

# STRATFORD **TIMES**

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NOVEMBER 2022

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## Santa's Parade of Lights Returns to Stratford December 4

Santa Claus is coming to town! On Sunday, December 4, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., citizens are welcome to attend Santa's Parade of Lights in Stratford.

This year's parade will take a scenic route along the shoreline of the Avon River. At 5 p.m., the parade will start at Hillcrest Drive and William Street, moving east along William Street to Lakeside Drive North, across the Festival bridge, heading west along Lakeside Drive past the Stratford Festival and ending at the Tom Patterson Theatre.

Fifty floats are expected to participate, and Santa Claus will be in the final one, expected to arrive at the Tom Patterson Theatre at 6:15 p.m. The entire parade route will be closed to local traffic starting at 3 p.m.

To ensure the health and safety measures are met, parade floats will not hand out any items to attendees along the parade route, and walking into the route, by the public, is strictly prohibited.

Hockey patrons attending the William Allman Arena will be permitted to access the arena parking lot off North Street and special arrangements for additional parking at the Tom Patterson Theatre off Waterloo Street/Water Street, Lower Queens lot off Queen Street/Lakeside Drive, and Upper Queens Park on Richard Monette Way will be made available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Public washrooms will be available at the William Allman Arena.

On Sundays, Stratford Transit provides an On Demand service. On Sunday, December 4, the hours of Stratford Transit On Demand will be extended until 7:30 p.m.

This event is coordinated by the Stratford and District Saddle Club and the City of Stratford. For event details, visit [www.stratford.ca/en/play-here/santasparade.aspx](http://www.stratford.ca/en/play-here/santasparade.aspx)



**IRISH EYES ON THE PUCK** (FRED GONDER PHOTO)  
 Cooper Leitch (44), Graham Brulotte (10) and Ray Robbins (10) of the Stratford Fighting Irish are deep in the Tillsonburg zone anticipating a point shot in their October 22nd game versus the Thunder. Look to page 20 of this month's paper for more coverage on both the Fighting Irish and the Stratford Warriors.

## Students and CUPE members back in class

LEE GRIFFI

Regional Times Correspondent

Students are back in area classrooms this week. The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has accepted an olive branch from the Doug Ford government and are back at work following a two-day labour disruption. Early

childhood educators, educational assistants, custodians, and administrative staff walked off the job on Friday after the province passed Bill 28 which mandated a contract for 55 thousand workers across Ontario. As of press time the two sides were meeting at a downtown Toronto hotel after the government presented CUPE with a new proposal.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



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# 'Love always wins. Hate never wins'

## Sirkel Foods owner thankful for support

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

After a local takeout restaurant was the target of a hate crime, the eatery received plenty of support from the city, businesses, and residents.

On November 1, Sirkel Foods announced on social media that hateful, homophobic graffiti was sprayed on the door, dumpster, and window at the back of their building.

Following the incident, the City of Stratford and several local businesses showed their solidarity on social media. The City Hall, the Stratford Public Library, and the Stratford Festival flew Pride flags. Whiter Smiles Dental Hygiene Clinic and Inspired by Fitness collected donations to support the restaurant and IATSE Local 357 set up a GoFundMe page. Madelyn's Diner sold 2SLGBTQIA+ solidarity pins to raise money for their Adopt-A-Family fund.

Kelly Ballantyne, owner of Sirkel Foods, said the support has been great. Many people have come into the restaurant and told staff they cannot believe what happened and that they stand in solidarity.

"It's just so amazing to feel so loved, actually, by the community," Ballantyne said.

On November 2, Stratford Police Service announced the incident at Sirkel Foods would be investigated as a hate crime and encouraged anyone with information to come forward. The press release said the vandalism happened overnight between October 31 and November 1, but an exact

time is unknown. Sirkel Foods faced vandalism earlier this year when eggs were thrown at the restaurant's building on Sept. 16, but so far, no suspect was identified nor is it clear if the incidents are related.

Stratford-Perth Pride held a November 2 meeting to address concerns following the hateful graffiti and discuss what to do when hateful incidents towards the 2SLGBTQIA+ community occur.

"There was a woman who said she's afraid to bike home after working at the festival because she's alone and on her bike," Ballantyne said. "We need to be together and if you see somebody yelling at somebody, you can say 'Why are you being like that? There's no need for this.' We should be supporting each other."

Newly elected Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma and Stratford Police Chief Greg Skinner attended the meeting. Ballantyne said that during the meeting, Skinner encouraged anyone who experiences a hateful incident or sees it happening to report it to police.

"They can have it on record, you can see a pattern of where it is happening and then maybe we could actually catch somebody," she said.

When asked if there was anything else she'd like to talk about before the interview with the Stratford Times wrapped up, Ballantyne said "Love always wins. Hate never wins."

Anyone with information can either call Stratford Police at 519-271-4141 or CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

## 2022 Municipal election voter turnout barely lower than 2018 election

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

The 2022 Stratford Municipal Election saw fewer voters than the previous election. However, voter turnout was still above 40 per cent.

The City of Stratford website listed the 2022 election results, which elected Martin Ritsma as Mayor. The

incoming council will feature many new councillors including Larry McCabe, Harj Nijjar, Taylor Briscoe, Lesley Biehn, Mark Hunter, and Geza Wodorfa, along with incumbent councillors Brad Beatty, Bonnie Henderson, Jo-Dee Burbach, and Cody Sebben. Michael Bannerman and Bruce Whitaker were elected as Avon Maitland District School Board trustees and Tina Doerhty was elected as the trustee for the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board.

The 2022 Municipal election web page posted that voter turnout was 43.9 per cent. In an email sent

to the Stratford Times, city clerk Tatiana Dafoe said that the voter turnout has always been greater than 40 per cent in Stratford's municipal elections since 2006.

Dafoe also said that there was a slight decrease in the total number of eligible voters in 2022 compared to 2018. The 2022 Stratford Municipal election saw 11,661 voters cast their ballots, just 16 voters short of the 11,677 in the previous 2018 municipal election.

"There are a number of factors that can affect voter turnout in any election including, but not limited to: Competitive races; Issues in the community; Voter fatigue following the Federal and Provincial election," she said.

Prior to Election Day on October 24, Stratford residents could vote in advance starting October 14. When asked about advanced voter turnout in the 2022 municipal election compared to the 2018 election, Dafoe said that the city will prepare a post-election report filled with information about the election for council to review in early 2023.

Now that the election has come and gone, Stratford residents can volunteer to serve on local boards and advisory committees to engage with municipal politics.

"This is a great way for the public to become involved in the community and to make recommendations to Stratford City Council for consideration," Dafoe said. "The City has also been using additional tools to engage with the public such as the EngageStratford platform."

Stratford's next Municipal and School Board Elections will take place on October 26, 2026. Results can be found on stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/municipalelection.

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(SARAH CAIRNS PHOTO)

**PUMPKIN PARADE**

Residents were able to enjoy the creative pumpkins that were on display behind Stratford City Hall on November 1. All pumpkins were donated to a local wild boar farm.



(SARAH CAIRNS PHOTO)

**JOIN THE SKELETON PARTY**

Melissa McKerie's Skeletons of Vivian Line had quite an impressive set up again this year. The theme was Dancing under the Stars! Their website states that October 2022 marked the 9th season of the Skeletons of Vivian Line, showcasing over 200 different displays with no repeats. This year's total raised is \$20,322, although donations are still coming through from online donations and shirt sales. McKerie said "the most important number is that 84 children suffering from cleft lip and facial differences will receive a new smile through Operation Smile Canada thanks to the generosity of skeleton fans and the support of the Dairy Farmers of Ontario."

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# STRATFORD TIMES

Stratford's Community Newspaper

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## Inside the Numbers: How did the incumbents do versus 2018?

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

This year's Stratford Municipal Election was a particularly interesting one, given that a new Mayor was to be chosen and that only five incumbent councillors were on the ballot versus 24 challengers.

Counted ballots were down slightly in both the Mayoral Race and Council Race versus 2018. In 2022, the Mayoral vote count of 11,521 was down 1.2% versus 2018, while the Council ballots of 11,638 this year was down 0.2% from 2018's total of 11,658.

### Mayoral Race:

Similar to in 2018, there were three candidates running for the office of Mayor of Stratford. In 2018, incumbent Dan Mathieson earned 68.9% of the 11,658 votes cast, while 31.1% of the voters supported challengers Tom Drake or Andrew Fraser. The 2022 vote showed slightly higher support for the "challenger" versus 2018, with Robert Ritz earning 34.8% of the vote while Council incumbents Martin Ritsma and Kathy Vassilakos collectively received 65.2% of the vote. Ritsma, who led the 2018 Municipal Election in Councillor votes, received the most Mayoral votes in 2022 with a total of 4,350, or 37.8%.

### Council Race:

Of the five incumbents that ran this year amongst the 29 candidates, Cody Sebben (up 1,005) and Jo-Dee Burbach

(up 668) increased their vote totals versus 2018, while Bonnie Henderson, Brad Beatty and Dave Gaffney were down significantly from their 2018 vote totals, though only Gaffney was unseated from Council, missing out on the 10th spot by just 21 votes.

In total, the five incumbents received 22,268 votes, which was down 13% from the 2018 total of 25,506. In contrast, within the 2018 election there were eight incumbents on the ballot (amongst 23 total candidates), with all 8 of them increasing their vote totals over 2014, and by an average increase of 37%.

Sebben first ran for Council in the 2014 election, finishing 14th with 3,064 votes. He improved to 7th place in 2018 with 4,974 votes, and led the pack in 2022 with 5,979 votes.

Of those who were running for Council for the first time, Mark Hunter led the way with 4,676 votes (finishing 3rd), followed by Larry McCabe (4,340 votes for 5th), Harj Nijjar (4,335 votes for 6th), Lesley Biehn (4,159 votes for 7th) and Taylor Briscoe (3,991 votes for 8th). Just missing out on Council seats but still showing strong support were Rob Russell, Ian Morton, and Tim Forster. Finishing 10th this year was Geza Wordofa who received about 6% less votes (3,357 vs. 3,577) than in 2018 but still had enough to earn the final spot on the new Council.

Now that the counting of ballots is done, the new Council will be sworn in at its inaugural meeting on Monday, November 21, 2022.

## Letters to the Editor

Good evening to you all at Stratford Times.

I just want to send along my sincere thanks to you for that election issue which provided us detailed coverage of the various candidates vying for Mayor and Councillors and School Trustees here in Stratford and Perth. I have seldom ever felt as prepared to vote as I did today, hav-

ing had that material and what those high school students provided to make more valid choices.

BRAVO!

Votes cast today... on this computer.

Sincerely,  
James

There is a press release on the webpage of 740FM and dated October 13th, 2022, that the planned Long Term Care facility which was to be built behind the Fire Station just off McCarthy Road in Stratford, has been cancelled. It was to be constructed in conjunction with People Care whose facility at Waterloo and Mornington Streets was flooded a couple of years ago. The Long-Term Care Facility was to be put on Hyde lands between McCarthy Road and Quinlan Road, and it has now been announced that these lands are too small. Shovels were to be put in the ground for construction this past Spring. The facility is now being considered for the Stratford Grand Trunk Site. By the time all studies are completed, and potential con-

taminants removed, it will take 5-10 years, and we still will not have a long-term care facility for Stratford.

We need uncontaminated level land, that is currently available and easily serviced. Perhaps the portion of lands at the corner of Erie and Line 29 (where they proposed to put the Glass Plant) would provide a much need Long-Term Care facility for Stratford within a more realistic time frame.

If this matter is not given priority, the people of Stratford and area will suffer.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Sylvester  
Stratford

# STRATFORD TIMES

## Guiding Principles

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated



# Tom Patterson Theatre: A Christmas Market hub

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

A beloved Stratford Festival venue will be home to two Christmas craft shows during the festival's off season.

Both Sip and Shop Stratford and Stratford Makers Market will be holding events at the Tom Patterson Theatre.

Sip and Shop Stratford will host a Christmas Night Market at the Tom Patterson Theatre on Wednesday, November 16 starting at 5 p.m. Guests can buy a drink at the bar and sip while they shop. Royal de Jong, the owner of Sip and Shop Stratford and Bird and Bear Shop, explained Sip and Shop is well-known for their night markets. Most of their events are held at the Stratford Country Club, but de Jong wanted to hold an event in the Tom Patterson Theatre because of the visually stunning building.

"It's such a beautiful building architecturally. We are excited to just be in there. It's so beautiful and we're so excited to allow people to come and check out the gorgeous building that may not have been able to get in there for theatre or whatever" de Jong said. "I think a lot of people would be excited to be able to come and check out the building as well as shop at the market."

De Jong enjoys Christmas markets, as well as any of the markets throughout the year, because of the atmosphere and the chance for customers to be more interactive with the vendors and the items they carry.

"I love getting to see my customers face-to-face and to chat with them. They can touch, smell and look at things up close" she said.

She also made a lot of friends through the vendors at the Sip and Shop Stratford

events and likes to get together with them at the markets.

"It's great to support them. I love giving them a place to sell their stuff as well," de Jong said.

The event will cost \$2 to attend. More information on Sip and Shop Stratford's Night Market at the Tom Patterson Theatre can be found via [facebook.com/events/763428755109521](https://facebook.com/events/763428755109521).

On Sunday, November 27, the Stratford Makers Market will host a Christmas Market at the Tom Patterson theatre from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature a cash bar and cafe, Christmas carols, and pictures with Santa. Donations for Stratford Rotary Hospice will also be accepted. There will be more than 50 vendors in attendance.

"We just decided we wanted to do something different for Stratford and because

Tom Patterson Theatre is a new venue. We thought with the way it's all open and the windows we thought that it would be very nice to have a market in there," Brittany Henry, Stratford Makers Market organizer and owner of Brittany's Bath Bombs and More, said.

Henry is looking forward to the cheerful spirit of the guests at the upcoming event as they support local businesses.

"Everyone just seems to be in a good mood. I love when people come out and support the small businesses. People who do crafting put so much time and passion into what they sell and it's so nice when they make a sale. It's going all out to their family or to whatever they like to do," she said.

To learn more about the Stratford Makers Market event, visit [facebook.com/events/900716304651576](https://facebook.com/events/900716304651576)

## Area students and CUPE members back in class

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Matthew Rae is the Conservative Member of Provincial Parliament for Perth-Wellington and says he sees both sides of the issue. "There were obviously those who were concerned over Bill 28 and there were some concerned, especially parents, that kids were out of school. The focus of the government has been to ensure students remain in class. After two and a half years of pandemic disruptions and learning loss students need stability. They need to be in class with their friends, doing extracurricular activities and recovering from the last few years."

Rae was hopeful CUPE would accept the government's offer at the end of October which he says was extremely generous. "Minister (Stephen) Lecce came forward with a new generous offer which represented the largest increase in compensation for education workers in over a decade and it also protected their benefits and pensions. We asked them to not move forward with any strike notice, 100 per cent focused on getting a voluntary agreement. We just asked them to remain at the negotiating table. Unfortunately, CUPE chose to pursue their strike notice which led to us taking further action."

Despite the perceived bad blood between the two sides, Rae is hopeful this new round of talks will result in an agreement. "This is about getting a deal that is fair for our children, our workers, and fair for parents. Students don't deserve to be in the middle of negotiations, so we are still focused on ensuring our kids stay in class."

CUPE Local 3615 represents employees at the Huron Perth Catholic School Board and its President Joe Tigani says he couldn't be prouder of his co-workers and union members. "We

stood strong, staring down an attack against our rights. Now the Premier needs to follow through on his promise and repeal Bill 28 and come back to the table to meaningfully negotiate. Our central bargaining committee is at the table." Tigani adds CUPE is ready to reach a deal that invests in schools, supports good jobs, and provides resources for students. But he warns they are prepared to strike again. "That's what education workers deserve and what the people of Ontario expect. But if this government doesn't budge, if they insist on undervaluing workers or ignoring the needs of students, the entire labour movement is ready to show our power again. We made this government blink. They thought they could bully the lowest paid education workers to get their way. Parents, workers, and students deserve better."

Mary Helen Vanloon is the chair of the Huron Perth Catholic School Board and says Monday's announcement was a big relief. "We are so grateful. It's so good to have them back where they belong in school. We are hopeful things will return to normal and both sides will be able to reach an agreement that is fair and equitable. It's been a crazy few years for sure."

Affected boards across Ontario quickly shifted to online learning once CUPE walked off the job, something Vanloon says they were ready for and will be again if

necessary. "One thing we learned from the pandemic is that you can move quickly. If we suddenly have to make changes, we can do that. We are just hoping and praying that both sides will come to the table with the interested of our kids in mind. That is the desire of both sides, they really want to do the best job for our students."

Individual boards themselves have little involvement in actual negotiations and in fact the Huron Perth Catholic Board is represented by the Ontario Catholic Trustees Association at the table. "As a board we are more reactive in what happens, but the actual bargaining is out of our hands. It is frustrating in a way when we can't help but that's reality."

Vanloon says it is the board's desire that a solution meeting the needs of all stakeholders can be reached in a timely manner. "We would like both sides to bargain in good faith. As a board, as parents, as teachers, want our kids in school so we can teach, and they can learn, and life can get back to normal. There is stress and there is tension, and we feel for parents who are working and suddenly their kids are at home. We feel also for our employees who just want to receive and equitable wage. It's a difficult situation all the way around."

Not every parent has an appreciation for what the roles of CUPE staff are since not every child sees an early childhood educator

or educational assistant. Vanloon says the pandemic did begin to show people the importance of those staff members. "Our custodians and our EA's and our ECE's had such an important role in supporting our students, especially during that time when everything was upside down. If it doesn't really apply to you, you maybe don't have an understanding but if you are the parent of a special needs child then you realize the importance of what they offer and provide in the classrooms. All of those CUPE workers are a very intricate and necessary part of our education system."

The Avon Maitland District School Board was not affected by the labour disruption.

IMPROV UNDER HYPNOSIS

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# Gurdeep Pandher brings Joy, Hope and Positivity Tour to Stratford

LISA CHESTER-HANNA

Times Correspondent

Gurdeep Pandher, the internet sensation from the Yukon known for his Bhangra dancing, made a recent stop in Stratford during his cross Canada tour. Bhangra dancing has become a traditional dance of celebration of the Punjabi people, and Pandher has been sharing it with the world via video since 2016.

His first video success was completely by accident, "I was asked to perform on Canada Day, and a friend made a video of me dancing. The performance was posted on the internet and overnight it blew up with over 300,000 views," said Pandher.

The Joy, Hope and Positivity tour started on the east coast, with notable stops along the way in Newfoundland, PEI, Nova Scotia and with plans to continue through all the provinces. He has been meeting with people and teaching them to dance, sharing his message of joy, hope and positivity.

The highlight of the tour so far is hearing from people how his videos have brought joy and positivity to their lives, particularly during the pandemic. He recalled in particular a woman who was battling cancer and found so much peace and joy in his videos.

Among those people that he has met along the way, is Stratford's own, Stewart Reynolds aka Brittlestar. They first met on Twitter and quickly developed an online friendship. With a callout from Brittlestar on social media, about two hundred people gathered in market square on a late and chilly October afternoon to meet Gurdeep Pandher and to learn the Bhangra dance



## BRINGING THE JOY

Gurdeep Pandher and social media sensation Brittlestar pose for a picture during Gurdeep's cross Canada tour.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

from the master.

With arms waving, alternating leg hopping, the chill of the air was soon forgotten and the crowd enthusiastically followed along with Pandher, who first instructed each step, then introduced the rhythmic drumming to accompany the dance. Upon mastering each step, a chant rang out of "Happy, happy, happy". For about an hour, strangers became friends and danced and laughed together. Passing cars honked and waved, and local business wondered what the heck was going on.

"Bhangra dancing can't help but bring joy and happiness," claims Pandher. Written on his website, he says, "Joy is more than having fun. Joy means your nerves are calm, your anxieties are elsewhere."

Bhangra is a dance form that originated in Punjab, a state in the north of India. Pandher said the dance started from farmers who were looking to add some fun into their agricultural activities. This dance has a lot of connection with the land or with farming, and all the moves tell stories behind different farming activities. It is also an excellent workout for cardio, and the balance necessary.

Brittlestar and Pandher also collaborated on a new video together in which they were visiting and promoting famous spots in and around Stratford. After greeting each other at the city limits, they visit the Tom Patterson Theatre, the Stratford Perth Museum, the steps of the Avon Theatre, and finally market square where the community danced. The results are hysterical, and can be viewed on YouTube on Brittlestar's channel.

## Lights on Stratford announces seven successful recipients to create light displays within local storefronts and spaces

In collaboration between RT04, Destination Stratford and Lights On Stratford, seven local businesses were successful in their applications to create their own light displays to coincide with this year's Lights On Stratford winter festival of lights.

As part of the Shareable Moments Challenge, the organizations have invested \$25,000 towards supporting highly shareable light displays and experiences within the community. Operators were challenged to be bold and creative, finding unique ways to illuminate and entice visitors and community members to snap a photo of their light display and share online with family and friends.

"From restaurant windowfront tables lit from within to the Canadian premiere of a made-in-Stratford short film hosted at the World's smallest cinema, this year's Lights On Stratford Shareable Moments truly celebrates our community's creativity," says Zac Gribble, Executive Director of Destination Stratford and Festival Director of Lights On Stratford. "We can't wait to share these unique light displays and experiences this winter."

"RTO4 is pleased to be partnering with Lights On once again. The festival has real-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

ly made a name for itself and grown over the past couple years, and it's so positive that Lights On strives to be an event for the local community as well as visitors", states Leigh Cove, Destination Project Manager, RT04.

The successful 2022 applications selected for co-investment include:

- Burnt Brydges Wood Co. for "Golden Hour Tables"
- El Cactus Taco Shop Inc. for "Dare, Dream, Do"

- Got it Made for "Don't Quit Your Daydream"
- Local artists: Claire Scott, Amparo Villalobos, Kris von Kleist in collaboration with Revival House for "Love Wins Illuminated"
- Poppin Kettle Corn for "Happy Memories"
- revel coffee inc. for "Brewing Community"
- The Little Prince Cine-Lounge for

"What's a Memory?"

Entering into the 3rd year, collaborating partners are delighted with the passionate and creative applications received.

The challenge included 4 target goals that were carefully considered when evaluating each application for funding. These goals included:

- **Highly Shareable** - create share worthy social media opportunities that leverages the visitor as marketer.
- **Community Support & Engagement** - develop unique displays involving the community to entice both visitors and locals to become engaged and increase visitation during the duration of the festival.

**Amplify DNA & Placemaking** - Amplify the DNA of a destination or business and support placemaking, space animation and storytelling.

**Digital Storytelling** - Bring awareness to the importance of digital storytelling, particularly on social media.

The 3rd annual Lights On Stratford - with this year's theme of REKINDLE - is set to launch on December 16th, 2022 and runs through to January 27th, 2023. Visit [lightsonstratford.ca](http://lightsonstratford.ca) for more details.



# Berger Plumbing: A young couple building a business in Perth County

GARY WEST

*Times Correspondent*

Since 2009, this young couple has been making a difference in the Stratford, Shakespeare and Perth County area with their business named “Berger Plumbing.”

Like many young couples, Jeremy and Cherise at Berger Plumbing have always dreamed of having their own business. Jeremy says “he decided on a Friday to quit the job he had and the following Monday took a leap of faith to start his own business.”

He bought a topper for his pick-up truck to work out of, and within two years hired his first employee and bought a work van as the business continued to grow.

Jeremy Berger was raised in North Easthope Township in Perth County. He attended North Easthope Public School and Northwestern High School and began working on a plumbing apprenticeship at Hertel Plumbing, knowing he wanted



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

## YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS

Heading to another plumbing call is Jeremy Berger, pictured here with partner and finance manager Cherise Pletsch.

to learn a trade. Through the following years, he worked for Jantzi Plumbing near Wellesley and McGregor Plumbing

and Heating near Tavistock.

Fast forward a couple years, and currently they have seven employees plus

themselves, and are looking to hire more plumbers and apprentices, if they can find them. Most of the work is in Stratford and Perth County and surrounding areas and Jeremy says 50% of their work is on area farms and 50% is in residential housing.

Jeremy, like his father Jim Berger, who toiled in the construction business, works long hours and knows what it takes to be dedicated to his trade. He and Cherise and daughter Carley have expanded their business in the last couple of years to include heating, complete bathroom renovations, mini excavation and skid steer work along with mini bin rentals.

They both say “that if it wasn’t for the support of family and friends, they’re not sure where their future would have been.” As we all know, this country is built on small independent companies such as Berger Plumbing whose entrepreneurial spirit provides jobs for the present and into the future.

## City of Stratford, peopleCare Collaborate on Planned Long Term Care Home

The City of Stratford and peopleCare Communities continue to collaborate on the planned development of a new long-term care home in Stratford.

Two City-owned properties have been identified for further discussion: a portion of the Grand Trunk site (also known as the Cooper block), or a property on Vivian Line 37 in the north end of the City.

The new long-term care home is part of an envisioned campus of care inclusive of a range of seniors housing and supports to be developed in stages. Pending due diligence and other requirements being met, the first stage would include the construction of a 160-bed long-term care home on a portion of the Grand Trunk site just outside of the downtown core.

“Advancing the 2018 Grand Trunk Master Plan has been a key priority for us,

and this collaboration with peopleCare is an important step forward,” said Mayor Dan Mathieson, “The planned development will go a long way toward meeting a critical need in our community.”

“peopleCare is delighted to be rebuilding a new long-term care home in the heart of Stratford,” says Brent Gingerich, Chairman and CEO of peopleCare Communities. “On behalf of Bob and Myrna Schlegel, and peopleCare Communities, I want to thank Mayor Mathieson and City Council for their continued support to bring these much-needed long-term care beds to fruition.”

The Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care and then Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece announced in January 2022 that approval had been given to peopleCare to re-develop a new long-term care home in Stratford.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

## BINGO!

Wightman Rotary TV Bingo congratulates two recent winners. Pictured above are Gerry Thuss, Stratford Rotary President; Judy Ripley, \$500 winner on November 1st; Cameron Green, VP Customer Acquisition; Carolyn Drummond, Rotarian & Co-Chair of Wightman Rotary TV Bingo Committee. Absent is Doris Wolfgram, \$500 winner on October 11th. Bingo plays every Tuesday on Wightman TV. The Wightman Rotary TV Bingo program launched in Stratford. Bingo tickets are sold for \$5 each with 2 bingo cards inside.



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## Rotary Club set to host Christmas Craft Festival

The Rotary Club of Stratford has announced they are hosting a 2022 Christmas Craft Festival during the November 11th weekend.

This annual event was not held the previous two years due to the pandemic, so the Rotary Club is hopeful that the local community will return to support this seasonal fundraising event, with proceeds going to support community needs including Rotary Hospice, COM-MIT, Aquabox and more.

Over 60 artisan and craft vendors have signed up to participate.

Rotary encourages attendees to “go green” by taking transit to the event, carrying reusable shopping bags, and by avoiding single use food containers by bringing their own coffee mugs and water bottles. For anyone needing a snack break, food service at the festival will be offered by local caterer Black Angus.

If you go:

**Location:** Stratford Rotary Complex (353 McCarthy Rd, Stratford, ON)

**Dates:** Friday Nov 11th 5-9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Price:** \$6 Adults, Children under 12 years of age free

**About the Rotary Club**

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

**About Christmas Craft Festival**

Christmas Craft Festival is an annual vendor style event for visitors to explore and purchase hand made crafts with the spirit of the holiday gift giving.

More information can be found on the Rotary Club website [www.rotarystratford.com](http://www.rotarystratford.com)

## Festival Marketplace is now Stratford Mall

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

There's new ownership and a new name for Stratford's shopping mall.

Central Views, a Cambridge-based property management company owned by Omar Kaake and Bryan Dykstra, purchased Festival Marketplace in August and is currently working on re-branding the facility with a new name (Stratford Mall) and a new website which is under construction. Allison Ballantyne is the new property manager of the mall.

The mall contains approximately 40 stores, and during the Christmas shopping period is running at full capacity thanks to the introduction of some pop-up seasonal stores. Stratford Mall also will be hosting a Black Friday event later this month, where shoppers will have a chance to win Toronto Maple Leaf tickets as part of the "Black and Blue Friday Giveaway". The contest runs from November 14 to 27. Visit [www.blackfriday.stratfordshopping.ca](http://www.blackfriday.stratfordshopping.ca) to enter.

Along with rebranding of the facility,

## Stratford Mall

Shopping FOR REAL LIFE

Central Views also has plans to bring a new modern look to the exterior entrances and invest in the mall's food court to attract new restaurants.

Stratford Mall will also continue to provide community spaces for organizations such as Stratford Public Library, House of Blessing, and the Royal Canadian Legion.

Central Views was founded in 2017 and has grown its property holdings significantly over the past five years – now controlling roughly 1,500,000 square feet of retail space and working with more than 350 businesses. Achieving high occupancy is one of their key focuses in the facilities that they operate. In recent years, the company has revived several purchased properties, and within their overall portfolio, are reportedly maintaining an occupancy rate north of 95%.

## Transportation Master Plan - Phase 2 Public Consultation

The City of Stratford is moving forward with the next phase of its Transportation Master Plan (TMP), a long-term strategy to guide the planning and management of the City's transportation system. That includes driving, walking, cycling or taking public transit.

During the first round of public consultation, feedback was sought on the study's vision and objectives, and identifying transportation needs and opportunities.

Now, citizens are asked to provide their

input on potential transportation solutions and projects to meet those needs, opportunities and priorities.

Please visit the Transportation Master Plan project at <https://engagestratford.ca/transportation-master-plan>, and view the virtual display boards, which outline potential solutions.

Then complete the online survey to help shape the recommendations.

The second round of public consultation will be open until November 20, 2022.

## Perth County Wins Prestigious Provincial Tourism Award

On October 26, 2022 at the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO) Ontario Tourism Summit, Perth County's Economic Development and Tourism department was awarded an Ontario Tourism Resiliency Award for their Discover More Adventures experiential tourism program.

The 2022 Ontario Resiliency Awards are designed to award and celebrate excellence in tourism work happening across the province in three key categories: Innovation, Sustainability, and Collaboration. Perth County was a selected as a finalist for Innovation alongside Destination Toronto and Ottawa Tourism. Perth County came out on top in the Innovation category, taking home an Ontario Tourism Resiliency Innovation award.

“It is such an honour to be recognized provincially for this program that so many inspiring entrepreneurs and business owners are at the heart of,” said Ashley Lansink, Perth County Tourism Officer. “We are incredibly proud of the Discover More Adventures program and even more proud to say that Perth County has a collection of exciting, award-winning, tourism experiences to offer the world.”

The Discover More Adventures program was first launched in the summer of 2021. Since launching, the Perth County Economic Development and Tourism



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ashley Lansink, Tourism Officer, and Meredith Forget, Manager of Economic Development and Tourism

team has worked with numerous local business owners to launch 14 Signature Experiences across the county.

For more information on Perth County's Discover More Adventures program visit [perthcounty.ca/discovermoreadventures](http://perthcounty.ca/discovermoreadventures).

## Queer Book of the Month Club

*Felix Silver, Teaspoons & Witches* by Harry Cook

@SPL: J FIC Cook

Felix Silver is feeling a bit lost when his parents announce that while they both love him, they are getting a divorce. Felix's newly discovered magical powers are making it difficult for them to sort out their lives, and they decide that Felix should go and live with his Granny Aggie in Dorset Harbour.

Felix has already shown an interest in witchcraft and sorcery, and Aggie, who is part of a local coven of witches, decides Felix should practice his magical powers under her supervision. She also enrolls Felix in the local high school, where he quickly becomes friends with Fern, Colin and Aero, all of whom have the gift of witchcraft too.

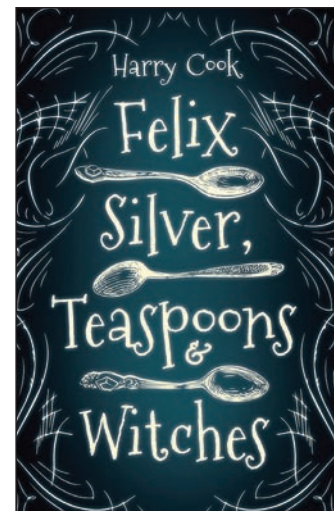
However, dark forces are afoot in Dorset Harbour, and three teens have gone missing in a matter of days. Felix and his friends discover that this also

happened hundreds of years ago and that history seems to be repeating itself. They set out to find out who is responsible.

Meanwhile Felix and Aero begin to fall in love, but Felix has already had his heart broken once and he's scared of his feelings for his friend. Should Felix take a chance on his feelings for Aero? And what is the secret that Aero is keeping from Felix?

*Felix Silver, Teaspoons & Witches* is a fantastic adventure involving witches, spells, dragons and mermaids. The group of friends reminded me of the characters in Harry Potter, and Aggie and her group of eccentric witch-friends are a little bit like the Golden Girls – eccentric and fun. At 260 pages, it's an exhilarating read, and will appeal to teens and preteens alike.

Heather Lister  
Public Service Librarian,  
Stratford Public Library



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# Graham Greene honoured with Canadian Walk of Fame celebration

LISA CHESTER-HANNA

Times Correspondent

Stratford's own Graham Greene was celebrated at the Tom Patterson Theatre with a memorial plaque unveiling in honour of his 2021 induction to the Canadian Walk of Fame. The free public presentation took place in the Lazaridis Hall on October 17, 2022 with a full house in attendance.

The festivities opened with an introduction by Jeremy Snow, executive director, Ontario West Operations, Cineplex, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Stratford Festival actor Sean Arbuckle. Speakers included Jeffrey Latimer, CEO Canada's Walk of Fame, (former) Mayor Dan Mathieson, Antoni Cimolino, artistic director Stratford Festival.

Greene brings with him an enviable acting pedigree, but he hadn't started out with aspirations of acting. Before embarking in the arts, he was involved in the trades and stumbled into acting. He now has over one hundred acting credits to his name after more than fifty years, not the least of which was as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* at the Stratford Festival and also Lenny in *Of Mice and Men*. He has received numerous awards, including an Academy Award nomination for *Dances with Wolves* and the Order of Canada.

Greene is known to be a community minded and caring man. With this award comes a \$10,000 donation to a charity of choice. Greene, having once run his own cat rescue, chose to evenly split the dona-



## WALK OF FAME

Jeffrey Latimer, CEO of Canada's Walk of Fame, Graham Greene and Ron Sexsmith

(ANN BAGGLEY/CANADA'S WALK OF FAME PHOTO)

tion between the Stratford Perth Humane Society and the Alley Cat Café.

He also has a wonderful sense of humour. Upon reaching the podium, he put on his glasses, pulled out a piece of paper, pretended to read it as he mumbled to

himself, chuckled, read some more then threw the paper out.

"I didn't really write anything down," he said.

"My most interesting teacher was a park bench, I just watched people and ob-

served things to see how they reacted to different things. On a chance meeting one night in Toronto I asked Richard Monette, what do you think about me coming to the festival? He had me by the pant leg like a pit bull and I signed the contract."

When asked what his takeaway was from his time at the festival he quipped, "About \$200,000 a year" before turning serious and talking about how the theatre should be the starting ground for all actors for the discipline it builds.

"I used to show up at 4:00 p.m. to get ready to perform. People asked, 'why are you here so early?' and I would say that I'm getting ready, those people are spending money to sit in those seats to watch me and I want to be the best that I can be, that's why I'm early," Greene said.

"It is indeed an honour to be walking through some pretty tall corn with all these people who are part of the Walk of Fame and I've been lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time. And all of you, the community of Stratford that have welcomed me with open arms after a while," he smiled.

Stratford is extremely important to Greene, it is where he calls home, where he hangs his hat and where his friends and colleagues are. It is like a warm sweater to him. He said it is great to celebrate with family and friends, and was surprised to see how many people came out to for the plaque unveiling.

The festivities closed with a performance by another famed Stratford performer, Juno award winner Ron Sexsmith.

## Destination Stratford launches largest Christmas Trail yet

Destination Stratford is thrilled to announce the expanded return of the popular Christmas Trail. The 2022 trail hit a record number of participants this year with a total of 33 stops, each with their own hand-selected holiday item. The Christmas Trail was first launched in 2014, and has become a visitor and local favourite each season.

"We are very pleased to welcome back our Christmas Trail for another season. This unique, retail-focused trail is always highly anticipated and has become a cherished holiday experience that visitors and locals have enjoyed for the past 8 years," says Zac Gribble, Executive Director of Destination Stratford.

The Christmas Trail is just \$35 plus hst and participants will enjoy custom-

izing their own merry adventure by selecting six unique gifts from the fun, festive and trendy offerings across the 33 stops on the trail. The Christmas Trail can be purchased in person at Destination Stratford, located in the heart of the city at 47 Downie Street, as well as Bradshaws. Stratford is the best spot to hub and spoke as you make your way to St. Marys and Shakespeare to discover more holiday gifts included in your selection.

On your journey you will discover holiday gifts, home décor, seasonal treats and so much more. Participating Christmas Trail stops are ready and waiting to welcome you as you shop your way around town. Make your holiday selections at: Apt. 6 Skin Co; The

Barkery; Black Angus Bakery & Catering; Blowes Cards and Gifts; Bradshaws; Brch & Wyn; The British Touch (Shakespeare); Dale + Co; Distinctly Tea; Got It Made; Hyggeligt Fabrics (St. Marys); illum Wellness Spa; JENN & Larry's; Junction 56 Distillery; Kinna Sohna; La Osa Jewelry & Vintage; Lady Glaze Doughnuts; MacLeods Scottish Shop; Miss Sophie's; Olive Your Favourites; Poppin Kettle Corn; revel; Rocky Mtn Chocolate; Small-Mart General Mercantile; Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters (St. Marys); Stilettoes & Sawdust; Stone Home Creatives (St. Marys); Stratford Country Club; Touchmark; Treasures; Werk-Shop; White-Balmer Shoes; Wills & Prior.

Trail vouchers are presented at each of the 6 stops of your choice to redeem your holiday item. Christmas Trail vouchers are valid until December 20, 2022. Trail participants are encouraged to share their experiences on social media using #StratfordChristmasTrail.

Find more details about the 2022 Christmas Trail at [visitstratford.ca/ChristmasTrail](http://visitstratford.ca/ChristmasTrail). Stay up to date on all things happening this holiday season by checking out our event calendar, including our upcoming Lights On Stratford Winter Festival starting December 16th until January 27, 2023.

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# 2022 Business Excellence Award Recipients



(DAVIDIAM PHOTO)

## RETAIL AWARD

The Bakery! A Healthy Bakery for Dogs were presented the award for their exceptional customer service. Rick Rolleman, Heidi Rolleman, Kelly Semple, Niomi Schragner, Julie Hamilton were in attendance to accept the award.

The Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce presented their 2022 Business Excellence Awards at the Best Western Plus the Arden Park Hotel. We welcomed over 300 attendees to our premium Business Gala. The event celebrated the success of businesses in Stratford, St Marys and surrounding area over the past year in eleven categories. Judged by a panel of six judges, including head judge Krista Robinson from the Stratford Public Library.

This year the awards are in their 25th year and reflect a history of business growth, commitment to professional excellence, innovation, and community engagement.

Courtney Teahen from Teahen Kitchens & Cabinetry & Franklin Famme from Famme & Company were the emcees for the evening. Their light-hearted warmth and wit set the tone for the evening.

### Award Winners

The Business Leader Award went to **Joani Gerber**. The award was announced by Danielle Walker from RBC Royal Bank.

The Innovation Award is presented to a business which has invented or developed an innovative product or process resulting in measurable and substantial increases in one or more areas – revenue, productivity, job creation, reduction in costs, and improvements in service – of products, management, manufacturing, customer service or technology. This year's award was announced as **Destination Stratford** by Peter Maranger or Peter Maranger & Associates.

The Professional Award goes to a professional practice which demonstrates best practices in all areas of their operation to ensure maximization of their capabilities and capacity through ongoing education, accreditation of employees and enhanced workplace opportunities. The award went to **Mc-**



(DAVIDIAM PHOTO)

## NON-PROFIT/CHARITABLE AWARD

Out of the Ashes – Large Animal Rescue were presented the award for their everloving care for large animals and finding them their forever homes. Tammy McCurdy, Angie Hurst and Mallory Phillips are pictured above accepting the award.

**Cutchen & Pearce Professional Corporation** and was announced by Travis Blum from IG Wealth Management.

The Entrepreneur Award is chosen to honour an emerging business which has been exceptionally entrepreneurial in exploring opportunities, weighing risks, growing their operations and demonstrating both business achievement and steady financial performance. Mitchell Sullivan, (BMO Bank of Montreal) announced the award winner as **Malt Management**.

The Retail Award is given to a retailer who has exhibited marketing and sales innovation, customer service excellence, and employee engagement. This year's winner was announced by MJ Thomson from Tanurb the winner was **The Bakery! A Healthy Bakery for Dogs**.

The Commercial Award recognizes a business which provided services and/or products to individuals or businesses and which consistently has delivered excellence in service and support of their product or service. **Ken Robinson Refrigeration Inc.** was announced as the award winner by HIP Development.

The Non-Profit/Charitable Award is given annually to a not-for-profit that has significantly contributed to the overall quality of life within the community and its citizens through programming and activities. The award was announced by Amber Schalk (BDO). The award winner is **Out of the Ashes – Large Animal Rescue**.

The Manufacturing Award is chosen to recognize a manufacturer who has shown strong sales performance, taken advantage of growth opportunities, manufacturing or product innovation, and invested in new marketing initiatives. The award was announced as **Cooper Standard** by Peter Brickman from Famme & Company.

The Hospitality Award is presented to an accommodation and/or food business which has demonstrated exceptional com-

mitment to customer service, staff knowledge, quality and consistency of product and enhancing the public stature of the community. This year's winner was **Braai House** and the award was announced by Michael Carmichael (UpAuto)

The Service Award is given to a business who has demonstrated a continuing commitment to best practices in customer service and support. This year's winner, **The UPS Store** presented by Darren Johnston from TD Commercial Banking.

The Business of the Year Award is awarded to a business which has demonstrated a commitment to professional ethics, excellence in customer service, a willingness to engage in innovation, an ongoing responsibility to its staff and an involvement in its community over the years. This year's winner was **McCutch- en & Pearce Professional Corporation** and the award was announced by Dan Mathieson from the board of investStratford.

The Chamber thanks the Presenting Partner of the Gala, RBC Royal Bank, and the Platinum Partner investStratford. Special thank you goes to the Municipal, Gift, Award, Prize, Blue Carpet, Big Screen, and IT Partners as well as the Gold and Silver Partners for their commitment to acknowledging business excellence in their community through the 2022 Awards Gala.

The Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce congratulates all the nominees and winners for their business success and the recognition by their peers of the contribution that these businesses make to our communities.

Any questions or information about the Business Excellence Awards gala can be directed to Eddie Matthews, General Manager, Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce. [manager@stratfordchamber.com](mailto:manager@stratfordchamber.com) or 519-273-5250.

## Weekend Quiz

- 1) Who recently became the first musical artist in history to claim all top 10 spots on the Billboard Hot 100 chart at one time?
- 2) What year was Twitter founded?
- 3) Which Bobby took Mack The Knife to No 1 in the charts?
- 4) Who became the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on October 25?
- 5) What do the letters CUPE stand for?
- 6) What 2022 fantasy drama television series includes characters named Viserys, Daemon, and Rhaenyra?
- 7) What was the favorite food of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?
- 8) According to Nancy Sinatra what are boots made for?
- 9) Which state is called the Bluegrass State?
- 10) What do the letters HST stand for?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31



# Sculpted for Eternity

HAYDEN BULBROOK

Times Contributor

November 6, 2022 marked 100 years since Walter Seymour Allward's war memorial was unveiled in Stratford. A photo taken on the unveiling day in 1922 shows hundreds of gatherers observing the memorial at the intersection of Ontario Street and Erie Street, its former location before it was removed in 1961 to the present peaceful spot on the south shore of the Avon River. The monument's granite - sourced from Quebec, its bronze figures - the largest to have been constructed in the country at the time - were cast in Toronto, and sculptor Walter S. Allward was born in Toronto. In essence, it was an all-Canadian monument, a point chairman of the War Memorial Committee, William Preston, told gatherers when it was unveiled. A century later, in a year particularly rife with conflict, its symbolism is just as relevant.

Walter S. Allward was born in Toronto in 1875. Having trained as a draftsman, he studied sculpture at the New Technical School in Toronto from 1891 to 1893. He rented his first studio in 1894. Allward's reputation grew after his figure of "peace" monument that commemorated the Northwest Resistance of 1885 and for another Toronto memorial that recognized Canada's Boer War participation. He also sculpted a statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1901 and a memorial of Alexander Graham Bell in 1917. As with all art, there is influence and influencers. Allward's foremost influencer was French sculptor Auguste Rodin, who is often regarded as the founder of modern sculpture. Allward's methodology directly inspired renowned Canadian sculptors, Emanuel Hahn and Elizabeth Wyn Wood.

Allward's magnum opus is without a doubt, the Canadian National Vimy Me-



(VINCE GRATTON COLLECTION. PHOTO)

The unveiling of Allward's Stratford War Memorial, November 6, 1922.

morial near the town of Arras, France. The memorial has been described by Laura Brandon as the "culminating achievement of its artist."

In May 1917, the Imperial War Graves Commission was established. It was the duty of the commission to give the dead a proper burial, to establish proper cemeteries, and to determine a means to memorialize not only the dead but the missing. The IWGC gave Canada eight battle sites to construct memorials. Three battle sites were in France and five were in Belgium.

In September 1920, the Canadian Battlefields Memorials Committee was established and given a three-fold objective. First, it had to obtain land for the monuments, then it needed to hold an architectural competition to determine an appropriate monument. The only appropriate location for the monument, according to

military officers and high ranking officials, was Vimy. It was decided on April 26, 1922, at a meeting which Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King attended. Allward's monument would not only be placed at Vimy, but at its highest point, Hill 145. A three-person jury consisting of Charles Herbert Reiley of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Paul Cret, of the Société Centrale des Architectes in Paris, and Frank Darling of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada evaluated 160 designs. Allward's design was selected.

Allward commenced working on the memorial in 1922, after the Stratford memorial. It would take him 11 years to complete the Vimy Memorial that would be unveiled by King Edward VIII on July 26, 1936. A little over three years later, Canada would declare war against Nazi Germany.

Fear of defacement or destruction grew as Germany invaded France. The Vimy Memorial, a symbol of peace, ironically, had as its protectorate Adolf Hitler who stationed his Schutzstaffel to protect it from defacement by regular Wehrmacht soldiers during the German invasion of France in the Second World War. It was alleged that Hitler admired its peaceful nature. Confirmation that the memorial was undamaged was not determined until British troops recaptured Vimy Ridge in 1944.

Vimy Ridge itself has been regarded as Canada's coming of age. Lesser known, is that April 9, 1917 became Canada's bloodiest day having cost the lives of 2,414 Canadian soldiers. A steep price, it is dwarfed by the perverse fact that the ridge had already claimed over 300,000 Allied soldiers. As humans we sometimes struggle to understand the meaning behind figures. Reflection reminds us of precious life cut short by war.

Before the Vimy Memorial, Allward focused on completing the Stratford War Memorial. The Stratford memorial is a marked departure from earlier war memorials in Canada which commonly positioned a lone soldier on a pedestal. Two bronze sculptures are mounted on a wide slab of granite flanked by two taller narrower granite slabs. The memorial is cloaked in symbolism. One figure is the spiritual man holding

a palm branch, a symbol of peace, looking upward toward the heavens while the other represents strife, as he looks downward in defeat, covering his face in disgrace and carrying a broken sword. Right has triumphed over might. However, anguish is seen in the eyes of this figure as he looks up reminding the observer of sacrifices made. Life vanquished. An inscription reads, "They gave their lives to break the power of the sword." For me, I have always admired how the memorial does not glorify battle or war. It is not chauvinistic or jingoistic. It is a far cry from the bellicose and jovial nature of 1914 when boys left with a duty to prove themselves. Victory is still tragedy.

Initially, the memorial listed the 345 locals who died in conflict in the First World War. To commemorate the 10th anniversary since the Second World War ended, an additional 158 names were added to the memorial and it was re-dedicated on May 8, 1955. A hundred and fifty-five of those names belonged to those killed in the Second World War. The remaining three were those who died in the Korean War. Of note, the ranks of the fallen are not listed. There is no hierarchy, no superiority. The dead are regarded equally.

Though Remembrance Day is but one day a year, a 1923 article from the appropriately-named magazine, *The Maple Leaf*, reminds us that the Stratford War Memorial "has not only honored the memory of her glorious dead, but has paid a tribute to Canadian art and brought recognition to Canadian workmanship." A few moments at the memorial any day of the year invokes a power that arrests the outside world and draws an individual into reflection. It is a sacred monument that has been sculpted for an eternity.



(HAYDEN BULBROOK PHOTO)

"Spiritual Triumph" versus "Brute Force"



(LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA PHOTO COLOURIZED BY HAYDEN BULBROOK)



# “To Stratford with Love”, bringing people together again

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

An annual tradition of caring celebrates its 34th year with the “To Stratford with Love” banquet set for Saturday, December 17, 2022 at the Rotary Complex at 353 McCarthy Road. This follows two years where the event shifted to “home delivery” due to the social distancing restrictions during the COVID pandemic.

To Stratford with Love is organized by Richard and Ruth Kneider of Simple Dreams Ministries, who pull the event together along with much help from roughly 250 volunteers.

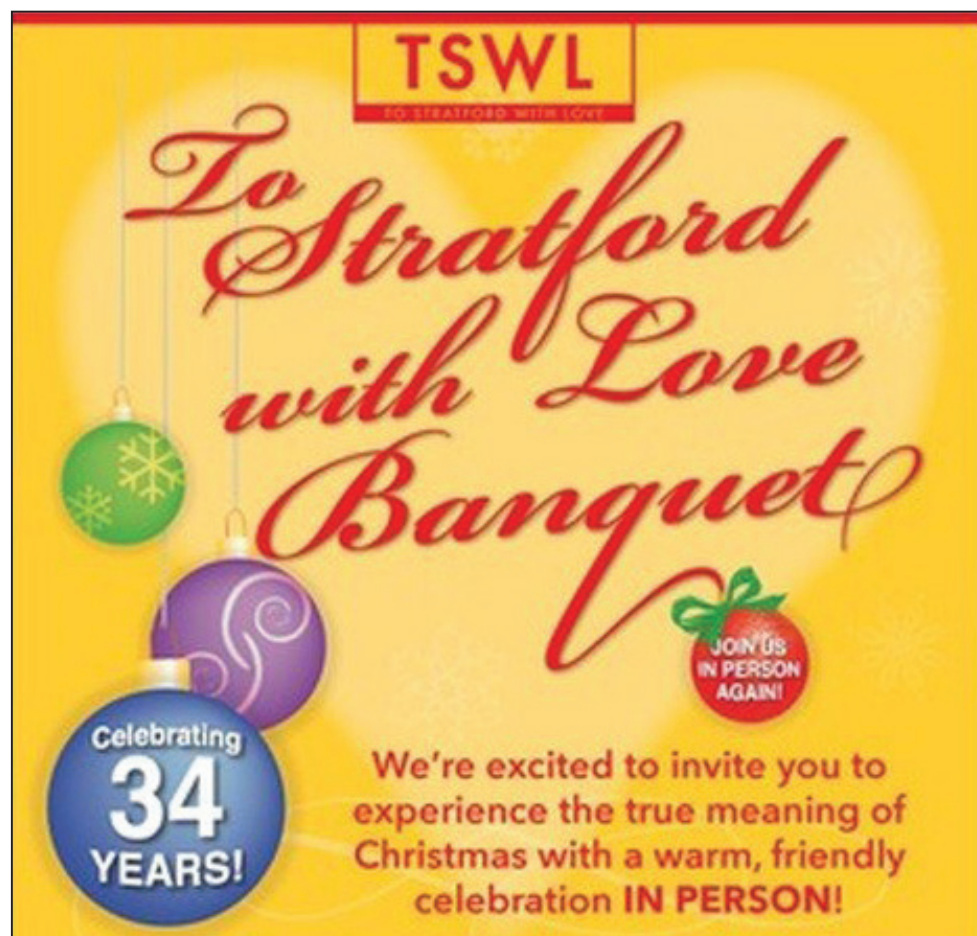
“I can’t tell you how excited we are to have everyone get together again for this Christmas dinner,” Richard told the Times.

Thirty-four years ago, “To Stratford with Love” was created, with Richard and Ruth finding inspiration from a new pastor at Bethel Church in Stratford who asked, and answered, the question, “Why are we here? As Christians, we are here to serve.”

Shortly thereafter, the Kneiders decided to put together a Christmas dinner for those less fortunate. The first such dinner was hosted at the Knights of Columbus, with about 250 in attendance.

The event has grown significantly since then, both in size and scope.

“It’s not just for the needy anymore,” Richard said. “The dinner is for people



within the community to come together in the spirit of fellowship, regardless of social status.”

Kneider shared with me many stories of

how, over the years, the Christmas dinner has brought people together in meaningful ways. For some, the occasion was an opportunity to reconnect and rebuild

relationships. For others, including those who were home alone for Christmas for the first time, it brought tremendous comfort.

The event is free for all. “All these years... we have never sold a ticket and never asked for money,” Richard explained.

Of course, it is the generosity of so many that have allowed this truly special event to grow over the years. Much of the food has been donated by community-minded people and businesses, and so many others have donated their time or donated money on the website [www.to-stratfordwithlove.ca](http://www.to-stratfordwithlove.ca). “And we never say no to pies,” laughed Richard.

The aforementioned website is also where people can, as of November 12th, register online for the dinner. Complimentary tickets are also available starting November 12th at House of Blessing, Salvation Army, City Hall, Madelyn’s Diner and The Local Community Food Centre.

The event is sponsored in part by local churches, businesses and individuals. Already, the 600 pounds of beef that has been ordered, the four local restaurants have been secured to prepare the meat, and also the potatoes, carrots, dinner rolls, and coleslaw have been sourced.

“To Stratford with Love brings a real cross-section of people together for an enjoyable evening,” said Richard in great anticipation of the December 17th Christmas dinner.



# The Rise of Stratford's Stellar School

JULIA SCHNEIDER

Stratford Times Correspondent

The University of Waterloo's Stratford School of Interactive Design and Business celebrated its tenth anniversary on October 27 with a full house of alumni, faculty, government and community members. Looking back to its beginning, around at its successes, and forward to its future, speakers made it clear that the School would shape that future through the role it has forged as a ground-breaking training ground for leaders in the creative use of technology for a sustainable world.

The genesis of the School was remembered by those involved in a message broadcast to all present. Mayor Dan Mathieson spoke of the 2005 meeting of the Southwest Economic Alliance where a chat with then University of Waterloo President David Johnston over coffee started the whole thing going when he said he'd love to have a university presence in town. Tom Jenkins, CEO of OpenText, a University of Waterloo spin-off that publishes the Oxford English Dictionary online, and Antoni Cimolini, Artistic Director of the Stratford Festival, joined in and embraced the idea, as did the University of Waterloo's Dean of Arts Ken Coates.

As noted by Ginny Dybenko, the School's recently-retired Executive Director, a gap was found in Canada's training for digital technology and, long story short, a marriage of business, technology and creativity was born. As OpenText's Jenkins says: "The goal was to create in one graduate someone that was comfortable telling a story and writing code and then throwing in business and marketing just to make it, you know, the secret sauce."

"We would have a fantastic degree."

The School has gone from a small initial class to the present 700 students in its 4-year Global Business and Digital Arts (GMDA) undergraduate and its smaller graduate Master of Digital Experience Innovation (MDEI) programs and gathered notice and accolades; a Ph.D program is on the horizon. In 2017, the School's GMDA was listed as the Best Undergraduate Program in Can-



## TAKE A SEAT

The Chair design project: the tomato can chair



## MARKS 10 YEARS

The atrium at the School with the 10th anniversary logo on the wall.

(JULIA SCHNEIDER PHOTOS)

ada in UX Design by ROSSUL Design Inc.

After Dr. Christine McWebb, the School's founding director and professor, welcomed everyone to "a great place to work" she spoke of the challenges of its early days, its extensive overseas programs and co-op work-study program, and big plans for its future, including a student residence. She invited everyone to enjoy the refreshments and view the student displays on the first and second floor.

### The experience of two graduates

Having attended the School's opening ten years ago, I felt I had missed a lot since then. Then I was most impressed by the superb raspberry tarts in the spectacular three-story glass-front foyer of the building at 125 St. Patrick Street, but since then had only ventured inside a couple of times. I'd never talked to students about their studies; this seemed a good opportunity to do so.

Two 2022 GMDA alumni who were seated at an enormous table covered with doodles that looked like modern graphic art and design helped me out by answering some questions about the School and their experience at it. Both Vincent Robson and Riley Sauer struck me as very thoughtful and reflective individuals who were fully cognizant of the power of technology in the modern world and aware of the need to use

it conscientiously.

"Technology can be a powerful force... and can be weaponized," Vincent said. "It's thought of as neutral but it's not, but it can be neutralized and become something positive" if used ethically.

Both Vincent and Riley said courses focusing on ethics were central to the School's positive approach. This approach has won accolades, as in the project of a team of students, the Virtuous Waste group, who won the World Vision Social Innovation Challenge award in 2019 for coming up with a process by which seaweed could replace plastic waste to counteract the pollution in the Philippines. Needless to say, this process has world-wide applications; the group received a monetary award for their innovation.

Central to the School's courses is an experiential, team-based approach to learning. Vincent and Riley worked on the same team and found it an eye-opening experience. Vincent spoke of "coopitition" as preferable to competition in getting the best out of students by benefitting from the contributions of individual members with different skill sets while working together without one dominant leader.

A full 98 per cent of graduates find work post-graduation. Riley told me he is work-

ing as the marketing director for a gas company; Vincent is teaching fishing and archery at a camp for children with cancer up north. While the latter may seem far from his creative background, Vincent says that he is able to use what he has learned about working with others and team-building in his job. The camp has hosted team-building groups from schools as diverse as Havergal and Mohawk College, and his experience is invaluable.

Riley said that when it comes to employers, "Everyone is looking for soft skills."

"They don't care so much for the technical abilities," which graduates are assumed to possess, "soft skills are what they are looking for."

A large part of the soft skills Riley mentioned to me is the ability to communicate about technology in a way others can understand and storytelling is part of that communication. After thanking Riley and Vincent for sharing their experiences and time with me, I ventured to another part of the first floor, to the display of student work done for 200 level design class. In this project students related some personal experience from their past, then wrote a story about it using a chair they created to emphasize its affective aspects.

One example of these was a tomato soup can chair. The student who designed it wrote about how he loved the tomato soup his mother made but that, when she found out how much he liked it, started to make him way too much. She overdid it! The humorous chair expressed both the overabundance and how he felt about it; it is both an amusing object and an effective communication tool.

### The video experience of another student

I went upstairs after viewing the Chairs. There I viewed some videos and was particularly impressed by one by Jessica Silverberg addressing potential students about a day in her life at the School.

Like many of her fellow students Jessica commuted from Waterloo and elsewhere to get to Stratford. Her day started loading some of her friends into her car for the drive. Arriving at the Campus, she was greeted by Administrative Assistant Sheri Maguire, whom she said "keeps me happy."

There follows her two classes of the day and a team meeting after each. At noon she takes a break to visit Soup Surreal and Revel for refreshments. Then she stops at the Media Centre Library to borrow some technological aides. And heads home. This light and involving video succeeds mightily as a recruitment tool due to its very personal and relatable approach.

By the time I left University of Waterloo's Stratford Campus Friday afternoon I had a much more well-rounded view of the School and its programs. It seemed a place which brought together creative, technologically adept students wishing to make their mark in the world in a program where they could learn how to do so through experience and inspired guidance. My visit helped me to a better understanding of the School and what it does and hence, my best wishes for and confidence in its continued success.

Julia Schneider has a M.A. in Arts in English Language and Literature from the University of Waterloo and now wishes she could study at the Stratford Campus!



# Remembrance Day in Stratford 1970

## Douglas George Landers

BETTY JO BELTON

Stratford-Perth Archives

This photograph of Katie Landers at a Remembrance Day ceremony was on the front page of the Stratford Times on November 11 in 1970. Elsewhere the Times reported that though it had been “25 years since the Second World War ended, the turnout of veterans for the annual Remembrance Day service at St. John’s United Church Sunday morning was one of the largest in years... Three bands took part as well as members of the fourth battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, from Stratford and London, members of the ladies’ auxiliaries to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch No. 8, and the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans’ Association, and Air Force Cadets.” The Times’ editorial that day picked up on the theme, commenting that “Sunday’s parade, wreath-laying and cenotaph service, as well as today’s, provide a rather sharp contrast with those of recent years, when there had been a considerable flagging of interest in Remembrance Day – partially because of the thinning ranks of world war veterans and partially because as the



which threatened it could not be tolerated. This year’s Remembrance Day observations have been the soberest in years, which is as it should be. They should indicate to us not that war is glamorous or even that it is a final solution to problems which confront world nations, but rather that it is a grim example of mankind’s failings.”

Mrs. Landers was a Silver Cross Mother. The Memorial Cross, as the medal is formally known, has been presented since the end of World War I “as a memento of personal loss and sacrifice on the part of the mother and widow of a sailor or soldier of Canada or Newfoundland who laid down his life for his country.” Since 2007, Canadian soldiers have been asked to choose up to three people they would like the medal awarded to should they die while serving.

Mrs. Landers’ son, Private Douglas George Landers of the West Nova Scotia Regiment, died in Italy on September 16, 1944. It was about a month before his nineteenth birthday. He was wounded the day before he died while fighting in the Battle of the Gothic Line. It has been described as “one of the most important victories won by Canadian forces in the Second World War.” He went to Shakespeare Public School and Stratford Collegiate. Just before registering for active service in the Canadian Army, he was a knitting machine operator at Avon Knitting Co in Stratford. When he enlisted, the army

examiner described him as a “somewhat slim...keen and spirited young man, who creates the impression of being energetic and earnest in his intentions... having above average learning ability, with aptitude and enthusiasm for driving...he comes from a large, apparently well-adjusted family of eight children in which he is the oldest boy, and he seems quite sociable...Active in sports, he has played organized baseball and hockey. For two years he was a member of the Y.M.C.A. where he took P.T. and played basketball.



Remembrance Day  
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time increases between the present and the end of the Second World War, memories of the sacrifices it called for and the reasons it was fought tend to become more obscure. We would all do well to reflect on some of those reasons and remember that the war was fought primarily to preserve our forms of democracy and to demonstrate that aggression and suppression

ment, died in Italy on September 16, 1944. It was about a month before his nineteenth birthday. He was wounded the day before he died while fighting in the Battle of the Gothic Line. It has been described as “one of the most important victories won by Canadian forces in the Second World War.” He went to Shakespeare Public School and Stratford Collegiate. Just before registering for active service in the Canadian Army, he was a knitting machine operator at Avon Knitting Co in Stratford. When he enlisted, the army

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# Remembrance Day in Stratford 1970

He is generally interested in Motor mechanics." Private Douglas George Landers is buried in the Gradara War Cemetery in Italy but also memorialized on his parents' stone in Avondale Cemetery in Stratford. When his mother died in 1989, among the first things said in her obituary

were that she was a Silver Cross Mother and a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 8, Ladies Auxiliary.

This article is based on information and images from the collections at Stratford-Perth Archives. [www.stratfordpertharchives.on.ca](http://www.stratfordpertharchives.on.ca)



## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021

(FILE PHOTOS)

Dayna Manning sings 'God Save The Queen' as the Rev. Canon Dr. Lorne Mitchell looks on. Below, Poppy-laden wreaths that adorn the Stratford Cenotaph at the conclusion of the service.



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**Stratford Branch 8**

**ATTENTION: CANADIAN VETERANS AND EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL**

Branch 8 offers assistance, through the services of Veteran Affairs Canada, to eligible veterans, their spouses, widows and dependents through the Poppy Fund.

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

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

**804-B Ontario St., Stratford N5A 3K1**  
[stratfordlegion008@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordlegion008@gmail.com)



# STRATFORD **TIMES** SPORTS

## Fore Everyone Golf looks to cure wintertime blues



### GOING FOR THE GREEN

(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

At the Fore Everyone Golf & Multisport facility at 1060 Ontario Street, golfers can play elite courses from around the world (such as Wolf Creek in Nevada, pictured) anytime of year.

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Golfers this year have been fortunate to have an extended season, thanks to the warm temperatures that have continued into early November. However, we all know that winter will soon be upon us.

The good news is that the golf season can continue all year round thanks to the simulators at Fore Everyone Golf at 1060 Ontario Street in Stratford.

Owners Chris Gavin and Kyle Hudson opened the business last October, but their initial winter season was interrupted by the COVID restrictions. This year, they feel the business is well-positioned to fill the winter void for the growing sport of golf.

Manager Anna Mullin recently provided me with a tour of their facility, which includes a licensed lounge along with three simulators. Two simulators are dedicated strictly to golf while the third simulator offers 20 multi-sport options including hockey, football, baseball, basketball, dodgeball and sport shooting, making it a great option for birthday parties or other special events.

All three indoor simulators use advanced computer vision technology to measure all critical ball and club param-

eters during a golf swing to provide for realistic feedback to golfers. There are over 40 golf courses to choose from, including world-renowned courses such as Pebble Beach, St. Andrews, Pinehurst No. 2, Banff Springs, and Torrey Pines.

"We charge by the hour," Mullin explained. "Our public simulators are \$40 per hour plus tax, while our private room simulator is \$45 per hour plus tax. If you want access to multi-sport, there is a \$10 surcharge per booking. We also have cheaper rates Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. where it is \$5 off per hour."

Mullin suggested that for a full round of golf, players should plan for about an hour per person, but this can be reduced if players decide to just play 9 holes or if they choose not to putt.

The enticing lounge at Fore Everyone includes a big-screen television to watch the big game, a fully licensed bar, and various dining tables to enjoy pub fare such as hand held sandwiches and wraps, wings, flat breads, salads, and more.

For more information on this winter golf fix, visit [www.foreeveryonegolf.ca](http://www.foreeveryonegolf.ca), call them at 519-305-5800, or stop by their location at 1060 Ontario Street. If planning to use the simulators, it is suggested to reserve your spot in advance.

## Amiera Black, world champion!



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

### THE GREAT EIGHT

16-year-old Amiera Black and her mother Jennifer show off the eight medals (four golds, four silvers) that Amiera won at the recent World Down Syndrome Swimming Championships in Portugal. Black is a student at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School and a member of the Wilmot Aquatic team in New Hamburg.

# Thank You!



## Royal Canadian Legion Stratford Branch 8

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# Pursuit Climbing – Build it They Will Come



(LAUREN EEDY PHOTO)

## CLIMBERS DELIGHT

Cole Johnson standing in front of one of the many climbing walls in Pursuit Climbing.

LAUREN EEDY

Stratford Times Correspondent

An exciting new recreational concept has opened its doors at 615 Erie Street, Unit 2 in Stratford which is sure to get local climbing enthusiasts excited.

Cole Johnson, a Stratford local, started climbing at a young age - he went on climbing excursions with his class to the Grand River rocks in Kitchener and this began a lifelong passion for the sport. He explains you still get the same feeling as a kid when climbing - seeking a challenge and finding it within yourself to solve that. Since a teen, he dreamed of owning his own business, always in the back of his mind while pursuing an education into other more mainstream fields but still always felt a pull toward something more creative. He began with radio broadcasting, then graduated in environmental studies and the latter catered to his love for the outdoors. This is where the idea of Pursuit Climbing was born.

I had the pleasure of speaking with Cole about his new endeavour. "Rather than do the mold, I wanted to set a new path and create something to be passionate and proud of" Cole said. His goal is to create 'a community of likeminded individuals in Stratford and area. Pursuit Climbing is a welcoming space for families and individuals, no matter their experience level. I want to

ignite and foster the pursuit of climbing." Climbing is well known to be a recreational sport full of supportive and encouraging individuals and Pursuit Climbing is no different. The gym offers several bouldering walls and route options/combinations which will be coming soon to the space soon. Climbing can cater to varying levels of experience so from beginner to intermediate to advanced capabilities - there is something for everyone in this at Pursuit Climbing. As he says, "you can pursue something super scary that seems an insurmountable task but take your goal and stick to it. It's a huge sense of achievement, it becomes a hook and source of adrenaline. It's like solving problems with your mind and body."

Pursuit Climbing has already received lots of interest and positive feedback, the official grand opening of the gym was Saturday, October 29th. There are multiple pricing options via passes or memberships as well as rentals, so you don't need to worry about buying new equipment if you don't own any. Lessons and group events are also available.

Please visit [www.pursuitclimbing.com](http://www.pursuitclimbing.com) or Pursuit Climbing on Facebook for more information.

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**SCARY SKATING**

(SARAH CAIRNS PHOTOS)

Stratford Skating Club held their Halloween dress up skates on October 26 where the kids got to enjoy showing off their costumes, spooky music and of course candy. Above; Everitt the Dinosaur (3), Myles as Spiderman (3) and Lauren (7) Top Right; colourful Ruby (3) Right; Nate as The Hulk (4), Nora the mermaid (4) with Harriet the cat (4) Bottom Right; Attwell (6), Rylah the kitten (3)

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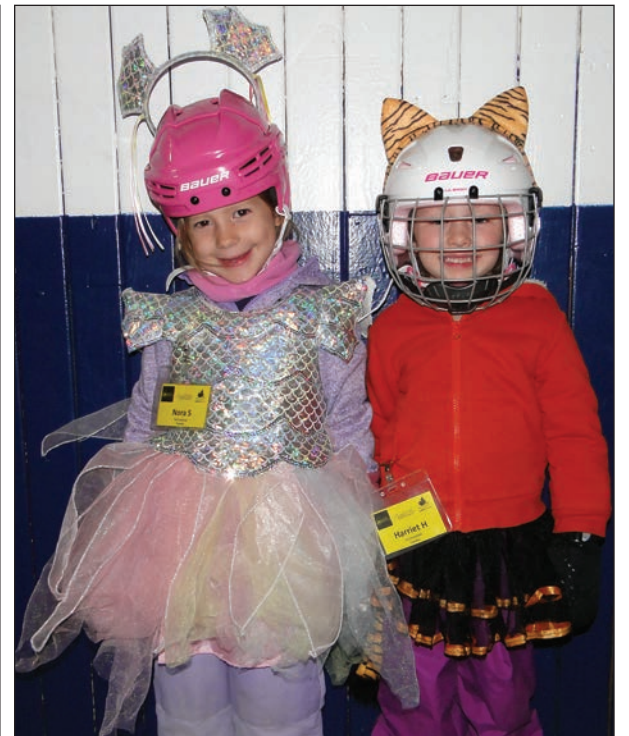
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# Pro Hockey Heroes vs. Stratford Professional Firefighters Association

Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth and Stratford Professional Firefighters Association in partnership with Pro Hockey Heroes, are pleased to announce this upcoming charity hockey game!

The game will be held at the William Allman Memorial Arena, 15 Morenz Dr, Stratford on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at 8:00 p.m. The doors open at 7:00 PM

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!

This game is in support of Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth's mission to provide compassionate, meaningful, end of life care for all persons in the community. In partnership with other healthcare providers and professionals, they offer excellent palliative care

to help ease emotional, physical, social, and spiritual suffering for those who are dying, their families and friends.

Last year's line-up included Wendel Clark, Rick Vaive, Gary Leeman, Bernie Nicholls and more.

We would be happy to offer tickets as giveaways! Just please email community@benefitshow.net in advance to discuss details.

Tickets available at www.ProHockey-Heroes.com or by calling the Event & Ticket Line 1-800-516-5810.

Get tickets at the door for \$30 each if they last! Discounts are available in advance.



THE SALVATION ARMY STRATFORD-ST. MARYS REGIONAL COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

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# Fighting Irish win three straight after slow start

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

It took a couple of games for the Stratford Fighting Irish to get on the right page but after they did, they picked up three consecutive victories in the first five games of the WOSHL season.

The first game of the season was against the Tilbury Bluebirds on October 15th, one of four newly-added teams to the league. A three-goal first period by the Bluebirds catapulted them to victory, with the final score being 6-2 in Tilbury's favour. Both goals by the Fighting Irish came in the second period, with Branden Speziale and Cameron Stokes finding the back of the net for Stratford. Goaltender Nathan Young was pulled after allowing the fifth Tilbury goal in the middle frame, with Zack Weir coming into the game in relief. Weir allowed one goal in the third, in which the Bluebirds outshot the Fighting Irish 21-9.

A slow start once again hampered the Fighting Irish when they hosted the Tilsonburg Thunder at the William Allman Arena, as they allowed five goals in the

opening period. However, four straight goals by Stratford, including three in the second, brought the game within one. In the middle frame, Graham Brulotte got the Fighting Irish on the board with an even-strength goal, while Cooper Leitch potted a powerplay goal and Brock Trichilo netted a shorthanded tally. The three goals came within four minutes and 42 seconds.

Ray Robbins added a goal in the third but Tilsonburg scored twice to leave Stratford with a 7-4 win.

Stratford finally got into the win column a week later and did so with an absolute demolition of the Plattsville Lakers. The Fighting Irish set a record for shots on goal in the contest, outshooting the Lakers 73-13 in the game. The first period had the lowest shot differential, with the Fighting Irish leading 19-5 in shots. In the second, the shot clock read 26-3, followed by 28-5 in the third. Despite this, going into the final 20 minutes, the Fighting Irish only led the game by a score of 2-1, with Speziale scoring both of Stratford's goals. In the third, however, the Fighting Irish found the back of the net four times, with Stokes, Robbins, Trichilo, and Colin Martin each getting a goal. Young picked up the first win of the year in goal.

Although not quite as lopsided, the Fighting Irish once again outshot their opponent in the first two periods on November 5th as they battled the Kill-

er Bees of Alvinston. The shots were 38-25 through 40 minutes but, much to the chagrin of Stratford, the game was tied at two apiece. However, despite getting outshot 15-9, the Fighting Irish scored three unanswered goals in the third period alone en route to a 5-2 victory. Brulotte had a hat-trick, two of which came in the third, while

Stratford also got goals from Maverick Petrie and Warren Gorman.

The next day seemingly brought some positive déjà vu for the Fighting Irish who picked up another 5-2 victory, led by a three-goal second period and a hat-trick from Brulotte, over the Strathroy Jets. Speziale and Leitch also scored in the game while Weir earned both wins against Alvinston and Strathroy.

Over the last month, the Fighting Irish also announced the signings of two defensemen, the first of which being former OHLer with the Soo Greyhounds and London Knights, Matt Fuller. The London native also played parts of three seasons during his junior career in the GOJHL with the London Nationals. After aging out of junior hockey, Fuller spent one year at the University of Windsor before playing five years of minor pro in the United States with three teams, including the Port Huron Prowlers, Berlin River Drivers, and Birmingham Bulls.

Later in October, the club announced they had added Zac Tierney to their

blue line. The London native played four years of NCAA hockey with Ferris State University before playing minor pro in France and Sweden.

## STRATFORD FIGHTING IRISH 2022-23 Player Statistics (as of November 11, 2022)

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

#	PLAYER	GAA	SV%
60	Zach Weir	3.53	.901
1	Nathan Young	4.14	.838

## WOSHL STANDINGS (as of November 11, 2022)

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Tilbury Bluebirds	8	7	1	0	14
Elora Rocks	7	6	1	0	12
Tilsonburg Thunder	6	5	1	0	10
Stratford Fighting Irish	6	4	2	0	8
Strathroy Jets	7	4	3	0	8
Delhi Flames	8	2	6	0	4
Alvinston Killer Bees	6	1	5	1	3
Plattsville Lakers	7	1	6	0	2
Erin Blitz	5	0	5	0	0

# Eight-game winning streak lifts Warriors to second in Midwest

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

After a 16-0 clobbering of the Brantford Bandits to start the month of October, the Warriors won seven more games consecutively, a large reason for the Warriors going into the game this past Thursday in Ayr sitting in second place in the Midwestern Conference. According to Director of Hockey Operations Jason Clarke, it took some time for the group to hit their stride but their hard work is finally paying off.

## GOJHL STANDINGS Midwestern Conference (as of November 8, 2022)

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS
KW Siskins	18	15	3	0	0	30
<b>Stratford Warriors</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>
Cambridge Redhawks	18	11	4	2	1	25
Ayr Centennials	19	11	8	0	0	22
Listowel Cyclones	16	10	6	0	0	20
Elmira Sugar Kings	18	10	8	0	0	20
Caledon Bombers	20	3	17	0	0	6
Brantford Bandits	20	2	17	1	0	5

“September didn't go as planned but losing games helps us learn no matter the experience in our lineup,” Clarke told the Times. “We got away from hockey for a team trip to Bowling Green as a group and I think that contributed to some team-building and success in October as well.”

The second win of the eight-game unbeaten stretch came on October 6th when the Warriors walked into Ayr and stomped the Centennials 8-3. Zack Burleigh made 25 saves for the win in goal and Stratford went a perfect two-

for-two on the powerplay, the first of which was the first goal of the game coming off the stick of Zach Hatch just three-and-a-half minutes into the first period. Later in the first, Seth Huygen potted his second of the year and the Warriors took a 2-1 lead into the intermission. In the final 40 minutes, the Warriors truly took over the scoreboard, potting six more goals in the second and third, including a hat-trick by Hunter Nagge, a pair from Camden Daigle,

and the fourth of the season for Tanner Ryan.

A very different game took place just 24 hours later at the William Allman Arena when the Warriors returned home and defeated the Cambridge Redhawks 2-1. Zac McCann's fourth of the campaign broke the ice in the second period before Cambridge tied things up going into the third. The fourth goal in two days for Nagge in the third period went down as the game-winner while Connor Bradford earned the win in net with 23 stops. The highlight of the third, however, was a line brawl that resulted in suspensions for Ryan as well as Jordan Moulton.

One week later, Stratford played host to the Elmira Sugar Kings and once again, a strong powerplay showing pro-

pelled the Warriors to victory. Going two-for-five on the man advantage, the Warriors emerged with a 3-2 victory in which Sheldon Pryce scored twice and Jonas Schmidt also found the back of the net. Burleigh got the win in between the pipes on the back of a 29-save performance.

The powerplay once again played a big role in the Warriors winning on the road in Cambridge the next day on October 15th. Strat-

ford's powerplay went three-for-five against former Warrior Tyler Bouck and the Redhawks en route to a 6-3 win. Daigle, McCann, Reid Oliver, and Braydon Stumpf each scored, while Keaton McLaughlin posted two for the Warriors. Bradford stopped 30 Cambridge shots in the victory.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 21





# Eight-game winning streak lifts Warriors to second in Midwest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

The struggling Caledon Bombers paid a visit to the Allman Arena on October 21st and the Warriors put on a dominant showing, earning a 9-1 win and outshooting the visitors 60-16. Burleigh made 15 saves in the win, in which Nagge tallied another hat-trick. Stratford also got goals from Daigle, McCann, McLaughlin, Oliver, Rhyse Brown, Bo Doxtator, and Luke Fritz. Clarke cited the steady, plentiful production from the team's leaders as helping the younger players hit their stride and drive the team's consistent success during October.

"Our team seemed to find a groove. We were able to roll our lineup out each night and have success throughout. Our veteran players found their stride and our new players became comfortable within our culture which continues to grow."

A three-goal first period and two-goal games from Daigle and Schmidt lifted the Warriors to a 5-1 win over the Listowel Cyclones on October 23rd. Cole Lewis' first-period tally went down as the game-winner and Bradford stopped all but one of Listowel's 28 shots.

Patrick Cole picked up his first goal of the season on October 28th in the Warriors' 5-1 win over the visiting Centennials. Fritz, Daigle, McCann, and Nagge also scored for Stratford and Bradford held the fort in goal, making 25 of 26 saves. After the Warriors recorded more shots in the first 20 minutes, Ayr outshot the Warriors in the second and

third periods 18-15.

The winning streak came to a halt on October 30th when the Warriors visited the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins. After outshooting the Siskins in the opening frame, the Warriors hit a chasm in the second, allowing four goals in the middle period and getting outshot 16-11 en route to a 4-0 shutout win for the Siskins. Bradford, who got the start for Stratford, made 20 saves on 24 shots he faced before being pulled to start the third in favour of Burleigh, who stopped all 10 shots directed his way in the final stanza.

Stratford hit another speedbump in their return to the Allman on November 4th when the Cyclones from Listowel came to town. A three-goal first period by the Cyclones proved enough to lift Listowel past the Warriors, who left Stratford with the 4-2 victory. Schmidt stopped the bleeding late in the first period to make it 3-1 going into the first intermission while Oliver got a powerplay goal with just under five minutes to play in the second. Burleigh gave the Warriors 25 saves in net.

The Warriors bounced back and avoided a third consecutive loss on November 6th when they walked into Elmira and doubled up the Sugar Kings 6-3. After Elmira got the game's first goal on a powerplay just under four minutes into the game, Stratford responded with four straight goals of their own in the first and second periods thanks to Cole, McCann, Moulton, and Nagge. Daigle would add another goal in the third before

Nagge fired his second of the contest into an empty net. Bradford got the victory in net with 25 saves.

Although the team was pleased with the success they found in October, Clarke says the group's goal is to constantly improve.

"Consistency and challenging ourselves [are the opportunities for us to get even better]. We can't be happy with where we are. We need to get better each week and we do this by holding each other accountable and having an unrivalled work ethic and desire to get better each week. Successful teams continue to improve and push the pace with each other all season long."

Before the game on October 28th, the Warriors honoured their overage players from last season and presented framed jerseys to Callan Christener, Drew Ferris, and Jonathan Kilby. Sean Andrus was unable to attend the game.

The Warriors also announced the acquisition of forward Jackson McLlwain earlier this week. The 19-year-old from Exeter spent last season with the Komoka Kings of the GOJHL's Western Conference and recorded seven goals and 24 points in 47 games. McLlwain was also a 3rd round pick of the Windsor Spitfires in the 2020 Under-18 OHL Draft and this year, had one goal in seven games with the Spitfires. Stratford then dealt hulking forward Ethan Martin to the LaSalle Vipers. Martin was a 4th round pick of the Spitfires and has appeared in six games so far this year with Windsor.

## STRATFORD WARRIORS 2022-23 Player Statistics (as of November 8, 2022)

#	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
9	Zac McCann	F	19	8	18	26
27	Sheldon Pryce	F	19	9	16	25
17	Hunter Nagge	F	19	13	11	24
18	Camden Daigle	F	19	11	12	23
19	Reid Oliver	D	19	4	12	16
22	Jonas Schmidt	F	17	8	5	13
11	Luke Fritz	F	18	4	8	12
12	Keaton McLaughlin	F	19	4	6	10
28	Tanner Ryan	F	15	4	3	7
14	Jordan Moulton	D	17	1	6	7
7	Braydon Stumpf	F	19	3	3	6
10	Seth Huygen	F	11	2	3	5
25	Zach Hatch	D	19	2	3	5
5	Nolan Adkins	D	10	1	4	5
23	Wyatt Adkins	D	15	0	5	5
24	Cole Lewis	F	16	2	2	4
6	Rhyse Brown	F	16	2	2	4
16	Patrick Cole	F	9	2	2	4
20	Zachary Schooley	F	7	0	4	4
15	Haden Frayne	D	10	0	3	3
4	Bo Doxtator	D	17	2	0	2
26	Sam Shakes	F	6	0	2	2

#	PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%
30	Zach Burleigh	6-1-0-0	2.06	.915
1	Connor Bradford	7-5-0-0	2.65	.906

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**Bobin Mathew**  
General Manager



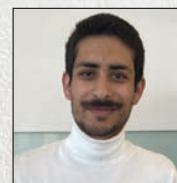
**Jason Brown**  
Sales Manager



**Craig Webb**  
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**Kenny Soobrayen**  
Business Manager



**Muaavia Sani**  
Sales Consultant



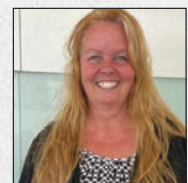
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STRATFORD KIA





# Stratford hosts Silver Stick Regionals

## U10, U12, U13 Warrior teams edged in tournament finals

A total of 58 hockey teams across eight different age groups competed last weekend in the annual Silver Stick Regional Tournament in Stratford. The home team competed in each age group category, with the U10, U12 and U13 teams making it all the way to the finals.

### U10 AA Warriors battle to Silver Stick finals

The Stratford Warriors U10 hockey team battled to a second-place finish in the International Silver Stick regional tournament this past weekend in Stratford and surrounding communities.

The scrappy U10 Warriors reached the semifinals on the final day of the tournament after finishing pool play with two wins and two losses, which included a gutsy come-from-behind 4-3 win against a solid North Toronto club and a 5-2 victory against the free-wheeling Mississauga Terriers.

In the semi-final game, the Warriors were out to avenge an earlier 5-2 tournament loss to the Hespeler Shamrocks. Backed by a thunderous Stratford crowd, the Warriors upped the intensity and took a 3-2 lead midway through the third period. With just over a minute to go, Hespeler pulled their goalie to put an extra attacker on the ice... then disaster struck. Stratford was whistled for too many players on the ice. With the goalie out and the Warriors down a player, Hespeler used the two extra attackers to tie the game 3-3 with just 3.6 seconds on the clock. A shot from the hash marks on the boards found its way past the left pad of Warrior goalie Karsten Shore.

But the Warriors weren't done. Coach Tim Bickell said, "I just reminded the team that they hadn't lost anything, and that this is what makes our game so much fun." Fighting to regain momentum, the Warriors applied pressure early in the 3-on-3 overtime period. In spite of multiple scoring chances at both ends of the ice, neither team could score in the 10-minute extra period.

The game then moved to a winner-take-all shootout. The first shot, by a Hespeler player, was stopped by the Warrior netminder. It was then Warrior centre Jaxon Schmidt's turn. He confidently slid the puck past the right pad of the Hespeler goalie. Hespeler's second shooter failed to sneak the puck through Shore's five hole. The Warriors' second penalty shot, by Warriors forward Kohen McLeod, made it past the goalie but clanged off the pipes. The Warriors sealed the victory when Hespeler's third shooter was denied glory by Shore's pads.

As the Warriors' dramatic victory celebration spread through the packed arena, the U10 Warriors were met by a gauntlet of U12 Warriors, who had formed a victory line just as the U10s came off the ice. The U12s were in

uniform ready for their championship game. "This was an experience that the U10s will not soon forget, and the support of the U12s was something that all the players in the room talked about after the game," said Coach Bickell.

The U10 final pitted the Warriors against the Ottawa Silver Seven. Coming off the emotional victory earlier that morning, the Warriors got out to an early 1-0 lead. In a closely fought contest, the Warriors defence frustrated the Ottawa attack. With Ottawa up 2-1 early in the third period, Stratford's Harper Bickell tied the game at 2-2 with a redirected shot. Ottawa's game winning goal came midway through the final period when a shot from the blue line slipped past the Warrior netminder. While a Warrior victory would have automatically qualified the team for the International Silver Stick finals later this season, the young Warriors team will wait to see if they receive an invitation to the finals based on their runner-up finish in the Stratford region. "This was a memorable weekend for the team," said Bickell, "because our boys worked together, each giving it their all to support one another. Our success in this tournament was a true team effort."

### U12 AA squad edged in tournament finals

The U12 Stratford Warriors put up a tremendous effort all weekend, coming up just shy of an automatic birth in the Silver Stick Finals.

"Our boys had a really good weekend, we got better every game," head coach Jamie Morris told the Times. "We ran into a real good team in the final."

After dropping the tournament opener 6-3 to the Niagara Falls Flyers, the U12 squad rebounded big-time on Friday afternoon, defeating the Mississauga Terriers by an 11-1 count. Saturday morning's 7-3 win over the Mississauga Jets put them into the semi-finals for a rematch against Niagara Falls. This time, the Warriors bested the Flyers with a 3-0 shutout.

Sunday's final was against the undefeated Woolwich Wildcats, who took the title in a 4-1 decision. "We competed hard against them, just came out on the wrong end," said coach Morris.

Woolwich earned the only invitation to the Silver Stick international tournament which will be held in Newmarket. However, depending on numbers, there is a chance that the Warriors could earn an invitation as the Stratford Regional tournament's runner-up.

### U13's qualify for Silver Stick finals through runner-up finish

The Stratford Warrior U13 team filled the net all weekend long at the Regional Silver Stick championship until they ran into a hot goalie in the finals.



### SHOT FROM THE POINT

(STEWART GRANT PHOTOS)

Above, Dexter Powell of the Stratford Warriors U12 team lets a shot rip from the point while Nikloas Aroutzidis Desormeaux (#44) and Liam Kelly (#86) prepare for a possible deflection or rebound.

Below, Dexter Powell and Harper Ische are the first Stratford U12's to converge on goaltender Drew Bomasuit as the team celebrates their 7-3 win over the Mississauga Jets on Saturday.



Nikolas Aroutzidis Desormeaux of the U12 Stratford Warriors moves in for a scoring chance versus the Mississauga Jets on Saturday.



# Stratford hosts Silver Stick Regionals

## U10, U12, U13 Warrior teams edged in tournament finals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Building on their early success in the 2022-23 season, the Warriors stormed out of the gate on Friday with round-robin victories over New Hamburg (5-0) and Mississauga (6-0), then clinched first place in Group A with a 1-1 tie versus Niagara Falls on Saturday morning.

In the U13 AA semi-finals, Stratford outscored the Milton Winterhawks by a 4-3 count to advance to the finals. On Sunday morning, a tightly-contested affair resulted in a heart-breaking 1-0 overtime loss to the Essex Southpoint Capitals.

"This 2010 U13AA group of young men are fantastic," head coach Todd Schmidt told the Times. "The results early this season are due in part to their dedication and effort, along with our leadership group bringing the boys together as a team. We are very fortunate to have a group of boys that allows you to roll 3 lines, 3 pairs of defence, and 2 goaltenders. Success can be measured in several ways ... Our top 4 forwards (Ethan Schmidt C, Luke Hishon A, Danny Dittmer, and Caleb Hurley) are also the top 4 points scoring leaders in our league and we have the top points scoring defenceman in the league with Cohen Bowles. Our goaltending has been super solid, and defensively we are holding teams to low scoring opportunities. With this, the team concept is why we are successful thus far, everyone is doing their part whether or not it shows

up on the game sheet."

"This past weekend was a blast for the boys but a bitter disappointment to lose 1-0 in overtime during the finals from a bad bounce off a skate. We were led through the tournament by solid goaltending and a stellar tournament by Mac Munroe that included 2 shutouts for the tandem along with our strong leadership group. When times got tough in the semi-finals, the team got together and dug in deep led by Schmidt, Hishon, and Dittmer with a huge performance in a 4-3 win after falling behind 3-1 to Milton Winterhawks. The finals were no different, where scoring chances were exchanged back and forth. Essex is a great hockey team and we look forward to seeing them again in game 4 during the Guelph Powerplay tournament in a few weeks. We have been contacted, and accepted, an offer to join Essex in Port Huron for the international Silverstick finals in Jan 26-29, 2023. Our players, parents and coaches are thrilled to be a part of this prestigious event.

"Other notable players include Goaltender Tyler Wilkinson, Forwards Colton Campbell, Liam Micks, Saundar Degrauw, Owen Martin, and Ryder Duchesne along with defencemen Parker Obre, Calum Howson, Nick McGill, Daxton Verspeeten, and Ryan Watling. We couldn't be more proud of this entire group and look forward to the remainder of the season and what it might offer."



The U10 AA Stratford Warriors pose with their silver medals. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured are U10 Coaches left to right: Danny Adair, Eric Schmidt, Jeff Carnegie, Mike Gibson, Tim Bickell.

Back Row (L-R): Damien Lonergan, Harper Bickell, Randel Everitt, Kohen McLeod, Andrew Carnegie, Cam Gibson

Middle Row (L-R): Liam Uniac, Jaxon Schmidt, Cale Klumper, Matthew Adair, Kyle Finnie, Colton Donelle, Gus Wood-Zippel, Bryce Burdett

Goalies (L-R): Karsten Shore, Bentley Rekker

Absent: Hayes Francis

# Local Flavour

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## Madelyn's Diner celebrates 37 years in business

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

A family-run diner serving residents and visitors of Stratford for 37 years is grateful for all the support from customers who enjoy their breakfast, lunch, and baked goods.

Madelyn's Diner announced on Facebook on October 10 that the restaurant on 377 Huron Street is celebrating its 37th year in business. The post thanked the patrons, referring to them as "friends" for all of the support over all of the years.

"It's quite an accomplishment really, especially in a city with such an incredibly rich food culture," owner Krista Moore said in an email interview with the Stratford Times.

Moore credited her mom and founder, Madelyn McCarty for the first 27 years of Madelyn's Diner's success.

"She is the true pioneer in Stratford's Diner life," she said. "We have had an



extremely loyal customer base since the beginning."

McCarty retired in 2012 after 27 years of operating the diner. Moore and her husband Peter took over in April 2012. Three out of their five children, Mya, Oliver, and Danielle, work at Madelyn's Diner. Running the family business is both rewarding, yet challenging.

"Trying to balance work life vs home life is always a struggle. Some days it goes smoothly and other days not so

much," Moore said. "The best part is I know I have a few people that will always have my back when things get tough."

As the anniversary fell on Thanksgiving weekend, the restaurant was closed but the occasion was still celebrated.

"We mark the occasion with good food and time with our families."

Out of all the food served at Madelyn's Diner, the fish and chips and butter tarts are the most popular with the customers. Moore had a difficult time picking

a favourite memory and said there were too many to choose from. However, she loves to watch the customers enjoy their meals.

"That little happy dance when they take the first bite is the BEST feeling," Moore said.

Due to restrictions throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, the hospitality industry faced several challenges. At the height of the restrictions, both indoor and outdoor dining were prohibited and restaurants had to operate as take-out only facilities until further notice. During these restrictions, Madelyn's Diner first started off with food waste reduction and then operating a grocery service before returning to dining.

"Our goals were simple, keep people safe, keep our business alive, keep our staff employed and do what we do best, which is serve our community."

Visit [madelynsdiner.ca](http://madelynsdiner.ca) to view the hours and the menu.



# UNTIL SOON. LIVE WELL: Speaking to the dead

STUART LENDER

Times Contributor

I speak to the dead. I have the inclination and what's more, I have the opportunity to do so when they are in my presence. But, one can do it anywhere, anytime. They don't have to be there in front of you. To me, that's just nothing that remotely smacks of superstition, mysticism, or mediums. Don't worry; they've never answered back. Well, not like... in words.

More like a small space opens up that keeps me connected to the inevitability of myself in the world from which they might answer. I speak out loud, as if in conversation, where the response is felt rather than heard. "Hi Steven, my name's Stuart and I'm going to bring you into my care for a time. I'm going to remove this pillow out from under your head, if you don't mind..." I feel it a dignity to speak with them. I mean, after all, they've just left not too long ago. They could be watching all this from up there in the corner of the room. How do I know? And

before anyone makes any judgements - you don't know either.

Speaking, at that point, is a connection; a bridge crossed over, a veil gently pulled back in order to feel a response. I still speak with my grandmother every now and again and certainly my mom and dad. It brings them to me when they haven't visited my mind for a time. It was just recently at the hospice, that one of the caregivers meekly said "I speak to them...I'm sorry" as if it were something that needed to be either apologized for or mentioned, in case I thought it a little crazy. I don't. "I do too," I said.

Also recently, the dear spouse of a man I briefly cared for, called me up to talk about a few loose ends that I was helping her with, concerned about the cremated remains of her husband, who was sitting for a time on her mantle at home: "Stuart, it's strange. Now that \_\_\_\_\_ is at home again, I find myself eagerly anticipating scattering him (which is what he wanted when SHE was ready) and not holding him here any longer. In fact, I want to do it as soon as possible.

These remains don't belong to me at all." In deeper conversation I discovered that for her, what had happened is that his departure from his body was simply another event, another deeper meaning left to her, and that her conversations with him, at various times in various rooms throughout the house, brought her closer to him than the remains of his body ever could.

Speaking to the dead is an exercise in self-awareness. You open yourself up to the unknown, to faith, to inevitability - and you bring it down into the room and recognize mortality and a spirit within that perhaps you never pondered before. Now, this can be done in a myriad of ways, sure, and it can be done in silence - but believe me, when one is privileged to care for the house of the soul, you need no routine, no guideline to follow. One recognizes the universe within that has just flown.

Speak with real words if you're so inclined. Strange at first, maybe. But what do you care? Who's listening in judgement? You are! Stop kicking yourself for

those "weird" things you do. There is no "weird" in it, if it brings you to who and what you really are. If it brings healing. There is strength in vulnerability, power in exploration.

And think - if the one you love actually CAN hear you once they make themselves known through a tune, a smell, a taste or a word you just read in a book - wouldn't they want to hear your thoughts; that gratefulness carried on the wave of a heartbeat? Wouldn't you? Grief means living with someone who isn't there. If you continue to live with them, you continue the conversation in one way or another. And if anyone hears you by accident, prattle on about this and that with no one else in the room, smile at them. They'll understand - or they won't. Depends on how far they think their love can reach.

UNTIL SOON. LIVE WELL.

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

## Let Me Introduce

### Darcy Thompson ... Guitar Luthier ... What the heck is a Luthier?

APRIL TAYLOR

Times Contributor

Darcy Thompson ... Guitar Luthier ... What the heck is a Luthier?

I must admit I had no idea what a luthier is, but this little writing gig is teaching me a lot. A few years ago, a client told me that he was taking a guitar building class at the high school in the evenings. Who knew you could build a guitar? I guess I had never thought about it. It sounded complex and difficult yet rewarding at the same time. Time went by and another fellow came into the salon and guess what, he was the teacher of that class, and his name is Darcy Thompson: a guitar luthier, someone who builds guitars.

I am always interested in the many ways people fill their time and make a living. The world has its troubles for sure, but sometimes it's easy to forget all the amazing things out there to get involved and become interested in: nature, food, music, sports, reading, crafts, etc., but to me the most interesting thing the world has to offer is people. We are such fascinating creatures. So let me tell you a bit about this builder of guitars and how this came to be.



Darcy began his working career apprenticing as an Auto-body and Refinishing technician. He took his work very serious-

ly and perfected his craft.

"Over the years I've done a lot of special projects," he told me. "I laid out and refinished all the 1988 Olympic big rigs and trailers for Labatt's Brewery, helped design lay-outs and templates for USA assault vehicles and painted 12 units (and got a license to drive them). I laid out and painted the personal jet for the band Triumph, and have done a documentary in the USA on vintage rail cars. I've built show cars and trucks and motorcycles. I really like doing custom things and always put my own special signature on them."

These skills led him to blending his ability of painting and creating with his other love ... music. Darcy began playing guitar at 10 years of age (it must run in the family as Gorden Lightfoot is lucky enough to call Darcy his cousin). He always having liked painting any type of musical instrument he tinkered with. So, you can see how this led Darcy to McConville Guitars, a music store in Stratford. He became a builder, re-finisher and worked there for years. Darcy also became a teaching assistant at Conestoga College in designing and guitar building. I asked him about the process.

"A short description of guitar building

ranges from first deciding on the wood, laying and cutting your patterns, thickness sanding, bending sides, making any braces, gluing of woods, sanding (a lot) and then preparation for refinishing. Refinishing is a very skilled operation with many considerations. A lot of patience, care and pride goes into the work of any craftsman. I have always put my number one in everything I do and have felt a hand guiding my hand," Darcy said.

I don't know Darcy well but am happy to know him a little better since writing this. I will close with another quote of his because I felt humbled by his gratitude and positive outlook.

"The thing I love most about music is EVERYTHING ... I have been lucky to meet interesting musicians, twenty-five years of guitars and fun. To all the people I've met and helped or got the pleasure of playing with I am totally grateful. It has been an interesting life so far. I am thankful for who I am and the things and talents I have been gifted with."

Now we know what a luthier is and more about the craft of guitar making. See you next month as I chat with another interesting Stratfordite.

## STRATFORD TIMES

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Union Barber  
Stratford Public Library  
HH Delea  
Balzacs Coffee  
Queen's Inn  
Arden Park Hotel  
The Bruce Hotel  
Stratford Motor Products  
Stratford Legion  
Festival Marketplace  
Stratford Nissan

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

## Pick Up Locations

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

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



# Avon Public School Choir Wins Provincial Competition

The Ontario Music Festival Association has awarded Avon Public School Choir first place in the “Florine Despres Class 108” for elementary school age choirs.

After singing at the local Stratford and Area Kiwanis Music Festival of the Performing Arts, the adjudicator recommended that the Avon choir be entered into the provincial competition. Provincial choirs must be recommended by an adjudicator from their regional competition. The choir’s conductor, music teacher Mark McIntosh, was very pleased to have an opportunity again to compete at the provincial level. The choir has been selected six times since 2015 to compete at the provincial level and has placed first 3 times and second 3 times. The choir has advanced to the national level three times placing second in 2015 and third in both 2018 and 2019. Unfortunately there was no opportunity for the choir to advance to nationals this year.

McIntosh says, “It is a real joy to hear this choir sing. The 18 students had one



## WINNING VOICES

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured above in back row, left to right: Abigail Meek, Penelope Bossence, conductor Mark McIntosh, Ben Coulter, Chase Campbell, Annika Hoyles, Julia Hammerl, Raegan Stacey, Natalie Hofman.

Middle row, left to right: Avery Rankl, Aubrey Evans, Elizabeth Myers, Madison Mckenzie.

Front row, left to right: Cee Cee Grogan, Reese Campbell, Ava Rhodes, Tessa Hinz, Charlee McFarlane. Absent from the picture is Olivia Savile

month to prepare two songs, one to be sung a cappella (unaccompanied) in two part harmony and the other to be accompanied by pianist Carol Smith. Their tuning is impeccable and the students really enjoyed being together each morning before school for rehearsals. It really is a privilege to be able to teach a group that loves to sing so much. After singing restrictions during the pandemic, it was so wonderful to hear students singing again. Singing is such a direct line to our inner emotions and it was overwhelming for me to be immersed in such a beautiful sound. Truly there is no more beautiful sound than the joyful sound of children singing.”

The choir was honoured by the City of Stratford on October 17 at the Rotary Complex.

There's no slowing down. The choir will begin rehearsals shortly to prepare for the inauguration of the new Stratford City Council in November at the Marquis room of the Festival Theatre.

# Legion Holds Gala Fundraiser

LEE GRIFFI

Regional Times Correspondent

Stratford Legion Branch 008 held what organizers are saying was a very successful Gala Dinner to raise funds for the organization.

“An Evening of Remembrance was a

huge success with a sell out crowd enjoying a tremendous program including the guest speaker, John Kastner, General Manager of the Stratford Perth Museum. John spoke about the importance of the Legion, his family’s personal ties to the Legion, the Remembrance Day Banner program, and a call to action for

the audience to always Remember – To Never Forget, the sacrifices made by many for us to enjoy our freedom,” says legion member Dave Hartney. “The evening finale was a fantastic and intimate performance by Ms. Loreena McKennitt, an award-winning singer and composer. Performing on both her harp and her keyboard, Loreena spellbound the

audience with her magnificent voice and her story around each song,” he adds. “We owe a big thank you to the many people and businesses that supported and attended our Fundraising Gala. I special thanks to John and Loreena, without them, this would not have been such a great evening.”



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Dave Hartney (Legion Branch 8 Marketing Committee Chair), Ms. Loreena McKennitt, Steve Zurbrigg (Legion Branch 8 President)



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ms. McKennitt on her keyboard

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# Peace Begins with a Smile...

## Yeah Yeah, Call me Pollyanna ... but isn't it worth a try?



APRIL TAYLOR

Times Freelance Columnist

*"If people can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."*  
Nelson Mandela

I woke up and read the news today, there it was in bold letters ... The world has declared ... Peace on Earth. Alas, it was but a dream. Do you believe peace for all is possible? It seems there has always been war and conflict, but why? Why is it that humankind reverts to fighting and has done so for centuries? I wish I had the answers.

Currently there are 27 live conflicts happening around the world. 2 billion people are now living amidst a war, more than 13 million Syrians have been displaced, kids in Yemen are so hungry they are eating their own hands, in Af-

ghanistan people are selling their organs to buy bread and Ukraine, Myanmar and the list goes on. The human suffering and the financial costs are astronomical. Yet, still it continues. We know this, our leaders know this. What could possibly be the benefit of all this violence and pain?

*"If we do not abolish war on this earth, then surely one day war will abolish us from the earth."* Harry Truman, 1884-1972, American President [1945-1953]

Growing up in the Taylor Family, I swear Remembrance Day was the most important day of the year. You could cut the tension in the house with a knife. Fifty years after the war, that tension was still there. My dad would be stressed getting ready for the service at the cenotaph, shining his shoes making sure his medals were on straight. I could not understand the significance of the day when I was young, but I could feel it from both my mom and dad. Yes, it was dad that gave his youth to WWII, but mom did also, the women and others who stayed behind made sacrifices, food rations, children growing up without their fathers. War affects everyone. I would argue it affects the next generation too. Many soldiers return with physical and psychological wounds that never

heal, unintentionally passing on their pain to their kids. Our dad has been gone a long time but come November 11, I can guarantee that my siblings and myself will be at the service or marking that day in some way. That energy is still there.

Now imagine for a moment... how can a family forced not only out of their home but fled on foot to find safety in another country recover? Miraculously, they often do; but the wounds are still there ... buried deep but never gone.

Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, Gandhi, Nelson Mandela have been wonderful examples of living life in the name of peace. We have learned from them that the "way of peace" can end oppression, by attesting to the wrongs and not raging war against a perceived enemy but by humanity allowing sympathy and compassion to develop and happen. Sounds simple, so why don't we just do that?

*"If we have no peace, it's because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."* Mother Teresa

We are all one, is what I think she is saying in the above quote. When we start saying words like "they" or categorizing ourselves in little boxes it sets up the "them against us" mentality that creates conflict and war. There is no

"they" ... They are we ... we are they ... we are one. A quixotic notion, maybe or maybe not. It sure seems a better way to me.

It's too big, out of our control, it's the job of the politician not mine ... some of you might say. But isn't it worth trying to help for the sake of the next generation? What all these wise seers recognize and have encouraged us to do if we want world peace is to begin at home, with our families, neighbours, and community. Imagine what could happen if we all took responsibility for it and did not leave it to the leaders.

*"Let us use love and compassion. Peace begins with a smile. Smile five times a day at someone you don't really want to smile at; do it for peace. Let us radiate the peace of God and so light His light and extinguish in the world and in the hearts of all men all hatred and love for power."* Mother Teresa

We sometimes find great inspiration where we least expect it. I recently read a book by a comedian Russell Brand, this man known for his loquacious style and manner shared this wisdom...

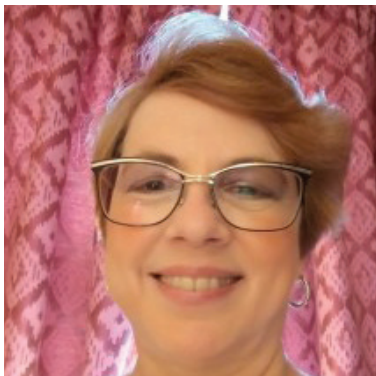
*"I contest that we all have a yearning for connection, even if from a humanist perspective ... What a numinous jolt we feel when witnessing the heroic sacrifice of another? Or tearful pull*

*when people come together in a common cause? What string is being plucked when we encounter heroism? Could it be that we are reminded by the hero's individualism is temporal? That when the hero sees beyond this artificial world of selfish wants and needs and falls into faith, into the arms of the Ulterior Oneness, we are reminded and relieved? What is the value of fraternity? What is solidarity's power? What manner of virtue is kindness if it is not the acknowledgment that in truth and in the fact we are all one, together here, and what we do to each other we do to ourselves? Heroism's power is redolence. It reminds us what we've always known but forgotten: We are all connected."*

Remembrance Day is a time for us to remember those who served and to be thankful for our freedom which we are so fortunate to have in this country. It's also a time to think of those trying to exist in the other 27 still war-torn countries and how we might be able to make a difference. Mother Teresa says ... "Peace begins with a smile" maybe we could start there.

If you are interested in this idea, might I suggest the book ... Peace is the Way, by Deepak Chopra. I found it inspiring and thought-provoking.

## Ideas for November to Lighten up a Dark Time



IRENE ROTH

Times Freelance Columnist

The month of November can be so dark and gloomy on the outside. The sun setting is earlier. Then daylight savings time ends in early November. And the sense of seclusion starts to hamper how we feel.

Further, many people seem to struggle with depression and even anxiety during this time as well because we are staying at home more and don't really feel motivated to go out a lot. This is especially the case for the extroverts among us.

However, for some of us, especially introverts, this can be a cozy and warm time of year. Who doesn't like to just grab a good book and a warm beverage and sit in front of the fireplace for an evening of reading? There is also Netflix and its allure during this time of year.

Or who wouldn't like to have a glass of wine and enjoy a long conversation with friends or family? It is a time to connect and chat in a way that's harder to achieve in the spring and summer when there is so much to do and so many places to go.

I believe there are so many good things about the upcoming season for us to enjoy. All we should do is shift our minds away from the negative aspects of the season to more positive ones. There is a lot we can do and stuff we can try with our free time. Here are a few to consider.

1. Try cooking at home more. Get a few recipe books from the library and try your hand at Indian or Asian cooking. Or you

might make some tried-and-true recipes from some of your recipe books at home that you always wanted to try but never had the time.

2. Read more. You may want to try reading in a new genre. For instance, if you typically enjoy reading murder mysteries, why not try historical fiction or romance? You can even invite a few of your friends to join you and create a reading list of books that you would like to read.

3. Join a reading club, either online or in person. Now that pandemic restrictions have been lifted, the library has several groups you can join. The Canadian Reading Challenge is an online group I am part of. I've been part of that online reading group for a decade now, and I always pick up some really wonderful Canadian authors from my local library that I haven't read before. I've realized we have a lot of talent in Canada.

4. Start a new hobby. Try your hand at sewing, crocheting,

woodworking, or needlework. There is so much out there that you can try. You can also try making your own soap and candles.

5. Try meditation or yoga. There are all kinds of meditations on YouTube. Set a goal and schedule for yourself and start being more mindful.

6. Start a Reno project. You may want to redo your kitchen or bathroom. Or you may want to freshen the paint in one room. This can make you feel better about your home.

7. Learn a new musical instrument. Perhaps you enjoyed playing the piano in the past but haven't played in a long time. Look for individuals who are giving piano or other instrument lessons that you would like to try playing.

8. Try writing a new book. If you always wanted to write but never gave yourself the permission to do so, perhaps this is the time to do so. November is NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) month, one that

is geared for writers to get writing. It's certainly the weather to do so. If you're interested, you may want to check out: <https://nanowrimo.org/>.

9. Teach yourself a new language. There are all kinds of resources at your local library you can use to learn whatever language you wish. Or you can download different apps, such as Duolingo onto your cell phone. I use mine to brush up on my Spanish. But you can learn French, German, and Italian. Its great for beginners and its portable and free, which are always a plus. Try to habitually practice your language of choice.

This is just a small sample of things you could try. The sky's the limit, quite literally. So, think up of your own things that you would like to really try. Then in November, start one or two of these activities. You will be so glad that you did. And who knows, you may even start a new hobby that you'll want to continue after the dark months end.



# Riddles

Why did the strawberry cross the road?  
Because his mom was in a jam

Why was the person so happy they finished the jigsaw puzzle in six months?  
The box said 2-4 years

Who does Frankenstein invite to his party?  
Anyone he can gobble up

Why couldn't the astronaut land on the moon?  
Because it was full

What seven letters did the robber say when he saw nothing in the safe?  
"O I C U R M T"

What do you get if you cross a cow and a duck?  
A creamy quacker

What do you get if you cross a porcupine and a giraffe?  
A seven metre long toothbrush

How did the cow get through the crowd?  
He shouted MOOve

Why are ghosts always hungry?  
Because the food goes right through them

# Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 31



# Pet of the Month



## BUNNEARY

Meet three-year-old Bunneary. She is a super sweet and friendly girl looking for a home to call her own. Bunneary loves to go on 'self-guided' tours of her foster mom's house. She loves wicker baskets, fluffy floor mats, and a cozy place to hide. Bunneary is well-trained with the litter box and uses it even when out of her pen. She likes to get some pets here and there. Shreddies and Cherrios are two of her favorite treats and she loves to gobble them up! If you're interested in adopting Bunneary, submit an application at <https://kwsphumane.ca/adopt/process>.



# Word Search

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

- Memorial
- Peace
- Medals
- Honor
- Veterans
- Poppy
- Remember
- Heroes
- November
- Brave
- Salute
- Wreath
- Sacrifice



# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Traditional and surprising Inuit art at Qaumajuq



PAUL KNOWLES

*Times Contributor*

You are probably aware, when you visit a museum or an art gallery, that even if you take a look at everything on display in all the exhibits open to you, you are only seeing a fraction of the objects held by that facility. Such institutions have huge storage areas called vaults, where many of their treasures are stored.

The artifacts and art may eventually be put on display, replacing something currently available to the public, but some may never see the light of day. Some are awaiting restoration – and have been for decades of limited budgets. Some are simply not significant enough to make the on-display cut, but still too important to be auctioned off. So, in the darkened, subterranean vaults, they all lie, unseen.

Which is what makes the innovation at Qaumajuq, a new museum space housed in the Winnipeg Art Gallery, so unique. And, frankly, so amazing.

Because the designers of this new exhibition space did build a vault – but they made it out of glass, and plunked the transparent, undulating structure right in the middle of the art gallery foyer. This “visual vault” soars three storeys high, and contains 5,000



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)  
One small section of the 5000-piece “Visual Vault” of Inuit sculpture at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

individual works of Inuit sculpture. Five thousand!

It’s a spectacular first sight as you enter the art gallery.

Set on the ground floor, around the visual vault, are interactive computer screens that allow visitors to easily search out and identify each piece of art.

I really appreciate Inuit sculpture. The usual media used by these talented artists – soapstone or serpentine – appeals to our sense of touch (although touch-

ing is not allowed at Qaumajuq, which makes sense), as well as our sight. Sculpture is three-dimensional, so the image changes when you view the piece from different angles. If you want to get really philosophical, you could argue that sculpture is four-dimensional, since it involved the time it took for its creator to produce the work. Or... I could just say, I don’t know a lot about it, but I like it.

So I could have spent all my time at the Winnipeg Art Gallery

enjoying the works in the visual vault, but I tore myself away, and we explored other exhibits, ranging from paintings by European masters to fine examples of work by Canada’s Group of Seven, to thoroughly contemporary (and surprising) pieces by today’s Inuit and other Native Canadian and Métis artists.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery is big enough to offer important works by Vincent Van Gogh, Marc Chagall, Norval Morrisseau, Emily Carr and Arthur Lismer. And it’s big enough to house the world’s largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art. But it is still small enough to comfortably explore, without hitting that wall of exhaustion familiar to all of us who have tried to see everything in a big national gallery in a single afternoon.

But back to the modern Inuit work for a moment. I confess that I entered the gallery well laden with stereotypes – according to my preconceptions, Inuit art involves well-executed sculptures of seals, walrus, and hunters swathed in bulky garments. And, of course, this is correct, as far as it goes.

But entering the gallery featuring modern Inuit art, the first thing we encountered was a stunning fashion-and-embroidery work entitled “Our Flourishing Culture”. The artist, Maata Kyak, used silk, embroidery lace, dyed sealskin, beads and pearls to create this arresting work.

The gallery was filled with such surprises – multi-media works, pieces that spoofed the stereotypes, and more fashion. It was literally eye-opening.

Upstairs, in another gallery, there was a thought-provoking display of photos of contemporary Native Canadians who identify as

LGBTQ2+, with accompanying text of their experience.

I was both moved and amused by one particular account – a young woman who told the story of coming out to her mother, via text. In the text she had admitted she was afraid her mother would not approve of her sexual orientation. Her fears seemed to be realized when her mother didn’t respond or speak to her for several weeks. But finally, when they did connect, her Mom told her she was not upset that her daughter was queer; she was upset that her daughter didn’t trust her to be entirely supportive – which she was!

Part of the complex history of Canada’s native peoples was captured in one piece in the Métis exhibition – “Louis’ Chair”, a 2021 work by Métis artist Jenine Krauchi. The explanatory panel tells the story: “Despite being elected by the citizens of Provencher three times, Louis Riel was unable to take his seat in the House of Commons. The artist has created a chair worthy of the Father of Manitoba, drawing on materials critically important to that history: the HBC blanket, beaver fur, hand-tanned hide, and bold beadwork.... Take your seat, Mr. Riel!”

A good art gallery not only entertains – it inspires and challenges and disturbs, all at the same time. And that is what you will find at today’s Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Assuming, of course, you can force yourself to leave the astonishing visual vault. Perhaps I mentioned that.

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



Maata Kyak’s “Our Flourishing Culture”.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



“Two Men Loading Kayak onto Qamutiik” by Jimmy Inaruli Arnamissak.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



# Web-Crawling in the Donut Shop

SHEILA CLARKE

Times Freelance Columnist

This month I'm going to take a sideways step to the Donut Shop. The last two columns looked at the interconnected web of life on our planet (including us) and gave four local suggestions for supporting that web in the face of climate change: grow host (native) plants, leave the leaves in the autumn, avoid chemicals, and grow our grass a bit longer.

The donut shop is going to look at a wider picture, with local ideas. Our first stop will be in BC, where the town of Nanaimo has voted to become a "doughnut" community. Donut? Doughnut? What?!

The doughnut is a circle. The opposite is a straight line. Our straight line system has been based for a long time on using resources to make things, use them up, dispose of them and buy new. For a long time that worked, although the underlying profit motive didn't make sure everyone had basic needs for life, nor were working conditions uniform around the world.

When it seemed that our resources might not last forever after all, we focused on recycle, re-use, and reduce our needs. Great idea! It reduces pressure on the environment! The City of Stratford has worked hard to provide a comprehensive recycling program, including green bins, to take organic waste, and to reduce materials and

waste in many forms.

There's a catch (there's always a catch...). Despite our best efforts, reducing new material use wasn't enough. We're still approaching the limits of our planet way too fast. "The proof is in the pudding," as my grandmother used to say. Poverty is increasing around the world, climate refugees are increasing in number, storms and heat waves are more serious, raw materials are increasing in price, many people have to work two and three jobs to make ends meet, and marker species like birds and insects are disappearing. Oops.

There is an idea out there that has been adopted in many countries and many communities. That is the one from the donut shop, called the doughnut economy. Nanaimo councillor Geselbracht said Nanaimo will measure environmental goals around greenhouse gas reduction, waste generation and diversion and ecosystems protection, as well as social indicators such as housing and homelessness stats, progress on neighbourhood walkability and job market data.

The centre of the doughnut is the people in need, and the social foundations we all need. The outside limits of the doughnut are the ecological ceilings, the environmental limits. The sweet spot is the doughnut itself, where needs and environment are in balance.

The difference is trying to build in a just

and reasonable life for everyone while still protecting the planet. Wow, that's a tall order. The balance of the doughnut is between the social foundations established by the UN and the ecological ceilings of Earth. No, it didn't really come from a donut shop (you knew that)! The Doughnut approach was developed in 2012. It was first described by K. Raworth.

How does it apply to us in Stratford? For a starter, major decisions made by our Council and by all departments would be hashed out through the Doughnut filters, starting with the UN Social Foundations, for all residents: food security, political voice, housing, energy and health, among others. For example, does health mean walkable communities and public transportation? Then all decisions would be run through the Ecological Ceilings: climate change, biodiversity loss, air and chemical pollution and land conversion, among others.

We know that our city tries to balance environment and resident needs in the community. The difference is that a formal screening process would be put in place that would check major decisions against the UN Social Foundations and the Ecological Ceilings of our planet. Every decision wouldn't be perfect, but it may give us all a chance to be heard, and to have input into final decisions that would be responsive to both climate change and social

need.

What can I do? What can you do? For sure we can ramp up our re-use and recycling, buy locally or Canadian, and walk instead of rolling out the car sometimes. For sure we can apply the planet limits to our own choices: increase biodiversity, limit chemicals, and conserve water. With Christmas coming, it's a great opportunity to try: shop local, shop less plastic, wrap your gifts in newspaper, even make some of your own gifts, and switch lighting to LED.

It's a balancing act, a donut in one hand, a cup of coffee in the other. If I do this, how will it help people in my community? How will it help the environment? Think donut- or doughnut!

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut\\_\(economic\\_model\)#Social\\_foundations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_(economic_model)#Social_foundations)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut\\_\(economic\\_model\)#Ecological\\_ceilings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_(economic_model)#Ecological_ceilings)

*Sheila Clarke is a Stratford advocate for the environment, of our community and of our planet. She has a BSc Zoology from the University of Illinois, and a host of courses beyond, in disciplines that inform ecology, the science of how everything living fits together in nature. She is a member of CFUW Stratford, Stratford Climate Momentum, and the Perth County Sustainability Hub.*

## Organizations in Stratford-Perth region addressing pet poverty and homelessness

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Two regional organizations are helping low-income pet owners with expenses and ensuring that pets can stay with their families.

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth has programs such as the Pet Pantry program and low-cost vet programs to help low-income pet owners.

Calla James, the director of community engagement and outreach, said the humane society has had an increase in calls for support since spring 2022 and more pet surrenders for a variety of reasons.

"We know the state of the economy at the moment and inflation is not helping at all. People are struggling to feed pets as well as feed themselves. We have people who are calling to medical surrender because all of a sudden their pet has had an emergency medical need and they cannot cover that bill," James said. "They could also be surrendering due to behaviour reasons, unable to care for their pet or the health of the owner potentially declining. We've seen a lot of people reaching out and asking for that support. We are trying as best as possible to refer them to our programs where we can try to keep people and pets together first. We want to keep pets in their homes with their owners."

An October 18 press release announced the Pedigree Foundation will donate \$100,000 in grants to eight animal shelters across Canada, including the Hu-

mane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth, to help more than 80,000 animals in need across Canada. The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth will receive \$15,000.

"We are thrilled that they are launching a Canadian grant program here and very very honoured to be named one of the first grant recipients through that Canadian arm," James said. "It will definitely help our transfer dog program and help increase our capacity for life saving."

The transfer dog program helps the organization's life saving capacity and that of other shelters. The grant would cover medical expenses such as vaccines and spays/neuters before the dogs go through the adoption program and extra large mobile kennels for safe transfer of the dogs. A portion of the grant would cover staff education and training.

Another organization serving the Stratford and Perth region, Feline Friends Network, focuses on free spays and neuters for cats of low-income households. Sharon Morice, the president of Feline Friends Network, said the volunteer organization works with the Salvation Army in Listowel, St. Marys, and Mitchell along with the Stratford House of Blessings. The Salvation Army chapters and Stratford House of Blessings assess the applicant's income level and if they qualify, their cat will be spayed or neutered at no cost.

Morice said that as pets of lower-income individuals are less likely to be neutered or spayed compared to those of



**PEDIGREE  
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higher-income individuals, reaching out to those with lower-incomes will help.

"Even if people want to have them spayed or neutered and do the right thing to control population or even to just control those unwanted behaviours that happen like spraying of unneutered cats during heat cycles, the prices can be really prohibitive," she said. "If we don't help those who are lower income, we are missing out on a whole group of pets that will then go on to reproduce and have unwanted litters and then you have possibly of lower-income folks with more and more kittens on their hands."

The demand for the Feline Friends' free spay and neuter program has been stable, but it has dropped a bit during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

"We encourage them to go ahead and apply for our program and if they get the voucher for the free spay or neuter, they might have to wait a little longer for it, because vet appointments haven't been nearly as open," Morice said. "I think that's partly because there is a wide-

ly-known vet shortage, but also because more pets have been adopted over the pandemic which is great, but then there's more pressure on fewer veterinarians."

According to the Feline Friends website, 3,389 cats have been spayed or neutered through the organization.

Visit [kwsphumane.ca](http://kwsphumane.ca) or [felinefriends.ca](http://felinefriends.ca) for more information about either organization.





# Nutrition Equity Program keeps students eating healthy

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

Much has been said in the last number of years about keeping students healthy and eating properly.

In March this year, organizers began a nutrition equity program at Stratford District Secondary School (the school created when Stratford Central and Stratford Northwestern merged).

They started offering free breakfast for lunch (over 40 sandwiches every day), to all students who forgot their lunch, or would like something nutri-

tious to eat. Thanks to Egg Farmers of Ontario, and especially those in Perth County, their donation of hard-boiled peeled eggs helped provide good nutrition for some of the over 1,400 students at SDSS.

Most of the students who access the program are regulars and are grateful for something nutritious to eat. Teacher Stuart Wilson said, "the ready to eat hard-boiled peeled eggs makes it convenient and easy to provide the students with the nutrition needed to help with their academic success and food security." He went on to thank the local egg farmers for

their continued support and says the program is a way to help to connect with students in need. He was not sure how many students at Stratford District Secondary School are food insecure.

They believe in helping to provide the necessary nutrition in order for students to help build their self-worth and self-confidence so they may flourish in the community.

Student Mackenzie commented, "I like how it's nutritious food and not just junk." Student Jai said, "The combination of flavours is good." Kaleb added, "They taste really good."



Jai and Kaleb enjoying hard cooked eggs ready to eat for a nutrition break at Stratford District Secondary School last week.

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# COMING EVENTS

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**STRATFORD WARRIORS**  
November 11, 18, 25, 27;  
Allman Arena, 15 Morenz Dr,  
Stratford  
Come out and support the Stratford  
Warriors

**STRATFORD FIGHTING  
IRISH**  
November 12, 26, December 3;  
4:30 p.m.  
Allman Arena, 15 Morenz Dr,  
Stratford  
Come out and support the Stratford  
Fighting Irish

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT  
FESTIVAL**  
November 11 - 13  
Stratford Rotary Complex  
Organized by The Rotary Club  
of Stratford is back after a 2-year  
hiatus! The Christmas Craft

Festival features over 60 vendors  
offering some of the best in unique,  
beautiful, and practical Christmas  
gift ideas. Admission \$6.

**STRATFORD TOYS, GAMES,  
AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW**  
Sunday, November 20;  
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Festival Inn, 1144 Ontario St.,  
Stratford  
Over 40 tables full of Transformers,  
Funko Pops, TCG Cards, Board  
Games, Lego, Retro and Current  
Video Games and Accessories,  
D&D, Comics, Hot Wheels, G.I.  
Joe, Die Cast Models, Handmade  
Pop Culture Items, and so much  
more! \$2 admission.

**COMMUNITY BOOK SWAP**  
Sunday, November 20; 2:00 -  
4:00 p.m.  
Livery Yard, 104 Downie St.

Drop your gently used book  
donations off at the cafe the week  
leading up to the event. All genres  
welcome! Soft & Hardcover are  
great! The coffee & espresso bar  
will be open!

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
Sunday, November 27;  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Tom Patterson Theatre  
Come shop over 50 vendors for  
the first market at the new Tom  
Patterson Theatre in Stratford  
Ontario! Enjoy an afternoon  
of shopping, cash bar and cafe  
open to serve you so you can  
mix, mingle and shop. Have your  
photo taken with Santa Claus.  
Admission: free.

**GARDEN STRATFORD AGM**  
Monday, November 28;  
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

**Army Navy Hall, 151 Lorne Ave.  
E., Stratford.**  
“Toronto Botanical Garden – Now  
and in the Future” The AGM will be  
followed by a Feature Presentation  
by Roger Gettig. Roger is the  
Director of Horticulture at Toronto  
Botanical Garden. Meeting open  
to Everyone; free admission.

**LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY  
MARKET**  
Sunday, December 4;  
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
**Jobsite Brewery**  
With so many unique vendors,  
you’re sure to find something  
special for that hard to buy for  
person on your list.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Taylor Swift
- 2) 2006
- 3) Darin
- 4) Rishi Sunak
- 5) Canadian Union of Public  
Employees
- 6) House of the Dragon
- 7) Pizza
- 8) Walkin’
- 9) Kentucky
- 10) Harmonized Sales Tax

## SUDOKU

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

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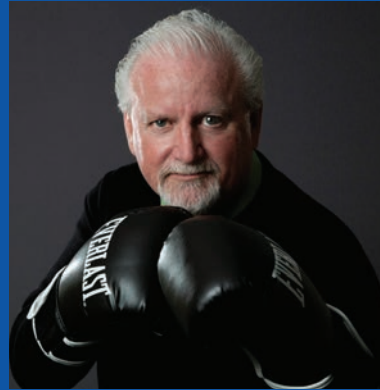
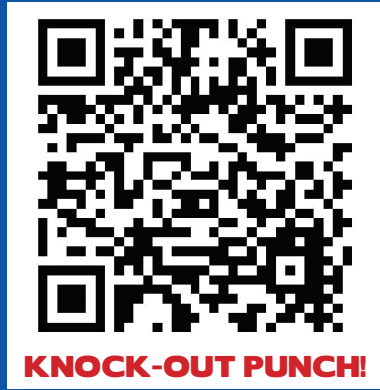
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