

STRATFORD TIMES

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 27, 2023

FREE

You have to be in it to win it!

50 SOUTH GATE CENTRE 50

www.SouthGate5050.com Licence No. RAF1298355

STREETCITY REALTY INC., BROKERAGE

Your Stratford Realtor®

Matt Francis (Realtor®/Managing Partner) • 519.949.2114 • mattfrancis.ca

RankMyAgent Best of Stratford 2022

Santa Claus Parade in Stratford Set for December 3

Santa Claus is coming to town. On Sunday, December 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., everyone is welcome to attend Santa's Parade of Lights in Stratford.

Once again, floats will take a scenic route around the Avon River. At 5 p.m., the parade will start at Hillcrest Drive and William Street, moving east along William Street to Lakeside Drive North, across the Festival bridge, west along Lakeside Drive past the Stratford Festival and ending at the Tom Patterson Theatre.

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

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

On Sundays, Stratford Transit provide an On Demand service. On Sunday, December 3, the hours of Stratford Transit On Demand will be extended until 7:30 p.m.

If you would like to register a float in the parade, please fill out the application form online at www.stratford.ca/floats. The deadline to apply is Friday, November 24.

More information about Santa's Parade of Lights can be found at www.stratford.ca/santa



INSIDE THE GRAND TRUNK

(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

Hundreds of visitors waited in line to get a glimpse of the Grand Trunk site on October 21. The City of Stratford allowed members of the public to step inside the building that once housed the Grand Trunk locomotive repair shop for the first time. Visitors were able to walk around the building during the rainy afternoon and picture what's in store for the space in the coming years.

National Housing Co-Investment Fund for Renewal and Repair

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

At the city council meeting on October 23, city council members voted in favour of submitting an application to obtain funding through the National Housing Co-Investment Fund (NHCF) renovation stream offered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

The program aims to preserve and enhance existing affordable housing in Atwood, Listowel, Milverton, Mitchell, St. Marys, and Stratford.

The NHCF offers funding covering 30 percent of total

eligible costs to upgrade and repair for current affordable housing units, up to a cap of \$10,000 per unit.

This funding initiative focuses on vital aspects such as energy efficiency, accessibility, and social inclusivity.

The conditions for funding acceptance include maintaining affordable rent levels, reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring accessibility, and making affordable housing available to specific demographics, particularly women and their children.

The city determined that \$2.5 million in funding would be appropriate to repair a minimum of 250 units owned

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

Cozy's GARDEN GALLERY

JOIN US FOR IN-STORE SAVINGS AT OUR

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY NOV 3 9AM-6PM SATURDAY NOV 4 9AM-5PM SUNDAY NOV 5 10AM-5PM

680 HURON ST STRATFORD ON

Matheson's appointed ad-hoc committee members lack diversity, according to some council members

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Of the 11 positions available, chosen from 59 applicants, some councillors, including Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, Councillor Larry McCabe and Councillor Taylor Briscoe, noted that the list of proposed committee candidates "lacked diversity."

Burbach noted, "When I look at the recommended list, I was looking at it with the lens of some diversity, a bit more equity and inclusion," she continued, "I think the

first question in my mind is who isn't represented at the table?"

Burbach motioned to have other applicants assessed to sit on the board to offer a range of diverse backgrounds, including age, gender and ability; however, not all recommendations were accepted by the council. She said, "We should consider their perspectives, ages, and position in life."

The list of recommendations included Jamie Pritchard as the committee member for economic development in place of the Matheson-recommended Franklin Famme.

Pritchard has years of experience working as the General Manager of the Stratford BIA and, as a community member living with a physical disability, Burbach noted, "He's representative of the BIA and represents downtown businesses and also is a person with a disability who would bring added perspective to

the table."

Burbach also requested Barb Cottle for citizen at large, Danielle Ingram as chair of the vision, planning and architecture working group, and Nic Flanagan as the committee expert on engineering and design.

Ultimately, all but one of her recommendations were shut down by council.

McCabe also requested a change to have Andrew Hilton sit alongside the current communications, advocacy and civic engagement working group with the already-appointed member, Johnny Kastner, and this was passed by council.

Councillor Brad Beatty disagreed with the proposed changes, "I do have a concern about starting to nitpick every decision that is presented before us because this project is going to be massive," he said, "We do need to have some efficiencies."

Beatty, Councillor Mark Hunter, and Councillor Harj Nijjar all voted against Burbach's proposed changes to the committee candidates, saying the proposed list from Matheson was appropriate and was

initially done in this way to save time.

The current list of appointees sitting on the ad-hoc committee is as follows:

Chair: Partnership working group – Karen Haslam and Herb Klassen

Chair: Vision, Planning and Architecture – Melanie Hare

Chair: Real estate, Legal and Finance – Franklin Famme

Chair: Communications, Advocacy and Civic Engagement – John Kastner and Andrew Hilton

Chair: Working group coordinators – Alan Kasperski and Ray Harsant

Citizen-at-Large – Barb Cottle
Economic Development – Franklin Famme

Development – Andy Bicanic
Accounting – Stephen Mitchell

Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association member – Trudy Jonkman

Youth – Georgia Neely
Education – Mark Vandenbosch

Theatre – Rob Dodson
Design – Nick Flanagan

Legal – Paul Parlee
Land use planning – Melanie Hare



Gala, Spartan, Tolman Sweets, Idared, Empire, Cortland, McIntosh, Honeycrisp, Northern Spy, Red and Golden Delicious, Mutsu, Russet and Ambrosia.

Apple products, Fresh local produce, Honey, Jams and pickles, Squash and Pumpkins

New Local Products:

Kintore Coffee and Deep Purple Lavender.

Call 519-462-2259 or 519-462-2947

596633 County Rd 59, 3 miles south of Tavistock

National Housing Co-Investment Fund

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

and operated by the Perth and Stratford Housing Corporation (PSHC).

This funding would require a total commitment of \$8,333,333 over three years, with \$5,833,333 sourced from the municipal budget. Based on the timing of this application, there are no anticipated impacts on the current year's budget.

The approval of this application would accelerate energy efficiency and accessibility projects outlined in the city's asset management plan. By enhancing mobility, accessibility, and design, the initiative aligns with the city's strategic goals.

Furthermore, the program is meant to promote health and happiness by creating safe, equitable living spaces and supports the city's commitment to zero-carbon energy. And also create safe, equitable places to live and work, which support local prosperity.

Subject to the application being ap-

proved, The Corporation of the City of Stratford will enter into an agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to receive the funding through the program.

A successful application will result in the ability to move ahead more quickly with energy efficiency and accessibility projects identified in the asset management plan. Further, the additional funding will reduce some of the budget pressure in selecting more energy-efficient options for capital repairs and replacements.

If approved, 663 aging community housing units will be addressed and are said to be completed in a timely fashion. This will extend the life of these properties; as such, the asset management plan and 10-year forecast will be adjusted accordingly.



BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE
SERVICES CANADA INC., BROKERAGE

178 Queen Street East, St. Marys

Thinking of Selling?

Don't miss out - Book your Fall Listing appointment today and receive a complimentary evaluation of your property





NEW PRICE

FOR SALE BUILDING ONLY

121 Queen St E, St. Marys
\$849,900



NEW LISTING

232 Elgin St E, St. Marys
\$724,900

Marty Thomson Tel: 519-318-7584
SALES REPRESENTATIVE marty@martythomson.com

Jeff Hiscock Tel: 519-870-5333
BROKER Hiscock.jeff@gmail.com

Stop by on Saturday the 28th for fun, popcorn and handouts!

www.benchmark-realestate.ca

First Baptist Church in St. Marys

seeks pianist for a baby-grand piano

3 hrs/week: Sunday service plus a rehearsal, with up to three additional services per year.

We are VERY flexible so the position could be shared in multiple ways: a "snowbird" might take the role spring through autumn, two people might each take two Sundays a month, etc.

For details contact

pastor@firrstbaptiststmarys.ca

or 519-284-1758



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

VETERANS TRIBUTE

Militaria collector Bill Donaldson will be speaking at the Stratford and District Historical Society's Remembrance Day tribute on November 4.

Remembrance Day Tribute honours local veterans

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

The Stratford and District Historical Society (SDHS) will be providing an opportunity to learn about military history a week before Remembrance Day.

A Remembrance Day Tribute will be held at the Stratford-Perth Archives on Nov. 4 beginning at 1 p.m. The event will be free for members and \$5 for non-members. Militaria collector Bill Donaldson will bring items from the Stratford-Perth regiment and talk in detail about how they were used in battle.

Jayne Trachsel, the president of the SDHS, told the Stratford Times that Donaldson spoke at the last Remembrance Day event hosted by the historical society and attendees learned a lot from him and the items brought.

"He brought us into the battlefield by talking about real people and their stories, by having the uniforms they wore, the items they had to carry," Trachsel said. "We got to interact by handling these items, how heavy the items were, how uncomfortable it would have been to wear and how they travelled into battle with them."

Remembrance Day is important to the SDHS.

"We at the society, take very seriously, the quote 'Lest We Forget,'" Trachsel said. "By remembering all the men and women who have served in the military, will hopefully recognize their willingly-endured sacrifices and fears, taken upon themselves so we can live in peace today."

She also listed other ways to learn about Stratford's military history in addition to the Remembrance Day tribute. The Stratford Perth Museum's Perth Up! Virtual Exhibit is all about the history of the Perth Regiment. The websites for Stratford-Perth Archives (perthcounty.ca/en/StratfordPerthArchives) and Perth Regiment (perthregiment.ca/photos) also have lots of information.

Trachsel also said there are a few ways to show gratitude to thank a veteran for their service this Remembrance Day.

"By wearing a poppy, by learning about your own family's military history, by visiting our local museum and learn about our past," she said. "Invite a Legion Branch to make a presentation at a school or community, this why we are hosting a Remembrance Day event and having the very knowledgeable military expert Bill Donaldson coming as a guest speaker."

For more information about the Remembrance Day Tribute, visit sdhs2019.ca.



BIGGEST ON THE BLOCK!



HOT DEAL

ON SALE 7 DAYS A WEEK!

PORCELAIN

\$69¢ /SQ FT STARTING FROM 4.99

12MM THICK

ON SALE 7 DAYS A WEEK!

LAMINATE

\$159 /SQ FT STARTING FROM 4.99

CLEAR OUT!

ON SALE 7 DAYS A WEEK!

VINYL PLANKS

\$169 /SQ FT STARTING FROM 4.99

CLICK ENG.

ON SALE 7 DAYS A WEEK!

HARDWOOD

\$399 /SQ FT STARTING FROM 5.99

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

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.

STRATFORD TIMES

Stratford's Community Newspaper
Established 2021

The Stratford Times is published twice per month (the second Friday and fourth Friday) and is free to all citizens either in print format or online at stratfordtimes.com. The newspaper is published by Grant Haven Media, a local business who also publishes the Goderich Sun, St. Marys Independent, Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette and Woodstock Ingersoll Echo.

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)



@StratfordTimesNewspaper



@stratford_times

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.

Proud member of the
Ontario Community
Newspaper Association



Funded by the
Government
of Canada



PC Connect ridership trending up

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Updated ridership numbers for the PC Connect bus transportation system through September show that use of the service is on the rise in Stratford.

All three PC Connect bus routes serving Stratford saw record ridership during the month of September.

Route 2, which travels from Kitchener-Waterloo to Stratford to St. Marys, had ridership of 535 last month – an increase of 20% versus August's 444 total. The previous ridership record for this route was 509 in June 2023.

Route 3, which goes from London to St. Marys to Strat-

ford, had 415 riders in September – up 10% over the prior month (377), which had been the previous all-time high.

Route A, which serves Perth County North, had 408 riders in September, up slightly from the previous high of 398 which was set in August 2023.

Across the entire PC Connect system (all routes), total September ridership was a record of 1,886. This is nearly double the September 2022 figure of 1,021 from one year ago.

Although more people are utilizing the service, the PC Connect program is only funded until March 31, 2025 when the financial commitment from the Province of Ontario expires.

From Equity to Tyranny

In our modern world, the words equity and inclusivity have become common phrases that paint the picture of a collaborative society.

Countless school boards in Ontario have devised action plans that “advocate for inclusion” or believe in “dismantling systems of oppression”. I am here not to disagree with these goals—as their intent is noble—but instead, I am here to warn of their evergrowing control over people. This is the journey from equity to tyranny.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines equity as “the quality of being fair and impartial”. In other words, equity is treating people the way you want to be treated.

Fairness is often synonymous with equity. Ensuring everyone is treated fairly, and given an equal opportunity to achieve their goals, is a fundamental component of our society.

Many secondary schools pursue equity by removing religious-specific holidays or celebrating a variety of religious holidays, recognizing and honouring marginalized voices, or offering financial assistance to students in need.

These programs are hugely important to ensuring everyone's voice is heard and help lift each other up.

Equity goes awry when people take this tool and turn it into a weapon. People can take this small amount of power, the influence over the approval of projects, and use it to deny any that they do not believe is “equitable”.

This administrative overreach has become more and more common as school administrators become fearful of retribution from a “woke” mob.

As an example, we can look no further than our own backyard. Our local high school, Stratford District Secondary School, has worked hard to achieve its vision of equity. This vision has now become laser-focused;

projects are obliterated in the blink of an eye if they do not conform to the arbitrary standards of “equity”.

Most parents would agree that a Halloween Dance is a completely acceptable event. Many students—religious and non-religious—enjoy the holiday as an excuse to have candy and fun.

This common-sense idea was shot down because it could be viewed as inequitable. By referring to the dance as a Halloween dance, some students may feel uncomfortable attending.

Now a mere name is inequitable. This policy, created based on perceived harm, not actual harm, will lay the precedent for the future banning of events and occasions simply because a title does not offer complete fairness.

Complete fairness is impossible; in our modern world, there will always be minor inequities.

If we look back at our original example, we can see the reasoning behind the decision is fundamentally flawed. To enter the dance you need a ticket. A ticket costs money. This simple requirement is inherently inequitable because not everyone can afford a ticket, let alone the issue of the name of a cultural tradition celebrated by many, but critically, not all.

It should not be our goal to achieve a completely fair education system but instead create the fairest system we realistically can.

By striving for equity we have created tyranny; people live in fear that soon they will become ostracized from society just because of what they think or believe—a fundamental freedom enshrined in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Nathan Bean
S.D.S.S

STRATFORD TIMES

Guiding Principles

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

The Royal[®]

AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

NOVEMBER 3 - 12, 2023
EXHIBITION PLACE, TORONTO



WATCH OVER 1,000 COMPETITORS
**VIE FOR THE TITLE OF
ROYAL CHAMPION!**

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW AT ROYALFAIR.ORG



NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE

Stratford General Hospital Foundation fundraiser Art Sale a huge success

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

The Stratford General Hospital Foundation held an art sale October 20th to fundraise for the “In Our Hands” capital campaign. The sale, held at the Arden Park Hotel, featured watercolour prints from the hospital’s inherited collection. It was a donation made years ago. As renovations and patient facilities refreshes have occurred, the hospital donated the prints for this fundraiser.

The mission of the Foundation is to ensure the hospital has the tools and resources it needs to provide the care the community needs.

“We are all about engaging our community, making sure our community is aware of how

hospitals are funded and when it comes to equipment, unfortunately, the government does not provide funds for equipment, it is entirely on the community,” said Cheryl Hunt, executive director of the Stratford General Hospital Foundation.

The art was a little bit of everything. A featured artist was Ron Bolt, a world renowned landscape artist. Ron Bolt was a painter born in Toronto in 1938. He has had 71 exhibitions in public and commercial galleries in Canada and has participated in numerous group exhibitions in the USA, Mexico, England, Japan, and China.

There was some abstract prints as well as landscapes. They were priced to sell with all pieces priced at the same \$150. All proceeds go

toward the Foundation’s “In Our Hands” capital campaign.

The “In Our Hands” is a \$30 million campaign that has been running in the community and currently sits at 88% of its goal so far. Within the campaign, there are a number of pieces of equipment they are focusing on and facilities like the chemotherapy and pharmacy department refreshment which is an \$18 million project. The Foundation ambitiously hopes to be open and ready for care next summer.

The show was meant to be engaging and offer an opportunity to bring home a part of the hospital. Those wishing to donate to the “In Our Hands” campaign can call the office at (519) 272-8210 ext. 2626 or 2632 or navigate to www.sghfoundation.org.



ART FOR PURPOSE

Stratford General Hospital Foundation executive director Cheryl Hunt awaits art enthusiasts to the art show. (LISA CHESTER PHOTO)

TRADE-IN EVENT AT STRATFORD NISSAN! UPGRADE YOUR RIDE TODAY

2021 VW Tiguan United



\$35,998 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 48,850 KM

2021 Hyundai KONA URBAN EDITION



\$30,998 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 29,190 KM

2019 MAZADA 3 GT



\$28,998 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 87,306 KM

2020 Nissan Kicks 1.6 sv cvt



\$26,495 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 42,657 KM

2021 VW Atlas Execline R



\$48,998 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 44,876 KM

2021 Dodge Challenger Rt



\$52,598 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 15,119 KM

2021 MAZADA 3 Sport



\$31,598 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 33,718 KM

2021 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara



\$46,598 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 42,701 KM

2022 Hyundai Santa Fe SEL



\$40,598 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 11,155 KM

2022 Honda civic ex



\$31,598 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 15,646 KM

2018 Kia RIO LX



\$14,998 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 98,936 KM

2021 Subaru Crosstrek Limited Convience



\$31,998 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 41,077 KM

2019 Infiniti QX50 ESSENTIAL



\$32,998 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 55,509 KM

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

BAD CREDIT... NO PROBLEM! We work with multiple banks and credit unions to get you APPROVED with LOWEST RATE POSSIBLE! All Credit Approved with \$0 Down.



Stratford NISSAN

2001 Ontario Street, Stratford ON

519.273.3119

www.stratfordnissan.com

STRATFORD NISSAN



STORE HOURS SALES: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-8:00; Fri.-Sat. 9:00-6:00 PARTS AND SERVICE: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-5:00

Cheers to community! Black Swan releases Local Love fundraising brew for United Way

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

A new cream ale from Black Swan Brewing will raise money for the United Way Perth-Huron's annual campaign.

An October 16 press release from the United Way Perth-Huron announced the launch of the collaborative beer with Black Swan. For every can sold, 50 cents will go to United Way's efforts to support the community.

"Beer can be a powerful tool," Elizabeth Cooper, the manager for community development with United Way Perth-Huron, said. "It brings people together and you have conversations about things and then conversations can become action and for us at the United Way, we are the action, so we take our funds that are donated from the community, and we put them back into the community."

Cooper wanted to create a collaborative beer for the Perth-Huron chapter of the United Way after she picked up the Upper Thames Brewing Company's collaboration brew with the United Way Oxford County last year. She reached out to Ryan Stokes, founding partner of Black Swan Brewing Company, because the brewery worked with the United Way Perth-Huron previously. Black Swan and the United Way created the All Together beer to raise money for local hospitality workers in financial need due to COVID-19 restrictions during the pandemic such as closures.

"Ryan has always been a community-minded person and it's a friendly place to enter," Cooper said. "He supported us in the past with the All Together Beer, so it was a natural progression that we asked him if he wanted to do another one with us."

Black Swan brewed 3,000 cans of the Local Love Cream Ale, and the label is designed by local graphic designer Josh Cooper, Elizabeth's son.

The United Way Perth-Huron said in a Facebook post that the organization aims to raise \$2.5 million overall. The funds will go towards initiatives such as the Urgent Needs Fund and the Stratford Connection Centre. The Urgent Needs Fund supports those facing immediate financial need such as rent, gas, dental care, and groceries. The Stratford Connection Centre provides support for those facing homelessness or are otherwise vulnerable and ensuring they have access to food, show-



CHEERS!

Black Swan Brewing founding partner Ryan Stokes and United Way Perth Huron community development manager Elizabeth Cooper teamed up to create the Local Love Cream Ale. Every can sold will bring 50 cents back to local programs run by the United Way.

(ELIZABETH COOPER PHOTO)

ers, laundry facilities, clothing, and heating/cooling spaces.

Cooper encourages anyone who can donate to do so, especially if they are a first-time donor.

"Whether it's 50 cents from buying a can of beer or becoming one of our amazing Leader Donors at a \$6,000 donation, we treat everyone the same and we're grateful for anything," she said.

The United Way Perth-Huron will also have a concert featuring the Classic Troubadours at the Revival House on November 9. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$50 plus fees and taxes.

To donate to the United Way Perth-Huron's campaign, visit give.unitedway.ca/donate/WSTRAT.

Free menstrual products in library addressing period poverty

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

All libraries in the Huron-Perth region will have menstrual products available for free to address local period poverty.

An October 10 press release from Huron County said the free products, available in the libraries' washrooms, are part of a pilot project from the Huron-Perth Period Poverty Task Force. The products have been available for patrons who menstruate as of October 16.

"It's exciting to be able to do it in coordination with all the other libraries and the other organizations that are helping out," Shauna Costache, the public service supervisor at the Stratford Public Library, said. "It feels really good to be able to meet that need for people because it's such a deep and profound need these days."

The press release defined period poverty as lacking access to menstrual products due to barriers such as the cost. The release added research shows about two-thirds of people in Canada who menstruate missed work or school because they lacked access to the menstrual products.

The libraries will provide the products for free until the end of February 2024. The Huron-Perth Poverty Task Force is also seeking feedback through a survey. There are paper copies of the survey available in the washrooms and an electronic copy can be viewed with a nearby QR code.

"We're hoping to, with this survey, capture 'Are libraries the right place to be providing this? Are we providing the right things? How deep is the need? What's the scope of the need and who's being missed?'" Costache said.

The task force hopes to use the next steps to reach out to different communities and to seek funding.

Costache said speaking about personal experiences with being unable to access menstrual products can also address period poverty.

"It's not everybody's comfort zone but be honest about times where we've hit our own patches where it's been tricky and everyone's aware that it is a problem that is pretty widespread and can, depending on the day, happen to anybody who menstruates," she said.

The Huron-Perth Period Poverty Task Force has members from United Way Perth-Huron, Optimism Place, Huron Women's Shelter, Avon Maitland District School Board, Perth County Information Network, and others.

Visit connectedcountyofhuron.ca/period-poverty and to access the survey.

Stratford Police Service Board announces contract agreement

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Stratford Police Services Board and the Stratford Police Association have announced the completion of contract negotiations.

After a series of collaborative discussions, both parties reached a mutually beneficial agreement that will positively impact members of the Stratford Police Association and the communities they serve.

"The tone of the negotiations was very collaborative and professional," said Tim Doherty, chair of the Stratford Police Services Board, "We value the work that the officers and civilians do every day, and we feel they should be compensated appropriately for the good work they do."

The new contract represents the Stratford Police Service's commitment to ensuring the well-being of our dedicated Police Association members while maintaining a high standard of public safety. Doherty said, "This contract is a continuation of our commitment to show our support and care for the wellness of the staff and community."

This four-year contract with annual wage increases of two and a half percent also offers an improved benefits package, parental leave benefits, post-retirement benefits for all staff, and specialty Unit/Role remunerations update.

A highlight of the new contract is the introduction of a "part-time" policing program, "It's a fairly new concept across the province," said Doherty, "with the association's cooperation, we're going to move ahead to explore it and what it would look like."

This new program will allow police officers to attend mandatory training throughout the year while providing extra staffing to cover shifts.

"We are pleased to have reached a fair and comprehensive agreement with the Stratford Police Association," said Doherty, "This collective agreement demonstrates our shared commitment to providing the highest level of service to our communities and ensuring that both our uniform and civilian staff are well supported in their vital roles."

"The Stratford Police Association would like to thank the Stratford Police Services Board for working together to come to this agreement," said Robert McMillan, President of the Stratford Police Association. The Stratford Police Service serves the municipalities of Stratford, Perth South, and St Marys. With approximately ninety staff members, the Police Service responds to over 20,000 calls yearly.



The Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada (ANAVETS)

Inviting all eligible Canadian Forces Personnel, Ex-Service Members, their respective spouses, widows, and dependents seeking assistance for programs and services offered by Veterans Affairs Canada to meet with our Service Officer the last Saturday of every month between 10:00am and 1:00pm (by appointment only).

All interested parties are asked to contact President Stephen Cooper at 519-271-3113 to book a date for a consultation.

151 Lorne Avenue, East Stratford, Ontario N5A 6S4

A “heartfelt plea” to preserve affordable passenger rail transit

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Jamie Frichithavong spoke on behalf of transit users and the Stratford community to plead with Stratford City Council at the early October City Council meeting to request that council members stand up for the citizens of Stratford and help preserve appropriate passenger rail transit.

Frichithavong noted his personal experience with feelings of isolation during the pandemic and said, “[the pandemic] has taught me the true value of human connection, especially face-to-face interactions.”

The Stratford Go Train service was implemented as a two-year pilot project that saw the GO train service from London to Toronto end early this month, leaving Stratford residents with limited access to public transit options.

Growing up in Stratford, Frichithavong noted that the Stratford education system consistently reminded him of the contribution to climate change as he was growing up. He went on to say that not only is the GO train service essential for connection for friends and family but also a vital aspect of being a steward of the planet, “experts agree that mass transit significantly reduces our environmental impact compared to individual cars.”

On behalf of over 2,500 people who signed a petition to keep the GO train active, Frichithavong said, “The railways connecting our communities, our bridges that should remain accessible, affordable and dependable.”

The active petition speaks to the timing issues with the other transit options and the cost-prohibitive nature compared to the GO train; Frichithavong said, “Dozens of comments revealed that many people rely on the GO train for their daily commute. It's a lifeline to them.”

Transport Canada is currently working on options to enhance passenger services between Stratford and Toronto, and this report is said to be released later this year. In the meantime, PC Connect is among the only services providing transportation throughout Perth County.

Burbach notes the potential for better rail services to connect Stratford to Toronto and notes a discussion regarding the hydrogen rail services currently being implemented in British Columbia, “I think that would be an excellent option for Stratford,” and continued, “There are some exciting things coming in the future that can't really come fast enough.”

Transportation director Mike Mosley talked about the PC Connect and said, “Basically, the service connects the City of Stratford with other towns like St. Marys or Listowel and London, Ontario, and Kitchener-Waterloo.”

However, this service would not allow commuters to get to the Kitchener GO train in time for the morning ride into the city, “What we're looking at is to advocate for more of a frequent service so that we can make better connections with a service that's already established,” said Mosely.

Frichithavong ended with a statement about community connection, “Mass transit is the embodiment of connection,” he said, “The freedom to visit friends and family was something that I would not have thought to have ever been taken away in my lifetime.”

Bridging Business and Local Governance Luncheon

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On October 18 the Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce and the town of St. Marys hosted a Commerce luncheon at the St. Marys Pyramid Centre in appreciation of Small Business Week.

Small Business Week is an opportunity to celebrate the big ideas contributing to our communities and bring attention to the challenges that inhibit their growth and innovation.

This Bridging Business and Local Governance Luncheon hosted by Eddie Matthews, Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce General Manager, was an informal discussion where Matthews sat down with Mayor Al Strathdee for the first time since before the pandemic to discuss local business and ongoing governance across St. Marys.

Food for the event was purchased from local businesses, including Social 31 at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club, Gilley's, Snapping Turtle and Tutt Co.

Matthews started the discussion with budget questions related to local business. Mayor Strathdee did mention that he was optimistic about the outlook of the current budget; however, he does note, similar to all towns across Ontario post-COVID-19, “it's no secret that we're trying to play catch up.”

The mayor told Matthews about the concerns across small towns and said, “We don't have deep pockets, but we really tried to focus on servicing the industries that are here, because when they grow, we grow.”

The mayor expressed his support for the local small business culture in St. Marys, “I think [St. Marys] a good place to do business because people care about the community and we have a tendency to support small business,” he said, “there's always been a good a good entrepreneurial spirit, partially because of the agricultural society here.”

When discussing the town's infrastructure, Strathdee mentioned issues regarding last year's sewer maintenance on Huron Street and his concerns with financial support from other levels of government lacking, “We're not seeing any money from the other levels of government. Nothing's going to the rural areas. We are being left behind. That's just the reality.”

The mayor discussed essential services, including a full-time social worker the town hired to help manage homelessness and other social issues in St. Marys. Strathdee openly discussed how vital this service is to the town and how it's playing a big part in helping with homelessness.

Regarding the volunteer firefighters, Strathdee noted that many small towns have a hard time retaining volunteers due to the rigorous training and steps needed to maintain the status; however, he notes his appreciation for businesses across St. Marys who understand volunteer firefighters' emergency status and allow them to be a part of such an essential service, “we're lucky in St. Marys because we have wonderful employers and a real sense of community that allows employees to be part-time firefighters and work on a call.”



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Eddie Matthews and Mayor Al Strathdee at the Bridging Business and Local Governance Luncheon on October 18, 2023.

Similar to the stance Stratford City Council has regarding intracity connection with transportation services such as the Go Train, Strathdee notes that St. Marys City Council also feels these essential services need to be a priority, “The government needs to make passenger rail a priority,” he said, “there's a lot of behind the scenes politics between Metrolinx and CN controlling the tracks. Quite frankly, a lot of it comes down to the more freight is moving on the lines, the less availability they have for passenger transport.” He continued to say that the town of St. Marys is staying optimistic and hopes to see changes to this in the future.

Regarding the current housing crisis, the mayor discussed the urgency of affordable housing availability in St. Marys, “We do have a goal of increasing our housing supply over the next several years, and we put policies in place,” he continued, “interest rates have gone from one or two percent, and therefore, we're finding many our developers have put plans on hold due to costs.”

This, along with other barriers to housing, does not leave the mayor very hopeful regarding fixing the housing crisis anytime soon, “It's going to take time; this isn't something that can be fixed overnight,” he stated.

Although hopeful and optimistic about several things with regards to the state of St. Marys, Strathdee does note concern regarding post-pandemic issues that have affected everyone across Ontario and specifically small towns; according to Strathdee, “Housing, jobs and transportation are all interconnected,” he said, “How can we get people to move here without a place to live? The industry is crying for help, and many can't work without appropriate transportation.”

STONETOWN TRAVEL

Head Office: 150 Queen Street East,
St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4 | 519-284-2332
agent@stonetowntravel.com
TICO #50010159

Branch Office: 210 Mill Street,
New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9 | 226-333-9939
newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com
TICO #50025796

Where in the world
would you like to go?

Let us take the hassle out of your holidays.

Reach out to one of our knowledgeable travel
consultants today!

www.stonetowntravel.com

Stratford Citizens Unite at City Hall, Standing in Solidarity for Peace in Israel and Palestine

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Several citizens from different church denominations united and took to the steps of city hall to stand in solidarity with the people of Israel on Friday, October 13.

Paul Schumm, a Stratford resident, held a sign that read "God Bless and Protect Israel" in the evening rain on October 13, just six days after Hamas launched an attack by land, sea and air on Israel. Israel then officially declared a state of war later that same day.

"I am here to fight against the enemies of Israel and take a stand for them," said Schumm, "I want peace for Israel and peace for the whole region."

The protest outside City Hall was sparked by recent attacks on Israel by Hamas. The terrorist group that controls the Gaza Strip in Palestine launched a series of rocket attacks on October 7, which targeted significant cities across Israel. The group also sent fighters across the border into Southern Israel, where they later took hostages and took over military bases.

Israel then declared war, launched large-scale strikes in Gaza, and ordered a "complete siege" on Gaza, leaving citizens



IN SUPPORT

Members from different church denominations united at City Hall in support of Israel

(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

without basic necessities, including humanitarian aid. At this time Israel also destroyed Gaza's open crossings, which then prevented civilians from leaving the strip.

Schumm and the others were standing in the rain to support Israel and stand with

those affected by the terror raging through Palestine. Schumm told The Stratford Times, "We also stand with the Palestinian people because the Palestinian people are deceived by Hamas," he continued, "I'm here with the hope that they get freed

from their enemy, too."

Trevor Biehn, Pastor of Jubilee Church, stood outside City Hall to talk with those passing by and to support Israel along with the others. He said, "Our hearts are for this to be resolved and also for the nation of Israel to be honoured because they're the only democracy that's in the Middle East that upholds the same values that we do as Canadians," he continued, "that's why we align ourselves with Israel because of the parallel values that we both share."

Biehn noted that this past summer, members of Jubilee Church visited Israel, which makes this war that much more personal to him, "we actually just have a team that went to Israel for ten days in August. They did all sorts of different sightseeing and had a tour guide. So, this is really close to our hearts."

Biehn continued, "These recent events, especially last weekend, just the words we saw displayed and the tension there is very sad. The country is in our hearts, and we hope for peace for all."

Schumm noted his support for Israeli troops by stating, "The Government of Israel has said that if there if they ever lay down their weapons, they would be destroyed, but if their enemies lay down their weapons, there would be peace."

Community Recognition Award Recipients 2023

Stratford City Council presented its Community Recognition Awards on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at the Stratford Rotary Complex Community Hall.

The annual awards night is an opportunity for City Council to recognize and congratulate local individuals and teams on their outstanding accomplishments over the past year.

Here are the award recipients for 2023:

Ted Blows Community Service Award
Reta Byvels

Guides, Lady Baden-Powell Award

Ava Langille, Daphne Riehl, Rosa MacIsaac, Maggie Terrill, Molly Lewis, Claire Bracken, Abby Hurley, Aisling Brickman, Julia Fitzgerald, Lyla Roth, Brynlee LeBlanc-Mossey

Beavers, North Star Award

Wesley Holden, Henry Jongerden, Trystan Gulikers, Oliver Oldfield

Cubs, Seonee Award

Owen Abercrombie, Ethan Sharen

Ontario Senior Games

Pickleball – Karen Hill

Golf – Cheryl Chesla, Mary Dingman

Muay Thai

Damon Weekes, Canadian Muay Thai Open Champion/60 kgs Men's C-Class

Gymnastics

Lydia Pyzowski, Provincial All Around Champion title, Level 7

Special Olympics Stratford & Area

Curling – Tiffany Keller, Dylan Haynes, Meghan O'Donovan, Rick Tourigny, Crystal Dale

5 Pin Bowling – Mike Keleman, Mike Hitchcock, Curtis Bender, Tyler Guibao, Nico Quintero, Leah Akroyd-Snyder, Caitlin Breedon

Swimming

Amiera Black, World Down Syndrome Championships

Fencing

Blake Degroot, Spencer Orr, Ellie Davies, Cohen Bernard

Junior Roller Derby

Makayla Soper, Bronze Medal on Team Canada World Cup, France

Jennifer Zammit, Team Canada Manager

Kart Racing

Aristeides (Ari) Theodoropoulos, Junior Lite Canadian Karting Champion

Bowling

Hayden Martin, Richard Martin – All Ontario Twosome Tournament

Dragon Boat

Junior National Team, World Dragon Boat Championship, Thailand

Alexandra Stephens, Aralyn Smith, Emma Gordon, Mia Kaufman

Ontario Music Festival

Emile Grimes, Classical Brass/Level 3 Brass

Matthias Girolametto, Classical Brass/Level 4 Brass

Luca Angod, Classical Piano/Level 1

Anna O'Drowsky, Classical Voice/Open

Grace Herman, Popular Piano/Junior

Theodora Chung, Popular Strings/Primary

Yulia Mooers & Molly Lewis, Popular Voice/Duet Elementary

Rachel Regier, Popular Voice/Advanced

Choir - Bedford Public School, Elementary School Choir

Accompanist: Doug Mountain

Teacher: Jackie Harrison

Students: Vivienne Abbey, Abby Adams, Beatrice Balfour, Elsa D'Hondt, Mya Herold, Lucas Holmes, Sydney Jardim, Win-

nie Jewson, Amelia Lappano, Marcus Longston, Seth MacAlpine, Lauren MacMillan, Max Mari, Gwen Menzi, Gordon Miller, Louis Molenhuis, Olivia Mottola, Ayla Neilson, Felipe Oliveira, Carter Van Nynatten, Finley Welsh

Teacher: Janice Kane

Students: Lyla Aldridge, Loujayn Alta'eh, Finn Cookson, Owen DeVries, Dylan Erb,

Ara Groenestege, Maddus Groenestege, Clarke Harrison, Margot Hart, Logan Hazzard, Lucy Hillman, Will Jantzi, Finley

Kennedy Grimwood, Allie Lambert, Fathe Malvern, Frances Nguyen, Mabel Nyenhuis,

Arianna Poole, Lauren Rossi, Emerson Schneider

Baseball

Stratford Minor Baseball Association

Ontario Baseball Association Provincial Championships

2022 16U Nationals

Coaches: Mark Hall, Head Coach & Inter County Baseball Association Senior Coach

of the Year for 2022; Don

Grasby, Jason McIlwain, Matt McLeod

Team Members: Quinn Apple, Nick Betto, Kieran Butler, Hunter Hyde, Brett

Knechtel, Carter Koch, Carter Lemke, Liam McEvoy, Noah McIlwain, Beckham

McLeod, Hutton Patterson, Noah Rankin, Noah Roth, Nolan Trainor, Brynley Vogt

2023 9U Nationals

Head Coach: Terry Klumpner, Assistant Coaches: Kyle

Casey, Jon Paola, Chris Smith, Doug Groenestege

Team Members: Noah Wybrow, Henry Leyser, Louis Molenhuis, Dylan Hansen, Brady Casey, Kayden Mathieson, Roman Bell, Bentley Paola, Maddux Groenestege, Maddux Smith, Louie Domm, Reid Klumper

2023 12U Nationals

Coaches: Jamie Antonio, Chris Musselman, Mark Price, Jamie Parr

Team Members: Cole Morris, Dexter Powell, Jack Graul, Jackson Goebel, Jake Price,

James Antonio, Marek Brander, Max Hughes, Max Barter, Quintin Parr, Reid Musselman, Will Molenhuis

2023 15U Nationals

Coaches: Kyle Priestap, Jason Knechtel, Joel Everett, Ben Ehgoetz

Team Members: Reed Bowles, Ethan Priestap, Colten Brenzil, Tye Strickland, Tucker Otto, Nolan Miller, Owen Hunt, Cam

Knechtel, Logan MacMillan, Alex Everett, Caden Diehl, Rowan Bartlett, Cooper

Yantzi

Maximize your return.

Conservative Advice for Intelligent Decisions



Donna L. Hinz



Franklin E. Hinz

196 Ontario Street
Stratford, Ontario N5A 3H4

519-273-1633 franklinehinz.com

Our Buildings Tell a Story

The Brandenberger Block 32-34 Wellington Street

PAUL WILKER AND GORDON CONROY

Times Contributors

In 1873, the Brandenberger Block was built in the High Victorian Style for William Brandenberger as seen in this picture which highlights the original three-storey yellow brick building at what is now 28 Wellington Street. William Brandenberger who was Swiss born was one of the early pioneers to Stratford with his wife Caroline and had brought his country's cultural traditions with him from his home country. He was a musician who also made sausages, and his wife Caroline carried on the business after he died and added to the original building in the same style replacing what is seen on the left of the photo.

The enterprise began as a grocery store on the ground floor with a hotel, the German House, above. Behind the hotel, there was a stable for the horses, wagons and carriages.

The first section of the block consisted of a three storey building, which still stands tall today with the store-front windows still intact. The first tenants of the building in the 1880s were John

Lloyd, produce dealer, (Lloyd Court was named after him) and Albert Brandenberger, William and Caroline's son, born in Stratford in 1868. Albert ran a tin shop for a decade until 1891 but he also inherited his father's love of music. It was Albert who built Theatre Albert, where the Avon Theatre is now

Through the years, this section of the Brandenberger block at 28 Wellington housed a variety of tenants such as stove dealers, ladies' clothing stores and shoe stores. It is now the home of Blowes & Stewart Travel Group. William Brandenberger's wife Caroline added the second bay during the 1880s at 32 and 34 Wellington which is now where Blowes Stationery & Office Supply resides. Stan Blowes had begun the 70 plus year history of their family's business connection in the Brandenberger Block in 1949.

Another plaque is located on the building that honours John Luke Poett, a veterinarian from Glasgow. He arrived in Stratford soon after the railway repair shops did, anticipating there would be endless need for his services with the increase in the carriage-driving population. he went on to become the first veterinary surgeon of the North West Mounted Police. It reads: *Brandenberger Block: (Left 1881- Right 1870). Erected by W. M. Brandenberger included amongst the people and businesses here was John Luke Poett, first veterinary surgeon of the North West*

Mounted Police.
Sources: Stratford Perth-Archives; Blowes History Site, Nancy Mussel-



Mounted Police.

Sources: Stratford Perth-Archives; Blowes History Site, Nancy Mussel-

man and Fred Gonder. Taken from www.streetsofstratford.ca Wellington Street.

Optimist Club of Downie Inc.

OPTI-CASH CALENDAR DRAW

Oct. 08 Dennis Griffin, Stratford	\$50.00
Oct. 09 Jeannie Rae, St. Pauls	\$50.00
Oct. 10 Jan Parkinson, St. Marys	\$50.00
Oct. 11 Matthew Schauer, Stratford	\$50.00
Oct. 12 James Gre, Stratford	\$50.00
Oct. 13 Shirley Wilhelm, Shakespeare	\$50.00
Oct. 14 Colleen Hutchison, St. Marys	\$200.00
Oct. 15 Jett Smith, Stratford	\$50.00
Oct. 16 Olivia Horenberg, St. Marys	\$50.00
Oct. 17 Bob Bernard, Woodstock	\$50.00
Oct. 18 Lina Sicilia, St. Marys	\$50.00
Oct. 19 Doug Boyce, Stratford	\$50.00
Oct. 20 Spencer McDonald, Stratford	\$50.00
Oct. 21 Wendy Lumm, St. Marys	\$200.00
Oct. 22 Samantha Gomes, Kitchener	\$50.00
Oct. 23 Vayne & Kevin Schumm, Stratford	\$50.00
Oct. 24 Aafke Graff, Stratford	\$50.00
Oct. 25 Ron Cosstick, Acton	\$50.00
Oct. 26 Shayne Ward, Mitchell	\$50.00
Oct. 27 Shelly Bonnett, Embro	\$50.00
Oct. 28 Kevin DeWys, Stratford	\$200.00

DOWNIE OPTIMIST HALL
RENTAL CALL 519-271-5343

 **Franklin E. Hinz**

196 Ontario Street, Stratford
519-273-1633



AUTUMN IN STRATFORD

One of the best autumn experience in Stratford is Lake Victoria with the abundance of colourful trees and the peaceful water with the sights of the Stratford Festival and Tom Patterson Theatre as well as exploring Tom Patterson island.

(FRED GONDER PHOTO)



NOW YOU CAN ORDER ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.ATHENSGREEKSOUVLAKI.COM
804 ONTARIO ST. STRATFORD, UNIT C1 • 548-288-4165
 OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 11AM - 8PM



PAM, REESE, JULIANNA AND LINA

WE LOVE WORKING AT ATHENS SOUVLAKI, AND WE GET BETTER THAN AVERAGE WAGES

****STRATFORD, GREAT NEWS****
 FINALLY, ATHENS GREEK SOUVLAKI AND MEDITERRANEAN GYRO ROTISSERIE HAS ARRIVED, AND IT'S OPEN FOR YOU.
 THE VALUE AT ATHENS IS INCREDIBLE
 OUR SERVICE IS SUPERB
 THE QUALITY IS OUTSTANDING
 OUR STAFF ARE VERY FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT

LOOK WHAT YOU GET EVERY DAY AT ATHENS SOUVLAKI

MONDAY

GYRO DINNER
 \$12.95

TUESDAY

PORK PITA COMBO
 \$11.95

WEDNESDAY

FALAFEL PITA \$6.95
 FALAFEL DINNER \$ 12.95

THURSDAY

GREEK SALAD WITH CHICKEN BREAST \$11.95

FRIDAY

2PC FISH AND CHIPS
 \$14.95

SATURDAY

CHICKEN SOUVLAKI
 \$14.95

ONE PRICE – YOU GET THE WHOLE DINNER, GREEK SALAD, LEMON ROAST POTATOES, MEDITERRANEAN RICE, PITA BREAD, TZATZIKI AND A DRINK – TREMENDOUS VALUE!
 OUR LEMON ROAST POTATOES AND MEDITERRANEAN RICE ARE DONE IN-HOUSE

EVERYDAY FOR LUNCH FAMOUS GYRO FOR \$6

SERVED FROM 11AM - 3PM
 6 DAYS A WEEK

IF YOU FIND A BETTER VALUE THAN ATHENS GREEK SOUVLAKI, WE WILL CHEERFULLY REFUND YOUR MONEY.





FREE BALACLAVA
WITH THE PURCHASE OF A MEAL

50th anniversary Ontario Pork Congress was deemed a huge success

GARY WEST

Times Correspondent

With a very successful 50th anniversary “Ontario Pork Congress” in Stratford now in the books, it’s time to look ahead to the 2024 O.P.C.

President elect- Kirk McLean, at the recent annual meeting of the OPC in Stratford, said his vision is to build on past successes, and look forward to a positive future.

According to the President, they have completely transformed the internal processes with everything from communications to iCloud storage with access for committees to work remotely and collaborate together.

He has said the online mapping and exhibitor registration with

online payment system, allows for the OPC exhibitors and sponsors to easily update their information from year to year.

Exhibitors who are new or existing, can reserve booth space, and find any of the extras they may require to make their space stand out as well as make payments and take advantage of the early-bird prices.

McLean says that their daily bookkeeping is now done with top of the line technology, utilizing remote invoicing, and reimbursements, making it quick and easy for volunteers to be reimbursed for any expenses related to the OPC.

With all these changes and time saving measures, it will free up valuable time for planning the events instead of processing pa-



Retired Perth County Hog Farmer Murray Schlotzhauer (middle), receiving the 2023 O.P.C. “Industry Leadership Award” from President Kirk McLean (L) and Past President Joe Dwyer(R), for his many years of dedicated volunteer work at the annual Ontario Pork Congress in Stratford.

The President goes on to say that their volunteers are the backbone of the OPC, and they put in

countless hours each year to pull all the aspects of the show into a successful 2 day event.

As life becomes more time-consuming, it’s hard for people to find the extra time to volunteer, but with the new processes, it will allow the many volunteers to concentrate on making the OPC relevant going into the next 50 years.

They will try to keep finding new ways to keep attendees coming back year after year, as well as exhibitors showcasing their products and latest technology in pig production.

President McLean says the OPC is committed to continuing to make value for the exhibitors and sponsors, and the social, educational setting to research the latest innovations for years to come.

STRATFORD KIA!

2022 Ford Bronco Sport Badlands

\$48,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 15,600 km

2022 Mazda Mazda3 GX

\$29,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 34,313 km

2022 Ford Edge ST Line

\$47,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 22,127 km

2019 Kia Forte LX

\$26,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 46,880 km

2022 Kia Forte GT-Line

\$36,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 36,425 km

2020 Kia Soul EX


\$29,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 23,022 km

2022 Kia K5 GT-Line

\$43,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 25,122 km

2022 GMC Terrain SLE

\$39,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 12,213km

2020 Kia Soul EX

\$29,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 31,098 km

2022 Honda Civic Sedan LX

\$34,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 20,049 km

2021 Kia Soul EX

\$30,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 49,267 km

2021 Subaru Forester

\$34,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 37,891 km

2022 Kia Forte EX

\$30,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 25,924 km

2022 Nissan Rogue S

\$35,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 58,013 km

2019 Ford Econoline 450

\$39,995 + HST & lic Cutaway Base DRW Rear-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 116,561 km

2019 Ford Econoline 450

\$39,995 + HST & lic Cutaway Base DRW Rear-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 93,529 km

Bad or Challenging Credit? No problem! Everyone is approved, some conditions apply.



STORE HOURS SALES: Monday-Thursday 9:00-8:00; Friday-Saturday 9:00-6:00
 PARTS AND SERVICE: Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00

863 ERIE STREET | STRATFORD
519.508.5755
 General Manager: Bobin Mathew
www.stratfordkia.com

STRATFORD KIA



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

The first of its kind in Canada: The Wavecare Sensory Delivery room at Stratford Hospital

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On October 11, the Heron Perth Healthcare Alliance: Stratford Maternal Child floor team 'cut the cord' to unveil the new Wavecare Sensory Delivery Room; a room to ease the stress and anxiety of birthing women and their partners.

Dr. Cheryl Hillyer, Medical Program Director for the maternal child unit, says the new room was developed to provide a positive experience for both the birthing couple and the health care provider without compromising patient safety. "It provides a safe, non-threatening environment that bridges cognitive, perceptual, behavioural and physical impairments, as well as other limiting conditions that provide a sense of empowerment to the patient."

"We are so excited to share with our community the benefits of this type of delivery room," says Audra Boersen, Manager of the Maternal Child Unit and Scheduling Unit. "This project has truly been a labour of love, and we are so proud to have the first delivery room of this kind in Canada."

The Wavecare Sensory Delivery

Room provides a stress-reducing ambience in the delivery ward and supports the labour process with customized programs for child-birth.

"In total, there are nine different themes, and patients and their partners are encouraged to change themes as they desire," says Dr. Cheryl Hillyer. "For example, the breathing program is beneficial for pain relief and focus and can also be used for relaxation between contractions."

This unique room offers the same equipment and features as a typical delivery room but also includes a digital screen that plays nature scenes, dynamic lights in calming colours and specially designed sound programs such as wave ripples, all of which help to create a more relaxed environment that seems less clinical.

Leah Carroll and her newborn, Jameson, born on September 4, one of the first new moms to experience using the room, "You will feel a sense of calm, and that's very much how my husband and I felt when we walked in, we were being induced so labour hadn't started yet," she continued, "we felt very much relaxed in there the different themes we used. We use



LABOUR OF LOVE

Community members and HPHA Labor and delivery team in the Wavecare Sensory Delivery Room

(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

the skin-to-skin theme, and the breastfeeding theme."

Carroll has experience working as a labour and delivery nurse and notes that being in a labour and delivery room can become quite

intense and stressful during the labour process, but she believes the new room will help ease the tension and anxiety of families, "Everything went really well, and I do think that the sensory room had a

positive impact on my experience.

With the first Wavecare Sensory Delivery Room now fully operational and based on positive feedback, the hope is to add more of these rooms in the future.

Alzheimer Society Fall 2023 Virtual Dementia Education Night

The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth is hosting our Annual Fall Dementia Education Night on ZOOM on Thursday, November 2, from 7 – 8:30 pm. Our guest speaker this year is Dr. Peter Lin, Director of Primary Care Initiatives at the Canadian Heart Research Centre. Dr. Lin will be presenting "Baby Boomers and Aging: A Checklist for Change and Inspiring Change in the Health Care System." This is a FREE event! Register online at <https://bit.ly/DEMANTIA-NIGHT2023>

Dr. Lin is an expert in the field of health research and aging. In addition to being a sought-after speaker at con-

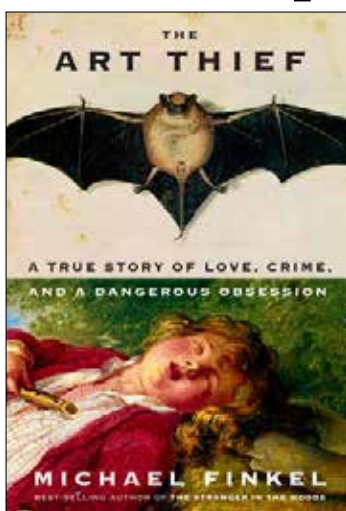
ferences and has been on the CBC's "The National." And bring your questions! We look forward to the audience Q&A time following our Dementia Night presentations. If you have questions for Dr. Lin that you would like to send in ahead of time, please contact jeanette@alzhp.ca. We will do our best to have Dr. Lin address them.

To find out more about Dementia Night or other Alzheimer Society Huron Perth education events, click on the Education Hour banner on our website at www.alzheimer.ca/huronperth. Contact our office at 1-800-561-5012 or email info@alzhp.ca.

Shelf Help

The Art Thief, by Michael Finkel
@SPL: FIC Matts

The Art Thief written by Michael Finkel, is a true crime account of the most prolific art thief in Europe - Stéphane Breitwieser. The French master thief along with his partner Anne-Catherine Kleinklaus, are reported to have stolen over 200 pieces of art during 1995 and 2001 from museums and castles throughout Europe. Unlike most thieves, he never stole for money, despite the total valuation of stolen items at over 2 billion dollars, the items were never sold, they were displayed in Breitwiesers' attic where he could admire them to his heart's content. Drawing on art theory, psychology re-



ports, and extensive interviews from court documents, Finkel attempts to get into the mind of a thief as he researches Breitwiesers' motivation and his insatiable hunger for possessing beautiful and rare objects. Finkel writes a fast-paced and compelling read that increases in suspense chapter by chapter with each additional heist leading to a surprise ending that will shock readers.

This book will appeal to readers who enjoy true crime, art history, and non-fiction that reads like fiction.

Brittany Meadows
Public Service Librarian
Stratford Public Library

Weekend Quiz

- 1) What two countries did Halloween originate from?
- 2) What do you say when you arrive at the door for candy?
- 3) When did the Salem Witch Trials take place?
- 4) Who is the iconic villain in the Halloween movie franchise?
- 5) What zodiac sign is associated with Halloween?
- 6) What are Dracula's primary weaknesses?
- 7) What is another name for a carved pumpkin?
- 8) In what year did Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' premier on MTV?
- 9) What do you call a group of witches?
- 10) Who you gonna call?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

Joyland's
 Billiards & Games Warehouse
 STRATFORD
 64 Linton Ave
 519-508-7665

Best Local Seasonal Cuisine Restaurant in South-Western Ontario awarded to Elizabeth

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

proven to be well received.

Chef-owner Brian Clarke was elated to have been awarded Best Local Seasonal Cuisine Restaurant in South-Western Ontario in the 2023 Global Business Awards held by Corporate Vision Magazine out of England. As described on their website, the Global Business Awards highlight the latest trends and developments influencing the market today, as they look to shine a spotlight on the trailblazers that are maintaining excellence and driving success in modern business.

“It’s a super small restaurant, we only have 33 seats. The whole point is to give everyone the best experience possible. We only have five front of house staff and myself, so six of us. That is by design by us wanting to make the best restaurant we can and really stand out amongst other restaurants with the level of hospitality that we try to give to you. And that comes down to the music and the lighting and we spend so much time on the playlist. We are all restaurant nerds, so we focus on the smallest things,” said Clarke.

“Someone from the awards came here and ate, and we got an email saying we were being considered for an award but we didn’t really know what that meant, then we got an email saying congratulations, we were being considered for this; then we found out we won it. It’s really nice especially for being such a new restaurant,” said Clarke. His restaurant has been open about fifteen months.

The thing that they talk about all the time by staff and as a team is they don’t take a single person for granted that comes through the door. It doesn’t matter who you are.

Elizabeth happened essentially because the space had become available. Clarke had always thought that it could be the beautiful restaurant that he has created with his invaluable team. Years prior, he taught drums to the grandson of the owner of the building. Through that connection he found out the building became available before it came on the market. So he and his partner Sara Sylvester (Little Shed Flower Co) swooped in.

“This restaurant wasn’t built for tourists, it was built for Stratford. It was built for locals so we want to make sure that there is space for them and we’ve had so many that come once or twice a week and we know where they like to sit and we know what they like to drink, what they like to eat. That level of service comes down to Shane Kirkland, our front of house manager and bartender. It’s his experience working at really high end restaurants in Los Angeles and Cincinnati, so that level of service that he brings to our causal fine dining atmosphere that wouldn’t be the same without him,” adds Clarke.

Their vision was to create a restaurant in Stratford that one would find in Paris, a bistro style, with the menu changing every day, fresh and interesting cocktails and a wine list that is small yet widely appealing. They really focus on the food and the dining experience from the moment you are greeted at the door.

His exceptional team of Chris, Lucas, Shane, Andrew and Nikita ensure that you want to come back. They are obsessed with making sure you have fun and that the experience completely satisfies. They will continue at their speed for the future though they will always strive to be better. The restaurant is about to go on their fall break, from October 31st to November 15th so will close for those two weeks. They use this break to eat. Clarke and his partner are going to London and Paris to visit restaurants and try different foods and different wines and are sure to come back with new and wonderful ideas for Elizabeth.

“The menu changes based on what is available. We don’t have a food supplier, we don’t have a freezer, the walk-in fridge is used for dry storage. All of the food is brought in by me and prepped. I don’t know what the menu will be until 3pm and then I print off the menus in the back. The staff comes in and we talk about the menu, it goes on the table and then we go,” said Clarke.

“What I’m most proud of is it is a living wage restaurant. Everyone is able to work here and make a living wage, plus the tips that they all share, so every table is important, every plate of food is important. It’s about making sure everybody has a great time. We’ve had zero turnover here,” said Clarke.

This approach is in line with Parisian restaurants which is where Clarke learned how to cook. This lends to the freshness of the foods that he cooks, made with love. It also helps with affordability, because he is buying daily at prices that can’t be matched when using a food service. The level of affordability then translates into dishes at a price point that has

Elizabeth is open Tuesdays to Saturdays, 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Reservations are highly recommended during the Shakespeare Festival season.



(ELIZABETH PHOTO)

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS



Dice, Adventures, Accessories & More!

Holiday Puzzles



Now Available

EARTH



For lovers of Wingspan

Home Decor

Come in now for a Great Selection!



2023 Unicorn Dart Board Clearance Sale!



Eclipse Pro \$79

Eclipse Pro 2 \$95

Eclipse HD2 Pro \$109

See instore for details. Supplies Limited.



HOURS
 Mon to Sat 10-6
 Closed Sundays

Visit us @ JoylandsBilliardandGames.ca

The Starlight Bar: Where “everybody knows your name”

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

“We want it to feel like Cheers,” says Starlight owners Megan Jones and Tim Pritchard, “where locals come and everyone knows your name.”

The new Starlight Bar has recently opened in Stratford at 64 Wellington Street and offers a range of fair-priced appetizer menu items curated by The Flour Mill in St. Marys and Yva Santini.

Jones said she wanted The Starlight Bar to be a place where people can come, relax and hang out and not feel obligated to splurge, “We want to make sure that this is a place that you don’t have to feel you have to come and have a full dinner.”

The pair moved to Stratford almost five years ago for the quiet lifestyle compared to their busy Toronto life. They wanted to embrace the lifestyle Stratford offers while being closer to family in St Marys.

“Stratford has all these fantastic restaurants and bars, which really resonated with us,” Jones said, “It’s like this magical little town where you can find all the things we were used to in the big city, but it’s also such a great place to raise a family.”

The Stratlight bar is a stunning combination of upscale and moody mixed with a ‘local lobby bar’ vibe meant to appeal to locals and visitors alike.

Designed by Canadian designers, The Make Nice Project in Toronto and Dan Ritano of Troubadour Productions in Ottawa, the local spot is meant to be a place



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

WHERE THE LOCALS COME

Starlight bar owners Megan Jones and Tim Pritchard are ready to serve Stratford with their unique bar on Wellington Street.

for everyone, “Pritchard says, “we want everyone to feel welcome; you can come dressed up for an event, or you can stop in after work with your boots on; we don’t

care, this is a place for everyone.”

Offering locally brewed beers, such as Shakespeare Brewery, Jobsite Brewery, Black Swan and Broken Rail, The Star-

light Bar offers fair-priced drinks but also has “fancy ciders” if you’re looking for something a little more exciting. “If you want to have a big celebration, you can have it here,” says Jones, “You can share cool cocktails, but we also have low-key drinks if you just want to come in here and have a beer with your friends after work.”

Pritchard noted that The Starlight Bar is meant to play off of Stratford’s unique motel vibe, “I guess the inspiration is that we’ve always noticed whenever we had come to Stratford before that there are so many motels in Stratford, which is cool and original.”

The pair wanted to add to Stratford’s nightlife. Therefore, the bar is conveniently open six days a week until 1 a.m., including Sundays and Mondays, which is uncommon in Stratford. “We wanted to give people a place to go at night,” Jones said, “Some other local bars are open at night now too, so we can see people bar hopping and including us in their travels around town.”

Looking towards the future, Starlight hopes to offer a happy hour menu and drinks throughout the week and partner with local businesses to have special nights dedicated to the town.

Keep an eye out for their first partnership with guest chef Alondra Galvez, owner of El Cactus Taco Shop and Yva Santini for a Día De Los Muertos Pop-Up Dinner on November 1 to celebrate the Day of the Dead.

X X X

HOLIDAY MARKET

X X X

**Saturday,
November 18**
10 a.m.–2 p.m.



695 Block Line Road, Kitchener
519-576-2430

The Village of
WINSTON PARK

STRATFORD **TIMES** SPORTS

- STRATFORD'S ULTIMATE INDOOR GOLF EXPERIENCE -



**RAIN OR SHINE
IT'S TEE OFF
TIME!**

Enjoy Wings and a Domestic Pint
for ONLY \$18.99

1060 ONTARIO ST., 519-305-5800

GET NOTICED!

Email stratfordtimes@gmail.com for details on how to get your ad here and support our local sports.

Fighting Irish boast winning record through three games

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

The Stratford Fighting Irish won the second half of their first back-to-back of the season when they visited the Delhi Flames and came away with a 6-2 victory.

In a back-and-forth first period, the Fighting Irish managed to head into the first intermission with a 2-0 lead on the Flames. Riley Coome and Matt Henderson scored for Stratford in the first period.

Goaltender Zack Weir stopped all 18 Delhi shots in the opening frame.

The Flames came out hungry in the second and were rewarded for it, getting two goals back of their own. Both were scored by Flames' forward Christopher Martin. Delhi outshot Stratford in the second 18-13.

A penalty-filled third period proved to be a dagger for the Flames as the Fighting Irish exploded for four goals in just over 10 minutes. Ray Robbins tallied the eventual game-winner with his fourth of the season, followed by a pair of powerplay goals by Dylan Buckholz and Cooper Leitch. Michael Finlay capped things off with his first of the campaign to make it 6-2, the eventual final score. Weir made 42 saves in Stratford's crease to secure the win.

Just 24 hours previously, however, the result and story of the game were almost completely inverse, with a cavernous third period sinking the Fighting Irish on home ice by a score of 5-2 in favour of the Strathroy Jets.

The game started out fairly even with both teams finding the back of the net once in the first 20 minutes, including a power-



(FRED GONDER PHOTO)

CHAMPIONS

The team's Captains display their 2022-2023 Championship Banner to the crowd at the home opener on October 21.

play marker by Robbins to get Stratford on the board. However, the rest of the game was dominated by the visitors from Strathroy. In the middle frame, the Jets led on the shot clock by a lopsided 17-9 differential, but Weir kept Stratford in the game between the pipes, only allowing one in the period.

In the third, Maverick Petrie tied the

game at two apiece but the Jets continued to outshoot the Fighting Irish by a hefty margin. The metaphorical dam finally broke and the Jets put up three goals in the final five minutes, including a powerplay, shorthanded, and even-strength tally. The final shot total was 49-37 for Strathroy with Weir making 44 saves in Stratford's crease.



STRATFORD Hunter Steel WARRIORS

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, October 27 - 7:30pm
vs Kitchener-Waterloo - Allman Arena

Saturday, October 28 - 7:00pm
at Cambridge - Galt Arena Gardens

Friday, November 3 - 7:30pm
vs Brantford - Allman Arena

Saturday, November 4 - 7:00pm
at Cambridge - Galt Arena Gardens

Sunday, November 5 - 1:30pm
at Kitchener-Waterloo
Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex

Thursday, November 9
7:00pm - at Hamilton
Dave Andreychuk Mountain Arena

Sponsored by



TINA GRASBY
BROKER
519-275-7663
Home & Company

WOSHL STANDINGS

(Standings through October 22, 2023)

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Petrolia Squires	6	5	1	0	0	10
Strathroy Jets	6	4	2	0	0	8
Elora Rocks	5	3	2	0	0	6
Tillsonburg Thunder	3	3	0	0	0	6
Tilbury Bluebirds	3	2	1	0	0	4
Stratford Fighting Irish	3	2	1	0	0	4
Delhi Flames	4	2	2	0	0	4
Alvinston Killer Bees	3	1	2	0	0	2
Dunnville Aeros	4	1	3	0	0	2
Orangeville Blitz	4	0	4	0	0	0
Woodstock Lakers	5	0	5	0	0	0

SAVE LOCAL 

SHOP LOCAL.

Support businesses that keep your community and its newspaper thriving

VISIT US WWW.STRATFORDTIMES.COM

Warriors making strides, piling up points

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

Going into the week, the Stratford Warriors were one point back of the Elmira Sugar Kings for first place in the Midwestern Conference with a game in hand, thanks in large part to two straight wins over the Sugar Kings in a home-and-home series last weekend.

With the back-to-back victories over Elmira, the Warriors go into their home game against Kitchener-Waterloo having won eight of their last nine, including each of their last three outings. Head Coach Dave Williams told the Times that he sees the team making good progress, especially in their own zone, but notes there is still room for improvement.

"We're very happy with our record, especially given the turnover we had from last year and knowing we would be younger and need to be more patient," said Williams. "I think we're making some good strides and gaining confidence by winning games, but there are still times when you see that inexperience and we're still finding that consistency."

"I really like the way we're defending. The guys are doing little things like getting in shooting lanes, blocking shots, and committing physically to make plays along the wall. I think we're seeing incremental improvements in all those areas and I think it has translated to our success."

The first period of last Friday's game between Stratford and Elmira didn't start as well as the Warriors would have liked with the visiting Sugar Kings outshooting the Warriors by 15 shots in the first period. Williams said that starting on time is one of the team's biggest focuses right now.

"I want to see us have better starts to games. I think we've gotten ourselves into trouble in a few games early on. Friday night, for example, getting outshot 19-4 is not the way you want to start a game against a good hockey team like Elmira. I think we just have to make sure we're focused right from the moment the puck drops. Starting on time will go a long way for us and it's something that we just have to keep preaching as a coaching staff. Some of it is simplifying what everyone is doing on those first few shifts."

Despite the lopsided shot clock, the game remained scoreless after 20 minutes, thanks to goaltender Matt Perdue who has enjoyed a stellar start to the year in the Warriors' net. Perdue has yet to have a game where his save percentage dipped below 0.900, and Trenton Bennett has only had one such game so far this season. Coach Williams believes the strong performance in goal has been a major factor in the team's early-season success.

"Goaltending of the type that we're getting gives the whole group confidence that, when you do make a mistake, they have a good opportunity to bail you out. When they start making big saves, it gives the guys energy and something to rally behind, especially in moments when we're struggling."

gling."

The final 40 minutes last Friday were dead even on the shot clock with both teams getting 28 pucks on net. However, the Warriors capitalized on more of their chances, defeating Elmira 5-3. Stratford scored three of their goals in the second frame, two of which were on the powerplay. In their last three games, Stratford has at least one powerplay goal in each outing.

"The powerplay seems to be a situation where, when it's going, it's really going well, but when you're struggling with it, it just seems to be so hard to come by goals," noted Williams. "I think getting Casey [Bridgewater] has helped. I think he's got a really good offensive skillset that helps that unit drive better shooting opportunities on the powerplay."

Along with Bridgewater, the Warriors have gotten strong offensive contributions from defenceman Jaxon Broda. The Wellesley native has points in six straight and in eight of his last nine, which Williams believes is a reflection of the blueliner's excellent skating ability.

"Jaxon has a really good offensive skillset and excellent feet. He's a player who is able to use his foot speed and anticipation to skate the puck out of our zone and get up and lead or be a part of rushes, which we've seen him really well lately and it's a big reason he's getting the points that he is."

One such example of Broda's ability to jump up in the rush came in the second half of the Warriors' back-to-back when he carried the puck over the blueline before dropping it for Carson Harmer who scored the only non-empty netter of that game, from which the Warriors came away with a 2-0 win. The Head Coach praised Harmer, a second-round pick of the Saginaw Spirit, who has points in all but two games so far this year.

"Carson is definitely off to a good start. We were spoiled a little bit by having him play with us last year in the Sutherland Cup Finals. He has just been really consistent in all three zones, he competes incredibly hard. I don't think it's a surprise for any of us as we've had the opportunity to see him play and we know how good a player he is."

Late in the third, the Warriors' second goal was scored by Joey Brehmer who fired it into an empty net. Brehmer and his linemates Braydon Stumpf and Michael Denney have developed good chemistry,

according to the bench boss.

"I think that whole line has been very solid for us. Braydon, Michael, and Joey all offer a little bit different elements that contrast nicely with each other. Braydon and Michael both have really good feet and puck skills while Joey is a really strong, heavy player. I think they all compliment each other well and they have all been really good for the last six or seven games as they've gotten more confident together."

On the blueline, a key reason for the team's defensive improvement has been the addition of Owen England. The 20-year-old from Hespeler has brought a big frame and a dearth of GOJHL experience to the Warriors' young back end which Williams has been thrilled to have on his blueline.

"Owen has been a great addition. He has made a seamless transition into our group which isn't always the easiest thing for guys after just a few games. He's a big body with a long stick and he brings some heaviness to our back end. He can shut down other teams' top lines and it gives us more confidence collectively. I think, with time, Owen will be able to chip in more offensively but right now, we're more than happy that he is giving us such strong, reliable defensive work."

The Warriors' three-game winning streak also included a 6-2 win over the Ayr Centennials on October 12th. Perdue made 35 saves while Denney and Harmer each scored twice. This weekend, the team hosts the K-W Siskins before going to Cambridge 24 hours later to take on the RedHawks. Williams said that it's yet another example of the depth of talent in the Midwest.

"I feel like every weekend is full of big opponents," laughed Williams. "You look at who we've played these last few weeks and they all are tough opponents. I think for us, and it will likely be this way for quite some time, we just want to continue to get better collectively and build our consistency, whether it's in practice or games."

"It's also important for our guys to be aware of the



STRATFORD WARRIORS 2023-24 Player Statistics (through October 22, 2023)

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Carson Harmer	F	10	6	7	13
Braydon Stumpf	F	12	2	10	12
Michael Denney	F	12	8	3	11
Jaxon Broda	D	10	3	7	10
Cole Lewis	F	12	6	3	9
Drew Agnew	F	12	3	6	9
Camden Daigle	F	12	2	7	9
Haden Frayne	D	11	2	5	7
Joey Brehmer	F	12	4	2	6
Dylan Dundas	F	12	3	3	6
Liam Gorman	F	10	3	1	4
Casey Bridgewater	D	5	0	4	4
Tristian Huinink	F	9	2	1	3
Zach Bell	F	11	2	1	3
Jacob Wiseman	D	8	0	2	2
Cole Brooks	D	9	0	2	2
Evan Hjelholt	D	10	0	2	2
Zachary Schooley	F	10	1	0	1
Wyatt Adkins	D	5	0	1	1
Owen England	D	6	0	1	1
Keaton Bartlett	D	9	0	1	1
Ben Graham	F	9	0	1	1

PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%
Matthew Perdue	6-2-1-0	2.21	.938

GOJHL STANDINGS

Midwestern Conference

(Standings through October 22, 2023)

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
KW Siskins	12	8	2	1	1	18
Stratford Warriors	12	9	2	1	0	19
Cambridge Redhawks	12	6	5	1	0	13
Elmira Sugar Kings	13	10	3	0	0	20
Ayr Centennials	14	7	7	0	0	14
Listowel Cyclones	11	6	5	0	0	12
Caledon Bombers	12	0	11	0	1	1
Brantford Bandits	12	3	9	0	0	6

NOW LEASING

RE-EST. 2023

**MORNINGTON
FLATS**

STUDIOS,
ONE & TWO
BEDROOMS

FROM \$1,200
TO \$2,450

519-274-4927
sales@thebmgroupp.ca



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

FOOD DONATIONS

The 15U Stingers are hosting a volleyball tournament and collecting donations for the local food bank at the Rotary Complex on McCarthy Road.

On November 4 from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m., many of the top competing 15U Girls volleyball teams in the province will compete in Stratford.

All are welcome to attend and watch the games, and anyone wishing to watch is asked to bring non-perishable food items.

Back row left to right: Vivienne Kouwenberg, Willow Kraft, Lilli Laviree, Evie Leppington, Jennah Cressman, Abbie Straus. Front row: Chloe McCabe, Liv Leppington, Paige Witschi

U15 Warriors press on

Stratford Warriors U15 Boys AA hockey team, sponsored by, “Fore Everyone Golf” in Stratford, <https://www.forevereveryonegolf.ca/> have been heading into the hockey season with grit and determination. Coaching Staff this year are comprised of Tim Schultz, Dan Daum, Jaimie Daum and Riley Mathieson.

The boys already have a tournament under their belt, which was held in Woolwich, on the weekend of September 29. They had their first win of the season against the Orillia Terriers and made a good debut as a team and trying to put the moving pieces together.

The first three regular season games have been played, striving to score some goals and hold the other teams from getting to our net. The players are gelling and finding their strengths on the ice. Down a few players last week due to injuries, a few excited call-ups joined the bench this past week.

On Saturday, October 14, they played at home versus the Sarnia Sting. Carter Keating was showing all his moves in net, stopping many attempts from the Sting. Good defensive play by all our players kept Sarnia from getting too far ahead on the scoreboard. Caden Ollson assisted by Rowan Green scored the lone goal of the game with the final score being 4-1.

The boys travelled down the highway to Kitchener on Tuesday, October 16th, to play the Jr. Rangers. It was a hard fought game, but they finished it with impressive play in the third period.

The U15 Stratford Warriors faced off against the Hamilton Huskies on Saturday, October 22, at the Allman Arena, resulting in a 6-2 defeat. Hamilton scored their first two goals at 9:50 and 8:05 in the opening period. Stratford managed to respond with a power play goal when Noah Kaye executed a quick shot at 2:47, sneaking it beneath the Hamilton goalie.

Towards the end of the first period, the Stratford Warriors demonstrated impressive penalty killing skills, with a notable save by goaltender Carter Keating. In the second period, Hamilton extended their lead to 3-1 with a goal at 13:42, and Stratford narrowly missed a scoring opportunity, hitting the post with 3:00 left. Keating made a crucial blocker save at 2:18 during a partial breakaway.

A four-minute head shot penalty against Hamilton at 1:15 put the Warriors on the power play. With less than a minute remaining in the second period, Noah Kaye showcased strong back-checking skills during a short-handed breakaway.

In the third period, Hamilton intensified their offensive efforts, scoring at 13:03, 9:12, and 6:42. Caden Ollson managed to contribute with a breakaway goal, finding the top corner at 2:51 in the third, resulting in a final score of 6-2.

The U15 Warriors have a busy lineup in the next few weeks, playing the Hamilton Huskies, Jr. London Knights White, the Woodstock Navy Vets, followed by the Waterloo Wolves to finish October. Games are posted at: <https://stratfordminorhockey.com/Teams/1556/>.

**Fitness.
Fun.
Results.**



Step inside
Genuine Fitness, let go of:

- Your endless to-do list
- Your struggles to get fit in the past
- Your stress and tension



GenuineFitness™

Speak with one of our coaches to find out if
Genuine Fitness is right for you.

804 Ontario St., Stratford
226-779-0548 | genuinefitness.ca



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

ENGAGEMENT

Stratford Fencing Ontario had outstanding results last weekend during the 2023 Mustang Invitational at Western University. The team above, consisting of Scott Bell, Blake DeGroot, Gordon Ye, and Lucas Rigden, placed first in their category, winning all their pool and elimination bouts. The club also had a group compete at a provincial tournament where four members (list names here) medaled.



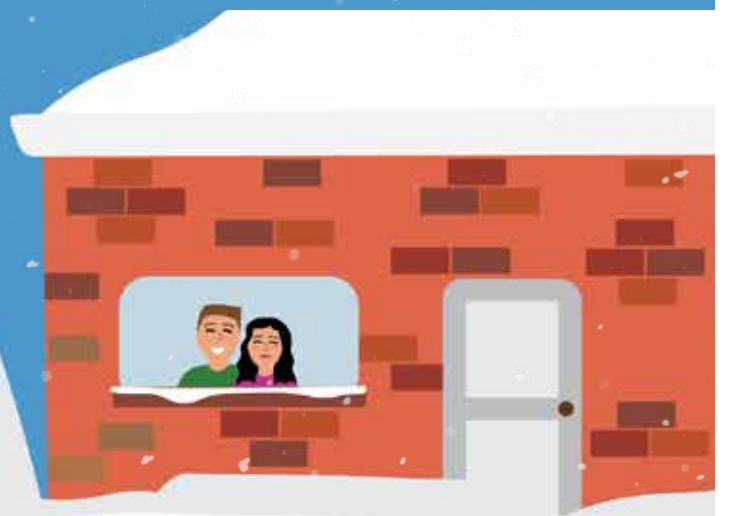
NIXSNOW.CA

ENJOY A WORRY-FREE WINTER



Full season
snowblowing
starting at **\$499**

SIGN UP TODAY
BEFORE OUR ROUTES REACH CAPACITY



Season Nov. 1 - Apr. 15. Walkway shovelling and ice control extra.

Barry James Payne and Zachary Lucky team up for an intimate evening of music and stories

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

What do you get when two singer songwriters team up for a night? An intimate evening of original music and stories from veterans Barry James Payne and Zachary Lucky. They will be appearing November 4th at The Bunker Performance Lounge and Café.

Lucky has been a solo artist for thirteen years and began songwriting in his teens. Same with Payne, music has had a calling for these two with a similar background of writing and performing.

"I was always really interested in music, I grew up in the church listening to Christian music, that's the cd's my Mom let me buy, but she took me to some larger concerts and I looked at that and thought that's what I want to do, that looks fun. Somewhere along the line they thought to get me a guitar and ended up playing in the church band and eventually found my own music," said Lucky of his folk song origins.

In 2010 he released a record called "Come and Gone" and was the first record that he toured with a band and took it across the country. He quit his straight day job and never looked back. He's a folk singer that comes from country stock, but doesn't consider himself a country singer. His grandparents were country artists so it's in his blood.



MUSICAL STORY TELLING

Zachary Lucky comes to Stratford for the first time to perform with local native Barry James Payne.

(TOM WOOD PHOTO)

"I've always considered myself a songwriter first and a performer second, that's maybe swapped a bit in the last couple years but it's all about the song and the quality of the song and telling a story which is the ethos of folk songs. So you could say I'm a folk singer with a country leaning," said Lucky.

His interest in the genre of folk songwriting began with an influence from Townes Van Zandt, sending him on a spiral of devouring his material. "Townes is a real figure head, his songs have a way of painting a picture so it really stirred me on a path of trying to do that with my music,

to focus on the detail. It's what I've tried to do with the last ten years," he explained.

Lucky has been described as one of the hardest working musicians that tours North America and Europe. He is known for his live performances, and every show is special in its own right. Picking a show that stands out is difficult.

"At the end of every tour you sit back and think about it, but the biggest thing is connecting with the fans that are listening to the music, When I first started writing in my parents basement it was for me, it was an expression of who I am and where I'm at

and things I'm feeling but songs are funny. You put them out in the world and all of a sudden, they are not yours they are other people's and they experience them and they are a part of this person's life; it's pretty special, I don't take that for granted at all," said Lucky.

Barry James Payne is a singer-songwriter in the genre of Americana, which is a blend of folk, blues, country and rock. He started in music when he was 12, playing drums for five years before transitioning to guitar. His first song was written at the age of fifteen, and eventually left for Vancouver to play music. Payne now lives in Stratford and today, his projects include his solo music, his band Stringbone, a Blue Rodeo tribute band called Diamond Mine and a duo called Fiddle and Frets. He was also in the wildly successful band Rant Maggie Rant.

"Stratford is a smaller, more relaxed community, it's very diverse artistically so there's a lot to soak in. It has a rich history, with The Band, and now with Loreena McKennitt and Ron Sexsmith here; some major players who influence in such a way that makes you believe that anything is possible," said Payne of how living in Stratford influences his writing.

Writing is something that happens at anytime. He will have something in his head with lyrics and melody and usually it's a story of some kind. He also col-

laborates with other writers, over the internet, bringing story ideas to Zoom meetings and shares them, or may have a progression that he's been working on. It is a compromise between artists in lyricism and music.

"Performing live is like running a marathon. I can't tell you the physiology behind it but there's some chemicals raging through your body when you're singing and performing. I also believe there's a holistic connection with the audience; there's an energy cycle that gets pushed out, returned, pushed out, returned, and it can be exhilarating. It's about singing the songs with my entire being and emotion and hopefully connecting with the people that are listening. Telling the stories so that they are believable," said Payne.

The show will be very intimate with storytelling and music; stripped down music with just the singer and guitar. The Bunker Performance Lounge and Café is an ideal setting to perform given its format to present music. The show is November 4th, doors open at 6pm. Tickets are available online at stringbone.ca or bunkerstratford.com/shows. Tickets are \$25.

If you are looking for some live music before then, Payne's Blue Rodeo tribute band, Diamond Mine is playing at Harrington Hall, Harrington, at 8pm on October 28th. Tickets for that show are available online at stringbone.ca.

Two musicians aim to change the music scene in Stratford

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Johann Yundt, lead singer of Smalltown Strip Club and Ethan McCarroll, band member of Mutual Mind and owner of Maac Music Records, grew up together in Stratford. Growing up around local art and theatre, the pair were naturally drawn to the arts themselves, which eventually led them to music.

Although they both love music and the arts, they noticed a disconnect between locals and visitors to Stratford, "Sometimes we feel that there might be a little bit of a disconnect between the local artists and the bigger picture of what's marketed to people outside of town," said Yundt, "We're trying to bridge the gap slightly and create more of a cohesive music scene in Stratford and also bring some local artists to light."

Looking to similar destina-

tion towns such as Niagara on the Lake and Elora (which hosts Riverfest each year), Yundt and McCarroll want to intertwine local music and Stratford's already thriving theatre scene. Yundt said, "One aspect we're working on is fostering local community music and providing avenues for artists to get out and perform." He continued, "We would love to get everybody in town, locals and visitors alike, to support local musicians."

One way of doing this is to bring more prominent Canadian bands to headline events in town, such as Texas King, who headlined the recent Rock the Muse event. This way, it attracts more people to show up and purchase tickets while allowing local bands to have their moment on stage and gain new fans.

Rock the Muse at the Stratford Perth Museum was held in early October and was the second annu-



ROCK THE SCENE

Ethan McCarroll and Johann Yundt, musicians, plan to shake up the music scene in Stratford and offer local bands larger opportunities.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

al event hosted by Yundt and McCarroll. The event saw 25 bands play on the Player's Backstage Main Stage and the locally sponsored Little Big Creative Stage on Friday and Saturday nights.

Rock the Muse is expected to

grow each year, and this being only the second annual event, Yundt and McCarroll say they foresee the event getting more traction over the years and with some minor tweaks, this could be the event that bridges the gap be-

tween local music and Stratford's theatre scene. McCarroll says, "We feel inspired to take all the things we learn from this year and use it for next year."

Although Rock the Muse was a smashing success, McCarroll and Yundt say this is just the tip of the iceberg on what they want to do to help local musicians. McCarroll has a recording space in town where he helps record and produce music for local artists of any genre. Yundt has been offering open mic nights since 2019 to help connect local artists to accessible venues to play at.

Another avenue they're currently exploring is a way to foster young talent by helping to connect the dots for young bands. Yundt said, "I know personally, as an artist, that sometimes the grind can be a little bit thankless. It takes a while to knock on many, many, many doors before people start

CONTINUED TO PAGE 23

Singing, song writing duo Gathering Sparks appearing in Stratford for one night only

LISA CHESTER

Stratford Times Correspondent

Gathering Sparks, the duo made up of Eve Goldberg and Jane Lewis, will be appearing in concert for one night only at The Bunker Performance Lounge and Café Saturday November 11. This intimate evening will be sure to uplift and leave you singing by the end of the night with their infectious original tunes.

“It feels really good, we realized how much we missed that connection with people,” said Jane Lewis, “Our show is quite interactive, we encourage people to sing when we’re performing and we missed that energy exchange with people and hearing their voices with ours.”

“It kind of makes you grateful to be able to do it (after the pandemic), the first couple of concerts were very emotional,” adds Eve Goldberg.

The duo, which originally started as a trio, came together as a one-time thing in 2012. Lewis and her partner wanted to do a show in Toronto with a Toronto musician so they reached out to Goldberg and performed with great success. The original plan was to do a single show, but when they sang and played together, they felt they needed to keep going.

“The first time we sang together we felt a magic when the voices came together and we decided we wanted to continue,”



ONE NIGHT ONLY

Eve Goldberg and Jane Lewis of Gathering Sparks bring tight harmonies to original music for an intimate evening.

said Lewis.

“It was like song writers in the round where we each did our own songs and the others would join in on each other’s songs without rehearsing, and we thought we’d do another gig, but let’s rehearse this time and that felt so good we felt like, let’s keep doing this,” said Goldberg.

They had been playing shows under

their names, but one gig, the presenter told them they couldn’t keep booking as Lewis, Goldberg and Turton, that sounds like a law firm, they needed to come up with a name. They spent hours and hours trying to come up with names dedicating two rehearsals to it before stumbling across Gathering Sparks after playing with words.

“When we googled it, what we found

is, in Jewish thought, though we aren’t a Jewish band, it’s a term that is sometimes used. One of the tenants in Jewish thought is part of our work in the world is the repair of the world, that we are all supposed to be working on the repair of the world. In the telling of the story, the world was once a glass vessel made of light that shattered and spread sparks everywhere and our job in the world is to gather the sparks. This made sense for us as our music is about bringing people together and creating and bringing positive energy in the world and bringing people together singing, creating a space where people can feel uplifted and connected to each other,” explains Goldberg.

Their style is folk/roots. People often comment on their vocal harmonies when they perform. They write their own music and the invitation to sing along is also a characteristic of their shows with songs that often encourage it.

“It is acoustic, even though Jane plays keyboard, so sometimes we have those sounds; I play guitar and ukulele, so it kind of leans more in that direction,” said Goldberg.

They will also have with them a percussionist, Cheryl Prasker, who brings a style sensitive to their music. “She also falls into the acoustic category, she is a very tasteful percussionist,” said Lewis.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 23

Visit us at Stratford Kia

2024 Kia EV6



2024 Kia Niro EV



Sales, Service and Parts



STORE HOURS SALES: Monday-Thursday 9:00-8:00; Friday-Saturday 9:00-6:00
PARTS AND SERVICE: Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00

863 ERIE STREET | STRATFORD
519.508.5755
General Manager: Bobin Mathew
www.stratfordkia.com



A PREMIER INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY



WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT
COULDN'T GET ANY BETTER

IT JUST DID

ONE MORE AMAZING
REASONS TO CHECK OUT
Cedarview in Woodstock



One Month Free Rent*

There are several reasons that Cedarview in Woodstock is set apart from everyone else, such as our industry-leading hospitality, impressive list of amenities, active lifestyle, premier culinary experience, and innovative technology. But we want to offer even more reasons. One big reasons. Don't wait, this promotion ends 10/31/23.

Upcoming Events

September 24th

BBQ Party
2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

October 12th

OctoberFest
2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

November 25th

Christmas Bazaar
11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Call Lisa to RSVP or schedule a personal tour

519-771-4973

Visit [Brightwaterseniorliving.com](https://www.brightwaterseniorliving.com) To Learn More About The Community



cedarview
retirement living

511 Finkle Street, Woodstock ON N4V 0C4

*This promotion cannot be combined with any other promotional offer or applied to any previous rental agreement. Promotion is only valid on Cedarview in Woodstock rental agreements signed during the promotion date, and new residents under this promotion must move in by 11/30/23. First free month rent applies to the 3rd month. This promotion ends 10/31/23. Cedarview in Woodstock reserves the right to change, alter or discontinue the promotion at any time without verbal or written notice. Please check with an authorized Cedarview in Woodstock representative for details.

Provocation Ideas Festival 2023: Where Art Meets Artificial Intelligence

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In a groundbreaking fusion of artistic creativity and cutting-edge technology, the Provocation Ideas Festival 2023 has made its way to Stratford. With a legacy that started in Toronto in 2020 and has now seamlessly bridged into Stratford, this festival stands as a testament to the power of community, conversation, and the exploration of crucial societal issues.

Mark Rosenfeld, the Founding Director of the Provocation Ideas Festival, emphasized, "The intention of the festival has always been to link to communities and talk about issues that are important, whether it is the issue of housing, food security, culture, the economy, the future of work, or healthcare." This ethos is the driving force behind the festival, which seeks to engage attendees in discussions about pressing concerns that shape our lives.

The theme this year, both in Toronto and in Stratford, revolves around "the promise and perils of technology broadly, but AI specifically," as highlighted by Rosenfeld. The festival organizers deliberately chose to explore Artificial Intelligence through the lens of arts. "We wanted to get people



WHERE ART MEETS AI

AI generated image by Ryan Kellin

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

thinking about using AI technology; what does this actually mean? What are the implications? What are the ethical considerations as well?" questioned Rosenfeld, emphasizing the critical need for these conversations in today's rapidly evolving technological landscape.

The festival serves as a platform to delve deep into both facets of AI. Rosenfeld elaborated, "We wanted to discuss both sides of AI. How it can be used for health innovations and healthcare innovation, but at the same time, people may be worried about AI undermining their autonomy and

the ability to make decisions." Said Rosenfeld, "This duality of AI, as a tool for revolutionary advancements in healthcare or causing concerns about its potential to erode individual autonomy, is at the core of the festival's discussions.

Rosenfeld's ambition is evident as he expressed, "AI has been compared to a new Frankenstein monster that we've created drawing on human intelligence, and that's why I want to explore a number of these events that are both getting a sense of what the possibilities are with AI but also getting a strong sense of what are the possible dangers as well."

From November 13th to 18th, the Provocation Ideas Festival will captivate Stratford with innovative events. Dive into the "AI Artistry on Display: When All Dreams Come True" exhibition, where artists blend creativity with generative artificial

intelligence, challenging artistic norms. On November 10th, "Neural Ballet" at Factory 163 explores the fusion of human movement and AI-generated visuals, questioning tradition and innovation in dance.

Intellectual dialogues await at "CBC IDEAS: Visionaries in Conversation" on November 16th, featuring renowned writer Cory Doctorow and tech expert Vass Bednar. The musical journey, "Transmigrations: Music & AI Fusion," on November 17th, intertwines music and AI-generated visuals, fostering engaging discussions about creativity's digital future.

The festival culminates on November 18th at the Stratford Public Library with a panel discussion, "AI's Impact on Stratford," exploring the city's technological evolution. Meanwhile, food enthusiasts can savour "Culinary Delights" at Café Bouffon, indulging in AI-inspired cocktails and canapés alongside traditional treats, sparking intriguing conversations about gastronomy and technology.

The Provocation Ideas Festival 2023 in Stratford is more than an event; it combines minds, ideas, and creativity. Attendees are invited to immerse themselves in a world where art and artificial intelligence coalesce, sparking conversations that echo long after the festival concludes.

Surprise! If this article felt exceptionally insightful, it's because I used AI to write it! Talk about teamwork.

For more information and registration, visit www.provocation.ca/upcoming-2023-events-stratford.

Gathering Sparks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

"It's a special skill, if you're a drummer, to fit in with the sound. She has a lot of experience in a number of different genres, like Celtic or Jazz, a number of different styles," said Goldberg.

"She adds just the right amount of groove," added Lewis.

Their hope is that they help people connect to each other and connect to community. Times have been challenging in the last few years, and difficult for people, and hope that the music brings joy and comfort.

In 2014 a six song CD was released and was nominated Best Vocal Group of the Year with the Canadian Folk Music Awards. Their 2019 CD entitled "All That's Real" has been well received with the album also in the top ten of the Folk Alliance International Folk DJ chart for October and November 2019, and "Bring-

ing in the Light" was the #1 song on the Folk DJ chart for the month of December 2019. The single also was recognized with a 2019 Folk Music Ontario "Songs From the Heart" Award, singer-songwriter category.

"It came out right before the pandemic so we still feel like it's new. This was the first time that we wrote together, so almost all the songs on the album we wrote together or helped each other even if it was mostly the other's song," said Goldberg.

Their music can be found on Spotify, YouTube, and to purchase at Gathering-sparks.com and www.borealisrecords.com. Catch Gathering Sparks live in concert at The Bunker on November 11, doors open at 6pm and the show starts at 8pm. The Bunker Performance Lounge and Café is at 194 Wellington St. Tickets can be purchased online from The Bunker at \$25 each.

Two musicians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

reaching out to you to perform," he said, "And we want to facilitate opportunities to help connect bands and spaces around Stratford."

The two are looking to foster opportunities for the younger generation of musicians, "We also want to help out with those that are playing music in the garage or their parent's basement," Yundt said, "We understand some of the expenses that come up and can stop bands from playing, so we want to help remove some of those barriers so that it's easier for young bands to play music at local places."

"I think we're definitely on the right

track," said Yundt, "There was a moment during Rock the Muse where I just stood back in amazement. We made all this happen and know we're on the right track. Local musicians need this, and we know what's possible now."

Currently, the two are working on ironing out minor tweaks that popped up during their second annual Rock the Muse event, and they are looking to help foster a sense of community within the music scene in Stratford. If you are looking for local bands or are interested in connecting with the two, find them on Instagram: Ethan McCarroll @ethan_maac and Johann Yundt @johannmusic.

Community of Christ
226 Forman Avenue 519-271-4539
Proclaiming Jesus Christ
with communities of
LOVE, JOY, HOPE & PEACE

Worship with us
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship and
Coffee Hour

 We are a Welcoming Community

Worship
With Us



**Stratford Associate
Reformed
Presbyterian Church**

Quality Inn Festival
(1144 Ontario St., Stratford)

WORSHIP TIMES:
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
stratfordarp.org



Invite readers to your worship services. Contact stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Aquaboxes on the way to disaster areas after Rotary Club builds over 500 kits

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Stratford and GlobalMedic gathered on Saturday the 21st to pitch in and build 504 Aquabox kits to distribute to disaster areas the following week. An Aquabox is a simple low-cost filtration system that can provide purified drinking water to a family of four for up to a year.

"Our mission statement is that we are supplying the means by which contaminated water can be turned into potable water after disasters. Recently we categorized war as a disaster so we are shipping to Ukraine. We have been doing this (project) since 2006 and are pretty close to 15,000 units. We are building 504 today," said Walt Bathe, Rotary Club Aquabox committee chair.

The club was inspired to initiate the project by a former Rotarian that loved to sail. On one of his cruises he ran into a Rotarian from England. They were involved in the project in a place called Warkworth and impressed him with their achievements. The idea was brought back to the club in around 2003. It took three years for the Club to buy in before they began. There are three only Rotary Clubs in the world participating in the project; one in England, one in Australia and Stratford.

Things have evolved since the inception of the project. Over the years, they have



PURIFIED DRINKING WATER

Volunteers work diligently to assemble Aquaboxes bound for disaster areas around the world.

changed from using a big box filled with salt tablets to do the purification. Now, the kit consists of filters and two pails packed in a carton. They have lowered the unit cost from over \$100 to around \$30, making the project more viable than ever.

The Rotary Club partners with GlobalMedic, a Canadian charitable organization that provides relief to people affect-

ed by poverty, disaster or conflict with humanitarian aid. They are the boots on the ground travelling with the Aquabox shipments to disaster areas in need. They provide logistics to bring the kits from Toronto to disaster areas, usually within days of assembly.

Fundraising plays a major part of the project, with 100% of funds raised invest-

ed in the project. Administration costs are covered by the Rotary Club itself.

"We've had donations come in from as far away as Vancouver. Many church groups donate. I went to Tavistock a couple weeks ago and made a presentation to a Ladies' group there which helped the pocketbook. Over the years we've raised over a half a million dollars," said Bathe.

The key components of the Aquabox are two silver-impregnated ceramic cartridges capable of filtering fifteen litres of polluted water in each fill, trapping virtually 100% of harmful bacteria and protozoan cysts. The filters are sourced north of Toronto and kits are assembled in Stratford twice a year. The kit includes a leaflet about how to assemble and how to maintain the kit and a basic hygiene kit is also included.

The project is life changing because without clean drinking water, people are at risk of disease. The units shipped to date represent approximately 73 million litres of potable water. The club will do more, if they have more. It all depends on the amount of fundraising available, of which they successfully achieve about \$30,000 a year.

Those interested in further information can check out the Aquabox page on the Rotary Club of Stratford website or email aquabox@rotarystratford.com. A tax-deductible donation of \$30 will enable them to supply a family in need with their own Aquabox.



SEEKING SUSTAINABILITY

Perth County Water & Forest Conditions: How Is It Going? What Can We Do?

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

In 2022, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority released 27 Watershed Report Cards detailing the watershed and forestry conditions of the 27 watershed regions in the Upper Thames River basin. One of these regions is the Avon River Watershed, which contains the City of Stratford. The report card gave our area a Level D in both surface water quality and forest conditions, which is quite poor. Water quality is directly affected by tree cover, especially in riparian zones, which are the areas on the banks of bodies of water. Many native animal species in Perth County are at risk of becoming endangered or are already endangered due to the destruction of their natural forested habitats. Species including the snapping turtle,

grey fox, and American badger, as well as many native birds, are all essential parts of the natural ecosystems. However, their numbers have dwindled dramatically in the last half-century. Tree covers provide many benefits to humans too, by improving physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. They also provide areas for recreational activities, such as walking, hiking, and biking. However, Perth County is also a region where agriculture is one of the primary industries. So, the question is, how can we improve tree cover while not taking away land that people work and live on? The answer is agroforestry.

Agroforestry is a system of cultivation that incorporates trees into the landscape of traditional or modern agriculture alongside the growth of crops or livestock. It takes advantage of the mutually beneficial relationship between these different elements to enhance the farm's resilience, increase natural biodiversity, and create a

more productive, profitable, and sustainable agricultural system than those seen in a typical monoculture. Trees planted alongside agricultural land provide an abundance of environmental benefits that maintain, and, in many cases, improve the conditions needed for agricultural production. This results in increased productivity and yield from the system. These benefits include reducing soil erosion, increasing soil fertility, stabilizing water supplies, increasing capacity to store water in the soil, moderating soil and air temperatures, attracting beneficial insects, decreasing odour and spray drift, offering alternative income options, helping to save on heating and energy costs, and shelter livestock from the wind and sun. According to a study by OMAFRA, effective windbreaks can increase crop yields by up to 15%, which more than makes up for the space they use. Although crop yield increases vary depending on the crop type, there

typically is an increase seen on the downwind side of the windbreak over a distance of up to 12 times the height of the windbreak's trees.

Although starting up an agroforestry system or incorporating one into an already existing agriculture system may sound daunting, there are many resources available in Ontario to help farmers get started. To help find the best type of trees for a specific situation, visit the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's Tree Atlas (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/tree-atlas>). To get the maximum possible benefits and a greater yield, the species of trees being planted must also be contentiously chosen by looking at their winter hardiness and lifespan, the soil type, planting region, and the type of crop being planted alongside a windbreak. Local conservation authorities commonly offer farmers help with integrating windbreaks. They

CONTINUED TO PAGE 27

MUSINGS: Sunshine Sketches of a Not-so-little Town



MARK HERTZBERGER

Times Freelance Columnist

In 1912, Stephen Leacock wrote *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*, a collection of humorous short stories, affectionately satirizing life in small town Ontario. Those of us who have grown up in small towns know they still have an environment that is quite different from larger cities. A microcosm of humanity is always on display, with all its kindness, pettiness, generosity, greediness, humility and snobbery. Also to be found, though: a wry sense of humour that cuts through pretenses and exposes the absurdities of human interaction. It's difficult to fake it in a small town.

Yvonne and I moved to Stratford 12 years ago and found it to be a welcoming town right from

the start. Although technically a city, Stratford still embodies small town qualities. You are probably familiar with the phrase "six degrees of separation". In Stratford there seems to be about a half degree of separation at maximum. I can't remember a time I've been downtown when I haven't encountered someone I know – or someone who knows someone I know.

There are of course some less desirable aspects of living here. The city's curbside Treasure Hunt Weekends bring some interesting people out of the woodwork. One weekend I put a weed trimmer I didn't need out by the curb. I had scarcely set it down when a gentleman pulled up in a pickup truck. Without saying a word, he leapt out, tossed it into the back, and jumped back into his seat again. Trying to establish a more civil connection, I said, "It still works!" and smiled at him. "It better!" he replied, and roared off. I guess I should have provided a warranty.

On another occasion, we had a small cupboard that no one seemed to want. Again I put it out by the curb. It wasn't a Treasure Hunt weekend so I was probably committing some sort of bylaw infraction. Then I re-

alized people might mistakenly think it was for sale, so I went back into the house to make a "Free" sign. I needn't have worried. By the time I emerged with the sign and some scotch tape, the cupboard was gone. Not exactly theft, I suppose, but the perpetrator was probably complicit in breaking the same bylaw I broke.

Stratford residents are very observant. I've had many people offer me their place in the checkout line when I only had a few items and they had a cartful. They also watch what you are buying. One day last summer I was in Zehrs trying to purchase a correct watermelon. I had been given detailed instructions on how to determine this. It involved knocking on the melon and listening to the sound. Problem was, I forgot what a ripe watermelon was supposed to sound like. Hollow? Solid? Desperate to get it right, I knocked and knocked on melon after melon. As I did this, I became aware of a woman standing off to the side watching me. When I turned around, she said: "Just wondering; is anybody home in there?"

Some Stratfordian observations are a little more blunt. On another forage at Zehrs, I had only one item to buy: a pineap-

ple. Thinking of the environment, I declined a bag and balanced the pineapple on one hand so I could pull out my car keys. As I made my way outside, there was a woman sitting on the curb, puffing on a cigarette. When she spied me she said: "Are you gonna eat it, or grow it?" I just love these little episodes.

Stratford, like any other city, wants to attract more businesses and residents. It's understandable. Yet, when I see monster



homes and condo developments springing up around town, I feel a certain sense of loss. The more we expand, the more our small town qualities shrink. In conclusion, here's a short poem I wrote – a tribute to the old Stratford, the one we love:

Cycling in Early Morning Stratford

*Crisp shadows,
freshly laundered sun,
grand porches patiently waiting*

*to tell their evening stories.
Swept path,
painted steps,
blossoming front yard dreams
of sleepy backyard gardeners.
This town,
this impossible, idyllic town,
is too damn good to be true;
yet, for this morning,
in this moment,
it holds its truth firm,
unassailable.*

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

Odds, Ends, and an Homage



BRUCE DUNCAN SKEAFF

Times Contributor

This is the first in a monthly series of columns looking at LGBTQ+ events, issues and personalities locally in Stratford and more broadly.

Both the Stratford Pride Community Centre & Pride Guide, and Stratford-Perth Pride have new leadership now.

I left the SPCC in August due to unexpected events and this Fall AJ Adams resigned the SPP, each having held the posts of president and chair of their re-

spective boards of directors. Melissa Marcelissen and Brock Hart have taken over each.

AJ has moved on to a new stage in life in another part of the province. I've started this column.

I'm told the SPP is having an "Open Closet" Nov. 19 at Revel for trans and non-binary people. People can get free clothing in a safe space. This ties in with the organization's second annual Trans Awareness Week November 13-19.

Word is Drag Storytime returns to the Stratford Public Library November 25, co-sponsored by the SPCC.

That brings me to the homage. Retiring from community service.

Martin Withenshaw, Founder & Treasurer, Rainbow Optimist Club. Although in London, he has had an effect on Pride in Stratford and in St. Marys.

Martin has been an advocate for human rights for over 50



MARTIN WITHENSHAW

years. In 2019, Pride London Festival recognized Martin's activism and appointed him the Grand Marshall for the 25th annual London Pride Parade.

Martin was approached by Paula Jesty, Kid's Mental Health of Canada Optimist Club and Mary Lou Abrams, the Governor of the SWO Optimist Clubs at the time, to form an Optimist Club serving the LGBTQ+ community. On the eve of Optimist International's 100 Anni-

versary, The Rainbow Optimist Club - Southwestern Ontario was born. They received their charter on September 10, 2018 to become the first in the world to join the Optimist International family.

Martin was the president for two years, will always be the Charter President, and has been until now the treasurer.

The Drag Storytimes are a unique way to engage children in learning about inclusion and diversity through reading a selection of carefully curated books by six library partners: Elgin County Library, London Public Library, Middlesex County Library, Oxford County Library, St. Thomas Public Library and Woodstock Public Library.

There's a Perth County connection, too. Even though we're outside the Rainbow Optimist service club area, Martin provided readers for Drag Storytimes for St. Mary's Pride celebrations and through my friendship with him over numerous years, he has been providing readers for Strat-

ford on an ongoing basis via the SPL and SPCC.

Martin and I were both diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease a number of years ago and kept in touch as our situations progressed. Recently he shared this unwelcome news:

"I have been diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP). It is a rare neurological disorder that affects body movements, walking and balance, and eye movements. The disease worsens rapidly and most people with PSP develop severe disability within three to five years of symptom onset. PSP can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia, choking, or head injuries from falls. I have been advised by my doctor resign from all extra-curricular activities to concentrate on my health."

I think it's safe to say without Martin, none of us in SW Ontario would have Drag Storytimes.

Bruce Duncan Skeaff is the founder of the Stratford Pride Community Centre and Pride Guide.

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Should I travel to Florida?



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor

A lot of Canadians travel south to avoid the cold winter months. Many of us are planning our visits, right now. I don't spend all the colder months somewhere warm, but we do try to head south for a month or so, and I know a great many snowbirds who skip Canadian winters entirely.

Most head to warm parts of the United States – although, that has become increasingly fraught with concern in recent years. I know many people who own property in the US, but who are thinking of selling out, and finding a warm alternative.

I also know Canadian travel writers who are reluctant to encourage people to visit the US, given the current social and political climate.

This was on my mind when I met Ronny Maye, one of an international group of travel writers, during some recent travels. Ronny, an American who lives in North Carolina, describes herself as “a solo traveler, female traveler, plus size traveler and Black traveler.” She recently wrote a piece for Fodor's Travel, responding to a travel advisory cautioning people of colour, and LGBTQ2+ folks, to beware of



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The quirky, unique Half Shell Raw Bar on Key West's historic waterfront.

travelling to Florida.

Her conclusions, I think, can apply to all concerned travellers.

Ronny wrote, in part, “I believe the travel advisory was necessary to keep people abreast of the current climate in Florida towards Black residents and travelers. But it's equally important to acknowledge that the beliefs of [Governor] DeSantis (and his following) are not the beliefs and feelings of the entire state. There are places within the state that are welcoming to visitors of all races and lifestyles.”

She cautions that, “A decrease in tourism will negatively impact the communities the advisory wants to protect. Numerous Black and LGBTQIA+ Floridians work in hospitality, restaurants, and other service industries directly served by tourism.”

But she is careful: “What's happening in the state should not be overlooked. Much like traveling internationally, travelers should enter the state erring on the side of caution...”

Ronny's analysis mirrors my

own thoughts about travelling to parts of the world – including the United States – where social and political challenges exist. But Ronny's carry far more credibility than mine, because of who she is and what she has experienced.

I know this is a lengthy introduction to what follows, but I have felt for some time that I should make some comments on the issues facing travellers to the U.S.; Ronny's thoughtful article gave me that opportunity.

And so... it will not surprise regular readers of this weekly feature that I am a fan of the Florida Keys. This is unlike any other destination in the U.S. Most of the people of the Keys are laid-back, welcoming, and entirely inclusive.

And so, as we hit the time of year when Canadians are thinking about heading somewhere warm for a while – let me suggest, Key West.

We visited the town earlier this year, and stayed at Opal Key, a terrific resort right on the

harbour.

Opal Key is the reincarnation of a resort that has existed under several brands, but now flourishes as a family-owned complex of hotel, restaurant, and retail space. It's where cruise ships dock in Key West, and so, when you stay there, all amenities are immediately at hand. Plus, you get the secret pleasure of watching all those cruise folks board their ship to leave Key West in the late afternoon – the boats have to be gone by sunset so they don't block the view of people celebrating sundown on Mallory Square – while you get to stay in this magical town for an entertaining evening.

While staying at Opal Key, we dined at their Bistro 245 and the food was terrific. I loved the truffle encrusted grouper, and, this being Key West, I finished, of course, with key lime pie.

My favourite thing about Key West is the live music, sundry styles performed in dozens of bars all day and most of the night. I also love the sunset cel-

ebrations, the Conch tour train, the museums and galleries. But on this trip, we also discovered how wonderful the foodie scene is. Visitors could dine in a different, excellent eatery every day for months.

A quick shout-out to three. First, the Half Shell Raw Bar is the place to go for seafood, a casual waterfront diner the historic Key West Seaport.

Blue Heaven is one of the finest breakfast establishments, ever. You sit outside, surrounded by tropical plants and accompanied, on occasion, by the ubiquitous Key West chickens. And yes, you can have key lime pie for breakfast.

And a wonderful surprise: Milagro, owned and run by Maggie and Kevin Montoya. Maggie is in the right job as host: warm, friendly, engaging. Kevin is a superb chef. My meal – a starter of perfectly prepared octopus with a mango sauce and polenta, and then hogfish and shrimp as the main – was over-the-top delicious. Don't knock it 'til you've tried it!

All of this is to say: I understand, and share, your caution about visiting some of the more right-wing American states right now. But I think Ronny is right – we can do more good than harm in supporting the tourism business and its people, and more specifically, once you get to the Florida Keys, you are in a safe, secure – as well as entertaining, welcoming and delicious – environment.

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)

The decor of the Half Shell Raw Bar will tell you all you need to know about the atmosphere in this eatery.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Maggie Montoya, at the fabulous restaurant, Milagro.

How to Make the End of October Boo-tiful



IRENE ROTH

Times Freelance Columnist

you want to make the end of October truly "Boo-tiful," here are some fantastic ways to get into the spirit of the season.

Decorate Your Home with Spooky Elegance

Transforming the outside of your home into a haunted wonderland is one of the best ways to celebrate the Halloween spirit.

You may want to start by adorning your front porch with carved pumpkins, spooky wreaths, and eerie lights. Indoors, deck out your living space with cobwebs, skeletons, and candles.

Try to incorporate fall foliage, like colorful leaves and cornstalks, to achieve a harmonious blend of autumn and Halloween décor. The end result will be a home that is both inviting and spooktacular.

Host a Halloween Movie Marathon

What's October without a spooky movie night, right? Gather your friends and family, or simply enjoy a cozy evening in

with your spouse, with a lineup of Halloween classics.

From "Hocus Pocus" to "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown," there's no shortage of films that capture the essence of the season. Pop some popcorn, make some hot apple cider, and settle in for a night of thrills and chills.

Get Creative with Pumpkin Carving

Carving pumpkins is a wonderful tradition that allows you to express your creativity. Gather your loved ones and embark on a pumpkin-carving adventure. Whether you're going for a classic jack-o'-lantern or more intricate designs, the options are endless. Don't forget to save the pumpkin seeds for a delicious roasted snack.

Bake Spooktacular Treats

The end of October is the perfect time to indulge in some seasonal treats. Some of the most famous ones are, pumpkin pies,

apple crisps, and cookies shaped like bats, witches, or ghosts. Don't forget to experiment with Halloween-themed cocktails and mocktails, complete with eerie garnishes.

Plan a Costume Party

A Halloween-themed costume party is an excellent way to bring friends and family together for a night of laughter and fun. Encourage your guests to get creative with their costumes, and even host a costume contest with prizes for the best-dressed ghouls and goblins.

Explore a Haunted Attraction

Satisfy your craving for scares by visiting a local haunted house or corn maze. These attractions offer an adrenaline-pumping experience filled with spooky surprises and eerie encounters. Just be prepared to scream and laugh with your fellow thrill-seekers.

Craft Halloween Decorations

If you're feeling particularly crafty, why not make your own

Halloween decorations? DIY projects like creating spooky lanterns, crafting paper bats, and making ghostly garlands are not only fun but also a great way to bond with family and friends.

Visit a Pumpkin Patch

A trip to a pumpkin patch is a quintessential fall activity. Choose the perfect pumpkins for carving and take advantage of the opportunity to explore corn mazes, enjoy hayrides, and savor delicious fall treats like caramel apples and kettle corn.

Making the end of October "Boo-tiful" is all about embracing the magic of the season. With these tips, you can create an atmosphere filled with spooky fun, delicious treats, and a strong sense of togetherness. So, get into the Halloween spirit and make this October a memorable one for you and your loved ones. It really is a bright time of year, one that can be enjoyed by all.

Irene Roth

Perth County Water & Forest Conditions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

may be able to visit a potential windbreak site and aid with creating a planting plan, preparing the site, choosing tree species, and the proper spacing and planting for each. Also, they can help to maintain the windbreak over time, ensuring it provides more benefits for a longer period. Some conservation authorities have cost-share programs which can help to reduce the costs of planting a windbreak. OMAFRA has many resources available to help farmers get started with windbreaks. On their website, they have a page dedicated to helping farmers successfully establish and use windbreaks (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/strategies-establishing-and-using-windbreaks-successfully>). This page has four videos on planning, planting, maintenance, and windbreak success stories from local farmers. OMAFRA also offers a free online book which contains a section titled "Establishing Tree Cover" (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/agricultural-best-management-practices>). This details the best practices for windbreak planning, planting, and management in a step-by-step format.

This year, the SDSS Eco Club will be holding a booth at Municipal Day, the 75th annual meeting of the Perth County Municipal Association. This event will be held on November 15, 2023, at the Stratford Rotary Complex. Municipal Day gives organizations, clubs, and individuals a chance to speak out

about community issues and promote positive action. This year, the event will be focused on climate change initiatives at the municipal level. Keynote speakers are invited to present on initiatives focused on climate action. The SDSS Eco Club will be attending to educate the community about the importance of improving tree cover in Perth County, as well as discussing the UTRCA Watershed Report Cards, which are valuable resources that help guide local environmental action and track environmental change. Currently, the Avon River and Upper Thames tree cover is only about 11%, while the Environment Canada guideline for tree cover is 30%. This is a big issue, considering how important trees are to ecosystems and sustaining life. If you are interested in learning

more about the importance of tree covers and agroforestry in Perth County, consider coming to check out our booth on Municipal Day!

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

Written by Avery Durand and Natalie Ditty, and edited by Elliana Morrison

50TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE



for Larry & Brenda Ehnes

Saturday, November 4th

1:30 - 4:00 - Stratford Legion Hall - 804 Ontario Street

BEST WISHES ONLY, PLEASE

STONETOWN TRAVEL

GROUP TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY HOSTED BY STONETOWN TRAVEL

SCOTLAND SUMMER DISCOVERY

JUNE 15-23, 2024

Head Office: 150 Queen Street East,
St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4 | 519-284-2332
agent@stonetowntravel.com
TICO #50010159

Branch Office: 210 Mill Street,
New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9 | 226-333-9939
newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com
TICO #50025796

Welcoming Ukrainians: The Baker

VJ KNUTSON

Times Freelance Columnist

My first assignment as a volunteer 'ambassador' was to help a single woman and her teenaged son.

Really, I don't know what to do, Tetiana wrote from Kyiv. I have a successful job here, but I am alone with my son. Do you think we can make it, or is it crazy to try?

We are here to help you every step of the way, I reassured her. Let's keep in touch.

Two days later, Tetiana messaged me in the middle of the night: The bombing is bad. We have to go. I'm giving my son another half hour to sleep while I pack.

Please keep me informed. I want to know that you are safe.

My family was coming for dinner that day, and even as I stressed over which vegetables to serve to please the grandbabies, my thoughts were with Tetiana and Artem, whose own lives had just been turned upside down.

Tetiana was a business woman, and even though I was new to this role, I suspected her lack of English would set her back here in Canada. Browsing her Facebook page, I noted she was also a skilled cake decorator. I created a post asking for help on her behalf, introducing the two by their interests and hopes for life in Canada.

All there was left to do, was wait. My kids arrived and the dinner table conversation was lively, but I remained distracted, anxious to check my messages. By the time I said my farewells to the kids, my phone had blown up.

Tetiana made it to the border, they were safe. More importantly, a Canadian woman had reached out to me:

I saw Tetiana's Facebook page. I can help her with housing and employment. My friend has a bakery and will employ her. My son owns a restaurant, too. He can give Artem work. Give me a call.

Patti was a dynamo. She had so many connections, and experience with helping others, that I would eventually convince her to join our volunteer team. In the meantime, I added her to my chat with Tetiana. The three of us laid forth the plan. Tetiana and Artem would have full support transitioning to Canadian life.

Thank you so much, Tetiana wrote. Just when we thought all was lost, you have given us back a future.

I wasn't quite sure what to feel: lucky, humbled, awed? If I could help just one

family per day, I shared with my husband, wouldn't that be amazing?

Of course, I was still green in those days. I had no idea what would lie ahead.

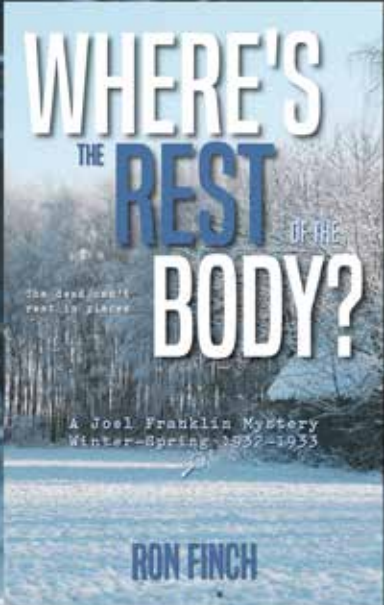
More about that later.

"Stratford Community connects with Ukrainian Newcomers" is a Facebook page run by local volunteers. Please drop by and join in. We are looking for volunteers who can help newcomers integrate in the community (especially if they can speak Ukrainian or Russian). Newcomers need help filling in forms, attending parent-teacher conferences, deciphering doctor's notes, and so on. Family buddies, I like to call them.

In St Marys, we have started a program through the local library. Experienced newcomers and other volunteers (2 hours, once a month) are on hand to answer questions. It helps to have a set location and time, to make such a program accessible.

It takes a community, and we appreciate any and all help. Reach out to the Facebook group or send me a note at english.knutson@gmail.com if you have a question or story you'd like to share.

(Disclaimer: I am an independent volunteer, partnered with other grassroots volunteers. We are not affiliated with any particular non-profit organizations or charities. Our mission is person-to-person, hand-to-hand, sharing and caring. Fundraising is not part of our goal.)



WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?

First an arm and then a leg. Body parts are showing up in frozen fields around the quiet town of Chaseford (aka Stratford), Ontario, and it's up to Joel to figure out why.

The chilling second book in the Joel Franklin Mystery series, *Where's the Rest of the Body?*, is available now on Amazon in ebook and paperback, on Kindle Unlimited, and in select local bookstores.

email: ronsbooks@hotmail.com

2023 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK

IN STOCK AND READY TO ROLL

LEASE A 2023 ROGUE SV AWD MONTHLY FROM \$400. THAT'S LIKE PAYING

\$92 FOR **24** FROM **4.99%** APR

WEEKLY WITH \$3,495 DOWN MONTHS O.A.C.

INVENTORY AVAILABLE NOW

ROGUE®

- Grab these fantastic offers on EVERY NEW AND PRE-OWNED VEHICLE PURCHASE!
 - \$500 WORTH ACCESSORIES FREE!!
 - FREE ONE YEAR TIRE STORAGE!
- WE PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR TRADES - ALL MAKES AND MODELS ACCEPTED!
- EXPRESS OIL CHANGE - NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY!



Stratford NISSAN

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

STRATFORD NISSAN



STORE HOURS SALES: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-8:00; Fri.-Sat. 9:00-6:00 PARTS AND SERVICE: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-5:00

Riddles

How do vampires get around on Halloween?
On blood vessels.

Why did the Headless Horseman get a job?
He was trying to get ahead in life.

The skeleton couldn't help being afraid of the storm—
he just didn't have any guts.

How can you tell when a vampire has been in a bakery?
All the jelly has been sucked out of the jelly doughnuts.

What do ghosts wear when their eyesight gets blurred?
Spooktacles.

What can you catch from a vampire in winter?
Frostbite.

What would be the national holiday for a nation of vampires?
Fangs-giving!

Why didn't the skeleton go to prom?
He had no body to go with.

Who did the scary ghost invite to his party?
Any old friend he could dig up!

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 35



Pet of the Month



DENALI

Meet Denali – a 3-year-old female dog! She is a true outdoor enthusiast, ready to explore the world by your side. Whether it's hiking in the mountains, running along the beach, or taking scenic walks through the neighborhood, Denali is always up for an adventure. Walking with her is a breeze! She's a master on the leash, making every stroll a joyous experience. Her infectious enthusiasm and zest for life will inspire you to get out and experience the world in a whole new way. Denali is looking for a home with a single person, couple, or family with dog-savvy children And don't let her size fool you - Denali firmly believes she's a lap dog at heart. Get ready for plenty of cuddles and snuggles with this affectionate pooch. She's all about forming close bonds and sharing cozy moments with her human companions. Apply to adopt Denali at <https://kwsphumane.ca/adopt/process>.

Word Search

HALLOWEEN

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

- BAT
- BLACK
- BLOOD
- BROOMSTICK
- CANDY
- COFFIN
- CREEPY
- GHOST
- GHOUL
- HAUNT
- HALLOWEEN
- MUMMY
- OCTOBER
- SKELETON
- TRICK
- TREAT
- WITCH
- VAMPIRE

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

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

WANTED A APARTMENT TO RENT: I am eagerly looking for one bedroom or two bedroom apartment in Stratford, Ontario with parking, pet friendly for November 1st or for December 1st. The two bedroom apartment my older son and I will be sharing the apartment Call Cindy at 519-273-3918

HELP WANTED

NITH VALLEY BUTCHER AND DELI

HELP WANTED

Production Assistant to work with our butcher in preparing and packaging items we make in-house.

Hours flexible around 28-34 hours / week.

Open Tuesday to Saturday.

Experience not necessary, will train. Experience in the food industry is an asset.

Send resume to: john@nithvalleymeats.ca

125 Hamilton Road, New Hamburg

WANTED

Fair value offered for your VINYL RECORDS & STEREO EQUIPMENT.

SOUND FIXATION 519-801-5421
56 Wellington St., Stratford

I WILL PAY CASH FOR ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES – Coca Cola Pepsi any pop company, Brewery items Kuntz, Huether Labatts etc. Old radios and gramophones, Wristwatches and pocket watches, Old fruit jars Beaver Star Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs Red Indian Supertest etc. Any small furniture. If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

A WORKING CAMCORDER that will play Hi-8 digital tapes. Phone 519-284-3774

WANTING TO BUY – All collectibles including sports cards, beanie babies, Funko pops and stamps. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

SERVICES

Have you been affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon Family Groups could help YOU! Call for time and place. 1-800-706-9833 or App Available

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.STRATFORDTIMES.COM

CLEANFIX

Reversible Fans For Radiator Cleaning

CALLING ALL COLLEGE GRADS

CLEANFIX NORTH AMERICA INC. located in STRATFORD ON is looking for a suitable MANUFACTURING & APPLICATION ENGINEERING TECH who has the primary responsibility of application designing our reversible engine cooling fan into a diverse range of equipment, machines and trucks.

Responsibilities

- Strong mechanical, technical and electrical aptitude is a must for this position as well as technical problem solving capabilities
- Ability to multi-task; strong time management, organizational skills and self-motivated with a strong, independent work ethic
- Diagnose mechanical problems, provide quick & innovative solutions for mechanical equipment breakdowns by applying proven skills in the principles of mechanics, fitting, plumbing, basic welding, metal fabrication, machining, troubleshooting, and analytical problem solving
- Must pay attention to details with a customer service attitude
- Perform assessment of Cleanfix Reversible Fan installations sometimes to be performed at customers places
- Provide solution to routine or unique installation problems

Requirements/Qualifications

- A track record of proven application design, and technical depth
- Strong focus on meeting customer commitment dates and achieving the highest quality standards
- Proactive in response to problems as well as in the initiation of corrective actions
- The ability to measure and improve performance in an engineering and design and process environment
- Training and experience in lean manufacturing is an asset
- Capability in Solid Works design program
- Capability in MS Word, Project, Outlook and Excel
- The ability to create and maintain a team environment focused on continuous improvement
- Willingness to be a long term contributor and strong team member of a stable and growing organization
- Possess strong oral and written communication skills and interpersonal skills
- Must pay attention to details with a customer service attitude

To Apply

Interested applicants are requested to apply by sending their resume with their salary requirements by e-mail to i.kleinsasser@cleanfix.org

STONETOWN TRAVEL

Come meet our travel partners!

Thursday, November 9, 2023

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Wilmot Recreation Centre

New Hamburg, ON

or

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

End Zone, Pyramid Recreation Centre

St. Marys, ON

Learn about upcoming travel offerings

Door Prizes! Special Promotions!

Please RSVP by calling 519-284-2332 or emailing stew@stonetowntravel.com

AIR CANADA VACATIONS
SCENIC[®]
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

Manulife GLOBUS
TRAFALGAR RIT[®] collette

SAVE LOCAL
SHOP LOCAL.



JON WITZEL
CONTRACTING LTD.



We're Hiring!

- Framers
- Estimator
- Project Manager

Visit jonwitzel.com/careers for job descriptions and to learn more.

519-662-4239 | jon@jonwitzel.com



COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
stratfordtimes@gmail.com

SPOOKY TOWER

Halloween October 31; 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
St. James Anglican Church, 41 Mornington St., Stratford

Hey kids...here's your chance to ring the bells in the Spooky Tower at St. James. There will be treats and certificates for all who ring the bells. Everyone is invited, especially little ghosts and goblins.

GARDEN STRATFORD MEETING

Monday November 6; 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Army Navy Hall, 151 Lorne Ave. E., Stratford

The meeting will begin with a Garden Chat/ Demonstration: "Making a Seasonal Table Centre" Speaker Presentation: "Container Perennial Trial Results", Rodger Tschanz, University of Guelph Meeting open to Everyone; free admission.

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Tuesday, November 7; 7:00 p.m.
93 Morgan St., Stratford

Presentation and update on Hollister Ostomy products. Come with your ostomy questions and concerns. Social time and snacks. Everyone welcome. For more information call 519-273-4327.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1)Ireland and Britain
- 2)Trick or Treat!
- 3)1692-1693
- 4)Michael Myers
- 5)Scorpio
- 6)Sunlight, crucifixes, garlic
- 7)Jack-o'-lantern
- 8)1983
- 9)A coven
- 10)Ghostbusters!

SUDOKU

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Email to inquire
stratfordtimes@gmail.com

ACCOUNTING

Famme & Co.
Professional Corporation
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
125 Ontario St., Stratford
519-271-7581 | Fax 519-271-2737
office@fammeandco.on.ca

CONSTRUCTION

FRASER ASPHALT PAVING
"Serving Stratford & area since 1977"
www.fraserpaving.ca
Driveways • Parking Lots • Excavating
Truck Rentals • Asphalt Patching
Call Scott or Denise for a free quote for 2022
519-271-5690

CONSTRUCTION

Jonathan & James Construction Inc.
5875 Line 26, Fullarton, On NOK 1H0
519-949-3107
Construction Management
General Contracting
info@jandjconst.com
www.jandjconst.com

FENCING / DECKS

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

HUMANE SOCIETY

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

HOME APPLIANCES

PHELANS PLACE Appliances
APPLIANCES • PARTS
237 Huron Road,
Sebringville
519-393-6181
info@phelansplace.com
www.phelansplace.com

INVESTMENTS

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

MARKETING

TOWN CRIER MARKETING
FREE CONSULTATION
[QR Code]

PHARMACY

PharmaChoice Stratford Medical Pharmacy
• Travel Clinic
• Compounding Pharmacy
• Easy prescription transfers
342 Erie St (Jenny Trout Centre),
Stratford, ON N5A 2N4
Phone: 519-272-0888
www.stratfordmedicalpharmacy.ca

PRESSURE WASH

POWER CLEAN
• PRESSURE WASHING
SOFT WASH • VINYL SIDING
• BRICK HOUSES
• CONCRETE SURFACE
CLEANING
John Leader
softwashpc@outlook.com
519.305.0365

REAL ESTATE

JENNIFER ANDERSON BROKER
ROYAL LEPAGE Hiller Realty
519-301-2736
www.jandersonrealestate.com

REAL ESTATE

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

REAL ESTATE

LIST WITH CHRIS!
ROYAL LEPAGE
Chris Evans, Broker
Hiller Realty Brokerage
100 Erie St., Stratford, ON | 519-276-9101
listwithchris@wightman.ca

REAL ESTATE

Home & Company
REAL ESTATE • CORP. BROKERAGE
Toni McLean Sales Representative
519-274-1120 Direct
245 Downie St, Stratford, N5A 1X5
tmclean@homeandcompany.ca

REAL ESTATE

LUCIE STEPHENS SALES REPRESENTATIVE
519-703-0333
RE/MAX | **RE/REALTY LTD** BROKERAGE
SOLD!

SCRAP

Secondary Resources (Perth) Ltd. Metal Recycling Scrapyards
Line 42 4546, Perth East (R. R. 1 Sebringville)
519-393-5390
Goderich Location: 205 Nelson Street East
Two locations
Serving Perth and Huron Counties
Sebringville Yard Hours
Monday - Friday: 8:30 am. - 4:30 pm.
Saturday: Closed for winter hours.
62 Years in the Metal Recycling Business
Operated by the Joyes Family
www.secondaryresources.ca
Call 519-393-5390

WINDOW WASHING

COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL
SQUEEKS
PROFESSIONAL WINDOW CLEANING
JARED GOWAN | HEATHER GOWAN
519-854-5254
jaredsqueeks@live.ca / www.squeeksclean.com

TRAVEL

STONETOWN TRAVEL
150 Queen St. E., St. Marys
519-284-2332
210 Mill St., New Hamburg
226-333-9939
www.stonetowntravel.com
agent@stonetowntravel.com

WATCH/CLOCK REPAIR

Watch & Clock Repair
FREE ESTIMATES
Watch batteries, bands & crystals
All makes & models. New & Old.
House calls available
Antiques in Time
45 York Street | 519-272-0411
www.antiquesintime.ca

SHOP LOCAL.
SAVE LOCAL

Support businesses that keep your community and its newspaper thriving

AMAZING SAVINGS STOREWIDE

Twin mattresses starting @ \$99

LOW, LOW MATTRESS PRICES

MATTRESS LIQUIDATION EVENT

RESTOPEDIC

- 416 coil
- Edge guard
- HD fibre pad

QUEEN SET \$399 TAXES IN

4 COMFORT OPTIONS, SELECTABLE PER SIDE

QUEEN SET \$999 TAXES IN

QUEEN SET \$1,599 TAXES IN

QUEEN SET \$2,449 TAXES IN

KINGSTON 7000

- 1500 Pocket coil with AirFlow Foam Surround
- Cool Touch Extreme fabric
- Plush through Firm options

SIESTA

- 1100 5 zone quantum coil
- Micro coils in lumbar
- Bamboo fabric

RHAPSODY

- 1142 pocket coils with Quantum coil edge support
- 1872 nano coils in pillow top
- Full layer COPPER Gel

#1 WITH MILLENIALS

QUEEN SET \$999 TAXES IN

Lifestyle bases starting at \$439 tax in

WHITNEY

- 1166 Tri zone pocket coils
- Micro coils in lumbar
- Bamboo fabric

FLIPPABLE!



KINGSDOWN
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
\$200 OFF
ANY KINGSDOWN MATTRESS
PLUS TAX IN

AT HOME FURNITURE, WE SELL A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP

EVERY MATTRESS TAX INCLUDED

PLUS

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY & REMOVAL

PLUS

FINANCING AVAILABLE OAC



Home furniture

Rd. 111
★
HWY 7/8 E

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

Schaeffler Aerospace
Burrill St.
Douro St.
★

OUTLET:
519-273-7453
617 Douro Street

Follow us on:
 

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

www.stratfordhomefurniture.ca
www.homefurniture.ca