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**Business Profile**

**Strong Arm Forge Inc. – Transforming Lifeless Steel into Something Beautiful**

Being an Industrial Millwright isn't usually associated with artistic creativity; however, that is exactly how Artist Blacksmith, Scott McKay honed his metal working skills preparing him for his future career as an artist.



McKay began creating art in 1997 after seeing a metal sculpture and thinking he could use his skills to create something similar. His first pieces consisted of metal parts assembled to look like animals. Transforming lifeless, cold materials, such as steel, into unique and beautiful works of art has become extremely rewarding for McKay who now creates art full-time out of his shop and studio northwest of Shedden, Ontario.

He is a graduate of the Haliburton School of the Arts Artist Blacksmith Course and has taken many additional courses from experienced blacksmiths in the United States. McKay is continuously studying art so he can apply new techniques to his work. He has a keen eye and his work takes on many different forms. His sculptures are often dreamed up in his imagination and driven by the materials he uses to create them. He is continually scouring scrap yards for the perfect pieces and



Mike Maloney - Our London

has the innate ability to recognize when he has found something unique.

"If something at the scrap yard looks like a bird's beak, I will keep it and down the road it might end up as a beak or tail or nose of a sculpture," explains McKay.

By merging traditional forging techniques with contemporary technologies of plasma cutting, modern welding and computer design, McKay is able to create pieces that are both beautiful and functional. He enjoys working with clients to create commissioned pieces. In addition to sculptures he also fabricates functional items with creative flare such as fences, stair railings, lighting fixtures and fireplace grates. McKay wants to give people an affordable alternative to

products that are mass produced in big box stores. The commission process begins with an in-depth consultation followed by the sketching process and perhaps the creation of a small scale model if the project is large. A 3D model helps the client visualize how the finished product will look. Examples of McKay's work can be seen on his [website](#).

Visit Strong Arm Forge Studio at 11555 Lawrence Road, Southwold Ontario or call 519-630-5155 to begin the consultation process to own a one-of-a-kind Scott McKay original.

## Business Profile

### Whiskey Throttle MX - Elgin's Only Motocross Specialists



For Jay Honsinger and Greg Cross, co-owners of Whiskey Throttle MX, motorsports aren't just a business they are a lifestyle. The pair are avid snowmobilers and motocross riders themselves and they enjoy riding and fixing recreational vehicles so much that it was a natural next step to start a business. After mulling the idea over for awhile, the two friends opened Whiskey Throttle MX in April of 2015 with a shop and showroom located at 43718 John Wise Line in Central Elgin.

Whiskey Throttle is a term that many dirt bikers are intimately familiar with. It means to give so much throttle that the rider slips off the bike causing it to lose control. Honsinger and Cross cleverly chose the name because if someone "Whiskey Throttles" their bike, they are most likely going to need some repairs.

Part sales and repairs are Whiskey Throttle's main services; however, they also build and sell custom motorcycles. Honsinger, Cross and a licensed mechanic that works on-site have a combined 40 years of experience between them.

"We take great pride in doing high quality work and repairs," says Honsinger. "When you leave the shop it is going to be right."

Before the shop opened, there was nowhere in Elgin specializing in motocross bikes forcing those who needed parts or repairs to drive to London for service. Whiskey Throttle MX has filled this much needed gap by stocking a variety of parts for snowmobiles, motocross bikes, ATVs, and motorcycles. The shop also stocks oils needed for ATVs and motocross bikes.

Although the business is taking off, Honsinger and Cross are true enthusiasts who make time to ride every weekend. The pair are also currently working on putting together a team of local racers that will include well known riders Kassie Boone and Brenden Bishop who will compete at Gopher Dunes Raceway, Walton Raceway and in Quebec.

For more information about Whiskey Throttle MX visit their [website](#), like them on [Facebook](#) and follow them on [Instagram](#).



## Community Resource

### Elgin County Awards Funding to Local Festivals

Elgin County Economic Development is pleased to announce that the Festival and Event Partnership Program grant recipients for 2015 have been chosen.

Elgin County has granted a total of \$5,000 to local events including Port Stanley Harbour Fest, the Shedden Rosy Rhubarb Festival, the Fred Eaglesmith Charity Festival and Bayham Beachfest (formerly Tub Daze).

“We are very pleased to once again be able to provide financial support to festivals and events in Elgin County,” said Tourism Services Coordinator Lindsey Duncan. “These events are signature experiences in our community, contributing to its cultural vibrancy and attracting visitors from outside the area.”

Applicants selected best met the program criteria, which included, but was not limited to attracting visitors to the County; retaining local spending; and enhancing the quality of place by organizing festivals and events within the community.

This is the sixth year that the County of Elgin has encouraged festivals and events by providing contributions to community organizations that take it upon themselves to organize these events.

Elgin County encourages all local festivals and events in the area and hopes to provide the Festival and Event Partnership Program again in 2016.

For more information on all festivals and events in Elgin this summer visit Elgin’s [website](#).



Leonard and Sharon Degraw, Rosy Rhubarb Festival; Grahame Notman, Bayham Beachfest; Kim Smale, Fred Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival; Lindsey Duncan, Tourism Services Coordinator; Thom Bedlam, Harbour Fest ; Alan Smith, Economic Development General Manager.

## Local Event

### Doors Open East Elgin : Aylmer - Malahide - Bayham

Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, Doors Open East Elgin is being held on Saturday July 11, 2015. The Town of Aylmer, Municipality of Bayham and Township of Malahide are partnering to provide this one -day annual event as part of a province-wide celebration that allows people to explore venues FREE of charge.

It's an opportunity for residents to spend the day with family and friends discovering what unique spaces, architecture and history are in their own backyards while tourists are left planning their next trip back to the area. For 2015, the event features more than 16 sites. Some of these sites are not usually open to the public and those that are have included creative displays, walking tours and demonstrations to make for a special experience.



# JULY 11, 2015 :10am - 4pm

For a complete list of the participating sites please contact:

[Doors Open Ontario](#)

[Town of Aylmer](#) - 519-773-3164

[Municipality of Bayham](#) - 519-866-5521

[Township of Malahide](#) - 519-773-5344



## Business Profile

### Bee Loved Gardens - Flavourful, Nutrient Dense Vegetables



An intense respect for the natural world and the health of those in it, prompted Deanna Van Den Dries to start Bee Loved Gardens, a small, diversified farm in the heart of Elgin County. The farm produces a variety of naturally-grown vegetables, fresh cut flowers, culinary herbs and pasture-raised pork and poultry.

Using all natural farming methods, Van Den Dries applies the principles of regenerative agriculture on her farm. Her ultimate goal is to produce nutrient dense vegetables that improve not only the health of the people that eat them, but the

health of the soil that they are grown in. She does this by balancing the minerals and increasing the microbial life in the soil. She works with, instead of against, a variety of native insects and pollinators. The farm's name Bee Loved Gardens is a tribute to the crucial role that pollinators, especially Bees, play in the production of food.

The results of these practices are nutrient dense vegetables that have a higher level of minerals and a higher Brix Rate than conventionally-grown produce. The Brix Rate refers to the measure of sugars in produce. The higher the Brix Rate, the



greater the flavour. The majority of Van Den Dries' vegetable varieties are heirloom meaning that they come from older, more diverse varieties of vegetables often no longer available in grocery stores.

"There are lots of people who have never experienced home-grown vegetables," said Van Den Dries. "They taste amazing and there is so much variety available."

In 2014, Bee Loved Gardens started a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program where participants sign-up to receive a box of vegetables, flowers and herbs every week throughout the summer. Each customer is able to

choose what they would like in their box based on seasonal availability. The program is full for 2015; however, those wishing to get a taste of Van Den Dries' flavourful fare can purchase vegetables directly from the farm on Saturday mornings throughout the summer months. Bee Loved Farms will also soon be setting up a vegetable delivery route in the St. Thomas and Port Stanley areas.

Those who are interested in learning more about Bee Loved Gardens' nutrient rich produce can sign up for their newsletter [online](#) or like the farm on [Facebook](#).



## Local Event

### Off The Wall and Off the Vine Art Show

The Association of Port Stanley Artists will host the Off the Wall and Off the Vine Art Show on July 19, 2015. The event will be held at Quai Du Vin Estate Winery, 45811 Fruit Ridge Line, St. Thomas, and will run from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This exciting cultural event will feature over 45 of the region's finest artists. Experience fabulous original art for sale, great live entertainment, Quai Du Vin wines, Iron Spike Beer and a selection of delicious local foods.

Visit the [website](http://www.offthewallartshow.com) to learn more about the Off the Off the Wall and Off the Vine Art Show.

The Association of Port Stanley Artists presents...

# Off The Wall!

...and Off The Vine

## ART SHOW

**QUAI DU VIN ESTATE WINERY**

**JULY 19 2015**

**More than 45 Artists Displaying Original Art for Sale**

**Food ~ Music ~ Wine**

**11 AM ~ 7 PM**

**[www.offthewallartshow.com](http://www.offthewallartshow.com)**

**Free Admission & Parking**

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