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*** WEEKLY ***

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



The best of what's happening every week here in Guelph
* and * Royal City Alleycat Race Hits the Streets *
* Local Produce is Elevated at Supper Club *
* plus * Extended Pride Season Listings *



Hi again!

We might look and feel a little different this week, that's because the nice folks at Reasonable Ink reached out in the first few weeks of net and we were able to collaborate on this special edition. Thanks a bunch to Lisa and Nicholas at Reasonable Ink for making us look so cool.

In other collaborative news, after the first issue a reader left us a very nice voicemail and tipped us off to this week's great cover story. It's those kind of tips and community feedback that makes net the best resource it can be.

In our double feature this issue, GG reflects on the beauty to be found in our own backyards while catching up with chef Gabrielle Nechala of Caraway Culinary.

Keep the suggestions for your favourite Can-Con qualifying 'Summer' songs coming. We've got something special in the works for a future issue.

You can email us (in the masthead) or leave a message on our hotline at 1-800-805-5818 with your selections.

- Michael

coming soon, our new advice column



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



Michael K Newton - Founder/Many Things
 A.J and Tomas - Active Transportation
 GG III - Food
 Tori Maas - Cover, Interior Illustrations

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 Sonic Hall, Three Pieces and Two Faces

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

Rhythm and Reels : *BIPOC Queer Movie Night*
 6PM / Free **Three Pieces**, 52 Carden St

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. ••

Guelph Jazz Society Drop In Parade Band,
 b.y.o instrument or borrow one, 6:30PM , S.E
 Corner of **Exhibition Park** ••

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 ----

Vancouver B.C six piece **Chase The Bear** with
 Dundas, On's **Lucky Honey** 7PM / \$15 adv
Sonic Hall, 12 Wyndham St.

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

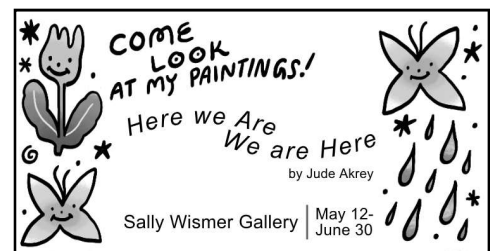
--- WEDNESDAY ---

Queer Writers Showcase, 6PM / FREE **The
 Cornerstone**, 1 Wyndham St N

Honeybear, The Band 7PM/SOLD OUT
Sonic Hall, 12 Wyndham St.

Trivia - with *Host Wanted Productions* @ 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
 ♣ = Pride Season 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
[@musicguelph](https://www.instagram.com/musicguelph) on Instagram
www.whatsupguelph.com

on the big screen

Middle Life (NR) @ Cineplex Guelph, Wed
 7:00pm,

Trainspotting (30th Anniversary 4k
 Restoration) (14A) @ The Bookshelf, Sat 7:30,
 Sun 4:30, Wed 7:00

Tuner (14A) @ The Bookshelf, Thur 5:00 (CC),
 8:00, Fri 4:30, 7:30, Sat 1:30, 4:30, Sun 1:30 (CC),
 7:30, Mon 6:30, Tue 6:30 (CC), Wed 2:00



We went to print a touch earlier this week and
 were unable to include listings for the *Mustang
 Drive-In*.

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

GRETAS Guelph Recognition of Excellence in The Arts
gretas.ca

Guelph → Are you making art in 2026?
 ARTISTS ↓
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Ignatius Jesuit Centre
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whats going on

--- THURSDAY ---

Pride Flag Raising to kick off Guelph Pride Season 12 Noon, **City Hall**, 1 Carden St

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

PRIDE RIDE bike decorating, face painting, reg in advance + helmets mandatory if youth under 18. gather 6:30 **York Road Park**, 85 York Rd

Live jazz every Thursday - 7:30 / \$15/PWYC
La Poche 40 Quebec St ••

Gay in Guelph: A Pre Pride Cabaret hosted by Comedian Paul Hutcheson ft *Patty Barclay, Rose Cullis, Kristyn Dunion, Chris Lafazanios* and *Vanessa Russell* 7PM / \$15 adv **The Albion**, 49 Norfolk

Segrave (Toronto) with **Catastrophic Hemorrhage, The Good Depression, BackBone**, doors 6pm / \$15 adv / AA/LIC, **Sonic Hall**, 12 Wyndham St

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

----- FRIDAY -----

Guelph Queer Crawl, scavenger hunt, vendors, flash tattoos @ spring fever, gender affirming PWYC haircuts @ ArtaTexture Hair, live music, drag open stage 6PM / **Various Locations Downtown** on Wilson, Carden and Macdonell St.

Rolling Fridays rollerskates, rollerblades and wheelchairs welcome, helmets required for all, 6:30 / FREE **Exhibition Park Arena**, 70 Division

Guelph Dance Festival 2026 *In The Park* series ft. **Tara Butler with Guelph Youth Dance Company** (*Kitchener & Guelph*) perform excerpts from *It Falls With The Rain*, **Kwasi Obeng-Adjei** (*Brampton*) performs *KO!* and **Zeugma, Collectif de folklore urbain** (*Laval, QC*) perform *Errances* - 7PM / PWYC (\$15 sug) **Exhibition Park**, 81 London Rd

The J-Strokes with **Cut Flowers**, 7PM / \$20 Adv. **Sonic Hall**, 12 Wyndham St.

DOC Presents State Hand, Bird Hand, Dead Karma, 7:15/\$20 Door, **Red Chevron Club** 34 Elizabeth St

--- SATURDAY ---

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

Ecological & Heritage Walking Tours 9AM / FREE RSVP to srpevents@opirgguelph.org
Royal Recreational Trail, 116 Gordon St

Ignatius Farm Field Day, tour of small plot agriculture program and two hands-on workshops in afternoon, "*Building Biodiverse Growing Systems*" and "*Soil Health in the Orchard*", 10AM-3PM/\$15 register efao.ca, **Ignatius Jesuit Centre**, 5420 Highway 6 North

TAAG (*Transit Action Alliance Guelph*) **Annual Garage Sale**, 8 to Noon, 143 Mary St.

Workers Social for social service workers and non-profit workers to connect and build solidarity, *no management please*, food and drink provided 11AM - **Riverside Park**

CBL Baseball action Guelph Royals vs London Majors, 2PM / \$12 **David E Hastings Stadium**, 70 Division St

Guelph Dance Festival 2026 *In The Park* series see lineup listed **Friday** 12PM / PWYC (\$15 sug) **Exhibition Park**, 81 London Rd

The Break Even Boys live 8PM / PWYC **La Poche**, 40 Quebec St

Andrew Schoettler Trio plays jazz, funk, blues, rock 10:30PM / PYWC **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 ••

Pride in the Park - festivities, activities, bouncy castle, brunch (free or by donation) provided by FEWD 10AM / FREE **Exhibition Park** 81 London Rd West

Guelph Dance Festival 2026 *In The Park* series see lineup listed **Friday** 12PM / PWYC (\$15 sug) **Orin Reid Park**, 120 Goodwin Dr

Royal City Alleycat 12 Noon / Free, rules at royalcityalleycat.com, 85 York Rd **SEE FEATURE**

Echos of Change : Loud and Proud, *Guelph Concert Band with Rainbow Chorus of Waterloo Wellington*, 3:00/\$12.19-\$33.59 **Harcourt Memorial United Church**, 85 Dean Ave

active transportation

Alleycat style race rolls in to celebrate Guelph's cycling scene.

When this lead was introduced to us at net, we were connected with the race organizer A.J, where we discussed what the best way to introduce their race and the alleycat subculture would be. I love cycling but was unfamiliar with this style of underground bike race. I want to give representatives from within communities and their adjacent subcultures a voice and my community was certainly not fixed gear point to point cycle racing, but A.J's is.

We decided our readers would benefit most from a conversation between A.J and their roommate Tomas as an introduction to the alleycat race, and what we can expect from this Sunday's event here in Guelph.

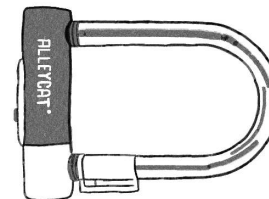
Tomas: So what exactly is an alleycat?

AJ: An alleycat is an underground bike race. Riders navigate between checkpoints scattered around the city, figuring out their own routes as they go. It's kind of like The Amazing Race on a bike.

I had always wanted to race an alleycat in Guelph. I eventually got tired of wishing and I said fuck it, I'll do it myself! There is a huge thirst for it here in Guelph. We have the right scene for it, we just needed someone to organize one.

T: So, tell us a little bit about yourself!

AJ: I'm a cyclist who has been living in Guelph for the past eight years and I'm a bit of a fixed gear fanatic. I came here for University and fell in love with it, but one thing I always felt was missing was a fun bike race around the city. I've always loved the way cycling changes how you experience a city. The community gardens, desire paths, and hidden gems you would otherwise miss out on! That's what drew me to alleycats in the first place; exploring parts of the city that are forgotten, or that you wouldn't know about unless you walk or bike there.

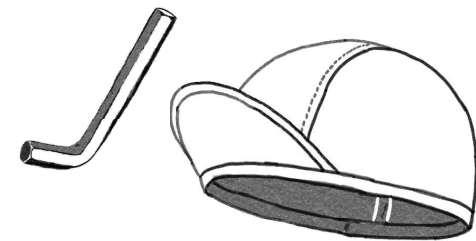


T: So it's a race. What if I'm not a fast cyclist?

AJ: You don't have to be a fast cyclist to race. It's really for anybody who likes riding a bike in the city. I worry some folks will hear "race" and assume they need to be some elite cyclist, but you absolutely do not have to be fast to participate. There will even be a prize for DFL (*Dead F*cking Last*).

T: Can you tell me more about the history of alley cats?

AJ: So the alleycat format rose out of the bike messenger scene in Toronto in the late 1980s. A group of messengers wanted to prove who was the fastest at getting around the city and they created this sort of race type. There is a documentary on this history called *First Cats* for those who are interested. What helped Alleycats go global was the first Cycle Messenger World Championships in Berlin in 1993. The format just exploded, and now there are alleycats all over the world; New York, The Bay Area, Mexico City, Paris, Tokyo. I've actually been told that in the early 2000s they used to have alleycats here in Guelph but I haven't been able to dig up much else about them.



T: What exactly is a fixed gear, and how did you get into riding them?

AJ: For people unfamiliar with fixed gears, they're bikes where the cog is directly fixed to the wheel, meaning you can't coast. As long as the rear wheel is moving, your pedals are moving too. One of the unique things about them is that you can slow down and skid stop using pedal pressure and resisting the motion of the drivetrain. Many bike messengers ride fixed gear bikes because they're simple. There are fewer parts to fail, they're easier to service, and less likely to leave you stranded on the side of the street with a mechanical.

I got into the fixed gear scene during COVID, I watched *Mash SF07* and *Macaframa* a few too many times, and decided to convert an old red steel bianchi frame that I picked up for \$50. I was terrible at first, I tore my hamstring pretty bad trying to learn how to skid stop. I would avoid every big hill in town. I had sooo many accidents my first year of riding due to my poor mechanical skills. I had the front wheel drop out and got a nasty road rash all up my arm from the cobblestones in Riverside Park. I had the chain jump into the spokes and crashed into the fence by the graffiti wall on the bike trail between Eramosa and Goldie Mills.

But man did I ever fall in love with that bike. What hooked me was the feeling of connection. Fixed gears tend to be stiff machines designed for the track, which means you feel everything from the road. But because of that, the feedback is instant and every movement feels incredibly direct. Your momentum is entirely dictated by your legs which forces you to be really locked in to what you are doing and aware of everything around you. For me it feels like meditation, I can turn the rest of my busy brain off and focus on the rhythm of my legs, my breathing, and the flow of traffic. Anyways, if you own a fixed gear, it should definitely be your bike of choice for this race!



T: What was the first Alley Cat you ever participated in?

AJ: I actually haven't raced that many. I kind of got obsessed with watching *Terry B Alleycat* videos on Youtube, but the first one actually raced was the *Steel City Alleycat* in Hamilton which heavily inspired this race. I also raced the *MayDay* out of town race this year and came second after fumbling first place by taking a picture of the wrong clock on the final checkpoint.

T: What should I expect? If I were to attend the Royal City Alleycat?

AJ: You should expect to ride your bike around 20 km, and have some fun with some other cyclists and hit the open road. You'll see some places in Guelph that you've never seen before. One thing I really wanted this alleycat to do was highlight parts of the city people normally overlook. Riders are going to pass monuments and strange little corners of Guelph that they've probably biked past a hundred times without ever stopping to really look at them.

There will be an open, and WTNB (Women, Trans and Non-Binary) category. We've got DIY shirts and stickers up for grabs, not just for the fastest legs but also for categories we'll be making up on the spot (like the most chaotic DIY repair job, best fit, or the weirdest bike). While it is a race, it's really all about celebrating Guelph's bike scene in all its weird, beautiful glory!

T: Is there any way I can contribute to this Alleycat?

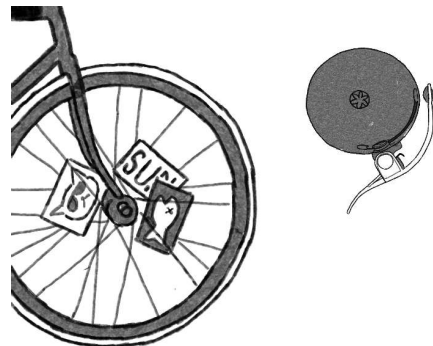
AJ: Well, I'd love it if someone would host another alleycat in Guelph so I can race it! But seriously, the best way you can contribute is to show up on race day, and tell your cool friends about the race.

T: Are there other ways to get involved in the cycling community?

AJ: There sure is! You could become a member of the Guelph Community for Active Transportation. If you're handy or want to learn a new skill, you could volunteer and help fix bikes at FreeHub. If you're a student, join the cycling club on campus (*p.s. I think they are still looking for a new president*). Another thing Guelph is missing is fun, medium paced group rides, like the ones the Gremlins put on in London. We've either got super fast GCC rides or slower GCAT rides. Nothing in between (that I'm aware of at least)!

T: What's the best way to contact you? If I have any questions or just want to talk bikes?

AJ: The best way to reach out to me is over Instagram but I know not everyone has Instagram so I've also got an email RoyalCityAlleycat@gmail.com that I check once in a blue moon. Those are the only two ways to reach me until I find an anonymous way to do snail mail.



The Royal City Alleycat takes place this Sunday at Noon, meeting at York Rd Park, 85 York Road. If participating you are encouraged to bring a pencil, a camera and your bike. Have fun!

food

Experiencing the best of Guelph with Caraway Culinary's Supper Club

Last month, I sat down to a dinner of ramp devilled eggs, bite-sized pieces of seared ahi tuna garnished with jewels of rhubarb, and asparagus bruschetta on local sourdough, all thoughtfully paired with cider. Each dish was presented by the chef, who was careful to not only describe the dish, but her personal connection to it, and the growers and producers whose products it comprised.

Sound like Guelph? Not really — so much so that a recent Instagram post to promote the next such dinner was titled: "POV: you've lived in Guelph for years and you've never eaten like this."

The dinner was the first in a planned ongoing supper club presented by Caraway Culinary, hosted at Revel Cider. Caraway is the brainchild of chef Gabrielle Nechala. The unprecedented vibe is intentional — in a way. "A bit of what I do is what I've absorbed through Guelph culture," Nechala says, before rattling off a list of heavy-hitter Guelph restaurants — Artisanale, Ox and The Black Mustard, to name a few — known for their ambition that are long closed. "I feel like I have a bit of Guelph history that has definitely been lost."

Nechala is indeed a Guelph hospitality vet: she cut her teeth in some of Guelph and the surrounding region's most well-known restaurants, from dishwashing at the Albion to working as the garde manger at Ox. After a stint in academia she worked for Pearle Hospitality — between the Elora Mill and Bardo here in Guelph and in Burlington — for around 11 years. "I think that changed my trajectory a bit," she says, "because it took food from something that was paying the bills to a creative experience."

Wanting to branch out beyond a corporate culinary future — and feeling burned out and turned off by kitchen culture in general — Nechala decided to set out on her own. "I know my food on its own is good," she says. "I knew people like me, and they like my food, and I certainly didn't want to go work for anybody else." And so, Caraway was born.

With her catering-and-popup company, Nechala's core ethos is community collaboration. She is a member of Nourish, the shared kitchen program at 10C downtown. And at the dinner at Revel — the second of which takes place June 12 — where ingredients were prioritized for seasonality, and chosen to highlight some of the region's more talented,

enterprising growers and makers. Veggies, for instance, come from Spiral Farm in Guelph or Duurzame Growers in Ariss; bread is from Hermit Hearth, a microbakery in Erin; and cheese is from Goldspie Dairy in Woodstock. Many of these providers have intersected with Nechala at one point or another — she went to university with Martina of Spiral Veg; worked with Toby of Hermit Hearth at Ox; and worked at Bardo with Jenna, of Bev's, who gave Nechala her first pop-up opportunity last summer.

On the topic of the pop-ups, Nechala says she's looking to fill a gap. Bev's has cheese and shrimp cocktail, sure, but what about a tomato salad? Revel serves hot dogs and oysters — how about some spatze? "It's also important to find people who are like-minded," she says, noting Tariq of Revel Cider's commitment to working and experimenting with hyper-local ingredients.

Eating Nechala's food, it's striking how obvious it seems — and I mean that in the most glowingly complimentary way possible. Her talent is obvious, of course, and it's huge. But it's also so clear that THIS is the way we should be eating in this city: supporting hyper-local growers and producers, putting our world-class agricultural scene on full display. It's elevated, unpretentious, ambitious food that prioritizes taste of place; good to the point of being frustrating that there isn't more like it.

The dinners are an encapsulation of exactly what cuisine in Guelph could — and should! — be: food that explicitly celebrates the unparalleled terroir and seasonality of the region, underlined by the talent of a chef whose driving philosophy is celebrating those products and producers, and who is, perhaps most importantly, unafraid to put her principles and ambition centre stage. It's a pretty special thing to taste something you've never tasted before; more special, still, when that thing is an ethos, rather than just a dish.

That's a long, run-on way of saying: this supper series raises the bar. And if you're planning to hit up the June 12 dinner, Nechala offers only a sneak peek: "I think it's going to be green."

