school teachers and support staff for both elementary and secondary schools have stalled, with both union and government officials giving no indication of when they will resume. Support staff – represented by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF) – have been in talks with the province for more than a year, and announced job action as of October 5. Both elementary and secondary teachers are “standing in solidarity” with support workers, refusing to help with sanctioned duties. Meanwhile, a deal between Ontario’s elementary school teachers’ union, the province and school boards appeared imminent on October 14, but that was before details related to the agreement were leaked to the media, causing the union to accuse the boards of bargaining in bad faith.

Advisory panel on poverty established

The Mayor’s Advisory Panel on Poverty was formed on September 16 to develop action-oriented recommendations to address issues related to poverty in our city. “We know that poverty is a challenge in London. We also know that many individuals and organizations across the city are doing important work to address the root causes of poverty, focusing on wide-ranging issues from homelessness, prevention, to employment supports, to food insecurity and more,” remarked Mayor Matt Brown. The panel consists of Helene Berman, Maureen Casidy, Andrew Lockie, Christopher MacKie, Abe Doodshorn, and Glen Pearson. The group will meet several times before March to complete its objectives, which are: Developing a shared understanding of how to address poverty; mapping efforts currently underway to address poverty; identifying gaps and areas requiring significant action; engaging local stakeholders in dialogue on gaps and approaches to address poverty; and developing a set of recommendations. Two days later, London North Centre MPP Deb Matthews announced provincial funding for several initiatives to help improve the lives of people affected by poverty. Furthermore, volunteers recently campaigned as part of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness to conduct surveys with those living with it.

Home care in need of overhaul, Hoskins agrees

On September 25, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Dr. Eric Hoskins responded to a point made in the recently completed Report on Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) by provincial Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk. The recommendations call for the province to revisit the model of delivering home and community care, which currently involves 14 CCACs and about 150 private sector service providers. “We endorse this recommendation and see it as a catalyst not only to continue to but deepen our reform process. We will continue to make changes that will truly improve both the system and the experience of the more than 600,000 patients who receive services from CCACs each year,” Hoskins stated.

Gauthier publishes memoirs

Former 90.9 radio host and television personality Jacqui Gauthier may soon be adding ‘best-selling author’ to her resume. Gauthier recently travelled from her home in South Africa to be the keynote speaker at the Power of the Purse conference at the Hellenic Community Centre on October 8. The next day, she launched her first book - The Gift of an Elephant – a gala event hosted at the Grand Theatre. Gauthier’s tale of adventure, romance and personal growth traces her journey from Canada to war-ravaged Sudan, and then to the South African bush, where she now makes her home among the zebras, lions and giraffes. The Gift of an Elephant is available in paperback and for download from Amazon.

- Anne Ronald-Morgan and Chris Morgan

The Friends of the London Public Library

Annual Book Sale is a Popular Local Event

CITY HALL

Public and Political Input Meetings

- Assessment Review Board Oct 22 - 23
- Ontario Municipal Board Hearing Oct 22
- Accessibility Advisory Committee-Oct 22
- Farmhouse Park Road Richmond Street Intersection Improvements Environmental Assessment Study Notice of Public Information - Oct 22
- Cycling Advisory Committee-Oct 22
- Committee of Adjustment-Oct 26
- Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee-Oct 26. Submission target date is Oct 19 at 9:00 a.m.
- Council-Oct 27. Submission target date is Oct 21 at 9:00 a.m.
- Trees and Forests Advisory Committee-Oct 28
- Governance Working Group-Oct 28
- Planning and Environment Committee-Nov 2. Submission target date is Oct 26 at 9:00 a.m.
- Corporate Services Committee-Nov 3. Submission target date is Oct 26 at 9:00 a.m.
- Transportation Advisory Committee-Nov 3.
- Civic Works Committee-Nov 3. Submission target date is Oct 26 at 9:00 a.m.
- Advisory Committee on the Environment-Nov 4
- Animal Welfare Advisory Committee-Nov 5
- Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee-Nov 9. Submission target date is Nov 2 at 9:00 a.m.
- Special Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee-Nov 10
- Council-Nov 10. Submission target date is Nov 4 at 9:00 a.m.
- London Housing Advisory Committee-Nov 11
- London Advisory Committee on Heritage-Nov 11
- Corporate Services Committee-Nov 16. Submission target date is Nov 9 at 9:00 a.m.
- Planning and Environment Committee-Nov 16. Submission target date is Nov 9 at 9:00 a.m.
- Community and Protective Services Committee-Nov 17
- Submission target date is Nov 9 at 9:00 a.m.
- Cycling Advisory Committee-Nov 17
- London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee-Nov 19
- Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee-Nov 19
- Council-Nov 24. Submission target date is Nov 18 at 9:00 a.m.
- Trees and Forests Advisory Committee-Nov 25
- Governance Working Group-Nov 25
- Submission deadline is Nov 16 at 9 a.m. Call 519-661-2500 x 4937
Arsons plague Oxford and Wharncliffe

London Police are informing the public about a pattern of arson confined to an area near the downtown. Since August 13, five arsons have been reported in a four block radius surrounding Oxford Street and Wharncliffe Road North. All instances have occurred between 11pm and 8am throughout the week. Property that has sustained damage as a result of the fires have included vehicles, car ports, sheds, apartment doors and hydro poles, however there have been no injuries. All are asked to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity that is observed in the area. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Information can also be submitted anonymously online.

Man wanted for assault of sex trade worker

Police are searching for a man wanted for assaulting a sex trade worker on September 26. Shortly after 7am, police responded to a disturbance in the area of Edward Street near Devonshire Ave in Old South where they located a woman in distress. She was taken to hospital where she was treated for minor injuries and released. The victim had been a passenger in a newer model silver Honda Civic with a noisy after-market exhaust. Investigators determined that the woman had been picked up 20 minutes prior at Dundas Street and Ashland Ave. The suspect in this case is described as a black male, approximately 40 years old, wearing a baseball-style hat. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call police at 519-661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Information can also be submitted anonymously online.

PetroCan robbed, pair at large

Police are looking for two men wanted in connection with an armed robbery that occurred on October 3. The suspects - both dressed completely in black and with their faces covered - entered the Petro Canada gas station at 1701 Wonderland Road North around 5:30am. One of the suspects brandished a gun and demanded cigarettes before striking the clerk with the gun. The victim proceeded to direct the suspects to the cigarette drawers. The pair took a quantity of cigarettes and fled in a vehicle similar to a silver GMC sport utility vehicle. The clerk suffered minor injuries as a result of the altercation. The suspect with the gun is described as white, 20-25 years old, 6’ tall with a thin build, wearing all black; there is no description for the second suspect. They are both currently at large and considered armed and dangerous. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Information can also be submitted anonymously online.

Man wanted after disturbance

Police are requesting assistance in identifying a man wanted for a downtown disturbance. Officers were called to Dundas and Clarence Streets just before 9:30pm on October 14 in response to a report of a man and woman fighting. A man who witnessed the altercation stepped in and verbally intervened out of concern for the woman and was assaulted by the suspect. The suspect proceeded to damage a vehicle belonging to the victim’s friend. The suspect and the woman have not yet been identified; they were believed to be in a newer model white Ford Explorer Platinum Edition, last seen travelling northbound on Richmond Street. The suspect is described as white, 35-40 years old, 5’9” - 6”; heavy set, with short brown hair. He was wearing a white pinstripe dress shirt and dark pants (see photo). Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Information can also be submitted anonymously online.

Charges upgrades in deadly University collision

Charges have been upgraded for a man who struck a pedestrian while driving impaired on campus. Andrea Christidis, an 18-year-old Western student, died two days after she was hit by a car on Lambton Drive, south of University Drive, on October 7. Christidis had been walking northbound on the sidewalk at 11:35pm when a car lost control and jumped the curb. Jared Dejong, 24, of London, was initially charged with dangerous driving causing bodily harm, impaired operation causing bodily harm and having in excess of 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood. He now faces charges of impaired driving causing death, operation of a motor vehicle over 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood causing death, and criminal negligence causing death. He has a scheduled court date on November 3. Police are asking any witnesses who have not yet come forward to call 519-661-5670.

- Amie Ronald-Morgan
Ocean fish numbers decline by half

Over-fishing and other threats have dramatically reduced the number of fish in the world’s oceans, pushing them “to the brink of collapse” according to a joint study by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). The report, which tracked more than 1200 different species of fish and marine animals, said the number of fish today is half what it was in 1970, with populations of common commercial fish having fallen by nearly 75 percent. WWF International director Marco Lambertini called the ocean’s fish “critical” for the ecosystem and human food security. In addition to over-fishing, damage to coral reefs, coastal development, pollution and climate change have all played a role. Some governments have adopted UN sustainable development goals that include ending over-fishing and destructive fishing practices over the next five years.

Refugees crisis represents opportunity for Europe

International observers are urging European governments to see Syrian refugees as both a “positive opportunity” and a potential solution to the continent’s aging population and the “brain drain” of European professionals. Many refugees are young, skilled and looking to make a better life in Europe, said relief organization Mercy Corps, adding that integration also reduces the risk of extremism among refugee populations. Meanwhile, European nations continued efforts to coordinate their response to the influx of refugees. Hungary again sealed its border, while nearby Slovenia began admitting additional refugees on the condition they be allowed to continue into other nations. And Turkey rejected a proposed EU financial package aimed at easing the crisis, calling it “unacceptable” and “insignificant” in meeting the nation’s massive humanitarian needs. Turkey is the main departure point for refugees entering Europe and currently hosts 2.5 million refugees.

Palestinian violence may herald a third Intifada

Speculation about a third Intifada has risen after recent weeks of violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories, including attacks on Israeli civilians, clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces, and standoffs at several holy sites. Israeli officials don’t believe attack plans are organized, and while Palestinian groups such as Hamas have applauded the violence, none have claimed responsibility. Late last month, President Mahmoud Abbas said that the Palestinian Authority would no longer abide by the 1995 Oslo Accords that formed the basis for a two-state solution, accusing Israel of having repeatedly violated the agreement. Protests by Palestinians have also increased, with thousands of demonstrators denouncing Jewish settlements and Israeli occupation. Meetings are planned at the United Nations to seek a solution, but any international response will likely be overshadowed by ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

Mentally ill face discrimination and abuse

The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging governments to protect the rights and dignity of those suffering from mental illness, many of whom face regular discrimination, neglect and abuse. WHO Mental Health Coordinator Michelle Funk says those with mental illnesses are often isolated from society and forced to live in horrible conditions, especially in developing countries. She added that recovery requires trained professionals who respect their patients, something many mentally ill individuals can’t access. In related news, a Canadian Justice Department study noted that the number of mentally ill individuals in the criminal justice system is rising “10 percent or more per year”. Justice Richard D. Schneider, who commissioned the study, criticised federal and provincial governments for “inadequate civil mental health care” that frequently left police and the justice system to deal with mental illness.

Investigators conclude plane shot down

The Dutch Safety Board concluded that a Russian-made Buk missile was responsible for the crash of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 over Ukraine in July of 2014, killing all 298 passengers and crew. While the board’s report avoids discussing which side in Ukraine’s civil war may have fired the missile, it notes that trajectory simulations suggest a launch point in an area dominated by separatists. Russian officials disputed the report, calling it “an obvious attempt to draw a biased conclusion, and carry out political orders”. A criminal investigation led by Dutch prosecutors to determine matters of blame and punishment has received the support of Ukrainian, Dutch, American and Malaysian governments. Western nations have consistently blamed Russian-backed rebels for the attack, while Russia insists Ukrainian forces were responsible.

- Adam Shirley and Chris Morgan
SULTANS OF STRING EXPAND THEIR SOUND

Since their formation as a duo comprised of Chris McKhool (six-string violin) and Kevin Laliberté (flamenco guitar), Sultans Of String have forged a global reputation as one of Canada’s finest musical exports. As the band’s roster of members has changed over time their open-minded creative spirit has remained constant.

The band has created an eclectic discography since its inception in 2004, building on the alchemy created by the magical mixture of Chris and Kevin’s playing styles while working with a variety of musicians and even a symphony orchestra. Their latest release, Subcontinental Drift (Universal) continues in that vein as they collaborate with sitar master Anwar Khurshid.

The fact that Sultans Of String has been classified as a world-music project from its beginnings is unsurprising given the creative directions they have taken and the instrumentation they employ. The new album, however, not only succeeds as a collaboration with Khurshid but also seems to signal a growth in their sound that could indicate the world-music label may be something they’re outgrowing.

“They put us in the world music section because that’s where we live. We’re bringing influences from around the globe. I always think of it in a way as Canadian music because it’s music that brings in the experiences of people from around the globe and that’s really the Canadian experience. You come here and you bring your culture with you and you celebrate it and you celebrate other people’s cultures as well. The problem is the terminology. Everything is world music. Anything that comes from a deep tradition is probably categorized as world music. The blues is world music,” said McKhool.

McKhool’s creative influences are richly varied due to his background in youth symphony orchestras and the incredible amount of music he’s absorbed in the intervening years both as a musician and music lover. As they’ve developed their own signature sound, the work of Chris and Sultans Of String is proving to be as influential as those artists who guided McKhool himself as he grew artistically.

“I think this is the deepest we’ve gone into one genre on any album. This album to me is my favourite because I think we more legitimately dove into one world or combined two worlds and created something new that had sort of an artistic focus through the whole album. Some of the influences are really obvious ones like Ravi Shankar, he created the world music genre by bringing his sitar to Woodstock and blowing people’s minds open and Peter Gabriel, huge influence. He’s the one that really inspired me to keep on looking deeper into the world of music, just so much incredible music to discover.”

One of the most interesting tracks on the new album, ‘Snake Charmer,’ particularly seems to guide the way toward a more world-music/jazz amalgam that may indicate a path the band may explore in future. Despite his schooling in the musical traditions he grew up in, Khurshid proved himself instinctively able to move spontaneously into the sonic fluidity that characterizes the track.

“Anwar’s really well-trained and the beauty is to explore music with somebody like that and find challenges. It’s almost like the kind of listening and responding that you do when you’re playing jazz. You’re listening to what someone’s saying and you’re responding to it in real time. The thing is, you can have ideas of where you want a song like ‘Snake Charmer’ to go but the only thing we know absolutely is the ending so if you end at the same time everyone goes ‘Wow, they’re really tight!’”

Sultans Of String are currently heading out to tour the new album and are already looking forward to other projects including a world-music Christmas album that McKhool indicates they’re already ‘knee-deep’ in. Chris and Kevin are nonetheless still buzzing from the creative energy their collaboration with Anwar has given them and see the experience as almost a one of a kind in terms of spiritual enrichment.

“When Kevin and I and Anwar starting writing these songs together in my garage a year and a half ago, that time we had together creating music and improvising music spontaneously together was almost like a balm on our souls. Anwar was just bringing this space of peace and happiness and positive energy. Coming off the road, Kevin and I were both really needing that. Just hanging out with him has been a great experience musically and otherwise. There are songs on the record that are different from anything we’ve ever done.”

- Rod Nicholson

Sultans Of String – (l-r) Anwar Kharshid, Chris McKhool and Kevin Laliberté – will celebrate the release of Subcontinental Drift at the Aeolian Hall.

**SNAPSHOT**

**SULTANS OF STRING**

**CREATIVE COLLABORATION**

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LONDON’S INDIE MUSIC SCENE ON THE UPSWING

It’s a given that year by year London’s indie music scene is in a constant state of flux. Venues close and new ones open, bands come and go and the public’s taste in what’s hot and what’s not is always changing. However, the one thing that stays relatively steady over time is the fact that the Forest City remains the home base for many talented musicians, representing many music genres. In an effort to gain insight on the health of the indie music scene in London, Scene spoke with popular musicians Sarah Smith and Jeffy Bialkowski, London Music Club manager Dave Taylor and CHRW Music Director Ian Doig-Phaneuf.

“Our city rocks! I travel a lot, and still enjoy coming home. It’s the best place to live and work from that I’ve found so far. I personally have a positive outlook on the London music scene. I think we have a tonne of support online, though media outlets, word-of-mouth, with industry folk and music fans. I think that a lot of the indie artists have been uniting and bringing a lot of incredible co-headlining shows to London this year. I believe we have a good reputation for breeding talented people,” said Smith.

Doig-Phaneuf also feels that London’s music scene has been better this year than in year’s past.

“Far better! Without a doubt. An interest and a willingness to engage in local culture is at an all time high. Resources for exposure are in place. DIY spaces are more prevalent than ever before. DIY venues such as art-spaces and those facilitating house-shows have had a huge impact on the growth of the local ‘independent scene’ as of late. Our pocket stands well to be nurtured and cared for, as things continue to grow by keeping one eye on the rest of the world and a favourable eye on each other.”

As the manager of a popular London nightclub, Taylor is perfectly situated to observe the changes in the scene and he likes what he sees.

“As far as how the indie music scene fared here at the London Music Club, once again there was a strong percentage of local bands/artists performing here, with once again a strong fan following as well. The health of the indie scene seems as strong as ever with musicians of all ages/generations contributing. It’s always great when you see a guy playing and singing in a band, and then you find out that his son is on drums... it’s very encouraging.”

Bialkowski, a solo artist and leader of Dustbin Flowers, has a less positive take on our indie scene.

“It seems a little broken, it seems a bit cliquey. It seems each nightclub is doing their own thing and that’s fine but when we had The Embassy and Call The Office, London could shine with independent music in venues where people could actually see you and you played through a quality pa system.”

Although a number of venues have closed in London this year, new places to play have sprung up to take their place. However, the lack of suitable venues for indie artists, especially those just getting started, remains an ongoing problem.

“Places for musicians to play continues to be an issue here, as there’s a lack of small to midsize venues for newly formed projects, bands or ensembles to take risks, explore their respective sounds or open for touring acts. These art-houses or DIY spaces have certainly helped to remedy a bit of the sting, giving these new projects freedom to do their thing and introduce their sound without the risk of having to ‘sell the place out’ or impress management. What’s resulted is a new creative underground, which is something that London has been in need of for quite some time. The noise, punk, electronic, and experimental scenes, for example, have been gaining momentum, and seeing how this year marks the 50th year of the Nihilist Spasm Band, that’s a good thing,” said Doig-Phaneuf.

Taylor mentioned that finding the cash to sustain an act is a big problem, while Smith feels that gaining new fans is always a concern for working musicians.

“I guess having to foot the bill for pretty much everything, with no backing from an agency and recording company is a problem. It must be very tough at times. There are so many bands/acts with so little backing that the market is saturated with the corporate-backed major acts,” said Taylor. Smith added: “A lot of times, bands end up playing to the same fan base, but I think that London is becoming aware of the growing music scene here and is trying to support its indie bands as much as possible.”

The one thing most people agree on is that the Internet now plays a major role in fostering a career in music. As an example, one just has to look at London-born singer Justin Bieber as someone who catapulted into stardom via a video posted on YouTube.

“I believe we are all meeting and becoming friends online now. Life is a little different than it was a few years ago. I think now, people mostly hear of upcoming events through social media. And they can pick and choose which events they want to go to. And then, when one person decides they want to check out a concert or an event, they can easily spread the word through their social branches. With just one message, all their friends can know where they want to meet up on a Friday night. I think social media is actually helping to bring people together,” said Smith.

“Facebook seems to be the biggest way to get the word out about events happening. So many people are friends of friends of friends that the word gets out there in an instant. You can see the response to events right away when people say they are attending or may attend. At least you know they know about the event,” added Taylor.

For some time now, those in the music biz have been calling on City Hall to do more to help grow London’s music scene and a recent announcement appears to show that they are ready to help. On November 6, Cory Crossman assumes his position as Music Industry Development Officer. Mr. Crossman, who has substantial music industry experience and strong connections to the Canadian music industry, will be responsible for executing the priorities of the London Music Strategy, which include building London as a live music city and music tourist attraction.

“We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Crossman,” said Mayor Matt Brown in a statement. “Change is happening. We are transforming London into a music city – an arts and culture hub in our region.”

Another area where musicians are looking for more support is via the local media, although it must be noted that some outlets do make an effort to foster local indie artists.

“I think here is a lot of support for artists living and working out of London. For instance, Free FM 98.1 is always pushing local talent and giving money to artists to record music,” said Smith.

“The print media contributes a ton of local exposure to talent... radio and TV almost nothing it seems because they are corporate based and have to follow a strict procedure policy that limits local indie performers from being put in the spotlight,” said Taylor. Bialkowski agreed that ‘local media, especially radio, should focus more on the local scene and play songs by London artists.’

Overall, the London indie music scene appears to be relatively healthy. There are still a good number of clubs that provide work for local musicians in genres ranging from blues to punk to rock to electronic and big events like this year’s edition of the Home County Folk Festival, Ribfest and even the Western Fair featured a good number of London acts on its programs. So, things are looking up.

“Events like the Dundas Street Festival and CYOA (Choose Your Own Adventure) have helped to reactivate, expose people to and re-imagine London’s downtown core as a means to experience culture and discover the arts. This want and need to keep our downtown relevant is crucial, if not paramount, in facilitating a healthy dialogue between our musicians and an audience. No music can exist in a vacuum. If we want our musicians to stay, our audience to stay interested, and our downtown to be vibrant there has to be an intersection between the three. The aforementioned events and those like it have certainly helped to push things forward,” said Doig-Phaneuf.

- John Sharpe

... some interesting facts

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STEEL PANTHER’S HEAVY METAL COMEDY

Los Angeles-based Steel Panther -- Michael Starr (vocals), Satchel (guitar), Lexxi Foxx (bass) and Stix Zadinia (drums) -- are not your average heavy metal outfit. Although the group plays a patented blend of heavy metal, they use witty, often profane and frequently humorous lyrics, as well as their exaggerated on-stage personas, to parody the stereotypical “glam metal” lifestyle of the 1980s. To these guys, nothing is sacred, all is hilarious, and nobody is safe.

“The comedy that ensues is different for each show. It’s a heavy metal comedy show. Even if you’ve seen our videos on YouTube, you cannot compare it to the actual live experience. It’s completely different. It’s really hard to explain to somebody what they are about to see,” said Starr in an interview with www.washingtontimes.com. “What can they expect? You’re gonna see some naked chicks on stage. That will just happen. Some will be younger. Some will be older. You just never know.”

Last year, Steel Panther released their third full-length album, All You Can Eat, featuring the single ‘Party Like Tomorrow is The End of The World.’ While the album has received rave reviews, it turns out not everyone in the metal community is a fan of the band’s take on the scene. In an interview, Starr revealed that Motley Crue aren’t fans of their brand of parody metal, with Tommy Lee in particular being upset by the band. Speaking with Daily Bulletin, Starr revealed that Lee doesn’t appreciate Steel Panther’s humor.

“Yeah, Motley Crue wasn’t really down with it. Tommy Lee was pretty upset over the fact we poked fun at Vince Neil. He didn’t like it. He just thinks we’re just a joke, like a stupid joke band that shouldn’t be playing with them. But all their fans like us.”

Starr went on to note that while most of the Crue take themselves too seriously, they have managed to convert one member – frontman Vince Neil, who “totally loves it.” “You know, he told me, ‘Hey, Michael, when we retire, you can have all our fans.'”

- John Sharpe

Elvis At Grand

It’s hard to believe that it’s been nearly 40 years since the King of Rock ‘n Roll died. But for thane dunn, a moncton, new brunswick resident who makes his living impersonating Elvis Presley with his eight-piece back-up band the Cadillac Kings, the legend and the music never died. “I want the audience to have a little taste of what it would have maybe been like to see Elvis in his prime,” said Dunn during an interview with The Guardian. “There was an experience in going to see Elvis. I’ve met 40 people or more that actually saw him live and said ‘tonight it felt like I was watching the real thing.’ That blows my mind. I used to cry all the time when people would say that because Elvis tribute artists and impersonators are a dime a dozen.”

Thane Dunn & The Cadillac Kings perform at the Grand Theatre on Saturday, November 7, 7:30 p.m. Renowned photographer John Rowlands, who was hired by the Colonel in 1972 to take pictures of Elvis on tour, will be talking about his experiences with Elvis and his entourage on the road. Call (519) 672-2620 for more info.

Barenaked Ladies Back

After 27 years together, over 14 million albums sold, and multiple Juno Awards and Grammy nominations, The Barenaked Ladies -- Ed Robertson (guitar/vocals), Jim Creeggan (bass/vocals), Kevin Hearn (keyboard/guitar/vocals) and Tyler Stewart (drums/vocals) -- are still going strong. In fact, the group is currently touring in support of their fourteenth album, Silverball. “I think it would be fair to say if the band was collectively known as Stella, then this record would indicate the reality that Stella had indeed got her groove back,” states Robertson. “This is the first record since our debut Gordon that was written with no hand-wringing, second-guessing, insecurity or self-doubt. I had an overwhelming feeling of confidence and gratitude heading into it.” When it came time to pick a producer, BNL turned to Gavin Brown, who had helped their previous project, Grinning Streak. “We had so much fun making this record— it felt great and worked well for the dynamic of the band,” Robertson explains. “So we decided to go back in with Gavin and his team and work back home in Toronto. And it was absolutely the right move.” The Barenaked Ladies, wsg Alan Doyle, play the RBC Theatre at Budweiser Gardens on Thursday, November 12, 7:30 p.m. Call 1-866-455-2849 for tickets and info.

- John Sharpe

Loud and Peter Berryman specialize in songs that make humorous observations about the human condition.
Gator Fun

Although the Grinning Gator (391 Richmond St.) features great entertainment virtually every night of the week, a couple of upcoming events stand out for special attention. On Friday, October 23, local progressive metal band Nail, with Sarah Halabacki and Newport Electric, will rock the downtown venue. Comprised of Rainer Wiechmann (guitar), Cindy Wiechmann (vocals), Dale Penney (drums), and Darcy Maudsley (bass), Nail were recent winners of Free FM’s ‘Made In London’ contest. In fact, the first 100 people who take in this show will receive a free ‘Made In London’ CD at the door. At the end of October, there will be chills and thrills to be had at the Grinning Gator as the club celebrates Halloween. On Devil’s Night (Oct. 30) entertainment will be provided by Stevie, Maloney, Sunshine, OB1, Temporal and Wicked Truth. On October 31, the scary fun continues with a number of special events planned for the evening. “On Devil’s Night we’ve having fire breathers and a number of different acts. We even have a lady who puts nails through her nose. That’s perfect for Halloween. On Saturday, October 31, the whole club will be decked out for Halloween. We’ll do some scary karaoke and we’re giving away great prizes for the best costumes on both nights,” said Shannon Melissa, Grinning Gator Manager. For more info, please call (519) 672-5050.

Eastside Soul

Born and raised in Toronto, Soul/R&B/Blues singer-songwriter Andria Simone’s recent performances have been creating quite a buzz in her hometown and elsewhere. Simone possesses a powerful voice and over the years she’s developed a real passion for being on stage, something that came about rather late in her young life. “I was not much of a performer in high school; I usually sang in my bedroom with a brush in my hand. I sang and performed when I was little, but when you’re a kid, you’re fearless. After high school I traveled to Ukraine at the age of 19 and studied piano and violin, and that’s where I kind of grew some self-assurance. When I came back to Toronto I suddenly had all this confidence and I started telling people I was a singer. The adrenaline, walk on the white sand beaches and go grocery shopping. One of Episode 3’s most humorous moments occurs when Brian and Nick are portrayed by Anima Sai as animated seagulls wading at the water’s edge. While the recordings of early episodes of The Vollmers were rather loose, with simple editing, Vollmer’s technique has vastly improved. He now employs a number of tricky edits and wipes to transition between scenes. “Yes, I’m slowly getting better at editing and filming the show. I think in the future I will try to get them out more often and go to a shorter format when possible, maybe 10 minutes or so. Presently, I have hours of film in the can consisting mostly of clips from this summer, Geir Arne (drummer for Humberack) coming to visit from Norway, and lots of other stuff. A work in progress for sure,” said Vollmer.

Rosie & The Riveters

Rosie & The Riveters — Alexis Normand, Melissa Nygren, Farideh Olsen and Allyson Reigh — were inspired by WWII feminist Icon Rosie The Riveter. “All four women in our band are pretty strong-willed and independent. Rosie The Riveter symbolized the women’s movement into the work force in World War II and I think we are all inspired by the strong women who came before us who worked hard to change the status quo so that future generations of women would have more options,” Reigh told CanadianMusic.ca. And as far as their musical inspirations are concerned, this four-piece folk band from Saskatchewan cites many influences. “Our band takes a lot of our inspiration from great artists such as Mahalia Jackson, The Andrews Sisters, and the Good Lovelies. I grew up listening to a lot of Connie Kaldor, Bruce Cockburn, Joni Mitchell, and Bob Segar and I personally draw a lot of inspiration from their music.” Since Rosie & The Riveters formed in 2011, they have performed over 100 concerts in Saskatchewan, showcased across the prairies and Ontario, been featured at numerous festivals and participated in workshops with artists such as Serena Ryder and Arlo Guthrie. According to Reigh, the one thing the group has learned is never take your audience for granted and be thankful for your success. “I think we’d like our fans to know how grateful we are for their support. We are so lucky to be able to do what we do and we wouldn’t be where we are today without people believing in our music and our message. Writing and performing music that people connect to is a great feeling and we hope that our new album brings people happiness.” Rosie & The Riveters, wsg The BelleRegards, perform at the London Music Club (470 Colborne St.) on Saturday, October 24, 8:30 p.m. Call (519) 640-6996 for more info.

- John Sharpe
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(SEE ALSO HOUSE BANDS, Dj, KARAOKE)

THURS. OCT. 22
APK- Paton Saint Of Plagues/Rattlesnake Hotel/Jet-fighter
CALL THE OFFICE; Gob/Booms (8pm)
FOX & FIDDLE—Three Penny Piece
GORDY’S BREWHOUSE—Big League Comedy
GRANDPA’S KARAOKE—Sean Moore
LAVISH—Finally Famous
LONDON MUSIC CLUB—The Big Rock Electric Jam (8:30pm/Sweet Alibi (8:30pm)
MOLLY BLOOMS—Mike O’Brien Band
NORMA JEAN’S—Nasty Alex Live Band Karaoke
POACHER’S ARMS—The Fairmonds
RICHMOND—Open Mic w/ Billy Patton
ST. REGIS TAVERN—Jeffy B. (4pm)
SCOTS CORNER—Solo Motive
TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE—Open Mic w/Chris Caserly
WINS KARAOKE—Open Mic w/ Dave Usselman

FRI. OCT. 23
APK-Fresh Friday w/DJ Halluluvad
BACKFRONTS—Mike Fagan
BYRON LEGION—Trina & Jeff (7pm)
CALL THE OFFICE—Kim Mode/Life In Vacuum/Garrett James (7pm)
CENTENNIAL HALL Pre-Teen MuchMusic Video Dance Party (7pm)

SUN. OCT. 25
CENTENNIAL HALL—London Record Show (11am-5pm)
EASTSIDE BAR & GRILL—Counting Down The Hours/Shelly Rustic/Smoake/Dean/Harry/Chip (2pm)
GORDY’S BREWHOUSE—Open Jam
GRANDPA’S KARAOKE—Bowl Savage
JIMBO’S PUB & EATERY—Stuck Sunday Jam (1pm)
LAVISH—Paula
LONDON MUSIC CLUB—Yarn/Booze/Paki/Run/Win/Les/Rowe Of Angs (7pm)
POACHER’S ARMS—Board Game Night
RICHMOND—Karaoke w/Lizzy
ST. REGIS TAVERN—Open Acoustic Jam (9pm)
SUN. OCT. 26
GORDY’S BREWHOUSE—Milw Street Mondays
GRANDPA’S KARAOKE—Shannon Liss
LAVISH—Dj Pablo
RICHMOND—Karaoke w/Maggie
LONDON MUSIC CLUB—Acoustic Open Mic (8pm)
MOLLY BLOOMS—Mike O’Brien Band
MOSSE KARAOKE—Open Mic
WINS KARAOKE—Open Mic w/Maggie

SUN. OCT. 30
POACHER’S ARMS—Open Mic w/3-Me
TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE—Battle Of The Bands
WINS KARAOKE—Open Mic/Stampen Trivia (8:30pm)

THURS. OCT. 22
APK-Savena/Ginger/Head And Tail/Moise & Ent/Nuju
FOX & FIDDLE—Three Penny Piece
GORDY’S BREWHOUSE—Big League Comedy
GRANDPA’S KARAOKE—Sean Moore
LAVISH—Finally Famous
LONDON MUSIC CLUB—The Big Rock Electric Jam (8pm)/Karaoke Piano Bar (7:30pm)
MOLLY BLOOMS—Mike O’Brien Band
NORMA JEAN’S—Nasty Alex Live Band Karaoke
POACHER’S ARMS—The Fairmonds
RICHMOND—Open Mic w/Billy Patton
ST. REGIS TAVERN—Jeffy B. (4pm)
SCOTS CORNER—Solo Motive
TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE—Open Mic w/Chris Caserly
WINS KARAOKE—Open Mic w/Dave Usselman

FRI. OCT. 30
APK-A Very Bowie Halloween
BACKFRONTS—Smoake/Dave
CALL THE OFFICE—Motown Party Monster Bash
DAWGHOUSE PUB—Altered Ego
EASTSIDE BAR & GRILL—Andrea Simonov
FITZVARS—The Shown Cowan Band
FLAVORS—The Geoff Mass Band
FOX & FIDDLE—Karaoke w/Joe
GORDY’S BREWHOUSE—Open Mic Night
GRANDPA’S KARAOKE—Bowl Savage
JIMBO’S PUB & EATERY—Karaoke w/Maggie
LONDON MUSIC CLUB—Acoustic Open Mic (8pm)
MOLLY BLOOMS—Mike O’Brien Band
MOSSE KARAOKE—Open Mic
WINS KARAOKE—Open Mic w/Maggie

SAT. OCT. 24
ADGHAH HALL-Cinco garniré (8pm)
APOK—Yeto On Horseback/Pluto/Quan
BLACK DIAMOND BAR & GRILL—The Night Crew (8pm)
CALL THE OFFICE—The Rosas/Rose Quartz
CANADIAN CORPS—Acoustic Jam (7-6pm)
CROSSING GRILL—Grady Parnell
CROSSING GRILL—LAMBERTH—Jessie Parent
EASTSIDE BAR & GRILL—Best Buds (3-6pm)/Sanya Marie Harris
FITZVARS—Unversal Juvanils
GORDY’S BREWHOUSE—Raiders/Carson/Mojor/Oswipshop Styx/Ki-ROYAIS
GRANDPA’S KARAOKE—The Unsounds
HENRY’S-Justin Pet (8pm)
JACK’S-Jason Mercer
LONDON MUSIC CLUB—The Neil Youngians (6pm)/Rose &

THE Riveters/The Bell Beggards (7:30pm)
LONDON MUSIC HALL—Big Sugar/Usk (8pm)
MOLLY BLOOMS—The Hoffs
MOOSE LODGE—The Les Holmes Band (1-4pm)
NORMA JEAN’S—Thunderstruck
POACHER’S ARMS—Greg Litte
RICHMOND—Black & Bluesgren
RUNNERS—Protoculture/Craig Connolly/Apollo
ST. REGIS TAVERN—Glee Syndrome/Tin Foil (8pm)
STRIKERS BILLIARDS—DI Hex (7pm)
TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE—Rhapsody Rebelz
THERAPY-Bas/Grinn/The Vibe Kings/Penny Bling/Tropical Tcosa
VICTORY LEGION—CW Country (2pm)/Country Versatiles (9pm)
WINS KARAOKE—Daly
WORTLEY—Hot Tub Hippies
YUK YUK’S—Eman El Husseini/Adrian Cook/Cerry Clement

SAT. OCT. 25
CENTERHALL—London Record Show (11am-5pm)
EASTSIDE BAR & GRILL—Counting Down The Hours/Shelly Rustic/Smoake/Darren/Harry/Chip (2pm)
GORDY’S BREWHOUSE—Open Jam
GORDY’S BREWHOUSE—Karaoke/Bowl Savage
JIMBO’S PUB & EATERY—Stuck Sunday Jam (1-3pm)
LAVISH—Paula
LONDON MUSIC CLUB—Yarn/Booze/Paki/Run/Win/Les/Rowe Of Angs (7pm)
POACHER’S ARMS—Board Game Night
RICHMOND—Karaoke w/Lizzy
ST. REGIS TAVERN—Open Acoustic Jam (9pm)
SIR FREDERICK BANTING S.S.-Encore. The Concert Band (2pm)
VICTORY LEGION—Sunday Jamboree (1pm)
WINS KARAOKE—Karaoke
WORTLEY—Chris Murphy & The Village Blues Band wgo/ Ben Shae (6pm)

MON. OCT. 26
GORDY’S BREWHOUSE—Milw Street Mondays
GRANDPA’S KARAOKE—Shannon Liss
LAVISH—Dj Pablo
RICHMOND—Karaoke w/Maggie
LONDON MUSIC CLUB—Acoustic Open Mic (8pm)
MOLLY BLOOMS—Mike O’Brien Band
MOSSE KARAOKE—Open Mic
WINS KARAOKE—Open Mic

NORMA JEAN’S—8 Second Ride
OLIVE R. TWISTS—Greg Larrette (5-7pm)
PROHIBITION—Re-Up/Justse/Jockey/Rocky
RICHMOND—The Photos/Moto Force/Belt/Mark Ninja
ROOSEVELT ROOM—Jugy B
ROXBURY—Dj Nuckles
RUM RUNNERS—The Motortone/The Dying Arts/Thauna/Drain/Classic Cycles
SCOTS CORNER—Cal Gooodbom
TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE—Chuckie Zeh (6-9pm)/Zach McAb
VIVI—WESTERN—Almord/White Reaser
WINDMEER MANOR—Jona Gustafson & Oliver Whitehead
WINS KARAOKE—Jason Mercer
WORTLEY—Journeymen Of Soul
YUK YUK’S—Ian Sestra/Bobby Knuff/Peter Anthony

MON. NOV. 2
APK—The Luna/Cats/Mike Whidbey Band
GRANDPA’S KARAOKE—Shannon Liss
MCCABES—Jason Mercer
MOLLY BLOOMS—Karaoke
POACHER’S ARMS—The Funny Comedy Show
RICHMOND—Karaoke

TUES. NOV. 3
GORDY’S BREWHOUSE—Open Mic Night
JIMBO’S PUB & EATERY—Karaoke w/Maggie (8pm)
LONDON MUSIC HALL—The Story So Far/Base ment/Tun-ner (7pm)
MOSSE KARAOKE—Open Mic (7-11pm)
POACHER’S ARMS—Trina & Richce
ST. REGIS TAVERN—Open Acoustic Jam (7-11pm)
TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE—Karaoke
VICTORY LEGION—County Road (9pm)
WINS KARAOKE—EPRU Bingo/w/Eddy

FEATU RE SHOWS:
SWEET ALIBI—OCT 22 • CRAIG CARDIFF • SWEET ALIBI—OCT 22 • ROSIE & THE RIVETERS/BELLE REGARDIERS—OCT 24 • DANIEL CHAMPAGNE—NOV 5 • DANNY MICHEL—NOV 12 • CHRIS WHITELEY & DIANA BRAITHWAITE—NOV 13 • JOHN WORT HANNAM—NOV 13 • DELTA MOON—NOV 14
### WED, NOV 4
- **APK Comedy Night**
- **EASTSIDE BAR & GRILL**- Open Jam w/The After 8 Band (8pm)
- **FOX & FIDDLE**- Hey Loreta (7pm)
- **GORDY’S BREWHOUSE**- Karaoke
- **GRASSING GATOR**- Open Mic
- **JIMBO’S PUB & EATERY**- Smokin’ Dave
- **LAVISH**- Karaoke w/DJ Amy
- **NORMA JEAN’s**- Open Jam w/Vinnie
- **O’MALLEY’S**- Karaoke w/Music Central (8pm)
- **POACHER’S**- Open Mic w/3-Me
- **ROBURRY**- Open Mic w/Shawn Cowan
- **RUM RUNNERS**- Current Swell/Phil Sayce/Texas King (9pm)
- **ST REGIS TAVERN**- 4th Bar Chor (8pm)
- **TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE**- Battle Of The Bands
- **WINKS EATERY/Pub&Stumpers Trivia (8:30pm)**

### THURS, NOV 5
- **APK Cat O’yley/John Mainheart/Sarah Botelho (8:30pm)**
- **CALL THE OFFICE**- After Funk/A-Fox & The Rude Youth/Northern Saints
- **COWBOYS RANCH Jason Blaine/James Otto (7pm)**
- **FOX & FIDDLE - Three Penny Piece**
- **GORDY’S BREWHOUSE**- Big League Comedy Night
- **GRASSING GATOR**- Karaoke w/Sean Moore
- **LAVISH**- DJ Finally Famous
- **LONDON MUSIC CLUB**- The Big Rock Electric Jam (9:30pm)/Daniel Champagne
- **MCCABE'S IRISH PUB**- Kill Effect/River City Runoff (7pm)
- **MOLLY BLOOMS**- Mike O'Brien Band
- **NORMA JEAN’s**- Nasty Alex Live Band Karaoke
- **POACHER’S**- The Fairmonts
- **RICHMOND Open Mic w/Billy Patton**
- **ST REGIS TAVERN**- Jeffry B. (4:30pm)
- **SCOTS CORNER**- Soke Motive
- **TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE**- Open Mic w/ Chris Cascio
- **WINKS EATERY**- Open Mic w/ David Uselman

### FRI, NOV 6
- **AGULLIAN HALL**- The Memphis Jam (8pm)
- **APK Fresh Fridays**
- **BACKDRAFTS**- The Geoff Moss Band
- **CALL THE OFFICE**- Wasted Potential/Heart Attack/ Kids/Botional Youth/Without
- **DAYHOUSE PUB**- Vultures Playing Ruckus
- **EASTSIDE BAR & GRILL**- Blackwing
- **EAST VILLAGE ARTS COLLECTIVE/EVAC**- Acoustic Jam Night (7-9pm)
- **FITZVARS**- Nasty Alex Live Band Karaoke
- **FOX & FIDDLE**- Karaoke w/ Joe
- **GRASSING GATOR**- Track Marks
- **JIMBO'S PUB & EATERY**- Karaoke w/Maggie
- **LONDON MUSIC CLUB**- Acoustic Open Mic (8pm)/Cynne Hanson/The Good Intentions (8pm)
- **LONDON MUSIC HALL**- The White Buffalo/Spencer Burton (8pm)
- **MOLLY BLOOMS**- Clean Slate
- **NORMA JEAN’S**- Bender
- **OLIVE R. TIWASTS-Greg Liette (5-9pm)**
- **POACHER’S**- Open Jam w/Bill Savage
- **RICHMOND**- The Alcoholics/Darkroom/Necrosaurus REX
- **ROBURRY**- DJ Hex
- **SCOTS CORNER**- Travis Geitz
- **TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE**- Meatster Blues Series (6-9pm)/Zach McCabe
- **WINKS EATERY**- David Uselman
- **WORLTY-**- Chris Torwell
- **YUK YUK’s**- Derek Supplee/Tan Black/ Jeff Elliott

### SAT, NOV 7
- **AGULLIAN HALL**- The Suicides Of String (8pm)
- **APK Anthony H/DJ Kemie Nation**
- **ARTS PROJECT**- Black Heart Machine/Mammoth Gardens (7pm)
- **CALL THE OFFICE**- Saint Claren Valley Lighting/Butterfly
- **CANADIAN CORPS**- Acoustic Jam (3-6pm)
- **CEEPS**- Rick McGee (11-4pm)
- **CROSSINGS GRILL HYE PARK**- Jeff Can
- **CROSSINGS GRILL**- (LAMBETH)- Justin Plet (8pm)
- **EASTSIDE BAR & GRILL**- Karaoke w/Ken Richardson (6-9pm)/Snakebite (Mat. 3-6pm)
- **FIRESCRE**- David Uselman (7-10pm)
- **FITZVARS**- Strictly Sabbath
- **GRAND THEATRE**- Enis on Tour w/Thane Dunn (7-10pm)
- **GRASSING GATOR**- Huntin’ Men/The Amazing Race
- **HENRY’S-**- Nathan Goulette (8pm)
- **JACK’S-** Jason Meren
- **LONDON MUSIC CLUB**- A String & A Prayer (7pm)
- **MOLLY BLOOMS**- Clean Slate
- **NORMA JEAN’S**- Crush
- **RICHMOND**- The Rates/Cindy Thomas/Burnin’ Ethyl (4-7pm)/The Act Of Violence/Tyana Crunkshorse/Axminster/Red
- **RUM RUNNERS**- Dear Rouge/Rah Rah/Rah Mie (8pm)
- **ST REGIS TAVERN**- Aneto Loos
- **STROKERS BILLIARDS- DJ Hex (7pm)**
- **TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE**- Orlando
- **VICTORY LEGION**- The Legend Day (7pm)/Willie Scott/Beaver/Guy & Karen Boyle (4pm)/Loz Hofmann (8pm)/County Road (7pm)/Tim Woodcock (8pm)
- **WINKS EATERY**- Jeffry B.
- **WORLTY**- Alpine Mist
- **YUK YUK’s**- Derek Supplee/Tan Black/ Jeff Elliott

### SUN, NOV 8
- **APK Acoustic Jam (3-7pm)**
- **GRASSING GATOR**- Karaoke/Bill Savage
- **JIMBO’S PUB & EATERY**- Stu’s Sunday Jam (3-8pm)
- **LAVISH**- DJ Pablo
- **LONDON MUSIC CONCERT THEATRE**- Finger Eleven/ Head Of The Head (7pm)
- **LONDON MUSIC HALL**- The Chairmakers/Ma-tooma/Joel Austin/Spear Of The House/Placer
- **MOCHA SHINE CENTRE**- The Music Makers (2pm)
- **POACHER’S**- Open Jam w/Lazzy
- **RICHMOND**- Open Jam (3-7pm)
- **VICTORY LEGION**- Sunday Jam (1-4pm)
- **WINKS EATERY**- Karaoke

### MON, NOV 9
- **CAREY’S**- Open Mic Night
- **GRASSING GATOR**- Karaoke w/Shannon Meiss
- **POACHER’S**- Open Mic Comedy Night w/ Jason

### TUES, NOV 10
- **CALL THE OFFICE**- Indian Hands/Crains/Greyes
- **GORDY’S BREWHOUSE**- Open Mic Night
- **JIMBO’S PUB & EATERY**- Karaoke w/Maggio (8pm)
- **MOOSE LODGE**- Karaoke (7-11pm)
- **POACHER’S**- Open Mic w/Richie
- **ROBURRY**- Comedy Open Mic (3pm)
- **ST REGIS TAVERN**- St. Regis Open Acoustic Jam (7-11pm)
- **TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE**- Karaoke
- **VICTORY LEGION**- County Road (9pm)
- **WINKS EATERY/R&B w/Seddy

### WED, NOV 11
- **AGULLIAN HALL**- The Nightwatchers (8pm)
- **EASTSIDE BAR & GRILL**- Karaoke w/The After 8 Band (8pm)
- **FOX & FIDDLE**- Hey Loreta (7pm)
- **GORDY’S BREWHOUSE**- Karaoke
- **GRASSING GATOR**- Open Mic
- **JIMBO’S PUB & EATERY**- Smokin’ Dave
- **LAVISH**- Karaoke w/DJ Amy
- **NORMA JEAN’s**- Open Jam w/Vinnie
- **O’MALLEY’S**- Karaoke w/Music Central (8pm)
- **POACHER’S**- Open Mic w/Gary
- **ROBURRY**- Open Jam w/Shawn Cowan
- **RUM RUNNERS**- The Bright Light Social Hour/Swim/Rolemodel
- **ST REGIS TAVERN**- (3pm)
- **TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE**- Battle Of The Bands
- **WINKS EATERY**- Pub&Stumpers Trivia (8:30pm)

### THURS, NOV 12
- **BUDDLE-alHERS**- Barnburned Ladies/Alan Doyle (2:30pm)
- **FOX & FIDDLE**- Three Penny Piece
- **GRASSING GATOR**- Jeffighter/Designous/Stimme
- **LAVISH**- DJ Finally Famous
- **LONDON MUSIC CLUB**- The Big Rock Electric Jam (9pm)/Danny Michel (7:30pm)
- **LONDON MUSIC HALL**- Three Days Grace/Halestorm (7pm)
- **MOLLY BLOOMS**- Mike O’Brien Band
- **NORMA JEAN’S**- Nasty Alex Live Band Karaoke
- **POACHER’S**- The Fairmonts
- **RICHMOND Open Mic w/Billy Patton**
- **ST REGIS TAVERN**- (4-8pm)
- **SCOTS CORNER**- Soke Motive
- **TALBOT ST. WHISKY HOUSE**- Open Mic w/ Chris Cascio
- **WINKS EATERY**- Open Mic w/ David Uselman

### FRI, NOV 13
- **APK Dead**- Celebrity Status/Shark Bay/Chord Sharp/Soft Talk/Weird Truth (4:30pm)

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**The Listings Continued on Page 18**

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**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

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As Duck Would Have It

My boyfriend just said, “Your lips get bigger and smaller. What’s going on?” I admitted that I’ve been getting them injected. He hinted that I should stop saying, “You’re too hot. You don’t need it.” Do I really need to kick the habit?

-Smooshy

If your boyfriend wanted to kiss something inflated, he’d make out with his tires.

There’s a reason you feel compelled to join the reality-star-led parade of women duckbipping it up -- as opposed to going in for a nostril enlargement. Men evolved to prefer women with plump lips. As for why, it turns out that facet of men across cultures find beautiful are those that give them the best shot of passing on their genes. Psychologist Victor S. Johnston, who studies the biological basis of human facial attractiveness, finds that full lips on a woman (along with small jaws and a small chin) are associated with low androgens (male hormones) and elevated levels of the female hormone estrogen -- a combination that translates to higher fertility. In other words, big pillowy lips are basically a message from nature’s ad agency: “Wanna have descendants? Pick me — not some thin-lipped Lizzie.”

However, there are full lips and lips full of stuff some plastic surgeon injected in them, and any plastic surgery that can be spotted as having been done is usually a turnoff to men. (You might as well get a tattoo that says, “Hi, I’m insecure!”). So, tempting as it is to keep up with the Kardashians, you’ll be more attractive to your boyfriend if you don’t seem to need to. Best of all, to accomplish this, all you have to do is avoid spending hundreds of dollars to look like you just had a heavy make-out session with the vacuum cleaner.

High, I Think I Love You

Two friends of mine are in “love at first sight” relationships. (One went from chills at seeing the guy to moving in with him weeks later.) Each has said to me, “When it’s right, you just know.” Well, as I get to know this new guy I’m seeing, I like him more and more. It’s just not the instant love of the century like they have, and that makes for a little black cloud.

-Locking Thunderbolts

Getting the chills the moment you set eyes on a person may be a sign that you have love at first sight — or an incipient case of malaria. (In time, you’ll find out whether you have lasting love or lasting liver damage, seizures, and death.) Love at first sight is made out to be the rare, limited-edition Prada purse of relationships -- that extra-special luvvver kind of love that we romantic commoners don’t get access to. However, what we call “first-sighters” really have is not the enduring love poets write about but the kind animal behaviorists do -- when the boy baoon spots the girl baboos red, boppy. People in this fleeting first phase of love are basically on a biochemical bender, high from raging hormones and neurotransmitters, and shouldn’t be operating heavy machinery or making plans any heavier than where to show up for dinner on Tuesday.

Those who end up staying together will often snuff “We just knew!” -- which sounds better than “We are idiots who got hatched 20 minutes after meeting and got lucky we turned out to be well-matched.” Their initial belief that they’re perfect for each other is probably driven by a cognitive bias — an error in reasoning -- that psychologists call “the halo effect.” Like the glow cast by a halo, the glow from “Wow, she’s hot!” spills over, leading to an unsupported positive view of a person’s as-yet-unseen qualities. But, early in a relationship, you can only guess how someone will behave -- say, at 3 a.m., when you’re awakened by period cramps that feel as if some big Vegas boxing match accidentally got scheduled in your uterus. Will he mumble “feel better” and roll over or go to the drugstore and roll you home a barrel of hippo-strength Midol? Maybe real romance is finding out all the ways somebody’s disturbingly human and loving them anyway. This happens about a year in, after all the fantasy mummies have fallen off and after you see -- for example -- whether your partner fights ugly or like someone who loves you but thinks you’re temporarily fallen into the idiot bin. In other words, you’re wise to get to know this guy before immediately drawing your little sparkly hearts in your head about your magical future together. Keep unpacking who you both are and see whether you keep wanting more -- or whether one of you goes out for a smoke and, a month later, sends a postcard from the Netherlands.

Toad Rage -- STARTS HERE

I’m in my early 40s and newly divorced. I fooled around with this guy -- my first time with somebody besides my husband in 12 years. We had weekend plans, but two days passed with no texts from him. I texted him angrily, repeatedly telling him he’d hurt my feelings, and he cut off contact. Now, months later, he has resurfaced, saying I’ve been in his thoughts. What could he want?

-Puzzled

Men you’ve dated briefly will sometimes resurface -- much like bloated dead bodies in New York’s East River. As for why this one’s coming around again, chances are, the point on “she’s crazy” dried and he remembered that you are also pretty and a good kisser. Okay, so you were short on nonchalance in your first post-divorce dating situation. After a long sex-and-affection famine, a newly divorced woman, like any starving refugee, is unlikely to simply nudge a hot piece of meat around on her plate like one of those skeletal “ladies who lunch” (but do eat).

The truth is you probably weren’t going off on him merely because he failed to meet your text-pectations. Your behavior most likely stemmed from what psychologists call a “priming effect,” describing how exposure to one situation colors how you react to another. Being mindful of this can help you tell a guy what you need and give him a chance to come through -- instead of immediately texting him with all the casual cool of a kidnapper demanding a bag of unmarked small bills. Should you give this guy another chance, see that you’re only asking questions he’s prepared to answer, like where he went to elementary school and why his previous relationship ended -- not “Will I be alone forever?” and “Wanna come over and try to fill the vast void I have inside?”

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George Strait • The Cowboy Rides Away
Recorded in Lexington, Texas in June of 2014, this concert Blu-ray is not only a great moment for the many George Strait fans out there but also a full menu of the current king of Country Music’s fellow performers taking their turns onstage during the show. The Cowboy Rides Away features appearances by Kenny Chesney, Eric Church, Martina McBride, Miranda Lambert, Faith Hill, Alan Jackson, Sheryl Crow, Jason Aldean and Vince Gill. As the songs roll by in this well-shot production it’s interesting to see how his guests hold up next to Strait as he takes his audience through a tour of hits. Commanding work by the star throughout with a big finish as all take the stage for All My Ex’s Live In Texas. — Rod Nicholson
> B+
> Universal

Taste • What’s Going On
While preparing to go onstage and close the 1970 Isle Of Wight Festival, Jimi Hendrix was asked what it felt like to be the greatest guitarist in the world, whereupon he replied ‘I don’t know, go ask Rory Gallagher.’ Huff said. This Blu-ray includes footage (with both remixed audio and video cleaned-up from the original 16mm material) of Gallagher’s power-trio Taste’s fiery set at this last of the great festivals, acting as a centrepiece of a documentary on Rory’s career and influence. What’s Going On also features interviews with Brian May, Larry Coryell, The Edge and others as a clear picture of Gallagher’s effect on his peers takes shape. An interesting and informative look at this master player that should address his uniquely semi-obscure status. — Rod Nicholson
> B+
> Universal

Gospelbeach • Pacific Surf Line
The five members of Gospelbeach certainly boast impressive resumes that include stints with Beachwood Sparks, Farther, The Tyde, the Chris Robinson Brotherhood, Ryan Adams & The Cardinals, and Everest. The group’s debut album, whose title references the replacement of the steamer trains of the Santa Fe Railway by the modern Pacific Surfliner, is a 10-track collection of bright and breezy California folk-rock. Apart from the group’s solid playing what really distinguishes Pacific Surf Line is the sound of five voices merging in rich, Beach Boys-like harmonies. Highlights include singer-guitarist Brett Rademaker’s side to his original home state of Florida (‘Sunshine Skyway’) and the soaring guitar licks heard on the album’s first single ‘Mick Jones’ and the following track, ‘Come Down’. Fans of Gram Parsons and The Grateful Dead should enjoy this one. — John Sharpe
> Performance: B+/Production: B
> Alive

Pat Metheny • The Unity Sessions
Recorded at 5 Angels Theater in NYC when Pat Metheny and his crack band were thoroughly road-hardened and tight after a one hundred fifty-five date tour, The Unity Sessions ably documents a musical unit at the height of its considerable powers. Metheny’s playing has grown and matured over the years and the hard-blowing group of musicians working with him move as one with impressive intimation throughout this show. There’s plenty of moody lighting which at times makes things seem more like an elaborate promotional piece rather than a concert video but the by turns fiery and dream-Me musical brightness on display gives the proceedings all the true creative weight they might require. This Blu-ray release also includes informative bonus interviews with the man himself and his bandmates. — Rod Nicholson
> B+
> Universal

Nazerath • No Means Of Escape
One of the days when master guitarist Manny Charlan and the sandpaper voice of Dan McCafferty drove bassist Pete Agnew and late great drummer Darrell Sweet their manic paces on tunes like ‘Razamanza’ and ‘Hair Of The Dog’ Nazareth fans must now content themselves with a shadow unit whose only original member is Agnew himself. No Means Of Escape offers both customary medley in the form of a live show recently recorded for fans at London’s Metropolis Studios and a tantalizing glimpse of their much-f更能 glory days in the band documentary Made In Scotland, featuring some great archival footage and an interview with McCafferty himself. So, the bitter with the sweet here but the documentary in itself makes this Blu-ray a must for the fans. — Rod Nicholson
> B+
> Universal

Gerry Gibbs • Thrasher Dream Trio • Live In Studio
Growing up in LA, Gerry Gibbs has been known as one of the most distinctive vibraphonists. Terry Gibbs, started drumming at age 4 and received his first set of drums from Buddy Rich when he was 6. Not a bad way to launch a career. In 2012, Gerry Gibbs had the good fortune of hooking up with some of his idols, legendary bassist Ron Carter and A-list pianist Kenny Baram. For the trio’s third recording, Gibbs turned to popish material from the ‘50s and ’60s by composers like Burt Bacharach, Henry Mancini, Michel Legrand, and others. He also enlisted trumpeter Ray Flargove and vocalist Carissa Wilson to perform on a few tracks to add another layer or two to the project. With a repertoire that includes tunes like ‘The Surrey With The Fringe On Top,’ ‘Music To Watch The Girls Go By’ and ‘Girl Talk’ this could have descended into a real cheese-fest, but it’s a testament to Gibbs’ skill as an arranger and the improvisational talents of his trio that Live In Studio emerges as a fine mainstream jazz outing. — John Sharpe
> Performance: B+/Production: B+
> Whirling City Sound

Pat Metheny • The Unity Sessions
The Hellbound Hepcats • Turn Me Inside Out
Over the course of their previous two albums Montreal-based trio The Hellbound Hepcats – Alex Brown (vocals/guitar), Jordan James (stand-up bass) and Sandro Sacchini (drums) – established themselves as one of rock’s most exciting upstarts. For their third full length, Turn Me Inside Out, the band step out of their comfort zone and expand their sound by incorporating touches of crunchy grunge-rock, psych and even classic rock ’n’ roll to their sound. That’s not to say these Hepcats have completely abandoned the sound that made them famous. ‘You’ll Ever Come Back’, with its Envisar-inspired vocals is pure Hepcats, while ‘Held On Nothing’, ‘All Night Long’ with A Woman Like You, and the twangy Western swing of ‘Sweet Amber-Jean’ show they’re still able to come up with a catchy rockabilly vibe. — John Sharpe
> Performance: B+/Production: B
> Stomp

Gerry Gibbs • Thrasher Dream Trio • Live In Studio
The Hellbound Hepcats • Turn Me Inside Out
New Release
Over the course of their previous two albums Montreal-based trio The Hellbound Hepcats – Alex Brown (vocals/guitar), Jordan James (stand-up bass) and Sandro Sacchini (drums) – established themselves as one of rock’s most exciting upstarts. For their third full length, Turn Me Inside Out, the band step out of their comfort zone and expand their sound by incorporating touches of crunchy grunge-rock, psych and even classic rock ’n’ roll to their sound. That’s not to say these Hepcats have completely abandoned the sound that made them famous. ‘You’ll Ever Come Back’, with its Envisar-inspired vocals is pure Hepcats, while ‘Held On Nothing’, ‘All Night Long’ with A Woman Like You, and the twangy Western swing of ‘Sweet Amber-Jean’ show they’re still able to come up with a catchy rockabilly vibe. — John Sharpe
> Performance: B+/Production: B
> Stomp

Buffy Saint-Marie • Power In The Blood
Despite being nearly halfway through her seventies, artist/musician Buffy Saint-Marie is apparently viewing going into that good age to be simply out of the question. Her first album appeared over half a century ago but incredibly Power In The Blood reveals an artist with her creative flame still untold on full with all her wisdom, way with a lyric and strong distinctive singing voice brought to bear on these songs. Whether she’s working acoustic electronics touches into the politically-charged title tune or hitting some hard-rocking notes on tracks like a buming remake of her Seventies hit ‘Hot The Lover Kind’ SainteMarie never once lets up on the power and emotion necessary to make these songs breathe. This lady isn’t finished speaking quite just yet. — Rod Nicholson
> A+
> eOne

Arturo Sandoval • Live At Yoshi’s
A protege of legendary jazz master Ozzy Gillespie, trumpeter Arturo Sandoval pays tribute to his mentor with the heartfelt, ‘Dear Dad (Every Day I Think Of You)’, just one of several tributes to be found on Sandoval’s latest recording, Live At Yoshi’s. In addition to Gillespie, Sandoval also salutes trumpet icons Clifford Brown (‘Joy Spring’) and Miles Davis (‘Seven Steps to Heaven’), as well as acknowledging jazz/Blues/New Orleans roots (‘Second Line’) and the heavy influence of bebop (‘Second Line’). Touches of Weather Report can even be heard on ‘Shi Marins’; his nod to his Latin roots. The 10-time Grammy award winner is in fine form throughout and the support he receives from Rene Tedesco (guitar), Dave Siegel (keyboards), Johnny Friday (drums), Kernels Rig (piano), John Belzada (bass), Ricardo Paulis (percussion) and Carlos Reyes (vibraphone) is equally solid. Impressive. — John Sharpe
> Performance: A+/Production: A+
> A+/All

Cheatahs • Mythologies
Figyurated by many sadly cloth-earned music biz pundits out there as merely a particularly good piece of shoegaze, UK-based band Cheatahs put forth an effective sonic counter-argument to that nonsense on their sophomore outing Mythologies. It’s clear they’re still in the process of finding their own sound as their influences are fleshed out and given a brief airing these ears could even hear bits of Fox (Seagulls) and John McGeoch-era Magazine in there but like all bands with a creative future they take those building blocks as mere steps on a journey going distinctly elsewhere. Overall, this record has by turns a jangled-nerves energy or ethereally detached feel to it depending on how the vocals and at times heavily-treated guitars are meshing together. Recommended. — Rod Nicholson
> Performance: A+/Production: B+
> Wicka
**FILM SCORES**

**The Genius of Film Music**
If there's one part of culture that has continually benefitted from classical music's legacy, it's the area of film scoring. This recently released CD - featuring instrumentalists of the London Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of John Mauceri - brings together a powerful collection of themes from nine well-known films. The music that gets the London Philharmonic treatment over the course of this two-disc compilation includes 'Lawrence and the Desert' from Lawrence of Arabia, 'The New Enterprise' from Star Trek - The Motion Picture, a symphonic portrait of music from The Godfather, and a narrative for string orchestra from Psycho, as well as choice selections from several other famous movies. On each piece, performances are precise and the sound is sharp, warm and well-defined. Just the sort of CD cinephiles might enjoy when they aren't watching films.
– Chris Morgan
> London Philharmonic Orchestra, John Mauceri (conductor)
> LPO, 2015

**Bach/Gould Project**
Bach's music has stood the test of time, which has allowed other people to rearrange the composer's work in many new and inventive ways. The debut release from The Catalyst Quartet - comprised of violinists Karla Donenew-Perez and Jessie Montgomery, violist Paul Larch and cellist Karlos Rodriguez - is a shining example of such an approach, and features a stellar take on Bach's Goldberg Variations. Originally composed in 1741 for harpsichord, the Goldberg Variations are well-suited for a small ensemble such as this one, where the original rhythmic nuance and counterpoint of the material is deepened by the gentle attack and interplay of the stringed instruments. Also included on the disc - in tribute to the late legacy of Glenn Gould - a composition written by the musician around the same time he recorded his own seminal version of the Goldberg Variations. The ensemble's take on Gould's String Quartet, Op. 1 is true to the romantic pathos of piece, and serves as a reminder that Gould was as capable creating music as he was interpreting the works of other composers.
– Chris Morgan
> The Catalyst Quartet
> Azica Records, 2015

**Carl Nielsen – Songs for Choir**
This collection of newly recorded songs by Carl Nielsen sets a lively mood and represents a sampling of the composer's substantial oeuvre. Many of Nielsen's tunes were intended to be sung communally - at family gatherings, public events or school outings - and not necessarily in the formal confines of a church, where these particular pieces were recorded. Nevertheless, the dozen Danish members of Ars Nova Copenhagen under the direction of conductor Michael Bojesen do a more than adequate job of bringing the songs to life, and the CD's overall production is top-notch. The versatility, tone and expressiveness of the singers will intrigue listeners encountering Nielsen's music for the first time while providing a memorable aural experience for those familiar with the composer's work.
– Chris Morgan
> Ars Nova Copenhagen, Michael Bojesen (conductor)
> Dacapo, 2015

**Hatzis – Flute Concertos**
Christos Hatzis latest release from Naos offers a compelling sample of the Juno-winning composer's work. Influenced by Christian spirituality and Byzantine culture, Hatzis has blended these esoteric qualities with contemporary inspirations to create a pair of flute concertos. The first of these - Departures - is a memorial, written in tribute to the victims of the 2011 tsunami disaster in Fukushima, Japan, but also a record of personal loss, which Hatzis was enduring at the time he composed the piece. The second work - OverScrap - manages the unique feat of interpolating J.S. Bach's entire G minor flute concerto within the host composition, albeit in fragmented form. Such loftiness - however novel - could leave some listeners cold; in this case, however, the laudable performance of flautist Patrick Gallois and other orchestra soloists imbue the work with profound emotionality.
– Chris Morgan
> Patrick Gallois (flute), Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra
> Naos, 2015

**STRING QUARTET**

**THE FIRST GREEN WAVE**

Canadian historian Ryan O'Connor's debut book chronicles environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGO) Pollution Probe from its early days as a University of Toronto student movement fighting local pollution to one of Canada's leading environmental groups. The group formed in the aftermath of the 1967 CBC documentary Air of Death, which brought controversy and national attention to the problem of air pollution. But while several contemporary environmental groups eventually disbanded, Pollution Probe's emphasis on science, public and media engagement - as well as a series of confrontations with local authorities and industries - brought support and funding to the group, enabling them to broaden their reach. The mid-70s saw environmental concern decline across Canadian society, only to pick-up again with the rise of more international concerns such as acid rain and global warming, which forced a change of tactics among ENGOs, and diminished Pollution Probe's leadership position within the Canadian environmental movement. In his examination of Pollution Probe, O'Connor traces green trends and the activities of other Canadian environmental groups between the late 1960s and the 1980s, fitting them in with larger social ideas and cultural changes, and offering suggestions for how current ENGOs can be more successful. Archival sources are used extensively, and the book includes notes, a bibliography and a list of further reading.

- Adam Shirley
> Ryan O'Connor
> UBC Press, 2015 - 231 pages

**FICTION**

**HER: A NOVEL**
Imagine a chance meeting that develops into a casual friendship - a lovely happenstance, and a welcome distraction for a mother dealing with a young child and expecting a new baby. However, what if that meeting wasn’t chance? What if it was a carefully orchestrated plan of deep-seeded hatred and revenge? Emma and Nina meet, and the upper hand in the relationship is Nina’s; she slowly and carefully inserts herself into Emma’s life and begins to cause trouble. Her: A Novel is written from the perspective of both women and the differences between their narratives are frightening - what may appear as chance is revealed to be nefarious. Harriet Lane has an easy style and the pages turn quickly as she raises questions about the face a person shows the world vs. the face they see in the mirror; it is done in such a subtle way that the suspense builds from the first page. Why does Nina have this desire to hurt Emma, and how will it ultimately manifest itself? A suspenseful, psychological tale of domestic intrigue.
– Merry Hakim
> Harriet Lane
> Little, Brown and Company, 2015 - 261 pages

**KILLING MONICA**
How do you kill the character that has brought you wealth and fame as a writer? How do you kill her, when she is based on you, and your own life? Candace Bushnell - writer of the successful Sex and the City series - dances with the meta in her new novel, Killing Monica. The book’s protagonist, Pandy, has created Monica, a character that has inspired films and captured the imaginations of millions of women. Early on in the book, Pandy muses: “No one ever asked the legions of Monica lovers to consider the years of struggle and hard work it would have taken Monica to become Monica; the self-doubt, the self-loathing, the fear, the sheer amount of energy required to set a goal and keep at it day after day, with no immediate reward in sight and the possibility it might never materialize at all. On the other hand, who wanted reality?” And so, Killing Monica is a tempting fantasy, filled with rich women, jet-setting to private islands, sipping pink champagne and catching up on the goings-on of friends - not on Facebook or over coffee - but in the gossip rag. Escape for an afternoon with stories of frenemies, hijinks, glamour and overindulgence, as Bushnell knowingly closes the door - ever so softly - on the real world. Here, men are sexy scoundrels and women find their redemption in the approval of the masses. Enjoy your visit to this resort- vacation of a book, but as you settle into its warm, chlorinated waters, beware you don’t scrape your knees on the bottom.
– Amy Andersen
> Candace Bushnell
> Grand Central Publishing, 2015 - 320 pages
MOOVIE★DVDS

Christine

John Carpenter brings Stephen King’s best-selling novel to life in this chilling thriller. She was born in Detroit — on an automobile assembly line. But she is no ordinary automobile. Deep within her chassis lies an unholy presence. She is CHRISTINE: a red and white 1958 Plymouth Fury whose unique standard equipment includes an evil, indestructible vengeance that will destroy anyone in her way. She seduces 17-year-old Arnie Cunningham (Keith Gordon), who becomes consumed with passion for her sleek, rounded chrome-laden body. She demands his complete and unquestioned devotion and when outsiders seek to interfere, they become the victims of Christine’s horrifying wrath.

- Review courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
- Rating: 3A
- Run Time: 110 minutes
- Director: John Carpenter

Extinction

For nine years, Patrick (Matthew Fox), Jack (Jeffrey Donovan) and his daughter Lu (Quinlin McCrigan) have lasted the apocalypse by shutting themselves off in the snowbound town of Harmony. The monsters have seemingly disappeared, with no sign of other survivors, but the constant fear of the unknown is starting to take a toll on this makeshift family. When Patrick goes scavenging for food, he discovers the undead have returned and evolved into something terrifying, beyond imagination. Will the last breath of the human race survive a second apocalypse?

- Review courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
- Rating: 1A
- Run Time: 113 minutes
- Director: Miguel Ángel Vivas

Broken Horses

Having left town as a child after the death of his father, young music prodigy Jacob Heckman returns to his desolate hometown after years only to discover that Buddy, the child-like elder brother he left behind, now works for a notorious drug gang. The gang’s ruthless boss has twisted Buddy’s simple mind and manipulated him into a killer...a surrogate son who blindly does as he is told. Jacob is unable to convince Buddy to leave his new fraternalty. Drowned in guilt for having abandoned him, Jacob realizes the only way to save Buddy is from the inside out. Set in the shadows of the turbulent American-Mexican border Broken Horses is a gritty, epic thriller about bonds of brotherhood, laws of loyalty and the futility of violence.

- Review courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
- Rating: 1A
- Run Time: 101 minutes
- Director: Vidhu Vinod Chopra

Outlander Season One Volume Two

Outlander follows the story of Claire Randall, a married combat nurse from 1945 who is mysteriously swept back in time to 1743, where she is immediately thrown into an unknown world where her life is threatened. When she is forced to marry Jamie, a chivalrous and romantic young Scottish warrior, her passionate affair is ignited that tears Claires heart between two vastly different men in two irreconcilable lives.

The Outlander series is adapted from Diana Gabaldon’s international best-selling book series of the same name.

- Review courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
- Rating: 1A
- Genre: Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi
- Run Time: 646 minutes
- Executive Producer: Ronald D. Moore

Saint Laurent

As one of history’s greatest fashion designers entered a decade of freedom, neither came out of it in one piece.

- Review courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
- Rating: 1A
- Genre: Drama / Biography
- Run Time: 150 minutes
- Director: Bertrand Bonello

Testament of Youth

Testament of Youth is a powerful story of love, war and remembrance, based on the First World War memoir by Vera Brittain, which has become the classic testimony of that war from a woman’s point of view. A searing journey from youthful hopes and dreams to the edge of despair and back again, it’s a film about young love, the futility of war and how to make sense of the darkest times.

- Review courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
- Rating: PG
- Run Time: 130 minutes
- Director: James Kent

Pixels

When aliens misinterpret video-feeds of classic arcade games as a declaration of war against them, they attack the Earth, using the games like PAC-MAN, Donkey Kong, Galaga, Centipede and Space Invaders as models for their various assaults. President William Cooper (Kevin James) has to call on his childhood best friend, ’80s video game champion Sam Brenner (Adam Sandler) to lead a team of old-school arcade-ers (Peter Dinklage and Josh Gad) to defeat the aliens and save the planet.

- Review courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
- Rating: PG
- Genre: Action, Comedy, Sci-Fi
- Run Time: 106 minutes
- Director: Chris Columbus

Jumanji

A magical board game unleashes a world of adventure on siblings Peter (Bradley Pierce) and Judy Shepherd (Kristen Dunst). While exploring an old mansion, the youngsters find a curious, jungle-themed game called Jumanji in the attic. When they start playing, they free Alan Parrish (Robin Williams), who’s been stuck in the game’s inner world for decades. If they win Jumanji, the kids can free Alan for good — but that means braving giant bugs, ill-mannered monkeys and even stampeding rhinos!

- Review courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
- Rating: PG
- Run Time: 104 minutes
- Director: Joe Johnston
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**ART CLASSES BY NICK WHITE**

Luciano Jannuzzi’s play All the King’s Women illustrates how Elvis Presley has never really left the building.

The indelible mark he left on the cultural landscape transformed a generation; his music still pumping out of speakers the world over, his memory alive almost four decades after his death.

Sony Music is even releasing a new album on October 30 to much hype - If I Can Dream: Elvis Presley With the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Another new album, Elvis Forever, debuted at number 11 on the Billboard 200 chart when it came out last summer.

The King of Rock & Roll doesn’t make an appearance in this comedy - next up at the Palace Theatre - he doesn’t need to. The show, first performed in 2007, explores the impact he made on others and the culture at large.

His legacy has people talking – whether it be a salesperson remembering when Elvis’ mother came into a store to buy her son his first guitar, a Graceland security guard reminiscing about Elvis’ generosity, or a late-night shopper whose life was forever changed after she ran into Elvis at a supermarket at 3am in the morning.

The majority of the scenes and monologues in All the King’s Women are based on true events, including his infamous appearance on The Steve Allen Show, where some rather questionable decisions regarding direction were made.

“When Elvis did The Steve Allen Show, they said they would not film him from the waist down, as this was 1957 and there was very strict censorship on television. They could not have him gyrating around like he did,” explained Sue Perkins, who is directing the comedy for London Community Players.

“Steve Allen insisted that Elvis sing Hound Dog to an actual hound dog for the broadcast! Such a silly thing. So, the playwright took this situation and imagined the conversation between (Elvis’ manager) Colonel Tom Parker’s secretary and Steve Allen’s secretary, and the network’s secretary. So you’ve got these three women who are definitely at odds with each other,” Perkins said with a chuckle.

“There are other incidences of this, too; where the playwright has taken a real-life fact and built a story around it, like when Elvis met President Nixon and when Andy Warhol did his Elvis pop art. He took a bunch of basic facts and had a bit of fun with it, and the cast is just laughing so hard and so completely!” she added.

The cast includes Catharine Sullivan, Ruth Korchuk, Mary Jane Waltzak, Ashley Grech, Robin Rundle Drake, Stephen Flindall, and Ed Hepburn. The play covers a lot of ground, from the 1940s until the present, with enough social commentary to make for an interesting story that will appeal to show-goers - whether or not they consider themselves fans.

“The play really reflects how our society has changed through the ages. Elvis was a trailblazer - he was creating a stir and they were trying to control it,” Perkins said.

“I think it’s quite a reflection of our times, and they way people have changed in what they’re doing and looking at. But most of all, it’s a funny script of the many events in Elvis’ life as seen through the eyes of some of the women who met him.”

- Annie Ronald-Morgan
THE COMIC STRIPPERS: THEY’RE SEXY AND THEY KNOW IT

The more they try to be sexy, the funnier they get.

The Comic Strippers are gyrating their way towards the Grand Theatre on October 25 for a “sexyarious” night of comedy. Roman Danylo, Ken Lawson, Chris Casillan, and Michael Teigen star in the touring show which parodies male strippers with ample side-splitting improv.

Semi-undressed and completely unscripted, the Comic Strippers take off their shirts and take on your suggestions to create a whole new genre of comedy.

The show has played to sold-out audiences nationwide as well as in Las Vegas and Australia.

Some of Canada’s most talented improvisational comedians, these fictitious strippers have impressive resumes (more impressive than their stripping skills, certainly).

For five seasons, Roman Danylo starred on CTV’s Comedy Inc., and has performed his stand-up on Just For Laughs and The Debaters.

Ken Lawson starred in the Canadian sitcom Health Nutz and has performed all over North America with The Vancouver Theatre Sports League and The Second City.

An improv comedy vet with The Vancouver Theatre Sports League, Chris Casillan is also a Canadian Comedy Award winner with his sketch comedy group Canadian Content.

Michael Teigen is a professional improviser and theatre actor, having been in 30 television shows and over 40 feature films.

Together, they’re all oiled up and ready to sing, dance (or try to), and banter with the audience in between scenes. With so much audience participation, expect the unexpected - you’ve never seen anything like it.

If you consider a man’s sexiest trait to be his sense of humour, well, you’re in for a treat!

The show is geared to women and men alike - and don’t worry guys, these actors describe themselves as having ‘comedy bodies’ (think ‘The Full Monty’) - you’ll look fabulous by comparison.

Though there is no “extreme nudity,” the show is for 19+ only. Tickets are $42 with discounts offered for groups of 10 or more. The Grand Theatre engagement starts at 7:30pm. Call 519-672-8800.

- Amie Ronald-Morgan

$500G in awards to ArtPrize7

Winners of $500,000 in awards for the 7th annual international art competition ArtPrize were revealed on October 9. Over 1,500 artists vied for a combination of public vote and juried awards throughout ArtPrize7, a 19-day event held at multiple venues throughout Grand Rapids, Michigan. Northwood Awakening by Loveless PhotoFiber, a husband-wife team from Frankfort, Michigan, won the public vote grand prize of $200,000 for their large quilted textile, utilizing panels of various textures from printed photography and dyed batiks to depict a woodland panorama. Loveless PhotoFiber previously won the public vote in 2013. “Once again, reverence for technical skill in two-dimensional work - this time in a stunning combination of large-scale photography and intricate textile - has captured the imagination of the voting public,” said Christian Gaines, ArtPrize Executive Director. “It’s a surprising and unexpected twist to have Northwood Awakenings represent our first ever two-time public vote winner,” he added. The transformational performance Higher Ground by Kate Gilmore was selected for the $200,000 juried grand prize. The piece involved identically-dressed female performers engaged in repetitive activities inside a pink house on Rumsey Street and was viewed throughout the duration of the event. “Kate Gilmore’s piece is really kind of magical in a way that we’ve maybe lost sight of. It really can contribute to a shared mythology that we can all unpack. And even though the object isn’t there, we can continue to tell each other the stories about it,” juror Dan Cameron remarked. The remaining $100,000 in prizes were awarded to the top entries in each category - Two-Dimensional, Three-Dimensional, Installation, and Time-Based.

Levins & Young’s comics available online for first time

DC Comics Illustrator Tim Levins and author Mark Victor Young have announced the new home for their most popular collaborations - levinsandyoung.com. Having worked together for more than twenty years, Levins and Young have made their classic comics available to the public for the first time. Their earliest strip, Rivertown News, appeared in Scene Magazine from November 1993 to October 1995. Their second strip Then Comes Marriage was offered a development deal by King Features Syndicate in 2005 and led to a revised strip titled Built to Last. In addition to appearing online, their comics will also be featured in upcoming books to be published by Hanton House Creative Media. Levins is best known for his work on the DC Comics series, Batman: Gotham Adventures. He has illustrated many other titles for DC, Marvel Comics, and Archie Comics, and has recently drawn several children’s books published by Capstone Press. Young, who lives in London, was the first winner of the Lillian Kroll Prize for Creative Writing at Western University and has published novels, poetry, short fiction, feature articles, comics and book reviews in various media.

Nobel Prize in Literature won by Svetlana Alexievich

Belarusian author Svetlana Alexievich has won the 2015 Nobel Prize in Literature for her work The Swedish Academy described as “her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time.” Alexievich, a journalist who was born in Ukraine in 1948, has been a long-time critic of the Russian government. Her books, which have been published in 19 countries, have chronicled life in the Soviet Union and its collapse. Her best-known novel, Voices from Chernobyl (one of only two books available in English), culled from interviews of people who witnessed the nuclear disaster in 1986. Her first novel, War’s Unwomanly Face, published in 1985, included interviews with hundreds of Soviet women who participated in WWII and fought against Nazi Germany - a chapter of history previously largely untold. Another well-known work, Zinky Boys, contains material sourced from those involved in the Soviet war in Afghanistan. Alexievich is the 14th woman to win the prize since it was first awarded in 1901.

Serenata Music welcomes The Canadian Guitar Quartet

The Canadian Guitar Quartet makes a Halloween appearance at Wolf Performance Hall for a concert of original guitar music combined with arrangements of classical masterpieces. The acclaimed foursome - consisting of Julien Bisaillon, Renaud Cote-Giguere, Bruno Rossel, and Louis Trepanier has toured throughout the Americas and Europe, earning a reputation as one of the finest guitar ensembles in the world. They have been fea-...
DIVINE INTERVENTION: LONDON NATIVE STARS IN ACCLAIMED CHURCH DRAMA

Mike McLeod hit the ground running. The former Londoner can be seen in the award-winning Halifax television drama Forget Me, which just has its season two premiere on Super Channel on Thanksgiving Day.

McLeod plays the central character, simply known as ‘Priest,’ a young man of the cloth with his fair share of demons. He is struggling to find balance between life, spirituality and organized religion. His secret past - which includes being a father - threatens his position in the Catholic Church.

On top of all this, he is plagued by visions of martyrs and spectres - ostensibly the result of a brain tumour.

The lead role is McLeod’s first significant gig - one that has him playing opposite of an impressive line-up of actors including heavyweights such as Olympia Dukakis, Brenda Fricke and Hugh Thompson. It’s a journey the actor calls “unexpected.”

“I tried to do different things and it always just kept coming back to acting,” McLeod said with a laugh.

“Twasn’t planning on going down this road. I did a lot of theatre in high school but didn’t think I would end up making any money from it, certainly!” he added.

After graduating from Dalhousie University, McLeod did a web series and a reality show and landed other minor roles. A meeting with Forget Me creator Thom Fitzgerald proved to be fateful.

“Thom was running a playhouse society out here in Halifax, and he and I met five years ago on a play he cast me in. As he was developing this project, I said to him, ‘I hope I can come and audition…”

“It all happened pretty fast, from doing sporadic things to all of the sudden having such a large scale thing to work on - it was very exciting,” McLeod explained.

The experience of Forgot Me, which McLeod describes as “dark, gritty, and heavy in a good way,” is reminiscent of theatre for the actor, particularly in scenes where he hears the confessions of his congregants in a booth.

“It’s very much like theatre. It’s shot as television but has that organic flow between two actors. A lot of time we filmed it very unlike the conventions of television; there weren’t a lot of cuts, and we just let the scene roll - it develops in an honest way,” McLeod said.

He welcomes the challenge of both TV and McLeod performing live.

“Theatre is almost like a drug - you get that live kick from the audience coming back at you and it’s do or die when you’re up there onstage. Whereas working with a camera, it’s subtle; there’s a beautiful challenge in that you have to work with the camera as your scene partner as well as the other actor. It’s very nuanced. I enjoy both of them for such different reasons - it doesn’t matter which way I went, I would always want the other one to be part of my artistic life,” he explained.

McLeod won the ACTRA Award for Best Leading Actor and was nominated for the Gemini for Best Lead Actor in a Drama Series for his portrayal of Priest in season one. He credits the writing largely for the success of the show.

“(Forget Me) is really the first thing I did, so it’s all been new. I’ve been learning as I go. It comes back to Thom’s vision and his talent for expressing the human aspect of people, it doesn’t matter if they’re a priest or sinner, he always gets to the core of being a person,” McLeod said.

“(Priest) might be going through some exceptional circumstances, but it comes back to relatability. You can pull on your own anxieties, fears, your own aspirations - it is very easy with Thom’s writing,” he added.

The cast also includes Jeremy Ackerman, Ed Asner, Wendy Crewson, John Dunsworth, Rob Joseph Leonard, and Jane Alexander.

“The people that Thom has given me to work with have been such a blessing because it makes you better to learn from legends. It rubs off on you,” McLeod mused.

“I got to work with so many great people (on season one), and then I saw the cast list as we were moving into the second season... it blows you away. You never expect when you’re going through good times and bad as an artist that you would one day be sitting across from these people with this level of talent, recognition and calibre,” he added.

As McLeod’s promising career unfolds,

The Armed Man: Karen Schuessler Singers

Karen Schuessler Singers’ 23rd season gets underway in fine form with Karl Jenkins’ powerful and moving mass, The Armed Man. Composed in 1999, the Mass for Peace was dedicated to victims of the Kosovo crisis. The choir will perform the epic masterpiece backed by a multimedia presentation, and accompanied by their orchestra and special guest soloist, contralto Gabrielle Heidinger Baer. The Armed Man is one of the most performed works by a living composer in the world today. The concert takes place November 21, 8pm, at Westminster United Church. Tickets are $20 (adult); $18 (senior); $20 (student); and free for children 6-13 accompanied by an adult.

Night of Noir: Glamour & intrigue to open MTP’s 27th season

Hold onto your fedoras, musical lovers, and get ready to enter the glamorous and mysterious world of a 1930s nightclub as Musical Theatre Productions presents its annual cabaret. For two nights only on November 13-14, Night of Noir will feature London’s finest performers singing and dancing their way through hit Broadway tunes as a saucy private detective investigates a showbiz murder. “Our annual cabaret serves many purposes. It raises funds so MTP can continue staging great shows. It showcases tons of amazing talent from London and the area. It’s a great musical theatre experience for the community,” co-producer Nicole Newell explained. As the case unfolds, past and present collide with old flames, new passion and deception around every corner. “The great thing about mounting a show like this is that we get to find ways of showcasing the talents of every person in the show by giving them a role and songs that fit them, rather than having to fit them into predetermined parts. It’s also a great opportunity to work with a lot of new people,” director Jeremy Hewitson remarked. The cabaret includes music from City of Angels, Chicago, Catch Me If You Can, Cabaret, Follies, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Guys and Dolls, The Wild Party, Dick Tracy and more. The evenings will also feature a cash bar and silent auction. Night of Noir takes place at Aeolian Hall; doors will open for cocktail hour at 7pm (both nights), with the show starting at 8pm. Tickets are $32 (orchestra/tables) or $22 (balcony). Don’t forget to dress in your finest cocktail attire. Please call 519-672-7950.

Dance Steps Company presents The Nutcracker

Dance Steps Company gets into the holiday spirit with their traditional performance of Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker. More than 70 talented performers ages 6 to 17 - as well as Dance Steps teachers and parents - will take to the stage on November 28 for the enchanting tale of Clara and her magical Nutcracker Prince who comes to life. Staged and choreographed by artistic director Donna Bayley and Dance Steps instructor Krista Conti, with theatre coaching by Julia Webb, the much-loved ballet takes the audience around the world for the battle of the Rat King and Nutcracker, Chinese dance, Spanish dance, Russian dance, Reeds Pipes, Dance of the Snowflakes, and of course, the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy. “After a couple of years off, it’s great to enjoy the support from the community to bring this holiday tradition back to London with our 9th production of the Nutcracker,” Bayley remarked. “We are thrilled to share the classic holiday magic of The Nutcracker with our community in London,” she added. Dance Steps has provided high-calibre instruction to London and area youth in styles including ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop and more for over a quarter-century. Company members have gone on to professional ballet programs including The Royal Winnipeg Ballet and The Rock School of Ballet in Philadelphia. This winter, Emily Piotrowski and Andrew Larose - two former Dance Steps dancers - will be featured as leads in The National Ballet Company production of The Nutcracker in Toronto. Dance Steps’ Nutcracker takes place November 28, 2pm and 6pm, at Forest City Community Church. Tickets are $26 (adult); $20 (student) and under. Please call 519-672-8800 for more info.

The arts
PERFORMING ARTS
ADELPHI HALL (795 Dundas Street) - Musical Theatre Productions: A Night of Noir, Nov 13 & 14, 7pm [orchestra/talbe]: $22 (balcony). 519-672-7950.

AROMA RESTAURANT (717 Richmond St) - Live music during dinner by classical and flamenco guitarist David Vidal Catall, Oct 23-27, 2013. 519-446-9999.


WESTLAND GALLERY (156 Wortley Rd) - Andrew Gil-


EMO SPECIAL 2014
THE ARTS CENTRE (Westmount Mall, 785 Wonder-
land Rd) - Art Show & Sale: Winter Wonderland Mon, Nov 2 - Tues, Dec 29. Open to all visual arti-
sans in all mediums, including painting, photography, textile, mixed media, glass, woodworking, sculpting etc. Used Books? Come flip through our gently used books & let your mind & imagi-
 nation soar! Many different genres & age groups! We are always looking for book donations. Drop off at the Arts Centre. // Classes: Learning to Draw (3 classes): Sundays: Oct 25-Nov 8-12:30PM/ Acrylic Painting Techniques Tuesdays (3 classes) Oct 2-Nov 10 6-8pm // Drawing Portraits Wed Oct 28 6:30 - 8:30PM OR Thu Nov 5 11-1PM/ Cartooning/ Drawing; Sun Nov 1 2:30 - 4:30PM/ Networking. Adult: Colouring Free Oct 25 - 6-8pm. For more info contact The Arts Centre at we-
 start785@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 226-884-8620.

THE ARTS PROJECT (203 Dundas St) - Annual Shady Artists Show: Until Oct 31. Reception Oct 22, 4pm - 7pm. 519-642-2767.

FOREST CITY GALLERY (258 Richmond St) - Ella Dawn McGeough: In the dust of this world, Oct 23 - Nov 27. Reception Oct 23, 7pm - 10pm. 519-434-4075.


LONDON CRYSTAL ART CENTRE (664 Dundas St) - Exhib-
tion by Joanna Mozdzierz, Oct 31-4. 519-434-1664.


MUSEUM LONDON (421 Ridout St N) - Events - Fringe Night WC: Oct 31, 9pm. $30/Gen, $19+. Words Fest: London's festival of creativity through the written and spoken word, Nov 6 - 8. Blank Canvas: A One of a Kind Art Show. Now Oct 14, 7pm. $75/Person.

Distracted?

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