

STRATFORD *TIMES*

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 1

AUGUST 14, 2026

FREE



A Passion for People

ROYAL LEPAGE **Hiller Realty**
100 Erie St. Stratford
Independently owned and Operated Brokerage

SHERRIE ROULSTON
Real Estate Broker
email: sherrieroulston@royallepage.ca
Direct: 519-272-3578

Eyes to Buy
Family Optical Store

1020 Ontario St., Stratford
519-275-3413
www.eyestobuyoptical.ca

20% off
all in-stock
sunglasses

EYE EXAMS ON SITE

City moving forward with new SPS HQ

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After much investigation – and much debate – the City of Stratford is moving forward in acquiring the former Scotiabank data centre on Lorne Avenue as the next headquarters for the Stratford Police Service.

City council directed staff to acquire the property, officially known as 10 and 52 Wright Blvd., at the regular meeting on Aug. 10. The decision was made following months of investigation by staff into the 100,625 square foot building and seven acre site, which ultimately found that it was not only a viable option, but a unique opportunity.

“We review everything, it's still less expensive than renovating the current headquarters,” said Coun. Harjinder Nijjar, who also serves on the police services board. “It is far less expensive than a new building. It's going to allow the sale of some existing assets ... and it's going to provide a facility that meets operational needs for decades to come, and that's only the finance piece of it.

“What I think the police services need as a department and a service and a team is that we consolidate the police operations into a single modern headquarters to improve efficiency, reduce the long-term operating costs, to enhance public safety, strengthen the staff.”

The building is not an exact fit. Police need an estimated 55,200 square feet for current and future needs. Even with 10,100 square feet for an indoor firing range

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

It's a six-horse race for Stratford's top politician. As of press time, Jo-Dee Burbach, Christopher Burrell (not pictured), Mark Hunter, Andrew Rea, incumbent Martin Ritsma and Robert Ritz have filed their papers to be the next mayor of the City of Stratford. The Times' full election coverage will begin after the nomination period closes next week on Aug. 21.

Lots of pieces left to puzzle in Festival Hydro restructuring

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Work continues towards a corporate restructuring of Festival Hydro, the City of Stratford's local distribution company (LDC).

The goal of the restructuring, as chief administrative officer (CAO) André Morin said, is rather than the city owning both Festival Hydro Inc. and Festival Hydro Services Inc. separately, it would be the sole shareholder of a new holding company, which would own the two orga-

nizations. Through this ownership model, it would allow for the equity and expertise of the Festival Hydro network to be leveraged, meaning reinvestment or expansion could be done, increasing revenue for the city and easing the burden on taxpayers.

“The question is, why do we need to go down this path?” Morin told Stratford city council at its Aug. 10 meeting, when the matter was up for debate. “Again, one of the challenges, like we were talking about earlier in regards to asset management, is LDCs have aging in-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

**DATE
NIGHT
DEAL
on now**



519-523-9300

**BLYTH
FESTIVAL**
original.canadian.theatre.

Lots of pieces left to puzzle in Festival Hydro restructuring

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

frastructure. There's infrastructure needs, and certainly there's a push to look at these LDCs. Are they sustainable moving forward on an as-going basis? And the idea behind is that if you have economies of scale, bigger LDCs, you can provide better rates to our citizens in regards to hybrid services. And the question is, do we want to be a buyer or do we want to be a seller?

"... We have opportunity to sell our LDC, and then again take those resources. But then again, that is now run by somebody else, some other company. Or do we want to set ourselves in the position where we have the opportunity to expand upon the regulated businesses like that? We have opportunities to purchase or exceed into other markets around that front. So that's the regulated business side. And having a structure like this provides us opportunities on how to do that, partner, and have different opportunities around that scenario, that type of strategic scenario. The other scenario, of course, is ... (are) there other markets we want to get to on the non-regulated side that can create either financial, economic, or other benefits for the city, for the community as we move forward, while also protecting and preserving the assets we own and also limiting the liabilities?"

The exact phrasing and technicalities are still yet to be worked out, a detail that was criticized by members of the public. In response to the agenda's publication, local advocacy group Get Concerned Stratford published its concern over what it called a lack of transparency.

"This is not a routine administrative adjustment," said Sharon Collingwood of Get Concerned Stratford in a media release. "Festival Hydro is a public asset. Decisions about its corporate structure, financial risk, business expansion, debt, dividends, and possible future partnerships belong in an open and transparent public process. We shouldn't be signing a deal before we know what's in it. What's the rush?"

"This plan for restructuring is not a wholesome plan at the present time and should give the residents and council much more information before being voted on to accept

it," resident Jane Marie Mitchell said in her delegation on Aug. 10. "It seems very rushed and very incomplete and why would you pass any resolution where its details were not spelled out because we all know that the wording of details very much matters. This leaves me with so many more questions than answers and we all should be aware of the answers first. The restructuring plan should be in plain language for all citizens to understand and not just for people in financial circles."

While not directly responding to Get Concerned Stratford or the delegation, Coun. Mark Hunter called the restructuring a "fairly simple thing."

"It's just got complicated paperwork," Hunter said. "... The restructuring itself is not really a complicated process. There are a lot of hoops to jump through, and there's a lot of information which makes it seem far more complex than it really is. I support this move. I see it as a positive for our city."

Ultimately, council voted to proceed with the work towards restructuring, after amending the motion to require council to have final approval once the CAO and city solicitor have created a draft with Festival Hydro leadership. Only Coun. Cody Sebben opposed the motion (Couns. Lesley Biehn and Brad Beatty were absent).

"The city wants to utilize the equity and expertise to leverage further growth and opportunities," Sebben read. "... I read that, and you could change the word: the city wants to *risk* the equity, in my mind, and because we're going to be taking money in theory and using it to make investments that will hopefully work out, but may not always. And if you were to ask me, would I like to use the equity of the city or an asset to try to leverage further growth? I wouldn't."

Though, as Coun. Taylor Briscoe said, it is a frontier that could pay off for Stratford's taxpayers.

"Municipalities, compared to other levels of government, actually have very few levers to pull for revenue generation and this is a very innovative way that, when we are seeing that increased downloading, that increased priorities – very expensive priorities – that we all have

now as municipalities, this is a very innovative and kind of frontier way for our city to generate revenue and keep taxes stable, if not lower."

Unemployment at 5% in July

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

In July, the unemployment rate in the Stratford-Bruce Peninsula economic region decreased by 0.6 percentage points to five per cent, while the provincial unemployment rate remained unchanged from June at 7.1 per cent, both unadjusted for seasonality. The region's unemployment rate was the second lowest across the province. Total employment in the region reduced to 168,000 (-200; -0.1 per cent), with gains in full-time employment (+1,400; +1.0 per cent) offset by losses in part-time employment (-1,600; -5.3 per cent).

In July, the region's overall population aged 15 and over increased by 400 whereas the labour force size decreased by 1,300 people. The number of people not in the labour force in the region increased by 1,700. This in turn reduced the region's participation rate by 0.5 percentage points to 59.6 per cent. Employment in the region increased in the services-producing sector (+1.0 per cent; +1,000) yet decreased the goods-producing sector (-1.9 per cent; -1,200).

Overall employment in the services-producing sector saw an increase of +1.0 per cent (+1,000 people) in July.

Public administration experienced the largest percentage increase in employment (+13.9 per cent; 500 people), followed by information, culture and recreation (+12.9 per cent; +800 people) and professional, scientific and technical services (+10.6 per cent; +1,000 people). On the other hand, business, building and other support service experienced the largest percentage decrease in employment (-9.4 per cent; -300 people), followed by other services, except public administration, (-5.1 per cent; -300 people) and health care and social assistance (-3.5 per cent; -600 people).

The goods-producing sector saw a decrease in overall employment numbers in July (-1.9 per cent; -1,200 people). Gains were experienced in agriculture (+ 6.0 per cent; +500 people) while losses were reported in manufacturing (-5.3 per cent; -1,200 people), construction (-4.2 per cent; -800 people) and utilities (-1.5 per cent; -200 people).

Current job postings for the Bruce, Grey, Huron, Perth region is over 1,300. Details can be found at www.connect2JOBS.ca.

VISIT OUR Showroom
We Manufacture Cushions!



Wicker • Cast Aluminum • CR Plastics & more



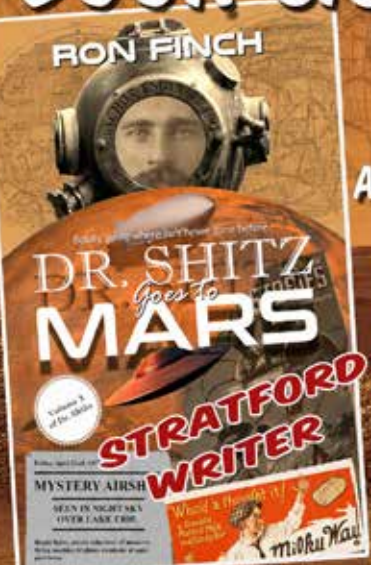

30,000 sq.ft of Outdoor Furniture!

Casual Industries Inc.
Outdoor Furniture

36525 Dashwood Rd.
Grand Bend, ON
519-238-2110
www.gocasual.ca

BOOK SIGNING

RON FINCH



DR. SHITZ GOES TO MARS

STRATFORD WRITER

COLES THE STRATFORD MALL

SUNDAY AUGUST 16, 2026 12 - 4 PM

RON FINCH, LOCAL AUTHOR OF MYSTERY, CRIME, HISTORICAL, SCIFI + PARANORMAL FICTION, CELEBRATES THE RELEASE OF HIS LATEST NOVEL, "DR. SHITZ GOES TO MARS." A GOLDEN AGE ADVENTURE!



Maximize your return.

Conservative Advice for Intelligent Decisions



Donna L. Hinz

Franklin E. Hinz

196 Ontario Street
Stratford, Ontario N5A 3H4
519-273-1633 franklinehinz.com

City moving forward with new SPS HQ

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

and a significant amount of space carved for the provincial courts, there would still be a large space surplus. As chief administrative officer (CAO) André Morin said, other municipal services may be able to consolidate at the new location, creating further efficiencies.

The cost is also more than expected. With a negotiated purchase price of \$12 million and conceptual renovation plans of \$24 million, the total cost is expected to be a steep \$36 million – though that figure is relatively economical when compared to alternatives.

Building new is expected to cost \$49-55 million, exclusive of land acquisition. Expanding and renovating the current George Street location, which wouldn't entirely solve the service's operational constraints, would cost \$36-40 million.

The project is expected to be funded through various streams. \$20 million is expected to be funded through the city's capital forecast over many years, \$8 million through development charges, \$1.6 million through the sale of surplus land at Wright Boulevard, \$2.8 million through the sale of other municipal property (including George Street HQ) and \$400,000 through rent recovery at the new HQ.

All-in-all, that leaves a difference of \$3.2 million. That difference may be shortened through the design stage or higher yields from the sale of municipal property or rent recovery. Barring those avenues, council may decide to adjust the scope of the project, approve a bigger capital allocation or sanction additional borrowing.

"The taxpayers of today aren't going to pay the full \$20 million for this asset," Morin said. "The idea is, we've been planning for this for several years. We didn't know exactly how it would look, where it would be, but five years ago in our development charge study, we knew we were going to need to upgrade the police facility. ... We estimated that portion to be \$16 million for the growth portion. So we've been planning from a development perspective that portion. From an asset perspective, you council have made some really good decisions over the last number of years to increase your asset management reserves to make sure you're filling that gap."

"So when I say you're going to net \$20 million, that's going to be over the life of an asset using debt, using reserves. ... Our full capital plan is at a point where now we're going to increase that number by about a million dollars a year, which is around one per cent tax levy, which funds not only a police station to renew that asset, but every other asset in the city that we currently have today to meet the service levels of (our community)."

Much of the debate amongst councillors circled around police presence downtown. For Coun. Cody Sebben, to remove headquarters from the city's core would be the "wrong move."

"The report notes that relocation would remove some daily employee activity from the downtown," Sebben said. "We would be hard pressed, more likely than unrealistic to believe that whoever moves into the existing space downtown would replace the foot traffic and business into our core that 71 sworn officers, 26 employees, entire court staff, and anyone visiting the police services would bring."

"... We could renovate the existing building at a cost of \$36 million as mentioned in the report. To move now to the very edge of the city and to willfully remove a significant economic activity from our downtown, in my opinion, is the wrong move."

According to the report, the move won't have an impact on the police presence downtown with an addition of a satellite office, likely in city hall. Additionally, Chief Paul Landers told councillors that since his arrival in March he has noticed a palpable change amongst service members regarding a move.

"Our building ... was built obviously in 1965," Landers said. "It's done its job well, but it's passed its sell-by date. Members are cramped and there is a buzz about possibly getting a team going. Also, the positivity of having all of our service under one roof would create efficiencies and create better teamwork, etcetera. So yes, it was a very positive buzz."

In a recorded vote, only Sebben and Coun. Geza Wordofa opposed the project, with Wordofa citing the \$20 million capital price tag as too steep for the city.

For more information on the project, see the 170-page report in last week's agenda: <https://tinyurl.com/3c6as766>.



(TIMES FILE PHOTO)

The City of Stratford is moving forward with the purchase of the former Scotiabank data centre off Lorne Avenue. The project is expected to cost around \$36 million, all in.

THURS-SUN UP TO 75% OFF!

SOURCE FLOORING
BUY IT TODAY
TAKE IT TODAY!

GLUE DOWN VINYL PLANKS

GREAT VALUE

99¢
FROM /SQFT



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

DOOR CRASHER 7MM VINYL

PAD ATTACHED

\$1.99
FROM /SQFT



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

10MM THICK LUXURY VINYL

PAD ATTACHED
9X MORE SCRATCH RESISTANT

\$3.99
FROM /SQFT

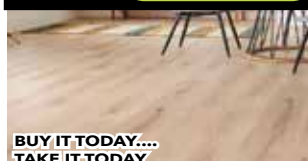


BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

EASY CLICK LAMINATE

8MM THICK
MODERN COLOUR

99¢
FROM /SQFT



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

14MM THICK LAMINATE

PAD ATTACHED
WATER PROOF

\$1.99
FROM /SQFT



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

WATERPROOF LAMINATE

6FT LONG
14.4MM THICK
PAD ATTACHED

\$2.99
FROM /SQFT



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

13" X 13" PORCELAIN

MANY STYLES

99¢
FROM /SQFT



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

12" X 24" PORCELAIN

POLISHED OR MATTE
TILE

\$1.99
FROM /SQFT



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

24" X 24" PORCELAIN

POLISHED OR MATTE
TILE

\$1.99
FROM /SQFT



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

CLICK ENG. HARDWOOD

MANY COLOURS
ODDS & ENDS

\$1.99
FROM /SQFT



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

ENG. WHITE OAK HARDWOOD

3/4" THICK
6.5" WIDE
WIRE BRUSHED

\$3.99
FROM /SQFT

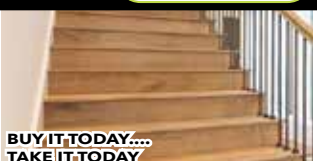


BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

WOOD OR VINYL STAIR TREADS

DIFFERENT WIDTHS AVAILABLE

\$59.99
FROM EACH



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

BASE BOARDS

14 FOOT LENGTHS

99¢
FROM /LINFT



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

VINYL ACCESSORIES

T-CAP REDUCERS
NOSING

1000'S IN STOCK



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY

AREA RUGS

100'S IN STOCK!

\$99
STARTING FROM EA



BUY IT TODAY...
TAKE IT TODAY



SHOP ONLINE
24/7

SOURCE FLOORING

SOURCEFLOORING.COM

1362 VICTORIA STREET NORTH KITCHENER
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-9PM SATURDAY 9-6 SUNDAY 10-5

Perth County council seeks further changes to stewardship grant program

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Perth County council is considering several administrative changes to its Stewardship Program for 2027, directing staff to return with additional recommendations aimed at making the grant program more equitable and ensuring more of the funding goes toward planting trees rather than labour costs.

Council considered staff's recommendation to limit applicants to one project per grant stream, per property, per year and to create a separate administrative process for lower-tier municipal applications after hearing the program has been oversubscribed in two of its first three years. The changes are intended to spread funding among more landowners while simplifying the application process for municipalities.

According to a report prepared by resiliency and stewardship co-ordinator Hannah Cann and presented by director of public works Bill Wilson, the program has supported 99 stewardship projects since launching in 2024, resulting in the planting of more than 28,000 trees, the establishment of 43 kilometres of windbreaks and the restoration of more than 52 acres

of degraded land. The county plans to maintain the program's \$100,000 budget in 2027.

While councillors supported the proposed changes, several argued they do not go far enough.

Coun. Bob Wilhelm pointed out that limiting grants to one project per property still allows landowners with multiple properties to receive funding for each parcel.

"This change does not correct that," Wilhelm said. "If an owner has 10 properties, they can get 10 grants, and I do have a bit of a problem with that."

Staff acknowledged that landowners with multiple properties identified by separate property identification numbers would still be eligible to apply for each property under the proposed rules.

Coun. Matt Duncan questioned whether the evaluation process should instead favour first-time applicants when demand exceeds available funding.

"If we get to the maximum limit and somebody has five projects and somebody has one, does that person with five projects only get four so the one gets included?" Duncan asked.

Warden Dean Trentowsky, who also serves as chair of the county's agricultur-

al advisory committee, which reviews the program applications and makes recommendations to council, agreed the issue deserved another look, noting repeat applicants can consume a significant portion of the available funding while new applicants receive reduced grants because the program budget must be prorated.

"I would prefer to see the newcomer be put to the top of the priority list, receive their full amount, or as close to their full amount as possible," Trentowsky said.

Council ultimately directed staff to review the program's scoring and evaluation system to enhance the prioritization of new applicants over previous recipients and to examine options such as limiting applicants to one application per property owner each year rather than one per property. Staff are expected to report back as early as September.

The discussion also turned to labour costs eligible under the program.

Deputy Warden Sue Orr questioned whether taxpayer funding should be paying contractors rather than putting more trees in the ground, arguing the county may be duplicating services already offered through local conservation authorities.

"I have no problem planting trees. I want

to get more trees in the ground, but people are benefiting their business through this program and I have a real problem (with that)," Orr said.

Orr initially moved to eliminate contractor labour as an eligible expense, but the motion was defeated after staff reminded council that applications declined when labour costs were removed from the program in a previous year before rebounding once they were reinstated.

Instead, Duncan proposed a compromise that received council's support.

Staff will report back on the percentage of program funding spent on labour, labour costs per tree planted, the feasibility of capping labour costs on a per-tree basis and the range of tree prices being charged through the program.

Trentowsky supported further review rather than eliminating labour funding outright, noting many farm operators rely on contractors because tree planting coincides with busy spring and fall farming seasons.

"There needs to be a labour component included in this project," Trentowsky said. "To what extent? Yes, that would be worth the investigation to find out. But at the end of the day, labour is the work. Otherwise, the trees just don't get planted."

Perth County approves asset management plan, identifies \$2.8-million annual infrastructure funding gap

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

After making two minor corrections during discussion, Perth County council unanimously approved the county's 2025 asset management plan Aug. 6, adopting a long-term strategy that identifies a \$2.8-million annual infrastructure funding gap and recommends an average annual tax increase of 1.3 per cent over the next decade to eliminate it.

Prepared by public works director Bill Wilson with assistance from Public Sector Digest Citywide, the plan brings Perth County into full compliance with the province's final phase of municipal asset management reporting requirements. It covers the county's roads, bridges and culverts, as well as non-core assets including facilities, fleet vehicles, machinery and computer systems.

Wilson told council the updated plan incorporates the county's latest bridge inspection data and recent changes to

municipal drain funding, providing the most accurate picture yet of the county's long-term infrastructure needs.

The plan values the county's infrastructure portfolio at \$328.4 million. Staff have assessed the condition of 91 per cent of those assets, with 76 per cent rated in fair or better condition. To maintain current service levels and prevent infrastructure backlogs, the county estimates it will need to invest an average of \$9.8 million annually in capital infrastructure. With current annual capital funding sitting at roughly \$7 million, leaving an annual funding shortfall of \$2.8 million.

Wilson stressed council's approval of the document does not automatically mean future tax increases.

"Approving this plan does not commit council to any immediate tax change," Wilson said. "This is a high-level, long-range planning tool meant to guide future budgets and financial forecasting."

The plan recommends closing the funding gap through an average annu-

al tax increase of 1.3 per cent over the next 10 years. Wilson noted the county's proposed 2.6 per-cent infrastructure levy in the draft 2027 budget is intentionally higher because it addresses recent financial pressures.

"The 2027 draft rate is a temporary front-loaded correction required to address recent operational deficits, specifically our winter maintenance and municipal drain deficits from 2024 to 2025," Wilson said, adding the county's goal is to "return to the plan's long-term 1.3 per-cent path in subsequent years."

Chris Vanderheyden, director of asset management with Public Sector Digest Citywide, told council the document should be viewed as an evolving roadmap rather than a one-time exercise.

"This is not a once-and-done report," Vanderheyden said. "It's very dynamic. Data is going to change, costs are going to change, conditions are going to change, and this is a dynamic document that must be married to your data going

forward."

He added municipalities are increasingly finding provincial and federal grant applications tied to comprehensive asset-management planning.

"We do know by experience from other clients that grant-funding applications are now being tied to the completion of these asset management plans," Vanderheyden said.

During discussion, Coun. Bob Wilhelm pointed out two issues in the draft plan, noting the replacement value for a grader appeared too low and that references to schools and recreation centres should identify them as lower-tier municipal responsibilities.

"I think a new grader costs around \$800,000," Wilhelm said. "It should indicate that the lower tiers look after schools, rec centres, etc., not county."

Wilson agreed both items should be corrected before the final plan is published, and council approved the document with those amendments.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES IN THE STRATFORD TIMES

CALL 519.655.2341 OR EMAIL STRATFORDTIMES@GMAIL.COM

Stratford and area leaders unite for high performance rail

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Leaders from across southwestern Ontario met virtually this week to advance a shared vision for international high performance rail (HPR) connecting Toronto to Detroit, including Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma. Representatives of universities, colleges, chambers of commerce, economic development and tourism agencies, and public transport advocacy groups joined the discussion with mayors from cities along the Toronto to Windsor corridor.

Now, fourteen municipal leaders from southwestern Ontario – and about 30 institutions – are calling on the Governments of Canada and Ontario to partner in the development of a HPR corridor between Toronto and Detroit as a nation-building investment that strengthens Canada's economy, improves mobility and better connects communities across the region.

"Stratford is pleased to join with many southwestern Ontario communities promoting a high performance passenger rail service between Toronto and Windsor, supporting tourism, workforce development, educational institutions and our climate change initiatives," Mayor Martin Ritsma said in a media release announcing the partnership.

As it explained, rather than focusing solely on faster trains, the initiative is centered on creating an integrated regional transportation network that combines reliable, frequent passenger rail with stronger local transit and intercity bus connections to provide seamless travel throughout southwestern Ontario.

To achieve this vision, the leaders are seeking federal investment in the following areas:

Advance the Detroit-Windsor cross-border passenger rail connection

Invest in the restoration of passenger rail service between Detroit and Windsor to create the first direct cross-border passenger rail link at Windsor in decades. This connection would strengthen economic ties with Michigan, improve access to talent, tourism, research institutions and advanced manufacturing clusters, and complement major investments in Cana-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Rendering of the proposed cross-border passenger rail connection and High Performance Rail (HPR) line.

da's innovation economy and cross-border trade.

The project provides a new passenger rail connection from Toronto and Windsor to Detroit and Chicago. Additionally, from Chicago, passengers can access Amtrak's vast national network with connecting services to 35 U.S. states. About 66,500 passengers each year are projected to take advantage of this new cross-border connection to southwestern Ontario.

Upgrade the Toronto-Windsor south corridor for HPR

Invest in strategic rail infrastructure improvements along the existing Toronto-London-Windsor corridor – the most direct rail route between Toronto and Windsor – to enable HPR through:

- Improving existing rail infrastructure, signals and stations;
- Adding additional track capacity, including longer sidings and additional main line to allow freight trains to pull over along the corridor, enabling passenger trains to maintain speed and pass freight trains where possible; and
- Introducing a mechanism for more equitable allocation of track capacity between passenger and freight

rail through legislation

These investments would deliver faster, more frequent and more reliable service, while laying the foundation for future rail expansion at a fraction of the cost and timeline of entirely new dedicated corridors.

Build an integrated southwestern Ontario mobility network

Invest in the infrastructure, service enhancements and intermodal connections needed to maximize the benefits of passenger rail across the region. This includes improving stations and transit hubs, strengthening local transit, bus and LRT connections, enhancing service on both the south and north VIA Rail corridors and supporting new intercity bus links – such as a direct Brantford-Cambridge connection – to better connect the south rail corridor with the Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge ION LRT. Together, these investments would create a seamless regional transportation network that expands access to employ-

ment, education, healthcare and tourism, while increasing transit ridership across southwestern Ontario.

These three initiatives serve as a practical, phased approach to delivering HPR between Toronto and Detroit, while transforming mobility across southwestern Ontario. The initiative would improve economic competitiveness, reduce highway congestion and emissions, strengthen cross-border relationships and establish an integrated transportation network that better serves residents, businesses, students and visitors throughout the region.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. Albuquerque is located on the shores of what river?
2. What are baby Koalas called?
3. What is the most spoken language on Earth?
4. The deficiency of which vitamin causes scurvy?
5. What is the term for the maximum amount of oxygen the body can use during exercise?
6. The "Hollywood" sign originally spelled out what word?
7. What's the name of the pig in the book *Charlotte's Web*?
8. How many points does the Star of David have?
9. Which dinosaur is famous for having three horns?
10. What is the term for being romantically or sexually unfaithful to a partner?

This week's answers are found on pg. 19

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL



**Support the local businesses that support
your local newspaper.**

ADVERTISE
LOCAL

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

New website turns downtown Stratford into a mystery tour

AMANDA NELSON

Times Reporter

A new website offers visitors and locals a downtown tour through a mystery game. The Stratford Secret Society is an interactive, self-guided mystery game and historical tour through downtown Stratford, Ont.

The website-based game blends local history, public art and landmarks with fictional storytelling, turning Stratford into an open-air investigative case file.

"I wanted to create a self-guided outdoor mystery game that allows tourists and residents to learn about the history of Stratford," said Julia Paul, creator and founder of the Stratford Secret Society. "I wanted to create a new way for people to experience Stratford that combines storytelling and local history, and the excitement of solving a mystery."

Now available is case file #001: The Missing Manuscript, which guides participants (called investigators on the site) through six real historical and scenic locations in Stratford and takes approximately 60 to 90 minutes to complete.

Once the clue is given on the website, investigators enter the hidden password to reveal the next clue for the next destination.

"My goal was to give people the opportunity to learn about the theatrical town before the Stratford Festival," said Paul.

No tour guide or app is required; the game can be



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Investigators Larissa Gossain and Jennefer Davis make a stop at Allen's Alley while playing the Stratford Secret Society interactive web-based game earlier this month.

played at any time of day, on weekends or in the evening, and Paul said it's a great opportunity for visitors

to start it before heading to a show.

"Each location is laid out in a nice tour of downtown Stratford, ending at the Festival Theatre," she said. "So it's great for those who have tickets to a theatre performance and they're looking for something to do in between or before. It's something that you can work on all day as well. If you want to take a break and go have lunch, there's no time limit on it."

The goal is to uncover hidden local facts, decode clues and solve the mystery while experiencing the city's architecture, river and theatre district, all while travelling along the city streets. Players use observation, clues and logic to navigate the city, complete the six challenges along the way and learn along the way.

"It's great for tourists as well as locals who might want to see Stratford in a different way," said Paul. "You walk past all of these landmarks, and maybe there's some history about it that you don't know. It's good for families or friends who want to come and explore Stratford and have something fun to do."

The initial case file is currently the only one available; however, the next case file will open soon, and Paul notes it's based on Stratford's train and railway history.

The interactive game is aimed at those eight years old and older and can be played by up to 10 players. Each case will be priced as released.

If you'd like to learn more, please visit www.stratfordsecretsociety.ca

WWW.STRATFORDTIMES.COM

UNIT 2 - 53 ROTH STREET TAVISTOCK



Apple Homes Resale – Move-In Ready!

Built in 2018, this immaculate 1,241 sq. ft. bungalow condo features 2 plus 1 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, a finished basement, and a single-car garage with EV charging. Enjoy low-maintenance living with condo fees of just \$264.48/month. Offered by John Day of Apple Homes. Your next chapter starts here!



519-301-0797



sales@applehomes.ca

Your Library Corner: A lifetime of stories

BRANDI GILLET

Times Contributor

There is a library card that was issued this year to a baby just three months old.

Somewhere in Stratford, that card is tucked into a diaper bag, pinned to a bulletin board or saved in a keepsake box. Its owner cannot read yet, but a story has already begun.

At the Stratford Public Library, that is a story we have the privilege of witnessing every day.

We see it in toddlers singing along at storytime and children racing to find the next book in a beloved series. We see it in students searching for answers, adults exploring new interests and retirees finally finding time to read the books they've always meant to pick up. The library is woven into countless lives, often in small and quiet ways, accompanying people through every season and every chapter.

Sometimes those connections span nearly a century.

One of our oldest cardholders was born in 1929 and is now 97 years old. Imagine all that has changed during those years. New technologies, new discoveries, new generations. Through it all, the desire to learn, wonder and connect through stories has remained remarkably constant.

Between that three-month-old baby and that 97-year-old reader lies almost a hundred years of life. The library has a place in every part of that journey.

Some relationships with the library become lifelong companions. One Stratford

patron has borrowed 18,206 items since 1996. At first glance, it is an impressive number. But it is also thousands of moments of curiosity, discovery, learning and joy. It is a reminder that reading is not simply something we do. It becomes part of who we are.

The library keeps its own memories, too. When library cards and collection records were digitized in 1988, the first electronic records were created. Seven of those original titles remain in our collection today. The oldest record belongs to Albert Camus' Notebooks, 1935-1942, added to the catalogue on May 7, 1988. Nearly four decades later, it is still finding new readers.

And the story doesn't end at Stratford's borders. Through Interlibrary Loan, Stratford patrons requested 975 items in 2025, borrowing materials from libraries, museums and universities across Canada. The furthest journey came from Vancouver Public Library, travelling 4,491 kilometres to reach a Stratford reader. Curiosity, it turns out, knows no distance.

When we look at these numbers, we see far more than statistics.

We see first library cards and well-worn library cards. We see bedtime stories, school projects, career changes, new passions and lifelong friendships with books.

What's your library story?

We'd love to hear it. Because while books fill our shelves, it is people who fill our library with life. Every visit, every borrowed item and every story shared becomes part of something larger.

Stratford Cinemas to hold open caption screening of *The Odyssey*, sensory friendly *Paw-Patrol: The Dino Movie*

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

A local movie theatre will have accessible film screenings this summer to accommodate more patrons.

Stratford Cinemas will have an open caption screening of the summer blockbuster *The Odyssey* on Aug. 22, featuring subtitles on the screen.

The movie theatre will also offer sensory-friendly screenings of *Paw Patrol: The Dino Movie* that will have adjusted venue lighting and audio to accommodate young children.

"We find that a lot of little littles don't like the darkness and some of it is a little bit too loud, so we'll have the lights dimmed but still on and then the volume level will be a little bit lower," said Nadie Shepherd, owner of Stratford Cinemas.

The open caption and sensory-friendly screenings will make the movie theatre more accessible and welcoming

for all movie-lovers.

"We're just trying to provide opportunities for everyone to be able to come and see the movies, not just the ones that are open to coming to see them in the dark or normal volume. They would like the captions," Shepherd said. "I watch TV at home with the captions on, so I'm one of those people that like it."

Earlier this summer, the Disability Pride flag was raised and flown for the first time to recognize Disability Pride Month in July. Stratford Festival is also offering an array of accessible performances offering open captions, described audio, American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters and sensory-friendly environments. Wheelchair and mobility seating are also available in the theatre venues.

More details for the screenings at Stratford Cinemas will be announced at a later time. To find out the latest updates on Stratford Cinemas online, visit either the Facebook or Instagram pages stratfordcinemas.ca.

Queer Book of the Month: *My Shadow is Pink* by Scott Stuart

SYDNEY BOYLE

Stratford Perth Pride

Inspired by the author's son, the main character of *My Shadow is Pink* likes princesses, fairies and things "not for boys." He soon learns with the help of his dad that everyone has a shadow that they sometimes feel they need to hide. This is an important book for a new generation of children and adults which exemplifies the concepts of unconditional love, respect and positive parenting.

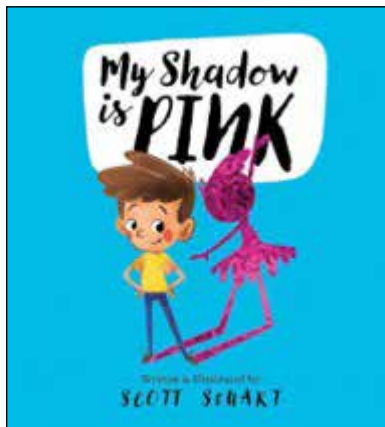
Stewart created this story for his son who was starting school but was made fun of by all the kids there because his favourite toy was an Elsa doll. This story follows a little boy in a world where your shadow can always be seen, it moves more freely from you and showcases your innermost desires. The little boy's father is worried for him as he's about to start school, because while his shadow is big and strong and blue, his son's shadow is

pink. *My Shadow is Pink* tackles gender norms in a way that is simplified for kids; explains how some people are different, and they don't fit into the societal expectations of "normal." The father in the story is scared and worried

for his son and doesn't want him to be mocked or ridiculed for being different, trying to tell him that his shadow will turn blue, that it will be fixed. That wasn't the fix that he wanted it to be. He instead showed his son that it's okay to be different, and that more people's shadows are unique as well.

While the story is exploring a serious issue in a manner for kids, it does an excellent job at showcasing how people who aren't straight don't choose this for themselves, that telling them that they need to hide or that there's something wrong with them will just make them feel worse and that they have to hide who they are.

If you are interested in reading *My Shadow is Pink*, it is available at the Stratford Public Library.



Spring Comes to Kyiv

(second place prize poem, Lawrence House Centre for the Arts, Carmen Ziolkowski Poetry Prize

Contest, awarded August 7th, 2026)

Even in the sting and sear of
these shrapnel days, the gardens
insist on their green rebellions,
stubborn fists of tulips pushed
through the lingering skin
of frost and body parts,
the lilacs by the Dnipro gushing violet
beside grandmothers planting potatoes
among the sandbags, hands
wizened by survival, each seed
an argument with the future,
every root a refusal to vanish.

Along the broken alleyways
children chalk bouquets and blooms
on cratered walls, an image
speaking a thousand words,
while cats turn molten in
the sunlight of this fractured
place where sirens drift the air
like blossoms and budding trees
mock the sulphured stink
with their urgent shoots
lifting emerald hands
in prayer toward the heavens.

Neither rubble nor carnage
can deny the sap its singing
journey through the green veins.
Beneath the detritus the worm
must work its spangled magic
of defiance and renewal:
the ruin of today becomes
the soil of tomorrow,
while the people of Kyiv
walk the thawing streets
cradling spring like treasured
contraband inside their hearts.

David Stones, Stratford Poet Laureate

Optimist Club of Downie Inc.

OPTI-CASH CALENDAR DRAW

Jul. 26 Kelly Byers, Woodstock	\$50.00
Jul. 27 Amanda Sager, St. Marys	\$50.00
Jul. 28 Steve Murray, Stratford	\$50.00
Jul. 29 Joni Kerr, St. Marys	\$50.00
Jul. 30 Guy Carr, Fullarton	\$50.00
Jul. 31 Nancy & Lothar Mueller, St. Marys . . .	\$50.00
Aug. 1 Donna Goldstraw, St. Marys	\$200.00
Aug. 2 Lydia & Philip Rose, Stratford	\$50.00
Aug. 3 Colton Campbell, Embro	\$50.00
Aug. 4 Holly Graham, Stratford	\$50.00
Aug. 5 Norah Ahrens, Stratford	\$50.00
Aug. 6 Ron Cahill, Stratford	\$50.00
Aug. 7 Vanessa Bricknell, Oshawa	\$50.00
Aug. 8 Sydney Nicholls, Grimsby	\$200.00



Franklin E. Hinz

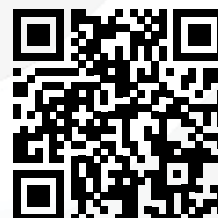
196 Ontario Street, Stratford

519-273-1633

STRATFORD TIMES

SCAN TO READ THE ONLINE PAPER

www.granthaven.com



STRATFORD *TIMES* SPORTS

Sloane Bell competes at Ontario Summer Games, TORP development camp

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

Sloane Bell of St. Pauls enjoyed a week of high-level volleyball development and competition, attending the Ontario Volleyball Association's (OVA) Team Ontario Regional Program (TORP) week-long development camp and the Ontario Summer Games.

Bell, who is entering her third season with the U15 Stratford Volleyball Club and will be attending St. Michael Catholic Secondary School this coming school year, detailed her experiences at the events, calling all of it incredibly memorable.

"It was really fun," said Bell. "I met a lot of new people, and I learned a lot of new stuff about volleyball and how to have high-performance habits. Going to bed

early, eating healthy food and not going on screens before you go to bed. (Experiencing the Ontario Summer Games and the OVA TORP development program) means a lot because I feel like I'm going to remember everything."

Bell attended the TORP development camp hosted July 26-30 at the University of Guelph, where the athletes stayed on campus in the university's residence for an intense week of development, coaching, indoor and beach volleyball and high-performance coaching. According to Bell, she had nerves entering the week that went away quickly.

"I was so nervous because I didn't know anybody and I didn't know if I was going to be the worst player or the best player there. But it ended up being really fun. I feel like the other people were really strong. Everybody there was so nice. I felt

like I was friends with a bunch of people there. I loved it so much."

Immediately after that, starting July 30, Bell travelled to Waterloo for the Ontario Summer Games' volleyball competition, playing both beach and indoor volleyball over the three-day event. The competitors battled through extreme heat and sun, with play paused for about an hour due to several athletes experiencing heat exhaustion. Bell played on Team E and helped her squad emerge with a silver medal.

"The first day, it was beach (volleyball), and we got assigned partners, and then some of our beach rankings go into our indoor rankings," Bell explained. "And then, the second day, we had six games, and you get ranked based on how many games your team has won, and you have to be ranked in the top six to make it to the next day to be in the playoffs. We got

third, and on the third day, we won quarters, we won semis, and we got silver."

Bell cited a couple of key factors in the team having success and leaving the Ontario Summer Games with the silver.

"I feel like our serve receive and our communication were really good," noted Bell. "I feel like if you don't communicate, then it's not going to work out because you have to be able to communicate on the court and off the court to be able to succeed."

Bell also raved about the coaching she had at the tournament.

"We had really good coaching," Bell told the Times. "They were just so nice about everything. If you made a mistake, they'd just be like, 'It's okay, you can get the next one. We believe in you.' Everybody was so supportive. I feel like I wasn't in my head as much as I normally am."



(JP.IMAGE PHOTO)

Sloane Bell, pictured, bumps the ball during one of her team's beach volleyball matches at the Ontario Summer Games July 30-Aug. 2. Bell also attended a development camp as part of the Ontario Volleyball Association's Team Ontario Regional Program.



(JP.IMAGE PHOTO)

Sloane Bell, pictured second from the right end in the bottom row, along with her teammates on Team E, which claimed the silver medal at the Ontario Summer Games.

Stratford Nationals Weekly Recap: 15U competes for OBA, 18U plays in ICBA tournament

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

This weekend, the two top-tier Stratford Nationals teams played in tournaments: the 15U team competed for a place in the Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) 'A' tournament, while the 18U team participated in the Inter County Baseball Association (ICBA) playoffs. Both events used an OBA-mandated double-elimination format.

In the 15U OBA 'A' tournament opener at Stratford National Stadium, Stratford

faced the Brantford Jones Red Sox on Aug. 6. Anchored by the top batting order of Will Molenhuis, Jake Price and Cole Morris, the Nationals put their offensive firepower to great use with a seven-run first inning en route to a 20-2 win after a mandated mercy rule ended the game after three innings.

Stratford's Max Barter recorded five strikeouts while giving up only two earned runs on five hits and three walks in three complete innings.

Following the game, Stratford coach Rick Boon praised the team's tourna-

ment-opening win.

"We swung ... really well tonight. The pitching was outstanding, and we hit the ball really hard. We did some really smart things. We didn't make any defensive plays that were bad, so that was all good," Boon said.

On the evening of Aug. 7, Stratford hosted the Waterloo Tigers for a spot in the final round of the tournament. In what was a tight contest through five innings, the Waterloo offence broke open with four in the sixth and three in the seventh to put themselves ahead 9-1 heading into the bottom

of the final inning.

With two outs, the lacklustre Nationals offence came to life and ignited a fiery comeback attempt. Molenhuis' single and a Waterloo defensive error led to runs from Reid Musselman and Barter. After a single from Jackson Goebel, a walk from Morris, and an RBI single from Price, Molenhuis scored to cut the Stratford deficit to five.

Waterloo committed a second defensive error on a Carter Cook pop fly, allowing Goebel and Morris to score and reducing the lead to 9-6. However, the rally ended

Stratford Nationals Weekly Recap: 15U competes for OBA, 18U plays in ICBA tournament

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

when Landen McCann's infield pop fly ended the game, leaving the Nationals in a must-win situation on the tournament's final day.

In the morning game on Aug. 8, the Nationals faced the Brantford McClelland Red Sox in their semifinal game, with the winner facing the Waterloo Tigers in the afternoon game.

Brantford got off to an early 4-1 lead before the Nationals scored 11 unanswered runs in the next four innings to go ahead 12-4 heading into the final inning. The Red Sox staged a late rally with three runs, but reliever Blake Mogk managed to strike out to seal the win and put Stratford in the final round.

McCann had a productive day for the home side as the third baseman went 3-for-3 with a pair of RBIs, two runs scored and a walk.

Stratford faced the Waterloo Tigers in the final round of OBA qualifiers. To advance to the provincials in Muskoka, they must beat the Tigers twice, which is a challenging task. In their early afternoon game, Stratford achieved their first goal with an 11-1 victory over the Tigers.

The game was briefly paused due to rain in the bottom of the fifth inning and resumed shortly after 4 p.m. It was then concluded after a Cook sacrifice fly RBI triggered the mercy rule.

Cook led the Stratford offence with three hits, and Quintin Parr led Stratford with three runs scored. Seven different Nationals recorded an RBI, while McCann and the Nationals defence destabilized the Tigers' offence to a single run.

Nearly an hour after the rain-delayed game concluded, the decisive game occurred with the trip to the OBA's at stake.

The Nationals jumped to an early 5-0

lead in the second inning before the Tigers clawed back to within a run heading into the third inning with Stratford leading 5-4.

RBIs from McCann, Barter and Parr put the Nationals back by four in the next inning, and the Nationals subdued the Tigers' offence for the next two innings. But Musselman, Goebel and the Stratford defence were unable to hold off the Tigers in the fifth with six unanswered Waterloo runs and lost the game 10-8.

Boon commented on the heartbreaking loss and noted the challenges of playing three games in one day and the team's inability to maintain a lead.

"Yeah, I think by the end of playing three games in one day, it's a tough haul for any team. But we got ahead early, and we just couldn't squeeze it and couldn't hold the lead," Boon said.

"We didn't do anything drastically wrong. They hit the ball, and they made the right plays at the right time, and we just didn't get to where we wanted to be at the end."

Boon told the Times that, ahead of the 15U ICBA playoffs, the team plans to participate in multiple practices and engage in team bonding activities before traveling to the league tournament in Kitchener from Aug. 21 to 23.

At the 18U ICBA Tournament in Brantford, the league's seventh-ranked Nationals opened their tournament play against the Kitchener Diemert Panthers on Aug. 6.

Trailing 3-0 heading into the sixth, the Nationals started to muster their comeback, starting with a two-out RBI groundout from Reed Bowles and a bases-loaded walk from James Robinson to put Stratford within a run.

The Nationals completed their come-

back the very next inning when Daniel Hovius hit a two-out ground ball, only for a Kitchener defensive error to allow Hovius to reach first and allow Cooper Yantzi to score from third.

Stratford took their first lead of the game in the first extra inning on a two-out RBI single from Dawson Davidson, allowing Bowles to score from second base. In the latter half, the Panthers re-tied the game on a line drive single off Caden Diehl.

After Stratford failed to score the next extra inning, they lost the game on an error from Hovius, putting the Nationals in a must-win situation for the remainder of the tournament.

Robinson got the start for Stratford and went seven innings with two strikeouts, allowing two earned runs in eight hits and four walks in 111 pitches. Bowles and Davidson produced the lone RBIs for Stratford in the loss.

The next game on Aug. 7 saw the Nationals facing the Cambridge Cubs in the next round of the tournament. Cambridge took a 2-0 lead after two innings, but the Nationals poured on five runs in the seventh inning and held on for a 5-2 win. Bowles' two-out bases-loaded walk put the Nationals ahead, and a two-run RBI single from Finley Newton added insurance.

Hovius pitched three innings for Stratford, allowing two earned runs on four

hits and two walks, followed by Alex Everett's four shutout innings of one-hit ball in relief.

Stratford faced Guelph in the league quarterfinals. Guelph took the early 1-0 lead before the one-out RBI single from Hovius allowed Diehl to score from third base to tie the game at one apiece in the top of the fourth.

After the Royals retook their lead in the fifth, the Nationals levelled back on Hovius' second RBI of the game, this time on a one-out groundout, allowing Diehl to score from second base.

The Nationals had a golden opportunity to take the lead in their half of the seventh with Newton on second and Bowles in third, but Everett's infield pop fly ended the inning.

Unfortunately for the Nationals, their tournament run came to an end on a walk-off in the bottom of the seventh, losing the game 3-2.

Bowles got the start on the mound for the Nationals, pitched five innings with two strikeouts, allowing one earned run on six hits and three walks and threw 99 pitches.

Stratford's last tournament of the season starts on Aug. 13 at the OBA 'A' Provincials at Clarington, with their first match against Tecumseh. The four-day tournament will be featured in next week's edition of the Times.



(MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY PHOTO)

Max Barter of the Stratford 15U Nationals hits an RBI single against the Brantford Jones Red Sox at the OBA 15U 'A' Qualifier Tournament in Stratford National Stadium on Aug. 6.

Stratford Branch 008

Branch 8 and the Poppy Fund has their annual Veterans Dinner on September 18. Doors open at 5 p.m.

This is free to all serving CF members and retired members (veterans) and their spouses/caregivers.

The bar will be available for purchases.

Please contact Branch 8 to RSVP by September 14.

For support for Canadian Veterans and those of allied countries at no cost please contact Branch 8 - 519-271-4540

email: StratfordLegion008@gmail.com

or the Branch Service Officer Steve Zurbrigg - 519-305-1125

email: SteveZurbrigg@gmail.com to provide assistance and contact to the Provincial Service Officer

804 Ontario St., B-1, Stratford N5A 3K1

stratfordlegion008@gmail.com

Stratford Strikers Weekly Recap: Season's final stretch begins

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

On Aug. 4, the Stratford U16 Boys Strikers looked to get back on the winning track in their first home match since June 30 as they hosted Oriental SC at Cowan Field, losing 2-1. Dominic McGurgin scored the lone goal for Stratford.

Combined from their 6-0 road loss on July 28 against Kitchener TFC, the Strikers are in sixth place in the South-west District Soccer League (SWDSL) 16U Boys Division with a 6-1-5 record and 19 points. They hosted the league's top-ranked Waterloo United at Stratford VFG Field on Aug. 11 (after press time).

The U16 Girls Strikers continued their SWDSL undefeated run last week with a 5-0 win over Cambridge United at Cowan Field on Aug. 4, followed by a 1-0 road win over second-place Oriental SC at Campo Do Oriental in Cambridge on Aug. 6.

Stratford's Myra Wood and Mya Meyer led the team in scoring during the two-win week, with Avery Bruinsma and Niamh Appel also scoring for the Strikers.

With the two wins, the top-ranked

Strikers increased their lead to six points over Oriental SC and seven clear of third-place Puslinch Predators in the SWDSL U16 Girls Division standings with four league matches left. Next up for the Strikers was a road match against Waterloo United on Aug. 11.

Stratford U15 Girls Strikers picked up four out of six points last week. Against Kitchener TFC U15 at RBJ Schlegel Field on Aug. 5, the Strikers settled for a 1-1 draw, with Mya Groensteghe scoring the lone goal for Stratford.

Back on home pitch at Cowan Field on Aug. 10, Peyton Ward, Reese Campbell and Payton Herman each scored a hat trick to lead the Strikers to a convincing 10-2 win over FFTW Academy. Elena Hogger also scored for the Strikers.

The four points give Stratford a five-point lead over the Guelph Jr. Gryphons with 34 points in the SWDSL U15 Girls Division with four league games remaining. With a game in hand, first-place Stratford could potentially clinch the division title with their next game against Guelph on Aug. 17 at VFG Field.

Stratford U18 Boys Strikers continued their unbeaten run with two solid wins against HEADS United at Guelph Jr. Gryphons on home turf last week.

At VFG Field on Aug. 5, Stratford defeated HEADS United 7-2 courtesy of a brace from Greyson Roth and other goals from Rogan Catalan, Jack Haines, Pierce MacDonald, Caden Ollson and Austin McGurgin.

On Aug. 10, Stratford soared past the Gryphons 11-0 at Cowan Field. McGurgin and Piers Murray led the Strikers with a brace each, while Owen Blain, Catalan, Kieren Johnson, MacDonald, Roth and William Pepper scored for

Stratford in the rout.

Stratford improved their record to 8-4-1 with 28 points and are in third position with only two league games left in the SWDSL U18 Boys season. The Strikers wrapped up their 2026 season at home against Huron Perth United on Aug. 12 at Cowan Field (after press time) and at Columbia Icefields in Waterloo against GPF Eagles on Aug. 17.

The full results will be posted in next week's edition of the Stratford Times.

Stratford Warriors, GOHL release 2026-27 season schedule

MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY

Times Correspondent

On Aug. 6, the Stratford Hunter Steel Warriors and the Greater Ontario Hockey League (GOHL) released their official 2026-2027 season schedule.

Stratford will open their 50-game regular season with two road games on opening weekend. On Sept. 11, Stratford travels to the Pyramid Recreation Complex for a Western Conference Finals rematch against the St. Marys Lincolns. The following day, the Warriors travel to Woodstock for their first-ever matchup with the Navy Vets.

The Warriors begin their home slate of the regular season with another rematch from the 2026 postseason, this time against the Chatham Maroons at the William Allman Memorial Arena on Sept. 18.

The Warriors renew acquaintances with their first encounters of regional

counterparts Elmira on Oct. 11 and host the Listowel Cyclones on Oct. 17.

The Warriors will play a total of 44 games within the Western Conference and six against the Eastern Conference. Their first cross-conference game is a home match versus Eastern finalist Fort Erie on Nov. 6, followed by an away game at Welland on Nov. 15. Additional home games against Eastern teams include the Pelham Panthers on Nov. 27 and the Ayr Centennials on Feb. 12.

They will face the Waterloo Siskins on the road for their only encounter of the season on Jan. 24, and the regular season finale against Stoney Creek on March 6.

Stratford opens their four-game pre-season schedule against Woodstock on Aug. 24 at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

The full regular-season schedule can be found on the Stratford Warriors website.



ANNUAL BEEF BBQ DINNER

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19, 2026

Dinner Served: 5-7:30 pm
Live Music 6 -10 pm
Licensed by the AGCO

TICKETS:

\$30

Milverton Agri Centre (MAC) 17 Pierson Street, Milverton

MENU

Smoked Brisket
Kaiser Buns
Coleslaw
Baked Beans
Baked Potato
Corn on the Cob
Dessert

Kids 10 & under get a FREE Kid's Meal
(with purchase of a \$30 ticket).

KID'S MEAL
Hot Dog
Cookie
Juice Box

Additional Kid's Meals: \$5

TICKETS:

Email
perthcountybeef@gmail.com

In collaboration with



INQUIRES:

Contact Angela Schneider
(519) 291-8668

"From Farm Gate to Dinner Plate"



OPTIMIST CLUB OF SHAKESPEARE

Chicken BBQ Dinner

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Shakespeare Community Center

Drive thru 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

\$25/Ticket

LC#M854449

For Tickets Call or Text:
Gary at 519-272-9140



INNERchamber expands offerings with matinees, acclaimed guest artists for 17th season

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

INNERchamber is expanding both its artistic reach and audience accessibility as the Stratford chamber-music series prepares to launch its 17th season this fall with six concerts featuring internationally acclaimed guest artists, new daytime performances and a collaboration with a local visual artist.

Artistic director and violinist Andrew Chung said the upcoming season builds on the organization's longstanding formula of pairing intimate chamber performances with a shared dining experience while continuing to surprise audiences with thoughtfully curated programs.

"I think it builds largely on the tradition that we've built up," Chung said. "All of our concerts up to this point have had a food element and then always ... inviting people to come and be surprised with the music that we choose, with how we present it, all in the spirit of fun and community. I think this season builds on that largely, but there are some terrific highlights within this season that we're particularly proud of."

Among the biggest additions this year are afternoon matinee performances for two concerts – Gravity with Sarah Slean and Roy Lewis, and The Music of Talk with Tom Allen – a response to audience demand for daytime options.

"A number of our patrons, some of whom are older, have requested some daytime options," Chung said. "So, we're like, 'Okay, let's try it and see how it goes.' Already from subscription and single-ticket sales, we can see there is definitely interest for these afternoon shows."

The new performances also help accommodate growing demand. Chung said many concerts last season sold out between two and four weeks in advance.

Season 17 opens Sept. 27 with Where I Keep My Heart, a program centred on works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Hungarian composer Miklós Rózsa, both of whom, Chung said, poured their greatest passion into music that wasn't always their most commercially successful.

Rózsa, best known for his Academy Award-winning film scores, negotiated three months off each year from MGM Studios so he could compose concert music, Chung said.

"That's what he wanted to do," Chung continued. "We're performing his String Quartet No. 1. It showcases his Hungarian roots. He uses Hungarian folk music as the basis for this composition, and I think it's just a really exciting and satisfying string quartet."

The concert also features Mozart's String Quintet No. 4 in G minor with guest violist Kelvin Enns.

"Nowadays, we recognize these pieces as absolute masterpieces, but again, this is where his heart was," Chung said of Mozart's string quintets. "You can certainly hear the depth of emotion within this particular quintet."

In addition to the performance at Factory163, the season opener will also be performed at the Local Community Food Centre.

Another highlight comes Nov. 15 with Spiritillo Mediterraneo, featuring acclaimed Spanish baroque violinist Cristina Prats Costa performing music from across the 17th-century Mediterranean on period instruments.

Chung said the program is filled with rhythmic energy and virtuosic playing inspired by Spanish, Italian and Austrian musical traditions.

"When I heard some of the tracks from the album, I was like, 'Wow, this is really incredible playing and such a great idea,'" he said.

The February concert, Gravity, pairs music with original poetry by actor and poet Roy Lewis and performances by acclaimed Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah Slean.

Rather than focusing solely on the physical force of



(INNERCHAMBER PHOTO)

Stratford's INNERchamber as announced its 17th season lineup, which begins at the end of September.

gravity, Chung said the concert also explores the "gravitas" of people – individuals whose presence draws communities together.

"There are certain people ... who just draw people towards them and have an incredible internal gravity just by being who they are," Chung said. "In its best form, these people bind the community together in the most wonderful way."

The season concludes May 16 with Summer Nights, featuring Stratford mezzo-soprano Maria Soulis performing Hector Berlioz's Les Nuits d'été alongside chamber arrangements of works by Claude Debussy and Gabriel Fauré.

Beyond the music, Season 17 also introduces artwork

by Stratford artist Anna Yuschuk to visually represent each concert.

"I've always admired her artwork," Chung said. "We worked together to choose images from her catalogue that would match the concert titles and themes. I think it's a really strong addition to visually represent our season."

All six concerts will be held at Factory163 in Stratford. Evening performances include a light dinner, while the two new matinees will not. Two concerts – In An Alternate Universe and The Music of Talk with Tom Allen – will also be available through video-on-demand. Season subscriptions and single tickets are now on sale.

For all the details and to purchase tickets, visit www.innerchamber.ca.

FRONT STREET
DentalHouse

CONTACT US TODAY
(226) 766-5241

info@frontstreetdentalhouse.ca

Book Instantly Online!



311 Ontario St.
Suite 1, Stratford, ON

WE ACCEPT THE
CANADIAN
DENTAL CARE
PLAN (CDCP)

NOW AVAILABLE TO ALL CANADIANS

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT PLANS
DIRECT INSURANCE BILLING
EMERGENCY CARE
CARE FOR ALL AGES

Editorial

The Lloyd Robertson I'll remember

CRAIG THOMPSON

Guest Columnist

When Canadians think of Lloyd Robertson, they'll remember the reassuring voice that guided the country through elections, royal visits, celebrations and tragedies. They'll remember one of the greatest broadcasters this country has ever produced.

I'll remember the man who took the time to help a nervous high school student from Stratford.

Lloyd and I shared more than a profession. We shared a hometown. We both attended Stratford Central Secondary School, although Lloyd graduated long before I did from what was then Stratford Collegiate Institute. We both began our broadcasting careers at CJCS Radio in Stratford, one of Canada's oldest radio stations and an unlikely launching pad for generations of broadcasters.

Like so many who found their way into journalism, I looked up to him long before I ever met him.

That opportunity came in 1978 or 1979. As a student at Stratford Central, I was producing a documentary to mark the school's 100th anniversary. It seemed like an impossible dream, but I wondered if Lloyd Robertson might narrate it. Through my vice principal, John Miller, the request somehow found its way to Lloyd. And to my amazement, he said yes.

So one day, I drove my father's 1975 AMC Gremlin from Stratford to CTV's studios in Agincourt with a massive reel-to-reel tape recorder from the school's



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

audiovisual department loaded into the back. I walked into the newsroom more than a little intimidated. Here I was, a high school student from Stratford, about to meet the man who anchored the national news. Instead, Lloyd welcomed me as though helping a teenager with a school documentary was the most natural thing in the world.

He sat down with my script and recorded the narration as though my little school documentary deserved every bit as much care as the evening newscast.

Following the recording, he gave me a tour behind the scenes of the news operation. I already had my career sights set on the news business. I was already working at CJCS and at home had a high-end shortwave radio that picked up Radio Moscow, Voice of America and the BBC World Service.

I was thrilled to have Lloyd's wonderful voice on my first documentary. However, upon my return to Stratford, disaster struck. During the record-

ing session, the tape had twisted on the reel. Portions of Lloyd's narration were garbled beyond repair. I was devastated and embarrassed.

Once again, John Miller came to the rescue, reaching out to Lloyd to explain what had happened. Lloyd could easily have said he'd already done his part. Instead, he quietly stepped back into a recording booth at CTV, rerecorded the missing sections from my script and sent them back to Stratford. That was Lloyd.

My own career eventually took me from CJCS in Stratford to CFRB Radio in Toronto to the CBC as a correspondent in London and eventually to CTV National News. Along the way, I found myself in an extraordinary position – Lloyd Robertson was introducing my reports from Toronto, Washington and other assignments across North America and beyond.

Even then, I never imagined he knew much about me. I was simply one of many reporters whose stories crossed his desk. In 2022, I sat down with Lloyd during one of his many visits to Stratford for an interview on my podcast The Stratford Slice. I reminded him of the story of how he helped with my high school documen-

tary. He laughed, and instead of talking about the favour he had done for me, he told me about his own first big interview as a young reporter at CJCS. It was with Sir Alec Guinness, in 1953, during the very first Stratford Festival.

Like me, Lloyd was convinced he had captured something special, only to discover it had been recorded over.

"I can only say yes, I did it, but I have no evidence," Lloyd laughed.

As we chatted, it became clear that no matter where life had taken him, Stratford had never left him. He spoke about growing up beside the CNR shops, walking everywhere as a boy and only later realizing what an extraordinary place Stratford had been.

"I didn't really appreciate it when I was a kid until I got out and saw the world," he reflected. "...What an idyllic life we had here."

He spoke openly about the challenges of his childhood – his mother's mental illness, his father's poor health and the uncertainty that could easily have defined his life. Then he said something that, I think, explains everything about the man

CONTINUED TO PAGE 13

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

*Restoring small-town
journalism, one community
at a time!*

STRATFORDTIMES

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Connor Luczka • connor@granthaven.com

Times Reporter

Amanda Nelson • amandajanevriter@gmail.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Sarah Cairns • stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Contributors

Galen Simmons, Spencer Seymour, Julia Schneider,
Gary West, Paul Knowles, Emily Stewart, Lisa Chester,
Fred Gonder, Sheila Clarke, Irene Roth, Lee Griffi,
Stuart Lender, Sydney Goodwin, Patrick D. Burk

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2

stratfordtimes@gmail.com | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



STRATFORDTIMES

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

Opinions

UNTIL SOON. LIVE WELL: ALL THE NAMES



STUART LENDER

Times Columnist

In a small country cemetery, under a wet and broken sky, I came across the gravedigger and caretaker of the grounds. Despite the weather, I had decided to walk and reflect upon an episode that recently occurred in my life that I didn't ask for, nor did I want. I was struck with a sense of melancholia that led me there and of which I was familiar, and after wary introductions the gravedigger and I shared it between us. We began to converse as a result of our related occupations – his burying the deceased and mine feeding the memory of the living. The conversation moved falteringly at first, as if he couldn't trust the approach of a living stranger as opposed to one silent and departed. But he was pleasant enough and we fell into a sort of gentle inquisitiveness. I was impressed that he knew all the names of the dead in the grounds that he tended.

We spoke of traditions, the history of the area, salvation. I gaged his religiosity by asking him if he knew where God resides and he gave me a gesture with his arms as if God is all around. This appealed to my broader sensibilities. I told him of a church that I know in Germany with a grand majesty as yet unequalled, where the best thing within the ostentatious filigree of gold in the sanctuary, was a small and decrepit stall erected before Christmas, with an inch of hay and a rough thatch roof that let the light of the star through in slivers upon an empty manger. The ultimate juxtaposition and the sad contradiction of Jesus and the church.

As we spoke, we walked amid the illegible headstones, all limestone soft and dissolving into the Earth, or marble-veined, smooth and fading. And as we walked past the more recent monuments of granite, he told me stories of the owners now residing below in their worn and withering beds.

I realized then in our confined walking space, that I had created an assumption – that this man had personal connections with all the lives he tended in this peaceful, whispering soil – as though his employment in this capacity prevented him from aging and he knew all the tenants equally. Just how long has he lived amongst these ghosts of antiquity, I wondered? How many has he buried? His eyes betrayed his own mortality. He

might have been one hundred years or more judging from his face. I didn't know, nor did I ask. But the icy blue of his eyes said differently. The spark of new life remained on their glassy surface as if he were a newborn.

I confided that I sometimes looked out across the vastness of cemeteries, imagining that I could see through the sod and into the rectangular underground spaces – picturing them all stretched out and facing upwards towards the sky, yard upon yard into the distance – under rain and sunshine, shadow and light, the unknown souls recognized only through names and dates. The many who lived, laughed, loved and cried and died. Who are they to me? All these people had decades of living behind them, now saturated in stories past, that few, if any, still tell. They are cocooned in diaphanous history with those stories, like the words on their stones – the fading sentinels in time.

As we walked towards the cemeteries edge where the cedars vaulted upwards, I asked him if there were any of his own relatives within. For a moment only, he paused, shifted his gaze towards the eastern end and softly said in a voice no louder than a whisper – “no” – before turning back towards the road on which I'd approached earlier. I took this as a gesture of parting.

Days passed. Seasons changed. I walked out with my thoughts

on numerous days of sun, rain, and snow throughout the year, passing the cemetery countless times without a soul present on the grounds. But there were occasional greetings, light-hearted and warm, as time had made us more familiar and the silent souls beneath dimmer.

His name was Worth. My graveyard friend, who never spoke of family. We kept our conversations gentle and sprinkled in the sights and sounds of our disparate lifetimes. And sometimes, when they collided, we laughed.

Over time, I confirmed that he himself was a stranger to most of the departed, having memorized their names, their places, their stones, their dates. Most of their lives he could not animate. Only a handful. And in this way, I surmised an approximate old age despite his youthful and spirited eyes. Many of the decedents laid to rest there were as names in a filing cabinet to him, with little or no content in the files.

There are a handful of grave-stones in any cemetery that bestow words upon the living from the person beneath, that reveal more than merely dates and a name, however. Every now and again I come across one that speaks to me and it feels as though they are somehow more “alive” than the rest – their epitaph reaching out, whispering, “this is who I was.”

When Worth died, it was be-

lated. Untimely. I was not even aware he was gone. I walked the perimeter of the cemetery looking for him, lingering at the gate as I always did in my fruitful wandering – as if time were infinite and there'd be another day to share. Until, on one of those infinite days, I came to suspect what might have happened, and the heart became heavy after a week, then two, then three of his absence.

A man much younger than myself, thin, tall and capable, with garden shears in hand, told me on an amber autumn day Worth had died, but couldn't tell me where or when or even whether he was buried amongst all the quiet companions that brought us together. I did not find him there. No one else to ask. For in that year of our acquaintance, we were always alone, together, with no one to witness us. We might just as well have been a remembrance of a sort that someone made up. Painted into a picture. Watchful of ourselves and each other only, in the days we spent time in welcomed company – our conversations, our time together, as faded or forgotten as all the rest in that soft and silent place.

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

The Lloyd Robertson I'll remember

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12
he became.

"The community really opened their arms," he told me. "The neighbours used to invite me to come and stay with them ... It's in my heart forever. Stratford is my home."

Despite becoming Canada's most trusted broadcaster, he remained, at heart, a Stratford boy. He returned whenever he could, whether it was to celebrate milestones at CJCS, support local festivals and community events, or simply lend his voice and presence to causes that mattered.

He understood something that many successful people forget: none of us reaches our destination alone. Stratford had opened doors for him. Throughout his life, he quietly repaid that debt by opening doors for others.

"You have to have mentors who help you along," he said. "And I did have those."

What I don't think he fully appreciated was that he had become exactly that person for countless others, including me.

Near the end of our conversation, Lloyd turned the interview around. He began talking about my career. He mentioned England, the CBC and the many documentaries I had produced. Finally, he looked at me and said something I will never forget.

"Craig, I've followed your career all along. I'm really proud of what you've accomplished."

For a moment, I was speechless. Here was the broadcaster I had admired since I was a teenager telling me he had been following my journey for years.

It was one of the greatest compliments I have ever received.

Looking back, I realize that Lloyd had been mentoring me long before I understood what mentorship really meant.

When I asked him about CJCS during our interview, his answer was immediate. "It is impossible for me to exaggerate just what CJCS meant to my life."

I understand exactly what he meant. That little radio station shaped both of our lives.

It taught us to write, to listen and to understand the world from multiple perspectives with the overarching goal of serving your community.

Perhaps that's why Lloyd never stopped serving his. There will be countless tributes in the days ahead celebrating Lloyd Robertson's remarkable career.

For me personally, he was the man who taught me what kindness, humility and mentorship really look like.

I'll remember the broadcaster who took time for a nervous teenager from his hometown. The man who rerecorded a narration because a tape recorder had failed. The colleague who quietly followed my career without ever saying so. The proud son of Stratford who never forgot the people who first believed in him.

In journalism, we often measure greatness by the stories someone tells. Lloyd Robertson reminds us that greatness is also measured by the lives we touch along the way.

That is the Lloyd I'll remember.

Craig Thompson is a Stratford-based documentary filmmaker, podcaster and journalist.

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US

CALL 519.622.2341 OR EMAIL STRATFORDTIMES@GMAIL.COM

Opinions

The challenge of finding information you can trust

JULIA SCHNEIDER

Times Correspondent

Steve Jobs, who died in 2011, was a digital media pioneer and technology leader who once said: “If you want people to like you, sell them ice cream.” Reading this now, I am surprised that this man, who was often considered difficult and driven, gave any thought to whether people liked him or not. Not so the current breed of technocrats who are vying to be the richest, most powerful and most influential men (they are all men) on Earth; they really don’t care. In fact, how their actions affect the human race seems to be the last thing on their minds.

Take Mark Zuckerberg. Not only is he fixated on schemes that are truly out of this world, he also focuses on projects that directly impact the health of the planet and those living on it. Consider the data centres he creates to fuel his monster, Meta. I recently viewed a documentary about the immense one he built in a rural location outside Atlanta, Ga. and the effect it had on the owners of a house that happened to be in its immediate area. It brought with it problems with their water supply – the centre is endlessly thirsty – along with light and noise pollution. Yet this is the sort of enterprise that city councils tend to accept, because they can get more taxes from something big, whether or not it taxes the environment.

At a recent meeting about AI and data

centres at Falstaff school, convened by the informed, involved and insightful Loreena McKennitt, those present heard about the greatest fear these men express: that when they retreat into their protected underground shelters after the world becomes uninhabitable due to their actions, the guards they hired to protect them won’t and instead will turn on them. Theirs is not a happy universe with a contented population.

According to Karen Hao, tech journalist and author of *Empire of AI*, in a recent installment of the CBC’s sterling program *Ideas*, the size of these data centres is not necessary for the kind of AI outcomes that benefit humankind through their potential in medical and other research. Instead, the perpetrators of these monsters are working on quite the opposite: unregulated social media, algorithm exploitation and mega troll farms, which Peter Julian, a former long-time NDP MP from B.C. and political commentator, calls the “disinformation edifice trifecta.” They lead to mental health issues, especially among children (see the sad case of Molly Russell in England, who was coached in how commit suicide by an algorithm before doing so), wide-spread scams, the explosion of violence, misogyny and transphobia from white supremacist and other fringe groups pushing their one-sided views, hatred of all kinds and the end of civility in civic engagement (evidence Trump). All of these existed before AI but, with its data centres, it promises to

make things much worse.

How to protest against what is happening before our eyes? Hao says people need to speak up everywhere and all the time. What is happening is wrong, it is dangerous, and it needs to be stopped. AI is interfering with our ability to think for ourselves, and that is a very bad problem.

Is anyone immune to it? This is where I get off the beaten track. Think everyone has access to the internet, social media and digital media? Think again.

In the June 6 *Globe and Mail* Saturday Opinion section, the article “Computers make people easier to use, now more than ever” was followed a couple of pages later by one titled “Reading from the same page.” The latter dealt with the inmates at Warkworth Prison (near Brighton, Ont.) and the experience of its author, Stephen Marche, who led a book club session there.

Reading is popular in prison – and it is exclusively in paper. There is no internet or digital media in a prison because – ironically? – they are considered a serious threat to safety. In the highly regimented prison milieu, reading is a privilege and talking about books, and sharing ideas about them, is highly valued. The club at Warkworth can only have 18 members, all that can fit in its library, but there are 200 on its waiting list.

His experience impressed Marche, an experienced writer who often talks to book clubs. “At Warkworth,” he writes, “I gave my typical spiel, and then we went

right into the questions. And I mean no offense to anybody else when I say this, but it was easily the most thoughtful and informed book group I’ve ever attended.”

Alarming, despite the limitations of the Warkworth Prison, its library may be better stocked and used than what is left of school libraries in Ontario after Premier Doug Ford’s cuts to them over the last few years. Much has changed since I worked in school (and prison) libraries, when standards were taken seriously and enforced. In schools, they used to be recognized as an essential part of students’ ability to assess sources of information and develop their critical thinking skills, but many may no longer fulfill that important role, if they exist at all.

How do students learn these skills nowadays? Are those in prisons better off in this respect than students in our schools? Speaking for myself, I never read anything online I can get in print, consider seeing something online a disincentive to read it at all, and do not belong to any popular social media groups.

Which brings me to the question: should I form a group of like-minded individuals? I always found the Flat Earth Society amusing but figured it was deliberately so, and without a firm grounding (pardon the pun). My Printed Page Society, on the other hand, would be entirely serious, and have a firm ideological foundation – avoidance of untruths, misinformation and manipulation.

Anyone like to join?

**Invite readers to your
worship services.**

Contact

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

*Worship
With Us*



Community of Christ
226 Forman Avenue 519-271-4539

*Proclaiming Jesus Christ
with communities of*

LOVE, JOY, HOPE & PEACE

**Worship with us
Sunday 10:00 a.m.**

*11:00 a.m. – Fellowship and
Coffee Hour*

We are a Welcoming Community

STRATFORD **TIMES**

Erie Street Esso
Strickland's Toyota
Fix Auto
Stratford KIA
Expressway Ford
McDonald's - Erie St
Tim Hortons - Erie St
Stratford Mazda
7-Eleven - Erie St
Joe's Diner
The Urban Barber
Erie Convenience
Mr. Sub
Balzacs Coffee
Shoppers Drug Mart - Ontario
New Orleans Pizza

Zehrs
Food Basics
Tim Hortons - C.H. Meier
Festival Marketplace
Stratford Nissan
Stratford Subaru
Stratford Honda
Quality Festival Inn
McDonald's - Ontario St.
Papa Johns
Fore Everyone Golf
WalMart
Stratford Motor Products
A&W
Toner & Ink Shop
Rutherford Funeral Home

Athens Greek Restaurant
Stratford Legion
Gino's Pizza
Rosso's
Buzz Stop
Union Barber
Mornington Variety
Split Rail
Stratford Rotary Complex
Agriplex
No Frills
Cozyn's
Sebringville Esso
Dave's Diner - Sebringville
Stratford-Perth Museum
Sobey's

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

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

Pick Up Locations

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire stratfordtimes@gmail.com

STRATFORD SCRABBLE CLUB

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

STRATFORD ASTRONOMY GROUP MEETINGS

St. Michael Catholic Secondary School, 240 Oakdale Avenue, Stratford
Rear parking lot off Matilda. Room # 1104 - 1st Tuesday of each month from September to June. 7-9 p.m.

We are night sky enthusiasts. Everyone is welcome to attend. See our website at <https://stratfordastronomy.com/> or call 519-275-4472 for more information

FOOD TRUCKS

Monday, August 17; 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Grace United Church Tavistock
Siggi's, Pablas Street of India, SWAT
Donations to Tavistock Agricultural Society

JOIN US FOR SUMMER AT KNOX

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

BLACKSMITH DEMONSTRATION

On Saturday, August 29, starting at 10 a.m., come to the Brocksden Country School Museum for an incredible demonstration of how a blacksmith used his forge!

FOOD TRUCKS

Monday, August 24; 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Grace United Church Tavistock
Berlin 95, Ish n Chips, El Milagro
Donations to Camp Bimini

WHATEVER WEDNESDAYS!

Youth Unlimited YFC Stratford
Wednesday, August 26th; 1-3 p.m.
Memorial Baptist Church - 113 Bruce Street, Stratford
A youth (12-18) drop-in program for... Whatever! Check out activities like giant soccer, tie-dye, basketball, and more. Run indoors or outdoors depending on weather. Questions? www.yfcstratford.com info@yfcstratford.com 519-272-1614

YOUTH HIKING TRIP

Youth Unlimited YFC Stratford
Friday, August 28; 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Ages 12-18
Meet at Bethel Pentecostal Church for transportation. Hiking roughly 9.5 KM around Rattlesnake Point & Crawford Lake Conservation Area (near Milton). Enjoy amazing views, a replica Iroquoian village, and a picnic lunch together. Questions & Sign-Up (Required to come!): www.yfcstratford.com info@yfcstratford.com 519-272-1614

FOOD TRUCKS

Monday, August 31; 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Grace United Church Tavistock
Born2Eat, Los Rolling Tacos, Fo'Cheezy
Donations to Tavistock Agricultural Society

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Tuesday, September 1; 7:00 p.m.
93 Morgan St., Stratford
Speaker – Paul D'Souza from Coloplast
Learn about ostomy products and services from Coloplast
Social time and snacks. Everyone welcome.
519-273-4327

WHATEVER WEDNESDAYS!

Youth Unlimited YFC Stratford
Wednesday, September 2; 1-3 p.m.
Memorial Baptist Church - 113 Bruce Street, Stratford
A youth (12-18) drop-in program for... Whatever! Check out activities like giant soccer, tie-dye, basketball, and more. Run indoors or outdoors depending on weather. Questions? www.yfcstratford.com info@yfcstratford.com 519-272-1614

YOUTH CAMPFIRE NIGHT

Youth Unlimited YFC Stratford
Thursday, September 3; 7-10 p.m., Ages 12-18
80 East Perth Road 130, Sebringville
We're wrapping up our summer with a chill hangout by a campfire, making s'mores and other campfire cuisine. Questions & Sign-Up (Required to come!): www.yfcstratford.com info@yfcstratford.com 519-272-1614

FRIDAY NIGHT EUCHRES

Friday, September 11; 6 p.m.
Legion 804 Ontario St.
Sign up your team of 2 for \$20 by calling the Legion at 519-271-4540, Dave at 519-703-6544 or Anne at 519-301-0914. Doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m.

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

EDMONTON ELKS VS TORONTO ARGONAUTS

Saturday, September 19
The Stratford Legion is hosting a bus trip to see the Edmonton Elks vs Toronto Argonauts football game. It is a 3 p.m. game and the Badder bus leaves from the Cooper Lot at 12 noon. The cost is \$105 p.p. Contact Dean at 273-4463 to reserve and pay for your spot. Tickets are selling fast!

STRATFORD MISSION DEPOT WITH FOUNDER JEAN AITCHESON

Wednesday, September 2; 2 p.m.
Christ Church, 595815 Oxford 59 Huntingford

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

THE SECOND HAND BOOK NOOK SALE

Tavistock Fall Fair, in the arena
Friday, Sept. 11; 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 12; 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 13; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lots of books, magazines and puzzles for sale
For more information, call 519-590-1617

GARDEN STRATFORD GENERAL MEETING

Monday September 14; 7:15 – 9:00 p.m.
Army Navy Hall, 151 Lorne Ave. E., Stratford
Featured Presentation: “Flower Shows in UK - Harrogate Show in England/ Castle and Gardens”, Roland Craig
Meeting Open to Everyone; Free Admission.

YOUTH UNLIMITED YFC STRATFORD GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, September 23
Stratford Golf & Country Club
Golfer sign-in: 3:00 PM, Shotgun Start: 4:00 PM
9-hole, best-ball tournament. \$300 fee per golfer, or \$1000 per team of 4.
Contests, prizes, and giveaways! Registration required to participate. Questions & Sign-Up (Required to Participate): www.yfcstratford.com info@yfcstratford.com 519-272-1614

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

FRIDAY NIGHT EUCHRES

Friday, November 13; 6 p.m.
Legion 804 Ontario St.
November 13 – The next Stratford Legion Friday Night Euchre is Friday Nov. 13th. Sign up your team of 2 for \$20 by calling the Legion at 519-271-4540, Dave at 519-703-6544 or Anne at 519-301-0914. Doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m.

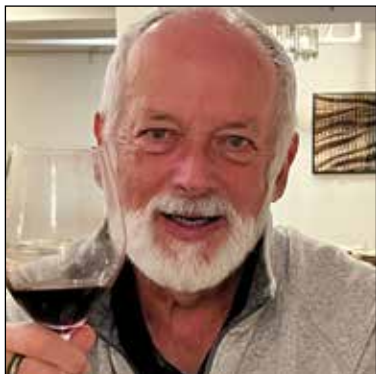
STRATFORD TIMES

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

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

- The Community Calendar is for non-profit organizations to promote their free admission events at no charge. Event listings can include your event name, date, time and location as well as a phone number, email address or website.
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, you have the following options:
 - Coming Events Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a classified business card size for \$35 + hst

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Witness to a 50-year-old mystery



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Columnist

Laurie Wickens passed away last month.

I know what you are thinking; “That’s a very odd opening sentence for a travel feature.” I agree.

But the thing is, not many people have used a unique, personal experience to create a travel destination – a museum that has drawn visitors for two decades. But Laurie Wickens, and a few dedicated friends, did exactly that.

And three years ago, I had the chance to visit their museum, officially the Shag Harbour UFO Interpretive Centre founded in 2006 by the Shag Harbour UFO Incident Society, and until his passing in July, usually staffed by Laurie Wickens. And that’s where I met him.

But the story goes back decades further to the night of Oct. 4, 1967. On that evening, a number of Shag Harbour, N.S. residents saw something they could not explain and would never forget. One of those witnesses was Laurie Wickens.

What they saw – and this was corroborated by several witnesses – was a flying object about 60 feet in diameter with flashing lights. It was flying above the waters of Shag Harbour, and then crashed into the sea and disappeared.

Wickens, then a 17-year-old kid, had the presence of mind get to a



UFO witness Laurie Wickens, who helped turn that experience into a quirky tourist destination.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

pay phone and call the RCMP to report the incident.

Whoever answered the phone at the local RCMP office was skeptical. Instead of asking for more details, Wickens was asked if he had been drinking! The call ended. But a few minutes later, before he left the area, the phone rang. Turned out, the cops had been getting quite a few calls since Wickens’ and they all agreed that something mysterious was happening. Later on, the testimony of Pan Am pilots added to the veracity of the sighting – they had seen an object that matched the description flying over the Gulf of Maine that night.

Wickens’ answer to the return call from the RCMP? “I told you I wasn’t lying.”

In the end, the Shag Harbour UFO became officially noted as “the only government-documented UFO crash in the world.” So even the government agreed that something “unidentified” happened that

night.

But to this day, no one knows what exactly.

It’s probably important to note that Shag Harbour is located close to the southern tip of Nova Scotia. It’s 65 kilometres south of Yarmouth, due east of Portland, Maine, and not all that distant from Boston.

Those proximities are probably important because while Laurie Wickens and his colleagues were happy to talk about the Shag Harbour UFO, they didn’t insist it was anything other-worldly.

Wickens told me that almost immediately following the crash, a large American navy vessel sailed into Shag Harbour. Townspeople were instantly aware that the place was suddenly teeming with American and Canadian military officers, and a U.S. Navy dive team was also in town.

The kerfuffle lasted for about five days. And just as quickly as the American contingent had arrived,

they were gone – the ship sailed away, the uniforms were gone and everything was back to normal, including, it was eventually determined, the sea bed of Shag Harbour.

No evidence was ever found – or at least, ever acknowledged by powers that be – of any crashed flying object, unidentified or not. A spokesperson for Canada’s National Defence Headquarters stated, “The Rescue Coordination Centre conducted a preliminary investigation and discounted the possibilities that the sighting was produced by an aircraft, flares, floats, or any other known objects.” Thus, by definition, an Unidentified Flying Object.

Local people, including Wickens and occasional visiting UFO enthusiasts, continued to search, but to no avail.

There is a bit of a contradiction between the museum and the actual opinions of Wickens and his colleagues. The museum includes a

lot of UFO theory, including figures that look remarkably like E.T,

but the witnesses and experts I met hold to one of two other possibilities – either the Americans spirited away a wrecked, experimental craft, or the Shad Harbour UFO was an amphibious vessel that left under its own power.

Either way, those in the know point straight south of the border for their answer, concluding that an American military vessel that had no business entering Canadian airspace or water, did so anyway.

Wickens was a fisherman by profession but spent countless hours at the museum. His obituary, marking his passing in July, stated that he “was a huge part of the Shag Harbour UFO Incident Society and museum.”

Another publication, The Canadian Gothic, wrote, “For many Canadians, and for countless people around the world fascinated by the unexplained, Laurie was much more than the primary witness to the Shag Harbour Incident. He was the reason the story endured. Laurie’s passing marks the loss of one of the last living connections to one of Canada’s greatest mysteries. His story, and the mystery that followed him for nearly six decades, will continue to inspire curiosity for generations to come.”

The Shag Harbour museum is one of the quirkiest and most charming small museums I’ve had the privilege to visit. I hope that it can continue to operate, after having lost one of its most valuable human resources, UFO witness and eager story-teller Laurie Wickens.

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.



Just the fact, folks.



A painting that reflects the memories of the UFO witnesses.

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. Fathers
- 9. Wine grape
- 14. Al Bundy's wife
- 15. Derived from ammonia
- 16. Venezuelan state
- 17. Interest rate
- 18. Experts
- 20. Vascular tissues
- 22. Smooth and glossy
- 23. Administrative region in S. Korea
- 24. One from Damascus
- 28. Special interest group
- 29. It cools your home
- 30. Oh, God!
- 31. Intestinal pouches
- 33. Men
- 37. Twelfth star in a constellation
- 38. Former CIA
- 39. Arrange in grades of size
- 41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 42. "The Great Lakes State"
- 43. Having earlike appendages
- 44. Momentarily stop
- 46. Ancient kingdom
- 49. Of I
- 50. White clerical vestment
- 51. Songs to one's beloved
- 55. Charges
- 58. Computer application originator
- 59. A place to dock a boat
- 60. One guided by reason
- 64. Slang for cigarette
- 65. Sailboats
- 66. "Jerry Maguire" actor Zellweger
- 67. Screen type
- 68. Country legend Haggard
- 69. Puts together in time
- 70. When you anticipate arriving

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Involuntary muscular contraction
- 2. Eastern US transit agency
- 3. Leaves a place
- 4. Cease to participate
- 5. Current units
- 6. Cease to exist
- 7. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 8. Earth vibration
- 9. Very strong winds
- 10. For each one
- 11. A bog
- 12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
- 13. Affirmative
- 19. Pie ___ mode
- 21. Nonclerical
- 24. Indonesian island
- 25. Educational environment
- 26. Namibian peoples
- 27. Bring out or develop
- 31. Moves into a place of thought
- 32. Out of the way
- 34. Loads a ship
- 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Distinguishes
- 40. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 41. Secondary or explanatory title
- 45. Relating to a wing
- 47. One who gives a speech
- 48. In the middle
- 52. Loop with a running knot
- 53. Airborne (abbr.)
- 54. Sweet persons
- 56. Put into play
- 57. Small cattle breed
- 59. Millisecond
- 60. Revolutions per minute
- 61. They ___
- 62. Moon crater
- 63. A place to stay the night

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18					19					
20			21					22						
23						24	25						26	27
			28					29				30		
31	32					33		34	35	36			37	
38				39	40							41		
42				43						44	45			
46		47	48					49		50				
51				52	53	54				55			56	57
			58						59					
60	61							62	63				64	
65							66						67	
68							69						70	

SPONSORED BY:

Adult Learning Programs of Perth, Upstairs at the St. Marys Public Library
(700 Church Street North, St. Marys, ON)
Phone: 519-284-4408 | Cell: 226-374-8231
alearning@town.stmarys.on.ca | www.adultlearningperth.ca
Facebook: @AdultLearningProgramsofPerth



Pet of the week



SADIE

Meet Sadie! This sweet 1-year-old girl came to the shelter pregnant with a litter of kittens. She gave birth shortly after arriving, and has spent the last few months in quiet dedication taking care of her little ones.

Now she's ready for someone to take care of her for a change! She is a little shy at first, but once she warms up to you, she is the sweetest little lovebug. Some of her favourite activities include curling up in your lap for snuggles and purring to her heart's content.

Sadie is looking for a soft place to land and a quiet place to rest in her fur-ever home. If you think you could be the perfect family to pamper her the way she deserves, you can meet her in-person at our Stratford

Centre or online at kwsphumane.ca/adopt/cats



Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

The afternoon leather journal makers at Brocksden Country School included Brenda Atkin, Judy Johnston, Barb Myers, Taylor Bridhagen, Cindy Stewart, Bonnie Zylstra, Adrian Rhodes, Leela Pereira, Andrew Zylstra, Erica Zylstra, David Crompton, Angela Zola's, Cindy Brown and David Campbell. The school hosted the workshop on Aug. 8, inviting the public out to create journals, pouches and wallets.

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

Residents in our communities trust our newspapers to provide local news and information, let me help you connect to our readers with your local business.

heather@granthaven.com

226.261.1837

St. Mary's Independent The Wilmot Tatistock Gazette STRATFORD TIMES
Woodstock Ingersoll Echo Exeter Examiner Goderich Sun
Tillamook POST SIMCOE ADVOCATE The Paris Independent
NIAGARA FARMS BRANTFORD FARMS NIAGARA FARMS



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

After Stevie B's 2nd Annual Ride for Hospice on July 12, Sam, Beth and Alex Baechler donate this cheque of \$6,780 to Lucie Stuart, representing the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation, in memory of husband and father Steve Baechler. This was the outstanding amount raised from this year's Stevie B's ride for hospice, organizers said.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES IN THE STRATFORD TIMES

CALL 519.655.2341 OR EMAIL STRATFORDTIMES@GMAIL.COM

CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire stratfordtimes@gmail.com

FOR SALE

Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and windbreaks. Hundred of flowering shrubs. Reg Hours 7 a.m.- 6 p.m. Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON

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. We are at the Pinery Market at Grand Bend every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

Fair value offered for your vinyl records, cassette tapes & hifi components. Please contact **Sound Fixation**, 519-801-5421, 4 George St. W, Stratford.

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

JUNK REMOVAL

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

STRATFORD TIMES

**Contribute to your local community newspaper!
Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to**

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

**RUN YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE!
JUST \$10 + HST PER EDITION
Contact:
stratfordtimes@gmail.com**

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Email to inquire stratfordtimes@gmail.com

ACCOUNTING

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

AGRICULTURAL

SPRIELHAVEN 226-880-2270
Custom Work
• Custom 3x4 baling
• Able to cut to 44 mm
• Acid available
• Mowing and merging available

CONSTRUCTION

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

REAL ESTATE

ROYAL LEPAGE Hiller Realty
Tina Grasby BROKER,
Royal LePage Hiller Realty
ph. 519-275-7663
tinagrasby@royallepage.ca
www.tinagrasbyrealestate.com

HANDY MAN

Bruce Burleigh
40 Years of Handy
(519) 703-1936

FENCING / DECKS

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

HOME APPLIANCES

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

PAINTING

Sisters PAINT AND DECORATING
INTERIOR / EXTERIOR PAINTING
OVER 30 YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE. CLEAN,
RELIABLE AND FLEXIBLE.
OFFER COLOUR
CONSULTATIONS.
Debbie Norenberg
519-503-3618

INVESTMENTS

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

MARKETING

TOWN CRIER MARKETING
FREE CONSULTATION

OPTICIAN

Eyes to Buy
Family Optical Store
20% off
all in-stock
sunglasses
1020 Ontario St., Stratford
519-275-3413
www.eyestobuyoptical.ca

ROOFING

**ROOF TRUSSES & OPEN
WEB FLOOR JOISTS**
Residential/Commercial/Agriculture
Contact Zach at
Watson's Home Hardware 519-335-3551
zach@watsonshomehardware.com

MORTGAGE

**Mortgage solutions
to suit your needs.**

Rona Marquez
Home Financing Advisor
226-921-4536
rona.marquez@scotiabank.com
Scotia
© Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia

REAL ESTATE

LUCIE STEPHENS
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
519-703-0333
RE/MAX a-b REALTY LTD.
BROKERAGE
SOLD!

Sutton Liz Yundt, Realtor®
FIRST CHOICE
Sutton Group First Choice Realty
Ltd Brokerage
151 Downie St., Stratford, On
I will always do
my absolute best
for you!
Cell: 519-272-9017
lizyundt@sutton.com

WATCH/CLOCK REPAIR

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- Rio Grande
- Joey's
- English (1.5billion)
- C
- VO2 Max
- HOLLYWOODLAND
- Wilbur
- Six
- Triceratops
- Infidelity

TRAVEL

STONETOWN TRAVEL

150 Queen St. E., St. Marys
519-284-2332

210 Mill St., New Hamburg
226-333-9939

www.stonetowntravel.com
agent@stonetowntravel.com

TUTORING

Sylvan of Stratford
Get ahead this summer with Sylvan!
Your child is unique, and our
solutions are too!
Whether your child needs to catch
up or get ahead, our teachers are
ready to help create a one-of-a-kind
personalized program that will work
for your child. Get support with
Sylvan today!
145-103 Ontario Street, Stratford ON
519-657-7323
southlondon@SylvanLearning.com
SYLVANLEARNING.COM

**SUMMER
SALE
ON NOW!**
Free Assessment
PLUS sale. Offer
valid in London
and Stratford only.
Expires 06/26/2026

TREE CARE

GREENHEAD TREE CARE
EXPERT TREE CARE SERVICES
Contact us at (226)-993-1912 or
info@greenheadtreecare.ca
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFIED
INSURED FREE ESTIMATES

CROSSWORD

S	S	E	D	A	D	A	S	G	A	M	A	Y
P	E	G	I	M	I	D	E	A	P	U	R	E
A	P	R	S	P	E	C	I	A	L	I	S	T
S	T	E	L	E	S	S	L	E	E	K		
M	A	S	A	N	D	A	M	A	S	C	E	N
S	I	G	A	C				E	G	A	D	
C	A	E	C	A	M	A	L	E	S		M	U
O	S	S	G	R	A	D	A	T	E	S	A	C
M	I		E	A	R	E	D	P	A	U	S	E
E	D	O	M			M	E	A	L	B		
S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S	R	A	T	E
		A	D	O	B	E			M	A	R	I
R	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	I	S	T	T	A
P	R	O	A	S	R	E	N	E		L	C	D
M	E	R	L	E	S	Y	N	C	S	E	T	A

SUDOKU

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

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

STRATFORD TIMES

BE IN THE KNOW!
**Get the Latest
Edition Delivered
Straight to Your
Inbox!**

granthaven.com/stratford-times



Indulge in a Delicious Comedy

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY



KATARINA FIALLOS, GORDON S. MILLER, EMILIO VIEIRA, ROSE NAPOLI, GRAHAM ABBEY, SEANA MCKENNA, JOSUE LABOUCANE AND MICHELLE GIROUX. PHOTO: DARIANE SANCHE.

STRATFORD FESTIVAL

Savour Every Show

THE TEMPEST | GUYS AND DOLLS | SOMETHING ROTTEN! | DEATH OF A SALESMAN | THE HOBBIT
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST | SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY | A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
OTHELLO | THE TAO OF THE WORLD | THE KING JAMES BIBLE PLAY

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY BY EDUARDO DE FILIPPO | IN A NEW ENGLISH VERSION BY DONATO SANTERAMO AND ANTONI CIMOLINO

A STRATFORD FESTIVAL COMMISSION | A WORLD PREMIERE TRANSLATION | 2026 SEASON SPONSOR: OPHELIA LAZARIDIS

PRODUCTION UNDERWRITERS: DAVID AND AMY FULTON FOUNDATION, THE WILLIAM AND NONA HEASLIP FOUNDATION | PRODUCTION CO-SPONSORS: THE SABOURIN FAMILY FOUNDATION, THREE GENERATIONS OF THE SCHUBERT FAMILY