

## COMMUNITY

# No Valentine's Day plans yet? Here's your itinerary

BY APRIL DUFFY

It's time for love, romance and heart shaped thingamabobs once again. And, if you have a special someone in your life, you're likely going to participate in at least one of the old Valentine's Day traditions: the dinner, the movie, the door prize or just setting the mood at home.

But before you wipe the salt off your good shoes and get out the special cologne there are some things you should know and possibly prepare for before February 14th.

Music and Lyrics stars Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore while Catch and Release casts Jennifer Garner and Timothy Olyphant as its leads.

### The Door Prize

Before embarking on your evening, no matter what you choose to do, many of you will want to get a little something to present to your sweetie. Make them feel special. A popular choice is flowers, but even picking up a bouquet would go smoother with a little preparation as big crowds are expected.

Raybould fans have an opportunity to catch her at Whispers on Feb. 17.

But Raybould is focusing less on touring and music at the moment than the book she is currently constructing on animal rescue and its importance.

A portion of sales from Raybould's records as well as sales of her future book will go toward animal shelters and animal rescue. Raybould will also be getting her certification to be a wildlife rehabber in a couple of months.

Her love of animals and commitment to animal rescue are probably in part a good reflection of her attitude toward love and occasions like Valentine's Day.

"I take the philosophy that you should treat each other special everyday instead of just one day," said Raybould.

Something all sweethearts can keep in mind after the heart shaped thingamabobs leave stores for another year.



Leave that bulk box of chocolates at the store! There are far more romantic ways to spend Valentine's Day, with many intimate options right in your backyard.



Blair Gable photo

Singer Tammy Raybould suggests setting the mood with relaxing music.

### The Dinner

"On Valentine's Day I'd recommend you make reservations anywhere you want to go," said Neil Hight, manager of Fiamma, an intimate Italian restaurant. The Tuscan Grill for a highend candlelight meal, and Greenfields Pub for fun couples — there's a wide range of choices in your backyard.

Valentine's Day is the second or third biggest day of the year for Fiamma, and it is already about half booked so you want to make reservations as soon as possible.

Fiamma's chef has some special Valentine dishes planned, but he is remaining secretive about what they are for now.

Hight said he thinks couples out for the evening should eat dinner after seeing the movie, giving them a chance to sit and unwind and review the movie together.

### The Movie

But whether you choose to see the movie before or after dinner, Brian Usher, manager of Barrhaven Cinemas Cineplex Odeon, recommends you catch the matinee or the 9 p.m. show to avoid the crowds.

According to Usher, there will be two romantic date movies to choose from on February 14. Catch and Release, which is already in theatres, as well as Music and Lyrics.

"[Music and Lyrics] opens on the 16th, but it has Wednesday in brackets so it's actually opening up on Valentine's Day," Usher said. "So that will be your Valentine's Day movie for sure."

"There should be a line-up outside," said Carole Ferrari, owner of Select Floral. "We're already starting to prepare."

Ferrari suggests ordering your flowers as soon as possible to make sure you get them even if you intend to pick them up.

"The nice thing [about ordering ahead] is the guys can come in and they can grab their flowers and leave right away because it's all ready to go," Ferrari said.

Valentine's Day shoppers should ensure the flowers they are purchasing are nice and fresh; if they are red roses they can last up to two weeks and carnations can last anywhere from three to four weeks, said Ferrari.

After getting the flowers, the romancer should change the water every three or four days and re-cut the stems to keep them lasting as long as possible. It's a value-added thing.

### The Mood

For many couples the best gift they will receive this Valentine's Day will be some romantic time together.

To set the mood Tammy Raybould, a distinguished musician and teacher at the Nepean School of Music, has a few recommendations of her own.

"Dido, for sure," said Raybould, who recently celebrated her second wedding anniversary. "I love her music, and how mood enhancing and relaxing and melodic the music is."

Raybould also recommends local artist Joshua Morin.

"He's got quite a few songs that are very melodramatic and lovey like."

## Who's the most romantic man in Barrhaven?

### JEFF & DEREK'S VALENTINE'S CONTEST

# Ladies!

What's the most incredibly romantic thing your guy has ever done for you? E-mail us your stories of chivalry to

[newsfile@bellnet.ca](mailto:newsfile@bellnet.ca)

Contest Deadline: Feb. 12th



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