OUTLOOK

Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce







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JUST SAYING

We celebrate life, embrace life and we entertain ourselves. We are just as adept at creating the kind of entertainment the entices people to want to come up to our gorgeous Grey and Bruce counties.

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OUTLOOK

Outlook is a periodic publication of the Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce.

All inquiries regarding content can be directed to:

CEO Diane Austin Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce 1051 2nd Ave East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H7 519.376.6261

Design & Concept

Qwik Media Inc.

Editorial Committee

Diane Austin Dave Carr Trent Gow Tiffany James Dave Stobbe

Advertising Opportunities

Don Sweatman sweatmandon@gmail.com 519-376-3842

Photographer

Candra Schank

Print & Distribution

Qwik Print

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1077 10th Street West,

Owen Sound, N4K 5S2



RELIEF TURNS TO CELEBRATION: SUMMERFOLK IS BACK!

After two disruptive but innovative years Summerfolk Music and Crafts Festival, the now 47 year old offspring of the venerable Georgian Bay Folk Society, is returning stronger – and safer – than ever. Once again, from August 19th to 21st, performers and fans from across the world will wend their way to Kelso Beach at Owen Sound's Nawash Park. In addition to enjoying inspiring songs served up by consummate folk musicians, visitors will be treated to a weekend of one-of-a-kind artisans and food to satisfy every tastebud. "It will be heartwarming to reconnect with fellow performers, artisans and fans who we haven't seen for a couple of years" said Summerfolk 47 Artistic Director James Keelaghan. "Feelings of long-awaited relief will be quicky overtaken by celebration. It's been a long time coming."

Singer/songwriter James Keelaghan is widely considered to be the poet laureate of Canadian folk and roots music. He brings the same creative passion, intensity and curiosity that has earned this world-wide respect to his pivotal responsibilities as Summerfolk Artistic Director, a role he has cherished for 11 years. This year he is looking forward enthusiastically to appreciating the virtuosity of the outstanding lineup he has assembled. Headline performers include:

✓ Raine Maida, best known as lead vocalist and primary songwriter of the alternative rock band Our Lady Peace;

√ Three-time Juno Award winner and Grammy winner Chantal Kreviazuk;



✓ Le vent du Nord, a driving force behind the progressive folk movement in Quebec;

✓ Matt Anderson, a creative blues guitarist and singer-songwriter from New Brunswick;

✓ Leela Gilday, a Dene-Canadian singer songwriter, born and raised in Yellowknife;

✓ The Irish-born Canadian contemporary folk singer-songwriter Irish Mythen; and

 \checkmark My Son the Hurricane, the multi-horn, multi-drummer, multi-singer, brass funk band.

Keelaghan observes that the performers are eager to perform live again after the Covid lockdown. "It's rewarding to hear how much our folk festival is appreciated by the performers we are looking forward to enjoying. We had literally hundreds of professional musicians seeking to be part of the weekend. It's easy to forget that they have had a very hard time during the pandemic and it's great to be able to offer them a stage to get performing again."

According to James that same appreciation applies to the audiences too. "Many of our core audience members have come to 'expect the unexpected' in real time on the stage. And Summerfolk 47 won't disappoint in this regard. Stay tuned!"

Two years ago the picture wasn't nearly so bright. Like so many other events and activities Summerfolk was faced with Covid-related postponements, cancellations and the looming threat of more lasting damage. But the same intrepid spirit and creativity that has been Summerfolk's hallmark since 1976 came to the fore. Summerfolk 2020, A Virtual Night at the Festival, greatly exceeded modest expectations. James estimates that upwards of 5,000 people tuned into the live-streamed music festival featuring artists performing from their homes or studios. "We had much better engagement than many other festivals because of the iconic nature of

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RELIEF TURNS TO CELEBRATION: SUMMERFOLK IS BACK! - continued

Summerfolk and because we sought to meaningfully engage our local population first and foremost," he said.

In 2021 Summerfolk 46 was another solid step forward in still-trying circumstances. Keelaghan and team staged many sold-out performances at 18 venues. Protecting public and performer safety was paramount to its success. Crowd sizes were limited at each venue. Patrons were seated with their bubbles, socially distanced from others. Masks were required except when seated for the shows. But sadly, due to pandemic-related health and safety protocols, there was neither an artisan village nor food court.

Restrictions will be less onerous this year but protecting public health still has high priority. Mask requirements and limits on audience size have been eased from 2021 but sites have been redesigned to yield more space to move about and spread out. There will be one less stage; fence lines have been increased; and tables will be smaller in the bar tent. All of this reflects the 'new normal' as Summerfolk, like all of us, better adapts to protect its patrons, performers and volunteers from Covid – and other future infestations.

Happily this year the Artisan Village of hand-picked vendors, will be thriving once again, as will the Food Court. Both were unfortunate casualties in 2020 and 2021. Visitors will find a wide variety of treasures and handmade gifts in the Village including handmade instruments, jewelry, clothing and whimsical items like sock puppets. Food Court vendors will offer many menu choices including vegetarian, organic, international delights, and healthy choices at affordable prices. Preference was given to vendors who use meats and vegetables that are grown and raised locally and to booths conducive to the Festival milieu.

The Summerfolk Music festival was founded in 1976 by brothers Tim and John Harrison and over the ensuing 47 years has become internationally renowned for its music and craft excellence. Of particular note is the blending of contemporary artists with traditional folk musicians. The festival began very modestly with audiences sitting on garbage bags in a muddy field in 1976, but over time has grown to a fourday festival with multiple musical stages, an Artisan Village and Food Court. The festival hosts thousands of attendees yearly and hundreds of volunteers work tirelessly (thank you!) to provide services throughout the weekend. Thanks to partnerships between the City of Owen Sound and the Georgian Bay Folk Society, Kelso Beach now welcomes crowds to

a limestone amphitheatre with seats for 3,000 people and a covered stage dedicated to the memory of Stan Rogers, one of Summerfolk's original performers and largest supporters.

Summerfolk experienced heavy rain during 20 of its first 30 years to the extent that long-time festival-goers refer to it affectionately as 'Summersoak". During years when lightning forced the sound crews to shut down the PA systems and wait for the thunder to subside, sometimes performers have been known to take cover in the middle of tents and stages, inviting the audience in from the rain for intimate acoustic performances and sing-a-longs – a perfect example of what James calls "expecting and enjoying the unexpected". Let's hope that Mother Nature has a sunnier disposition this August. She should know that we are just emerging from enough adversity to last a lifetime.

Something else to celebrate is the Young Discoveries Showcase. Since 2007 Summerfolk has reserved performance spaces for performers under age 21 who prevailed through two rounds of competitive, judged performances.

For more information on Summerfolk 47, including a full schedule and biographies of each performer, or to buy tickets, visit summerfolk.org. Your support of local music will not only recharge your batteries with wholesome fun and entertainment but will generate the added benefit of giving artists, artisans, vendors and volunteers the love and recognition they so richly deserve after two years of darkness.





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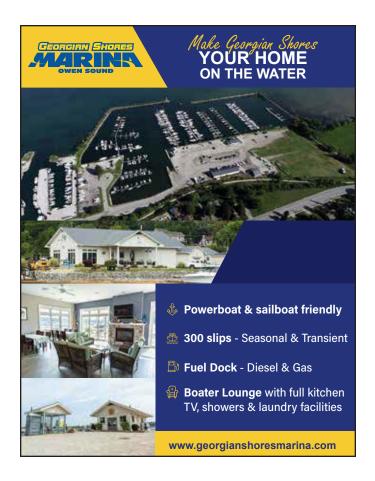
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THE GEORGIAN BAY SYMPHONY - GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY PLUS ONE!



It's barely half over but 2022 has already been a noteworthy one for the Georgian Bay Symphony (GBS):

- On May 1st, our treasured local symphony orchestra was the recipient of an Owen Sound's biennial Arts & Culture Award for the outstanding nature of their virtual sessions. (GBS was one of the only community orchestras in Canada that performed a fully virtual season during the pandemic.); and
- On June 18th, Harmony Hall resonated to GBS's Reunion with Beethoven, the auspicious rebirth of a concert originally scheduled for March 2020 when Covid-19 first inflicted its dissonance.

According to David Adair, the Symphony's long-time Business Manager and jack of all trades, the best is yet to come as inspiring Conductor François Koh (since 2015) and the GBS's talented members and alumni memorialise **50+1** years of enriching the lives of residents of the Grey Bruce Owen



Sound area with their classical music virtuosity. "While frustrating at the time, a one year pandemic-related delay in commemorating the Symphony's *Golden Anniversary* has created a unique opportunity to celebrate as a return to normality approaches", said Mr. Adair.

Highlights of the five concert 2022-2023 season will include:

- Roots, this coming October
- · Joy, at Christmas
- *Reunion,* with alumni participation on Family Day next February
- · Dreams, in April, and
- *Reconciliation,* a water-themed collaboration with our local Indigenous community

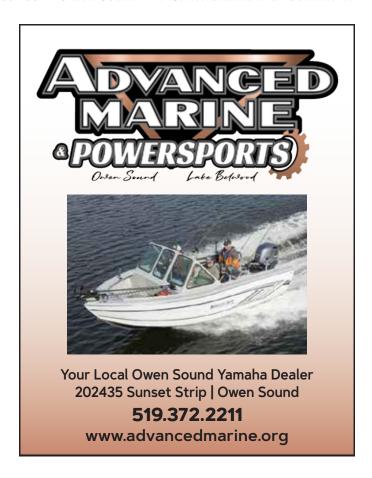
The Georgian Bay Symphony was founded in 1972 by a small group of dedicated area musicians who had come together a year earlier to compete in the local Kiwanis Music Festival. Their passion for live classical music was rewarded when the adjudicator, UWO music professor Herman Dilmore, was so impressed he suggested that the group form a community orchestra. Herman became the first Music Director and helped build momentum for five formative years. Annually, the Symphony awards a bursary to a local high school music student in his name.

In 1999 the Symphony moved into their then new and still continuing home at the 761 seat OSCVI (now East Ridge Community School) Auditorium. The Symphony had helped with

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IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM

Workplace safety is one of the most important aspects of running any business. As part of your legal duties and responsibilities as an Employer under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), you are required to provide employees with a safe and healthy work environment. Regardless of workplace Sector, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) oversee and enforce the OHSA and Regulations.

However, the reality is that most Employers don't know where to start. While workplace Health and Safety can be overwhelming, it doesn't have to be. An effective Health and Safety program starts with clear policies, qualified training and a genuine commitment by senior management. The best place to start is with a Health and Safety review.

Unlike a formal audit, a Health and Safety review provides organizations with an opportunity to find out what is legally required and where there may be gaps in policy and procedures. From there, it is much easier to design and implement a clear and effective Health and Safety program, including employee training.

Some of the most important policies include a Health and Safety policy, Workplace Violence and Harassment policy, Employee Code of Conduct and Early and Safe Return to Work (ESRTW) policy. Policies provide the vision while Safe Work Procedures (SWP) provide the guidance. Ensuring all employees clearly know what is expected of them.

The COVID pandemic highlighted the importance of emergency preparedness for all organizations. Today, workplace Health and Safety is such an integral part of running a safe and productive business. Risk mitigation is paramount and key to implementing an effective Health and Safety program is to be proactive and to get started early!

DID YOU KNOW?

A chamber membership helps to promote your business. Each chamber member is encouraged to host a workshop to help introduce what their businesses have to offer. "It's a perfect time to join the Chamber."



Trevor Harness, CCRM, CAE, CSEP, COHS, CHSO, CIRT Director-Health & Safety/Senior Instructor Director-Education and Training

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The four pillars are Wealth Creation, Wealth Protection, Wealth Independence and Wealth Legacy. Important realities face women as their roles evolve:

- women are successfully competing in the corporate world and/or operating their own business;
- women face many life transitions, including loss of spouse and divorce that can threaten their sense of well-being;
- despite significant strides, some women still are not the primary money managers of their financial affairs;
- women are frequently called on to help manage the affairs of their aging parents and children which can be both financially and emotionally challenging; and
- some women choose to remain single and this presents different financial challenges as they move through life.

For all these reasons and more, it is important for women to build a relationship with an advisor that understands their unique situation, personal goals and values and who can help them manage their money with clarity and confidence. And also deal with an advisor who collaborates with other professional advisors to provide expert advice and solutions.

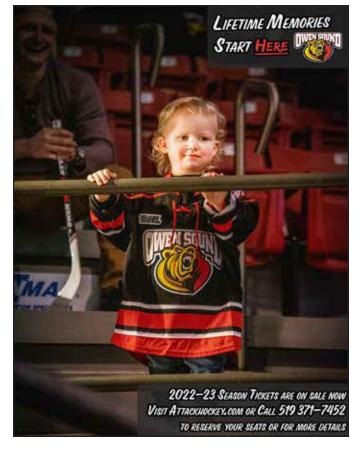
A sudden change in your financial situation can be a life altering event. Successfully managing financial transitions is more challenging than you may realize. It's not just a matter of managing the financial situation – it's managing the change.

At **Desmarais Financial Services** we help you successfully manage your financial life transition by re establishing the perspective required to make sound financial and life decisions. These decisions are based on your personal experience and integrated with facts and figures.

If you have a question or concern or just want to chat, please contact me at the phone number or email on this article.













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THE GEORGIAN BAY SYMPHONY - continued

the major fundraising campaign for this new cultural venue with a significant donation. As a result, auditorium space in the new school was designed and built to provide an acoustically excellent venue for GBS's concerts.

GBS Vision Statement

We envision the Georgian Bay Symphony as a premier arts organization performing live classical music and other genres in Grey and Bruce Counties, with a national reputation for enriching the lives of residents of all ages, and for an artistic excellence reflecting the skills and talents.

True to their vision, the GBS has grown to be an outstanding community orchestra attracting talented musicians from Grey and Bruce Counties, Owen Sound and elsewhere in Ontario as well as featuring guest performers from around the world such as pianist Younggun Kim who performed again in June. The Symphony participates regularly in a variety of community events including the fun annual adventure of performing the National Anthem before at least one OHL Owen Sound Attack hockey game each season.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Chamber offers a free marketing email with every Chamber membership. "The Inside Scoop" offers free advertising for the membership through the member portal on our website. "Just another bonus of being a Chamber member."



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAMBER



Diane Austin CEO

When you think back over the last few months, it has been challenging, but most of all invigorating. It has been wonderful to see faces again although there is apprehension about being out and about. You feel the welcoming spirit of business owners as progression is moving forward.

A big thank you to the City of Owen Sound for working with us to arrange the mayor's luncheon. It is the hope

that this will now be an annual event.

Another highlight for the Chamber was arranging and hosting the All Candidates Meeting for the Provincial election with the help of the Chamber Advocacy Committee, Businesses and the community, The night was a huge success!

The Annual Golf Tournament is being held at Legacy Ridge on September 16, 2022 Registration is now up and running. Register before August 15th and win a round of 4 at Legacy Ridge. You don't want to miss out on this fun filled day.

The Business Excellence Award Gala is back and in person this year on October 20th at Best Western Inn on the Bay. Nominations for your favorite business can now be made on the Chamber website. We are pleased to announce that there is a new category for Agriculture. Nominate today and show how much the businesses in our community are appreciated.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

It is exciting to see Spring end, and the summer tourist season begin. The Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce is seeing the local businesses moving forward.

Lots of activities are and will be happening around town with renewed growth for small & new businesses opening their doors.

Our Chamber Board & Office are excited to host new and annual events to bring the community and businesses together.

As we start our new fiscal year, it is with great pleasure I introduce the members of our Board.

Marg Benedict, Board Chair



Top left: Syd Austin, Jeff Coulter, Jason Hemstock, Nick Lovell, Marg Benedict, Michael Johnston, Rhonda White.

 ${\it Bottom \, left:} \, {\rm Natalie \, Barber, \, Adam \, Vanderduim.}$ Vanderduim.



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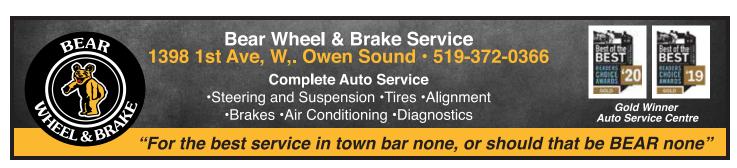




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JUST SAYING by Dave Carr



"Celebrate! Celebrate! Dance To the Music..."

In August of 1976, I was on staff at the national conference for Junior Achievement of Canada at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario....but I knew that someone was putting on some kind of folk concert back in Owen Sound. They called it "Summerfolk". And sure enough, in the Monday morning Globe & Mail, there was a photo of a bunch of "drowned rats" grooving to the tunes in the mud at Kelso Beach Park.

I saw more Globe Summerfolk photos over several successive Augusts at subsequent JA gatherings in Halifax, Winnipeg, Saskatoon.....

....and about a decade later, I was on stage, MCing what had grown into one of the best (if not *THE* best) folk festivals in North America. It wasn't the biggest, not by a long shot, but its quality was unsurpassed. A one-time director of the massive Philadelphia Folk Festival once suggested that if one could go to only one folk festival, it should probably be Summerfolk, in Owen Sound.

See, this is what we do here; we celebrate life, *embrace* life and we entertain ourselves. Sure, we are not so far removed from The Big Smoke that we can't run down for Jays Games, for Theatre, for Art -- but it turns out that we are just as adept at creating the kind of entertainment that entices "those" people to want to come up here instead. Summerfolk is just one fine example, our summer session, if you will.

A summer session should then connote a winter session of some kind, and voila! – The Festival of Northern Lights. Again, Owen Sound was not the first, but grew quickly into the best; I cannot count how many busloads of tourists have motored to the Scenic City over three decades to "oooh!" and "ahhhh!" at our lights, dine locally, shop locally.

Those are probably the yin and the yang of our festivals, but we seem to just keep celebrating. From springtime's annual Sweetwater Music Festival, to summer's Hottest Yard/Street Sale Under the Sun, we celebrate who we are, and, I think, where we are! The Sound Waterfront Festival is a 4-day multicultural event celebrating our place on the water, the magnificent waters of these Great Lakes. And here at the northern terminus of the historic Underground Railroad, we rejoice in the Emancipation Festival, an event dating back to 1862!

Then we have the melodies of the TD Harbour Nights every summer and autumn Sunday evening; Music at the Market, even outdoor movies!

There are times when I actually hear or read on line, someone asking, "What is there to do around here? C'mon, Man – it's Owen Sound! Celebrate!





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Only the Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce provides unique partnership opportunities to reach 400+managers, owners and local business entrepreneurs by using multi-messaging platforms.

The Chamber targets the audience you most want to reach — partnering is a smart, simple and cost-effective way to build awareness, attract new clients or customers and stimulate sales.

Partnering with the Chamber enhances your credibility, reputation and visibility as a leader in the community.

- Networking & social activities
- Educational seminars and training
- Promotional services
- Member affinity programs
- Achievement recognition
- Business advocacy
- Group health benefits



GET IN TOUCH

1051 2nd Ave. East Suite 226 Owen Sound, ON N4K 6K6 519-376-6261 info@oschamber.com www.oschamber.com







