



FREE!

# net

\* WEEKLY \*

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

519  
827  
1616



# BONZA

PIZZA

bonzapizza.ca



The best of what's happening every week here in Guelph  
 \* and \* Lowest of the Low Celebrate 35 Years of Shakespeare My Butt \*  
 \* Red Output's New Album \* A Nostalgic look at Guelph Restos \*  
 \* plus \* Seed Sales Sprout Up This Weekend \*

Thanks again for not just a great first week but a really nice second one as well. We very much appreciate all the positive feedback and encouragement the zine has received.

We've added yet a couple more spots where you can pick up **net** every single Thursday here in Guelph and appreciate those who are having fun using our 1-800 number to reach out and leave information about their upcoming events.

We go into week three anticipating that final push away from early morning frost warnings and into entire afternoons of direct sunlight. In this issue, we highlight the multiple seed sales happening across our city this weekend, so you too can plant a seed for good things to come, while at the same time our food writer G.G looks back at some of the ~funky~ and unique food dives Guelph has hosted.

DJ DD, whom I first became aware of while listening to their excellent CFRU show joins us for the first time with a review of the new album from local outfit Red Output, who just happen to be playing at the J-Jazz this Friday night.

And to wrap it up, I caught up with Ron Hawkins of the legendary Canadian group Lowest of the Low on the eve of two sold-out Guelph shows in celebration of the 35th Anniversary of 'Shakespeare My Butt'. We nostalgize a bit about how things used to be and wonder how things are all going to turn out.

- Michael

coming soon, our new advice column



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

send them your **brief** dilemma at  
[netweeklyguelph@gmail.com](mailto:netweeklyguelph@gmail.com) sub: **ASK**



**NET WEEKLY GUELPH**

Michael K Newton - Founder/Many Things  
TMN - City  
GG III - Food  
DJ DD - Music  
Tori Maas - Cover Illustration, Unicorn  
'Natasha' - Woodburn Dog Art

Made by real people.  
Issue Three : May 14 2026  
Circulation : 1st edition 250 copies

Available at the following fine locations :

Art Not Shame, Beat Goes On,  
Bonza Pizza, The Cornerstone, Diodyde,  
Double Rainbow Cafe, Guelph Music, Loose Goose Cafe,  
Red Brick Cafe, Revel Cider Bar, Royal Cat Records,  
Three Pieces, Two Faces, The Dragon

Yes you can still email us.  
[netweeklyguelph@gmail.com](mailto:netweeklyguelph@gmail.com)

Would you like to advertise in net?  
[netweeklyguelph@gmail.com](mailto:netweeklyguelph@gmail.com) | sub: ads

Back Issues available for print  
by donation on the world-wide-web  
at [netweeklyguelph.com](http://netweeklyguelph.com)

trying to help you stay off your phone  
just a little bit more since April 30th 2026.

Cornerstone's **Jazz Jam** = live jam with house band, join or listen! 6PM, PWYC, **The Cornerstone**, 1 Wyndham St. N.

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

**Guelph United Football Club** (Womens) vs **FC London**, \$10, 8PM, Centennial Bowl, 375 College Ave West

**Trivia & Totcho Tuesdays**, 8PM, **The Woolly**, 176 Woolwich St

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

## WEDNESDAY

**Open Stage** w/ house band, backline provided, PWYC, 7PM, **ANAF Club**, 32 Gordon St.

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

Drop-In Chess Meet with Guelph ChessPals, 5:45 / FREE, **Guelph Public Library West End Branch**, 21 Imperial Rd. S.

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

**Survivor 50 - finale viewing party** presented by dollhaus events, 7:30, **Three Pieces Shop**, 52 Carden 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  
☘ = Plant or Seed Sale

# Hamster sitting Service?

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](http://www.guelphspotlight.ca)

@musicguelph on Instagram

[www.whatsupguelph.com](http://www.whatsupguelph.com)

## on the big screen

**Attack on Titan : The Last Attack - (anime)**  
- Japanese w/ eng subs - @ Cineplex Guelph,  
**Mon, 7pm**

**Billie Eilish : Hit Me Hard and Soft: The Tour - (concert film)** @ Cineplex Guelph, Thurs 6:40, 9:30

**Lee Cronin's The Mummy (14A)** @ The Mustang, Sat\*,Sun\*,Mon\* 1:30AM

**Mortal Kombat 2 (14A)** @ The Mustang, Fri,Sat,Sun 11:30pm

**Palestine '36 (NR)** @ the Bookshelf, Thur 5:30

**Project Hail Mary (PG)** @ The Mustang, Fri,Sat,Sun 9:05pm

**Shrek : 25th Anniversary** - @ Cineplex Guelph, Fri 7pm, Sat 12:30, 3:00, Sun 12:30, 3:00 Tue, 7pm, Wed 7pm

**The Drama (NR)** @ The Bookshelf, Thur 8:30

As of our print deadline Tuesday, Bookshelf listings beyond Thursday were not available.

**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](http://cineplex.com)

## lost your favourite disc-golf-disc in the arboretum?

advertise your "thing" right here.

## renting your parking spot downtown?

advertise your "thing" right here.

# whats going on

## THURSDAY

**Open Art Circle** - drop in accessible art program 3pm / FREE - **Art Not Shame**, 119 Wyndham St. N. ••

**The Elm Recovery Project** premiere screening, 7:30, FREE/PWYC - **The Arboretum Centre**, 88 Arboretum Rd.

**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

Guelph Seedling Sale - huge selection of organic seedlings, \$3.95 per pot, 1PM, - **The Red Chevron**, 34 Elizabeth St. 🌱

**Aiden Davies and Friends**, live jazz 3:30 / PWYC/\$15 sugg - **La Poche**, 40 Quebec St

**Brilliant Corners Jazz Series** ft *Rebecca Hennessey's Makeshift Island*, 8Pm, \$30 - **Silence**, 46 Essex St.

**Bread & Roses 2.0**, *Beauty and Joy in the Resistance*, workshop and discussion, FREE, 5:30, Masking Mandatory, **Art Not Shame**, 119 Wyndham St. N.

**Disney Channel Drag & DJ Night** ft performances from Anne Tique Doll, Kara Melle, Ultraviolet and DJ's DW, Kara Melle, 8PM, \$20 Door, 19+, **The Albion**, 49 Norfolk St.

**Royal City Rhythm Show**, live funk music, PWYC, 9pm - **Brothers Brewing**, 15 Wyndham St. N.

Toronto indie rockers **Cigar Club**, Hamilton Alt-punks **Tire Fire** and Guelph/KW's post-punk **Red Output**, 10PM / PWYC - **Jimmy Jazz**, 48 Macdonell St.

## SATURDAY

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

**Spring Field Day and Seedling Sale** - community garden opening and seedling sale, all are welcome 9am - **Ignatius Farm Workshop**, 5420 Highway 6 N. 🌱

**Sping Seedling Sale** 8am - **Guelph Farmers Market**, 2 Gordon St. 🌱

**Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners Plant Sale**, 9am - 1pm, **Harcourt Church**, 87 Dean Ave. 🌱

REPRINT

*The Junction Troubadour* **Lucas Stagg**, 4PM, PWYC/\$15 Sugg, **La Poche**, 40 Quebec St.

Kronik Noise presents *Toronto Metal* act **Crimson Shadows**, *Toronto Death Metal Experiment Specimen*, *Toronto Extreme Metal Centuries of Decay* and *St.Catherines Technical Death Metal Eaten by Sharks*, 7pm / \$20 door, **Red Papaya**, 55 Wyndham St N.

**Sounds of Time - Andean Oscillations** -reflecting and supporting *Palestine*, experimental soundscapes of Andean vibes - 8PM/\$12-\$33 sliding scale **Silence**, 46 Essex St.

**Soul Sublime**, live disco and soul cover band, PWYC, 9pm - **Brothers Brewing**, 15 Wyndham St. N.

**Guelph Poetry Slam**, - 7PM/PWYC (\$15 Sugg), **The Round Table**, 32 Essex St.

Brampton alt-rock **Perfect Strangers**, Toronto pop punk **BBQ Pope** and Guelph's **You Might Be Sleeping** 10PM, PWYC - **Jimmy Jazz**, 48 Macdonell

**Lowest of the Low's Shakespeare My Butt - 35th Anniversary Tour**, doors 7PM/SOLD OUT - **Sonic Hall**, 12 Wyndham St. - *SEE FEATURE*

## 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 ••

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

**Lowest of the Low's Shakespeare My Butt - 35th Anniversary Tour**, doors 1PM/SOLD OUT - **Sonic Hall**, 12 Wyndham St. - *SEE FEATURE*

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

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

## MONDAY

**Creative Co-Working**, free third space coworking drop in, 10am - 4pm - **Art Not Shame**, 119 Wyndham St. N. ••

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

# lowest of the low

## Influential Canadian Alt-Rock Group *Lowest of the Low* Celebrate the 35th Anniversary of their Debut Album

As we started to run low on copies of issue one of net, I got to thinking about when alt-weeklies were essential to the weekly rhythm of life as a young person looking to fill the night or weekend. With nostalgia on my mind, I caught up with Ron Hawkins over email between shows on the spring leg of their tour celebrating 35 years of their 1991 debut album 'Shakespeare My Butt'.

**Net:** Shakespeare My Butt is filled with one-liners and little *Torontoisms* about the city you were writing in, like driving your car into the Don River, or sitting under the Carlaw bridge or a meetup on Bathurst St. Do you still get inspired by the city in the same way now that *Lowest of The Low* are seven albums deep?

**Ron Hawkins:** I don't know what happened in 1990 but I had already had almost a ten year writing career by then and it took till 1990 for me to start "writing what I know". I took the much more macro-cosmic outlook and style I had been writing in and brought it all closer to home. It may have started with one song - maybe *Under The Carlaw Bridge* or something - and that felt true and real to me. I would walk around the city with a notebook in my bag. I had just ended a long relationship and was newly living in what could only be described as a punk rock squat house. I was broke, I was a bit heartbroken and that turned out to be an incredibly romantic and fertile environment.

## We were all young, broke, romantic and a little angry.

I really felt like the protagonist in the movie of my own life. It's as if the universe said "here you go kid. If you can't make art out of this then there's no hope for you".

I think that's why *SMB* had such a strong effect on people when they heard it or discovered us live. We were all young, broke, romantic and a little angry. There is a song (*In The City Lights*) on the most recent *Low* album *Over Years and Overnight*, about the two day black out in Toronto around 2003 or so.

I remember it being hot and close and everyone came out of their houses and it was like a newly discovered community of folks helping

each other out and trying to stay sane. The city has always been my home and a source of inspiration.

**Net:** 'Shakespeare My Butt' is said to have sold over 4000 copies directly through the band's merch table before landing a distribution deal. Do you see remnants of that same DIY spirit in today's younger acts?

**RH:** I feel like the actual number may have been more like 7000 cds from the merch table. That era is over. Streaming music for free, and people existing in internet silos, has rendered the idea of selling large quantities of music in an analogue format impossible. And even more so without the heft of a major label.

## It is heartbreaking and infuriating to me to see so many talented artists today with amazing material and their shit together in every way who can't seem to gain a foothold.

We were lucky to have gotten our start in an era when there were still a handful of independent opportunities available like d.j.s who could program their own shows to some degree, multiple tv and print media outlets and a public that had no choice but to buy the music they wanted to listen to. I am 100% certain that if *The Low* were starting out now we might never have reached the goals and landmarks we've reached. It is heartbreaking and infuriating to me to see so many talented artists today with amazing material and their shit together in every way who can't seem to gain a foothold.

**Net:** Are there any contemporary Canadian albums from today you think will see a 35th Anniversary tour and celebration come the year 2061.

**RH:** Well this question comes full circle with the last one. I'd like to say I'm confident that that'll happen but quite honestly I think the system we live in and the voracious and inexhaustible hunger of capitalism is killing art in general. Of course people are still making art but it is more and more becoming some kind of Sisyphian struggle. Art is just one of the tools in the fight against inhumanity - sometimes I feel like we're winning and some days I feel like we're losing the battle.

REPRINT

**Net:** Since Sonic Hall opened in late 2024, it's become a regular destination for LOTL tour routing. What was it like passing through Guelph back at The Albion in 1993 or at Peter Clark Hall in 1994? What changes have you seen in this city, and the way that bands tour tertiary level/"university cities" like Guelph (or Peterborough or Hamilton?)

## There will always be kids putting on shows in garages and legion halls and community centres and fellow travellers willing to spill their blood and sweat supporting them.

**RH:** My memories of the Albion are blurry and come to me like little film trailers and flashbacks. We were a raging live unit back then and were all working very diligently on the substance abuse problems we would spend the next two decades taming. So the joke "if you remember it you weren't there" comes to mind. But I remember the Albion being very generous to us and the people of Guelph dancing and moshing and destroying quite a few tables and chairs. Pat Moon used to do our sound there and Lil Milanovich booked us often. It's these saints and indie guerrillas in each town that keep indie bands like the Low alive long enough that they can have a reunion tour. It seems to

me like every town in Ontario has the same problem - trying to keep its live music scene and venues alive. The business model is usually structured around selling alcohol and that model is flagging as millennials and Gen Z kids reportedly drink much less than Gen X-ers did. Luckily the spirit is alive and is unstoppable. There will always be kids putting on shows in garages and legion halls and community centres and fellow travellers willing to spill their blood and sweat supporting them.

"The Low", as Ron refers to his band, are in the middle of a string of mostly sold-through shows celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the 1991 landmark album, "Shakespeare my Butt". They play Saturday night at Sonic Hall and a matinee the next afternoon. Both shows are sold out. If you weren't lucky enough to grab a ticket for this weekend's shows, the tour continues on through the summer hitting Huntsville, Prince Edward County, Peterborough and Oshawa.



Michael, NET

## city

TMN, NET

### Seeds Sales Sprout Up This Weekend

New life emerges in sprouts and shoots, small flecks of green popping up through the grey sludge of last year's mud, leaves, and the crust left behind by melting snow. I learned to garden with my mom, dutifully pulling the deadheads from the marigolds, gently patting the earth around the colourful impatiens, and squeezing the little snapdragons to make them snap. I never said I was a great helper.

As a longtime renter, I haven't had the opportunity to carve my own garden into the edges of my own backyard but I've managed to keep a small thicket of indoor plants alive despite the northwest-facing windows and unfortunately placed heat vents and for the last two summers, I've been the proud steward of no less than three community plots.

The first year with my plots, I doubted my abilities and just dumped a bag of "pollinator mix" on all three and hoped for the best. I soon realized that I'd spent hours painstakingly weeding only to plant a whole bunch of new, slightly more local

**REPRINT**

weeds. Last year I was a bit more deliberate in my planting and was rewarded by an explosion of medicinals, herbs, and even a few good handfuls of rainbow carrots. And in finally getting those plants to sprout, grow, and thrive, I heard echoes of my mom's voice and encouragement. Her strong, tanned hands with neat crescent moons of soil under each nail. The bees will be happy. The butterflies'll come back. And if I have a few flowers to pop into a bud vase, a couple carrots, and a jar of pesto or two, I'll consider the planting season a success.

In need of seeds and inspiration to get your own garden going? This weekend is for you. Along with the expected warm weather and sunshine, a few seed and seedling sales have sprouted up. We have highlighted a few of them in our event listings this week, but also be sure to see if any sales or swaps are happening in your own neighbourhood.

Whether it's a little pot on your windowsill or an entire farm's worth, get your hands dirty this spring. The bees'll thank you.

## food

### Gone guelph: An in memoriam for the weird little restos that were

Hey, first of all, do you follow @goneguelph on Insta? It's the project of Guelph icon Jenny Mitchell - screenprinted images of dearly departed Guelph institutions, from restaurants and bars to movie theatres and venues, on cotton tees. It's cool stuff! I own a couple!

Anyway, since this week's issue of Net has a bit of a throwback vibe, I got to thinking: what were some of the best Guelph restos of yesteryear (bestoyear?)? In honour of that, here are my Top 5 Guelph food & bev memories that shall never be repeated:

Lining up for "rice or noodles" at **Sun Sun's** in the wee hours. Did things actually go down in price by a dollar every hour after midnight, or is that an urban legend?

Skipping class and eating pancakes at **Atlantis Diner** in the Grange Plaza.

Drinking whatever mystery beer they had on tap - on their only tap - at **The Shadow**, on the rare night that place wasn't literally on fire.

Enjoying freshly-shucked oysters beside the mainstage at the Hillside Festival while waiting for a sausage from **Sausage Bros**.

## music

DJ DD, NET

### Red Output - is - 4 out of 5 stars

Red Output's, is, is an exciting whirlwind of a sophomore post-punk release from locals of Guelph and KW. From the slow building epic that is "CLAY" complete with a heavy breakdown after the track has faded out, the dynamic and intense "Gnawing at the Cage", ska- influenced and 'booty poppin' "Mud With Burz" and the mournful strings of the project's closer, "Bread", is moves across genres and sub-genres with ease and authority.

is, is a project that is dealing with feelings of personal inadequacy and the subsequent searching for genuine connection. "And oh, as I itch and dig away, I'm twisted and small and fake, my sweater could swallow me whole" sings Ryan O'Donnell (a founding member, alongside lead guitarist Brent Watts) on the first track CLAY, the theme of uncomfotability in our own skin and the unsettled world around us surfaces throughout the record.

"Acid in my belly, forcing me to my knees, letting me be free, my heart's hardened like a lump in my throat, and I've seen things I can't unsee" sings

Almost anything at **Cafe Aquarius**, the vegan restaurant at the address now occupied by Necessary Arts on Wyndham street.

Cafe Aquarius, I think, is sort of emblematic of something very uniquely Guelph that I don't see a lot anymore. Its owner, Katie Connelly, who died in 2016, ran the admittedly new-agey space as a restaurant/venue, and it kept a very 90s-coded, very patchouli-scented, very community-spirited vibe until its closure.

And honestly, as far as vegan food goes, it was top-notch - **Moosewood** vibes, if you know what I mean. In some ways, The Cornerstone carries Aquarius' spiritual torch (although, if you're reading this, Cornerstone People, you really need to bring back the vegan chocolate cheesecake you used to serve in, like, the early 2000s. The stoned youths of today deserve! That! Cake!).

In keeping with the spirit of nostalgia, I want to know: what are your favourite Guelph food memories? What do you miss?

Email me at g.g.ill.netweekly@gmail.com - and maybe we'll list 'em in a future issue!

Ryan on Gnawing at the Cage, a thrilling record ending in a noisy shoegazey riff. "The Flame" and "Mud Wit Burz" showcases the band's fun side with a summer feel and ska influence, or in other words, "I ain't never met a groove that weren't holy, watch me dance".

is, is an exciting second project, which showcases a band with ambitious sonic palette, engaging song structures and impressive artistry with guitars blazing throughout, Ryan's impressive vocal range and a willing to experiment with instruments and sonics.

Red Output's current lineup consists of Ryan O'Donnell, vocals, Brent Watts, guitar, Jo Seymour, drums, and bassist Thomas Beech. It's post-punk that'll free you to love endlessly, endlessly.

You can see Red Output play alongside Cigar Club and Tire Fire at Jimmy Jazz this Friday May 15th at 10pm.

- DJ DD, LiYghTE FM, Friday 4-5pm on CFRU 93.3 FM

**REPRINT**