COUNTY WARDEN SWORN IN PAGE 5

BLACK AND GOLD EDITION PAGE 14

STRATFORD TIMES

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Heidi Sander named Ontario's poet laureate

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

For years, award-winning Stratford poet Heidi Sander has worked to bring people together through poetry, encouraging those from all walks of life to find their voices and share their stories.

Now, as Ontario's thirdpoet laureate and the first woman to hold the position, Sander hopes to take that work beyond Stratford and into communities across the province.

Sander was unanimously confirmed to the position by members of provincial parliament Nov. 16 following her selection by an advisory committee. During her two-year term, she will report to the Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, writing poetry for official occasions, promoting literacy and championing Ontario's poets. However, Sander says her greatest ambition is to use her new provincial platform to make poetry more accessible, particularly in communities where opportunities for artistic expression may be limited.

"I want to go to remote regions too, and that's the furthest Indigenous communities in the far north, but also rural farm communities in southwestern and eastern Ontario," Sander said. "Just ones that don't have a lot of major arts supports ... and say, 'Hey, your voice matters. If I can do this, so can you.' "

Along with visiting schools, community centres, retirement homes and poetry groups, Sander hopes to establish connections between existing literary organizations and inspire the creation of new community

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(GARY WEST PHOTO)

'Tis the season for giving. Stephanie Brunato, Maddy Brunato, Ashton Weaver and Sydney Elzinga dropped by the Stratford Mall this week with money to drop in the Salvation Army Kettle. All money collected is used in the local community.

Council defers strong mayor powers lawsuit decision

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On Nov. 23, after a healthy debate on the City of Stratford's current legal challenge against the Province of Ontario over strong mayor powers, a newly elected city council ultimately punted a decision on its continuation further down the road.

For many of the councillors around the horseshoe, including Coun. Lesley Biehn, there just wasn't enough information available to make a decision that night.

"I just don't know what this is going to become," Biehn said. "I don't have an understanding of where – I don't understand that. In my mind, it gets to February, the decision's made – we win. That's great, now what? The province isn't going to roll over, I don't think. So then, are we talking appeals? Are we talking this bal-

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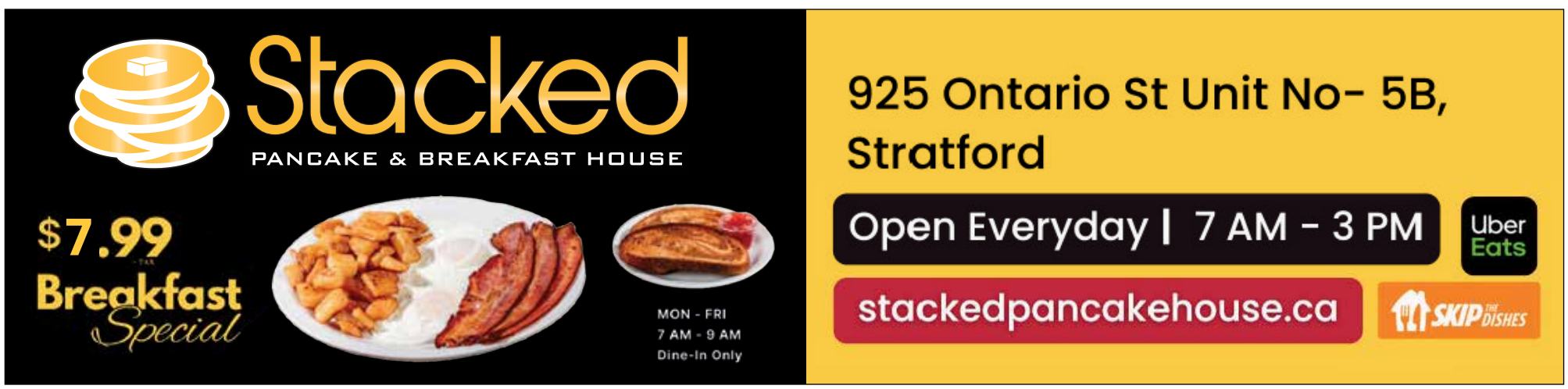

Council defers strong mayor powers lawsuit decision

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

looning out of control? I just don't know.

"To be completely honest, I feel very torn with this because from the very beginning I was completely opposed," Biehn later said. "I didn't support it in any way. I thought we needed to be delegating and using that type of negotiating power, and so I've been opposed to it all the way up until now. But … the answer is right around the corner. So then, I feel like we have done all the damage we can do relationally at this point. At least that's my opinion. But where I'm stuck … I can't make this decision without understanding the legal ramifications both ways, and I don't want to make this decision tonight without legal counsel."

Last term, the city announced it had filed a lawsuit against the province over the powers, which gives certain municipality's mayors special powers to advance provincial priorities. Those powers include, but are not limited to, control over the annual budget, veto powers and the ability to hire and fire senior staff members such as the chief administrative officer (CAO).

The powers have been controversial, with nearly all of Stratford's elected officials expressing disdain for them. Many, however, did not agree with the lawsuit, arguing it would damage the city's relationship with a major partner and was ultimately a losing battle – two lines of argument that Mayor Robert Ritz agrees with.

During his inaugural address on Nov. 16, Ritz publicly called for council to drop the lawsuit, arguing that it was a losing battle. Municipalities are famously "creatures of the province" and do not have the authority to challenge decisions the province made. Many have pointed to recent challenges the City of Toronto made when the province ripped out the city's bike lanes and redrew ward boundaries. In both of those cases, the courts sided with the province.

At the Nov. 23 meeting, however, many councillors expressed their support for the city's challenge.

"This is about democracy in the western world," Coun. Larry McCabe said. "… This is a consistent objective of this (provincial) government, to erode the powers of municipalities, and somebody has to stand up for it. And I was very proud we did."

"It really comes down to that bravery, putting that line in the sand," Coun. Ian Morton agreed. "And then the question really becomes: If not now, when? If not this issue, what's the next issue? I think in order to protect our local democracy and the interests of the people of Stratford, we need to continue putting pressure on the Ford government. And we've seen that work in the past with Greenbelt fighting and backing away from that vote. And I think this is one of those issues …"

The meeting even saw the return of former city councillor and mayoral-hopeful Mark Hunter, who advocated strongly for the suit during his time on council and his recent bid for the mayor's office. That evening, he once again expressed why such a suit was necessary. Apart from the obvious effects it has on the majority rules cornerstone of democracy, it has had financial impacts closer to home, Hunter argued.

Since the Oct. 26 election, in Ontario there have been numerous media reports of newly-elected mayors firing CAOs with little regard for the severance and cost these actions would have on the municipality – and with apparently little regard for the abilities of the outgoing CAOs. Hunter estimated that many of these exit packages would have cost the city between $400-600,000.

"I don't know your familiarity with constitutional law in Canada, but there is no constitutionally protected right to have a certain number of wards in your city. Neither is there a constitutionally protected right to have bike lanes," Hunter said. "There is, however, a constitutional right to democracy. The province cannot make law without passing a majority vote, and neither should cities be allowed to pass bylaws without a majority vote.

"… My opinion is that anything that can happen will happen," he continued. "So I believe it's a matter of time with strong mayor powers in place when these negative consequences come to Stratford. You know, we in Canada have watched what's happened in the U.S. and we wonder how they can sit there and let democracy be eroded in their country, and yet here we are in Ontario, where our democracy is being eroded in exactly the same way, and many of us talk about how we don't like it, but we have the opportunity … to actually do something about it, and I'm asking you to make that choice for our community, stand up for democracy in our community."

While many expressed support, some publicly expressed their desire to end the lawsuit, including Coun. Chris Giannakopoulos, Coun. Sarah Merkel and Coun. Cody Sebben.

"I have a long list of grievances that I'm sure many of us do with the province and policies and the things being imposed on municipalities," Sebben said. "I haven't supported this from the beginning for three main reasons. The main one is the process – that we could have been more open about the discussions and had the discussions more openly. I don't look forward to, if this gets deferred, having any more discussion in a closed session before we make a decision on this filing. Maybe at the next meeting if that's what happens. The next is the cost. You know, I've said previously that there are certainly many people in the community who could bear the cost, any extra expense that the city wants to put forward in this. But … we hear frequently at council that there are many who cannot bear any extra expense …

"We have other municipalities and people saying, 'Oh, this is good for you,' and then we say, 'Well, why don't you help us? Why don't you stick your neck out. too? And they say, 'No, no, no … we don't want to burden our taxpayers with this?' Why should we be doing that if it's clear nobody else wants to step out of favour with the province, nobody else wants to take the financial burden on taxpayers, and so I don't support the motion, which I think is to continue on with the challenge, but I do strongly oppose strong mayor powers. But I'm not going to put further burden on taxpayers to do that."

"It's never wrong to do the right thing," Coun. Brad Beatty argued. "And when you ask why are we doing this, because it's the right thing. You need to stand up. You need to stand up for democracy. These are all sidebar conversations about how much is it going to cost. … My question to you: What is the cost of democracy?"

Currently, according to CAO André Morin, the city has spent about $8,900 on its challenge, and has received financial support from the Township of Rideau Lakes to the tune of $3,000. The city's solicitor has set an upset limit of up to $25,000.

Per a motion from Biehn, the issue has been deferred to the Dec. 14 meeting in order for the city's legal counsel to provide more information.

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Nijjar returns as deputy mayor

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Coun. Harjinder Nijjar will return as the City of Stratford's deputy mayor. Nijjar has served the last four years as deputy mayor, voted in by his peers on city council.

The position differs from last term, however. Previously, deputy mayors were elected on two-year terms. Functionally, they are similar to councillors, though take up the mantle of leading council or representing council when the mayor is unable to.

This year, the deputy mayor will only serve for one year, a change newly elected Mayor Robert Ritz enacted to increase participation and to allow for more people to get the experience of serving.

Nijjar will serve as deputy mayor for one year and will be followed by Coun. Lesley Biehn, Coun. Cody Sebben and Coun. Sarah Merkel.

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A Passion for People

Heidi Sander named Ontario's poet laureate

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poetry groups across Ontario.

She points to the success of Community Poetry, an inclusive Stratford open-mic initiative she co-founded roughly a year and a half ago, as an example of what can be accomplished.

What began as a small gathering has grown into a thriving community of poets and poetry enthusiasts, with participants ranging in age from eight to 80.

"It's just this really safe, inclusive environment that I've created, and so it's not that complicated to do," Sander said. "I kind of have a framework in place that I would love to help communities build on."

Sander also hopes to connect municipal and regional poets laureate and poetry groups across Ontario, encouraging them to share ideas, resources and opportunities.

"Part of my goal as well is to just uplift all Ontario poets," she said.

That community-building approach is nothing new for Sander, who has spent years promoting poetry in Stratford and beyond.

Her accomplishments include launching the Canada Is Our Poem Prize, establishing the Pathways to Poetry Festival as part of the Stratford Writers Festival and publishing numerous poetry collections, including her Stratford Gems series, which celebrates the people, places and history of her hometown.



(HEIDI SANDER PHOTO)

Award-winning Stratford poet Heidi Sander has been named Ontario's third poet laureate – the first woman to hold the position.

Her artistic collaborations have also brought poetry together with music, dance and visual art, something she hopes to continue promoting provincially.

Established in 2019 through the Poet Laureate of Ontario Act (In Memory of Gord Downie), the provincial position honours the late Tragically Hip frontman and songwriter.

While Sander is excited about the recognition, she says the appointment is ultimately about encouraging others to discover the possibilities of creative expression.

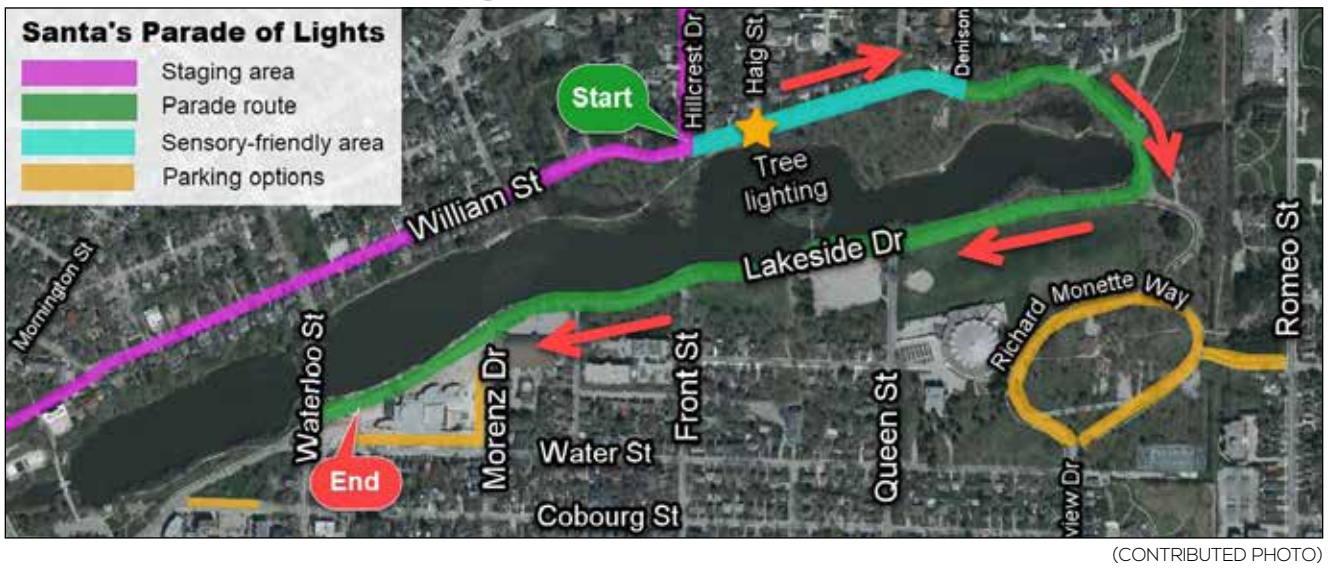
"It's about understanding yourself. So that's why we write, to understand ourselves and then each other," she said. "There's a journey in creating something and, as you write, you learn about yourself."

And perhaps, somewhere along the way, Sander hopes to inspire a future Ontario Poet Laureate.

"Believe in yourself, in your words, in your voice," she said.

For more information about Ontario's Poet Laureate, visit www.ontariopoet.org.

Parade of Lights is this weekend



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Santa's Parade of Lights route, which kicks off at 4:45 p.m. on Nov. 29.

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Santa Claus is coming to town.

Stratford's annual Parade of Lights will be held on Sunday, Nov. 29.

The celebration kicks off at 4:45 p.m., with the Christmas tree lighting near the intersection of William Street and Haig Street.

Starting at 5 p.m., the parade will take a scenic route around the Avon River, moving east along William Street to Lakeside Drive North, across the Festival bridge, then west along Lakeside Drive to the area in front of the Tom Patterson Theatre. Santa will be in the last float.

Non-perishable food donations will be collected along the parade route, and given to local food banks.

Again this year, the parade will offer a sensory-friendly area on William Street, between Hillcrest Drive and Denison Street. Along that stretch, floats will not use sirens or intense flashing lights or strobes.

For the safety of parade participants and spectators, a number of temporary road closures will be in place from approximately 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. The closures include:

William Street from Mornington Street to Martin Street

Hillcrest Drive from Delamere Avenue to William Street

Denison Street

Lakeside Drive North from Martin Street to Lakeside Drive

Lakeside Drive from Lakeside Drive North to Waterloo Street

Veterans Drive from Waterloo Street to York Street

The City of Stratford is urging all motorists to drive cautiously when travelling near the parade route and obey all road closure signs.

Those driving to the parade and parking nearby are asked to please be respectful of residents in surrounding neighbourhoods, and take care not to block or interfere with driveways.

The parade is co-ordinated by the Stratford and District Saddle Club, Bethel Pentecostal Church and the City of Stratford.

For more information, visit stratford.ca/santa.

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Stride for Shelter's kick off was a 24-hour success

SYDNEY BOYLE

Times Correspondent

Nov. 21 started off as a warm fall day: minimal clouds, a nice breeze and beautiful fall leaves. It was the perfect weather to kick off the first ever Stride for Shelter. With 24 hours ahead of them and 48 kilometres, the Shelterlink volunteers, runners and walkers all welcomed this beautiful day.

Every year, Shelterlink hosts the Coldest Night of the Year, a three-kilometre walk around Lake Victoria to help raise money for warm beds and shelter for youth who are facing difficulties.

Alex Boersen, a Shelterlink volunteer, kept walking the route thinking "how far could I go? How many hours can I do this?" Those thoughts led him to originate Stride for Shelter, along with his fellow committee members Chris Kalil, Clara Boersen and Cole Johnson.

"We had almost 50 registered participants, but when you count everyone who came and went throughout the event to support, run, walk and volunteer, we're talking hundreds of people. The community support was truly incredible." Alex explained, delighted in the turnout for this inaugural event.

Running or walking for 24 hours does seem like an impossible feat, and the Shelterlink team thought of that. Each team (or individual) would run or walk the two kilometre loop once an hour, for the 24 hours of the event, totally 48 kilometres by the end.

"We had almost 20 people complete the full 24-hour event," Alex said. "Even more stayed through the night and joined us to complete the final lap. It was incredible to see so many people push themselves and support one another. We actually ran out of medals and had to deliver some after the event."

Alex also told the Times how the impact of this event felt.

"Honestly, incredible. We are completely blown away by the community that showed up. Seeing people of all ages come together, whether to participate, volunteer, cheer, or simply show their support, was something really special. The energy and generosity throughout the event exceeded anything we could have imagined."

By the end of the race over $30,000 was raised, but they are keeping donations open on Shelterlink's website for the next two weeks to help work towards their goal of $35,000. As this year's event wraps up, the thought of next year is already on their heads. While nothing is confirmed at the moment, the turnout, community engagement and moral that was created certainly makes another Stride for Shelter tempting for the committee.

If you are interested in donating to help them reach their goal, you can do so by going to the Shelterlink website and clicking the Stride for Shelter heading on the top.

You can also stay in the know with Stride for Shelter by checking out their social media at STRIDE FOR SHELTER on Instagram.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Participants and volunteers pose for a photo after the 24-hour Stride for Shelter event wrapped the morning of Nov. 22.

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Sue Orr elected Perth County warden as new council begins four-year term

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Perth South Mayor Sue Orr will lead Perth County council into its new four-year term after defeating outgoing warden and West Perth Mayor Dean Trentowsky in an election at the Perth County courthouse Nov. 19.

Orr, who served as deputy warden alongside Trentowsky over the past year, was elected by secret ballot following speeches from both candidates outlining their priorities for the year ahead. The vote count was not announced.

Perth East Mayor Jerry Smith was subsequently acclaimed as deputy warden after no other councillors put their names forward.

In her pitch for the county's top political position, Orr laid out a vision centred on three priorities – elevate, collaborate and prosper – with a particular emphasis on strengthening relationships with other levels of government, neighbouring municipalities and community organizations.

"We should not simply be asking for a seat at the table when decisions affecting rural Ontario are being made," Orr said. "We should be working together, becoming a county that provincial and federal leaders actively seek out for advice, insights and leadership."

Orr said she wants Perth County to be recognized as a leader in agriculture, infrastructure, housing and economic development while creating opportunities for existing businesses, attracting investment and supporting the next generation.

Drawing on her Dutch heritage, agricultural background and experience as a municipal councillor, mayor and deputy warden, Orr said building relationships and finding common ground have been central to her approach to public service.

"Simply stated, I have the energy, I have the time and I have the desire to make a difference," she said. "I want to be a warden who is present, engaged and accessible, someone who shows up, listens and proudly represents our county at every level of government."

Trentowsky, meanwhile, pointed to his experience as warden and the challenges facing the county, including rising service-delivery costs, development pressures and the need to complete transportation and paramedic services master plans.

"The needs and concerns of our citizens must be continuously brought forward to be represented to the upper levels of government," Trentowsky said. "This will involve a tremendous amount of connected listening and cooperation throughout the year."

Following her election, Orr thanked Trentowsky for his leadership and dedication before accepting the chain of office and gavel from her predecessor.

"Having served alongside you as deputy warden, I've had the opportunity to see firsthand how much time and energy this role requires," she said.

Orr also thanked her family for their support, reflecting on the importance of maintaining perspective while serving in public office.

"Because at the end of the day, the titles we hold are temporary. The people we love, the relationships we build, and the way we treat each other truly matters," she said.

The election followed the swearing-in of Perth County's 10 councillors for the 2026-2030 term.

Representing North Perth are Mayor Doug Kellum, deputy mayor Matt Duncan and Coun. Sarah Blazek. Perth East is represented by Mayor Jerry Smith, deputy mayor Bob McMillan and Coun. Jeremy Matheson. Perth South's representatives are Mayor Sue Orr and deputy mayor Jeff Bell, while West Perth is represented by Mayor Dean Trentowsky and deputy mayor Nicholas Vink.

While county councillors serve four-year terms, the warden and deputy warden are elected annually by their fellow council members.

The inaugural ceremony also included greetings from Perth-Wellington MP John Nater, MPP Matthew Rae, Stratford Mayor Rob Ritz and St. Marys Mayor Brogan Aylward.

"Stratford wants to be a good neighbour and a reliable partner to the county," Ritz said. "My door is open and so is council's. We can share our services, share our ideas, or speak to the province with one voice."

Rae similarly emphasized the importance of regional partnerships in addressing economic growth, infrastructure and access to services across rural Perth County.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Newly elected Perth County Warden Sue Orr ushers in the first year of a new term for county council following the annual warden's election Nov. 19.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Outgoing county Warden Dean Trentowsky bestows the chain of office and gavel to new Warden Sue Orr.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Newly acclaimed deputy warden and Perth East Mayor Jerry Smith reads his declaration of office.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Representing the Perth County Past Wardens Association, Bob Wilhelm pin the past wardens pin on outgoing Perth County Warden Dean Trentowsky.

HPPH encourages residents to test their homes this Radon Action Month

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF
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Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) is marking Radon Action Month this November by encouraging residents to test their homes for radon.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can build up indoors without any warning signs. It is produced by the decay of naturally occurring uranium in the soil and rocks. Radon gas can travel into homes unnoticed through cracks in the foundation or floors, gaps around pipes or cables, or sumps or drains. It is odourless, colourless and tasteless so testing is the only way to know whether radon is present. Long-term exposure to high levels of radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Canada after smoking.

"Radon can be found at low levels in many homes across Ontario," said Dale Lyttle, public health inspector at HPPH, in a media release. "Testing is an important step in protecting your health since it is the only way to know how much radon may be present indoors. If test results are above the Canadian guideline of 200 becquerels per cubic metre, work with a certified radon mitigation specialist to reduce the levels in your home."

HPPH recommends using a long-term test, because radon levels can vary from day to day and month to month. A long-term test monitors indoor air for a minimum of three months. To get the most accurate results from radon testing, the device must be placed in the lowest level of the home where homeowners spend a minimum of four hours per day.

Visit www.takeactiononradon.ca or call HPPH at 1-888-221-2133, ext. 3670 to find Health Canada-approved tests.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

St. Marys resident Rhett Lucas, who has worked for Festival Hydro for six years, and his associate Dan Gethke a three-year employee, were kept busy Sunday morning removing Remembrance Day banners that were strategically placed on lampposts throughout Stratford.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 8 held a burger and fry night on Nov. 19, which organizers say was a big success. Over 110 people came to enjoy good food, music and company

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Magically Enchanted brings the fantastical closer to home

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter



(LORI ANNE FRANKLIN PHOTO)

Caitlin Beaudry, standing here as Cinderella, is the owner/operator of Magically Enchanted, a local business providing princess character impersonations for birthday parties, meet and greets and the like.

The stories go "Once upon a time, in a kingdom far, far away …"

But thanks to Magically Enchanted and owner/operator Caitlin Beaudry, far, far away is a lot closer to home now.

Magically Enchanted is a local business providing princess character impersonations, curtesy of Beaudry herself. Dressing up as a favourite princess, Beaudry inhabits the character for birthday parties, big events, meet and greets and even video messages. She performs immersive story-times, games, themed crafts, dance lessons and much more for children. Having officially started this September during the Stratford Fall Fair, Magically Enchanted is already booked and busy.

"I'm just really grateful for the Stratford community who's been supportive," Beaudry said of her success. "They really have been. You know, children are only in this era for a really short amount of time where they truly believe, so a lot of parents with children who are seven and under want to capitalize on that and they want to book the princess that their kids know and love, because it's their first opportunity to in Stratford."

Beaudry has spent 15 years working in recreation activities, seven of those years designing and facilitating children's programs locally. As she told the Times, the idea for the company began over a decade ago. Now that her children are a little older, and she has experience under her belt, she felt that now was the right time to start it.

Currently, she has three princesses on offer: Cinderella, Beauty and the Snow Queen, three characters that will be recognizable to any child.

"Really, it's about engaging big groups of children and leading them through activities while maintaining character," Beaudry explained. "… There's been a lot of character development. Each character has very specific mannerisms, accents. Each has their own fairy tale in their own world. So there's been a lot of character work involved. Even the dresses have all been made by local seamstresses – I like to describe it as small scale, but it's high end."

To get the characters down, Beaudry said it's a lot of character studies, watching movies dozens of times to study mannerisms, accents, diving into their famous lines and being aware of all the characters in the movie, since children tend to ask questions about them. The extensive background research ultimately culminates on the day, when Beaudry improvs with children, maintaining character throughout.

"You've got to be quick on your feet, and you've got to be flexible, just maintaining character," she said.

The characters she offers are actively expanding, with Beaudry saying a fourth princess will be added soon – the Mermaid Princess.

"I put my heart and soul into this, and to give children in Stratford the most magical, real, authentic experience of meeting a princess," Beaudry said. "… These kids watch the same movie 100 times, and then can you imagine that princess that you love walking into your birthday party, and they spend the most magical hour with you and your best friends, and you get to know the princess? She's kind. She's lovely. She made you feel special, and those are lifelong memories that you know the children and their families will carry with them."

For more information on Magically Enchanted, visit its website at www.magicallyenchanted.ca or its Facebook page, Magically Enchanted Princess Parties.

Cookies and Carols event takes place Dec. 12 and 13

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

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To help get children and families into the holiday spirit, the Falstaff Family Centre (FFC) is inviting the community to its annual Cookies and Carols events Saturday, Dec.12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 beginning at 2:30 p.m. (doors open 30 minutes prior).

Once again, the event will be hosted by Michael Fox, with carols, music and readings by Loreena McKennitt, as well as Gemini Award-winning actor Cedric Smith, who will narrate a portion of A Child's Christmas in Wales by Dylan Thomas. Santa Claus himself will also appear and there will be lots of carol singing in between with everyone invited to join in. Cookies and beverages will also be on offer.

"This is a cherished tradition we love hosting for the community," says McKennitt, owner and director of the FFC. "We look forward to seeing people again in person and enjoying the spirit of the season."

The event is free but donations will be gratefully accepted for Optimism Place.

"Optimism Place Women's Shelter and Support Services is honoured to be the beneficiary of this year's Cookies and Carols event," said Donna Jean Forster, executive director of Optimism Place. "The generosity of our community is truly outstanding and so much appreciated by the women and children who need to access our services. Ending gender-based violence is truly a whole community effort."

The FFC has been hosting the Cookies and Carols event for 21 years, since McKennitt bought the former school in 2000.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is a female turkey called?
2. What was Tom Clancy's first novel?
3. In musical notation, there are five lines in a what?
4. Lockjaw is another name for which disease?
5. What colour is the Statue of Liberty?
6. Who played the first ever James Bond in *Dr. No* (1962)?
7. What colour of flame is the hottest?
8. In what year was Trivial Pursuit released?
9. Who is the Egyptian Sun God?
10. Who is considered "the Father of Genetics"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

Nearly $6,000 raised for humane society through Fur-Ever Inked tattoo fundraiser

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Nearly 40 tattoos given in a single day will ensure the wellbeing and care of animals in need.

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth raised $5,585 for the organization through the Fur-Ever Inked fundraiser held on Nov. 14 at the Stratford Perth Animal Centre. Throughout the day, four regional tattoo artists designed 39 tattoos for the fundraiser.

"It's really fantastic because the artists donate their time and their fees so 100 per cent of the tattoo costs goes to support our shelters," said Breanna Langan, marketing and communications coordinator.

There was lots of enthusiasm for Fur-Ever Inked, with the first person all ready to get their new tattoo at just 8:20 a.m. – even though the event started at 10 a.m.

"Everyone was super positive, super excited, our artists were incredible. It was a really nice, engaging day," said Dani Connelly, manager of events and partnerships.

Attendees could also see adoptable animals and day-to-day operations providing care and enrichment to the animals at the centre while waiting.

"It's a highlight of the amazing work that our team does in caring for the animals every day as well," said Connelly.

The funds raised from Fur-Ever Inked will support day-to-day operations including food, shelter and medical costs.

"We also use our fundraising opportunities to support the programs that we have on an ongoing basis and also sometimes there's medical care that animals need that is above and beyond the usual day-to-day care," Langan said.

More information about the humane society and its programming can be found online by visiting https://kwsphumane.ca.



(HUMANE SOCIETY OF KITCHENER WATERLOO AND STRATFORD PERTH PHOTO)

During the Fur-Ever Inked fundraiser for the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth, the participating artists made 39 tattoos, raising nearly $6,000 for the organization.

One-night-only reading of *A Christmas Carol* to raise money for Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

The timeless Christmas classic *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens will be told in a one-of-a-kind dramatic reading to support Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth.

The reading of *A Christmas Carol* will take place at Avondale United Church on Dec. 5 starting at 7 p.m. The six readers, Keith Reynolds, Kelly McIntosh, Scott Wentworth, Judy Maddren, Marion Adler and new Stratford Festival artistic director Jonathan Church. Eddie Matthews will host the event and music will be done by David Keely, Laura Burton and their friends.

Maddren began the holiday tradition with the first reading in 1990. Pippa Elliott, communications and marketing coordinator for Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth and Maddren's daughter, remembers the very first event when she was just four-years-old.

"To have this event in support of hospice care is really, really special and I think the thing that makes it special is the story is the same but we have different voices every year. We have different music," said Elliott.

A Christmas Carol is a story with a heartwarming message loved by generation after generation with several adaptations in film, television and literature.

"This particular story is all about transformation and compassion and the impact that we can have on one another, so it just ties in so beautifully into the mission of hospice care and what Rotary Hospice is doing day after day," Elliott said.

Tickets are $50 each and can be purchased online via https://tinyurl.com/527c9nab.



(SCOTT MCKOWEN PHOTO)

Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol will have a dramatic reading at Avondale United Church on Dec. 5. Proceeds from the event will support Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth.

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Author Valerie Mills-Milde returns to Leonor to discuss her current work in progress

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

The Leonor has quickly become the hub for great literary conversation as they hosted author Valerie Mills-Milde for a discussion of her latest work in progress No Man's Land, in which she gives life to Canadian painter Mary Riter Hamilton.

Hamilton was the first Canadian female war artist who set out for a short few months but stayed years documenting in art the aftermath of the First World War. During this period, she created over 350 works depicting devastation and renewal, battlefields and landscapes in France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Holland.

Her work was en plein air with an impressionistic flair using whatever materials she could scrape together. Her most famous works, "Trenches on the Somme," painted oil on commercial board. "Market Among the Ruins of Ypres" was oil on board and "Isolated Grave and Camouflage, Vimy Ridge" painted oil on wove paper, examples of how she created even without canvas.

"Mary Riter Hamilton had experienced many early profound losses that no doubt became the fuel that underwrote her work. When she was still a young girl living in Teeswater, Ontario, the family log mill burnt to the ground and the family shifted west to a forlorn homestead in southern Manitoba. A few years later she lost her beloved sister to a sudden illness. More heart-rending loss, newly married and living in what was then Port Arthur, her first and only child, a boy, was stillborn. Soon after the loss of their child, her young husband Charles, then 30 years old, succumbed to a rapid and unstoppable infection," explained Mills-Milde.

As a long-time psychotherapist who has done a lot of work with grieving and loss, Mills-Milde could begin to unpack the grief that Hamilton must have felt and how she became motivated to explore the countries overseas in paint. Virtually everyone had been touched by loss from the war.

"Imagine that you enter that time with an exquisite felt memory of personal losses unrelated to this universal time of grief. These experiences of yours have not been unpacked, made sense of, shared; in this great universal sea in which you swim, your losses climb into every cell, every intention, every perspective and if by chance you have an artistic gift, your private loss resonates and merges with that sad ocean around you. You create images that speak to the public experience, but you hold deep inside that intimate and terrible, unique experience of what is lost to you," said Mills-Milde.

Throughout the war years, after building a successful life as an artist and teacher, Hamilton felt a compulsive pull toward the scenes of the battle. She wanted to be close to where the sacrifices were being made over and over. After being refused a commission by the National Art Gallery she gained a commission in 1919 funded by a war amputees organization in British Columbia with the purpose of witnessing and memorializing the killing fields before they became forever changed.

Mills-Milde read two excerpts from her work in progress to the attentive crowd that packed the tea house. Also on hand was art expert Bettianne Hedges to bring context to the painted works with the woman who was Hamilton.

Hedges was able to provide great history of Hamilton and her studies as she learned her craft. She is known to be a colourist. "It is in Europe though, at this period that she drastically changes her style and as a side interest, it would be really interesting to go back and look at those early years," said Hedges. Leading the audience in conversation, Hedges took a look at a few of the most famous paintings mentioned earlier.

The first discussion was of "Market Among the Ruins of Ypres," which is a pretty piece but really shows the skill and her training as an artist.

"Look at the structure, the architecture, there's a lot of fleshy greys, there's valleys of grey, a real range of light and dark, but she reserves black. It took discipline to hold back and not use black when painting architecture," explained Hedges.

Hamilton reserved black for focal points that draw the eyes to a choice of whether to go down the path or into the market where it is vibrant and noisy. The white of the stall awnings represents a freshness, a beginning.

In the painting "Trenches on the Somme," Hedges sees abundance. The symbolism of the poppies could be growth, new life.

"There's a starkness between the red and the white chalk from the ground being turned up. All those poppies, all the lines in the painting are coming down at us, but we come into this painting formally, (from the bottom left corner). We're going up straight which creates some tension," she said.



(LISA CHESTER PHOTO)

Bettianne Hedges (left) and Valerie Mills-Milde presented an interesting and educational talk at the Leonor about Canadian War Painter Mary Riter Hamilton, the subject of the new work in progress, 'No Mans Land'.

In the painting, "Isolated Grave and Camouflage, Vimy Ridge" discussion surrounded identifying images in the painting and how she achieves a sense of foreboding using sombre colours with a sense of rhythm.

There was also a discussion about "Portrait Sketch of a Canadian Sergeant Still in Ecurie, France" to close out the event. There were many questions and comments suggesting a galvanized crowd that learned a lot and enjoyed their time. The now highly anticipated book is still a work in progress with an undetermined release date.

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STRATFORD TIMES SPORTS

Lakers Weekly: U18, U16 and U13 Lakers in action

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

It was a busy weekend for the Huron-Perth Lakers, with all three teams playing regular-season games in their respective ALLIANCE AAA leagues, culminating in the annual Lakers Day on Nov. 22 at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

On Nov. 18, MyHockey Rankings ranked the U13 Lakers in the top spot of the Canada U13 AAA Rankings with a 98.92 rating, ahead of Toronto Marlboros (98.63), and Toronto Jr. Canadiens (98.42).

The U13 Lakers played their first game on home ice since Oct. 31, when they faced the Waterloo Wolves at the Perth East Recreation Complex (PERC), as they faced the Soo Jr. Greyhounds on Nov. 20.

Defenceman Lucas Routenburg put the Lakers on the board with a power-play goal 49 seconds into the game. Max Mari put the Lakers up 2-0 40 seconds later, followed by goals from Cole Harrison, two more from Mari, Rowan Bell and Louis Nadon, giving the Lakers a commanding 7-0 lead after the first period.

At 48 seconds into the second period, Tyler Del Bel Belluz put the Lakers up 8-0. Brooks Ward scored 23 seconds later, then added another goal at 8:57 of the middle frame, giving the home side a double-digit lead. Beckett Elligsen made it 11-0 before the Jr. Greyhounds scored on the power play with 2:07 left in the period.

Huron-Perth added four more goals in the third period to cruise to a 15-1 win over the Jr. Greyhounds. Lakers netminder Jackson Stier earned the victory.

Following the game, U13 Lakers head coach Shawn Walker spoke to the Times about the team's growth, its recent performances in the U.S. and during the regular season – and what to expect for the rest of the weekend.

"Yeah, I think we're playing some of our best hockey yet, and we've come off a couple big weekends in the U.S. playing some top teams, and it really kind of had to make our team focus on the little things, and we're playing as good with hockey as we played all year right now. So it's good. I'm happy with how we're playing," Walker said.

"Just keep playing like how we are. We've been playing a lot of hockey lately, and a lot of really good hockey. And you know, just keep playing the same way all the time. Consistency, and it doesn't matter who we're playing, and we play the same way. And that's what our focus is on."

On Nov. 21 at the Perth East Recreation Complex (PERC), the Lakers shut out the Windsor Jr. Spitfires 4-0, with goals from Routenburg, a pair from Mari and Nadon.

The U13, U16 and U18 teams played their regular-season contests on the annual Lakers Day at the Rotary Complex on Nov. 22. During the single-day event, attendees filled up 405 pounds of non-perishable food items onto a truck and raised $450 for the Stratford House of Blessing. In addition, the U13 Lakers held a chuck-a-puck fundraiser to support the team's preparation for the upcoming 67th annual International Pee Wee Tournament in Quebec City in February.

Walker, U18 coach Chad Smalley and U16 coach Greg Swan reflect on what it means to be part of the organization.

"I'm really proud of being part of the Lakers, and same with all our team. We're proud to be here. It's been our fourth year. We've been here for four years now, and yeah, just excited to watch the other teams and the other age groups and try to put on a good showing for all Laker Day," Walker said.

"Laker Day is great for the kids. It's an opportunity to show off their talents, everyone from the U10s all the way up to U18, and it's good for the local community. It's huge. We get everyone here at one rink and playing in front of everyone," Smalley said.

"Yeah, I think it means a lot to the players and the team and the whole organization. We take pride in the organization that we play with, and for me, who's played within the organization as a player and coach here for many years, it's a privilege to be a part of it, and it's an awesome organization," Swan said.

U13 Lakers took care of business against the Elgin-Middlesex Canucks in the early-matinée game, 12-0, while U18 lost to the Brantford 99ers 7-2 and the U16 squad dropped a 4-1 decision to Brantford.

The U13 Lakers have a one-day road doubleheader on Nov. 28, facing the Chatham-Kent Cyclones at noon before traveling to Windsor for an early-evening matchup with the Jr. Spitfires. They wrap up the road trip on Nov. 29 against the Sun County Panthers.

The U18 Lakers host the Elgin-Middlesex Canucks at PERC on Nov. 28, then welcome the Sarnia-Lambton Jr. Sting to the Rotary Complex on Nov. 29.

The U16 Lakers travel to face the Kitchener Jr. Rangers on Nov. 28, then head to Cambridge to take on the Jr. RedHawks on Nov. 29.

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Baldwin, Aldridge and company shut out Blazers and Stars

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

Fresh from their week off, the Stratford Humphrey Fleet Service U18 AA Aces extended their strong start to the OWHA-Southern League season, earning two convincing sweeps at home against the Belmont Blazers and South Point Stars at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

On Nov. 20 against Belmont, Jule Cameron put the Aces on the board with 3:45 left in the first period, scoring on a rebound in front of the Belmont crease and putting it in the open net. Twenty seconds later, Brooklynn Ahrens doubled the Aces' lead after Ahrens found the rebounding puck at the right side of the Blazers' net and buried the puck past the Belmont goal line.

Macey Fischer put the Aces ahead 3-0 at 4:05 of the second period, and Emily Styles tucked in the loose puck in front of the Belmont crease on the power play with 5:45 left, putting the Aces up 4-0.

Stratford preserved the lead in the third period, giving Callie Aldridge a shutout in a 4-0 win over the visiting Blazers.

After the game, Aces head coach Sean Cameron spoke to the Times about the team's performance after a week off and their return in positive form.

"It's something that we were talking about all week in practice that we had to knock the rust off. Essentially, had a little bit of a break there. The girls deserved it by playing very well," Cameron said.

"They haven't lost as a team since Thanksgiving, so we've tied three, and we've won the rest. So 8-0 in three of the last few weeks. I'll take that as a coach every single time."

On Nov. 21, the Aces blanked the South Point Stars 1-0. Early in the third period, Emmie Rider received a pass from Ahrens and fired a one-timer from near the right circle to give the Aces the lead less than a minute into the final frame.

Stratford preserved the lead the rest of the period and gave Leticia Baldwin the shutout, improving the Aces to a 9-1-1 record, good for 19 points and one point behind the Windsor Wildcats for the top spot in the West Division.

The Aces head on the road next weekend, against Belmont on Nov. 28 and South Point on Nov. 29.

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Warriors top Legionnaires and upset Lincolns

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

It was a statement weekend for the Stratford Hunter Steel Warriors: they soundly beat the Sarnia Legionnaires and achieved something the franchise hadn't done in 14 years – defeating the St. Marys Lincolns on the road during the regular season.

The Warriors hosted the Sarnia Legionnaires at the William Allman Memorial Arena on Nov. 20 and headed down Highway 7 to St. Marys for a matchup with the GOHL's Western Conference-leading Lincolns on Nov. 21.

Head coach Dave Williams says the key for the weekend was to stay consistent for the full 60 minutes in both games.

"I think it's still a lot of focus on what we need to do. See, I think we've done it at different times. I think it's just, again, just trying to really put together that consistent 60 minutes of it. There's definitely going to be points in different games where it's going to kind of ebb and flow a little bit, but again, I think it's just kind of focusing on what we need to do. I think we still do a better job getting pucks in," Williams said.

"Sometimes our puck management through the neutral zone gets a little sloppy, and we've got to realize that chipping the puck into a space we can retrieve it from is a good option for us. It gets us in the O-zone and makes another team have to come 200 feet. So I think it's just being focused and trying to get off to a good start. The real focus is that we have to be good and recognize we mismanage pucks that other teams are going to try and capitalize on."

Carter Brownlee, Ethan Bridges and Gibson Grendel are playing in their first season with the Warriors. The trio spoke with the Times about their experiences so far.

"I've been loving it. We have a good group of guys, and they're really welcoming and hardworking. I look to them (leadership group/veterans) to kind of show me the way and lean on them for some advice, help me along with confidence and stuff like that, and little things in their game I can pick out and choose," Brownlee said.

"It's been great. Perfect atmosphere here in Stratford. Every time we come to practice, it's just hard work, good work ethic and getting better every day. Our leadership group has been great role models to us younger guys, like rookies and players trying to improve throughout the season, so they're always open to giving advice to the younger guys," Bridges said.

"Oh, it's so much fun! All the boys are awesome. Everybody's super close, and everybody gets along. It's great hockey too, so that's a great part of it. But it's just a lot of fun. I ask a few of the boys for advice and some of the coaches as well. I think the more you can learn from anybody who's been here before you is better for your game, all in all, so yeah, I try to get as much experience and as much information as I can whenever I can," Grendel said.



(CHARIS MUHTAR PHOTO)

Stratford Warriors forward Francesco Sanita delivers the hit on St. Marys Lincolns defenceman Cullen Kerslake at the Pyramid Recreation Centre in St. Marys on Nov. 21.

Against the Legionnaires at Allman Arena, the Warriors came out strong in the first period. At 1:21 of the opening frame, Aaron Green passed the puck from near the boards to Colin Slattery, who sent a cross-ice feed to Max Wildfong. Wildfong shot from the end of the right circle, beating Sarnia netminder William Martyn on the stick side for his seventh goal of the season.

Stratford doubled its lead at 8:29 of the first period with a counterattack from the neutral zone into Sarnia's zone. Carter Brownlee backhanded the pass to Max Wildfong, who found Grady Murphy for an off-angle, glove-side one-timer for his eighth goal of the season.

The Warriors took a 3-0 lead on the power play with 7:33 remaining in the period, as McQuen Haylock passed near the left corner of the Sarnia zone to Will Coward, then made a quick feed to Drew Hodge for the one-timer from inside the right circle.

Sarnia cut the Stratford lead to 3-1 with 5:21 left in the opening frame, but the home side restored their three-goal lead with 23 seconds remaining as Luke Minard intercepted the puck near the Stratford blueline for a breakaway and beat Martyn for his second of the season.

In the second period, the Warriors continued to mount the offensive and put the game out of reach at 4:18 when Matteo Craievich and Brownlee made a pass from the blueline to Francesco Sanita, who connected from up close for his fourth of the season.

Seventy-six seconds later, Haylock forced a turnover in the Stratford zone, then made a quick pass to Slattery in the neutral zone, who fired a shot from near the left circle that beat Martyn for his eighth of the season and a 6-1 Warriors lead. At the midway point of the second period, the Warriors outshot the Legionnaires 24-4.

Stratford continued their offensive onslaught in the final frame, as Hodge made a neutral-zone bounce pass to Dominic Marshall in the Legionnaires' zone, then a sharp pass to Murphy, who connected for his second of the game, ninth of the season, just 46 seconds into the period. The Warriors then finished the rout of the Legionnaires with goals from Haylock (11) at 6:16 and Colten Brenzil (2) with under seven minutes left in the game.

The Warriors beat the Legionnaires 9-1, outshooting them 57-16. Noah Bender earned his seventh win of the season, stopping 15 of Sarnia's 16 shots, while Slattery and Haylock led the Warriors with three points each.

The Battle of Highway 7 returned for the second time this season as the Warriors travelled to the St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre.

St. Marys opened the scoring at 14:46 of the first period, but the Warriors responded with 2:50 left in the period when Dominic Marshall's shot from the point beat Kobe Nadalin glove-side for his fourth of the season.

Stratford took their first lead of the game at 5:31 of the second period. Coward made the sharp pass down the ice from the back end of the Warriors' zone to Slattery, who quickly fed the puck to Haylock from behind the Lincolns' net and tucked past Nadalin glove side for his 12th goal of the season.

Thirty-nine seconds after the Haylock goal, the Lincolns levelled the game at two. The Warriors regained their lead midway through the second period as Drew Hodge notched his fourth of the season, assisted by Wildfong and Haylock. St. Marys responded late in the period, taking the game to the third period deadlocked at two apiece.

With less than five minutes left, the Warriors regained the lead for good. On a five-on-three power play, Murphy and Green set up Slattery, who buried a one-timer from the slot to make it 4-3.

Marshall scored his second of the game into the empty net, putting the game out of reach and earning the Warriors their first regular-season win at the Pyramid Recreation Complex since Dec. 28, 2012, when the Cullitons beat the Lincolns 4-2. Phil Westman, now the Warriors' assistant coach, was behind the bench for the franchise's last regular-season win at the PRC.

Haylock led the Warriors with three points, while Bender made 27 saves to improve to 8-2-0-1 in the season.

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GOHL Western Conference Standings

(as of November 23, 2026)

Team	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	GF	GA
St. Marys Lincolns	17	4	0	0	34	119	51
Chatham Maroons	17	5	0	0	34	107	63
St. Thomas Stars	16	4	1	1	34	89	54
Listowel Cyclones	13	7	3	0	29	88	78
Elmira Sugar Kings	13	11	1	0	27	101	97
Stratford Warriors	**12**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**25**	**72**	**61**
LaSalle Vipers	11	10	0	0	22	61	78
Strathroy Rockets	8	10	3	1	20	92	89
Woodstock Navy Vets	9	11	1	0	19	78	87
London Nationals	8	13	1	0	17	75	97
Komoka Kings	7	16	0	0	14	77	101
Sarnia Legionnaires	1	19	1	0	3	44	137

Stratford Warriors 2026-27 Stats

(as of November 23, 2026)

Player	Pos	GP	G	A	PTS
Colin Slattery	F	18	9	13	22
McQuen Haylock	F	19	12	6	18
Grady Murphy	F	19	9	9	18
Coen Galbraith	F	19	6	10	16
Aaron Green	D	18	3	13	16
Max Wildfong	F	17	7	7	14
Dominic Marshall	F	19	5	9	14
Ethan Bridges	F	19	4	8	12
Will Coward	D	18	0	11	11
Drew Hodge	D	18	4	3	7
Francesco Sanita	F	19	4	2	6
Carter Brownlee	D	15	1	3	4
Declan McCotter	F	18	0	4	4
Mateo Craievich	D	17	2	1	3
Chase Martin	F	17	2	1	3
Lucas Minard	F	15	1	2	3
Gibson Grendel	D	18	0	3	3
Colten Brenzil	F	16	2	0	2
Ethan McPhee	F	6	0	1	1
Goalies	**Record**	**GAA**	**SV-%**		
Noah Bender	8-2-0-1	2.68	0.904		
Gage Hurst	4-3-0-0	3.16	0.881		

Warriors top Legionnaires and upset the Lincolns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

While the win was beneficial for the Warriors and the effort was solid, Williams pointed out that work needs to continue with the short turnaround forthcoming.

"I think it was a really big win for our group. You know, I thought we had a good game last night against Sarnia, and had a good skate this morning. A good meeting, and credit to our guys. I thought we had a solid game from start to finish. We did a lot of really good things. So incredibly happy for the guys that put in a lot of work here the last week, and it's nice for them to be rewarded," Williams said.

"It's just focusing on being a little bit more consistent with everything every time we come to the rink. So really liked our five-on-five play tonight. Obviously they scored a couple power play goals, so I thought our penalty kill as of late had been pretty good, so something we need to go back and look at. But I mean, they're a really good hockey team, so I think we should feel really good about the result and the effort tonight."

Haylock, Slattery and Marshall say the weekend sweep was huge for the team after coming off two previous weekends of mixed results.

"You know, I think it's huge. I think we need to get a lot back in the win column. We've been splitting the weekend too much. I think it's important that we take a lot of these points that we need, especially the teams above us. It's really important that we beat them. So it was a really huge weekend for that," Haylock said.

"It was huge, especially after a couple, a few, few bad losses, two weekends in a row. To come out and get four points this weekend was huge," Slattery said.

"It's super huge. Obviously, we had a rough finish against them last year, so it feels really good to come back and take a win in their barn. So felt pretty good getting that win. And same as Friday too, just another good win to start the weekend off," Marshall said.

The Warriors (12-6-0-1) visit LaSalle to take on the Vipers on Nov. 25, welcome the Pelham Panthers to Allman Arena for First Responders Night on Nov. 27, and travel to Chatham to face the Maroons on Nov. 29.



St. Michael hosts the WOSSAA Boys' Volleyball Championships

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

On Nov. 19, St. Michael Secondary School hosted the Western Ontario Secondary School Athletic Association (WOSSAA) Junior and Senior Boys 'AA' Volleyball Championships.

Early in the morning, the Warriors faced Woodstock St. Mary's in the Senior Boys semifinal at Jim Hurley Gymnasium before a packed house of enthusiastic students and supporters, accompanied by timely music from the school's pep band.

In the first set, St. Mike's came back from 23-18 to score seven unanswered points to take the opening set 25-23. The hosts led 8-5 in the second set, but St. Mary's battled back with a 20-7 run to take the set 25-15. St. Mary's took the lead in sets 2-1 (25-15) and subverted a late St. Michael rally in the fourth set (25-20) to win the semifinal matchup 3- 1.

In the Junior Boys semifinal, the St. Michael Warriors faced the Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors. The hosts won the opening set 25-20, but the visitors rallied to take the next three (25-17, 25-19, 26-24) and advance to the gold medal game.

St. Michael Junior Boys looked to finish the tournament in the top three as they faced London South C.I. Lions in the bronze medal game.

St. Mary's took the opening set 25-20 and had an early 10-2 lead in the second set. St. Michael responded with a 23-14 run and overcame three South C.I. set points to take the second set 26-24. But the Lions overpowered the Warriors in the third set (25-10) and claimed the bronze medal by winning the fourth set (25-20), winning the match three sets to one.

The Junior Boys finished the HPAA regular season with a 5-2 record, placing third in the Jr. Boys standings. St. Mike's beat Goderich in the quarterfinals before falling to St. Anne's in a close semifinal.

St. Michael coach/athletic director Lindsay Marshall spoke to the Times about the team's tournament run and the school's support during the tournament.

"I thought we battled for sure, in the first and the third game especially. Everybody played a part, which was great. I got everybody on the floor, so that was good. It's junior boys, so it's always up and down. But I thought they did really well battling back and winning a couple of games when we were down. So that was good. It was a good ending to our season. It was a good game," Marshall said.

"It's great. It's busy, but it's nice to have it at home. We got to have our fans out. The pep band was out this morning, which is great. It's really a great atmosphere in the gym, so it's good to host."

In the Senior Boys bronze medal game, St. Michael were unable to keep pace with the London St. Joseph's Rams and lost in straight sets (19-25, 21-25, 21-25).

After the game, Warriors veteran Julian Walsh said he was proud of the team's progress, with the team finishing fourth and taking the Stratford District Golden Bears to the limit at last week's HPAA final.

"It's not good finishing in fourth … fourth place doesn't really sum up how we did this season. I feel like everybody got a lot better. All the guys just learned how to play together, and I think we de-

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(MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY PHOTO)

Members of the St. Michael Warriors shake hands with South C.I. Lions after the WOSSAA Junior Boys Volleyball 'AA' Bronze Medal game at St. Michael Secondary School on Nov. 19.

St. Michael hosts the WOSSAA Boys' Volleyball Championships

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

serve to get (higher)," Walsh said.

"I'm really proud of it. I'm happy to call that my last year. Finishing that close with SDSS … that's the big game in the season, and I'm proud of that game. Just wish everything could have worked out better after that."

Head coach Joel Murray praised the team's resilience and growth from the start of the season, culminating in a strong effort in the final against the SDSS Golden Bears, and ultimately finishing fourth at the WOSSAA tournament.

"The development that we've had from the start of the year till the end, again, it's just a testament to their commitment. They work hard, and they've made that progression, and they've made improvements all year … I was happy with how we finished," Murray said.

"Sure, you always want to win your last game of the season. That's what winners do. But again, from where we started to where we are now, the guys progressed very well, and I'm pleased with how the season finished."

The St. Thomas Central-Elgin (CECI) Titans won the WOSSAA 'AA' Junior Boys Championship with a close 3-2 victory over St. Mary's (25-27, 25-23, 19-25, 25-18, 15-7). In the Senior Boys 'AA' Championship, the South C.I. Lions swept St. Mary's (26-24, 25-20, 25-23) to claim the gold medal.

U18 Warriors compete in St. Thomas

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

The Stratford U18 AA Warriors competed at the Boston Pizza November Classic in St. Thomas from Nov. 19 through 22.

Stratford opened the tournament on Nov. 20 against the Kent Cobras, overcoming a 3-1 deficit to score four unanswered goals, including three in the final frame, to beat Kent 5-3. In the second game of opening night, the Warriors couldn't overcome a second-period deficit and lost 8-5 to the Milton Winterhawks.

On the second day of the tournament (Nov. 21), the Warriors came back from 3-1 in the third period to preserve a 3-3 draw with the Mount Brydges Cougars, and secured their spot in the tournament's final day with a 12-0 rout of the Humber Valley Sharks.

Finishing second in Group B with a 2-1-1 record, the Warriors faced the Sarnia Sting in the semifinals on Nov. 22, losing 4-0.

Stratford returns to ALLIANCE regular season play with a matchup in St. Thomas against the Jr. Stars on Nov. 28 and returns home to face the Mount Brydges Cougars at the William Allman Memorial Arena on Nov. 29.

Send us your sports reports!
Stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Local youth bowlers strike gold at Bob Howie All-Star tournament

NICHELE BUTCHER-BONTRUP

Times Contributor

Youth bowlers showcased their talent and teamwork at the Bob Howie All-Star tournament held Nov. 8, with both the girls' and boys' teams from the local bowling community capturing first-place finishes.

The girls' team, consisting of Sierra Stevenson, Lauren Furtney and Sydney Smith, coached by Irene Louwagie, delivered an impressive performance, recording a three-game scratch total of 1,635 pins to secure first place.

The boys' team also found success, as Emmett Martin, Hayden Martin and Zachary Clarke, with coach Doug Mountain, rolled a combined three-game scratch total of 1,394 pins, earning them a first-place finish as well.

Both teams demonstrated outstanding skill, determination and teamwork throughout the competition, making it a successful day for the local youth bowling program.

Congratulations to all six bowlers and their coaches on their outstanding accomplishments. Their hard work and dedication continue to make the bowling community proud.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured from left to right are Hayden Martin, Zachary Clarke, Doug Mountain and Emmett Martin. They were the boys' team winners of the Bob Howie All-Star tournament Nov. 8 with a score of 1,394.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured from left to right are Lauren Furtney, Sydney Smith, Sierra Stevenson and Irene Louwagie. The girls' team rolled a 1,634 score to take the top prize on the girls' side of the Bob Howie All-Star tournament Nov. 8.

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!
CALL 519-655-2341 OR
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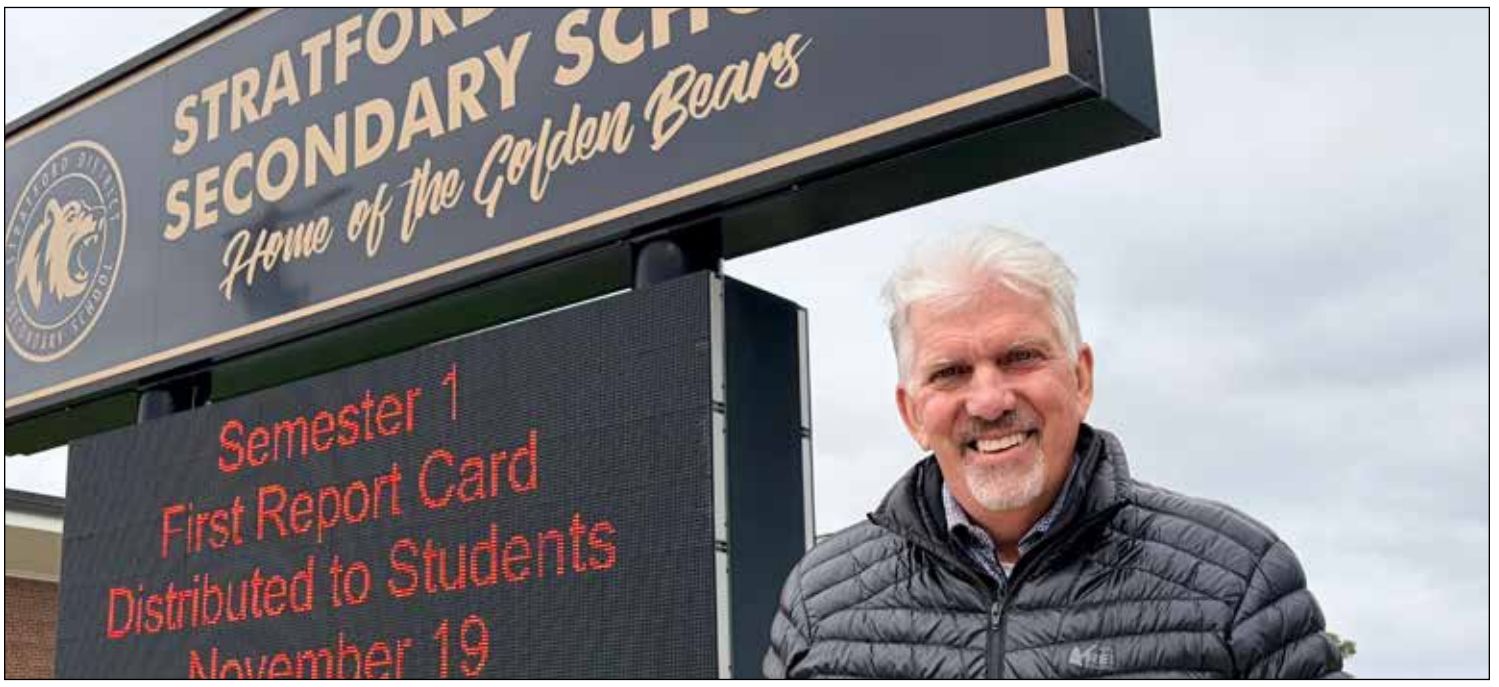
BLACK AND GOLD Edition

‘What do you want? What do you need more of?’: New mayor asks youth to be involved in city’s future

BLACK AND GOLD CORRESPONDENTS

stratfordtimes@gmail.com



(CONNOR LUCZKA PHOTO)

Mayor Robert Ritz stopped by Stratford District Secondary School to speak with Black and Gold correspondents on his successful campaign – and what ideas he had to improve this city for its youth.

Stratford’s new mayor is asking the city’s youth to help shape its future.

“Youth have to come at us with this outreach, right?” newly elected Mayor Robert Ritz said. “What do you want? What do you need more of? You want some sense of community, right?”

Ritz spoke with Black and Gold correspondents after his victory in the Oct. 26 municipal election last month, asking youth to get involved in local issues and sharing his opinion on how to improve the city for its next generation.

One concrete idea is the redevelopment of the Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) site, the dilapidated building and 18 acres of grounds sitting unused at the edge of downtown.

Once, the site was used to repair locomotives, though has sat empty for the better part of four decades. Although plans to redevelop it have come and gone, the City of Stratford has recently made steps to see its revitalization come to fruition. It has also been a passion project for Ritz, who personally put together his own plan prior to becoming mayor. Ritz’s vision would see the building transform into a space where community members, organizations and visitors could congregate, shop, access services and learn more about the site’s history.

Since the GTR is next to Stratford’s bus terminal, it would be an ideal place for youth to spend time.

When discussing Stratford’s current transit system, Ritz explained the significance of a strong transit system is for the freedom of Stratford, specifically for youth. The recently elected mayor reflected on his time growing up in Stratford, and what has changed since then.

“We had dial-up ride transit back then,” he said. “Which was door-to-door transit, which we don’t have today.”

Ritz expressed an interest in reintroducing the door-to-door transit to the city of Stratford and the positive impact that could have on youth. The ability to “call up the bus or text the bus,” could allow the public to go anywhere in the city.

Additionally, Ritz commented on the idea of round-trip tickets. This would authorize citizens to use the same transfer they did to get to their location to go home, without having to purchase a second ticket. The use of round-trip fare could allow the transit system to be more appealing to use.

Ritz explained the importance of youth learning how to use public transit, as it prepares them for navigating future scenarios with confidence.

“Because guess what’s going to happen to go to college or university? You will be on public transit.”

With these improvements to Stratford’s public transit system, Ritz also suspects that it will help youth looking for employment. With easier access to city transit, youth would be able to take it to get to and from their jobs, and youth would not be the only beneficiaries. Ritz proposed that Stratford City Transit should extend their hours to midnight in order for factory workers so they can take the bus to and from work.

Ritz also spoke about employment, and the differences between when he was young and today.

“What makes it easier to get a job? Like you need help finding a job, right? … I was quite fortunate, I just was fortunate enough to have work, yet we had a lot of kids in the day, there used to be three or four kids trying for the same job because there's so many of us, the baby boomers, right? … In that time period, there was one job and three people looking at. Right now, there's you know three jobs, one person looking, they're choosing. It seems that way because they're always looking for people to work.”

In conclusion, Ritz has many ideas for the future of Stratford, but the most important thing on his mind is how he can support the Stratford community best.

If you have ideas on what he could do to help Stratford’s youth, you can contact the office of the mayor through the online form at https://tinyurl.com/25sru4pf.

A letter from the editor

GRADY FISCHER

Black and Gold editor

Stratford District Secondary School (SDSS) has a small community of students that are interested in news, because of this, we have established a student newspaper (founded by former student: Julie Herman). This newspaper, the Black and Gold writes about a variety of things: school events, local news, world events and occasionally creative work. Writing is a passion shared by these students, and I am so honoured to be the editor of this newspaper for the 2026/27 school year.

Our articles are published on a monthly basis, and we are extremely excited to share these articles with the city of Stratford. The Stratford Times editor, Connor Luczka, has met with our team countless times in order to help us better understand not only what it is like to be an article writer, but how to write an article. His support has been invaluable to us, and we could not be more appreciative of everything he has done.

Another way Connor has given us support is by publishing our articles in the Stratford Times newspaper. For this collaborative edition, we have prepared two articles for your enjoyment: an interview with newly elected Mayor Robert Ritz and an interview with a teacher at SDSS. We hope that you enjoy these articles as much as we enjoyed writing them for you.

A final thank you needs to go out to SDSS Black and Gold teacher correspondent, Ms. Laurie Craig. Her assistance on this team has been nothing short of wonderful and I can not thank her enough.

Until next time,
Grady Fischer
SDSS Black and Gold Editor

BLACK AND GOLD Edition

Rooted in nature; a day in Rondeau

NADINE EGGER

Black and Gold Correspondent



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Green Industries students on the beach of Lake Erie at Rondeau Provincial Park.

This past Oct. 8 was the perfect, sunny day for the SDSS Green Industries students to adventure the great outdoors of Rondeau Provincial Park.

"Rondeau Provincial Park has always been a special place for me. I grew up in the Rondeau area and spent a lot of time along Lake Erie," Green Industries teacher, Ms. Howe, commented on her inspiration for choosing Rondeau for this trip. "I wanted to share a little bit of that experience with my students and give them the opportunity to see firsthand what makes this area so unique."

Ms. Howe explained how the trip was structured around the students' curiosity and the idea of students having the opportunity to apply their in-class lessons to nature. The curiosity began when the students were given the task prior to the trip to research a species of the Carolinian forest to understand more about the biodiversity in the area. Once at the park, the students spent some time on the beach shore to take in the beauty of Lake Erie and build connections with fellow students. They then had the opportunity to hike the trails of Rondeau.

"I think there's a lot of value in giving students the time and space to slow down, explore, and just be present," Ms. Howe said, describing the importance of allowing her students to explore their in-class experiences on ecosystems, native species, biodiversity and environmental stewardship in Rondeau. "Not every learning experience needs to be structured from beginning to end. Sometimes the most meaningful moments happen when we give students the freedom to look around, ask questions and make their own connections."

When reflecting on her memories of leading the trip, she commented, "There was something really nice about watching them just be kids for a little while. No desks, no screens, no pressure to get to the next task. Just an opportunity to enjoy where they were and the people they were with." She stressed the significance of giving the students the opportunity to gain a sense of belonging and build friendships outside of the classroom. Ms. Howe enjoyed watching the kids connect on the shoreline while taking in the "endless stretch of water and sky…".

After this trip to the sandy shores of Erie and such positive feedback from the kids, Ms. Howe hopes to look for more opportunities to take her students on another trip such as a longer outdoor education trip or even a camping experience.

"It's not often that you hear teenagers asking for more time outdoors, so when they do, I think that's something worth paying attention to!"

Ms. Howe reflected, "For me, this trip was also a reminder of why I love teaching this subject. Green Industries gives us the opportunity to connect learning to the world around us in such a meaningful way. It's not just about plants, trees, or the environment. It's about helping students develop curiosity, appreciation and a sense of responsibility for the spaces we share."

STRATFORD TIMES Pick Up Locations

7-Eleven - Erie St
A&W Canada
Ajs Hair and Aesthetic Studio
Annie's Seafood Restaurant
Army Navy & Air Force Veterans
Athens Greek Souvlaki & Gyro
Avon Pharmacy
Balzac's Stratford
Best Western Plus The Arden Park Hotel
Blowes Stationery & Office Supplies Ltd.
Brch & Wyn
Brenda's Place
Burnside Agriplex
Buzz Stop Fine Coffees And Teas
Cedarcroft Retirement
Chartwell - Anne Hathaway Residence
Circle K - Graff Ave
Circle K - Huron St
Coffee Culture Cafe & Eatery
Community Hearing Care
Cozyn's Garden Gallery
Craig & Jess' No Frills
Daisy mart
Demetres Restauant
Destination Stratford
Dick's Barber Shop
Dollar Haven
Domino's Pizza
East End Variety (231 Douro)
Erie Convenience
Esso - Erie St
Esso - Ontario St
Expressway Ford Stratford Features
Stratford Mall
Fix Auto Stratford
Food Basics
Foodland Stratford
Fore! Everyone Golf - Stratford's Indoor Golf Experience
Giant Tiger
Gino's Pizza
Guardian - Sinclair Pharmacy Ltd
H.H. Delea & Company
Home Hardware
Honeywood Tirecraft
James A. Rutherford Funeral Home Ltd
Jenny Trout Centre
Joe's Diner - Stratford
Joe's Variety
LCBO (Stratford Mall)
Matthew Rae MPP
McCarthy Place
McDonald's - Ontario St
McDonald's 709 Erie St
Mornington Variety
Mr.Sub
New Orleans Pizza
Papa Johns Pizza
Quality Inn & Conference Centre Festival
Romeo's Corner Cafe
Rosso Barber-o Shop
Rotary Hospice Apartments
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 8 Sebringville ESSO
Shell
Shell - Downie St
Shell - Erie St
Shell - Huron St
Shoppers Drug Mart - Huron St
Shoppers Drug Mart - Ontario St
Sobeys Stratford
Spruce Lodge
Stratford & District Chamber Of Commerce
Stratford Chefs School Learning Center
Stratford City Hall
Stratford City Mazda
Stratford General Hospital
Stratford Honda
Stratford Hyundai
Stratford Kia
Stratford KW Surplus
Stratford Medical Pharmacy
Stratford Motor Products
Stratford Nissan
Stratford North End Pharmacy
Stratford Perth Archives
Stratford Perth Museum
Stratford Public Library
Stratford Rotary Complex
Stratford Subaru
Stratford Variety
Strickland's Stratford Toyota
The Bruce Hotel
The Livery Yard
The Local Community Food Centre
The Parlour Inn Restaurant
The Split Rail Country Store
The UPS Store
The Urban Barber
Tim Hortons - Erie St
Tim Hortons - Huron St
Tim Hortons - Ontario St
Toner and Ink Shop
Town Crier Marketing
Union Tattoo and Barbershop
United Way Perth-Huron
Video 99
Walmart Supercentre
West End Pharmacy
Wynbrook & Mayfiar
Zehrs Stratford

SEBRINGVILLE
Dave's Diner
Esso - Huron Rd

Editorial

The weather is turning cold and I'm not ready



GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Just the other day, birds were chirping, the sun was shining and we were all comfortably dressed in short sleeves as we enjoyed the unseasonably warm late-fall weather.

At the Grant Haven Media Christmas party last week, someone joked it was nice enough to go golfing after lunch. I laughed and mentioned I was already dressed for a quick nine holes, and my clubs were in the trunk of my car, ready to go.

Looking back at that now, I wish I had gone golfing because it's starting to look like I won't get the chance again until the snow melts next spring.

As I'm writing this, the outside temperature is a chilly negative one and there's about five centimetres of snow on the ground. I knew it was coming eventually – though I'd hoped it wouldn't – and there is still so much to do.

As much as many of us would like to put off the inevitable, there are a number of things we can do now to make life a little easier for ourselves once winter arrives in earnest.

Around the house, now is the time to make sure our furnaces are in good working order, replace furnace filters, check for drafts around windows and doors, and ensure our smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working properly. If you haven't already done so, disconnect your garden hoses, shut off and drain outdoor taps where appropriate, and clear any remaining leaves and debris from your eavestroughs to help prevent ice build-up and potential water damage.

It's also worth digging those snow shovels out of the shed or garage, making sure the snowblower starts and stocking up on ice melt or sand before the first major snowfall sends everyone rushing to their local hardware store. Having a few days' worth of non-perishable food, drinking water, flashlights, batteries and other essentials on hand isn't a bad idea either, particularly for those who live in rural areas where a winter storm can leave people without power or access to town for an extended period of time.

Perhaps most importantly, we need to prepare our vehicles and adjust our driving habits for the season ahead. Winter tires are designed to provide better traction in temperatures below 7 °C, regardless of whether there's snow on the ground. Checking tire pressure, topping up with winter-grade windshield washer fluid, testing the battery and replacing worn windshield wipers can also save us some hassle down the road.

Every vehicle should have a winter emergency kit that includes a snow brush and ice scraper, a small shovel, blankets, extra gloves and warm clothing, a flashlight, non-perishable snacks, water, a first-aid kit and a means of charging a cellphone. These are relatively inexpensive items that can make a world of difference should you find yourself stranded on the side of a rural road in the middle of a snowstorm.

Of course, no amount of preparation can compensate for poor driving habits. Give yourself a little extra time to get where you're going, clear the snow and ice from your entire vehicle before leaving the driveway, slow down, leave more space between yourself and the vehicle ahead of you, and check weather forecasts and road conditions before heading out. If conditions are particularly bad, ask yourself whether your trip is actually necessary. Whatever you're rushing to get to can probably wait.

We also need to prepare ourselves for the colder months. Dressing in layers, wearing proper winter boots with good traction and keeping our extremities covered can make even the coldest days a little more manageable. Be mindful of how much you're exerting yourself while shovelling snow, take frequent breaks and don't be afraid to ask for help if the job is too much for you.

And while we're preparing for winter, let's not forget about those around us who may have a more difficult time getting through the season. Check in on elderly neighbours, offer to clear someone's sidewalk or driveway if they're unable to do it themselves and consider donating warm clothing or other necessities to local organizations that support those who don't have the luxury of a warm home.

Winter can be tough on us for so many reasons, but with a little preparation and a willingness to step in and help those in need in our communities, we'll get through this together, just as we do every winter. Hang in there, folks!

STRATFORD TIMES

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Quote of the Week

"It's about understanding yourself. So that's why we write, to understand ourselves and then each other. There's a journey in creating something and, as you write, you learn about yourself ... Believe in yourself, in your words, in your voice.."

– Heidi Sander, Ontario poet laureate.

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STRATFORD TIMES

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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

Opinion

Letters to the editor: Environmental groups call for preservation of environmental rights

Dear Matthew Rae,

We are writing from Stratford to oppose the government's plan to gut the province's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) through Bill 140, the Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026. We ask you to stand up for your constituents in Perth-Wellington and to vote against it.

Since 1994, Ontarians have had the right to review, comment on and challenge government decisions that affect our air, water, land and communities. The EBR requires the province to state its environmental values and take reasonable steps to follow them when making decisions that affect our communities.

Schedule 8 of Bill 140 would repeal those rights. It would remove our right to be informed about development proposals, to review them, to submit feedback and to seek leave to appeal approvals when we believe a project could harm the environment. It would also strike "restore" from the EBR's purposes and repeal the requirement that the province consider its environmental values. The right to request investigations of environmental offences, and the right to sue for harm to public resources, would go as well.

Bill 140 would keep Ontarians in the dark about development that could harm the health of our families, our communities and our environment. It would let decisions be made without our knowledge, our input or our ability to protect ourselves.

Transparency, public accountability and responsiveness to the electorate are the foundations of a healthy democracy, not red tape. Protecting the environment and human health and safety is not red tape either. A government that wants to strengthen Ontario would strengthen the EBR, not weaken it. The bill has also been moved quickly. Committee hearings were limited to a single day, and it was introduced the day after the municipal election, before newly elected councils had started their terms.

Perth-Wellington has public resources that need protection: productive farmland, rivers and watersheds and the quality of drinking water for growing communities such as Stratford. Bill 5 and its special economic zones already allow provincial and municipal laws to be suspended. Bill 140 would go further and stop your constituents from seeing the effects coming.

We urge you to put a robust democracy, a thriving environment and a sustainable future for our grandchildren first when Bill 140 comes up for third reading.

Thank you,

Bill James-Abra, Climate Momentum

Geoff Love, Cycle Stratford

Mike Sullivan, Get Concerned Stratford

Patsy Day, Kaswentha - Two Row Now

Sharon Collingwood, Perth County Sustainability Hub

Christine Ritsma for the Stratford and District Secondary School Eco Club

Geoff Love, Stratford-Perth Tree Trust

Loreena McKennitt, Wise Communities

We can do our part

Come on Stratford! We can do our part!

We are witnessing what carbon dioxide is doing to our climate.

The following is what we can do to decrease the level of carbon dioxide in our climate:

We as humans produce carbon dioxide with every breath we take. By putting house plants in homes and offices we can reduce the level of carbon dioxide.

If you are putting up a fence you can choose a pyramid cedar fence. The cedar has a longer season which allows it to reduce carbon dioxide.

In 2025 20.7 million electric vehicles were sold. This saves 2.3 million barrels of oil A day!

There is currently a government program that covers the cost of installing a charging station in your home or business. There are also government programs that help with the purchase of heat pumps and electric vehicles. I urge you to take advantage of these programs.

Lorne Bolton,
Stratford.

WEBCRAWLING THROUGH BILL C-39



SHEILA CLARKE

Times Freelance Columnist

Bill C-39 is called the Building Canada Strong Act. This bill is on an accelerated path through parliament. It has passed the House of Commons and will soon be awaiting the Senate review. If passed as is, it would let politicians bypass environmental rules to fast-track projects identified as being of national interest. Cabinet ministers will have the ability to suspend all conditions with regard to species protection, habitat protection and labour laws within regions of national interest.

The Senate, our "house of second sober thought" (attributed to Sir John A. MacDonald) is of vital importance to this bill – and to those who stand to lose. If we start with the Salish Sea bordering British Columbia, that is the first loss. There is already a pre-approved project of national interest in the habitat of endangered orcas, the Salish Sea. The southern resident killer whale, and other endangered wildlife, are protected under Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA). Even with this protection, this orca population has dropped to just 75 individuals.

These are the exact waters oil and liquid natural gas (LNG) tankers must pass through. Underwater noise from these ships drowns out the orcas' ability to hunt, communicate and navigate – pushing them toward extinction. More pipelines and more LNGs would mean more ships and a massive port expansion. It also means more exposure to contaminants and risks to the Chinook salmon which the orcas rely on for food. Bill C-39 would permit cabinet ministers to bypass SARA and destroy the habitat of the orcas to promote port expansion, increased shipping and pipelines. Perhaps we should move to create new ocean sanctuaries and protect sea biodiversity.

The second loss supported by C-39 is the boreal forest. The boreal stretches across the northern reaches of many countries, especially Canada. Including its deep peatlands and soils, it's one of the planet's largest terrestrial carbon sinks, storing hundreds of billions of tons of carbon that help regulate global climate. The boreal region contains roughly 1.5 million lakes, vast wetlands (about 25 per cent of the world's total) and countless undammed rivers. It provides critical habitat for tens of thousands of species, including iconic mammals (wolves, grizzly bears, woodland caribou, lynx and moose) and serves as the "bird nursery" for one to five billion breeding songbirds and waterfowl.

Mining interests have long promoted major construction related to mining of precious minerals in the boreal forest region, which includes "the Ring of Fire." If this becomes a region of national interest, there are huge ramifications to habitat destruction and contamination through mining, infrastructure and forest clearing. Disturbance of the peat bog also releases massive amounts of methane gas and carbon dioxide, both potent greenhouse gases – especially methane. Increased global warming and habitat loss will be results of C-39, for which we will all pay.

Of paramount importance is the fact that the boreal region is deeply rooted in the traditions and livelihoods of over 600 Indigenous communities, who have relied on the land for food, medicine and spiritual culture for millennia, long before we arrived in North America.

Bill C-39 also directly threatens the pristine lands and waters in the Hudson-James Bay Lowlands in Treaty 9 territory, where the Ring of Fire is situated. This, together with the provincial government's special economic zone power under now-passed Bill 5 would allow entire regions to become exempted from habitat protection, water protection and labour laws.

The House committee held just eight meetings to study the 240-page omnibus bill, giving witnesses only 20 hours to present. Only two of those hours were dedicated to First Nations witnesses.

Sources from Ducks Unlimited to Queen's University, estimate that the non-market and ecological services of the boreal – such as water filtration, flood control and carbon sequestration – provide hundreds of billions of dollars in economic value annually. Bill C-39 would unleash an assault on the nature we so love, that is so valuable to us economically (as is) and so very important to biodiversity and planetary health. In addition, the sunset clauses of five years in Bill C-5 will be removed under C-39. The permissions for this attack on nature would become permanent.

Scientists, Indigenous groups, the Canadian Environmental Law Association and environmentalists have all called for the withdrawal of C-39. Thousands of letters, emails and open letters have been sent to federal politicians and special committees opposing Bill C-39 (Greenpeace). This is a deeply flawed, undemocratic bill that ignores fundamental rights and science.

Bill C-39 has been released by the Senate with minimal recommendations for change. It is now scheduled to come to the House of Commons for a final vote today, Thursday, Nov. 26. Please call your MP today or tomorrow in case the vote is delayed.

UPDATES:

Carbon parts per million (ppm) in the atmosphere as of Nov. 19, 2026: 429.16 ppm. C-39 promotes economic growth based on fossil fuel production.

"We are in a giant car heading towards a brick wall, and everyone's arguing over where they're going to sit." – David Suzuki

Sheila Clarke is a Stratford advocate for the environment, of our community and of our planet. She is a member of CFUW Stratford, Stratford Climate Momentum, and the Perth County Sustainability Hub.

Opinion

Aging with grace, at our own speed



IRENE ROTH

Times Columnist

I used to choose where to sit by the view. At a gathering, I'd look for the chair that let me see everyone or the spot by the window where the afternoon light came in. I still like a good view. These days, I also take a moment to consider whether I'll be able to get out of the chair easily when it's time to go. Some sofas look inviting until you realize how far you'll have to sit to reach them.

It's an ordinary adjustment, and there are plenty like it. I allow more time to get ready. I think about how far I'll have to walk from where I park. When I make plans with a friend in November, I'm often happier to meet in the afternoon, when there's enough daylight to enjoy the walk back. At first, I found myself giving elaborate explanations for these preferences. Lately, I've discovered that "Would two o'clock work for you?" usually does the job.

I've been thinking about what it means to age with grace. On the days when my joints are stiff or a name I know perfectly well won't come to me, grace can feel like a tall order. I'm more comfortable with the word when I think of how I'd treat a friend in the same position. I'd give her a minute. I'd wait while she found the word. If she wanted the chair with arms, I'd move my bag off it and carry on with the conversation.

Giving myself that same minute takes practice. I remember how quickly I used to get through a morning of errands, and sometimes I still plan as if I have that much energy at my disposal. There's a genuine sadness in finding that an activity I enjoyed takes more out of me now. I can also be surprised by how much pleasure there is in doing a familiar thing at a different pace. On a short walk by the Avon River, I have time to watch the ducks gather near the bank. If I've left the afternoon open, I can stay until they've moved on.

My father lived to 96. Since his death, I've thought about how little an age on its own tells us about a person. It takes a moment to say "ninety-six." It would take a long afternoon to begin telling someone about the man who lived those years. Even then, another person who knew him could sit down beside me and tell a story I'd never heard. I try to remember that when I meet someone whose age is one of the few things I know about them. I'd rather find out what they like to talk about.

For me, one of those things is books. I enjoy hearing what someone else made of a novel, especially when we disagree about a character I thought I understood. A conversation like that can send me back to a passage I read too quickly. It's a pleasure to find that after years of reading and talking about books, I can still change my mind in the middle of a sentence.

I expect there will be more adjustments ahead. Some will probably annoy me before I get used to them. For now, I'm glad I've learned to ask for the time of day that suits me, to leave a little room between appointments and to choose the chair I'll be comfortable in. If it happens to be beside the window, so much the better. If someone interesting sits down next to me, I may stay long enough to see the light change.

As I See It From America: Figuring it all out



PATRICK D. BURK

Times Contributor

One of things I used to relish was change. I liked change. I always wanted to try different ways and look at how things could be achieved using methods that were not always the norm. In the theatre world, I constantly wanted things to look and be diverse and dissimilar. Taking a well-known aspect of a performance or a play and doing something that tweaked it a bit and made it unlike it was ever seen before. That was my forte. I kind of liked that part of my life. The unexpected and the creative side of me thrived. It was exciting.

Now, as I have gotten older, I sometimes see change as a source of stress or unsteadiness. Is this an age thing? Take health-care insurance. I admit that I have very little idea about your health-care system or the insurance that you need, but it must be better than what we have here in the states. For the past three years, my health insurance needed to be changed on an annual basis. My basic coverage, Medicare, stayed the same, increased a bit in cost but did provide a few more benefits, but my supplement insurance that covers prescriptions, doctor's visits, dental and visions was ended. And so, we shop.

The way it works down here is you must shop all the programs available in your community to assure that you are getting the best bang for your buck. I found out that certain coverage is not available depending on where you live or the type of doctor or specialist that you needed to see. All this shopping and preparing and comparing must take place in a six-week window for your health-care insurance to take effect. The best way to achieve this is to attach yourself to an insurance broker.

An insurance broker may or may not represent one company but according to the law, they must tell you which "plan" is the best for you, even if that is not the company they represent. At my age, I keep reminding myself that I will be 70 on New Year's Eve this year, I am still lucky that I can get into a plan that doesn't cost me too much. In fact, my actual premium is zero. Now, that is cool. I do have to chip in the first $700 of my care and the first $2,150 of my prescription and drugs but now they send you a catalog where you can order over the counter things free, up to $100 so that helps a bit. Certain doctors are free, others you pay a specialist fee for and some, you must pay fully yourself. Those that you have to pay fully yourself are elective procedures like cosmetic consultants, Botox injections, etcetera. I hope you can see why I generally get confused.

They make you change your plan, show you what is in the new plan, tell you what the government is going to take care of and then let you know how much you will have to pay for it all after it was done. Is this the way it is done in Canada? I have heard positive and negative issues about your health care, but I admit, I do not hear of millions being dropped or certain communities not being able to get health insurance because they have no place to obtain basic care. This type of thing is happening down here. I think we need to revamp our system.

I do not see why we are not looking at a simple nationwide plan that allows people to live in dignity, get the care they require, provide for prescriptions and doctors and make it equal and compatible for all. If you had decent plans that covered basically everyone, the insurance companies could get rich selling plans that highlighted upscale care and elective procedures. I find it odd here that if you live in a certain area, your cancer care is not covered by where you might elect to obtain that care. Are you kidding, you must shop around for cancer care? Of course you do.

Insurance plans often do not include the best. If you want that, you may have to pay extra. They also may not like what drugs you are on and will ask your physician to change them or they won't cover that cost. We are constantly told that some treatments are "experimental" and therefore may not be fully covered or covered at all. Often, we do hear of decisions by your physicians that are overturned because there is no insurance to cover something, even if it is lifesaving. What a treadmill of positives and negatives and health care.

I bring this up as a means to obtain information. We are told by the right-wing, insurance financed politicians that one payer systems will be bad for the public because they remove any competition between companies. I think this is the capitalist argument, profit from pain, suffering and maintenance of self. We also have heard that socialist (wow this is suddenly a very bad word) medicine is not the way to go because the quality is bad and only those with money can access higher and better care. I am torn. I think I have the best care that I can afford. I just wish I didn't get this pain in my gut and headache while figuring it all out.

Please let me know how you feel about this article. Contact me at burk.patrick1956 @gmail.com.

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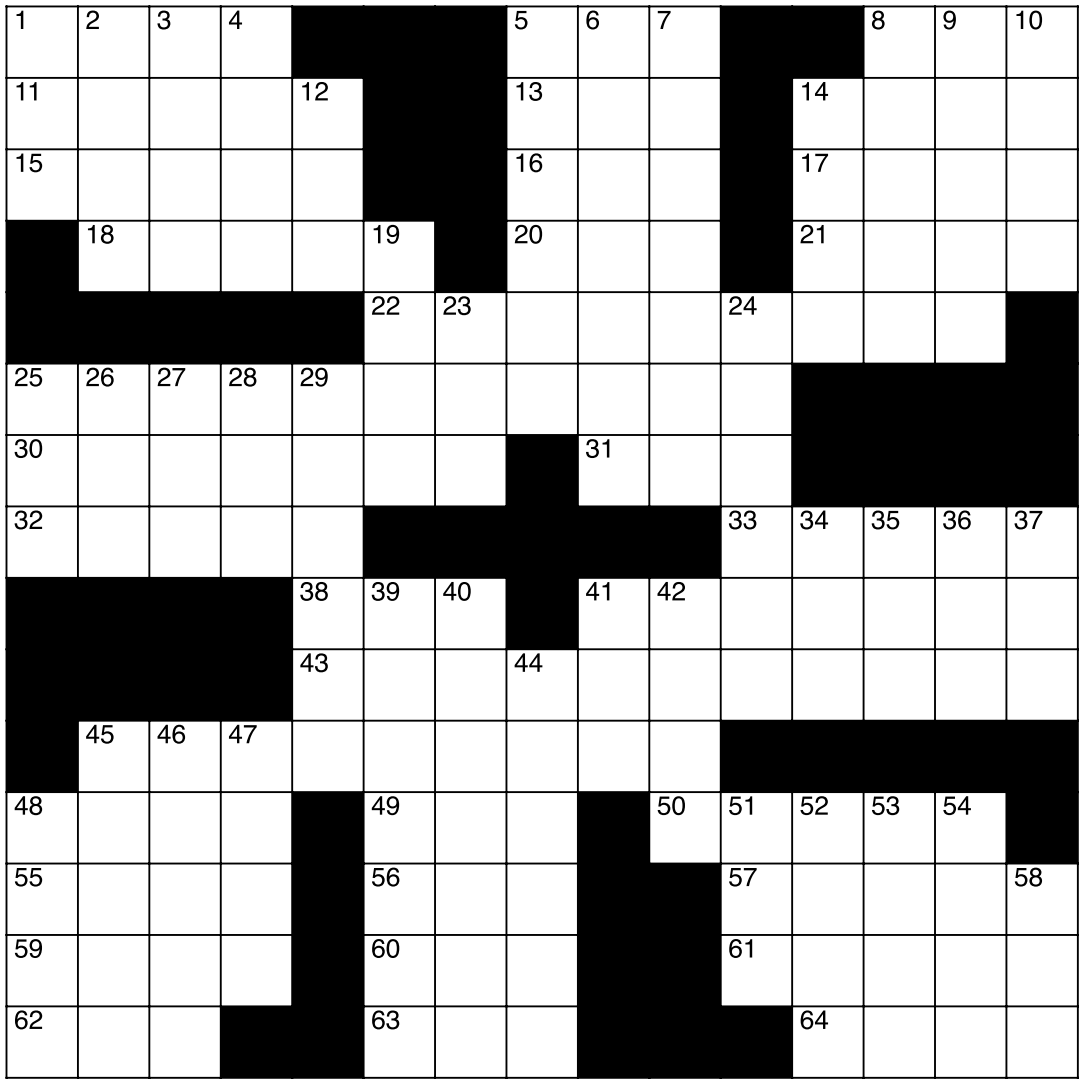
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Insect feeler
5. Central processing unit
8. Part of (abbr.)
11. Typical
13. Tall, rounded vase
14. __ Alto, California city
15. Lustrous, velvet-like fabric
16. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
17. Hebrew calendar month
18. British surgeon who discovered bone disease
20. Agreement between debtor and creditor (abbr.)
21. Elongated part of anatomical structure
22. Acts slowly on
25. Keeps a little too safe
30. Greek seaport
31. "Baba O'Riley" rockers
32. Vision
33. Potassium nitrate in mineral form
38. Midway between northeast and east
41. Not a pro
43. Give a new look
45. Sensational
48. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
49. Annoy constantly
50. Vaccine developer
55. Lying down
56. Type of language (abbr.)
57. Flat-bottomed boat
59. Smallest or slightest
60. Bind
61. Speeds
62. The products of human creativity
63. Consume food
64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

1. A young canine
2. As fast as can be done
3. Soviet moon probes
4. Sharp spasm of pain
5. One who adheres to a specific art movement
6. Show parts of
7. Unfasten
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Santa
10. Rocky peaks
12. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
14. A written agreement between two sides
19. Beginning to end (abbr.)
23. Greek goddess of the dawn
24. Not written in any key
25. Organized missions
26. Seven
27. Work unit
28. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
29. Broadway legend Bernadette
34. Belonging to a thing
35. Vietnamese offensive
36. Bitterly regret
37. Make a mistake
39. Newborn child
40. A combined landmass
41. Satisfaction
42. Hilly peninsulas in Denmark
44. Young swine
45. Type of sword
46. Siskel's partner
47. Brood of pheasants
48. Hindu model of ideal man
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. La __ tar pits
53. Unstressed-stressed metrical foot
54. California wine country
58. Badly



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Could Blizzard be the missing piece of your family? Meet this lovely girl by contacting our Stratford Centre or online at kwsphumane.ca/adopt/small-animals

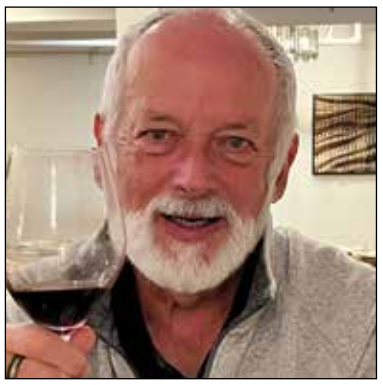


Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 27

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The amazing food of Italy's Calabria



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Columnist



A light afternoon snack: antipasto in Siderno, Calabria. (PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The first hint we had that this trip was going to be something special came on our first full day in Calabria. Calabria is the "toe of the boot" region of Italy. We had checked into the Grand Hotel President in Siderno, our home for the duration of our visit to this unique destination. All the elements of our stay, from guided tours to food to anything else we might possibly need, was provided by a local, family-owned company, "La Diano Viaggi," under contract to Senior Discovery Tours.

That first day, one of the principals of the local company, Massimo Diano, was leading us on an orientation tour of our temporary hometown. We walked the streets, visited the waterfront (Siderno is located on the Ionian Sea) and then were invited into a waterfront restaurant where a long table, laden with all kinds of food, awaited us.

This was neither lunch nor dinner, by the way, simply a gigantic, mid-day snack, or antipasto. I learned that in Italy, antipasto means just such a spread – meats, cheeses, pastries, olives, bruschetta, roasted veggies and more. Canadian antipasto is entirely different – a blended spread that goes on crackers. The Italians know nothing of this.

The groaning table of tasty treats was our introduction to the incredible culinary experiences we were going to enjoy over the next two weeks.

If you don't like food and wine, don't go to Calabria because amazing, unique tastes are unavoidable here.

For instance, our hosts took us to a restaurant called Vincenzo Fotia, L'Artigiano della Pizza – the pizza artisan. Vincenzo was there to greet us even though he spends a lot of time away from his restaurant because this is the man who teaches other Italian chefs how to make pizza! He's also the leader of a national pizza team.

But on that evening he was our host along with his son, Matteo, who performed a neat pizza spinning act prior to our dinner of pizza. That would be pizza, plural; we were presented with five different, unique pizzas following an initial pizza appetizer. The absolutely delicious pizzas included one described as "roasted aubergine cream base, mozzarella, grilled vegetables (aubergines and courgettes), basil," and another you can only find in Calabria – "margherita base with Callipo tuna and Tropea onions." You run into Tropea onions on every menu in Calabria; these super-sweet onions are grown only in Tropea, on the west coast of Calabria.

So not surprisingly, when we visited Tropea and its neighbouring town of Pizzo, we were again served an utterly delicious pizza laden with Tropea onions and ham. But of course, this being Calabria, it didn't stop there. We were again provided with five different pizzas – this was only lunch, by the way – starting with margherita pizza, then ham and mushroom, then the Tropea specialty, then onions, zucchini and eggplant, and finally 'nduja. 'Nduja is a spicy, spreadable pork sausage that you can find only in Calabria – yet another of the unique tastes here.

Before we left Pizzo, we ascended the stairs at a small eatery to be served tartuffo, a dessert originating in Pizzo. It's a gelato with a chocolate or fruit centre, covered in an outer coating of chocolate or cocoa powder and other fixings. Yum!

One of our day trips took us on a farm tour. Barone G.R. Macri is an ambitious enterprise that started as an olive farm, but the owners added a dairy operation (cattle, sheep and goats), developed a cheese-making operation and then opened an inn.

The highlight of our visit was watching cheesemaker Mimmo Condelli make a unique cheese called caciocavallio. We then tasted that cheese along with honey, orange marmalade, bread and, of course, local wine. Always local wine. Love and dedication are key ingredients of everything we tasted in Calabria. At the farm, we learned that Mimmo Condelli has been making caciocavallio cheese since he was four years old, taught in the unique art by his mother.

The taste adventure continued day by day. We visited Mount Etna, where we were served an enormous buffet of local foods in a restaurant that has been built on the lava flow that covered the previous restaurant!

As we spent time in the towns of Sicily and western Calabria – separated only by the narrow Straits of Messina – we had the opportunity to sample one of the local delicacies, swordfish. We were served swordfish in two forms – as swordfish ravioli and as stuffed swordfish. This was fish fresh-caught by the unique fishing boats that ply the straits.

These culinary experiences are just the tip of the tartuffo. We dined in a butcher shop/restaurant, "La cantina del Macellaio," where the entire meal was meat. We were invited into the kitchen of our hotel, the Grand Hotel President, where, supervised by the genial executive chef, we made our own dinner – eggplant wrapped in chicken. It was a rowdy and ultimately delicious event. We had pasta that was made by hand moments before we ate it.

There are a lot of words I could use to describe Calabria. One of them is "delicious."

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



Vincenzo (left) and Matteo Fotia – pizza chefs supreme!



Handmade fresh pasta, produced minutes before serving.

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire stratfordtimes@gmail.com

CROKINOLE
Men's and Ladies' Crokinole is held every Tuesday at the Agriplex in the Ritsma Room from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bring your fingers and cues! For more information, contact Oliver at 519-508-5664.

STRATFORD SCRABBLE CLUB
Anne Hathawy Residence 480 Downie St., Stratford
Meets every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. for 3 games. Check our website for further details stratfordscrabble.ca

STRATFORD ASTRONOMY GROUP MEETINGS
St. Michael Catholic Secondary School, 240 Oakdale Avenue, Stratford Rear parking lot off Matilda. Room # l104 - 1st Tuesday of each month from
September to June. 7-9 p.m.
We are night sky enthusiasts. Everyone is welcome to attend. See our website at https://stratfordastronomy.com/ or call 519-275-4472 for more information

STEPS FOR SUPPORT
Every Tuesday morning.
Stratford Location
This walking group is an opportunity for people who are grieving to connect while walking alongside others who are bereaved. Contact Jaclyn at sw@rotaryhospice.ca to learn more and register. This is a free program.
Hosted by Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth www.rotaryhospice.ca

PROBUS CLUB OF STRATFORD
Army Navy & Air Force Veterans Unit 261
151 Lorne Ave E, Stratford, ON N5A 2N9
Probus provides Fellowship, Friendship, and Fun for all men and women in their retirement and semi-retirement years.
We meet the 2nd Wednesday - September until June from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Website https://www.probusclubstratford.com/
Email probusclubstratford@gmail.com

CAREGIVER CONNECTION
2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month at 1-2:30 p.m.
Arden Park Hotel
Caregiver Connection is a group for caregivers supporting someone with a life-limiting illness or decline due to aging. Learn about community resources, caregiver tools, and talk with others on a similar journey. All caregivers welcome whether you're a spouse, family member, friend, etc. supporting someone from near or far. Contact 226-921-7314 or referrals@rotaryhospice.ca to register. Free program.
Hosted by Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth - www.rotaryhospice.ca

YOUTH AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
Hosted by Youth Unlimited YFC Stratford
Mondays, 3:00-4:45 p.m., September 14/26-June 21/27
382 Britannia Street, Stratford
Free drop-in for students aged 11-18. Join us for snacks, board games, video games, and connection! Questions? www.yfcstratford.com info@yfcstratford.com 519-272-1614

GRIEFSHARE
Stratford Christian Reformed Church, 190 Athone Crescent (parking on the upper level)
September 14 - December 14
Monday 1:00-2:30pm
When a loved one dies, it can feel like you're alone. Few people understand how painful & isolating your grief can be. At GriefShare, you'll find a safe, comforting place where you can talk with others about your grief. Contact: griefstratfordcrcgroup2627@gmail.com
Register: griefshare.org/findagroup

YOUTH LUNCH PERIOD PROGRAM
Hosted by Youth Unlimited YFC Stratford
Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., September 30/26-June 16/27
382 Britannia Street, Stratford
Free drop-in for high school students. Join us for snacks, games, connection (and occasional pizza parties!).
Questions? www.yfcstratford.com info@yfcstratford.com 519-272-1614

PURE HEART PROGRAM
Hosted by Youth Unlimited YFC Stratford
Wednesdays, 3:00-4:30 p.m., September 30/26-June 16/27
382 Britannia Street, Stratford
Free art program for students aged 11-18. Join us for discussions, guest artists, art instruction, and more! Questions? www.yfcstratford.com info@yfcstratford.com 519-272-1614

LEARN2SHINE PERFORMANCE CLUB [L2S]
Monthly on Sundays, 2-4 p.m.
Griffith Auditorium, Woodland Towers.
Monthly on Sundays, 2-4pm. Next meeting Nov22 at Infinity Dance, 451 Erie St. Suitable for everyone in the family aged 7 and up. A chance to sing, dance, say lines. Registration $20+HST/hour, with 15% discount if registering 3 or more. www.mckinnamanagement.com/l2s

MISTLETOE MARKET
Saturday November 28; 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
41 Mornington Street, Stratford
All things Christmas! Baking, savouries, tourtieres and home-made crafts just in time for Christmas giving. Be sure to visit our Snowflake Cafe and enjoy tasty treats as our guest.

THE LONDON ORCHID SOCIETY
meets the third Sunday of each month.
Richards Memorial Church, 360 Edgeworth Avenue, London, ON N5W 5C4
Join us December 20, 2026, 2 to 4 pm for Dr. Albert Mok from London, ON his presentation is Orchid Shows that he has visited. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting for more information at www.londonorchidsociety.com; contact Daryl at 519-666-2927.

STRATFORD MEDICAL DEPOT
Christmas Closure December 22nd & 29th.

STRATFORD LEGION FRIDAY NIGHT EUCHRE
Royal Canadian Legion, 804 Ontario St.
2027 winter play dates are set. You hope you find a teammate and register for any or all four dates, Jan. 22, Feb. 19, Mar. 12, and Apr. 23. Only $20 per team of 2. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Doors open at 6 pm and play starts at 6:30 pm. Call Anne, (519-301-0194) Dave, (519-703-6544) or the Legion office, (519-271-4540) to register.

STRATFORD TIMES

Deadline: Tuesday prior at 3 p.m.
Contact: stratfordtimes@gmail.com

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- **If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, you have the following options:**
  - **Coming Events Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - $10 + hst**
  - **Coming Events Boxed Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - $15 + hst**
  - **Display Ad - Sizes begin at a classified business card size for $35 + hst**

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OBITUARY



MURRAY, ANN

Ann Murray, age 84, of Stratford, passed away peacefully at London Victoria Hospital on Monday, November 16, 2026.

Born in Halifax, England, Ann was the daughter of the late Harold and Jessie Holroyd. Ann will rest with her recently deceased husband of 63 years, George. She is survived by her beloved children Stephen (Karen), Alan (Sue), and Christine, and her grandchildren Jennica, Brooklyn, Brenner, Hayley, and Tyler. Ann is also survived by her brother Philip Holroyd (Diane)and nieces Samantha and Victoria who are all in England.

Ann and George were married in England in 1963 and immigrated to Canada in 1966. They settled in Stratford, where they made their home and raised their three children.

Ann loved to knit and crochet. She always had time to teach others her craft and her work was generously given to local friends and projects. Ann supported her children's activities and she enjoyed her time watching and volunteering at Stratford Minor Hockey and other events.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date, to be determined.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 8 Poppy Fund may be made through the W.G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron Street, Stratford, 519-271-7411, www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com.

The family would like to express their appreciation for your love and support throughout the years.



OBITUARY



LARRY DOUGLAS CULLING

Larry Douglas Culling, age 83, of St. Marys and formerly of Stratford, passed away peacefully at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on November 20, 2026. Born in Brantford, son of the late Robert and Irene Culling.

Beloved husband for 60 years of Elaine (Tanner). Loving father to Kimberley Melville (Todd) and Anissa Coulthard (Rob). Grandfather to Jelene and Corbin Melville. Brother to Barb Whaley, Wayne Culling (Cheryl), sister Sharon Henry (George) and brother-in-law to Charlene Culling, Craig Genereaux, Ed Tanner, Sharon Reeve (Al) and Allan Tanner (Agnes). Lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by brothers Bob Culling, Jim Culling (Joan), Warren Culling, Mark Culling, sister Sheila Genereaux, brother-in-law Greg Whaley and an extra special aunt Doris Iezzi (Jimmy).

Larry was the first of nine children. He left high school early when he was not allowed to take only shop courses but still managed to accomplish so much in his 83 years regardless. He earned several licences – AZ Drivers; Millwright; 2 crane; gas licence & motorcycle are among some of them. While in Brantford, he started his own business "Culling Maintenance & Millwrighting Ltd" mainly servicing feed mills & farming operations with his mobile shop. His first job at 17 years of age was to work at the Magic Carpet in the Crystal Beach Amusement Park which he says was his most favourite job ever. He later found stock car racing to be a great sport & had his own built up by a friend. In 1964 he met Elaine, and in May 2026, they celebrated 60 years of marriage. Over the years, they enjoyed snowmobiling, boating, travelling in their motor home, along with fishing and woodworking. He also had a brief side-job of flocking or as we called it, fuzzing! He always had a passion on the go that he committed his whole heart to. After retiring, Larry also found another love, motorcycling, which he enjoyed for many years and remained as 2nd Officer in the CMC motorcycle club even after giving up his motorcycle. He was always eager to learn new things, chatted with everyone he met and could tell you the best directions or restaurant along the way and never hesitated to lend a hand when needed. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend and will be remembered and missed by all.

A family interment will take place at Avondale Cemetery. Friends and relatives are invited to a celebration of Larrys' life on Thursday, November 26, 2026 from 2-4 p.m. at the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Hall, 151 Lorne Avenue, East, Stratford. In lieu of flowers, donations in Larrys' name may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the charity of one's choice. www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com

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	P	A	G	E	T		I	V	A		C	R	U	S
				H	E	S	I	T	A	T	E	S		
O	V	E	R	P	R	O	T	E	C	T				
P	I	R	A	E	U	S		W	H	O				
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				E	N	E		A	M	A	T	E	U	R
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	S	E	N	S	O	R	I	A	L					
R	A	B	I		N	A	G		S	A	B	I	N	
A	B	E	D		A	S	L			P	R	A	A	M
M	E	R	E		T	I	E			T	E	M	P	I
A	R	T			E	A	T			A	B	A	S	

SUDOKU

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A hen
2. The Hunt for Red October
3. Staff (stave)
4. Tetanus
5. Green
6. Sean Connery
7. Blue
8. 1981
9. Ra
10. Gregor Mendel

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