

STRATFORD TIMES

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Winterfest returns to Upper Queen's Park

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Families will be treated to live entertainment, food trucks, a petting zoo, and other activities during the return of Stratford Winterfest.

The free event will be held in Upper Queen's Park on February 18, the Saturday of the Family Day weekend. The Stratford Winterfest website lists several activities as part of the event, including ice sculptures, an obstacle course, mini putt, and outdoor bowling.

The Stratford Public Library will host a Story Trail and an AirZooka event as part of the festivities. There will also be performances by Dragon Breath Entertainment, Nuvo Shows, and Lauren Nielsen. Elementary school students across Perth County will also be decorating a wooden snowman under the theme "Hockey in Stratford" for a chance to win some prizes.

On February 17, Stratford Winterfest will hold a sold-out Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night at the Best Western Plus Arden Park Hotel.

This will be Stratford Winterfest's first year since the COVID-19 pandemic without major restrictions.

Jamie Cottle, the chair of Stratford Winterfest, said, "more people are coming out for community events since the Pandemic so we're looking forward to families coming out for just a fun day at the park."

The event committee tries to change up the Stratford Winterfest programming every year. Cottle said that seeing the families get together is a highlight of the event.

"It's just so great to see so many families and so many people out in one spot just taking in the fun," he said. "I'm looking forward certainly to the live entertainment. I think that is going to be a lot of fun."

Stratford Winterfest will be a rain or shine event. "We've done this since 1998, so we've had a variety of weather throughout the years."

Visit stratfordwinterfest.ca for more information.



WINTERFEST SERVED UP SOME WARMTH AT SOUP'S ON

(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

Matt Stone and Barb Cottle from Stratford Winterfest were among the 24 vendors who participated in the Soup's On fundraiser for Alzheimer Society on January 14. Winterfest will be taking place on February 18th including Ice Sculptures, food trucks, snow slide and a various other activities. Read more about Soup's On on page 5.

United Way Perth-Huron Coldest Night of the Year: A Night of Hope and Community

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Times Correspondent

The Coldest Night of the Year walk is an annual event to raise awareness and funds to support homelessness in Stratford. This event brings together the community to raise funds for local organizations that support



the homeless and those in need. The walk is a 2 or 5-kilometer walk

through the streets of Stratford. Community members can sign up to walk or donate to a team member to help support the cause.

This year, for the 4th time, city counselor Jo-Dee Burbach will participate in the walk. "I'm involved in this walk because it accomplishes two important things," she said.



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United Way Perth-Huron Coldest Night of the Year: A Night of Hope and Community

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"Firstly, it raises awareness around the challenges that people who are unhoused face and focuses our attention on resolving the issue of homelessness. Secondly, this walk raises funds for two really important community organizations tackling this issue head-on - ShelterLink and Stratford Connections Centre. Both of them are working hard to stabilize people who find themselves homeless in an effort to transition them back to having a place to call home." Burbach and her team expect to raise \$5,000 this year and have already reached 75% of their goal.

"I would encourage everyone who can to either participate in the walk or to support someone who is walking!" said Burbach.

The Coldest Night of the Year walk is a community event, with participants of all ages and abilities walking together to support a good cause. Participants gather at the start line on the night of the walk, bundled up and ready to brave the cold. Along the route, there are warm-up stations where participants can take a break and enjoy hot drinks and snacks pro-

vided by McDonald's and SoupSurreal.

In addition to raising funds, the United Way Perth-Huron Coldest Night of the Year also brings the community together. Realtors Ella Fox and June Leitch from Home and Company Real Estate are among those who participate and raise funds for the initiative. "The event is based around homelessness in our community," Leitch states, "because I'm a realtor, I'm always finding people homes, and I have a soft spot for those without."

Fox and Leitch have been taking part in the walk for more than five years and have personal goals of raising more than \$500 each toward the fundraiser. "Currently, for all Stratford, the goal is to raise \$185,000 this year. We've got a pretty aggressive goal," states Fox. She, however, is confident as the goal has always been met or surpassed in past years.

"Dress for the weather; wear wind pants and a toque!" says Leitch. The weather is expected to reach a low of -13 degrees on February 25th, so patrons are asked to dress appropriately and be prepared for a cold evening in support of homelessness across Stratford.

Cast of RENT to join in Stratford Winter Pride this weekend



(CITY OF STRATFORD PHOTO)

WINTER PRIDE DAYS

At its January 9 meeting, Stratford City Council adopted a resolution to proclaim February 9-12 as Winter Pride Days in the City of Stratford.

The morning of February 3, Mayor Martin Ritsma raised the Pride Flag at City Hall in advance of Winter Pride Days as a show of support for our LGBTQ2S+ community.

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

An event-filled weekend became that much more special when Stratford Pride announced on Monday that members of the cast of the Stratford Festival's 2023 produc-

tion of the beloved musical RENT will perform at the sold-out Rainbow Gala dinner and cabaret show on Saturday night, February 11th. Based on advance ticket sales, RENT is forecasted to be the smash hit of the 2023 Stratford Festival season.

The fancy dress Gala dinner and cabaret is one part of the annual Stratford Winter Pride - Love Is Love -- four days of events to raise funds for the Stratford Pride Community Centre (SPCC).

The cast members will sing the musical's signature tune, "Seasons of Love". Hosted by international cabaret star Sharron Matthews, the show features veteran queer stage singer Sherry Sylvain and introduces to Canadian

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

coldest
*night
OF THE YEAR

February 25, 2023

Upper Queens Park Stratford

Check In - 4:00 p.m. • 5:00 p.m. Opening remarks & send-off

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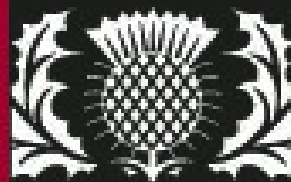


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STRATFORD TIMES

Stratford's Community Newspaper

Established 2021

The Stratford Times is published monthly on the second Friday of each month and is free to all citizens either in print format or online at stratfordtimes.com.

The newspaper is owned and published by Grant Haven Management Inc., a local business who also publishes the St. Marys Independent and Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette.

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Letters to the Editor: Please email to stratfordtimes@gmail.com, or send to our physical office at the St. Marys Independent, PO Box 2310, 36 Water Street South, St. Marys, ON N4X 1A2.

Circulation Matters!
This month we will distribute
**6,700 printed copies of the
Stratford Times.**

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Slowly but surely, gaining traction and thankful for support

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

There are ups and downs in this industry, and sometimes I get frustrated when I hear people say that “we don’t do print advertising anymore” because I know that people still enjoy reading a local community newspaper, and below is a chart that supports that trend.

Sometimes I have to remind myself that we are “only” about 18 months into doing the Stratford Times, and based on how much I’m enjoying it, I figure I’ve got at least 20 years left. It’ll be interesting to see how things evolve over this longer time period.

I hope our readers know that we do the best we can given the fact that we are a tiny, part-time staff (100% local... no outsourcing overseas) and don’t have the resources of a large conglomerate. I know that there is more that I want to do (more stories, greater frequency of publication) but it all takes time, and we must “walk before we can run.”

With today’s column, I mainly want to give a shout out regarding a couple of overall themes that I’m really thankful for.

ENGAGEMENT – In recent months we have been get-

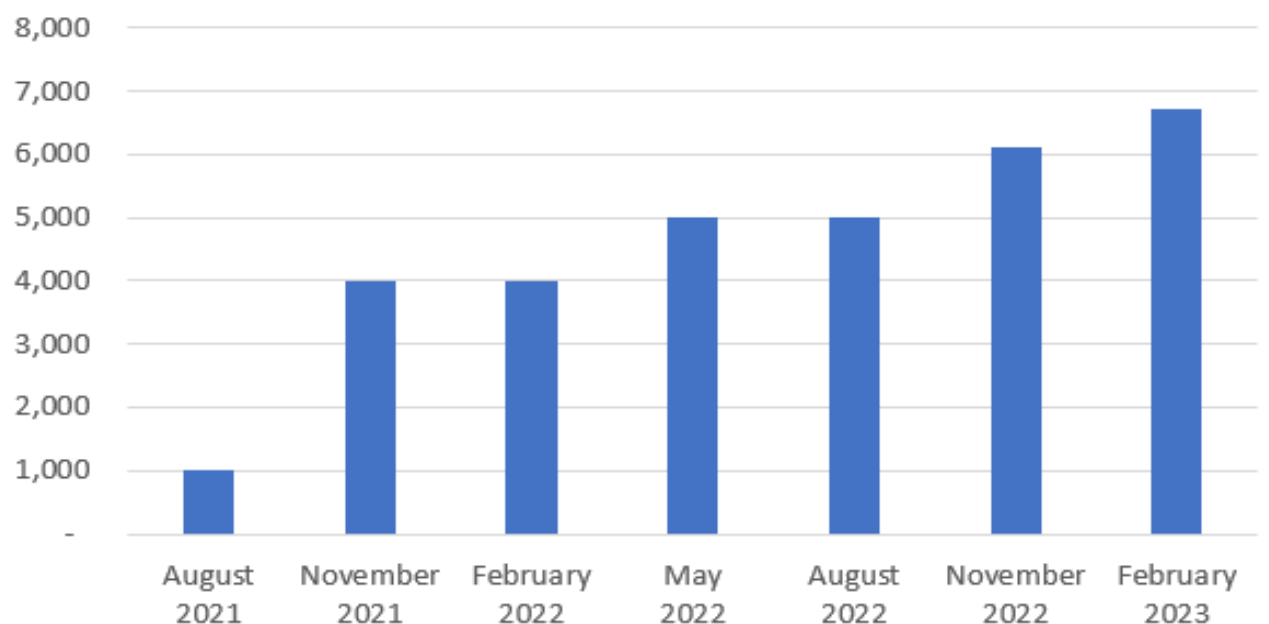
ting a lot more people contact us about story ideas, photo opportunities, or even wanting to submit articles. These contributions are making the Stratford Times a better, more well-rounded community newspaper.

SUPPORTERS – Earlier this week, we were presented with a dilemma of whether to increase the newspaper from 32 pages to 36 pages so that we could include all of the news and sports that we had. We decided that if we could find a couple of “Sports page sponsors” then this would pay for the extra 4 pages of coverage this month. We placed a couple of phone calls; one to real estate agent Matt Francis, and another to Fore Everyone Golf, and both jumped in immediately to support the cause. Amazing!

This newspaper contains advertisements from great community-minded local businesses (so check out all the ads!), but I just wanted to mention these as a specific example of how advertising dollars are spent... they are invested into bettering the local coverage. In this case, they made for some great “scrapbook” coverage for some deserving youngsters who will be thrilled to see their names in one of the local papers.

Thanks everyone for your support and I hope you enjoy this February edition.

To try and keep pace with growing reader demand, we're printing more copies of the Stratford Times than ever before.



STRATFORD TIMES

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

Soup's On fundraiser a huge success for Alzheimer Society of Huron-Perth

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

A "huge success" is how organizers described last month's "Soup's On" activities at the Rotary Complex to raise money and awareness for the benefit of the Alzheimer Society in Perth and Huron.

For the 28th annual Soup's On event, there were over 3,000 area soup lovers who attended to taste a variety of soups from 24 soup vendors, scored by nine soup judges, with the work of 150 volunteers.

There was also an in person silent auction, a kids corner, live music from the Stratford Police pipes and drums, the Bannerman Brothers, and Stratford District Secondary School jazz band.

The presenting sponsor for this year's event was Hyde Construction Limited of Stratford.

Soup winners included the Stratford and District Agricultural Society who won Creamy Amateur. Avon cooperative nursery school won Hearty Amateur. Alzheimer Society of Huron-Perth won for Vegetarian Amateur soupe. The Creamy Professional winners were the cooks at Boston Pizza, and Heritage Hops Brew Company won the Hearty Professional Category.

For the vegetarian professional the winner was Mercer Kitchen Beer Hall, and the best decorated booth award went to the Avon Co-Operative Nursery School, while the People's Choice Award, went to Soup Surreal, who have been the winners for the past number of years in this category.

The organizers and staff would like to thank everyone for attending and making the 28th annual Soup's On a huge success where the money goes to support programs spearheaded by the Alzheimer Society of Huron-Perth.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

SPOONS IN HAND

Above, MC Eddie Mathews introduced the staff at Alzheimer Society and thanked them for all their organizing for this year's return, inside the hall, for the first time in three years.

Below, soup was the order of the day as money raised from coupons sold went directly to support the many programs offered by the Alzheimer Society.



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Attainable Housing Interim Report delivered to Council with two delegations

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

At the January 23rd meeting of Council the project team leads for the Attainable Housing project gave an interim update of progress to date prior to the March deliverables.

Caroline Baker of Baker Planning Group spoke with a Power Point presentation detailing where the project began to where it is to date. The City began to study the subject of attainable housing in 2020/2021 with the development of the report "Stratford Housing Project: A Roadmap for Attainable Housing Development". Funding for this was successfully secured by SEEDCo./investStratford from the Rural Economic Development (RED) fund managed provincially. In 2022 funding was again secured from the provincial RED program to undertake the implementation of the work plan and the recommendations from the report.

The working group's scope from the 2020 study and throughout the work conducted is with attainable housing in mind, as opposed to affordable housing, another consideration entirely.

Currently, the three deliverables remain: a Community Incentives Toolkit (CIT), a media campaign, and two pilot housing projects. These deliverables are due in March and will be presented to council and a public meeting.

There are seven major components to the CIT:

1. Goals and objectives
2. Definition of the CIT project area – a geographical area for which property owners can apply or utilize the toolkit
3. Municipal leadership programs – to encourage the development of attainable

housing

4. Financial incentives programs – could include waiving items or reduction in fee for permits, though this area of the CIT is currently being impacted by the provincial Bill 23 with respect to waiving development charges on attainable housing units.

5. Marketing Plan – important aspect for awareness in the community for how they can participate.

6. Implementation Plan – how staff report to council and how monies and grants are allocated.

7. Monitoring Plan

The Media campaign, entitled "Let's be neighbours" is intended to inform, inspire and instigate action for the development of attainable housing. It will inform why attainable housing is important to the community and the lack thereof affects people we all know.

The third component deals with two pilot housing projects and how to form them, whether potential surplus land is sold to support the financial incentive programs, or the city develops the housing, or even perhaps partners to develop potential surplus land. All these options will be explored in this stage. The Pilot Housing project will include the development concepts, a summary of approval process, as well as a detailed pro forma to see how the land can best be used to support attainable housing and where the proposed incentives can assist in that regard.

Two delegations appeared before council to speak on the topic of attainable hous-



ing.

Jason Davis appeared by video and took the position that there is not a housing shortage, but a market crisis. He cites that in the last ten years population has grown 9.7 per cent and housing has grown 13.5 per cent. He concludes there is housing available, just not at a rate that is affordable. In his presentation he urged council

to consider retaining ownership of all land used for the attainable housing pilot project so that control is maintained and then pricing can be appropriately set.

Nicole Andre took the position that the scope of the project does not extend to the segment of the population most in need of attainable housing, and does not recognize this segment as stakeholders.

"I think their definition of primary stakeholder is inaccurate. By the definition in the dictionary, people that don't have attainable housing or affordably priced housing are your primary stakeholders. The way that they engaged us, feels very much like they did what they had to check the box and say, yes, we engaged with the public," said Andre.

She would like to see the deadline extended in order to better engage stakeholders.

"The page (Engage Stratford) that they posted updates to is very poorly publicized. They expect us to find them but they should be trying to find us. Even if you did find us, through press and social media pages then use the ones that we are on. Post at the library, post outside of city

hall, every grocery store. It feels like they aren't trying very hard."

She sought out the project team when she first heard about the project during the municipal election and then found the Engage Stratford page. Finding useful information proved to be difficult, and participating even more so. Trying to fill out the survey proved frustrating as she continued to encounter errors and the survey was not to be found at the library as advertised. Despite subscribing to the project on Engage Stratford, she did not receive notification of the survey either.

She understands that there is a deadline looming, however, does not see why there could not be an extension to better understand definitions and to enable best practices in engagement. Having spoken to people in the housing sector, she explains it is not an uncommon practice to apply for extensions, it happens all the time. Provincial legislation in Bill 23 directly impacts the project, yet it is not entirely understood what the impact is as yet. She thinks that an extension wouldn't be out of reach given the change in the landscape since the onset of the project.

"Even the definition of attainable and affordable housing has changed according to Bill 23. It sounds like Bill 23 has made these two definitions exclusive so it's confusing. Some of the language is confusing and it all needs to be clarified before going forward," said Andre.

She urges readers to try to become better informed and engage with council on this project because it was one of the biggest issues in the municipal election and she does not feel encouraged that there has not been appropriate engagement with the public, and with appropriate primary stakeholders.

Cast of RENT to join in Stratford Winter Pride this weekend

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

audiences the voice of Mira Fantasy, well-known on stage in Toronto's Gay Village. The Gala takes place in the Lazaridis Hall in the Tom Patterson Theatre.

While the Gala is sold out, the SPCC has opened a wait list that is accepting names; simply send your name and two ways to contact you to info@stratfordpride.com.

Stratford Winter Pride's four days of events are highlighted by the following:

Thursday, February 9

Though it's likely you are reading about this in the Stratford Times one day too late, Stratford Winter Pride kicked off on

Thursday at the Copperlight Banquet Hall with Canadian Comedy Award Winner Robert Watson welcoming one of Canada's top comics, Elvira Kurt, Just for Laughs favourite Ted Morris, and Cliff Knight for a fun filled night of Comedy.

Friday, February 10

Troy Boy Entertainment will be at the Copperlight Banquet Hall for a drag entertainment show beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$30. For purchase details and more information, please visit stratfordpride.com/winter-pride-23.

Saturday, February 11

Saturday is full of activities for all ages and tastes.

An alcohol-free, all-ages, drop-in party will take place at Stratford Pride Community Centre from noon to 10 p.m. This free event will include soft drinks, snacks, a morning movie screening, light lunch, and a 2 p.m. Drag Storytime.

Meanwhile at the Copperlight Banquet Hall, put on your best rainbow colours and dance from 9 p.m. 'til midnight with Star Toronto DJ Chiclet at the licensed Snow Ball Dance Party. Tickets are \$20 in advance or at the door, with Gala ticketholders gaining free admission.

The aforementioned sold-out Gala Dinner will take place in Lazaridis Hall at Tom Patterson Theatre.

Sunday, February 12

There will be a morning Ecumenical church service at Avondale United Church. Please check back at stratfordpride.com/winter-pride-23 for exact start time of this service.

These four days that comprise Stratford Winter Pride '23 celebrate the contributions of the local LGBTQ+ community and demonstrate that Stratford is truly a place to find diversity, love and welcome.

All proceeds from Winter Pride go to benefit the not-for-profit Stratford Pride Community Centre and Stratford Pride Guide.

City Hall Elevator Repaired and Available for Use

Repairs to the elevator at City Hall are now complete.

After a successful inspection by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA), the elevator is available for use by the public again, effective immediately.

In-person meetings in the Council Chambers resumed on Monday, February 6, 2023.

The City of Stratford appreciate everyone's patience during this service disruption.

STRATFORD TIMES

Contribute to your local community newspaper! Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Respiratory Illness Down in Huron Perth but Ministry of Health Remains on Guard

LEE GRIFFI

Times Regional Reporter

The number of area residents suffering from respiratory illness has dropped in the Huron Perth Public Health Unit area, but residents are still encouraged to take actions to prevent the spread of illness.

Recently, there were two active COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care homes and 10 people in hospital due to the virus. Seven of the recent deaths were associated with COVID-19 outbreaks at long-term care homes, while one was a community-related death. The deceased were between the ages of 70 and 99 years.

"I extend my condolences to the loved ones of these individuals," says Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health. "COVID-19 remains a serious illness for some people. While we are seeing signs of improvement, it is important to keep taking actions to protect those who are most vulnerable to severe outcomes from this virus."

Klassen says the Huron-Perth area was hit hard in December with respiratory illnesses and while the numbers have significantly dropped the health unit is keeping a watchful eye. "We had the so-called triple pandemic before Christmas with high rates of influenza, COVID and RSV that was putting considerable stress on the health care system, but things have changed a lot since then. Influenza typically has a peak in the winter months although some years it comes early and some later, but we did have our influenza A wave early this season."

She adds its often followed by a wave of influenza B. "Its not as big as the A wave but we are keeping an eye on that. RSV typically circulates during the colder months in tempered climates like ours when people are indoors is when these things spread more." She believes the higher than usual RSV numbers could be due to the pandemic years where people weren't getting together as much and there were cohorts of kids that weren't exposed due to lockdowns.

Klassen and many other public health officials say COVID seems to be coming in three-month waves which will continue to affect the health care system as a whole. "The waves are not as high as they used to be, nor do they get as low as they did. There

are still a large number of cases in the health care and the chronic long-term care systems but they are managing."



MIRIAM
KLASSEN

Klassen says many people think COVID has disappeared from the virus landscape, but she warns nothing could be further from the truth as evident by the number of deaths. "Its important to remember that it is still a serious infection. It's been estimated that in Canada there are about 3 thousand people who die each year from influenza. Canada just reached the grim milestone of more than 50 thousand COVID related deaths. That is since March of 2020 and that gives you a bit of a sense of how much more serious COVID is." Klassen says even in Huron-Perth the number of deaths has risen year over year and the threat is still evident. "In 2020 we had 23 deaths, 52 deaths in 2021, and 69 COVID-related deaths in 2022. So far this year we have had eight. We still have some people who are particularly vulnerable like people of advanced age like long-term care residents and people who aren't up to date on their COVID vaccines."

While the health unit has discontinued their mass vaccine clinics Klassen says anyone wanting another shot does have a number of options across the two counties. "Family doctors and primary care nurse practitioners are providing vaccinations along with pharmacies. The health unit is still providing shots as well but we aren't setting up the same mass clinics as there isn't the demand but people can reach out and book an appointment."

Along with keeping vaccinations up to date the health unit is still stressing some safety tips to keep the spread of respiratory illness to a minimum. "Its obvious to us all that staying home when we are ill is a good thing to do. If you are having even mild symptoms let's remember that I may experience a virus with mild symptoms but for the person I pass it on to the experience might not be mild. If you are having symptoms wear a mask for 10 days from the onset of symptoms." Klassen adds no one should visit a long-term care or retirement home until those 10 days are over along and with washing our hands and covering our coughs and sneezes are simple basic things we can do to help protect ourselves and other more vulnerable people.

Chief Skinner contract extended

The Stratford Police Services Board is pleased to announce that Chief Greg Skinner has agreed to an extension of his current contract. Skinner's extension will be in place until December of 2027.

Chief Skinner joined the Stratford Police Service as chief in 2018. Previous to assuming the role of chief in Stratford, Skinner (a Stratford native) had a 31 year career with the OPP.

Stratford Police Board Chair



GREG SKINNER

Tim Doherty stated, "We are pleased that Greg will be continuing in his role with the Stratford Police Service. Greg is a progressive leader who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. Our Police Service will continue to be in good hands under Greg's direction."

The Stratford Police Service provides policing for the communities of Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South.

Stratford Library to Host "Drop n Swap" Book Program

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Times Correspondent

The Stratford Library is proud to announce its latest initiative, the Drop n Swap Book Program, which will take place on February 10th and 11th. This program is designed to make it easy for families to access new or gently used books at no cost. The program will be in the upstairs auditorium. Community members needing accessibility can access the elevator at two entrances, one off St. Andrew's Street and another off of Church Street.

The Drop and Shop Book Program works by allowing community members to drop off new or gently used books at the library auditorium on the second floor on February 10th between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Those who drop off books on the 10th will then gain "early bird access" between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to browse new titles the following day and pick up new books at no cost. General admission will be between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on February 11th and is completely free.

"We are hoping to keep books out of the landfill and help the environment," says Robyn Godfrey, the Adult Outreach and Collections Librarian at the Stratford Public Library, as she discusses the reason why the swap program was first initiated back in 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. At that time, they initially started with a "Drop n Swap" accessories program, where mem-

bers of the community could take home gently used watches, purses, or jewelry. This program was a great success and ideally would have continued throughout the years if it wasn't for the lockdown.

This year's program brings together community members from the Stratford Reads Facebook page and some volunteers from The Little Libraries around Stratford. "This is also a way to bring us together, we've never partnered with Stratford Reads before, and they have a huge following," Godfrey states. She also notes numerous retirement homes across Stratford have been invited, so they're "hoping for a great turnout."

"People are making connections over books, talking about them and then having spontaneous conversations, which makes people feel more connected to each other and the community" added Godfrey.

All new and gently used books in good condition are accepted. The books will be split into a few categories, such as YA, adult, and children's books; however, they will not be categorized further due to demand and the number of books expected to be dropped off on February 10th. The library is not accepting magazines, encyclopedias, textbooks, board books, DVDs, or music CDs.

Stratford Library's Drop n Swap Book Program is an exciting initiative you won't want to miss. Drop by the library on February 10th and 11th to participate in this program.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
THANK YOU TO MY NOMINATORS

On December 29, I was greatly honoured to be named a Member of The Order of Canada.

Since the process is confidential, I do not know my nominator or those who supported the nomination to the Governor General of Canada, the Rt Honourable Mary Simon. To you, who are anonymous to me, I give you my heartfelt thanks for initiating and supporting the detailed application.

All of the activities for which I am being cited, involve a large number of people and I share this honour with

each of you.

I also thank the hundreds of people who have sent congratulation messages by mail, E-mail, text and on social media. I am indeed humbled by your friendship, your caring and concern.

The work of medical recycling continues, and your donations make a huge difference in Ukraine, Cuba and other places in need around the world. Items can be dropped off each Tuesday morning 9 to 12, at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, or call me 519-276-1975, or any of the depot volunteers.

*In Appreciation,
Jean Aitchison C.M.*

Chemotherapy & Pharmacy Renovation Proceeds with the Stroke of a Pen



(STEWART GRANT PHOTOS)

SIGNED THE DEAL

Pictured above, from left, Andrew Williams, President & CEO; Ryan Itterman, Director Diagnostics, Regional Pharmacy & Chemotherapy; Becky Lau, Supervisor Regional Pharmacy & Chemotherapy; Dr. Janis MacNaughton; Dr. Janis Nicholson; Andrea Page, Stratford General Hospital Foundation Executive Director; Paul Roulston, Stratford General Hospital Foundation In Our Hands Campaign Co-Chair; Amir Shenouda, SEM Construction President; Francesco Sabatini, Manager Facilities Management Projects; Steve Hearn, Board Chair Right, Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) Board Chair Stephen Hearn (left) was among those who signed construction contracts at a ceremony at Stratford General Hospital on January 12.

It's not often a stroke of a pen plays a role in improving healthcare, but several were put to good use signing a construction contract bringing a new Chemotherapy Unit and Pharmacy a step closer to completion at the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) Stratford General Hospital site. The event held on January 12, 2023 marked the official construction start of a renovation project which will have an impact on thousands of chemotherapy patients along with hospital inpatients that rely on HPHA's pharmacy to provide superior medication management.

The signing of the construction contract takes the project from years of planning, input from staff, patients and patient partners to the next level, from paper (blue prints) to reality. This \$13 million project is part of the Stratford General Hospital Foundation's In Our Hands campaign.

"The Stratford General Hospital Foundation launched the In Our Hands campaign at an event attended by 150 donors and a special countdown with astronaut Dr Roberta Bondar in June 2022 with a goal of \$30 million," says Paul Roulston, In Our Hands Campaign Co-Chair. "Right now, through incredible generosity of donors we are at \$23 million in cash and pledges. Since we receive no funding from the provincial government for medical equipment every dollar vested into essential equipment and funding for special projects like the Chemotherapy and Pharmacy renovation has been given by those who care about our hospital, our patients and our healthcare team."

There are currently more than 2,000 patient visits for chemotherapy at the HPHA Stratford General Hospital each year. The Chemotherapy Unit is an integral part of

cancer care for patients in Stratford and area, providing top-notch care closer to home, thereby eliminating the anxiety of receiving treatment in an unfamiliar setting, reducing the time and expense of travel, and providing the opportunity to develop close relationships and a support system with other local residents.

"The Chemotherapy program has experienced steady growth in patient volumes and these trends are expected to continue," says Ryan Itterman, Director Diagnostics and Regional Pharmacy & Chemotherapy. "Co-location of the Chemotherapy and Pharmacy programs will help ensure efficient use of resources, specifically in sterile preparation locations and delivery of chemotherapy medications."

Expected occupancy for the Chemotherapy Unit and Pharmacy is Spring/Summer 2024. A simulated virtual tour is available

on the In Our Hands campaign website at www.inourhands.ca.

"We can never say thank you enough! Our donors have always been there for us and we know that they will help us raise the remaining \$7 million to help make an incredible difference at our hospital," adds Andrea Page, Stratford General Hospital Foundation Executive Director. "From new ultrasounds, to the completion of the Chemotherapy and Pharmacy renovation; a new MRI to new youth mental health initiatives, every dollar counts and we can't do it without our community."

Those interested in contributing to the In Our Hands campaign can visit the Stratford General Hospital Foundation's website at www.sghfoundation.org or contact the foundation office directly at 519-272-8210 ext. 2626 or sgh.foundation@hpha.ca.

Stratford Police Services Seeing Increase in Grandparent Scams

Over the last several weeks the Stratford Police Service has seen an increase in reports of "Grandparent Scams", with one

victim being stopped from withdrawing several thousand dollars when the staff at the BMO in St Marys recognized the customer was being scammed.

Grandparent Scams typically occur when the victim receives a phone call from an individual who is posing as their grandchild. The scammer frantically explains that they are in trouble, stating that there



has been an accident, they have been arrested, or there is some other emergency. After explaining the emergency, the scammer urgently requests money to be sent to help them with the situation.

The scammer typically solicits information by beginning the phone call by stating, "Grandma(pa) it's me, I'm in trouble!" After being provided a name of a grandchild who the victim believes the scammer to be, the scammer continues to solicit other information from the victim, while urgently asking for money, and asking the victim not to tell anyone what had happened.

To protect yourself from these types of

frauds, we ask you to follow these tips:

- Never offer information to the caller, e.g. do not say the person's name before they identify themselves;
- Ask the caller personal questions that only that person would know;
- Hang up the phone and attempt to contact another family member to confirm the whereabouts of your grandchild(ren);
- Never send money for payments by way of gift cards.

If you have received a call of this nature, you are encouraged to file a report through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501, or if you have experienced a financial loss, please contact the Stratford Police at 519-271-4141. Otherwise, please spread the word about these types of frauds and others. By creating awareness, we can all play a part in fraud prevention!

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Downtown Stratford BIA Once Again Presents Ten Bucks Back

To help shoppers and diners shake off the cold and the February blues, The Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area (BIA) has brought back the ever successful Ten Bucks Back program.

The Ten Bucks Back program is the easiest Ten Bucks you will ever make! Simply shop or dine with the Downtown Merchants from February 15 to February 28, 2023 and bring your receipts totalling \$100 (pre-tax) to the Stratford Royal Bank at 33 Downie St (Mon-Fri) or to The Tourism office at 47 Downie Street (Saturdays) to receive a \$10 gift certificate that can be used only until April 30th at participating Downtown businesses.

Full details are available at: <https://downtownstratford.ca/downtown-stratford-news/ten-bucks-back-2023/>

“Our Ten Bucks Back campaign is back by popular demand! We fielded many inquiries during the last couple years asking if we were running it again and I am thrilled we can finally say “yes,” said Kim

Griffiths, Member and Animation Liaison, BIA. “We are very grateful that our local RBC branch has agreed to partner with us again to bring this to life.” Jamie Pritchard, General Manager of the BIA says, “There is nothing more rewarding than getting paid to make the purchases you would have made without this bonus! I would also like to thank Destination Stratford for their continued support by providing redemption on Saturdays for this initiative.”

For every \$100 spent in this two-week period, customers may submit their receipts in exchange for a \$10 gift certificate, up to a maximum of \$500 (pre-tax). Receipts themselves can be handed in to the above locations until Saturday, March 11th. The BIA has allotted \$10,000 toward this program, so it is “first come first served” until the maximum has been reached. Note - if the maximum has been reached before the date of February 28th, a notice will be posted to social media channels and the BIA website.

211 Day raises awareness of helpline connecting people to services across Perth-Huron



**FEBRUARY 11
IS 211 DAY!**

**Remember, you're not alone.
Help starts with 211.**

February 11th (2/11) is this Saturday and that means it's time for 211 Day, a day highlighting the information service connecting people to local community programs, social services, government supports, and more: 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year in over 150 languages.

“For almost 15 years, 211 Ontario has been helping people navigate the local network of human services,” said United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) Director Resource Development & Communications Susan Faber. “With the cost of living on the rise, more people are facing challenges in their lives. 211 is an invaluable resource that people can go to for caring and compassionate help to make sure that whatever they are facing, they aren't facing it alone. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please dial 2-1-1.”

211 assists people in finding resources before they reach a crisis point. From supports for individuals struggling with their mental health or substance use, to people looking for in-home support for aging parents or food-related needs and more, dial-

ling or texting 2-1-1 — or visiting 211Ontario.ca — can help. A 211 Navigator will talk through a caller's unique challenges and connect them with the right supports.

About 211 Ontario

211 is a free and confidential service that connects people to the right information and services, strengthens our local health and human services, and helps our local citizens to become more engaged with their communities. When speaking of #UNIGNORABLE issues, 211 can be offered as a bridging service.

About United Way Perth-Huron

UWPH helps here in the community you care about, tackling #UNIGNORABLE issues such as homelessness, mental health and access to services. Thanks to United Way, its partners, and donors, almost 33,000 vulnerable people across Perth-Huron have the chance for a brighter future. To show your #LocalLove by donating or volunteering, call 519-271-7730 or 1-877-818-8867, mail to 32 Erie Street, Stratford, ON N5A 2M4 or visit perthhuron.united-way.ca.

Stratford's Huron Street Undergoes Major Construction completion in 2023

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Times Correspondent

Over the last year, Stratford residents have seen a lot going on Huron Street. Outside Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, the street has undergone significant construction throughout 2022. Things are starting to take shape for 2023.

In 2022, Stratford residents saw upgrades to the existing storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water mains, replacing old asphalt, curbs, and gutters. Residents also noted the change from the old 4-lane road to 3 lanes. “It's called a road diet,” says Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma. “It will help with the flow of traffic and keep pedestrians safe.”

Huron Street's 2023 construction focuses on improving the infrastructure, including the roadways, sidewalks, and lighting. The new and improved infrastructure will not only make the area safer and more accessible, but it will also make it a more attractive place to walk, shop, and live. The new sidewalks, for example, will be wider, making it easier for people to walk and cycle in the area. Since the community pool is so close, this should be a welcomed upgrade for families with children this summer.

In addition to the infrastructure im-

provements, a primary improvement will be the installation of sensor streetlights. “[This] will help with the flow of the traffic and will decrease congestion on the road,” states Ritsma. The lights are to be installed near the end of the project and will substantially decrease wait times at the current temporary lights. “We hope trucks will continue to utilize the truck route and ease congestion,” he says.

In Spring 2023, residents should expect more construction and limited accessibility of some sidewalk use and are asked to use detour areas where available. Projects to be completed during this final stage are new sensor traffic signal upgrades to the intersection at John Street, the completion of sidewalks and driveways, and a final coat of asphalt to be applied to the road.

The Huron Street construction project is a significant investment but a much-needed upgrade to the area. With its focus on improving infrastructure and adding accessibility, the project is set to transform Huron Street into a more vibrant and attractive street as well as a way to ease traffic and add more accessibility to patrons. Be sure to watch Huron Street in 2023 and see the exciting changes for yourself.



(CITY OF STRATFORD FACEBOOK PHOTO)

Valentine's Day – February 14

Dinner for Two 4 COURSE HALIBUT DINNER \$60 \$67
Starter, Soup/Salad, Main, Dessert Per Couple Gluten Free

Kids Eat Free!

Wednesday, February 22
(with purchase of any adult entree)

Irish Sunday dinner

Sunday, March 5

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Times Past: Stratford's City Hall and the Citizens Who Saved It – PART 2

BETTY JO BELTON

Stratford-Perth Archives

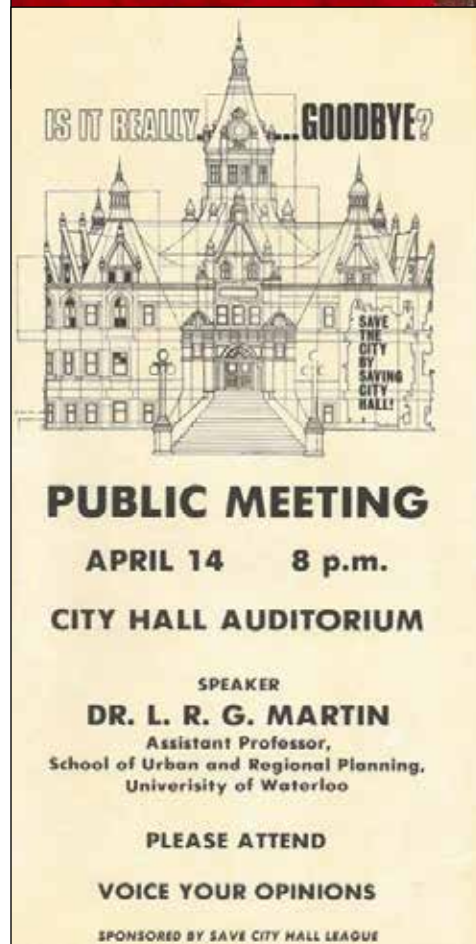
This is part two of the story of Stratford's City Hall and the Citizens Who Saved It. Stratford's Queen of the Square, now a national historic site, still regally presides over our downtown. This happy ending was brought to you in part by the Save the City Hall League – truly one of Margaret Mead's small group of thoughtful, committed citizens who changed our world in Stratford. The League – or Committee as it was originally called – started with Jo Ann Hayes, Mary Brothers, Evelyn Melodysta, Winnifred Kneitel, Dolores Whiteman and Madeline Ferguson. The story of how they, and those who joined them, saved City Hall is worth retelling from time to time to remind everyone that the happy ending was by no means inevitable.

In spite of the efforts of the Save the City Hall League, in March 1971 City Council voted 6-5 to proceed with demolition and move ahead with redevelopment of the City Hall site. In response, Jo Ann Hayes wrote to James Beattie, a lawyer in Brampton. For \$200 he agreed to provide preliminary advice and guidance to the committee. He and Jo Ann Hayes continued to correspond over the spring and summer of 1971. On June 22, he wrote that he had been in contact with Robert Mountain, the City's lawyer and "I am very anxious to proceed to permit Council to save face in changing their position... This must not be taken as any unwillingness for a direct confrontation if it becomes necessary."

Meanwhile, Dr. Larry Martin was invited to give a talk, "The Future Role of Downtown in Smaller Ontario Cities – Stratford Makes a Choice." at City Hall on April 14, 1971. It was promoted with the question - "Is it really good-bye?" Ellen Stafford penned a letter for Stratford's summer visitors describing the situation as an "off-stage drama" and summarizing how things had got to this point noting that "During several administrations, long and often bitter battles have been waged and successive councils have burned their fingers on the hot potato of City Hall." In May the Committee opened a drop-in centre in the front of a business at Downie and George Streets to provide information to the public and offer memberships. The sympathetic business owner was Carl McIlhargy who described City Hall as "beautiful and solid as a rock." By the end of July 1971, the Save the City Hall Committee had become the Save the City Hall League with Reg White as Chairman.

Developer David Owen and city council appeared to be nearing agreement on a redevelopment plan that would come before Council on August 16. The League asked that the decision be delayed long enough for them to develop their own proposal of a "constructive alternative to demolishing city hall." The agreement with Owen was withdrawn from the agenda and the League was asked to come up with an alternate plan that could be accomplished in the same time frame as the developer's proposal.

Over 200 Save the City Hall League supporters jammed into Council Chambers for the August 16, 1971 meeting to hear their



lawyer present their views. Some were standing 10 deep in the doorways of the Council Chamber and some were standing on chairs so they could see. Those who couldn't get into the Council Chamber went to the auditorium to listen to Beatty's 13-page brief as read by Festival actor Michael Bawtree. Beatty declared that "the very strong feelings which this issue has created within the City of Stratford shows the depth of the basic issues that are underlying the complexity of the subject proposal... Members of Council are therefore respectfully requested to vote against the subject proposal and the proposed Agreement not necessarily as a commitment to retain the City Hall but as a commitment to explore fully,

A HISTORIC SITE

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Mayor E.S. "Ted" Blowes (with red flower) and M.P. Garnet Bloomfield, who was representing The Hon. John Roberts, Minister of the Environment unveiled the historic site plaque in 1983.

Left, shows the poster for a public meeting on April 14, 1971 to discuss the fate of city hall.

and through a procedure of public tender, alternative procedures and plans which would both retain the existing City Hall, provide for its renovation and assist in the redevelopment of the Central Business District. The ratepayers and citizens supporting this brief are anxious to offer assistance in every way possible to assist Council in an objective appraisal of the economic feasibility of such development proposals preserving the City Hall." Both Beatty and Mayor Donald Davis asked the audience to keep quiet at times with spectators clapping, booing, groaning and laughing by turns. Alderman Dulcie Wyatt wondered aloud if the League would also get \$20K for their work whether

their plan was accepted or not – prompting another large round of applause. At the end of the night, Council voted 7-3 to table the whole matter. City Clerk Laurence Graham – who had held the office since the 1930s – was asked by a reporter if he had ever seen anything like it and just shook his head in response.

By September, the developer had called Robert Mountain, the city's lawyer, to tell him that he was no longer interested in presenting a redevelopment plan for the city hall site. In early November the League met with Mayor Davis to give him some of the Christmas cards that they were selling to raise funds and to have a general discussion.



Stratford's City Hall and the citizens who saved it



Later that month, the League presented their suggestions for possible uses of the building – ranging from operating a “baby-sitting service” there to having a television studio in the auditorium. They also proposed using federal and provincial grants to fund their suggestions. Council seems to have been underwhelmed by their presentation. Even Dave Bradshaw said he had hoped for a more concrete proposal, noting that most of the ideas were from the 81 citizen briefs received the previous year. However, as a result of the presentation, Council created a joint committee of council, league members and downtown merchants to settle the future of the building as redevelopment was now seen as a “dead horse” by some Councillors. Others still saw redevelopment as a possibility but felt that the joint committee would give the Save the City Hall League a fair opportunity to develop their ideas.

In May 1972, the League having restyled itself as Citizens for Stratford, issued a statement that City Hall had been “successfully saved from the bulldozers for the time being” so the new organization would deal with “other areas of civic importance that are also being neglected.” Their aims were to preserve and rehabilitate Market Square, reroute trucks around the city, have more small parks, and support improvements to downtown generally. But things changed in July when Council set up a subcommittee to study a 2.5 million dollar development con-

sisting of a 10-storey office and commercial complex with apartments above and parking for 450 cars on the City Hall site. Plans could not be produced quickly enough for Council’s review and the idea was dropped. On August 1, 1972, Council instead voted to abandon plans for redevelopment of the site and appointed a committee to focus on renovation plans.

Finally, on June 2, 1974 a rededication service was held with citizens getting their first look at the renovated City Hall. Work continued and conflicts too but in January 1982, Council passed a by-law to designate City Hall as a heritage structure under the Ontario Heritage Act. The plaque would be installed the next year and unveiled on May 15, 1983 along with another one to mark City Hall’s status as a national historic site.

In the 1990s the City completed another round of exterior and interior renovations. That work was completed in time for a special gathering to celebrate the Queen of the Square’s 100th birthday on July 1, 1998. As Stratford journalist and local history expert Stan Dingman wrote in the 1970s, “Stratford City Hall now stands as a tribute to those who built it, to those who fought to save and restore it, and to those who are glad they did.”

This article is based on information and images from the collections at Stratford-Perth Archives. www.stratfordpertharchives.on.ca

Downtown Stratford BIA creating public art policy

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

The Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area (BIA) is looking forward to bringing more public art to the city’s core after success from previous projects.

The Downtown Stratford BIA received a \$55,000 tourism relief fund grant from RTO4 through FedDev Ontario in 2022.

“It has enabled us to put together a few different projects which have been wonderful for the downtown community,” Jamie Pritchard, the general manager of the Downtown Stratford BIA, said.

The Downtown Stratford BIA worked with STEPS Public Art to develop a new public art policy.

“It gives a great outline and a roadmap of how to do it better,” Pritchard said. “In our first one, we weren’t as experienced at doing that and we worked out way through it, but now that we got the roadmap of how to get there, it’s going to be a much easier and less painful process.”

The accessible document is expected to be ready in mid-February and will be available on the Downtown Stratford BIA website.

“We’re very proud of it and it’s there for everyone to see, to use, to understand how we got to where we are,” Pritchard said.

Through the grant, the BIA also held

Downtown Winter Wander-Land, which included a free carousel ride, snowflake window installations by high school students, and a blacksmith. Artist Vicki Schoefield designed the rendition of the carousel, which the BIA used in their Winter-Wanderland promotional material. The snowflake window installations remained on the windows until the end of Lights On Stratford.

Kellen Hatanaka also designed the “Perfectionist” mural on the wall of the Bowl Bar in Stratford.

The Downtown Stratford BIA’s public art installations received lots of praise.

“It allows downtown to be animated and put forth a great impression. I guess it’s like putting on a new sweater. It always makes things look shiny and bright,” Pritchard said.

There will be more public art installations in the future. For Pritchard, public art in Stratford is important to bring tourists and residents alike to downtown.

“It creates a lot of conversation. The one thing about art is everyone has an opinion on every piece and stimulating conversation, I think, is one of the focal points of art because it will resonate with different people in different ways when they look at the same piece.”

Visit downtownstratford.ca to find out more about the Downtown Stratford programs throughout the year.



(DOWNTOWNSTRATFORD.CA PHOTO)



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The Local Community Food Centre: Produce Market is available to Everyone!

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Times Correspondent

With the increase in grocery prices across the country, shoppers are looking for ways to cut costs. Shopping at The Local Community Food Market is a great option to consider when looking to save money while at the same time supporting the community.

The Local Community Food Centre at 612 Erie Street in Stratford operates a weekly community market where visitors can buy fresh and healthy food from local farmers and producers. The Market is a great place to buy produce, meat, and dairy products at reduced prices.

Shopping at the Market is an excellent opportunity to support local agriculture and small businesses within and surrounding Stratford.

The Local is a unique and innovative organization that promotes food security, healthy living, and community engagement. They offer a range of programs and services that support people from all walks of life, from families with limited access to healthy food to individuals looking to improve their overall health and well-being.

The Local also offers a variety of educational and wellness programs designed to promote healthy living and community engagement. For example, visitors can attend cooking classes, gardening workshops, and yoga classes free of charge. These programs are an excellent way for people to learn new skills, improve their health, and connect with others with similar interests.

A key feature offered at The Local is their Community Food Market, which is open every Monday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Community members can take advantage of the available products at great prices. "Groceries are cheap, healthy, local, and support the community," says Paula Cook, a volunteer at The Local Market.

"We don't charge more than we pay," says Jenn Pearson, The Local Manager of Food Logistics. "The money raised from the Market is put back into purchasing more groceries, and anything donated is given away for free." Pearson periodically price checks local grocery stores and compares the prices at The Local, and recent data shows shoppers can save upwards of \$24.55 on a



single bag of groceries!

A key feature that many shoppers like is "people don't have to purchase bulk items," says Parsons, "there are also no pricing scams," - a marketing tactic to pressure people into buying more items than needed. You may purchase a small number of items, such as a single orange, which can substantially cut down on the costs of groceries for single shoppers.

The Local is more than just a place to access healthy food and educational programs. It is a vibrant and supportive community dedicated to nourishing minds and bodies. Whether you want to improve your health, build relationships, or support your local community, the Local is a great place to start.

Stop in at The Local Market every Monday, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with your reusable grocery bag to take advantage of great prices, healthy food, and the opportunity to support the community.

If you are looking for ways to donate or support The Local Community Food Centre, you can visit them at <https://thelocalcfc.org/>.

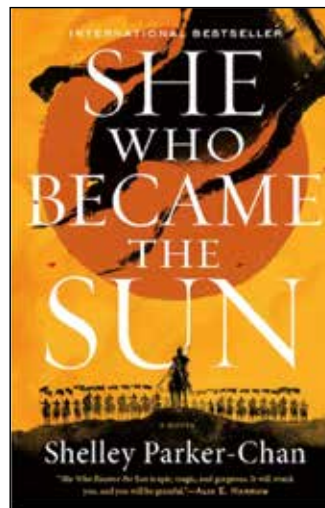
Queer Book of the Month Club

She Who Became the Sun, by Shelley Parker-Chan
@SPL: FIC Parke

Described as Mulan meets The Song of Achilles, *She Who Became the Sun*, by Shelley Parker-Chan, is a queer reimagining of the peasant rebel who ended Mongol rule during the Red Turban rebellion and the establishment of the Chinese Ming Dynasty. The book centres around an unnamed peasant girl whose now-dead brother had been given a great destiny by their village fortune-teller, while she had received a fate of "nothingness." She defies the odds to survive famine and war, and she is absolutely ruthless, willing to do whatever it takes to keep her brother's greatness for herself.

She uses her brother's identity to become Zhu Chongba, a novice monk who rises to become one of the great military leaders in the Red Turban rebellion. Chongba worries about Heaven discovering that she has taken her brother's greatness for herself, convinced that her run of luck could come to an end at any moment. Her worst fear is to

become "nothing." This makes her a great risk-taker, who succeeds where others fail.



Chongba must defend herself against the machinations of other leaders in the Red Turbans, who are jealous of her successes and increasing favour in the court of the child-emperor who leads the movement. She faces setbacks and gains allies; she develops a strange connection with the general of the enemy army of Mongols; she sees ghosts and spiritual manifestations. And she is relentlessly propelled forward by the greatness she claimed from her brother and her own ambitions, right up to the story's shocking conclusion.

Shelley Parker-Chan (they/she) is an Asian-Australian who has worked on human rights, gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights in Southeast Asia. Visit shelleyparkerchan.com to learn more about them.

CJ Nyssen
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Attention: Matthew Orchard
6 Wellington Street, Stratford
Phone: 519-271-6770

E-mail: orchard@stratfordlawyers.com

Weekend Quiz

- 1) Who played Mary in the Film 'There's Something About Mary'?
- 2) What's a young kangaroo called?
- 3) With which heavy metal band did Ozzy Osbourne come to fame?
- 4) Which 14th century poet wrote The Canterbury Tales?
- 5) In All The Presidents Men, Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman play journalists investigating which break-in?
- 6) Who was in both the 60s and 90s versions of The Thomas Crown Affair?
- 7) In Norse mythology the Home of the Gods called is Asgard, what was the Hall of Hero's called?
- 8) Which TV detective was wheelchair-bound?
- 9) Which 20th century head of state survived the most assassination attempts?
- 10) What is the name of the science dedicated to the study and knowledge of wines?

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL.

Save Avon Crest for the Health of our Community

HAYDEN BULBROOK

Times Contributor

In Warsaw, Poland the market square of the old town was rebuilt following brutal destruction in the Second World War. “We will not accept the annihilation of our cultural monuments. We shall reconstruct them, we shall rebuild them from their foundations, in order to hand over to later generations if not the authentic, at least the precise former of these monuments, as it is alive in our memory,” stated Poland’s General Conservator Jan Zachwatowicz in 1946.

In Germany, the rebuilding process continues as Berliners have just rebuilt the Berlin Palace that dated to 1443. It was heavily damaged during the Allied bombing campaigns and demolished by Soviet authorities in 1950. Frankfurters have rebuilt 14th century Frankfurt in what is called the “new old city.”

And yet, in Stratford, tenders are being sought by the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance for the destruction of a monumental building, the city’s first general hospital, designed by significant Canadian architect, George F. Durand, and added onto by prominent local architects, Thomas James Hepburn (1910) and James Simpson Russell (1922). This symbol of civic pride and progress is slated for demolition for, can I really say, progress - or will it become just another parking lot, as the rumour mill has generated?

We need not even look to Europe considering the town council of Petrolia, Ontario heroically voted in favour of restoring Victoria Hall after a devastating fire. To no surprise given its stature and community value, this building was also designed by George F. Durand. Today, it is a national historic site and a landmark that has been reused as a theatre in charming little Petrolia.

Regarding Avon Crest, President and CEO of the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance, Andrew Williams, has stated that “future development will need to support the health and wellness needs of our community.” Undertaking an adaptive reuse project that preserves our first hospital is the first step to support the health of our



Stratford General Hospital in the 1930s.

(STRATFORD-PERTH ARCHIVES. COLOURIZED BY AUTHOR.)

community. Let’s first consider the city’s economic health. Williams argues that about \$24 million is required to bring the building up to code. Rather than treating that money as a dreaded requirement, let’s consider it an investment into the community.

Unbeknownst to many, the cost breakdown associated with the restoration or rehabilitation of buildings is about 25 percent for materials and 75 percent for labour. For new construction, material and labour costs balance out at about 50 percent each. Put differently, restoration and rehabilitation has the potential for a more positive impact on the economy through wages paid to tradespeople who in turn spend money in the economy. Employ local contractors and tradespeople for the restoration and rehabilitation

of Avon Crest and the result is millions of dollars invested in the local economy while keeping our local trades healthy and well.

Let’s turn to the environmental and physical health of our city and citizens. There’s two key points to consider. First, construction and demolition (C&D) waste accounts for anywhere from 20 to 50 percent of municipal waste, according to a study from the University of British Columbia. This translates to about 9 million tons of C&D waste in Canada every year. What a waste! New buildings are perceived as greener, but when we factor in the requirements to source and transport new material along with the waste generated from demolishing an existing building, our green building isn’t so green after all. In fact, it takes decades for a new building to pay off the carbon footprint of its construction. And just to dispel any myths, abatement to remove harmful materials like asbestos has to happen even when a building is demolished and that costs money. It should be no surprise then that “the greenest building is the one that is already built.”

Our second environmental and physical health consideration is the dire need to plan not for the future but for the present. Housing in Ontario is in short supply and many of our citizens simply need a roof over their heads. Imagine how many apartment units we could fit inside Avon Crest! The Baby Boomer generation is aging and already we need to consider adding more retirement and long-term care facilities. Imagine the piece of mind you would have knowing a loved one could reside in a renovated old hospital across the street from a new hospital! From our railway history to theatre and

manufacturing, Stratford is an innovative city. Imagine the prestige and honour of adaptively reusing Avon Crest as a state of the art healthcare facility. It would continue a fine legacy in this city with a historic building capturing its identity.

Therefore, demolition is more than the erasure of history; it is plain shortsightedness and a waste of resources and opportunity. Once demolished a building and its legacy is gone. We need to do better, Stratford.

When I started writing about Stratford’s history, it was to shed light on our rich heritage and our cherished architecture, with the goal to reach the great citizens of this city - especially our youth who are stewards of our heritage and environment. I see no exception to that with Avon Crest.

If you are interested in seeing a valuable piece of Stratford’s history adaptively reused to serve benefit the health of the city for another 130 years, then please consider signing this petition that already has over 1,000 signatures: <https://www.change.org/p/save-avon-crest-stratford-1891-preserve-our-heritage-and-protect-our-environment>

Please also write to Mayor Martin Ritsma (MRitsma@stratford.ca) and city councilors, including Chair of the Planning and Heritage Sub-committee, Cody Sebben (CSebben@stratford.ca) as well as President and CEO of the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA), Andrew Williams (andrew.williams@hpha.ca). There are template letters to get you started at: <https://saveavoncrest.ca/what-you-can-do/>.

Where some people see eyesores others see opportunity. All it takes is a little imagination.



Stratford General Hospital in 1941.

(STRATFORD-PERTH ARCHIVES. COLOURIZED BY AUTHOR.)



Local Flavour

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The Historic Parlour Inn Restaurant Enters a New Era *New Executive Chef introduces innovative new meals to evolving menu*

With a new Executive Chef, Denis Hernandez, Stratford landmark the Parlour Inn Restaurant renews its focus on exceeding diners' expectations with local, sustainable and seasonal products. Classic menu staples like Haddock & Chips, the famous fluffy Pavlova and Smash Burgers are now joined by an evolving menu of innovative features including Duck Confit with a White Bean Stew and Double Smoked Bacon, Beef Cheeks with a Parmesan Polenta and a Sunday Roast special.

"There is an indescribable buzz at the Parlour Inn Restaurant, says Executive Chef, Denis Hernandez. "We're providing a warm-family forward atmosphere where guests find comfort enjoying our well-loved classics yet there's an excitement over the new menu innovations. We can't wait for guests to try our new winter menu with items like the Roast Half Chicken with Brown Butter and Caper Sauce. We see a lot of our new dishes becoming future classics."

The Parlour Inn Restaurant works with

local suppliers including Monforte Dairy, Downie Street Bakehouse and many local breweries. Supplier's ingredients often make their way into the weekly features, and when diners really respond to those new creations, they find their way onto future menus.

"The Parlour Inn has been a fixture in Stratford since 1871 and since then we've undergone many incarnations" says Food and Beverage Manager, Steve Ireson. "We look to continue to be a destination where locals and festival goers can find a balance of comfort classics and exciting new dishes that appeal to the whole family."

The Parlour Inn Restaurant has been a spot of comfort and fun for family and friends for over 25 years, and it is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are elevated features each week and a new Roast special will run each Sunday. Diners are encouraged to follow the Facebook page for weekly specials and visit theparlour.ca for the latest menus.

About Parlour Inn and Parlour Inn



Restaurant

Located in downtown Stratford, The Parlour Inn, originally called The Mansion House, was built in 1871 to serve the Grand Trunk Railway and repair facility nearby. At this time, the hotel consisted of 36 guestrooms and a dining room. The Parlour Inn has undergone many incarnations, but most recently, has been a popular 28-room hotel and restaurant catering to locals and regular Festival Theatre goers.

The Parlour Inn restaurant is recognized for its outstanding cuisine and award-winning customer service. With a dining room that

seats 240, The Parlour Inn Restaurant features classic features such as beautiful woodwork, tin ceilings and stained-glass windows, all of which are a nod to its 19th century origins.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheParlourInn>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/theparlourinn/>

Website: <https://www.theparlour.ca/>

For more information, please contact:

Steve Ireson

Manager, Food & Beverage and Operations

T: 519-271-2772 ext.3102

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Shakespeare's Best Little Pork Shoppe to Offer New Products Under New Ownership

LEE GRIFFI

Times Regional Reporter

Tavistock native Bruce Wettlaufer may have just sold his business after 10 years, but he's sticking around to help new owner Ben Schelhaas succeed as best he can. Schelhaas recently purchased the iconic Best Little Pork Shoppe and while he realizes the history behind the name, he's also looking to make some exciting changes.

"A lot of people would recognize my parents and me from the former Forest Motel in Stratford. I was running that with them for five years before the fire that happened back in 2021. Before that I was a cook for eight or nine years at restaurants in Stratford, Guelph, and out west with the Fairmont chain." Schelhaas says he worked at Ziebart in Stratford for a few years before the opportunity came along to purchase the store in Shakespeare.

He says while much will remain the same, he is looking forward to bringing in some new products. "The existing customer base is big. It's awesome to have that and come into a business that's already established. People can expect to not see anything removed from our stock. We are going to keep it going with all of the local pork products we have especially the sausage and smoked chops." He adds some exciting new products are coming from a Perth County water buffalo farm. "Right now, I am working with Tenderbuff near Sebringville. I will be bringing in water buffalo burgers, sausages, summer sausage, pepperettes, and also water



NEW OWNERSHIP

Ben and Natalie Schelhaas at The Best Little Pork Shoppe in Shakespeare.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

buffalo mozzarella and gouda cheeses." He is also hoping to get some local lamb products eventually to add to the store's product line.

While many prospective business owners spend time researching a business to

purchase, Schelhaas says he didn't have that luxury of the time to do that. "The deal came together in four days, from seeing the operation to putting in an offer. The business is coming up on 30 years old so more than anything I saw an op-

portunity to make some improvements, to expand a little bit, and to modernize a business that had been sitting as is for some time with an injection of younger ownership."

One modern aspect he plans to bring to The Best Little Pork Shoppe is social media, something not utilized in the history of the business. "I am going to try and push that quite a bit, at least weekly but hopefully daily to get to the younger customer base. I know there are a lot of locals who come here but they are aging as well so it's the only way to get to those young people." He adds another plan is to sell smokers, pellet, and charcoal grills as an addition to his array of expanding retail options.

Schelhaas and his wife Natalie were just married in November which he says hasn't left any time for a honeymoon after making the offer for the business in October. "I am planning to get away for two weeks at some point and that was in our agreement that Bruce would work for me while we go on our honeymoon, but we aren't sure when that is going to be yet." Schelhaas adds Wettlaufer continues to be a tremendous asset helping transition the business. "He's in here every day at 9 a.m. ready to go and show me how everything works, who to talk to, who we order from, all that good stuff. He's been really supportive and is helping with the shift." He adds Wettlaufer wants to see the business continue to thrive and succeed. "He's been giving out my business card out like you wouldn't believe to people."

New Business Feature: Daisies and Doilies

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Take a stroll down Wellington Street and you'll notice a new retail store just north of Lovage Restaurant, almost kiddy-corner from Market Square. If you aren't sure whether "Daisies and Doilies" has something for you, chances are that it does.

Lisa Killeleagh opened her boutique store at 68 Wellington on December 5th, offering an interesting mix of products that are unique from what you might find elsewhere in the city.

"I went around Stratford and tried and make sure that I didn't have the same things as others because I don't want to compete with other businesses," she told the Times.

Daisies and Doilies has a wide variety of home décor and gift ideas for sale, including organic teas, artwork, home decor, candles, jewelry, spices, cards, and bath & beauty products.

"I've tried to bring in things for everybody," Lisa said. "I get people in here from all ages and everybody has something they like."

Products in the store are a collaboration of artisans (including Lisa herself) and smaller Canadian businesses.

"We make sure that it's clean products that we're bringing in... really trying to support smaller businesses and having products that are sustainable, ethically sourced, and fair



CREATIVE INSPIRATION

Lisa Killeleagh showcasing her pebble art at Daisies and Doilies

(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

trade as much as possible. And focusing on environmentally friendly, for example shampoo bars instead of bottles of shampoo."

The products like dips and teas at the store are all gluten-free, vegan, and organic. "My daughter and I are both vegan and we have always had trouble finding stuff because we're allergic to everything," said Lisa, re-

garding her desire to provide healthy food options within the space.

Prior to opening the store, Killeleagh gained experience managing a number of retail stores and also was a wedding and event planner for many years. But throughout her career, she has always pursued her artistic interests as a side business, selling her art

out of her family's Baden home.

"My creative inspiration came from one of my grandmothers," she said, reflecting upon her childhood visits where she would be amazed by her grandma's creativity and ability to craft something beautiful out of pretty much anything. "She used to make wedding dresses, and she would make me all different types of clothes and different kinds of art. My pebble art inspirations came from my parents, as we always collected drift wood and rocks since I was child."

In addition to pebble art, Lisa's creations also include glass art, jewelry, doily art, and dreamcatchers made from fabric.

Like many small businesses, Daisies and Doilies is a family affair. After the best-selling organic teas, the next-most popular section of the store is the unique vintages collection provided by Lisa's daughter Julia, who also played a major role in the attractive overall design of the retail space. Lisa also is appreciative of her husband Steve and her daughter Kirsten for the various ways they have helped support the launch of the new business.

Daisies and Doilies is open six days a week (closed Mondays), and Lisa maintains an active Instagram account @daisies_and_doilies along with a business Facebook page. For more information, stop by the store at 68 Wellington Street, email Lisa at daisies_and_doilies@hotmail.com, or call the shop at 519-273-4119.

What's New/Tax Tips for Businesses

TINA GROENESTEGE

Famme & Co. Professional Accountant /Partner

The Federal and Provincial governments are continuously implementing new rules and regulations and it can become overwhelming or difficult to keep up with everything! This article will highlight a few reminders, along with new items of interest, which may relate to your business and should be considered. These are generalized comments and therefore should not be relied upon for professional advice. Please contact your accounting professional for further details.

All Businesses

Ontario Minimum Wage: The minimum wage for regular employees has recently changed to \$15.50 per hour.

Mandatory Vacation Pay: At least 4% of gross wages or 6% if employee has worked 5 years or more.

WSIB: Mandatory for independent operators, sole proprietors, partners in a partnership and executive officers in a corporation who work in construction.

HST/GST: Most businesses in Ontario are required to register with the federal government for a GST/HST account and collect GST/HST on taxable sales. If your business makes \$30,000 gross or more in four consecutive calendar quarters, you may need to register for and charge GST/HST.

T4 Filing: If your business generates greater than five T4 slips you will be re-

quired to submit these slips electronically to CRA. Be sure to distribute T4 slips to your employees by February 28, 2023.

Employee Taxable Benefits: An employee has received a benefit if the employer gives something (goods or services) that is personal in nature. If an economic advantage that can be measured in money is realized, this benefit will be taxable and included in gross wages on the employee's T4. Examples of taxable benefits include:

Personal use of employer's automobile or motor vehicles: If your employee drives a business vehicle for personal purposes (including to and from home) a taxable benefit is derived and will need to be added to the employee's gross wage.

Gifts and Awards:

All cash gifts to an employee are considered a taxable benefit and will need to be reported in gross income on the employee's T4. In addition, all non-cash gifts to an employee worth over \$500 are taxable benefits. These non-cash gifts include gift cards, unless generally a gift for a special occasion (such as a birthday, wedding, birth or religious holiday) or an "award" for employment-related accomplishments (restrictions apply).

Air Quality Improvement Tax Credit is a 25% refundable tax credit for small businesses or corporations to improve indoor air quality in a commercial building. Qualifying expenditures include

upgrades to HVAC systems rated at or above MERV 8 and HEPA filters that meet certain criteria. Expenses must be incurred between September 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022 and are limited to lifetime maximum of \$10,000 per location and \$50,000 in total and must be shared among an affiliated group.

Immediate Expensing of up to \$1.5 million – While this applies to all businesses, corporations must share this maximum among all associated corporations. Generally speaking, the immediate expensing is available for eligible property (property with the exception of buildings and intangible assets) available for use and billed on or after April 19, 2021 and before January 1, 2024.

Private Corporations

Underused Housing Tax due April 30, 2023 for the 2022 calendar year – A new annual 1% tax on the ownership of vacation or underused housing in Canada was introduced with an effective date

of January 1, 2022. Excluded properties generally include a primary place of residence and housing not suitable to be lived in year-round (newly constructed, in habitable due to disaster or renovations, or seasonally inaccessible). While tax may not apply in every situation, there is no exception for filing the UHT reporting form so companies need to be aware of this new reporting obligation.

Ontario Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit – This is a 20% refundable corporate income tax credit for corporations that invest more than \$50,000 to construct, renovate or acquire eligible commercial and industrial buildings in designated regions of Ontario between March 24, 2021 and January 1, 2024. The maximum credit available is \$90,000.

If you want to learn more about any of the above tax or support benefits, please feel free to contact one of our offices and we would be pleased to assist.

Senator Robert Black makes a stop in Stratford

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

It is not every day when a Senator from Ottawa comes to visit Stratford and Perth County in order to keep in touch with rural areas such as ours.

The Honourable Senator Robert Black was in the area recently and dropped by the office of Martin Ritsma, the newly elected Mayor of Stratford. Ritsma was pleased to connect with the Senator who spent the last year advocating for agriculture, and rural communities inside and outside the red chamber.

Off the hill, the Senator has spoken at meetings of the soil and crop associations and federations of agriculture, attended a variety of industry showcases and summits, and travelled across Canada to connect with community leaders. Black has communicated with Canada's agriculture and Agri food

industries who have faced increased pressure related to supply chain concerns and rising prices, as well as other compounding factors, such as climate change and geo-political tensions.

Black says he has been "proud to see the agriculture communities rally together to support each other, and the food supply chain".

He is also hopeful that we will see increased support from all levels of government, and the public, as agriculture works to feed not only Canadians but the entire world.

Black said "although agriculture is one of Canada's oldest and most important industries, it is often not prioritized in policy building."

Black is looking forward to continuing his efforts to support agriculture and rural communities in 2023 both in the red chamber and off Parliament Hill.



WARM HANDSHAKE

(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Mayor Martin Ritsma welcomed Senator Robert Black to Stratford and discussed many local issues with a map of Perth County in the background.

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Stratford District Secondary School students envisage Avon Crest's future

On Friday, January 13, Robert Lemon and Howard Shubert from the group Save Avon Crest (<https://saveavoncrest.ca/>) met with Grade 9 Geography students at Stratford District Secondary School. With their teacher, Jennifer Dowson, the students have been working this semester on the topic of Liveable Communities.

Avon Crest (1891), Stratford's first public hospital is threatened with demolition. The building's owner, Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance, plans to demolish Avon Crest this Spring. The students were asked what they would do instead. How do they envisage the future of the Avon Crest site? What does Stratford need? How could Avon Crest be repurposed and the site revitalized?

Robert Lemon, a retired heritage architect, introduced the concept of embedded carbon (the greenhouse gas emissions arising from the manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and



disposal of building materials). Lemon compared the CO2 in a 100-year old brick to the embedded calories in a butter tart. Howard Shubert, an architectural histori-

an, introduced a video about Avon Crest (<https://sdhs2019.ca/save-avon-crest/>) by referring to the embedded history in that same brick.

Then the students were divided into three groups, one for each of Stratford's zoning categories – institutional (Blue), commercial (Red), and residential (Yellow). Each group of students presented their proposed schemes by manipulating the movable pieces of Lemon's scale-model of the site (made of recycled materials – the gardener's cottage was a piece of soap, the tunnel connecting Avon Crest to Stratford General Hospital across John Street was a paper towel roll).

The students' propositions all retained the existing buildings and also included the following mix of possibilities: nursing/retirement home, homeless shelter, two-story garage with solar panels, apartment buildings, assisted care group home, hotel, Ronald Macdonald House, gas station, historical museum, heated greenhouse, dance studio and tavern. Everyone left with a butter tart.

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2022 INFINITI Q50 LUXE  \$50,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 2,147 km All-Wheel Drive	2020 Nissan Kicks SV  \$26,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 22,569 km Front-Wheel Drive	2021 Audi A4 Sedan  \$53,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 6,478 km Progressiv 45 TFSI quattro All-Wheel Drive	2019 Ford Mustang GT Fastback  \$47,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 8,201 km Rear-Wheel Drive	2022 Kia Soul LX IVT  \$29,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 14,514 km Front-Wheel Drive
2021 Jeep Wrangler Sahara Unlimited  \$55,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 6,068 km 4-Wheel Drive	2022 GMC Canyon AT4  \$52,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 6,886 km 4-Wheel Drive Leather	2022 Ram 1500 Limited  \$79,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 3,275 km 4-Wheel Drive	2021 Ram 1500 Sport  \$55,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 58,318 km 4-Wheel Drive	2022 Ram 1500 Rebel  \$66,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 504 km 4-Wheel Drive
2021 Jeep Wrangler Sahara Unlimited  \$60,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 1,041 km 4-Wheel Drive	2021 Jeep Gladiator Overland  \$58,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 23,836 km 4-Wheel Drive 80th Anniversary	2021 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon  \$65,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 6,156 km 4-Wheel Drive	2021 Jeep Gladiator Overland  \$54,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 20,968 km 4-Wheel Drive	2021 Jeep Wrangler High Altitude Unlimited  \$65,995 + HST & lic LOW KMS 6,958 km 4-Wheel Drive

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Warriors U10 Take Gold at West London Tournament

The Stratford Warriors U10 A hockey team, sponsored by Orr Insurance, came home with gold medals from the Doug Jarrett Memorial hockey tournament in London, held the weekend of January 27-29, 2023. This tournament victory comes on the heels of the Warriors winning the competitive Peggy Hill Classic in Barrie earlier this season.

The Warriors finished first in their round robin group with a 2-0-1 record. Their first opponent was the Forest Hill Force, which came into the tournament sporting a record of 21-1-1. From the opening faceoff, the young Warriors overwhelmed the Force, with forward Kohen McLeod opening the scoring for the Warriors in the first period. Forwards Harper Bickell and Andrew Carnegie added two more in the second. Forward Kyle Finnie finished off the scoring in the third, resulting in a 4-0 win. A stout defence shut down the opposition, with defencemen Bryce Burdett and Randell Everett turning in rock-solid performances. Goalie Bentley Rekker posted his second shut-out of the season.

The Scarborough Ice Raiders were next in line. Goals by forwards Carnegie, Bickell, Jaxon Schmidt, and a hat-trick by MacLeod led to a 7-0 victory. Aggressive play in the neutral zone by forwards Damien Lonergan and Gus Wood-Zippel stymied the Ice Raiders' attack. Defenseman Colton Donnelle



U10 WARRIORS DOMINANT IN LONDON TOURNY

The Orr Insurance U10 A Stratford Warriors outscored their opponents 20-3 during 5 games in winning the Doug Jarrett Memorial held January 27-29. Pictured above, Back row, L-R Coaches Mike Gibson, Tim Bickell, Eric Schmidt, Dan Adair, Jeff Carnegie, Middle Row, L-R Damien Lonergan, Kyle Finnie, Bryce Burdett, Andrew Carnegie, Jaxon Schmidt, Cam Gibson, Cale Klumper, Kohen McLeod, Matthew Adair, Liam Uniach, Colton Donnelle, Randell Everett, Hayes Francis, Harper Bickell, Front row, L-R Bentley Rekker, Karsten Shore, Absent Gus Wood-Zippel

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



U9s WIN NEW HAMBURG WINTER CLASSIC

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Above, the Keystone Hospitality Warriors is pictured after receiving their trophy in New Hamburg. In the front row, from left to right, Archer Ehgoetz, Lucas Holmes, Max Mari, Finn McKee, Maddux Groenstege, and Louis Molenhuis. Middle row, from left: Louie Domm, Bentley Paola, Brady Casey, Connor Parsons, Nash Knight, Josh Peck, Maddux Smith, Finley Welsh, Roman Bell, Maximus Jordaan, and Carter Van Nynatten. Back row, from left: Manager Jon Paola, Coaches Mike Holmes and Chris Smith, Head Coach Jeff Molenhuis and Trainer Aaron Parsons. See story on the team on page 22.

turned in a stellar performance in front of goalie Karsten Shore, who earned his first shutout victory in net.

In the final round robin game, the Warriors met a well-disciplined team from North Toronto. In a defensive battle, the Warriors found themselves down a goal late in the third period, when Carnegie slotted home a pass from McLeod. Despite a flurry of last second shots on the North Toronto goal, the Warriors had to settle for a 1-1 tie. Defenseman Cam Gibson led the way for the Warrior blueliners.

In the semifinals, the Warriors met a ready-and-raring London Mustangs team. Bickell opened the scoring in the first. Finnie tallied another in the second. Schmidt scored early in the third. A goal by the Mustangs late in the third was too little too late, resulting in a 3-1 win for the Warriors and a trip to the finals. Defenseman Liam Uniach returned to the lineup to provide a spark.

In the championship game, the Warriors once again faced off against the

Forest Hill Force, which had rolled over their remaining opponents to reach the finals. The Warriors, knowing that the Force would want to strike first, came out with hop in their legs. Goals by McLeod and Carnegie got the Warriors on the board early. Bickell and Matthew Adair followed up with two more to race out to a 4-0 lead. A pesky Cale Klumper made it 5-0 early in the third period. A Force goal midway through the third finished the scoring, giving the Warriors a 5-1 victory and the championship. Hayes Francis, the team's Swiss army knife, had a standout performance as he disrupted the Force with relentless forechecking.

Coach Tim Bickell said, "In practice, we talk about being first to the puck and skating hard. When the boys do that, they do well. And they certainly did very well against some good teams in this tournament." Bickell added, "Looking ahead, more efforts like this will mean more good results for these boys."

Seven straight wins gives Fighting Irish shot at overtaking first-place

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

The Stratford Fighting Irish are in a prime position to oust the Tilbury Bluebirds out of the top spot in the WOSHL standings thanks in large part to seven consecutive victories.

Heading into this weekend's back-to-back against the Strathroy Jets on Friday followed by a battle with Tilbury on Saturday, the Fighting Irish sat tied for second place with the Elora Rocks. Stratford and Elora both have 34 points but the Rocks have two more games played. Tilbury occupies first in the WOSHL with 35 points, although the Fighting Irish have a game in hand on the Bluebirds.

The most recent of Stratford's seven-game winning streak came on February 4th when the Fighting Irish visited the Killer Bees of Alvinston and came away with a 6-3 victory. Steven DeGroot had a pair of goals while Mitchell Casey and Matt Fuller each had a goal and an assist. Zack Weir earned the win in goal with a 36-save effort.

On January 28th, a four-goal first period not only chased Plattsville's starting netminder from the game, but also put Stratford on course for a 5-0 victory. Weir stopped all 29 shots sent his way by the Lakers and also had a pair of assists from the crease. Cooper Leitch led the charge offensively, potting two goals in the game.

That came one week after a 7-1 blow-out by Stratford against the Tillsonburg Thunder. Ray Robbins had two goals and an assist, while Graham Brulotte scored once and added two helpers. Darren Smith turned away 32 of 33 Tillsonburg shots.

The January 15th meeting of the Lakers and Fighting Irish was much tighter than the January 28th affair but Stratford once again came away victorious. At one point, Plattsville led 4-1 on the 15th but the Fighting Irish clawed back and brought the game to a 4-4 tie, forcing overtime. In the extra frame, Leitch buried the game-winner. Casey had a goal and two assists while Riley Coome chipped in a goal and a helper of his own.

The comeback win came just 24 hours after Stratford was nearly on the opposite side of a blown lead. The Fighting Irish led 4-1 with 8:06 left in the third against the Killer Bees but Alvinston scored two unanswered. However, the Killer Bees' comeback fell short and Stratford hung on for a 4-3 win. Brulotte had two goals and an assist, Robbins had three helpers, and Cameron Stokes had a goal and two assists.

Stratford has four games left in their regular season



(FRED GONDER PHOTO)

STONE COLD SAVE

Goalie Darren Smith stretches out across his crease without his stick to prevent a goal. The Fighting Irish won 4-3 over the Alvinston Killer Bees on January 14 at the Allman Arena.

schedule including two huge match-ups against the Bluebirds, which could determine who finishes first in the WOSHL.

WOSHL STANDINGS

(as of February 8, 2023)

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Tilbury Bluebirds	21	17	4	1	35
Stratford Fighting Irish	20	17	3	0	34
Elora Rocks	22	16	6	2	34
Tillsonburg Thunder	19	14	5	0	28
Strathroy Jets	21	11	10	0	22
Plattsville Lakers	22	6	16	1	13
Erin Blitz	19	5	14	2	12
Alvinston Killer Bees	22	5	17	1	11
Delhi Flames	20	2	18	1	5



STRATFORD FIGHTING IRISH 2022-23 Player Statistics

(as of February 8, 2023)

#	PLAYER	GP	G	A	PTS
9	Ray Robbins	19	11	25	36
10	Graham Brulotte	18	20	15	35
77	Cameron Stokes	19	7	19	26
44	Cooper Leitch	19	13	9	22
19	Brody Smith	18	10	12	22
21	Steven DeGroot	16	11	10	21
14	Mitchell Casey	19	8	11	19
16	Sean O'Brien	18	4	12	16
55	Riley Coome	20	4	11	15
81	Dylan Buckholz	16	5	8	13
24	Brenden Speziale	17	7	5	12
27	Matt Fuller	12	4	8	12
8	Warren Gorman	17	2	9	11
18	Mav Petrie	14	2	7	9
27	Sebastien Nogueira	8	1	7	8
15	Zachery Tierney	14	0	8	8
7	Colin Martin	11	3	4	7
25	Daniel McCutcheon	11	3	2	5
13	Matt Granger	20	2	3	5
33	Devon Rymarchuk	3	1	4	5
	Tye Campbell	3	1	3	4
23	Michael Finlay	11	0	3	3
21	Frank Nemeth	5	0	1	1

#	PLAYER	GAA	SV%
1	Darren Smith	2.14	.925
60	Zach Weir	3.10	.904



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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.

Branch 8 Stratford is now offering a support program called the Buddy Check Coffee Program. Meant for all Armed Forces Personnel and Veterans, as well as interested first responders, it is a no-cost social gathering to share coffee and snacks every Tuesday morning of the year from 10:30 am to noon, paid for by the Branch Poppy Fund, with a host able to direct guests to support resources, under the guidance of the RCL OSI Group.

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

804-B Ontario St., Stratford N5A 3K1
stratfordlegion008@gmail.com

U19 Girls rise to the occasion in Grimsby, earning silver

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Heading into their season's first added tournament, in Grimsby from February 4-5, the U19 Girls Stratford Revolution (OBL Pool E team) was looking for the extra experience but not expecting to place high in the pool against stiff OBA competition.

The first game of the weekend, against TTT Toronto Triple Threat, an OBL Pool C team, started off with a bang. Jensen Pohl came out draining three 3-pointers in the 1st quarter, and continued every quarter after that for a total of six 3-pointers, netting her an impressive 24 points, representing nearly half of the team winning 47 points to TTT's 35. Alexis Hinds put up 12 and Annika Van Kooten 7. The team was thrilled with this unexpected win over a top team.

The evening pool game against Burlington Force ended in a tough 51-38 loss, but not without great team effort – Hinds led with 13 points, Pohl added 8 (and another 3 pointer), Van Kooten put up another 8, while Paige DeJong and Joy Belfour (new to the team this season) both contributed a three pointer each.

The final pool game Sunday against Niagara Rangers turned things back to the W side with a decisive 51-26 win, which was sufficient to make the Revolution the

Pool winners and send the girls off to Finals playing for gold. Van Kooten put up 17 points, Pohl 10 (another 3 pointer) and Hinds added 6.

The evening finals against fellow OBL Pool E team Ancaster Magic proved to be the best game of the weekend tournament, even though they ended with the tournament's silver medal and 2nd place – great energy, communication and execution were evident on both ends of the court all game, and the Revolution kept the score within points right up until the end. Post Van Kooten led the finals game with 14 points, guard Hinds drained a few 3 pointers for 13 points, with guard Pohl adding another 8.

The team is happy for their silver medal performance at a tournament they weren't sure they would even move far in the pool. They look forward to OBL Weekend #3 coming up mid month in Milton, followed by their hosted 3rd Annual March Madness Invitational in Stratford from March 24-25, if you want to come see these ladies hard at work.

The Revolution entered the Grimsby tournament facing an intimidating foe in the Toronto Triple Threat, but it turned out that the team boasted a 'triple threat' of their own, as team leaders Pohl (50 points), Van Kooten (46) and Hinds (43) combined 139 of the team's 175 total tournament points.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

U19 GIRLS SPORT SILVER MEDALS

Pictured above are the Stratford Revolution girls who won silver medals at the February 4-5 Grimsby tournament. L to R back row – Coach Steve Goforth; #20 Paige DeJong; #24 Alexis Hinds; #11 Emma Zоргdrager; #32 Paige Barr; #31 Annika Van Kooten; #9 Mia Lester L to R front row - #26 Joy Belfour; #13 Jensen Pohl; #21 Mia Morris

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.

Stratford Revolution U11 host tourney and earn silver medals

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

The U11 Boys Stratford Revolution were hosts of a six-team Ontario Basketball Association sanctioned tournament at Stratford District Secondary School on Saturday, January 14th and made it all the way to the finals before bowing out to a strong Windsor club.

Game 1 of the tournament began as a low-scoring affair before the Revolution really got rolling in the second half and pulling away from the Oxford Attack with a 31-11 win. Owen Abercrombie led the way with 10 points. Also scoring for Stratford was Junior Itobore with 5 points, Ben Meek with 4 points, Caleb Martin with 4 points, and 2 points each for Mateo Patterson, Austin Bartlett, Hayes Francis, and Aaden Van Kooten.

In Game 2, Stratford defeated the Chatham Wildcats 42-18. Scoring for the home team were Ben Meek with 9 points, Owen Abercrombie with 8 points, Aaden Van Kooten with 6 points, Caleb Martin with 6 points, Lei Del Rosario with 6 points, Nash Riehl with 4 points, Junior Itobore with 2 points, and Brennan Till with a point.

The finals pitted Stratford against the Windsor St. Clair Saints, who had dominated its first two games of the tournament in defeating Brantford and London. The Saints continued their success, taking the Gold Medal with a convincing 95-23 win. Scoring for the Silver Medalist Revolution in this game were Lei Del Rosario (6 points), Caleb Martin (5 points), Junior Itobore (4 points), Nash Riehl (3 points), Owen Abercrombie (3 points), and Ben Meek (2 points).

Other teams competing during the tournament were from London and Brantford.

The Times spoke with team manager Tanya Martin about what's coming up next for the Revolution in addition to their regular season games in the Ontario Basketball League.

"We have a few tournaments coming up, including the Paul Mitchell Tournament in Brantford the weekend of February 4th," she said. "Finally, to close off our season we will be competing in the Ontario Basketball Championships for the Ontario Cup. This is the annual culminating event for Ontario Basketball member club teams at the end of the basketball season. This year this event will be held March 31 - April 2nd in the Niagara Region."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

SILVER MEDALISTS

The Stratford Revolution Basketball U11 earned silver medals at the recent OBA-sanctioned tournament at SDSS. Pictured above, from left to right, are coaches Quincy Umali, Luke Van Kooten, and Bryan Umali. Players in the top row are Caleb Martin, Owen Abercrombie, Ben Meek, Austin Bartlett, Aaden Van Kooten, and Brennan Till. Bottom row: Hugo Bieber, Lei Del Rosario, Kai Simmons, Nash Riehl, Hayes Francis, Junior Itobore, and Mateo Patterson.



(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

SHUTDOWN DEFENCE

Pictured above defending against the Oxford Attack are Brennan Till (#7), Austin Bartlett (#32), Hayes Francis (#43), Owen Abercrombie (#23), and Nash Riehl (#2). The Revolution held the Attack to just 11 points in their Saturday morning contest.

Another Stratford Native Earns Coaching Gold



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

STRUCK GOLD

Clarke Singer is pictured on the far left with other members of the gold-medal winning coaching staff at the World University Games in Lake Placid, New York.

LEE GRIFFI

Times Regional Reporter

I grew up on Park Lane Drive in Stratford and Clarke Singer lived on Bedford Drive, just around the corner off Graff Ave. I remember some epic road hockey games back in the early 1980's and believe it or not we often sang the national anthem before the ball dropped. I would often play against Clarke and the odd time we would hang out as I jealously watched him play his drums. My Bedford Drive rival went onto much bigger things in terms of a hockey career which most recently saw him earn a gold medal as a coach for Canada at the World University Games in Lake Placid, New York on January 22.

The 54-year-old Stratford native has had an incredible coaching career after playing a handful of games for the Stratford Cullitons (Warriors) in the late 1980's and then one full season with the London Diamonds (Nationals) where he picked up 65 points in 36 games.

Once his junior playing career was over, the Diamonds approached him about a new role. "I think I was 19. They named me an assistant captain, had a big role and we had a good team. When I finished, they asked if I would be interested in coming back to join the coaching staff. That was my first introduction into coaching."

When he first started behind the bench, he had no intention of making coaching a career. "I had it in my mind that I was going to be a physical education and kinesiology teacher. That was my dream growing up, to go to Western then to teacher's college. It was never in the plans to coach at all. I took some coaching courses at school, grew to love it a little more and then completed my Masters in coaching and worked with the Mustangs (men's hockey team)."

Singer did eventually make it to teacher's college and was also the first head coach of the former Aylmer Aces junior team in 1993-94 under the legendary Angie Nigro, but a road trip across the Atlantic Ocean would be his next stop. "I thought I'd coach junior for fun and go to teacher's college to be-

come a teacher. Then what happened is I was going back for my second year in Aylmer. We were growing the team and all of a sudden in July as I was doing teaching interviews for a full-time job, I got a call from this team in Norway saying I was recommended by a coach at Western. I did an interview, got the job, and flew out a few weeks later. It happened quick."

After three years in Norway, Singer came back to London where he landed an assistant's gig with the Mustangs in 1997. He became head coach in 1999 and is the third-most-winningest coach in Canadian University hockey. Singer has been named OUA coach of the year seven times and CIS coach of the year in 2001-02, the same year he guided the Mustangs to a national championship.

The 54-year-old coached at the World University Games on three previous occasions as bench boss, but he says this year's tournament was the first time Canada sent a true national team. "Before we went as regions. So, the OUA would put together a team and two years later the EUS (Atlantic Canada) would put together a team and two years later Canada West put together a team. Now U Sports has made the decision to send a team to represent the entire country."

Canadian university hockey may not have the same high profile as junior leagues, but anyone who has been around the school game knows how good the level of play is. Singer says,

simply put, it is great hockey. "Most of the best players at our level are NHL draft picks, major junior captains. I would say the majority of the players on this team will go on to play in the American Hockey League. The hockey is incredible." He adds one of the keys to Canada winning gold was the depth that other countries just couldn't match. "We had 12 forwards and seven 'D' that could be very much interchangeable. We really wore teams down just like you saw in the American game in the final." Canada defeated our neighbours to the south by a score of 7-2.

With the tournament over, Singer is back in London at the helm of Western

and he says the team has some work to do to turn their season around. "We've had a challenging year here and we aren't in a playoff spot with a few games to go. The OUA decided to go to only 60 percent of the teams in the playoffs across all sports, so just six teams from our conference make it. We have lost some really close games, six in overtime, but we did win four of our last six before the Christmas break, but we need to finish strong."

As for his coaching future, Singer says he's getting to the tail end of his career. "I've been at Western now for 26 years in a row and who knows what's around the corner."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

IN THE HOUSE

The Stratford Greenspiel was contested January 13-15 at the Stratford Curling Club. Pictured above is the winning team which, from left to right, was comprised of lead Michelle Dzijacky, vice Tom Sutherland, skip Graham Rae, and second Jeremy Daum.

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Consistency, shared belief guiding Warriors to playoffs

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

The Stratford Warriors' incredible 18-game winning streak may have

STRATFORD WARRIORS 2022-23 Player Statistics (as of February 7, 2023)						
#	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
9	Zac McCann	F	43	23	53	76
17	Hunter Nagge	F	37	30	30	60
18	Camden Daigle	F	42	23	37	60
27	Sheldon Pryce	F	38	18	33	51
19	Reid Oliver	D	42	11	34	45
22	Jonas Schmidt	F	37	22	22	44
16	Patrick Cole	F	32	22	17	39
12	Keaton McLaughlin	F	39	16	20	36
11	Luke Fritz	F	42	16	20	36
14	Jordan Moulton	D	41	6	21	27
7	Braydon Stumpf	F	43	9	12	21
24	Cole Lewis	F	38	8	12	20
25	Zach Hatch	D	42	3	16	19
6	Rhyse Brown	F	35	8	6	14
5	Nolan Adkins	D	32	3	11	14
10	Dylan Dundas	F	42	7	6	13
5	Jackson McLlwain	F	16	5	8	13
23	Wyatt Adkins	D	33	0	9	9
4	Bo Doxtator	D	34	2	6	8
20	Zachary Schooley	F	15	1	5	6
15	Haden Frayne	D	23	0	6	6
21	Owen Robertson	D	20	0	5	5

#	PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%
30	Zach Burleigh	16-1-0-0	1.94	.916
1	Owen Willmore	9-2-1-0	3.47	.909

come to an end, but the team hasn't let that derail them. Heading into their Friday night clash with the Cambridge RedHawks, the first-place Warriors had a three-point gap separating them and the second-seeded Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins.

Director of Hockey Operations Jason Clarke told the Times that, although it may not be seen, the cohesion of the group has been paramount to Stratford's success.

"Team chemistry is something that isn't seen or reported. The guys are such a great group off the ice and in the community. The atmosphere is always good with our guys in and around the rink. I believe this is truly valuable to success. I also think that the guys who play bottom-six forward minutes or

bottom-three defence minutes, they're all contributing more than gets talked about. All of these guys play such important minutes for us."

Clarke added that there is a deep belief in one another amongst the players, but there is also an expectation of consistently strong efforts.

"Things are going well with our group because our guys believe in each other," said Clarke. "That is a powerful thing when you're over 40 games in. I think our guys are honest with each other knowing if they aren't consistent enough, you can't win in our league."

The team has also benefitted from so many players improving their game and adding skills to their repertoire.

"Hunter Nagge and Jonas Schmidt

have had big jumps in their offence," Clarke said when asked about who he's seen improve this season. "Camden Daigle has matured in his game finding some defensive trust to complement his offensive skills. Rhyse Brown has really developed into a grinding winger who protects the puck very well after playing centre most of his life.

"I could probably talk about everyone," Clarke admitted. "We've been very lucky that our group, man-to-man, have all come along very well and that all-around development is most likely the real contributor to why we are where we are."

Heading into the post-season, the feeling within the team is very positive.

"The atmosphere is good and the group is eager," Clarke noted about his team's playoff readiness. "Lots of work is left this month to put ourselves in the best position we can. I'm hopeful to see the Allman full and loud come playoff time. It's a place that creates an unreal atmosphere for our guys, especially at playoff time."



GOJHL STANDINGS Midwestern Conference

(as of February 7, 2023)

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS
Stratford Warriors	43	34	8	1	0	69
KW Siskins	43	32	9	0	2	66
Cambridge Redhawks	42	29	7	5	1	64
Elmira Sugar Kings	43	26	16	1	0	53
Ayr Centennials	44	24	18	1	1	50
Listowel Cyclones	42	20	20	2	0	42
Caledon Bombers	44	6	38	0	0	12
Brantford Bandits	43	2	39	2	0	6

U9 Junior Warriors stepping up for the big events

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Big ice. Big games. The Stratford Keystone Hospitality U9 Junior Warriors are getting it done.

Graduating from half-sheet games to recorded, full-sheet games, as U9 teams do in January, can be a big adjustment for players but an exciting and welcoming one as well.

For the Keystone Warriors, they brushed aside their first regular season full-ice game – a 9-3 loss to a strong Sarnia Sting club on January 14th, and righted the ship the following day with a 7-4 win over Oakridge.

Then, they readied for their next test – not only full-ice but their first two tournaments, one in New Hamburg from January 20-22 and another the following weekend in West London.

At the New Hamburg Winter Classic, the boys went 3-0-0 in their round robin pool games, defeating teams from Waterloo (11-0), the host New Hamburg (8-2), and Kincardine (4-3). In the tournament playoffs, Stratford shutout King Rebellion 5-0 and met the host team again in the finals, with the Warriors taking the title with a 7-3 decision over the Huskies.

The U9 Warriors then rode their six-game winning streak into West London where they competed in the Doug Jarrett Memorial Tournament. There, they won their first three games in dominating fashion, 11-2 over LBMX Warriors, 11-3 versus Leaside, and 5-1 against Milton, before battling to a 2-2 tie with East York. Stratford played the West Hill Golden Hawks in the tournament semi-finals, prevailing with a 7-4 victory. This set up a rematch against the East York squad, but this time the Warriors gutted out the win by a 5-3 count.

What an exciting start to 2023 for this hard-working group led by head coach Jeff Molenhuis.

See the team's victorious photo on page 18.

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WINNERS IN LASALLE

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

All seven Stratford Skating Club members who took part in the Provincial Series #9 during the weekend of January 27-29 in LaSalle earned accolades for their strong performances. Pictured above, left to right, are Nicole Verhoef and Amy Schroeder (who combined to win Gold in Star 5 Team Elements) along with Austin Phillips who took the Gold medal in Adult Freeskate Masters Elite.



EARNING MEDALS

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Four of the seven members of the Stratford Skating Club who earned medals during the recent Provincial Series #9 in LaSalle are pictured above. Clockwise from top left are Danike Lingard (Silver Medal in Star 2, Group 5), Reese Manzer (Bronze in Star 2, Group 10), Gracie Sutherland (Silver in Star 1, Group 4), and Jane McCutchen (Bronze in Star 1, Group 4)

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Stratford Rotary League

U20 (2003-2006) Standings

	GP	W	L	T	PTS
International Graphics	18	16	2	0	32
Steve Smith Construction	18	14	3	1	29
Sun Life Financial	18	11	4	3	25
Stratford City Mazda	18	11	5	2	24
Next Generation Plumbing	18	9	6	3	21
K & K Racing	18	6	9	3	15
Festival City Rentals	18	7	10	1	15
Stratford Motor Products	18	5	10	3	13
Bentley's Restaurant	18	1	15	2	4
Progress Aluminum	18	1	17	0	2

U16 (2007-2008) Standings

	GP	W	L	T	PTS
A Touch of Dutch Landscaping	20	12	4	4	28
Bell's Winery	20	12	5	3	27
Red Cap Propane	20	9	4	7	25
Woodcock Brothers	20	7	8	5	19
Stratford Police Assoc.	20	5	12	3	13
Dunny's Source for Sports	20	2	14	4	8

U14 (2009-2010) Standings

	GP	W	L	T	PTS
Lloyd's Electric	12	8	1	3	19
Turner Plumbing	12	8	3	1	17
Stratford Orthodontics	12	5	3	4	14
Korner Shoppe	12	7	3	2	16
Teahen Construction	12	7	5	0	14
All Equip Repair	12	4	7	1	9
Professional Choice Reno.	12	2	9	1	5
Holman Plumbing	12	1	11	0	2



STRATFORD ROTARY LEAGUE

(STEWART GRANT PHOTOS)

Above, Will Meszaros of the U20 Stratford Motor Products team tries to cut to the inside of Bentley's Restaurant defender Cole Otto during their Stratford Rotary League playoff game on February 2nd at Dufferin Lions Arena. SMP won the game 5-2. Below, Sun Life Financial U20 forward Callum Boersen fired a shot towards Steve Smith Construction goaltender Tallyn Soper in Stratford Rotary Hockey playoff action on February 2nd. Sun Life played one of their best games of the season in handing Steve Smith Construction a 7-0 defeat on this night.



Deadline looming for applications to join Art In The Park

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

As March 1st approaches, so too does the deadline for application to join Art In The Park for the 2023 season. There are nine categories of work in which to apply, however, the jewellery category is full. Some of the categories include paint, glass, wood, sculpture, and jewellery.

Each submission is evaluated by three independent and anonymous jurors. The application is made online and payment is to be submitted by mail, both must be received by midnight March 1st. The application includes a description of technique, a bio, and six digital images of recent work which include title, size and medium of work.

"Everyone that wants to apply to become a member of Art in the Park must do so online and it is automatically routed to me by email," explains Bev Hewitt, Juror Coordinator for Art in the Park. "I then separate the bits of information, for example, I separate the bio's and the technique into Word documents saved only as Applicant A, Applicant B and so on so that it is all anonymous. I also separate the six images submitted as A1, A2 and so on and store them on a computer. What I then do, as the deadline kicks in, I will send them

off to the three independent jurors who are local to the area. Two are in Stratford and one is in Woodstock," said Hewitt.

Last year there were eighteen appli-



(STRATFORD ART IN THE PARK FACEBOOK PHOTO)

cants. Two failed in the beginning because they failed to follow the instructions and send in the two required cheques in by mail by the deadline. The first cheque, for \$30, covers the jury process and is non-refundable. The second cheque for \$325 covers the membership fee of \$180 and \$145 trader's fee required by the City of Stratford. If an application is rejected, the second cheque is returned in the provided stamped self-addressed envelope.

Prior to sending the digital images to

the jurors, Hewitt will remove any signatures or identifying marks in order to continue to achieve anonymity. The jurors get a score sheet with five criteria to

judge each applicant to score a maximum of 10 points. What they can possibly give for each applicant is 50, while a pass is a score of 26 or more. On the basis of what the scores are, Hewitt averages the scores for a final total out of 50.

"In the three years that I've been doing this I have not seen anyone score less than 25 to qualify," said Hewitt, "which is a good sign, having seen the photographs before anyone, the quality and style is quite interesting, fascinating stuff."

Successful candidates are then presented to the executive committee and then notified by email. So far this year, there have been six applicants with expectations of more as the deadline approaches. Artists do not need to be local to Stratford as there are members from all around, for example, Bayfield, Mitchell, St Marys, Woodstock, Guelph, and Cambridge.

They must commit to ten appearances at the show between May 20th and September 27th, where over 50 days of appearances are possible. Upon completion of the ten appearances in the season, each artists is then in good standing for the following year, there is no need to be juried again.

At the beginning of the season, each artist is given a card which is presented to an executive for initials on the day of appearance, prior to 10:00 am start. At the end of the season, the card with ten initials is sent in with a cheque for the next season's membership and vendor's licence. After over fifty years in operation, the process from start to finish has become well honed.

Applicants can expect to hear back by around the beginning of April and will hear the results by email. For further information and for the online application form visit www.artintheparkstratford.ca under the Call for Artists tab.

A New use for Old license plates

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

There has been much said over the last number of years about reducing, reusing, and recycling. There is a young trio in Shakespeare that have been doing exactly that with old license plates over the last 4 years.

Jeremy, Tara, and daughter Jaymee Witzel, have been creating names and logos and have become famous in their own way with their online sales at “One Off Shakespeare”.

There have been hundreds of relic collectors who have purchased their own name or saying made up from the letters and numbers from old license plates created by the young entrepreneurs.

The Witzel’s have thousands of plates to be able to offer the most unique “momento” customers are seeking.

It all began in 2018 with a spring cleaning assignment with a pile of different items that were being saved for projects and were now in jeopardy of being recycled or thrown out. They finally took the milk crate full of license plates, that had been collected from Jeremy’s long haul trucking jobs over a period of 5 years, while driving for New Hamburg’s Erb Transport, and crafted them into something unique that people would find in-



LICENSE FOR ART

Pictured in their Shakespeare workshop with all their used license plates made into art is from left to right Tara, Jaymee, and Jeremy Witzel, showing some of their creations, made over the last number of months.

(GARY WEST PHOTO)

triguing.

They have thousands of plates, collected with a minimal cost, to be able to offer the most unique gifts that customers

are seeking. They have broadened their line to also include framed art, with every sign and framed piece all handmade that can never be duplicated.

They have done portraits of dogs, 4 foot Maps of Canada, clocks made from old plates, and one of their most memorable was making a sign to commemorate the date of a citizenship ceremony for a New Canadian.

Every sign is made up of several different license plates. They all have been part of something different and had a story to go with them. Some of those plates spent years on an old farm truck or one that had hung on a wall in a farm shop, and one came from a commercial bus from the 1980s. One of the plates, Jeremy has come across, was covered in brown house paint. Another had a paint spill from a workbench, or the plate that came from a quick colour change on a refurbished car.

Some of the plates are partially faded, but still relevant and vibrant in their own special way. These recycled plates have seen various scenarios, such as accidents, near misses, and they all tell the story like each one of us have done on so many different levels.

Jeremy will say that he has always enjoyed drawing, creating, collecting, and repurposing and felt putting his artistic designs to work would make one person’s “trash” into another person’s “treasure”.

More info at jeremywitzel@yahoo.com

A longtime Stratford market vendor is retiring after 36 years

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

Farmers markets have been part of the fabric of rural South-Western Ontario for many years, where local farmers along with butcher shops and fruit and vegetables growers, and crafters, could sell home grown produce and wares to local shoppers.

A long time vendor at the Stratford market, Judy Burns, has decided that after 36 years, she has given up her space at the Stratford farmers market.

She was known by visitors from near and far as the lady who could “can” preserves and knit almost anything she put her mind to.

She will say she started selling her prize winning sweaters and hats along with many other articles that she “worked up” with her knitting needles, every week of the year.

Her knitting has been sold to Paris, Sweden, Ireland, Afghanistan and the U.S.A.

Her crafts started selling in the city’s “Bingo Hall” in 1987, where the fairgrounds once was before moving to their new facility in the Agriplex at the new Rotary complex facility.

Judy Burns was not only a longtime market vendor but was a member of the board of directors of the Stratford and District Agriculture Society and market manager for a time.

She was also active, in the past, at helping with the fund raising BBQ’s held every Saturday at the market and also attended farmers market Ontario conventions over



the years.

Market visitors all agree that Judy’s relish, red pepper jelly and the 9 dozens pickled eggs she sold every Saturday, were the best they ever tasted.

She has also been very involved in helping various organizations in fundraising, with not only the Agriculture Society, but feline friends and the plowing matches in Perth County.

Even though Judy has retired from her booth at the Stratford market, she still can be found with her husband Jim, enjoying golf and travelling and always knitting for her family and friends in their new home in Stratford where she has spent all of her life.

Stratford Public Library continues monthly Gardening Speaker Series

Stratford Public Library is excited to once again team up with the Stratford and Area Master Gardeners for a virtual speaker series that will keep you ready and inspired to tackle climate challenges in your own back yard.

As part of their mandate to provide expert gardening advice to the public, Stratford & Area Master Gardeners and their partners planted over 2022 native trees and shrubs through the ReLeaf Stratford Project and they are planning further projects to support local biodiversity in 2023.

Event organizer Nancy Burnett says, “Last year’s partnership with SPL was so successful that we wanted to do another speaker series. Climate change is an issue we are all grappling with. It can seem overwhelming but there are things we can do in our own backyards and in our communities. These speakers have ideas to inspire us.”

The series began on January 19 and continues on the 3rd Thursday of each month until April 20th. Attendees to this virtual series will have the chance to learn from four dynamic speakers over Zoom. The remaining speakers are:

• February 16 | Jen Llewellyn | Plant

Health for a Changing Climate

• March 16 | Sean James | Fusion Gardening

• April 20 | Cathy Kavassalis | Transforming Landscapes in a Changing Climate

Robyn Godfrey, Adult Outreach and Collections Librarian says, “We’re thrilled to be joining forces with organizations such as the Stratford and Area Master Gardeners and Climate Momentum for a number of collaborative, eco-themed programs this year, the first of which is this speaker series.”

She adds, “Starting the new year with an emphasis on empowering our community to meet climate change challenges where they are – in their own backyards – is something that reflects the Library’s own values. We are happy to facilitate these programs for such forward-thinking partners.”

Garden enthusiasts can find more details and register by visiting the Library’s website at splibrary.ca/gardening. Registration will be open until the Monday before each session. For those who can’t make it, some of the presentations will be available on the Library’s YouTube channel for a limited time.

HAVE A COMING EVENT COMING UP?
Contact: stratfordtimes@gmail.com or call 519-655-2341

The Bookends: How one band brought happiness to Stratford during the lockdown.

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Times Correspondent

The Bookends are a Celtic instrumental band based in Stratford. This unique band consisting of two sets of couples, Pete and Cait Watson and Errol and Mariam Fischer, brings the traditional sounds of Celtic music to life with their fiddle playing and skillful use of other traditional instruments and sounds.

“Pete and Kate came over with a box of Rheo Thompson chocolates to welcome us to the neighborhood when we moved in,” Fischer states. The Fischers, a Celtic duo, moved in across the street from the Watsons, who, at the time, were learning to play Celtic instruments in the backyard. A few days later, Fischer noticed the sound of a Celtic whistle echoing through the neighborhood. “I basically eco-located where the sound was coming from and found it was right across the street from us.”

With Fischer’s background and love for Celtic music and a newly found friendship with the Watsons, this match was just what the Fischers needed to feel right at home in their new neighborhood here in Stratford.

The band, formed in 2016, played throughout Stratford and made a local name for themselves, playing at venues across the area, starting with The Keystone in 2017. They played at the Summer Music Festival “Under the Museum of the Moon” shortly thereafter, and their fame throughout Ontario started to pick up even through the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

“We didn’t have the opportunity to rehearse or get together because of the lock-



down,” Watson states, “[so for] anyone locally who would buy our CD, we went and dropped it off at their doorstep and played a tune for them at the same time.” This opportunity to deliver music door to door gave the band a way to rehearse safely outdoors and also brought happiness to

the patrons they played for.

“This made everybody’s day just a bit brighter,” said The Bookends’ Celtic whistle player, Cait Watson.

Pete saw this as an opportunity to help spread kindness and decided to post their travels on their social media platforms.

“We gave the kids phones and told them ‘Here you go, be creative,’ and let them record whatever they wanted.”

The group found a new way to help not only boost sales but also make everyone’s day a bit happier. “We ended up partnering with some local restaurants; people would come

to pick up their dinner, and they would have a set time when we would show up and play a tune for them at their house,” states Watson. “The band did this every Saturday. One time, on Avondale, they had their relatives from Newfoundland on their iPad so they could watch too.”

Since then, The Bookends have gained traction and have been entertaining audiences all over Ontario and beyond with unique performances that blend traditional Celtic music with a modern feel. Whether playing a soulful ballad, or an upbeat jig, they always put their hearts into every note, and their passion for the music shines through in every performance.

In addition to their live performances, The Bookends have recently released their new album, A Celtic Celebration which was recorded together with The Stratford Symphony Orchestra. This traditional album consists of 12 live songs blending together their Celtic energy with the grace of the orchestra. This album is sure to impress anyone with an ear for Celtic music and a love of the symphony.

The Bookends are an inspiration to everyone in Stratford. When times were hard, they persevered and provided the community with a little bit of kindness. You can follow along on their journey, including upcoming tours at www.thebookends.ca or buy their album locally at Fanfare Books or Treasures downtown.

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Let Me Introduce...

Paul Shilton: Composer - Musician

APRIL TAYLOR

Times Contributor

Picture it: Whitelock Street 1977... My brother Ross and I hanging out in the family room listening to records, talking endlessly about music and song lyrics. "I like this part, listen to this line," we would say. Our records were all scratched from dropping the needle trying to find the line we loved. Ross and I are quite close, with music being the constant common thread of our relationship. When my brother said, "I know this guy, he changed the way I listen to music," I didn't really understand what he was saying but it piqued my curiosity. That guy is Paul Shilton, musician, and composer. I sought him out for this article because I wanted to see what he was all about. How does one listen to music differently?

I met with Paul at Bentley's on a happening Friday night for a drink and a chat. What an interesting fellow with a diverse history. Where do I begin? The trouble with these creative types is that their lives end up as creative as their projects, leading them here, there and everywhere.

Growing up in Alliston, Ontario, the son of a United Church minister, was where it all began. You would find him playing piano and trumpet at the front of the church every Sunday morning. It seemed obvious that Paul's next step would be to study for a music degree, which he did at Queen's in Kingston. One question I am always interested to know when I talk to any musician is what type of music influenced and inspired them. Paul's reply was "Early Music". Hmmm, I was unsure of what he was saying and not having met him before, I didn't want to appear foolish. But early music? Did he mean the Beatles or maybe earlier like Glen Miller? No, no, he meant early as in medieval renaissance music. Paul's favourite composer? John Dowland (1563-1626), an English Renaissance composer, lutenist, and singer. How does a young man become interested in that? I suppose that's the best part of life: endless possibilities for us to explore, in art, sports, food, books, and of course, music.

Early on, Paul played in a band; they would go to schools in Kingston, then moved to Toronto and played there as well. Somewhere along the way he met his true love, a talented actor/singer named Barbara Fulton. In 1990, Barbara had the opportunity to come to work in Stratford, so they packed their bags, arriving with talent and enthusiasm. This opened the door for Paul also, and over the years he has been asked to write music for seven productions at Stratford. This gives his gift a prestigious nod, I would say. His first show was working with then music director Burt Carriere on Edward II. He also created several songs for Richard Monette's production of An Ideal husband and director Scott Wentworth's The Adventures of Pericles, among others.



More recently, Paul worked on the Festival series Film Singers at the Tom Patterson.

"This is for the online Festival programming," explained Shilton. "There were 44 iconic Canadian folk and pop songs selected for a project called Northern Tracks. Scenes were created around these songs and singers were chosen to sing and act out these songs, to be filmed in various locations of the Tom Patterson theatre (coat check room, box office, theatre, etc.) I arranged and played on eight of these."

Paul was involved with The Dark Lady of Sonnets at the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto which aired live on CBC. He has also written music for Ballinran Entertainment, which is a local film company based in Stratford.

Going back to what my brother said about Paul changing the way he listened to music had to do with the composing and the arranging. Most of us non-musicians plug in our phone to the speaker, choose our playlist and listen without much thought of how that song came to be. Think about it... before it came to fruition, someone sat down at an instrument and envisioned the sound in his head, somehow knowing where the crescendo would be and when the string and horns should come in etc. It's quite a marvel.

Detours & Distractions:

music minister at Zion Lutheran Church, directing the choir. He also plays in a band called Larry and the Jazz Guys. (Hey Ross... if you are reading, we must see them.) Up-coming gigs for The Jazz Guys are The Jazz Room in Waterloo on June 16 and at the Tom Patterson Theatre on June 26.

I asked Paul for a word of advice for up-and-coming composers or musicians. His reply, half joking, was "Don't go into this business unless you absolutely have to." It's a hard gig being an artist of any sort. The perks are that it is fun, creative, and inspiring; but the downside is that it is unpredictable and offers little stability. Last summer in Grand Ben, I saw Paul's partner, Barbara Fulton, in a play called Sweet Delilah, and she was also in Come from Away in Toronto. I have noticed that often actors are married to other actors or musicians, I think that it is almost a must; to have a shared understanding of life in entertainment.

I asked Paul what warms his heart. His reply: "The Sound of Barbara Fulton's voice". LOVE... it really is what life is all about.

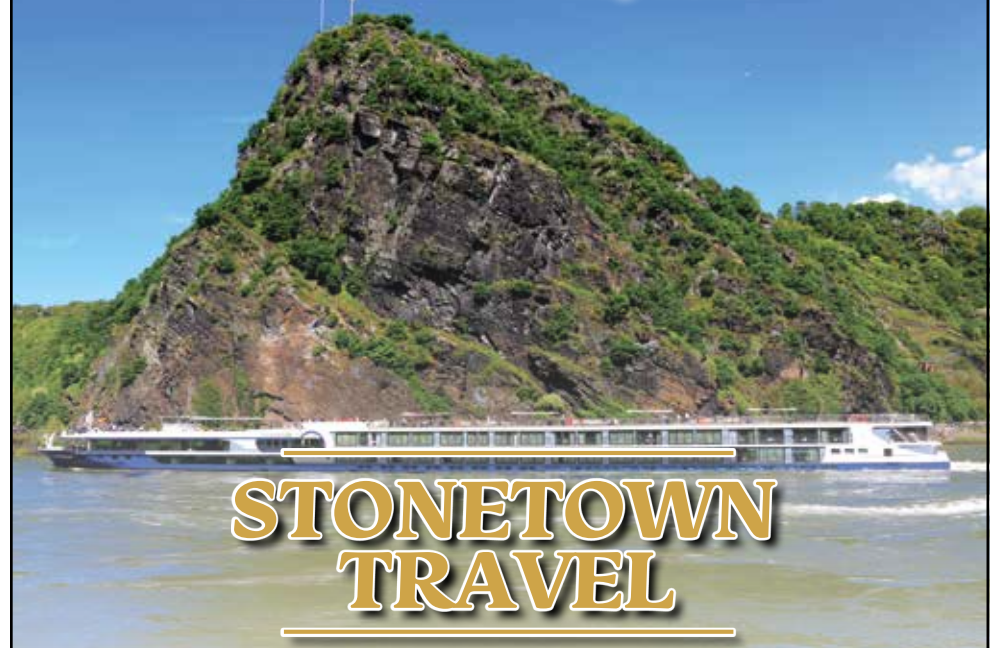
If you are interested in hearing samples of Paul's music and learning more about him, I am happy to direct you to his website which is www.paulshilton.com.

Thanks for reading... see you again next month with a tale of another interesting somebody.

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'Manifesting' authors reach international Best Seller goal

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

A Stratford-based fertility mindset coach is part of a group of co-authors whose book made it onto Amazon Best Sellers lists.

Stratford's Jessica Friesen, along with Elizabeth Plancon, Jessica West, and Lauren Lowrance, released "Manifesting with Purpose - Aligning to Your Soul's Desires" on January 11. The book became an Amazon Best Seller shortly after, first making it to the U.S. Bestsellers' list on Jan 13., then the international best-sellers' list in Canada on January 16, and the ebook best-seller's list in Canada on January 17.

West, founder of Trésor Kombucha and Empower from Within podcast host, is from Terrace Bay, Ontario. Initiative mindset and manifestation coach Plancon and manifestation coach Lowrance are from the U.S.

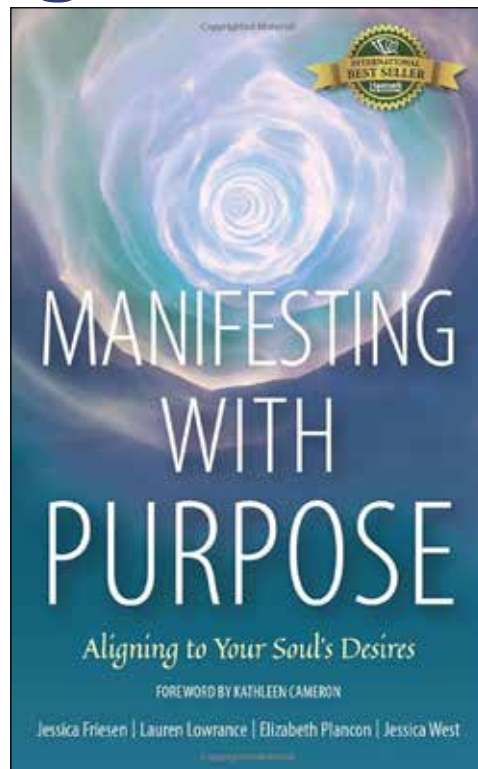
All of the writers are first-time authors. The group met through the Mastermind coaching program and West suggested that they co-author a book together. Lowrance was working on a book. Plancon had always wanted to write a book, and was eager to take on the opportunity.

"The opportunity presented itself so I was like 'Heck yeah, here it is!'" Plancon said.

The group told their marketing team they plan to be international best-sellers. The co-authors work together on Zoom, Messenger, and Mastermind to communicate. Their group chat on Messenger was called "Best-Selling Authors."

"It was just a roll-off-the-tongue 'aspire-to-be', like that would be really cool but I had not actually thought of like 'What if we actually are international best-sellers?'" Friesen said. "As soon as we hit that, I was just like 'Oh my gosh, this is incredible. This is so awesome.'"

The book outlines how each author's life changed for the better with manifestation. Each chapter ends with journal prompts and practice questions so the readers can



apply the techniques to their own lives.

"I feel like everyone and anyone could relate to the book in some way or another and if they didn't necessarily relate to the personal stories, all of the tools and the tricks in there really will tell you how to start manifesting things into your life no matter what it is that you desire for more," Friesen said.

Those who are looking to write their own book, but don't know where to start, reading "Manifesting with Purpose: Aligning to Your Soul's Desires" could help.

"We're really bringing you through the process of manifestation and so I would say the first one would be to believe in yourself and to believe that you can be a publisher and start embodying that and what it would look like for you," West said.

Lowrance said that she had a book she was writing a book on her own, but decided to co-author because she thought it would be a great opportunity.

"Co-authoring has been such a blessing," Lowrance said. "I probably would have never done it, actually published it or get started, and I would've been very overwhelmed and backed out. There's been several times where I probably would've quit had I been doing it on my own."

The group hopes to release an audiobook and host in-person and virtual events.

To purchase the book, visit www.amazon.ca/Manifesting-Purpose-Aligning-Souls-Desires/dp/1774821818/

"A Stitch in Time" courtesy of Stratford's Tanis Humphrey



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

GET READY TO STITCH

Tanis Humphrey awaiting for her industrial type sewing machine (she has two) to complete a logo on a sweater for one of her many customers.

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

If you have ever been to any sporting games in the area over the last number of years, most teams have their logos and names on their uniforms. They might have been designed and stitched by a business in Perth County on the eastern edge of Stratford.

"Stitch It Up Embroidery", as the company is named, is the work of Tanis Humphrey, who has been stitching and doing embroidery work for sports teams and the general public for more than 22 years.

She is not only famous for her stitching on team uniforms, but also in doing full color, print transfers and vinyl designs.

Her main business has mostly been in ringette, where she and her company are recognized world-wide for all types of ringette equipment. She stated that for years there didn't seem to be companies that were supplying the needs of various ringette teams across the country and around the world.

Ringette is a team game invented in 1963 in Canada by a man named Sam Jacks from Sudbury. It was mostly played by women who wanted to play ringette in ice arenas around the country as opposed to playing hockey.

Humphrey, along with a business part-

ner from Calgary, have travelled the world promoting and selling ringette equipment in places like France, Finland, Sweden and many other European countries, along with most states in the U.S. and to almost every city in Canada. Her company supplies all the ringette equipment to teams including sticks, gloves, pads, rings, and of course, sweaters and protective coverall pants.

In supplying names and logos on team uniforms, there are local teams who have put the entrepreneur and her stitching machines to work. They include the "Team Unity" figure skaters from Tavistock, Shakespeare's "Falcons", and Stratford's "Aces" to name a few.

Her work also includes embellishing shirts and hood sweaters along with baseball hats and toques and continues to supply local teams in St. Marys, Mitchell, Wheatley, Mitchell, London, Guelph and Kitchener.

Team uniforms would include local sports in T-Ball, baseball, hockey, volleyball, basketball and even pickleball.

The young 63-year-old does her work out of her and her husband Russell's backyard garage/shop. Her stitching machines are going non-stop and what is amazing is that she still finds time to answer the phone with orders and take time to talk to customers for their wants and needs in all areas of sport and recreation.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

FINISHED PRODUCT

One of many sweaters stitched over the years for Ringette Canada and seen all over the world! (the heart and sole of Tanis Humphrey's business)

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UNTIL SOON. LIVE WELL: I am Legend



STUART LENDER

Times Contributor

I don't know about you, but I'm pretty certain that I have a terminal condition that I'm not going to get out of alive. What is also certain is that I am getting through this terminal condition called "life" with the awareness of what the passing of days offers me. That's a choice. Some of us never see behind the days that we race through so efficiently and blindly. We take no stock

of them. But, it's exactly that that flavours our life's stories, bitter and sweet.

Something happens as we grow older - and that something starts to shape us for what's to come. What is it? Wisdom. It's not that "young" people don't have it. It's just that their wisdom does not stem (yet) from the wisdom of days. That kind of wisdom is seasoned. It has not so much to do with knowledge as it does with experience and storytelling. And if you have anyone in your life right now that is, let's say, 60+ years - you owe it to yourself to get a taste of some of the stuff they've gone through. Births, deaths, war, peace, divorce, tragedy and triumph. It doesn't matter if their view, held up against today's reality, is antiquated; or that the story or information is coming piecemeal from a loved one riding in and out of dementia, or that it's from a family member or a stranger - ask for

it! Ask for the stories in their life when you're in conversation. Take the time to ask questions.

The questions may be asked and the stories will be told. All a form of wisdom from the shock of events or from the disparity of beliefs, from their past to your present; or simply from what that person in front of you went through. All wisdom for you to chew on, spit out or swallow. We remember what is of value and discard the rest. There are whole cultures that have thrived through the art of storytelling beyond our own beautiful indigenous peoples, and that commodity of wisdom for many, is dying off and is not replaced - or is replaced with lives that have been too busy and too fast to formulate the wisdom of days into stories of their own to pass onto their children.

There's stuff that we live through that is worth the telling and much of it, acquaintances

or sons and daughters may not have the inclination to ask about. Offer it anyway in conversation. Because it's not so much that someone doesn't want to know, it's that they don't think of asking. Perhaps they're less aware of the terminal condition.

Here is what I have discovered by asking and listening to the "wisdom" of my elders: That hand-carved chess set on my shelf was made by my grandfather in WWI while he was in a French prison camp. My mother's family hid Jewish families in the basement of their store in Germany and gave them food and shelter and toys for their children, before they made their way into the woods or into oblivion. My brother almost died one morning before he was one year old, causing my father to drive to the hospital down University Avenue in Toronto during morning rush hour, in the oncoming car lane - one hand on the horn

and one on the wheel - before the police stopped him and escorted him on!

These stories and more - tragic, funny and bold, were told in their fullness. I'm grateful. Sharing them binds the storyteller and the listener. When a recent friend was dying in the hospital, she had her son call me to tell me she was dying: "because I don't want the last phone call to Stuart to be a business call" she said. I couldn't believe it. I wept. After hearing tales of her life for years over many coffees, news of her death held a similar taste to my own dear mother's. Stories of a life can make us family. My family is forever growing in my line of work. Let yours live in others.

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.

MUSINGS: The Time Engine



MARK HERTZBERGER

Times Freelance Columnist

When it comes to search engines and social media, I am many platforms behind on the information railway. Trains keep leaving the station and I haven't even bought my tickets yet. In my more cynical moments I find myself agreeing with the gloomy Wednesday Addams who defines social media as "a soul-sucking void of meaningless affirmation!"

Just like Clark Kent's super powers, though, social media can be used for good or evil. It's amazing to be able to reach across distance and time and connect with old friends and distant relatives - sometimes across years, sometimes across decades. In the following story we reached across centuries:

My great grandmother Elizabeth gave birth to my grandfather out of wedlock. She was 30 years old at the time. In 1885, this deviation from social norms was not looked upon kindly. She remained unmarried and was relegated to domestic servitude for the rest



of her life. Out of all our family photographs, Lizzie's was the one missing from the album. Even my father had never seen her face.

We knew that Charles Zinn, a farmer near New Dundee had been her employer for decades. Before it was demolished, we took photos of the Zinn farmhouse where she lived and worked.

Searches for Lizzie's picture, genealogical and otherwise proved fruitless and the trail grew cold. As a last resort I turned to Facebook, posting our pictures of the Zinn house and the few known details of Lizzie's life. Much to my sur-

prise, I quickly received a reply from Len Weber, a farmer in Grey County. Len identified himself as the great grandson of Charles Zinn. Not only that, but he had pictures!

We met in Listowel, where Len unloaded several boxes of family records from his truck. He was afraid I would be disappointed though. He had thought he had a photo which included my great grandmother but now he wasn't so sure. The picture in question was taken in 1910 at the wedding of Charles Zinn's daughter, Rachel. We examined the photo and compared it with a handwritten list of the wedding guests. As it turned out,

she was there after all. Lizzie stands on the porch, second from right, next to the other domestic help. Her employer, Charles Zinn, is the portly gentleman with the large moustache standing to the far left of the picture.

Lizzie's social status as a servant is marked by the fact that her two married sisters, Maria and Wilhelmina, are counted among the guests (standing immediately to the right of Charles Zinn). They are there by invitation; Lizzie is there to serve them as a domestic.

Lizzie's life, difficult as it was, was better than that of many unwed mothers in the 1800's.

As "fallen" women, some were kicked out of their houses and forced onto the streets. Some were forced into poorhouses. Their children were often sent to orphanages, adopted out, or sent to work as labourers. Lizzie's son, my grandfather Eldon, was adopted by his grandparents until he was old enough to work on relatives' farms.

Lizzie herself found a home with the Zinns where she lived and worked for 23 years. She died in 1920 and was buried in the Zinn family plot in the Roseville Mennonite cemetery. This suggests to me that she was seen as a member of the family, rather than simply "the help".

I am grateful for Lizzie's persistence and courage during her hardscrabble life. Without her story, mine would never have begun. Without the acceptance and caring of the Zinn family, her life almost certainly would have been harsher. And without Len Weber, her image would be lost in time forever. Connecting over the centuries - who would have guessed that Facebook could be a time engine?

Mark Hertzberger is a former social services supervisor, human resources manager, conflict mediator, and literacy practitioner. He has since freed his mind and now writes poetry and occasional opinionated columns. Mark has lived in Perth County for 27 years, the last 12 of which have been in Stratford where he resides with his wife, novelist Yvonne Hertzberger.

Finding Balance in an Overscheduled Life



IRENE ROTH

Times Freelance Columnist

We all tend to do way too much regularly. We spread ourselves way too thin. We juggle professional duties, family obligations, taking care of the house, cooking, fixing things up, painting, and much more. Most of us are also trying to fit in some health goals. Many times, our duties and obliga-

tions conflict, leaving little time for ourselves or our family.

In order to create some balance in our lives, we need to choose what we do by carefully prioritizing our most important duties and obligations. This can be difficult to do at first. However, with practice, we can all achieve this. Our health and well-being depend on it.

Here are five tips on how to make space for some of our important priorities, amidst our busy lives.

1. Determine your most important obligations. These will depend largely on your values. For instance, if you value your family, you will make time for them. If you are a writer, you will make time for your writing. If you value your health and well-being, you will create times to cook healthy meals

and work out.

2. Don't overschedule or cram your schedule with too much stuff. One of the most difficult things we must do is to keep some down time or white space in our schedule. These could be times when you have nothing scheduled, not even family activities. This could be a time when you sit down and meditate or pray. Or it may be a time when you do absolutely nothing but sit with your thoughts. We all need such times in our day.

3. Try not to rush all the time. Leave early for appointments if you can. That way, you can have a few minutes to yourself before you must see the dentist, doctor, or physiotherapist. Many times, when we cut things close and are running from point A to B, we end up creating more stress for ourselves. There isn't much more

stressful than riding the edge of time all the time.

4. Create times when you unplug from social media, TV, and all your devices. These can be times when you connect with your family and friends over a cup of coffee or just sit and read in your foyer with your spouse. It can also be times when you have a deep conversation about something that's very important. These can be times you will remember for many decades to come.

5. Develop hobbies and make time for them. Many of us overschedule our time so much that we have no time to color or draw. Neither do we have time to sew or crochet. Some of us like to do woodworking or needlecraft. All these hobbies require that you schedule some extra time to enjoy yourself.

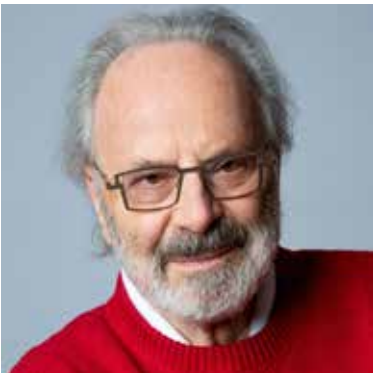
Many of us are way too busy

for our own good. Some of us may be addicted to rushing, achieving, and constantly going and doing. Human beings need down time to feel at their best. Our mental health and well-being require times when we just lie low and have no obligations.

If you feel overwhelmed by life, try to incorporate one tip above into your schedule. I believe we can all live a meaningful life, making times for things that are very fulfilling to us without feeling guilty or stressed out. Maybe it's time to take a deep breath for a few minutes here and there and look around you because you may just miss something amazing.

May you make time to just be!

PUSHING BOUNDARIES: The Lasting Impact that Grandparents Have on the Lives of their Grandchildren



THOMAS VERNY

Times Contributor

A few years ago, I received the following letter.

My husband and I went to my grandmother's grave for the first time. While we were looking for her grave, I heard in my mind a "lullabye"—it came on very strongly. When I found her grave, I knew "she" wasn't in that grave at all—but I still felt these things towards her, and that song was so strongly there in my mind. I don't know what that "lullabye" means. It is very gentle music, very light and beautiful and it just filled that graveyard that day. Until I met my husband, she was the only person I saw who loved me, from her eyes!

What a beautiful way to speak of bonding and attachment. Bonding is usually understood to refer to a mother's, father's or any other person's emotional relationship with their child. Attachment is the same loving feeling by the child for her mother and others who have shown interest and kindness to the child. A caregiver who is re-

liably available and responsive to a baby's needs forms the basis for secure attachment, for competence in exploring the environment, forming relationships and for developing self-esteem.

Attachment to a grandparent will gradually develop as a result of regularly being hugged, stroked, spoken to in soothing tones and yes, listening to lullabies and receiving love from the grandparent's eyes.

Not all mothers can always be with their newborn and young infant during the first two crucial years. Sometimes a mother or father must leave their child for lengthy periods of time. This can be devastating for an infant who feels abandoned no matter how often you try to explain that mommy will be back in a week.

Another way a baby may not receive full attention from his mother is if she suffers of post-natal depression or, of addictions.

Most regrettably, there are also women who, for many reasons, did not want to become pregnant and have a child. When this unwanted child is born, she is not welcome. She is lucky to have her basic needs met but otherwise will likely receive little loving care from her mother. There will be a marked deficit in bonding and attachment with subsequent harmful consequences for the child's physical and mental development.

These are just some life situations where grandparents can be of invaluable help to their grandson or daughter.

Grandparents whose grandchildren live with them play an essential role as primary caregivers. And grandparents whose grandchildren do not reside with them can relieve the mother by babysitting the child regularly.

They can also be a source of parenting tips to their sons or daughters who may be struggling with the care of a newborn. Grandparents, by trial and error, have learned of natural remedies for the common problems babies experience such as diarrhea, constipation, colic, fussiness and the like.

Grandparents provide for their grandchildren a conduit to the family's past; their accomplishment, trials and tribulations. It is important for children to know their roots and their cultural heritage. Parents are often too busy to talk about such things. Many times, they have forgotten such historical data or, want to forget them because they are ashamed of them.

Scientific studies and anecdotal evidence show what most of us experienced but hardly ever put in words: that typically maternal grandparents are closer to grandchildren than paternal grandparents. Why should that be so? Several factors seem to be responsible.

For one, mothers are, generally speaking, closer to their own mothers than their mother-in-law. For that reason, they will often want their mothers to be present at the birth and to help with the baby once they are home. Thus, from the be-

ginning, a preference has been established which endures. Having your own daughter going through nine months of pregnancy and giving birth feels very different from having your son become a father.

Also, many psychologists have remarked on the observation that the relationship between a woman and her mother-in-law is complicated by the fact that many mothers do not approve of the woman their son has married for a variety of reasons such as race, religion, education, social class, age, etc. Mothers want the very best for their children and the person they marry often does not meet the expectations of the future mother-in-law.

Whether a grandparent lives close by or a distance away will make a difference in how often they can visit and, consequently establish a meaningful relationship with their grandchild. Maternal grandparents, because of the mother's closeness to her daughter, tend to live nearer to her than paternal grandparents.

In one study of UK teenagers, the maternal grandmother was the most important family member beside their immediate family. The maternal grandfather was next.

Of course, the attitude of the grandparent will determine the quality of their relationship with their grandchild. Grandparents who want to be involved in the lives of their grandchildren and yet who manage to be respectful of parental roles have the highest likelihood of success. And this

is true for both branches of the nuclear family.

Key Takeaways

When a mother is unable or unwilling to care for her child, grandparents can step in and provide the love this child needs.

Grandparents can be a rich source of good advice for raising grandchildren.

Grandparents can foster in their grandchild good self-esteem and social skills.

When relating to their grandchildren, grandparents must respect the rules and customs of the grandchild's parents.

*This post was originally published at Psychology Today

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/explorations-the-mind/202210/the-lasting-impact-grandparents-have>

Dr. Thomas R Verny is a psychiatrist, podcaster and author of 47 scientific papers and eight books including the international best seller, The Secret Life of the Unborn Child, published in 27 countries and the recently released, The Embodied Mind. The Embodied Mind shows how intelligence and consciousness—traits traditionally attributed to the brain alone—permeate our entire being. Dr. Verny lives with his wife in Stratford.

In Pushing Boundaries, Dr. Verny will report on pioneering research and breakthrough discoveries in science and the arts as they impact our lives. He will try to address the question of readers everywhere, "Why should I care, of what value is this to me?"

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Dominica's surprising Canadian connections



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor

There are a lot of wonderful surprises awaiting Canadian visitors on the island of Dominica. Branded as “the nature island,” it lives up to its name, with spectacular sights like the twin Trafalgar Falls, the Freshwater Lake in Morne Trois Pitons National Park (at 2,789 feet above sea level, so high in the volcanic range that you may well be driving in the clouds), or the views of the Atlantic Ocean with its crashing waves (on the east side) or the Caribbean Sea, friendlier for the ubiquitous divers (on the west coast).

Yes, this unique island, with nine active volcanoes (not currently spewing lava, but providing plenty of hot springs, some harnessed as natural hot spas), is amazing and surprising.

There is another equally thrilling but perhaps less appealing surprise waiting as you navigate the roadways. They tend to follow the shoreline, but since Dominica rises straight from the sea to its volcanic heights, that shoreline drive includes steep hills, switch-back curves, sharp descents, and the occasional, disconcerting sign reading “Caution: Road Edge Failure Ahead”. And, as befits a former British colony, you drive on the left. Or better still – don’t. If you’re a first-time visitor to Dominica,



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

This bus, donated to Dominica by the Canadian government in 1979, was crushed in a hurricane one month later, but remains a permanent landmark!

don’t even think about driving.

But speaking of surprises, I was equally amazed by the strong, unexpected Canadian connections I encountered everywhere I went on the island. Dominica has attracted Canadian visitors over the years, folks who had fallen in love with this small Caribbean island nation, and have stayed.

Take, for example, Laura Ell. Laura is from Alberta, but she moved to Dominica 17 years ago, coming as a visitor, but lured into staying on as a resort manager, working for owner Sam Raphael. A few years ago, Raphael decided to open a second resort – Jungle Bay – and Laura managed the entire process of designing and building the beautiful facility. And then, after Jungle Bay opened in 2019, she stayed as manager – a job she clearly loves.

She credits Raphael with the success of the place, commending him for his “social conscience”, and for “treating his staff right.” And the staff is terrific – chef Dylan invited me in to visit his kitchen, and head gardener Stacy Moses eagerly offered an extensive tour of the gardens and plantings around Jungle Bay. Those gardens include a sur-

prising (yes, there’s a theme, here) number of fruit and nut trees; Stacy says there are more than 75 individual species. I didn’t try to count them; I only know the gardens are lush and beautiful. And when the fruit makes its way to the breakfast buffet – have you ever tried soursop? – it’s terrific.

Jungle Bay is described as a “premier adventure and wellness destination,” and Laura believes that “wellness and eco-tourism is the next wave of tourism.” Jungle Bay has caught that wave.

I reluctantly left Jungle Bay after a few days, moving to another Dominican resort, Coulibri Ridge. But I have to admit, my reluctance vanished as we arrived – Coulibri Ridge is an incredible resort, designed, built and run by – wait for it – a Canadian couple, Daniel Langlois and Dominique Marchand, natives of Montreal.

Daniel is the highly successful founder of the high tech company, Softimage, and he and Dominique have invested a ton of money in a fascinating experiment – building a luxury resort that is entirely off the grid, totally self-sustainable. Daniel told me there is no possible return on investment from the proj-

ect – it’s a demonstration project, designed to establish a template to prove that sustainability in the luxury resort business is possible.

“The goal to the project,” he told me, “is to push the limit of what can be done.” They have clearly succeeded. The place is gorgeous – huge suites, plunge pools in some of the rooms (there are only 14 sites), a spa, yoga space, gourmet restaurants. I loved it.

And their success at achieving their sustainability goal has permitted more good stuff – through their Foundation, Langlois and Marchand have built a school in the neighbouring village, have funded coral reef restoration projects, and more. They aim to bring sustainability to their Dominica neighbours, as well. These folks make me intensely proud to be their fellow Canadian.

And then there were the horses. If you are interested in night clubs and lavish stage shows, you have come to the wrong island – Dominica is all about nature, from river tours to hiking to diving to horseback riding. The woman who owns

Rainforest Riding is Valeria Francis who, when she’s not leading horses and riders through Dominica’s natural wonders, returns home to Stratford, Ontario. Friendly, warm, and definitely a lover of animals, she’s yet another Canadian who has fallen under the spell of this unique island.

Visitors to Dominica tend to navigate those exciting roads in chauffeured vans and cars. Our routes often brought us straight through the botanic garden, in the capital city of Roseau. One feature of the garden is definitely not botanical. But it does have a Canadian connection.

It’s a bus. A bus a little worse for wear, because just one month after the Canadian government donated it to Dominica, in 1979, Hurricane David hit, downing the immense tree under which the bus was parked.

It is parked there, to this day.

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Trafalgar Falls, one of dozens of natural wonders on Dominica.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Jungle Bay manager Laura Ell, who came for a holiday 17 years ago... and stayed.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Jungle Bay's enthusiastic head gardener, Stacy Moses.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Daniel Langlois and Dominique Marchand, creators of the off-the-grid luxury resort, Coulibri Ridge.



SEEKING SUSTAINABILITY

Re-imagining your home landscaping

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.

On January 11, the SDSS Eco Club had a discussion with Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma; Taylor Crinklaw, the Director of Infrastructure and Development Services; and Sadaf Ghalib, the Climate Change Program Manager.

Our first point of discussion was the increase in housing developments and urban sprawl, and how future expansion efforts would minimize negative environmental impact. Mr. Ritsma explained that the issue requires considerable balancing, as less housing means more people driving into town, burning fossil fuels. To solve this problem without abetting urban sprawl, developments will be intensified. Mr. Crinklaw explained that intensification encourages climate friendly initiatives, and requires less space and energy loss. While this is not an ideal solution, as it only minimizes the problem rather than removing it entirely, standards are set by the province, so there is little to be done at the municipal level. However, Crinklaw said that plans for new housing

developments would be adjusted with a climate-conscious lens, and a green budget improvement plan is in the works.

Next, we discussed the vision the three have for fighting climate change in Stratford, particularly that of Ms. Ghalib as a newcomer to working with the City of Stratford, having worked there only four months at the time of this discussion. Ghalib would like to address the large emissions from buildings by retiring old building code and providing resources for retrofitting and creating net-zero emission homes. She also expressed interest in promoting public transportation. Ritsma plans to purchase new electric buses to make public transportation more sustainable. He would also like the city to have a GO Train station, making transportation to other cities more sustainable.

The Eco Club appreciates this opportunity, and we look forward to further communication and collaboration with the City of Stratford.

While turf grass lawns are now widely considered to be the norm in the Western world, they come with many financial, environmental, and personal disadvantages. These lawns destroy natural habitats and

take space away from native plants and animals. They also drain our water resources and often require pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer, which has damaging effects on native plants and animals while also polluting our water systems via runoff. Grass-cutting and weed control commonly require the use of gas-powered machinery, which contributes to greenhouse gas accumulation and neighbourhood noise pollution. However, you might not know that there are a number of greener alternatives to turf lawns which require less maintenance. Replacing even just sections of your grass cover with native plants, clover, or simply expanding your flower or vegetable gardens are all great options. These and other grass alternatives require less water and less mowing to flourish, saving resources, time, and energy. They also don't typically require any fertilizer, pesticides, or herbicides, as they are more well-suited to dealing with the Ontario climate and local competition. However, there are a few drawbacks to consider before re-landscaping your lawn. While clover is in many ways similar to grass, but with the above benefits, it has poor traffic tolerance. So, if your lawn is used for many active outdoor activities, a grass-clover mixture may

be more suitable. Native plants — some of which can grow quite tall — may break city bylaws, which often restrict lawn growth to a certain height. To prevent this, you can make sure to choose plants which grow to a shorter height or be prepared to trim them regularly. However, these disadvantages are easily outweighed by the benefits you will reap from making these changes.

The fight for a greener future is certainly not an easy one, but our community and our world have already come so far in efforts to increase sustainability. It is important to strive for a healthy life and a healthy future for our planet in the face of climate change. Fridays For Future, a youth-led and organized global climate strike movement, encourages both young minds and old to take part in global strikes so that we may better educate others and ourselves about climate change and its effects on the planet. Currently, this organization is scheduling a global strike on Friday, March 3, 2023 to bring to light the impacts of fossil fuels. More information regarding registration for the event and locations can be found on their site,

<https://fridaysforfuture.ca/>.

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

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Riddles

What kind of jokes do mice tell?
Cheesy ones

What do you get if you cross a chestnut
and a duck?
A nut quacker

What is a scientist's favorite dog?
A lab

What do you call a snowman in the
spring?
A puddle

Why are hockey players always so cold?
Because they have so many fans

If a butcher is 6 feet tall, wears size 9
shoes, and has black hair, what does he
weigh?
Meat.

What runs but has no legs?
Your nose

What's worse than an apple with a worm
in it?
An apple with half a worm in it

What do you call a man with a seagull on
his head?
Cliff

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 35



Pet of the Month



RIVER

Are you looking to stay active with an adorable companion by your side? You've got the right guy! River is an active boy that loves to get lots of pets and love. He will do best with a family that can keep up with him and offer him an enriching active life with lots of long walks and hikes. River will need to be signed up for training before he can go home to help him with some basic manners/obedience, resource guarding and helping him desensitize to some touch. This good boy is very excited to meet his new family and hopes you will give him a chance at a loving furrever family! Please submit an application at <https://kwsphumane.ca/adopt/process>.

Word Search

VALENTINE'S DAY

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

- Love
- Cupid
- Family
- Friend
- Jewelry
- Lovers
- Bow
- Arrow
- Holiday
- Heart
- Sweetheart
- Smitten
- Loving
- Memories
- Red
- Rose
- Tulips
- Valentine
- Crush
- Chocolate
- Card

The local western Saddle Club planning their 2023 summer riding season

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

Even though there was snow in the air, the directors of the Stratford and District Saddle Club were planning for another summer of Western Horse shows, following a successful 2022 season.

At their annual winter meeting, club organizers have decided to have five competitions for the summer of 2023 at the Schlotzhauer riding facility east of Stratford.

The Sunday competition dates include May 28, June 11, June 18, July 23, and August 13.

Saddle Club President Martin Ritsma says "he's excited to see another year for western riders of all ages to saddle their mounts and compete for prizes".

The saddle club is always looking for sponsors to help support the show- private, service clubs and local businesses. New member riders are always welcome.

For more information or interested in a sponsorship contact martinritsma@gmail.com or Helen at hmthomson95@gmail.com

SADDLE UP

(GARY WEST PHOTO)



Directors of the Stratford and District Saddle Club pictured after planning their 2023 upcoming season. From left to right; Martin Ritsma, Saddle Club Chair, Murray Schlotzhauer, Melissa Krueger, Todd Fawcett, Cheri Hoggart, Pearl Fawcett, Brianne Crawford, Helen Thomson, and Denise Vaughn.

CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire stratfordtimes@gmail.com

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BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTING CLERK

We are a mid-sized, well established general contractor/construction company looking to hire an Bookkeeper/Accounting Clerk that is a detail-oriented, an enthusiastic individual to help us manage our books. Responsibilities include: data entry, MS Office (Word/Excel-intermediate/advanced) required, you will be the first point of contact, assist in all accounting functions.

Our company is fast-paced, yet a comfortable family-style environment. This position will be in office, remote working when weather or other circumstances arise that a remote day may be needed. If you are a confident multi-tasker who thrives in a fast-paced, growth-focused environment, then this job would be a good fit for you.

Accuracy, confidentiality, and excellent organizational skills are essential qualifications for this position. The successful candidate will excel at customer relations and be able to communicate clearly with the team and customers.

Responsibilities

- Provide accounting/bookkeeping functions/services with accounting department
- Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable (invoicing and collection)
- Posting and entering data accurately
- Prepare and maintain accounting documents and records
- Prepare bank deposits, general ledger postings, statements and bank reconciliation
- Reconcile accounts in a timely manner
- Daily posting of key data of financial transactions in database
- Provide assistance and support to company personnel
- Reconcile/validate, track and restore accounting or documentation problems and discrepancies
- Inform management and compile reports/summaries on activity in all areas of accounting
- Other administration tasks that will arise from time to time/reception
- Regularly update job-related knowledge

Requirements

- Proven accounting experience, preferably as an Accounts Receivable or Accounts Payable/bookkeeper position
- Familiarity with bookkeeping and GAAP accounting principles/procedures
- Competency in MS Office, databases and JONAS
- Hands-on experience with spreadsheets (intermediate/advanced)
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Possess analytical thinking/skills
- Ability to perform filing and record keeping tasks
- Data entry and word processing skills, well versed in English language (written/verbal)
- Well organized and fast learner

Qualifications:

- Post-secondary degree/diploma, accounting or adjacent field
- 3 years of experience is preferred, general contracting experience is a definite asset
- Knowledge of construction management software (Jonas) is an asset or equivalent
- Strong organizational, analytical, interpersonal, and communication skills (written & verbal)
- Ability to work independently
- Intermediate/advanced Excel experience (Adobe, Microsoft Outlook, Word/Excel experience)

Please send your resume to employment@nithvalley.com

We would like to thank all applicants for their interest; however, we will contact the most qualified applicants only.

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COMING EVENTS

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STRATFORD WARRIORS
February 10, 17, 20, 24;
Allman Arena, 15 Morenz Dr, Stratford
Come out and support the Stratford Warriors

STRATFORD FIGHTING IRISH
February 11; 4:30 p.m.,
Allman Arena, 15 Morenz Dr, Stratford
Come out and support the Stratford Fighting Irish

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER
Tuesday, February 21; 5 - 7 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church
Join your neighbours at St. Paul's for a delicious meal of pancakes and sausages to mark Shrove Tuesday, the day before the season of Lent begins! The meal will be served downstairs, in the Hope

Bowra Hall and entry is pay-what-you-can. Proceeds from the night will support the continued ministry of St. Paul's Church.

DISABILITY JUSTICE FORUM
Thursday, February 23; 6 - 8 p.m.
The Local Community Food Centre, 612 Erie St, Stratford
A public screening of Ballinran's short film, McKenzie's Story, followed by a moderated panel discussion with representatives from all three levels of government. MP John Nater, MPP Matthew Rae, and Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma

have all committed to attending this solutions-focused discussion on advancing disability justice.

GARDEN STRATFORD MEETING
Monday, March 6;
6:30 - 9:00 p.m
Army Navy Hall, 151 Lorne Ave. E., Stratford.
"Uncommon Vegetables; Common Pests" The meeting will begin with a Garden Chat about "Gardening on a 'New Build' Lot" Speaker Presentation: Prof. Amy Turnbull, Fanshawe College, "Uncommon Vegetables; Common

Pests" Meeting open to Everyone; free admission.

CHARITY HOCKEY GAME
Saturday, March 18; 8 p.m.
William Allman Memorial Arena, 15 Morenz Dr, Stratford
This exciting game will feature the Stratford Professional Firefighters Association facing off against a

full line-up of former NHL hockey heroes. This fantastic community event promises lots of skills and lots of laughs, and is guaranteed to be fun and memorable for all ages! Tickets are \$30. Tickets available at www.ProHockeyHeroes.com or by calling the Event & Ticket Line 1-800-516-5810.

HAVE A COMING EVENT COMING UP?
Let us know! Call 519-655-2341 or email stratfordtimes@gmail.com

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Cameron Diaz
- 2) A joey
- 3) Black Sabbath
- 4) Geoffrey Chaucer
- 5) Watgate
- 6) Faye Dunaway
- 7) Valhalla
- 8) Ironside
- 9) Charles de Gaulle
- 10) Oenology

SUDOKU

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

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