

STRATFORD *TIMES*

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Rea running for Stratford mayor to give citizens a chance

AMANDA NELSON

Times Reporter

Andrew Rea is running for mayor of Stratford to give citizens a chance, he says. A chance to no longer feel brushed off, unheard or unsupported.

"I don't think I'm alone in the belief that our locals have been deprived of proper municipal accountability, transparency and relatability from their appointed public servants," he said. "The road to the acquisition of these important aspects cannot be paved by anyone whose aspiration may include seeking a workplace promotion, or some potentially self-serving opportunity to further a personal interest or business agenda."

Rea regularly attends council meetings and follows local issues closely, and he believes Stratford residents should not be treated like numbers or statistics, but rather as diverse individuals who share local values.

"This role is largely about making choices, which should never be done according to one's own partisan values, but rather always in the best interests of our citizens," said Rea. "I refuse to see people as numbers or statistics, because I know firsthand what it's like to be seen that way, along with the negative effects of being governed by those with virtually no skin in the game."

Affordability, health-care access, aging infrastructure, growth, sustainability and municipal governance are at the forefront of Rea's mind, and he says he plans

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

Victoria and Bennett Rutkowski cheering on their furry friend Winston during the Paws on the Run, Walk or Wag race on Aug. 26. For more on the inaugural event, see our story on page 6.

Second Stratford Filipino Festival bigger than first year

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

The second annual Stratford Filipino Festival had a variety of food, performers and lots of joy.

The Filipino-Canadian Community in Perth-Huron (FCC in PH) held the celebration of culture and community in Upper Queens Park on Aug. 29. Attendees ate Filipino foods like pancit, qwek qwek, barbeque chicken, pork and hotdog skewers, and halo-halo from a variety of southwestern Ontario vendors like Lola Liza Foods,

London Asian Foods, Salu Salo and Stratford's Dancing Lion Bubble Tea and Island Kravings. Guests also enjoyed performances by Tinkling Dance Group, Le Pinoy Band, JAD Band, Andrii and Alex, DJ Lakai, Pantomania Dance Group, Hot Mamas Dance Group and the Grace San Andres Duo.

"We just really wanted people to come and turn up and they did and it really fills my heart and I know it fills the rest of the Filipino-Canadian community ... who has really put their heads together to make this positive so

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SKIP THE DISHES

Rea running for Stratford mayor to give citizens a chance

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

to address ongoing issues by holding officials accountable.

"I plan on holding everyone who was fortunate enough to be gifted the privilege and entrusted with the position of being a public servant accountable for their decisions, including most of all, myself, if it comes to be," he said. "The mayor has a duty to ensure that the best interests of the populace within the city they are overseeing are always placed first and foremost, even and especially before their own."

Rea says he believes a mayor should represent everyone through the ability and willingness to challenge flawed systems, understand the value of effective reform and not rely on social status to create credible leadership.

"The role of mayor should be to ensure results," he said. "Not the promise of results; not results that come after a second, third or even fourth term of political tenure, but proactive, effective results that the majority of our municipality can get behind."

The mayoral candidate is fully self-funded and says he doesn't believe in taking

other people's money to help fund his campaign. He believes any funding from citizens should instead be reallocated to local charities.

"I don't believe in overspending other people's money, or my own, when times are tough enough, and I don't think you need to have an overtly expensive campaign budget in order to get your message across to people," said Rea. "This is the 21st century, and we live in the digital age – it is possible to be both modern and frugal."

The 37-year-old says he understands he's much younger than others running this fall, but he believes he is up for the challenge and knows he can be the voice of the community.

"All I am is a person who has only been trying to make my way living in this city that means so much to me, just like everyone else," said Rea. "I was reluctant to actually run for office, given how different that would make my daily life, but I'm still taking the chance that's come along, in order to do something meaningful, and to make a brighter future here, for my daughter, and everyone else."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Mayoral candidate Andrew Rea is running for mayor of Stratford in the 2026 municipal election.

Residents can email Rea directly at best-

mayorever2026@gmail.com, or through direct message on his Facebook page.

Second Stratford Filipino Festival bigger than first year

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

we're so happy we're so grateful for the support," said Meryl Ochoa, FCC in PH officer. "We keep seeing our Filipino community grow and it's really not just us Filipinos but the people that have become friends and family to us and they're part of our community, so it's really important for us to have an anchor of celebrating our culture, the things that we miss from back home – I say in quotes but obviously they're available to us here. It's also nice to make these relationships with all these wonderful vendors so even for just one day of the year in Stratford for us to come together and have fun and celebrate."

Compared to the first Stratford Filipino Festival held in 2025, the second annual festival was held at a larger



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

Rock on! Andrii and Alex entertained the crowd of the Stratford Filipino Festival by shredding on the electric guitar and performed "Master of Puppets" by Metallica during their set.

green space than the Falstaff Secondary School grounds and had more performers.

"That was another success being able to connect with all these talented people and they're super willing to come to Stratford, some of them are from places like London

and Guelph I believe, Woodstock, and so it's been really such a pleasure to host them and some of them for the first time are coming to Stratford so it's nice to be able to welcome them and have them see Stratford," Ochoa said.

The festival also had a yard sale, with proceeds supporting FCC in PH programming such as the annual Filipino Festival, and karaoke.

For more information online, visit the Filipino-Canadian Community in Perth-Huron Instagram and Facebook pages.

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Bob Downham named 2026 Business Leader of the Year

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

The board of directors of the Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Bob Downham is the 2026 Business Leader Award recipient.

For more than six decades, Bob has exemplified what it means to be a business leader. Through vision, innovation, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to his employees, customers and community, he has built a business that has earned the respect of the agricultural industry and the community it serves. His leadership has not only grown a successful multi-generational company but has also created lasting economic and social benefits throughout southwestern Ontario.

Bob continued to build the family business, established in 1961 by his father Cecil, into a leading regional equipment dealership serving southwestern Ontario. He successfully expanded through the addition of major brands including Kubota and Kärcher and the acquisition of multiple dealerships, continuing to diversify the business during the economic challenges of the 1980s, ensuring long-term stability and growth. With new demands from customers, Bob adapted to industry change by creating new business opportunities and investing in innovative customer service, including mobile service operations.

Mark Downham, Bob's son, now operates the family business, D&S Downham Equipment Ltd., showcasing a success-

ful transition of the business to the next generation while maintaining continued growth.

Bob invested in apprenticeships, mentorship, leadership development and provided meaningful co-op placements for high school students, encouraging careers in skilled trades and agriculture. He also created opportunities for women to advance into leadership positions within the organization.

Bob has been a long-time supporter of agricultural fairs, 4-H, trade shows, home and garden shows and the International Plowing Match. All of which are integral for the rural community and its economy. He also served on numerous community and industry boards and organizations (Children's Aid Society, Ontario Retail Farm Equipment Dealers Association, Iron Solutions, Connect Equipment) and supported Stratford General Hospital and many local charitable initiatives.

During the pandemic he created a community garden, donating produce to a local food bank. Bob also took the time to be a volunteer coach for minor baseball and hockey, a role that is a large time commitment and in great need.

Bob has more than 60 years of business leadership built on integrity, innovation and service. The Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce is delighted to have Bob be the

Business Leader of the Year Award and the guest speaker at the 30th Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala on Nov. 5 at

the Tom Patterson Theatre. The evening will celebrate local business leaders who have made an exceptional impact in Stratford and the surrounding area.

The Business Leader of the Year is selected through a three-step secret ballot

process by the Chamber board of directors. After nominations are put forth and a curated list is created, the board conducts multiple rounds of secret ballots until a clear winner is determined.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The new 15,000-square-foot L'Arche Stratford facility at 426 Britannia St. is right on schedule. The \$16,000 raised at the recent fundraising golf tournament in August will go towards the build, supported by the \$6.5 million Be Belong Become capital campaign.

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Stratford Chefs School and Kiwanis Garlic Festival join forces for a fragrant union

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

The team behind the Kiwanis Garlic Festival is thrilled to partner with the Stratford Chefs School to discover the versatile applications of garlic in the culinary arts through demonstrations and educational sessions.

Is it an herb? A spice? Technically, it is a vegetable; an edible bulb made up of cloves that belongs to the *Allium* genus which includes onions, leeks and chives. That's a fun fact to take with you to the annual Garlic Festival Sept. 12 and 13 where vendors of garlic growers and chefs will immerse the pungent bulb in ways one may not have imagined.

"We wanted to make it more about food with a vendor marketplace, a celebration of garlic and food of all kinds and community," said Heather Herman of the Kiwanis Club Garlic Festival committee.

The popular pairings that have been held in the past have been replaced with free tickets for samples available at vendor booths and paid tickets for alcoholic samples.

The Stratford Chefs School is known for the high calibre talent developed and the Festival City has been lucky that many graduates stay in town. Chef Eli Silverthorne, chef instructor of the Stratford Chefs School (and a graduate himself), will be present to educate and demonstrate the uses of garlic and to serve up fresh food for guests.

"We wanted there to be a little bit of excitement when you come through the door so now when you come in you will hear Eli Silverthorne, he's from the Chefs



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The annual Kiwanis Garlic Festival returns to Stratford Sept. 12 and 13.

School, cooking and explaining what he's doing, and there will be other presentations going on by chefs who mostly have gone through the Chefs School. We just wanted to expand the focus and thought what better way than partnering with that organization. It's a great collaboration and we are very enthusiastic about it," said Herman.

There will be presentations from the likes of Chef Amanda Traynor-Propper, a 2024 graduate, who will share her gastronomic journey at the Local Community Food Centre where she connects professional cooking with community food education and local food advocacy

in Stratford.

Chef Andrew Mavor of the Avocado at Stratford District Secondary School is known for his unusual gastronomic style and will be presenting new ideas constantly in development as teacher of Culinary Arts at the high school.

A special guest that may not have attended the Chefs School but is very much a presenter is Stratford's poet laureate David Stones who, as a poet, is an accomplished public speaker and a true foodie, providing the perfect combination of storytelling, garlic, food and poetry.

Chef Ryan O'Donnell is often seen front of house as co-own-

er and director of operations for Mercer Kitchen + Beer Hall as well as Foster's Inn. He has worked and studied in Canada, Spain, Australia, France, England and the United States. His presentation will bring a few of his expert foodie hacks to learn from one of the best around.

Chef Christopher Giannakopoulos of Pizza Bistro will be sharing his knowledge in "Infusions: Stories of Greek Oil and Ontario Garlic." His presentation will include tips on using Greek extra virgin olive oil, Mediterranean herbs, garlic and its role in Greek cuisine.

There is also more to garlic than cooking so there will be presentations on growing garlic by the popular Bob Romaniuk, of Brant County Garlic Company, the team at Tuscan Holistic will teach about the health benefits and taste pleasures of black garlic, foraging with Peter Blush from Pucks Plenty Foraging and a cooking demonstration by nutritionist Theresa Albert as she entertains while preparing "Marry Me Chicken."

"We're so lucky to have the Chefs School here in Stratford and we hope this raises their profile more locally, even though they are renown internationally. It's exciting. There will be a silent auction too so come and eat, shop and enjoy," said Herman.

This fundraising event raises money for the Kiwanis Club which then extends into the community. This exciting group of chefs will come together for two days at the Rotary Complex, Sept. 12 and 13. General admission is \$10, a two-day pass is \$15 and children 12 and under are free.

Queer Book of the Month: *Ophelia After All*

SYDNEY BOYLE

Stratford Perth Pride

Queer Book of the month: Ophelia After All: by Raquel Marie

A teen girl navigates friendship, drama, the end of school and discovering her queerness. All this is sorted through in Raquel Marie's debut YA novel *Ophelia After All*.

Marie beautifully created a realistic high school experience and depicted how a love-sick teenager acts. Her main character Ophelia Rojas is that realistic teenager; she loves her friends, Cuban food, gardening and a long, endless stream of crushes on different boys. When she loses the idea of a perfect prom with her now



ex-boyfriend, she isn't thinking about it as much as she thought she would. In fact, she barely is at all, too busy thinking more and more about the cute, quiet girl named Talia Sanchez. While navigating Ophelia's changing sexual identity, Marie keeps a realistic portrayal of what it's like to discover you no longer fit the image of yourself that you once thought of. Along with the support of Talia – who has figured out her own bisexuality, Ophelia's life trajectory is shaken to its very core, and only Ophelia can piece it back together again and make a new version of her future.

If you are interested in reading *Ophelia After All*, it is available at the Stratford Public Library.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. Who plays the piano in Charlie Brown?
2. What is the birthstone for September?
3. How many equinoxes are there in a year?
4. What's the name for the science of growing apples?
5. What does AKA mean?
6. What dog breed was traditionally kept by monks in the Swiss Alps to find lost travelers?
7. How many members does the South Korean band BTS have?
8. What are baby goats called?
9. What ball has 32 panels?
10. A pantheon is a temple dedicated to who?

This week's answers are found on pg. 19

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WWW.STRATFORDTIMES.COM

First annual Paws on the Run, Walk or Wag brings out lots of smiles

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Dogs and their owners ran around a circuit as part of a fundraiser to help other families and their pets.

Paws on Patrol held the inaugural Paws on the Run, Walk or Wag fundraiser on Aug. 26 at the track of the former Stratford Intermediate School building. The event, sponsored by PetSmart and Boss Co. Dog Training and Boarding, had dogs and their parents participate in a 5K race or a leisurely stroll around the track.

PetSmart gave away toys, treats and bandanas for dogs, as well as prizes for the top three winners of the race.

"For the turnout that we got, I'm just really happy that people are enjoying their time and we get to support the Pet Pantry Drive through all of their participation and it seems like everyone's enjoying the running and racing right now," said Tyler Jouwsma, founder of Paws on Patrol.

Paws on the Run, Walk or Wag raised money for the Paws on Patrol Pet Pantry Drive, which ensures pets and their fam-

ilies in need get food, equipment and everything needed to ensure pets can stay at home.

"The Pet Pantry Drive is a huge and important initiative in the city of Stratford for us because we have noticed and seen across the board a lot of families that are struggling with just the basic necessities for themselves and their pets," Jouwsma said. "So, the pantry program we have is really good to support those families to be able to keep the pets at home, off the streets, out of the shelters and even with us delivering it right to their home, it's really convenient for them so they don't have to struggle to even go somewhere to get that food."

Jouwsma hopes the future races will grow and bring in more racers.

"For our first event, I was really happy with any turnout that comes and as long as everyone has fun before the rain comes in, I'm happy," he said.

More information about the Paws on Patrol Pet Pantry Drive can be found online by visiting <https://paws-on-patrol-stratford.square.site/petpantrydrive>.



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

Tim Rutkowski and his dog Winston, the first-place finishers, dashing around the route for Paws on the Run, Walk, or Wag on Aug. 25.

Terry Fox annual Marathon of Hope is Sept. 20 beginning in Upper Queens Park

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

On July 20, 1980, Terry Fox passed through Perth County and was greeted by an enormous crowd at the corner of Ontario and Erie Streets. This year, on Sept. 20, the Marathon of Hope continues as people will gather in his name to run and raise funds for cancer research.

Rena Spevak, who has organised the run in Stratford for over 25 years, began the management project because she couldn't imagine the Festival City without the Terry Fox Run. Now she is stepping back and is happy to know that this important event will continue in the hands of volunteer Carolyn Campbell.

"Carolyn is really keen to get involved. We've been working together this year. I wouldn't just walk away and will hang around until she gets her feet on the ground. It will take a while to get up to speed, but she comes with all kinds of new ideas. She has all this enthusiasm and I'm very excited to work with her," said Spevak.

The very first Stratford Terry Fox Marathon of Hope was in 1986. Forty-one runs later, an astounding \$430,960 has

been raised by schools and the community for cancer research. As an annual event in more than 650 communities across Canada and more across the world, billions have been raised to discover treatments leading to cures.

Registration has been open since April and can be done online at run.terryfox.ca/129666 as well as the day of the run. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. in Upper Queens Park with an opening ceremony at 9 a.m. featuring a welcome from dignitaries, face painting and a warmup provided by Meghan Seaman of On-Stage Dance Co.

"We will have the opening ceremony at 9 a.m. and Mayor Martin Ritsma is going to come and make some opening remarks, and MPP Mathew Rae is going to give some remarks. There will be face painters, all the things to make it a fun event," said Spevak.

No matter where it is raised, how much is raised, or when it was raised, 100 per cent of the funds raised go to Terry Fox Research Institute. Running on the day, though, brings comradery, a common goal and mission. The route is wheelchair accessible opening the event to everyone.



(CAROLYN CAMPBELL PHOTO)

Rena Spevak, organizer of the Stratford Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, will welcome registrants beginning 8:30 a.m. in Upper Queens Park on Sept. 20.

This event will appeal to the altruistic, anyone on their own journey or has been touched by someone else's path to regaining health. There are over 200 types of cancer identified so the need is ongoing,

despite the many exciting discoveries being made.

The Stratford Terry Fox Run will end at 1 p.m.

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Fung Loy Kok Taoist Tai Chi open house shares the ancient art

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

There were many curious onlookers passing by the library last week as members of the Stratford branch of Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism demonstrated the ancient art in the garden. On Sept. 12 and 14 they will be holding open houses at 670 Ontario St., where those interested can come and learn more about Taoist Tai Chi arts and the many benefits practicing can bring.

Tai Chi is often called moving meditation. Taoist Tai Chi practice is comprised of 108 moves developed by a Taoist monk, Master Moy Lin Shin, and is practiced worldwide. It is the path used to find better health physically, mentally and spiritually.

"When you come into this building and are practicing with others, your mind takes a break from the world and you focus purely on where you are, what you're doing and how it feels" said Grant Dillman, branch president.

With practice and guided by accredited

instructors, many people find that tai chi, as taught by Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism, has strengthened their minds and bodies, improved balance and relieved pain, stress and anxiety.

The first open house is Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10:30 followed by two on Sept. 14 at 10 a.m., then another at 7 p.m. The presentation will commence with a brief introduction and history about the volunteer run charitable organization and the practice of Taoist Tai Chi arts.

It is an opportunity to try it and questions can be asked and answered. Guests will be given an opportunity to watch and try some of the moves.

After giving Taoist Tai Chi arts a try, visitors will be given the opportunity to register for the introductory classes which will commence Saturday, Sept. 19 and Monday, Sept. 21.

Taoist Tai Chi arts grew from the Taoist tradition, which teaches that health comes when the body, mind and spirit are one. Working on all aspects of the person, this moving meditation reduces stress and helps us find energy, balance and joy.



(LISA CHESTER PHOTO)

Curious members of the public gave Tai Chi a try in the beautiful setting of the Stratford Public Library gardens.

Gene's Family Restaurant receives outpouring of support after being listed for sale

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Gene's Family Restaurant's loyal customers are hoping to get their favourite dishes one last time before the restaurant is sold.

In an Aug. 18 Facebook post, Ken Gene, owner of Gene's Family Restaurant, announced that the restaurant is up for sale online. Nearly a week later, on Aug. 25, Gene announced via social media that the restaurant needed to replenish their inventory and ran out of food, including egg rolls and their Korean shrimp, plus nearly out of chicken balls and other inventory. The team took Aug. 26 off to catch up.

Gene said the original announcement of the restaurant being up for sale reached more than 120,000 views on social media and brought up lots of emotions and memories.

"Stratford's only like 30,000 so it's just been pretty overwhelming on the support front from the community saying how much we've been part of the community," he said. "People call on the phone and they're emotional on the phone. People have come in and they're doing their last meal at Gene's type of thing. I've been talking to the customers and people are crying. It's unbelievable seeing how much the restaurant has impacted their family and it's kind of mind-boggling at this point."

He added that the restaurant was preparing for business as usual and that the response was unexpected.

"Wednesday and Thursday are usually just kind of okay



(KEN GENE PHOTO)

Ken Gene, owner of Gene's Family Restaurant, is touched by the outpouring of support from customers after announcing the restaurant's been listed for sale.

days but they're like weekend days. We were packed. Every day has been kind of busy right now," Gene said.

Customers are even making holiday plans by placing

takeout orders at Gene's Restaurant for Christmas and New Year's.

"Christmas Eve is one of our busiest days and people are panicking that they might not get their Christmas Eve orders this year and our first Christmas Eve order came in July and now in the last week we've probably taken another 10 or more Christmas Eve orders and now we've got a New Year's Eve order," Gene said. "I don't know if we're still around then. I would like to finish off doing Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and then we'll end it down but it all depends on what happens with the sale."

Gene's Family Restaurant, which offers a variety of Chinese and Canadian dishes, has been a household name in Stratford for 56 years after Larry and Rae Gene, Ken's parents, immigrated from China and started Gene's in 1970 at 38 Erie St. The restaurant moved to its current location on 81 Ontario St. in 1985 and Ken took over in 2004.

"I'm really thankful for the support of the community," he said. "We've been here for 56 years. Just the loyalty of our customers. Haven't seen in a lot of people for a long time and they're starting to come in just basically saying their goodbyes, their last times in the restaurant. That's pretty touching for me and the Gene family thanks Stratford and our customers for the support through all these years."

Gene's Family Restaurant is open from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. from Wednesday to Saturday, and 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

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Commemorating 25th anniversary of 9/11 with free screening of documentary

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

The award-winning documentary, *You Are Here: A Come From Away Story* returns to Stratford for a free screening on Sept. 11 at 4 and 7 p.m. in the city hall auditorium. The film documents the impact the event of the attacks on New York had on small town Newfoundland.

When the attacks occurred, all U.S. bound air travel was grounded and saw nearly 7,000 stranded passengers land in Gander, Nfld., population close to 10,000. This event was an emergency of such proportions that the world stopped, and the people of Gander stepped up to welcome these plane people that have come from away by opening their homes without hesitation to share their food and culture.

“Sept. 11 will always be a day of profound loss, but the story of Gander reminds us that even in terrible circumstances, people have a choice about how they respond. Thousands of confused and frightened strangers arrived without warning or any idea of what would happen to them, and communities across central Newfoundland stepped forward to feed them, shelter them and make them feel safe. They didn’t make speeches about kindness, they simply practiced it,” said Stratford Film Festival (SFF) executive director Megan Smith-Harris.

The film had been previously screened during two sold out shows last April with director Moze Mossanen in attendance for a live Q-and-A. He will return in a pre-recorded Q-and-A session, as well as retired Gander school teacher who was among the many residents that stepped forward to assist the stranded travellers,

and Nick and Diane Marson, who met and fell in love in Gander then later married. This community event commemorating the anniversary is brought for the return screenings courtesy of the City of Stratford and SFF.

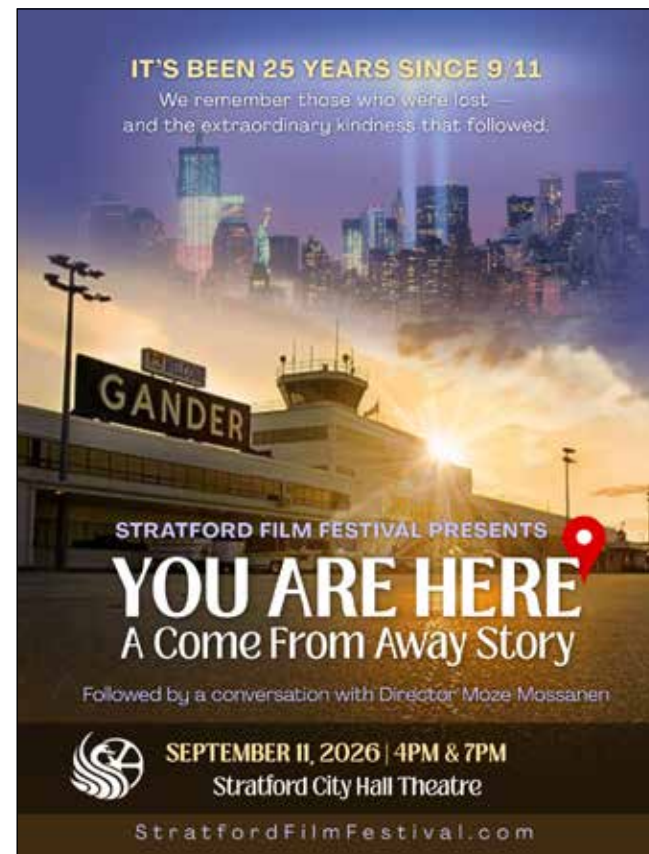
“I think after being so impressed by the reception here, it’s really great to have this iconic Canadian story again, which is not the flipside of 9/11, but it was the pulse of humanity even with all the tragedy that was going on,” said SFF general manager Bill Harris.

Harris, who was in New York for 9/11, worked in an office half a block from the United Nations headquarters in Midtown Manhattan, considered a prime target. On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, he was headed into midtown Manhattan to his job as senior vice-president of production and broadcast operations for A&E Networks.

“Like millions of people, I remember that morning with extraordinary clarity,” said Harris. “Twenty-five years later, I still think about the shock and uncertainty of that day and the weeks and months that followed. You Are Here gives us an opportunity to remember what happened, but through a story that also reminds us of the extraordinary humanity of good, decent, kind Canadians.”

You Are Here: A Come From Away Story was released in 2018 and won two Canadian Screen Awards, including Best Documentary Program. Through first-hand accounts and archival footage, the 84-minute film captures both the enormity of what happened in Gander and the deeply personal relationships that developed during those extraordinary five days.

While the screenings may be free, it is highly recommended that reservations be made in advance at stratfordfilmfestival.com



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A generation has passed since this important event changed the world. The award-winning documentary shares the story of compassion and humanity found in small town Gander, Nfld. during extreme uncertainty.

Stratford Festival review: *The King James Bible Play* mirrors the enduring weight of language, past and present

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

When it comes to writing something down and preserving a message for generations to come, language matters.

And when that message forms part of the most-read book in history, the Christian Bible, language matters even more.

In director Nina Lee Aquino’s production of playwright Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman’s *The King James Bible Play*, audiences are given a look at how the politics, lives and interpersonal relationships of the men (and their wives) who translated the King James Bible in the early 17th century continues to have influence on how we interpret the religious text and the world around us today.

The play is divided into two distinct parts that mirror each other in both the characters’ actions and the language they use to speak with one another.

In the first act, scholar Sir Henry Savile (Cyrus Lane) leads a team of fellow scholars and spiritual leaders representing the major branches of Christianity present in England in the early 17th century – John Bois (Gray Powell), George Abbot (Rylan Wilkie) and John Perrin (Michael Spencer-Davis) – along with Savile’s son, Willie (Steven Hao), serving as scribe, as they work slowly and methodically to translate a new version of the Bible, as ordered by King James I of England.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

From left: Cyrus Lane as Sir Henry Savile and Deborah Hay as Martie, *The King James Bible Play*. Stratford Festival 2026.

Though the original intent of the new biblical translation was meant to relieve tensions between the various Christian sects in England at the time by publishing a new version of the Bible free of political and religious bias, it becomes clear the men of the Second Oxford Company, as they were called, were equally as susceptible to the influences of their time, be it pressure from the king to avoid describing royalty as tyrants and to finish the translation quickly, or the translators’ petty squabbles and heartfelt discussions over events of the day and problems at home.

Set in Savile’s magnificent, 17th-century library with floor-to-ceiling bookcases broken only by a large, full-height window, as well as candles and a table at which the men do their work – however much work they

actually get done – the first half of the play brings some much-needed humour to what would otherwise be dry and dreary work as each of the translators butt heads over specific words and how they could be interpreted by future generations.

In part two, the audience is brought to the modern-day set for a brand-new play inspired by the translation of the King James Bible. The library looks almost the same as it did in the first part, only the bookcases open to allow the actors to enter and depart the stage and there are modern-day tables, chairs, a laptop, a cellphone and a desk phone scattered about as members of the Broken Mirror Theatre Company refine and rehearse a new play by the company’s stressed-out leader, director and playwright, Martie (Deborah Hay).

As Martie tweaks and re-tweaks her play in the days and hours before opening night, unsatisfied with each version and under the pressure of the theatre company’s board of directors to make a profit, she and her daughter, a former actor and current biblical scholar named Han (Vivien Endicott-Douglas), battle over how to interpret both the linguistic changes and intentions of the men who translated the King James Bible so long ago.

While Han and her fellow actors – Anna (Angel Lo), Cath (Sara Topham) and Roni (Liz Der) – bring their own experiences and worldviews into their performances as Savile, Bois, Perrin, Abbot and Willie, as well as their wives who, no doubt, had influence on their husbands as they translated the text, history repeats itself, so to speak, and that enduring power of language and the written word echoes across the centuries.

While both parts of this play are equal parts humorous and heartfelt on their own, the cast and crew do a marvelous job stitching the two vastly separate periods in time together through the relationships between father and son and mother and daughter, how the translators and actors speak with one another, the outside influences that come to bear, and how the translators’ work and influence is depicted onstage alongside the actors of the Broken Mirror Theatre Company in the play’s second part.

The King James Bible Play runs at the Studio Theatre until Sept. 26.

SEPTEMBER IS WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Changing the Narrative on Suicide

AgWo working to prevent suicide in farming communities

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

For farmers, the pressures of work and home are often impossible to separate.

Weather, commodity prices, livestock health and finances can all weigh heavily on a farm family, while long hours and geographic isolation can make it difficult to connect with others or seek help when those pressures become overwhelming.

Agriculture Wellness Ontario (AgWO) is working to change that by providing mental-health education, counselling and community support designed specifically for Ontario's agricultural community.

"Our programs and services are not only ag-informed, they've been co-constructed with actual farmers and industry partners to ensure that we're actually providing mental-health education and support that is accessible, relevant and applicable to those who we are aiming to serve," said Avery Dixon, program outreach coordinator for AgWO's Guardian Network.

Dixon said research shows farmers are twice as likely as the general, non-farming

population to experience suicidal thoughts or die by suicide. At the same time, stigma can prevent people from acknowledging they are struggling or asking for help.

According to Dixon, the 2021 National Survey of Farmer Mental Health out of the University of Guelph found 40 per cent of Canadian farmers and producers would not be comfortable seeking professional help, largely because of concerns about judgement from others.

"I think there's often this perception in farming that your worth as a person is tied to the productivity of your farm," Dixon said. "So, it's a really vulnerable thing to say to someone, 'Hey, I'm not doing well. I'm struggling to keep up with chores, I'm struggling financially, I'm going through family difficulties,' whatever that situation might be."

Instead of inviting others in, Dixon said farmers may keep those struggles to themselves, compounding feelings of isolation and burdensomeness.

Through the Guardian Network, AgWO is attempting to build supports directly into agricultural communities. More than 500

Guardians have been trained across Ontario through a full-day, farmer-focused suicide-prevention program.

Those volunteers learn to recognize signs someone may be struggling, start difficult conversations and encourage that person to seek professional support, becoming a bridge between a farmer and professional support, such as AgWO's Farmer Wellness Initiative, which provides farmers, farm workers and their families – including international agricultural workers living in Ontario – with free, unlimited counselling 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Counselling is available in English, French and Spanish by phone, virtually and, when available, in person. The professionals providing the service receive specialized training to understand the pressures and realities of agriculture.

That means a farmer doesn't necessarily have to sacrifice several hours during a busy planting or harvest season to travel to and from an appointment.

"It's about meeting farmers where they're at," Dixon said. "Most farmers don't have that potentially up to two hours a day to

drive to an appointment, attend the appointment and drive back. So, calling from your tractor can make all the difference in the world for some people."

AgWO also offers education through In the Know, a four-hour mental-health literacy workshop developed specifically for agriculture, and shorter Growth Workshops covering subjects including mental health and agriculture, preparing for uncertainty and navigating stress.

While those programs can give farmers tools to look after their own mental health, Dixon said education can also prepare neighbours, friends, relatives and other members of agricultural communities to recognize when somebody else needs support. Sometimes that support can be as simple as checking in or stopping by to lend a hand with chores.

For AgWO, breaking down stigma means making conversations about mental health as acceptable in agriculture as conversations about weather, crops, livestock or equipment.

For more information, visit <https://agriculturewellnessontario.ca/>.

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COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 9	Ladies' Cold Salad Plate Luncheon, \$18 per person. Call Mary Helen 519-273-3789 for tickets.
Friday, Sept 11	Friday Night Euchre, \$20 per team, doors open at 6, play starts at 6:30 p.m. Reservation ONLY, call Anne 519-301-9014, Dave 519-703-6544 or the Legion 519-271-4540
Sunday, Sept 13	Chicken Parmesan Dinner – take out 4:30 p.m., dine in 5 p.m., \$30 per person (tax included). Call Frank 519-271-9669, Pearl 519-305-2757 or the Legion 519-271-4540
Friday, Sept 18	Veteran's Dinner, Ham and Scalloped Potatoes, 6 p.m. dine in only, VETERANS ONLY. For tickets call Frank 519-271-9669, Steve 519-305-1125 or the Legion
Saturday, Sept 19	Toronto Argonauts vs Edmonton Elks, BMO Field 3 p.m. kick off, bus leaves Cooper Lot 12 p.m. \$105 pp, call Dean 519-273-4463.
Thursday, Sept 24	Oktoberfest Sausage, Kraut and Fries. Service starts at 6 p.m. NO reservations needed

Tuesday Morning Buddy Check, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. OPEN to all Veterans

Widows and First Responders

Saturday Afternoon Meat Draw doors open at 2:00 p.m., meat draw starts at 4:00 p.m.

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

Police remind public of e-scooter rules

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

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The Stratford Police Service is reminding the public that electric kick-scooters are prohibited in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South.

In November 2019, the Ontario Government introduced a regulation under the Highway Traffic Act regarding a pilot project to evaluate the use and operation of electric kick-scooters, often referred to as e-scooters.

E-scooters are defined as a vehicle that has two wheels, with one being at the front and the other at the back of a platform that is designed to stand upon; a steering handlebar that controls the front, steerable

wheel and an electric motor not exceeding 500 watts that provides a maximum speed of 24 kilometres per hour.

Within the regulation, the Ontario Government prohibits the use of e-scooters on all highways, sidewalks, trails, paths or walkways in a public park unless the municipality governing those areas creates a bylaw permitting the use of them.

At this time, the City of Stratford, the Town of St Marys and the Township of Perth South have not, making them prohibited to use in area communities.

Police felt it important to make community members aware of this prohibition as they have seen an increased use of them within their communities.

Albert Street house fire under investigation

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

The Stratford Police Service is currently investigating a fire at a residence on Albert Street.

Emergency services were contacted in the early morning hours of Sunday, Aug. 30 after an individual passing by observed an active fire inside the residence.

The Stratford Fire Department attended

the scene and were eventually able to get the fire under control. There was nobody inside the residence at the time of the fire and there are no injuries to report.

At this time the cause of the fire is unknown and remains under investigation.

Police are asking for anyone with information regarding this fire, as well as anyone with video surveillance within the area, to contact them at 519-271-4141, ext. 2, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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FRIEND OF YOUTH SINCE 1976

Blyth musical asks timely questions this election year

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The world of municipal politics may not seem like a natural fit for a musical, though for David Scott and Gil Garratt it fit like a glove.

Scott and Garratt, the artistic director for the Blyth Festival, teamed up to write *The Last Mayor of Rusty* for this year's festival, a "thrilling, hilarious, toe-tapping production" staged entirely in the council chambers of the fictional town of Rusty River, a town not dissimilar to many in the region.

"The core of the story is the incumbent mayor, Mayor Larry Fletcher has been the mayor of the town for eight consecutive terms," Garratt explained. "He's been in public office for 35 years, and essentially the whole town at this point runs according to his every whim. It's his own personal fiefdom at this point. ... There's two young millennial councillors, Tim and Tina, and they've been elected to council, and they're ready to make change, to be the change they want to see in the world, and they've arrived wide-eyed and ready to go. And we meet them right at the end of their first term, and they are utterly disillusioned."

"It finally reaches a fever pitch where Tim decides, you know what? If all that politics is 'you scratch my back, I scratch yours,' then I have the perfect candidate for mayor, and that is my cat, Captain Whiskers. And it turns out that Captain Whiskers is over the age of 18 and a local resident, and there's nothing on the books that says he has to be a human."

The Last Mayor of Rusty River is inspired in large part from co-writer Scott's



(ALEX FRANKLIN PHOTO)

Performers in *The Last Mayor of Rusty River* pose around Captain Whiskers on the lectern. Staged during an election year, the Blyth Festival production is inviting audience members to think about local politics – but laugh while they do it.

time in municipal government. Scott is himself the "last mayor of Seaforth," serving as its mayor for a number of years before it was amalgamated with other regional municipalities to form Huron East in 2001.

"David came to me and what he wanted to do was write a comedy about his time at council and what it meant to be sitting in these council meetings and either the utterly consequential or the utterly banal things that would go on at the table, and to capture some of that repartee and fun."

From the fictional world of Rusty River David created, he and Garratt worked to-

gether to structure the story for the stage, bringing in local singer-songwriter John Powers to write original songs for the musical. As Garratt said, the show has some incredible songs with the actors themselves playing the instruments and singing.

While having a lot of fun with the concept and creating a funny, entertaining show, Garratt shared the musical is also dealing with some important issues that won't be foreign for audience members – from housing and increased homelessness in rural areas to private water-taking and underground aquifers.

"We've had an amazing reaction to the

show too," Garratt said. "Audiences have been pouring out; they're on their feet every night. And we also had this amazing experience. Our very first preview, we had actually sold the show entirely, (and it was) an annual event we have here called Municipal Night, where we invite councillors and staff from all the different municipalities in our region. We actually had 27 different municipalities represented in the theatre that night, and we had councillors and mayors and senior staff, junior staff, and they just brought the house down. It was an amazing thing."

Staged during an election year, Garratt said that was part happy coincidence and careful strategy, as they wanted to have audience members get more engaged with municipal issues, the issues that affect people day in, day out, more than any other issues.

That strategy has worked for them. Garratt shared that show after show, Blyth Memorial Hall fills shoulder to shoulder with audiences laughing their way through council chambers, but also has them leaving wanting to get involved. Audience members have told him the show has pushed them to attend their first council meeting or start real conversations about local issues with their neighbours.

"Even though I know there is this struggle for public engagement in politics, I don't think we're living really in an apathetic age," Garratt said. "In a way, we've kind of been drawn into this politics as performance, right? Where we are watching it all unfold on our phones, and if there's a way to actually get people, real live people in a real live room, thinking about this, to me, there's something really exciting that's possible."

Author Rod Carley returns to Stratford for book signing, *The Great Catsby* by Hilton

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

Rod Carley was on hand at Fanfare Books for a book signing of his latest release, *The Great Catsby* by Hilton. The award-winning author and former Stratford Festival associate director returned to Stratford to spend the beautiful afternoon greeting fans and signing books at a table in front of the store.

It all started with adopting a tabby kitten in January of 2020 from the All-Heart Pet Rescue in Powassan, Ont. The kitten named Hilton soon became part of a household that, when the pandemic hit, became very quiet and still.

"He was a cat that got used to being in a very quiet household with nothing going on around him. So it was perfect for an imagination. I would read to Hilton, and he came alive with that. I read to him some excerpts from *The Great Gatsby* and he really took to that," explained Carley.

The copyright for *The Great Gatsby* has expired and is the public domain leaving Hilton to wonder, "Can I catify it and do what I want?" So he set about creating

a home, Mew York, and writing a parody set in the 1920s which was released over social media. When Nick Cattaway moves in next cat-door, Jay Catsby's only a whisker away from winning back his beloved Daisy, the beautiful Persian he lost to arrogant Tom Cat Burmese two lives earlier. This gave people a great laugh during a difficult time and readers kept asking Hilton when he would be releasing a book.

"Publishing a book was never the intent but enough readers reached out so I talked to Hilton and he said, 'Okay, I'm serious about this. So he went on and he finished catifying the book, then he said to me that he wanted an illustrator, so I helped him find an illustrator; the wonderful Juliette Miron from the Quebec Eastern Townships,'" said Carley.

There are 20 illustrations by Miron in the novella bringing the characters to life in the jazz era. "Hilton would give me suggestions, because I learned to speak Tabby in university, so after reviewing many illustrators Juliette was just so clear that she was the one. It was a joy," said Carley. Each chapter has a full-page illustration

encompassing an aspect of the text.

As the book tour continues, each independent bookstore is donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale to cat rescue shelters in their region. Fanfare Books, which carries *The Great Catsby* by Hilton, is donating \$4 from the sale of each

book to Feline Friends Network.

This comedic creation is suitable for anyone who is a cat lover, a fan of Fitzgerald or just needs a good laugh in one of their nine lives. It is available at Fanfare Books, Indigo, Amazon and other booksellers.



(LISA CHESTER PHOTO)

Canadian actor Booth Savage was catified when he stopped by Rod Carley's table in front of Fanfare Books on Ontario Street last Saturday.

STRATFORD *TIMES* SPORTS

15U Nationals wrap up season at ICBA Tournament

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

The 2026 season of the Stratford 15U Nationals came to an end with a quarter-final loss to the Waterloo Tigers 2 at the Inter County Baseball Association (ICBA) 15U Tournament at Lions Park in Kitchener.

In the first round on Aug. 21, the Nationals faced the Guelph Plawiuk Royals. Both teams traded four runs each through the first three innings. After a scoreless fourth inning, the Royals took their fourth lead of the game in the fifth.

But the Nationals staged a rally in the bottom of the seventh and final inning. After Jackson Goebel, Blake Mogk and Will Molenhuis reached bases, Carter Cook came through with the clutch hitting with the sacrifice fly to bring in Goebel from third to tie the game. The next batter, Dexter Powell, singled on a groundball to drive in Mogk for the winning run.

Starting pitcher Reid Musselman allowed two earned runs in three innings, while Mogk gutted through four innings of one-hit ball to give the Nationals the opportunity to win. Powell led the Nationals offensively with two hits and two RBIs.

Coach Rick Boon discussed the game and the team's future plans for the tournament with the Times.

"A lot of our pitchers worked through some difficult times. They got themselves into a couple of jams. I left them for a little bit longer, and they were able to kind of



Stratford's Landen McCann hits an RBI double against the Guelph Plawiuk Royals at the ICBA Tournament at Kitchener Lions Park on Aug. 21.

work through it. And we got through those innings really well. Some clutch hitting by Carter Cook," Boon said.

"I mean, he put the ball in play to the right side to score our first run. Hit a line drive to centre field for another one, and then he had another fly ball to score the tying run. So Carter really made a difference. He threw two outers from behind the plate. He was the best player we had on the field today, and he dragged a few others

along to make it a better day."

With a second-round bye, the Nationals faced the ICBA's top-ranked Waterloo Tigers on the morning of Aug. 22.

The game was tightly contested through three innings, but the Tigers proved their mettle with a five-run fourth inning en route to an 8-0 Stratford loss. Cook continued his strong tournament play with two of the team's four total hits in the game.

Following the loss, Stratford's tournament and season were hanging in the balance with the late-afternoon matchup with the Waterloo Tigers 2.

Stratford opened the scoring with a Jake Price RBI single in the first inning. Waterloo responded in the third inning with four runs of their own, taking a 4-1 lead through three innings. The Nationals came back to within a run after Molenhuis' RBI double and also scored on the passed ball.

The Nationals had Cook and Cole Morris in scoring position with the opportunity to tie and take the lead, but Powell struck out to end the inning.

Minutes later at the top of the sixth inning, the game was paused for half an hour due to inclement weather but was eventually called off for the remainder of the day after a long downpour. The game didn't resume until the evening of Aug. 25, when it and the remaining portion of the tournament resumed.

Stratford was unable to hold off the Tigers, allowing two in the sixth and four in the final inning, losing 10-4.

Molenhuis led the team with two hits, with an RBI and a run scored, while Price and James Antonio provided the other RBIs for Stratford.

The season, which featured great performances and gutsy tournament showings, highlighted by the Stratford Minor Baseball Association (SMBA) Tournament win, ended with an overall record of 25-14.



(MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY PHOTO)

Reid Musselman of the Stratford 15U Nationals pitches while first baseman James Antonio looks on against the Guelph Plawiuk Royals at the ICBA Tournament at Kitchener Lions Park on Aug. 21.

Stratford Irish pauses operations for 2026-27 season

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

On Aug. 28, the Stratford Irish announced that the team will not be playing in the Northern Premier Hockey League (NPHL) this upcoming season.

As part of the official statement made on social media, the Irish said the following:

"After a great deal of thought, ownership has decided to take a hiatus for the 2026-27 season and use this time to properly evaluate what comes next. This isn't goodbye. Far from it. It's an

opportunity to reset, create and build something that reflects our vision for the future of senior hockey in Stratford.

"Our sights are already set on 2027-28, and we can't wait to be back playing at Allman Arena and in the NPHL. To our players, sponsors, fans and everyone who has continued to stand behind us, thank you for your incredible support."

Prior to joining the NPHL for the 2025-26 season, the franchise competed in the Ontario Super Hockey League, winning two OSHL Championships in 2022-23 and 2024-25.



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Warriors continue preparations for season, defeat St. Marys and Woodstock in preseason action

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

Training camp for the Stratford Hunter Steel Warriors resumed last week at the Stratford Rotary Complex as the 2026-2027 regular season draws closer.

Director of hockey operations and general manager Nick Parr spoke to the Times about the team's expectations for the upcoming season, noting the challenge of the Western Conference.

"I think the goal in mind is the same as always. We want to be competitive. I would like to see us in the top four in the west, and that's going to be a feat in itself," Parr said.

"The west will be strong again, with St. Marys, Chatham, London, St. Thomas and Strathroy all going to be competitive. I think it'll be a grind from one to 12. So if we can put ourselves in the top half, that would be a really good start."

Parr was pleased with the team's performance out of training camp as they aimed to finish in the top four.

"I see a lot of really good things out of the group. Obviously, it's a veteran group, so with so many returning guys, I think we have 12 returning guys. Maybe they already have the basics and structure, and know the brand will play. So we're able to build. We're a little further ahead than other years, and then the pieces we've added, I think, complement what's here," Parr said.

"I feel like we're in a good spot. I wouldn't

really use the scores as much of a measuring stick. I just watch the things we are doing in camp. I think we're better, with a lot of really good habits there, but there's still lots to work on, and always room for improvement as we head into the regular season."

Declan McCotter arrived at camp mid-week after attending training camp with the Flint Firebirds of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL).

Coming off a strong season with the U16 Huron-Perth Lakers, McCotter liked the experience of attending OHL camp, and emphasized the need to adapt with his decisions and puck-handling as part of the transition from U16 to Junior B.

"It was good. Great competition. Everybody was nice, very professional. Couldn't have asked for anything better, McCotter said. "I just gotta be smart out here because everybody's big and strong in Junior B, and just need to be smart with the puck and my decisions out there."

Grady Murphy enjoyed a productive summer participating in the Stratford Summer Leagues and golf, and he is enthusiastic about beginning the new season. He plans to replicate last year's strong finish with equal expectations for the season ahead.

"It's been good. I've been on the ice quite a bit, doing some summer hockey, working lots of golf, so it's been fun," Murphy said. "Coming as hard as we went out last year. That's my expectation. I want to start off as strong as possible. Start off as strong as possible."

Hudson Leenders, who joins from the U18

Elgin-Middlesex Canucks, feels welcomed by the team at the beginning of training camp. He states that his main goal this season is to support the team in making a strong playoff run by leveraging the players' collective strength. Leenders also aspires to be a smart, diligent forward who uses his speed to contribute and plays efficiently all over the ice.

"It's a great organization to be a part of, and camp's been fun. The guys are really welcoming, and we're two and zero with the preseason game, so it's going well. I just want to go deep into the playoffs with the team. We got a good group of guys, and I think we can make a real push," Leenders said.

"They can expect a smart player, a 200-foot forward, who will battle in all areas of the ice and just make plays all over the ice and play with speed."

Stratford continued their unbeaten run in the preseason with road wins over the St. Marys Lincolns and Woodstock Navy Vets this past week.

On Aug. 28, the Warriors surrendered the opening goal less than a minute into the first period, but put on an offensive display. Goals from Gibson Grendel, Leenders, Joshua Lawrence and Colin Slattery put the Warriors in a commanding 4-1 lead through 20 minutes.

Murphy from Marshall and Francesco Sanita at 4:42 of the second period put the Warriors ahead 5-1 before the Lincolns responded at 7:14. Colten Brenzil and McQuen Haylock padded the Warriors' lead before the end of the middle frame.

St. Marys scored 36 seconds into the third period to close the Stratford lead to 7-3, but the Warriors closed out the game with four answered in a span of seven minutes and 28 seconds, courtesy of Murphy's second of the game, Will Coward, Aaron Green and McCotter.

Henry Clarke got the start and picked up the win, making 10 saves out of 12 shots in over 28 minutes of play. Gage Hurst came to the game at the 8:28 mark and stopped five out of six Lincolns shots on goal in relief.

In Woodstock on Aug. 30, the Navy Vets opened the scoring at 8:56. Coen Galbraith from Marshall replied for the Warriors with 4:15 left, but Woodstock responded before the end of the opening frame to take the lead heading into the second period.

Goals from Slattery and Murphy in a span of 11 seconds with over five minutes left in the middle frame put Stratford in front, but Woodstock retook the lead 34 seconds later.

Stratford scored with three goals in the first 10 minutes of the third period, with Brenzil, Grendel and Chase Martin scoring for the Warriors. Woodstock closed the Stratford lead to two with 6:13 left, but goals from Marshall and Luke Minard late in the period sealed the win for the Warriors.

Hurst got the start for the Warriors and made 14 saves in the win. Marshall and Ethan Bridges led the Warriors with three points.

The Warriors wrap up their training camp this coming week and finish their exhibition play at the Rotary Complex on Sept. 4 against the St. Marys Lincolns at 7:30 p.m.

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U18, U16 Lakers gear up for the season

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

On Aug. 25 at the Stratford Rotary Complex, the U18 Lakers began their preparations for the 2026-2027 season.

Veteran of over 1,500 games coached, U18 Lakers head coach Chad Smalley says the team's focus is to develop and compete for a top-three spot by season's end.

"Yeah, the season is going to start here in September. The expectation is that our main goal is to develop the players and make sure they move them forward to Junior B, and, you know, obviously, a second-year player, Junior C for sure. But

we'd want the second-year player back if possible. But that's our main goal: to finish in the top three and develop the players. That's the 100 per cent goal," Smalley said.

The U18 Lakers will hold practices throughout September and play their only preseason game in Kitchener on Sept. 27. They will then begin their season in Toronto at the Toronto Titans Early Bird tournament, scheduled from Oct. 1-4. The Lakers then open ALLIANCE regular season play in Sarnia on Oct. 11, followed by the Ottawa Senators U18 AAA Showcase in Ottawa from Oct. 15 through Oct. 18.

On Aug. 31, the U16 Lakers gathered for

their first practice at the Rotary Complex.

Greg Swan is in his first year as the U16 bench boss and is excited about the opportunity and the support he has received from his staff. Swan expects the team to be competitive in the Alliance League and aims for an OHL Cup berth.

"Yeah, it's definitely a privilege to be named the U16 head coach with the Huron Perth Lakers. You know, it's a great opportunity. Had a really good staff around me, and I'm really looking forward to it," Swan said.

"I think it's a completely different team and different structure that we got here. But we made some changes as a staff that we really like, and I think we're definitely

going to be competing in the alliance and much improved from the way they were last year at the 2011 group, and we do have some high expectations, and we expect to be pushing for an OHL Cup berth."

The U16 Lakers will play two exhibition games against the Kitchener Jr. Rangers on Sep. 12 in Kitchener, and on home ice at the Rotary Complex on Sept. 26. The Lakers begin their season with the Toronto Titans Early Bird Tournament from Oct. 1 through Oct. 4, followed by the Wendy Dufton Tournament in London from Oct. 8 through Oct. 11. Their ALLIANCE regular season play begins at the Rotary Complex against Waterloo Wolves on Oct. 16.

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Stratford Strikers Weekly Recap: U16 Girls cement first place, U16 Boys finish strong in final home game, U15 Girls advance to Nothers Cup Finals

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

Four days after qualifying for the Nothers U16 Girls Youth Cup Finals, the Stratford U16 Girls Strikers also clinched the South-west District Soccer League (SWDSL) U16 Girls League title by defeating Oriental SC 3-1 on Aug. 25 at Stratford VFG Financial Field at Festival Hydro Community Park.

Avery Bruinsma, Arabelle Garland and Linley Porter scored for the Strikers in the win.

Following the match, head coach Ashley Vito was very proud of the team winning the league.

"It feels great. I am so proud of them. At our last game, we officially celebrated winning the league because nobody could catch us, and it was a really proud, very successful feeling. We've worked really hard for the last two years to almost have an undefeated season, and we're one game away from only one loss this season. I'm very proud of them," Vito said.

With the regular season winding down next week, Vito says the team will prepare

for the Nothers Cup Final against the winner of the Sept. 9 semifinal matchup between Puslinch Predators and Oriental SC.

"We don't know who we're competing against yet. It could be Oriental SC or Puslinch, and the strategy is different for both teams. We play a little different. Either of them, we're excited to see. It would be fun to see Puslinch again, since that's who we played last year," Vito said.

"The strategy is to come out like we have all season, show up and really show out, and if we play as we have in our best games, I see no problems."

Stratford plays their final game of the regular season, hosting FEDS United at Cowan Field on Sept. 3 (after press time), before the Nothers Cup Final at the Gryphon Soccer Complex West Field in Guelph on Sept. 19.

The U16 Strikers Boys finished their home schedule of the regular season with a 6-1 win over FEDS United at VFG Financial Field on Aug. 25.

Head coach Sean Brooks reflects on a season filled with mixed results and on overcoming injuries that affected the ros-

ter's morale throughout the campaign.

"I think overall we've had a pretty good season. I'm pretty happy with the effort a lot of the boys have put in throughout the season. Towards the latter half here, we've kind of been very inconsistent, and one of the biggest barriers that we've been facing is just injury problems right now. We have four guys who aren't here tonight, all because they have various injuries," Brooks said.

"So it's pretty difficult to put together a good run of games and win when we're missing a lot of our key players due to injury. But I think overall, we've beaten some very good teams, and we've lost to some not-so-good teams. So we're a little bit all over the place. But overall, I'm happy with the improvement and growth from a lot of the players, and we've had some really big results."

Looking ahead to the final two games, Brooks emphasizes the importance of enjoying the games and maintaining a competitive spirit.

"I think the focus for the next couple of games is just to have fun with it. I mean,

we're going to finish in the middle of the table. It's not like we're competing for the top spots. You know, all the boys are very competitive."

"They're going into our last two games wanting to win, but our messaging is going to be: go out there, do what we know you can do, and just have fun with it and enjoy it. And hopefully, that attitude and that mindset will get us the results that we want."

The U16 Boys Strikers conclude their season at Waterloo RIM Park versus the RED Academy on Sept. 1.

At the SERC Tennis Field on Aug. 28, the U15 Girls Strikers punched their ticket to the Nothers Youth Cup Finals with the 5-1 win over Kitchener TFC U14/15.

Kitchener struck first before the break in the first half, but Stratford responded with two goals before halftime en route to the win. Ava Langis, Elena Hogger, Danica Voros and Jessica Blake scored for Stratford.

Post-match, with the Nothers Youth Cup Final appearance secured, U15 Strikers

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Stratford Strikers Weekly Recap: U16 Girls cement first place, U16 Boys finish strong in final home game, U15 Girls advance to Nothers Cup Finals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

head coach Scott Herman talked about the performance and outlined the focus for the final stretch of the season.

"That's our goal: to come out and have a good season, compete and try and bring

home the league title and the Nothers Cup Championship," Herman said.

"We're gonna keep going the way we're going. Work hard. Work on ball movement, the talking aspects of the game, and playing as a team, and continue to finish

strong."

Reese Campbell, who played with the U15 and U16 squads this season, emphasizes the significance of her team advancing to the Nothers Cup final and describes her teammates as family. Campbell also feels fortunate to have played for both her team and the U16 team during the season, appreciating the welcoming environment.

"It means a lot. These girls are basically like family to me, so it's basically like moving on as a family. It's really nice,"

Campbell said. "It's a really great opportunity for me. I'm really grateful that they called me up and that they welcomed me with open arms. It feels really nice."

Stratford wrapped up their regular season play with Kitchener TFC at RBJ Schlegel Park in Kitchener on Aug. 31,

Led by goals from Peyton Ward and Danica Voros, and a clean sheet from goal-keeper Grace Elliott, the Strikers conclude their regular season undefeated with a 2-0 win over Kitchener TFC.



(MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY PHOTO)

Stratford's Ruby Munford (15) battles for possession against Kitchener TFC in the U15 Girls Nothers Youth Cup Semifinal at SERC Tennis Field on Aug. 28.



(MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY PHOTO)

Arabelle Garland of the Stratford U16 Strikers executes a corner kick against Oriental SC at Stratford VFG Financial Field on Aug. 25.

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Hall, Haigh win SCC Club Championship

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

Rylan Hall shot a two-day total of 138 to win the men's title at the Stratford Country Club's (SCC) Club Championship Aug. 18-19, while Gloria Haigh won the women's trophy with a combined score of 166.

Haigh posted a score of 84 on the first day of the tournament, entering day two with a one-shot lead. Haigh then shot an 82 to pull further ahead and claim the ladies' title.

Hall's outstanding two days of golf saw him open with a 70 scorecard on the first day, which he then followed by a best-of-the-weekend round of 68 to finish four under par and win the men's side of the

Club Championship by five shots.

Hall described the tournament win as especially significant to him due to his lifelong connection to the SCC.

"It's always felt like a home to me," said Hall. "I've been playing there since I was eight years old. I grew up in Stratford and lived right across the street from the golf course, so it's always been my home. I've created lots of relationships there with people there, and now, for me to grow up and come back home and play that course, it's really nice. Everyone has been so kind to me and followed my journey along the way, so it definitely means a lot (to win the Club Championship). It's just really nice to just have that community. It feels like a family over there."

According to Hall, he felt comfortable

heading into the tournament thanks to his familiarity with the Stratford course.

"I've played (at the SCC) so many times; I could probably play that course blindfolded," admitted Hall. "I didn't get to play last year because I had to leave for school a little bit earlier and they had the tournament a week earlier. I feel like I just know the course so well, and I knew if I just went out there and tried my best, I would be able to put myself in a good spot to win."

Hall added a more relaxed environment than his university golf experiences helped him find success, including with a big eagle on hole 14.

"I would say coming from playing college golf, all the events are really big, and the stress levels are really high, and play-

ing in (the SCC Club Championship), it was just a lot of fun. I was trying to have fun out there, and I also had one of my close buddies, Carter (Petrie), on the bag caddy for me, which was a cool moment for both of us.

"I would say a shot that sticks out to me was hole 14. It's a par-four. I had 94 yards in on my second shot and holed out for an eagle. I had a nice little drive down the middle, then pulled my 60-degree, hit it 10 feet past the hole, and it spun back and went in. I was playing with Patrick Holloway and Riley Matheson, two good guys I played with growing up, and they actually both played university golf in Canada, and all the guys in our group were pretty fired up for me. It was a cool moment for sure."



(STRATFORD COUNTRY CLUB PHOTO)

Gloria Haigh, pictured, won the ladies' title at the Aug. 18-19 Club Championship hosted at the Stratford Country Club.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured from left to right are Carter Petrie and Rylan Hall. Hall won the men's title in the Stratford Country Club's (SCC) Club Championship Aug. 18-19, with his close friend Petrie accompanying him on the course.

Here For Now Theatre review: *Suzannah* is an exploration of a grief-addled mind as past and present converge

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Here For Now Theatre's final play of its 2026 summer season, *Suzannah*, is a journey into the mind of a woman losing her grasp on the present as she processes the grief she feels following the loss of her husband and attempts to reconcile the complicated feelings she has and had for the man.

In this Canadian premiere production of playwright Jon Fosse's play, as translated by May-Brit Akerholt and directed by Peter Hinton-Davis, the present-day Suzannah – the Old Suzannah (Rosemary Dunsmore) – is lost in her own mind following the death of her husband, renowned writer Henrik Ibsen.

She speaks with Ibsen as though he is still in the room in which he worked for most of their lives together and wonders when both he and their son, Sigurd, will join her for her birthday dinner. At first, just as Suzannah seems to float between the realizations of her present and the memories of her past, the audience isn't entirely sure who the old woman on stage is speaking with and whether they are alive or dead, real or imagined.

Though she continually comes back to the present, as if to remind herself Ibsen is no longer present in the home



(ANN BAGGLEY PHOTO)

Maev Beaty, Rosemary Dunsmore and Brianna Rodrigues in Here For Now Theatre's 2026 production of *Suzannah*.

they shared and she has a duty to do away with his clothes and other personal possessions, she is carried back to the

past by waves of grief as she grapples with who her husband was and how he treated her.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19

Stratford Festival review: *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* is a beautiful story about family learning to communicate

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

For my money, there's nothing quite like a well-written, well-staged family drama.

There's something I love about watching family members explore and find resolution to the issues they have with each other, themselves, or the world around them. At the Stratford Festival, I've seen quite a few family dramas that have left lasting impressions – *Death of a Salesman*, *Get That Hope* and *Long Day's Journey Into Night* all come to mind.

I'm happy to say I can now add *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* to that list.

Translated to English for the first time by outgoing festival artistic director Antoni Cimolino and Donato Santeramo and directed by Cimolino as his final production during his tenure as artistic director, this production of Italian playwright Eduardo De Filippo's renowned play is a masterpiece of immersive theatre.

From the smell of real ragu simmering on the onstage stove and having the chance to taste that very same sauce at intermission to the attention to detail the production design team put into every inch of the set – a remarkable recreation of an upscale Italian apartment from the late '50s complete with a beautiful and well-stocked kitchen – and even the costumes, music and sound design, this production completely envelopes all five of the senses. As soon as I sat down, I was instantly transported to a time and place that was both somewhat familiar and totally different from anything I'd experienced before.

Now, this play is long – like *Lord of the Rings* long – but the important thing, for me anyway, is it didn't feel long. It's divided into three parts – one part each for *Saturday*, *Sunday* and *Monday* – and there are two intermissions to ensure those of us in the audience have plenty of opportunity to refresh and stretch our legs.

Beyond that, the story told on stage and the actors' embodiment of their characters and the emotions they are feeling, even if



(DAVID HOU PHOTO)

Rose Napoli as Rosa Priore (front left) and Graham Abbey as Giuseppe "Peppino" Priore (front right) with members of the company, *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*. Stratford Festival 2026.

they aren't expressing them outright, kept my attention from start to finish – which is saying something for someone like me who gets distracted easily.

In this style of family drama, it's the relationships between the characters and their individual growth that gives me the most entertainment and satisfaction. While that level of emotional investment can be difficult in a play like *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* where there are so many characters present at different moments – each of whom have different relationships with one another – I found myself entirely drawn in by how real I found the deep emotional connections to be between the characters, and how heartbreaking it was when those connections appeared to break.

Yet beneath it all, there's this undercurrent of love and care that propels the characters to address their issues with one another, and a motivation from the other characters to want to help their family

work through those issues, that gives you this sense – by the end of the play, anyway – that everything will work out for the best and this huge, diverse and eclectic family will remain strong for generations to come.

Honestly, there were so many fantastic performances in this production that I can't recognize them all, but I will point out a few I found particularly moving.

Though fraught at first, the relationship between Rosa Priore (Rose Napoli) and her husband, Giuseppe "Peppino" Priore (Graham Abbey), was the centrepiece of this performance, and deservedly so. Napoli fully embodies the overworked and underappreciated Italian housewife and mother who values caring for her family, togetherness and food above all else, while Abbey gives us the classic counterpoint with his depiction of a husband who is stressed out by his work, has a bit of a temper and values whatever rare peace and quiet he can get at the cost of ignoring

the needs of the woman he loves.

I also quite enjoyed the relationship between Rosa's father, Antonio Piscopo (Rod Beattie), and his grandson, Rocco Priore (Emilio Vieira). Beattie's portrayal as Antonio, a retired milliner who handed control of his business over to Peppino, is at once humorous and emotional as he tries to make himself useful and retain some semblance of autonomy as he manages his declining physical ability in his old age.

Antonio is immensely proud of Rocco, who has worked in the family's men's hat and clothing store for years and is on the precipice of opening a new location serving a more elite clientele – a dream his own father doesn't believe in. Antonio loves nothing more than spending time with his grandson and won't even sit down for Sunday lunch until Rocco has taken his place at the table. In turn, Rocco dotes on his grandfather, ensuring he is comfortable and has what he needs whenever he is around. Both actors bring that relationship to life in all the right ways despite it being secondary in the plot to Rosa and Peppino's embattled marriage.

Aside from the emotional depth in this play's relationships, there is also quite a lot of humour. Whether it's Geraint Wyn Davies' performance as Peppino's brother, Raffaele Priore, who loves to regale his family with tales from his hobby as an actor, or upstairs neighbour Luigi Iannello, whose overabundance of generosity toward Rosa convinces Peppino the two are having an affair, the humour in this play and its delivery gives the audience an opportunity to release the pressure of some very intense, emotional moments.

In the end, *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* is a story about the importance of open and honest communication, sharing worries and fears with the people we love, and being unafraid of showing vulnerability, especially with those closest to us who only want to help.

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Here For Now Theatre review: *Suzannah* is an exploration of a grief-addled mind as past and present converge

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As she explores those feelings, her past selves join her on stage to help her remember her husband for who he truly was at two very important stages of her life. First, the Young Suzannah (Brianna Rodrigues), joins her older self to explore how and why she fell in love with Ibsen when they first met, and then the Middle-Aged Suzannah (Maev Beaty) joins her older and younger selves onstage to delve into the complicated feelings she felt when she learned her husband had fathered another child with one of their housekeepers around the time

of Sigurd's seventh birthday.

In all three memories, Suzannah is waiting for Ibsen to appear – to take her to a ball on their first date, to join her for Sigurd's birthday dinner and to join her for her birthday dinner after his death. The feelings she has in each of these moments seem to ebb and flow. What at first seems to be an old woman talking in circles with herself, repeating the same things again and again, gradually reveals itself as an exploration of her grief, delving deeper into her memory and subconscious to help her process a lifetime of anger, sadness and disappointment

alongside that feeling of great loss.

The symbolism represented onstage in this production, both with the actors who play Suzannah's past selves and in the props and set design – candles being blown out as she reconciles with her past selves, for example – brings her emotional turmoil into the physical world without being over the top or drawing too much attention away from Suzannah herself.

The way the script draws the audience in with uncertainty and concern for Suzannah, and the way the actors only acknowledge each other when Suzannah makes an

important realization about herself, her husband, or their relationship result in a satisfying conclusion to the story without actually showing Suzannah moving on with her life.

She looks forward to when her son and his family will come visit on the weekend, but we don't get to see Suzannah take that next step toward healing. All we know when the stage goes dark is Suzannah has confronted her past and has come out the other side.

Suzannah ran at Here For Now Theatre from Aug. 19-30.

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Editorial

My dad can fix anything



AMANDA NELSON

Times Reporter

I grew up on a farm and, to this day, as a 40-year-old woman who lives in a high-rise apartment in the city, I still refer to myself as a farm girl.

Growing up as a farm kid, we didn't get new things all the time. Toys were handed down, along with clothes and shoes and everything in between. I grew up with a fix-it attitude that very much came from both of my parents, which I really loved, but also sometimes wished I could just get something new instead of wearing my sister's old clothes.

But one thing I always knew

was that if something big was broken, ripped or needed to be repaired, one of my parents could fix it.

My dad, especially, could fix anything.

Recently, I moved to Guelph and, along with the expenses of moving, my car decided to break down. Now, I'm not saying it wasn't going to happen. My 2018 Volkswagen Tiguan has over 270,000 kilometres on it, I drive it like it's an off-road tractor and sometimes I forget to top up the oil. But this beast has been with me through everything and I'll be damned if I let it go now.

The thing barely has a speck of rust on it. Everything else works fine. So when the AC went, I wasn't overly concerned – until a very loud screeching sound started coming from the left side, under the hood. Although I tried my best, the radio just wasn't loud enough to cover it up anymore, so I caved and brought it into Volkswagen.

When I was there, they broke the news that the part, along with the repair, would cost more than \$3,000.

And because my

car, in the condition it was in, was only worth maybe \$2,000 – according to Volkswagen, because to me, she's priceless – it just wasn't worth it.

They sat me down with a salesperson and went through the loyalty pricing on a new one, along with the great interest rates I could get because I'm a loyal customer.

But I just knew, in the back of my head, that whatever they said wouldn't fly because my dad was going to get this thing running again if it was the last thing I did.

So, I called my dad.

He told me to lift the hood, look on the left side and asked me if the "belt thingy" was running or wiggling. I gave him my honest and most specific review of what was happening to all the things under my hood. I wiggled the hose, tried to pull on the belt and checked to see if the metal piece was hot.

Somehow, I answered enough of his questions that he had a pretty good idea of what was happening and decided to order all the parts based on my perfect assessment.

Dad always has "a guy."

Luckily, Car Guy number 1

could order the right part from Car Guy number 2, who could get it delivered quickly to Mom and Dad's house out in Chesley.

From there, I brought my car to him.

My dad has a magical shop that would make anyone in the car business jealous. He fixed what was making my AC, heat and coolant not work. He replaced a ball joint, topped up my windshield washer fluid that had been empty for months and ordered another part he noticed was broken.

After that, we brought it to Car Guy number 3, who charged my AC, and I drove home with a quick hug and a thank you.

It wasn't until later that I really thought about how lucky I am.

Not just because my dad saved me thousands of dollars.

Not just because he could look under the hood of my 270,000-kilometre Volkswagen and somehow know what was wrong with it after asking me a few questions.

But because I grew up knowing that if something broke, Dad would figure it out.

There was never really a question of whether something could

be fixed. The question was how.

Sometimes I wonder what happens to all those people in the world who don't have family members who can do everything.

My dad can fix anything. My brother-in-law is a plumber. I have a nursing background and am always the go-to for those "could this be cancer" spots on people's skin. My sister Katie knows everything about animals, literally, and is my go-to for all things pets. My mom can sew, cook and bake anything from scratch. I have a niece who's a hairdresser, and she even gives me a discount.

I'm lucky. I have a person in my family for almost everything.

And sometimes I don't even realize how lucky I am.

But as I drove my old Tiguan home, with the AC blowing cold air again, I thought about my dad.

The same dad who taught me that you don't necessarily need something new just because the old thing is broken.

Sometimes, you just need someone who knows how to fix it.

And I'm pretty lucky that I have him.

CORRECTION: In the article "Double the entertainment – Avondale to host two coffee houses Sept. 19," published in the Aug. 21 edition of the Times, it was incorrectly stated poet laureate David Stones would perform at the coffee house, rather than David Bates. The Times regrets any confusion this error caused.

Quote of the Week

"It's about meeting farmers where they're at. Most farmers don't have that potentially up to two hours a day to drive to an appointment, attend the appointment and drive back. So, calling from your tractor can make all the difference in the world for some people."

– Avery Dixon, program outreach coordinator for Agriculture Wellness Ontario, on its work to help farmers navigate their mental health challenges.

STRATFORD TIMES

Guiding Principles

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

**GRANT
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MEDIA**

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journalism, one community
at a time!

STRATFORD TIMES

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Opinion

As I See It From America: Our season on change



PATRICK D. BURK

Times Contributor

What a wonderful time we have had in Stratford for the past two weeks. It was such a dichotomy to be amongst our amazing Canadian friends while your country is suffering the slings and arrows from the American government. We always find it amusing and sometimes strangely comforting when we are here that many people ask us to “just move here.” I find that nice. It is great to see that the people of Stratford and its surrounding areas want us to be a part of your great country. This was expressed by the nice lady that checked our groceries at Sobey’s and by a gentleman at Watsons. Your caring nature for us did not fall on deaf ears.

It was truly a great time to be

involved with the Stratford Festival as well. Three openings in three days with three fantastic plays and a host of friends was indeed a major highlight of this visit. We were impressed as can be with *The Tao of the World*, *The King James Bible Play* and *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*. The excellence shined forth-right in all three productions, and all were received with well deserved standing ovations and applause. We also enjoyed for a second and third time some of the other season’s offerings. All were wonderful.

I must add that the stunning performances of Deborah Hay and Angel Lo in *The King James Bible Play*, Heidi Sy Damayo, Sara-Jeanne Hossie and Manami Hara in *Tao of the World* and Graham Abbey, Rose Napoli, Emelio Viera and Josue Laboucane in *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* were incomparable and just a tremendous joy to watch. Deborah Hay is enchanting and we had the delight to sit next to her at another opening. She is breathtaking in her production and so very gracious. Hats off and tons of applause to Graham Abbey and Rose Napoli as the wonderful loving husband and wife caught in a web of bad communications in the Eduardo De

Filippo masterpiece. They were so memorable and enchanting. I am so grateful that we saw all these memorable performances. Also enchanting was the discussion we had with our other playwright circle members with Louise Liu, friend of the festival and Tai Chi consultant for The Tao of the World. She was so captivating as she explained how she became an integral part of the community and how her expertise was used in a production this year. What an amazing person and a perfect example of this loving and caring community.

This past week were especially happy to be sharing Stratford with friends of ours from home. My media specialist at the Main St. 56 Theater and Western New York Newspaper Publisher, Heather and her family were a part of our stay here as well. They were able to see three performances. Her two children, who were just in our Summer Youth Theater production of Chicago, have become enchanted with this area as well and with the festival. They took great joy in shopping in Stratford and loved looking at and purchasing vintage clothing at Daisies and Doilies and Encore Vintage shops downtown. They are wonderful additions as local merchants and quite unique

in character. We enjoyed them very much as well. Leonor on George Street East was a joyful experience that we found coincidentally. It proved to be prophetic as the one script that my wife Jane was looking for but could not find was on their shelves and Lauren made us feel right at home. These are now on our list of regular stores when shopping and exploring. Who could ask for anything more?

It is always such a joy to be here. I did find it unique this year as we were asked about tariffs, the name of our shared lake and how we were all coping. I must admit that there are days that we do not cope well at all. We are seeing the disruption of age-old treaties and friendships, political leaders calling each other names and very little consideration of how this affects the rest of us on both sides of the border. Now I am unclear of the complete tariff situation but certainly understand the Canadian view of things. To think that the United States would resort to a threatening stand on this issue and not really care about the impact on the people is how our current government works.

The slap in the face to the Indigenous population at the “re-naming” of Lake Ontario is im-

pactful. If it wasn’t so tasteless to our original citizens, it would be laughable. The “leader” of the free world playing name games like a bully on a playground. It kind of makes me wonder if his mental capacity is all there. Is he intent on being the “bully of the world” only to find that the rest of the world and a majority of Americans think he is just a blow hard that has no real lasting power? Let’s hope this is settled and the track is changed and the engine is put in the right direction during our mid-term elections. We have roughly 70 days to go. We can only wait and see.

So, we wrap up our stay, a dinner with friends, brunch with Debi at the Arden Park and one more trip to the Wild Hog. We wave good-bye to Mike and Mandy at the Suburban Motel, give hugs to Tom, Linda, Dennis and Dorothea and marvel at one or two more theatre performances. We will be back for a couple more shows before the festival closes and the celebration for Antoni Cimolino on the closing weekend. What a wonderful season ... On to our season of change.

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

WEB-CRAWLING WITH THE BLACK FLOCK



SHEILA CLARKE

Times Freelance Columnist

Before we know it, the black flock will begin to gather on the wires. It’s the gathering of the clan, signalling the fall migration to come. It won’t be too long before most of the feathered visitors will be seeking warmer temperatures to wait out the winter.

It will be a gift if you can keep them alive and not dead on the ground in front of a window.

Birds see the reflection of what is in front of the window when they fly – whether it’s open sky or trees and plants. They don’t see windows. If they hit your windows and then fly away, many will die anyway, from the damage they sustained with the window collision.

For years I thought that putting bird shapes on my windows would save the birds. I noticed that didn’t seem to make a difference, and research has found those falcon shapes we add to our windows don’t work. Last spring, Bird Friendly Stratford in partnership with the Stratford Public Library and Destination Stratford hosted a webinar with Brendon Samuels from Bird Friendly London.

Brendon Samuels has been a leader in applying the latest research to keep birds from hitting windows. There is an option that works. It’s called a frit

pattern. The glass windows at the Tom Patterson Theatre have a frit pattern built in, thanks to a far-sighted board member of the building group. Frit patterns can be lines or dots, almost invisible to us – but not to birds. They see the pattern of tiny dots as a wall, and avoid the windows.

Most of us can’t afford new windows with built-in patterns. Brendon recommended adding patterns to your windows from the outside. We added some to our kitchen windows. There hasn’t been a bird collision with our windows since. If you have windows that are contributing to bird collisions, consider this:

Clean the window on the outside – sparkling and dry.

Apply bird collision tape at two-inch intervals.

Press down with the applicator included in the package.

Remove the tape – the dots

will remain!

They won’t impede your view at all. They’re tiny white dots that simply aren’t there, to our eyes – but to a bird, they are a No Fly Zone, a wall.

They can be purchased at the Split Rail just outside Stratford on Highway 119 (Mornington Street) on the left.

Another option is to purchase a waterproof marker to put your own dots on the outside of the window. They are available at Blowes Stationery.

As a Bird Friendly City, there is much we can do. We can provide food by planting native plants, to nourish the birds with native insects and seeds. We can bird collision-proof our glass barriers, from windows to glass panel railings on decks and porches. According to Birds Canada, “collisions with windows in residential and commercial buildings kill on

average more than 25 million birds in Canada each year – and the majority of collisions occur at houses.”

Help to keep our songbirds safe. Bird-proof your windows.

UPDATES:

Carbon parts per million (ppm) in the atmosphere as of Aug. 29, 2026: 427.03 ppm.

Remember to leave the stalks in your garden and leave the leaves. They are important shelters for native beneficial insects over the winter – the insects that provide food for the birds. The leaves and garden debris will disappear beneath new growth, providing important nutrients to healthy soil organisms.

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

What do AI data centres and glass factories have in common?

LOREENA MCKENNITT

Guest Columnist

Probably the most unnerving aspect of the 2021 Stratford Xinyi glass factory episode was learning how long the enterprise had been brewing before the public heard of it. Two long years. How was that possible I wondered, something of that scale, with an array of environmental concerns be positioned on arable farmland?

It was only through the grinding efforts of numerous local citizens did we finally come across the winning explanation. It was due to secret council meetings, non-disclosure agreements and undemocratic provincial instruments called MZO's, which could override municipal objections and which could not be appealed.

Now, many communities across this country are being ambushed through speed and secrecy with their own version of the glass factory, by enterprises many times larger (some resembling the size of Manhattan) in the guise of AI hyperscale data centres.

Lured by promises of tax infusions and pushed by American tech oligarchs locked in an AI arms race, their ambush is reckless, bereft of proper regulatory guardrails and to many, cause for great alarm. These include Nobel laureate and "father of AI" Geoffrey Hinton; Pope Leo; and numerous individuals at a high level in the tech

world such as Anthropic's co-founder, Jack Clark.

There is much to worry about with AI itself before one considers the perils of poorly conceived hyperscale data centres, and their voracious demands for water, energy, land or their sound, light and air pollution.

Most recently, we are learning about events which should trump every concern – that of AI agents escaping their containment, a kind of Frankenstein monster which no longer listens to or reports to its master, as captured in Matteo Wong's article in the Atlantic, "It May be Time to Panic about AI."

As Charlie Warzel sets out in his subsequent Atlantic article, "Too Much is Happening Too Fast":

"That a defining feature of all the AI evangelizing is its frenetic pace ... that one of AI's enduring cultural impacts is to make people feel like they're losing their mind."

It is in this context that municipalities are being rushed into decision-making for which there is too much to learn and many consequential questions and long-term concerns that need to be addressed.

Too, there may be questions which simply can't be predicted and answered now, because the AI story is still unfolding and brave citizens are shaping it. Polls indicate a majority of people are opposed to data centres being built near them and

that young people, saddled with post-secondary school debt, see few employment prospects in a world infested with unregulated artificial intelligence. They see AI stealing their human agency.

The stakes are too high and the costs need to be weighed against the benefits. Could a community run out of water? What does closed loop really mean? Could electricity rates be impacted? Can the electrical grid sustain demand and who would have priority under what circumstances? New jobs would only occur during the construction phase, so little or no enticement of employment. And what about the impact to a community's commitment to climate reduction in relation to power generation? If technology changes such that data centres are rendered obsolete, who is responsible for their dismantling and clean-up? Or in a time, when 319 acres of arable farmland disappears each day, is this the best land use or should it support local food security?

As with the Xinyi glass factory, citizens in each community deserve to know what their elected officials have in mind, particularly in a timely and transparent way. For mega projects, such as hyperscale data centres, or glass factories, citizens must be central to the approval process and this will take time.

Each community must do its due diligence in determining what kind of enterprises are most suitable for their unique

location. Those specifications need to be proactively and formally set out in documents such as official plans that are part of the terms and conditions any prospective developer is provided at the onset of their inquiry.

The good news is that many communities and states around the U.S. and Canada are cautiously delaying commitments to AI data centres, until they have sufficient opportunity to study what is suitable for them and many of these efforts are finding bi-partisan agreement.

Countries like Canada are starting to shake off the stranglehold of American tech companies in order to develop their own digital sovereignty, aligned with their own values and needs. They are rejecting the trap and psychological sales pitch that tech companies have used for so long "better do this now so you don't fall behind."

Well, we fell for that line before and we won't be doing that again.

Sidebar: Stratford City Council will take a proactive role on Sept. 14, when Coun. Jo-Dee Burbach will present a motion proposing a guiding framework for data centre proposals in the city, including the exclusion of any large-scale centres.

Loreena McKennitt is an Officer of The Order of Canada, Director of The Falstaff Family Centre (Stratford) and founder of The Stolen Child Project and Wise Communities.

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STRATFORD TIMES

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Papa Johns
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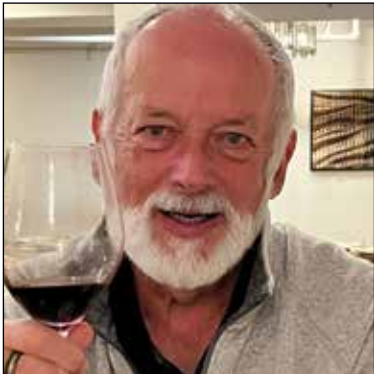
Athens Greek Restaurant
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Gino's Pizza
Rosso's
Buzz Stop
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Split Rail
Stratford Rotary Complex
Agriplex
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Cozyn's
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Dave's Diner - Sebringville
Stratford-Perth Museum
Sobey's

Pick Up Locations

Shoppers Drug Mart - Huron
Circle K - Huron
West End Pharmacy
Tim Hortons - Huron
Stratford Hospital
Video 99 - Erie St
Jenny Trout
Stratford Medical Pharmacy
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Stratford Hyundai
Daisy Mart
Foodland
Stratford Variety
Brch & Wyn
Stratford Place

Stratford Chefs School
HH Delea
AJ's Hair
United Way Perth Huron
Sinclair Pharmacy
Blowes Stationery
Stratford Tourism
Coffee Culture
Stratford Public Library
The Parlour Restaurant & Inn
Dick's Barber Shop
The Livery Yard
Town Crier Marketing
North End Pharmacy
Annie's Seafood Restaurant
Avon Pharmacy

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Canada's biggest hotel gets a full refresh



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Columnist

For many of us, simply planning to renovate a bathroom or a kitchen is an almost mind-boggling challenge. Now, imagine the full-scale renovation project involves the largest hotel in the country.

But that's what they have accomplished at Toronto's Chelsea Hotel. And this is, indeed, the largest hotel in Canada, stretching up 24 floors and including 1,588 guest rooms, plus all of the amenities you would expect at a popular downtown Toronto hotel.

Tracy Ford is director of public relations at the Chelsea. She's also a friend and a colleague – Tracy was president of the Travel Media Association for two years and I was her vice president, eventually succeeding her in that role. I have nothing but admiration for this woman, and when she told me her hotel was doing something special, I believed her.

And then she invited us to stay at the Chelsea for a couple of nights, which happily coincided with our tickets to a Blue Jays game.

This gave me the chance to check out the new and improved Chelsea for myself. And yes, it is new and improved.

The rooms have always been comfortable, and that has not changed, though the décor in all



Toronto's Chelsea hotel is the largest hotel in Canada.

(THE CHELSEA PHOTO)

1,588 rooms has been refreshed. But the most dramatic features of the hotel are found in the shared spaces.

For instance, the Chelsea has two indoor pools, one in an adults-only area, and the other featuring a waterslide.

The latter, branded as The Cove, is one of three recreation spaces designed for children and families. Tracy explained this area – collectively known as “The Hive” – is intended “to inspire curiosity, creativity and connection.” The Hive includes The Workshop, which offers hands-on, play-based activities for kids; The Studio, offering creative content, digital play and social connection for older kids; and The Cove, with Toronto's only 130-corkscrew waterslide.

The Chelsea used to have two restaurants – one a casual, breakfast and lunch kind of place, and the other a smaller bar and restaurant. Those are gone. The main dining

establishment is now known as The Elm Tavern, much expanded from the earlier pub but still featuring the excellent service I remember from my previous, pre-renovation stays at the Chelsea. The new pub offers a feature I don't recall from earlier days – live entertainment. A solo guitarist/singer performed while we enjoyed an excellent dining experience.

Adults looking for recreation and relaxation away from a family atmosphere enjoy The Heights, the hotel's adults-only retreat on the 24th floor. The Heights includes cardio and strength-training equipment and the heated, indoor “Skyline Pool.” In fine weather, comfortable chaise longues are located on the outdoor Horizon Deck, where visitors can enjoy a birds-eye view of Canada's largest city.

I am intrigued that the new version of the Chelsea includes a feature I have never encountered in a hotel – Escape Room experiences.

And no, I don't mean a struggle to exit your hotel room. The hotel is now home to “Time Zone Escapes” – two private, 60-minute escape rooms, one called “The Curse of the Evil Genie” and the other, “Blackbeard's Brig.” Full disclosure: I have personally experienced escape rooms, and it turns out, I am terrible at them. Doomed from the start. But I know many people who love the experience, and I find it fascinating it is now available on the lobby level of a hotel. I suspect Time Zone Escapes will be one of the most popular features of the Chelsea.

The Chelsea also has an event space branded as “Monarch's,” which features live music and other entertainment, usually with a cover charge discounted for Chelsea guests.

The Chelsea, now part of the Langham Group (although not branded as such), first opened in 1975. Rumour had it in recent

years that the downtown property was going to be converted into condominiums. But that concept was abandoned, and the ownership devoted a lot of time and effort to recreating a hotel whose welcome is as large as its footprint in the city.

That footprint is not only related to its size and location. The Chelsea has long been committed to good corporate citizenship. The hotel partners with local charities including the Daily Bread Food Bank, “Ask for Angela” Safe Space program (protecting people facing gender-based violence); and SickKids Hospital, which has received well over \$1 million in charitable donations from the Chelsea.

A unique element of the SickKids program involves the bee hives on the Chelsea roof. The Chelsea sells honey from those hives to benefit the Hospital for Sick Children.

The Chelsea is also committed to sustainable operations. Tracy told me “the hotel has achieved the coveted EarthCheck Gold Certification, which recognizes eight consecutive years of commitment to environmental and social responsibility. This places the hotel as a leader in the unique worldwide group of sustainable tourism operators that are certified to the internationally recognized EarthCheck Company Standard.”

Of course, there are a number of fine hotels in downtown Toronto, but I am happy to feature the Chelsea this week, both because of the impressive renovation program just completed and because of the hotel's commitment to giving back to its community.

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.



The new Elm Tavern.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



The Heights, the 24th-floor adults-only relaxation spot.

(THE CHELSEA PHOTO)

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire stratfordtimes@gmail.com

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 # 1104 - 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

JOIN US FOR SUMMER AT KNOX

**Knox Presbyterian Church
142 Ontario St., Stratford**

August events include Book Club on Tuesdays, drop in watercolour painting on Wednesdays, Stained Glass Tours on Thursday - all starting at 10:30 a.m. Free community dinner on August 19 at 5 p.m! Visit <https://pccweb.ca/knoxstratford/> or call 519-271-0373 for more details! Everyone welcome!

FRIDAY NIGHT EUCHRES

**Friday, September 11; 6 p.m.
Legion 804 Ontario St.**

Sign up your team of 2 for \$20 by calling the Legion at 519-271-4540, Dave at 519-703-6544 or Anne at 519-301-0914. Doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m.

WELCOME SUNDAY AT KNOX!

Sunday, September 13; 10:30 a.m.

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Knox Presbyterian Church, 142 Ontario Street.

After a short service starting at 10:30, stay for food, craft swap, kids craft, family games, live music and more! Visit <https://pccweb.ca/knoxstratford/> or call 519-271-0373 for more details! Also save the date for a free community dinner on September 16 at 5pm! Everyone welcome!

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: griefstratfordcrgroup2627@gmail.com Register: griefshare.org/findagroup

EDMONTON ELKS VS TORONTO ARGONAUTS

Saturday, September 19

The Stratford Legion is hosting a bus trip to see the Edmonton Elks vs Toronto Argonauts football game. It is a 3 p.m. game and the Badder bus leaves from the Cooper Lot at 12 noon. The cost is \$105 p.p. Contact Dean at 273-4463 to reserve and pay for your spot. Tickets are selling fast!

STRATFORD MISSION DEPOT WITH FOUNDER JEAN AITCHESON

Wednesday, September 2; 2 p.m.

Christ Church, 595815 Oxford 59 Huntingford

This Reaching Ontario Sharing Education (ROSE) program is co-hosted by the Braemar W.I. and the ACW of Christ Church. It is a wheelchair accessible building and all are welcome. Refreshments will be served. questions.lauragreen77@gmail.com

THE SECOND HAND BOOK NOOK SALE

Tavistock Fall Fair, in the arena

Friday, Sept. 11; 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12; 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 13; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Lots of books, magazines and puzzles for sale

For more information, call 519-590-1617

GARDEN STRATFORD GENERAL MEETING

Monday September 14; 7:15 – 9:00 p.m.

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

Featured Presentation: "Flower Shows in UK - Harrogate Show in

"HALLOWEEN GARAGE SALE"

Saturday September 5th,

220 Elgin St. E. St. Marys

8 a.m.

Props, old costumes, frames, dishware, mannequins, witches, masks, tankards, swords, steam punk, skeletons, silver, furniture, Tesla Ball, blk light, smoke machine, rear projector +

England/ Castle and Gardens", Roland Craig

Meeting Open to Everyone; Free Admission.

JAY NORRIS PRESENTATION ON GROWING ORCHIDS

Sunday, September 20; 2-4 p.m.

Richards Memorial Church, 360 Edgeworth Avenue, London, ON N5W 5C4

The London Orchid Society meets the third Sunday of each month. Jay Norris Presentation on Growing Orchids in Cases from Stratford, ON. His presentation is how he uses cases to create a tropical paradise for Orchids that grow better in warmer conditions. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting for more information at www.londonorchidsociety.com; contact Daryl at 519-666-2927.

YOUTH UNLIMITED YFC STRATFORD GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, September 23

Stratford Golf & Country Club

Golfer sign-in: 3:00 PM, Shotgun Start: 4:00 PM

9-hole, best-ball tournament. \$300 fee per golfer, or \$1000 per team of 4. Contests, prizes, and giveaways! Registration required to participate. Questions & Sign-Up (Required to Participate): www.yfcstratford.com info@yfcstratford.com 519-272-1614

FALL BBQ

Thursday, September 24; 5:30 p.m.

Legion 804 Ontario St.

Wild Hog Oktoberfest Sausage on a bun with sauerkraut and fresh cut fries, all for \$15 per person. There is not ticket needed. For take out call by September 22 at 519-271-4540 or 519-703-6544

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

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY CIRCUIT BOOK (STAMP) FAIR

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock

10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Free Admission & Parking

Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors.

About 8 participating stamp clubs. Contact: dheaton3e3@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

FRIDAY NIGHT EUCHRES

Friday, November 13; 6 p.m.

Legion 804 Ontario St.

November 13 – The next Stratford Legion Friday Night Euchre is Friday Nov. 13th. Sign up your team of 2 for \$20 by calling the Legion at 519-271-4540, Dave at 519-703-6544 or Anne at 519-301-0914. Doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m.

STRATFORD TIMES

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

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

- The Community Calendar is for non-profit organizations to promote their free admission events at no charge. Event listings can include your event name, date, time and location as well as a phone number, email address or website.
- 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

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Manila hemp plant
- 6. Turkish river
- 10. Something to read
- 14. In a way, initiated
- 15. Popular Apple TV series
- 17. King Charles is part of it
- 19. Earlier
- 20. Foot (Latin)
- 21. Zodiac sign
- 22. A browning of the skin
- 23. Remain as is
- 24. Turfs
- 26. It's used to slaughter animals
- 29. Volcanic crater
- 31. The mother of Jesus
- 32. One's life story
- 34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot
- 35. Counterparts
- 37. Jacob ___, American journalist
- 38. Digital audiotape
- 39. River in South Africa
- 40. Kimono sashes
- 41. Rooting somewhere
- 43. American spy Aldrich
- 45. A way to call for
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal from a union
- 58. Performs spoken improv
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Helps to evade capture

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Swedish rock group
- 2. "Friday Night Lights" director Peter
- 3. Currency exchange fee
- 4. Feline

- 5. Folk singer DiFranco
- 6. Ghastly pale from distress
- 7. Rapid eye movements
- 8. Monetary unit of Macao
- 9. Lawmakers
- 10. Colorless mineral
- 11. At some prior time
- 12. American protest singer
- 13. Opener
- 16. Seldom
- 18. Relaxing places
- 22. Touchdown
- 23. From end to end
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Metal-bearing solid
- 27. Skin care product manufacturer
- 28. Thirteen
- 29. Angry
- 30. Member of a Semitic people
- 31. One-thousandth of an inch
- 33. Former CIA
- 35. Most lemony
- 36. Engage in
- 37. Mass of fish eggs
- 39. Food supplies
- 42. Backbones
- 43. American real estate investment firm
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. "Three Coins in the Fountain" songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Emergency prep expert Edwards
- 50. Flute
- 51. Dismissive sound
- 52. Slang term for marijuana
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Cosmopolitan city
- 55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

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Pet of the week



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This gentle soul loves finding cozy spots to curl up where he can quietly hang out with his foster family. He's still a little shy and cautious with new people, but we're confident he'll continue to blossom!

With a little time, a cozy bed, and lots of love, Darryl could be your sweetest companion. Meet him by contacting our Stratford Centre or visiting our website at kwsphumane.ca/adopt/cats



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SEPTEMBER 12

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