



The Islander

Prince Edward County

DATE: FEBRUARY, 2012

VOL. 05

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oeno Gallery—Group Show

Celebrating its third anniversary adjacent to Huff Estates, Oeno's group show is a chance to see over 25 of the gallery's artists.

The exhibition also introduces local Wellington artist Tom Mathews and historical works by Doris McCarthy. Open 7 days a week 10am to 6pm. For more information visit:

www.oenogallery.com

Heart of Winter Gala

Champagne reception, a three-course dinner by East & Main, live music with Jamie Stever followed by dancing to a DJ!

For more info mortlaur@alcdsb.on.ca

Blue Suede Shoes

Memories of the King

Regent Theatre, Feb 16 @ 8pm

For more information contact:

www.theregenttheatre.org

'Wellington Dukes Home Games

Jan 6, 20, 27, 29

Feb 3, 10, 12

www.wellingtondukes.com

6 MORE WEEKS OF WINTER?

Two out of three of Canada's furry forecasters are calling for an early spring.

Ontario's Wiarion Willie and Nova Scotia's prognosticating rodent Shubenacadie Sam didn't see their shadows when they emerged on Thursday morning. But Manitoba's lesser known woodchuck, Winnipeg Willow, is siding with Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil, who is calling for six more weeks of winter.



Folklore has it that if a groundhog sees his shadow on Groundhog Day he'll flee to his burrow, heralding six more weeks of winter, and if he doesn't, it means spring's around the corner. Willow was so startled at all the attention, she tucked her face into her handler's jacket, and failed as a result of not looking to see her shadow.

The forecasts come in the middle of an unusually mild winter that has taken even seasoned meteorologists by surprise. Environment Canada warned this fall to expect colder-than-normal temperatures in the north and west. But the past few months have brought balmy weather peppered with a few cold snaps in most of the country. Last year, several of the groundhogs -- including Willie -- predicted an early spring while a raging snowstorm battered Ontario.

~Words of Wisdom~

Love is accepting, not expecting.

www.sandbankhomes.com



CHOCOLATE AND WINE PAIRINGS FROM THE GRANGE OF PRINCE EDWARD

The old fashioned idea of wine and chocolate pairings was to think dessert wine and fondue. That is not what we've been thinking at the winery.

Dark chocolates are 70% plus pure cocoa. Not sweet, bitter, spicy, earthy, complex; much like a good wine. Take the wine and the chocolate out of the realm of dessert and I think you'll be pleasantly surprised by the result.

The key to pairings is balance. For chocolate and wine there are a few elements to play with: sweetness, of course, and then the spice, fruit and other characteristics. Chocolate and wine share these characteristics, so the goal of a pairing is the find the best matches. Chocolatiers use different ingredients to bring out different flavours in their chocolates, using those chocolates with the wines will do the same thing. Here are some idea's we think are worth a try.

With [Trumpour's Mill Gamay](#), Pinot Noir, Rosé...

Chocolate and spice or espresso. Maybe a cayenne truffles perhaps. I can see this being a great pairing with the rosé. The spice will be balanced by the perceptual sweetness/ fruit of the wines. It will also bring out the spices on the Pinot. Chocolate and espresso; like café mocha or espresso truffles. The pinot is earthy and I think that would be interesting with the espresso chocolate. The earthiness of both the espresso and the wine will play nicely off each other.

Using a little chocolate in dishes like chilli makes an interesting use for this pairing. Or a slightly spicy dark chocolate cake would also be interesting. Or a bread pudding with an espresso-chocolate drizzle...

With the [Grange of Prince Edward Victoria Block Chardonnay](#)...

Chocolate and Caramel. Chocolate and white wine isn't necessarily an obvious pairing, but I think it could work in this case. The caramel could act as an intermediate between the two. Also this chardonnay, while being one of our driest wines, has lots of sweet flavour, so I don't think the sweetness of the caramel will be a problem. I just read a recipe for a chocolate, caramel, salted-almond tart, and I can see that being a great pairing. Another recipe I just saw? Chocolate, bacon and cashew caramel popcorn. Wouldn't that make for a nice movie night with a chilled glass of the vic bloc chardonnay?

Of course white chocolate truffles are an excellent choice as well. With the lighter, more buttery flavor it would be a great match for an oaked chardonnay, for a semi-sweet white and potentially more depending on the flavors in the chocolate itself. Truffles are a great way to play. Chocolatiers make it easy by choosing fruits and spices that are already in the language of wine tasting, take those cues and go from there; we've always thought that the best way to see if the pairing works is to taste it!

For more ideas and information visit [The Grange of Prince Edward](#)

PEC WINERIES

- [The Grange of Prince Edward](#)
- [Huff Estates Winery](#)
- [Casa-Dea Winery](#)
- [Sandbanks Winery](#)
- [Waupoons Winery](#)

Plus many, many more. Check out the following link for more information.

[The Prince Edward County Wine Growers Association](#)



THE GRANGE OF PRINCE EDWARD

The Grange is a small estate winery in Prince Edward County, Ontario. It is a family-run agri-business established on an over-600-acre family farm purchased in the early 70s by Robert Granger.

The vineyard project started in 1999 with a simple plan for 10 acres of vines. After a year of field preparation, they planted the first block on Victoria Day 2001, with Chardonnay, Gamay and Pinot Noir grapes.

Today, with 60 acres under vine, the farm is home to 6 distinct vineyard blocks; plantings include Pinot Gris, Cabernet Franc, Sauvignon Blanc, and enough Pinot Noir to make it one of the larger vineyards in Canada

Wine production began with a vintage that won Prince Edward County's first Ontario Wine Award: Trumpour's Mill 2003 gamay Noir VQA.

Other firsts for the Grange include the first Prince Edward County All-Canadian Championship Award for their Trumpour's Mill 2004 Riesling and the first Cuvee award for the GPE 2007 Cabernet Franc.

The Grange embraces its corporate social responsibility and supports many Ontario-based community initiatives. From 2006 to present, the Grange has been the major sponsor for the Harvestin' the County program, demonstrating their commitment to local, sustainable Canadian agriculture.

NEW HOME BUILDERS VS REALES

Whether it's time to look for a bigger home as your family grows, or look for a smaller home, as your kids go off to college, you will always be faced with the question of buying a new home versus a resale.

Obviously as a [new home builder](#), we tend to believe buying a new home is the best option, especially for families who are downsizing and looking for their dream retirement home. Given other situations, a resale may be better. Here's a few reasons why we believe a new home is the better option.

Customized. Buyers can visit dozens of listings to [try and find the perfect home](#). Building a new house gives buyers the ability to customize their home to suit their needs. You can add features like custom counter-tops and upgraded flooring for an extra few thousand dollars. You can also save money by removing features from the plans. You also get to pick out your lot in the new subdivision.

Affordable. There's been lots of horror stories of buyers going way over budget with a new house. Work close with your builder. Have them quote a base price, and work with their team to stick to your budget. You may be able to find a resale that suits your needs, but because of location they can be more expensive compared to building a new house from scratch. A newly renovated resale house can be listed for \$50,000 more than what it would cost to build a new house. An older home would also require [extensive renovations](#) to suit your tastes or needs, and you never know what you may find behind those walls.

Energy Efficient. A new house gives you the latest in energy saving appliances and building code standards. Your new house could be twice the size of your old one, yet your utility bills should be 10% less than before. The energy and environmentally efficient features included can be: high efficiency direct vented furnaces, high efficiency power vented hot water tanks, double pane low E windows, insulated overhead garage door, and energy efficient spacing on all framing.



Protected. Here in Ontario, new houses are protected by the [new home warranty program](#) which offers deposit protection, protection against defects in work and materials, protection against unauthorized substitutions, protection against delayed closings or delayed occupancies without proper notice. For condominiums, warranty coverage also includes common/shared areas of the building.

Building a new house can be an enjoyable process, and if you choose to, here are a few tips to remember to keep it an enjoyable process.

Choose the Developer, Then the House

The absolute number one, most important factor in buying a new house is not what you buy (the particular model) but rather who you buy it from. A responsible builder understands that he or she has a reputation to protect, constructs homes that live up to the promises, and remains available should issues arise. More than a few builders, however, take your money, throw together a house that starts falling apart on day one, and then stops returning phone calls.

The lesson is, don't buy a house - buy its builder. To check out a builder, contact:

- Owners who live in the development you're considering, if possible. If the development is run by a homeowners' association, talk to the members. If nothing has been built yet, talk to owners in a recently completed development by the same builder
- County planning or building department staff who deal with local developers. For the best results, ask your questions positively. "Do they finish their projects on time, with few complaints?"
- Real estate agents who've worked in the area for some time.





COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

WOTL - WELLINGTON ON THE LAKE

FEBRUARY 2012

Saturday February 4th	Coffee Morning, 9:30am
Sunday February 05th	Happy Hour 3 to 5, BYOB & Snacks
Sunday February 12th	Senior Moments Trivia
Tuesday February 14th	St Valentines Day
Saturday February 18th	Coffee Morning, 9:30
Sunday February 19th	Sunday Opera, 1:30pm
Sunday February 26th	Happy Hour 3 to 5, BYOB & Snacks

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

THEY DID IT!!

If you remember from last months newsletter, I mentioned how Kemp and Chris were off to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in support of the Alzheimer Society.

As of Jan 18th, at 7:13am, temperature of -18, they arrived at the top of the Mountain!
Congrats guys!!

More and more I'm proud to say I'm a resident of Prince Edward County.

For updates, visit their Facebook page
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kemp-Chris-climb-Kilimanjaro-in-support-of-Alzheimer-Society/13755983636010>

