

Art gallery, photography and sculpture in Frankville

By CATHERINE ORTH

If you've heard of Gibbons Maple Syrup, that's not surprising. It is produced on Bill Gibbons' farm on Leacock Rd., just north of Frankville, and is distributed locally. Gibbons

born in Ottawa, bought the 200 country acres in 1974. He operated a dairy farm for 20 years and then became a successful maple syrup producer. With the maple syrup business now run by his daughter, you might not

be surprised to learn, that this farm entrepreneur of varying hats, has also built on his property, a beautiful art gallery. The two story, 2400 sq. foot building, completed this year, is dedicated to and named for Mr Gibbons' father, Alan Osler Gibbons, (AOG). Mr Gibbons senior, was an avid art collector and imbued his son with his passion.

After his father died, Bill found himself in a position to be able to purchase works of art, "My criteria was that I liked it and that it came from the artist or from a gallery that represented the artist." Since that time his collection has grown. Not only are works of art housed in the gallery, but also displayed on the grounds. Large sculptures can be seen on a casual walk around the outside of the gallery, including a dry stone land sculpture called Tilting Garden by Port Hope artist, John

Shaw-Rimmington.

Though, not open to the public on a regular basis, AOG, will be open to the public during Culture Days, September 29, 30 and October 1. Gibbons' own personal art collection will be on view plus the photographs of Canadian photo journalist, Lynn Ball, Chief Photographer of the Ottawa Citizen from 1972 until his retirement in 2003. From the civil rights movement of the 1960's, to the heyday of the young Beatles, to the Royal Family and the Pope, Ball, has over the last 50 years covered them all. An engaging conversationalist, Mr Ball, will be present to flesh out the stories behind his impressive photos.

Just around the corner and also open on Culture days from AOG, on Cty Rd 29, is Dark Genesis. There you'll find the metal sculptures of artist, Chris Banfalvi. Working

in his large studio, Chris creates big, imaginative pieces that are elegant, beautiful and fun, with interesting names like Passionate Greed and Dancing with Chance.

Culture Days was launched in 2010 and takes place on the last Friday in September. For more information on Culture Days and more local participants, go to culturedays.ca. Log in your postal code and see what free adventures await you in your area.

To participate in Culture Days, all events must be free of charge. Culture Days allows artist, though, to put out free will donation boxes. To this end Mr Gibbons, who is a strong supporter of Innocence Canada, formerly the Association in the Defence of The Wrongly Convicted, a charity that works to free people who have been wrongfully accused, will have a donation box on hand for a free will donation at AOG.



Bill Gibbons (L), with Canadian photo journalist, Lynn Ball, in Gibbons' gallery AOG. Photo: Catherine Orth

Year round trails at Triangle Ski Club

By SALLY SMID

The trails at the Triangle Cross Country Ski Club area are probably only considered by many to be used for winter skiing, but as it happens McIntosh Mills is a hidden gem and a beautiful area for mountain biking and trail running as well. "What better way to have a good physical work out and also enjoy the beauty of nature," comments Bill Flikweert, the club's property and

dependent on area snow-fall which has been lacking in recent years. He and club members have been working hard to upgrade and maintain trails so that mountain biking and trail running can take place, creating year round activity on the trails.

The Club was very happy to have the students of the Thousand Island Secondary School's Outdoor Leadership Class at the site in the spring to help

development.

The flooding this summer caused quite a lot of damage to the club's trail system. The major cause appeared to be due to a beaver dam that was breached, creating an incredible gap of 15' wide by 7' high. The group is hoping to enlist more volunteers to help rebuild this section of trail this fall. "Volunteers with shovels, rakes, picks, and enthusiasm would be greatly appreciated," noted Flikweert.

The 30 year old club consists of 35 kms of picturesque trails for all level of skiers with the Trailhead at 114 Marsh Lane, McIntosh Mills, off of Leeds Road 5. Much of the trail land belongs to the Ministry of Natural Resources as well as many generous land owners. 17 km of the trails are groomed with club equipment and day users are welcome. The group is very family oriented and ski rental is available. Flikweert considers it to be a "very strong club" with about 40 members and more are always welcome. "We live in such a beautiful area and there are so many trails available that many in the area are not even aware of," he remarked. He anticipates that the trails will be ready by the second week

in September when all of the dedicated hard work and effort will be rewarded. Find more info online; www.triangleski.club.org



Fat bikers head out on snow covered trails at the Triangle Cross Country Ski Club.

trails director. Bill's enthusiasm for biking and love for the outdoors is quite evident. For quite some time he has been striving to expand activities at the trails. As he points out skiing is very

in designing and constructing trails for bikes, snowshoes and fatbikes. About 20 students spent time in the spring working the trails and sharing their ideas for future

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The Athens Cornfest Committee would like to thank all the volunteers, sponsors and businesses who participated in our 37th Cornfest Celebration for all their hard work.

The huge amount of support and time put forth by this community is what makes Athens, and Cornfest, so special!

Thank you to the Cornfest Committee.

Thanks also to all the families who participated in Cornfest.

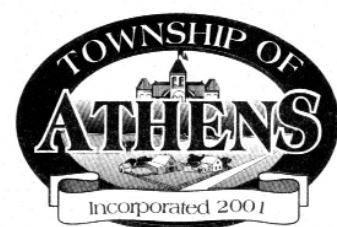
Our community recognizes all the hard work by those involved. Without your efforts this year, Athens Cornfest would not have taken place.

The 50/50 draw winner is Jane Kaschube of Athens.

The prize amount is \$1,679.

Thank you and see you again next year!

Cornfest Committee; Pat Blanchard, Rod Cowan, Melanie Kavanagh & Walter Schaafsma



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