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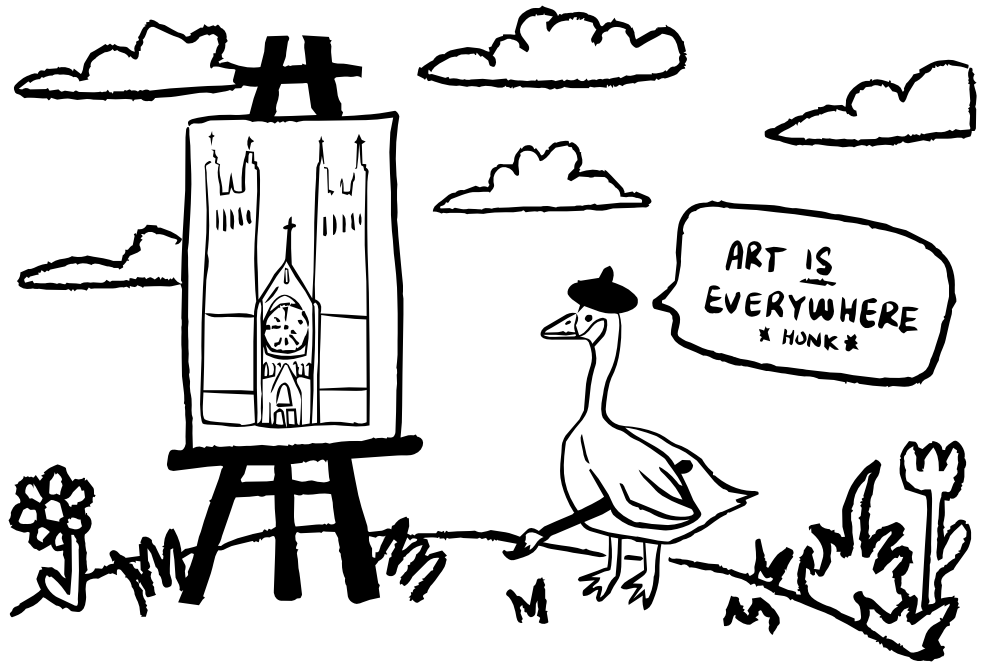
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FREE!

arts

* WEEKLY *

* GUELPH'S OFFLINE ALT-WEEKLY * FREE EVERY THURSDAY *



The best of what's happening every week here in Guelph
* and * ArtsEverywhere Festival Returns to Guelph *
GCAT's 10th Anniversary Party * Fifteen Things Worth Your Fifteen Bucks
* plus * Howitt Park Gets Wild this Weekend *

thanks for week one!

I'd like to say *thank you* to everyone who has reached out and checked in with the words of encouragement the zine received over it's first few days.

A special thanks to the initial distribution spots that participated and everyone who helped out to make issue one a real thing.

In this week's issue, our contributor *Julia* took a deep look at this weekend's upcoming ArtsEverywhere Festival and pin-pointed some of the must-see's, one of our contributors highlights the cities Park Stewardship program, *GG* returns to talk about fifteen things you can grab for fifteen bucks here in Guelph, and we spotlight the Guelph Community for Active Transportation (GCAT)'s 10th Birthday Party. All that with expanded event listings, 5 new pick-up locations and an additional 50 copies printed, folded, and available for you than last week. Thanks again for the great start!

- Michael

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neighbourhood
yard sale?**

advertise your "thing" right here.

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drummer for your
metal band?**

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**Connor Storrie
look-alike
contest?**

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coming soon, our new advice column



Ask a...
**SQUIRREL STUCK
HIGH UP IN A
TREE**

send them your **brief** dilemma at
netweeklyguelph@gmail.com **sub: ASK**



NET WEEKLY GUELPH

Michael K Newton - Founder/Many Things

Jules - Feature

GG III - Food

TMN - City

Morgyn - Cover Illustration

'Natasha' - Woodburn Dog Art

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*Beat Goes On, Bonza Pizza, The Cornerstone, Diodyde,
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MONDAY

Open House/Makers Meetup - 8PM - **Diodyde Community Workshop**, 700 York Rd. ••

Monday Night's - Not just for *leftovers* - Send us your Monday 'things' - great opportunity for a night out in Guelph - **1 800 805 5818**

TUESDAY

Pre-Queer Night Out **Clothing Swap** 4:30, BYO-hangers and bags, DRY event/AA - **The Cornerstone**, 1 Wyndham St N

Open Mic with Adam Bryan, Music/Comedy/Poetry, 7pm sign-up, PWYC - **Three Pieces**, 52 Carden St.

Trivia with *Aaron Dale* 10PM - no cover - **The Jimmy Jazz**, 48 Macdonell St ••

WEDNESDAY

Queer Line Dancing (ABBA NIGHT) presented by Giddyup + 10C - 7PM, \$10 - **Farmers Market Building**, 2 Gordon St

Juno award winning singer-songwriter *Ian Thomas Band* - 7:30PM, \$73.50+ taxes etc - **River Run Centre**, 35 Woolwich St.

Triva - All About Movies @ 8PM - **Brothers Brewing**, 15 Wyndham St N ••

Open Jam hosted by Trick Vilbar from *The Last Armada* - 10PM, PWYC, 19+ **Jimmy Jazz**, 48 Macdonell St ••

A Friendly Guide:

PWYC = Pay What You Can

(\$) Sugg. = Suggested "PWYC" Price

AA = All Ages

19+ = Alcohol Served/ID Required

ADV = Advanced Ticket Price, more at door

•• = Weekly Recurring Event

**Professional
Wrestling
School?**

advertise your "thing" right here.

Want your event or show listed in NET? call the hotline at 1-800-805-5818 and leave a clear message with details of the event.

Not totally turned off by the internet? There are several great *ONLINE* resources to find out what's happening here in Guelph and these three are especially worth mentioning...

www.guelphspotlight.ca

@musicguelph on Instagram

www.whatsappguelph.com

on the big screen

The Art of Adventure (PG) @ The Bookshelf, Thur 5:30

Billie Eilish : Hit Me Hard and Soft: The Tour - (concert film) @ Cineplex Guelph, Thurs 6:20, 9:10 Friday 3:50, 6:50, 9:40, Sat 1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40 Mon 6:40, 9:30

The Bride (14A) @ The Mustang, Fri,Sat,Sun 10:45~

Celestial Queer : The Life, Work, and Wonder of James MacSwain - (doc) Screening with Q&A @ Silence (46 Essex) Thur 7:00 - PWYC/\$5-Sug

The Christophers (NR) @ The Bookshelf, Thur (CC) 8:00

The Drama (NR) @ The Bookshelf, Sat 7:30, Sun 7:30, Tue 7:00, Wed 7:00

Iron Maiden : Burning Ambition (doc) @ Cineplex Guelph, Thurs 7:00, Sat 4:30

Labrynth (Japanese w/ Eng Sub) (*Anime*) @ Cineplex Guelph, Mon 7:00

Mortal Kombat 2 (14A) @ the Mustang, Fri, Sat, Sun 9:00

Palestine '36 (NR) @ the Bookshelf, Fri 7:30, Sat 4:30, Sun 4:30, Mon 6:30, Wed 2:00

The Bookshelf is located at 41 Quebec St.
The Mustang Drive-In is located at 5012 Jones Baseline, Guelph

There are two cineplex theatres in Guelph located at both 485 Woodlawn Rd. W and 85 Clair Rd. E. Outside of special interest screenings, those listings can be found at cineplex.com

whats going on

THURSDAY

Celebrate HER Market presented by Ward Night Market, 5PM, PWYC - **The Red Chevron**, 34 Elizabeth St.

Special event screening of documentary feature **Celestial Queer - the life, work and wonder of James MacSwain**, screening + Q&A, 7PM - PWYC/\$5 SUGG - **Silence**, 46 Essex St

Big Ideas in Arts & Culture : Sundus Abdul Hadi - **big ideas lecture series** - 7PM, FREE - **Heritage Hall**, 83 Essex St.

Giggles In Guelph Comedy ft. *Evan Carter, Vinny Vinelli, Michael Friedman*, 7PM, \$30 door, **Spring Mill Distillery**, 43 Arthur St.

Karaoke with host *Stale Dale* 10PM - 19+ PWYC/ FREE at the **Jimmy Jazz** 48 Macdonell St ••

Cyber Funk Night - doors 9pm, \$10 - **The Albion**, 49 Norfolk ••

FRIDAY

Live Jazz ft Matt Endahl and Nancy Walker Duos, part of *Brilliant Corners Jazz Series*, doors 7:30, tix \$30+, **Silence**, 46 Essex St.

Comedy with AJ Bate, doors 7:00PM, \$22.90 adv. **the Albion**, 49 Norfolk

Nashville style Songwriters Round 8PM, PWYC @ **The Cornerstone**, 1 Wyndham St N

DISCO DEVIL *dj's Pekarsky, DJ Bad Ass, C-Rat* spin house, techno, breakbeat and leftfield from 10PM til close - FREE - 60 Carden St.

local alt-rock group the Namedroppers with *local noise-rock* Enobini - doors 10pm, Free/PWYC - **Jimmy Jazz**, 48 Macdonell

Ken Yoshi and Julian Fauth play live Blues, 9PM, PWYC - **Brothers Brewing**, 15 Wyndham St N

SATURDAY

PARKRUN the *Eramosa River Trail* every Saturday morning 5KM volunteer led run/walk - 9am Start - FREE - **85 York Rd** ••

Howitt Park Cleanup - park cleanup and tree planting, 1-4pm, **Howitt Park**, 81 Beechwood Ave - *SEE FEATURE IN THIS ISSUE*

GCAT 10th Anniversary Party - 1pm Group Ride and Walk, 2PM Social, Food, Kids Activities - **Fixed Gear Canteen**, 20 Alma St - *SEE FEATURE...*

MKT MKT Spring Market - Maker and Vendor Market, PWYC/\$3 sugg or non-perishable donation

REPRINT

for the Guelph Food Bank - 11-4pm, **St. Georges Anglican Church**, 99 Woolwich St.

Preseason Baseball - Guelph Silvercreeks v Cambridge Cubs, 12:30, **Joe Kaine Baseball Park**, 40 Municipal St.

Sunny Fakers, 4PM, PWYC/\$15 sugg - **La Poche**, 40 Quebec St

Live Jazz ft Pat LaBabera Quarter, part of Brilliant Corners Jazz Series, 8pm, \$30+, **Silence**, 46 Essex

Resistance Revue featuring Drag Country act *Ratskin Family Band* with spoken word artist *Taqralik Partridge* and *Lacey Hill*, 8PM, FREE, **River Run Centre**, 35 Woolwich St

Toronto fuzzified *Surf Rockers Fuzz Vultures* and *tempo turner-upper's Los Speedos* meet Hamilton *Horror Punks Night Chill* down at the j-jazz, 10PM, Free/PWYC - **Jimmy Jazz**, 48 Macdonell

Snek, 9PM, PWYC - **Brothers Brewing**, 15 Wyndham St.

from Dublin, Ireland *One Leg One Eye* with Constellation Records Artist *Efrim Manuel Menuck*, 7PM, \$20 Adv, **Sonic Hall**, 12 Wyndham St.

SUNDAY

Markets on the Court hosted by **The Hive** - vendors, music, fresh goods and kids activities 11-3pm every Sunday, **the tennis court on the hill** at 75 Dublin St. N ••

Bend your Ear : A Panel Conversation on Listening - part of ArtsEverywhere programming- 10:00am / FREE - **10C Shared Space**, 42 Carden St

Lovers Rock Sundays, reggae music, vendors, poetry and brunch specials, 12 Noon, \$10 - **The Albion**, 49 Norfolk ••

A Long, Relaxing Sunday Walk with Yourself and *Whomever*, FREE / Cost - your time only ••

L CON in collbaoration with *Nina Vroeman* with support from Halocline Trance recording artist *Karen Ng*, FREE, 2PM - **ImprovLab** in the MacKinnon Building, 87 Trent Lane - *SEE FEATURE IN THIS ISSUE*

Silence Jazz Jam, *house band* @ 7pm, *Open jam* from 7:30 - b.y.o instrument, musicians welcome - live jazz - \$5 / PWYC - **Silence**, 46 Essex St

Open Mic for musicians, comedians, poets and more - 10pm - no cover - 19+ - **Jimmy Jazz** 48 Macdonell St ••

Seek and you Shall Find

The 2026 ArtsEverywhere Festival Returns to Guelph this Weekend

May 7 to May 10, 2026

Various venues around Guelph
Free (mostly)

I never know quite what to expect from the ArtsEverywhere Festival, and that in and of itself is a beautiful thing. As someone who has been attending the festival on and off for the past several years, as well as worked with the organization who backs it (Musagetes), their approach to curation always surprises me. A self-described “festival of ideas”, ArtsEverywhere is not just about watching performances or viewing exhibitions, or perhaps more aptly “consuming art”—it’s about active engagement with ideas, exploring questions which may have no clear answer, and learning how to better navigate our relationships in a world which increasingly tries to distance us from the things that matter most.

For me the weekend is always a welcomed respite, allowing me to indulge in some of the topics that tickle my mind: ethos of care, stewardship of more-than-human relationships, power structures and oppression, and radical joy, queerness, and love, to name a few. I usually leave the festival feeling invigorated because some of the conversations presented here are often the ones I have been having (albeit much more casually articulated) in coffee shops or over a glass of wine in my friend’s living room—conversations (and the actions they inspire) that I wish my busy life had more room for.

So without further ado, let’s get into the nitty gritty of what this year’s edition has to offer.

What’s Happing in 2026 -

ArtsEverywhere Festival is always at its core interdisciplinary and idea driven. You can expect a wide range of events spreading across multiple venues like Guelph Youth Dance, 10C, Guelph Black Heritage Society, and ImprovLab, with most of the programming taking place at the centrally located and accessible River Run Centre. Another big reason to toot the festival’s horns is that **almost all of the programming is free** (yay low barrier to entry), except for The Guelph Lecture—On Being, a signature event which brings together a keynote speaker, literary guest, and innovative musician. There are hands-on workshops where participants can experiment with creative practices, literary events that explore cultural identity and liberation, and performances that push the boundaries of music, theatre, and visual art. Regardless of what your thing is, you get to pick your poison.

The Guelph Lecture—On Being 2026

This year’s **Guelph Lecture—On Being** takes place on Friday, May 8 at 7 pm at the River Run Centre, and features author and activist Cory Doctorow, who will speak about technology, power, and society. He will specifically address the “enshittification” of the internet, and “how we can collectively respond to the decay of civil discourse caused in part by social-media-driven disinformation, greed, and an increasingly policed internet” (ArtsEverywhere.ca).

Enshittification, defined as the gradual decline in the quality of online platforms as they emphasize profit and shareholder value over the needs of users and customers, what a wonderful word. This is so relevant to the impetus behind Net. As Michael writes in issue one, “In today’s nearly print-less world, we are forced onto our phones to trudge through endless brainrot until something of value catches our eye.” I can’t help but feel the same.

The platforms I use still afford me some good (I get to see Pam Anderson’s Closet Picks from the Criterion Collection, or watch a premium reel of Punch, the gone viral orphaned Japanese macaque, kissing his girlfriend), but mostly I am being sold a slew of insidious advertisements, fake news, and AI-generated slop.

Cory’s lecture will be accompanied by a literary reading by writer Madhur Anand and a musical performance by Billianne, making it less of a traditional scholarly talk, and more of a multi-disciplinary night on the town. Tickets can be purchased at festival.artseverywhere.ca.

A Drag Country Band! Did somebody say hoedown?

On Saturday, May 9, at 8 pm, boot, scoot, and boogie over to the River Run Centre to catch **Resistance Revue featuring The Ratskin Family Band, Taqralik Partridge, and Lacey Hill**. As a former RuPaul’s Drag Race fan and a terribly novice line dancer who has barely mastered the Electric Slide, it’s no wonder I’m excited about The Ratskin Family Band, an all-drag country group performing country covers, reimaged pop hits, and original songs with queer themes.

If that’s not enticing enough, headlining the event will be acclaimed multidisciplinary and spoken word artist Taqralik Partridge, who was the literary guest for the 2020 Guelph Lecture—On Being. If you haven’t read *Curved Against the Hull of a Peterhead*, published by PS Guelph, I highly recommend it. The evening will be hosted by singer-songwriter Lacey Hill.

REPRINT

Karen Ng and L CON are the “Reel” Deal

I wouldn't be writing for Net if I also couldn't shamelessly plug the beautiful music my friends make, so here it is. On Sunday afternoon at 2 pm you'll be treated to two genre-defying performances: **L CON in collaboration with Nina Vroemen, and Karen Ng** at the International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation's (IICSI's) performance space, ImprovLab. Both Lisa Conway (L CON) and Karen Ng have strong ties to Guelph, wearing many different hats amongst Guelph's art community over the years. You may recognize Karen Ng's name from her involvement with the Guelph Jazz Festival, but you most likely know her as one of Canada's leading improvisers “with a breathtakingly wide musical scope” (Musicworks). She will deliver a set of improvised solo saxophone and electronics, coming off her highly anticipated debut LP *Backwards Blue*.

I was first exposed to L CON's music when I got to know Lisa as a coworker and friend in 2023. Her breathtaking album of the same year, *The Isolator*, was my first foray into her music—many of my friends had already fallen in love with her previous releases and intimate live shows. Lisa's work is frequently minimalist, combining analog synthesizers, tape machines, and electronics with acoustic instruments. Now Montreal-based, Lisa will return to Guelph to perform with multidisciplinary artist Nina Vroemen. They will captivate audiences with an experimental audio-visual reel-to-reel tape loop set, playing with elements of improvisation and composition. It's bound to be dreamy, expertly mixed, and just what you need to melt into the last day of programming.

active transportation

Michael, NET

GCAT's 10th Anniversary Party

As you can see throughout this issue of net, there's many reasons to ring your bell and celebrate in Guelph this week, and our local cycling/active-transportation advocacy group, GCAT (Guelph Community for Active Transportation) is giving us one more this Saturday afternoon.

GCAT is celebrating their 10th anniversary at the Fixed Gear Canteen on Alma St. starting with a group ride at 1pm, followed by a social and activities back at the Canteen from 2pm.

I spoke to GCAT Advocacy Co-Chair Mike Darmon earlier this week about a notable “win” for GCAT in the last decade. Here's his response:

“One of my favourite wins is the new Emma to Earl Street pedestrian Bridge, and it's now the favourite segment of my daily ride from home to downtown along the Downtown trail or picking

REPRINT

A Feast of Feeling

I would be remiss if I didn't highlight the last event of the festival, if not for its uniqueness alone. **Empathy supper: improvising new ecologies of trust** takes place on Sunday, May 10 at 5 pm, and is hosted by Berlin-based Indonesian artist and community organizer Ariel William Orah, in collaboration with Pedro Oliveira. The event is an immersive, hands-on gathering where people come together to explore big ideas like trust, division, and connection through sound, conversation, and food. The evening includes a live performance woven in.

So, see you there?

I could go into detail about many of the other workshops, talks, and performances at this year's festival, but these are just a few that I'm particularly interested in checking out. I think if there's one reason to attend ArtsEverywhere, it's the emphasis on intimacy and connection. Unlike larger, more commercial festivals, you might find yourself chatting with a speaker after a session or continuing the discussion with old and new faces as you walk from one venue to the next. And if that's not enough to persuade you, it's mostly free... nothing to lose!

In a time when so much of our attention is pulled toward quick, surface-level content, I would argue ArtsEverywhere offers a different pace and orientation. Check out the full program on festival.artseverywhere.ca.

- Jules, Net

my grandkids up from school. It also brings back great memories of the many meetings me and Yvette had with the late Councillor Bob Bell where we planned and advocated for this bridge and other safer river crossings.

As I said during my GCAT remarks at the grand opening, I hope this bridge not only acts as an active transportation link but enables neighbours and neighbourhoods to socialize and connect in this very special place on this Speed River crossing.

Please join us on our GCAT 10th Anniversary ride. We will stop at this bridge to pause to enjoy the beauty of the river, remember our GCAT Vision and advocacy, and fight for more connections that will truly make our City a place we love to live in, and not escape from”

See listing on events page.

food

Fifteen things worth your fifteen bucks (give or take) in and around Guelph

So much of Guelph's food is what I hear people refer to as “Guelph good”: distinctly mediocre. But these things aren't! These things are actually good! Here's two weeks and a day's worth of things to spend your hard-earned just-over-an-hour's-work-on-minimum-wage-in-Doug-Ford's-Ontario on:

Any glass of wine during happy hour at **Two Facets**, plus tip.

However much in-season produce you can get from **Duurzame Growers**, also at the Guelph Farmer's Market.

However much you think is worth \$15 from **The Seed**, a very-much-worth-supporting PWYC grocery stall at the market.

A draft pour of Soif and a hot dog at **Revel Cider**, OR three cans of Time and Place to go if you can't find a seat in the tasting room.

The Pep Rally from **Bonza**. Okay, yes, that's \$31, but you have ONE friend and fifty cents.

A half dozen **Madra Mara** oysters wherever you may find them, which will cost you less than \$15, but maybe not with tip! But who wants to eat cheap seafood? You? Get a grip!

city

Howitt Park Gets Wild this Saturday

I've always been a park person. I grew up carving trails through Cantara Park in Sarnia, moving through the secret, wild places waiting to be discovered by adventurous kids on bikes, hiding just beyond the well worn paths. I measured my summers by the growth of Queen Anne's Lace and the buzzing of cicadas. And when I moved to Toronto as a bright-eyed teenager, I kept looking for the parks.

In Toronto, I stretched my legs and listened to the waves of Lake Ontario lap the shore along Trillium Park and the echoes of Ontario Place. I watched butterflies do their work in tiny parkettes nestled between towering buildings of glass and metal.

When I moved to Guelph - the City of Parks - I kept looking for the wild places. I listened for the hum of cicadas and looked for the riotous colour of weeds when we call them flowers. In the seven years I've called Guelph home, I've been happy to find a robust collection of parks. Green spaces that allow for informal summer hangouts on a blanket or a shortcut from our place in the West End to downtown. It's that last one, the shortcut, that has taken on a special meaning to me lately.

GG III, NET

A half dozen croissants from **Eric the Baker**. Six! At these butter prices, in this economy!

A large bottle of hot sauce from **Rodolfo's** at the Guelph Farmer's Market (RIP Salsateria).

The Sweet Cheeses-curated cheese plate at **Bev's**, if you're too late to get anything from **Sweet Cheese** at the market. And even if you're not.

Two birria tacos at the newly opened **Papalotl**, just outside Aberfoyle, a.k.a. the only place worth eating near the antique market.

The jerk chicken lunch special and a side of festival at **Mama Favourite**.

Your morning coffee every day of the week, for one week, at **Double Rainbow Cafe**.

Holy basil stir fry (Pad Krapow) from **Na Ha Thai**, yes this is \$21, but I promise there's leftovers for lunch.

Any wrap from **Retour Bistro**, with your change donated to their various fundraisers for Gaza, Sudan and Lebanon.

Three butter tarts from **Wellington Cakes**. They really are the best.

TMN, NET

I recently learned about the City of Guelph's Park Stewards Program, where groups of neighbours come together to “adopt” and help care for natural or “wild” areas in parks city-wide. The City website notes that Park Stewards engage in activities such as planting native trees and pollinator plants, removing and helping to control invasive plants, creating wildlife habitat projects, and litter-cleanup. Interested Guelphites can see if their own neighbourhood park has an existing stewardship group or start their own on the City of Guelph Park Stewards Program website.

This Saturday, I'll be working with the Howitt Park Stewardship team to help make Guelph a little more wild. Want to join me? The event is free and open to all. Details below.

Saturday May 9, 1-4pm

Howitt Park (81 Beechwood Ave.)
Tree planting, stream restoration, garbage cleanup

Meet at Howitt park, top of the hill, rain or shine. Snacks provided, bring a water bottle.

See listing on events page.

REPRINT