

STRATFORD TIMES

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Stratford teen arrested after triple stabbing in Clinton

LEE GRIFFI

Times Correspondent

A Stratford teenager faces a long list of charges following a violent night at a birthday party in Clinton.

Huron County Ontario Provincial Police Major Crimes Unit is investigating a triple stabbing that occurred just after midnight on Sunday, July 30 on Raglan Steet in the town. Police received a report that several youths had been attacked by someone with a knife at a residence. They discovered that three victims under the age of 18 had been injured and taken to the Goderich hospital. One of the victims was transported to London's Victoria Hospital with non-life-threatening but serious injuries. The suspect fled the scene prior to police arrival. The victims were first driven to the hospital in Clinton where the emergency room was closed due to a shortage of available staff.

As a result of the investigation, a 15-year-old male youth from Stratford has been arrested and charged with aggravated assault, two counts of assault with a weapon, three counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and one count of failure to comply with an undertaking. His name cannot be released.

Huron OPP Media Relations Constable Craig Soldan said this type of incident is worrisome for the community as well as the police. "It's surprising and disappointing to have someone that young involved in such a violent set of circumstances. As a parent myself it's concerning, and I hope that we don't have any more incidents like this one." He added these types of crimes are seen around the world including south of the

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(FRED GONDER PHOTO)

WORLD IN A WEEKEND

Késä & Unack, stilt walkers; representing the the heat of Summer and the cool breezes of Fall during the World in a Weekend festivities. See the full story on page 2.

Stratford BIA turns 50 with Sidewalk Sale and Family Fair in the Square

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area (BIA), in conjunction with The Stratford Festival, will host a Family Fair in The Square on Saturday, August 12th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Market Square.

Downtown stores and the BIA will also be hosting a Sidewalk Sale during the day. Families can explore hundreds of unique shops and boutiques and score awesome deals for gifts or for themselves. This is a

wholesome family event, so bring your kids and dogs.

Jamie Pritchard, General Manager of the BIA, says, "The sidewalk sale on August 12th is going to be a shopping and dining extravaganza! It's been almost 15 years since there has been an all-out collaborative effort to make it a Downtown-wide event. We will have BIA green and blue balloons tied to the posts up and down the streets, Family Fair in the Square, and free cupcakes to help create the best family fun atmosphere."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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Stratford Summer Music rounds out a successful weekend



(STRATFORD SUMMER MUSIC PHOTOS)

The Stratford Summer Music Barge delights audiences along the Avon River.

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Stratford Summer Music (SSM) is in full swing, captivating audiences with a blend of music, comedy, and community engagement. The four-week festival kicked off on July 29th with a comic show featuring the dynamic duo of Buster Keaton and Bridge and Wolak at Factory 163. As the festival continues to unfold, attendees can choose from over 45 performances across various local venues.

Over half of the festival's audience comes from Stratford itself, with the majority of other attendees coming from within a 45-minute range: London, St. Marys, Kitchener and Waterloo.

Kendra Fry, the General Manager of Stratford Summer Music, noted, "We work with each business on an individual basis; they support us in whatever way they can, and we are happy with that." This relationship has allowed the festival to thrive, offering an array of popular shows that quickly sell out.

The diversity of events is a hallmark of the Stratford Summer Music experience. Ranging from classical to world music and even improv comedy, the festival presents a well-rounded, exciting program for everyone.

Fry emphasized the shift in focus over the last few years, scaling down the events, saying, "Before COVID, it was excessive, and there was too much happening, but now, we feel like it's the right scale. Now,

you have the opportunity to do lots of things but not feel overwhelmed."

Among the cherished attractions of the festival is The MusicBarge, a floating stage at the bank of the Avon River. Offering free outdoor concerts, attendees are encouraged to bring their blankets or lawn chairs and indulge in a leisurely picnic lunch while enjoying the enchanting melodies.

Still to come in the weekend ahead are a number of talented artists, such as the multi-award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter, pianist and CBC Music national radio host Laila Biali, who will be playing at Revival on Friday, August 11th; Quartet For the End of Time will showcase their talent at Factory 163 on Saturday, August 12th and lastly, world-renowned guitarist and singer John Pizzarelli will perform at The Avondale on Sunday, August 13th.

Another exciting note to watch out for is the fact that Stratford Summer Music was selected as a recipient of the Stratford Destination Development Fund Grant for the 'Shoulder Season' attraction. Specific details remain under wraps; however, Fry hinted, "If we pull it off, it's going to be amazing and cool and unexpected—a once-in-a-lifetime chance." — something to watch out for this fall and winter season in Stratford.

To stay informed about upcoming events, visit the official Stratford Summer Music website at www.stratfordsummermusic.ca



Onlookers during a Stratford Summer Music Event along the Avon River.

World in a Weekend 2023: A great success

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

World in a Weekend International Puppet & Music Festival concluded a successful weekend from August 3rd to August 6th. The festival featured various events, including the Latin Dance Party, Fire Stones and Stories, and the Music Barge, all of which received positive responses from attendees.

One of the standout performances was by Montreal's Késâ & Unack – Stiltwalkers (pictured), captivating the audience with their stunning act. Additionally, puppetry enthusiasts had the opportunity to witness the Animalarium puppets from Guadalajara and Mexico and the Longstring marionettes from Budapest. Another show held at the Nancy Campbell featured artists from Boston, Massachusetts.

The festival attracted a diverse crowd, drawing hundreds of attendees from across Canada and around the world. Eileen Smith, the Artistic Producer of Springworks, mentioned that they created world and city maps where attendees could place stickers to represent their origins, making tracking the festival's reach fun. Smith expressed her excitement, stating, "So many stickers from literally all over the world. People came from even as far away as South Africa and Japan."

2023 marked the second year of the Stratford Summer Music and Springworks partnership. Both independent festivals have a long history, with Strat-

ford Summer Music focusing on regional music performances while Springworks celebrates various art forms.

The festival organizers demonstrated their adaptability, learning from previous experiences, noting that despite having to cancel a few shows due to heavy rain. "the weekend turned out beautifully," Smith noted.

Smith explained, "We had to cancel the Barge as it couldn't go because of the rain, but our beautiful strolling puppets from Mexico kept hanging on and looking up at the sky to see whether the weather would hold or not." Despite the weather challenges, the festival's spirit remained strong, with dedicated attendees staying to enjoy a concert in the light rain.

Smith emphasized the sense of community that World in a Weekend has fostered. She noted that the festival brought together artists from diverse backgrounds and art forms, creating a close-knit network of volunteers and performers. The growing festival has connected people from different parts of the world, further solidifying the sense of community and collaboration between artists and community members.

The Stratford World in a Weekend was a remarkable event that united people from various locations, sharing hospitality and the magic of the performances. To find out more information or to support World in a Weekend or Springworks, visit their website at www.springworksfestival.ca

Stratford BIA turns 50 with Sidewalk Sale and Family Fair in the Square

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

While you are downtown, visit Market Square and join in on the fun activities at the Family Fair in the Square event. The BIA and Mayor Ritsma will cut the anniversary cake and give out cupcakes around 2:30 p.m.

The Downtown Stratford BIA was founded in August of 1973. To celebrate 50 years, the BIA invites families to enjoy some fun, celebratory cupcakes, a downtown-wide Sidewalk Sale, and a ton of family activities and entertainment in Market Square.

Pritchard says, "I am so excited about this event. There will be non-stop family entertainment on the stage, a DJ, games, food, cake, and so much more. The BIA and the businesses are also super stoked about the Sidewalk Sale as it has been many years since we have had one."

Family Fair in the Square is a double celebration, with activities and entertainment based on the Stratford Festival family production of A Wrinkle in Time. The fun-filled day will consist

of an Inflatable Planetarium, Magic with Wij the Magician, songs by Stratford Symphony Orchestra, Retro Rollers roller skating dances, Crafts and face-painting, Street games, Stiltwalker, Pet Parade around City Hall and Market Square (bring your dog!), Cupcakes and cake with Mayor Ritsma, Food trucks, ice cream, free popcorn, Costume dress-up and photos at Avon Theatre.

Along with the noted fun, the BIA is also hosting a range of other upcoming fun in the square with A Wrinkle in Time Scavenger Hunt, which runs July 1 to the end of August, and Car Free Fridays from August 11 at the Cooper Lot 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.,

The BIA is currently in need of volunteers for the event. If you would like to help or have teenagers needing volunteer hours, contact Kim Griffiths at kgriffiths@downtownstratford.ca.

For further information and details on the Family Fair in the Square, please contact Griffiths at the email above or call 519-271-5140.

A more energy-efficient system is in the works for Stratford Transit

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On July 26th, Mayor Martin Ritsma announced a federal investment of \$96,000 to support Stratford in planning to transition its city transportation system to zero-emission buses.

The Government of Canada is investing \$96,000 in this project through the Zero Emission Transit Fund (ZETF), and the City of Stratford is contributing an additional \$24,000.

While many municipalities are pursuing ‘fleet electrification,’ the transition can be challenging due to the complexities of converting buses to new technology with a significant upfront cost. However, there are a number of benefits in doing so, such as greenhouse gas emissions reductions and environmental and health benefits from the decrease in toxic diesel emissions.

“This is exciting news for the City of Stratford as we move forward on modernizing our public transit fleet,” Mayor Martin Ritsma noted, “Part of our environmental mandate is to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and make the transition from diesel to electric buses will be a key initiative in achieving our goals. We thank the Government of Canada for this investment and for supporting Stratford’s climate action work.”

Shifting vehicles away from fossil fuel

engines towards zero-emission alternatives presents an opportunity for significant greenhouse gas emission reductions. Currently, the transportation sector accounts for 25% of Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions, and Canada generates approximately 82% of its electricity from zero-emission power sources.

“By investing in bus fleet electrification, we are investing in sustainable communities,” said Tim Louis, Member of Parliament for Kitchener—Conestoga, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, “The funding announced today will help the residents of Stratford create a greener, more energy-efficient environment for the future.”

The Government of Canada is said to be investing \$14.9 billion over eight years in clean public transit. This funding includes \$3 billion per year in long-term, predictable federal public transit funding, which will be available to support transit solutions beginning in 2026-27.

The Zero Emission Transit Fund complements Canada’s strengthened climate plan: A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy. The plan commits the Government of Canada to provide permanent federal funding for public transit in support of making clean and affordable transportation options available in every community.



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

Stratford teen arrested after triple stabbing in Clinton

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

border but when it happens close to home it’s different. “It’s something that makes you think about what’s happening at these get-togethers. You trust your kids are safe and are just going to have fun with their friends, but I guess it only takes one person to come into the mix and ruin it for everyone. In this case, three people were hurt, one of them very seriously.”

Despite the violent nature of this particular crime, Soldan said that is neither a trend of the norm in his part of the province. “I’ve been working in Huron for almost 25 years as a police officer and am born and raised here. I don’t think there is a rise in youth violence from what I’ve seen. I can’t speak to other areas, but I can

tell you that in Huron County we don’t see this type of violence very often. We hear about assaults and people throwing punches but not weapons.” Soldan added he’s pleased to have the person they believe responsible in custody and formally charged, and the investigation is extensive and ongoing. “We have interviewed quite a few witnesses and there are more to talk to. There were a couple of points we want to get out to the public. If anyone has any video evidence that may be beneficial that caught pedestrian traffic between the hours of 12:30 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. on July 30t may be helpful.” He also said anyone with information who wishes to remain anonymous can also call Crimestoppers.

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STRATFORD TIMES

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stratfordtimes@gmail.com
www.stratfordtimes.com

Editor

Stewart Grant

Graphic Design / Layout

Sarah Cairns

Administrative

Wendy Lamond, June Grant, Cindy Boakes

Advertising Inquiries

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

Contributors

Spencer Seymour, Betty-Jo Belton, Julia Schneider, Gary West, Paul Knowles, Emily Stewart, Lisa Chester, Fred Gonder, April Taylor, Sheila Clarke, Irene Roth, Lauren Eedy, Lee Griffi, Stuart Lender, Amanda Modaragamage, Thomas R. Verny
(If interested in contributing to the Stratford Times, send us a note at stratfordtimes@gmail.com)



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

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Who is Amanda, anyway?

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It occurred to me that I hadn't formally introduced myself. Since I'm the new kid in town, so to speak, I guess it's high time for me to formally reach out and connect on a deeper level with my readers here at The Stratford Times.

I'm Amanda Modaragamage—yes, that's a bit of a tongue-twister—but you can call me Amanda or Amanda Jane or even just AJ. I am the new City of Stratford Civic Issues Reporter here at The Stratford Times newspaper.

Believe it or not, I have a formal education as a Registered Practical Nurse. I worked in a number of nursing roles throughout my 14-year career in the field.

Almost six years ago to the day, life brought my family and me to the charming town of Stratford, where I worked as an Office Nurse for a few years before starting my own business as an Advanced Foot Care Nurse.

Although Foot Care Nursing was a great opportunity for growth and helped me learn how to run a successful business, I knew I wanted to be a writer, and in December of 2022, I sold my three-year-old foot care business to pursue my wild dreams.

I initially started writing health and wellness blogs for an online company. Today, I continue to produce freelance articles on health and wellness for various online platforms, enabling me to stay connected to the latest medical

research and engage with an insightful medical community.

With a never-ending thirst for knowledge, I've completed countless writing courses. I'm currently on track to secure a Multimedia Journalism Certification from the University of Toronto by the end of this year, which I am grateful for and very proud of.

Throughout my journey, I've had the incredible privilege of connecting with people who are the heartbeat of our community. In my nursing days, I spent time with patients who shared stories that taught me more than any textbook ever could. From family histories that span centuries to incredible life experiences as police officers, business owners and even local journalists, these connections taught me that life is special and that turning crazy dreams into reality is possible.

During my short time thus far at The Stratford Times, I've had the ability to connect with fascinating people throughout our town: City

Councillors who passionately fight for what they believe in, those who work tirelessly to support the needs in our community, ones who've pushed for diversity and inclusion within our streets, and some, like me, who left careers to pursue their true passions.

Every single person in this not-so-tiny town seamlessly weaves this community together, and I feel privileged to bring their words to you, the readers.

Want to connect? Follow me on Instagram @amandajaneewriter



AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

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STRATFORD TIMES

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Celebrating Forty Years of the Stratford General Hospital Foundation

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

The parking lot was packed at the Stratford General Hospital for the 40th Anniversary party of the Stratford General Hospital Foundation. The August 1st celebration was well attended by residents, hospital staff, volunteers, Foundation members and donors.

Incorporated in 1983, over 49,000 donors throughout the Foundation's 40 year history have raised over \$80 million, contributing to new buildings, state-of-the-art technology, and ensuring that hospital staff are supported and have the tools to do their job.

"It's not just the wonderful high tech equipment and everyday equipment that people give toward, it's giving the hospital staff the tools they need to do their job. If they don't have the tools to do their job, you can't retain them, you can't recruit them," explains Andrea Page, executive director of the Stratford General Hospital Foundation.

Fundraising through donations for the Foundation is crucial to the hospital community and residents at large. While many may assume so, the Provincial Government does not contribute funds to hospitals for equipment to stay up-to-date.

"Every single piece of equipment at our hospital is through donor care. We won an award in Philadelphia for a 50 second video that showed a full O.R. (operating



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Andrea Page, Stratford General Hospital executive director posing with Paul Roulston, Stratford General Hospital Foundation "In Our Hands" Campaign Co-Chair. They are with the fundraising thermometer showing the impressive results to date.

(LISA CHESTER PHOTO)

room) and every second a piece of equipment disappeared until just Dr. Lefebvre is standing there with a scalpel. He drops the scalpel and it says, 'Without you there is nothing,'" said Page.

The "In Your Hands" Campaign raising funds for the new chemotherapy unit and co-located Pharmacy is ongoing and has successfully raised 87.3% of its \$30 million goal, or \$26.2 million. The campaign

was launched in June 2022 and was kicked off with a catalyst donation by the Van Nes family of \$5 million.

There is a chemotherapy unit in Stratford, but it is old and undersized. The new unit will have far more space for care and will incorporate higher standards from lessons learned through COVID. Higher standards will protect those with lowered immune systems.

Highlights of the project include the interior renovation of 16,000+ square feet of the third and fourth floor, additional patient consult and treatment space with upgraded chairs and beds, a new negative pressure room to provide care for high risk patients, and expanded support services including new staff rest room and change rooms.

In addition to the new unit and co-located pharmacy, priorities for the Foundation include mental health initiatives, new MRI, new lab and technology, new beds throughout the hospital and operating room equipment.

The 40th anniversary celebration was joyous but bittersweet for Page, as it will be her last. She is preparing to retire as executive director after 30 years with the Foundation on August 31st.

"I'm so honored. I've met so many people along the way who all have great stories about how their healthcare has been impacted by the care teams, it makes such a big difference, and to be a small part of that is gratifying."

PC Connect to increase rural route service

Effective Tuesday, September 5, 2023, PC Connect will be offering increased frequency on the Rural Route (previously Route A), by adding four new trip options Monday - Friday. Perth County is extremely excited to improve their public transit service by offering more ride options on one of the most travelled PC Connect routes. The new Rural Route schedule will provide riders with more opportunities to travel to and from Stratford, Mitchell, Listowel, Milverton, and many communities in between. Increasing frequency on the Rural Route will make it easier for rid-



ers to get to work, appointments, social activities, and so much more. An updated Rural Route Saturday schedule will also be implemented on September 5, 2023.

"In the world of public transit, frequency is freedom," said Maggie Kerr, Transit Project Coordinator. "Offering

increased frequency means that riders will spend less time waiting for the bus, and will have the liberty to better align their travel with their own schedule and commitments. We are pleased to be able to offer more frequency where there is public transit demand, ultimately creating a faster, more reliable, and more efficient service."

In order to further the efficiencies of the service, PC Connect Route B will no longer be in operation. Following the last day of Route B service on Friday, September 1, 2023, riders will continue to be served through the PC Connect

Rural, 1, 2 and 3 Routes. For more information on the new schedules, please visit perthcounty.ca/pconnect.

Launched in November of 2020, PC Connect is funded by the Government of Ontario's Community Transportation Grant Program. Since launch, the service has welcomed over 23,000 riders aboard its fleet of 5 buses. PC Connect operates 5 routes Monday to Saturday, serving Perth County, Stratford, St. Marys, Kitchener/Waterloo and London. For route maps, schedules and more information about PC Connect, please visit: perthcounty.ca/pconnect



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Dan Mathieson appointed Chair of Grand Trunk Renewal Committee

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Former mayor Dan Mathieson has been appointed as the Grand Trunk renewal committee chair. The decision was made during the City Council meeting on July 24 with great support from the council members.

"I'm excited about the project as it will have a very strong and profound impact on the development of our downtown core," notes Mathieson. "It has the potential to provide a housing common, a new YMCA, and further growth of the University campus including student residence."

Despite some opposition from Stratford citizens, all City Councillors except one expressed their support for Mathieson's appointment. Cody Sebben noted he prefers someone to be appointed with "fresh eyes" and someone less familiar with the project and, therefore, did not support the motion in favour of Mathieson.

Councillor Bonnie Henderson noted support for Mathieson's extensive experience, stating, "I just think that it's an asset to have somebody that already has gone through the public meetings, has been a part of the process, and has also been a terrific leader for our city."

Councillor Larry McCabe also emphasized the benefit of someone like Mathieson in this position, "Considering the



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

Former mayor Dan Mathieson will play a part in the renewal of the Grand Trunk Site

complexity of the negotiations and the path to take place to get something of this scale done in a city like Stratford, it is going to need somebody with a real sense of the politics of this arrangement, and I don't think that can be discounted."

The Grand Trunk renewal project holds great promise for the city, with plans to transform the site into a multi-use space that includes the potential for a new

YMCA and an expansion of the University of Waterloo. Other proposals for the location include affordable housing initiatives and accommodations for seniors.

Looking ahead, the committee will consist of a total of 12 members, with Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach advocating for an additional seat to be available for someone "with a land-planning background," she noted.

Mathieson also noted, "In the next year, the committee is expected to develop a plan in concert with the City of Stratford on how to move this forward and provide the city with a timeline to achieve the development."

The decision on the remaining committee members, which will include representation from various age groups and expertise in economic development, accounting, education, theatre, building design, law, and land-use planning, will be finalized at a later date.

The unsuccessful candidates, including Paul Brown, Robert Lemon, Paul Parlee, and Robert Ritz, were all praised by the Council. Burbach requested they all join the committee, saying, "I just wanted to thank everybody who applied for this position. It is an important one, and I think we had some really great applicants, and I hope those who are not appointed chair would consider reapplying to be on a committee itself."

The remaining committee members will be chosen at a later date, and the committee will be made up of members consisting of someone aged 13-25, a member of the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association, a citizen of Stratford, and members with a background in economic development, property development, accounting, education, theatre, design, and law.

Perth County and InvestStratford Launch Innovative Toolkit to Tackle Rising Unemployment Rates

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A survey by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce revealed a concerning rise in the country's unemployment rate, which has climbed to 5.4% from the record lows of 4.9% witnessed last summer.

Perth County and InvestStratford have collaborated to combat this pressing issue by introducing the Workplace Attraction & Retention Employer Toolkit (WARET).

The WARET is an online platform designed to be a comprehensive resource for Ontario businesses. It aims to help employers implement effective programming that facilitates the attraction and retention

of employees. The toolkit is an interactive, password-protected portal that provides tools, templates, instructional guides, and best practices, among other invaluable resources.

The development of WARET was partially funded through the rural economic development program in partnership with Perth County and InvestStratford. Joani Gerber, CEO of InvestStratford, expressed enthusiasm for the project, saying, "The intent was to share tools and resources with our employers from other best practices and vice versa."

The toolkit comes at a crucial time when businesses face common questions and concerns about employment recruitment; as Gerber points out, "How do you write a really interesting job description? What are some really good interview questions? How do you check for references in a way that maintains privacy and integrity but also gets to the heart of what you need to know?"

Meredith Forget, the economic development and tourism manager of Perth County, emphasized the importance of addressing workforce challenges, stating, "We're meeting with businesses, talking to



other economic development professionals, as this is like housing and workforce is a virtual issue."

She further highlighted that the WARET would showcase tested projects within organizations, particularly focusing on retention strategies. "There are so many unique strategies of employment retention," said Forget. "We have stories of employers that offer their staff down payments on homes, and the toolkit looks at how this works, what are the legal obligations, and what needs to be done to implement this."

The toolkit is built on the idea of sharing best practices and learning from successful initiatives across the country. "It was amazing how many businesses want to share their stories," Forget said. "There's no limit; this is from employers all across the country, sharing their best practices, housing initiatives, recruitment initiatives, and programs for remote work."

Since its launch less than a month ago, the WARET has already received an overwhelming response, with over 63 businesses signing up to access its valuable resources. Forget stated that the website is considered a 'living document,' providing the flexibility to change, modify, and update information as they progress. This approach ensures the platform can adapt and suit the needs of all employers.

"The website helps to provide businesses with access to creative solutions to the labour shortage," said Gerber, summarizing the overarching goal of the Workplace Attraction & Retention Employer Toolkit. As this innovative resource continues to evolve and expand, it holds the potential to play a significant role in tackling unemployment challenges and fostering a thriving workforce across Ontario.

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Local realtor Jennifer Anderson gearing up for Ecuador Challenge for Shelter

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

A local realtor is one of the 120 realtors across Canada who will be hiking near one of the world's largest active volcanoes while raising money for Optimism Place and the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation.

Jennifer Anderson is training for the 2023 Ecuador Challenge for Shelter in November. The Charity Challenge web page for the event said participants will hike for five days nearby Mount Cotopaxi.

Anderson walked for two days between Stratford and Blyth and raised \$2,000 during the 70 km trek as part of her training. She wore her new hiking boots as part of it and found they worked well for the upcoming hike.

"Overall, it went really well," she said. "It was a good opportunity for me to troubleshoot for my trek and make sure that I have proper footwear and socks and a backpack and all that sort of stuff. Now I'm going to focus on getting the appropriate gear."

Anderson already surpassed her fundraising goal for Optimism Place, a shelter in Stratford supporting women and children who faced domestic violence. Her goal was set at \$6,000 and as of August 7, she raised over \$8,600. Optimism Place is looking to build an addition to their space to accommodate more women and children.

"I'm happy with the timing knowing that the money raised is really making a difference," Anderson said.

At 80 per cent, most of the funds raised by Anderson will go towards the shelter. Optimism Place executive director Jasmine Clark told her that the need for shelter skyrocketed during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

"They actually turned away a lot of people, so that's frightening," Anderson said. "Anything we can do as a community to help provide more shelter for these women and children who need it, the better because we definitely do not want to be turning people away."

Anderson will be keeping up with her active lifestyle in preparation for the 2023 Ecuador Challenge for Shelter. She'll continue walking and find more places to climb and prepare for a variety of temperatures.

"It is challenging because as you know, we don't have mountains around here and I've never experienced such high altitude," she said to the Stratford Times. "We're going up to about – I believe it is close to

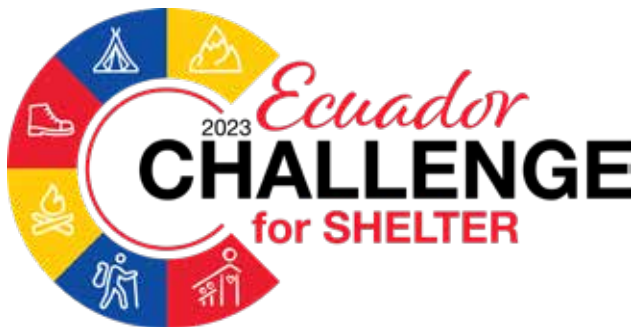
14,000 feet above sea level. There's really no way to train for that."

Participants are advised to be in good health, drink plenty of water, suck on honey candies and lozenges, and follow the instructions of their guides.

The experience will be unlike anything Anderson has accomplished before.

"I've never done anything involving altitude before. I've run a marathon in the past, but it is not the same. It's not over in four hours. It's going to be five days of trekking but I'm looking forward to the experience too," she said.

To donate or to follow Anderson's journey via facebook.com/jandersonrealestatebroker or instagram.com/jandersonrealestate.



JENNIFER ANDERSON



THE BEAUTY OF STRATFORD

(GARY WEST PHOTO)

If there ever was a picture perfect day on Stratford's Avon River, it was on the last day of July, 2023.

Visitors to the festival city always remark on how lucky we are in this area to have a beautiful park along the ever flowing river, and the 31st of July this year was no exception.

The Stratford Perth Humane Society to host 'Paws Got Talent Show'

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth are hosting a PAWS in the Park Day downtown Stratford on Sunday, August 20th. Families are invited to the Stratford venue at 125 Griffith Road, Stratford, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.



The event is a fundraiser for the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth and will host an array of fun-filled events, including lawn games and activities, 10+ vendors focused on pet accessories and treats, Campbell's Canteen Food Truck, access to the Stratford Perth Humane Society Dog Park (\$10.00 admission fee) and the Elspeth Macdonald Memorial Dog Walk, which will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

New this year is the SPHS Paws Got Talent Show, where attendees can fundraise to win. The dog who fundraises the most will win a Dyna-Glo 3-Burner Gas Grill for their owner.

To fundraise for Paws Got Talent or to learn more, please check out the website at <https://kwsphumane.ca/events/paws-in-the-park>. A minimum of \$25.00 is required to enter into this year's SPHS Paws Got Talent Show.

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford 2023 Concerts in the Park

WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY EVENINGS - 7-8:30 p.m.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| JULY 16 | <i>Strings & Traps</i> |
| JULY 19 | <i>Stratford Concert Band</i> |
| JULY 23 | <i>Weston Silver Band</i> |
| JULY 26 | <i>Stratford Concert Band</i> |
| JULY 30 | <i>Our Little Band</i> |
| AUGUST 2 | <i>Stratford Concert Band</i> |
| AUGUST 6 | <i>Kitchener Musical Society Band</i> |
| AUGUST 9 | <i>Stratford Concert Band</i> |
| AUGUST 13 | <i>The New Boys</i> |
| AUGUST 16 | <i>Stratford Concert Band</i> |
| AUGUST 20 | <i>Michael Kelly Cavan</i> |
| AUGUST 23 | <i>Stratford Concert Band</i> |
| AUGUST 27 | <i>The Thundering Velvet Band</i> |
| AUGUST 30 | <i>Stratford Concert Band</i> |
| SEPTEMBER 3 | <i>The Jazz Gents</i> |

The funding for the Sunday concerts above is provided by the Kiwanis Club of Stratford. All concerts are held at the Kiwanis Pavilion Band Shell in Upper Queens Park and begin at 7:00 pm sharp. Bring your family and friends to experience the live performance of music!

Humane Society urgently seeking hospice home for dog with cancer

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth hopes to immediately find a home for nine-year-old dog Maisy during her last days.

The Humane Society's press release said the friendly and affectionate dog arrived in the shelter in May. Amanda Hawkins, the senior manager of animal care, said in the press release that Maisy came in as a stray with a bladder infection, several masses on her body, and an ear infection.

"After being examined by our medical team, she received two surgeries to spay her and remove mammary masses from her body. Once biopsied, it was confirmed that they were cancerous," Hawkins said in the release.

The adoption fee will be waived for the family who adopts Maisy because of the higher veterinary costs.

Nasreen, the marketing and communications specialist for the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth,

said Maisy will require lots of medical care, including regular blood work and x-rays to see how the cancer spreads. Regular monitoring of her weight and appetite are also essential. As she also has arthritis, the dog may need medication if any pain occurs.

"She does need and deserves a lot of love, care and attention," she said.

Nasreen also told the Stratford Times the requirements of the ideal hospice for Maisy the dog.

"Maisy is suited for children with experience with large dogs. Unfortunately, she must go to a home with no other dogs," she said. "She does have separation anxiety so, ideally, she would want to be with someone who is home the majority of the time. Given Maisy's age, a quieter home is best suited."

Along with providing Maisy with a peaceful home and a loving family, residents can help the Humane Society by donating, adopting senior dogs, and fostering.

"We are also always looking for volunteer foster caregivers for animals requiring some ad-



(HUMANE SOCIETY OF KITCHENER WATERLOO AND STRATFORD PERTH PHOTO)

ditional care and love, especially those with medical needs," Nasreen said. "If you can provide the space, time, and love they need, we encourage individu-

als to apply to become a foster parent. Your support can make a significant difference in the lives of animals."

Anyone looking to adopt Mai-

sy can call the adoption team at 519-745-5615 ext 250. To learn more about being a foster parent for pets, visit kwsphumane.ca/how-to-help/foster.

Queer Book of the Month Club

Goldie Vance – The Hotel Whodunnit,
by Lilliam Rivera

@SPL: Available as an eBook on the LIBBY app

It's the early 1960s and Marigold "Goldie" Vance is the sixteen-year-old daughter of the manager of Crossed Palms, a fabulous Miami resort; she loves mysteries, excitement, and Diane, the super cool girl who works at Wax Lips, the local record store. Right now she is a car valet, but her

dream is to become the resort's in-house detective. When a big movie director and an even bigger



movie star stay at the resort while filming in Miami, security is tight. The star will be wearing the famed Bejeweled Aqua Chapeau during her scenes; it's a swimming cap crusted with diamonds and worth a literal fortune. Walt, the actual in-house detective, reluctantly recruits Goldie to help him keep the important guests' identities (and accoutrements) under wraps. When the Chapeau goes missing during a blackout on set at the Mermaid Club, and her mother becomes the prime suspect, Goldie leaps into action.

This novel is based off the wildly successful graphic novel series by Hope Larson and Brittney Williams.

CJ Nyssen
Public Service Librarian
Stratford Public Library

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STRATFORD TIMES

ATTENTION:

The Stratford Times is now being printed TWICE a month: 2nd Friday of each month & 4th Friday of each month. Please have advertisements, obituaries, event notices, etc. submitted by the preceding Tuesday.

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Stratford Librarian receives Ontario Children and Youth Librarian Award

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Brooke Windsor, Youth Services and Outreach Librarian, is the recipient of the prestigious Children and Youth Librarian of the Year Award by the Ontario Library Association. This award is given to honour a children's librarian who has positively impacted children's or youth services librarianship.

Windsor oversees the Stratford Public Library (SPL) tween and teen programming. She also oversees the children and teen collections at the SPL.

Zombie Survival Night, Family Amazing Race or Travelling Maker Fair are a few of the programs Windsor is known for. She notes one of her favourite programs is LARPing in the Library, which she goes on to explain, "It's basically an escape room spread throughout the entire library with lag time," Windsor continued that she runs several of these games each year.

Windsor's journey into becoming a librarian started with her neighbour, "My library journey began with my elementary school librarian, who was also my next-door neighbour. I always looked up to her, and she was the best. And for a kid who liked reading a lot, she was like a celebrity to me. She passed away the summer before I decided I was going to go to library school, but I promised her I'd be a librarian."

As the Youth services and outreach librarian, part of Windsor's job is outreach, and she explains how this is essential to intercity connection and communication. Windsor regularly visits the connected library between St. Mike's Catholic Secondary School and Stratford District



WINDSOR'S JOURNEY

Brooke Windsor, Winner of the Ontario Children and Youth Librarian of the year award

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Secondary School, where she helps with curriculum planning and offers support to teaching and library staff.

She goes on to say that a key element in connecting with youth is talking with them, "I learn a lot from sitting in the libraries; teens don't want to tell you what kind of program they want to see, that want to chat about what they like and dislike, they want to chat about social media and what's trending, this is how I connect to youth," she continues, "right now, making art and then posting pictures of your

art on TikTok is trending so this is what I try and incorporate into my programs."

Windsor's journey to the Stratford Public Library did not start out on the best foot, so to speak. Hired in 2021 during the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the library staff had to get quite creative in ways to connect with youth and keep them reading. "The first thing I did was set up an Instagram account so I could chat to them," Windsor notes about keeping in contact with Stratford tweens and teens during

the pandemic, "We set up a take-home kit-based program, which worked out really great. It allowed them to stay involved from the safety of their home."

These kit-based programs did not disappear post-COVID-19 and, in fact, still a great aspect of what the SPL currently offers today, "After we opened back up, I had a mother reach out to me and let me know her daughter, who was autistic, didn't feel comfortable coming into the library, but she loved the kits, so we, of course, decided to keep this operating to be as inclusive as possible."

"We do as much as we can to be including for everyone," Windsor stated, "I offer both virtual and in-person programs, and we have tweaked things in order to allow a neurodivergent person to take part in a particular library event. When it comes to teenagers, they just want to be with other teenagers, so having something that everyone can access equally is key."

Windsor noted that her career has taken her to many different libraries from Tennessee to Quebec, Richmond Hill, and now Stratford. When asked if we can expect her to stick around, Windsor said without hesitation, "I have found my happy place, Stratford. It's such a great community; it's the perfect size community. I'm happy that I can create an audience that lasts forever."

If you're interested in learning more about the programs at the SPL or have specific questions regarding the tween and teen programs offered by Brooke Windsor, Youth Services and Outreach Librarian, please visit the website at <https://splibrary.ca/>

Weekend Quiz

- 1) What is the formula for the chemical compound known as "carbon dioxide"?
- 2) In which country would you find the ancient city of Machu Picchu, often referred to as the "Lost City of the Incas"?
- 3) During which years did WWI occur?
- 4) Which animal is capable of rotating its head up to 270 degrees in both directions?
- 5) Who was the first woman to become the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?
- 6) What are the names of the Titanic's two sister ships?
- 7) Who sculpted the famous statue of "David"?
- 8) In the 2000 horror/thriller film "American Psycho", which actor plays the leading role of Patrick Bateman?
- 9) In the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," what is the object that the star is compared to?
- 10) Fissures, vents, and plugs are all associated with which geological feature?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27



(FRED GONDER PHOTO)

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Light Up The Night Kayaking takes on Christmas in July on Saturday, July 29 at the Avon River. Multiple kayaks were decorated and lit up with Christmas decorations. The next one will take place on August 26 with the theme being Hawaiian.

L'Arche Stratford surprised with another \$1 Million donation

LISA CHESTER

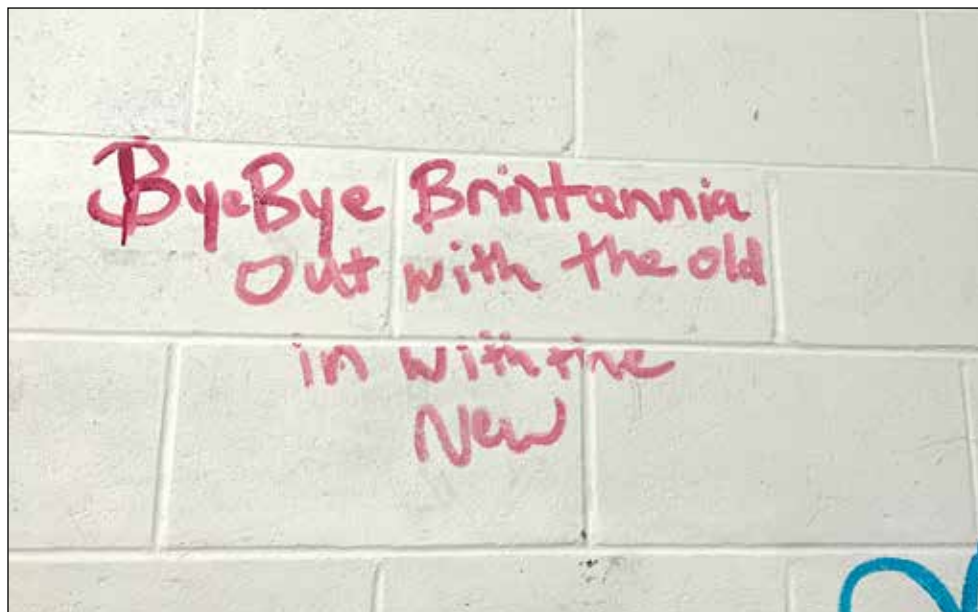
Times Correspondent

The year of celebrations continue. Not only is L'Arche Stratford celebrating 50 years of connecting hearts and changing lives, their capital campaign "Be, Belong, Become" has just received another \$1 million donation.

This surprise donation comes from the non-profit Windmill Gardens. Two members of the board of directors for Windmill Gardens presented the cheque to L'Arche Stratford earlier in July. They had recently sold the property and are donating the proceeds of the sale to various non-profit charities in Stratford and area.

"The Board of Windmill Gardens is happy to be a part of L'Arche Stratford's fundraising campaign to build their new home," said Sharon Hughes, chair/president of Windmill Gardens in a press release from L'Arche.

The non-profit was built in 1981 by the Dutch community to house parents of Dutch immigrants. The rental units were run by a board of directors at no cost until recently. After over forty years, the building has outlived its purpose and will now operate as a 55+ rental community with no ties to the Dutch. The founding board had made a stipulation that if the property was ever sold, the proceeds would go to other non-profits in the area and the cur-



(LISA CHESTER PHOTO)

Message written on gymnasium wall during pre-demolition celebration

rent board has followed through on this. Earlier this year, L'Arche received the massive donation of matching funds raised up to \$1 million. This second boost to the capital campaign for a new purpose built building at 426 Britannia St means demolition of the existing building will happen within the next few weeks. Preparatory work for the demolition is currently underway. Before the building comes down, they hope to locate a time capsule which was placed in the walls by

the former school.

Members of the L'Arche community gathered at the existing building at 426 Britannia St to pay homage and honour the building's past. They expressed their gratitude and gave blessings and hopes for the new building by writing messages on the gymnasium wall and posing for photos. Built in 1965 by the Stratford Board of Education, it was later taken over by the Perth County Board of Education. Ultimately it became a Mont-

sori school. This rich history of education will be honoured in the new building by naming the boardroom the "Education Boardroom".

The new one floor building is designed to complement the existing neighbourhood and will be fully accessible. There will be eight independent living suites as well as the opportunity to expand activity facilities and office space.

The need for the services that L'Arche provides is great. In the 2021-22 year, only 3% of those seeking respite, accommodation, and community participation support were able to be matched with existing support services. Through the expansion with the new building L'Arche will be able to double the number of individuals they can support.

With this donation, the "Be, Belong, Become" capital campaign now stands at 70% of its fundraising goal of \$5 million, or, \$3.5 million to date.

"The people of Stratford have been magnificent in their generosity towards our project and we have faith that they will continue to help us reach our goal. We have now received two donations of \$1 million each and, together with all the other generous donations, we will be able to get the building 'framed'... Now we need help in paying for the 'bricks'!" said Dennis Goforth, member of the campaign steering committee in a press release.

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Stratfords of the World visit City Hall and tour Stratford, Ontario

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Initially started in 1984 when the Stratford, Connecticut High School Band visited Stratford, Ontario, for the first time, Stratfords of the World marked the beginning of a unique connection between the Stratfords of the old world and the new world.

The inclusion of each Stratford in the organization was often driven by a shared Shakespeare connection, with annual Shakespeare Festivals becoming a common feature.

Delegates from Stratford, Upon Avon UK; Stratford, PEI; Stratford, CT; Stratford, Australia and Stratford, New Zealand were here in Stratford, Ontario, from August 2-9.

So far, delegates eagerly visited Stratford City Hall on Thursday, August 3rd, where Mayor Martin Ritsma hosted the luncheon in the Auditorium. During the event, Mayor Ritsma spoke on the history of Stratford and the unique beginnings of the new City Hall, dating back to its foundation built in 1898 and its completion in 1900.

Singing the Canadian National Anthem was Stratford High School student Lauren Hombach, and the Master of Ceremonies was Mayor Ritsma. Showing the true spirit of Stratford, Mayor Ritsma, MP John Nater, and MPP Matthew Rae offered some comical banter before offering their own support to the Stratfords of the World Delegates.

MP Nater spoke to the group and cracked a few jokes about the cold weather here in Stratford, Ontario, "It is great to be here and to welcome all the Stratfords of the World here to our Stratford in On-



MPP Matthew Rae, Mayor Martin Ritsma and MP John Nater at the Stratfords of the World Luncheon on August 3rd

tario, Canada. I'm so glad you came in the summer when we're having such beautiful weather. Stratford is quite beautiful in the winter as well, but much colder," he noted.

He also thanked the organizers for the event, saying, "I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy all of what Stratford, Ontario and Canada has to offer. I want to say a special thank you as well to our wonderful organizers who put their heart and soul into this event."

MPP Rae also spoke to the crowd, making note of the beauty of Stratford and Perth County, eagerly advising attendees to check out "all of what Perth County has to offer," and making note of his personal pride in Perth County, "Those of us who call this place home and live here are truly

blessed."

Thanking the group for their continued support, Rae continued, "Our shared namesake has brought us together, but it really is the people that have nurtured this strong bond of camaraderie that we celebrate today," Rae continued. "This is not merely a chance to celebrate our shared heritage but also an opportunity to forge lasting friendships that are reached beyond the borders that we share, which offers meaningful connections and build bridges between our shared nations."

The delegates also attended a garden dedication ceremony in Upper Queens Park on August 7th and on August 8, from 4-10 p.m. delegates were at

the Stratford Perth Museum for a number of events and activities, including exhibits, a vendor's market, a trail walk, a barbecue and a lively concert. Delegates will get time to explore the city and Parth County and check out what the Stratford Festival offers.

If you are interested in becoming a Stratford, Ontario Delegate or would like more information on Stratfords of the World, please contact SOTW@stratford.ca.



Mayor Ritsma presenting a recognition certificate to a Stratford, PEI Delegate



Celebration Cake with Stratfords of the World Flag logo

(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTOS)

Optimist Club of Downie Inc.

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July 24 Lesley Heinbuch, Stratford	\$50.00
July 25 Joan Tanner, Stratford	\$50.00
July 26 Pat Robinson, Sebringville	\$50.00
July 27 Susan Lindsay, St. Marys	\$50.00
July 28 Nicole Garradine, Granton	\$50.00
July 29 Cyril Moss, Stratford	\$200.00
July 30 Darryl Houston, Brussels	\$50.00
July 31 Roger McKay, St. Marys	\$50.00
Aug. 1 Bob Wood, St. Pauls	\$50.00
Aug. 2 Natasha Rae, London	\$50.00
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Times Past: Remembering Old Home Week

BETTY JO BELTON

Stratford-Perth Archives

In the fall of 1952 planning began for an Old Home Week to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Stratford's incorporation as a village in 1853. Women's organizations and other service clubs like the Kiwanis got to work alongside an organizing committee chaired by city tax collector, Ernest G. Davis. By the summer of 1953, residents eagerly awaited opening performances at the "largest tent theatre in the western hemisphere" being installed in Queen's Park for the brand-new Stratford Shakespearean Festival of Canada. And yet, as they waited, many were likely preoccupied with final preparations for the Old Home Week – held a couple of weeks before the first performances in the tent. It was a gigantic reunion for Stratfordites from across North America that opened with church services and a Regimental parade on Sunday, June 28 and wound down the following Saturday evening with a last chance to take in the circus, midway rides and fireworks at the fairgrounds followed by "Old-Time Dancing" on uptown streets. In between there were many entertainment options every day including a "joyride" of 300 motorcyclists through the city, a historical display at City Hall, concerts, tours of the Canadian National Railway repair shops and Kroehler Manufacturing, several softball tournaments, school reunions, furniture workers reunions, horse shoe pitching,



Fred Bryant, Bobby Bryant and Wilfred Scott were all prize winners in the big parade

an amateur talent show in the band shell, a "mixed costume tournament" at the Bowling Club and an exhibition of swimming and diving at the Lions Pool.

One of the biggest events was the parade on the afternoon of July 1. Charles

E. Moon of the Optimist Club was in charge. The parade formed on Shakespeare St before proceeding through the city to the fairgrounds. Prizes were given out. Father and son team Fred and Bobby Bryant of Devon St won first prize in the

novelty category with their vintage bike and side car. Nine-year-old Wilfred Scott won the comic category for children. Kroehler Manufacturing took top honours in the commercial and industrial class. Their float featured a comic music band enjoying the company's furniture. After the floats were taken away, Stratford's Rainbow Riders motorcycle club returned to the track at the fairgrounds for racing and stunts in front of a crowd of 2,000 people.

Rather than go home to rest after marshalling such a successful parade, Moon improvised what some described as the highlight of the entire week. He drove his car downtown, rigged up a loud speaker on the roof, got a phonograph and some records and invited everyone to an impromptu dance on Downie St. Somehow, someone got the street closed between Ontario and Albert streets and over a thousand old friends kicked up their heels until 2 am. Besides Moon's records, square dance music was provided by an anonymous fiddle player. The official street dance on Saturday night was the final event of what sounds like a fantastic week in Stratford. Judging by Rosemary Donohue and Norma Roy's enthusiastic demonstration of how to dance the "bunny hop" – seen here in a photograph from Stratford-Perth Archives - that was a pretty fun evening too!

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



Bunny hoppers Rosemary Donohue and Norma Roy seemed to enjoy the street dance that closed Stratford's Old Home Week reunion in 1953



Charles E. Moon put speakers on the roof of his car for a spontaneous downtown street party



LOCAL MATTERS.



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Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

In appreciation of newspaper legend Frank Doyle, the man who started it all

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

The week's Stratford Times represents the completion of two full years of operation, but something that many readers might not realize is that our news team dates back 23 years to June 1, 2000, when Frank Doyle published the first issue of the St. Marys Independent.

Facing difficult health issues at the age of 78, Frank retired from the Independent this week.

"When I started the St. Marys Independent newspaper, the philosophy was to have a paper that would be educational, information, and entertaining," Doyle reflected in this week's edition.

Frank also believed from the start that the newspaper should be easily accessible and free to readers. He also attempted to engage with readers of all ages through well-rounded content. From a business perspective, advertising would be the paper's only source of revenue, and he introduced reasonable ad rates for business to encourage them to get involved.

So many of the original philosophies of the early St. Marys Independent newspaper have endured, not just within the pages of the Independent but also in this newspaper, the Stratford Times.

Many thanks are due to Frank Doyle for all that he has done over the years for St. Marys, Stratford, and surrounding areas through his efforts at the newspaper.



Frank Doyle at his desk surrounded by post it notes and newspapers.

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For the love of baseball

ERIN KLUMPER

Contributor

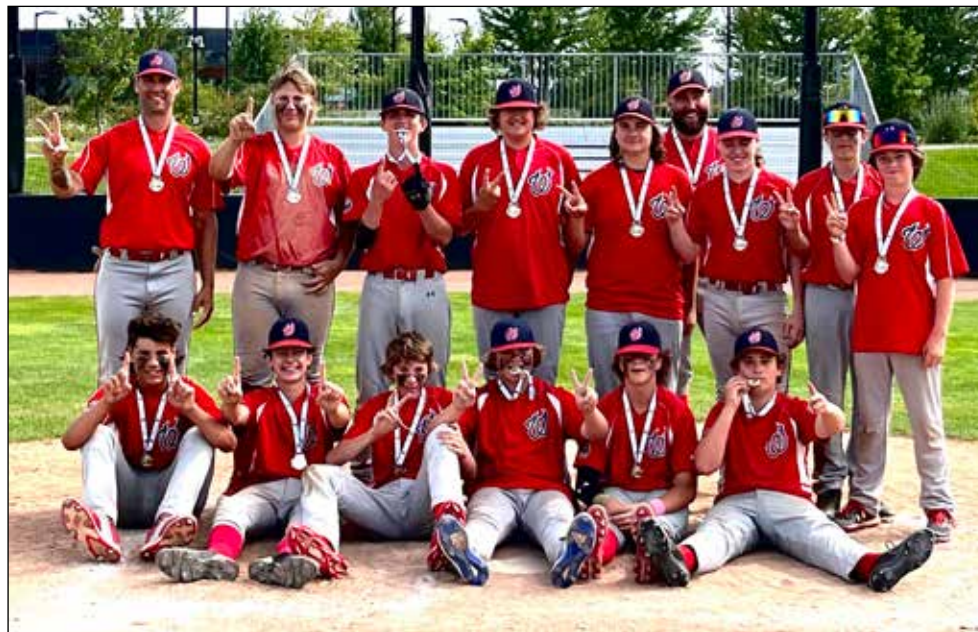
As every baseball fan knows, there is more to the game of baseball than the final score, and for the 2023 U15 Western Ontario WOBA Bulls, not only did the team find success on the field, but maybe more importantly, off the field, and have three silver medals in tournament play to prove it.

Players on the WOBA U15 Bulls team come from Mitchell, Exeter, Clinton, Saugeen, Port Elgin, Mount Forest, Hanover and Walkerton areas and normally play each other throughout regular season, but play as teammates for three additional tournaments through the summer.

Coached by Brandon Allen (Hanover) with Darren Thorton (Saugeen), local connections Ryan Klumper (Mitchell), Andrew Davis and Carter Dunseith (Stratford) are rostered players with the Mitchell Astros U15 OBA in regular season, and have contributed to the WOBA Bulls success this past summer.

In June, U15's collected the silver medal in the London Badgers 15U A tournament held over Father's Day weekend.

Then in July, the team earned the silver medal in the Caledon AA Tournament held in Bolton, July 21-23, going 3-0 in round robin play, before falling short to Halton Hills in the finals. In their pool, the Bulls were victorious over Whitby (6-2), Mississauga Majors (13-4), Scarborough (8-4) in round robin play, and earned a bye to the semi-finals, edging Whitby (10-2),



BULLS ON PARADE

U15 WOBA Bulls Team with silver medals

before falling short to Halton Hills in a dramatic weather delayed final.

The third and final tournament that WOBA Bulls competed in, was the Ajax Spartans Mega AA Tournament, held August 4-6th, at the Pan-Am Diamonds in Ajax. After a thrilling edge of the seat, full-team effort in the semi-finals, resulting in a 5-1 no-hitter win versus Mississauga (whom the Bulls lost to in their opening game Friday night), the team weren't able to hold on to their momentum versus Caledon in the finals, and the Bulls proudly wrapped up their short season

with their third Silver Medal.

Watching the players go from being opponents to teammates, cheering and supporting each-other, and building friendships throughout the three additional weekend tournaments, makes the Bulls program a unique experience for players, coaches and parents alike. Returning to their regular teams, you can see the smiles on the boys faces each time they play against one of their Bulls teammates. Parents and coaches from the larger city AA teams, often comment on how thoroughly their team enjoyed playing against such a

sportsman-like and fun group of kids, who are truly there for the love of the game of baseball.

After a pause for the pandemic, the 2023 WOBA Bulls program was revived, and has teams competing at the U11, U12, U13, U15 and U18 levels this season. Several players on the U15 roster are veterans to the Bulls program, which has contributed to the team's success so far this year.

The WOBA Bulls are an OBA-sanctioned program that exists to allow athletes in the primarily rural area of the Western Ontario Baseball Association territory, playing in D-Centre divisions, to experience the same high-level of competitive baseball that athletes in any city would experience at the A/AA/AAA levels.

Tryouts are held each fall for all interested eligible players within the Western Ontario Baseball Association, with pre-season indoor training at local centres such as Between the Lines in Listowel, and Pinnacle Fields in Stratford starting early spring, followed by bi-weekly outdoor practices in mid-May.

U15 Coach Brandon Allen said "Any type of spotlight on the Bulls is only going to help the program going forward. We're a small lucky group that has got to experience this for a lot longer than most. I think it's great for everyone involved and would love to see it continue and expand. If we end up leaving the program in a better place than where we found it, I think that's at least a short term legacy we can be proud of."

SMBA 12U House League Championship Recap

SMBA 12U House League

Championship Final

Jake Hovius Excavating - 13

GRIT Engineering - 12

The Championship Game for SMBA 12U House League was played Sunday, July 30th. Unfortunately both teams were playing with short benches as the game was rescheduled due to rain. GRIT Engineering Inc., who finished as the 3rd seed in the regular season, upset their way through the playoffs and into the championship game, facing the #1 seed Jake Hovius Excavating. It was a spirited championship game with some excellent pitching by both squads, and several lead changes. GRIT Engineering Inc. looked poised to pull off the upset but Jake Hovius Excavating's bats came alive in the late innings led by Maguire Vogt both on the mound and at the plate with a clutch walk off single in the bottom of the 7th to secure a 13-12 victory and the Championship for the top seed.



SMBA 12U House League

Consolation Final

Hunter Steel & Supply Ltd. - 12

Aisin Canada Inc. - 9

The battle for the consolation final saw Hunter Steel & Supply Ltd. who finished the regular season as the 4th seed facing off against the 2 seed Aisin Canada Inc. Hunter Steel & Supply Ltd. had been consistently improving throughout the season and were coming on late in the season. They carried the momentum through the consolation final to upset Aisin Canada Inc. 12-9 in the final.

A huge THANK YOU to the sponsors of our four teams in SMBA 12U House League: Jake Hovius Excavating, Aisin Canada Inc., GRIT Engineering Inc., and Hunter Steel & Supply Ltd. As well, SMBA would like to express their gratitude to the coaches who volunteered their time, the parents and the players for making this a successful, albeit rainy baseball season.

Overholt to represent Canada at World Championships

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

St. Michael's alumni Brooke Overholt has been named to the Canadian National Track Team by Athletics Canada and will compete in the 400-metre Hurdles at the World Track and Field Championships to be held in Budapest, Hungary later this month.

Overholt told the Times that she's "very excited" for the opportunity to compete on a stage that she's been striving to reach her entire athletic career.

"Ever since I started track and field, I've thought about this opportunity and dreamt of one day being on a national team and specifically the national team for the World Championships," said Overholt. "It's something I've watched on TV for many years and worked towards for years so now to finally be going to compete in it, it's definitely a great feeling of accomplishment knowing that the hard work pays off."

While it isn't the first time Overholt will wear a Canadian National Team crest having competed with the U20 Junior squad at the 2019 Pan-Am Games, cracking the national program for the top global track and field meet offers a new level of pride for Overholt in representing her country.

"Being on a national team and representing your country is something that makes you feel really grateful. I had a taste of it with the Junior team at the Pan-Ams but this is my first Senior team and I feel really thankful that I have the chance to represent Canada again."

The final big test before the World Championships for Overholt was last Sunday, July 30th, when she competed in the Canadian National Championship in Langley, British Columbia. Overholt finished second in the 400-metre Hurdles and was just 0.03 seconds behind Saskatoon's Savannah Sutherland.

"It's always great to compete at Canadian Nationals and it was a really close race, which is nice when you have a good test like that ahead of such a big event like the Worlds," Overholt said. "This was also the last chance for me to improve my rankings before the Worlds so I definitely was leav-



(VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY TRACK & FIELD/TWITTER PHOTO)

ing everything I had out there."

Overholt said that she felt confident her body of work would be enough to make the National team, but still, she waited with nervous excitement for the official confirmation.

"I raced [last Sunday] at Canadian nationals and was pretty confident that I had a good shot at making the Worlds team, but you never truly know. In the days after, I was just waiting to get the email. Always refreshing my phone, making sure the internet was working."

Finally, the announcement of the team was made last Wednesday and Overholt got the confirmation that she would be heading to Budapest, prompting multiple different feelings as she realized she would indeed be competing on the global

stage.

"First, I felt a sense of relief, and then, it was just this overwhelming joy and excitement that I've made it to this level, show the world what I can do, and line up against a great group of women from around the world."

According to Overholt, she began to believe her chances at making Team Canada were really strong after her collegiate finale.

"After the NCAAs was when I really started feeling like I had a good shot at getting to this point. The NCAA Championships set me up really well in terms of my ranking and the race in Edmonton also helped. Certainly in the last few months, I really began believing that if I ran a similar time to what I had been, that making the national team was not just possible, but I likely had a serious chance at making it."

That level of belief, said Overholt, is a vital component to succeeding in an individual sport like hers.

"Confidence is huge. You have to be able to believe in yourself because it's just you out there. You don't have anyone else to rely on. You have to be confident in yourself and your abilities and believe that you deserve that spot, you deserve that lane, and that you can do anything you set your mind to."

Overholt and the rest of the Canadian National Team will be in Budapest from August 19th to 27th for the global competition.



Stratford Branch 8

ATTENTION: CANADIAN VETERANS AND EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

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

The Buddy Coffee Check Programs continue every Tuesday at 10:30 am.

Good chance to talk to other veterans. The Fall Veterans Dinner is on September 22, paid for by the Poppy Fund, all Vets welcome. More info to follow. Contact the Branch at 519-271-4540 for any questions or concerns and Bill will get back to you. Have a good summer.

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

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Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival Returns for 26th Year of Races and Community Support

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On September 16th, the city gears up to host the 26th annual Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival. This event promises a day filled with thrilling races, delicious food, lively entertainment, and a sense of community in support of the Rotary Club of Stratford.

The festival, known for its recreational Hong Kong-style races, will see up to 50 teams racing for top place on Lake Victoria. The highlight of the event will be the 2000-meter final, showcasing the top 8 teams.

Spectators at the event can watch the initial races, which will be held in either a 300-meter or 500-meter, 4-lane format.

Robert Ritz, Chair of the Dragon Boat Festival under the Rotary Club of Stratford Charitable Foundation, shared his excitement about the unique setup of the races, saying, "The best part about the Stratford Dragon Boat race is that it's four lanes, right down the river, so you can stand on the shores and be nice and close to the ac-

tual race."

This year's Stratford Dragon Boat Festival promises a day of festivities for all ages, offering a lineup of food vendors, including Joe's Diner, Annie's Seafood, Ken's Fries, and an ice cream truck. Ritz emphasized that the event offers an ideal opportunity to bring the whole family together, saying, "It's a great day to bring the kids down, grab a beer for yourself, and have a nice day of watching the race."

Over 2,000 attendees are expected to gather along the shores of Lake Victoria to witness the races, all while enjoying local entertainment and food. The Kid's Tent



promises to keep the younger audience engaged and entertained throughout the day.

With a strong lineup of 52 "Cash" sponsors and 24 "In Kind" sponsors, the event has consistently made a substantial impact. Over the years, the festival has raised an impressive \$936,916, which is then directly

invested back into the community through the Rotary Club of Stratford's foundation.

Ritz emphasized the meaningful impact of these funds, saying, "All the money we generate goes to our foundation, and then the foundation distributes these funds to a number of local organizations, including

Hospice."

In an effort to raise awareness for the upcoming event and acknowledge its sponsors, the Rotary Club of Stratford recently secured approval from Stratford City Council to install a 40-foot Dragon Boat in Market Square. The "Dragon in the Square" will be on display from August 4th to September 17th, 2023, adorned with the Rotary Wheel, festival details, and the logo of the Platinum Sponsor. The boat's interior will proudly display the community-based projects the Dragon Boat Festival supports.

The festival's grand opening ceremony, scheduled for 11:00 a.m., will feature the traditional dotting of the eye ceremony and an initiative to raise awareness about breast cancer.

As the 26th Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival approaches, Stratford residents and visitors alike are gearing up for a day of fun on the water with races, delicious food and entertainment.

For more information and updates about the festival, please visit the official website at www.rotarystratford.com

Brame Electric U15 prevails at LaSalle ball tournament

The Stratford Brame Electric U15 baseball team travelled to LaSalle for a tournament. They started with a tough task facing the host team but battled to get a 7-6 win. Saturday, they had two games with a game against Milton that was a back-and-forth game that ended with a 5-5 tie.

The team then played Grimsby, which pushed the boys, but they persevered and ended the game with an 8-5 victory that sent them to the semifinals.

A rain delay didn't affect them as they played a 5-1 rain-shortened game against Halton Hills.

The Stratford Brame Electric U15 team played against Milton in the finals again. The boys started slow and were down 4-0 early in the game, but they persevered and bounced back for an 8-6 victory.

This was a team effort as the pitching, defence and offence all excelled during the tournament.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



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U15 Red Girls finding stride with winning surge

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

The U15 Red HP Girls Stratford Flames appear to have found their stride with wins in three of their four games last week.

Head Coach Tyler Rae praised the team for how they've rounded into form.

"There are many reasons for the season turning around for the girls," Rae told the Times. "We have four girls playing for the first time this season and they've greatly improved. Our outfield defence has come a long way and we've been fortunate to have many runs prevented out there.

"The bats have also improved throughout the season," Rae continued. "Autumn [Paulter] learning how to pitch has given us a big boost as she's really taken to the role and opposing hitters need to adjust for the change of pace she's provided."

After a win back on July 19th, the Flames won their second in a row on July 31st with an impressive 18-6 victory over Innerkip. Neil MacIntosh and Claire Turner led the charge, each posting three hits as part of the torrid offensive

output by the visiting Flames.

The winning streak then was extended to three games the following day when the Flames travelled to St. Marys to take on the Rockies. After falling behind early in the contest, Stratford roared back to life, highlighted by a three-run home run by Bella Rae, who also had a strong defensive game in the shortstop position. Paulter turned in a solid relief pitching effort to earn the win.

Playing three games in as many days proved a bit too tall of a task with the Flames falling 9-5 to Exeter on August 2nd. However, Stratford had several bright spots including an excellent defensive performance in the outfield by Myla Thompson and an exceptional pitching display by Turner.

After a day off, the Flames were back on the field on August 4th and they came away with a definitive 16-3 victory over the Wilmot Thunder. MacIntosh went four for four at the plate with two triples and a homer to lead the charge. Paulter started her first game on the mound and got the win.



U15 RED GIRLS

On the left, Ava Van Dyck throws the ball back to the infield. On the right, Sidney Nelemans makes contact with the ball during an at-bat.

(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

Stratford Athlete places 17th in World Triathlon Championships

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Times Correspondent

Stratford's own Lauren Manders placed 17th in the world and second in Canada at the World Triathlon Championships this July in Hamburg, Germany.

Manders' father, Gary, was on Team Canada for the triathlon back in 1991. He set the bar and was the Canadian champion (best in Canada) from 90-92. He qualified for Team Canada for a number of years but only competed for them once due to athletes having to fund everything for themselves.

Following in her father's athletic footsteps, Manders, too, was a star athlete growing up, "I was involved in every sport growing up; my parents enrolled me in pretty much anything just to see what I would be interested in. And I really took two competitive swimming."

Later, Manders went on to compete and swim for the University of Ottawa swim team, where she excelled in the sport.

Swimming varsity for the University of Ottawa was a dream for Manders, but she soon realized she had hit a wall, "I was burnt out," she noted, "I had been doing competitive swimming for 10 years at that point. And in university, I trained about 25 hours a week. I just hit a point where I was like, I hate this."

The triathlon athlete talks openly about her history with burnout and recognizing when to rest, "I think that letting yourself be okay with taking time off when you do get to that point is good, and you should listen to your body and mind."

Recognizing her need to stay active but



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Lauren Manders completing the World Triathlon Championships in Germany this year

mindfully stepping away from swimming when she knew it no longer served her, Manders joined a triathlon team at the University of Ottawa. "It was very clear that swimming wasn't fun for me anymore, but I knew I couldn't just sit still and do nothing, and sports have been a huge part of my life. Even though I swam my whole life and was in the pool twice a day, I knew I had to find something else I loved, and triathlon just felt like the natural next thing for me."

"I joined the triathlon team and trained with them for three years," Manders told the Stratford Times, "I think it was my first year of training with them that I qualified for my first Team Canada competition in 2017. I loved it and was like, 'This is my sport.'"

Noting her dedication to the sport, the Stratford Intermediate Teacher trains a

whopping 12 times each week, twice each day, six days each week, to qualify and compete against the fierce competition, "I'm up at 4:30 in the morning. I'll train before school, teach all day, and then I'll come home and do my second session of training," she said.

The spirit triathlon means athletes complete a 750-meter swim, which takes about 12 minutes, then move on to participate in a 20 km bike race and, to finish off the race, a 5 km run. Manders notes the sprint-style triathlon is not to be overlooked, "People sometimes underestimate this event, they think it's just a short event, but the truth is, you're literally sprinting for over an hour straight, so it's quite intense."

At the 2023 Sprint & Relay Triathlon World Championships in Hamburg, Germany, individual races were held on Friday, July 14, 2023, and then two days lat-

er, Manders was able to participate in the Team relay with other Canadian athletes.

Manders anchored Team Canada in the finishing race, which was held on Sunday, July 16; she said about the competition, "It was a new format that World Triathlon has introduced. It's a really fun, fast and short race, you have four people on the team. It's co-ed, so your male will start, and he'll do a 300-meter swim, 5k bike and then a 1500-meter run, which takes approximately 20 minutes. He will then tag the next female, and then she does the same thing, then male and then female again."

As a competitive athlete who recognized the importance of finding what your true passions are, Manders wants potential athletes to know there is value in a number of other sports that may not get as much mainstream attention, "Triathlons are a little more niche, so you don't typically hear too much about that. But I'm pretty proud that I can teach full time, train full time and go to so many amazing events; I think it's pretty cool, and I think it's a great sport for others to look into."

Setting goals and challenging yourself is something Manders lives by and something she loves to teach her students at SDSS. She discussed what she believes to be the key to success, "Find something you love and set challenging goals for yourself. I think that can be applied to anything in life, not just sports. I think it's so good to pick something active in your life to set goals for, whether personal, academic, or career goals. I think you should always set challenging goals for yourself so that you can work towards that next step in life."

Local official wins Alliance referee of the year

LEE GRIFFI

Times Correspondent

Perth South resident Ian Waugh is a Level 3 referee who has been officiating since he was 15 years old and is a member of the Stratford Referees Association. His dedication and professionalism have resulted in him winning the 2022-23 Minor Hockey Alliance Referee of the Year.

Waugh transitioned from playing the game to working his way up through the officiating ranks, eventually working games in the Ontario Hockey Association. He is regarded by his peers as being not only a great referee but a friend on and off the ice. He is also well respected by players and coaches, a sign of being an excellent official.

Waugh works full-time as a millwright at Integrated Mechanical Services, and has his own herd of beef cattle, but still finds time to referee. "For the love of the game. To say in the game. For me, it's still a night out at the arena working with the guys and the girls. The camaraderie you just can't get anywhere else. Being a part of the team." When asked if he had one memory that stuck out, Waugh said it happened close to home at the Allman Arena as the Stratford Warriors battled the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins. "It would be doing a Cherrey Cup game in the lines in Stratford doing the lines for the Ontario Hockey Association. Being back in the Allman, one of the home barns I learned to ref in when I was growing up. There were about 2000 people there and the atmosphere was just wild."

As for his future goals wearing the stripes and the bands, Waugh said he wants to go as far as he can. "I'll just keep working the games I have for now and always try to improve to get to the next level." He added his role in helping younger officials improve their skills is something he will always support. "I look at it the way everyone mentored me growing up with the senior guys in Stratford. They showed me the ropes and it's up to my generation to show these next kids the ropes. Waugh actually stopped playing hockey after his first year of midget in the St. Marys Rock system to take up refereeing full-time. "I just enjoyed it way too much."

Jake Gansevles is President of the Stratford Referees Association (SRA) and said Waugh's award doesn't come as a surprise. "This season Ian has shown all the characteristics I believe it takes to receive an award

of this magnitude. He skates every game with integrity, effort, and determination to be better. He also works with our newer officials in a mentoring capacity." He added the effort the 22-year-old puts in is commendable, to say the least. "He balances officiating in multiple Leagues, a full-time job, and farming while still finding the time to skate with newer officials providing essential and quality mentorship. This past summer, the SRA held a free skate for all ages to help recruit people interested in officiating minor hockey. Waugh not only helped the SRA in organizing the skate but could also be found on the ice teaching and assisting those new to the job." Gansevles said apart from his skill and leadership, Ian is the referee who always has a coffee waiting for a fellow official. "He never asks for reimbursement or forgets your order. It may seem like a simple gesture, but it goes a long way in bringing the referees together as that third team on the ice."

In Stratford, similar to other areas, there is a need for more officials. On multiple occasions, the lack of available officials meant that games were in jeopardy of being cancelled but Waugh often stepped up in these instances to ensure that the games would be played. He has also been recognized as the Stratford Referees Association's Most Promising Official and Most Improved Official over his career.

The Alliance Hockey Referee of the Year Award recognizes outstanding contributions, involvement, and service to Alliance Hockey in the area of officiating. Recipients have displayed a commit-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A STAR IN STRIPES

Ian Waugh, left, holds his Alliance Referee of the Year Award beside Stratford Referee Association President, Jake Gansevles.

ment to the ideals of the association, have worked tirelessly for the improvement of the game at their local association level,

and have made a notable impact on both the game and the players involved.

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EXHIBITION GAMES

Friday, Aug 25th (exhibition against St. Marys) sales start at 6pm RBC Arena
Friday, Sept 1st (exhibition against Caledonia) sales start at 6pm*
Friday, Sept 8th (exhibition against Port Colborne) sales start at 6pm*
Saturday, Sept 9th (exhibition against Fort Erie) sales start at 6pm*
*Sales at the Allman Arena Box Office (Debit and Credit Cards Preferred)

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Glen Dias celebrating 70th birthday with Revival House Concert

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

A milestone approaches with the upcoming annual concert by Glen Dias at Revival House on August 27th. Dias has been celebrating his birthday with an annual concert for over ten years.

“The first one of these birthday concerts took place on my 60th birthday. Traditionally it’s always been on my birthday, and the whole thing began at Foster’s Inn. Sixty is an important number, so I wanted to honour that. Then the following year, I called it my 59th, then the following year I called it my 58th. 57 didn’t happen because of a tragedy in my life, but I was back at it the following year for 56 and then the following year, I decided to own up, because everyone knew anyway, so I did my 65th,” said Dias.

COVID came, so he didn’t do a full blown concert during that time, but did a one man pop up on the patio of Foster’s. No tickets were sold and it wasn’t heavily promoted so that there wouldn’t be too many people. The concerts have gone really well. The shows have always been a pay what you can donation.

“Now, we are doing it at Revival House and are selling tickets for it as it is my 70th birthday, another milestone,” said Dias.

Historically, the concerts have primarily been a solo act with accompaniment by another well-known Stratford artist Gail Selkirk. This year, special guests will be the local singer songwriter Luke Robertson and Barry James-Payne, also known as String Bone. If these last two sound familiar it is because they are both very active in the local music scene. Both Glen Dias and Barry James-Payne are founding members of the Celtic roots band Rant Maggie Rant.



Gail Selkirk and Glen Dias at the piano where they have been rehearsing

(LISA CHESTER PHOTO)

about, keeping a band together for that many years. Bands are like a marriage of a kind,” said Dias.

Selkirk, a founding member of the band Major Hoople’s Boarding House, will do a solo opening set for Dias. With her eclectic range of Italian opera, sung in Italian, to rock legends like Led Zeppelin’s Stairway to Heaven and Van Halen’s Jump, the crowd will not know what could possibly come next.

“Expect the unexpected,” said Selkirk, “Rehearsals have been going great. It will be bang bang bang one right after the other, a very energetic show”

“We have been rehearsing long and hard, every Thursday we get together for about the past four months,” said Dias.

The second set will feature Dias accompanied by Selkirk on piano.

“The repertoire that both Gail and I present, first she will do the first set on her own, then I will do the second set. The second set belongs to me with Gail accompanying me. There’s a wide array of genres being represented with what the two of us are doing,” adds Dias. “The concert series has always been wildly successful in that we have paid ourselves decently, we have a sound engineer/designer, John Hazen who is a wonderful sound engineer, and we’ve packed the place every single year, because John makes sure the sound is channelled in all of the rooms.

Revival House, which lends itself more to a performance venue with better sight-lines and expansive seating in a single room is a bit of a change up from the traditional Foster’s venue, but because he was turning 70, Dias wanted to change it up a bit.

“We started last year, letting the audience know that Gail’s birthday is creeping up on us too. If you look at the leaflet it says at the bottom, Gail’s 74th is coming up too!”

Fans of all of these talented musicians know that this is a concert not to be missed. Tickets can be purchased at ticketscene.ca and the show starts at 8pm. Reservations for dinner at Revival House can be made online at revival.house or by calling 519-273-3424.

“Luke Robertson is a fabulous guitarist, jazz guitarist, all style guitarist, he plays everything. Barry was the guitarist and songwriter, lead and background vocalist for Rant Maggie Rant, a Celtic band I was in for twelve years. We did quite a lot of touring, out west, down east, south of the border. Twelve years is something to crow



NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

TAKE NOTICE a Statutory Public Meeting is scheduled for **August 15, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.** This meeting will be held in-person and available remotely to discuss a proposed Amendment to the Perth South Zoning By-law.

PURPOSE:

The proposed amendment to the Perth South Zoning By-law No. 4-1999 has been initiated by the Municipality to consider changes to the Zoning By-Law that will include a definition for Second Dwelling Units and adding one single detached dwelling as a permitted use in the Agriculture (A) Zone.

If you would like to be included virtually in the meeting on **Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.** please email the Clerk at lscott@perthsouth.ca by **Monday, August 14, 2023**. More information regarding this process will be made available to those who register.

Those interested in viewing the meeting but not directly participating are asked to view the webcast via Township of Perth South Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PerthSouthTwp/

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION relating to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is available upon request and will be shared virtually where possible. If required, arrangements can be made to have a package prepared and available for pick up at the Township office.

DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF PERTH SOUTH THIS 25th DAY OF JULY, 2023

Lizet Scott, Clerk, Township of Perth South
3191 Road 122, St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0
Telephone: 519-271-0619 x224
Email: LScott@perthsouth.ca

STRATFORD TIMES

ATTENTION:

The Stratford Times is now being printed TWICE a month: 2nd Friday of each month & 4th Friday of each month
Please have advertisements, obituaries, event notices, etc. submitted by the preceding Tuesday.

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Light revealed: Scott McKowen's scratchboard artistry

ELIZABETH COOPER

Contributor

Even if you don't know Scott McKowen's name, chances are you'd recognize his work in an instant. He is, quite simply, one of the best scratchboard artists in North America, and his distinctive style could never be mistaken for that of anyone else.

Born and raised in Michigan, the illustrator, graphic designer and art director has made his home since the mid 1980s in Stratford, Ontario, where he creates iconic theatre posters and graphics for performing arts companies around the globe. Anyone who attends theatre regularly is bound to have encountered his striking and meticulously executed imagery at some point – and that's not even to mention his contributions to the publishing industry, which include the covers for an eight-part Marvel Comics series, his art direction of a book featuring the theatre and dance production photography of David Cooper, and three volumes of his own artwork.

Even in a city as rich in talent as Stratford, with its large community of renowned actors, craftspeople, authors, directors, painters and other artists, Scott McKowen holds a place of special eminence. So, when I arrived at his home studio this spring, I was giddy with excitement at the prospect of meeting such a master of his craft.

But what is scratchboard illustration? A technique akin to traditional wood engraving dating back to the 15th century, it's something of a throwback in our modern world of digital imagery. Perhaps it can best be described as the opposite of drawing on white paper with a black pen.

Scratchboard artists use sharp instruments to cut lines into a board of hard white clay that has been coated with a layer of black or other dark-coloured ink. The image is thus created not by applying ink but by scratching it away to expose the underlying surface. Colour, if required, can then be added digitally, yielding results as rich and dynamic as any full-colour painting.

There's something visceral about carving a white line into a black surface with a sharp blade – and because it's a reductive process, it's also considered one of the most difficult artistic techniques. When you create by cutting away, you can't fix mistakes.

I ask McKowen if his floor is covered in black dust and remnants.

"I have a little brush handy to keep my board cleaned off; it is



certainly not a clean art form," chuckles the artist.

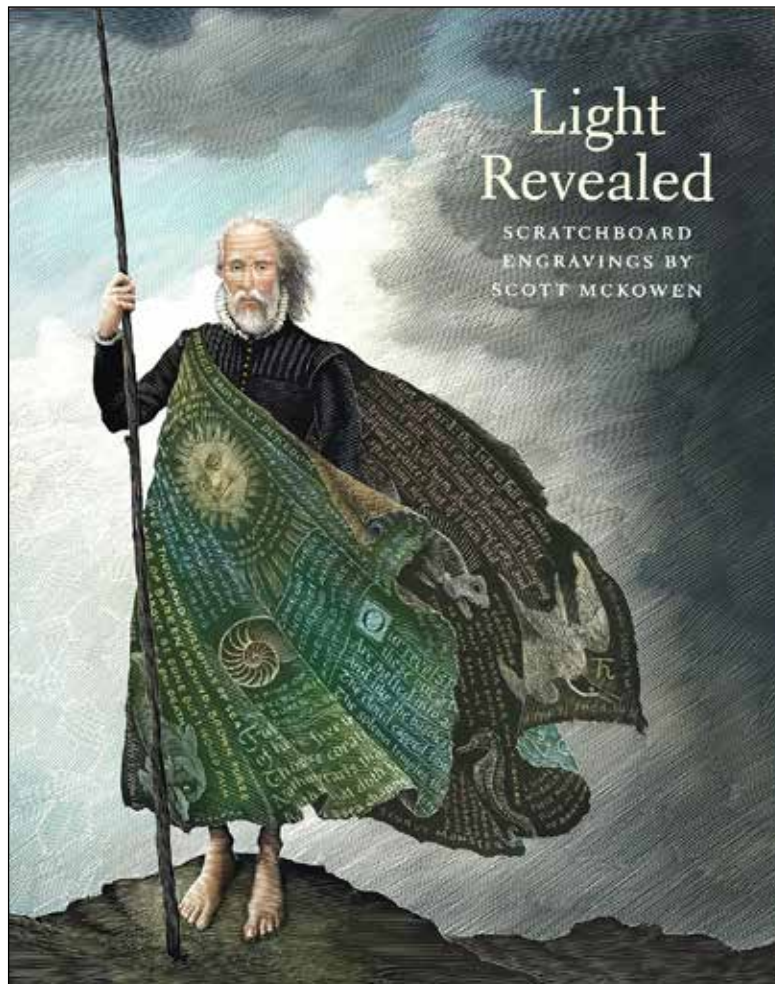
His workspace, complete with a friendly housecat named Virgil, includes an illuminated magnifying glass on an adjustable arm, with an eye loupe attached for viewing more intricate details – much like what a jeweller would use for setting fine gems.

After a tour of that space, and of McKowen's large digital Mac studio filled with stacks and stacks of artwork from his life-drawing classes, we settle into his little modern living room, flanked by floor-to-ceiling bookshelves on one side and light-flooding windows on the other. There he tells me that his skill and love of the arts came from his parents: his mother was a sign painter and silk-screener, while his father was a choir director in Michigan.

"My mother taught me all about lettering and colours," he says. "I knew about typestyles and fonts before I could read and write."

Graduating in 1978 with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, McKowen then interned under artist Sam Viviano, who subsequently became art director for Mad magazine in New York City. In 1980, his love of theatre drew him to Stratford, where, with his student theatre posters and résumé in hand, he applied to work at the Stratford Festival. Instead, however, he was quickly snapped up by the advertising firm of Parsons and Associates.

His big theatre break came in 1985, when the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario, engaged him to create season posters and pro-



duction images. It was there that his unique scratchboard style caught the eye of Christopher Newton, Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival repertory company in Niagara-in-the-Lake. It was the start of a long association: McKowen has been art directing and creating the Shaw's season posters and house programs ever since.

The Shaw Festival isn't the only major theatre that hires him regularly. He has also worked

extensively for The National Ballet of Canada, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Canadian Stage and Theatre Calgary, and has created artwork for other leading cultural institutions all across North America, including New York's Roundabout Theatre Company, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Seattle Rep, the Goodman Theatre in Chicago and the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles.

In addition, he has illustrated

the covers of more than thirty books, including, in 2003, Neil Gaiman's eight-part comic book series *Marvel 1602*, set in an alternative universe in which superheroes battle supervillains in an imagined version of the Elizabethan era – quite apropos for an artist based in Stratford!

"I love historical assignments," agrees McKowen. "I love researching and coming up with a modern concept to hundreds-of-years-old plays."

When a visual artist achieves renown, public demand will often prompt the publication of their work in book form, and McKowen's case has been no exception. *A Fine Line*, published in 2009, is his personal selection of more than 200 full-colour and black-and-white reproductions, including commentary about each assignment and its solution.

His most recent hard cover book is a stunner. In *Light Revealed*, McKowen builds on his first retrospective with a further selection of 285 images. He provides a detailed analysis of each piece and describes what influenced his design. He includes images of the reference works and source material he consulted during the conceptual process and talks about the struggles he had arriving at a design solution.

The praise lavished on *Light Revealed* includes this from Neil Gaiman: "It's hard to decide what's cooler about Scott McKowen's poster art: the astonishing, elegant design and linework, or the way he tips your preconceptions on their head and does something unexpected with every assignment." The public clearly agreed: at a book signing at Stratford's Fanfare Books in November of 2022, all the copies sold out in less than two hours.

When asked why he continues to make Stratford his home after 42 years, McKowen says he loves the community of artists in the city. He admits that in the sleepy months of Stratford's winter, with the theatres closed and the restaurants operating on reduced hours, he can get more work done. To relax, he runs weekly life-drawing classes at the local art gallery, listens to music and opera, and does a lot of cooking.

To wrap up our conversation, I ask him if he has a favourite quotation or axiom about his work that he'd like to share. To which he responds:

"If it were easy, anyone could do it."

As originally published in Huron-Perth Boomers magazine, www.huronperthboomers.com. Elizabeth Cooper is a freelance writer and fundraiser for the United Way.

Kayla Veldman trains service dogs while also raising pullets for her family's egg laying operation.

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

Service dogs are being trained constantly and are recognized by the general public by the red coats they are outfitted with to show they are in training.

A young Perth County poultry farmer has taken on the important task of not only raising hens for laying eggs, but also has become a "puppy raiser"... but not just any "run of the mill" raiser of young puppies!

Kayla Veldman volunteers her time with Autism Dog Services (A.D.S.). She fosters service dogs in training from 8 weeks old until they are ready for advanced training, which is usually when the dog is about 18 months old.

Kayla farms with her family south of Stratford and west of Tavistock, on the Perth-Oxford boundary, and took the time to speak with us about her newly found hobby.

She says she "started volunteering with A.D.S. during COVID as a way to get out of the house and has really enjoyed working with the dogs and learning how

to train them".

She says she has fostered 4 service dogs in training for the organization so far, and is currently training Barley (pictured), who is just over a year old.

One of her previous foster dogs is working as a certified Autism service dog. Two of her previous dogs before that have been career changed and now work as scent detection dogs with police services.

Most service dogs she trains are Golden Labs and Golden Retrievers with some being Standard Poodle Cross Breeds.

Kayla, who is a graduate from the University of Guelph, says she started off raising puppies, but transitioned to raising adult dogs and now spends a lot of her time finishing the training of those adult dogs, when they are over a year old.

She says they finish their training before they move into advanced training with the on-staff professional dog trainers.

Miss Veldman says "it has been incredibly rewarding to volunteer as a puppy raiser".

She said it's always hard to let the dogs go at the end of their training with her, it is so rewarding watching them go on and do great things.

Autism service dogs make a world of difference for the children and families of children that they serve. According to Veldman, A.D.S. animals help children with autism by offering companionship, aiding in confidence building, help to keep children safe, and support those children through their sometimes difficult, daily lives.

As a young energetic lover of dogs, Veldman says autism dog services is currently recruiting puppy raisers. They are looking for people who are able to commit 12 to 18 months to socialize and provide basic training to puppies, and attend biweekly puppy classes.

She said being a volunteer puppy raiser with A.D.S. is most rewarding and knowing you are helping someone in need with autism who could be young or not so young.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Kayla Veldman with her Golden Lab "Barley", her service dog in training, who goes with her almost everywhere she goes. They were together at a gathering in Shakespeare last week.

Web-crawling in the middle



SHEILA CLARKE

Times Freelance Columnist

Not too hot, not too cool, not too wet, not too dry, Stratford in the middle. Although a few outdoor events have had to re-schedule due to rain, and there have been smoke days, we've been able to dodge the heat, fires, floods, and crippling air quality triggered by climate change (I can hear my Irish grandmother saying "Touch wood!!!"). That makes the stories we see in the news seem very distant - and so they are, for now. There are some great things happening in Stratford to enable us to moderate the damage and discomfort of climate extremes: increased native tree, shrub and flower planting; upgraded storm sewers and storm ponds; electrification of our bus fleet to come; the hire of Sadaf

Ghalib, our Climate Manager; and a City Climate Plan in the fall.

There's a bigger picture beyond our gates though. In fact, it's partly the story inside our gates that is creating the extremes we see in the news- extremes that will someday be visiting Stratford. If we look at the rest of the planet where people are reeling in catastrophic heat, fires and flooding, something is clearly wrong. How is that related to what happens to Stratford in the middle?

Let me introduce a new word: Overshoot. An Overshoot day has been determined for 2023 for the planet, and for most countries. Overshoot day for a country has been defined as the date on which we would overstep Earth's capacity to sustain us, if all of humanity consumed like the people in that country. Ironically Canada's Overshoot Day was one of the earliest for 2023. Canada's Overshoot Day fell on March 13, in company with the United Arab Emirates and the US. We were preceded by only two countries, Qatar (February 10) and Luxembourg (February 14).

If all the world consumed Earth's biological capacity (biocapacity) in the manner of Canada, the entire planet would be

in a deficit situation for use of the planet's natural resources from March 13th for the rest of the year.

Overshoot for the entire world is the day on which humanity's demand on nature exceeds the Earth's annual biocapacity to regenerate. This year Overshoot Day for the planet lands on August 2nd. It will mean that we have outstripped Earth's ability to regenerate our use of her natural resources for the rest of 2023 from August 2nd.

If we take that further, it can mean that Earth will no longer be able to sustain humans (in the manner in which they would like to live) past Earth Overshoot Day, without continually using the Earth's resources into the next year. And that can't go on forever.

Earth Overshoot Day as an idea was first created by Andrew Simms in the UK. In 2006 Mathis Wakernagel brought it to the Global Footprint Network. The concept was created to demonstrate our overuse of our planet. We have an amazing resource at York University to help us calculate that overuse. In 2019, Researchers at York began accumulating extensive world data on economic activity, agriculture, energy and more, from as far back as 1961.

Putting these data together and measuring them against the resources of Earth, they have developed an accurate tool to measure our "footprint," and our "overshoot."

Whoops! If we wish to consider the future of the planet and those who depend on it (the entire web of life), if we wish to consider 7 generations into the future (as in Indigenous philosophy), then we need to find the brakes.

On a site called Earth Overshoot Day you can follow the Solutions link, which defines five main areas where we can find other paths to a good quality of life, paths that will remain within the capacity of the Earth to regenerate biocapacity: The Planet (How we help nature thrive); Cities (How we design and manage cities); Energy (How we power ourselves); Food (How we feed ourselves); and Population (How many of us there are). Beyond Solutions, the Power of Possibility section is filled with ideas that can help us all live within Earth's limits, without borrowing on our account into the future.

There are many ways in which we can come to live in harmony with our planet's biocapacity. Somewhere in that story, we will need to alter our love af-

fair with consumerism, with the power of more. That will involve recognizing the limits of our Earth and its ability to provide. I have more to share about ways in which we can learn to understand our planet's limits saved for another column. In the meantime, let me leave you with a quote from an Indigenous book, Braiding Sweetgrass, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. It can be found at the Stratford Library in either hard copy or audiobook. It's a beautiful book.

The thanksgiving address (not the turkey day...) is an address to the natural world, and to all of us, giving thanks for all elements of the planet. Finally it reminds you that "you already have everything you need. Gratitude does not send you out shopping to find satisfaction." It is possible we have been led to think differently.

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.

The Undertaking



STUART LENDER

Times Contributor

Like anything one undertakes in life, it is always a good idea to know why you are doing it in the first place. I smile at that word “undertake” because of my chosen field as a funeral professional. Some still use this largely antiquated word for what it is that I do, but the word has had a long history and meaning. “Undertaker” ... someone who undertakes a task, since 1382, has referred largely to a “helper” or “assistant” and became attached to the profession, and therefore myself at times, as someone who undertakes something we don’t want to talk about.”

It became quite apparent to me, early on, that the number one task for someone in my shoes is exactly that – to talk about it! It is after all, an area of expertise that no one is a complete expert in (including myself) regarding the afterword, but certainly can be known, prepared for and discussed in the foreword. My personal foreword was one of a relatively early acquaintance

with death, a myriad of questions that opened for me about that, and then the privilege of becoming an “expert”, giving information and



The Tree symbolizing growth that springs from decay.

helping others in a journey I too will explore more intimately than I already have. You know... “undertaking” the task in a big way, so to speak.

For many of you, if you have been reading the information and/or musings I put out through my posts on Facebook or through The Stratford Times newspaper to make life (and all things regarding death) more understandable, more enlightening or simply more revealing – you will know that it is my top priority to bring you information of relevance that everyone should know.

One shouldn’t, however, feel bad if they don’t know it. In my field of work, you can’t know unless you know what to ask. Eventually though, the information will be needed and will be of value. That is the number one task of a funeral home – to empower people. Once folks know everything it is that they need to know, they can make the decisions they need to make. More importantly, they’ll know what those decisions are going to be! If you have been reading past articles, you would also know that it is not my number one concern which funeral home you use at a time of need or where it is. There are plenty to go around. The information is the information and funeral homes should provide it!

At Rutherford Cremation & Funeral Services (James A. Rutherford Funeral Home) I’ve never been one to shy away from that call, despite some people’s adverse reaction to it, because I rec-

ognize our cultural death aversion as getting in the way. If we are afraid to confront something, how can we treat it as sacred and human? I also know that people are hesitant to enter a funeral home unless necessary.

Therefore... I will be bringing the information to you in a series of Death & Dying Pop-ups in the city of Stratford. Casual as casual can be:

125 Downie Street, Stratford. Just south of Foster’s Inn.

Wednesday, August 16 from 12 pm - 8 pm

Saturday, August 26 from 10 am - 5 pm

Thursday, September 14 from 12 pm - 8 pm

Saturday, September 23 from 10 am - 5 pm

Yes – you need merely walk in, take the printed information you need regarding dozens of topics – and walk out. But rest assured, for those slightly bolder individuals who have questions, they will all be answered, and we may even have an interesting conversation along the way. Come on down and enjoy some coffee, tea and treats. It won’t kill you!

Death positivity is the willingness to discuss death because it is human, and it is loving to do so.

UNTIL SOON. LIVE WELL.

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

Carpe Diem: How to Seize the Last Days of Summer with Gusto



IRENE ROTH

Times Freelance Columnist

It’s hard to believe, but once August rolls around the corner, summer just seems to fly even faster. The weather gets really hot and steamy, and we are all trying to latch onto the last days and weeks of the season and make the most of it.

I have discovered that if I can become mindful when August rolls around the corner, then I can ensure that I do some of the things I intended to do when the summer started. Summer is

so full of enjoyable tastes and smells. There are festivals and farmer’s markets and so much more.

Then there are the BBQ’s that we can attend or host. Making the most of the last gasp of summer need not be too difficult. We just have to make a list of everything we’d like to do and schedule them so that we can do them in the next few weeks.

Here are some ideas to help you savor the last days of summer:

Plan Some Enjoyable Outdoor Activities:

There is still some summer left. So, take advantage of the warm weather by planning outdoor activities such as picnics, hiking, camping, beach trips, or water sports. Spend time in nature and soak in the sunshine.

Host a Barbecue or Picnic:

Nothing says summer more than firing up the barbecue and grilling some meat and veggies. Organize a gathering with friends and family in your back-

yard or a local park. Enjoy delicious food, fun games, and good company before the summer ends.

Visit Local Events and Festivals:

There are so many festivals and concerts at this time of year. Check out any local events, concerts, or festivals that might be happening during the last month of summer. It’s a great way to experience the culture and community spirit of your area. In Stratford, there’s summer music and the Razzamajazz Pantom Boat hosts some barge music on the Avon River in the Tuesday to Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. So, make sure that you make the time to enjoy it.

Read a Book or Two:

One pleasurable activity in the summer is to read outdoors. This can be a time to get into the habit of reading more. Choose a book you’ve been meaning to read and spend some lazy afternoons getting lost in its pages.

Visit Farmer’s Markets:

In August, there is so much fresh produce that we can pur-

chase. One nice thing to do in the summer is to explore local farmer’s markets to enjoy fresh produce, artisanal goods, and a lively atmosphere.

Watch the Sunrise or Sunset:

There is something special about the sunrises and sunsets in August. You may want to wake up early to catch a beautiful sunrise or find a scenic spot to watch the sunset. It’s a peaceful way to start or end your day. Sunrises and sunsets on the Avon River are next to none!

Plan a Staycation:

If traveling isn’t feasible, plan a staycation and explore your city or town as a tourist. Visit museums, landmarks, and try out new restaurants or cafes.

Have a Technology-Free Day:

There is so much to experience in the summer. Take the time to unplug you’re your screens for a day and fully immerse yourself in the real world around you.

Take a Boat Trip:

If you have access to a lake or the ocean, consider renting a boat for a day of relaxation on the water. There are tour boats on the

Avon River. It’s such a pleasant and relaxing way to spend 30 minutes or so. Then when you get off the boat, you can buy a cold ice cream.

Organize a Movie Marathon:

We always say that we will watch a lot of movies during the summer. But then the summer starts slipping by and we still haven’t seen the movies we wanted to. Try to do a movie marathon or two on a weekend when it’s too hot or rainy to be outside. Invite some friends and family and enjoy a bucket of popcorn with your favorite summer-themed films.

Remember, the key to making the best of the last month of summer is to try new experiences, spend time outdoors, and cherish the precious moments with friends and family. Take advantage of the season’s offerings and make wonderful memories to carry you into the next season. Because it will be September before you know it.

Seize the time that you have left in this summer season. Do it now before it’s too late.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Kermit the king of Key Lime Pie



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor

Some people think he's a statue. Others, that he is a cartoon character brought to life. Me? I think he's a genius. And a terrific chef.

I'm talking about Kermit Carpenter, owner and founder of Kermit's Key West Key Lime Pie Shoppe.

If you have been to Key West, odds are good that you've seen Kermit, decked out in what he calls Key Lime yellow, posing with a pie in front of his main Key Lime Pie shop. I got the chance to photograph him, and then spend some quality time with Kermit, in the crowded office next door to his shop and restaurant.

And he gave me the recipe for success in the Key Lime Pie business.

Actually, he gave me two recipes – one, the story of how he became the leading figure in the Key Lime Pie world; the second, the actual recipe for his pie. Because it isn't a secret – it's right on any bottle of Kermit's Key Lime juice you might wish to purchase.

But that doesn't mean his pies aren't special. They are. In fact, when the bicentennial of the Florida Keys was celebrated last month, the centerpiece was a 4-meter in diameter Key Lime pie created by Kermit and a col-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

A bit of heaven for dessert lovers, near Key West's Historic Seaport.

league.

He says that the open secret is, "My juice is double strength... it adds a little firmness to the pie."

Kermit came to Key West 31 years ago, after living in West Virginia and then in Maryland. Why? One word – "cold." His grandmother lived in the Keys, and visits to her inspired Kermit to move as far south as you can in the United States. They also inspired something that would establish his career for the next decades – "My grandmother taught me how to make Key Lime pie," he told me.

He found an available location in Key West, at the corner of Greene and Elizabeth, and opened a store. To which nobody came. The first months were a challenge.

But then two things changed. First, Key West built the boardwalk that is now crowded with

visitors and locals, strolling along the waterfront, visiting the shops and restaurants. And second, Kermit threatened a trolley driver.

Well, that's sort of true. Kermit had decided to be his own trademark, so he had taken to standing in front of his store, decked out in his colourful chef's costume, pie in hand.

The tourist trolleys and Conch Train routes run right past his shop, but the drivers were always pointing out the music studio then owned by Jimmy Buffett, on the other side of the street. Passengers were always looking the other way! Until one day, when Kermit caught the eye of a trolley driver, and pretended to throw his Key Lime pie at the chap.

The driver loved it, and directed his passengers' attention to the crazy pie-throwing chef. It caught on with other drivers, and

Kermit's marketing problem was solved.

To this day, you can usually spot Kermit in front of the store. "In season, I try to get out there," he says. "It's fun."

But he also has a big business to run. There are now two Kermit Key Lime Pie Shoppes in Key West, the second on iconic Duval Street. And Kermit ships thousands of Key Lime pies throughout the US, from a 30,000 square foot warehouse farther north located elsewhere in Florida. He has a total staff of 35.

And the guy will turn 80 years of age in October. So I asked about his succession plan. He gave me a quizzical look – there is no succession plan, because there is no plan for Kermit to stop working!

Besides, in addition to making a living for himself and his staff,

Kermit makes a huge difference in his community. He donates to dozens, perhaps hundreds, of charities.

When Kermit came to Key West and started making his pies from his grandmother's recipe, there was only one other Key Lime pie business in the city. Today, every restaurant worth its salt has Key Lime pie on the menu – including a breakfast joint called Blue Heaven, where you can top off an excellent breakfast with a unique slice of their pie.

Does the competition bother Kermit? He laughs. "Try 'em all," he says. "It makes a fun thing to do."

Kermit gives this suggestion with the confidence that, when all is ordered and eaten, folks will return to Kermit's shop – including celebrities who drop by from time to time. He laughs that country-rock star Zac Brown ordered a blueberry Key Lime pie – and "he ate the whole thing."

I didn't eat a whole pie – but I scarfed down a nice slice of Kermit's original Key Lime pie – yum! – and then shared a slice of Coconut Key Lime pie with Kermit – also yum!. Kermit admits that he eats at least a few bites of his pie "almost every day."

He claims that he is trying to adjust his working schedule a bit, to allow him to travel farther afield than the sidewalk in front of his shop. But it's hard to believe he'll ever leave for very long, because, as Kermit told me, "It's fun. It's been fun from day one."

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Kermit, the king of Key Lime Pies.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Blue Heaven, which serves Key Lime pie for breakfast.

Riddles

Which way did the outlaw go when he stole the computer?
He went data way

Why wasn't the outlaw allowed to be buried in the town cemetery?
He wasn't dead

What kind of horse eats and drinks with its tail?
They all do. They do not take their tails off to eat or drink

Where do race cars go swimming?
In a car pool

What kind of egg travels to unknown places?
An eggs-plorer

Why can't you play basketball with pigs?
Because they hog the ball

Backward I am heavy, but forward I am not. What am I?
The word "not"

What can be swallowed, but can also swallow you?
Water

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 27



Pet of the Month

DAPHNE

Meet Daphne, a beautiful, medium size, mix breed female dog who is looking for her loving family! 6-year-old Daphne is a shy and nervous girl who takes some time to warm up to new people, but once she feels comfortable, she is a total snuggle bug who loves to cuddle and be close to her humans. Daphne has some special dietary needs due to her allergies, and will require a special diet for the rest of her life to manage her condition. If you think you can give Daphne a home, please fill out an adoption survey at <https://kwsphumane.ca/adopt/process>.



Word Search

BLUE JAYS ROTATION

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

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- JANSEN
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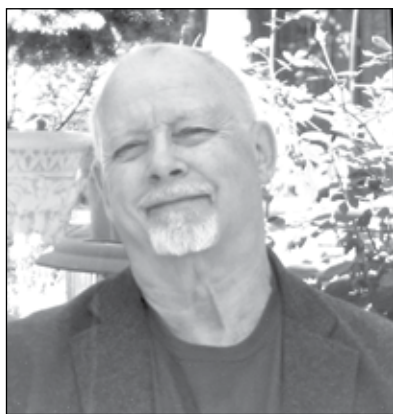
FYI - I am currently writing my 48th mystery novel. Eleven of my Joel Franklin Mysteries have been published to date. The stories take place in Southwestern Ontario from 1928 to 1939. My books are available from Amazon, Fanfare Books in Stratford, Diana Sweets Marketplace in Listowel or directly from me. Visit my Facebook for more information.

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OBITUARY



WILLIAM (BILL) GORDON CRAIG

May 2, 1943 - July 29, 2023

We sadly announce the passing of Bill Craig on Saturday July 29th 2023 after a brief stay in Stratford General Hospital.

Bill was much loved by his wife Frances Craig (nee Diehl) for sixty years.

He will be dearly missed by daughters Denise Craig-Ali (Tony) of Toronto, Cindy Pfaff (Greg) and son Michael Craig (Val) both of Stratford, his grand children Brittini Craig (Michael), Elena Craig (Ari), Kadin Pfaff, Elizabeth Ali, and Justin Pfaff and one great grand-daughter Hazel McCorry. He is survived by brothers Larry and James and predeceased by his mother Elizabeth Craig, and sisters Sharon and Patricia.

Bill was a hardworking man rarely missing a day of work. He enjoyed many hobbies from weight lifting to model railroading, camping and gardening.

The family wishes to extend thanks and gratitude to the staff at the Stratford General Hospital during Bill's brief stay and all the very caring staff at Cedarcroft.

Cremation has taken place and a private family memorial will be held in future. Donations gratefully accepted to a charity of one's choice through Rutherford Cremation & Funeral Services. 804 Ontario St., Stratford, ON. N5A 2K1. 519-271-5062.



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STRATFORD TIMES

ATTENTION:

The Stratford Times is now being printed TWICE a month: 2nd Friday of each month & 4th Friday of each month Please have advertisements, obituaries, event notices, etc. submitted by the preceding Tuesday.

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
stratfordtimes@gmail.com

FAMILY FAIR IN THE SQUARE - BIA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, August 12; 11 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Stratford Market Square

Family Fair in the Square is a double celebration, with activities and entertainment based on this year's family Stratford Festival

COMMUNITY YARD SALE



Saturday, August 26

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

151 Lorne Avenue East

In support of the Army Navy Air Force Veterans in Canada Stratford Unit & Ladies' Auxiliary #261

6 foot tables available at a cost of \$15.

Reserve table(s) by August 19.

Call or text Lise at 519-274-1953

or email anaf261@gmail.com

SHOP FOR 'NEW TO YOU' TREASURES

production of A Wrinkle in Time and our 50th Anniversary.

CITY WIDE YARD SALE

Saturday, August 19; 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Stratford

Everyone is welcome to join in and make some cash while clearing out their clutter! Ask your neighbours and friends to join in and make your sale even bigger! For more information, contact stratfordcitywide@gmail.com

JOY FEST: A DAY LONG CELEBRATION TO INSPIRE JOY

Sunday, August 20; 8:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.

Stratford Perth Museum

Step into a safe haven, where you can escape the ordinary and revel in new experiences, laughter, and the pure enjoyment of life. Tickets: visit www.stratfordperthmuseum.ca/joyfest/

GARDEN STRATFORD MEETING

Monday September 11; 6:30 –9:00 p.m.

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

The meeting will begin with a Garden Chat: "Butterflies & Moths & Host Plants" with Lorraine Kuepfer, Stratford Master Gardener. Speaker Presentation: "Garden Myths, Legends, Folklore" with Cheryl Losch, London Master Gardener. Meeting open to Everyone; free admission.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) CO2
- 2) Peru
- 3) 1914-1918
- 4) The Owl
- 5) Margaret Thatcher
- 6) The Olympic and the Britannic
- 7) Michelangelo
- 8) Christian Bale
- 9) A diamond
- 10) Volcanos

SUDOKU

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

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