

# The Gleaner

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## Still Standing entertained a full house at Grove Hall

After hosting the cast and crew of the popular CBC series for 5 days, Huntingdon was in the spotlight for the live taping of episode #49



Many residents had their seat for the live taping of the CBC show Still Standing. Emily Southwood

**EMILY SOUTHWOOD**  
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**ENTERTAINMENT.** On December 6th, Huntingdon's Grove Hall hosted the live taping of the CBC hit Docu-Reality show, Still Standing. The premise of the fun-spirited series is to profile towns across Canada that have suffered tough times, persevered, and are 'still standing'.

The live-recorded comedy-show aims to garner laughs while also profiling stories of resilience, highlighting local lore, and showcasing interesting characters. The episode on Huntingdon did not disappoint in material, after the crew spent 5 days interviewing

locals—many of whom also sat front row at the taping for gentle ribbings from the show's host, actor and comedian Jonny Harris.

Many residents lined up for chilly hours to secure a seat at the performance, which consisted of stand up routines from three head writers on the show to warm up the crowd, as well as the main performance from Jonny Harris. There were plenty of laugh-out-loud moments during the taping of the 10th show in the 13-episode run of its 4th season. The spirit of Jonny's shtick was lighthearted and gently depreciating as he profiled Huntingdon institutions like Grant's and The Chateau, as well as newer enterprises like Jakers, La Vallée des Travailleurs, and caterer Annie's.

Local talent Jennifer Neal received shout

outs and The Valleyfield Bridge suffered more than one ribbing from Jonny as he waxed un-poetic about the unique challenges of Huntingdon living, as well as celebrated the resilient spirit of its residents. A total of \$428.30 and 215 kilos of non-perishables were also collected for La Bouffe Additionnelle prior to the taping of the show. The CBC cast and crew signed off by thanking everyone who was involved in the taping, as well as Grove Hall for hosting the entertaining and successful evening.

Although the episode's airing date is yet unknown, it will likely play in late winter. As head writer Fraser Young joked, «The best way not to miss it is to tune your channel to CBC and just leave it on.»



The host Jonny Harris. Photo CBC

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# Holiday Brain



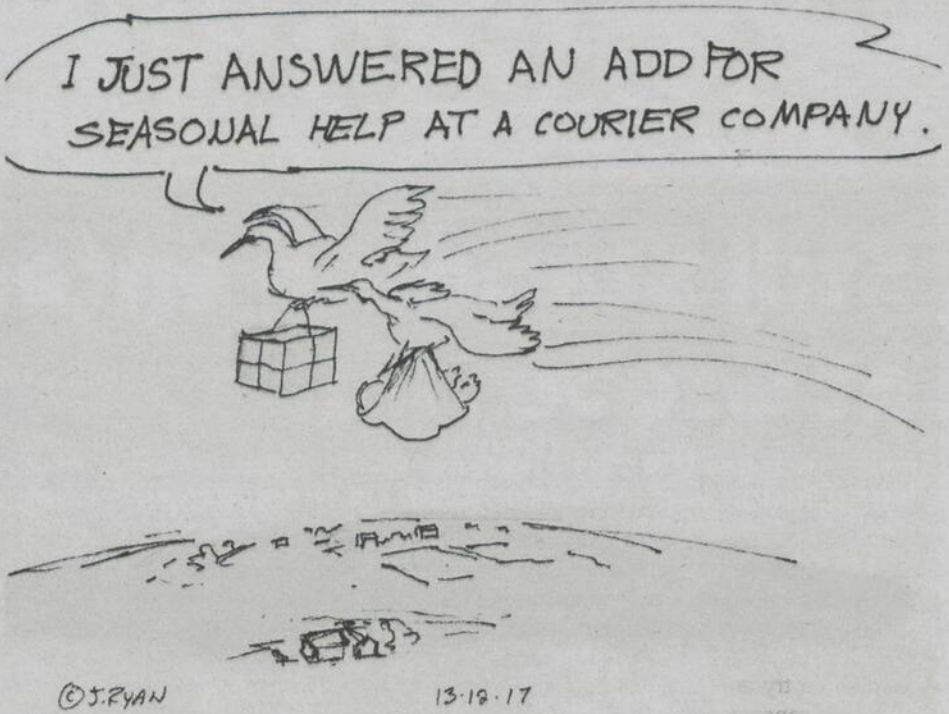
**EMILY SOUTHWOOD**  
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It's that time of year when no matter how prepared you've tried to be—by shopping for gifts in July or getting those outdoor lights up before the first frost—it's pretty easy to feel like your brain is a battery-operated, singing Santa gone haywire.

If your to-do list looks anything like mine, it's enough to rattle Martha Stewart and her entire staff. To be clear, I don't mean that my Christmas display will look anything like hers. My to-do list reads more along the lines of: Scrub the coffee stain out of the carpet! Buy festive paper napkins! Don't forget to unfreeze the turkey!! I'm hoping to get it all accomplished in between substitute teaching, writing, cooking, cleaning and nursing

a family with colds back to health. If the list weren't long enough already, this weekend our well pump decided to conk out on us—bring on the supreme joys of life without running water. Oh and don't get me started on the tree that fell over, ornaments and all, on Saturday night.

What I am going to try and remember while I boil water to wash dishes, wipe noses and add premade lasagna to my holiday menu plan, is that once we're gathered all together around my semi-presentable living room, it will be the journey that made the destination memorable. Put it this way, when in a few years from now I say: "Hey guys, remember the first year we hosted the family for Christmas, and I forgot to thaw the turkey?" Chances are they'll reply: "Yup, we sure do."



© J. RYAN

13-12-17

## Avalon Singers

# A North American Celebration of Christmas

**CONCERT.** The Avalon Singers, with their director, Pamela Selkirk, will be presenting a North American celebration of Christmas on Saturday, December 23, at the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Huntingdon.

The choir will present a programme of music recounting the Christmas story, a story familiar to all of us: a baby born into the world in harsh conditions, shepherds witnessing an event they hardly understand, angels singing praise, and strange kings coming from the East with precious gifts. You will hear how this same story is interpreted and re-interpreted through the perspectives of the inhabitants of North America: in Wendat, language of the Hurons, in French, among the English Canadians and the Americans and among the descendants of the Spanish in Mexico.

The Mystery of Bethlehem, a cantata in six sections by the British/Canadian composer



The Avalon Singers. Photo Facebook



Choir director, Pamela Selkirk. Photo Facebook

them new to the audience, which will range in style and mood from tender and intimate to rousing and jubilant. The choir will be accompanied by Scott Bradford on the organ, Luc Larocque on guitar, Kurt Dobbartin on harmonica and Chris Crilly, who will provide percussion and narration.

The concert will be held on Saturday, December 23, at 8:00 pm at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Huntingdon. Tickets are \$15 and may be bought at the door or in advance from choir members.

(Submitted by Nora Quinn)

**Avalon Singers**  
Pamela Selkirk, Director

**Christmas in North America**  
Saturday, December 23,  
2017, 8:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
33 rue Prince, Huntingdon

**\$15.00**

**Randall Finnegan**  
Auctioneer  
450 601-7111 • 450-601-8218 • 450-264-3653

**1ST AUCTION SALE**

For The Betty Riel Cancer Foundation To be held at the St Joseph Parish Hall Huntingdon, Quebec On Sunday December 17th @ 11:00am

Partial Listing: Sealy- 1 set Queen mattress and box spring 60" - Donated by Roch Dumouchel Inc. (Noel Roy) Hockey Tickets- Mtl vs Dallas March 13th 2018, Autographed hockey stick by Maurice "Rocket" Richard, furniture, dishware, tools, Meat-4 turkeys, 3 hams, bacon,hay, straw, firewood, Generator 5,000 BTU, paintings, Mtl home game-Hockey tickets in desjardins section, 1998 Dodge Dakota Sport Pickup truck 4x4 8 cyl. automatic, antiques and more. photos on internet.  
\*Cold Buffet\*

**www.randallfinnegan.com**

Healey Willan, and the centre-piece of the evening, will be performed in the first half of the concert. With this cantata, Healey Willan, who worked for many years in Toronto as a teacher, organist and choirmaster, evokes beautifully the mystery, solemnity and joy of the Christmas story. To complete the programme, the Avalon Singers will perform carols, hymns and spirituals, some of them favourites and some of

21 Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 - www.the-gleaner.ca

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Godmanchester artist John Ryan

# Collaborating to honour Quebec Alzheimer Societies

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**CULTURE** Local artist John Ryan is preparing to unveil his latest mural, created in collaboration with the Federation of Quebec Alzheimer Societies and with the help of a collection of exceptional artists all living with the disease. The mural, which will include superposed canvasses representing each of the twenty Alzheimer Societies across the province, will be unveiled next month in Montreal as part of a national awareness campaign.

Fresh off his experience creating a collaborative mural with Akwesasne artist Natasha Smoke Santiago, renowned artist John Ryan found himself in a friendly conversation on the golf course during the annual tournament to raise funds for the Suroit Alzheimers Society. "They wanted to try and get away from the negatives and concentrate on the services offered to patients and their loved ones." In short, the Societies were looking for a way to change the conversation.

A few months later, Mr. Ryan received a call which led to a brainstorming session that ultimately resulted in the launch of a collaborative project to create a mural to honour not only the resilience but also the many talents of people with Alzheimer's disease as well as the efforts made for more than 30 years by the 20 Alzheimer Societies in Quebec.

The finished project will include 5 large mural canvasses around 4 ft by 7 ft each painted

by John Ryan, with the 20 12 x 16 canvasses mounted on top and on the bottom of the larger pieces. The smaller canvasses will portray the particularities of each society and the different geographic regions where they are located, while the larger mural pieces will focus on the different services and therapy offered by the Alzheimers Societies.

## A PROVINCIAL TOUR

He has been touring the province since late October to work with the artists at the different societies, while those societies that are less accessible, especially on a tight schedule, will be sending their own canvas to the project. The canvasses should be completed by early December, while Ryan works out of his home studio to complete the larger pieces.

Working with acrylic paints, he would set up a table easel with a canvas with an outline of the image already drawn. He then sat with the artists as they added the colour. "I encourage them a lot," says Ryan, noting he is very careful to ensure no-one feels anxious or agitated. "I talk them through it - There's no stress and everything is kept very positive."

This is his first experience with art therapy. "It is a very rich experience sitting with these artists," he says. "It's kind of exciting," he adds, in thinking about the final product as well as the possibility this project will help to raise awareness of the incredible work being done at the Alzheimers society in Quebec. "They give the individuals a chance to put Alzheimers away and just be who they are. For some, their identity now includes budding artist."



Artist John Ryan shares a laugh with a fellow artist during a painting session at one of the Alzheimer Societies visited throughout Quebec.

(Photo Federation of Quebec Alzheimer Societies)

## THIS AND THAT IN TOWN

### AUCTION

The first Auction to benefit the Betty Riel Foundation will take place on Sunday, December 17, at 13 York Street in Huntingdon. Randall Finnegan of the Randall Finnegan Auction House will proceed to the auction of items donated toward the cause, including tickets to a Montreal Canadiens game, a queen mattress set, a hockey stick autographed by Maurice "Rocket" Richard, furniture, tools, dishes, a 5,000 BTU generator, antiques... Photographs of the items to be auctioned will be posted on the Betty Riel Foundation Facebook page. Anyone wishing to donate items toward the auction may contact the auctioneer at 450 601-7111 or 450 601-8218. 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the Betty Riel Foundation.

### FREE CHRISTMAS MEAL

The Village Church in Ormstown will be serving a Christmas meal on Saturday, December 16. Supper will be served between 5 pm and 7 pm.

### BAKE SALE

The Little Green Library in Huntingdon will be holding a bake sale on Saturday, December 16, from 10 am to 1 pm, to raise funds to help cover operating costs. From cookies, desserts, and pastries to many other homemade delights, come stock up for the holiday season.

Come and enjoy a coffee and a piece of cake in the library. You can also show your support for the library by donating homemade goodies for the sale.

### CINE-CINEMA PRESENTS LION, A FILM FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

For the month of December, Cine-Cinema will be presenting Lion, an "inspiring, touching, and luminescent film, perfect for the holidays. Directed by Garth Davis, Lion recounts the adventure of a young five-year old Indian boy after taking a train by mistake which takes him several thousand kilometres from his home, and his survival in a hostile city until his adoption by an Australian couple. Twenty-five years later, he embarks on a search for his lost family. The film will be presented at the Little Green Library, in English, on Friday, December 15 at 7:30 pm and in French on Sunday, December 17 at 2 pm Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children, 16 years of age and under.

### NOTE:

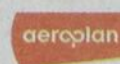
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# Godmanchester celebrates World Soil Day

Environmental advocate Charles Eugène Bergeron brings attention to soil advocacy with an art installation in Dewittville.

**EMILY SOUTHWOOD**  
emilysouthwood@gmail.com

**ENVIRONMENT.** On Tuesday, December 5th a group of Haut Saint Laurent advocates for healthy soil gathered to mark World Soil Day.

Alongside the numerous celebrations happening worldwide, Charles Eugène Bergeron—a longtime volunteer for advocacy groups such as Soil 4 Climate and Sols Vivants Québec—marked the day by making a visual art installation out of soil. He created the symbol on the property of Godmanchester Councillor, and organic farmer, Peter Bulow. Bergeron met Peter Bulow during his career in Agriculture Management and considers Peter a leader in organic practices.

International Soil Day is recognized by the UN, and was first recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002. The Food And Agricultural Organization of the United Nations now observes World Soil Day (WSD) annually on the 5th of December with the mandate to 'focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and advocating for the sustainable management of soil resources'. The theme for 2017 is: Caring for the planet starts from the ground.

Bergeron has been dedicating his time to environmental causes for many years and now entirely directs his advocacy work towards soil protection. In his words: "Protecting soil means protecting life." He explained that the Russian painter and philosopher Nicholas Roerich, famous for initiating the Roerich Pact (an international treaty focused on the protection of culture) was an inspiration for this installation. The three circles that form Bergeron's installation represent the 3 components of culture according to Roerich: science, arts and spirituality.

Several other local supporters attended the rainy day celebration including France Lemieux of the environmental group Crivert, who are also passionate advocates for the importance of healthy soil. Learn more about the group's efforts at @Crivert on Facebook.



Charles Bergeron (far right) and local environmental advocates celebrating International Soil Day 2017. Emily Southwood

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## DEATH NOTICE



Wilkinson, Mrs. Myrtle Elizabeth (Cullen)  
1928-2017

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that our beloved mom has passed away peacefully at the Brome Missisquoi Hospital on December 3rd, 2017, in her 90th year. She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas Wilkinson and her brother, Raymond Cullen.

She leaves to mourn her son James,

her daughters:  
Joan (Kevin Abdallah),  
Marilyn (Geoffrey McMillan),  
Barbara (Roberto Santos).

She also leaves behind 10 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, her sister Muriel McIntyre, and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Family received condolences at Les Résidences Funéraires Bessette in Waterloo, Sunday, December 10th, 2017 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Funeral was held Monday, December 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the St-Paul's Church in Waterloo.

She will be remembered by many students from her years as a grade 1 teacher at Waterloo Elementary. She was a member of the congregation and UCW of St-Paul's United Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations to St-Paul's United Church in Waterloo, Qc would be greatly appreciated.

Les Résidences Funéraires Bessette  
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A reduction in school taxes expected for next year. Photo Journal Saint-François Archives

## Lower school taxes expected in the region

**MARIO PITRE**  
TRANSLATED BY CATHLEEN JOHNSTON  
mpitre@gravitemedia.com

**TAXES.** The draft bill tabled on Thursday by Minister of Education, Sébastien Proulx, which is aimed at harmonizing school taxes by region, should result in a reduction for school taxpayers.

School taxes will be set at the lowest current rate in each of the 17 administrative districts for the English and French school boards.

According to figures available on the Ministry web site, residents living in the C.S. de la Vallée-des-Tisserands district should benefit

from an average tax reduction of \$280 based on a rate of \$0.17 832 per \$100 assessed value.

For the C.S des Trois-Lacs, there would be an average reduction of \$319 with the same rate of \$0.17 832 per \$100 assessed value. The average reduction for the New Frontiers School Board will be \$291.

The year 2018-2019 will be a period of transition. A permanent school tax will be established for the year 2019-2020.

The government will compensate school boards for lost revenue with a subsidy of \$670 million; an amount equal to losses.

(With the collaboration of Audrey Leduc-Brodeur)