



ElginCounty
Progressive by Nature

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Business Profile

Sport in Port - A Passion for Paddling



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For the past several years the popularity of Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP) has increased dramatically. The peace and tranquility of being on the water and connecting with nature combined with the relative ease at which beginners can master the sport have made it one of the most prevalent activities on Lake Erie's North Shore. As a gentler relative of surfing, SUP requires participants to stand on their boards and use a paddle to propel themselves gracefully through

the water. The sport provides the benefits of a full body workout along with a relaxed, almost meditative mental state.

Sport in Port, owned and operated by London SUP, offers rentals, lessons and events for SUP in Port Stanley and Port Bruce. Week long rentals are available for cottage renters, and equipment drop-off is provided. Events include SUP yoga classes, sunrise and sunset paddles, and custom small group events.

London SUP owner Drew Climie recommends that customers take advantage of SUP lessons offered by his business. It is important to learn proper techniques and to understand all safety aspects related to the sport. SUPs are considered pleasure crafts under Ontario law and it is therefore important to follow all associated regulations – including wearing a lifejacket. Drew has been participating in water related sports his entire life and is a certified Paddle Canada Basic and Advanced SUP

Instructor. He opened London SUP five years ago to introduce the area to the sport and recently purchased Sport in Port when it came up for sale by its previous owner. His love of Lake Erie's beaches and his passion for the sport will keep him paddling and expanding Sport in Port's services and partnerships for years to come. For a list of upcoming events at Elgin County beaches visit <https://www.facebook.com/sportinport/>.

Community Profile

Progressive Approach to Waste Water Treatment in Southwold Township



Waste water treatment is not the most glamorous of topics; however, it is crucial to the public safety, environmental sustainability and growth potential of a community. The [Township of Southwold](#) has recently taken a progressive approach to managing this vitally important component of municipal operations with the installation of a Modular Membrane Bio Reactor waste water treatment plant which was installed to accommodate growth in the Talbotville/Ferndale area.

Since the closure of the Talbotville Ford Plant in

2011, the Township of Southwold has been working to develop new strategies for growth including the attraction of residential development. With its competitive tax rate, close proximity to the City of London and affordable housing, the Township of Southwold has been successful in achieving significant residential growth over the past several years. With growth come certain challenges that must be overcome including how to provide waste water treatment for these new developments.



Traditionally sewage has been treated in lagoon style ponds. This type of treatment facility requires a large footprint and comes with a price tag of approximately \$20M. The financial and logistical requirements associated with a traditional style waste water treatment facility create considerable barriers for small rural municipalities wishing to service new residential or industrial developments. Like many other small rural municipalities, the Township of Southwold does not have the population to support a large scale waste water treatment plant but nonetheless a sewer servicing solution was needed for the new Ridge Subdivision development in Talbotville. An Environmental Assessment and Master Service Plan suggested that instead of a traditional style treatment plant, Southwold consider a smaller modular option.

A Membrane Bio Reactor uses very tiny membranes to filter water by taking out all solids and then treating the water that remains. This can be done using very little space and in contrast to the

traditional style, only costs approximately \$2M. The unit can treat up to 250 cubic metres of waste water per day and being modular it can be added to as needed up to a threshold of 1,250 cubic metres per day. This type of plant is also unique in that it can treat commercial, industrial and residential waste water at the same plant as opposed to needing different facilities for each of these functions. The entire plant is manufactured offsite and delivered and assembled onsite reducing construction time and impact. Operating costs are also minimal making it the perfect solution for the Township of Southwold.

The Township of Southwold is currently home to 1,400 households and hopes that new progressive technologies like this modular waste water treatment plant will provide the Township with the opportunity for future residential and commercial growth.

Business Profile

gathered – Generating Positive Energy and Artistic Creativity in the Village of Sparta



When Joseph Sawicki moved to Elgin County from Hamilton four years ago his dream was to find a store front property in a touristy location where he could set up his own pottery studio. The Hiram Smith Tailor Shop building in down town Sparta provided the perfect backdrop for Joseph's vision. Having been vacant for some time, the building required some "tender loving care" so Joseph and partner, Heather Robinson, got to work meticulously and respectfully restoring this historic landmark. Built in 1846 as a tailor shop by Hiram Burleigh Smith, this building has a long history in the community and Heather and Joseph wanted to honour this while making the space their own. The pair updated and upgraded it while maintaining many of the original features including the wooden flooring in the main lower room, the unique pressed metal ceiling and original wooden counters. The restoration was so successful that the Architectural

Conservancy of Ontario of Elgin St. Thomas presented Joseph and Heather with an award for their sensitive and elegant restoration efforts.

"The building really is the star of the show," says Joseph. "When people come to visit they are overwhelmed with its beauty."

The art of ten local artists, including both Joseph and Heather, now hangs on the walls and lines the shelves of *gathered*, a fine art studio that now inhabits this stunning space. This diverse group of artists create works in a variety of mediums (paint, jewellery, wood, pottery and textiles) and generate a positive energy that encourages creativity amongst the tight knit group. *gathered* specializes in fine art and believes in quality over quantity. Artists in the collective are carefully selected for their professionalism and unique styles. Joseph makes a point of offering art at a variety of price points as he



community, a place that is already a burgeoning art hub in southwestern Ontario. As it continues to grow, Joseph hopes that gathered will become another 'jewel in the crown' of this beautiful village.

strongly believes in making art accessible to as many people as possible. He wants to encourage people to display unique pieces in their homes. He also hopes to foster camaraderie in the local art community.

In addition to offering a myriad of art pieces to those who visit, *gathered* also wants to foster creativity by providing workshops and classes in different mediums throughout the year. A list of member artists and available workshops can be found on the website at <http://spartagathered.ca/>.

As the newest member of the Elgin Arts Trail, *gathered* is proud to be part of the Sparta



Tourism Profile

Create Whimsical Flower Arrangements at Harris Flower Farm

Since opening in 2011, Harris Flower Farm has been delighting customers with its vibrant and whimsical bouquets of freshly cut flowers. This family operation run by Janis and Mark Harris specialises in growing a large assortment of bulb, annual, perennial and flowering branches for sale at local farmers' markets and for use in custom

arrangements for weddings and events.

Recently Janis has been inviting guests on to the farm for a 'behind the scenes' look at how these beautiful arrangements come together. Guests are invited to participate in interactive workshops that allow them to create and take home their own unique arrangements.



Scheduled throughout the summer, these design workshops each focus on a particular in-season flower such as Peonies, Dahlias and Sunflowers. Participants are taken on a tour of the farm allowing them to see the fields in which the flowers they will be using are grown. During this tour Janis explains the process of growing, caring for and harvesting her floral crop. Afterwards the group heads to the newly constructed barn that is used as a staging area for these workshops. Seated at long tables, participants are given a vase and are able to select from buckets of freshly cut flowers to put in their arrangements. Janis provides a design demonstration explaining to participants the various aspects of creating a great flower arrangement including how colour, height and volume play a role. She also touches on tips for taking photos of flowers with a smartphone, and provides lots of time for participants to photograph and share their creations with friends and family on social media.

“People are always a bit nervous about their arranging abilities when they start,” said Janis, “But as soon as they get started they are pleasantly surprised about how much creativity they are able to bring to their finished product.”

Janis began these classes as a fun and interactive

way to bring people onto the farm and connect them with the process of growing local flowers. People usually interact with flowers at the finished bouquet stage and she wanted to provide an experience that allowed people to actively participate from start to finish in creating something beautiful.

In addition to scheduled classes, Harris Flower Farm offers private workshops for groups of 10 or more people that are perfect for bridal showers, birthday parties or just as a fun evening with friends. To sign up for an upcoming workshop or to arrange a private lesson visit <http://www.harrisflowerfarm.ca/online-shop.html>.





ENTERPRISE ELGIN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMPETITION MORE THAN \$10,000 IN CASH AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

ORGANIZED AND SPONSORED
BY COUNTY OF ELGIN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND ELGIN
BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTRE

SUBMIT YOUR BUSINESS PLAN APPLICATION
TODAY AND LET US HELP YOU GROW YOUR
BUSINESS IN ELGIN COUNTY!

Contest will be open to residents or businesses either in or locating to Elgin County (outside the City of St. Thomas). Contest will be open for entries Aug 1/18 through Sep 28/18. Information packages and applications can be picked up at your area Elgin Business Resource Centre office in Aylmer, Dutton or St. Thomas, or at the County of Elgin offices in St. Thomas. All final plans to be submitted to EBRC offices only.

Top five plans will be invited to pitch a 15 minute 'presentation' to a panel of judges from the Elgin County business & Economic Development community.

Official judging to take place at the Port Stanley Festival Theatre, Tuesday October 16/18, 5:30-7:30pm



www.progressivebynature.com
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