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net
* WEEKLY *

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



The best of what's happening every week here in Guelph
* and * Giddy Up Queer Line Dancing Rambles into Revel *
* Couzyn van Heuvelen's CAMP at the AGG *
* plus * Fresh Picks at Local Farm Stands *



WOW! There is a lot happening in Guelph weekly! I gotta check these events out and meet new people, thanks net!

FTI Studios is the launching pad for the next generation of Independent Artists! Check us out on Instagram @fromtheinsidestudios

Ten weeks in!

I was asked earlier today what the end goal is for **net** and there really isn't one. We're just going to keep moving forward as makes sense.

A big thank you not only to everyone who has been picking up **net** but to the small businesses that reached out, or as for the first handful, agreed to let me take a small bit of real estate in their space as a spot where people can pick up **net**.

Our downtown businesses especially are in a funky spot for the next while so attempting to connect Guelphites with communities and interesting things happening in our city has been a really enjoyable and educational experience so far.

These cafes, shops, bars and spaces listed in the masthead and beyond are the icing on why so many people choose to live in, stay in or move to Guelph. It's a beautiful city, and there's stuff happening here too.

It's not easy to find a comparable community with this population:stuff ratio in Ontario, and ten weeks of typing event listings, even as things thin out a bit for July, has solidified my view that these aforementioned places that foster, host and provide for communities are worth getting out of the air conditioning for and patronizing.

In this week's issue, we interviewed Rachel from Giddy-Up Queer Line Dancing ahead of their event at Revel this Friday, TMN checked out Couzvn van Heuvelen's CAMP at the Art Gallery of Guelph and our food writer, G.G. suggests their favourite farmstand just a few minutes' drive outside our city.

I also had the pleasure of speaking with Adam Donaldson from Guelph Politico for this week's episode of *Guelph Politicast*, available wherever you find podcasts, to talk about the first ten weeks of **net**. If this issue is your hands, that episode should be available to put in your ears.

Have a nice week.

- Michael



GRETAs Guelph Recognition of Excellence in The Arts

G Guelph Artists → Are You Making Art In 2026?
 Yes! → I plan to!

Submit @ gretas.ca! Grant \$ to recipients.
 Nominees will be celebrated Feb 28, 2027 at the GRETAs gala at River Run Centre.

ASK! a squirrel stuck high up in a tree maybe they can help. email us subject: ask

ten

NET WEEKLY GUELPH

Michael K Newton - Founder/Many Things
 G.G. Ill - Food
 TMN - Culture, Cover and Illustrations.

Made by real people. Printed in our apartment.
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Available locally at the following fine locations :

10C, Art Not Shame, Beat Goes On, Bonza Pizza, Carmico Indie Market, The Cornerstone, Diodode, The Dragon, Double Rainbow Cafe, Guelph Music, Janus Books, La Poche, Loose Goose Cafe, Red Brick Cafe, Revel Cider Bar, Royal Cat Records, Stag Shop, 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.

LA POCHE

IT'S A CAFE AND A BAR AND A COWORKING SPACE!

40 QUEBEC ST
 lapoche.ca

Guelph United Football Club hosts FC London 6PM/\$10, Centennial Bowl, 375 College Ave

Victoria based singer/songwriter ex-Means **Northcote** with Atikameksheng Anishnawbek **Alternative Rocker Thea May**, 7PM/\$20ADV **Sonic Hall**, 12 Wyndham St

--- MONDAY JULY 6 ---

Books and Hooks traditional rug hooking drop-in, 9AM/FREE, **East Side Branch**, 1 Starwood Drive

Freedom Walkers stop at Guelph with traveling Harriet Tubman sculpture commemorating the Underground Railroad 10AM/FREE **Heritage Hall**, 83 Essex St

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. ..

--- TUESDAY JULY 7 ---

All About Birds Summer Nature Series 3:00/FREE reg. at arboretum.uoguelph.ca **The Arboretum**, 200 Arboretum Rd

CBL Baseball action with the **Guelph Royals** hosting the **Welland Jackfish** 7:05PM/\$12 **David E Hastings Stadium**, 70 Division St

--- WEDNESDAY JULY 8 ---

Fiddle Session, live Irish music 6PM/FREE **La Poche**, 40 Quebec St

Trivia Night with *Host Wanted Productions* 7:30PM/FREE **Fixed Gear Canteen**, 5 Edinburgh Rd ..



A Friendly Guide
PWYC = Pay What You Can
(S) 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 four are especially worth mentioning...

www.guelphspotlight.ca's Online guide @musicguelph and @exhibitionistmagazine actively reposting events on Instagram www.whatsupguelph.com e-mail blasts

on the big screen

Disclosure Day (PG) @ The Mustang, Nightly starting Fri, 11:15ish (2nd film)

Five Nights at Freddy's 2 (14A) @ The Mustang Saturday, but actually very early Sunday morning, Third Feature

Interstellar (PG) @ The Bookshelf, Thur 6:30, Sat 7:30, Mon 6:30

Minions and Monsters (PG) @ The Mustang, Nightly starting Fri, 9:45

O Brother, Where Art Thou? (PG) @ The Bookshelf, Fri 8:30, Sun 7:30

The Breadwinner (PG) @ The Mustang, Thur 2nd showing

The Sheep Detectives (G) @ The Bookshelf Tue 5:30, Wed 2:00

Toy Story 5 (G) @ The Mustang, Thur 9:30

Unidentified (NR) @ The Bookshelf, Fri 5:30, Sat 4:30, Sun 4:30, Tue 8:30



The Bookshelf is on Quebec St.
The Mustang Drive-In is located at 5012 Jones Baseline, Guelph. 104.9 FM on your radio dial.

whats going on

--- THURSDAY JULY 2 ---

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

La Montanara backyard theatre opening night runs thru July 11, more info guelphmusuem.ca 8PM/\$33.90 **McCrae House** 108 Water St

Telos **Queer Inclusive Fitness** free weekly drop in sessions 6PM/FREE in the park behind **Centennial College** 289 College Ave W

Hand-Building Mugs Workshop, beginner friendly/guided, 7PM/\$35 contact *Play With Clay*, **Red Brick Cafe**, 8 Douglas St

Ward Night Market Pride Edition 6PM/FREE rain date from June 25 **Double Rainbow/SRO/Sugo** 74 Ontario St

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

Stan Chang 7:00PM **Manhattans** 951 Gordon St

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

--- FRIDAY JULY 3 ---

Researching Your Family History - with *Wellington County Branch Ontario Ancestors* 2PM/FREE, **Main Library**, 100 Norfolk St

Jamie's **Boomer Fridays** 50's,60's and 70's classics doors 3PM/FREE/PWYC **A.N.A.F Club**, 32 Gordon St ••

Rolling Fridays roller skates, Rollerblades and wheelchairs welcome, helmets required for all, 6:30 / FREE **Exhibition Park Arena**, 70 Division ••

The Break Even Boys album release show 7:30/\$25 **Silence**, 46 Essex St

Josh Warren 7:00PM **Manhattans** 951 Gordon St

Giddy Up Queer Line Dancing 7PM/\$15 **Revel Cider**, 62 Dawson Rd SEE FEATURE

Guelph *HC/Punk State Hand* with Guelph *Punk Rock Bird Hand* and KW *Hardcore Backbone*, 10PM/FREE/PWYC **Jimmy Jazz**, 48 Macdonell

--- SATURDAY JULY 4 ---

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

Annual Yard Sale for Charity, 7:30am Start, **5038 Whitelaw Rd.**

Marleys Market Artisans, vendors, PWYC clothing drive, spoken word and musical performances 12PM/FREE **10C** 42 Carden St

Guelph Casual Chess weekly drop-in chess, 1PM/FREE, **Red Brick Cafe**, 8 Douglas St ••

CBL Baseball action with the **Guelph Royals** hosting the **Toronto Maple Leafs** 2:00PM/\$12 **David E Hastings Stadium**, 70 Division St

Andrew Schettler 7:00PM **Manhattans** 951 Gordon St

Smooth music purveyors **Daphne** with tri-city *surf instrumentalists* **The Hydrotonics** 10PM/FREE/PWYC **Jimmy Jazz** 48 Macdonell

--- SUNDAY JULY 5 ---

Markets on the Court hosted by **The Hive** - 11-3pm every Sunday, **the tennis court on the hill** at 75 Dublin St. N ••

Guelph Film Society weekly meetup : this week discussing *As I Open My Eyes (2015)* 10:00am/FREE, @guelphfilmsociety for info **Red Brick Cafe**, 8 Douglas Street ••

Unofficial Queer Running Club 9:30am/FREE/PWYC DONATION meeting at **Common Ground Studio**, 44 Essex St ••

on the horizon

NEWLY ON SALE SHOWS AND HIGH-LIGHTS OF THE NEAR-FUTURE

Many many artists at Hillside Festival, July 17th, 18th, 19th at Guelph Lake Island.

Shiv and The Carvers with Ruby Doom and Miracle Fraud at **Sonic Hall** July 17.

Fiver and Tube Top July 23rd at the .

Apple of Basilisk with French (France) Screamo Gros Enfant Mort July 24th at the J Jazz.

Peter Elkas, The Fembots, The Pintos at **Sonic Hall**, Aug 28th.

Youth Fountain October 13th at **Sonic Hall**

The Weather Station at **Sonic hall**, Oct 21

city

Kick Up Your Heels This Weekend with Giddy Up Queer Line Dancing

My first - or at least most potent - memory of line dancing dates back to around the fall of 1992, in the community hall above the *Sportsplex* building in Powassan, Ontario where I grew up. It was during a fundraiser for the Powassan Figure Skating Club and at age seven I was helping work the door.

A song had rocked the nation over the summer, it's music video reigniting general interest, or at the least, mass awareness of line-dancing and it's megapop country chorus as vapid as they come finding too much airtime on both the local CKAT 600AM country station and the Mix-100 styled FM station as a cross-over hit.

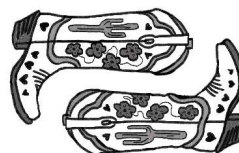
The energetic kicking and twirling of the synchronized dance looked hypnotizing from far away or through a crowd of heavy jackets.

I have earlier memories of square dancing, which feels like a sort of cousin to line dancing. But square dancing always seemed to have an older person vocalizing the moves with fiddle accompaniment and relied heavily on swinging and throwing and generally interacting with a partner, or partners.

It felt overly busy and more like some sort of endurance competition. Eventually you mess up and maybe you then get eliminated. I don't know how square dancing works but it didn't look or sound like *this* at all.

That tune on a blown out P.A. system was *Achy Breaky Heart* by Billy Ray Cyrus and not only was his compact disc *Some Gave All* one of the raffle prizes that evening, it was the first time I remember seeing line-dancing by young(er) people in real life.

Line dancing doesn't feel like it's as much of a mystery to Powassan, or in this case Guelph in 2026, some 34 *Achy Breaky* years later. The internet and specifically video platforms like Tik Tok and YouTube made line dancing mesmerizing again to many new sets of eyes in the years coming back out of lockdowns and into group activities. No longer just for the *Honky Tonk Badonkadonk* crowd, many other musical genres found line dance accompaniment. Guelph itself has a nice spin on the event, which was called in on our events hotline back in early June, so I decided to chase that hotline tip and learn more.



I connected with Rachel, organiser and instructor of Giddy Up Queer Line Dancing to talk about their event at Revel this Friday, their set at Hillside later this July and where line dancing is right now in general.

On it's genesis, Rachel shared that "Giddy Up is a project of mine that has been going for about a year and a bit. We had our first event under the name of Giddy Up in May 2025 with the Guelph Farmer's Market and 10c and its line dancing socials for queer folks and allies based out of Guelph".



Third spaces have become a hot topic in the 'post-pandemic' world, and as with print publications, third spaces often feel like a thing from the past. Rachel notes their importance and inspiration to Giddy Up.

"Line dancing, specifically queer line dancing, became a really important third space for me. I'm heavily inspired by *Spurs Night*, which runs out of Toronto, and when I moved to Guelph, I knew that I just really wanted to bring that form of community, that form of dancing and socializing to Guelph, because it was such a beautiful way for me to connect with myself, my body, but then also being able to move with other queer and trans bodies and people - it just taught me so much about how to be confident and find joy in the awkward ways that we all move together in a room, so I have been putting on socials and also running classes for small organizations, businesses, and individuals in the region since".

Giddy Up has got feet moving at quite a number of spaces across our city in it's short lifetime, including the Farmers Market building with 10C events, a Q.N.O. Art Crawl performance outside of City Hall, a birthday event in the back of Found Coffee and more, Rachel noting that "anywhere that there is a flat, a mic, and an amp, I have taught and danced in".

This Friday sees Giddy Up's return to Revel Cider's beautiful tasting space on Dawson Rd, where Rachel will lead the line dancing lessons as the evenings "Caller", the line dancing term for the person who gets to stand at the front of the room and call out all the positions and moves.

Friday's event will feature beginner and intermediate level lessons and Rachel noted Giddy Up is "not only folks who know line dancing or who have a history with line dancing" but that "it's also a space for those

city cont'd

who don't have any dancing experience at all". In terms of the structure of the evening, Rachel adds "it's half lessons, half open floor, and then half downtime for people to meet, talk, grab a drink, eat, and just be with each other."

Later in July, Giddy Up has an opportunity to heat up an entire new dance floor: the grass lawn and fields of Hillside Festival.

"[At Hillside] we'll be presenting two workshops on the Saturday and the Sunday which I'm really excited for. My first time going to Hillside was last year as a new Guelphite. And [we were] able to work with them for their winter hillside - Hillside Inside - that they did earlier this year. I'm going to be teaching maybe an hour of line dancing, lots of beginner moves, just a way for people to connect with each other and pick up a new form of movement and grooving".

Speaking to Rachel about our histories with the dance, they reflected on where Giddy Up slides into the existing world of line dancing.

"[There's an] ecosystem that's already alive and well in Southern Ontario when it comes to line dancing and me being far from the newest and hippest thing or voice to bring to it. It is so cool how it calls to so many people, especially older folks and folks that are in rural spaces."

"And I think the impostor syndrome that I used to feel, I've received so much love from folks who grew up line dancing or maybe they do it with their groups, and the space that I'm able to curate that's a little bit safer or a little bit more accessible in ways has been really nice to slot into that niche, but also being a part of this broader line dance community where people can come, they can show me moves, they can teach me things. It's so mutual, I find, as a dance form and as a way of moving non-competitively. And there's this shared sense of embodiment that you just feel on the dance floor. It's hard to describe, but it's beautiful".

On it's popularity here in Guelph, Rachel said "I can understand why people feel very called to what I'm able to offer and bring to downtown

culture

Couzyn van Heuvelen's CAMP at the Art Gallery of Guelph

CAMP, a solo exhibition of works by Canadian Inuk sculptor Couzyn van Heuvelen thoughtfully weaves together ritual, history, community, cultural practice and the joy to be found in daily tasks and domestic labour. The first of van Heuvelen's large sculptural works I encountered in the gallery was *Candy Pitsit* - drying fish on a rack rendered in amber-

Guelph as it's celebrating the diversity of the city and the brightness and beauty, and people looking different, showing up different, dancing different. It's really cool that line dancing is a form that all those differences can be celebrated and expressed while we're all moving in the same way together and having this unity as well".

We talked a bit further about line dancing's global reach, and Rachel voiced "I also got to shout out the wave of line dancing in senior communities in China. Sometimes I have a clash with my own identity. There's parts that are very disparate when it comes to being a Chinese-Canadian, younger, queer person, third generation. But going to Chinese banquets and seeing these seniors line dance, the same kind of dances I've learned, is so fun to me".

So, maybe you're sold on Giddy Up and this sounds like *YOUR* kind of evening. Considering the wave of hot weather we've been experiencing lately, I asked what you're supposed to wear to this sort of thing.

Helpfully, Rachel shares, "I invite folks to dress in whatever ways call to them, whether that's taking all the aesthetics of Western wear - the bolo ties, the big chunky belts, the flannel, the jeans. But I will say the flannel and the jeans get really hot, really fast. That was my first mistake. So, things that are breathable, Nothing like a jort." "A handkerchief, a fun flowy earring that can ring things like fringe, things that sparkle and move and dance around as you do."

With some new insight into the world of contemporary line dancing I'm happy to know that this form of dance is alive and well, providing opportunities for people to connect and share the joy of dancing and great music together in ways that might be new to them, or might harken back to childhoods in dusty halls and *Sportsplexes*, watching boots scoot while the wood floor creaks in time.

Giddy Up Queer Line dancing slides into Revel Cider this Friday evening, and Hillside Festival the 18th and 19th of July. More info @giddyupdancing

TMN, Net

coloured candy. Candy as a medium reminded me of *Portrait of Ross in L.A.* by Félix González-Torres. While *Portrait* is both intimate and hauntingly beautiful (please look it up!), *Candy Pitsit* evokes joy and whimsy - the lightness to be found in the everyday. This merging of celebration and joy with the never-ending work of home and community life flows through the exhibition, which takes up the full ground floor level of the AGG.

CAMP cont'd

Walking into the gallery, I was humbled by the 4-metre tall fibre-based work *Stretching Sealskin*. I have studied art for over ten years and have stood, unmoved, in front of many pieces of art in all mediums. This one is different. Standing close, I got lost in the undulating movement of latch-hooked wool standing in for the smooth, tight fibres of sealskin. I have spent a small amount of time in Iqaluit and while there I was struck by the cultural importance of sealskin and saw it used everywhere, with respect and reverence. It's no surprise, then, to see it represented in this show, but to see the mottled colours and organic shape writ large was humbling. In an adjacent space sits *Scraping Sealskin*, a companion piece showing another step in the work of processing fresh seal. This time the skin, still rendered in wool, is laid flat and an ulu is being used to separate fat and meat from the furry outer layer.

The use of wool in these works stood out to me. Wool is another animal-based medium that evokes tactile process and hand-work. The *Sealskin* sculptures speak softly to process, to making. Much has been said on the false dichotomy of art vs craft, but van Heuvelen doesn't seem interested in making a case for craft being "good enough" to sit in a contemporary art gallery. Instead, the *Sealskin* works lean deep into process: hands

food

For lack of a boot-scootin restaurant in Guelph (with apologies to the food menu (???) at Stampede Ranch), this week's thematically appropriate food recco is a little more country market than country western.

I love the Guelph Farmer's Market, but if its limited hours don't work with my week, I can sometimes find myself feeling a bit of fresh-veg seasonal FOMO, particularly during the all-too-quick Ontario fruit and produce high season. Market Fresh, Goodness Me, and the Stone Store all do a fairly good job of stocking local produce, but the price points are... a lot... and I am not about to use this space to endorse any member of Canada's evil grocery monopoly.

I will, however, endorse Jim's Farm Market, on the Eramosa-Milton Townline, as the best farmstand in Wellington County.

Yeah, it's kinda hard to get to if you don't have a car; no, they don't have much in the way of meats or pantry goods. But if you're looking for no-frills (the good kind) seasonal veg, look no further. What I mean by that is you're not going to find too much in the way of heirloom varieties, but if it's something you'd expect to see in season - your peppers, your corns,

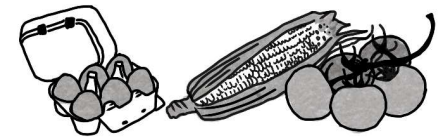
on materials, hands getting dirty, hands getting sore, itchy, tired from the work of latching wool into a rug, of patiently separating fat and meat from skin with an ulu.

As a grad of York University's BFA program and with an MFA from NSCAD, van Heuvelen has definitely done his contemporary art homework. Throughout the exhibition there are nods to Joseph Beuys, who famously used fat in his sculptural works, as well as Louise Bourgeois, Judy Chicago, and Martha Rosler (to name but a few), who worked to make visible the often hidden and thankless domestic work of women, as well as that possible nod to Félix González-Torres above. But I'm not going to spend much time on drawing those comparisons because van Heuvelen, in my opinion, is doing something a little bit different. He is not looking to "validate" or "elevate" the quiet, invisible, beautiful labour of day-to-day life by bringing it into the privileged space of an art gallery. Instead, the art gallery is elevated and validated by the endurance and unflinching splendor of land and people, daily rituals and routines, of touch and togetherness, of necessity and generosity, of the things we hold onto tightly in our tired hands, in our memories, in the stories we share, and in the ways we labour to care for each other.

CAMP is on at the AGG until the end of August.

G.G. III, Net

your tomatoes, your zucchinis - they've got it, at extremely reasonable price points that are adjusted as growing seasons wind up: last fall for instance they were selling off squash for a buck apiece; a couple weeks ago, four-packs of veggie seedlings were the same price.



It's a family-run operation, and if you're looking to do a special order - like, say, a bushel of tomatoes in the late summer - super responsive on Instagram or via phone. There's no website (they do have Facebook, too), no special events, no corn maze - just a bunch of good produce, and a bunch of nice people who will help you carry it to your car when you inevitably load up too heavy.

Oh, there are eggs! And depending on when you show up, the laying hens are right beside the stand. They're pretty nice, too.