

STRATFORD **TIMES**

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Attainable Housing Project open house held November 23rd

LISA CHESTER
Times Correspondent

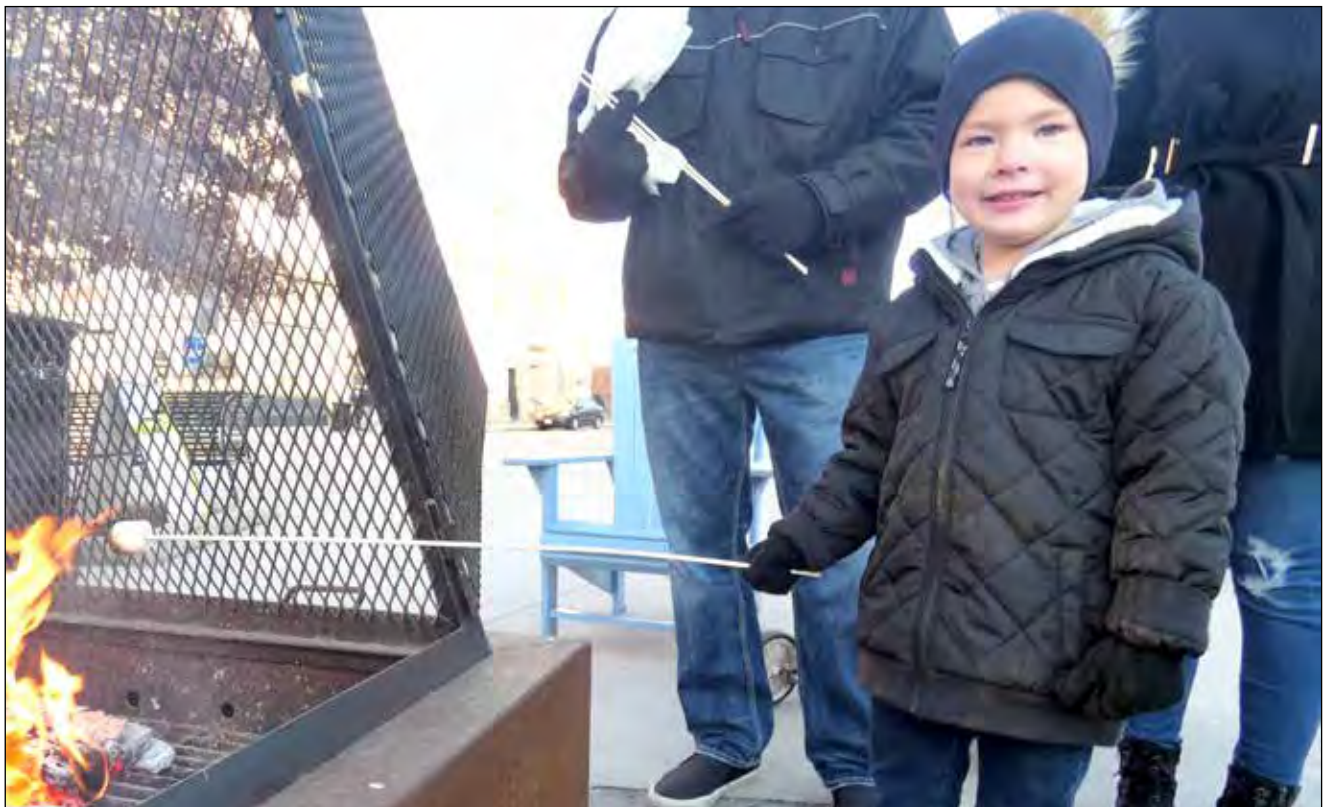
The work that commenced last spring on the Attainable Housing Project continued with a public open house held at the Rotary Complex on November 23rd. Representatives Stantec Consulting, Baker Planning Group and investStratford were on hand to answer questions from the public in attendance.



Stratford is seen as a desirable city to live in as the largest centre in the region for employment opportunities, education, commercial services and recreation. Over recent years, particularly throughout the pandemic, prices have risen - presenting a challenge to find suitable, adequate, and available housing for the local market. This lack of housing has directly impacted the ability of businesses to recruit the qualified employees they need in the community, thus it is a two-fold problem.

To address the growing problem, Stratford has undergone the initial steps to develop an Attainable Market Housing Community Incentives Toolkit (CIT) and Attainable Market Housing Pilot Project to encourage the generation of more housing. The city has developed a definition of attainable housing as: 1. Affordable to the income level of the household; 2. Available for that household; 3. Appropriate to the circumstances of the household including of suitable quality; 4. Actionable in that it is an option the household can act upon.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 9



(SARAH CAIRNS PHOTO)

WAITING FOR SOME CHOCOLATEY GOODNESS

Carter (4.5) took part in the fun behind City Hall on December 4 as he roasted his s'more marshmellow. Downtown Stratford BIA presented Winter Wonderland for two weekends: November 26-27 and December 3-4 that included a carousel, free s'more kits, Spot Santa scavenger hunts and Blacksmith John Walker of Fallen Willow Forge.

Return to in-person meetings discussed at first City Council meeting since election

EMILY STEWART
Times Correspondent

Stratford City Hall will look for an alternative meeting site if the city hall elevator is not fixed by the end of January 2023.

Stratford City Council met over Zoom on November 28 for the first time since the 2022 Municipal Election. Council discussed a staff recommendation to continue virtual council, committee, and sub-committee meetings until the

city hall's elevator is fixed. The majority of council voted in favour of re-visiting the in-person meeting options if the elevator is not fixed by late January 2023.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Return to in-person meetings discussed at first City Council meeting since election

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The management report in the agenda presented two options, either continue meetings on Zoom and upload them to the city's YouTube page and website the next day or hold in-person committee and council meetings at the Stratford Rotary Complex, with sub-committee meetings continuing on Zoom, starting January 2023 until the elevator is fixed. The report suggested continuing virtual meetings until the elevator is fixed.

Zoom is accounted for in the 2023 City Budget at \$2,800 for three licens-

es. If council were to hold in-person meetings at the Rotary Complex, the city would lose about \$775 each weekday and \$1,010 each weekend day in revenue because the Rotary Complex halls could not be rented out.

Stratford's council, committee, and sub-committee meetings became virtual to follow COVID-19 protocol. Meetings remained virtual due to the elevator flooding in January 2022.

Councillor Bonnie Henderson noted that some people who otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend meetings were able to do so because of Zoom. She would like to continue virtual meetings until the elevator is fixed, rather than using the Rotary Complex temporarily.

"There's a lot of work that's involved in having staff move all of their stuff every time we have a meeting, say to the Rotary Complex, and then we can't rent that room out," Henderson said.

She added that she only

heard two people who dislike the virtual meetings, while everyone else seems to enjoy them.

"They think it's great. They can go back and watch it at any time and they can see us."

Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach put forward an amendment to have the city clerk prepare information for off-site meeting options if the elevator is not fixed by the end of January 2023.

"I agree both with doing the virtual meetings but also wanting to get back to in-person," Burbach said. "I think it's great for the public but I also think it would be very good for council to be in the room together. I think it's really important that we don't see each other as talking heads but are actually available to interact."

Councillor Brad Beatty said that while he understands the desire to return to in-person meetings, he wasn't sure if a deadline was the best course of action.

"As we all know, time and material, it's tough to get these things done. I don't know if putting a deadline of January is going to make it any better," Beatty said. "The job is going to get done as quickly as it can."

Councillor Mark Hunter suggested a permanent alternative venue for in-person meetings.

"I agree that the cost proposed for these meetings is quite pricey, but there's a value in meeting in person. As the delegation pointed out some of the things you don't get on Zoom meetings that you get at in-person meetings," Hunter said. "I do have concern, going forward, about an old building that has a single elevator for access and if we're dependent on that elevator always working to be able to hold in-person meetings, I just think it would be nice to have an alternative."

Councillor Lesley Beihn asked if a hybrid option was possible, but city clerk Tatiana Dafoe explained that because the elevator is out of operation, it is not accessible to people with disabilities. However, a hybrid option could be explored when in-person meetings return.

The amendment to revisit in-person meeting options if the elevator is not repaired by late January 2023 passed 10-1, with Beatty opposing.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2022.



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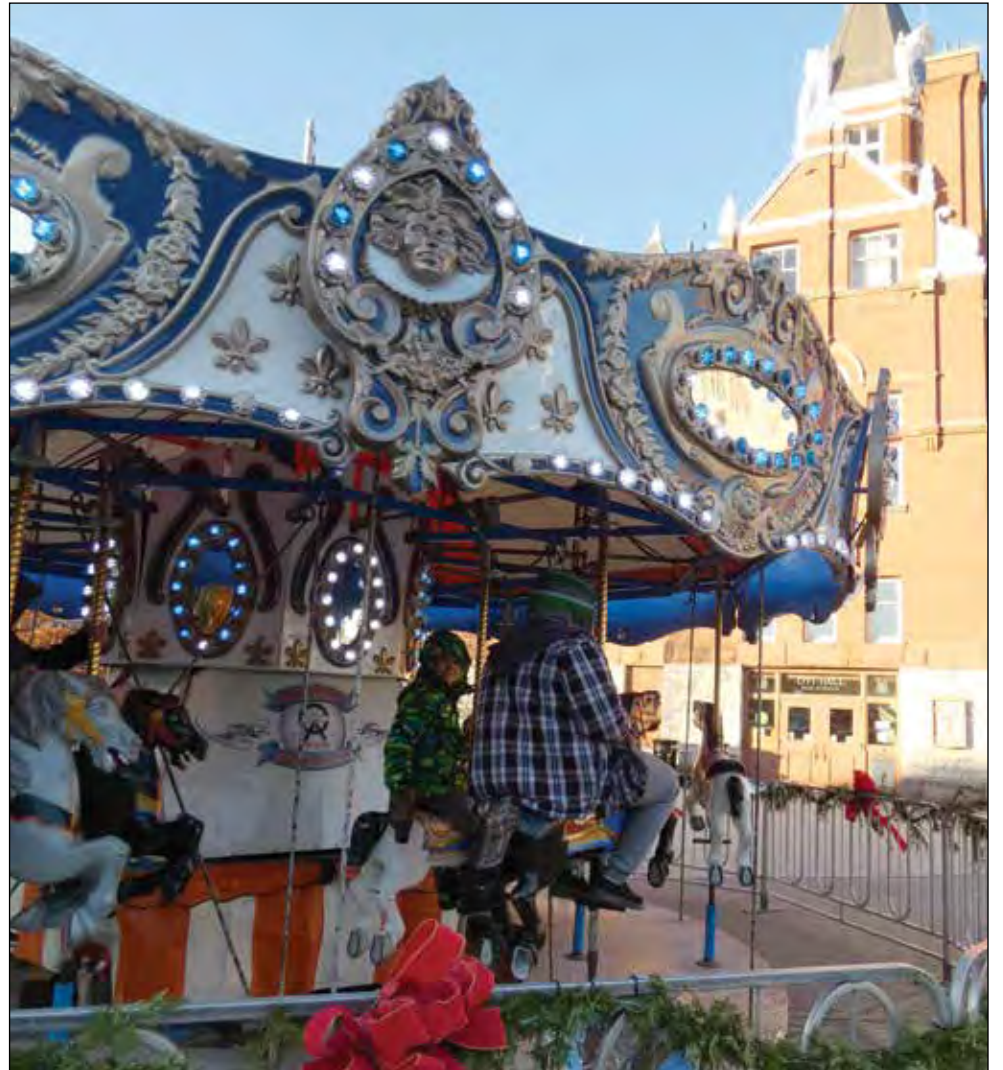
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(SARAH CAIRNS PHOTO)

STUFF-THE-CRUISER

The Stratford Police Services have been campaigning in Stratford and St. Marys for their annual Stuff-a-Cruiser in support of the House of Blessing and Salvation Army. Pictured from left to right: Auxiliary Officer Neil Mohr, Constable Darren Fischer and student volunteer Ben Hutchinson. "It's been quite the impressive turnout," Fischer said, adding that an employee of Walmart had donated a full cart of stuffed teddy bears to the campaign. The next scheduled stuff-the-cruiser is December 10th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Food Basics, No Frills, Sobeys and Giant Tiger.



(SARAH CAIRNS PHOTO)

SPIN ME RIGHT ROUND

The carousel was the centre piece of the Winter Wonderland that was put on recently by the Downtown Stratford BIA. It was a free-will donation to take a ride. The donations went towards Connection Centre, a facility that provides resources and creates a safe place for the homeless.

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STRATFORD TIMES

Stratford's Community Newspaper

Established 2021

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(If interested in contributing to the Stratford Times, send us a note at stratfordtimes@gmail.com)



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Local news: the biggest challenge is fitting it all in!

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

When I quit my regular accounting job on June 1st to pursue newspapers on a full-time basis, I predicted it would take me about six months to clear my "to do" backlog, get relatively caught-up, and then I could give my new career my full undivided attention as of December 1st. So here we are!

Working on this December issue of the Stratford Times was tremendously enjoyable since I finally had the chance to conduct a number of interviews myself and meet some wonderful people in the process.

Our community is very generous throughout the year, but this is particularly true in December, so in this issue we've tried to focus quite a bit on various initiatives happening throughout the city to help those in need.

Something else that I've spent a lot of time on this month is getting to know some of our local business owners, whose long hours in pursuit of a dream help shape the community we live in. In this issue, I hope you'll enjoy learning about the latest happenings in Stratford's culinary scene while also gaining a deeper understanding about some local businesses who have recently celebrated milestone anniversaries of service.

People have told me, regardless of their age, that they love holding onto a local print newspaper and reading about what's going on. This has been evidenced in our circulation figures. We printed 2,000 copies of our first issue, in August 2021. Since then, we've been increasing it each month and are constantly replenishing certain locations week by week, and this month we're up to 6,100 copies... a growing figure completely driven by reader-

ship demand.

Of course, it all costs money, and the cost of newsprint has escalated greatly in recent years as the product has become more scarce. Pulp and paper resources that once went to newsprint are now being diverted to make more boxes for Amazon, for example.

The good news is that, thanks to the support of the advertisers that appear in this newspaper, along with the fact that we are a very small staff, the Stratford Times is profitable. It's a going concern that is here for the long run.

However, I know that the Times can be better, and I want that to happen. I'd like the Times to be full colour throughout, but that costs money. How about printing more often than once a month? Going to twice a month, and then eventually to weekly? There's certainly enough news to make that happen, but again, there are extra costs that need to be covered.

My message to the Stratford community is that the pace of expansion and furthered improvement of the Stratford Times is completely up to you. Each ad that appears in our paper, each sponsorship of a section... it all goes towards building this up to a point where we can make the leap to full colour and then the bigger leap to publishing more frequent issues.

Each and every week in small-town St. Marys with our Independent newspaper, we fill 28 to 32 pages worth of local content. It's exciting to imagine what we can eventually provide to the citizens of Stratford when the Times eventually fulfills its promise.

We're always looking for ideas to improve the Times. Please reach out to us anytime at stratfordtimes@gmail.com or give me a call or text at 519-868-1290.

Downtown Stratford BIA presents Downtown Dollars

The Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area recently announced the rebranding and the new look for Downtown Dollars! Your Downtown Dollars can be used in almost every business downtown, and are easily purchased at the BIA office inside the Stratford Tourism building 47 Downie Street (beside TD Bank across from City Hall.) Downtown Dollars make great gifts for the person who has everything (or the person who doesn't!).

This year Downtown Dollars have a whole new look and feature a QR code that you can scan to locate businesses accepting them. You can also keep an eye out for "Downtown Dollars Accepted Here" stickers in business windows.

Support your Downtown Stratford businesses by purchasing Downtown Dollars that never expire! Sold in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$20, Downtown Dollars make a great gift for teachers, coaches, colleagues, and all those "hard to buy for" friends and family! Downtown Dollars spend like cash in hand.

Perhaps you own a business or are in charge of arranging Holiday gifts for your staff and / or loyal customers. Downtown Dollars are the perfect solution to excite a large variety of individuals. Give them something they will be delighted to have. Jamie Pritchard, General Manager of the BIA says, "It's the gift that's guaranteed to make the recipient happy! And definitely a gift that will not be re-gifted!"

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

Newly elected Mayor Martin Ritsma looking forward to next chapter of life-long leadership

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

After serving on Stratford City Council as a councillor for three terms and as deputy mayor for two terms, Mayor Martin Ritsma is ready to lead.

"I think it has always been a part of who I am; the willingness or desire to work as a team and to do something to serve people, to make the world around me a better place," Ritsma said.

His desire to help others began when he was growing up as the middle child in a family of 11 and was wondering how to help the family during their struggles. He also played a lot of sports in high school and university including basketball.

Ritsma's interest in municipal politics began around when his farm was annexed by Stratford and he was encouraged by former councillor Howard Famme to run for councillor. Previously, Ritsma ran for an MPP nomination for Perth-Wellington and for councillor for North Easthope.

"I think that was a bit of a tipping point for me, where somebody who I really respected reached out and said 'Martin, I want you to think about this.'"

Ritsma was elected as Stratford Mayor in the 2022 Municipal Election on October 24. Before serving on city council, he took on several leadership roles.

Ritsma taught special education and physical education for 20 years at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School. He was also vice principal and intermediate principal at Stratford Northwestern and Stratford Central Secondary School and principal at Wingham's F.E. Madill Secondary School before becoming Stratford Northwestern's principal in 2012 for six years. Ritsma last took on the system principal role for the Avon Maitland District School Board office.

"When you're a teacher, you're a leader in the classroom. When you're department head, you're a leader in your department," he said. "When you're vice-principal or principal, you're a leader in the school. When you're at the board office, you're leading from that perspective."

Ritsma still supports the education sector, particularly the students, when he can be by visiting classrooms. He was recently involved in the Ontario Federation of School Athletics Association (OFSAA) Championships as Mayor and wants to talk to young people and hear their ideas.

"That will be an easy piece for me and an enjoyable piece, but a really important piece," he said. "I can't lose that connection. That is so valuable to me."

Ritsma has also taken on several volunteer opportunities including chair of the Stratford Fall Fair, board chair of Shelterlink, volunteer for the St. Joseph's Community Dinners, volunteer fundraising chair for the United Way (2018 to 2021), fundraising chair for St. Joseph's Church, and Saddle Club President.

Addressing critical issues from agriculture to housing

During his inaugural address on No-



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

STRATFORD'S INAUGURATION

Stratford's Mayor Martin Ritsma speaking to a large crowd, outlining his vision for the next 4 years as he heads up Stratford City Council.

On November 21, Ritsma said he aims to provide more housing, address the local labour shortage, respect the farmland, and protect the environment.

As someone who lived on a farm for his whole life, Ritsma is passionate about agriculture and its impact on cities.

"We live in the heart of the best agricultural land in Canada, without a doubt," he said.

For him, agriculture and the environment go hand-in-hand for issues such as ensuring preservation of farmland and limiting consumption of the land for industrial and residential growth.

"When I look at the environment, I don't look at it through my eyes. I look at it through the lens of my four granddaughters," Ritsma said. "What am I doing as an individual and as a leader to ensure the best possible home for them, environment for them, as they grow older and want to raise a family?"

The unemployment rate in Stratford sits at 2.3 per cent. Ritsma plans to implement training and re-training to address the issue, along with speaking with St. Marys and Perth County representatives. Providing more housing will also address the labour shortage and will ensure more people who work in Stratford also live in Stratford. Several people commute between 50 minutes to an hour to get to Stratford for work.

Ritsma also wants to bring more housing to help those experiencing homelessness and young families who want a home.

"When I say home, I don't necessarily mean just a privately owned home. A lot of people are very, very happy and pleased to have a rental unit," he said.

The city's planning department will soon present the mayor with the projected number of housing starts per year throughout the next decade.

What does the Mayor love about Stratford?

When asked about his favourite parts of Stratford, Ritsma said that he likes that it's a city with a small-town atmosphere.

"The amenities that it offers our residents are amazing and yet it still has that small town feeling where I can walk from my office over to the bank or to wherever, and as I walk it's a natural feel to say 'Good morning, how are you doing?'" he said.

He also likes how quick it is to get from one end of

Stratford to the other.

"You can get on transit and be across the city in half an hour or you can get in your vehicle and be to your location in seven minutes or be on a bike in 15. Certainly, the size of our city certainly allows for easy transportation in a timely fashion."

Community advocacy for every resident

As Mayor of Stratford, Ritsma will be talking to residents and advocating for them when meeting with provincial and federal stakeholders. Ritsma wants to speak with Ontario premier Doug Ford and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark about the impact of the controversial Bill 23 on Stratford. He would also like to speak to the provincial government about continuing funding for the PC Connect transit.

Ritsma also wants to speak to all residents about the issues affecting them, and is open to disagreement and difference of opinions. His care for Stratford residents won't change.

"I value who they are as residents. I was a resident and continue to be a resident. Their concerns are certainly my concerns," Ritsma said.

Merry Christmas

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To Drive Our Community

Honda's fundraiser helps local food bank...and more

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Raising money and donations for the local food bank has always been of paramount importance at Stratford Honda, which has been a family-owned dealership here in the city since 1990.

However, during the first year of the pandemic, newly hired Marketing Specialist Janet Keen worked with Honda's Dealer/Principal John Duiker on taking their fundraising efforts to another level with the development of the appropriately named "Drive Our Community" event that broadened the impact of their locally focused efforts.

Keen said that the event has "taken on a life of its own" as it enters its third year.

Last year, over \$14,000 was raised for the Stratford House of Blessing and they are looking to exceed that figure in 2022. The food bank drive began November 28th and runs through to December 16th.

"A big thing on social media is running contests," Janet explained. "In the case of the pandemic, we thought the idea of giving back to our business community was really key. To put money into our local economy, John decided to purchase gift cards from our business community and give away these as prizes."

December 1st was the first prize draw, and Stratford Honda is doing 12 days of prizes (occurring Mondays through Fridays). Along with five \$100 prizes of Downtown Dollars to be won, there are also prizes of at least \$100 value from businesses such as Foodland,

Stratford Axes, Mike's Bowling Lanes, Vann's Fine Bakery, Demetre's Family Eatery, Wild Hog Country Market, and



Stratford Honda. Many of the businesses generously donated prizes over-and-above those purchased by Honda.

Janet shared some recent information provided by Theresa McMurray, director at Stratford House of Blessing, which shows why fundraising events like this, and others, are so important.

"So many people in our community are feeling the financial pressure, leaving them in crisis this year more than ever. Fortunately, the Stratford House of Blessing (SHOB) is here for them. This year they have already reached a 41% increase this year in the number of households coming for food assistance. In addition, a 25% increase in households requiring food assistance for the first time. Also,

for the first time, the SHOB has provided food for more than 10,000 people this year."

The items that are most sought-after by the House of Blessing are healthy kids' snacks, juice boxes, cookies and crackers, meals in a can (i.e. chili and stew), gluten-free products, toiletries, toilet paper, hygiene products, and cash donations.

Donations can be dropped off at Stratford Honda's newly-renovated showroom at 3018 Ontario Street East. Each donation earns a ballot for a chance to win one of the 12 local business \$100 gift cards sponsored by Stratford Honda. For more information, visit www.stratfordhonda.ca and click on the "Food Drive" option in the menu bar.

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(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

SPIN TO WIN

Pictured above is Ray Ford, who is about to spin the wheel to gain an extra draw ticket after generously donating towards Stratford Honda's "Drive Our Community" event last week, along with Janet Keen, Marketing Specialist at Stratford Honda.

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from our families to yours!

Kathryn Ritsma, Andrew Phillips, Matt Orchard, Katie DeBlock Boersma, Ryan Bagnell, Dennis Crawford, Cate McCorquodale, Michelle Jowett, James Burns, Lori Millian & Staff

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Stratford Farmers' Market raises close to \$4,000 for United Way Perth-Huron

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

The Saturday Stratford Farmers' Market has always been a mainstay for the residents of Stratford, Perth County and area, providing opportunity for shoppers to buy local, whether it's meat, eggs, fresh fruit, vegetables, baked goods or crafts.

Recently, with the support of area producers along with Stratford Agriculture Society directors, the United Way of Perth-Huron was the recipient of donated funds from a breakfast cooked up by various volunteers of the various farm organizations.

Perth County dairy producers, egg farmers, pork producers, and grain farmers all got together to donate the bacon, eggs, cheese on a fresh bun along with chocolate milk to provide market visitors with a balanced and hardy breakfast. 100 per cent of the proceeds raised went to the programs supported by United Way of Perth-Huron.

At the closing of the five-hour market, organizer Martin Ritsma (now the city's Mayor) announced the total raised was \$3,902.45. All of that money goes to finance the many programs of the area's United Way. The organization supports much-needed programs for the homeless and those in poverty, to name only a few of the many they lend a helping hand to year after year.

Over the last number of years, the Stratford and District Agricultural Society has raised well over \$25,000 for United Way Perth-Huron and hopes to continue doing the same for many years in the future.



From left: United Way co-ordinator Elizabeth Cooper; Hailey Peters; Agricultural Society Ambassador Paige Fawcett and Agricultural Society director Martin Ritsma.

MPP Rae Announces Investment in Local Police Services

On November 24, Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae announced the Stratford Police Service will be receiving \$169,570 in funding to incorporate Automated License Plate Recognition Technology (ALPRT) into their fleet.

"This funding will help provide our

local police services with the tools they need to improve road safety in our communities," Rae said. "The safety of our communities is paramount, that is why this investment is so important."

The ALPRT system alerts officers to

stolen or expired plates, or plates registered to suspended drivers. The system can also notify officers of missing and wanted persons and vehicles associated with AMBER alerts.

"This investment further demonstrates our government's plan to ensure police services across Ontario have the resources and equipment they need to keep our communities safe," said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. "I am confident that this tool will be a tremendous asset to police services and help them combat incidents of auto theft and enhance public safety."

The investment in ALPR technology supports Ontario's recent move to eliminate licence plate renewal fees and stickers for passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, motorcycles, and mopeds. Allowing licence plate information to be read automatically without requiring an officer to see a physical licence sticker to validate a vehicle.

The Automated Licence Plate Recognition Technology Grant is a one-time grant to help police services strengthen roadside law enforcement efforts and improve public safety across the province.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

COOPER CARES

The employees of Cooper Standard have a lot to be proud of, making an incredible donation towards the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. They hosted multiple fundraising events, rallied their co-workers and matched corporate funds in the past three years. The employees met their capital campaign pledge of raising \$75,000 towards the naming of the covered courtyard. This courtyard allows families to visit with their loved ones while enjoying the soothing power of nature (or of a four-legged companion), regardless of the weather.

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Christmas romances a “rising genre” at Fanfare Books

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

When walking by Fanfare Books and stopping inside the independent book store, you'll see a couple of Christmas romance stories in their windows and on display.

When searching “Christmas” on the book shop's website, books like “Christmas at the Cupcake Cafe” by Jenny Colgan, “All I Want for Christmas” by Maggie

Knox, and “The Christmas Postcards” by Karen Swan appear. Looking at the covers of such books online and in-store is like looking at a poster or a trailer for a Hallmark Christmas movie and the like.

Bob Newland, owner of Fanfare Books, said the genre became more popular over the past few years.

“Five years ago, I don't think we stocked anything along this line, but over the past say, five years or so, yes there has certainly been a rise in this particular genre, abso-

lutely,” he said.

Newland said that as the Hallmark movies took off, the publishing industry caught on the trend and started releasing more Christmas romance books. He added that readers like to pick up a book that makes them feel cozy during the winter months.

“Perhaps these things are comfort reading, right? They're the equivalent of a warm bowl of soup,” Newland said. “In a time when perhaps, we've been shut in and where life has not seemed very thrill,

it's perhaps a bit of comfort on a cold day where you're stuck inside.”

He was unable to provide a number, but said that more books like that are being sold at Fanfare Books this year, compared to 2021.

“It certainly feels like we're selling more of them this year than we did even last year, when we were actually shut-in,” Newland said.

Visit Fanfare Books on 92 Ontario Street or their website fanfarebooks.ca.



(STEWARTGRANT PHOTO)

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Laura Pirwitz, owner and operator of Your Way to Play Ltd., celebrated a full one-year in business in early December. Her store, at Unit 1, 560 Huron Street in Stratford, is a children's sensory and imagination play centre that does weekly programs and workshops, and also is an ideal facility for kids' birthday parties. In addition to their main activity centre, Your Way to Play carries a front-end retail store, selling local unique niche items related to all family and children's needs. Laura says that there are a couple of new programs and clubs being announced on December 15th, so check www.yourwaytoplay.ca or follow the store on Instagram or Facebook @yourwaytoplayltd.

Stratford General Hospital receives \$2.2 million for upgrades and repairs

On November 18, Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae announced hospitals throughout the riding would receive over \$4.3 million in funding through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF). The funding will support local hospitals as they make critical upgrades, repairs, and maintain their facilities.

“This funding is essential for our hospitals to continue providing the best care possible in our rural communities,” MPP Rae said. “The highest quality care requires the highest quality equipment and facilities. This funding will provide that.”

Ontario is providing \$175 million to hospitals through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund and over \$7.6 million to community health service providers through the Community Infrastructure Renewal Fund. This funding from the province allows its health

care system partners to address urgent infrastructure renewal needs such as upgrades or replacements of roofs, windows, security systems, fire alarms and back-up generators.

The \$4,364,292 allocation of HIRF funding for Perth-Wellington included \$2,222,335 for Stratford General Hospital and \$494,511 for St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

“Our government is making investments to ensure Ontario's hospitals and community health infrastructure continue to be state-of-the-art facilities,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “This funding will also help build the capacity we need to end hallway health care and ensure people continue to receive world-class care.”

HIRF was established in 1999 and provides annualized funding to assist hospitals in renewing their facilities.

Federal grant allows for 23 more EV charging stations

On December 2, Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Natural Resources, announced a \$160,000 federal investment in the City of Stratford to install 23 EV chargers in public places across Stratford. The chargers, which will be available for use by January 2025, come at a total cost of \$483,428, with much of the balance of the project being funded by the City of

Stratford.

“We're making electric vehicles more affordable and charging more accessible where Canadians live, work and play,” Wilkinson said in the press release. “Investing in more EV chargers, like the ones announced today in Stratford, will put more Canadians in the driver's seat on the road to a net-zero future and help achieve

our climate goals.”

Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma said in response to the announcement, “I'm so pleased with the support from the National Resources Canada regarding the city's work on increasing the number of EV stations in our community. The \$160,000 grant will assist us in the installation of a total of 23 EV stations in Stratford by

2025, one of which will have Level 3 fast charging capacity. The use of the EV charging stations will benefit our local residents and the 1.5 million plus yearly visitors to our city. This project certainly blends well with our city's strategic priorities, which includes the 30 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.”



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Passport To Savings offering Thousands of dollars in discounts

LISA CHESTER

Stratford Times Correspondent

The 2023 Passport to Savings booklet is now being offered in time for gift giving this Christmas. The joint effort between House of Blessing, Kiwanis Club and Simple Dreams Ministries can be purchased for \$50 again this year.

The passport has been a major fundraiser for the three organizations since 2011. The collaboration is especially important because the funds raised stay in the community. There are over two hundred businesses included in the passport with approximately twenty new businesses this year. The region covered includes Stratford, St Marys, Mitchell, Shakespeare and Tavistock.

Putting the Passport together takes a great deal of teamwork. Each business signs a contract that was created collaboratively. Organizers meet with each business and submit the contract which are then collated and incorporated into book form, verified and booklets numbered. Types of deals offered are discounts on purchase, two for one meals, discounts on automotive repair, home décor, sports and fitness and technology.

Support in the community is high and already new businesses that are just opening have approached the team to



be included in the 2024 passport booklet. There are so many benefits to being included, both by bringing in customers and through savings appreciated by customers. Often, just a few offers used will pay for the cost of the booklet itself.

"A lot of the offerings are restaurant related, but there are other services too, like optometry. I got a really good deal and the discount covered the cost of the book," said Richard Kneider, co-founder of Simple Dreams Ministries.

"There are a lot of multiple offers too, for businesses that you regularly patronize," added Barrie Beech of the Kiwanis Club.

Kneider finds it very encouraging that both old and new business have embraced the fundraiser and the support in the community has never

waned.

"Usage of the House of Blessing foodbank has increased by 41% in the number of households, with over ten thousand visits by mid-November. Fundraising helps to buy food, keep the lights on, and also assist with their other programs," said Theresa McMurray, executive director of the House of Blessing.

The Kiwanis Club supports the Local Community Food Centre and the House of Blessing as well as the Huron Perth Centre for Children, among other things.



(LISA CHESTER PHOTOS)

GOT YOUR PASSPORT?

Charity representatives, Barrie Beech of Kiwanis Club, Richard Kneider, co-founder Simple Dreams Ministries and Theresa McMurray, executive director of Stratford House of Blessing.

"Some of the funds get earmarked for the community as the need arises, funds have helped to update and refurbish some of the playgrounds in the city, partnering with the city to do so," said Beech.

Simple Dreams Ministries is currently gearing up for their biggest event of the year, To Stratford With Love on December 17th. Although support from business and community is great, it still takes a lot of money to put on the dinner.

"It allows us to continue to spread love and kindness throughout the community in practical ways. We are coming up on one of the biggest things we do for thirty four years now is To Stratford with Love. One of the biggest things we give away on a regular basis is beds. The number of people sleeping on the floor in Stratford is astounding. In the last month, we've given over thirty beds out," said Kneider.

Simple Dreams attempts to meet people to help with practical needs that they can't attain; fridge, stoves, it's shocking to Kneider the ongoing need. Supporting these charities enables them to meet community needs; fundraising occurs in the community and stays in the community.

Passport to Savings booklets are available for purchase using cash from Kiwanis members, Simple Dreams, Stratford Farmers Market, Stratford Home Furniture and Jiffy Lube. Cash, debit and credit cards can be used at Marlin Travel and Stratford House of Blessing. In Mitchell, passports can be purchased using cash at Your Neighbourhood Credit Union and in St Marys at The Flower Shop and More.

They can also be purchased online from Stratford House of Blessing on their website shob.org.

Attainable Housing Project open house held November 23rd

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

An anonymous survey was issued in October to help the project team understand more about how the city can increase the supply of new attainable housing in Stratford. Based on that survey, the project team was able to assess participant housing circumstances, and factors influencing choice of housing. Respondents were able to identify suggestions for the framework of the plan, including identifying responsibilities, barriers to adequate housing, and programs that should be implemented to keep housing attainable.

Armed with this information, the team has now looked to the public for consultation on a Strength/Weakness/Opportunities/Threat (SWOT) and economic opportunities assessment. Using post-it notes, attendees were able to add to already identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Their input was also sought to assist in the development of a definition of attainable that is actionable for the

purposes of future proposals. For the purposes of the existing Official Plan, only the term affordable is defined, not attainable. This is important as the Official Plan will be coming up for review, and having a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) and CIT in place will feed into the new document.

"The incentive toolkit, should it be approved by Council, would align to the City's official plan. The planning team from the City of Stratford is a part of the internal working group for this project so will be looking at where housekeeping amendments to the Official Plan will be needed," explained Joani Gerber, ceo of investStratford.

To date, forty-five surveys have been completed and there were about thirty to thirty-five people that attended the open house. The goal of the open house was to engage in dialogue the issues surrounding attainable housing and to obtain feedback from the public about potential financial tools to encourage a greater supply of housing.

"In combination with the stakeholder consultations, the team has received valuable input and feedback that will assist in formulating the next steps and recommended actions," adds Gerber.

The public can expect the team to continue to engage residents as the next phases of the Attainable Housing project get underway. It is anticipated that there will be further public engagement on the issue through both a formal public meeting of Council in the new year and the launch of an interactive campaign to bring attention and action on attainable housing.

"We will continue to use the Engage Stratford platform on the city's website along with social media channels on both the city pages and invest-Stratford," said Gerber.

Those interested in fur-

ther information or to keep up to date on the Attainable Housing project can navigate online to www.engagestratford.ca under featured projects. There you will find the survey, and the display panels of information from the public open house.

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Students designing snowflakes in downtown core making spirits bright

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Snowflakes in a variety of shapes and designs don the windows of Downtown Stratford businesses to spread some cheer this winter.

Nine local area high school students decorated the windows of 34 downtown businesses with snowflake paintings as part of a public art installation project organized by the Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area (BIA). A press release from the Downtown Stratford BIA said the project is a partnership with STEPS Public Art as part of their I HeART Main Street Initiative. The public art installation is also funded through FedDev for Southern Ontario.

Three students each from three area high schools - Stratford District Secondary School, St. Michael's Catholic Secondary School, and Nancy Campbell Academy participated in the installation. Artist mentor Jenn Mezi guided the students through the project and the installation was completed on November 25.

"The students have done such beautiful work. When you walk around to the different shops, every shop are a little different and a little close to each other," Anne Champion, owner of Revel and Downtown Stratford BIA board member said. "They all have snowflakes but each student's snowflake looks a little different. That part is really exciting too."

Revel is one of the businesses with snowflakes on the windows. Student Madeline Mortimer designed the snowflakes on the cafe's window, which was



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

LET IT SNOW

Grade 12 St. Michael's Catholic Secondary School Student Janet Lui draws snowflakes on the window of Livery House for a public art installation organized by the Downtown Stratford BIA. Lui was one of nine participating high school students.

used as a template. Mortimer also took notes on the process and took measurements of the window.

Champion enjoyed watching the student work on the snowflakes. Also a member of the Downtown Stratford BIA's Holiday Animation sub-committee, she knew she wanted her business involved in the project. The community connection through the snowflakes was appealing.

"It really intrigued me, the idea of inviting that community collaborative presence across the downtown so as a Stratfordite, like a local, was wandering around downtown doing their shopping or bringing their kids downtown or a vis-

itor to the city was wandering around, they'd start to see 'Oh look, there's another shop with some snowflakes on it,' 'Oh there's another shop with snowflakes on it,'" she said. "It's a chance for us to have a way to bring the community together."

The students were paid \$250 per window as part of the project, and Mezi was paid for her mentorship as part of the grant funding.

Jamie Pritchard, the general manager for the Downtown Stratford BIA said the students' artwork is impressive.

"They are way beyond my expectations of the artistic level that they have," Pritchard said. "I knew that they would do a good job but they've blown away my expectations."

He added the project is great for both emerging artists and downtown shops

and restaurants.

"It's great for the businesses because we can animate their window and for artists, it's a great opportunity for them to get their art out in the public and let everybody see it so it's just an all-around great experience."

The snowflakes were selected as a winter-themed design to stay on the windows beyond Christmas, to coordinate with Lights on Stratford. The installation will stay until at least January 28, 2023.

Two of the students painting the snowflakes on the last day of the installation told the Stratford Times how much they enjoyed the experience and the community connections through it.

"Doing these sorts of things is good for introducing artists, giving opportunities to students and also just for businesses to express some sort of sense of community and connections with each other," said Janet Lui, a Grade 12 St. Michael's student who was painting snowflakes on the Livery House windows.

Livia Endlich, a Grade 12 Nancy Campbell Academy student adding snowflakes to the windows inside of Alley Cat Cat Cafe, said the participating local high school students are connected because of the project.

"Even if you don't see each other, we're doing something similar so we're always connected in some way and we're doing something that is unifying our community even more," she said.

Endlich also wants to see more projects like this come up in the future.

"I hope they do this for other festivals too because it's pretty fun and they said that if they actually do this again, we might actually be able to experience it-with colour so I'm actually excited to see what's going to happen."

Champion also wants the project to come back next year, and is looking forward to what the future will look like.

"I hope that next year, more businesses will say 'Hey, I want to be part of this, this is a great idea for us.' and that streets could have whole themes."

Weekend Quiz

- 1) If you are from Toronto you are a Torontonian. What are you if you were born on Manitoulin Island?
- 2) Which type of wine does Alanis Morissette mentioned in her song "Ironic"?
- 3) The FIFA World Cup is on. What do the letters FIFA stand for?
- 4) The colorless cells in the blood that help combat infection are known by what name?
- 5) Located in southeast England along the Thames River opposite Windsor is what large public school, founded in 1440 by Henry VI?
- 6) Dry ice is the solid form of what chemical compound?
- 7) In the 1970's Jim Henson and his Muppets released two single records that became national hits on the Billboard music charts. Which songs?
- 8) Who was the first person to break the sound barrier?
- 9) How many tiles are there in a game of Scrabble?
- 10) What chess piece can move in any direction, one space at a time?

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

Queer Book of the Month Club

Iron Widow, by Xiran Jay Zhao
@SPL: YA FIC Zhao

Iron Widow, by Xiran Jay Zhao, is an amazing young adult sci-fi adventure that uses references to Chinese history and culture to weave a captivating tale of love and revenge. Humanity is at war with giant alien creatures and uses large war machines called Chrysalises to fight the invaders. These mecha can only be piloted by young men, assisted by young women volunteers, "concubine-pilots," who are inevitably killed by the power drain. Wu Zetian has volunteered to co-pilot with the goal of pairing up with and killing the man who murdered her older sister, another pilot concubine.

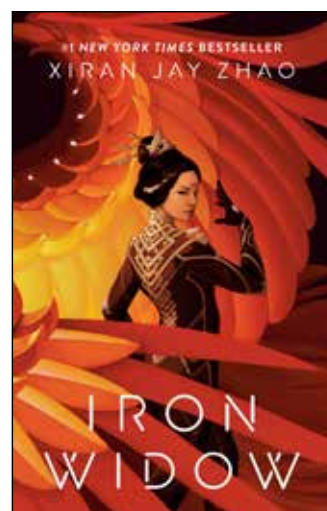
Zetian far exceeds her original plans, discovering she is one of the few women able to pilot a Chrysalis by draining

male pilots, an *Iron Widow*. She is too valuable to the war effort to outright execute, so she is paired up with

a male pilot who has a violent reputation, in the hopes they will destroy each other. She suspects that she is not the only woman capable of this ability and investigates. The novel follows her as she confronts the patriarchal society in which she lives and establishes a unique polyamorous relationship that leads her to believe she has the power to smash the system. Zetian is an unapologetically ruthless protagonist, who draws you along with her through sheer force of will.

Xiran Jay Zhao is a non-binary Chinese Canadian author, YouTuber, and cosplayer.

CJ Nyssen
Public Service Librarian
Stratford Public Library



The 1919 Ontario Housing Act and its Impact in Stratford, Ontario

HAYDEN BULBROOK

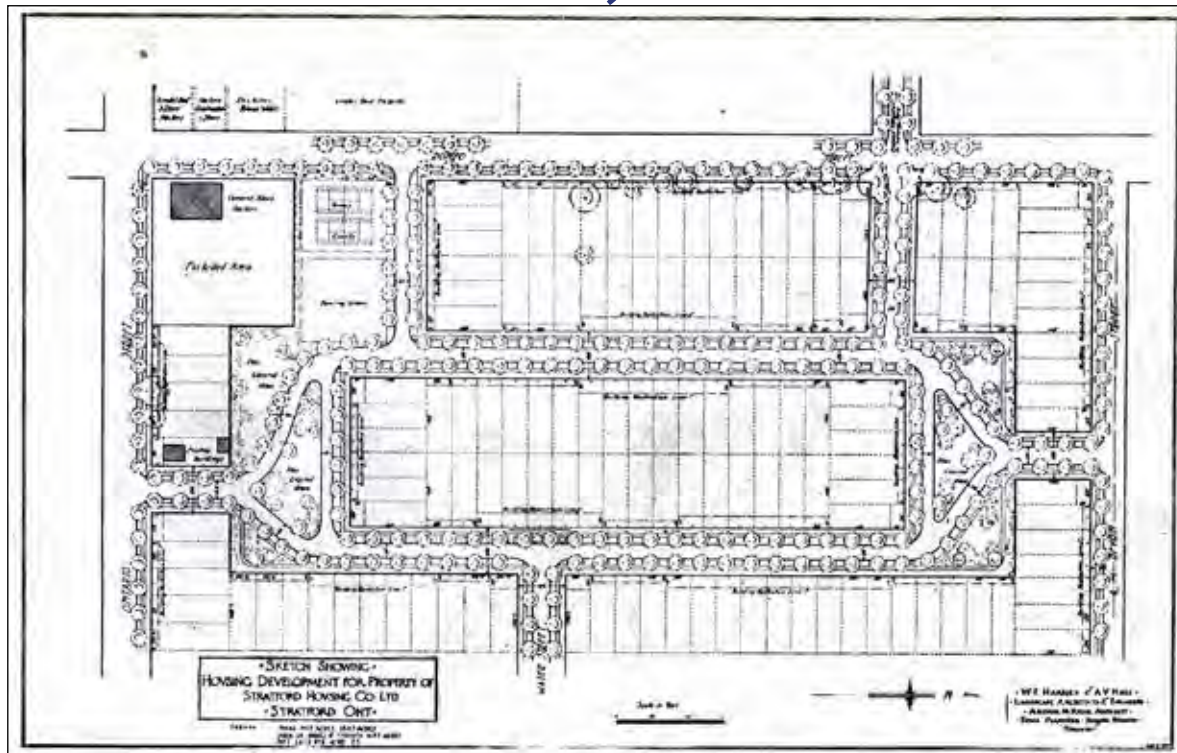
Times Contributor

This article was originally published in the *Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's Fall 2022 Acorn* magazine.

About one-hundred years ago, the Ontario Housing Act, 1919 (OHA) brought affordable housing to Ontario in the midst of a housing shortage. J.A. Ellis, the Director of the Bureau of Municipal Affairs, the provincial organization that carried out the OHA's mandate, estimated a shortage of 20,000 homes by 1919. In Stratford, Ontario, its citizens not only faced a housing shortage but they had to contend with the deterioration of many existing working class houses. According to the local Health Committee of the Social Service Council, the city required 400-600 new houses just to ensure that housing conditions were of a "reasonably modest standard."

So, what was the OHA and why was it significant? The OHA was enacted in 1919 in response to the Federal government's "Better Housing Scheme." It promoted housing construction by lending \$25 million over a 20-year period to the provinces at a five per cent per annum interest rate. Ontario received \$8 million and contributed \$2 million in provincial funds. In turn, the province loaned funds to municipalities which then lent to individuals, housing companies or housing commissions.

The OHA was passed on March 20, 1919. Housing construction with OHA loans commenced in the province in August 1919. Prior to building, considerable time was spent on two components



(BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, 1920 PHOTO)

Stratford Housing Co. subdivision plan by Harries & Hall, and Arthur M. Kruse.

necessary to implement the Act. First, the Housing Department under the Bureau of Municipal Affairs was organized. Second, the Act required municipalities to create and staff local housing commissions.

The OHA is significant for providing houses for the working class at a fair price. While seeking to address the provincial housing shortage, this government-led initiative used sound planning principles to construct modern housing, relieve urban congestion, improve health and community well-being.

There were two housing companies in Stratford; the Stratford Housing Co. and the Classic Housing Co. Both were operated by prominent local businessmen who saw themselves as paternal figures to the working class. The

houses erected by the companies were mainly one-and-a-half-storey front-gable or gambrel-roof houses, very similar to standard factory housing at the time. To guide implementation, the Bureau of Municipal Affairs provided two stock designs and endorsed at least 38 plans designed by Ontario architect. The Stratford Housing Co. took a vernacular approach to the houses designed under or endorsed by Chief Architect James Govan, especially for its take on plans A and L1. The Stratford Housing Co. made specific reference to the former plan, but it opted for a front-gable design rather than what appears to be a jerkinhead or half-gable roof in the stock design.

Stratford Housing Co.'s partial development of suburban Arden

Park was particularly interesting. It was designed by William E. Harries, Alfred V. Hall and Arthur M. Kruse, the three worked closely and became Harries, Hall & Kruse in 1925. Subdivision plans were published by the Bureau of Municipal Affairs and the Stratford Housing Co. Although relatively true to form, the actual layout of the subdivision is a somewhat diluted form of these plans. Two proposed parks on the north and south ends with coat-hanger-like roadways surrounding them were omitted for an ordinary square-shaped park placed in the centre of the neighbourhood. A bowling green and tennis courts were also omitted. Oddly, only about 24 of the over 141 surveyed lots were built upon in the early 1920s. Most of these houses were

situated in the west end closest to Romeo Street. The rest of the neighbourhood was only filled in after the Second World War. Still, this neighbourhood deviates slightly from the grid plan common to earlier neighbourhoods and is therefore a precursor to the winding streets that would characterize Stratford's post-Second World War suburban development.

In 1922, the *Financial Post* labeled the OHA a failure. Still, Stratford's building permits in the first seven months of 1920 were 60 percent higher than the corresponding period in 1919, according to the *Contract Record and Engineering Review*. The number of permits issued in 1921 were virtually identical to 1919 figures, which was likely a residual effect of the high inflation after the war; however, between 1922 and the end of 1924, permit figures averaged 45 percent higher than in 1919.

Though the Stratford Housing Co. and the Classic Housing Co. constructed only 69 houses by the end of 1923, the OHA demonstrated the role that the provincial government was starting to play in city planning to help create healthier, more desirable living conditions equitable to all Ontarians. Perhaps an exceptional case, Stratford's *Beacon Herald* remarked in 1929 that 75 percent of Stratford working men owned their houses "and this accounts in good part for the general appearance of neatness and tidiness prevailing throughout the city." In an ideal world we would see our provincial government take action today to encourage sound planning that fosters community, healthy neighbourhoods and, most importantly, affordable housing for Ontarians.



(BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, 1920 PHOTO)

Plan A



(HAYDEN BULBROOK, 2022 PHOTO)

Stratford Housing Co. house resembling plan A.



(BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, 1920 PHOTO)

Plan L1.



(HAYDEN BULBROOK, 2022 PHOTO)

Stratford Housing Co. house resembling plan L1.



SEEKING SUSTAINABILITY

Climate Change Conference recap and Impact of Proposed Highway 413

Welcome to Seeking Sustainability! This column is written by the Stratford District Secondary School Eco Club for the purpose of sharing environmental news and initiatives with the public.

In November, the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Canada announced a \$5.3 billion International Climate Finance Commitment, covering several projects to help with loss and damage, access to climate finance, and climate governance and allocating no less than 40% for climate adaptation and helping developing countries build resilience against climate change impacts. This fund will also finance climate-smart agriculture for rural communities, the Ocean Risk and Resilience Alliance, and Canada's Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative to build and improve warning systems in countries particularly vulnerable to climate and weather-related

disasters.

Canada announced a Canadian Green Shipping Corridors Framework. Green shipping corridors help accelerate the development, testing, and use of scalable net-zero fuels and technologies. This framework will help the marine transportation sector reduce its environmental impact.

Canada officially rolled out the Global Carbon Pricing Challenge, encouraging all countries to adopt pollution pricing as a central part of their climate strategies. Pollution pricing puts a cost on pollution and adds value to clean air, green energy, and sustainable jobs, while providing flexibility to find low-cost solutions.

Canada joined the Net-Zero Government Initiative, which commits the country to achieve net-zero emissions from national government operations by 2050.

While COP27 did make history with its global climate fund, the fossil fuel prob-

lem was still neglected in the final plan, preventing any meaningful progress in stopping climate change. The failure to highlight the need for a phase-out of fossil fuels ultimately amplifies the damage caused. COP27 also failed to adequately include Indigenous voices in shaping outcomes. The concerns, rights, and knowledge of Indigenous peoples worldwide continue to be sidelined in discussions and negotiations.

Canada is currently hosting the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Montréal. We can only hope for a better outcome.

Here in Ontario, a new highway has been proposed, called Highway 413. Highway 413 is a proposed 52 kilometre highway and transitway that will be built over 2,000 acres of the Greenbelt, a protected natural area, as well as Indigenous land. Experts have determined that at the most, this highway will save people half an hour on their commutes extending from Highway 400 in the east to Highway 401/407 in the west, which seems excellent. But what exactly will this half an hour cost?

The Greenbelt is found within The Golden Horseshoe — a secondary region of Southern Ontario that holds a protected area of forests, farmland, wetlands and

other essential greenspace. It is a collection of 2 million acres of land that helps to absorb and manage water during severe weather events, while also slowing the impacts of climate change through cooling from the areas river valleys and healthy fertile soils that absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The battle against climate change is a tough one, and this highway will not make the battle any easier. According to Environmental Defence — a Canadian organization dedicated to helping our planet — this highway will put 17.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and other emissions into the atmosphere by 2050. We can't undo this type of damage but we can prevent it. Scan the QR code to sign your name to an email that will be sent to the Federal Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault speaking out against the construction of Highway 413.

Come back in February to see what's new with Seeking Sustainability!



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Canada Summer Jobs program

Perth-Wellington MP John Nater, announced in late November that the employer application process for funding under the Canada Summer Jobs 2023 program is now open.

“Through Canada Summer Jobs, young Canadians have the opportunity to gain the skills and experience they need to get jobs now and in the future,” said Nater. “I encourage employers to apply for funding to create jobs that will help students, employers, and our local economies. Last summer more than 350 young people were employed across Perth-Wellington, creating jobs in our communities.”

Nater noted that while the application period opened slightly earlier this year, he is once again disappointed that the Minister responsible for the program still has not taken action which would move up the date by which employers would be notified of program funding.

“The April notification date is much too late for most students to find out if they have a summer job, but employers also must budget and therefore need confirmation of whether or not they will receive funding well in advance of this date,” said Nater. “University and college students in particular must have an idea of where

they will be working in the summer by mid-February.”

Canada Summer Jobs provides funding to help employers create summer job opportunities for young people. It is designed to focus on local priorities while helping both students and their communities. Funding will be available to not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers, and small businesses (under 50 employees) to hire qualified young people aged 15 to 30. Thousands of young Canadians will be able to develop and improve their skills through summer employment while employers will be assisted in addressing skills shortages.

Employers interested in applying for CSJ 2023 funding can submit their applications electronically via the online fillable application or the Grants and Contributions Online Service (GCOS). The online fillable application is the fastest way for employers to complete an application online without having to create an account.

The application period for Canada Summer Jobs 2023 is November 29, 2022 to January 12, 2023. Employers can find further information at: www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html.

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Sales from handmade Christmas ornaments raise \$2,000 for Stratford Perth Humane Society

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

Since 2019, Shelby Marie Caudle has been making her original handmade Christmas ornaments and selling them at \$5 each to raise money for the Stratford Perth Humane Society. This year, she ambitiously made four hundred with the goal to raise \$2000.

"This year, I was able to raise \$2000 for the Stratford Perth Humane Society. Since 2019, I've raised a grand total of \$6030 with the generous support of our community," said Caudle.

She chose the Humane Society for her cause because it is where she adopted her tuxedo cat Jaximus in 2016.

"He makes my life infinitely brighter and my heart endlessly full. I hope to give back so that other loving animals will have less time to wait to find their forever homes too."

There were four designs of ornaments available and each design is original.

"The designs are my own. I draw them digitally on my iPad. Then each ornament is stained and the designs are hand stamped with stencils I create in my studio," explained Caudle.

She was inspired to create ornaments because around the holidays we tend to

hold our loved ones much closer. Pets have always been a part of her family's life and while spending time with the family's cats and dogs, she couldn't help but think of the other animals that were still waiting for their forever homes, to find their own happily ever after.

"I knew that if I had the ability to give back, to perhaps help out in even some small way, I had to chase that chance. I've been in awe of the generosity of the community ever since taking that leap," said Caudle.

While the goal has been reached and the Christmas ornaments are all sold out, there are many more items she creates by hand. Her small business is called Shelby Marie Poetry and is an online shop where she sells hand typed original poems as well as handcrafted jewelry, candles, décor and bath products.

"I make everything myself with plenty of love and care," she said.

She has a great assortment of items especially for Christmas that would make great gifts. Her online shop is www.shelbymariepoetry.ca. Keep an eye out for her around the region at Christmas craft shows in December, on Facebook, Instagram @shelbymarie.poetry and TikTok @shelbymariepoetry



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Making Winter Warm and Wonderful

JULIA SCHNEIDER

Times Correspondent

It seems very appropriate that Loreena McKennitt's 2022 Christmas concert, *Under a Winter's Moon*, should start its eight-city tour at the Knox Church in Stratford. It was there that last year Kennitt ended her two year pause in live performances occasioned by the pandemic with her magnificent *A Midwinter Night's Music* concert and it is in this church, now the Knox@Copperlight, that we look forward to seeing many more such events.

As I gazed at the vast hold of the Knox from the balcony I became aware of the man with a reddish beard wearing a braided belt standing near me; he was also surveying the far-off stage.

"You are in for a great concert," he said. When I told him I'd been at the one last year as well, he handed me a bookmark and disappeared.

Looking at this later I found it had an indigenous painting on one side and on the other the bio of artist and musician Jeffrey "Red" George, with a photo of the man I'd just met smiling out at me.

In last year's concert, McKennitt had made a point of including native Canadian traditions in the cultural tapestry she'd woven and George had figured in part of that. This year as well he was an integral part of the weave as she continued to include non-Christian traditions in her concert. The recorded narrative by indigenous singer/songwriter, actor and social activist Tom Jackson set the stage for this, with his telling of the Cree Sky Woman story of the creation of Turtle Island.

McKennitt said that over the past year she has studied carols and their connection to folksongs and that she has found that many carols started as something quite different from what they later became. The first part of her program was devoted to such carols, many of which were probably unfamiliar to most present. It would have been interesting to know more about them, but most seemed to be of Scottish or Irish derivation and were beautifully rendered by the dulcet-voiced singer.

One song the singer did say more about was *The Huron Carol*. She said she had been dismayed to discover that its original here in Canada was quite different from its later use and that she had wondered about its inclusion in the program as a result. To set her mind at rest she had consulted George on the ethics of this. He gave her a pouch of tobacco, a traditional indigenous offering of thanks, and told her to walk with nature. Cultural appropriation thus acknowledged, we were treated to McKennitt's hauntingly beautiful version of this soulful carol.



(WWW.UNDERAWINTERSMOON.COM PHOTO)

After she introduced Jeffrey "Red" George to the audience, he gave a highly evocative description of what he observed on a walk through the woods in winter in *Winter Diamonds*, which highlighted the season as a time for rest and reflection.

In her show last year McKennitt had included an awareness of the plight of homelessness, especially in winter. She reminisced about her first tour of Ireland in 1982 and how she had listened at a Donegal inn to the recording of a young Irish street girl giving her version of the birth of the Christ child. She played a copy of this, and while it was hard to make out much of what the girl said (McKennitt had warned us that the three wise men wearing gorgeous robes were "dressed in their best stitches" in this rendition!), the original composition she played as its accompaniment made this an intriguing and tuneful listen.

McKennitt also reminisced about Stratford and how it had changed over the years since her arrival from Morden, Manitoba. The city had attracted many actors, artists, and musicians, she said, among them *The Bookends*, Cait Watson (whistle), Pete Watson (guitar) and Errol Fischer (fiddle), who accompanied her throughout the concert. An observer could say that McKennitt provided the soul to the music, *The Bookends* its body and heartbeat, while in the second half of the show, Cedric Smith endowed it with spirit and good cheer, a winning combination!

Since a relaxing of COVID restrictions permitted an intermission this year, the program was divided into two parts, the first including what we had just heard,

description of the intended snowballing of cats, through to the fire next door, visits from the uncles and aunts (including Auntie Ann's once a year tippie), to the gifts, both practical and not, dinner, the carol sing at the lone house (haunted or not?) and finally to bed, Smith imbued the whole with a spirited communication to listeners, while in between these narrative sequences we heard familiar tunes. How could anyone resist swaying to the music? Why try?

Comparisons abound with last year but when it comes to McKennitt it is hard to compare because she continues to raise the bar on superlatives while maintaining her place at the top. This year's concert was perhaps less atmospheric than the one in 2021: the lighting, by Kevin Coelho, was more focused on the performers than on spectacular effects. The pacing was improved through the addition of the intermission and its division of parts of the performance. The musical choices were as studied as ever and the core musicians Caroline Lavelle (cello and recorder), Graham Hargrove (percussion) and *The Bookends* provided a wonderful enhancement to McKennitt's vocals, along with her performance on the accordion and harps. At the end of the show McKennitt gave two encores. After the second, *Silent Night*, the audience walked out into that night, silent and wintry as it was, warmed by the experience of wonderful evening of song.

COVID-19 Rapid Tests

The Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce still has Rapid Testing kits remaining for all area businesses free of charge. Since the program started,

over 100,000 kits have been distributed by the Chamber. If you'd like to order kits for your business, please visit www.stratfordchamber.com/covid-19.

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(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

LIGHTS OF LOVE

As part of its 4th annual Lights of Love Holiday Campaign, the community was invited to 'light up Rotary Hospice with love' at the official lighting ceremony at Rotary Hospice on December 7th at 7 p.m. Guests enjoyed hot chocolate, music, personal stories and dedication messages, and a candlelight walk to reflect and remember loved ones. To dedicate a Light of Love, please visit: www.rotaryhospice.ca/lights-of-love. The campaign runs until December 31, 2022 and all funds ensure those who call Rotary Hospice their final home can be comforted and cared for – at no cost.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

SIGNS OF STRATFORD

Roger Hathaway holds a framed copy of a poster that he created, which “conveys an unusual and distinctive interpretation of the soliloquy from Shakespeare’s Hamlet. The poster is inspired by recognition of those struggling with the challenge of mental health problems. Roger identifies that “for many, the anxiety, pressure and stigma of mental illness can be far more than overwhelming,” and for some, a translation of Hamlet’s famous line is ‘to live or not to live.’ Copies of Hathaway’s poster are available for \$20, with all proceeds going to the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron Perth. To show interest and support, please contact signsofstratford@gmail.com.

Colin Mochrie brings Hyprov to Stratford

On Thursday, January 19, 2023, Hyprov: Improv Under Hypnosis will take to the stage of Stratford’s Avon Theatre for a completely unique theatre experience! Starting at 7:30 p.m., Master Hypnotist Asad Mecci will transfix volunteers from the audience; then - while still under hypnosis, some of those same volunteers will continue onstage to improvise with comedian Colin Mochrie. Audiences won’t want to miss what the Times of London calls a “Celebration of the human imagination.”

Tickets starting at just \$45 are available now at stratfordfestival.ca/hyprov

Hyprov brings together two masters of their craft in hypnosis and improv to create a performance completely without inhibitions. 20 volunteers will be invited onstage at the beginning of the show and put under hypnosis by Mecci. The volunteers are then

as humans is to go, ‘No, I have a better idea.’ The beauty of hypnosis is: That’s gone. We now have pure improvisers.” – Colin Mochrie for New York Times

At a Glance:

Hyprov: Improv Under Hypnosis
January 19, 2023

Avon Theatre, Stratford, ON 7:30 pm ET

All proceeds from this event go to support the Stratford Arts and Culture Collective. The SACC is supported by more than 30 Stratford arts and culture organizations and independent artists that are working together under one umbrella to make the dream of a Stratford Arts and Culture Centre a reality at the new Copperlight, formerly known as Knox Church. For more information about the SACC and the project at the Copperlight, visit stratfordacc.com.

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STRATFORD **TIMES** SPORTS

Warriors U10 Victorious at Barrie Tournament

The Stratford Warriors U10 hockey team returned home winners from the Peggy Hill Classic tournament held in Barrie over the weekend of November 25-27. Coming off a second-place finish in the Stratford region Silver Stick International tournament in early November, the tournament-tested Warriors defeated a strong, disciplined Woodstock Jr. Navy Vets team with a commanding 6-1 win. Woodstock came into the final game against the Warriors sporting an eight-game winning streak and an overall 17-3-1 record. With this win, the Warriors avenged a 5-3 regular season loss to Woodstock just days before the tournament.

The Warriors finished atop of their round-robin group with a 3-1 record. Rebounding from a sleepy 5-2 first-game loss to the Haldimand River Kings, the Warriors turned up the intensity to defeat the Scarborough Ice Raiders 7-1 and the Toronto Aeros 13-0, with Bentley Rekker in net for the shutout. Offensively, the Warriors came alive in these two games, with multiple-goal scorer Kyle Finnie ensuring that the team got off to a fast start. A stingy Warriors defence shut down the opposition in the neutral zone, with defencemen Liam Uniac, Bryce Burdette, and Randell Everett turning in stellar performances.

In the win-or-go home fourth game in round-robin play, the Warriors faced off against the hard-charging Barrie Colts, who entered the contest riding an 11-game winning streak. A quick opening goal by forward Andrew Carnegie, assisted by defenceman Colton Donnelle and centre Jaxon Schmidt, put the Colts on their haunches. The Warriors' smothering defence, led by the dependable play of defenceman Hayes Francis, was complemented by relentless back-checking and a physical presence on the puck that kept the big and fast Colts corralled. Two additional goals by Schmidt capped off the 3-1 victory.

In the tournament semi-finals, the Warriors outduelled the Norfolk Knights to



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

VICTORIOUS U10 WARRIORS

Back LR: T Bickell, M Gibson, E Schmidt, J Carnegie, D Adair. **Middle Row LR:** C Gibson, K McLeod, L Uniac, H Bickell, G Wood-Zippel, A Carnegie, C Donnelle. **Front L-R:** B Burdette, R Everett, M Adair, C Klumper, J Schmidt, K Finnie, D Lonergan. **Goalies:** K Shore, B Rekker **Absent:** H Francis

earn a 6-2 win. The Warriors jumped out to an early 5-0 lead. After a Norfolk timeout early in the second period, the Knights struck for two quick goals, including a powerplay goal, to make it a game. A late third period goal by the Warriors dashed any hopes the Knights had of mounting a comeback.

In the championship game, the Warriors played a team game to down the Jr. Navy Vets. The Warriors struck early with first period goals by forwards Cale Klumper and Matthew Adair. A goal by Gus Wood-Zippel, assisted by a beautifully redirected pass in the neutral zone by forward Damien Lonergan, gave the Warriors a three-goal lead in the second. Forward Kohen McLeod tallied the Warriors' fourth goal with an unassisted top bar banging wrist that struck the back of the net. Third period goals by Schmidt and forward Harper Bickell meant the Warriors had six goals by six different scorers. On defence, Cam Gibson led his fellow blueliners as they bottled up the Woodstock attack. Goaltender Karsten

Shore kept the Woodstock shooters at bay, earning the victory in net.

Coach Tim Bickell said, "It's easy to be proud of these boys. The coaches have been stressing in practice the importance of being first to loose pucks and back checking. It is nice to see their hard work pay off." "It is also nice to see our team healthy again," Bickell added. "After the Silver Stick tournament, we had couple of weeks when our boys were either out sick or not at their best. The result was that we lost some league games that we could probably win if we were at full strength. In any case, we have some work to do. And it's really good for our boys to see that their hard work makes a difference in how they play."

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Send in your sports reports

Coaches and/or parents are invited to send in your sports reports and pictures to the Stratford Times to let Stratford and area know how your teams are doing throughout the 2022-23 season (and to create some great scrapbook material to be reflected upon in future years).

Game reports should be kept to a maximum of 100 words. Please

include a brief description of what happened during your games, including the names of those who scored and any special efforts made by your players.

Please have all reports and pictures in by the end of the month by emailing the Stratford Times at stratford-times@gmail.com or call/text Stewart Grant at 519-868-1290.

St. Mike's Girls Basketball teams medal at WOSSAA



(MARK DEWAN PHOTOS)

WOSSAA BASKETBALL FINALISTS

Pictured left are the Senior Girls celebrating their gold medal win. Right, Junior Girls proudly show off their bronze medals from WOSSAA

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

The girls' basketball program at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School earned accolades last month in the form of a gold medal for the Senior team and a bronze medal for the Junior squad at the recent WOSSAA championships.

Senior girls win WOSSAA Gold

On Thursday, November 17, the Senior girls team defeated East Elgin by a 40-29 count in the gold medal

game. The Warriors' offence was powered by Alexis Hinds, Jensen Pohl, and Annika Van Kooten, each of which had 11 points in the championship match. Prior to the finals, the team had beaten teams from John Paul II (75-14) and London South (56-25) schools as part of their undefeated 3-0 tournament.

Junior girls take bronze at WOSSAA

General improvement throughout the season led to a satisfying result for the St. Michael CSS girls who

earned a bronze medal in basketball on Wednesday, November 16. After losing 59-37 to a strong London St. Joseph's team in the WOSSAA tournament semi-finals, the Warriors came back strong in their bronze medal match against London South and posted a 47-30 victory. London St. Joe's took the gold medal by doubling up on College Avenue 42-21.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

WOSSAA VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS

Stratford District Secondary School Bears Junior boys went 8-0 in their regular season and won 16/18 sets. They then defeated FE Madill in three straight in the semi finals before defeating Goderich (in 3) to win the Huron Perth Championships. At the WOSSAA Championships hosted by AB Lucas, the Bears started with a 3-0 win over Mother Teresa from London before clinching the championships with a sweep of London Central Secondary School.

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SCAN ME

Stratford Skating Club hosts provincial series

The Stratford Skating Club is excited to announce our annual skating competition: The Provincial Series—Stratford December Classic, will be returning to the Stratford Rotary Complex this coming December 16-18, 2022.

This year, we will be welcoming 835 skaters to Stratford over the three days of this event. This is the highest number of skaters that we have brought to the City in one weekend. The additional skaters are due in part to different events being included in this year's competition. Our staple, men's and women's singles events at the Star 5-Gold levels will be returning. These skaters are competing not only for this event, but the skater scores are archived and then compared with others in the Province. The top scores by the end of February 2023 will be invited to the Skate Ontario Provincial Championships in March 2023. Our regular Special Olympics events will also be returning this season.

New to the competition this season will be Star 1-4 events for skaters starting their competition journey. The Star 1-4 events are designed to introduce young skaters to the competition experience. Non-qualifying events will also be joining our roster this year and are designed for skaters that will not be counting their scores towards qualifying for the Provincial Championships.

This year the Stratford Skating Club will have a record number of our home skaters competing in The Stratford December Classic. In total, eleven SSC skaters will be taking to the ice during this competition.

This event is open for general admission for the public. Cost to watch the competition is \$5 per person, per day for those aged 5 and older. All children 4 years and younger are free. The events will start at 8 a.m. on Friday, December 16th and runs until 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 18th.

Boys Basketball Team

Are you in grade 7 or 8 and enjoy basketball? If so, Tavistock is looking to host a team in the upcoming Huron Perth Grade 7/8 boys league.

The league will run from late January to early April. Teams are likely to in-

clude Mitchell, St. Marys, Goderich, and Stratford SBA. Games will be played on weekends.

If interested, please contact Coach Danny Millar at 519 502 6676 or e-mail daniel_millar1@hotmail.com

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Golden Bears win bronze in Senior Boys Volleyball

The SDSS senior boys volleyball team capped their season with a bronze medal at the WOSSAA "AAA" championships in London on November 16th.

The Golden Bears went 7-2 during Huron Perth league play and ended up third behind the St. Marys Salukis. In quarter-final action, SDSS defeated Listowel 3-0 (25-12, 25-20, 25-12). They then won the rematch with St. Marys in three straight sets (25-17, 25-21, 25-18).

At WOSSAA, the Golden Bears lost a close match to Mother Teresa in the semi-finals and then beat Saunders in four games to earn the bronze medal.

Mrs. Arms and Ms. Stears would like to thank the boys for an outstanding season.

Congratulations, Golden Bears!



SENIOR BOYS CAPTURE THE BRONZE

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Back row: Manager Ayden Schill, Charlie Keuefer, Edmund Sauder, Logan Lott, Emmanuel Bailey, Mark Barton, Coach Mary Alice Arms
Front row: Coach Marcie Stears, Javier Ramirez Lopez, Alex Mueller, Trent McKinley, Kylar Satchell, Koen Gerber.



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High-scoring Fighting Irish fourth in WOSHL

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

In their last four games, the Stratford Fighting Irish are not only unbeaten but have scored at least six goals or more in each game. In doing so, Stratford currently sits one point back of the third-placed Elora Rocks and four points behind the first-place Tilbury Bluebirds, with two games in hand on both.

Just two points separate the Fighting Irish and the Tilsonburg Thunder who currently occupy the second spot in the WOSHL. Only one team has allowed fewer goals than the Fighting Irish and just two teams have more goals-for than Stratford.

On November 12th, the Fighting Irish put together a dominant performance, with Stratford routing the Erin Blitz 8-0. The home side outshot the Blitz 55-17, with Darren Smith earning the shutout in goal. Mitchell Casey and Matt Fuller each scored twice and added an assist, while Cooper Leitch and Sean O'Brien also had three-point games.

The highest goal total of the Fighting Irish's last four games came on No-



FINDING THE BACK OF THE NET

Dylan Buckholz had his first goal of the season against the Elora Rocks on November 26. The Irish went onto win the game 3-1 with goals from Graham Brulotte and Brad Krysko.

(FRED GONDER PHOTO)

ember 26th when Stratford doubled

up the Rocks from Elora with a 10-5 final score. Zack Weir had the win in net while Graham Brulotte and Dylan Buckholz each put up two goals. Ray Robbins put up four assists while Steven DeGroot posted a three-point effort.

A rematch between Stratford and Elora took place on December 2nd and it was the closest of the last four Fighting Irish games. But once again, the Fighting Irish picked up the victory thanks to five powerplay goals, one of which was one of two goals scored by Stratford in the final five minutes and 28 seconds. Smith made 30 saves in the victory, while DeGroot and Brulotte led the offensive charge with three goals from DeGroot and two from Brulotte.

Just 24 hours later, the Fighting Irish returned to their dominant form by outshooting the visiting Strathroy Jets 42-17 en route to a 9-0 blowout. Weir picked up the shutout victory in between the pipes. Leitch and Brad Krysko each potted two goals and Cameron Stokes added three points, including one of five third-period goals scored by Stratford in the third period.

ko each potted two goals and Cameron Stokes added three points, including one of five third-period goals scored by Stratford in the third period.

STRATFORD FIGHTING IRISH

2022-23 Player Statistics

(as of December 8, 2022)

#	PLAYER	GP	G	A	PTS
10	Graham Brulotte	9	14	5	19
9	Ray Robbins	9	4	12	16
44	Cooper Leitch	10	8	7	15
19	Brody Smith	9	5	9	14
77	Cameron Stokes	9	4	9	13
79	Brad Krysko	9	5	6	11
16	Sean O'Brien	10	2	8	10
21	Steven DeGroot	6	5	5	10
27	Matt Fuller	6	2	7	9
14	Mitchell Casey	10	5	3	8
24	Brenden Speziale	9	5	2	7
55	Riley Coome	10	1	6	7
8	Warren Gorman	8	1	5	6
18	Mav Petrie	8	1	5	6
81	Dylan Buckholz	7	2	4	6
7	Colin Martin	8	2	3	5
17	Brock Trichilo	4	2	2	4
15	Zachery Tierney	6	0	4	4
33	Dillon Hunter	4	1	2	3
25	Daniel McCutcheon	6	2	1	3
13	Matt Granger	10	0	2	2
27	Sebastien Nogueira	1	0	1	1
23	Michael Finlay	7	0	1	1

WOSHL STANDINGS

(as of December 7, 2022)

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Tilbury Bluebirds	12	10	2	0	20
Tilsonburg Thunder	10	9	1	0	18
Elora Rocks	12	8	3	1	17
Stratford Fighting Irish	10	8	2	0	16
Strathroy Jets	13	6	7	0	12
Plattsville Lakers	13	4	9	0	8
Alvinston Killer Bees	10	3	6	1	7
Delhi Flames	13	2	10	1	5
Erin Blitz	11	2	8	1	5

PLAYER GAA - SV%

1	Darren Smith	2.00	.922
60	Zach Weir	3.21	.897

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Warriors surge up Midwestern Conference with 10-game winning streak

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

Heading into the first full week of December, the Stratford Warriors sat tied for first in the GOJHL's Midwestern Conference thanks to a 10-game winning streaking spanning most of November and into December.

During their unbeaten stretch, the Warriors have not allowed more than two goals in a game, while they've also seen their scoring skyrocket to first in the conference. Perhaps even more impressively, the team is thriving on the road. Stratford has the best road record in the entire GOJHL, with a near-perfect 13 wins in 14 games away from the William Allman Arena.

According to Warriors' Director of Hockey Operations Jason Clarke, consistency in the players' effort and the coaching staff's messaging has allowed the Warriors to find their current level of success.

"Our coaches really push the message of working equally hard on both sides of the puck and coming back hard and stripping pucks," said Clarke. "The more we can play in the offensive zone the less we need to play in the defensive zone."

"Consistent play has really helped us. I think, as a group, the guys have been determined to play hard each night and it's showing. Our group has also shown that we have the ability to take it on the road."

The Warriors also completed two significant trades with the St. Thomas Stars during the first three days in December which saw goaltender Owen Willmore come to the Warriors in exchange for forward Seth Huygen and goalie Connor Bradford. Last season with the Stars, Willmore, a 2020 14th-round pick of the London Knights, had a .906 save percentage over 29 games. He also appeared in six games with the Knights a year ago and earned four wins. The St. Thomas native turns 18 years old on December 14th.

Clarke said the team has long admired Willmore and believes the deal will allow Huygen and Bradford to continue improving.

"Connor had been good for us and Seth was in and out of our lineup,"

Clarke told the Times. "Seth will get an opportunity to play more minutes and more situations in St. Thomas. We're thankful for everything Seth and Connor contributed to our hockey club and both are a part of why we are 22-6."

"Owen has been on our radar since his U-16 season with Elgin-Middlesex. When he became available we had to take our shot to see if we could acquire him. We're very happy to acquire him and look forward to him being a contributing part of our group."

In 12 games this year, Huygen had two goals and five points, while Bradford earned 12 wins with a .915 save percentage with Stratford.

It didn't take long for Willmore to make quality contributions to the Warriors, who made his debut on December 2nd when the Warriors hosted the Ayr Centennials. Willmore made 29 saves to earn the victory while the Warriors potted four goals in the second period alone en route to a 6-2 victory. Both of Ayr's goals came while on the powerplay. Zac McCann and Keaton McLaughlin led the charge offensively with McCann nabbing a goal and two assists while McLaughlin scored two goals.

Going into this Friday's game, McCann is riding a three-game goal streak and an eight-game point streak. The captain has points in 10 of his last 11 games, in which he's averaging more than two points per game.

On December 4th, another strong performance by Willmore in net and a buzzer-beating overtime thriller lifted the Warriors to victory, beating the Sugar Kings in Elmira 3-2. McCann once again had a two-point night, posting a goal and an assist. Stratford's overtime-winning goal came with just five seconds left in the extra frame with Reid Oliver tallying his fifth of the season to take the second point.

Tied with Stratford for the top spot in the Midwest is the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins, who played in Ayr on December 8th versus the Centennials. Going into that contest, the Siskins had two games in hand on the Warriors.

November scoreboard

• A hot start with three goals in the first period helped the Warriors cruise past the Centennials, winning 5-1 on November 10th. Camden Daigle recorded

one goal and two helpers.

• On November 11th and November 20th, the Warriors routed the Brantford Bandits, first by a score of 14-2, next with a 10-0 shutout. McLaughlin had a six-point

game on the 11th while Daigle and McCann each had four points. On the 20th, the Warriors were even more dominant, outshooting Brantford 67-19.

• Hunter Nagge, Jonas Schmidt, and Sheldon Pryce scored in the Warriors' 3-1 victory on November 18th over the Sugar Kings.

• Stratford scored 16 goals in back-to-back games against the Caledon Bombers. On November 25th, the Warriors' powerplay scored four times to help lead to a 6-2 win. One day later, another 60-plus shot clock for the Warriors helped them beat the Bombers 10-2. Nagge and Rhyse Brown both had hat-tricks, with Brown also being one of two Warriors to put up four points along with Pryce.

• The Warriors finished their November schedule on the 27th with a 5-2 win over the Listowel Cyclones. McCann and Pryce each had two-point games.



STRATFORD WARRIORS 2022-23 Player Statistics (as of December 7, 2022)

#	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
9	Zac McCann	F	28	16	31	47
27	Hunter Nagge	F	28	21	16	37
17	Sheldon Pryce	F	28	14	23	37
18	Camden Daigle	F	28	15	21	36
19	Jonas Schmidt	F	26	12	16	28
22	Reid Oliver	D	27	5	21	26
11	Keaton McLaughlin	F	28	11	12	23
12	Jordan Moulton	D	26	4	16	20
28	Luke Fritz	F	27	7	10	17
14	Braydon Stumpf	F	28	5	7	12
7	Patrick Cole	F	17	6	4	10
26	Tanner Ryan	F	20	5	5	10
10	Cole Lewis	F	23	5	5	10
25	Rhyse Brown	F	21	6	3	9
5	Jackson McLlwain	F	7	3	5	8
23	Nolan Adkins	D	17	2	6	8
24	Zach Hatch	D	27	2	5	7
6	Wyatt Adkins	D	21	0	7	7
16	Zachary Schooley	F	10	1	5	6
15	Bo Doxtator	D	23	2	3	5
4	Haden Frayne	D	14	0	5	5
26	Owen Robertson	D	8	0	4	4

#	PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%
30	Zach Burleigh	8-1-0-0	2.05	.913
1	Owen Willmore	2-0-0-0	1.89	.938



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

BEYOND THE LOCKER ROOM

Joined by the OPP in Perth and Huron Counties, the Stratford Police Service proudly announced a new initiative this month in partnership with Dawson Currie of @victimserviceshuron called 'Beyond The Locker Room' and the signing on of their first organization, the Stratford Blackswans R.F.C.

Left to Right: Dawson Currie of Victim Services Huron, Jeff Wood Jr (Captain of the Blackswans), Aaron Parsons (President of the Blackswans), and Darren Fischer.

The purpose of the initiative is to bring awareness to Gender Based Violence and create positive leaders in the community to help end this cycle.

If you are with a sports team or other organization that wishes to take the pledge committing to educate themselves on how to end gender based violence and become leaders outside the realm of sport in our community, please reach out to Constable Darren Fischer or Dawson at info@victimserviceshuron.ca.

GOJHL STANDINGS Midwestern Conference (as of December 7, 2022)

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS
KW Siskins	26	22	4	0	0	44
Stratford Warriors	28	22	6	0	0	44
Cambridge Redhawks	28	18	5	4	1	41
Ayr Centennials	27	14	11	1	1	30
Listowel Cyclones	25	14	10	1	0	29
Elmira Sugar Kings	27	14	12	1	0	29
Caledon Bombers	28	4	24	0	0	8
Brantford Bandits	29	2	25	2	0	6

Pair of U13 Stratford Aces teams win Festival Cup



U13 BB TEAM WINS GOLD

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The first of two U13 teams to prevail at the annual Festival Cup Challenge in late November was the BB team comprised of Jessica Blake, Mira Broughton, Alise Crawford, Whitney Fraser, Elyn Hannon, Lilly Harrigan, Charlee McFarlane, Edie Murray, Sidney Nelemans, Chloe Pethick, Makinlee Phillips, Isla Schiedel, Emerie Smith, Brooke Stairs, Avery Stokes, Hallie Turpin, Ashley Van Straaten. Coach Darren Stairs, Assist. Coach Christopher Smith, Assist. Coach Daniel Van Straaten, Trainer Lee-anne Stairs, Trainer Ali Van Straaten, Manager Laura Pethick, Staff Toby Phillips



U13 A TEAM CLAIMS FESTIVAL CUP TITLE

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured above celebrating their undefeated November 18-20 weekend are, in the back row, Coach Brad Anderson, Coach Todd Nickel, Coach (and Aces President) Sean Cameron, Selina Gethke, Claire Donnelly, Carali Hugill, Coach Ryan Porter, Taylor Miller, Teya Anderson, Chloe Schultz
Middle: Brooklyn Finnie, Linley Porter, Keira Blaine, Pippa Nyenhuis, Jule Cameron, Myla Burdett, Reese Campbell, Leighton Nickel, Micki McDonald
Front: Reese Flanagan



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Stratford Native Named Head Coach of Canada's World Junior Team

LEE GRIFFI

Times Correspondent

Former Stratford Culliton standout Dennis Williams has been named coach of Team Canada. The juniors are to defend gold at the 2023 IIHF World Junior Championship being held in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick from December 26 to January 5.

Williams has a history coaching with Hockey Canada, including winning gold at the 2022 World Junior Championship as an assistant coach back in August. He also won silver at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup in 2019 as an assistant for the U18 team and was as head coach of Canada Black at the 2018 U17 World Hockey Challenge. He is currently in his sixth season with the Everett Silvertips of the Western Hockey League (WHL), a team based in Washington state where he has an overall record of 203-66-11-11.

The now 44-year-old spent three seasons with his hometown Stratford Cullitons (now Warriors) and says becoming a coach was never something he thought about. "My aspiration was to play in the National Hockey League. I didn't know what coaching entailed and until I played in college. I thought all the coaches did was ride the bike and work out and I thought it seemed like a pretty good job. Now that I am in it, I realize it's another beast altogether." Williams gives a lot of credit to the coaches he had in Stratford throughout minor hockey and at the junior level. "A lot of it has to do with the great mentorship I had. It started at a young age, and I gravitated to coaching once I couldn't play at a high level anymore." Among his coaches was the legendary Dennis Flanagan Junior who won five Sutherland Cup championships, one with Williams on the roster.

Williams says if there is something that stands out during his time in Stratford it was the freedom his line was given on the ice which has carried over to his coaching career. "The one thing he allowed us to do as players was to play our game and be creative. He didn't overcoach which is so important in today's game but was pretty rare to have back in the day. I don't remember so much of the tactical side but when we got to the offensive zone, Dennis told us to let our instincts and skillset take over." He adds with today's athlete that is a really important part of coaching. "Don't micromanage them. We stress to play a certain way without the puck but with the puck you have to let your innate abilities take over. Looking back, I coach my guys the same way Dennis coached me."

The Williams, Eric Anderson and Colin Schmidt line is one of the most productive ever to hit the ice in the now Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League. "We played together game in and game out with very little juggling, something I still believe in today. Chemistry is so important. I do think there is a time and a place for changing up lines to get a different look, move a guy up or move a guy down. In my case in Stratford, we all became such good friends off the ice that we were all one family. Colin, who was older, he was like the dad on the line as the older one and he protected us," he laughs. "I may have been the only one to sit now and then



for taking a dumb penalty," he adds. The trio still gets together as often as possible and Anderson and Schmidt call Stratford home today.

As a player in the GOJHL (then the Mid-Western Junior Hockey League), Williams played 138 games and collected 101 goals, 140 assists, and won a Sutherland Cup title in the 1994-95 season. He would eventually earn a scholarship at Bowling Green University in Ohio before moving to the coaching profession. Anderson, a Michigan native, tallied 269 points and went to St. Lawrence University in New York. Schmidt, from Stratford, picked up 229 points as a Culliton and wound up at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. He also played three seasons for the Waterloo Siskins.

"I keep in touch with those guys quite a bit. We have a group text chat together and I made it home in the summer when the Warriors had a golf tournament. I played with Schmitt and Anderson, and Greg DeVries played in front of us, so I was able to spend a lot of time with those guys." Williams says he spent a few days in the area visiting his family including brother Dave, the current head coach of the Stratford Warriors and also a GOJHL alumni. Dave is no slouch in the coaching department having been named the OHA's Coach of the Year in 2020.

One of Williams' fondest memories is a regular Friday night at the ancient Allman Arena in Stratford, something he says didn't really hit him until a recent visit with his wife and daughters. "Seeing the rink, the smell of the rink. The Stratford experience is really hard to describe. There was nothing better than a Friday night in Stratford. I grew up as a kid going to all the games. We would go out for dinner as a family then head to the arena to watch the Cullitons and

it would be rocking." He adds as a player there was no better rivalry than the Waterloo Siskins or the Elmira Sugar Kings. "When I came back to watch a game it was just an instant smile when I looked at the trophies and the photos, and I even ordered a swamp water from the snack bar. I am grateful and so proud to say I came from Stratford and was a Stratford Culliton."

Despite serving as an assistant on Team Canada at the summer world junior tournament and earning a gold medal, Williams says being offered the top job is a different feeling. "I remember the call. I was in Brandon, Manitoba and I will always remember that. I was ecstatic and I couldn't wait to call my wife and kids, and my parents. As a kid growing up in Canada, Boxing Day was two things – watching the world juniors and going shopping to get your deal with your Christmas money." He adds the opportunity to represent Canada and coach the best of the best junior hockey players is something he could have never dreamed about early on in his coaching career. "Before I came to the WHL there was definitely not even a thought about coaching for Canada. I was never good enough to play in it, so this is the next best thing. My family will all be there with me and its as important to them as it is to myself, and I couldn't be happier to give this them the opportunity to watch the tournament."

Stratford Transit installs 20 benches, 10 more to arrive in New Year

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

The city's transit riders can sit while they wait for their ride at almost 20 more bus stops with new benches installed.

The City of Stratford announced on their website on November 24 that nearly 20 rugged, all-weather benches were installed through a partnership with Creative Outdoor.

"These benches are a positive benefit for transit customers," Michael Moussley, Stratford's manager of transit, said in an email to the Stratford Times. "They are sturdy, appealing, accessible and give a further option for a comfortable seating option for customers while they wait for a transit bus. It is a positive amenity for the City of Stratford."

Moussley also said that Creative Outdoor have been great partners on the project.

"Partnering with Creative Outdoor was a very positive experience from the start of this project to the end," he said. "Creative Outdoor was always receptive to the City's input regarding location throughout the City, planning of locations and construction."

Creative Outdoor supplied the benches at no cost to the city and provided advertising space on them. Stratford will earn some advertising revenue from the benches.

The benches are at the following stops

across the city:

- O'Loane Avenue near Sobeys
- Erie Street at Cambria Street
- Downie Street Transit Terminal (2)
- C.H. Meier Boulevard near Mall Entrance
- Matilda Street near Shoppers Drug Mart
- West Gore Street near Stratford General Hospital
- Erie Street at West Gore Street
- C.H. Meier Boulevard near River Dental
- Downie Street near Foodland
- Ontario Street at Front Street
- Ontario Street at Parkview Drive
- Ontario Street at Pleasant Drive
- Ontario Street at C.H. Meier Boulevard
- Ontario Street at Romeo Street
- Ontario Street at Nile Street
- Matilda Street at Huron Street

"The locations selected were based on popular bus stop locations, requests from the public to have additional seating options and better sightlines from main roads for the advertising component," Moussley said.

The press release on the City of Stratford website said that up to 10 more benches will be added in 2023. Stratford Transit will gather data over the next several months to decide on the new locations and present reports to the city.



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Home again at Bluebird Restaurant

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Bluebirds are held in special regard among feathered friends. In music, there are several positive references. There's the 1934 song "Bluebird of Happiness" by Sandor Harmati; the "bluebird of friendliness" described in They Might Be Giants' 1989 "Birdhouse in Your Soul", and the 2019 hit from Miranda Lambert entitled "Bluebird", which associated the bird with hope and optimism.

While these traits of friendliness and optimism can also describe the happenings at the new restaurant at 30 Ontario Street, owners Aaron and Bronwyn Linley told me that the origin of name actually comes from a Belgian fairy tale. "It's about children who go off in search of happiness and they end up finding it back at home. It kind of ties in."

Aaron and Bronwyn are back home, in more ways in one.

Many of our readers will recall that this lovely couple, who met years ago while in the same class at Stratford Chefs School, founded Bijou Restaurant on Wellington back in the early 2000's. After operating the restaurant for about 14 years, they sold it and moved to Toronto in 2015 in search of a new experience.

As their kids grew older and the couple became empty nesters, they began thinking about moving back to Stratford and close to family and friends. In keeping an eye open for possible locations to start a new restaurant, they became aware of the



BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Bluebird Restaurant owners Aaron and Bronwyn are thrilled to be back home in Stratford.

(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

space at 30 Ontario Street which already had so many great memories for them.

"We used to hang out here a lot and this is where we pretty much met," said Bronwyn of their time when the restaurant was known as Down The Street and where many from the Chefs School would convene. "This was our social gathering place," added Aaron.

Ironically, Down the Street was also

where Bronwyn was hired for her first job out of Chefs School, while Aaron's first apartment was upstairs in the building. "We've had lots of history here. We always liked the space a lot," he said.

The couple is excited to create new memories at the location, building on the great history from not only Down the Street but more recently as The Mill Stone. With Bluebird Restaurant, they

had help from friend Ron Nuhn to design a space that is cozy, warm, and inviting. The bar is uniquely highlighted by an old organ surround that Nuhn had provided, complemented by large Moroccan-style candle holders obtained in the couple's travels. "We weren't intending to have a gothic theme, but it has a fun look to it," said Aaron.

Aaron and Bronwyn emphasized that whether you want to pop for a drink or have a meal, the atmosphere is meant to be relaxed.

"We want people to think of the restaurant as just a casual, fun place to stop in anytime they want," said Aaron. "We're not fine dining, we just want it to be a neighbourhood spot easily accessible in terms of price point and a nice night out with friends and family. Or if you're on your own, come in and grab a barstool and hang out."

Bluebird's menu provides many tasty options regardless of whether you are having a small snack or a full meal. Current menu choices among the "large plate" category include Icelandic cod, grilled lamb chops, BBQ beef cheeks and frites, quail Caesar salad, and others.

For now, the restaurant is open for dinner Wednesdays through Saturdays beginning at 5 p.m., and for lunch on Sundays from noon until 5. The bar, which closes at 10 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, stays open until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. In the new year, they hope to expand their lunch days beyond Sunday, as additional staff is added.

A Taste of Europe at Full House Bar & Grill

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

As I rested comfortably on my bar stool, enjoying a traditional German beer while watching Portugal play Switzerland in their World Cup match, I could easily feel transported into the European continent. Only here I was in Stratford in the old Windsor Hotel, at the newly-opened Full House Bar and Grill.

Serving up my beverage was Slavi, originally hailing from Bulgaria. He showed me the large European map (minus Russia) in the lounge area as I asked about the inspiration for Full House.

"We want to bring the culinary tradition of Europe to Stratford," he said.

Early reviews of the food online have been enthusiastically positive. The dinner menu includes starters such as traditional homemade cabbage rolls and sweet stuffed peppers which are made by Slavi's mother Lati. There are a range of options for entrees including steak (at 14 ounces, one of the largest in the area), seafood (including fresh lobster), schnitzel, pasta dishes, and more. The beverage menu is also



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Slavi and Paige point to the welcoming entrance of Full House Bar & Grill which is located inside the historic Windsor Hotel.

(SARAH CAIRNS PHOTO)

varied, offering up many beer (five different German brews, for example) and wine choices that are unlike those available anywhere else in the city.

A great way to try an assortment of Full

House's flavours is to come enjoy their buffet which is available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for just \$19.99 plus tax. For families bringing kids, those who are 7 years of age and under can dine for just \$2.00 plus tax, with a dollar

from each of these meals being donated to the Stratford General Hospital. On every second Wednesday beginning on December 14th, seniors and veterans are invited to enjoy the all-you-can-eat buffet for 50% off (\$9.99 plus tax).

Many European establishments come alive in the evenings, and this is true at Full House as well. Weekends feature live music or live DJ. This Friday (the 9th) for example will lead off with DJ Dave from Grand Bend playing your favourite top 40 hits from the 80's and 90's from 8 p.m. until late. He'll also be back on Saturday, leading into a live performance by String Bone.

Next Friday, December 16th is Latin Night at Full House, where you're invited in for Salsa and Bachata dance lessons before the show starts. Please call 519-273-4567 to book your free dance lessons.

Full House Bar & Grill is located at 23 Albert Street in Stratford. For more information, visit their website at www.fullhousebarandgrill.com, follow them on Facebook or Instagram, or simply pop by for an impromptu visit at their attractive renovated location inside the historic Windsor Hotel.

Annie's Seafood's surprising niche

Gluten-free diners marvel at selection

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

After interviewing Sean and Virginia Robinson on the occasion of their recently-celebrated 25-year anniversary of Annie's Seafood at 698 Ontario Street, I went home and told my wife what I'd learned, as I often do.

"What do you think Annie's Seafood is known for?" I said to her. "Umm, how about seafood?" she replied, stating the seemingly obvious.

"Well, they do have great seafood," I replied. "But for people seeking out gluten-free food, they have become one of the top destinations in Ontario, with so much selection that their gluten-free menu is roughly the same size as their regular menu. They even have eight different types of gluten-free dessert!" I said excitedly.

Not being gluten-free herself, my wife shrugged, as she often does at my stories. However, as I came to appreciate during my visit with the Robinsons, their commitment to providing a breadth of gluten-free options at Annie's Seafood is a very big deal to those who are celiac, or have a gluten sensitivity, or who have a wheat allergy.

Sean, who bought the restaurant 18 years along with his late wife Karen, credits restaurant manager June Stafford for introducing gluten-free fish and chips nine years ago. June has been there since the restaurant opened (originally called Archie's) in 1997 and some of her long-time customers had become celiac and were asking about the possibility of gluten-free fish and chips. "June got to work and pioneered the process, started researching, 'how can we get this done?' It took awhile but we got it right. It's one thing to have gluten-free food, but it's gotta taste good," said Sean.

Following Karen's passing in 2016, Sean was in a rough place and needed to take



DINE WITH THE ANNIE'S SEAFOOD TEAM

(SARAH CAIRNS PHOTO)

Back from left to right: Dexter Kiriopoulos, Michael Young, Jared Hackett, Julia Rachuck, Jacob Ponsford, Amy Chandler, Darlene Janisse, June Stafford, Virginia Robinson.
Front: Sean Robinson

some time away from the restaurant to clear his head and to mourn. "June, like she always does, took care of everything," Sean said of this period. "She's incredible."

Eventually, Sean got back in the dating world and met Virginia. They fell in love and have been together for close to five years now.

A marketing specialist her entire career, Virginia knew that Sean needed her help particularly as the pandemic set in, so she jumped in and offered it.

Sean told Virginia, 'I want my restaurant to be known for something', and he recognized that it's hard for a fish and chip place to be known as the 'best fish and chips' in such a crowded market.

After much consideration, Virginia had her 'eureka' moment. The answer was to build on the gluten-free menu that June had already started.

"I invited gluten-free customers in to sit with us when the restaurant was closed and have a conversation and they told us about the fear that they experience when they are dining out," said Virginia. "They are terrified that they are going to become sick because of what they are eating at some restaurants there's a lack of understanding from the people who are serving them."

The team dove into finding great-tasting gluten-free options for their customers and trained their staff on becoming

knowledgeable in this area.

Sean said, "You can come in as celiac now and have your choice of like 30 different things, which people are blown away by. We've got onion rings, shrimp, fish, burgers, chicken fingers, all kinds of stuff. We arguably have the largest selection of gluten-free beer in Ontario."

With an investment in food consistency and quality combined with savvy digital marketing, Annie's Seafood has become a place that is sought out by celiac customers who live throughout the area or those who seek out safe places to eat when planning a trip to southwestern Ontario. Something that the team hears frequently from people is, "Thank you for what you do."

This is something that give Sean and Virginia a great deal of pride. "We've had children in the restaurant who have never dined out... ever," said Virginia. "...because their parents were too reluctant, too scared to take them anywhere until they'd read all about us. We want to give people normalcy."

Regardless of whether your tastes are gluten-free or traditional, it's worth a visit to Annie's Seafood to enjoy some quality food within a friendly atmosphere reminiscent of the east coast or the UK. Twenty-five years in the restaurant business is a tremendous accomplishment, and the slowdown during the pandemic gave the team an ideal opportunity to refresh and modernize the business to set it up for the years to come.

Annie's Seafood is open six days a week: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3-8 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays from 12-8 p.m., and Sundays from 12-7 p.m. For more information on this quarter-century business, including their full menu and information on take-out frozen gluten-free foods or out-of-town popup markets, please visit www.annieseafood.ca.

Green Haven Bakery joins Stratford Mall food court

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

There are some tasty new offerings at the Stratford Mall food court.

When the news broke midday on Wednesday, November 30th that Green Haven Bakery & Café had set up shop at Stratford Mall, the flood of people began to arrive almost instantaneously.

Green Haven, founded by Jason and Melanie Hunt, has developed quite the local following thanks to their prior appearances at St. Jacobs Market and the successful launch of their retail store in downtown St. Marys last year. People come from far and wide to enjoy their fresh baked goods including donuts, tarts, cookies, scones, and their signature collection of fry pies.

Jason explained that they plan to soon get the kitchen up-and-running at the Stratford Mall location, but in the mean-



FRY PIES AND MORE

Jason Hunt was all smiles during a busy first week of his new location of Green Haven Bakery located in the Stratford Mall.

(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

time, they are bringing their fresh-baked goods from St. Marys each morning.

"When you get donuts here, for example, you know that they are fresh-baked that morning," he said.

Green Haven also has a selection of beverages to satisfy their customers needs, including brewed coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and a selection of espresso-based drinks.

The introduction of Green Haven into the Stratford Mall is the first step in the rejuvenation of the mall's food court. Renovations are planned early in the new year.

Hunt said of the new mall management, "They're young and energetic. They said they were going to get the mall filled up for Christmas, and they pretty much have."

Green Haven's hours will largely mirror the hours of the Stratford Mall, so to satisfy the needs of their loyal customers.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.STRATFORDTIMES.COM

Knitting wear worn by soldiers during past wars

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

During the month of November, there was a display at the Stratford Legion that I'd like to share on this page, particularly if you didn't have a chance to stop in and see it yourself. The display is not about artillery used in wars of the past, but displays different types of "knitting wear" worn by armed forces personnel during past world wars.

Stratford resident and formerly from the Shakespeare area - Sharon Louttit (Fryfogel) found knitting instructions for "War Works" in a grandmother's possessions that has been passed down over the years.

The Canadian Red Cross circulated these instructions for World War I with needs for the Army, Navy and Air Force. The leaflet contained 11 pages of instructions but excluded a date of publication. A revised edition of knitting instructions for "War Work", came out for World War II. This was a 16 page publication with February 1940 indicated on the front cover. In both the first and second publications, knitting needle size was in the imperial scale and terminology included "Kitchener Toe" and "French Heel".

Sharon states that she was a self taught novice knitter, and at times had to use YouTube videos, to guide her through

and apply new skills learned to complete 11 projects. These included a sleeveless vest, rifle mitts, half mitts, aero cap, helmet, wristlets, knee caps, bed socks, day socks, seaman's stockings and a scarf.

Canadian knitters played a significant role in outfitting soldiers for World War I, World War II, and the Korean wars. This work was encouraged by the Canadian Red Cross and the "Imperial order of the Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.). Knitting usually was performed by women on the homefront, children, as well as sick or the injured. Convalescing soldiers knitted as a form of relaxation and therapy. Socks were the most needed item, as many needed to wear two pair, as the boots were unlined. Socks needed changing often and to avoid trench foot (fungus). Wool was the best fibre for moisture absorption.

Once the 1st World War was over on November 11, 1918, the devastating pandemic began. Knitters were finally free to take up personal knitting again, but these volunteers were the first to pick up their needles again in December 1941 to once more "Knit for Victory" during World War II.

Sharon hopes other legions in the area will be able to view this very interesting "War Work" that shows another cause that was taken up to keep the fighting armed forces warm to see another day.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

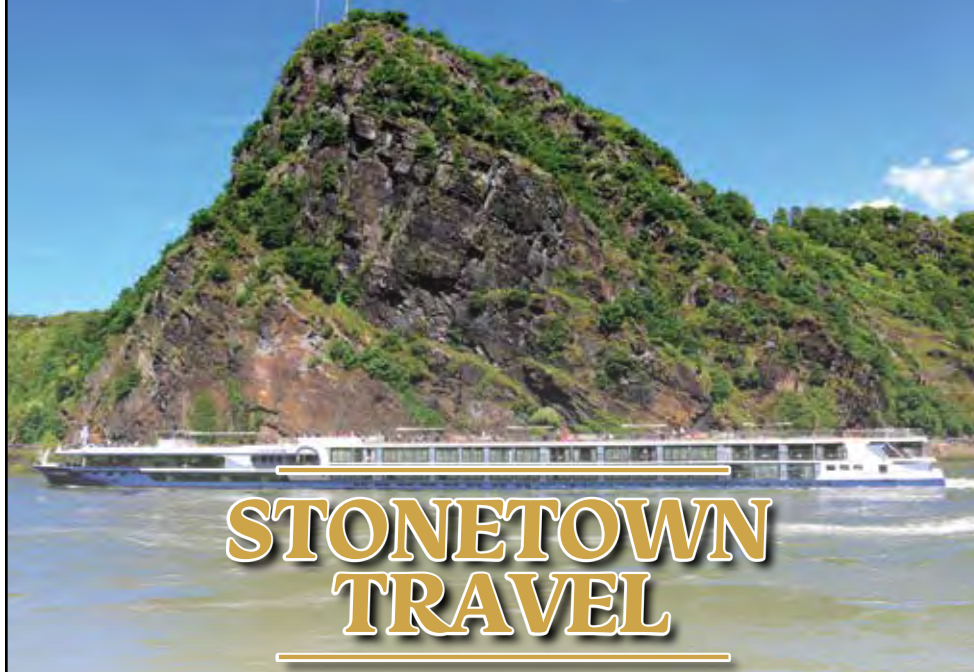
WARMTH DURING WAR

Sharon Louttit- self taught "Knitter" of the many items needed to keep Canadian armed forces warm, during past wars, along with Legion President Steve Zurbrigg at the Stratford Legion recently in Stratford.

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(FRED GONDER PHOTOS)

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022

Art Boon, 97, WWII veteran salutes during the Remembrance Day ceremony alongside his son Richard Boon.



Let Me Introduce

Barbara Steed Young ... Director, Conductor, Performer and Teacher.

APRIL TAYLOR

Times Contributor

I am listening to Puccini's famous aria, O Mio Babbino Caro. The soprano sings a melancholy yet familiar tale, as a young girl in love begs her father to understand. O Mio Babbino Caro ... Mi piace, è bello, bello ... oh my dear papa, I love him so. There's something about opera music that transports me instantly to another time and another place. Music does hold that ability. I admit I don't know a lot about opera, but it does interest me. A few years ago, I saw posters around town of an opera appreciation class. It piqued my interest, but still working full time my schedule doesn't allow time during the day. The universe does work in mysterious ways as we know, and here I find myself not only having met the teacher but now am lucky enough to tell you about her.

So, let's get started. I popped over to Barbara's house here in Stratford to meet with her about this article. Not having met her before, I was kind of nervous and didn't know what to expect. She invited me into a charming room containing gilded framed paintings, a grand piano, a Madame Butterfly framed poster on the wall, and candle sticks. Like in the aria, I felt like I entered a different realm, for lack of a better word. Barbara sat across from me as we chatted about her history and her ongoing work today. Was she actually wearing a caftan and holding a long cigarette? Well no, but my mind kept



seeing her this way. A beautiful woman reminiscent of the "haute bohème" living amongst artists, and intellectuals in Paris in the mid-19th century. I liked her at once.

Gosh, where do I begin? She has done so much. Barbara was educated at Western University, and holds a degree in voice and piano. She also studied opera at Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England. Ms. Young has worked in Canadian theatre for more than forty years as a conductor, director, performer, and teacher.

Did you see Henry V in 2001, or To Kill a Mockingbird in 2007? If you did, you heard her work as she was the composer for the music. She worked with music director Bert Carriere on all the musicals from 1996 to 2008. Pretty cool, eh?

There's more ... Barbara as an educator, in the 1980s. Ms Young started the instrumental music and music theatre programs at the Etobicoke School of the Arts (ESA) in Toronto, Canada's first publicly funded art school. She also founded music theatre programs at the National Music Camp in Orillia, St. Lawrence College in Brockville, and the Stratford Festival Education Department. Barbara had a voice studio in Stratford and is a highly sought-after music adjudicator and lecturer. In the spring of 2022 with support from John Lederman, she created and delivered a six-week series for the Georgian Triangle Lifelong Learning Institute, as the conductor and music director. She's a busy gal indeed.

"My favorite opera is Amahl and the Night Visitors by Carlos Menotti, and I like Maria Callas as a soprano while I enjoy Jonas Kaufmann as a tenor. Always difficult to choose a favorite," says Ms. Young.

So, what is this creative woman up to now?

Well, a couple of things. She has a bed and breakfast. She welcomes visitors to her B & B in our tourist season, summoning her guests down to breakfast while she plays Bach Prelude in C major, leaving her guests with colourful stories to share

when they get home. There I go again ... picturing her in a flowing caftan and long cigarette holder. I think she should invest in one just for effect.

The other project she has on the go is a Music & Opera Appreciation series of lectures, right here in Stratford. Yes, you too can go and learn fun facts about the classics! Learn all about that demon barber of Fleet St. in Sweeney Todd, Norma, The Pearl Fishers and let's not forget good ole' Oscar Hammerstein and Stephen Sondheim.

I just happen to know a local couple, Bob and Sarah, who took part in Barbara's Autumn series. They shared the following:

"Barbara's Music & Opera courses have been such a tonic for so many of us. The lesson material is so thorough and engaging and you can dive as deep as you want into the music. Who else would wear a different kimono at each of the two Madame Butterfly classes. Who else can invite the incredible Mark Fewer and friends for what is essentially an informal and in-person quartet master-class/concert! Barbara is a treasure!"

The 2023 WINTER SERIES - musician-dopera.weebly.com

"BEFRIENDED" begins ... January 10 to 14 February 14, Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30

Why not escape winter for a couple of hours every Tuesday afternoon as Ms. Young takes you to far-away places in another time?

Sing for the joy of it - County of Perth Community Choir Resuming under new leadership

After more than two years, the "Sing for the Joy of It" County of Perth Community Choir will be resuming rehearsals January 17, 2023 under the direction of Dan Van Winden and accompanist Karen Rempel.

The choir premise is simple - if you love to sing because it makes you happy, then this choir is for you. All former and new singers are welcome. There are no auditions, and sopranos, altos, tenors and basses of all ages are welcome. Youth under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. The choir repertoire will include a variety of music (e.g. show tunes, jazz, folk, spirituals, and contemporary). The winter/spring term will commence January 17th, and will end with a concert at Avondale United Church (Avondale) on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. As a choral group we want to give singers some peace of mind, therefore, at this time, proof of vaccination will be required prior to the first rehearsal.

Registration for the winter/spring term can be done in person or by email. To register via email, contact Leslie Belland at "singforthejoyofit@gmail.com."

The first choir rehearsal will take place Tuesday, January 17, 2023 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Avondale (194 Avondale Ave., Stratford Ontario). Thereafter, re-

hearsals will be held every Tuesday, except the second Tuesday of each month. For people who are unfamiliar with the Avondale space, it is accessible, has comfortable seating, ample parking, good circulation, great acoustics and fine instruments.

Introducing our new choir director and accompanist:

Daniel Van Winden grew up in Woodstock, Ontario and now lives in Stratford with his wife and son, where he works as Music Director at Avondale United Church and in the Human Resources department at the Stratford Festival. Daniel graduated from Western University in 2014 with a Masters of Music, Vocal Performance and Literature, and has a small studio of vocal students. He has been a part of choirs his whole life, singing with the Cantabile Singers of Woodstock founded by his



mother Linda Garner Van Winden, the Woodstock Fanshawe Singers, Chorale and University Singers at Western University, and various church choirs including the Senior Choir at

Metropolitan United Church in London. Daniel frequently appears as a soloist for various choral groups throughout southwestern Ontario, and will also be Music Director for a production of Guys and Dolls at Theatre Woodstock this coming February.

A native of Winnipeg, Karen's marketing career with IBM Canada took her to Edmonton, and later Toronto where she shifted into "event management", later running her own business with husband Paul, until they retired, after having moved to Stratford.

Musically, Karen has been accompanying and singing in choirs for many years.

In Stratford, Karen has played piano for Stratford Community Players (SCP), The Community Players of New Hamburg (TCP), The Festival City Big Band, served as Music Director for St. Marys Community Players' production of Cabaret, and accompanied many young artists for various music festivals. She has also served on the boards of SCP and TCP.

Karen has sung with a number of choirs, and is currently a member of the Avondale United Church choir. She had the privilege of serving as interim Music Director while Avondale United Church searched for their current Music Director, Dan Van Winden.

Other volunteer activity currently includes Friends of the Festival.

Favourite pastimes: Enjoying life with husband Paul and dog, Casey; cooking, baking bread, travelling, biking, gardening, reading, spending time with close friends, and when possible, with her Winnipeg family.

We are very excited about the return to singing for the joy of it, and we look forward to welcoming everyone who loves to sing. Both Dan and Karen are excited about this opportunity, and we look forward to seeing many happy faces on January 17, 2023.

Riddles

What do miners put on their face at night?
Coal cream.

Why did the football coach go to the bank?
To get his quarterback.

What is green and sings?
Elvis Parsley.

Did you hear about the man who got his left arm cut off?
He's all right now.

Why did the bird go to the restaurant?
Because he wanted a tweet

What do frogs drink?
Croak-a-cola.

Why can't a leopard hide?
Because he's always spotted

Why did the rancher name his ranch "Peanut Butter"?
It was a great spread.

What's the richest kind of air?
Billionaire.

How come my uncle does not brush his hair?
Because he is bald.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 35



Pet of the Month



ANGELINA

Hello there! Meet 1-year-old Angelina! She came to our centre with her four little babies. Now that her babies are grown, Angelina is ready for the next chapter in her life after motherhood. She is looking for a person or a family that will spoil her and give her lots of pets and scratches! It's time for this momma to relax! She does not like other fur friends... she wants to be the only furbaby so she can hog all the attention! Angelina is a sweet girl that loves cuddles. If you need a life-long friend to cuddle with, submit an adoption survey at <https://kwsphumane.ca/adopt/process>.



Word Search

CHRISTMAS

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

- Christmas
- Merry
- Festive
- Santa Claus
- Elves
- Jolly
- Reindeer
- Carolers
- Mistletoe
- Nativity
- Yuletide
- Tinsel
- Stocking
- Presents
- Candy
- Rudolph
- Holiday

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A shrine to the glue that holds Canada together



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor

It's probably sacrilegious to call hockey "Canada's national religion", so let's just say it is this country's cultural glue, the passion that holds us together, the shared focus of almost all Canadians. Sure, there may be a few fellow citizens who claim no affection for the game, but they know it, anyway – just ask them who Wayne Gretzky is, or if they know any jokes about the losing Leafs. They do, guaranteed.

So, having established that hockey is our national obsession, it's not a stretch to suggest that the Hockey Hall of Fame, located at Yonge and Front Streets in Toronto, is the shrine to that obsession.

It's all here, at the HHOF – the history of the game, the heroes, the innovations, the significant strides into a more inclusive future, and the latest hockey stars to be acknowledged for how brightly they shine in the shiny firmament.

I really like the blend of history and innovation at the Hall. On the lower level, there is state of the art action, as would-be stars shoot pucks at virtual goaltenders. But the heart of the shrine – home of the Stanley Cup, the plaques of the Hall of Fame members and other significant trophies – is as calm as

a cloister. A plaque explains the solemnity: "Built within 10 years of the birth of hockey, the building that houses the ESSO Great Hall is a quiet place in which to reflect on the richness of our past. Construction of the building began in 1885, during a period of great prosperity and optimism in Canada's future. Originally a bank, the building reflected the importance of banking in the formation of a country in much the same way that it now reflects the importance of hockey in the building of a culture." That could sound pompous... if hockey fans didn't agree that it is also true. Not that we care that much about banking.

But while this home of the Cup indeed holds much of the history of the game, it is also completely up to date. We visited on Sunday of Hall of Fame weekend, and the glass plaques commemorating the inductees of only a few hours were already in place – including three heroes of the Vancouver Canucks – the Sedins, and Roberto Luongo.

An added bit of history is on display in the bank's vault – an exhibit about Lord Stanley, donor of the cup. Stanley was Governor General of Canada, and donated the Stanley Cup in the early 1890s, to be presented to Canada's National Champions. (One wonders how he would feel, seeing it raised by teams from Colorado, Tampa Bay, or Washington).

Also in the vault are the lower bands from the cup – it would be twice as tall as it is, if they did not carefully remove the lowest band each time a band is completely full. (That's a sad situation for a Leaf fan, like me – the winning teams of the 60s are now relegated to the exhibit at the other end of the hall from the famous Cup.)

Downstairs, there are exhibits

showcasing every aspect of hockey. This being 2022, there is a lot of attention given to the 1972 Canada-Russia series, including a highlight film that had a bunch of us mesmerized right up to Henderson's iconic goal.

There is no doubt that the Hockey Hall of Fame is rightly located in Canada – this is our game, after all – but the Hall does a terrific job of highlighting hockey around the world, including displays of jerseys from hockey teams in places as unlikely as South Africa and the Philippines, as well as our perpetual rivals – the U.S., Sweden, Russia.

There is also an obvious effort at inclusivity. The history of women's hockey is well documented, with plenty of memorabilia, and the Hall also gives more than a nod to the growing contribution to the game by people of colour. You will also spot positive references to hockey's links with the LGBTQ2+ community.

The overall impression given – and fully intended, I'm sure – is that hockey is everybody's game; certainly every Canadian's. No argument from me. As we stood in looking at one of the dozens of displays, a man in a hockey jersey pointed at an item in the display, and with a strong Chinese accent, said, "Greatest player ever." He was pointing to a sweater once worn by Bobby Orr. The guy knows the game.

You can spend a couple of

hours at the Hockey Hall of Fame, but if you are a fan, you might want to schedule four hours, or so. Because in addition to simply looking at sweaters, pucks, skates and pictures, there are videos, interactive games, and – for the true hockey nut – the detailed bios on the individual plaques of almost 300 members of the Hall.

I migrate instantly to the plaques of players like Darryl Sittler, Lanny McDonald, Borje Salming, and Dave Keon – heroes of my years of hockey fandom. But there are

so many more – this is a rabbit hole well worth spending the time on.

In fact, the whole place is just that special. You can spend the length of an NHL game exploring the place, for only about \$25 – and if you have priced tickets to a Leafs' game lately, you will appreciate what a bargain that is.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



Hockey memorabilia fills the exhibits – and covers the backs of the fashion-conscious fans. (PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



The Hockey Hall of Fame celebrates its newest inductees.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Happy Holidays!



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How to Enjoy the Holidays even if you have a Chronic Illness



IRENE ROTH

Times Freelance Columnist

The Christmas season is upon us. Every year, the holidays seem to approach faster and faster the older we get. Because of the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can be a time that chronically ill individuals struggle with.

It seems like everyone in the media portrays the holidays as a time when family and friends get together in a mesmerizing kaleidoscope of light and color. Everyone seems to be happy. Peace reigns and everyone

seems to be getting along. Yet, for a chronically ill person, days are hardly ever that blissful, especially during the holidays when there is so much to do, and expectations are flying high.

There's no denying it: the holidays are a stressful time for everyone. But I believe Christmas is especially stressful for a person with chronic illness. We are constantly trying to live up to the ideal image of Christmas that the advertisers tell us is right.

We try to shop till we drop, spend way too much money, and end up feeling tired and completely exhausted by Christmas day. If this describes your predicament on most holidays, believe me, you're not alone. Millions of chronically ill individuals try to do way too much during the holiday season and end up dearly paying for it with more pain, fatigue, joylessness, and misery.

I will show you how to recreate Christmas in the most simplistic terms so that you could enjoy the

holidays and all the great things that the holidays offer without feeling guilty because you are not completely measuring up to the media image of the ideal Christmas. Here are a few things to remember.

First, recreate a new image for Christmas, one that serves you. The companies have brainwashed us into believing that shopping and spending endless amounts is what's most important during the holidays. However, nothing is further from the truth.

We must remind ourselves that the advertisers don't have the last word on what makes a delightful holiday for us. The ideal holiday is something we can define for ourselves. We don't have to compare ourselves to others nor match their ambitions and aspirations. Instead, being chronically ill can force us to find new and creative ways to celebrate with our family and friends.

Second, try to enjoy Christmas by creating some simple

pleasures, such as drinking a hot chocolate or latte in front of our fireplace with a book. Or take the time to cuddle with a loved one with the Christmas lights glowing in the background.

In other words, people who truly love Christmas enjoy the small things that the season offers. This is especially the case for an individual with a chronic illness. We should enjoy the small pleasures of the season and make them as enjoyable as possible.

Third, try not to over-consume food or alcohol. Instead, it is best to create a balanced approach, enjoying everything in moderation so that we can have fun and not feel more pain afterwards because we over-consumed. Weight gain is the worse for chronically ill individuals. Therefore, we should try to moderate our intake of alcohol and fatty foods.

Fourth, try to slow down and enjoy the season. We must learn to take care of ourselves, especially if we have a chron-

ic illness. The holidays can be a challenging time. The worse thing we can do as chronically ill individuals is to keep rushing and not listen to our bodies. Therefore, it's best for us to pace ourselves and enjoy ourselves.

Fifth, listen to your body. If it's telling you to relax for the evening because you are tired and in pain, please do so because you will only feel worse afterwards. Our bodies have an inherent wisdom that we should honor and respect.

I just love Christmas! It is one of my favorite times of the year. It is a time of luminosity, bright lights, and inspiring hymns. Everyone seems exceptionally happy and content. It is a bright and hopeful time, and I don't believe this is merely because we are over-consuming. It's because they see all the small things around them that give them reason to pause and exhale.

May this season be happy and comfortable for you!

Merry Christmas!
Irene S. Roth

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UNTIL SOON. LIVE WELL: A Tiny Salvation



STUART LENDER

Times Contributor

Something comes up for me without fail, each and every winter - a vibration in the air, a tingling on the surface of the season's skin that goes beyond the "comfort and joy" of the Christmas holiday; and I can only describe it as a warm and sombre reflection. Beyond the usual approach of year's end and the looking back that entails; the winter season is certainly the most inwardly focused for me, and as such, when Springtime arrives, the most outwardly di-

rected in changing the formalities of my behaviour into a more practiced and pure form of care for my fellow human beings. Perhaps that's why the most wonderful compliments I have received from those I've served is how "comfortable" and "at ease" they say they felt, during a process potentially dark and confusing. I'm grateful for that. Winter is a rechargeable battery pack for me, that re-energizes my work and my living. I see clearly.

In that regard, I reflect upon an incident that returns each winter. My own Christmas story:

Once upon a time, I came upon a ragged man. He was gracious in his poverty; courteous, kind and pleasant. And despite my often-bold habit of not being shy around those who spend their lives on the street, his eyes did not condemn, his hands were not open, and the glances we shared as I noticed him and he noticed me, were simply unspoken hellos.

I was walking with my young

daughter in the "Beach" area of Toronto. I don't know why the man and I noticed each other, other than the fact that I was walking toward him and he looked up from his exploration of a garbage bin and I did not look away. We smiled. When I reached him with my daughter at my side, I asked him if I could help in any way, and not hearing his muffled response echoing in the recess of the bin, I noticed the end of a baguette sticking out of his coat pocket. I jovially offered to get him a new baguette, with toppings, at the Subway restaurant behind us. He welcomed it. I invited him in to take a seat as he was our guest, asked him what kind of sandwich he'd like, which toppings, and went to the counter to order. A few patrons turned their heads towards our seats, no doubt creating their own stories of what is happening.

It was only after I approached the register to pay, that I noticed a handwritten sign on the counter: Debit Machine Down. Cash

Only. I had no cash. So, apologetically I told our guest that I was going to go down the road to the bank machine and return. But upon my exit, another man about to leave and sitting with his daughter, much younger than my own; gestured to me, pulled out a 10-dollar note and offered it. I held up my hands gratefully, acknowledged his goodness, and declined. But the man insisted and in broken English said, "No please...take. It is for him, ya?" gesturing over at my guest. I nodded, and he held it out further..."please."

I shrugged and thanked him for his generosity. "Give change to him," he said, and pointed at our ragged guest... and then he left; his little girl trailing behind him whispering "Papa?... Papa?" like she had many questions that needed to be answered. End of story. A simple, grace-filled five minutes.

In those five short minutes after I realized I could not pay for this man's sandwich, my well-meaning deed was bless-

ed by another who claimed no credit, and left too quickly to be thanked by the recipient of his generosity. Our little girls (although mine was not unaccustomed to my behaviour and I'm assuming the strangers wasn't either) were reminded that all people should help one another where, when and in any way they can; while everyone in that Subway was treated to a scene of common humanity. But I realized that the greatest reward of the day was my own. A tiny salvation for me, in a time of year where I fret most deeply, for the petty dealings of human beings.

And still, as I said, I think back on it each year. I see its simple beauty, and so, its greatness. And all of us were strangers blessed - no names, no histories, no crowns. Hallelujah.

UNTIL SOON. LIVE WELL.

Stuart is the manager of Ruthersford Cremation & Funeral Services. It is his privilege to serve, dispel myths, and give information concerning his field of compassionate service.

Stratford Branch 8

ATTENTION: CANADIAN VETERANS AND EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

Branch 8 continues to offer emergency assistance as well as the services of Veterans Affairs Canada to eligible Veterans, their spouses, widows and dependents through the Poppy Fund.

Starting in April 2022, Veterans residing in Canada who apply for a disability benefit for a mental health condition - as well as those who already applied but have not yet reached a decision - will qualify for the new Mental Health Benefits. This program provides early access to coverage for prescription drugs and certain mental health services related to anxiety and depressive disorders, and trauma and stressor-related disorders.

Please contact Reg at the Legion 519-271-4540 for a consultation.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2023!

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stratfordlegion008@gmail.com

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STRATFORD TIMES

Merry Christmas

Thank you for the support throughout 2022!

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GRANT HAVEN MEDIA **St. Marys Independent**
The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

An award winning gardener bringing colour to the people of Stratford

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

Bernie Van Herk recently received the Ted Blowes community service award for his outstanding and colourful flower gardens that adorn the front yard of his Huron St. home.

Bernie is no stranger to beautification awards. He has helped the festival city in being named the best in Canada a few years back and best exemplifies what beautification is all about. Van Herk might be small in stature but he reigns tall when it comes to flowers of colour to brighten residents, lives who travel by his property.

Many will recognize him as the Stratford General Hospital orderly, who kept patients in good spirits as

he went about his essential work for 25 years at there. He retired a number of years ago but at nearly 87 years old, he still loves to dress up his front yard with colour and aesthetics.

Van Herk will say he only got as far as Grade six in school, but that did not stop him from dairy farming with purebred Holstein cows in Perth County's Logan Township for many years until he took on the job at the hospital. He says he has always loved getting his hands dirty while working in his gardens and enjoys bringing colour to the lives of motorists who pass by his house. He continues to be part of the Stratford "Community in Blooms" organization and says he will continue brightening people lives with colourful gardens for as long as his health will allow.



AWARD WINNING GARDENER

Bernie Van Herk displaying his colourful flower gardens in his front yard on Huron Street West in Stratford.

(GARY WEST PHOTO)

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Arden Park Hotel
The Bruce Hotel
Stratford Motor Products
Stratford Legion
Festival Marketplace
Stratford Nissan

Stratford Subaru
Peavey Mart
Stratford Honda
Walmart
Shakespeare Variety
Shakespeare Brewery
Shakespeare Esso
Joe's Variety
Zehrs
Food Basics
Stratford Variety
Foodland

Freeland's Diner
Stratford Hyundai
Stratford Chamber of Commerce
A.N.A.F.
McDonald's - Erie St
Expressway Ford
Strickland's Toyota
Stratford KIA
Fix Auto
Erie Street Esso
Stratford Medical Pharmacy
Erie Convenience

Stratford Mazda
Stratford Hospital
The Livery Yard
The Parlour Restaurant & Inn
Erie Convenience
United Way Perth Huron
AJ's Hair / Festival Square / Features
Joe's Diner
The Urban Barber
Graham Energy - Hwy #7
Delmar Foods

Pick Up Locations

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
stratfordtimes@gmail.com

STRATFORD WARRIORS
December 9, 16, January 6, 13;
Allman Arena, 15 Morenz Dr,
Stratford
Come out and support the
Stratford Warriors

**STRATFORD FIGHTING
IRISH**
December 17; 4:30 p.m.,
December 27; 7:30 p.m.
Allman Arena, 15 Morenz Dr,
Stratford
Come out and support the
Stratford Fighting Irish

JACKED BAND
Saturday, December 10; 7 p.m.
Jobsite Brewery
GREAT MUSIC from 80s and
90s (Eagles, Tragically Hip,
Neil Young, Hootie and the
Blowfish, Luke Bryant and even

Meatloaf) No cover
MOVIE NIGHT IN A BAG
December 14 - January 4
Stratford Public Library
Each Wednesday, you will
receive an email when your bag
is ready for pickup. Return the
movies when you grab the next
week's bag but keep everything
else (game and popcorn)! Please
note that the DVD's will always
be due the Wednesday after you
get the email so be sure to pick
up your bag right away to get the
most time with them!

NEW NEIGHBOUR NIGHT
Wednesday, December 14;
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Stratford Public Library
Join us in the library auditorium
to meet other Stratford newbies,

be they newly retired, new
employees in the City, or
new immigrants! Hosted by
Stratford Public Library with
special guests each month to
answer your questions and help
make you feel welcome in your
new town.

**TO STRATFORD WITH
LOVE**
Saturday, December 17; 5:30
p.m.
Stratford Rotary Complex
34th annual tradition
dinner. Enjoy the music,
meal and fellowship! To
register for dinner visit
www.tostratfordwithlove.ca

**ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT
& DINNER**
Saturday, January 7; 5:30

p.m.
Shakespeare Optimist Hall
Register a table of 8 for dinner
and trivia for \$360. Email
admin@stratfordfairgrounds.
com or call 519-271-5130.
Registration deadline is
December 22.

**ALZHEIMER SOCIETY
HURON PERTH SOUP'S ON**
Saturday, January 14; 11 a.m.
- 2 p.m.
Stratford Rotary Complex
Back in person to sample Perth
Counties best soups! Don't
forget to bring your own spoon!

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) A Haweater
- 2) Chardonnay
- 3) Fédération Internationale de Football Association
- 4) White blood cells
- 5) Eton
- 6) Carbon Dioxide
- 7) Rubber Duckie by Ernie (1970) / Rainbow Connection by Kermit (1979)
- 8) Chuck Yeager
- 9) 100
- 10) King

SUDOKU

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

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

FENCING / DECKS

ALL SHORES
Fencing & Decks
519-273-2003
info@allshoresfd.ca

MORTGAGES

Michelle Webber
MORTGAGE AGENT
www.MichelleWebber.ca
Cell: 519-301-5155

DOMINION LENDING CENTRES

REAL ESTATE

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BROKER

ROYAL LEPAGE Hiller Realty
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phillip@spectrumto.ca

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- Compounding Pharmacy
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www.stratfordmedicalpharmacy.ca

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245 Downie Street,
Suite 108
Stratford, ON
N5A 1X5

Tina Grasby
BROKER
b. 519-508.HOME (4663) | m. 519-275-7663
tgrasby@homeandcompany.ca
homeandcompany.ca

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

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Stratford Perth
HUMANE SOCIETY

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kwsphumane.ca

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SALES REPRESENTATIVE
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AS \$15 PER ISSUE!**



Home furniture

STRATFORD

Main store: 519-273-9330, 2954 Hwy 7&8 E | Outlet: 519-273-7453, 617 Douro Street

OUTLET
OPEN DEC. 10 & 11!

STOREWIDE SALE on SALE EVENT

GET SALE PRICES PLUS HST INCLUDED*

Queen Bed \$999 taxes in

Queen Bed \$1,929 taxes in

Sofa \$1,349 taxes in

Sofa \$2,739 taxes in

Lift Chair \$1,399 taxes in

Lift Chair \$1,379 taxes in

Swivel Chair \$899 taxes in

Leather Recliner \$1,579 taxes in

Recliner \$639 taxes in

COMPLETE SHOWROOM ON SALE PLUS TAXES IN

In stock only, other conditions apply, see store for details. Main store only. Prices will be reduced by the equivalent of the applicable taxes. Total price paid will equal the advertised price.



Home furniture

Main Store Hours:

Monday to Thursday	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

OUTLET OPEN every 2nd & 4th full weekend

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Jim Fierling
Dealer/Owner



Visit us at stratfordhomefurniture.ca and homefurniture.ca