

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford

Who we are:

We are a group of men and women who belong to the Kiwanis Club of Stratford, one of the 15,000 clubs in 79 countries under the umbrella of Kiwanis International. We are a **global volunteer organization dedicated to serving the children of the world.**

What we do:

Service to our community has been the inspiration for the projects that we have undertaken since we were chartered in 1949:

- We urged City Council to build a center to support the activities for seniors in the city and provided substantial funding toward its construction. The Club's contribution towards the new center, in both time and money, was recognized by the Stratford City Council when it adopted its name: The **Kiwanis Community Center**.
- Festival Founder, Tom Patterson, asked the Kiwanis Club to operate a food booth at the newly established theatre in its inaugural season in 1953. **The Club operated food booths at the Festival, Avon and Tom Patterson Theatres** which has raised thousands of dollars to support community service projects. Subsequent renovations at the Avon and Festival Theatres resulted in the closing of their Kiwanis Booths, and the reconstruction of the Tom Patterson Theatre projected for the fall of 2017 threatens to end this longstanding partnership.
- We joined with CJS radio in 1980 to organize the **Christmas Basket project**, a community service that both organizations support to this day. Every year we raise \$30,000; collect and collate the list of people eligible to receive baskets; order and purchase the food; map out delivery routes and organize volunteers to pack and deliver the baskets.
- We assumed the management of and responsibility for the Perth County Musical Festival (now known as the **Kiwanis Festival of the Performing Arts**) in 1951 when the Music Teachers' Federation was no longer able to run the event that they had founded in 1927.
- We proposed and funded the addition of an amphitheater to the front of the band shell at Upper Queen's Park in 1986. We continue to provide the funding for '**Concerts in the Park**' which take place at the band shell each Sunday night during July and August.
- We founded the **Aktion Club of Stratford**, a service club for adults living with disabilities in 2005. This club has a membership of about 30 adults who meet twice each month for fellowship, fun and community service.
- We built the **clay tennis courts at the east end of Water Street** (1968) and provided the funding - and a loan- for the building of the club house.
- We funded upgrades and improvements to the **Anne Hathaway Park**, its ballfield, clubhouse and playgrounds beginning in 1976, culminating in the club's financial support for the new Anne Hathaway Park Playground in 2015.