For Immediate Release

Gather by the Avon: The Stratford Story Project launches on August 15

STRATFORD, ON, Aug. 6, 2013. --- Riding on the wagon with workers during Stratford’s General Strike of 1933; gathering milkweed pods for the war effort; distributing the first electric lawn mower—Gather by the Avon collects stories from the memories of fifty Stratford seniors.

On Thursday August 15, local student Lindsay Kroes will launch an anthology of stories collected through interviews with fifty Stratford residents between the ages of 70 and 98. Gather by the Avon is a community history initiative that aims to preserve the stories of Stratford’s seniors. Lindsay is a third-year student of English and history at the University of Waterloo and began the project in May 2013 for her summer co-op term. The resulting 250-page book, illustrated with period photographs, will be released at a book launch held on August 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the University of Waterloo Stratford Campus.

The Stratford Story Project was undertaken by Kroes through the University of Waterloo’s Enterprise Co-op program, which allows student to create their own business for a semester. The idea was inspired by Kroes’ earlier work term at Doon Heritage Village, a living history site in Kitchener. There, she was astounded by the recollections that senior visitors shared. “I realized the importance of recording and preserving these stories for future generations,” she says. “Not only are they historically rich, but they’re also full of charm and wisdom.”

The launch party will celebrate the seniors who shared their stories in the book. There will be readings, refreshments, and a chance to purchase the anthology, which sells for $20.00. The event is open to the community.

More details are available at www.stratfordstoryproject.ca.

Event date: Thursday, August 15
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: University of Waterloo Stratford Campus, Room 1104

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