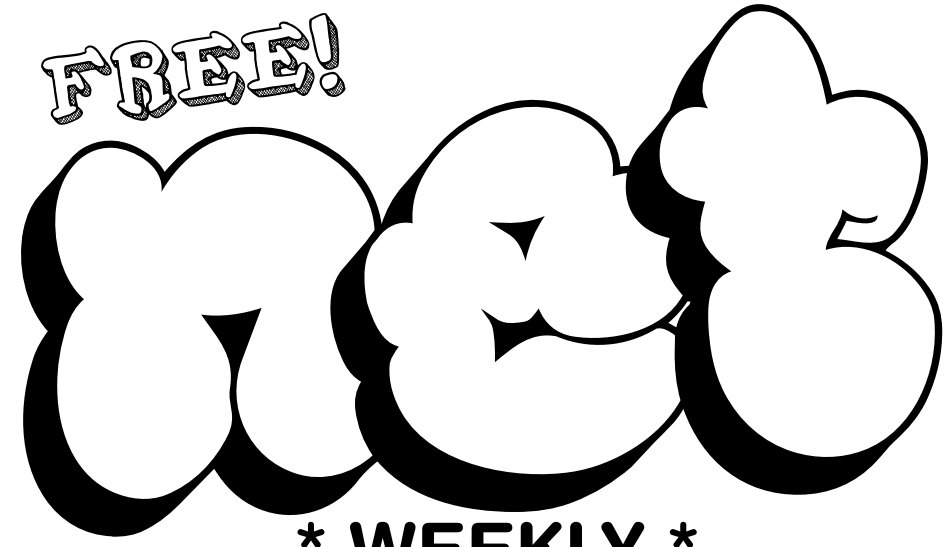


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The best of what's happening every week here in Guelph  
\* and \* Don Pyle visits La Poche Saturday \*  
\* Smiths Tribute Band hits Sonic Hall \* Paddle the Eramosa River \*  
\* plus \* G.G. Highlights The Urban Orchardist \*

We're starting to feel a little bit more settled here at net, now that we're five issues deep the flow is becoming a little more defined and I realise I've already memorized the street address of nearly every bar, venue, and brewery in the city from entering that information repeatedly in the events section. These are all good things that will make the future of producing net flow a little bit nicer and we're pretty excited about the projects we have on the horizon.

In this week's issue as we wrap up May and hope June isn't as wet, I reached out to Eric, who plays guitar in a The Smiths cover band and asked, what's that like? TMN shared their experience cruising the winding shores of the Eramosa River, G.G tells us a bit about the Urban Orchardist and we were able to catch up with Don Pyle ahead of his book tour appearance here in Guelph this weekend.

We're still looking for reader suggestions of your favourite Can-Con qualifying 'Summer' songs. You can email us (in the masthead) or leave a message on our hotline at 1-800-805-5818.

A real fun issue is coming up next week. We're all looking forward to it. See you then!

- Michael



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**NET WEEKLY GUELPH**

Michael K Newton - Founder/Many Things

TMN - City

GG III - Food

Tori Maas - Cover Illustration - Smiths/Don/Kayak  
'Natasha' - Woodburn Dog Art

Made by real people.

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

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. ••

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 ----

CBL Baseball : Guelph Royals v Hamilton Cardinals, 7:05 / \$12 **David E Hastings Stadium**, 70 Division St.

OPL Guelph United Football Club vs The Borough FC 8PM / \$10 **Centennial Bowl**, 375 College Ave W.

**Yukon Gold Folk Club** presents **Moonfruits** 7:30/\$25 sliding scale **Sally Wismer Gallery** 55 Wyndham N Suite 22B

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

--- WEDNESDAY ---

**OPIRG-GUELPH Shoreline Cleanup** with *Ducks Unlimited Campus Club*, 5:30 / FREE - Meet at Covered Bridge by Boathouse Tea Room

**Piping Nights**, listen in on the *Guelph Pipe Band* as they practice, B.Y.O.L.C (*bring your own lawn-chair*) 7PM/ FREE **McCrae House**, 108 Water St.

Trivia - 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. ••

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**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**

**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](https://www.instagram.com/musicguelph) on Instagram  
[www.whatsupguelph.com](https://www.whatsupguelph.com)

## on the big screen

**Endless Cookie** (NR) @ Guelph Youth Music Centre, Thur, 7:00

**Silent Friend** (NR) @ The Bookshelf, Thur 6:30,

**Star Wars : The Mandalorian and Grogu** (PG) @ The Mustang Drive-In Fri, Sat, Sun 9:20PM

**Tekkonkinkreet**- 20th Anniversary (R) (Japanese with English Subs) @ Cineplex Guelph, Sunday 7:00

**The Devil Wears Prada 2** (PG) @ The Mustang Drive-In, Fri, Sat, Sun 11:35PM

**Tuner** (14A) @ The Bookshelf, Fri 4:30, 7:30, Sat 4:30, 7:30, Sun 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, Mon 6:30, Tue 6:30, Wed 2:00, 6:30



**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)

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# whats going on

## --- THURSDAY ---

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

Live jazz every Thursday - 3:30 / \$15/PWYC  
**La Poche** 40 Quebec St ••

**Endless Cookie Screening with Q&A** - 7PM / PWYC (\$5.00 sugg) **Guelph Youth Music Centre**, 75 Cardigan St

Toronto based singer songwriter **Lia Pappas-Kemps** and Nova Scotia indie rock **Rachel Bobbitt** with El Lehman, 7PM / \$20 / 19+ **Sonic Hall**, 12 Wyndham St.

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

## ----- FRIDAY -----

**Broadway Drag Rave** ft **Antique Doll**, **Kara Melle**, **Ultraviolet** 8PM / \$25 door / 19+ **The Albion**, 49 Norfolk St.

**Swing Night** with **The Wyndham Gardens Band**, live jazz and intro to lindy hop dance lesson, lesson 7PM, live band 8PM / PWYC (\$20 Sugg) **Planet Bean**, 2 Wyndham St. N.

**Minnow Magazine 3rd Edition launch party**, 7pm / FREE, **The Cornerstone**, 1 Wyndham St.

**Eclectic Vinyl Outlaws** play Country Classics & Dance, 8:30 / \$10 **Brothers Brewing Co** 15 Wyndham St. N.

Hamilton's **Born in the Eighties** (live cover band) 8PM / \$20 adv **Sonic Hall**, 12 Wyndham St.

**HYBRID CLUB** ft dj's **Bodywaltz**, **Pekarsky**, **Statik**, **C-Rat** 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** ••

live music from **Royal City Union** and **The Howling Tides**, 2PM / \$5 **The Red Chevron Club**, 34 Elizabeth St.

**Motorcycle Stuntshow Highway Heathens** at the *Royal Rumble* hosted by Royal Distributing, motorcycles, food trucks, vendors, prizes - all day from 11am - Stunt shows at 12:00 and 4:00 / FREE - **Royal Distributing**, 925 Woodlawn

REPRINT

# culture : Don Pyle

Michael, net

Don Pyle has an omnipresence in Canadian alternative media. You might know him as the drummer of the 'not a surf band' *Shadowy Men on a Shadowy Planet*, most notable for providing the song 'Having an Average Weekend', the hooky, bouncy earworm of an instrumental that introduced every episode of cult Canadian television show *The Kids In The Hall*. Once the tune returns to your mind, you're humming it. You might be humming it right now.

Maybe you recognize Don from the cover of Liz Worth's 2011 'Treat Me Like Dirt: An Oral History of Punk In Toronto and Beyond 1977-1981', or know he was behind the memorable first theme of the early aughts SHOWTIME television series *Queer As Folk*, credited to Pyle's duo *Greek Buck*.

Don's extensive history within arts communities would likely fill the entirety of this week's issue of net if I let it. But I won't, because better than that, Don has a new book, which came out Tuesday on ECW Press retrospectively his life in those communities and furthermore to the good news, Don Pyle is reading from that book, accompanied by a slideshow and hosted by Jenny Mitchell this Saturday at La Poche.

I caught up with Don ahead of Saturday's visit.

**net weekly:** You're in Guelph this Saturday in support of your new novel 'Rough Description' which was released last Tuesday. Why was Guelph chosen as the first stop outside Toronto?

**Don Pyle:** It's probably because a couple of Guelph people reached out to me first. I have a very lengthy connection to Guelph from playing there many times with *Shadowy Men on a Shadowy Planet*, *Phono-Comb*, *Jad Fair* and *King Cobb Steelie*. We loved Guelph and made many friends there, some of who have helped put on my La Poche event.

While I was in KCS I spent so much time in Guelph that I felt like I lived there. Reading at La Poche was very appealing because of my own history of also being a barber, and being honoured with the barber tools of the late Freddy Veri, of Freddy's barber shop in Guelph. They were some of my first tools when I apprenticed. There is a fairly significant event that happened in Guelph for *Shadowy Men* that I wrote about it in *Rough Description*. You'll be surprised that I'm even coming to Guelph when you hear it!

**net:** Patti Schmidt of *Brave New Waves* calls your book 'a big city art punk music dream recounted from the first row, backstage, on stage and under the carpets'. Your experience in the music and adjacent communities is vast, in what ways do you feel those roles, of which you've held many, are different for young people today?

**Don:** It's the best and worst of times. There are so many well established models now of how to put on an art exhibition, book a dance, make a record. There are so many resources to accomplish whatever your vision. If you want to do it, there's a path laid out by those who have done it before you that really makes it easier to realize your objective. It is often a struggle to be an artist, for too many reasons to describe here, but financially it's a really oppressive time. Costs have overtaken income for many endeavours, like making a record, going on tour, mailing things to people, doing many creative things. Rehearsal spaces or art creation spaces are very cost-prohibitive for most people. It's more challenging to be able to support yourself now. Most people are required to dedicate more of their working life just to pay their bills. The economy doesn't allow people to devote as much of their time to art.

**net:** Your book recalls your teenage years documenting the 1976 Toronto punk rock scene as your start to a lifetime in creative spaces. Many young people come to Guelph with it being their first city experience, a blank slate. What advice would you give to a teenager today who is looking to find their community?

**Don:** Read books, listen to records, watch the news and see movies so that you have something to talk with other people about. Then go out to see a band, go to the book fair, start the group you want, whether it's a Handbag Hardcore band or a knitting circle. Go to art openings by local artists and say hi to people. Be kind to animals. Talk with other people. Don't let self-consciousness or shame hold you back. Be respectful and don't be a dick.

**net:** You've collaborated with many musicians and photographed even more live. Who's the one band you thought sounded the best live and looked the coolest doing it?

**Don:** There really isn't one band and I know that my feelings change as my criteria evolves. One I have consistently thought of as mind-blowing was *Suicide* at the Horseshoe Tavern

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**CBL Baseball : Guelph Royals vs Kitchener Panthers**, 2PM / \$12 **David E Hastings Stadium**, 70 Division St.

**Ontario Premier League Guelph United Football Club** (Womens Team) vs **Scrosoppi FC**, 2:30 / \$10 ADV **Centennial Bowl**, 375 College Ave W.

**Don Pyle** reading/slideshow in support of his new book *Rough Description: Love Letters and Ghost Stories from a Life in Music*, hosted by Jenny Mitchell, 8PM, **La Poche**, 40 Quebec St. SEE FEATURE

**Guelph Community Singers** Spring Concert with special guest **The Woebegones** 7PM / \$20 (\$10 children) **Harcourt Memorial United Church**, 87 Dean Ave.

**The Queen Is Dead** (*The Smiths*) and **Factory** (*New Order*) Tributes 7PM/ \$20 adv **Sonic Hall**, 12 Wyndham St. SEE FEATURE

Toronto math pop **Kami** with Guelph math/alt rock **Laundry Room**, 10PM / PWYC **Jimmy Jazz**, 48 Macdonell St.

## ----- SUNDAY -----

*Markets on the Court* hosted by **The Hive** - 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 ••

Madra Mara Oyster Pop-Up, 1PM at **Two Faces**, 20 Wilson St.

**Plant Kin and Observation Workshop** with *Roots and Raven* (*Tanya Glwakov*) 9:30am / Pre-register with Guelph Museums, **Guelph Museum** 52 Norfolk St.

*Brilliant Corners Jazz Series* presents **Ted Warren Sextet**, 2pm / \$15-\$30 **Silence**, 46 Essex St.

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

featuring members of *Suicidal Tendencies* **Luicidal** with local hardcore/punk **Blackout!**, *Ontario dream-punk* **Harm School** and *Guelph death-metal* **Flesh Vendor** 7PM / \$20 adv, **Sonic Hall**, 12 Wyndham St.

in Toronto, I think in 1978. *Suicide* were outrageous with how minimal they were - a beatbox, organ and a vocalist. They had a dense and threatening sound though. Those keyboard frequencies through a big p.a. were low, gnarly and very physical.

Martin Rev was very stoic, almost indifferent, as he played. I don't remember if he was wearing the giant wraparound shades that are now so associated with him but he looked very cool. Alan Vega was the most confrontational performer I'd ever seen, attacking people in the audience, trying to intimidate them or force them into any kind of response. He pushed one person off their chair sending them sprawling on the "dance floor". Some people were stunned.

The music was fantastic and unlike anything that had previously been made and their performance was violent theatre, the antithesis of being crowd-pleasing as almost every band is. They were excitingly challenging.

## city

### Eramosa River Comes Alive by Kayak (or Canoe!)

I wouldn't say that Guelph's downtown is particularly *bustling*, but there is a busyness to it. More so now than ever with ongoing construction, patios everywhere, and the siren song of finally being able to leave the house after too many months of cold weather. Slightly further afield, The Boathouse gets lined up well out the door when it's hot, and traffic on Gordon adds a constant rhythm of whooshing tires over asphalt, when not ground to a halt for some crossing geese.

But once you awkwardly hop-step-crawl into your kayak, get hold of your paddle, and try to arrange yourself into a comfortable position... quiet. Once you pass the Covered Bridge, things start to feel a bit different. The whoosh of traffic is overtaken by the soft splash of your paddle. You begin to notice dragonflies and river otters\*, turtles along the banks sunning themselves on logs. Majestic herons and yes, also many geese. They'll mostly leave you alone but sometimes they will test you. But what I love most is that the river just seems to keep going.

When I learned that I could earn a badge by paddling out to a specific mile marker, somewhere near the end of the paddle-able parts of Eramosa River eastward from The Boathouse, I was determined to get my selfie and paddle back triumphant. The relatively small, exceedingly calm, almost laughably shallow little river was happy to meet my challenge.

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The one album they had out at the time is still a unique masterpiece, but the versions they played from it were positively feral by comparison.



**Don Pyle** reads from his new memoir, *ROUGH DESCRIPTION: Love Letters and Ghost Stories from a Life in Music* at 8PM, this Saturday at **La Poche** (40 Quebec St.) accompanied by a slide show and interview with Jenny Mitchell.

You can order *ROUGH DESCRIPTION* now from ECWpress.com or check stock locally at the Bookshelf (41 Quebec St.)

At the end of the ten kilometer round trip I was sore, sweaty and sunburnt, but I got my Heron badge. 2026 might be my year to earn the Sun badge - earned by attending an early morning paddle, and the Moon badge - fittingly, earned by attending a night paddle.

Luckily, Speed River Paddling offers flexible rental times so you can spend as long as you want on the water. Staff are friendly and happy to lend a hand as you hop-step-crawl into your kayak. Canoes and tandem kayaks are available too, along with jackets and safety kits.

I am by no stretch a seasoned kayaker. I have enjoyed the occasional paddle on calm water for about a decade now, but I still feel a bit new to it all for the first few seconds as I get my bearings. The only advice I'll give to any prospective paddlers is to remember that there is no shade on a kayak (or canoe!). Wear a hat and sunscreen, bring water, and don't be scared. The geese are mostly chill and the otters, which I *\*definitely saw once*, are worth the sore shoulders and the awkward hop-step-crawl back onto the dock at the end.



Speed River Paddling, located at The Boathouse, has kayaks, tandem kayaks, and canoes available to rent seven days a week from 10-7:30.

TMN, Net

## food

GG III, Net

Soon (like, next week, stay tuned!) this space will return to the restaurant beat. But because spring has sprung, and I am a vegetable gardener, a lot of what I've been thinking about these past couple of weeks centres on things I'm putting in the ground to cook/eat/preserve later in the year.

Guelph has a long history of people who think long and hard about how things grow. We're famous for our agricultural college, after all, but the city also has a long history of gardeners, urban farmers, and outdoor enthusiasts who advocate for growing things the right way. Matt Soltys, who you may know as the Urban Orchardist, is part of that long, proud lineage.

For the last five years, Soltys has dedicated himself to all things fruit trees. As a certified permaculturist and self-taught fruit tree pro, he offers pruning, diagnostic, and management services to anyone in the city (or just outside of it) looking for help with fruit trees of any kind, and also sells a selection of organically grown saplings.

## music

Michael, net

Ever wondered what being in a tribute band to 1980's masters of the morose *The Smiths* is like? We emailed Eric, who tackles Johnny Marr's classic guitar arrangements for the Smiths tribute **The Queen Is Dead**, who are playing this Saturday at **Sonic Hall** for a very brief chat before the Guelph show.

**net weekly** : Is there added pressure playing in a tribute act to what happens to be so many folks favourite band of all time?

**Eric**: It's honestly amazing and we are very fortunate. People love The Smiths and are so into the music they bring an amazing energy to our shows, everyone comes to dance and sing and be part of the event, I think we felt pressure early on to play the songs as well as possible and some are quite challenging but as we've played more and more we've become more comfortable with the material.

**net**: What dictates how you build a The Queen is Dead set list?

**Eric**: I generally make the set list and then run it by the guys for feedback and then we adjust, Nelson our singer is the most in tune with what the audience reaction to various songs are so

He's an alumnus of the Ignatius community garden plots and mentored under that space's former orchardist; if you remember last week's column, you'll know I'm a fan.

Recently, in addition to his usual work, Soltys put out a callout looking for folks who have trees who would be candidates for something called topworking. As he explains, this is "a type of grafting where you cut off a mature branch (or even the whole trunk) of a tree and insert a scion of a more desirable variety into the bark. So for example, the mature root system of a poor quality feral apple can rapidly regrow a scion of a high-quality apple into a new productive tree." It's a sustainable, effective way to bring new life - and amazing productivity - to old trees.

Soltys' whole deal is looking at every space as a potential edible landscape. He works with private property owners at the moment, but says he would love to utilize techniques like topworking on feral apple trees on city property in the future. "Our city could be an abundant garden of Eden with food growing all around us," he says. "and skills like this can help us get there."

based on that we might drop a song for a while or add one that people are asking for.

**net**: There's likely an image associated with folks who would play in a Smiths tribute band, perpetually sixteen clumsy and shy. Tell us an album or artist each member of The Queen is Dead has been listening to or digging lately that would break that 'miserabilist' stereotype.

**Eric**: For me I really love *The War on Drugs*, they're likely my favourite new-ish band. For our singer Nelson it's Hers by *Matt Maltese*. For our Bassist Ken it's *Foxwarren's 2* and drummer Frank it's *Hyperdramatic* by *Damhnait Doyle*.



**The Queen Is Dead**, performing the music of *The Smiths*, alongside **Factory**, performing the music of *New Order* play **Sonic Hall** (12 Wyndham) this Saturday night in a double header of moopy Mancunian music legends.

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