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BLOWES BUILDING AWARDED PAGE 11

STRATFORD TIMES

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EYE EXAMS ON SITE

Nuhn wins 2026 Business of the Year

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

When Simon Nuhn decided to start his blacksmithing trade shoeing horses in 1902, he had two options on where to set up shop: Goderich or Wartburg. The answer was remarkably simple, according to his grandson Dennis Nuhn.

"He was a wise man," Dennis laughed. "He said, 'If I could go to Goderich, I'd only have half a business.' If you're in Goderich, you got farms on one side and water on the other."

Simon Nuhn evidently made the right decision settling in Perth County. After nearly 125 years, Nuhn Industries Ltd. has grown and thrived in Sebringville, located just a stone's throw away from Stratford. It has gone from making horseshoes, wagons, wheelbarrows and the like to manure pumps, tanks and state-of-the-art agitators known as "lagoon crawlers," becoming a worldwide powerhouse in agricultural equipment.

On Nov. 5, Nuhn's excellence was recognized by its neighbours when it won the 2026 Business of the Year award by the Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce during its 30th annual awards night, along with picking up the Enterprise Award as well.

Dennis and his son Ian Nuhn, the president and vice president of Nuhn Industries, respectively, called the awards an honour.

"It was a nice surprise," Ian said. "… It's a huge honour. You don't really think about this stuff when you come to work every day. You know, you come to work

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(CONNOR LUCZKA PHOTO)

The Stratford Police Pipes and Drums band walks down Veterans Drive on Nov. 11, leading the Remembrance Day parade that morning.

'A place to make magic happen': L'Arche opens new $6.5M facility

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After a lot of hard work, faith and perseverance, the staff and residents of L'Arche Stratford, the local branch of an international organization that creates communities where people with and without developmental disabilities can live and grow, have cut the ribbon on its new building.

426 Britannia St., a 15,000-square foot, fully accessible building with eight affordable independent living suites, two activity rooms, enough space to house all administrative offices for the organization and enough room to grow, officially opened its doors on Nov. 7 with a grand

CONTINUED TO PAGE 4

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Nuhn wins 2026 Business of the Year

CONTINUED FROM FRONT



(CONNOR LUCZKA PHOTO)

Dennis and Ian Nuhn, president and vice president of Nuhn Industries Ltd. stand in Ian's office with the 2026 Business of the Year award, courtesy of the Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce.

every day to give it your all and do your best. And then it's nice when what you do every day is accepted by the community as being Business of the Year … It's a huge honour. It's really rewarding."

Like many businesses in the region, the last few years have been difficult trying to manage an unpredictable world. The COVID-19 pandemic made nearly every business on the planet pivot, including Nuhn Industries as it adapted its operations to accommodate social distancing and health precautions. It had to deal with resulting supply chain issues as the pandemic impacted input costs and inflation skyrocketed. Then, trade disruptions were agitated by the protectionist measures of the United States. Ian summed up the last six years succinctly as "not easy."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Nuhn Industries Ltd., located in Sebringville on Line 34, is set to make a huge expansion in time for their 125-year anniversary.

Still, despite the challenges, Ian said 2026 was the best year of their operations to date. While other businesses have paused capital expansion, deciding to wait for the next few years to see how the current trade war with the U.S. will develop, Nuhn Industries is currently building and planning a massive expansion across the street from its Line 34 headquarters, planning to open in time for its 125-year anniversary.

"I have a saying," Dennis said. "If everybody's going left, go right."

"It really is true," Ian agreed. "It's been tough, and you know it's the easy decision to play it safe … When people are all going one way, we usually do go the other way, and history has proven that we usually are right in that sense. … You don't know this when you go into a building project like that, but in hindsight now, the timing of it was perfect. There's a lot of government programs to support

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



River Gardens poppy display pays tribute to those who served

DIANE DANEN

Times Correspondent

Residents at River Gardens Retirement Residence have created a colourful poppy wall as a special way to honour veterans and remember the sacrifices made by those who have served.

The idea was inspired by the Stratford Poppy Project, a community initiative that brings volunteers together to knit and crochet poppies in honour of Canadian veterans, displaying them on prominent landmarks around Remembrance Day. A River Gardens resident admired the displays throughout Stratford and thought it would be wonderful for the retirement home to have a tribute of its own.

The project was taken on by the River Gardens Sit and Knit group, led by volunteer Dorota. The group meets for an hour every other Thursday. Residents in the group shared their time and talents, working together to create the handmade poppies for the display.

Along with the traditional red poppies, the display also includes purple poppies, which recognize the animals that served and lost their lives during wartime. The purple poppies help highlight the important role these animals played and the sacrifices they made throughout history.

Those who participated in knitting and crocheting poppies included Maria Baes, Barbara Windsor, Aldeen Westman, Willy Drost, Renny Hulzebos and Nancy Kim, along with other residents who contributed to the project.

Ralph Swartzentruber, a River Gardens resident and retired dairy and cash crop farmer from near Cassel, put his skills to work building the frame for the poppy wall.

The group began working on the project in late August and had the poppies completed just before Halloween. The finished wall is estimated to hold between 250 and 300 poppies.

Now hanging on the second-floor balconies, the finished display allows residents and those passing by to admire the poppies and appreciate the time and care that went into creating it. The group has plans to continue making poppies throughout the year so the display can continue to grow.

For the residents at River Gardens, the poppy wall is more than a colourful display. Each handmade poppy represents a moment taken to remember and honour the men and women who have served our country.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Members of the Sit and Knit group at River Gardens Retirement Residence arrange crocheted and knitted poppies on a display frame.

Nuhn wins 2026 Business of the Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

manufacturers that were announced for people in our position, whether it's through FedDev or through, you know, just the new budget federally too. In hindsight now, it was the perfect move and the perfect time to do that.

"That's our key to success and key to growth: inventing new things, reinventing ourselves," Ian continued. "So whether it's new products that we're inventing or reinventing new processes of how we make our current (products), we're always reinventing ourselves one way or the other."

Nuhn was not the only business recognized last week. In addition to Business of the Year and the Enterprise Award, the chamber awarded:

- Skilled Trades Award: Hayle Construction
- Retail Award: Olive Your Favorites
- Non-Profit / Charitable Award: United Way Perth Huron
- Service Award: Malt Staging & Design
- Professional Award: Pesce & Associates
- Hospitality Award: The Boat House
- Trailblazer Award: Closet Collective
- Emerging Entrepreneur Award: Sculpt & Sweat
- Pace Setter Award: Scott Wildgust

A special highlight of the evening was the recognition of Bob Downham as the 2026 Business Leader of the Year, honouring his leadership, accomplishments and contributions to the local business community.

The evening featured a video tribute and remarks recognizing his achievements and the lasting impact of his work.

As the chamber marks 30 years of recognizing business excellence, the celebration also provided an opportunity to reflect on the important role local businesses play in building a vibrant and prosperous community.

"Having the opportunity to return to the chamber as executive director during this milestone year makes this celebration particularly meaningful," said Brad Beatty, executive director of the Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce, in a media release. "Over the past 30 years, these awards have celebrated countless examples of hard work, entrepreneurship and community leadership. Our business community continues to evolve, but the dedication and spirit behind its success remain constant. We are proud to recognize this year's recipients and look forward to supporting the next generation of business excellence."







‘A place to make magic happen’: L’Arche opens new $6.5M facility

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

opening. That drizzly Saturday morning had staff, members, family, donors and community members at large packing the newly christened rooms of the building, touring the facility and learning more about it. The grand opening ended nearly a decade of ups and downs as the organization dealt with severe space issues, struggling to meet the needs of the community.

Back in 2022, there were 486 requests in Huron-Perth just for residential support, and only 11 of those could be met – just three per cent.

“Today is about more than just this building,” Stephanie Calma, executive director of L’Arche Stratford, said at the grand opening. “And I've said that many, many times over the last couple of years. It's about the people who make up this community. It's the relationships we share, and having a place where we all feel we belong. This space is part of our future and the lives of the people who call our Stratford home. We are standing on a threshold today, a moment so many people have worked towards and dreamed about for years … Unfortunately, not everyone can be here with us today who has been part of this vision. We hold them close, knowing that despite this building being brand new, it already carries hope and dreams, building on a legacy of those who have been part of this journey.”

As an assortment of speakers said at the opening, the building was a long and arduous process. In 2017, face with space challenges, the former Montessori School at 426 Britannia St. was purchased by L’Arche Stratford, with the Be Belong Become capital campaign for its renovation starting the following year. The plan, however, changed, and in 2022 it was decided that the building was not suitable for the organization’s scope. It was decided that the former school would be torn down, and a new building would have to be constructed. In 2023, L’Arche held a demolition party at the school, laying the foundation for the state-of-the-art building that graces the street today, designed by Feltz Design Build Ltd.

The capital campaign had a $6.5 million goal, and as Calma shared, it was achieved through some staggering donations. The Famme family and Windmill Gardens each donated $1 million and the Government of Canada donated $1.9 million through the Enabling Accessibility Fund.

With those donations, the fundraising team has successfully raised the original goal of the campaign, though due to rising costs and a lot of different business services, the organization needs an additional $900,000 to remain mortgage free, according to Dennis Goforth,co-chair of the Be Belong Become capital campaign.

That money would allow them to use the equity in the building to purchase or build additional housing, a need that is still there – despite the monumental achievement L’Arche Stratford just made.

“This project has been about change and faith,” Goforth said. “When I joined the steering committee over five years ago … we had land and a building. We had the statistics on the need of the developmentally challenged in our community. We had a vision about how wonderful this facility could benefit our community.

“This building, even though it is a wonderful building, is still just bricks, wood, and drywall,” he went on to say. “The true magic is what happens inside its walls. Lives will be changed for generations to come because the awesome staff and volunteers at large now have a place to make that magic happen. Faith. I have unwavering faith that what we have started here today is only the beginning of greater things to come for the large community. This is a launching of something truly great in Stratford.”

With files from Sydney Boyle, Times Correspondent.



(CONNOR LUCZKA PHOTO)

L’Arche Stratford staff, members, family, donors and dignitaries cut the ribbon for its new state-of-the-art facility at 426 Britannia St., led by campaign co-chair Cory Maschke with the scissors.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

426 Britannia St., a 15,000-square foot, fully accessible building with eight affordable independent living suites officially opened its doors on Nov. 7 with a grand opening.



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2027 Passport to Savings offers deals at 221 local businesses while supporting three Stratford charities

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

With the cost of just about everything continuing to rise, the annual Passport to Savings remains one of the few things that hasn't gone up in price, offering more opportunities than ever to save money while supporting those in need.

The 2027 Passport to Savings is now available for $50, with discounts and special offers at 221 businesses across Stratford, St. Marys, Mitchell, Shakespeare and surrounding communities, including 23 businesses participating for the first time.

Now entering its 15th year, the annual fundraiser supports Stratford House of Blessing, Simple Dreams Ministries and the Kiwanis Club of Stratford, with proceeds divided equally among the three organizations.

"It's a win-win-win situation for everyone," Simple Dreams co-founder Richard Kneider said.

Not only do passport holders save money on everything from restaurants and retail purchases to vehicle maintenance and eyeglasses, but participating businesses also benefit from attracting new customers, all while raising money for three worthwhile causes.

"You do about two or three things with your passport and it's paid for already," Kiwanis member Barb Muir said, noting the $50 price has remained unchanged for several years.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Simple Dreams Ministries co-founder Richard Kneider and Kiwanis Club of Stratford member Barb Muir were at the Stratford Farmers' Market Nov. 7 selling the 2027 Passport to Savings.

Last year's passport raised $20,000 for each organization, money that goes directly toward supporting individuals and families facing financial hardship.

For Simple Dreams, Kneider said that means helping families purchase necessities like groceries, gas, bus passes and household appliances, alongside the organization's annual community dinners and other charitable initiatives.

One of its most significant initiatives is providing beds to people who otherwise wouldn't have one. Kneider said Simple Dreams has now distributed more than 800 beds to families in need, including children who had previously been sharing beds with multiple siblings.

The Kiwanis Club similarly helps families cover expenses for necessities like walkers, dental care and eyeglasses, while supporting children's sports, school supplies and other community programs.

The club has also sponsored free Sunday evening Concerts in the Park since 1987, helped refurbish municipal and school playgrounds, including the recently improved Milton Street playground, and surprised shoppers with grocery gift cards during its Random Acts of Kindness Weekend.

Meanwhile, Stratford House of Blessing uses its share of the proceeds to support its food bank and other programs helping individuals and families struggling to make ends meet.

Passports can be purchased in person at Stratford House of Blessing, Jiffy Lube in Stratford, Your Neighbourhood Credit Union locations in Stratford and Mitchell, and the Stratford Farmers' Market on Saturdays at the Burnside Agriplex. They are also available through Kiwanis Club members.

Passports can be purchased online through the House of Blessing website at www.shob.org, with an option to have them mailed directly to purchasers. Information is also available through the participating charities' websites.

Muir and Kneider thanked the participating businesses and community members for their continued generosity in making the annual fundraiser a success.

Perth County's Mobile Integrated Health program completes more than 5,100 patient visits over past year

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Perth County Paramedic Services' Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program continues to help vulnerable residents access health care while reducing pressure on emergency services, with more than 5,100 patient visits completed over the past year.

Deputy chief of mobile integrated health Debbie Hunter presented an update on the program to Perth County council Nov. 5, highlighting its accomplishments between Oct. 1, 2025, and Oct. 1, 2026, as well as priorities for the coming year.

"Since the program began, MIH has become an integral part of our local health system," Hunter said. "Our role continues to focus on connecting residents with the right care at the right time in the right place."

Over the reporting period, community paramedics completed 5,146 visits involving 1,217 individuals, along with 147 wellness checks involving 98 individuals that could otherwise have resulted in calls to 911. The program also recorded 327 emergency calls involving 99 clients, including 38 initiated by community paramedics who identified emergencies while visiting patients.

Other statistics highlight the range of services provided, including 2,267 referrals to community partners, 6,817 vital-sign assessments, 1,208 blood draws for homebound patients and 1,853 medication-management interactions.

Of those enrolled in the program, 56 per cent were 65 or older, while 41 per cent were between 25 and 64. Stratford residents accounted for 59 per cent of clients, followed by North Perth at 17 per cent, St. Marys at 11 per cent, West Perth at eight per cent, Perth East at four per cent and Perth South at one per cent.

Hunter explained the program takes a proactive approach to health care, identifying potential problems before they become emergencies and connecting residents with appropriate services.

"Our value isn't just measured by how many calls we prevent. It's also measured by the care we provide, the barriers we remove and the support we offer before a situation becomes a crisis," she said.

Looking ahead, Hunter said expanding palliative-care services will be a priority, with paramedics receiving additional training and the introduction of symptom-relief kits to better support patients and families receiving end-of-life care at home.

The program will also continue its partnership with Stratford Social Services through the Access Resource Connection (ARC) program, which combines health care with housing and outreach supports for vulnerable residents. People experiencing homelessness currently represent half of ARC's caseload.

However, the report notes provincial funding for 2027-2028 remains uncertain. Without increased funding to offset rising costs, the service may need to consider reductions.

Warden Dean Trentowsky praised Hunter and her team for their work.

"It's an invaluable service, and our communities in Perth County are very grateful to have you and the staff lead this on our behalf," Trentowsky said.

Council unanimously approved the report for presentation to the Municipal Shared Services Committee Dec. 17.

The Local hosts first Holiday Market in support of Giving Tuesday

AMANDA NELSON

Times Reporter

The Local Community Food Centre is inviting the community to its first Holiday Market on Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., giving visitors an opportunity to get a head start on their holiday shopping while supporting a local organization. Entry to the market is by donation.

The market will feature a variety of local vendors, including Shop Lot 8, Reflexology by Ruth, Kuddly Kreaturz, All Typed Up fleece blankets and NuNu2u, an upcycled clothing brand.

"We have such amazing volunteers at the Local and they're all so talented, and we've always wanted to showcase that," said Julie Docker Johnson, community connections manager. "We started thinking of ways to be able to do something for our volunteers, and then also showcase our renovated Your Market and also incorporate Giving Tuesday, we thought this was the perfect time to make a Holiday Market."

The Local's Green Team will also offer a selection of products, including herbs, oils, soup mixes and decorative door swags. Volunteer bakers from Ready To Bake will be selling frozen Christmas cookie logs.

"Our volunteer baking team is making Christmas cookie logs and those are sold frozen, so you just cut off what you want throughout the season and you have freshly baked cookies whenever you want them," said Docker Johnson.

Special guest author Barb Howard will also be attending with her collection of children's books. Howard has designed a new holiday book, Emma's Christmas Adventure: A Colouring Book Fairytale, with proceeds from the special edition colouring book being donated to the Local.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to shop at Your Market, the newly expanded grocery market located inside the Local.

Although Giving Tuesday typically takes place over one day, an anonymous local donor is offering to match proceeds raised during the week of Nov. 26 to Dec. 3, up to $10,000. This includes proceeds from the Holiday Market, meaning donations and funds raised during the week could have double the impact.

"People may think Giving Tuesday is about money, but that's not all it's about," said Docker Johnson. "It's about showing up and being there for your community; it's about being part of something bigger. The more people who walk through our door, the better. We want to show everyone what the Local is all about."

The event aims to welcome the wider community, showcase the talents of the Local's volunteers and introduce visitors to the organization, Your Market and the services they offer.

Several other holiday markets will also be taking place throughout Stratford and Perth County that same weekend. The Local has put together a list of markets happening that day, giving shoppers an opportunity to get their holiday shopping started, or even completed, in one weekend.

For more information about the Holiday Market or ways to support the Local, visit www.thelocalcfc.org.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Local Community Food Centre will host its first Holiday Market on Nov. 28, featuring local vendors, volunteer-made products, baked goods and more, with proceeds supporting the organization.

STRATFORD TIMES

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Porch Light

(on the occasion of Shelterlink's 35th anniversary)

Home, they say, is where the heart is,
or, as Robert Frost so poetically reminds,
the place that exists not as an obligation but
in the holy realm of unrelenting grace, borne
of love and the healing milk of acceptance.

Home is the place of no conditions, the
eternal depot of soft landings, the incandescent
porch light beacon that takes you in exactly
as you are when you need it most, no
questions asked, explanations not required.

This is what we all deserve, our youth
perhaps more than most, for a young
heart weighted by rain needs only that
reverential hug of certainty, the someone
who believes their future is yet to be written.

Youth homelessness is more than just a
sleeping bag spread beneath impervious
heavens, it is possibility handcuffed, hope
tethered to descending stars, dreams diminished
into the sifting sand of what could have been.

Listening changes all that. The receptive
ear moulds the harbours that shape compassion
into action, ensuring programs and shelter
built not merely of walls, but of welcome,
dignity and the assurance of being heard.

Let us keep those porch lights burning,
our beacons blazing in the night,
announcing to all that no youth is invisible
and the luminous promise of tomorrow not
a privilege reserved only for the very few.

David Stones, Stratford Poet Laureate

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. How many times has Donald Trump been impeached?
2. What sport's lingo uses the term "Bonspiel"?
3. In the game of Battleship, how many hits does it take to sink the submarine?
4. Which actor bought the first Hummer made for civilian use?
5. What is the Minion's primary language called?
6. Lego originated from what country?
7. What is the tallest type of horse?
8. Which ocean does Bangladesh have direct access to?
9. In the beer world, what does the abbreviation IBU stand for?
10. Who is the "Father of Country Music"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

Shelf Help with SPL

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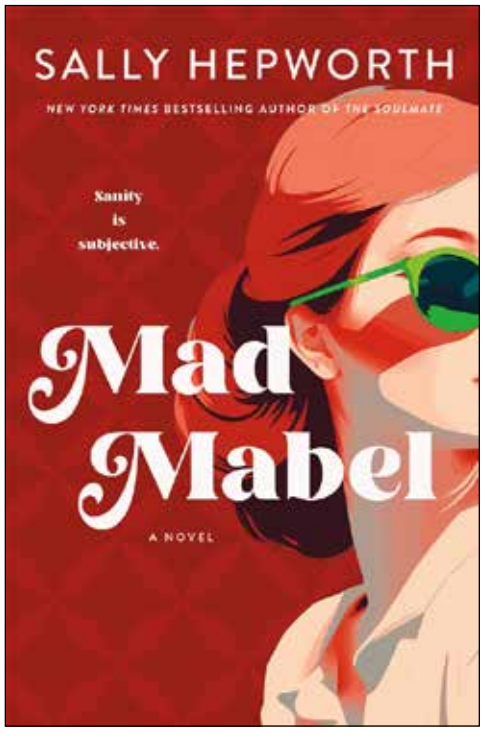
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Mad Mabel, by Sally Hepworth
@SPL: FIC HEPW
Mad Mabel By Sally Hepworth

"When it comes to murder, no one ever suspects little girls or old ladies."

Meet Elsie Mabel Fitzpatrick – who was once a little girl, and now is an old lady. However, Elsie hasn't always been Elsie. Once upon a headline, she was Mad Mabel Waller – Australia's youngest convicted murderer. But was she really mad, or just misunderstood? At the age of 81 she has worked exceedingly hard at concealing her past. That is until her young neighbour Persephone (talkative, curious, nosy) moves into the neighbourhood and stops at nothing to befriend Elsie. When a neighbour turns up dead and the police arrive sniffing around, her neighbourhood becomes a media circus and her carefully constructed life threatens to come crashing down as Elsie's past starts coming to life.

Hepworth writes a sharp, surprising and wickedly funny novel about a woman who's spent her entire life being underestimated – and determined to prove everyone wrong. Elsie is a wonderful protagonist who is witty and smart-mouthed, yet resilient. Her relationship with Persephone and Nugget helps to create balance with the more difficult parts of her story. A suspenseful and moving novel told in a dual narrative, it is at its heart, a story about friendship, honesty and the power of a community that holds each other close, even when secrets threaten to tear everything apart. A compelling read that is sure to appeal to readers who enjoyed the Correspondent, Calamity Club and novels written by Fredrik Backman.



Last Night of the Proms takes over Knox Nov. 21

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Bring a flag! Wear national colours! Enjoy a musical celebration of patriotism on Saturday, Nov. 21 at Knox Presbyterian Church in Stratford.

The Last Night of the Proms is a popular Great British flag-waving celebration of patriotic songs as part of a diversified and humorous evening of musical treats.

The big difference is that this event will be in the Canadian style, and will feature special guest Loreena McKennitt, who always loves to perform in her home church concert hall, also known as Copperlight. This is a rare chance to hear her original style of the music that has made her a world star.

Other featured artists are the Full House Brass, an ensemble of professional players from Stratford and K-W, and organist extraordinaire Angus Sinclair.

Stratford's grandest church will be a sea of red and white -- along with Union Jacks and provincial flags. Flags will be available, but audience members are encouraged to bring their own.

The Last Night of the Proms sells out every year in England. The program on Nov. 21 will have the perennial hits of the British version but mostly it's a musical celebration of being Canadian.

Knox Stratford is home to one of the best pipe organs in North America, which is played with distinction for Sunday services. Expect some Saturday-night musical shenanigans from guest organist Sinclair. Fans of the hit musical Spamalot will be delighted to hear the Monty Python March on the pipe organ.

The acoustics are ideal for the Full House Brass, who will play some of their favourite Canadian works.

The event is a fundraiser for the community outreach of Knox Stratford, notably the Cancer Care Wig Room and support for the unhoused.

Tickets for Last Night of the Proms Canadian Style are $50 (all taxes and fees included). Advance purchase will secure admission before it sells out. Go to TicketScene.ca or cash only at Sinclair Pharmacy in Stratford.

Stratford-Perth Archives offers virtual research appointments

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

You can conduct research about Perth County virtually from home or anywhere else in the world.

The Stratford-Perth Archives launched the Archives from Home virtual research program on Nov. 1. The virtual research appointments allow for researchers to conduct research anywhere and connect with archive staff if they cannot make it to a research appointment in-person. The service enhancement will be available until March 31, 2027.

"This just seems like a great opportunity for us and also the people that are using our services and records," said Megan Lockhart, assistant archivist.

So far, no virtual appointments have been booked yet. However, the Stratford-Perth Archives are receiving lots of messages indicating awareness of the service enhancement. There have also been research requests from those outside of Canada, including those residing in the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

"We have been seeing an increase in research requests from Americans over the past year or so with changes to the Citizenship Act," Lockhart said. "People are trying to find that line of descent for Canadian ancestors to potentially apply for citizenship, so we imagine we'll get some more Americans reaching out to book these appointments in the future."

Lockhart would also like to see more residents of Stratford and area reach out.

"We're hoping that not just international researchers take advantage of the service enhancement, but some local people too who maybe during the winter months just can't make it out to us or it's more convenient for them to do it in the comfort of their home," she said.

After reaching out to book a virtual appointment, Stratford-Perth Archives will do a preliminary interview to learn more about research topics and what materials the researcher would like to see. Each researcher will then get a free half-hour research appointment before further research. Appointments run from Tuesday to Friday between 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Appointments can either be booked by sending an email to archives@perthcounty.ca or by calling 519-271-0531 ext. 259.

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Rotary Hospice invites community to Lights of Love to honour memory of loved ones

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Those grieving the lost of their loved ones this holiday season can attend a community gathering to honour their memories and make a tough time a little brighter.

Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth will hold its annual Lights of Love ceremony on Nov. 20 starting at 7 p.m. in the Pavillion at Greenwood Court. Lights of Love will feature a candlelit precession and a slideshow featuring dedication messages as the holiday lights at the hospice will be lit up.

"We do a fun countdown and watch the lights turn on for the first time for the season. It's also an opportunity for community members to gather and remember loved ones, so that's a very special time," said Pippa Elliott, communications and marketing coordinator.

There will be three registered social workers on site during the event to offer comforting words and support. All are welcome to attend, whether or not the guest had a loved one who received end-of-life care at Stratford Rotary Hospice.

"It's really important for folks to have an opportunity to remember a loved one, to mark a special moment, and to be surrounded by other people who have also experienced loss," Elliott said. "The holidays can be a really difficult time for folks, especially those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, so this event can be comforting for folks and deeply meaningful."



(PIPPA ELLIOTT PHOTO)

Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth will hold its annual Lights of Love lighting ceremony on Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. The holiday lights will be turned on at the hospice for the first time as attendees honour the memory of their loved ones.

The event is free to attend but guests are encouraged to make a monetary donation towards the Lights of Love campaign, which runs until Dec. 31. Donors will have a chance to dedicate one of the lights to a loved one and write a message to be featured in the slideshow and the Lights of Love web page.

Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth receives half of its funding from the Ministry of Health to cover operating costs, so the hospice must fundraise upwards of $1.5 million each year to keep services running.

"Events like Lights of Love help us bridge the gap in funding through community donations," Elliott said.

Donations to the Lights of Love campaign can be made online via www.rotaryhospice.ca/lights-of-love.

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Avondale CarolFest returns; proceeds going to Stratford House of Blessing

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Avondale United Church will once again bring Christmas cheer later this month with plenty of music and an opportunity to give back to the community.

Avondale's CarolFest will be held at the church the evening of Nov. 18 and will feature a variety of music and spoken word performances.

"We can expect to all get together and sing some favourite Christmas carols, to hear the music of our guest artist Heather McGuigan and stories from our minister Reverend Keith Reynolds," said music director Dan Van Winden. "Just a good chance to gather with folks from our community and get into the Christmas spirit."

Featured guest performer McGuigan is an accomplished actor and vocalist who has been part of more than 50 productions across Canada, Mexico City and Alaska. The Stratford Concert Band and the CarolFest choir will also perform. CarolFest will have an intermission featuring refreshments like homemade cookies and hot apple cider.

The event will be free to attend but the church will be accepting free-will monetary donations towards the Stratford House of Blessing to support families in need during the holidays.

In a statement sent to the Times, House of Blessing executive director Eva Hayes said that there's been a 67 per cent increase in the number of children served as part of the Christmas program in five years; from 731 in 2020 to 1,219 in 2025.

"We already have parents registering for the Christmas program and we do not anticipate any slowing down in Christmas 2026," Hayes said in the statement.

Knowing of the increase amid the continuing rising cost of living and price increases from tariffs set by the United States government, CarolFest director Doris Barkley knows any donations will make a difference.

"This is definitely going to benefit so many families in our area," said Barkley.

"When we're in a time when so many folks are struggling, it's great to get together and all chip in to make some kids' Christmas a little bit better," Van Winden added.

The CarolFest concert will begin at 7 p.m. at the church on 194 Avondale Ave.

Perth County Players' *Fiddler on the Roof* adored by audiences as four performances sell out

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

The Perth County Players (PCP) production of *Fiddler on the Roof* is entertaining audiences with each performance including four sold-out shows.

Perth County Players' take on the beloved musical *Fiddler on the Roof* will run until Nov. 15 at the Stratford Intermediate School. The musical, with book by Joseph Stein, music by Jerry Brock and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, is based on Sholem Aleichem's Teyve the Dairyman and Other Short Stories and centres Jewish milkman Teyve as he tries to uphold traditions as outside influences affect his family. For example, all three daughters plan to marry for love but Teyve doesn't approve of any of their suitors.

"The run of Fiddler has been an incredible successful so far," producer Tony Benton said to the Times. "We've managed to sell out four shows, two of which are this weekend, and have had incredible numbers even on our other nights. Audience feedback has been overwhelmingly positive as well. Some of our regular audience members have said it's the best show PCP has done in a long time."

Initially, the Perth County Players had a different production in mind. Then, a board meeting changed everything.

"We were struggling with the cast size, as we have so much talent and this was a show with fewer roles. One of our board members said 'Yeah, it's not like it's *Fiddler on the Roof*' and the rest is history," director and choreographer Michelle Cutts said to the Times.

This has also been a show Cutts always wanted to direct and the community theatre group wanted to tell Teyve's story.

"While the musical is rooted in the Jewish experience, its themes reach far beyond any one culture or faith. Families from many backgrounds recognize themselves in Tevye's struggle to balance love for his daughters with loyalty to tradition, and in the challenge of letting go as new generations forge their own paths," said Cutts. "The story reflects a universal experience: watching customs, values and ways of life evolve or disappear over time."

Cutts encourages anyone looking to see *Fiddler on the Roof* to do so as there's a cast of more than 40 people from eight-years-old to 70-years-old.

"Each and every one of them leaves everything they have on the stage by the end of the show," she said.

Benton also said *Fiddler on the Roof* is a must-see show.

"It's a classic and beloved story for a reason. You can't help but feel invested in Tevye's story, and all of the surrounding characters bring a lot of heart and humanity to the story," he said. "Not to mention the music is beautiful and we have a top-notch cast there to perform it."

The matinée performances taking place on Nov. 14 and 15 are sold out. However, as of press time, tickets are still available for the evening shows on Nov. 13 and 14 starting at 7:30 p.m. and are $25 each. To purchase tickets online, visit perth-county-players.bloomtickets.ca/event/3089.



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Blowes Stationery honoured with heritage award for historic building restoration

AMANDA NELSON

Times Reporter

Blowes Stationery & Office Supplies has received the James Anderson Heritage Award for its efforts to preserve the history and character of its historic building in downtown Stratford.

The James Anderson Award was established by Heritage Stratford in honour of James Anderson, a founding member and former chair of the committee. Anderson also helped establish the Stratford-Perth Archives, Stratford-Perth Museum and Brocksden County School Museum, where he served as curator.

The award recognizes significant contributions to preserving Stratford's built, cultural and natural heritage.

"Blowes did a fabulous job renovating the building," said Cambria Ravenhill, a Heritage Stratford committee member. "It's really exquisitely done, and it really honours the heritage of that building."

Ravenhill said the project is also a great example for the community, preserving downtown heritage while potentially inspiring other building owners to invest in their properties.

"It's something I think that should inspire other building owners to invest in those second and third floors. There's an opportunity there to provide new housing, which of course is needed in the community, but also a possible revenue stream."

Dating back to the 1870s, the building has been in the Blowes family since 1949. It is now owned by Brian Blowes, who purchased the property in 1991.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Barb Cottle of the Stratford-Perth Historical Society, Brian Blowes, Rebecca Blowes and Julia Blowes are pictured during the presentation of the James Anderson Heritage Award to Blowes Stationery & Office Supplies. The award recognizes the family's efforts to preserve the historic building and its architectural character while bringing new life to downtown Stratford.

While the main floor has continued to operate as a business, the upper two floors had sat empty since the 1950s. Blowes began renovating the space with his wife nearly four years ago.

"We have the original hardwood floors and tin ceiling that we've maintained for as long as I can remember," said Blowes. "It was important to my father to keep the heritage and preserve the building as much as possible, so I've continued to be aware of that. Three and a half years ago, when my wife and I decided to renovate the upper two floors, we really took that into consideration."

The most recent renovation was completed last July, following approximately two and a half years of work. The project added 10 residential apartments and a spacious commercial space, now occupied by SCULPT+SWEAT Studio.

"At one time, there were apartments upstairs and I believe it used to be a hotel at one point too," said Blowes. "But from about 1951 it was sealed off and basically sat empty until my wife and I took on renovating it three and a half years ago."

A staircase leading down to Wellington Street, which had been covered for an estimated 40 years, was also uncovered and restored during the renovation.

The family worked to retain as much of the building's original character as possible. The restoration included the upper façade, historically accurate replacement windows, reopening a covered skylight and preserving original architectural details.

While some original materials had deteriorated beyond repair, the goal was to maintain the building's historic character while giving the space a new purpose.

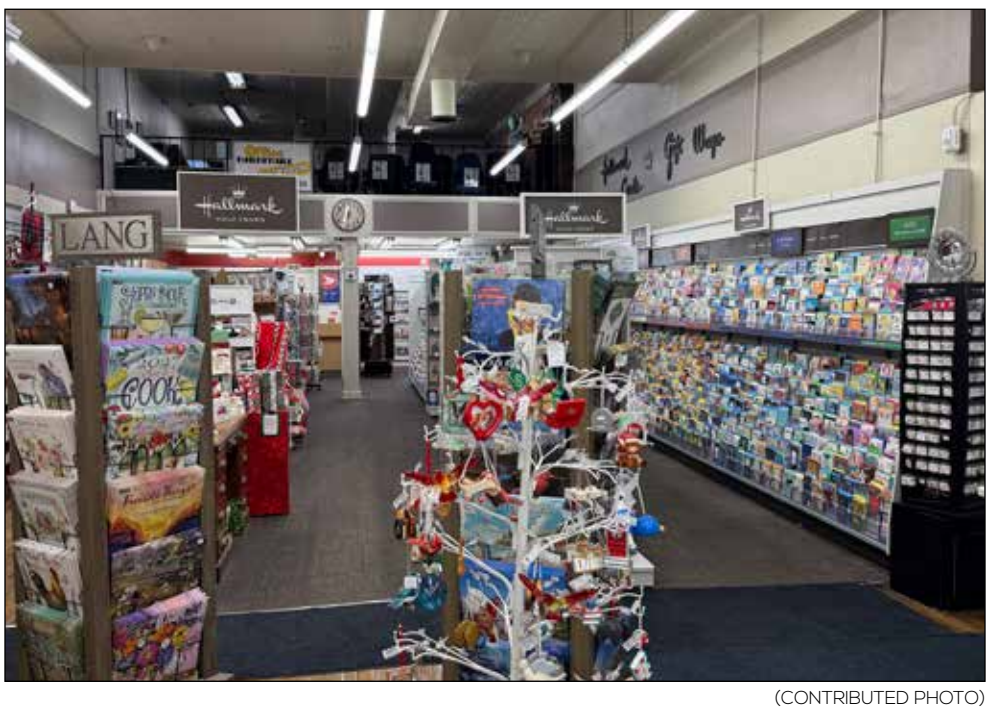
Ravenhill said the family's commitment made the decision to recognize the project an easy one.

"The Blowes family has invested their time, effort, passion and money into taking on this project. They are really breathing new life into downtown Stratford and for that, they deserve such an award. The James Anderson award is to reward conservation of our heritage and they have really done exactly that."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The upper floors of the historic building, which had remained largely unused since the 1950s, have been transformed into residential and commercial spaces following approximately two and a half years of renovations.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The main floor of Blowes Stationery & Office Supplies continues to operate as a retail business, maintaining the building's longstanding commercial presence in downtown Stratford. The historic building dates back to the 1870s and has been in the Blowes family since 1949.

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New Hamburg author Nancy Silcox launching book celebrating remarkable Canadian cats

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

After nearly two years spent tracking down remarkable feline stories from across Canada and bringing them together in a book, New Hamburg author Nancy Silcox is ready to celebrate the launch of her latest work with local cat lovers.

Silcox will launch The Cat Did It: Tails of Marvellous Canadian Cats at the New Hamburg Pet Valu in Sobeys Plaza Nov. 14, followed by a second launch at the Stratford Pet Valu, 581 Huron St., Nov. 21. Both events run from 10 a.m. to noon.

The book, published by Dundurn Press and officially releasing Nov. 17, features stories of extraordinary cats from coast to coast to coast, including feline celebrities, lifesavers, medical miracles and beloved companions.

Among them is Nico, Prime Minister Mark Carney's family cat, whose story Silcox secured through conversations with Carney's daughter, Tess Carney.

"I suppose other politicians, when they get out their phones, they show people their family. Our prime minister pulls out the phone and shows Nico," Silcox said, recalling what Tess told her about her father's affection for the family pet.

Silcox even crocheted Nico a crown, which helped her secure a meeting with Mark Carney's wife, Diana Fox Carney, during a visit to Kitchener.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Fern, the beloved greenhouse cat at Stratford District Secondary School, is among the remarkable Canadian felines featured in New Hamburg author Nancy Silcox's latest book, The Cat Did It: Tails of Marvellous Canadian Cats.

The book also features singer-songwriter Jann Arden's cat, Shrodie; Diggory, the musical cat owned by Ken and Roberta Harrison of the Wild Strawberries; and Fern, the beloved greenhouse cat at Stratford District Secondary School.

The project began after comments about "childless cat ladies" made by American vice president J.D. Vance inspired Silcox to celebrate the important roles cats play in people's lives.

An interview with CBC K-W's Craig Norris, which was broadcast nationally, brought submissions from cat owners across the country. Silcox spent roughly 10 months collecting their stories before Dundurn Press took over the publishing process.

"Some of the stories are sad and some of them are delightful and some of them are surprising," she said.

While Silcox hopes readers enjoy those stories, she is particularly excited about the book's charitable purpose.

All of her author royalties will be donated to three Canadian cat rescues featured in the book, including Pet Patrol in Elmira and organizations in Ottawa and Edmonton.

"I don't keep any of the royalties. None," Silcox said.

She credited Pet Valu owner Kayla Orleck and her staff for enthusiastically supporting the local launches.

Visitors will have an opportunity to meet Silcox, purchase the book and potentially meet some of the cat owners and four-legged stars featured in its pages.

For Silcox, the launches offer an opportunity to celebrate the animals that bring so much to people's lives while supporting organizations dedicated to rescuing them.

"The book is a celebration of cats who have many, many jobs in our lives, as companions, as nurses, as comedians, whatever," she said.

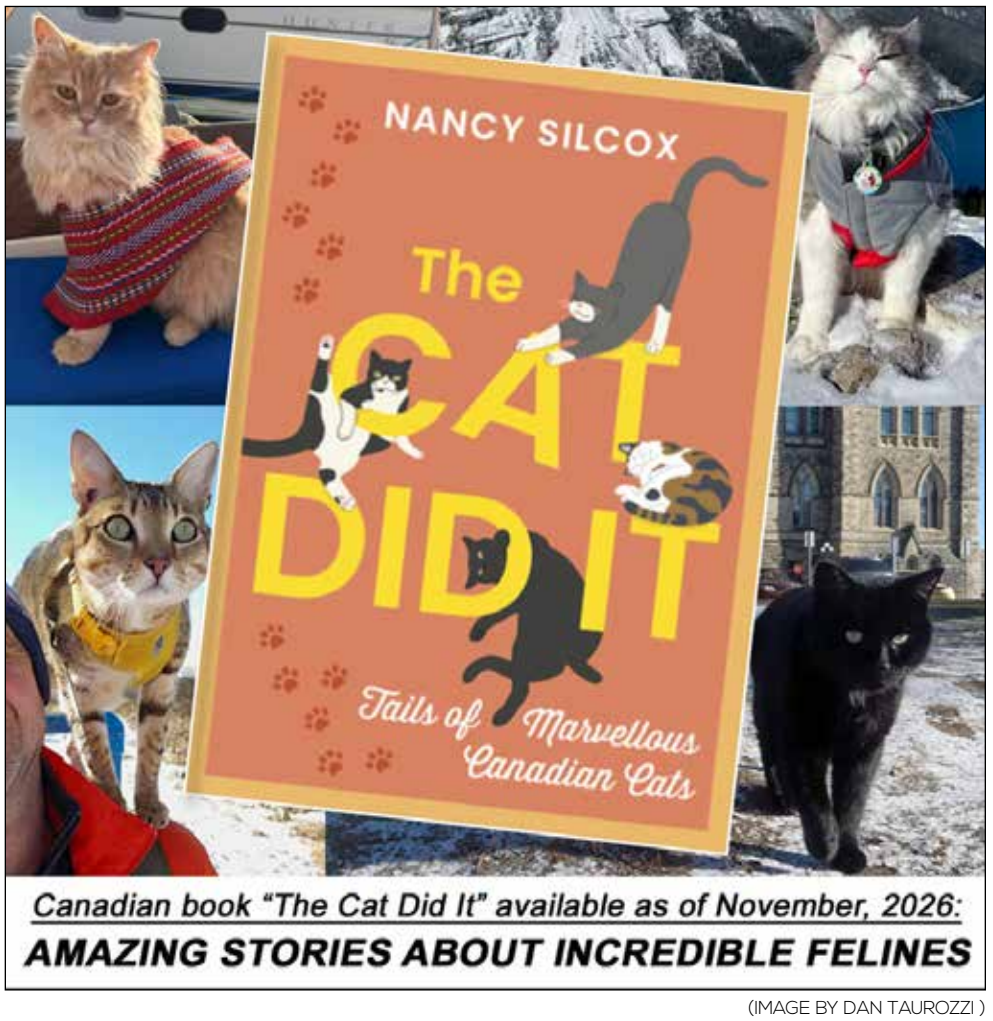
"I think the really big thing is the support of the cat charities."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Prime Minister Mark Carney's family cat, Nico, is among the feline celebrities featured in New Hamburg author Nancy Silcox's newly published book, The Cat Did It: Tails of Marvellous Canadian Cats.

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(IMAGE BY DAN TAUROZZI)

The cover of New Hamburg author Nancy Silcox's latest book, The Cat Did It: Tails of Marvellous Canadian Cats, is pictured alongside some of the remarkable felines whose stories appear in its pages. Silcox will celebrate the book's release with launches at the New Hamburg Pet Valu Nov. 14 and Stratford Pet Valu Nov. 21. All of her author royalties will support three Canadian cat rescues, including Pet Patrol in Elmira.

Friendships were forged after five days at the Stratford Film Festival

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

Five days and 43 films later, there were many in the audience of the second annual Stratford Film Festival sharing contact information having forged new friendships. They came, scoped out their favourite spot and soon were having conversation with the new commonality of the festival experience.

Opening night was a sold-out, sparkling affair with a welcome reception in the lobby of the Stratford City Hall auditorium as guests enjoyed prosecco and finger foods courtesy of Pazzo in advance of the 7 p.m. screening of the international hit, Primavera. This film was a classical music fan's delight with the impact Vivaldi had on Cecelia, the gifted young violinist that challenged her destiny. The music, coupled with the surprising fact that Vivaldi was an ordained Catholic priest, had everyone talking.

By Thursday, there was a lot of excitement about what was upcoming with programming that, as always, challenges viewers to explore worlds outside themselves. Domination of power as in Nika and Madison as two young Indigenous women find themselves on the run. The many forms and roles a family can take as in the charming and heartfelt Jimpa. Quiet courage as a schoolteacher in Russia pushes back against the Kremlin propaganda during the war with Ukraine in the Oscar-winning Mr. Nobody Against Putin.

Friday's films opened with themes of spirituality in art in the films Iniskim, where a buffalo is brought to life through puppetry, and En Plein Air that takes you into beautiful Algonquin Park captured in the elements in paintings.

This was followed by two breakout hits of independence and self realization in the films, Montreal Ma Belle and Calle Malaga.

The most talked about film beforehand had to be the world premiere of Fallen Star: The Shooting of Ukrainian Airlines Flight PS752. Some thought the subject matter perhaps too challenging giving the ongoing war of today, while others thought that is why the film is so important and should be watched. The standing ovation given at the end of the film demonstrated that director Moze Mossanen can find humanity in the most tragic of stories.

Saturday morning started with coffee and sweet treats courtesy of Black Angus which by then was welcomed by the early attendees who came for the film Sweet Story, about baker Meg Ray who becomes enchanted with a tiny Swedish Island Café.

Not to be missed were the screenings of short films, of which Saturday's programming was Canadian Shorts.

The film, Dear Lara was another that generated a lot of discussion as in her directorial debut, violinist Lara St. John details how sharing the story of her own abuse revealed a culture of abuse hidden within the classical music world. She joins survivors in the pursuit of investigations and justice.

Saturday night's offering, Darlene Love: I Know Where I've Been took attendees down the road of musical icon Darlene Love who was surrounded by stars that idolized her and supported her in the return to stardom. This film was the TIFF People Choice award winner this year.

The festival party was Saturday night and was held at the Queen's Cue, the much-anticipated venue in which festival goers were the first group welcomed into the hotel. The drinks and food flowed into the night but meant a smaller group for the Sunday morning screening of Cookie Queens, as adorable as it was with girl guides setting massive goals for themselves to sell cookies.

The importance and struggle of independent news journalist Amy Goodman was documented in the film, Steal This Story, Please, which was proceeded by I Swear.

Closing the festival was the story of the thrilling adventure of Piccard and Jones as they travelled around the world non-stop in an air balloon. This was also a sold-out crowd favourite as, even though you know the ending, you become invested in the journey.

The second edition of the Stratford Film Festival continued to bring interesting, challenging, charming and important films to Stratford with a small army of committed volunteers and sponsors that made it an enriching conversation among old friends and new.

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STRATFORD TIMES SPORTS

St. Mike's senior, novice boys shine at WOSSAA Cross-Country meet

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

St. Michael Catholic Secondary School's cross-country team brought home a strong set of results at the WOSSAA Cross-Country Championship Oct. 29 in Strathroy.

Coach Karli Parks called the St. Mike's cross-country team's success "a testament to the dedication" of their athletes and coaches.

"Since September, this team has been practicing both together and individually," Parks told the Times. "It shows the progress we've seen this season. Some of our athletes came out hoping to run competitively for the first time. To be able to say that they competed at the regional level is something to be proud of."

The senior boys team for St. Mike's finished first in their division's race, including Thomas Mott placing first, Caleb Hurley taking fourth, Van Koss finishing 14th, Lucas De Wit placing 15th and Colton Campbell taking 25th, earning the five senior boys a trip to OFSAA in Sudbury Nov. 9. Two more senior runners from St. Mike's include Quintin Vollmer, who finished 92nd, and Leland Smith, who placed 125th.

Parks noted cross-country success has become the standard for the five OFSAA-bound senior boys.

"This is the senior boys' third time winning WOSSAA and punching their ticket to OFSAA as a group of five," Parks explained. "They push each other throughout the season and during the off-season to continue to improve, with their group chat named 'OFSAA champs.' It's clear these five will continue to show up, determined to get provincial success. This group has been a joy to coach over the years."

Also going to OFSAA from St. Mike's was the novice boys' team, which came second overall, only missing first by one point. Owen Hurley came 11th, Miles Marshall came 17th, Mason Bye finished 18th, Joseph Moss placed 34th and James Rae took 40th to round out the St. Mike's group advancing to OFSAA. Other results in the novice boys race include Nash Riehl in 43rd and Yafiet Libab in 54th.

Parks credited the novice boys, like their counterparts in the senior boys' division, with being incredibly determined to succeed.

"When I think about both novice and senior boys teams, I think about how determined they are. For our Grade 9 group, most of these runners are multi-sport athletes. They are used to pushing themselves to their limits. Earlier in the season, two novice boys had a rough start at a race, both being stepped on by other athletes who were wearing spikes," Parks began.

"Instead of deterring them from running, they came to the next race determined to get the results they hoped for at the last. At WOSSAA, one novice boy lost his footing and took a fall into the bushes. He then got back up, finished the race and passed several runners from competing schools. If this doesn't show determination, I don't know what does."



(MARK DEWAN PHOTO)

Pictured are Owen Hurley (#718), Mason Bye (#720), Nate Micks (#733), Miles Marshall (#721) and Joseph Moss (#722). Hurley, Bye, Marshall and Moss, along with James Rae, were part of the St. Michael Catholic Secondary School's novice boys team that placed second at the WOSSAA Cross-Country Championship in Strathroy Oct. 29 and qualified for OFSAA, which takes place Nov. 9 in Sudbury.

The junior girls' team finished sixth overall. Lilly Harrigan finished 27th, Lilian Terpstra placed 32nd, Julia Gracey took 48th, and Marysol Belz finished 75th.

The novice girls also finished sixth overall, with Jessika Phillips taking 13th, Danica Felker placing 26th, Adelle DeGroot finishing 44th, Adriana McCutcheon earning 59th, Renae Olbach taking 74th and Eden Neeb placing 77th.

In the senior girls' race, Lydia McLaughlin finished 48th, and Therese Charlesworth took 60th. Charlie Shaw placed 63rd.

The Stratford District Secondary School (SDSS) cross-country team sent 23 athletes to WOSSAA. While no one from SDSS qualified for OFSAA, Colby Martin placed 13th in the junior boys' race, Nate Micks took 15th in the novice boys' event and Hudson Welsh finished 18th in the senior boys' race.



(MARK DEWAN PHOTOS)

Pictured are Thomas Mott (#314) and Caleb Hurley (#315) running during the senior boys' race at the Oct. 29 WOSSAA Cross-Country Championship in Strathroy. Mott finished first, and Hurley placed fourth out of 131 runners, helping the St. Michael Catholic Secondary School's senior boys team win WOSSAA for the third time and qualify for OFSAA, alongside Van Koss, Lucas De Wit and Colton Campbell.

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Warriors host Meteors in key cross-conference matchup

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

On Nov. 6, the Stratford Hunter Steel Warriors faced the Fort Erie Meteors, the Greater Ontario Hockey League's (GOHL) Eastern Conference powerhouse, in a pivotal matchup at William Allman Memorial Arena.

Alongside an auction of Knox For Cancer jerseys and free tickets for SMHA players under 13 as part of Stratford Minor Hockey Night, the team held a pregame Remembrance Day ceremony.

Mateo Craievich gave the Warriors the lead at 8:48 of the first period, with assists from Grady Murphy and Carter Brownlee. Fort Erie answered just 21 seconds later and scored three more goals before the end of the opening frame to take a 4-1 lead after 20 minutes.

The Meteors extended their lead 65 seconds into the second period, but Colin Slattery, assisted by Aaron Green and Murphy on the power play, cut the deficit to three with 2:51 left. Fort Erie put the game out of reach just over a minute later. The visitors added another goal late in the final frame to hand the Warriors a 7-2 loss – their first regulation home loss since Sept. 18 against Chatham.

Warriors' netminder Noah Bender made 18 saves in the loss, while the team went 1-for-4 on the power play and was successful on their only penalty kill.

Head coach Dave Williams says the loss was a humbling experience for the team and hopes they'll use it as motivation to contend with the GOHL's top teams.

"Well, I mean, I thought Fort Erie came as advertised. They're a very fast, skilled hockey club. I liked our start. I thought our first 10 minutes were kind of the way we wanted to play, and then, you know they scored two quick goals, and then another three and four, and it just seemed like we got ourselves into a big hole early against a really good hockey team. So I still think we mismanaged too many pucks on Friday night," Williams said.

"We need to do a better job consistently. You have to really protect that puck and make sure when you're giving it up to somebody, you're giving it up to one of your teammates. They're putting the puck into an area that you can go check the puck back. I thought Friday night was a bit of a combination of seeing their skill, but also us giving pucks up that we need to do a better job managing."

Stratford (9-5-0-1) hosts the Elmira Sugar Kings on Nov. 13 and travels to Welland for a cross-conference matchup with the Jr. Canadiens on Nov. 15.

GOHL Western Conference Standings

(as of November 9, 2026)

Team	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	GF	GA
St. Marys Lincolns	17	1	0	0	34	111	38
St. Thomas Stars	14	3	0	1	29	72	40
Listowel Cyclones	11	5	3	0	25	75	60
Chatham Maroons	12	5	0	0	24	77	48
Stratford Warriors	9	5	0	1	19	53	51
Strathroy Rockets	8	9	2	1	19	85	79
Elmira Sugar Kings	8	10	1	0	17	68	74
London Nationals	7	11	1	0	15	65	82
LaSalle Vipers	7	10	0	0	14	46	68
Woodstock Navy Vets	7	10	0	0	14	62	76
Komoka Kings	5	14	0	0	10	58	81
Sarnia Legionnaires	1	15	0	0	2	2	102

Stratford Warriors 2026-27 Stats

(as of November 9, 2026)

Player	Pos	GP	G	A	PTS
Colin Slattery	F	14	7	8	15
Grady Murphy	F	15	6	8	14
Coen Galbraith	F	15	5	8	13
Aaron Green	D	15	3	9	12
Max Wildfong	F	13	6	5	11
Dominic Marshall	F	15	3	8	11
McQuen Haylock	F	15	9	1	10
Ethan Bridges	F	15	2	7	9
Jaxon Broda	D	15	1	6	7
Will Coward	D	14	0	6	6
Francesco Sanita	F	14	3	2	5
Declan McCotter	F	14	0	4	4
Chase Martin	F	13	2	1	3
Drew Hodge	D	15	2	1	3
Gibson Grendel	D	14	0	3	3
Mateo Craievich	D	13	2	0	2
Carter Brownlee	D	11	1	1	2
Colten Brenzil	F	12	1	0	1
Ethan McPhee	F	6	0	1	1
Lucas Minard	F	11	0	1	1

Goalies	Record	GAA	SV-%
Noah Bender	5-2-0-1	3.08	0.899
Gage Hurst	4-2-0-0	3.02	0.888

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Lakers Weekly: U18 leadership group sets goal for the season, competes at Kitchener Blueline Tournament

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

Early last week, Huron-Perth U18 AAA Lakers head coach Chad Smalley spoke to the Times about the home opener win on Oct. 31 and set sights on the Kitchener tournament.

"It was very big. We competed well, worked hard, got some good goals, five-on-five, got some power play goals. The kids worked really hard, and they were super excited to get the W at home here," Smalley said.

"It's been a struggle, but we got a good bunch of kids here. There's a lot of talent in the room. They just got to believe in themselves and believe in what we're trying to sell them, and play as a team. Moving forward, we just have to establish that identity, and then just keep building off that and get a couple Ws or a tie. Whatever it is- under a belt that builds some confidence."

Team captain Owen Jarmuth discusses what it is like to lead the team and shares his expectations for the rest of the season.

"It's an honour to wear a letter for this group. Such a great group of guys in there, and just looking forward to going to battle with them every day," Jarmuth said.

"We're looking to finish in like the top four, or five in the standings, and just keep working hard in practice, getting better every day, and winning games."

Assistant captains Knox Harrison, Alex Haynes and Tyler Burtenshaw shared their thoughts on their position and the team's expectations for the remainder of the season.

"It's great. I mean, we have a great group this year, and I can't wait to be a leader of this team," Harrison said. "I think our team's goal this year is to finish top four or five in the league and just be a gritty team and ready to go at puck drop every game."

"It's an honour," Haynes said. "We want to make it through the regular season, top four or five, hopefully three, and push hard in the playoffs."

"I would say it's quite the honour. Just keeping everyone positive. We've got a great group of guys and are trying to get the guys to go pretty far this year. So, yeah, it's pretty nice," Burtenshaw said.

"Try to finish with a winning record here and keep going forward off of our big win and just keep building off that. Hopefully, make it to the playoffs and do pretty good in that."

This past weekend from Nov. 6 through 8, the Lakers competed at the annual AAA Blueline Tournament in Kitchener-Waterloo.

In the round-robin opener against Okanagan on Nov. 6, the Lakers came back with 4:01 remaining in the third period to settle for a 1-1 draw. In the mid-afternoon game against the North Bay Trappers, the Lakers squandered an early first-period lead and lost 2-1.

On Nov. 7, the Lakers stepped up in their final two games of the round robin. In the late-morning game against the Kapuskasing Flyers, the Lakers jumped to a 4-1 lead with all four goals coming in the second period. Huron-Perth added two more in the third period to secure their first win of the tournament by the score of 6-1.

In the early-evening game against the Mississauga Rebels, the Lakers opened the scoring in the first period and held the 1-0 lead heading into the third period. Mississauga tied the game with 3:03 to play, but the Lakers responded with the game-winner with 1:09 left, winning 2-1 and claiming second place in the U18 AAA Graham Division with a 2-1-1 record.

In the quarterfinal on Nov. 8, the Lakers faced CIH Academy. Huron-Perth scored on the power play with 2:49 left in the second period. CIH Academy scored at the 7:10 mark of the third period, sending the game into overtime. With 1:08 left in the extra session, Burtenshaw went from across the rink and fired the game-winner, sending the jubilant Lakers into the semi-finals.

Against the Jr. Rangers in the semifinals, the U18 Lakers' resilient tournament run came to an end with a 6-1 loss to the eventual champions.

The Lakers returned to ALLIANCE U18 regular-season play with two road games in London against the Jr. Knights on Nov. 15 and the Waterloo Wolves on Nov. 16.









U16 and U18 Warriors compete at the Stratford Regional Silver Stick

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

Last weekend, arenas in Stratford, St. Marys and Milverton hosted the annual Jack McNaughton Silver Stick, held Nov. 6-8. As a regional qualifier for the Silver Stick finals, the tournament brings together AA teams across eight age divisions, from U10 to U18, competing for a spot in the international tournament scheduled for January 2027 in select Ontario cities.

For the U16 and U18 Stratford Warriors, a win at the weekend tournament secures their tickets to the finals in Newmarket (U16) and Sarnia (U18).

Stratford opened the U16 tournament against the St. Catharines Falcons late in the morning on Nov. 6 at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

The Falcons took a 2-0 lead five minutes into the first period. St. Catharines extended their lead to 3-0 at 4:32 of the second, but Stratford's Liam Kelly answered with a blast from the edge of the left circle in the attacking zone with 4:44 remaining in the period.

St. Catharines restored its multi-goal lead 14 seconds into the third period with a deflection in front of Warriors netminder Carter Cook. With 8:32 remaining, Cole Morris gave the Warriors some life by cutting the deficit in half. St. Catharines responded just over two minutes later, handing the Warriors their first tournament loss, 5-2.

In their evening game on day one of the tournament, the Warriors faced the Brantford 99ers.

Stratford got off to a solid start, killing off the Brantford powerplay and capitalizing on the 99ers' double-minor with a late power-play goal from Kesler Carroll in the first period.

But the lead was short-lived as Brantford answered back 94 seconds into the second period. The 99ers took the lead with 4:37 left in the period and added another with 1:59 left in the middle frame. The Warriors looked to come back on the power play early in the third period, but couldn't find the equalizer. Brantford put the game out of reach with over 10 minutes left, handing the Warriors their second loss of the tournament by a 4-1 score.

After the game, U16 Warriors head coach Jamie Morris reflects on playing at home and the players' pride in competing in front of supporters and families, and wants to finish the tournament on a positive note.

"It's good. It's always good to play in your home tournament, battle hard in front of your home fans. It's something you get to do once a year," Morris said. "We've had two tough losses, so just battle hard, play for some pride for the next game, and hopefully we see a result that's in our favour."

On Nov. 7, the Warriors looked to finish their Silver Stick run in the win column as they faced the Collingwood Jr. Blues.

The first period went scoreless, but Collingwood scored twice in a span of over two minutes midway through the second period to take a 2-0 lead. Stratford responded with a power-play goal with 3:33 left in the middle frame to cut the deficit to a goal, but Collingwood scored while on short-handed less than a minute later to restore their two-goal lead heading into the third period.

In the third period, Collingwood sealed the game with 5:23 remaining. Despite two late third-period goals, the Warriors fell short in a 4-3 loss, finishing the round-robin with a 0-3 record.

St. Catharines went on to win the tournament, defeating the Oakville Rangers Red 3-0 on the afternoon of Nov. 8 at the Rotary Complex.

Next up for the U16 Warriors is the annual Memorial AA & A Tournament in Waterloo from Nov. 13 to 15.

The U18 Warriors began their Silver Stick regional tournament play against the Mount Brydges Cougars at the William Allman Memorial Arena in an early matinée on Nov. 6.

The game remained scoreless through the first period, but the Cougars opened the scoring 34 seconds into the second with a deflection that baffled Warriors netminder Max Weber. The Warriors had two power plays in the final 5:41 of the middle frame, with the second carrying into the third period, but couldn't convert either chance.

Around the halfway point, the Cougars doubled their lead when a neutral-zone giveaway led to a one-on-two breakaway goal. Stratford began its comeback on its third power play of the game, as Caleb Hurley received a tight pass in front of the exposed left side of the Mount Brydges net.

The Warriors tied the game five seconds into their next power play of the period when Ryder Duchesne redirected Luke Hishon's shot in front of the Cougars' net with 4:01 left in regulation. But their bid to secure at least a point fell short after a scramble in front of the Stratford crease with 31.8 seconds remaining, resulting in a 3-2 loss.

In their second game of the tournament in the evening against the Hamilton Jr. Steel at the Rotary Complex, the Warriors jumped out to a 1-0 lead after Duchsene made a highlight-reel goal, spun around the Hamilton defence in front of the net and wired the puck on the right side of the net with 7:47 left in the second period. The Steel tied the game a few minutes later on the powerplay with 4:37 to go in the middle frame.

After converting on the penalty kill early in the third period, the Warriors retook the lead as Cameron Siroen scored with 9:38 remaining. Stratford held off Hamilton's late push and preserved the 2-1 win. With the win and the Mt. Brydges-Burlington Rattlers draw, the Warriors had a chance to advance to the semifinals in their preliminary-round finale against the Rattlers.

Following the win over Hamilton, U18 Warriors head Coach Riley Mathieson emphasized the difference between the team's two performances on the day.

"Well, the difference in the two games was that we showed up for the second one, and we've learned quite early in the season here that when we show up and play a full hockey game, we're a tough team to compete with, and when we don't show up, we're very vulnerable. So we had a long discussion after that first game this morning. I thought we stooped to the other team's level and played to their level, and obviously it didn't go our way," Mathieson said.

"We lost a goal to them in the last 30 seconds that cost us the match, and it was important for us to show up this evening, despite the delays and the late start, to get the split on the day and give ourselves an opportunity to be playing on Sunday. I think that if you look at the other teams in our pool, there's no reason why we can't be there. If we put our heads together and we all get off the bus on time tomorrow, I think we're going to be right there competing for a spot on Sunday tomorrow night."

With a spot in the U18 semifinals up for grabs, the Warriors faced the Rattlers at the Allman Arena in the early afternoon of Nov. 7.

Hurley put the Warriors ahead with 6:34 remaining in the first period. Burlington answered on the power play at 2:23 of the second. The Warriors held off a desperate Rattlers push in the final frame, earning a 1-1 draw to secure a semifinal spot. They finished 1-1-1, good for second place in the group.

The Warriors' Silver Stick run came to an emphatic end in the semifinals at the Rotary Complex, where they lost 7-1 to the Scarborough Ice Raiders. The Ice Raiders went on to shut out Mount Brydges 3-0 in the Nov. 8 final.

After the loss, Mathieson reflects on the team's performance against Ontario's number-one-ranked U18 AA team.

"I think there's a lot of good, and there's a lot of things we can look back on and find ways that we could have done better in the moment. Tonight we just ran into a really strong Scarborough team, but it doesn't take away from some of our play. I think we controlled much of the play throughout the evening, and we competed and showed we could against a team like that," Mathieson said.

"But there were a couple of times where we had some mental lapses, didn't look after assignments, and they ended up in the back of our net. I didn't look at the game and think that they had us pinned in our own zone, as the score might show, but we just talked about it in the room that there are some positives we can take away and some things that we can look back on and find ways that we could improve for the next opportunity."

The U18 Warriors (4-4-0) returned to U18 ALLIANCE regular-season play on the road against the London Jr. Knights White on Nov. 12, followed by trips to Brantford to face the 99ers on Nov. 14 and to Woodstock Jr. Navy Vets on Nov. 15.

Lakers Weekly: U13 competes at the Little Caesars Challenge

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

On the first full weekend of November, the U13 Lakers returned to Michigan for the annual Little Caesars Challenge.

In the four-game round-robin, the Lakers – the top-ranked U13 AAA team in Ontario and the highest-rated in Canada according to the My Hockey Rankings – faced the USA 12U AAA third-seeded Boston Advantage, the fifth-ranked Buffalo Jr. Sabres, the top-ranked Middlesex Islanders and the eighth-ranked Chicago Fury.

Against Boston Advantage, in the tournament opener on the morning of Nov. 6, the Lakers came back from a 2-1 deficit to pull away with three third-period goals and win 5-3.

In their second game of the day, the Lakers overcame two multi-goal deficits with four unanswered goals in the third period to win 6-4 over the Buffalo Jr. Sabres and go 2-0 in the tournament.

After a much-needed rest, the Lakers faced the Middlesex Islanders in the early matinée matchup on Nov. 7. The Lakers scored three goals in the second period and held off the Islanders to secure their third win in the tournament, 3-1.

In the round-robin finale against the Chicago Fury, the Lakers scored four goals in the first period and went on to win 6-1, finishing the preliminary round with an unblemished 4-0 record.

On Nov. 8, the Lakers faced Florida Alliance in the semifinals. Florida Alliance entered the tournament ranked fourth in the USA 12U AAA rankings.

Huron-Perth scored first 1:26 into the game and took the 2-1 lead late in the first period. After the Lakers scored to make it 3-1 at 4:11 of the second period, Florida stormed back with four unanswered goals to take the 5-3 lead heading into the third period. The Lakers climbed back to within a goal with over 10 minutes remaining, but were unable to find the equalizer as they lost 5-3.

Middlesex defeated Florida in the final.

The U13 Lakers head to Buffalo for the 12U Buffalo Jr. Sabres Invitational Showcase from Nov. 13 through 15.

Lakers Weekly: U16 take on Cyclones

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

Through the first month and a half of the 2026-27 season, the Huron-Perth U16 AAA Lakers started the ALLIANCE U16 regular-season play with a 4-4-1 record.

Head coach Greg Swan says the team is feeling confident heading to the game against Chatham-Kent after a strong showing at the U16 ALLIANCE Showcase.

"Yeah, I think it's been pretty good as a collective group. I mean, we had a pretty good weekend at the showcase last weekend; we won three or four games. The losses against Chatham, and that's who we're playing this weekend. So I think just looking for a big bounce-back game against the team that we'll be fighting with in the standings," Swan said.

Forward Sam Humphrey and goaltenders Brody Muir and Hayden Wick are among those contributing to the Lakers' .500 start.

Humphrey leads the team in scoring this season with 11 points – seven goals and four assists – in nine games. Known as a power forward, the Kincardine native says he focuses on guiding the team each game and improving his skill.

"I just try to drive the net and be there for my teammates. Try to set people up. Yeah, just forecheck hard, lay the body and just be physical, and then it'll all go your way," Humphrey said.

Muir and Wick are the guardians of the crease for the U16 Lakers this season. With a combined goals-against average of 3.16 and a record of 4-4-1, the duo spoke to the Times about how their partnership has progressed this season.

"Yeah, it's nice to have someone like Brody and to help me out when you know if I'm having a bad game and I need to be pulled, you know, he comes in there and helps the boys keep it, keep the scoring lower," Wick said.

"Oh, he's (Wick) a great guy, great goalie. Awesome to be around. I feel confident with him in there. When he plays, he's a great guy," Muir said.

Swan says Humphrey, Muir and Wick have been valuable assets to the team so far this season.

"It's great. I mean, three really good kids who are nice and coachable. Hayden and Brody are the goalie tandem, and you know they've both had some real good games for us this year," Swan said.

"Sammy's been a real horse for us up front, and you know, getting heavy on the forecheck and good net front, and winning his battles, and he's really done well for us offensively as well. He's done really good."

The Lakers travelled to Ridgetown on Nov. 7 to take on the Chatham-Kent Cyclones, losing 4-0. With the loss, the Lakers fell to 4-5-1 on the season, but look to get back on the winning track with two games this weekend, starting in Komoka against the Elgin-Middlesex Canucks and then back on home ice at the Stratford Rotary Complex against the Brantford 99ers.

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SDSS edges St. Mike's for regular season crown

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

On Nov. 5 at SDSS, the Stratford District Golden Bears and St. Michael's Warriors – the top two senior boys volleyball teams in the Huron-Perth Athletics Association (HPAA) – faced off for the postseason's top seed.

In a tight battle, the Golden Bears held off a strong effort from the Warriors to win in three sets, 25-23, 27-25 and 25-22. The victory left the Golden Bears with an undefeated 9-0 regular-season record. Even more impressively, they didn't relinquish a set all season, winning all 18 they played.

SDSS head coach Bear Gough says the team wasn't at its best but overcame early adversity in all three sets to secure a place in the semifinals. He added that the team needs to improve its form to win the league title next week.

"It was certainly not our best day. We made a lot of mistakes, but in the end, we were able to come together and win an ugly game, which was important because the winner of this game is going to have the right to host the semi-final," Gough said.

"We're going to have to be much more engaged and active defensively. We let far too many balls drop for easy points. We also definitely need to get our serves in. We missed far too many, and that made the games much closer than they needed to be."

The Golden Bears host the winner of the St. Annes-Central Huron quarterfinal in the semifinals at the Stratford Agriplex on the afternoon of Nov. 10. The HPAA Senior Boys' final is scheduled for Nov. 12 at a site to be determined.

STRATFORD TIMES

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Chartwell - Anne Hathaway Residence
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Circle K - Huron St
Coffee Culture Cafe & Eatery
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Cozyn's Garden Gallery
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Daisy mart
Demetres Restauant
Destination Stratford
Dick's Barber Shop
Dollar Haven
Domino's Pizza
East End Variety (231 Douro)
Erie Convenience
Esso - Erie St
Esso - Ontario St
Expressway Ford Stratford Features
Stratford Mall
Fix Auto Stratford
Food Basics
Foodland Stratford
Fore! Everyone Golf - Stratford's Indoor Golf Experience
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Honeywood Tirecraft
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Jenny Trout Centre
Joe's Diner - Stratford
Joe's Variety
LCBO (Stratford Mall)
Matthew Rae MPP
McCarthy Place
McDonald's - Ontario St
McDonald's 709 Erie St
Mornington Variety
Mr.Sub
New Orleans Pizza
Papa Johns Pizza
Quality Inn & Conference Centre Festival
Romeo's Corner Cafe
Rosso Barber-o Shop
Rotary Hospice Apartments
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 8
Sebringville ESSO
Shell
Shell - Downie St
Shell - Erie St
Shell - Huron St
Shoppers Drug Mart - Huron St
Shoppers Drug Mart - Ontario St
Sobeys Stratford
Spruce Lodge
Stratford & District Chamber Of Commerce
Stratford Chefs School Learning Center
Stratford City Hall
Stratford City Mazda
Stratford General Hospital
Stratford Honda
Stratford Hyundai
Stratford Kia
Stratford KW Surplus
Stratford Medical Pharmacy
Stratford Motor Products
Stratford Nissan
Stratford North End Pharmacy
Stratford Perth Archives
Stratford Perth Museum
Stratford Public Library
Stratford Rotary Complex
Stratford Subaru
Stratford Variety
Strickland's Stratford Toyota
The Bruce Hotel
The Livery Yard
The Local Community Food Centre
The Parlour Inn Restaurant
The Split Rail Country Store
The UPS Store
The Urban Barber
Tim Hortons - Erie St
Tim Hortons - Huron St
Tim Hortons - Ontario St
Toner and Ink Shop
Town Crier Marketing
Union Tattoo and Barbershop
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Mike's Lanes celebrates 42 years of Tom Boyes Memorial Best Ball Tournament

NICHELE BUTCHER-BONTRUP

Times Contributor

Mike's Lanes welcomed bowlers for the 42nd annual Tom Boyes Memorial Best Ball Tournament, held Nov. 9, bringing together local and out-of-town competitors for a day of five-pin bowling and friendly competition.

The eight-game scratch tournament showcased some impressive bowling, with teams competing for a spot among the top five cash-paying positions.

Taking home first place were Caylie Butcher and Kyle Turner with an impressive, combined total of 2,647.

The remaining top-five finishers included Brent Furtney and Steve Hinz scoring 2,533 to take second place. Third place went to Jon Gagan and Kyle McNall, who rolled 2,448. John Linden and Joe Shaw finished fourth with 2,417, and Zach Hallam and Kevin Finnigan rounded out the top five with 2,403.

Mike's Lanes would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to Laurel and Dennis Laughton for their continued dedication and support in keeping the Tom Boyes Memorial Tournament going year after year. Their commitment helps preserve the memory of Tom Boyes and the tradition he represents within the bowling community.

A special thank-you was also extended to all the out-of-town bowlers who travelled to Stratford to participate and support this longstanding event.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Pictured from left to right are Kyle Turner, Laurel Laughton and Caylie Butcher, with Laughton presenting the first-place prize to Turner and Butcher at the 42nd annual Tom Boyes Memorial Best Ball Tournament Nov. 9 at Mike's Bowling Lanes. On the right is a commemorative photo of Tom Boyes, the tournament's namesake.

Mike's 5-Pin Bowling Association (M5PBA) Weekly Report

Men's
Matt Moore 365-829
Dan Clark 814
Jon Gagan 350
Rob Price 369-865

Women's
Brooke Louwagie 714
April Hallam 707
Brooke Louwagie 740

Monday Senior's
Marlene Crerar 202
Steve Van Klooster 272-660

V-Ettes
Frances Sprout 203

United League
Autumn Stadtlander 229,216
Sydney Smith 216,208
Nichele Butcher-Bontrup 200
Steve Pickering 229
Paul Boyd 224-619

Stratford Pin Pals
Jeremy Rathwell 103
Cody Medeiors 119
Gregory Jones 104

YBC Scores

Bowlasaurus
Royce Butcher-Cassidy 89
Noah Rothwell 113
Cole Casey 106
Huxley Wybrow 138
Theo Brown 102
Levi Hamilton 101

PeeWee & Bantam
Jacob Murray 173
Issac Rothwell 105-228
Noah Saunders 260 series
Lincoln Butcher-Cassidy 129, 125-341
Stella Hurley St. Pierre 114-261
Kayleigh Mitchell 168-406 series
Caleb Luckhardt 195, 152-461 series

Junior
Mckenna Morris 150, 172, 186-508 series
Anna Ward 217, 223, 203-643 series
Brianne Bauer 168, 199
Joey Robinson 160
Abby Smith 151, 188
Talia Klomp 155
Charlee Koyle 176-423 series
Lauren Furtney 178,194
Hayden Martin 163,174
Roland Rains 225,197-564 series
Brent Louwagie 162, 205-515 series
Austin Janmaat 190, 193-523 series

Senior
Alex Ward 237, 228-622 series
Sydney Smith 174, 219-547 series
Wiatt Robinson 191,193
Issac Hallam 188
Payton Kainz 176, 185, 298(120 POA)-659 series
Jocelyn Gethke 189
Claire Turner 220
Carter Bage 203,201
Zachary Clarke 221, 232, 218-671 series
Yulia Mooers 222
Owen Martin 192

Special Olympics
Tiffany Keller 233(105 POA)-381 series
Meghan O Donovan 152, 181
Courtney Moore 165
Jacob Kaufman 153, 182
Michael Hitchcock 202
Andy Van Schaik 152

LOCAL MATTERS.



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Editorial

Staying engaged after the votes have been tallied



GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

The excitement from the Oct. 26 municipal elections has all but died down, and a new slate of council members will take their rightful seats around their respective council tables within the next week.

With a lot to learn for those who are new to their roles, the real work of governing, setting budgets and strategic direction, reading through countless agendas filled with detailed reports and attending council, committee and board meetings is about to begin.

And while many of us have placed our trust in those we've elected to serve, those of us who will not be serving on council need to stay engaged in municipal politics to hold those we've elected accountable for the promises they made during election season.

Though most people don't have the time in their day to attend every council meeting, read every report or advocate on every issue that reaches council chambers, there are more manageable ways to stay involved and engaged as we transition from the excitement of an election to the often less-interesting minutiae of running a municipality from day to day.

For starters, consider volunteering to serve on a municipal committee, community board or with a local organization working toward a cause you believe in.

I recently joined the fundraising committee for the Community Commons project at 14 Church St. N. in St. Marys because I believe in what the project aims to accomplish and wanted to lend a hand in making it a reality.

Like many of you, I have a busy schedule, and I can't always make it to every meeting. However, with meetings generally held once a month, it's a manageable commitment that allows me to contribute what I can.

Another simple way to stay engaged is to pick up your local newspaper each week and read about the decisions being made at council.

As journalists, we spend countless hours attending meetings, reviewing reports and asking questions so residents can remain informed without having to do all that work themselves. Even spending 15 or 20 minutes each week catching up on municipal affairs can make a difference.

And when something catches your attention, don't be afraid to reach out to your local councillor. Whether it's a concern about road maintenance, recreation facilities, housing or municipal spending, a conversation can help you better understand what's being done and ensure your concerns are heard and considered.

Municipalities also provide opportunities for public input through surveys, open houses, budget consultations and public meetings. Taking a few minutes to complete a survey or submitting a letter to council can help shape decisions that directly affect your community.

When an issue is particularly important to you, consider speaking as a delegation before council. You don't need to be an expert to share your experiences or explain how a proposed decision might affect you, your family or your neighbours. Sure, speaking in public can be intimidating, but if you can remember that the folks you elected to serve on council really do want to hear what you have to say, it really isn't that daunting.

Most importantly, remember that civic engagement doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing commitment. You can follow one issue closely, support one community initiative or simply ask questions when something doesn't seem right.

Democracy doesn't begin and end at the ballot box. Electing our municipal representatives is just the first step. Holding them accountable, offering constructive input and helping build the communities we want to live in are responsibilities we share.

After all, the decisions made around the council table will continue to affect our daily lives long after the campaign signs come down.

Quote of the Week

"That's our key to success and key to growth: inventing new things, reinventing ourselves. So whether it's new products that we're inventing or reinventing

new processes of how we make our current (products), we're always reinventing ourselves one way or the other."

–Ian Nuhn, vice president of Nuhn Industries Ltd., on the secrets to its continued success.

STRATFORD TIMES

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STRATFORD TIMES

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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

Opinion

Remembrance Day is about loss



JEFF HELSDON

Times Correspondent

Yesterday, many Tillsonburg residents braved the weather to line Broadway in front of the cenotaph for the annual Remembrance Day ceremony. Today, they move on, focused on Black Friday deals and Christmas shopping.

Yet, some do not move on so easily, and historically many struggled to move on after serving their country.

Remembrance Day pays tribute to those who fought, and the thousands who died, for Canada in the First World War, Second World War, Korea and Afghanistan. In the First World War, 66,000 Canadians lost their lives. Not 20 years later, global conflict arose again, and another 45,000 Canadians made the ultimate sacrifice.

The numbers are even more staggering, though, as many who returned home did so with injuries and memories forever scarred by what they saw in these conflicts. What we now call PTSD was common for decades among those who served, those who woke with nightmares of their time serving the country.

One of the worst examples of war's impact was seen in the First World War, when 801 soldiers of the Newfoundland Regiment went into battle at Beaumont-Hamel. By day's end, only 68 weren't dead or wounded. Every community on the island was impacted.

Numbers in the Second World War are even more colossal. Estimates are that worldwide 60 to 75 million people died, including military personnel, civilians and deaths from disease and famine. That was three per cent of the global population at the time.

Today, thankfully, the majority of us don't know the tremendous sense of loss associated with the death of a young child, or sibling, at the hands of a foreign foe in battles across the globe. We also don't understand what it is to live with someone who suffers from PTSD.

Yet, halfway around the world, the war in Ukraine continues as casualties mount. Estimates are more than 500,000 deaths, and another million casualties on the Russian side, and about 560,000 total Ukrainian casualties and losses.

There are growing concerns in NATO governments that the war will spread. While that conflict, like others of the past, is driven by foreign leaders' expansionist agendas, it raises the question: have they forgotten the sacrifices of the past, or don't they care?

To ordinary citizens who ultimately pay the price of war, we continue to pay tribute to losses of the past, and hope global conflict won't return.



(CONNOR LUCZKA PHOTO)

The Stratford Remembrance Day parade passes by city hall Nov. 11.

As I See It From America: That wonderful world



PATRICK D. BURK

Times Contributor

OK. So, I admit, my head is still spinning, and I am engulfed in the shellacking of our current government because of our last national election. Did I see some positive things happening as we grew closer to the November date, of course. Did I see this level of rebuke and change, no way! However, I am not complaining. I am jubilant!

With this election we have found out just how unpopular the current occupant of the White House is as well as his bombastic style, un-American ideas and over the top demeanour. Just prior to the election he was labelled the worst president in American history and had an approval rating of under 40 per cent. This is unheard of in our modern political structure. How can you govern when you don't even come close to being accepted by at least 50 per cent of the electorate?

What I found interesting as the evening went forward and as the days have passed, he has not changed a bit. Currently he is blaming others, not taking responsibility and as of last week underlining his ego driven fuselage of hate by appointing new people to positions that are the poster children of his very unpopular views. The hate continues. The nasty names are still on his lips and the positions that have so divided America are the tenets of his speech and ongoing tweets and internet postings. Basically, I think he is even more unhinged now than before the elections.

I found it interesting that it had to get this bad to move the electorate to the point of defeating the sitting president and his sycophant party by historical margins. Democrats and independents aligned to shore up the majority in the United States Senate as well as topple the non-working Republican leaders in the House of Representatives. If it all holds where I think it will hold, we will have 56 Democrat senators. That is only four short of having enough votes to impeach and remove these quacks from office. With the disgruntled mess that is the Republican Party as we speak, the impeachable numbers could be right around the corner.

In the House of Representatives, I am predicting we will end up with 261 Democrat members and 174 Republicans. The significance of that number is that it is only 19 votes short of being able to override any veto that the President offers. As with the aforementioned Senate issue, that is only a small group of disgruntled members of the Republican Party whom barely won their seats this past election that need to change their vote to halt the president from totally forwarding his agenda. It also guarantees impeachment votes for all cabinet members and executive appointees. There could be trouble coming for quite a few of them. I did notice that there has been a revolving door of resignations since election day. At least the bright ones have seen the writing on the wall.

Now, with all this being said, I am also a bit up in arms about the Democrats. I was discouraged to hear some of them immediately brought up the investigations that needed to be done to correct all that has gone wrong over the past two years. I think the investigations are important, but not at the expense of solving the problems that have hijacked what America is all about over the past two years. Democrats need to lead with kindness and a concise nature. They need to ensure that our neighbours and allies are appreciated and brought back into the fold. They need to halt the tariff issue, work on health care being repaired, families and education supported and encourage economic growth. Once they have started to move into this direction, then they can take apart this failing and horrible dictatorship that has ruled us these past two years.

I was taught a long time ago to lead with kindness. Taking this stance is not a sign of weakness, but of strength. It is showing all that the best way to come up with solutions for all our problems is to start with a kind heart. As I was working at the election polls this past week, I was very happy to read the creed of Rotary International. I am certain that I have seen it many times before but during this election cycle it was more relevant in my mind. It is very simple. Rotary clubs ask four simple questions: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Our current federal government has not even come close to this mantra of hope.

So, I leave you with this. I think we all should adopt this pledge. I feel that those in government would be so much more effective and representative if they were believers in a group of statements that are so simple and yet so profound. Over the past two years, we all have lived – even my adopted home and Canadians – at the behest of a dictator-like person that would not know or even care to follow these simple ideas. It is important for us all to realize just how wonderful our world would be if we all thought truth, fairness, goodwill and beneficial friendships were the key to our successful existence and we practiced them daily in our political and secular life. Can we all strive for that wonderful world?

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

Opinion

WEB-CRAWLING FROM VERY SMALL TO VERY LARGE



SHEILA CLARKE

Times Columnist



It is a very little thing, sometimes even microscopic, but you will be warmly thanked for providing space for pollinator eggs, for larva and for overwintering insects. The thanks will come from the flowers that need them for pollinating, from the birds who so need them for food for themselves and their young, and by nature, who is struggling to provide habitat for wildlife. Curled up leaves on your lawn, and every stalk in your garden may hold a creature seeking shelter from the winter. Dead wood is also a wonderful haven for essential life in our gardens.

Leaving your leaves creates natural shelter for pollinators and small animals, adds organic matter that builds healthy soil, acts as a natural mulch that helps control weeds and keeps moisture in your garden – and saves you time. No need to worry about leaf pickup schedules. If you are concerned that you have too heavy a blanket of leaves, rake them into flower beds! Thank you for having the courage to leave them in place, or in a corner of your lawn and garden – that takes guts!

Looking at a wider horizon, do you consider yourself important? Important enough to be listened to? There is a bill on a very fast track right now, poised to become law in Ontario within a very short time. That bill, Bill 140 by name, is dedicated to making sure you have no legal basis to have any opinion on any matters dealing with the environment.

You may know about the EBR, the Environmental Bill of Rights. It's a precious piece of legislation that speaks for you and for the circle of life that surrounds us. It began with the 1970 bill enshrining environmental rights that was passed in the Michigan Legislature. That bill inspired two lawyers working with the Canadian Environmental Law Association. John Swaigen and David Estrin proposed a broad set of rights for citizens ranging from environmental assessment to standing and access to information.

Throughout the 1980s there were nine attempts to pass an Environmental Bill of Rights in Ontario. All failed, or died on the order paper. In 1990 Ruth Grier became NDP Environment Minister and created a task force to take several key understandings and craft an Environmental Bill of Rights. It was to include:

- The public's right to a healthy environment;
- The enforcement of this right through improved access to the courts and/or tribunals, including an enhanced right to sue polluters;
- Increased public participation in environmental decision-making by government;
- Increased government responsibility and accountability for the environment;
- Greater protection for employees who "blow the whistle" on polluting employers.

In 1992 the task force delivered a bill, which was passed into law in 1993. It was landmark legislation that has been relevant for 33 years. In part its strength derived from the fact that it was a product of collaboration, and the public has recognized the need to preserve the environment for our own health.

In the very big scale of things, it's important that you know the Environmental Bill of Rights is in grave danger of being gutted in our provincial parliament. The Ontario government introduced Bill 140, the Building Ontario Faster Act.

The government says the bill is meant to cut red tape, but what it is really doing is cutting your environmental rights. According to the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), Bill 140 would gut Ontario's Environment Bill of Rights. If passed it would:

- Eliminate your right to request investigations into suspected violations of environmental laws;
- Eliminate your right to seek permission to appeal certain government decisions that could cause significant environmental harm;
- Restrict your right to be notified of and comment on certain proposed environmental laws, regulations and policies;
- Remove the restoration of the environment from the purpose of the act;
- Eliminate statements of environmental values previously required by relevant ministries;
- Repeal the right for Ontarians to sue.

You can explore ways to take action on Bill 140 at cela.ca/action-alert-bill-140/ Please.

This very large action is designed to give impunity to destruction of the very small. Jane Goodall reminded us that "The least I can do is speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves."

UPDATES:

Carbon parts per million (ppm) in the atmosphere as of Nov. 7, 2026: 428.25 ppm. The blanket of carbon around the planet is steadily increasing. It amazes me that the milk industry is turning to plastic bottles, every one of them a product of fossil fuel.

I have a news remedy, timely as it happens. Go for a walk in nature. Notice the very small, breathe the air of the trees, treasure the peace and the beauty.

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.

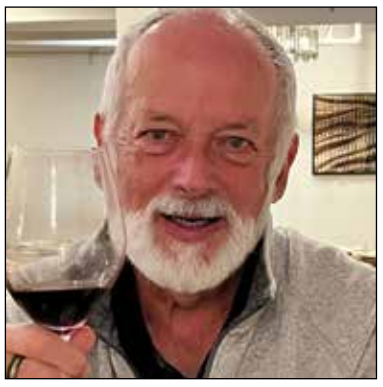
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LOVE, JOY, HOPE & PEACE
Worship with us
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship and Coffee Hour
We are a Welcoming Community

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Visiting three fine wineries in Niagara



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Columnist



Konzelmann Winery carries on a 130-year-old German winemaking tradition. (PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Every autumn, I organize a coach trip to wine country. Accompanied by 30 or so friends, we visit a Niagara Region winery, have lunch, visit two more wineries and mostly sleep all the way home!

Finding a winery on the Niagara Peninsula is about as easy as finding sand on a beach. There now are well over 90 wineries, divided into two districts – Niagara-on-the-Lake and Area, and Niagara Benchlands and Area.

The rest of southern Ontario boasts an increasing number of wineries, with 22 in Prince Edward County, 13 on Lake Erie's North Shore and 23 lumped together in a category called "emerging regions," which includes wineries from the Ottawa area to the shores of Lake Huron.

But our trip is always to Niagara.

When I plan the tasting trip, I avoid the big brands. Yes, many of them make good wines (a lot of which I have personally consumed), but I find they offer a cookie-cutter, almost industrial visitor experience. So, I like to find smaller wineries, preferably (but not always) independently or family-owned, where they seem genuinely grateful that a group of 30 wine lovers have taken the time to visit them.

And then there is the matter of price point. When you're leading a group of 30 wine drinkers, the assembled multitude will probably include a few who are happy to pay $50 or $100 for a nice bottle of wine, but I promise there will be others for whom $15 is a stretch. But they still want to buy wine.

And also, there is what I would call the "visitor experience." Do the folks at the winery seem to be making an extra effort to make our visit a special event?

My partner and I have the onerous responsibility of driving to Niagara well ahead of the visit to check out potential destinations. The number of wineries that don't qualify is quite surprising for one reason or another. Some have only very pricey wines. Some cannot accommodate a tasting for 30-plus. Some have what I would call a "chilly" atmosphere – and I don't mean room temperature. Wine lovers are great; wine snobs are insufferable.

So, we eliminate some wineries, while a few make it onto our prospective list. Our goal is to always include wineries our group has not visited previously, though we may return to a favourite on occasion.

The 2026 tour visited one of the Niagara-on-the-Lake wineries (Konzelmann) and two Benchlands destinations (Henry of Pelham and The Foreign Affair Winery).

We chose Konzelmann because it has an unusual history and their wines are also unique. This winery, on a property on the shore of Lake Ontario, was actually founded in Germany, well over 130 years ago. Friederich Konzelmann first made wine in the German village of Uhlbach in 1893. Almost 100 years later, Friederich's great-grandson, Herbert Konzelmann, moved the entire operation to Canada, opening Konzelmann here in 1984. The German heritage is still very evident in the wines they make. And surprisingly, though their wines are virtually all made from grapes (of course), their most popular product is their peach wine.

Lunch, by the way, was at the Old Winery restaurant, where we had pre-ordered a pizza buffet. It was terrific.

Our visit to Henry of Pelham, another family-owned winery, was highlighted by the unique and very special location of our wine tasting. When we clambered off the coach, we were ushered to an outdoor gazebo where we enjoyed a welcome drink. However, we were then led down several flights of stairs to Canada's largest underground working barrel cellar, a perfect setting for a wine tasting. In fact, I often wonder if the wines taste as good as they seem, or if I get carried away with the experience. A bit of column A, a bit of column B, I suspect.

Our sommeliers at Henry of Pelham were informative, charming and funny. Everyone in the group was delighted with the experience.

There is history here, too. The Speck brothers who own the winery are the sixth generation to occupy the family farm, and the retail store and restaurant are in an original inn and coach house. It was a lovely visit.

Our final stop was a return visit to the Foreign Affair Winery. The wines here tend to be somewhat more expensive, but most of our group would agree they are worth it. Foreign Affair is one of the best wineries in Canada when it comes to producing Appassimento wines – an Italian style of wine-making that includes drying some or all of the grapes before pressing.

A group wine-tasting at Foreign Affair combines elegance with entertainment; the tasting room is beautiful and the four wines are all poured before you are ushered in. Then, a highly qualified staff member leads you through the tastings, pairing insightful comments about the wines with funny anecdotes about the wine business.

There. Three excellent choices for anyone looking to enjoy some wine tastings in the Niagara region. Tell them Paul sent you.

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.



Group tastings at Henry of Pelham take place in Canada's largest underground working barrel cellar.



Foreign Affair Winery wines are known for their Appassimento style.

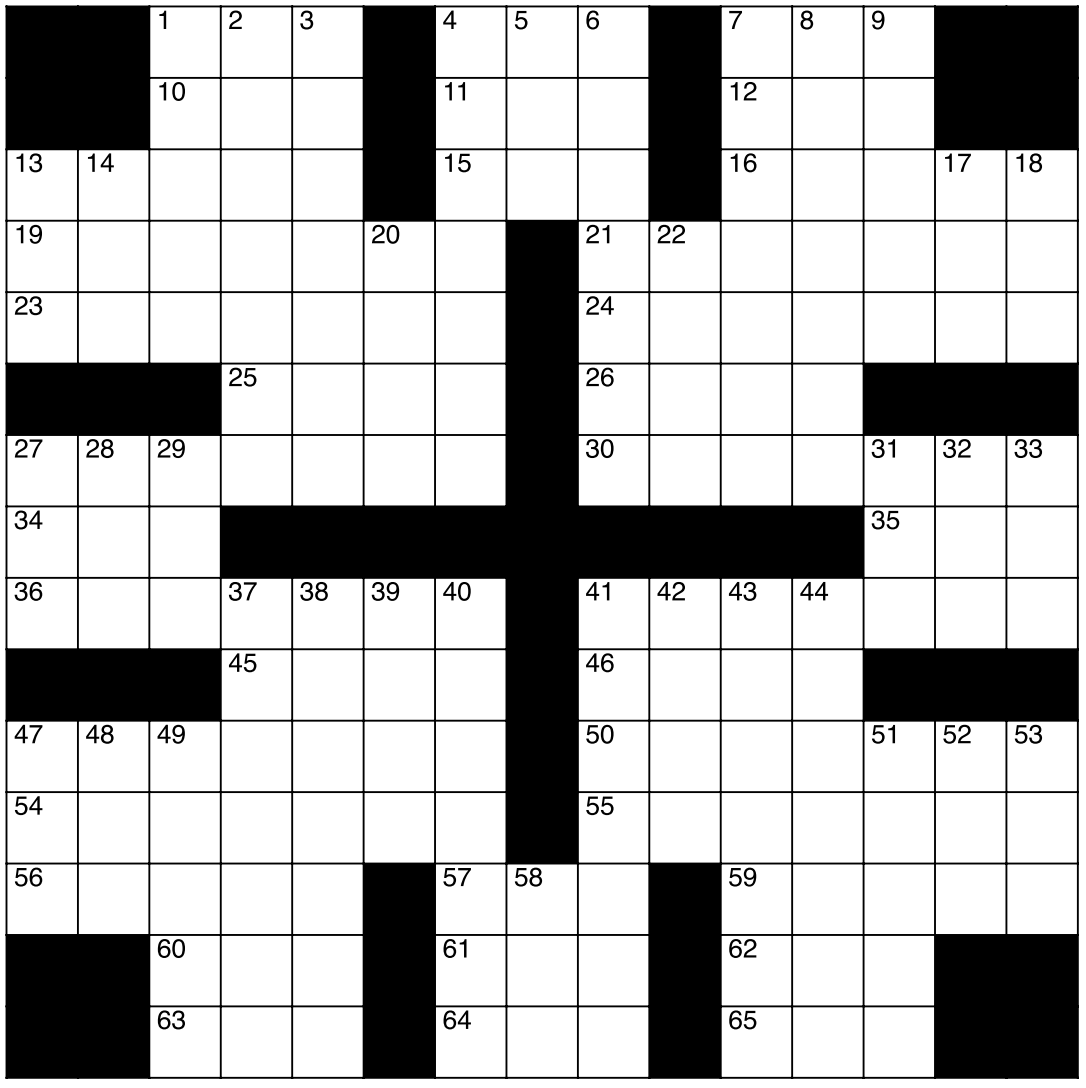
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Tire pressure metric
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator Fleming
11. Male adult
12. Norse mythological figure
13. Coffin cloths
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Nobleman's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Unable to move
26. Type of horse
27. Parted
30. Woman's cloak
34. South American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Something one takes
41. Dish detergent manufacturer
45. Romanian river
46. Personification of pity
47. Makes upset
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Automobile
62. "Losing My Religion" rockers
63. High-resolution scientific instrument
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish rap group
7. Ageless
8. Lists indicating curriculum
9. Pokes at
13. Public television station
14. They __
17. Cooking tool
18. Separately managed account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Lists of items to be discussed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Indispensable quality
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place to dock
44. Festive singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Northernmost point of mainland Wales
49. Most worthless parts
51. Type of "bear"
52. Take or consume
53. Defunct European organization
58. Swiss river



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Pet of the week

YOGI

Meet Yogi, a senior dog with a youthful spirit and a heart full of love. You'd never guess he's 14 years old, because this sweet gentleman is always ready for new friends and fun adventures. While Yogi can be a little unsure in unfamiliar situations, he gains confidence with patience, encouragement, and positive experiences. He is looking for a home where he can be the only pet and continue to thrive with a family who appreciates his gentle nature. In return, Yogi will offer loyal companionship, plenty of affection, and all the joy of a seasoned friend with plenty of life left to live. You can meet him at our Stratford Centre or on our website at kwsphumane.ca/adopt/dogs



Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 27

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire stratfordtimes@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

LONDON ORCHID SOCIETY
Sunday, November 15; 2 to 4 p.m.
Richards Memorial Church, 360 Edgeworth Avenue, London
Meeting Topic: Dan Doucette, Niagara Falls, ON; Presentation Hidden Gems of West Africa
The London Orchid Society meets the third Sunday of each month. Join us November 15, 2026 at 2:00pm for Dan Doucette from Niagara, ON. His presentation is on the Hidden Gems of West Africa, Wildlife, History and Landscapes of Sierra Leone and Mauritania. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting for more information at www.londonorchidsociety.com; contact Daryl at 519-666-2927.

STRATFORD COIN CLUB
Wednesday, November 18; 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Avondale United Church (entrance back of church)
194 Avondale Ave., Stratford
Everyone Welcome, Free Admission

BURGER & FRY NIGHT
Thursday, November 19
Legion 804 Ontario St.
Doors open at 4 p.m. Take-out orders are from 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. and table service starts at 5:30 p.m. No ticket is necessary, simply show up and enjoy. Bring your friends and help support your local Legion.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Saturday, November 21; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Morningside Adult Community, New Hamburg, off 7/8 behind McDonalds
Crafts, Raffle, Baking, White Elephant, Cafe', Silent Auction. Free Admission.

SAINT JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET
St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall
96 Huron St. Stratford
Parking access rear of church
Saturday November 21; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Join us for a festive market where you can purchase a variety of baked goods, crafts, 'new to you' table, silent Auction and lunch bar!
Proceeds to the church and community

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

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

STRATFORD CATCH THE ACE LOTTERY
by Kinsmen Club of Stratford, Knights of Columbus Stratford and the Army Navy and Airforce Veterans in Canada Unit 261
Buy your tickets! - Kinsmen Club Of Stratford Catch the Ace
Draw at ANAF Unit 261 on Friday Nov 20th at 11:30AM during the luncheon.

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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**

CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire stratfordtimes@gmail.com

WANTED

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

WANTING TO BUY – All collectibles including sports cards, beanie babies, Funko pops and stamps. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals.Are you downsizing or need an estate clean out? We can help. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

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

WANTED

I NEED YOUR HELP! – I need a literary agent. I am an older person. I remember the 40s.
I have written over 70 mystery novels since 2017.
I have self-published 22 of them.
The action takes place in the cities, towns and countryside nearby.
Publishers will only speak to an agent. I don't have one.
Time is slipping away on me.
If I find an agent and I do make some money, you will be compensated.
Please don't send me scammers, I've met too many.
Contact me at: roncfinch@gmail.com

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JUNK REMOVAL – Garbage, Basements, Yards, Dump Runs. Call Mike 519-276-7766

HAVE A SPECIAL EVENT COMING UP?

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

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AUCTION SALE



Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale

of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers

Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON
Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle: (79)Heifers: (18) Char, (17) Blk Simm, (33) Angus, (11) Red -1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. **(18) X-bred Heifers** - bred Black Angus, vacc. **(17) Angus Heifers** - bred Black Angus. **(10) Blk Angus cows** - all bred Black Angus, vacc. **(8) Charolais Cows** - bred Charolais, vacc. **(3) Mixed Cows** - with calf at side, vacc.
All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.
Lunch Booth
Washroom Available
Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264
Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com
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- full listing & photos

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1. Twice
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9	3	1	4	8	7	5	2	6
8	6	7	2	3	5	4	1	9
5	2	4	9	6	1	3	8	7
4	7	6	5	9	2	1	3	8
1	5	8	3	7	4	9	6	2
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7	1	9	8	2	3	6	5	4
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Community newspapers are trusted local voices that keep Canadians informed, connected and engaged. They are local businesses that report news that matters most to the communities they serve. CUPW and Canada Post need to ensure that the processing/delivery of unaddressed community newspapers resumes immediately.

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