

# STRATFORD TIMES

VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

FREE



**BERGER**  
**PLUMBING**  
519-274-0160

Berger Plumbing is a full service company for all your plumbing, heating and excavation needs! Fully licensed and insured plumbers and gas fitters on staff.



*A Passion for People*

**ROYAL LEPAGE** **Hiller Realty**  
100 Fine St. Stratford  
Independently owned and Operated Brokerage

**SHERRIE ROULSTON**  
Real Estate Broker  
email: sherrieroulston@royallepage.ca  
Direct: 519-272-3578

## Long-awaited ramp for police HQ tendered under budget

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The long-awaited accessibility ramp to the Stratford Police Service's downtown headquarters has been approved under budget.

At the Sept. 4 Stratford city council meeting, council approved the under-budget tender for the ramp at \$162,607, including HST, from Uniqueco Building Restoration Inc., the lowest bidder.

Council had previously approved a capital expenditure of \$200,000 for the ramp during its 2024 budget deliberations.

It was originally intended to be a permanent concrete structure, but given the potential renovations which may occur at the 17 George St. W location, council thought it prudent to cut costs and approve a temporary structure instead. They reduced the original budget of \$275,000.

Tim Wolfe, community services director for the city, had previously told the accessibility advisory committee (AAC) that if renovations occur at police headquarters and the temporary metal ramp is no longer needed, it may be moved and used at a different facility.

In addition to the installation cost, the City of Stratford consulted with Artas Engineering & Design Inc. to design the ramp and barrier-free entrance, which the AAC subsequently approved, at a cost of \$11,000.

The remaining \$43,000 of the budgeted funds will be transferred to a reserve fund for future capital-expenditure requirements. Costs to maintain the ramp will be incorporated into the annual operating budgets.



### PADDLES UP!

The Stratford Women dragon boat team paddle hard in the 17th race of the day at the Stratford Dragon Boat Festival Sept. 14. See more photos on page 18.

(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

## Council adopts closed-meeting protocol after five-year investigation

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After nearly eight months of review, Stratford city council has now adopted a closed-meeting protocol.

Council adopted the protocol and approved two additional amendments at its Sept. 9 meeting. They follow the publication of an extensive review of over five years' worth of closed meetings by the city's closed-meeting investigator, Tony E. Fleming of Cunningham, Swan, Carty, Little & Bonham LLP.

Fleming found numerous improper votes from 2018-

2023 and ultimately made six recommendations:

There were a total of six recommendations from the investigator:

- That council and staff obtain training to ensure they are properly following the processes as required under the Municipal Act, 2001.
- That council should work towards creating procedures for topics that arise often, like contracts, land sale or employment decisions.
- That council should have a clear process for moving substantive decision making into open council.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



**Stacked**  
PANCAKE & BREAKFAST HOUSE

**\$6.99**  
Breakfast Special




MON - FRI  
7 AM - 9 AM  
Dine-In Only

925 Ontario St Unit No- 5B,  
Stratford

Open Everyday | 7 AM - 3 PM

Uber Eats

stackedpancakehouse.ca

SKIP THE DISHES

# Council adopts closed-meeting protocol after five-year investigation makes recommendations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

• That council should ensure resolutions are clearly worded and they clearly provide instructions to staff rather than making substantive decisions.

• That council should have clear procedures for moving into open session, including in cases where members are concerned a vote or discussion is no longer properly in closed session.

• And that decisions should not be bundled together, particularly when they are unrelated.

The protocol drafted by the city's clerks directly addresses recommendations two to five. It outlines the statutory requirements for closed meetings, roles and responsibilities, the process to be followed before, during and after a closed meeting is held, and provides an overview of each exemption and what discussions should and should not include.

According to the staff report, training is

being sourced to address the first recommendation and amendments have already been made to in-camera reports to contain separated motions to address the sixth recommendation.

Mike Sullivan, who spoke on the original investigation when it was presented to council in February, praised staff for the most recent report included in the September meeting's agenda – but he did have concerns.

Included in the recommendation but not the protocol were two amendments allowing the chief administrative officer (CAO) and director of human resources the authority "to hire and promote employees, including authority to issue employment letters, and to adjust salaries in accordance with all relevant policies and legislation," and to provide authority to the CAO to approve the termination of city employees below the CAO or deputy CAO level where the costs are \$250,000 or below, in the opinion of le-

gal counsel.

"It's unclear as to how this proposal is related at all to the closed meeting investigations," Sullivan said during a delegation. "It appears to be a standalone request to give the CAO the authority to hire and fire any and all staff at their discretion. The exception appears to be if the firing would cause more than a quarter million dollars of payments to an individual, then it has to come to council.

"There were several occasions where council was found to be in violation of the (Municipal) Act by voting on staffing issues. In my opinion, the solution is to exercise care by discussing hiring, not to mandate that entirely to somebody else."

Later in the meeting, when the item was before council for consideration, city clerk Tatiana Dafoe clarified that before the amendments were passed, the delegation bylaw already contained these provisions, just with only the HR director listed. Staff

wished to include the CAO as they are the only employee of council and to increase the current threshold of \$100,000 to \$250,000 to reflect current employment norms.

The city's human resources director, Dave Bush, concurred with Dafoe.

"This is housekeeping," Bush said.

Coun. Cody Sebben dissented from that classification, saying it was much bigger than that.

"I read this much differently," Sebben said. "To me, this is more than just cleaning up the language. This is a significant increase of the authority delegated to the CAO. ... I think it's important that council is brought up to speed and is part of that decision."

In a recorded vote, Sebben was the only councillor to oppose the adoption of the latter two amendments. Councillors Harjinder Nijjar Brad Beatty were absent.

The closed-meeting protocol was adopted unanimously.

Maximize your return.

Conservative Advice for Intelligent Decisions



Donna L. Hinz



Franklin E. Hinz

196 Ontario Street  
Stratford, Ontario N5A 3H4

519-273-1633 franklinehinz.com

## HPCDSB approves new strategic plan focused on faith building and student achievement

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

The Huron Perth Catholic District School Board (HPCDSB) has approved a new, three-year strategic plan focused on faith building in the wider school community, and continued and improved support of student achievement.

The board approved the 2024-2027 strategic plan at its regular meeting in August. The plan sets out ambitious targets for achievement in the areas of mathematics, literacy, STEM, career pathways and student attendance. The plan also looks to achieve goals in Catholic faith formation and it builds on previous successes in reaching the top 20 per cent in the province on measures of student achievement.

"At a high level, basically the strategic plan is rooted in a three-year spiritual theme," HPCDSB director of educa-

tion Chris Roehrig said. "The lion's share of that work took about a year to accomplish. So, we met through what we call a communal discernment period, which is a period of prayer and listening and scripture with our community and came up with the spiritual theme of 'On Fire with the Spirit.'

"So, that's the foundation for the plan. The three years will have sub-themes. One is 'Awaken,' the second is 'Illuminate' and the third is 'Rejoice.' So that really informs us of the spiritual foundation of the plan."

On a practical level, the plan is focused around four key areas – faith formation; improvements in literacy and mathematics; improvements in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and support for the trades; and improvements in student attendance.

Faith formation, Roehrig explained, is about challenging the board's staff, students and adults in the wider school

CONTINUED TO PAGE 7

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!

CALL 519-655-2341 OR EMAIL  
STRATFORDTIMES@GMAIL.COM

## STRATFORD WALKING TOURS

Introducing our **"HISTORY AND HOSPITALITY" food tour!**

Enjoy a small plate tasting menu at some of Ontario's best restaurants while learning about Stratford's iconic buildings, people and events of the past.

To see the tour schedule and purchase tickets visit: [StratfordWalkingTours.ca](http://StratfordWalkingTours.ca) or email [hello@stratfordwalkingtours.ca](mailto:hello@stratfordwalkingtours.ca)

## 17th ANNUAL MAYOR'S COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Thursday, October 10th, 2024 • 7:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.  
The Arden Park Hotel

Please join us for Buffet Breakfast, Music, Fellowship and Guest Speaker from Shelterlink Youth Services

**Cost: A monetary donation to Shelterlink Youth Services Or specific pantry items: Youth-Friendly Cereal, Snacks, Peanut Butter, Mac & Cheese. Household items: Dish soap, laundry soap, personal hygiene items**  
Receipts will be provided for amounts \$20.00 and over.

Everyone is welcome.  
**Pre-registration is required.**

To reserve a seat, please call Lindsay Van Gestel 519-271-0250 ext. 5236 or email [mayor@stratford.ca](mailto:mayor@stratford.ca)

The event is sponsored by the Best Western Plus – The Arden Park Hotel, Maria Walsh, RE/MAX a-b Realty Ltd, Stratford & District Council of Churches, Famme & Co. Professional Corporation

# More than 150 walk for Parkinson's in Stratford

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

Every year, hundreds of Stratford and area Perth County residents get together and walk in Stratford for a crippling disease known as Parkinson's.

This year was no different as \$80,000 was raised for research in finding a cure.

Locally, the Schafer family from Shakespeare walk for Kathy, wife, mother, grandmother, friend and relative who has now lived with the disease for more than 20 years.

Her husband, Bill, three daughters and their husbands, as well as many

grandchildren have raised thousands and thousands of dollars themselves in their own special way.

For the walk on Sept. 7, they congregated with hundreds more to walk from Upper Queen's Park on their journey to raise money for something that has affected their family in many different ways over the past years.

One of the organizers of the Stratford walk, Barb Myers, said over the last two years \$175,000 has been raised for Parkinson's research and education.

All money stays local in southwestern Ontario, and Myers thanked the large crowd of over 150 walkers this year that took part.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

## WALK FOR A CURE

The Schafer family from Shakespeare and across Ontario, (including British Columbia), walk for Kathy, wife, mother and grandmother, and helped to raise over \$80,000 in Saturday's annual Parkinson's walk in Stratford. Kathy's family members include, from back to front, Jared Langdon, Gord Bradley, Laurel Schafer, Norah Bradley, Cory Briese, Heather Briese, Avery Briese, Bill Schafer, Angela Schafer and MacKenzie Langdon.



# HOT DEALS! SOURCE FLOORING

**IN STOCK** **HOT DEAL**

24" X 24"  
**PORCELAIN TILES**

**\$199**  
FROM PER SQ FT REG 3.99

**IN STOCK** **HOT DEAL**

2-TONE FRIEZE  
**CARPET**

**\$199**  
FROM PER SQ FT REG 3.99

**IN STOCK** **HOT DEAL**

12" X 24"  
**CARRARA TILES**

**\$199**  
FROM PER SQ FT REG 3.99

**IN STOCK** **HOT DEAL**

**SUBWAY TILES**

**\$199**  
FROM PER SQ FT REG 3.99

**IN STOCK** **HOT DEAL**

100% WATERPROOF  
**VINYL PLANKS**

**\$159**  
FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99

**IN STOCK** **HOT DEAL**

100% WATERPROOF  
**LAMINATE**

**\$199**  
FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99

**IN STOCK** **HOT DEAL**

CLICK ENGINEERED  
**HARDWOOD**  
5" WIDE X 1/2" THICK

**\$399**  
FROM PER SQ FT REG 12.99

**IN STOCK** **HOT DEAL**

3/7" COLONIAL  
**BASEBOARDS**

**99¢**  
FROM PER LIN FOOT

2' X 9'  
**ACOUSTIC WALL PANELS**

**\$799**  
FROM PER SQ FT REG 11.99

## FULLY STOCKED! BIGGEST ON THE BLOCK!



1362 VICTORIA ST N. KITCHENER  
MON-FRI 9AM-8PM SATURDAY 9-6 SUNDAY 10-5

# Editorial

## Debates are a critical part of election process



**STEWART GRANT**

*Publisher*

In our current soundbite and echo-chamber culture, debates are an increasingly rare opportunity for citizens to absorb opinions from contrasting politicians.

Personally, I can tell you that the last time I watched Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speak for any real length of time was during the 2021 federal leaders' debate; and prior to that it took a once-in-a-century pandemic to have me attentively watch him at

the podium.

I thought about this topic leading up to, and following, the Sept. 10 U.S. Presidential debate between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris.

Although Donald Trump has brazenly cast aside many long-honoured political traditions in recent years, such as participation in the 2023/24 Republican Primary Debates, and most notably the peaceful transition of power on Jan. 6, 2021, he has held with tradition and agreed to debate presidential foes Joe Biden and Kamala Harris this election cycle.

The June 27 event showed exactly why debates are so important. From the moment that Joe Biden hobbled on space with a blank look on his face, that entire evening showed the world that the "best-before" date on Joe was well past. Out on that stage, there was no shelter for Biden's dete-

riorating capacity – it was out there for all to see. It was truly a shocking and surreal display that led Democrats from all sides to pressure the President to suspend his re-election campaign.

Similarly, on Tuesday night earlier this week, both Donald Trump and Kamala Harris were under the spotlight for a full 90 minutes as part of the ABC moderated debate. For the millions who tuned in, they had the chance to hear both candidates interact in a relatively unfiltered way – providing a much more immersive experience that the usual spoon-feeding of selected quotes and spin-doctoring from their favourite "news" channel.

The fact is, many people watch and read what they want to, and in the United States, Fox Anger-tainment Channel is far more popular with viewers than traditional news outlets. And for those around the world wondering why

this 2024 Election is so close... Fox News is the number one reason.

At the recent Democratic National Convention, there were many Republicans who took the stage to speak, such as former Trump White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham, and former U.S. representative Adam Kinzinger. Both used their time at the DNC, on this huge national platform, to speak directly to Republicans to encourage them to vote for "country over party", as they explained why, in their view, Donald Trump is a threat to democracy itself.

However, Fox News quickly cut away from their DNC coverage when these Republicans took the stage. Faithful Fox viewers would never hear about these speeches. Try searching for "Adam Kinzinger" or "Stephanie Grisham" online at Fox News' website? Nothing about their

DNC appearances shows up.

A similar omission occurred earlier this week, when former Vice President Dick Cheney dropped the bombshell news that the longtime staunch Republican would be voting for Kamala Harris this fall. Cheney said, "In our nation's 248-year history, there has never been an individual who is a greater threat to our republic than Donald Trump ... He can never be trusted with power again." Again, there is zero mention of Cheney's comments on Fox News.

The criminal lack of facts on Fox News, and other outlets like it, is the reason why it is so important for people to take the time to watch these debates or listen to speeches (from both sides) in their entirety, and hopefully draw some of their own conclusions instead of simply being told what to think by others who have their own agendas.

## Letter to the Editor

### Erie Street downtown development proposal

*The following is a letter sent to Mayor Martin Ritsma and members of Stratford council and has been published here with the permission of the author. It has been edited for syntax, grammar, spelling and clarity.*

Hello Mayor Ritsma, members of city council and citizens of Stratford,

This letter is in support of the residential infill project for the Erie Street parking lot, proposed by Robert Ritz Architect, as published in the Stratford Times Aug. 9, 2024. I, too, am an architect, also an environmentalist

and resident of Stratford now for 50 years. I can say with some authority that this Erie Street site is a very important piece of land, ideally located and seriously underutilized as merely surface parking.

The concept to add even more parking, a medium-density (five-storey) residential building with grade level commercial would further strengthen our relatively intact downtown core. An architecturally sympathetic design may complement our existing architectural heritage and provide additional families with much-needed housing while using existing infrastructure. There is certainly demand for all aspects of such a development with the benefit of walking distance to two of our theatres and many downtown stores. To address Coun. Jo-Dee Burbach's question about retail demand, I would suggest this is a case of "build it and they will come."

On that note, I can say with certainty that the city's downtown core vacancy rate back in 2009 was much higher than it is now. This trend is an interesting comparison, as in preparation for my day in court at the Walmart OMB zone change hearing back in 2009, I was very concerned that an additional 180,000 square-foot retail would further decimate the retail within our downtown

(a power centre was proposed in what was then farmland, east of our Canadian Tire store). Believing this would have a very negative effect on the health of our downtown, in 2008/2009, I studied and documented our downtown core's retail vacancy rate as part of my argument and presentation then.

We, (a few citizens including myself and the City of Stratford) won that Walmart zone-change refusal. Walmart still arrived in town with a much scaled-down project and fit within existing retail zoned land. The relevance; Walmart added 80,000 square feet of retail and over the last 15 years this was absorbed into our market, and the downtown core has still managed to flourish. In my opinion, our existing retail owners would greatly benefit from hundreds of new people living meters away and mutual reasons to shop downtown for both residents and tourists alike. This is not to mention, grade level office space is also permitted in our downtown zoning.

Resistance to the project viability is purely academic, summarized in three points. The largest and most obvious; people, especially in small communities, love their surface parking a footstep away from their destination.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

**GRANT  
HAVEN  
MEDIA**

*Restoring small-town  
journalism, one community  
at a time!*

**STRATFORDTIMES**

**Publisher**

Stewart Grant • [stew@granthaven.com](mailto:stew@granthaven.com)

**Regional Editor**

Galen Simmons • [galen@granthaven.com](mailto:galen@granthaven.com)

**Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**

Connor Luczka • [connor@granthaven.com](mailto:connor@granthaven.com)

**Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries**

Sarah Cairns • [stratfordtimes@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordtimes@gmail.com)

**Business Development**

Heather Dunbar • [heather@granthaven.com](mailto:heather@granthaven.com)

**Billing Administrator**

Cindy Boakes • [boakescindy1576@gmail.com](mailto:boakescindy1576@gmail.com)

**Contributors**

Spencer Seymour, Betty-Jo Belton, Julia Schneider, Gary West, Paul Knowles, Emily Stewart, Lisa Chester, Fred Gonder, Sheila Clarke, Irene Roth, Lee Griffi, Stuart Lender, Thomas R. Verny, Sydney Goodwin, Kristen Parker, Alex Hunt, Hannah Kavanagh

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2

[stratfordtimes@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordtimes@gmail.com) | 519.655.2341 | [granthaven.com](http://granthaven.com)



Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

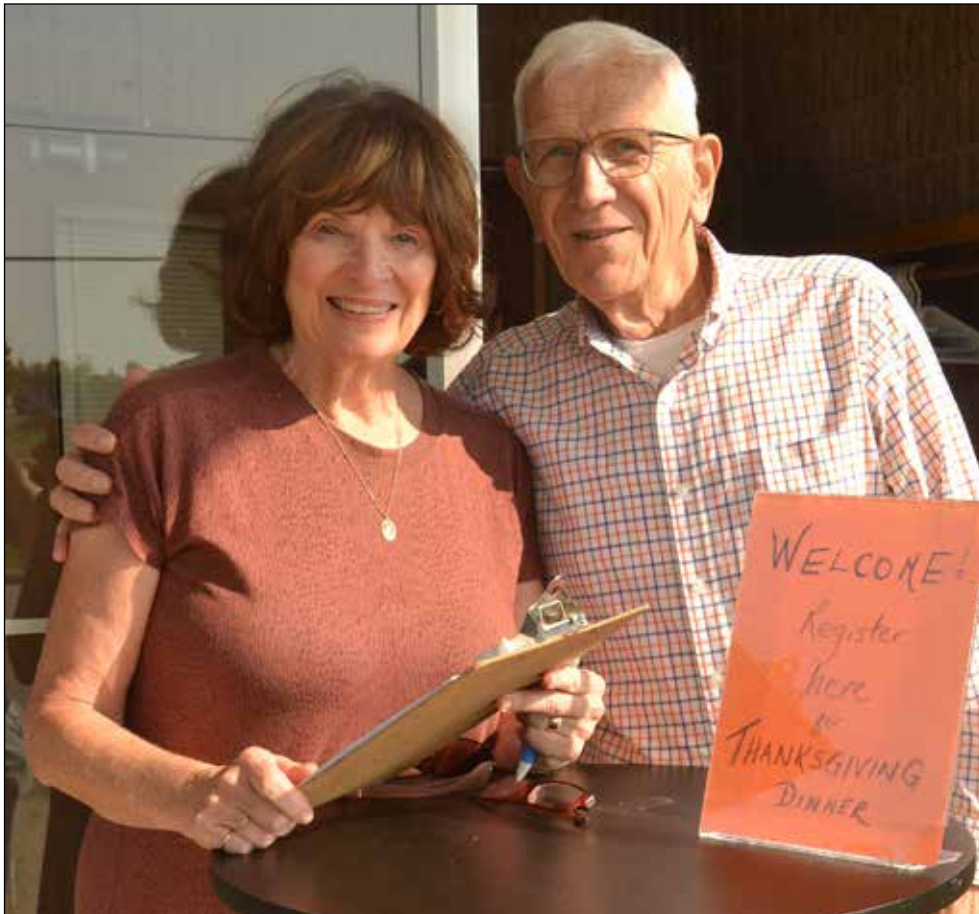


**STRATFORDTIMES**

### Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story
2. The news should be free for all to enjoy
3. Good news beats bad news
4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)
5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

# Simple Dreams once again feeding joy to the community with Thanksgiving Giveaway



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

## BIG HOLIDAY MEAL

Ruth and Richard Kneider of Simple Dreams Ministries are excited to give away as many as 100 Thanksgiving dinners to locals in need through this year's Thanksgiving Giveaway.

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

With the rising cost of food and food insecurity on the rise, it has become harder and harder for many families to afford a full Thanksgiving dinner with family members, friends and neighbours.

Richard and Ruth Kneider of Stratford charity Simple Dreams Ministries are once again doing what they can to help locals enjoy that big holiday meal without that big holiday grocery bill with their annual Thanksgiving Giveaway.

"It's just an opportunity, right?" Ruth Kneider said. "... Again it is about the fellowship together, supporting one another, bringing families back together that might have been divided for whatever reason. It's really that getting together, just like it used to be. When Richard and I were kids, that was how it used to be. You'd get together with family, so whether it's Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, that was what we did. It's just encouraging that again.

"And of course, with food insecurity, if we can give to people who are really struggling to get the groceries, that's all part of it."

As it has been in the past, the Thanksgiving Giveaway is intended for groups of six people or more and it can feed as many as 10 or more, especially if those who re-

ceive dinner packages supplement them with other desserts or side dishes.

In response to requests from those who have participated in the giveaway in the past, this year the packages will include a bone-in ham, which the Kneiders say is easier to cook than the traditional turkey. The dinner packages will also include 10 pounds of potatoes, frozen vegetables and a pie. The Kneiders say they will be equipped with as many as 100 dinner packages to give away.

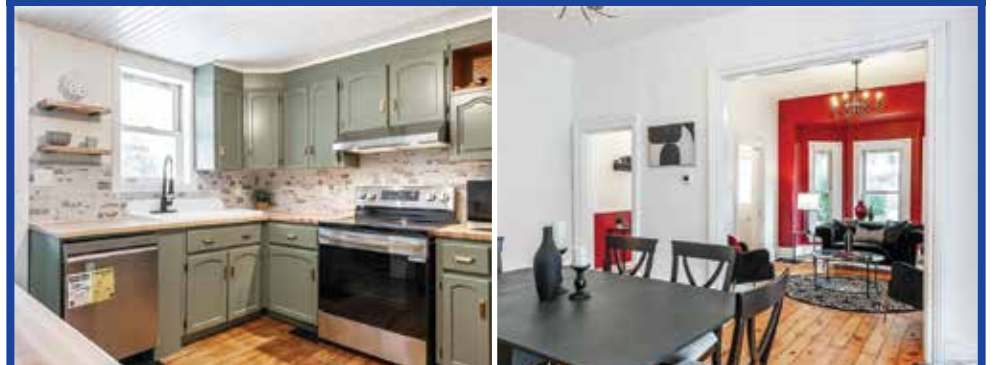
"Our hope is with the number of these packages we're giving out, there could be upwards of 1,000 people that can share a meal together that might not have been able to do that," Richard Kneider said.

To register for a Thanksgiving dinner package, visit [simplifiedreams.org](http://simplifiedreams.org), email [info@simplifiedreams.org](mailto:info@simplifiedreams.org) or call 226-633-5766. The Kneiders are also looking for those in the community interested in donating in support of the Thanksgiving Giveaway. Those interested in contributing can similarly email, call or visit the Simple Dreams website for more information.

Those participating in the giveaway this year can pick up their dinner packages at Bethel Pentecostal Church in Stratford between 4 and 7 p.m. Oct. 10. The Kneiders are asking recipients of the packages to bring their own grocery bags, boxes or containers for the food they will receive.



246 WELLINGTON STREET, STRATFORD



Welcome to this stunning 1885 Yellow Brick Ontario Cottage...steps from the downtown core and close to all the amenities our beautiful city has to offer! This home had been in dire need to be brought back to life. From the welcoming front door you step into the past with some of the original features of the home that captivate the Ontario Cottage! Stunning refinished pine floors through the majority of the main floor with tall ceilings and a rich, tasteful color palette. Two generous size bedrooms on the main floor and a three pc bath. The kitchen colors with copper handles blends together so nicely with the custom, solid hardwood maple counters and restored antique kitchen sink as well as the gorgeous refinished maple floors. The upper area blends a welcoming loft/flex space and a 4 pc bath. If an Ontario Cottage is on your shopping list for a HOME, this 1885 beauty with a lot of original characteristics coupled with all the imperfections of age and a twist of that modern element and today's features, come check it out and you will be impressed!! **MLS 40639158**



**RE/MAX** | **a-b REALTY LTD. BROKERAGE**  
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED

88 Wellington Street, Stratford, Ontario • 519-273-2821

**Michael J. Gorse**

Sales Representative

Cell: 226-921-1319

[mgorse@stratfordhomes.ca](mailto:mgorse@stratfordhomes.ca)



# Sk8 Jam 4 Sam looking for larger turnout for hospice fundraiser

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

The third annual Sk8 Jam 4 Sam is hoping to exceed the previous year's event turnout and funds raised for the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth.

Sk8 Jam 4 Sam will be held at the Stratford All Wheels Park on Sept. 28. The event features a skateboarding competition at 1 p.m., food and drink by donation and live music. There will also be t-shirts and stickers.

"Last year, it was a fantastic success," said Alex Sparling-Whetham, event organizer. "We had hundreds of people come out. We came so close to \$3,000; this year we got more out of town sponsors. We got more skate groups from the bigger city areas saying that they're going to come this year, so we're anticipating a bigger turnout this year."

Sk8 Jam 4 Sam is in memory of Sam Beauchamp, a prominent member of the skateboarding community in Stratford who was diagnosed with a brain tumour as a teenager. Beauchamp spent time in and out of treatment and was still skateboarding. In his early 20s, his cancer progressed to the point where he could no longer skate.

Still, Beauchamp found other ways to support the skateboarders in his community. He was known as the "Sticker man" to the kids he gave stickers to, and the "Hype man" to his friends as he cheered them on and took videos.

"Even when he could no longer participate in skateboarding, which he loved so much, he was such a staple of the skateboarding community in town," Sparling-Whetham said. "He still found ways to be involved and I think that inspired a lot of the rest of the skateboard community and a lot of the guys really appreciated that."

Beauchamp spent the last part of his life in hospice care. After Beauchamp's passing on Aug. 27, 2022, about 35 local skaters got together and skateboarded in his memory while enjoying hot dogs and cookies during their hangout.

The next year, the Sk8 Jam 4 Sam became a fundraiser. Sparling-Whetham said the group was debating between a cancer-research organization or the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth but went with the hospice with the blessing of Beauchamp's mother to keep the funds local.

Lucie Stuart, director of fund development and stewardship at Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth, said the organizers behind Sk8 Jam 4 Sam approached her last year about fundraising for the hospice, and she is appreciative of the support.

"It means a lot and it's events like this that just continue to help us get the word out," Stuart said.

She added the event targets a younger demographic than other hospice fundraising events like Handbags for Hospice.

"That's a much younger crowd that is all of a sudden hearing about hospice and what the hospice is about," she said. "And it's not just a place for older people to go. We care for people of all ages."

Sk8 Jam 4 Sam will have skate competitions for all ages and skill levels at the event. It will be \$5 for admission and registration begins at 12 p.m. More information about Sk8 Jam 4 Sam can be found by visiting [tinyurl.com/sk8jam4sam](http://tinyurl.com/sk8jam4sam).



(RENA SPEVACK PHOTO)

## RUN WALK JOG RIDE WHEEL

The 100 participants in this year's Stratford Terry Fox Run in Upper Queen's Park enjoyed great weather and raised a little more than \$13,000 from the annual fundraising event for cancer research Sept. 15. Pictured, Karen Trussler and her brother, Dave Lipskie, and their children participated in the run. Their father, Brad Lipskie, was a huge supporter of Terry Fox and his dream of finding a cure for cancer. Both Karen and Dave grew up hearing about Terry Fox. Brad passed away from cancer two years ago, but Karen and Dave are now continuing to support the Terry Fox Run in Brad's memory. From left are Karen Trussler and husband Joe Trussler with kids Egan, Logan and Claire Trussler and on the right are Dave Lipskie and wife Lynne Lipskie with kids Brooke and Wyatt Lipskie.

## Letter to the Editor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Above-ground parking structures and below-grade garages are a tough sell for an unfamiliar community. Second, there are a couple of legal right of ways to maintain or modify (easily resolved) and lastly there is an underground electrical vault and some existing utilities that will require some adjustment. (All are) issues that are far from deal-breakers, rather part of the cost of doing business.

As far as parking at the CNR centre, once that albatross is resolved, the new parking demand it will create will require its own solutions and the proximity does little to help the need in our prime shopping areas of Ontario Street and those offices and retailers nearby.

In this case, more parking is indeed better, especially long-term spaces for our increasing residents, now filling up the second and third floors as upper floor improvements continue in the greater heritage district. I might add our zoning bylaw, when it comes to parking, was established in

the 1950s and is way out of date for our current world in 2024.

Fewer young people are driving and owning their own cars, many people choose to walk and from an environmental perspective, we should all be driving less. It is long overdue for our society to treat our planet's limited oil reserves as capital and not income. Every effort possible should be made to reduce our ever-growing use of our fossil fuels, rather than the economic model of constant growth on a planet with finite resource. Bigger is not better, rather small is beautiful.

Lastly, to Coun. Brad Beaty's Groundhog Day fatigue, I too have designed and presented development for this site working for the late and, might I add, great Victor Hayter. Vic and I have studied this site together several times as a potential hotel, apartment building and combination as a condominium development. At the time, Vic's frustration and abandonment, as I recall, came primarily from resistance from both Sinclair and Blowes, each concerned with the parking proximity, with their le-

gal right of way, a part of the equation. This attitude for myself, I could never understand, when you have a very large, new customer base who inevitably would shop from their doorstep.

The means or mechanics the City of Stratford might offer the development world in Robert Ritz's RFP suggestion, I would add, should be aggressive. Sell the lot for one dollar, offer tax incentive or deferral, offer a reduced parking requirement for each residential unit or other, and please consider a relatively large quantity of micro units and affordable housing with, may I suggest, a zero-parking requirement. Let the developer do their own feasibility; they will let you know far quicker and without taxpayer burden what the market will bear and what is practical and profitable enough to get the job done.

Please, Mr. Mayor and fine members of our city council, let's do something clever and productive with this sleeping resource.

Sincerely,  
Michael Wilson, Stratford

# CDX's home will always be Stratford, despite recent international acquisition, according to founder

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After 10 years of putting on one of the biggest Canadian farming exhibitions with just himself and his team, Jordan Underhill will now have an experienced international backer.

The German Agricultural Society (DLG), a politically independent and non-profit organization based in Frankfurt, Germany, has acquired Underhill Enterprise Inc. as an expansion into North America.

Anyone worried about what that means for the annual Canadian Dairy XPO and Stratford, the city which has hosted it for a decade, has nothing to fear according to Underhill.

"One of the reasons why we aligned with DLG ... they didn't want to make major material changes to the event in terms of where it's located, in terms of the culture of the event, the groups that it gives back to, the history of the event," Underhill said. "They wanted to protect all that and saw that as very important."

With long-term commitments to the City of Stratford, Underhill told the Times there are "zero plans or discussions" on moving the event.

Underhill has been in talks with DLG since 2018, although his company was never officially for sale. He said for this to have happened, he needed to make sure it was the best move for the Canadian Dairy XPO, the primary feature of his company, and for the City of Stratford as well.

During the most recent show in 2024, he said representatives met with him, Mayor Martin Ritsma and former mayor Dan Mathieson in order to get a feel for the city and make sure it was a good fit.

"I am a believer that breathing some new life into any business at some point is really important, both to take it to the next level and to ensure that it's sustainable into the future," Underhill said.

Next year, Underhill said there will be a push to digitize the show, to have more media options in terms of apps, conference schedules, touch-screen maps to navigate the event and webcasting to extend the experience longer than just the few days it

takes over the Stratford Rotary Complex.

Additionally, Underhill will be working with DLG to develop a new trade fair for U.S.-based dairy farmers in 2025. It will premiere in Burlington, Vt. and will present technical innovations from exhibitors and practical farming know-how from the DLG and professional partners, with further information becoming available later in autumn.

Underhill is confident that with DLG and the city as a partner, they will have enough resources to expand into the U.S. market. He further stated there are avenues he would like to see expanded in Stratford as well, to accommodate CDX if it grows.

A bigger venue and more parking would be beneficial, but there will need to be more hotel rooms available.

In a media release, DLG stated the acquisition will strengthen its offering to farming professionals in the North American market. Underhill Enterprise Inc. will be integrated into DLG North America, a new subsidiary based in Toronto.

"Jordan Underhill and his team have

successfully developed the Canadian Dairy XPO, an exhibition he founded, into the most important industry meeting place in Canada in just 10 years," Jens Kremer, managing director of DLG International, said in the same announcement release. "We look forward to continuing this work with Jordon."

A lifelong bovine farmer who continues to raise beef cattle to this day, Underhill established his company in 2010 and launched CDX in 2013 to meet the needs of Canada's dairy farmers. The aim was to offer Canadian dairy producers access to global knowledge to ensure their operations were efficient, profitable and sustainable for generations to come.

Now, CDX is the leading trade fair for the Canadian dairy farming industry and attracts 350 exhibitors and more than 17,000 visitors a year.

"I don't really see a downside to the acquisition," Underhill said. "And that was really important to me. My legacy is not about me personally. The legacy of this event is about benefiting the Canadian dairy industry for the next 100 plus years."

## HPCDSB approves new strategic plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

communities to more fully commit to their spiritual lives, and to support the families in their parishes with their transitions as they immerse themselves more in the Catholic faith.

When it comes to improving math and literacy among students, the plan has set a goal for HPCDSB students to be in the top 15 per cent in the province on EQAO assessments among English school boards.

"We're continuing to try and drive improvements in those two areas," Roehrig said. "We've positioned ourselves in the top 20 per cent in the province, so obviously we're looking to improve on those achievements. On the literacy side ... there's a program in place to improve results for everybody, but then we're also focusing on students who have needs on top of that as well, and it's the same for mathematics."

"On the literacy side, it's really rooted in the science of reading, which is sort of a new approach to reading that's

based more on scientific evidence, and with mathematics we're just trying to be more precise in the classroom with what we want teachers to be doing with mathematics instruction."

With respect to STEM and supporting career paths that lead to the trades, Roehrig said the board is building on past success. Students in STEM classes will have more opportunities to learn through real-life experiences in industries like robotics and coding.

"The whole experiential-learning program is rooted in strong partnerships with the community, and particularly, the business community who have been traditionally very supportive for us," Roehrig said. "So, we'll be continuing to look to them to provide extended opportunities for students to learn in their settings."

Finally, the school is aiming to improve student attendance by 20 per cent which, along with having students in class learning, has two other important benefits.

"What we noticed post-COVID was a real decline in overall attendance and we also notice that's had effects in two main areas," Roehrig said. "One is around student mental health and the second is around achievement. Our hope is obviously when students are at school and they engage at school ... that their mental-health outcomes improve and their achievement improves."

To read the HPCDSB 2024-2027 strategic plan in full, visit <https://huronperthcatholic.ca/catholic-education/our-vision-our-mission/>.

## Book Shelf

MELANIE KINDRACHUK

Stratford Public Library

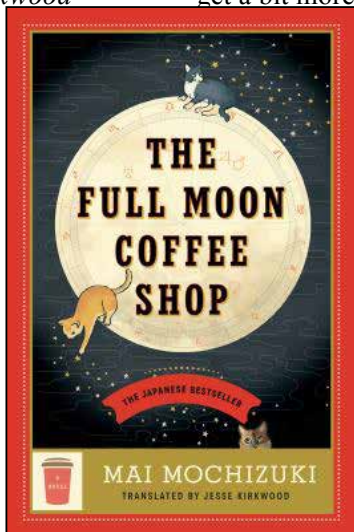
*The Full Moon Coffee Shop* by Mai Mochizuki  
Translated from Japanese by Jesse Kirkwood  
@SPL FIC Mochi

The Full Moon Coffee Shop is a Japanese bestseller, just out in English. The lovely cover gives hints at the themes: cats and astrology.

The concept is that a group of loosely connected Japanese people are all stuck in their lives somehow, but their lives are changed when they encounter the mysterious Full Moon Coffee Shop, a food truck which only serves customers what they need (no orders allowed).

As our first character finds the shop, in a park under the stars, she is surprised to be served by cats. And talking cats who walk on two feet and wear an apron, too! These cats are forms taken by greater beings, who then explain the stars and planets to the customer, showing them

their astrological charts and pointing out why they are stuck and the attitudes to take to move on to the next phase of their lives. If you already know something about astrology or if you're very interested in it, you'll get a bit more out of these sections.



The book follows five characters who are all changed by their individually crafted desserts at the Full Moon Coffee Shop. As the book progresses, we are shown links between the characters and why they might have been lucky enough to have received this guidance at just the right moment. It goes back to childhood and kindness to cats.

Mixed in to the novel is some solid life advice, no matter what house your rising planet is in. Receiving life advice from unexpected sources reminds me of What You Are Looking For Is In the Library by Michiko Aoyama, which even has the same episodic structure and loose connections between characters. They might be good companion reads, if you can take that high a dose of quirk-

iness all at once!

## Optimist Club of Downie Inc.

### OPTI-CASH CALENDAR DRAW

August 25	Brittany Stolz, Stratford	\$50.00
August 26	Joan Seftel, Stratford	\$50.00
August 27	Kathy Roth, Stratford	\$50.00
August 28	Jodi Cawston, Stratford	\$50.00
August 29	Josh Heinbuch, Shakespeare	\$50.00
August 30	Marilyn Dixon, Lucan	\$50.00
August 31	Trevor Caven, Stratford	\$200.00
Sept. 01	Charlie Near, St. Marys	\$1000.00
Sept. 02	Greg & Connie Richardson, Lucan	\$50.00
Sept. 03	Wayne & Sandy Carson, Georgian Bluffs	\$50.00
Sept 04	Brent Shackleton, Stratford	\$50.00
Sept. 05	Roy Menard, St. Marys	\$50.00
Sept. 06	Mary Ash, St. Pauls	\$50.00
Sept. 07	Aaron Bald, Stratford	\$200.00

**ALL OF THE CALENDARS HAVE BEEN SOLD**



**Franklin E. Hinz**

196 Ontario Street, Stratford  
519-273-1633

# Council approves Vivian Line 37 LTC plans as presented, despite some councillors pushing for change

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

People and profit – and what role council has in balancing the two – took up much of the conversation when council effectively approved a planned long-term care (LTC) home on Vivian Line 37.

The long-discussed LTC and the amendments the applicants put forward to allow the LTC were approved at the Sept. 9 Stratford city council meeting after lengthy discussion.

The proposed nursing and retirement homes at 3188 Vivian Line 37 are a people-Care Inc. development and are being pro-

posed as two five-storey and seven-storey buildings, attached by a linking building.

The northern portion would be developed first as a five-storey, 288-bed nursing home with associated parking, landscaping, amenities and other components.

The southern portion would be developed later as a seven-storey, 150-unit and 164-bed retirement home, again with its own associated parking, landscaping, amenities and other components.

As earlier reported by the Times, peopleCare and its consultant, GSP Group, applied with a laundry list of provisions and amendments to the zoning bylaw and official plan, including reducing setbacks

and lowering the amount of greenspace and bicycle parking, among other things.

Coun. Lesley Biehn reminded council that the proposed development is not an institution, it is a home. She put forward a motion, seconded by Coun. Jo-Dee Burbach, to retain the 35 per-cent requirement for greenspace, rather than reducing it to 20 per cent as was requested.

There was some discussion on how the developer would accommodate that change, considering their proposal had 28 per-cent landscaped open space. One suggestion was to reduce the amount of parking, considering the plan proposed having more parking than minimum.

Another way, Coun. Jo-Dee Burbach pointed out, would be to reduce the number of beds. In fact, in terms of the traffic and greenspace concerns in particular that some citizens expressed earlier, reducing the amount of beds being built would alleviate some of those pressures, she said.

“They're proposing 288 beds and if you reduce that by 20, you'd still have 268 beds, which is quite a lot,” Burbach said. “The other thing we also have to consider is, if there's 200 employees, we don't actually have – probably – the housing for those people in our city. So, there's a lot of considerations for the size of this.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 9

# Spooky Stratford walking tour highlights the ghost stories around town

JULIA PAUL

Times Correspondent

If Stratford residents ever wondered what kind of ghosts are lurking in the old buildings of downtown Stratford, Stratford Walking Tours launched Ghost Walk, a well-versed guided tour of downtown Stratford with real-life tales of the people of Stratford and the hauntings that took place.

“I like to start out with the buildings that people know,” said Lauri Leduc, owner, operator and guide with Stratford Walking Tours. “The Avon Theatre, around the Queens Inn, places people have been to and maybe they can relate to, but also to work in some history details and factual information to provide that background for people as well so that they can hear about the ghost story but also learn some history.”

One such gruesome tale of a headless body found in the Avon River and a skull that showed up 100 years later was shared with participants of the first-ever walk on Friday Sept. 13 as they stood

along the river, entranced by every detail.

“Some of (the collecting) was through archival research,” said Leduc. “I went to the archives, they were fabulous. They pulled lots of files, they had books, newspaper clippings. I specifically asked for ... the 1870s when that body was found in the river, so that was the primary source. (People) on Facebook were great; they had stories to share, they contacted me by email.”

What was a big surprise on the first day of the Ghost Walk was the number of local residents who attended the tour.

“I was really pleasantly surprised. ... I've had good turnout with the tourists coming from America or other parts of Ontario, but this is nice to see the local people out, so that's really heartwarming to me. This one sold out and October is booking quickly.”

Make sure not to miss this well-researched and ghostly walking tour of downtown Stratford by visiting the Stratford Walking Tours website at stratfordwalkingtours.ca.



## LET THE TOUR BEGIN

Lauri Leduc begins the Ghost Tour at 7:30 p.m. sharp at the front steps of city hall.

(JULIA PAUL PHOTOS)



The Windsor Hotel has many ghostly tales Leduc recites with fervour.



The Stratford Jail is an eerie sight at night, with the front porch lights flickering, warning of the ghostly energy inside.



Jessie Keith, a 13-year-old girl who was violently murdered in 1894. Her killer was later hung at the Stratford Jail and buried onsite.



# 2024 Truth and Reconciliation events: Building awareness and unlearning myths

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

For the third year, the Falstaff Family Centre (FFC) will be hosting events during Truth and Reconciliation Week leading up to The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30.

These events are intended to help foster learning, awareness, inclusivity, as well as an understanding of the impact of colonialism, including the legacy of residential schools.

The events are presented in collaboration with Kaswentha Two Row Now, a Huron-Perth group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members. The group focuses on cultural programs promoting social connectedness and belonging for Indigenous students and families, awareness-raising events and Teaching Circles for all who have an interest in learning about Indigenous cultural ways.

Two exhibits from the Indigenous-led Legacy of Hope Foundation, "A National Crime: Canada's Indian Residential School System" and "Remembering, Honouring and the Way Forward: 10 Years After the Residential School Apology," will be on display in the FFC community room from Monday, Sept. 23 to Friday, Sept. 27 between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. and throughout the day Monday, Sept. 30.

During exhibit hours, orange t-shirts will also be for sale by Winona Sands of Howling Moon Aboriginal Arts, a member of Walpole Island First Nation.

On Monday, Sept. 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a series of activities will honour the day beginning early in



**NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION** (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)  
The Falstaff Family Centre in Stratford is once again hosting a series of events and activities on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Sept 30.

the morning on the FFC grounds or in the community room in the event of inclement weather.

7:30 a.m. – Sunrise Ceremony with Oneida First Nation elder and a member of the Turtle Clan, Patsy Day. (Patsy Day offers Grandmother Moon Teachings in the area, providing insights into the natural world and the human spirit.)

7:30 a.m. to noon – Indigenous Teachings and Sacred Fire with Patsy Day, Matthew Maynard and Ojibway artist and flautist Jeffrey Red George. Youth readings with educator and artist Jacinthe Roy.

2:30 & 7 p.m. – NFB film WaaPake (meaning 'Tomorrow') will be shown in the community room. The NFB describes the film this way: "For generations, the suffering of residential school survivors has radiated outward, impacting Indigenous families and communities. Dr. Jules Arita Koostachin's deeply personal documentary moves beyond intergenerational trauma, with an invitation to unravel the tangled threads of silence and unite in collective freedom and power."

4 & 5 p.m. – Aspens Ojibwe Spirit Horses presented by caretakers Sallianne and Dale Patch and children's story

reading by educator and artist Jacinthe Roy. These horses were essential to Ojibwe people for transportation, hunting, ceremonial purposes and survival. The deep connection was eventually severed when Colonizers saw the horses as a nuisance and, by the 1970s, they were hunted almost to extinction.

6 p.m. – Solidarity Walk around the river for the public led by Falstaff Family Centre owner/director Loreena McKennitt.

Private group viewings of The Legacy of Hope exhibitions and the NFB film can be arranged by contacting the centre at info@falstaff.ca or 519-273-3876.

During Truth and Reconciliation Week, people are also invited to join – from the comfort of their own homes – 50-minute daily webinars at 1 p.m. called Lunch and Learns. Consisting of a moderator and panelists, they're presented by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and described as "an immersive experience to UN-learn the myths of colonial history in Canada."

"The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) have called upon all Canadians to continue to learn more about the devastating consequences of the colonization of Indigenous peoples," said McKennitt in a press release. "Like many others around the world, we at the Falstaff Family Centre are not only committed to learning more, but to translating that learning into action within our everyday lives and sharing that learning with others in the community. I sincerely hope the citizens of Stratford and area will find time to take in the activities, the film and displays as we reflect on this dark aspect of Canadian history."

## Council approves Vivian Line 37 LTC plans as presented, despite some councillors pushing for change

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"... The size of the project does affect those issues. ... I just think that the overall value of having green space probably outweighs the challenges it created to have too many beds in too small a spot."

"I would implore you to leave the bed allocation to the ministry," consultant Rachel Bossie of GSP Group said after Coun. Cody Sebben inquired about council's ability to control the number of beds allowed. "They have a system in place that's set up and designed to address this. And I think it's also very important to remember that the baby boomers are aging. We're having this problem with seniors in the community, and that number will continue to grow, and there's an opportunity today to assist in providing them care."

Bossie had earlier pointed out that the waitlist for a bed in an LTC in Perth and Oxford counties alone is currently approaching 4,000.

Biehn's amendment failed, with only her, Burbach, Briscoe and Sebben supporting it. Later, Burbach made another amendment to require 12 bicycle parking spaces

at the northern LTC development, which was also defeated.

Biehn, Briscoe and Burbach were supportive of the final vote approving the zone changes and official plan amendments, despite the amendments they supported not passing.

"It's that difficult position," Briscoe said. "We have an immediate need to meet where our people's health (is) and families are being broken up presently. ... I support the long-term vision of this as well."

Only Sebben and Coun. Geza Wordofa were opposed. Coun. Harjinder Nijjar and Coun. Brad Beatty were absent.

The LTC plans are not final and will go through the requisite site-plan approval process, with many aspects of the development subject to change during that process.

Bossie did indicate that the applicants will continue to collaborate with city staff and take in feedback provided to them.

However, as Sebben said, the Sept. 9 decision was the last opportunity for council to require specific changes.

## Weekend Quiz

1. What killed all the dinosaurs?
2. Who holds the MLB record for most bases stolen?
3. What country has the largest military?
4. The h1n1 virus was also known as what?
5. Bootlegging is the illegal traffic of what?
6. What year was the Empire State Building built?
7. How many holes does a harmonica have?
8. What is Alaska's national sport?
9. What was Jane Austen known for being?
10. What is the hottest color of fire?

# Times Past: Back to school during World War II

BETTY JO BELTON

Stratford-Perth Archives

1944 was the last “back to school” during World War II. In Stratford, there were still the usual newspaper ads from local department stores like Red Front (now the site of Pazzo’s restaurant on Ontario Street) offering deals on boys’ suits and girls’ school dresses and suggesting that students “start the school term right with a complete new outfit.” However, there were also frequent notices about local soldiers who had been killed or injured fighting in the war. At the end of August, the headline “French Liberate Paris” was followed by “PARIS IS NOT YET LIBERATED” the next day. Editorials like “The Swift Sweep of Victory” contrasted with later ones reminding readers that “Much Remains to be Done.” By the first day of school, the Stratford Beacon Herald announced “THINK GERMANY INVADED.” There was, understandably, a lot of uncertainty about how much longer the war would last. It did not, as it turns out, end until the following May in Europe and went on for nearly another year in the Pacific but no one could know that at the time.

It was reported that high school enrollment across the country had dropped by a million students since 1940. A national “Go to School” drive was planned to encourage young men and women to stay in school rather than take jobs that would likely disappear for them when the war ended. The Stratford Mirror of August 25, 1944 included a letter from Sandy, who



SCVI yearbooks during WWII

wrote to Ina St. John’s weekly advice column: “I make good money at a war plant. I have worked all summer and I sure like to have my own cash. My Dad has a big family to keep. Mom can do with the board I pay too. The trouble is they want me to go back to school. I’m sixteen, so I don’t have to go. What’s the use in learning white collar work when I am strong and can earn more money at the kind of work I am doing? Don’t you think they should let me quit school?” Miss St. John replied: “Well, Sandy no one can deny that the “shades of

the prison house” (school) look dark these sunny days. However, like most dreaded things, it’s not so bad when the time comes. Meeting all your friends of last year is a lot of fun. As for that splendid work you are doing, according to the war news it won’t be long until your plant will be shut down. Of course, there are other “shops” but don’t forget the thousands of men returning will get the preference. A boy your age might find it difficult to get a job that pays well. You are very fortunate, believe me, in having parents anxious to give you an education. If you do not take your chance now you will regret it always. You can never know too much. The more education you get, the easier it will be for you to succeed in whatever work you choose. We hope you will join the gang of students when school reopens.” One has to wonder if “Sandy” and his letter weren’t the creations of those working for the Go to School drive.

Locally, 719 students registered for the first day at Stratford Collegiate Vocational Institute (later Stratford Central High School). This was down a little from the previous year but not enough to cause any great alarm. Most students still seemed keen to earn a high school diploma. In a Foreword to the 1945-46 Stratford Collegian yearbook, Principal D.S. Fuller de-

scribed how the Collegian had been published from 1918 to 1940. He noted that the first one was “prepared especially to bring news of the old school to the boys overseas... But the demands of the [second world] war on school time so increased that we had to accept the inevitable, the suspension of the publication of the Collegian for the duration of the war.” Valedictorian Marg Heideman acknowledged that those graduating in 1946 “entered the school in the midst of a war more terrible and deadly than any the world has ever known before... Over eleven hundred students went from the Collegiate and big brothers, fathers, uncles and cousins, even sisters represented almost every family in Stratford in this war... those boys who did return from battle... died that we might live in freedom and security... their courage and sacrifice are a greater tribute to them than we could ever hope to pay. We are happy to welcome back among us those who did return and who are now completing the education they interrupted to fight for us. We are proud to be your classmates boys.”

*This article is based on information resources available at Stratford-Perth Archives [www.perthcounty.ca/StratfordPerthArchives](http://www.perthcounty.ca/StratfordPerthArchives)*



## In funeral service...

... there are so many things based on how you feel.

And how you feel should never be a yard stick for how much money is spent honouring.

Everything is in your control.

Control is established through knowing.

## Rutherford Cremation & Funeral Services is a teaching funeral home.

If you want to know, let’s talk.

After that – you’ll know it all!

**Rutherford Cremation & Funeral Services**  
804 Ontario St., Stratford | 519-271-5062  
[rutherford@jarfh.com](mailto:rutherford@jarfh.com) | [www.jarfh.com](http://www.jarfh.com)

**GRANT  
HAVEN  
MEDIA**

**STRATFORD TIMES**



**BE IN THE KNOW!  
Get the Latest  
Edition Delivered  
Straight to Your  
Inbox!**

[granthaven.com/stratford-times](http://granthaven.com/stratford-times)

# Stratford General Hospital Foundation nearing \$30-million fundraising goal

ALEX HUNT

Times Correspondent

The Stratford General Hospital Foundation's (SGHF) 50/50 draw will help with that final push in achieving its \$30-million capital-campaign goal.

Kicked off in 2022, the In Our Hands capital campaign is now at 95 per cent of its goal. Campaign funds will go toward the purchase of medical equipment as well as the development of the cancer and medical centre clinic and co-located pharmacy.

"This campaign touches almost every single corner of our hospital. It's so vitally important because the government doesn't fund for replacement or new hospital equipment," said Cheryl Hunt, executive director of SGHF. "It is solely on the responsibility of our community to ensure that their hospital has the resources and the tools that are necessary to provide care. The capital campaign is our largest one to date and our community has been amazing with supporting it."



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

## SUPPORT THEIR \$30 MILLION GOAL

Pictured from left to right are Stratford General Hospital Foundation (SGHF) community giving manager Amanda Dobson, data, finance and analytic coordinator Christy Wood, executive director Cheryl Hunt and data and finance manager Melissa Steinbach at the SGHF office.

Two early bird draws were pulled on Sept. 10 and 17 for \$250 and \$500. The first grand-prize draw will be held on Oct. 1 at 9 a.m. All tickets must be submitted by

11:59 p.m. Sept. 30 to qualify for the draw.

Hunt says a standard hospital bed can cost up to \$10,000. Along with the purchases and replacements of hospital tech-

nology, the funds will also be dedicated to supporting the maternal child's unit, the mental health unit, the emergency department and operating rooms.

"The 50/50 has been great. The trick is trying to make sure the community hears about this because when they are aware, they are supportive," said Hunt. "Our focus is getting the word out because it's a great way to get engaged in the community."

SGHF began the 50/50 fundraiser in 2021 to stay active with the community during the pandemic. The draw ran for a year before going into a hiatus before re-surfacing this year to aid in the campaign and boost public interest.

Hunt says it's a wonderful feeling to almost reach the \$30-million goal and she is looking forward to celebrating the accomplishment with the community.

Tickets for the 50/50 draw can be purchased at [www.sgh5050.ca](http://www.sgh5050.ca) or in-person at the Stratford General Hospital Foundation.

# Swifties rejoice; United Way Perth-Huron offers chance to win VIP passes to see Taylor Swift

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

The United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) is giving locals the chance to win a pair of VIP passes to see Taylor Swift live in concert in Toronto on Nov. 23.

Purchase of the raffle tickets, sold at \$10 each, help support the United Housing (UH) initiative. United Housing is the region's first non-profit housing organization dedicated to building and operating mixed rental units.

The two seated-floor tickets are in section C3, row 10, and are part of the Karma is My Boyfriend VIP package including four Taylor Swift prints, a commemorative Taylor Swift/Eras Tour VIP tote bag, pin, sticker and postcard set, souvenir concert ticket, and special VIP tour laminate and matching lanyard.

"You have to be over 18 to buy tickets and find your own transportation to Toronto but you don't have to be 18 to attend," said Rebecca Scott, who works in resource development with UH. "They are floor seats, VIP packages and we are making it really accessible by selling the (raffle) tickets for only \$10 and with only 5,000, these are really good odds."

UH wants to make the raffle accessible to anyone in the community, which mirrors the United Way's sense of inclusivity for all. The raffle tickets are available within Stratford and Huron and Perth counties. It is cash only and Oct. 16 is the deadline for purchase. The draw will be held Oct. 23 at Junction 56 Distillery.

"It will be a live, online event, but I'm sure they wouldn't stop those who have tickets from coming. There is no formal event but it will be at 6:30 p.m. so that families can either tune in or be there,"



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

## THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT

The United Way Perth-Huron and United Housing are offering locals the chance to win a pair of VIP tickets to see Taylor Swift in concert Nov. 23, said Scott.

The VIP passes have been generously donated by Dr. Erin and Mike Heisz, who have been quiet champions of UWPH.

"I want to say that Erin has been a very active champion but very anonymously for a while now and this is something that I really give her and Mike, who owns Junction 56, credit for. It's very kind and generous of them," said Scott.

"They have been generous with their time and energy up until now in other ways but this is the first sort of public way they have helped. They are amazing. It is champions like this that make it possible for the United Way and United Housing to do what they do. You always need those people in the community that can make connections and articulate the need," added

Kathy Vassilakos, director of United Housing.

Challenges with housing are across the board now. It's a very serious topic that affects almost everyone.

"There is a spectrum of need in housing. There's not enough rentals, there's not affordability to purchase, there's precariously housed or unhoused individuals, so I think the spectrum of vulnerable has changed," said Scott.

It is United Housing's mission to address this and build strong, healthy communities by developing, creating, constructing and managing affordable housing in Perth-Huron. The raffle is the UH's biggest fundraiser to date, however they are preparing a capital campaign that will raise funds with the issuance of interest-bearing com-

munity bonds to finance specific projects.

"From 2023, from when we officially launched, there has been a lot of activity about building capacity. There are pre-development studies, engineering studies, but there is also property management with all that goes along with that and partnership development with municipalities or property owners," said Vassilakos. "There will be announcements made in the future regarding properties in Stratford."

Something that both Scott and Vassilakos want recognized is that there is needs for both United Way and United Housing. Each has their own mission, though seemingly related. Through their work with the Connection Centre, they can do everything to help get a person ready to be houses, but without available and affordable units, there is nowhere for them to go.

"Supporting the two initiatives is really important. United Housing is over and above the important work that the United Way does and supports. It's a tricky conversation to be had," said Vassilakos.

For more information on United Housing and to join the wait list for community bonds, visit [perthhuron.unitedway.ca/unitedhousing](http://perthhuron.unitedway.ca/unitedhousing).

Raffle tickets can be purchased in Stratford at Blowes Stationery, Juno, Junction 56 and the United Centre. In Listowel, tickets are available at BK Brand Name Clothing and Gifts and Bakelaar Jewelers. Tickets are also available at Wuerth's Shoes and All Around the House in Goderich, Wuerth's Shoes in Exeter, Sun Rayz in St. Marys, Annette's Treasures and I Want That Bag Consignment in Wingham, Blooms N' Rooms in Seaforth, and Penny's and the Pine Café and Bistro in Blyth.

# The Local Community Food Centre - Stratford 5K Run/Walk is back for its third year

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Times Contributor

For the third year, the Stratford 5K Run/Walk is back with all proceeds going to the Local Community Food Centre.

This year's event will be held Oct. 6 starting at 9:30 a.m. with the well-loved five-dollar kid's race one hour before. With a room 400 people to participate and 300 already registered, this year is expected to be the highest-grossing year yet.

Last year's event raised over \$21,000. This money is used to supply over 27,286 meals served or sent home for those in need throughout the community. It also helped provide 203 food-skills sessions at The Local Community Food Centre.

New this year, organizers are planning a Health and Wellness Expo the day before the event, located at The Local Community Food Centre. This event promises to bring together community members, local businesses and wellness enthusiasts to celebrate health, fitness and community spirit. The event will be an opportunity for those participating in the race to pick up their bibs while browsing local business booths and learning more about the health-and-wellness community in Stratford.

The Stratford 5k Run/Walk will take runners past Stratford's beautiful landmarks such as the Festival Theatre, Tom



(SUE SITKI PHOTO)

Patterson Theatre, Lake Victoria and Tom Patterson Island.

This race will be chip-timed and all runners, walkers and strollers are encouraged to participate.

"We want to encourage everyone, including youth in the community, to have an active lifestyle," said Dan Rajagopalan, organizing committee member. "After the race, we'll recognize the fastest female and male under 17 and winners in the 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70+ categories.

"Team registration is also available and is a fun way to involve the whole family or office in a great day of community fundraising. There will be a team category award and the fastest three times from our team will be used to determine the winning team."

With over 60 per cent of registrants com-

ing from out of town, this event not only helps The Local Community Food Centre but brings hundreds of people to Stratford to help boost the local economy.

"It's a great way to bring in visitors and very good for the local businesses," said Rajagopalan. "People come from central and southwestern Ontario for the run."

## Destination Stratford embracing new ideas to leverage sports tourism

ALEX HUNT

Times Correspondent

Kylie Wasser, director of sport development and tourism at Destination Stratford, says making relationships is a priority when discussing strategic innovation in the local sports-tourism sector with local businesses.

An interactive meeting was held at Stratford city hall Aug. 19, hosted by Destination. The session gave Wasser a platform to share her ideas for how sports tourism could benefit business owners in long-term scenarios.

"(We are) expressing to people that we are enhancing sports events that are already here; we are not bringing more in," said Wasser. "We are enhancing the experience itself and leveraging the local businesses and accumulating a yearlong event portfolio of small- and medium-sized events which can consistently have a significant impact to a city of this size and scale, and its cultural amenities it has to offer."

Wasser, who has filled the sport-development-and-tourism role since March, said cities that have a strong sports-tourism

(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

### ELEVATE STRATFORD'S SPORT TOURISM

Kylie Wasser, director sport development and tourism in Stratford, shares innovative strategies to elevate Stratford's sport tourism. Wasser is pictured above at Destination Stratford.



**DESTINATION STRATFORD**  
THE ARTS ARE WHAT WE ARE



Mayor's

## Newcomers Breakfast & Bus Tour

Saturday, October 5

Stratford Agriplex, 357 McCarthy Road West



**BREAKFAST**  
(free)

8:30 - 10 a.m.

Agriplex Community Hall, with community resource booths



**BUS TOUR**  
(free)

Departs at 10 a.m. from the Agriplex, showing useful services and landmarks in Stratford

Registration is required, and can be done for one or both at [www.stratford.ca/welcome](http://www.stratford.ca/welcome)

Registration can also be done in person at the Rotary Complex, Agriplex, at City Hall, or by calling 519-271-0250 extension 5249.

Funded in part by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program

Canada



Multicultural Association of Perth Huron

# At 88 years old, Stratford's Shakespearean Gardens is one of a kind in Canada

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

A Shakespearean garden is not like any other garden. It is carefully designed, inspired in style by the gardens found during the Elizabethan period of England in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. These types of gardens are built with symmetry and order achieved through geometric patterns and carefully planned arrangements.

Stratford's is believed to be the only of its kind in Canada.

The Stratford Shakespearean Gardens was the vision of local resident R. Thomas Orr, an architect and local historian who wanted to create something wonderful along the Avon River but could not find an appropriate site. As early as 1917 he was mulling over the prospect but ultimately, world events intervened and the project was shelved for a time, but not forgotten.

In 1922, The Dufton Woolen Mill, which was built in 1870 on Huron Street along the river, suffered a devastating fire and burnt down. The only thing that survived was the 65-foot chimney, so the family decided it wasn't feasible to rebuild. Orr thought the property would be an ideal site for the Shakespearean Gardens and lobbied the city to acquire the site. It was purchased in 1925.

"When the fire destroyed the site, it left the chimney and R.T. Orr was an architect by chance and designed the top of the chimney. Now, people use this as a focal point," said Reg White, chairman of the Friends of Stratford Shakespearean Gardens.

Not only was R.T. Orr an architect and visionary, he was also a savvy businessman and he salvaged what could be sold and kept and stored away the undamaged handsome quarry stone seen in the garden today. Funds raised were returned to the city coffers, thus lowering the cost of the property significantly. He travelled to England to see the gardens there and find ideas. He also met the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust chairman, Sir Archibald Flower, who would later donate an urn for the garden.

Things were moving along until the unexpected financial crash that led to the Great Depression. All construction proj-



**TAKE A SEAT IN THE PHILOSOPHER'S CHAIR** (LISA CHESTER PHOTO)  
Pictured from left to right are Tim Forster, Reg White and Bob Rose, volunteers with the Friends of Stratford's Shakespearean Gardens, pose next to the bust of William Shakespeare located in the rose garden.

ects were put on hold for several years until 1934 when, sensing a recovery, the city gave approval for the construction of the garden to resume. The city contracted celebrated Canadian landscape architects Dunnington, Grubb and Stenson to produce working blueprints for the garden site.

With much fanfare, the garden was opened in 1936 and dedicated by Canadian Governor General Lord Tweedsmuir and his wife.

"This garden was designed and meant to be a display garden, and went as far as the garage. Some years later, with the greatest of good luck, the garden got the acquisition of the woodland area. So now we have a formal and informal setting here. Not only is it a display garden but

it has another function which has developed over the years. It's become the scene of weddings, marriages, picnicks, so it's become more of a centre or gathering spot. So we are proud of that," said White

In 1949, the Sons of England commissioned a bust of William Shakespeare from the Canadian sculptor, Cleeve Horne. It is located in the rose garden. This is the only of his pieces to be featured in a Shakespearean Garden. His work can be found at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa.

The garden was expanded in the 1960s with the addition of the woodland area providing both formal gardens and an environmental oasis.

"It is also a place of reflection, there

are people that will come in the morning and sit on the wall and reflect as the sun comes through. There's a bench in the woodland that we call the 'Philosopher's chair' that overlooks the whole garden. People come not only to walk through and enjoy, but to reflect. It's so peaceful," said Tim Forster, volunteer with the Friends of Stratford's Shakespearean Gardens.

"We have over 100 peonies that have been donated by the Canadian Peony Society and there are signs installed describing them. We have some very special peonies here and we feel very blessed to have plants that are unique," added Forster.

There are signs installed to help identify each plant. There is the long garden where the peonies are planted among the established flowers, the rose garden that was revitalized with 50 new David Austin Roses, the herb garden, the knot garden, the woodland garden, the sundial, the chimney and the island all to be enjoyed.

A new initiative the Friends have started is Toonies for trilliums to install trilliums in the woodland garden. Members planted bulbs last year which were promptly eaten by squirrels. They hope to counter their bad luck next year with a new planting with support.

The gardens are maintained by the city, but the Friends of Stratford's Shakespearean Gardens are ever present helping clean up the area of garbage.

"I come down here every day for a walk, and every morning I would come in for a walk and see beer cans and stuff and I thought this isn't right. So I would come here and pick up trash and coffee cups and that, and people would see that and I was told by a couple that people are seeing me every day doing that and are more responsible," shared Bob Rose, Friends volunteer.

Meanwhile, the Friends have made an application to have the Stratford Shakespearean Gardens designated as a heritage site and they look forward to having a plaque installed.

Theirs is a volunteer organization that supports the parks board, but not as hands-on gardeners. For more information, visit FOSSG.org. The group is always looking for new volunteers.

## SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL

Support the local businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.

ADVERTISE  
LOCAL

News Media Canada  
Médias d'Info Canada

# Come shop under the evening sky, beneath the twinkling lights of the Bru Garden

**JULIA PAUL**

*Times Correspondent*

Stratford and area residents will soon have the chance to experience a unique shopping experience at the upcoming Bru Garden Social Market.

This intimate, 14-vendor event offers exclusive handmade items while enjoying the delectable food and satisfying drinks served by the Bru Garden staff at this year's third-annual Bru Garden Social Market happening on Saturday Oct. 5 from 4-8 p.m.

While keeping to its original theme of a small, intimate event, this year is different due to it being held in October.

"This year our market is being held early October so the feeling of fall will be well on its way," said Sara Clarke, an organizer with the Stratford Makers

Market. "It's always a special market where the community gathers to support local makers.

"Each vendor we've chosen brings a unique and special quality to the market. We understand how hard makers work and are so happy that we're able to give them an event to showcase all their talents."

Generally, the Stratford Makers Market focuses on larger markets with 80 vendors attending on average. But this special event is always exciting for the organizers to host.

"This is a smaller, more intimate market that we put on each year," said Clarke. "We love the nighttime atmosphere of Bru Garden with the outdoor twinkle lights – it's almost magical!"

"Come grab a bite to eat or a drink while you shop 14 handmade vendors under the twinkle lights at Bru!"



(STRATFORD MAKERS MARKET PHOTO)

## UNDER TWINKLING LIGHTS

Guests enjoy beverages and the display of handmade items at last year's Bru Garden Social Market.

## More people are working today than ever before

Employment in Ontario has increased by more than 800,000 jobs since 2018. More people are working than ever before, bringing home bigger paycheques.

It's all happening here.

[ontario.ca/RebuildingOurEconomy](https://ontario.ca/RebuildingOurEconomy)

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario 

# Stratford restaurant makes Canada top-30 list

ALEX HUNT

Times Correspondent

The Starlight, located in downtown Stratford, has been named one of Canada's best new restaurants of 2024 by Air Canada's enRoute magazine.

Starlight owners Megan Jones and Tim Pritchard say they are honoured to make the list but continue to stay community focused with the hope of attracting more visitors to the Stratford hospitality sector.

"We were surprised. We are trying to get people to see us as more than just a bar," said Jones. "I think being on a list like that affirmed that people think we are a restaurant. We have been working really hard to develop our food program within our business."

Jones and Pritchard are gearing up to celebrate their one-year anniversary of The Starlight at the end of the month. They are proud to build something in the city they can call their own, as well as of their hardworking team that helped them establish their vision.

"I'm just proud that we were able to do it; it's a much-larger project than what we were used to," said Jones. "We managed to cultivate a wonderful, hardworking team and they have been with us since the beginning. I'm most grateful to the people that have worked for us and helped create our vision."

Jones and Pritchard have established a late-night food and beverage scene



**CANADA'S TOP 30 BEST NEW RESTAURANTS** (ALEX HUNT PHOTO)  
 Pictured from left to right are The Starlight owners Tim Pritchard and Megan Jones, who say they're honoured to be ranked in Canada's 30 best new restaurants.

at The Starlight and plan to continue building their food program, stating they want to be in Stratford for a long time.

A big challenge was getting people to know we do have food. We did have a strong kitchen team in place (and) we are also open late nights and seven days a week," said Jones. "Getting the word out on that was challenging when people might assume we're closed for Sundays and Monday or at earlier times. We have had great support from the local community. The hospitality industry in Stratford is very welcoming and have helped us along this journey."

Pritchard says the best part of running a business in Stratford is meeting the residents and establishing relationships with business owners and customers, and he is thrilled to be a part of the community.

As for the drink menu, Jones said they try to make everything local and focused on bringing just a little bit of everything to the table for everyone to enjoy.

"We try to cater to everyone, and this is a place where absolutely everyone is welcome. There is no niche," said Pritchard.

For The Starlight's future, Jones and Pritchard want to continue innovating in ways including collaborations with other local business owners, creating more food dishes and hosting events.

## Get back to enjoying family time. Check your hearing.

Your hearing helps you stay connected to those who matter most, enjoy all the sights and sounds around you, and maintain a good quality of life. But, if you're not hearing clearly, you can miss out! That's where Connect Hearing can help.

Our licensed Hearing Care Professionals can help you find the right hearing solution for your budget and lifestyle.

- ✓ Now save up to 30% on hearing aid technology with your CAA Membership!†
- ✓ Get new hearing aids and all-inclusive warranty from \$168/month with our Hearing Care Plan.\*\*
- ✓ Try our latest hearing aids with a professional in-clinic demo!\*

Book your FREE\* hearing test today!  
 1.888.850.9979 • connecthearing.ca

#1 PHYSICIAN<sup>†</sup> REFERRED

Hearing Care Plan by Connect Hearing

CAA Rewards

Connect Hearing

VAC, WCB, WSIB, ADP & ODSP accepted. Part of the WorkSafeBC provider network. \*CAA and CAA logo trademarks owned by, and use is authorized by, the Canadian Automobile Association. CAA Rewards™ used by the Canadian Automobile Association. †Hearing evaluations/tests are free for customers over the age of 18. Fees may apply where specific testing for employment purposes, reports, a copy of your results or the completion of an application is required. See clinic for full details. ‡Based on national physician referrals over the tenure of the corporation's Canadian business operations compared to the disclosed referral count of leading competitors. †Private clients only. Rebate subject to change and cannot be combined with any other offer, rebate or previous purchase and is non-redeemable for cash. Save 30% on Plus Performance hearing aids (offer applicable to Audio Sphere™ Infinio 90 level only); up to \$2,400 on Select level; 15% off Advanced level; and 10% off Standard level hearing aids with a valid CAA membership. This offer is a tiered rebate determined by which level of Sonova Hearing Technology purchased. Offer not applicable to Phonak Audio Sphere™ Infinio 70 level hearing aids or Hearing Care Plan. Offer expires March 31, 2025. Lyric, Bone Anchored Hearing Solutions, Econo aids, Non Sonova and AB products excluded. See clinic for details. \*\*Monthly prices shown per two (2) hearing aids. Prices subject to change. Each agreement is for a term of 36 months and is available on Sonova products and Roger On V2 only. \*Demo refers to a hearing aid demonstration in-clinic provided by the Hearing Care Professional and does not imply a free trial.



Introducing the new **Audéo Sphere™!**

# STRATFORD **TIMES** SPORTS

## Warriors open season with pair of wins

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

The Stratford Hunter Steel Ltd. Warriors got their season started on the right foot with back-to-back wins during the first weekend of the season.

Stratford got things started with a 4-2 win in their home opener, a rematch of their second-round series from the 2024 playoffs against the Elmira Sugar Kings. They followed that up with a visit to one of their new foes after the GOJHL realigned to move from three conferences to two, the Komoka Kings, which the Warriors won 4-1.

Head coach Dave Williams explained it wasn't just the four points that left him pleased following the team's first two games.

"I was very happy with our opening weekend, not just for the results but also for how we played," Williams told the Times. "I thought our guys played and competed hard and were trying to implement some of the things we're hoping to instill in our group in terms of how we

want to play."

Williams added the team's quickness was one of the most important reasons for his satisfaction with his team's performances.

"We played fast in both games. We were using our feet and our speed to try and get on top of Elmira and Komoka, especially on the forecheck to turn pucks over. That's been a big thing we've talked about since day one. We are a good skating team, and we need to utilize that aspect of our game every night in all three zones, five-on-five, on the powerplay and when we kill penalties."

Against the Sugar Kings, Stratford missed several powerplay chances early in the contest and, soon after, surrendered the first goal of the game when Alex Simioni made it 1-0 Elmira. However, the Warriors clawed back with a pair of goals by Dax Vader which gave the Warriors a 2-1 lead heading into the first intermission.

"I thought we had lots of energy and a good jump for the home opener, which is to be expected," noted Williams. "It's special for all of our guys. Some guys are getting to experience their first

home opener, and others are experiencing their last home opener as a Stratford Warrior. We knew it would be a really good test on the first night. Elmira is a big, strong, mature team."

After a scoreless second frame, Cole Lewis, who was also bestowed with the honour of serving as the Warriors' captain this sea-

son, lived up to the moniker of "Big Goal Cole," scoring with three minutes and 11 seconds left in the third to make it 3-1 Stratford. The Sugar Kings briefly cut the lead back down to one, but Lewis potted an empty-net goal to seal the victory for Stratford.

Speaking on the selection of Lewis as the team's captain, Williams said the honour was "100 per cent well-deserved."

"Cole just does everything the right way. He earned some really valuable experience two years ago on the team that went deep in the Sutherland Cup when he played a significant role on that team but in a less offensive role and more of a checking role, which was crucial to our success. And then last year, it was great to see the growth of his game and see him take on a more prominent offensive role, which was evident throughout the playoffs especially.

"He was a significant contributor to our success and our getting to the conference final last year," added Williams. "It's also a nice fact that he's a local boy who grew up coming to the rink and being part of the Stratford community, and I'm sure, at one point, he aspired to not only play on this team but also be a big part of it."

In addition to Lewis, the team's overall character was cited as one of the most prominent aspects of this year's team that excited the bench boss.

"We've got some really good leadership guys who have been here for multiple years. We've got some really good character kids, not just in leadership spots but top to bottom, so I like that aspect of the group. The work ethic and determination have been

there from day one. The group is always hungry at the rink in games and practices, so I think that will serve us well."

Coach Williams also noted that the youthful roster is currently the land of opportunity as the team's new faces look to establish their place in the lineup.

"It feels a little bit like last year in the sense that we did lose several guys who were key producers for us, but I think that means there are really good opportunities for all the guys who came in. Much like last year, we're in a similar spot this year as there are some unknowns with the group, and all 25 guys have an opportunity here to assert themselves and put themselves into a position to play the type of role that they would like. I think it's good for our group to compete internally and externally in games."

Carter McDougall won both games in between the pipes for the Warriors, combining for 57 saves on 60 shots in the two outings. The head coach said he is feeling good about his tandem of McDougall and rookie netminder Aidan Hill.

"Our goaltending has given us great confidence through the preseason and the first weekend, which wasn't lost on us as a staff. Last year, we got really good goaltending from Matt (Perdue) and Carter (McDougall), and this year, we expect the same from Carter and Aidan (Hill)."

Against the Kings on Sept. 14, the Warriors jumped out to a 2-0 lead with a pair of powerplay goals from Quinn Kipfer and Drew Hodge. Captain Lewis and Tyler Kelly each added a goal in the second. Gavin McGahey-Smith scored the lone Komoka goal.



**STRATFORD  
Hunter Steel  
WARRIORS**

### UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, September 20 - 7:30pm  
vs Komoka - Allman Arena

Sunday, September 22 - 2:30pm  
at Elmira - Dan Snyder Memorial Arena

Wednesday, September 25 - 7:00pm  
at London - Western Fair S.C.

Friday, September 27 - 7:30pm  
vs Chatham - Allman Arena

Thursday, October 3 - 7:00pm  
at Ayr - North Dumfries C.C.

Friday, October 4 - 7:30pm  
vs Caledon - Allman Arena

Sponsored by

**TINA GRASBY**  
BROKER  
519-275-7663



### TEAM MUNI WINS 2024 ROMEO CUP

The team representing the Stratford Municipal Golf Course won the 2024 Romeo Cup Championship by a total score of 18-6 over the Stratford Country Club's team. The better ball matches held on the morning of Sept. 15 saw each team pick up three points, with both sides picking up two wins, two losses, and two ties. In the afternoon, Team Muni won the scramble 5-1, before winning the singles matches on Sept. 15 by a score of 10-2, rounding out the 18-6 overall final and giving Team Muni the 2024 Romeo Cup.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



# Stratford native drafted second overall in professional rugby league

LEE GRIFFI

Times Correspondent

You may not have heard of Major League Rugby (MLR), but Stratford's Neil Trainor has and is about to embark on a professional career south of the border.

Neil graduated from Queen's University in Kingston in December with a degree in civil engineering. He is currently in Langford, B.C., working out with the Canadian Rugby Development Academy where he came off the field recently and noticed two missed calls on his cell phone. The Carolina Anthem had drafted him second overall.

"It definitely caught me by surprise. It was not what I was expecting going into this whole process. I wanted to go in the first round so I exceeded that and am very happy with the result."

The league did have a team in Toronto, but it folded for financial reasons. Trainor explained that door may have closed, but another one opened.

"That team had an academy, so I played for them last summer. This summer, I was invited to Virginia to train at a combine-style camp



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Stratford's Neil Trainor was recently drafted second overall by the Carolina Anthem Major League Rugby team in North Carolina.

for the MLR. I wasn't familiar with players from the US so it was an entirely new experience for me."

Trainor credits much of his success to playing in high school at Stratford District Secondary School and then with the Black

Swans club team.

"That community, that group is so welcoming to new players and young players. It made it really easy for me as a young high school student to transition and train with these grown men who had been

playing rugby for a lot longer."

He added he had never heard of rugby until he sat down in David Redfern's high school math class.

"He is a rugby nut and got me pretty amped on it. I went out for some training sessions and fell in love with it. The Swans came to the high school and did a little pitch. They are so welcoming to new and young players; it made it easy for me to transition in and train with these grown men."

Trainor, who is 5 foot 10 inches and 235 pounds, plays a position called hooker, which is part of the front row consisting of two props and himself.

"We are typically some of the bigger guys on the field. In a scrum when we all come together, I am dead in the middle between the props and my job is to get the ball from being fed into the scrum out the back of it. Another role of the hooker is during a line out when I throw the ball into the players."

Along with playing professional rugby, a humble Trainor said he aspires to make the Canadian national team.

"Some guys I have trained with here at the academy have recently gone on to play for the national

team. I would say I am within that range of players but it's not for me to say."

In January, Trainor will be moving to North Carolina to start pre-season camp with the Anthem. He hopes rugby will play a big role in his life going forward.

"My goal has always been to test myself and see what my limits are. I'm going to keep working hard and trying to improve my game until I find whatever that ceiling is."

When asked what it is about the sport that has drawn him to it, Trainor explained rugby is the perfect combination of physical, mental and tactical skill.

"It doesn't lean too heavily into one of them and that allows for so many different playing styles and so many different people to play the sport. The other thing about rugby you can't deny is the aspect of community."

Trainor grew up playing hockey and soccer in Stratford but he said rugby is not like any other sport.

"You play a hard game where you are beating the hell out of each other. At the end of it, both teams sit down, have a meal and a few drinks and just talk it up with the other team."



## NISSAN

# CLEAROUT

## EVENT

### 2024 SENTRA

LEASE OR FINANCE

# 0.99%

APR FOR 24 MONTHS O.A.C.

PLUS,

QUALIFYING NISSAN OWNERS MAY RECEIVE UP TO

# \$500

IN LOYALTY BONUS.



## MANAGER SPECIAL

Discount of up to \$500 before Taxes on all eligible models (in addition to all other current Nissan Canada Incentives). Program available until September 30th, 2024, while supplies last. \*See dealer for details.

## BACK TO SCHOOL SALE

ON ALL NEW IN-STOCK NISSAN MODELS



STORE HOURS SALES: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-8:00; Fri.-Sat. 9:00-6:00  
PARTS AND SERVICE: Mon.-Sat. 8:00-5:00. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, OUR SERVICE DEPT IS NOW OPEN ON SATURDAYS

2001 Ontario Street, Stratford ON

519.273.3119

[www.stratfordnissan.com](http://www.stratfordnissan.com)

STRATFORD NISSAN



**HearingLife** | Love your ears

Your hearing needs are *unique.*

Find the right hearing aid for *you.*



Start your **30-day FREE trial!**\*

When you're ready to purchase

**Save up to \$1,700**

off select hearing aids!\*

Experience the benefits of **personalized hearing care and on-going support.**

**Key Features of the Latest Hearing Aids:**



Improved sound clarity



Long lasting rechargeable battery



Discreet and comfortable wear



Seamlessly connect to phone, TV & other devices

Get started with a **FREE** hearing test today!\*

**Stratford** 386 Cambria Street, Unit 103  
**1-888-461-3654**

**Stratford** 295 Huron Street  
**1-888-461-3827**

**Listowel** 1195 Wallace Avenue N  
**1-888-461-3829**

**Exeter** 281 Main Street S  
**1-888-461-3832**



Mention code: **NSP-TRLD-SBTM**

Book online  
**HearingLife.ca/Care**

\*A comprehensive hearing assessment is provided to adults ages 19 and older at no cost. The results of this assessment will be communicated verbally to you. Depending on the province you're located in, an administrative fee may apply if a copy of an Audiological Report is requested. This promotion is valid for select premium or advanced hearing aid models and cannot be combined with any other discount. Applies to private sales of premium or advanced hearing aids and discount is applied after any Government funding has been deducted. Some conditions apply, see clinic for details. Offer not valid in Quebec. Offer expires 09/30/2024.

# "All Up!" Paddles hit the water at 2024 Stratford Dragon Boat Festival



The Oakville Dragonflies (foreground), which ultimately won this race, compete against the Lively Gales and Avalon Dragons in the E Division semi-finals at the Stratford Dragon Boat Festival Sept. 14.



Spectators from far and wide gathered along the shores of Lake Victoria in Stratford for the city's annual Dragon Boat Festival Sept. 14. Some found creative ways to get up high and watch races over the heads of other onlookers.



Dragon-boat racers, their supporters and other visitors to and residents of Stratford enjoyed the many food and retail vendors set up along the Lake Victoria south-shore park system during the annual Dragon Boat Festival Sept. 14.



The Hamilton Titans dragon-boat team push hard during one of their races at the Stratford Dragon Boat Festival Sept. 14

(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTOS)

# Perth County Community Choir returns with new director and accompanist

**ALEX HUNT**

*Times Correspondent*

The Perth County Community Choir is back in the swing of things with Tuesday rehearsals as members prepare for their annual Christmas concert.

Avondale United Church plays host to the community choir and new choir music director Dan Van Winden welcomes all to join regardless of musical background.

“It’s a choir that is geared towards folks that might have never sung in a choir before. So there are no auditions, it’s very inclusive and it encourages people to come out and have fun and sing for the joy of it,” said Winden.

“That aspect caters to what we do throughout the season. We try to pick stuff that isn’t too incredibly complicated like a professional would be doing, but if you were to ask some of the choir members, they would say I challenge them quite a bit with the music I choose.”

The choir features accompanist Karen Rempel as the accompanist playing several musical instruments, giving all the performances a jazzy ambience.

Winden says the choir usually starts out with around 150 members, then steadily drops to 120 members as the season progresses. Winden says this is his first time directing a community choir following a decade of church-choir conducting.

“I’ve always been a musical person. I sang in choirs that my mother was a conductor of and went to school for classical voice and got a job working at a church, and then I got the job at Avondale in 2020,” said Winden.

“One of the biggest challenges with this group compared to church choirs is how large this group is. There are 150 singers at rehearsal rather than the 30 I’m used to. I use a microphone and we rehearse in the sanctuary here at Avondale United Church.”

The Christmas concert will take place over two shows on Dec. 3 and 4 and will feature around 12 songs.

Winden says the most important thing he wants audience members to feel when performing is the joy expressed through song.

“I think the unique experience of being in our choir is the size of it. One of the best parts is the inclusiveness and the celebration of their musical ability no matter the experience or talents they bring,” said Winden.

Winden. “I consider myself very fortunate to be making a living in the music field because it’s not always an easy one for folks to make a go of, and being the music director of this choir is a big part of that. I always leave every rehearsal on a high note.”



## UPCOMING CHRISTMAS CONCERT

(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Pictured above is Dan Van Winden, new musical director for Perth County Community Choir, at Avondale United Church.

### Back To School Bargains—Your favorite rides under \$30k @ STRATFORD NISSAN

<p><b>2016 Hyundai Sonata Hybrid</b></p> <p><b>\$14,999</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 142,031 KM</b></p>	<p><b>2017 Nissan Rogue SV</b></p> <p><b>\$14,999</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 146,449 KM</b></p>	<p><b>2018 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport</b></p> <p><b>\$15,500</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 141,191 KM</b></p>	<p><b>2016 Honda Civic EX</b></p> <p><b>\$15,999</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 144,516 KM</b></p>	<p><b>2018 Nissan Kicks SV</b></p> <p><b>\$16,999</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 140,364 KM</b></p>
<p><b>2020 Nissan Qashqai S</b></p> <p><b>\$18,495</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 98,309 KM</b></p>	<p><b>2020 Nissan Kicks SV</b></p> <p><b>\$19,999</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 13,037 KM</b></p>	<p><b>2021 Nissan Sentra SV</b></p> <p><b>\$20,999</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 52,500 KM</b></p>		
<p><b>2019 Nissan Murano SV</b></p> <p><b>\$21,999</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 92,920 KM</b></p>	<p><b>2020 Toyota Corolla LE</b></p> <p><b>\$23,495</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 72,874 KM</b></p>	<p><b>2018 Mazda CX-5</b></p> <p><b>\$24,499</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 55,971 KM</b></p>	<p><b>2020 GMC Terrain DENALI</b></p> <p><b>\$28,888</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 78,044 KM</b></p>	<p><b>2021 Subaru Crosstrek</b></p> <p><b>\$29,998</b> + HST &amp; lic <b>LOW KMS - 73,580 KM</b></p>

\*While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, we are not responsible for any errors and omissions. Please see your dealer for current pricing. Plus tax and licensing. Some terms and conditions may apply.

**40+ PRE-OWNED VEHICLES IN STOCK, ALL MAKES & MODELS**

BAD CREDIT... NO PROBLEM! All Credit Approved with \$0 Down.

**NISSAN**  
**Stratford** NISSAN

**2001 Ontario Street, Stratford ON**  
**519.273.3119**  
**www.stratfordnissan.com**

T&C APPLY, O.A.C  
STRATFORD NISSAN

**STORE HOURS SALES: Mon.-Thu. 9:00-8:00; Fri.-Sat. 9:00-6:00 PARTS & SERVICE: Mon.-Sat. 8:00-5:00**

\*Our Service Department is Now Open on Saturdays\*

# Stratford Winter Film Festival returns for second year in February

LISA CHESTER

*Times Correspondent*

After what the founders have deemed a successful first year, the Stratford Winter Film Festival (SWFF) will be returning for the second year in February 2025.

"There were about 300 people plus walk-ins, so it wasn't quite our target we were after but we certainly weren't too disappointed for a first go," said Bruce MacInnis, one of the trio of founders along with Craig Sangster and Leslie Marsh. "Now, since we did learn some things, we will get out there earlier and hope to double that this year."

As this is the second year, they are not starting from scratch as they were with a far shorter timeframe for going from concept to execution in their first year. They have found different venues to counter those places that presented them with issues last year and the festival will be over four days instead of three.

"We're going to narrow down slightly larger places but we think we are going to be able to deliver a better experience in these places. So, instead of having our techs spread over five different places, we will be across three. The venues are St. James Church, St. Andrew's Church and

## STRATFORD WINTER FILM FESTIVAL

**Stratford Winter Film Festival returns for second year coming in February 2025.**

the city hall auditorium," said Sangster.

The venues are all around 250-300 seating capacity so they will be quite suitable. There will also be partner sites, "Off SWFF" if you will, that will enhance the festival experience after the screenings. These Off SWFF sites will be partnering restaurants and bars downtown that will tie into the festival in their own unique way.

"Off SWFF will be at Relic, Café Buf-

fon (downstairs), The Little Prince and with our friends from last year, Foster's and Mercer among others we are in talks for partnerships like The Bruce," Sangster said. "We are trying to deliver everything that was good about last year's experience bigger and smoother."

There may be as many as a dozen films still to be determined over the four days beginning Thursday Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, and ending Monday Feb. 17, Family Day. Given the dates of the festival, the theme for this year seemed natural, "Love, Architecture and Family."

"One thing we want our guests to think about is you don't have to see everything. See the ones you want and go have a nice dinner. We want it to be that you have a pass you can see anything at these times and do what works for you," said Sangster.

"A piece of the messaging that we didn't do well last year is that I think people felt that it was a grind to see all nine films over the course of three days. It was a lot and some people toughed it out, but they felt it in the end. We certainly felt it in the end," added MacInnis.

This way, event goers can, with a pass, see the films that interest them and take in some of what Stratford has to offer in

the winter. As with last year, the trio is focused on promoting local business and wants to see people come to watch the films but also go to restaurants and hotels, and spend money in the stores.

"It's a civic enterprise. It's not about us, it's not about the festival particularly, it's a way in the depths of winter for generating business for people who stay open in the winter here, and they certainly need it," said Marsh.

The films are actively being curated and the organizers are collecting a wonderful selection themed around love, architecture and family.

For the February festival, there will be a dedicated bus to take pass holders from venue to venue. Given that it will be the dead of winter and there is limited parking at the venues, the bus will provide an excellent way to get around similar to the free bus service for Lights On Stratford.

Festival goers can also expect a different approach to passes in line with the desire to enhance the moviegoing experience where the model will be to buy passes by the day rather than a single pass for the entire festival weekend.

For more information, visit [stratford-winterfilmfestival.ca](http://stratford-winterfilmfestival.ca).

# Barry James Payne includes Stratford in latest tour dates

LISA CHESTER

*Times Correspondent*

Local musician Barry James Payne has been a busy guy, travelling around and playing in the likes of Windsor and London, with upcoming shows in Alberta and even Mexico. But luckily, locals can still catch him in two scheduled dates for shows in Stratford in next month.

The two shows couldn't be more different. For an evening of intimate music and storytelling, head to the Bunker Performance Lounge Oct. 3 to see Payne performing solo, a rare occurrence not to be repeated here in the near future. Opening for Payne will be Bobby Dove accompanied by Allison Corbett on fiddle.

"I'm going to be doing an opening set with them, then I will be doing a set solo. That's rare. Bobby Dove is great; they play all over Canada. They are real traditional country; think Hank Williams '50s and '60s music. The fiddle player is Allison Corbett from Newfoundland and has played with a ton of different people and just came back from a European tour," said Payne.

Playing solo is a very different gig for Payne.

"I have to choose my songs wisely. You want to have a connection with the audience. With a band, it's more of a rock show. This is more of a conversation with the audience. It is definitely more intimate, so I try to pull out songs I haven't played in a long time (and) tell a different story," he said.



(STEVE BAYNE PHOTO)

## SAVE THE DATE

**Catch Barry James Payne at his latest concerts giving two very different performances.**

The tickets for the show on Oct. 3 are pay what you can with the hopeful suggestion of \$20 apiece. However, because this is the first time for Dove to play in Stratford, Payne hopes just to fill the room for them by giving attendees the option of paying what they can to make it accessible to all music

lovers.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The next night, Friday Oct. 4, Payne will appear at Revival House with his wildly popular Blue Rodeo tribute band, Diamond Mine. The band is comprised of Eric Lundgren on electric guitar, Paul Aitken on

electric guitar and mandolin, Adam Plante on keyboards, Geoff Jarvis on bass, Craig Sharp on drums, Derrick Barnes on acoustic guitar and Barry James Payne on acoustic guitar.

"We are over 50 per cent sold, so there is only about 40 tickets left. Revival House seats 120 and tickets are only \$25," said Payne.

As consummate professionals that never want to disappoint, Diamond Mine will be playing four new songs from the Blue Rodeo catalogue. Fans can expect to hear "Cynthia," "Photograph," "Outskirts" and "Heart Like Mine."

At Revival House, dinner is also available before the show, so Payne suggests buying tickets for Diamond Mine at [stringbone.ticketspice.com/blue-rodeo-tribute-featuring-diamond-mine](http://stringbone.ticketspice.com/blue-rodeo-tribute-featuring-diamond-mine) before calling Revival House to reserve dinner at 519-273-3424.

In the meantime, fans can hear from Payne through his playlists on Spotify, carefully curated in the genre of indie folk and Americana.

"I try to include some of my music to make it relatable. There's a lot of playlists that I've made over the years like Americana duets, Americana from Canada, Indie Folk for rainy days, Songs for the Road," said Payne.

While it is a little too soon for him to talk much about it, there is a notable show coming in November at Copperlight (Knox Church) that Payne is included in celebrating the music of Nick Drake. Save the date!

# Music and Opera Appreciation celebrates 30 years

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Music and Opera Appreciation (MOA) will focus its 30th season on times of isolation and reconnecting with community.

The organization entertains and educates attendees with screenings and in-person studies of operas and other musical works on Tuesday afternoons. MOA's fall program kicks off with "Rusalka," an opera by Czech composer Anton Dvorak, on Oct. 15 and 22. There will be a live performance of excerpts and works by George Gershwin featuring Kelly Walker on a seven-foot grand piano accompanying Roger Honeywell, Maria Soulis, Marc Dubois and Elisabeth Dubois.

The theme for the fall program is "Isolation," and the winter season's theme is "Community." Barbara Steed Young, artistic director, said the two themes and the juxtaposition was inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the restrictions and the feelings of isolation and loneliness, there was also an emphasis on connecting with community and returning to those connections when restrictions eased. Steed Young wanted to show how isolation and community are reflected in opera performance.

"As a community, it's also good to be able to share some of our stories and seeing them in opera form," she said.

During the COVID-19 restrictions barring in-person events, MOA had home kits and online programming. However, Steed Young acknowledged that it is not the same as experiencing it in-person.

"For those dear subscribers, let's face it," she said, "there's a big difference between having somebody in front of you, giving you energy and kind of watching opera or something like that on your TV, right?"

MOA will have a new venue just in time for the new season in the Stratford Country Club's Grand Room. The afternoon

events used to be held at the Quality Inn in a windowless room, but the organization had to find a new venue as the inn is renovating in winter 2025. After searching around, MOA picked the country club and will cover the Grand Room's windows with photography paper.

"It's a beautiful location, great parking, it's accessible for canes," Steed Young said.

Steed Young, a singer, composer and music coach, will be celebrating her 10th year as artistic director in 2025. She brings notes to each MOA afternoon and will sometimes dress up in costume. Her favourite part of being part of the organization is seeing attendees, many of them seniors, explore their curiosities.

"What I love is seeing people get curious, especially people that are in the last couple of stages in their life and have less time ahead than they had behind - I'm one of those," Steed Young said. "To just

keep us all curious is so important because curiosity keeps you alive.

"Anything that gives you that little oomph that says, 'I'm going to get out of bed today because there's going to be something really exciting happening in Music and Opera. I don't know what it's going to be, but it's going to be something.'"

MOA offers \$60 series tickets to attend six shows, as well as \$15 tickets for each performance. The Nov. 12 live concert tickets will be sold for \$30 each. Tickets can be purchased via e-transfer to musicandopera15@gmail.com, in-person with cash or cheques at the event, or cheques mailed to the following address: P.O. Box 25045, RPO Huron Street, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 0B4.

More information can be found by visiting musicandopera.weebly.com.

## Winter Music Pop-Up program accepting applications

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Destination Stratford's successful Winter Music Pop-Up program is back for the 2024-2025 winter season.

The Winter Music Pop-Up program was launched as a pilot project last winter, through which 10 different businesses hosted musicians to perform from Dec. 15 to Jan. 13. Zac Gribble, executive director of Destination Stratford, said there were several live performances during the Lights On Stratford Festival that were well-received by patrons, venues and musicians alike.

"Building on the success of last year's pilot project is truly exciting," Gribble told the Stratford Times. "Destination Stratford's logo states, 'The arts are what we are,' and this gets expressed in so many creative ways throughout the year, including through a burgeoning music scene. We're looking forward to seeing what local musicians, business and organizations can dream up as we expand the program this winter."

Organizations and businesses in Stratford, along with musicians in the city, are encouraged to apply. Businesses and organizations can apply for funding of \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 for each performance.

The upcoming Winter Music Pop-Up program will focus on live music and performers will be paid by the venues. All performances part of the program will take place

sometime between Dec. 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025.

Gribble said Destination Stratford's regenerative tourism approach to its programming aims to resonate with both residents and tourists alike, as well as support local performers and artists throughout the year, even after the thriving Stratford Festival season comes to a close.

"Part of our strategy to help build towards year-round cultural thriving is to enable more arts and culture opportunity throughout the winter months," he said. "This has many long-term benefits for the visitor economy but is equally important for quality of life in our community and keeping our city active and inviting for both residents and visitors no matter the season."

Applications will be accepted until Nov. 8 at 5 p.m. More information, including the program's application form, can be found by visiting [visitstratford.ca/winter-music](http://visitstratford.ca/winter-music).

I am thrilled to be a Realtor with The Sutton Team! I will always do my absolute best for YOU - I am persistent, hard-working, honest, enthusiastic, tenacious, and most importantly, thorough! I will listen to your needs and strive to meet your goals. Throughout my career in the Stratford Community, I have been recognized for outstanding effort and caring in helping others reach their aspirations. I am willing to think outside of the box to access unique opportunities to serve your needs. Time, caring, commitment and persistence will help me deliver the best service possible to you, my most important client!

Liz Yundt, Realtor

Cell: 519-272-9017  
lizyundt@sutton.com



151 Downie St., Stratford, ON  
Office: 519-271-5515  
www.suttonfirstchoice.com



(DESTINATION STRATFORD PHOTO)

### WINTER MUSIC POP-UP

Stelle and Carter performed at the Starlight last winter as part of the 2023/2024 Winter Music Pop-Up program run by Destination Stratford. Applications are being accepted for this year's edition of the program.



### 233 NILE STREET, STRATFORD

First time Buyers! Come check out 233 Nile St.! Single family home with 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, fresh paint, refinished hardwood and some new flooring. Covered front porch and back deck. Come put your personal touches and call it HOME! Won't last long!! **MLS NEW**

**RE/MAX** | a-b REALTY LTD. BROKERAGE  
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED

88 Wellington Street, Stratford, Ontario • 519-273-2821

**Michael J. Gorse**

Sales Representative

Cell: 226-921-1319

[mgorse@stratfordhomes.ca](mailto:mgorse@stratfordhomes.ca)



# Stratford's Aqua Vita Bottle Company keeps the party going without the alcohol

MERCEDES KAY GOLD

Times Correspondent

Canadians are drinking less alcohol and this health expert is ecstatic.

As a restaurant, bar owner or event planner, it's important to stay on top of current trends and, thanks to Frank Heisz, tons of non-drinking social butterflies are enjoying premium, non-alcoholic, canned cocktails, spirits, beer and wines. Heisz, owner of Aqua Vita Bottle Company, was first to the game providing a wide variety of non-alcoholic beverages to restaurants, bars and events in Stratford and Grand Bend.

The trend is here to stay and Heisz is thrilled to have recently added Sarnia to his roster.

People refrain from alcohol for tons of reasons whether it's saving money, watching their waistline, avoiding a hangover, drug interaction or so they don't drive under the influence.

As a wellness advocate, I am thrilled people are choosing health as the primary reason to abstain. Alcohol dehydrates our body, disrupting the flow of nutrients to skin, our largest organ. Acne, rosacea, psoriasis, wrinkles and age spots are common side effects of drinking.

A standard alcoholic drink has 100 empty calories and disrupts digestion. Alcohol interferes with our brain's transmitters and can affect us emotionally. Alcohol is a depressant and feeling anxious is not uncommon.

Alcohol disrupts our natural wake-sleep cycle. Restless nights lead to grogginess and feeling unfocused upon waking.

Alcohol creates inflammation throughout the body, and inflammation leads to disease.

Simply saying no to alcohol is not always easy in a social setting. As a non-drinker, I always felt a tad excluded,



**Stratford Aqua Vita Bottle Company specializes in selling non-alcoholic cocktails, spirits, beer and wines.**

labelled no fun or people assumed I was in recovery. Peer pressure exists at any age.

As a holistic nutritionist, I advocate a healthy lifestyle and minimizing alcohol is key to thriving. On Labour Day, I sat down at Bentley's Inn Bar and Restaurant in Stratford for non-alcoholic wine tasting with Heisz and bartender Breen Bentley Jr. They both recommended a popular New Zealand Pinot Grigio by Giesen with notes of pear, apple and muscat grape. It was the perfect choice with a balance of acidity and sweetness. Ironically, non-alcoholic wine is, in reality, wine. It's made with the same grapes, follows the same process and is also aged the same, but the difference is the ethanol is removed, reducing the alcohol to a 0.5 per-cent content.

I realized there truly was a placebo effect, and not uncommon apparently. I was feeling more social, lightheaded and even wondered if I should drive. As silly as it may sound, I didn't feel out of place for once.

With a glass of chilled white in hand,



(MERCEDDES KAY GOLD PHOTOS)

**Aqua Vita Bottle Company owner Frank Heisz and bartender Breen Bentley Jr. at Bentley's Inn Restaurant and Bar.**

sipping, chatting, laughing and enjoying the vibes, I look forward to bringing a classic gin and tonic canned cocktail by HP Juniper canned cocktails to the next social gathering. This best-selling cocktail features juniper, citrus and cucumber with hints of cinnamon, rosemary and eucalyptus. Heisz sent me home with a bottle of whiskey and this non-drinking mom poured herself and her shocked grown son a whiskey on the rocks. We had a hearty laugh and second cheers after I confessed the swap.

Ordering a cocktail casually after

work, celebrating with cheers over a candlelight dinner or making magical moves on the dance floor feels just as fabulous with a faux drink. It's brilliant for sunny cottage dock days, baby showers, boat rides and anywhere non-alcohol is the safest choice.

It's absolutely lovely this generation is defying the norm and creating a new narrative. Alcohol-free doesn't mean fun free!

For more information, reach out to Heisz at [aquavitabottleshop.ca](http://aquavitabottleshop.ca) or follow on socials @aquavitabottleshop.



A canned Juniper non-alcoholic gin and tonic available at Aqua Vita Bottle Company in Stratford.



Cheers to a healthier, non-alcoholic yet still great-tasting glass of wine.



"I'll take a whiskey on the rocks, hold the alcohol."

# Fans unite for Stratford Toys, Games & Collectibles Show at Arden Park

REBECCA SCHREIBER

Times Correspondent

On Sept. 15, everyone at the Arden Park Hotel banquet hall had something in common; a passion for collecting cool stuff.

The third-annual Stratford Toys, Games, & Collectibles Show was a phenomenal success. This electrifying event inspired pop-culture lovers of all ages to gather at the Arden Park.

“We have gotten to a bigger location because our waiting list for vendors was getting so long,” said Duane Sword, co-founder and coordinator of the Stratford Toys, Games & Collectibles Show.

“Every show we were having, the attendance was going up and up, so we had outgrown our last location and so then we had the opportunity for the Arden Park and they offered us all four conference rooms”

The more-than 80 vendors provided a cavalcade of collectible eye candy.

What can't be found anywhere else except the Stratford Toys, Games & Collectibles Show is a table with one half dedicated to James Bond and the other half dedicated to John Deere. The vendor behind that table, Stratford's own Bill Cooper, owner of Joyland's Billiards & Games Warehouse, has been vending at shows like this one consistently since 1997 and has been a part of the Stratford Toys, Games & Collectibles Show since its inception in 2020.

While some vendors traded and sold



(REBECCA SCHREIBER PHOTOS)

## POP-CULTURE LOVERS

Above, The collectors and vendors at the Arden Park hotel Sept. 15.

Left, Duane Sword, a Stratford Toys, Games, & Collectibles Show coordinator and now a satisfied customer.

their spare time.

Even with a full-time job and local city council ambitions, Jason Davis, owner of Stratford Comic Shop, has mainly operated online with patrons travelling specifically to these shows to check out his rare finds.

“Opening a physical location would be like my version of retirement,” Davis laughed. “Yeah, a millennial retirement; it's having one job that you're passionate about.”

Don't miss the next Stratford Toys, Games & Collectibles Show on Nov. 17 at the Arden Park from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

from their own personal collection, others make their living by selling their custom crafts including handmade leather wear,

3D-printed props, painted canvases and jewellery. Some manage to make this their fulltime gig; others do what they can in

Community of Christ  
 226 Forman Avenue 519-271-4539  
 Proclaiming Jesus Christ  
 with communities of  
**LOVE, JOY, HOPE & PEACE**  
 Worship with us  
**Sunday 10:00 a.m.**  
 11:00 a.m. – Fellowship and  
 Coffee Hour  
 We are a Welcoming Community

Worship  
 With Us

**Stratford Associate  
 Reformed  
 Presbyterian Church**  
 Quality Inn Festival  
 (1144 Ontario St., Stratford)  
**WORSHIP TIMES:**  
 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.  
 stratfordarp.org

Invite readers to your worship services. Contact [stratfordtimes@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordtimes@gmail.com)

## STRATFORD TIMES

## Pick Up Locations

- Erie Street Esso
- Strickland's Toyota
- Fix Auto
- Stratford KIA
- Expressway Ford
- McDonald's - Erie St
- Tim Hortons - Erie St
- Stratford Mazda
- 7-Eleven - Erie St
- Joe's Diner
- The Urban Barber
- Erie Convenience
- Mr. Sub
- Balzacs Coffee
- Shoppers Drug Mart - Ontario
- New Orleans Pizza

- Zehrs
- Food Basics
- Tim Hortons - C.H. Meier
- Festival Marketplace
- Stratford Nissan
- Stratford Subaru
- Peavey Mart
- Stratford Honda
- Quality Festival Inn
- McDonald's - Ontario St.
- Papa Johns
- Fore Everyone Golf
- WalMart
- Stratford Motor Products
- A&W
- Toner & Ink Shop

- Rutherford Funeral Home
- Athens Greek Restaurant
- Stratford Legion
- Gino's Pizza
- Rosso's
- Buzz Stop
- Union Barber
- Mornington Variety
- Split Rail
- Stratford Rotary Complex
- Agriplex
- No Frills
- Cozyn's
- Sebringville Esso
- Dave's Diner - Sebringville
- Stratford-Perth Museum

- Sobey's
- Shoppers Drug Mart - Huron
- Circle K - Huron
- West End Pharmacy
- Tim Hortons - Huron
- Stratford Hospital
- Video 99 - Erie St
- Jenny Trout
- Stratford Medical Pharmacy
- Stratford Chamber of Commerce
- A.N.A.F.
- Stratford Hyundai
- Daisy Mart
- Foodland
- Stratford Variety
- Brch & Wyn

- Stratford Place
- Stratford Chefs School
- HH Delea
- AJ's Hair
- Features
- United Way Perth Huron
- Sinclair Pharmacy
- Blowes Stationery
- Stratford Tourism
- Coffee Culture
- Stratford Public Library
- The Parlour Restaurant & Inn
- Dick's Barber Shop
- The Livery Yard
- Town Crier Marketing

# Stratford's St. James Church to host National Anglican Church Women's conference

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

The presidents of Anglican Church Women (ACW) groups from across the country will soon descend on Stratford as St. James Anglican Church hosts the National ACW Presidents' Conference Sept. 25-29.

According to Stratford and area ACW president Karen Haslam, ACW groups have been the backbones of Anglican church communities across Canada essentially for as long as there have been Anglican churches, but this is the first time Stratford has played host to this semi-annual conference.

"They meet semi-annually. (Every other meeting), they meet on Zoom, but they do like to hold this presidents' conference in person," Haslam said. "There are 32 dioceses across Canada and we are asking two representatives from each of those dioceses to come. We might not get all of them because there are areas in the north that don't have money for flights ... so we're expecting maybe 30-40 women to come to our conference.

"They will spend all day Friday (Sept. 27) meeting, talking about what they do on a national level, similar to what we do on a church level. ... This is really an honour that we get to host the presidents from across Canada, so we're really pleased and



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

## NATIONAL ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Stratford and area Anglican Church Women president Karen Haslam leads the group's September meeting at St. James Anglican Church. The local ACW will host the National ACW Presidents' conference Sept. 25-29.

we are so excited to be able to do a really good job."

As anyone familiar with how an Anglican or any other church operates, it largely depends on the volunteer and fundraising efforts of parishioners, and church women are a huge part of that.

The ACW group that meets at St. James is actually made up of women parishioners from Anglican churches in Stratford,

St. Marys and the surrounding area. Meeting almost every month, the church women support myriad causes including the St. James community food bank, Camp Huron – a camp for underprivileged children in the region operated by the Anglican Diocese of Huron – and the resettlement of two local Syrian refugee families, just to name a few.

By organizing, hosting and providing all the volunteer labour for annual fundraisers like the St. James Variety Sale in the spring and Mistletoe Market around Christmas, the local ACW raises money for just about any project or initiative the church community sets its sights on.

"As long as you have women in the church, you have an ACW," Haslam said. "Every woman in the church is automatically in ACW. You can be as involved as you want or not, depending on your lifestyle or what you want. That's why you'll find a lot of us whose (kids have grown up) ... or we're no longer working and we have more time now. ... These women have worked their whole lives in the church, not just with ACW – we're busy – but on committees like the building committee, as warden, in the chancel guild, in the flower guild, in the Sunday schools.

"We tend to be a very active group of women within the parish. One of our former minister's wives said, 'When you find a church without an ACW, the church doesn't last very long,' mainly because we tend to outlive the husbands and we are the workers in the church."

Part of the reason for the ACW presidents' conference is so delegates from each diocese can share the issues their ACW groups and their wider communities are facing, and brainstorm possible solutions to those issues. Some problems

like dwindling congregations and efforts to engage younger generations with the church falling short are common across the country, so Haslam says the opportunity to share success stories is important.

But the conference isn't just about business. Church women know how to have fun, too.

"We're also doing fun things like the Fun Fashion Show on Friday at 7 p.m. in the church," Haslam said. "We're inviting all the other churches in the area to come, all the churches in the diocese. ... We're hoping we get lots of people out. ... You can expect to laugh and laugh and laugh.

"If you go online and look at fashion shows that have been held by Dior or by Versace, you look at some of them and go, 'I would never wear that ridiculous outfit.' So, we put our heads together and we came up with fashions that would fit our ACW, except we express them in unique ways. For instance, a person coming in a crop top will actually have crops on her top. A person coming in a pair of boxed shorts will have boxes on her shorts. I'm not even going to tell you about the double-breasted jacket, because that would ruin the show."

While the conference is an opportunity for ACW presidents to meet with one another and strengthen that bond between Anglican church women across the country, Haslam said it is also an opportunity to showcase what Stratford has to offer to people from coast to coast who may never have visited the Festival City before.

So, she is encouraging Stratford and area residents who see that ACW conference nametag between Sept. 25 and 29 to welcome the national delegates with open arms and help them navigate the city so they can have the best experience here possible.



SCENIC<sup>®</sup>  
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

SCENIC<sup>®</sup> ECLIPSE

EMERALD  
YACHT CRUISES

EMERALD  
RIVER CRUISES

# STONETOWN TRAVEL

## INFORMATION SESSION

PRESENTED BY

SCENIC<sup>®</sup>  
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

EMERALD<sup>®</sup>  
CRUISES

### Monday, September 23, 2024

ST. MARYS

2:00 p.m.

(Pyramid Recreation Centre, End Zone)  
RSVP: [stew@stonetowntravel.com](mailto:stew@stonetowntravel.com)

NEW HAMBURG

7:00 p.m.

(Wilmot Recreation Centre, Meeting Room A)  
RSVP: [newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com](mailto:newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com)

Head Office: 150 Queen Street East, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4  
Branch Office: 210 Mill Street, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9  
☎ 519-284-2332 ☒ [agent@stonetowntravel.com](mailto:agent@stonetowntravel.com) ☎ 226-333-9939 ☒ [newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com](mailto:newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com)  
TICO #50010159 TICO #50025796

[www.stonetowntravel.com](http://www.stonetowntravel.com)

PUT YOUR  
MONEY  
WHERE YOUR  
HOUSE IS 🍁

Support businesses that  
keep your community  
and its newspaper  
thriving



# Bees: How do we love thee?

JULIA SCHNEIDER

Stratford Times Correspondent

All summer, I looked forward to hearing Master Gardener Jennie Girard talk about bees at Garden Stratford's first meeting of the fall Sept. 9. The spectacle of uninterrupted bee busyness in my native garden throughout the summer had made me realize how little I knew about these creatures and led to the question, "How much could Girard tell me and others in the two hours allotted to her presentation?"

Enough to whet one's appetite or more, as it turned out.

A woman who confessed at the outset, "I fell in love with bugs; I'm crazy about bugs," turned out to have an encyclopedic knowledge of them, and a tremendous desire to share her enthusiasm.

"I could spend hours talking to you about bees," she told her audience.

With just two, she covered some basics.

There is so much to learn about these fascinating creatures, of which there are over

350 native species in southern Ontario, excluding honeybees, which are not native.

Bees and plants have evolved together over the past many millions of years as each symbiotically grew to rely on the other to help them survive and reproduce. Not surprisingly, native bees do best with native plants, which Girard termed "of high-octane value" compared to non-native ones, but their taste in plants varies. Some species are attracted to all plants, others to a select few, and then there are the "monolectics" which depend on just one pollen source. Squash bees are a good example of this.

There are bees that tickle, long-haired bees, bees with long tongues and short ones, small bees and big ones, and there are also bumblebees, "the teddy bears of the bee world," and carpenter bees that look like them "but have shiny butts."

Thanks to Girard, I now know the carefully chiselled edges of some leaves in my garden were created by leaf-cutter bees, which are experts at their craft.

Unlike wasps, from which they evolved, bees are not by nature aggressive and don't often sting. Girard had another comparison: bees evolved from carnivorous wasps, but "they got wise and became vegetarians!"

There are solitary bees and social bees, but all rely on pollen and nectar when it comes to procreation and life. Only the females collect pollen and only those that are queens reproduce. All die in the winter, except the queens, dubbed "gynes," which have thousands of eggs in the spring to start a new cycle. Males only exist to fertilize the queen – and only one in seven (who's counting?) is successful!

Girard made it clear that while plants and bees depend on each other, we depend on them if life is to continue. We owe it to them and to ourselves to help them survive and yet some are currently threatened and numbers generally are decreasing. Their habitats are threatened and changes in the climate create many challenges and negative effects. At the same time, overly metic-

ulous gardeners add to these threats.

"People are still using pesticides," Girard said.

People can help by avoiding the poison and leaving refuges for the overwintering of fertilized queens (gynes) so they can emerge in the spring. These include areas where leaves and rotting branches are left. People can also plant native plants and eschew manicured lawns, which contribute nothing to life on this planet.

For those who want to learn more about bees, Girard suggested contacting Wildlife Preservation Canada, based in Guelph, which has training courses for would-be bee-watchers from June to mid-September.

It's too late for this year, but I can hardly wait for summer 2025!

Garden Stratford has meetings at the Army and Navy Hall on Lorne Avenue on the first Monday of the month except during the summer. Attendance is free to the public but interested individuals can become members for just \$15 a year.

# Environmental Heroes: Becoming better stewards of the planet

ANNA KOWALCHUK

Times Contributor

A friend and I were recently having one of those pleasant meandering conversations about everything and nothing when the topic turned to one of our favourite CBC Radio programmes called "What on Earth?" (broadcast Sundays at 11 a.m.). It's an excellent series that looks at the global over-heating crisis from the perspective of solution, and is a must-listen for those feeling disheartened by the state of our environment.

As we were marvelling at the truly amazing innovations featured in one of the episodes, a thought occurred to me.

"Isn't this just about finding better ways to bail water from a sinking ship without actually plugging the source of the leak?"

Our conversation came to a screeching halt.

You see, dear reader, my friend drives a car. Not a somewhat less-polluting though unfortunately still expensive electric car, but an old fashioned, gas-guzzling, carbon-belching classic. It seems that I had, truly without intending to, hit a nerve. Af-

ter a few moments of awkward silence, he coolly and calmly played what I have begun referring to as the S card.

"Shaming me is not going to get me to stop driving," he said quietly.

I was flabbergasted! This was the second time in recent weeks that someone had accused me of shaming them. I carefully thought back to what I had said, to what could have elicited his response. All I could think of was my question. I explained that it had, in no way, been my intention to shame him, but after some strained small talk, we mercifully parted ways.

As I biked home and for days after, I could not stop thinking about what had happened. I, who pride myself on my problem-solving skills, was truly baffled. But I'm not one to give up easily, so I set out to trace the logic of his response from his point of view.

My friend, a free-willed, able-bodied, dependents-free environmentalist, is smart, educated and well-informed. He is fully aware that his continued driving is contributing to the critical over-heating of the planet, and he certainly didn't need or want to hear it from me. He chose, there-

fore, to deflect the trajectory of the conversation in order to avoid having to defend what we both knew, particularly in his case, to be the indefensible. He was and is not ready to say out loud that he is falling short because once we admit fault, we have to commit to change which, again, is rarely easy or fun.

Poet and shining spirit Maya Angelou gave us the true-ism, "When we know better, we do better." But as illustrated above, this is not always the case. Gas-powered vehicles account for 29 per cent of the greenhouse gasses that cause global over-heating. The information is out there. We know better, yet some of us are choosing not to do better.

But here's something worth keeping in mind. Doing, when we can, what we know to be right clears our conscience. And a clear conscience is an actual superpower! It makes us invulnerable to the opinions

of others. It gives us a strength, resilience and resolve that is unshakable and unassailable, which means that we can never again be shamed or diminished by anyone real or imagined.

So, those of us who know better, let's not waste any more time with defensiveness and false indignation. Let's gather up our courage and reclaim our integrity. Let's become, in every way possible, better rolemodels and, especially, better stewards of this singularly precious planet that, for the little time left, we can still call home.

PS: My friend is a composite of several people with whom I've recently had conversations.

*If you know of an environmental hero – an individual, company or organization deserving of recognition for their commitment to environmentally respectful practices – please contact me at frogs-a-leaping@tutamail.com.*

**HAVE A SPECIAL  
EVENT COMING UP?**

**Let us know! Call 519-655-2341  
or email stratfordtimes@gmail.com**

**GRANT  
HAVEN  
MEDIA**

**STRATFORDTIMES**



**BE IN THE KNOW!  
Get the Latest  
Edition Delivered  
Straight to Your  
Inbox!**

[granthaven.com/stratford-times](http://granthaven.com/stratford-times)

# Celebrating Authenticity: How seniors can embrace their true selves without chasing perfection



**IRENE ROTH**

*Times Freelance Columnist*

As we age, the pressures of society to adhere to ideals of perfection intensify. Seniors, in particular, may feel a pull to conform to certain standards, be it in health, appearance, or lifestyle. It can be hard to become someone we're not as we age. And it is one reason that a lot of seniors aren't happy in their own skin.

Yet, as people approach their later years, there is an opportunity to shift from the often-draining pursuit of perfection to something much more rewarding, being authentic. Most of us

have spent at least six decades with ourselves. So, we know who we truly are. Why not embrace our true selves, especially if by doing so, we can find joy, fulfillment, and a renewed sense of purpose?

While striving for excellence can motivate us to be our best when we're younger, perfectionism can also be destructive as we age. It brings unnecessary pressure, increases stress, and can lead to feelings of inadequacy. For seniors, who have accumulated a lifetime of experience, wisdom, and self-reflection, continuing to chase perfection can be both exhausting and counterproductive. Authenticity, not perfection, brings greater peace and happiness.

Authenticity is about embracing who we truly are, flaws and all. It's about accepting that life is a journey filled with both successes and failures. For seniors, this means acknowledging and celebrating the full range of our lived experiences, including the challenges and imperfections that have shaped them.

One of the greatest gifts of ag-

ing is perspective. Seniors often have a more profound understanding of what truly matters in life—relationships, health, personal growth, and inner peace. By focusing on these elements, rather than on external measures of success or perfection, they can more easily let go of unrealistic standards and celebrate their authentic selves.

Here are some ways seniors can shift away from perfectionism and embrace their authentic selves:

First, focus on your health, but not appearance. In later years, maintaining physical health becomes increasingly important. However, there's often a temptation to conflate health with appearance. The pressure to look young, fit, and wrinkle-free can be overwhelming. This pursuit of a youthful appearance is often futile and can overshadow the true goal which is living a healthy and active life. Exercising, eating well, and maintaining mobility are far more important than meeting an arbitrary standard of beauty.

Second, accept the value of

your imperfections. With age comes the wisdom that our imperfections often hold the greatest value. The so-called flaws in our personality or life story make us unique. We can celebrate our authentic selves by recognizing and embracing these imperfections rather than trying to hide or fix them. Whether it's a physical scar, a past mistake, or a vulnerability, these are all part of the rich tapestry of a well-lived life.

Third, redefine what success and accomplishment mean to you. In a culture that prizes achievement and progress, it's easy to measure success by external standards—career milestones, financial status, or social recognition. However, in later life, it's crucial to redefine success in more personal, meaningful terms. For seniors, success might look like maintaining loving relationships, contributing to the community, or simply enjoying life's small pleasures.

Rather than chasing new accomplishments or perfection in their current roles, seniors can find contentment in what they've already achieved and in the wis-

dom they can now share. They have earned the right to slow down, enjoy the moment, and live in alignment with their authentic selves.

Fourth, engage in mindful practices. Mindfulness and meditation can help seniors become more in tune with their authentic selves. These practices encourage people to stay present, acknowledge their thoughts and emotions without judgment, and accept themselves as they are. By practicing mindfulness, seniors can quiet the inner critic that pushes them toward perfection and instead cultivate a sense of self-compassion and acceptance.

In the later stages of life, there's a unique opportunity to step away from the endless pursuit of perfection. By embracing authenticity, seniors can celebrate their true selves, find deeper joy, and live more fulfilling lives. Instead of focusing on unattainable ideals, they can cherish the wisdom, resilience, and beauty that come with a life lived authentically—imperfections and all.

## Preparing our kids



**BRUCE WHITAKER**

*Times Freelance Columnist*

My high school group of friends and I felt like we were being sent into the world clueless and unprepared upon graduation. We left home to become adults but didn't actually know how to be one. A nasty mushroom omelet was the limit of my culinary capabilities. I thought warm, hot and cold were interchangeable temperatures when washing clothes. If a button fell off my shirt, it was an excuse to buy a new one.

Columnist Pamela Paul recently wrote a New York Times opinion piece titled "To Prepare Kids for the Future, Bring Back Shop and Home Ec." Her premise was that we need to offer "adulting" skills such as sewing on a button, cooking a meal and repairing a toilet since they are no longer taught to kids at home, whether because parents are too busy or their extracurriculars too onerous. She went further to question the capabilities of our youth to do basic household tasks. Interestingly enough, Ontario schools shut down all shop and home economics classes for Grade 7 and 8 students in the 1990s.

Acknowledging that our kids are ill-prepared to become adults, the Ontario Government has chosen to make curriculum changes with the stated objective of ensuring students graduate with financial competence and a competitive edge to succeed in life and career after high school. Sewing is not making

a comeback in schools; rather, financial literacy will be introduced to Grade 10 students in 2025. In fact, students will be required to score 70 per cent or higher to meet the financial-literacy graduation requirement.

Although a worthy first step, the changes to the education system should not stop with improving students' personal financial acumen. Why not teach kids how to take better care of their own bodies? With more than six million Canadians without access to a family doctor, self-care is becoming increasingly essential to healthy living. It would also likely reduce the demand on ER departments by equipping our youth with the health knowledge to address some of the less-urgent cases, which accounted for approximately 23 per cent (or 1.29 million) of all emergency department visits in 2022–2023.

Better health education should start by empowering our young people with the knowledge to

self-diagnose and address basic medical issues. Being more aware of how our bodies function, how to diagnose potential medical problems and how to address issues through self-care should all be part of a mandatory course on health and physical education. Self-care should include how to prepare a well-balanced meal, embrace physical activity, take time for stress reduction, sleep without distractions, learn to communicate more effectively and build healthy relationships.

Students should also be guided on the impact of opioids and recreational drugs; when to see a doctor if one is available; how to keep medical records; the benefits and risks of medication; understanding the role of various medical professionals; alternative medicine; the best online apps to manage health; when to visit an ER; where to find medical support services; annual training on CPR; and how to recognize when friends

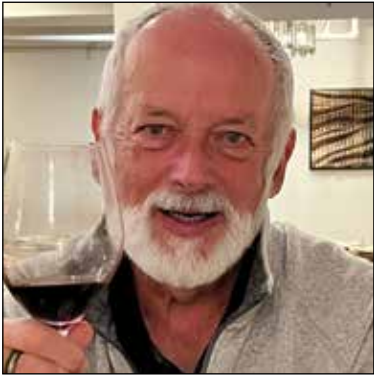
and family are in need and how to provide supports to them.

The conduit to enhanced health-care training should be through an expanded health and physical education (H+PE) course. High school students are required to take only one H+PE course between grades nine and 12 which limits the width and depth of topics. One course certainly does not empower youth to adequately ready themselves for self-care. It would be much better to build on health teachings each and every year, reinforcing the key concepts. Additionally, the health-care component should be taught by a health-care professional as opposed to a PE teacher who has minimal training on the subject.

Ultimately, developing healthier youth will lead to healthier adults and a healthier society, reducing the drain on our overwhelmed health-care system. Once we achieve this, we can move on to how to separate laundry.

**SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!  
CALL 519-655-2341 OR EMAIL STRATFORDTIMES@GMAIL.COM**

# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Is Richmond, Virginia the “best town” to visit in the U.S.?



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor

A few days ago, CNN published an article about the top ten “best towns” to visit in the United States. Number one on the list is Richmond, Va.

The CNN writers said “Richmond earns high scores for its top-notch museums and dynamic neighborhoods, and it’s taking a hard look at its complicated history. Plus, it’s got a diverse, chef-driven food scene, more than 30 breweries and ready access to surrounding wine country.”

Having spent a few days in that intriguing city earlier this year, I would agree with a couple of qualifications.

Richmond definitely has a “complicated history.” It was the capital city of the Confederation, a stalwart defender of slavery, and one of the most reluctant of American communities to accept desegregation. But the truth is I know about these things because the museums of Richmond told me the story openly and inclusively – again, with a couple of qualifications.

Let’s start with the best stuff. Our itinerary began with a visit to the Black History Museum (BHM) – and I suggest that every



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

**The striking Virginia State Capitol, designed by Thomas Jefferson, site of historic – and sometimes horrendous – acts of government.**

visitor’s itinerary should do the same.

On arrival, we stopped to chat with a well-dressed man sweeping the street in front of the museum. Chuck Lewis is a very well-informed guide at the BHM and his father was a civil-rights lawyer in Richmond. Lewis was a goldmine of information about the history of civil rights in Richmond, and he surprised us by saying that despite the realities of history, he is proud to live in Richmond because the community has made so many advances in race-relations issues “without blood being spilled.” The BHM’s motto is “preserving stories that inspire” – a very proactive approach to a very difficult topic.

We found the same honest but optimistic take at two other fine Richmond institutions – the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Both have rejected the still-perpetuated “lost-cause” theory, which claims the Ameri-

can Civil War was not about slavery but was a just and even heroic attempt to protect the rights of the southern states.

Both institutions have extensive exhibits depicting the realities of Virginia’s history. Again, visitors like me who know so little about the intricacies of American history can spend hours and hours in these fine institutions.

But here is where my qualification comes in. Yes, all three of these museums are doing a terrific job telling the truth about Richmond’s history and it’s significant that the latter are located on Arthur Ashe Blvd., named to honour the city’s tennis and civil-rights hero. But sandwiched between the museums, and ironically also located on Arthur Ashe Blvd., is the national headquarters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, an organization dedicated to defending the “lost cause of the confederacy” fallacy.

In Richmond, we stayed at the Commonwealth Hotel, located

just across the street from the Capitol District, home of the Virginia State Capitol and an extensive park filled with statuary commemorating civil-rights heroes. But here too, the fact that efforts to deal with history are still a work in progress was also evident.

The sculptures in the park were amazing, marking significant civil-rights achievements and honouring women who were community leaders through the centuries. We toured the Capitol building itself, an imposing structure designed by Thomas Jefferson, now the state capitol, but once the seat of government for the confederacy. This tour, conducted by a very articulate volunteer, was intriguing but clearly soft-pedaled the realities. In a room where horrendous legislation was once enacted, we were simply told this was the site of “important decisions, some good, some not so good.” Hmmmm...

If you are a history buff, you could get lost for days down the

rabbit holes of historical interpretation in Richmond. I think you might emerge giving most of the institutions high marks for honesty and ongoing efforts to be inclusive with a couple of codicils.

If you’re not a history buff, you will enjoy the amazing collection of art – including the largest collection of Faberge eggs outside Russia – at the Museum of Fine Arts, or your tour of the quirky Poe Museum, honouring the eccentric and mysterious life and death of Richmond native Edgar Allan Poe.

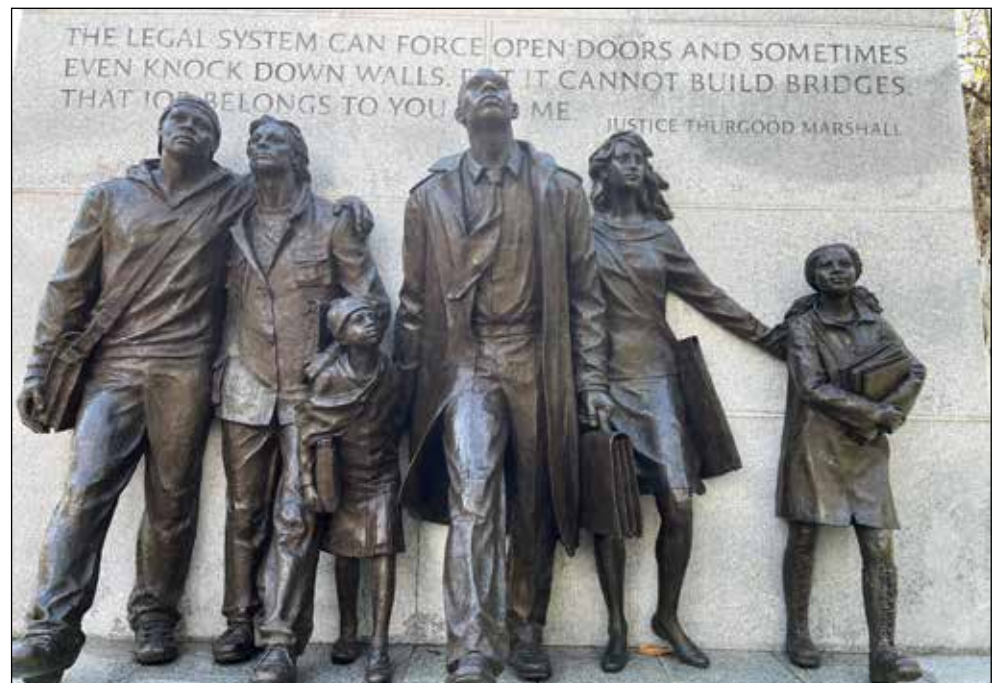
And as CNN’s report noted, this is a great city for foodies. We dined at opposite ends of the food-presentation scale – dinner at L’Opossum, where the presentation was astonishing, the ambience dramatic and the food very well prepared; and lunch at Mama J’s, a hole-in-the-wall diner with friendly service and excellent food. Oh, and concerning wine country, we discovered a destination just outside Richmond, which combined two of the things I love: Viniterra, a lovely Rees Jones golf course (which I played badly), also home to the New Kent Winery.

So, is CNN right? Is Richmond the number one town in the U.S.? Well, it certainly is one of the most interesting with many terrific attractions (my pocket guide lists over 50), great cuisine and just enough controversy to grab your attention and make your visit an intellectual and philosophical challenge.

*Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email [pknowles@golden.net](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



A dramatic photo of Martin Luther King covers one wall of the Black History Museum in Richmond, Va.



Statuary in Capitol Square, marking an important event in civil-rights history in Richmond.

# COMING EVENTS

## KIWANIS FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS INFORMATION SESSION

Saturday, October 5, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Lazaridis Hall, Tom Patterson Theatre

Information session about 2025 featured musical "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and the new Christopher Norton's Micro Musicals.

## GARDEN STRATFORD GENERAL MEETING

Monday, October 7, 2024, 7:15 – 9:00 p.m.

Army Navy Hall, 151 Lorne Ave. E., Stratford

Featured Presentation: "Horticulture – Is It Therapy? A

closer look at the healing power of nature.", Julie Riddell, Horticultural Therapist. Meeting Open to Everyone; Free Admission.

## GARDEN STRATFORD GENERAL MEETING

Monday, November 4, 2024, 7:15 – 9:00 p.m.

Army Navy Hall, 151 Lorne Ave. E., Stratford

Featured Presentation: "Succulents for Indoor and Outdoor Planters", Westland Greenhouses, Grand Bend

# HAVE A SPECIAL EVENT COMING UP?

Let us know! Call 519-655-2341

or email stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Join us for a birthday party honouring

# JUNE BLAINE'S 80<sup>th</sup>

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Open house - 4-6

Sebringville Community Centre  
302 Huron Rd, NOK 1X0

BEST WISHES ONLY

# CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire stratfordtimes@gmail.com

## HELP WANTED

### GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

## WE ARE HIRING

### JOIN OUR TEAM AS A NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE!

Are you a motivated self-starter with a passion for sales and marketing? Do you thrive in a flexible work environment where you can set your own schedule? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you!

**Location:** Work from Anywhere!

**Schedule:** Your Own Schedule

**Type:** Commission

**About Grant Haven Media:** At Grant Haven Media, we are committed to delivering top-quality news and information to our readers. As a leading newspaper company, we take pride in our dedication to journalistic excellence and community engagement. As we continue to grow, we're looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our dynamic sales team.

If you are interested, contact Heather Dunbar at: heather@granthaven.com

## RUN YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE!

JUST \$10 + HST PER EDITION

Contact: stratfordtimes@gmail.com or call 519-655-2341

## FOR SALE

**OFFICE DESK,** Bullet top table desk, 72 inches long 36 inches wide, Black Ebony on Oak veneer, solid oak headers, three legs, one leg is solid Oak, two legs are metal, black. Newly finished. \$150.00.

CASH ONLY - St. Marys area

Call 519-272-5951 and leave a message.

**OFFICE DESK,** Bullet top table desk, 60 inches long 30 inches wide, Natural Cherry on Cherry veneer solid cherry headers, three metal legs one black two silver colour. Newly finished, some flaws in the veneer. \$75.00.

CASH ONLY - St. Marys area

Call 519-272-5951 and leave a message.

**OFFICE DESK TOP,** 60 inches long and 30 inches wide, Medium cherry colour on Maple veneer, solid Maple headers, newly finished. No legs or base supplied, you can obtain legs from Richleau, Amazon, Wayfair. Can be made into a table desk with legs. \$50.00.

CASH ONLY - St. Marys area

Call 519-272-5951 and leave a message.



Four in five Canadians read newspapers weekly.



## WANTED

\$ Cash Paid \$ for your RECORDS and LPs. Jazz, Blues, Rock, Pop, Folk, Soundtracks, and more. Selectively buying CDs, Cassettes, Turntables, and Stereo Equipment. For more information: **DIAMOND DOGS MUSIC** 114 Ontario St. Stratford / 226-972-5750

**WANTING TO BUY** – All collectibles including sports cards, beanie babies, Funko pops and stamps. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Are you downsizing or need an estate clean out? We can help. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

Fair value offered for your vinyl records, cassette tapes & hifi components. Please contact **Sound Fixation, 519-801-5421, 4 George St. W, Stratford.**

**I WILL PAY CASH FOR ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES** – Coca Cola Pepsi any pop company, Brewery items Kuntz, Huether Labatts etc. Old radios and gramophones,

Wristwatches and pocket watches, Old fruit jars Beaver Star Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs Red Indian Supertest etc. Any small furniture.

If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

## SERVICES

Have you been affected by someone else's drinking?

Al-Anon Family Groups could help YOU!

Call for time and place.

1-800-706-9833 or App Available

## FOR SALE

**TREES:** Shade trees, Fruit trees, Apple, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Sweet and Sour Cherries, Apricot, Nectarines, Blueberry, Haskopp, Black Chokeberry, Grapes etc.

Lots of Spruce, Pine, Cedars for windbreaks and privacy hedges, Sizes 1 to 6+.

Flowering shrubs and much more.

Come check us out Mon-Sat 7:00am - 6:00pm

Martin's Nursery

42661 Orangehill Road

Wroxeter (1 concession north of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

# Riddles

Why did the leaf go to school? **To turn over a new leaf!**

What kind of apple isn't an apple? **A pineapple!**

What do you call a tree that worries? **A nervous wreck!**

Why did the scarecrow win an award? **Because he was outstanding in his field!**

How do you fix a broken pumpkin? **With a pumpkin patch!**

Why did the pumpkin go to the party? **Because it was a gourd time!**

What's a ghost's favorite dessert? **I scream!**

What's a scarecrow's favorite fruit? **Straw-berries!**

What kind of music do mummies listen to in the autumn? **Wrap music!**

Why do trees hate tests? **Because they get stumped!**

# Sudoku

1						7		
			7		3			1
6			8	1				5
	1			4				6
9	3			7				2
7	5			3	2			
				6		1	8	
	7		2					4

Solutions on page 30



## Pet of the Month



### MARIA

Maria is a spirited and loving large, mix breed dog. She's full of energy and adores long walks, cuddles, and playing at the park. Maria can be quite strong on leash so she will need an adopter who can help her learn new manners. She is a quick learner and very eager, and just needs a little time and patience to become the best dog she can be! If she sounds like the perfect fit for you, apply today at [kwsphumane.ca](http://kwsphumane.ca).

## Word Search

### AUTUMN

X	F	P	Y	S	S	M	I	S	I	D	I	A	U	I	K	Q	J	B	G
I	R	O	F	G	Q	U	P	V	E	B	F	J	W	C	Y	W	W	Q	P
S	A	C	D	G	N	U	A	S	L	X	A	U	E	G	M	B	Q	X	K
T	A	G	L	I	M	P	I	U	I	E	Y	G	S	Z	B	T	C	D	Q
K	M	X	O	P	O	A	L	R	S	A	K	U	I	V	Y	A	G	M	U
I	N	Q	K	T	J	Y	N	O	R	X	X	B	Q	G	X	A	O	Z	Q
E	Y	I	X	Z	V	R	E	B	M	E	U	P	T	S	T	Y	V	W	Y
X	N	X	R	K	O	X	E	Q	V	I	L	V	U	S	Z	R	W	M	N
J	L	J	N	C	I	S	K	P	W	X	P	T	A	H	E	D	I	X	O
D	L	K	A	G	F	P	C	N	P	S	L	W	C	F	U	V	F	V	A
G	A	B	T	H	Q	R	G	A	X	Y	H	Q	Q	E	P	V	R	X	N
F	F	J	U	F	I	J	F	U	R	R	W	G	H	E	R	U	Y	A	H
L	F	E	F	S	B	I	G	K	B	F	E	P	C	P	S	X	Q	W	H
K	A	T	P	W	E	O	I	A	Y	B	I	D	L	T	E	P	I	J	N
I	E	C	L	N	F	O	N	B	U	Z	W	E	I	L	G	R	V	H	A
L	L	I	H	C	W	P	Z	F	I	T	O	C	A	C	A	Z	U	J	F
M	J	K	J	U	A	D	D	J	I	B	L	D	V	A	I	K	P	B	S
O	C	B	X	L	E	Z	Q	E	U	R	L	U	K	Q	L	M	G	T	H
A	K	I	X	E	T	S	X	K	E	O	E	I	K	D	O	Q	L	R	T
H	Z	M	Y	X	G	F	A	D	M	S	M	L	W	T	F	U	W	E	R

- CRISP
- HARVEST
- FOLIAGE
- PUMPKIN
- EMBER
- ACORN
- CHILL
- SCARF
- BONFIRE
- HUES
- SQUIRREL
- LEAFFALL
- CIDER
- MELLOW
- RUSTIC

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY Email to inquire stratfordtimes@gmail.com

## ACCOUNTING

**Famme & Co.**  
Professional Corporation  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

125 Ontario St., Stratford  
519-271-7581 | Fax 519-271-2737  
office@fammeandco.on.ca

## CLEANING

**U-CLEAN**

**CLEANING SERVICES**

- DEEP CLEANING
- REGULAR CLEANING
- MOVE OUT/MOVE IN
- RESIDENTIAL
- AIRBNB
- POST PARTY

Contact Us:  
226-880-0281  
437-235-3520

BOOK NOW  
SERVICE.U.CLEAN@GMAIL.COM

## CONSTRUCTION

**FRASER ASPHALT PAVING**

"Serving Stratford & area since 1977"

www.fraserpaving.ca

Driveways • Parking Lots • Excavating  
Truck Rentals • Asphalt Patching

Call Scott or Denise for a free quote.

**519-271-5690**

## DELIVERY

**TOAD**  
TAKE OUT AND DELIVERY

www.toadapp.ca

**YOUR LOCAL DELIVERY OPTION**  
Restaurants • Groceries  
Supplies

Supporting Local Commission Free  
Merchant Friendly

With TOAD you order direct from the business

**TOAD Take Out And Delivery**

## EAVESTROUGH

**EAVESTROUGH CLEANING**

Fully Cleaned, Downspouts Unblocked,  
Free Estimates, Quality Workmanship

Stratford  
**519-273-4713**

## FENCING / DECKS

**ALL SHORES**  
Fencing & Decks

519-273-2003  
info@allshoresfd.ca

## HEARING

**COMMUNITY HEARING CARE**

Free Hearing Tests!

**519-271-HEAR(4327)**  
www.communityhearingcare.ca

## HOME APPLIANCES

**PHELANS PLACE Appliances**

APPLIANCES • PARTS

237 Huron Road,  
Sebringville  
519-393-6181  
info@phelansplace.com

www.phelansplace.com

## HUMANE SOCIETY

Stratford Perth  
**HUMANE SOCIETY**

125 Griffith Rd, Stratford  
519-273-6600  
kwsphumane.ca

## INVESTMENTS

**Franklin E. Hinz**  
196 Ontario Street, Stratford  
519-273-1633  
www.franklinehinz.com

## JUNK REMOVAL

**DIAMOND DISPOSAL**

BIN RENTAL OR FULL JUNK REMOVAL

**519-284-2221**  
www.diamonddisposal.ca  
info@diamonddisposal.ca

## MASONRY

**JVK** Jacob VanKooten  
519-274-9288  
MASONRY jake@jvkmasonry.com

- Restoration Masonry
- Brick BBQ & Outdoor Living Needs
- Parging, Repointing & Rockfacing
- Chimney Removal, Repair & Rebuild

## MARKETING

**TOWN CRIER MARKETING**

FREE CONSULTATION

## MORTGAGE

**RBC**

**Eric Miller**  
Mobile Mortgage Specialist  
226-921-5248  
eric.miller@rbc.com

Mortgage advice for your new home.

## MORTGAGE ALLIANCE

**LET ME FIND THE RIGHT MORTGAGE FOR YOU!**

**PAUL BARTON** | 519-272-9559  
pbarton@mortgagealliance.com  
Mortgage Agent Level 2 Lic# 10530

## REAL ESTATE

**LUCIE STEPHENS**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

**519-703-0333**

RE/MAX | a-b REALTY LTD BROKERAGE

**SOLD!**

## REAL ESTATE

**DAVE FAIR REALTOR®**

Make Real Estate a 'FAIR' GAME

www.davefair.ca  
905.866.7577

ROYAL LEPAGE Hiller Realty

## REAL ESTATE

**Home & Company**  
REAL ESTATE CORP. BROKERAGE

**Toni McLean** Sales Representative

519-274-1120 Direct  
245 Downie St, Stratford, N5A 1X5  
tmclean@homeandcompany.ca

## REAL ESTATE

**Home & Company**  
REAL ESTATE CORP. BROKERAGE

**Tina Grasby**  
BROKER

b. 519.508.HOME (4663) | m. 519-275-7663  
tgrasby@homeandcompany.ca  
homeandcompany.ca

## LIST WITH CHRIS!

**ROYAL LEPAGE**

**Chris Evans, Broker**

Hiller Realty Brokerage  
100 Erie St., Stratford, ON | 519-276-9101  
listwithchris@wightman.ca

**SHOP SAVE LOCAL. LOCAL.**

Support businesses that keep your community and its newspaper thriving

## REAL ESTATE

**Spencer Binkle**  
Sales Representative

Direct: **519-801-5620**

spencerbinkle@royallepage.ca

ROYAL LEPAGE  
Hiller Realty

## TRAVEL

**STONETOWN TRAVEL**

150 Queen St. E., St. Marys  
**519-284-2332**

210 Mill St., New Hamburg  
**226-333-9939**

www.stonetowntravel.com  
agent@stonetowntravel.com

## WATCH/CLOCK REPAIR

**Watch & Clock Repair**  
FREE ESTIMATES

Watch batteries, bands & crystals

All makes & models. New & Old.

House calls available

**Antiques in Time**  
45 York Street | 519-272-0411  
www.antiquesintime.ca

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Giant Asteroid
2. Rickey Henderson
3. China
4. Swine flu
5. Liquor
6. 1931
7. Ten
8. Dog mushing
9. An English Novelist
10. Violet

## SUDOKU

1	8	3	4	5	6	7	2	9
5	4	9	7	2	3	6	1	8
6	2	7	8	1	9	4	5	3
2	1	8	9	4	5	3	7	6
9	3	6	1	7	8	5	4	2
7	5	4	6	3	2	8	9	1
4	9	2	3	6	7	1	8	5
8	6	1	5	9	4	2	3	7
3	7	5	2	8	1	9	6	4

**ADVERTISE HERE FOR AS LOW AS \$15 PER ISSUE!**

**Contact:**  
stratfordtimes@gmail.com  
or call 519-655-2341

**SHOP SAVE LOCAL. LOCAL.**

Support businesses that keep your community and its newspaper thriving



# SEASONAL MAINTENANCE SPECIAL

**\$99** OIL CHANGE & FLUID TOP UP  
& MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

Disclaimer: \*Price subject to change based on make/model and oil grade required for your vehicle.



## CASH FOR CARS!

**WE BUY ALL MAKES AND MODELS! COME SEE HOW WE CAN PUT MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKETS!**

**NVS AUTO offers financing, extended warranty and GAP insurance.**

**2016 BMW 750i M Package**



**133,689 km | \$27,899**  
+ HST & Licensing

**2020 Land Rover Range Rover Sport HSE**



**60,745 km | \$54,899**  
+ HST & Licensing

**2017 Lincoln MKC Select AWD**



**117,425km | \$16,995**  
+ HST & Licensing

**2018 Cadillac XT5 AWD**



**158,850 km | \$18,889**  
+ HST & Licensing

## REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

### ROUTINE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

- Oil change
- Tire rotation
- Wheel Alignment
- Brake inspection and replacement
- Battery diagnostic and replacement
- Transmission service
- Engine tune-up
- Air conditioning service

### COMPLETE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

- Computerized engine analysis
- Check engine light diagnostic
- Fuel system diagnostic
- Electrical system diagnostic
- Performance analysis

**We service all makes and models, with a specialization in imports. Additionally, we supply and reprogram new key fobs**

**NVS Auto - 607 Downie Street, Stratford, ON | Phone: 519-271-0601**  
**nvsauto@outlook.com | www.nvsauto.com**

**STRATFORD OWNED**



**STOREWIDE TAX INCLUDED PRICING**



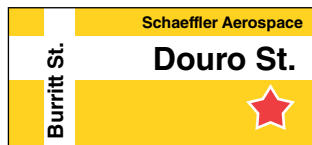
**DELIVERY AVAILABLE ALL ITEMS**



# Home furniture



**MAIN STORE:**  
519-273-9330  
2954 Hwy 7&8 E



**OUTLET:**  
519-273-7453  
617 Douro Street

Follow us on:



<b>Outlet Hours:</b>	<b>Main Store Hours:</b>
Thurs. to Fri. 10 to 6	Mon. to Thurs. 10 to 6
Sat. 10 to 5	Fri. 10 to 8
Sun. 12 to 4	Sat. 10 to 5
	Sun. 12 to 4

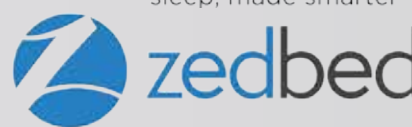
[www.stratfordhomefurniture.ca](http://www.stratfordhomefurniture.ca)  
[www.homefurniture.ca](http://www.homefurniture.ca)

# TRUCKLOAD MATTRESS SALE



## 50% OFF

**ALL SIZES,  
ALL MANUFACTURERS**



**OUTLET ITEMS NOW ONLINE AT STRATFORDHOMEFURNITURE.CA.**

