

Stratford Festival's Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment

PUBLIC FEEDBACK collected 21 September to 10 October 2017

(Personal information redacted)

Open House Notes – 26 September 2017

Stratford Rotary Complex

Community Halls A & B

3:00pm-5:00pm

7:00pm-9:00pm

**Tom Patterson Theatre – Open House – September 26, 2017
3:00 p.m. – 5:05 p.m.**

Rob Horne introduced the panel and presented City of Stratford portion of slide show

Remarks from Antoni Cimolino

- Want feedback from the community & opportunity to answer questions
- This project is important to the community, allows a variety of employment opportunities and has an enormous impact artistically
- TPT is in bad condition, take down lights in winter as the lights and the snow are too much for the roof structure
- Adding spaces for school groups, tourists, forums etc.
- City is currently waiting on government funding for a Hub at the Cooper Site and do not want to wait on proceeding with the TPT because of this

Remarks from Anita Gaffney

- \$60 million project:
 - \$20 million from provincial funding (received)
 - \$20 million from federal funding (applied for, but no answer yet)
 - \$20 million from private funding/donations
- Have met with Stratford Lakeside Active Adult Association (SLAAA) regarding long term and short term (Agri-plex) solutions
- Additional funds (\$500,000) to retrofit the Agri-plex
- Space has been allocated for a 3 story community centre as a last option if the funding for the Hub at the Cooper Site does not come through
- Need to find a suitable location for the Lawn Bowling Club as excavation of the area is required
- TPT has not been included in the 2018 Theatre schedule
- Asking for support of the project and an opportunity to express concerns

Remarks from Rob Horne

- Every user of the current space matters
- There is a concept for a 120,000 square foot Hub at the Cooper Site that would include the University of Waterloo, YMCA, SLAAA and others
- Council has asked for consultation of public
- The presentation will be on the website
- The next steps are to complete consultation, Council review consultation, decision to be made

Q	Peter Maranger	Supportive of the theatre and this project. What will happen if the \$20 million in federal funding does not come through?
A	Anita Gaffney	The project will still proceed and will amp up request for donors and fundraising.

Q	Andy Mark	If the Provincial funding that has been awarded is not used, would it go to another City or another theatre?
A	Anita Gaffney	\$5 million has been granted each year for the next 4 years. The first \$5 million must be used by March 2018. Do not know what would happen to the funding if not used. That would be a decision of the Province.
Q	Dan Graver	It has been a year since the first consultation, I am for the project, but not the process. Has an economic impact study been done? What has the Cooper Block not been considered as a location for the TPT? \$60 million would be better spent at the Cooper Site.
A	Rob Horne	In terms of the Cooper Block, there are options. There are also challenges with the space at the river for the Community Hub.
A	Anita Gaffney	We want the theatre to stay at this location because it was built at this location for a reason. People want to enjoy the beauty of the water when attending the theatre. Urban visitors want to come for the feel of the river.
Q	John	This will give the theatre the best chance to compete with other cities and to retain talent. This draws visitors to Stratford. Cannot make decisions based on 30 lawn bowlers. "Build it and they will come"
Q	Joan	Does the Kiwanis have a place to go?
A	Anita Gaffney	The Hub is the most desired solution as only 22,000 sq ft is possible lakeside and with a growing senior population, this may not be satisfactory long term.
Q	Ken Wood	Very heartened by the letter from the Festival regarding making space for the Kiwanis. We need to ensure that market value is paid for the land. A parking garage should be included.
Q	Alicia Horne	I work for the Agricultural Society and we have a strong relationship with all of the groups in question. We host the Dairy XPO, Pork Congress, National Jersey Show, etc. We want to make sure that if the building is retrofitted for SLAAA that the agricultural events will still be able to take place.
A	Anita Gaffney	We have committed \$250,000 to building storage for the Agricultural Society.
Q	Glen Keen	I am a member of the lawn bowling club. The club has more than 100 years of history in the City of Stratford. Host multiple tournaments each year that bring 100's of people to the City. I am in favour of the project, but grass does not grow overnight and the process of finding a new location should have been started last year.
A	Antoni	Because of the space of the lot, they are unable to

		accommodate the Lawn Bowling Club. Additionally, it is the theatres understanding that you wish to expand. If the City had said yes to the project 15 months ago it would have been easier.
A	Rob Horne	Thank you to the Lawn Bowling Club for meeting with the City in regards to their concerns. We are currently looking at the Municipal Golf Course as the new location.
Q	Pat Martin	I am much more reassured after the information provided today. The Community Hub is not going to draw people to our downtown shops and restaurants, it is going to bring locals and then send locals back to their own home. The Cooper Site would be a good location for the theatre.
Q	Roxy Baker	The river means a lot to the residents, not just the tourists. Why would the City consider selling park land? What will happen to SLAAA at the Agriplex when one of their events is taking place? This meeting should have been held sooner.
A	Antoni	We agree that the river is a wonderful place for both residents and tourists.
A	David St. Louis	We understand that there will be dark days where SLAAA cannot use the Agri-plex and we will do our best to find alternate locations on these dates to accommodate everyone.
A	Rob Horne	If the City moves ahead with this project, the land could be leased, it does not have to be sold.
Q	Walter	Are there flood plain concerns?
A	Anita Gaffney	We are working with both MTE and the Upper Thames River Conservation to ensure that any water issues are dealt with as the trap rooms below the stage go very deep.
Q	Mike Stevens	Only been in the City for 3 weeks. Decided on Stratford because of everything that comes with the theatre. We fully support this project.
Q	Brent Ransbury	Will this project affect the Allman Arena integrity?
A	Anita Gaffney	We are working with engineers to ensure all areas are dealt with.
A	Rob Horne	The UTRCA requires a rigorous review of the area.
Q	Janis	What if the project does not go forward? What will happen to the building as it is not currently sound?
A	Rob Horne	The building is deteriorating and another decision would need to be made in this regard.
Q	Dennis	This project cannot proceed until land is purchased and the City has to give approval. Is this a given or another stumbling block. It is important to understand the thinking around this project.
A	Rob Horne	No decisions have been made at this point. Council has requested consultation. Social, economic and environmental

		concerns need to be addressed.
Q	Mark	I am the owner of Bijou which is adjacent to Market Square. We were forced to make a change and deal with the process regarding Market Square. I was not a fan of the idea to rebuild the Square but the end result is wonderful. Encourage everyone to think about the end result.
Q	Gayle Allison	I am a Bed and Breakfast owner for over 30 years. Change is the only constant. We need to listen, share, negotiate and compromise during this process and be a good loser.
Q	Sue	How much rent is the theatre paying now and how much after the project?
A	Anita Gaffney	We are currently paying \$80,000 per year. An appraisal would need to be done and negotiations complete including parameters on the sale or lease.
Q	Sue	How much would the City invest to make the current building safe?
A	Rob Horne	That would be a decision for Council to make.
Q	Tom Ziggler	I am an actor at the Festival and so was my father. What will the capabilities of the new stage be.
A	Antoni	The new theatre cannot change the stage setting between productions but will have varying options.
Q	Andrew Williams	Stratford is competing with other cities. A \$65 million expansion took place at the hospital to assist in bringing young people to our area. Successful communities have vision.
Q	Barbara Smith	When will the City make a decision?
A	Rob Horne	Public consultation must be completed first, which has a deadline of October 10. In the coming months Council will need to make a decision.
Q	Dorothy	Will parking be free? Will there be enough? Currently the Kiwanis Centre is used for a communication centre in regards to the Emergency Response Plan, what will happen with that?
A	Rob Horne	Yes, parking is an issue and the City recognizes this. The City has an AODA Co-ordinator and the City is always trying to exceed the requirements.
A	Antoni	We are looking at paid parking during the performance and no fee at all other times.
A	Rob Horne	We would need to address the emergency plan if this proceeds.
Q	Ed Martin	The old Sobey's location would be perfect for the SLAAA. It is more accessible. Additionally, I am worried about parking on Friday nights with hockey games at the Allman Arena.
A	Rob	We have looked at a number of sights. We spoke with the owners of the old Sobey's location and it is not available.
Q	Steven Russell	This is a statement of the City of Stratford and the Stratford

		Festival.
Q	Chuck	I just moved here from Toronto. This is a very progressive community and an exciting project. I am very supportive.
Q	John Miller	I have a love of the arts, theatre and Stratford. We are at a fork in the road and we need to take a risk.
Q	?	I am disappointed in the City. We are dragging our feet. What is the tipping point? This happens everytime.
A	Rob Horne	Provincial funding was announced at the end of May and the Federal funding has not been announced yet and the plans were unveiled in August.
Q	Eleanor Kane	I moved from Montreal 40 years ago and opened a restaurant. People were lined up out the door when we opened. The Tom Patterson needs to be torn down. Think about what is possible.
Q	Savannah	I work at the theatre and patrons are excited to come to Stratford, not just the theatre. Employees are locals. We should be investing in the City.
Q	Mary Dingman	I think City Council should allow SLAAA to be incorporated into the plans at the theatre.
Q	Anne Champion	My husband is a theatre employees, we live here, I was a minister here, we raised our kids here and we own a business here. I encourage you to move forward and meet the challenges. Market Square should have been completed sooner. The process was hard but it was worth it.
Q	Chloda Moss	I am concerned regarding fundraising. There is fundraising fatigue in Stratford, what is the impact going to be on non-profits in the community.
A	Antoni	I understand your concern. We have donors from all over the continent, not just in Stratford.
A	Rob Horne	The City has a grant program to assist groups within the community.
Q	Annette	I am a dancer. The Tom Patterson Theatre will be without comparison. It is unique and it belongs here in Stratford. I trust that can include seniors in this process.

Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment Public Open House

Rotary Complex – September 26, 2017 7:00pm-9:00pm

Q	M. Stewart	Responding to a comment from the afternoon session where there was mention of why wouldn't you want to get rid of the ugly building. Her opinion was that the whole building is used every day and there is very little un-useable space. She feels that activities will be lost when SLAAA is moved to the Agriplex and the Agriplex will lose space for their own activities, for example the fall fair.
A	Antoni Cimolino	He agreed the space is well used and they have met with SLAAA and they went over the Agriplex calendar and want to make sure other activities don't get lost.
Q	Dan Graver	He asked the Festival if they had tendered any of the work for the building yet? He asked the City if there was a corresponding \$15 million required from the community and why this is the first public consultation nearly a year after this discussion began?
A	Anita Gaffney	The festival has secured an architect and is looking for construction management firms. They have not tendered anything as they are waiting for the City's approval first. Will try to use local suppliers but also need to be responsible with how they spend the money.
A	Rob Horne	Money is coming from Provincial and Federal governments and may also be required from the public.
A	Rob Horne	The consultation process is very complex and there are lots of parts to organize. The City needs to do its due diligence before making any final decisions.
Q	Ray Harmistand (?)	Has the festival submitted specific request to Council?
A	Anita Gaffney	The Festival has shared the site plan with the Planning department, but no formal request has gone to Council yet. The Festival is fully prepared to present to council.
Q	Ray	Commented on delays of Council. The theatre is not structurally sound and this project will benefit the whole community. He wants Council to be decisive and make decision.
Q	Rosaline	Does not like the state of the Cooper Site and wants something to be done to it in her lifetime. Is something actually going to happen?
A	Rob Horne	There are lots of players involved and interested in this project, like the YMCA and the University of Waterloo. We need to determine the vision and what people want to see at the site. The City needs to attract investors both private

		and public. There will be more opportunities for input.
Q	Barb Shifnik (?)	Lawn bowling has been part of Stratford for 102 years. Why haven't they been invited to any meetings in the past about this development?
A	Anita Gaffney	The Festival has been talking to the lawn bowlers and they are aware they are unhappy. Unfortunately the whole property needs to be excavated for the new project. The Municipal Golf course has been suggested as a possible location for the lawn bowling club.
Q	?	Thanked Anita and Antoni for their hard work and noted they had answered most of his questions. He asked why the councillors were not at the front of the room answering the questions?
A	Rob Horne	Under Provincial legislation all councillors and the Mayor cannot be in the same room together or it is considered a council meeting. Staff is acting as the resources for this meeting.
Q	Franklin Famme	In favour of theatre revitalization. He spoke about the financial impacts and benefits, the low unemployment rate and not taking the Festival for granted. He noted that the City does not provide any money to the Festival for operations.
Q	Donna	Asked what the environmental issues were at the Cooper site and the cost to get site ready?
A	Rob Horne	The City is completing the last phase of the environmental work. They have awarded a tender and are working with the Ministry of the Environment to complete the analysis. Late next year the process will be complete. It is a very detailed process and the Ministry is extremely thorough.
Q	Kevin Larson	Asked how the land is being valued? How can we guarantee that the \$60 million will be spent in the province and in Canada? What is the timeline for construction?
A	Rob Horne	Council needs to decide if they want to proceed and then how to value the land.
A	Anita Gaffney	No tenders, no commitments, want to use Ontario and local as much as possible.
A	Antoni Cimolino	Construction could begin as early as October with an 18-24 month construction period. The Festival will be out of the theatre for the 2018 season for sure and maybe 2019 as well.
Q	Nancy Garner	She is a member of SLAAA and the Festival and fully supports the project.
Q	?	SLAAA needs a home they actually want. What does the

		membership want? Festival or Cooper Hub?
A	Rob Horne	SLAAA growth is large and the group expects to continue to grow and outgrow space. The group wants to allow for a greater volume of activities and he thinks the City can offer more if located at the Community Hub
Q	David Geese	The architectural design is breathtaking. Does the \$60 million also cover the community centre that could be attached to the theatre?
A	Antoni Cimolino	Festival will be giving the City money for the lease/sale of the land so that money could be used towards the community centre. The cost would probably be between \$4-5 million but probably not any different than if it is built at the Hub. Either location would be a good option for SLAAA.
Q	?	Everyone is focused on right now, not the future. He wants people to look 20 years down the road and what they would be happy with then. He wants people to look back and be happy with the decision.
Q	?	How much is this going to cost taxpayers?
A	Anita Gaffney	The Festival is not asking for any money from the City. They simply want the "go ahead" to proceed with the project. She compared the situation to the new hockey arena being built in Calgary where they are asking for 1/3 of the project to be funded by taxpayers. The TPT will be funded by Provincial, Federal and private donors.
A	Antoni Cimolino	Two previous times that the City has provided funds to the Festival for renovations.
Q	?	Thanks staff for organizing meeting and offering space to SLAAA during transition. When the time comes to make a decision between the Community Hub vs the theatre, will each member have a say or will it be decided by the executive? What other plans for the theatre community space if SLAAA goes to the Hub?
A	Antoni Cimolino	The Festival would only build the community space if SLAAA wanted to be there. Water and sewers are in good shape. He thinks the Hub is best decision for everyone and the space at the theatre will be changed to green space if not community centre.
A	Rob Horne	Council will involve SLAAA in decision
Q	Gillian Akmers (?)	She likes the project. She went to one of the first meetings about the theatre redevelopment. She was told that the City wanted the community centre at the Hub, not the theatre. She thinks the theatre is the better option.
A	Anita Gaffney	If the City wants it at the Hub we need to get on board and

		support that. She noted that the Festival didn't do a good enough job emphasizing that the theatre location was a backup plan.
Q	Barbara Shuber	In favour of proposal and wants to see new theatre built.
Q	Paul Burdett	Thinks the theatre should be the most attractive property in Stratford and people need to look at the bigger picture. The Festival is the best run non-profit organization. It needs to be done as the space isn't safe, desirable or attractive.
Q	?	Loves Stratford, but does not like design.
A	Antoni Cimolino	Design is subjective and not everyone will like it. They enlisted the Dean of Architecture from the University of Waterloo, who came up with a group of colleagues who developed a list of architects. They narrowed it down to six possible candidates. The Festival travelled to look at all six firms and decided on an award winning form. There were lots of different looks but tried to pick something that represented Stratford. Design does look more fanciful in the pictures than it will in reality. They have tried to create a natural space that attracts gatherings.
Q	Kelly Walker	In favour of Festival and wants next generation to come and enjoy.
Q	Jeff (owner of Pazzo)	Supports project and is great for tourism. Feels that the organizers are being sensitive to displacement issues and thinks all those problems can be solved. Doesn't want Festival/City to regret it if this project doesn't happen.
Q	Joan Boshart	Is SLAAA going to be at Agriplex permanently if the Community Hub does not proceed?
A	Rob Horne	City's focus is on the Hub and the community centre would only be at the Festival as a backup
A	David St. Louis	The Agriplex is only for the transition and there would be space dedicated for programming. When there are conflicts with the Agricultural society, activities will be accommodated at other locations.
Q	Rick Myers	The Festival is part of everything good in Stratford, whether directly or indirectly. How quickly can Council decide to get going?
A	Rob Horne	Expects council decision by end of the year.
Q	Ken Wood	He gave example of what he thinks is market value for the 8100 sq ft that may be leased from the City. \$250,000/yr
A	Anita Gaffney	Festival will definitely pay for property however she said that Ken's estimate seems high. The Festival has had appraisal of property and is waiting to compare with the City's appraisal. She noted that Ken's example was

		probably for a property with a building on it and this would be parkland. Need to compare to other parkland properties.
Q	Anne	She doesn't want Council to wait to make a decision because it is very time sensitive. What does the panel need from citizens to get Council to get moving? When will Festival be invited to present to Council?
A	Rob Horne	Approximately 1100 people at Open Houses today and there are many other ways to exercise your opinion and the City will continue to gather comments. Wants public to continue to comment.
Q	Adam Pieroux	He thinks the Cooper site and the theatre can be done at the same time.
Q	Lynn	What if Council does not decide by the deadline for government funding?
A	Rob Horne	Public consultation ends after Thanksgiving because the City is aware of the urgency.
A	Antoni Cimolino	He said he is not sure what happens if council does not decide.

Feedback received via the City of Stratford Website

21 September-10 October 2017

486 Total Online Comments

Date Started	Submit your input in the comment box below:
09/21/2017	I fully support the proposed redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre. The existing facility does not meet the same standards as the other three theatres do, and I feel it is important to rebuild the theatre at that location. The proposed design is integrated well into that location. I think the new theatre and the location is a fitting tribute to Tom Patterson
09/22/2017	I FULLY support the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre at it's current location. A gorgeous new facility, which will:- significantly beautify that area, - draw more visitors to the city, which will increase business for our retail store owners, restaurants, hotels, B&B's, service industries, etc.
09/22/2017	I fully support the Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment Proposal. I have been attending the Stratford Festival since 1968. Since then I have brought hundreds of students to see productions, attended workshops, earned my Drama Specialist Qualifications from York University taught by Ron Dodson and Pat Quigley, introduced my daughter, Bethany Jillard Krohn, to the Festival when she was six and she was a company member during the 2010 & 2014 seasons. Over the years Bethany and I spent weeks at a time attending plays and festival events, spending thousands of dollars on tickets, B&Bs, restaurants and shopping in Stratford. In 2012, I moved from Toronto and purchased and renovated my home on Shrewsbury Street. The Festival is an important destination for tourist dollars, a fact to which I can easily attest from my own experience as a tourist and from the experiences of the many friends and family who come to stay as guests in my home. The number of shopping bags from small, local businesses that are brought into my house by my theatre-attending guests attests to the money they are spending here, bolstering our local economy. The Tom Patterson Theatre as it exists now is a cramped space for the audience, with treacherous stairs and seating. For a world-class repertory theatre, the backstage space is abominable. This proposal addresses all the issues created by the current space, while still maintaining the intimacy that is the TPT trademark. The proposed additional space for educational and meeting purposes are beyond compare and are lacking in any of the current venues. The number of students, teachers and actors who flow through the Festival's educational classes, workshops, camps, seminars and the Birmingham Conservatory most certainly warrants the new venue. The new TPT as proposed, is architecturally gorgeous, and it will only enhance Lakeside Drive in the most beautiful fashion. There are other very realistic and excellent venues in which to house the SLAAA and the Lawn Bowling Club. In the grand scheme of things, their objections should not be accepted as worthy obstacles to City Council's approval of the TPT Proposal. City Council will do a great service to the Festival's artistic vision for future generations of Festival attendees as well as to the city and its people, by approving this proposal and I, as a Stratford taxpayer, will be watching our councillors closely. Respectfully submitted,
09/22/2017	Thank you for obtaining input. I am a senior and member of SLAAA who lives within walking distance of the Kiwanis Centre. I fully support the Festival's objectives in rebuilding the Tom Patterson as outlined. Seniors like me need to learn to accept and adjust to change. The Festival brings in \$\$\$ to the town which benefits activities for all ages. I believe the Festival has been very accommodating in attempting to accommodate the other groups. Seniors though an important group are not always entitled. I'm hoping that public views expressed are more relevant than just anti-Festival sentiment. Thank you.
09/22/2017	Dear Mayor and Councillors: As a card-carrying member of the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association, I would like to express my full support for the Stratford Festival's proposed re-development of the Tom Patterson Theatre. The new theatre complex would be a much better use of the lakefront site and would provide the Festival City with yet another cultural destination to thrill and enthral theatre-goers locally, nationally and internationally. The events and activities that take place in the current facility can be easily accommodated elsewhere in the city and their re-location should in no way impede the progress of this exciting project. There were once naysayers who wrote and spoke against building the Festival Theatre on Queen Street; fortunately their objections were overruled. I urge this council to learn from the vision of its predecessors & support the vision of Tom Patterson.
09/22/2017	The proposed Tom Patterson theatre redevelopment is much more closely and comprehensively aligned with the City of Stratford's higher mandate and financial well-being - and so I am very supported of its approval. The other priorities while deserving and with a historical claim on the site seem to me to be far lower on the scale - and more suited to being relocated to an area that can accommodate their future growth.
09/22/2017	As a senior citizen, I write in support of the Stratford Festival's plans to replace the Tom Patterson Theatre on its current site. It would be a wonderful boon to the City (and credit to the name Tom Patterson) to have a world-class facility to house its world-class theatre company. The proposed development would help Stratford maintain (very likely elevate) its position as an essential tourism and theatre-patron destination. The economic benefits from this new development would trickle down to affect the entire business community of Stratford. Those of us who use the current Kiwanis Centre for a variety of activities can easily move to another location, as long as there is parking available and regular bus service to it. I urge the City of Stratford to give full support to the Stratford Festival in their efforts to replace the Tom Patterson Theatre.
09/22/2017	I fully support the theatre redevelopment as proposed. Without a vibrant Stratford and the quality of life that it brings to our community, there would be little to entice other companies to locate here. Please do not let this Golden opportunity pass us by.
09/22/2017	If the existing building needs to be demolished because it is structurally failing, the land should be returned to open park land on the river. The Theatre can build elsewhere. Corner of Douro and Waterloo for instance. It is one thing to have a multi use facility in parkland, but a single use facility on some of Stratford's best real estate is wrong. Theatre patrons sit inside, mainly in the dark, they don't need prime parkland for that. I thought people came to The Stratford Festival Theatre because of the high quality of the performances, not because of the venue.
09/22/2017	I would like the consultation and planning phases to be completed as soon as possible so that construction on the new theatre complex can get started as soon as possible. Thank you!
09/22/2017	OPEN HOUSE & SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 The Stratford Lapidary Club We are currently located in the Kiwanis Community Centre. Our Lapidary Club has been operating since the 1970's and has been fortunate enough to be able to make annual donations to several local charities. Our only source of revenue are the sales of our products, by club volunteers, at the Tom Patterson Theatre, but unfortunately it appears that it will close permanently this fall. A more common sense approach to the issue would be to build the Community Hub first and have it in operation before closing the Kiwanis Community Centre. This would avoid all the commotion of moving to a temporary location and then moving again at some time in the future to a permanent home. However, if the City Council chooses to ignore the wishes of the senior citizens of Stratford, and bends to the whims of the theatre, and imposes on the Agriplex to house the seniors activities, we will then be forced to re-locate to the Agriplex. Assuming that we are forced to re-locate, several questions arise. Will the space at the Agriplex be at least equal to the current space and amenities that we enjoy at the Kiwanis Community Center? Will there be sufficient counter space for our machines? Will there be sufficient electrical outlets for our equipment? Will the moving of our equipment be looked after by professionals? Will the costs associated with the move be covered by the City or others and not placed as a burden on the individual clubs? Should the move take place, what kind of time frame would we have to pack up to prepare for the move? Once the move takes place, how long before we could be back in operation? Will the space at the Agriplex continue to be available to us for the next 5, 10 or 15 years that it will realistically take before the Community Hub is a reality? What about all the other events that currently use the space at the Agriplex & where will they have to go for possibly the next several years? If the move is made to the Agriplex, will we still pay the same annual rent to the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association? Will the city buses stop at the Agriplex? When the parking lots are busy, will there be sufficient space to safely turn the bus around? With all the events that are scheduled for the Agriplex, will we be denied access during the coming years? List of Considerations for Possible Relocation September 22, 2017 Main area Lockable door. Lockable electrical box for all equipment. Total area (excluding saw and stone storage rooms) = 1,000 square feet. Total area includes the area required for the working tables and the area required for meetings, discussions, social time. Counter space for 5 Genie machines = (51 x 5) = 255 inches total. Sit down table space for 2 Genie machines = (51 x 2) = 102 inches total. Duplex receptacles for each machine. Cupboards (lockable) under counter space. Counter space (with water drain) for wet polisher = 30 inches. Counter space for dry polisher = 30 inches. Counter space for drill press = 24 inches. Counter space (with water drain) for faceting machine = 24 inches. Counter space (with water drain) for 2 1/2 inch sander = 24 inches. Counter space for the green polisher = 24 inches. Counter space for heating iron, dop pot and cutting board & about 36 inches, duplex receptacle available for iron and dop pot. Cupboard (lockable) space for storage of supplies = 16 feet long by 3 feet deep by 2 high. Counter area for coffee machine and tea kettle. Approximately 24 inches with duplex receptacle. Double sink and hot and cold water. Soap and paper towel dispenser. Ventilation system for any stone dust that may be generated. Bulletin board. First aid kit. Small refrigerator. A separate room for the saws. Lockable door. Approximately 100 square feet. Total of 13 feet of linear space for: (a) Small trim saw, (b) Large trim saw, (c) Two small slab saws, (d) Large slab saw, (e) Vibrating table lap machine. Appropriate electrical receptacles for each piece of equipment. Sink with running water. Paper towel dispenser. Soap dispenser. Ventilation system for any oily airborne residue. A separate room with shelves for stone storage. Lockable door. Approximately 35 square feet. Five heavy duty shelves 14 inches deep and 14 linear feet long for stone storage, along three walls.
09/22/2017	Why doesn't the Theatre build on its parking lot at the bottom of Queen Street?
09/22/2017	My wife and I are in complete approval of the new theatre plans. We think it will benefit the city, its households and families, and the entire country. Our community benefits so much from the ripple effects of the Festival economically, culturally and socially. The new theatre design is absolutely beautiful. The previous TPT was not even a real theatre! Well done to the leaders who have made this happen. Council I urge you to approve this 100%. Sincerely,
09/22/2017	I look forward to the exciting new Tom Patterson Theatre development. A great movie forward for the city and it's residents.
09/22/2017	I am a huge supporter of the Festival Theatre, but I'm not sure why The Tom Patterson needs to be on the river. People in a darkened theatre have no idea where they are. I would like it to be a part of the Cooper site which hopefully will be a gorgeous complex with beautiful gardens and community life. The theatre would be close to restaurants as well. I was at the Patterson last night. There were six idling buses bringing patrons; who wants that in he park system? I would like the river location to be returned to park but become outdoor community activities so the river view can be appreciated. Lawn bowling, boules, a covered pavilion for picnics, tai chi, whatever activities that would be benefitted by a view. I don't even think the hideous arena should be on the river.
09/22/2017	As a frequent patron of the Festival, I wholeheartedly support the proposed changes to the Tom Patterson Theatre. I find the plans well thought out and practical, from both artistic and financial perspectives. As someone who lives in a small community (and someone of a certain age) I support the need to find a workable alternative for displaced community groups. I have often parked by Cooper's lot and thought what a shame to have such a large and central space unused. I can think of no better way to satisfy both groups by creating a Community Hub as described. These planned renovations to both buildings are essential to the needs of the permanent community and to the city's tourist economy.
09/22/2017	Please develop the Cooper Site
09/22/2017	Although you mention the lawn bowling club above, there has been NO accommodation made for them! The greens have been on the current site for 102 years and the members have been told that we will not probably have these greens next year. Try taking away all the soccer fields or baseball diamonds from Stratford citizens with little consultation and see what would happen. I guess the lawn bowlers do not matter. This is our only facility- one of the best in Ontario and you want to bulldoze it under!
09/22/2017	Very divisive issue. I think groups that use the Kiwanis Centre have been crushed by the Festival juggernaut. We are constantly told this is good for you and no other site is possible for a new theatre. However I don't see the Cooper Site hub being developed in the near future. Too many obstacles. Why not build on the present site but include Community space? Then local people will continue to have access to this beautiful site.
09/23/2017	I am concerned with the amount of reflective glass on the planned building. Lighting and glass are a major insult to bird life especially during migration

New Tom Patterson Theatre project important to the future of Stratford! I am a Stratford homeowner and taxpayer and choose to be so because this city is a cultural oasis. I also write this from two additional perspectives. First, as a Fellow of the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto and second, as a Trustee of the Royal Ontario Museum. From these experiences, I have learned the lesson that there is no future to be derived from staying in place. At Munk, I am leading a research project related to the Creating Digital Opportunity project at the Innovation Policy Lab. My research, along with that of my colleagues, demonstrates that innovation is critical to Canada's future growth. Theatre can be an innovator in its own right, but also through the adoption of leading edge technologies. In recent years, the Festival has become a leader in social engagement with indigenous and diverse communities and in the use of social media to attract new audiences. One only has to look at the use of digital projection and in 3D printing technologies in this season's productions to recognize that the Festival is no stranger to innovation. Another critical lesson from this research is that tech-related companies are drawn to centres which offer not only access to technologies, but also a critical mass of cultural offerings, including performing and culinary arts, which Stratford has in abundance. The Festival provides the foundation for all of these ancillary activities, and the Festival is the principal draw for the 500,000+ visitors each year. However, the Festival not only benefits visitors, but also its citizens through all the free and low cost activities, including the Festival Forum. And for those who complain about the high cost of tickets, I have benefited many times from the \$29 ticket lottery or other special prices. Without the Festival, the city of Stratford would not be the place it is today, and the continued health and growth of the Festival is essential to the city's future, not to mention its tax base. The ROM has now exceeded 1.3 million visitors per year, making it the largest cultural destination in Canada. However, it was only a few years ago that visitors numbered only 900,000. Many museums would have been happy with that number, but the ROM embarked on a strategy to attract more visitors and enhance the visitor experience. The challenge is not only to attract visitors the first time, but to entice them to come back. So while the ROM has succeeded in encouraging more visitors, the ROM leadership continues to focus on expanding its base by attracting patrons to visit regularly. Hence plans to rework the main floor footprint by architect Siamak Harii, the first stage of which is currently underway. The Festival needs to do the same in order to maintain and expand its audience base. The creation of a new venue is one way to attract new patrons and revitalize a theatre space. Here I cite the example of Arena Stage in Washington DC which was reimagined by Canadian architect Bing Thom. By creating an outer shell for two older theatres along with a new stage and other venues the new Arena Stage not only revitalized the theatre but also the surrounding neighbourhood. And there are many other examples of cultural spaces that become destinations in themselves. The Tom Patterson has always been my favourite Festival venue, but I recognize that it has long overreached its useful life. That the theatre must be replaced is beyond argument--the question is whether the Festival is able to proceed with plans for a stunning new Tom Patterson theatre that will not only recreate a beloved theatre space in an accessible manner, but also to allow the Festival to expand its educational and community outreach mandate. I recognize that the new TPT may cause some disruption in people's lives until a more permanent space can be found. In this context, I am fully supportive of a Community Hub at the Cooper block. However, given the fact that the City of Stratford is not being asked for funding support, and that it will benefit from having this jewel of a theatre along the river, I fully expect that City council will support the new TPT development.

09/23/2017

The needs of the community differ dramatically by their age. Although you can house all of the needs in one location, it is not always desirable for those using it to share the space with others that are there for different needs. As a teen (under 18) I didn't want to hang out with the seniors. I wanted a fun place to be at. I could be noisy and rambunctious. Post teen years, I hung in bars and travelled. Then the family years, always looking for something to do with the family. Movies, camping, sport events. Now as I approach the sunset years, I look for more of what interests me. I can no longer play sports but would like to participate in quieter, more relaxed activities. I do not believe centralizing every aspect into one Hub is the most desirable for any of the demographics that use it.

09/23/2017

What about the impact on the wildlife at the river? What will be done to stop bird strikes on the glass facade? How will construction affect the turtles? Will the construction affect the structural integrity of the Allman Arena and surrounding homes?

09/23/2017

This decision should be postponed until after the next Municipal Election. This decision will affect the city and its park system forever, so it should be an election issue.

09/23/2017

I support the T. Patterson redevelopment project. I am a member of the SLAAA and can accept new arrangements for its services/facilities. The Festival has shown genuine willingness to address SLAAA & Kiwanis Club concerns. The Festival has done its homework and acted as good corporate citizens to access funds for the project without holding the city hostage to its plans (compare this to Calgary & its NHL team!) respect the Council's interest in linking TP renewal & creation of the Hub but (a) the Hub idea is months if not years away from fruition; (b) TP project funds are available now & may lapse if not accessed in timely fashion; and (c) putting off fixing current facilities at TP while chasing Hub dreams risks the City facing emergency repairs, negative economic impacts and possibly injury and liability claims if TP building suffers structural, possibly catastrophic damage. Say Yes to the Festival's plan to redevelopment of TP Theatre.

09/23/2017

Has any thought been given to the effects on the birds with a glass building being built? The wildlife on the river will be affected, negatively.

09/23/2017

Save our parks! If the theatre has outgrown the facility, then the theatre can relocate. They have enough prime real estate along the river that they do NOT pay taxes on. I, on the other hand, pay property taxes. I have a right to park lands.

09/23/2017

The Stratford Festival has indicated that rebuilding the Tom Patterson Theatre at its current location, near the banks of the Avon River, is essential to its success. Shouldn't the quality of the plays be the essential part of its success? I'm sure the location is essential to the success of the Stratford lawn bowlers club since 1915!

09/23/2017

I think that the development is too modern and doesn't match Stratford charm. It looks like it would be an eye sore in comparison and block out the view that the people behind the theatre (tax payers) enjoy. I think that the TPT should be renovated but not at the expense of the tax payers who live here by displacing them for the guests. I think that the theatre should build in conjunction with Kiwanis, lawn bowling and any other community groups who have already been pushed out. Relocate some of the TPT program money to the Cooper site. Expand the Festival to be in the Cooper site too, help to get that project off the ground, BTW that project also looks like it is too modern to maintain Stratford charm, but do your forums there, have an open stage in the building that can be cordoned off for special events etc. Put in some shopping and community rooms, a train restaurant and a bus terminal, maybe even some condos or lofts but do not to remove whole organizations there who already have a beautiful serene location to congregate at! Just saying. #401

09/23/2017

As residents of Stratford and taxpayers here we extend our support to the building of the new Tom Patterson Theatre proposed by the Stratford Festival. Living near the Festival Theatre and hosting patrons from Ontario and nearby American states, we see firsthand the enthusiasm of Festival-goers throughout the summer season. We also hear over and over from Festival patrons that the current Tom Patterson Theatre is in dire need of replacement. Since the Festival is not only willing to accommodate the transition of the other current occupants of the building but also building a theatre that will be one of the most beautiful buildings in our city, it seems without question that they should be given the go-ahead by City Council. The Festival should not have to wait another year since funding is in place or forthcoming and the 2018 season must be announced and scheduled for next year's visitors to our city as soon as possible. We hope you will make a decision as soon as possible.

09/23/2017

I think it's a great idea, the seniors also deserve a new space and the theatre is long overdue for an upgrade. If we hold the old space nothing will get done

09/23/2017

I am a tad too young to remember when the Festival was first conceived as an idea all those years ago...history repeats itself today...folks in this town are worried about the changes that are going to be needed. Change is hard no matter in what part of life...jobs, leaving town, getting married and leaving the comfort of your primary family etc etc...but change gives us new life and can rejuvenate and provide opportunities...for one see the proposed development as a positive change...and an opportunity for growth and development. It will attract more dollars to this community through revenue, jobs, etc. People will have employment during the construction phase and post construction...downtown merchants will have increased traffic from more visitors...it will be the envy of most theatre communities in this country and in fact, world wide...it will be safe for the festival actors who now work in terrible conditions...it will provide facilities that are top notch and new...state of the art...it will provide a place for the community to be proud of...I am not certain if there is any room for allowance for the bowling greens to be incorporated somehow, given their age and the apparent significance that has? That would be icing on the cake! If not, I think we need to move forth...I say onward...put the shovels in the ground....

09/23/2017

We have on many occasions watched visitors at TPT watch the lawn bowlers. Why can the greens not be left where they are now? Takes hard work to get the greens as good as they are now.

09/24/2017

When I was a child, growing up here, the Crown shaped building by the river was a toboggan hill. It was easy to take for granted that we have one of the best theatres in the world - right in our back yard. From our very own Stratford Festival to Shaw, to Blyth to Drayton, Barrie, Gravenhurst, Prince Edward County, theatre has become a part of the fabric of the communities in which we live. It is not separate from us. It is us. We know the importance of telling our stories. That the Festival has become a world class theatre destination on the banks of the Avon river speaks to the ingenuity of Tom Patterson and the visionaries that brought the dream to light. When the city, needed to take a new step, it did. Aside from its world renown of artistic integrity, the Festival has become one of the valves in the economic engine that drives the local economy. That the Festival draws new people and new industry to locate here is a testament to its' success and also the community that continues to grow around it. Indeed, many of the industries that also help to drive the community continue to be long time supporters of the theatre. That we continue to present extraordinary art in one of the most beautiful cities in the world is a huge achievement. We are all a part of that. That the Tom Patterson Theatre has outgrown its genesis as a badminton arena should be a cause for celebration. Many who live here, some of whom have never been inside any of the theatres, dismiss it outright - sometimes in very ungracious terms. I'm not suggesting everyone should go to the theatre. Or even if they do, that they have to love it or even like it. But I have never seen another successful industry so disparaged; actors and administration so berated in social media rants, as much as the Festival. If you are civic minded but deign to step foot inside the theatre - for whatever reason, then you are missing out. The theatre plays host to unrivaled educational programs and brings world visionaries shaping global stewardship here, through the ever-expanding Forum. This is an exciting program. It's not just about art. Stratford hosts the world, and you can be a part of it. Show up. Build up. With the burgeoning digital media program at the Stratford Campus of the University of Waterloo, the possibilities for expansion grow even further: Family farms, driverless cars, nursing, technological hub, automobile manufacturing, innovations in recycling, food, hospitality, chocolate. We are more than a sum of our parts. The vision employed to mirror the beauty and the serenity of the river in the theatre design is worthy reflection of Stratford's great legacy of incredible drama and the extraordinary people who live here. We don't give up here. We take our next great step. I am a proud supporter of the Stratford Festival proposal and a proud resident of this great city.

09/24/2017

***** Repeat post ***** When I was a child, growing up here, the Crown shaped building by the river was a toboggan hill. It was easy to take for granted that we have one of the best theatres in the world - right in our back yard. From our very own Stratford Festival to Shaw, to Blyth to Drayton, Barrie, Gravenhurst, Prince Edward County, theatre has become a part of the fabric of the communities in which we live. It is not separate from us. It is us. We know the importance of telling our stories. That the Festival has become a world class theatre destination on the banks of the Avon river speaks to the ingenuity of Tom Patterson and the visionaries that brought the dream to light. When the city, needed to take a new step, it did. Aside from its world renown of artistic integrity, the Festival has become one of the valves in the economic engine that drives the local economy. That the Festival draws new people and new industry to locate here is a testament to its' success and also the community that continues to grow around it. Indeed, many of the industries that also help to drive the community continue to be long time supporters of the theatre. That we continue to present extraordinary art in one of the most beautiful cities in the world is a huge achievement. We are all a part of that. That the Tom Patterson Theatre has outgrown its genesis as a badminton arena should be a cause for celebration. Many who live here, some of whom have never been inside any of the theatres, dismiss it outright - sometimes in very ungracious terms. I'm not suggesting everyone should go to the theatre. Or even if they do, that they have to love it or even like it. But I have never seen another successful industry so disparaged; actors and administration so berated in social media rants, as much as the Festival. If you are civic minded but deign to step foot inside the theatre - for whatever reason, then you are missing out. The theatre plays host to unrivaled educational programs and brings world visionaries shaping global stewardship here, through the ever-expanding Forum. This is an exciting program. It's not just about art. Stratford hosts the world, and you can be a part of it. Show up. Build up. With the burgeoning digital media program at the Stratford Campus of the University of Waterloo, the possibilities for expansion grow even further: Family farms, driverless cars, nursing, technological hub, automobile manufacturing, innovations in recycling, food, hospitality, chocolate. We are more than a sum of our parts. The vision employed to mirror the beauty and the serenity of the river in the theatre design is worthy reflection of Stratford's great legacy of incredible drama and the extraordinary people who live here. We don't give up here. We take our next great step. I am a proud supporter of the Stratford Festival proposal for the Tom Patterson Theatre and a proud citizen of this incredible city.

09/24/2017

The Festival is a central landmark to our city, and one of the greatest employers and tax generators. The government is looking at making a substantial investment in this non-profit that lifts our whole city upwards. I understand it means moving a group of seniors, but they will survive and prosper in a bigger facility that meets all safety requirements. Turning down the TPT project will be turning away an investment to improve our community. Not just our community today, but for its future moving forward. I encourage you to accept this investment, as it's what's best for the community as a whole.

09/24/2017

	<p>My wife and I moved here 12 years ago. For us, as with many other middle aged and senior citizens what attracted us to Stratford was its beauty and its cultural offerings. Having the opportunity to choose from a variety of shows during the summer months in addition to literally hundreds of lectures and workshops about the theater is an incredible gift and one which we appreciate immensely. But this theater scene cannot continue unless it is allowed to grow. To remain static is slow death. A new Tom Patterson is necessary to revitalize not only the entertainment milieu but the town itself. This architectural wonder will be like a magnet for tourism, the way for example the Guggenheim Museum is in New York, or the Pyramid over the Louvre or the Bahai Temple in Santiago designed, by the way, by the same architect who is behind the new TP design. This is a big project. It requires thinking large rather than small, narrow and anchored in the past. It requires vision and trust that the future is bright and full of promise.</p>
09/24/2017	<p>So very pleased our community can have more jobs and more tax revenue from the new Tom Patterson Theatre to help with our roads and many community projects. This money will go to another area if we do not use it for our present and future.</p>
09/24/2017	<p>My wife and I retired to Stratford 18 years ago. A major part of the attraction was, and remains, the Festival, together with the Chef School the vibrancy of the shops and restaurants, and perhaps most of all, the welcoming attitude of the citizens of Stratford. As most arts venues like the Festival, as great an engine for jobs, taxes and private businesses it is, it must continually deal with competition in Canada and the United States. An dear but old theatre cannot meet, in itself, with the growing competition beyond our city. The proposed new theatre and gardens will become a major attraction in and of itself. Increased business for merchants, greater numbers of people who will choose to stay at an inn, hotel or bed and breakfast, vibrant increased patronage for the many fine dining establishments will help keep continue and increase tax revenues for all three levels of government. Stratford needs a positive response for the City in order that these things can happen.</p>
09/24/2017	<p>My wife and I moved to Stratford in August 2016 after 30 years in Ottawa. A major factor in our choice was the existence of the world-class Stratford Festival. We also knew from the 1954 National Film Board documentary, The Stratford Adventure, that the City back then had a forward-looking mayor and council who had moved without delay to respond to Tom Patterson's imaginative proposal. We thought that a similar spirit would still exist in today's City Council. It seems we were naïve in our assumption. Of course, there should be public discussion of the proposed \$60-million rebuilding of the TPT site and of the ramifications for other users. But today's City Council, unlike that in 1953, is moving in such a leisurely fashion that it endangers the success of the rebuilding. There must be a working theatre for the Festival 2019 season. Yet the Festival has already been forced to postpone the start of construction from late October to next January because of delays by the City Council. City Council's slow response raises the prospect of even greater dangers. Can the Mayor and councillors seriously believe that senior levels of government would invest in the Community Hub if they see the City fritter away their multi-million dollar pledges to the TPT rebuild. The initial \$5-million tranche from the Ontario government depends on construction reaching a certain stage by March 2018. Any federal grant would almost certainly carry similar time-dependent conditions. Finally, this foot-dragging by City Council endangers the international reputation of the Festival City. In my previous life as a newspaper correspondent, my wife and I were fortunate to have lived and worked around much of the world, including London (U.K.) and Washington. Many times we were surprised that people might not have heard of larger Canadian cities but they did know of Stratford because of the Festival and they hoped to visit. What will happen to that enviable reputation if the continuing delay by the City Council cripples or even scuttles the TPT rebuilding? In our opinion, City Council is letting the perfect become the enemy of the possible in its protracted approach to a decision to sell (or lease) the TPT site to the Festival and to issue a permit for the construction. The Mayor and Councillors should move with alacrity after Tuesday's Public Meeting.</p>
09/24/2017	<p>From, ratepayer City of Stratford: I fully support The Festival plan for building a new Tom Patterson Theatre at the current site. It would be imprudent for us to refuse government funds allocated to the rebuilding of this new theatre. With the grand opening of that venue, I assert that we should continue to approach the provincial and federal governments for funding to the proposed Grand Trunk Community Hub. In other words, we can have it all. We become a worthwhile investment when Stratford produces innovative ideas as with the recent driverless car technology program; the digital technologies extension of the University of Waterloo; the centralization of emergency call services; plans for development of the Cooper site; and now a new Tom Patterson theatre. We can have our cake and eat it, too.</p>
09/24/2017	<p>This is a wonderful addition to our city! The Festival has contributed to the economy of Stratford for 60plus years, enriching us financially and culturally. The current building is dreadful for activities (the Kiwanis centre part) and the Theatre part Not 1nickel should be put into it: the structure should come Down! We have an opportunity for \$40 million from upper guts and donors! The City gets a fabulous gift for no cost! A great opportunity which will not come again</p>
09/24/2017	<p>The more time, attention, effort, and thought you apply to an idea the more likely it is that something will come of it. Please move forward with the proposed TPT redevelopment! We have an excellent opportunity to construct a outstanding theatre building that will help ensure a prosperous future for both the Festival and the city of Stratford and allow all theatre patrons to enjoy world class theatre in a world class building. Regards,</p>
09/25/2017	<p>Stratford is the amazing world class destination it is because community leaders in the past thought far into the future. Their vision of what a Shakespearean theatre could and would bring to this small community is legendary. To now, in 2017, not look to the future with the same brilliant vision would be to fail those leaders and diminish the legacy that countless people near and far cherish. Change can be difficult but staying the same is short sighted and peevish. For this city to go ahead with the Tom Patterson Theatre and the Community Hub would, in my mind, continue to prove that the brilliant minds of our city leaders in the past have their equals in the civic leaders of today. All the world's a stage...let's keep our stages the best in the world, and proud to live here!</p>
09/25/2017	<p>We are two Stratford seniors strongly in support of the Stratford Festival plan to bring a beautiful new theatre to the Lakeside site. It would be a stunning asset that would benefit the entire community as a symbol of our forward thinking, creativity and innovation. Also, as a YMCA member I look forward to moving forward with the Grand Trunk Hub and creating another great amenity.</p>
09/25/2017	<p>My wife and I moved to Stratford 10 years ago largely because of our love of the Stratford Festival and the City of Stratford. We try to imagine Stratford without the Festival (and make no mistake arts institutions are not guaranteed to last forever). We imagine Stratford without its restaurants, hotels and downtown shopping that are dependent on visitors to the City to attend the Festival. We imagine a City that can no longer take care of its parks due to decreased tax revenues eventuated by drastically reduced property values. In short, we imagine a city stripped of most of the virtues for which we changed our lives to move here. The administration of the Festival led to Antoni Cimolino and Anita Gaffney make a strong case that the health of the Festival depends, in part, on the planned redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre and site. We have seen the plans and they represent a beautiful asset to both the Festival and to the City of Stratford. I have been reading Letters to the Editor in the local newspapers and find those in opposition often badly misinformed and at times clearly hostile to the Festival which has been instrumental in making Stratford the unique community which it is. It is vitally important that the City grant approval to the Festival to proceed quickly with its plans.</p>
09/25/2017	<p>I sent the following email to Antoni Cimolino today. September 25, 2017 Dear Artistic Director my wife and I had the pleasure of visiting The Festival last week. Productions were tremendous as usual. I first attended the festival in 1969, so I am a veteran. We learned of the new plans for the Patterson Theatre. The theater space models the old one, which is good. The design is beautiful. There is one aspect missing, thus prompting this letter. The redesign of the Patterson is a once-in-a-century opportunity. With the large expenditure involved, the theater building should be an iconic structure. An iconic structure is one that means something in its design. For example, the Sydney Opera House means Sydney and opera. The Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame means rock-and-roll and Cleveland. The Patterson should mean the Stratford Festival and Theater. Symbolic value goes far in marketing and institutional identity. Sydney and Cleveland are world destinations in part because of iconic architecture. If you say, 'Easier said than done,' note that you have done it already in the Festival Theater. The tent structure with its crown represents the Festival and Stratford. It is known around the world. (Its iconic form, however, was lost on the north side because of the add-ons). The Patterson should retain its theater space but be inside an iconic building. For example, the motif of the exterior could be a proscenium arch. Patrons would pass through it onto the stage (lobby). The floor of the lobby could continue (in some fashion) into the actual stage. Hence the audience would start out on stage and move to the performance part. 'All the world's a stage.' The arch means theater. A well conceived exterior arch would be iconic for the festival. This is just one suggestion. I mention it in order make concrete the sort of thing that may answer my two questions: What does the architecture mean? (theater) What does it represent? (the festival). Thanks for giving this letter a read and greater thanks for years of theater experience that knows no better Best,</p>
09/25/2017	<p>I am a senior and a theatre goer. The Stratford Festival put our city on the cultural map of Canada and saved it from economic ruin. It is the lifeblood of our town. I wholly support the festival's proposal with regard to the Tom Patterson theatre. It is important that all the festival's theatres are within the downtown core. It is not as necessary to keep the seniors centre and the bowling club where they are now located.</p>
09/25/2017	<p>As a resident of Stratford, of the 'baby-boomer' age and nearing retirement, I welcome the vision, the public consultation this week, and long-term planning to finally develop the Grand Trunk Community Hub near the Waterloo University Campus site, bus, banking and other retail services. This 'Hub' will serve all family members. I will appreciate and use 'the Hub' over the next 20 years of its progressive development agrees as resources become available. I fully support the visionary leadership of the Stratford Festival Theatre, the Mayor and City Council to instigate the planning and sourcing of revenue for the new Tom Patterson Theatre. When I attended the performance of Timon of Athens and several forum events this summer, I was reminded of the age and number of renovations the old curling rink has endured to still be usable in 2017. I hope that the public consultations will generate thoughtful and grounded dialogue that can support many different viewpoints but with the knowledge that major infrastructure development in a small city like Stratford requires time, partnership development, strategic investment and a very long term-vision of what our families will need for a quality life in 20 years time. Let's think long-term and come together to make the best of some short-term challenges.</p>
09/25/2017	<p>I whole-heartedly support the new Tom Patterson theatre project and encourage the city to use long-term visionary thinking (a la Tom Patterson himself) in making this decision. To lose a 60-million dollar project that will become a national treasure over a few lawn-bowlers and a senior's centre that is already too small for the projected numbers of people who will use it - this would be ludicrous.</p>
09/25/2017	<p>I fully support the new Tom Patterson project. It will be a place of beauty and art, to be enjoyed by the residents of Stratford and visitors alike. Let's move forward with this project as soon as possible.</p>
09/25/2017	<p>I sold two beautiful homes located on Austin crescent in mid-town Toronto, some 16 years ago. Our little family, (our then 5yr old daughter, our 6mo. old baby son, and my husband & cat & dog) then had the choice of Salt Springs Island, or Stratford, Ontario. Both were high on our list to come & live, work, and raise our children, the of Stratford won out though, because of the Festival theatres, the Chef's school, the wonderful vibrant downtown core, (my neighbour was the amazing Jane Jacobs, how lucky am I? So, along the research about the excellent schools in Stratford, the trails, river, and proximity to a very good hospital, we enthusiastically made the move to Stratford! (Actually, truth be known, that day was the day that the Eastern Canada \US power grid failed, so even our drive OUT of Torontodown Bathurst Street, not a single spotlight worked, no gas was being pumped on the 401 people were camped out that night at all of the gas stations from Toronto right until we drove into Stratford! We first saw lights while driving along Downie Street here at hamlet gardens near Lorne!! found my dream job a few years ago at The Stratford Festival of Canada. My husband, who prior to our move had been a guest prof at Ryerson U, OCAID, and had run a very successful business. As for me, I took that early morning train back to Toronto leaving stratford at 5:45am, to reach my job the in Toronto still by 8:30 am At Union Stn. Back home here in wonderful Stratford for bedtime with the children! My dream job here at the Stratford daily consist of assisting patrons in our shops, particularly the Festival, since I also zip over to the Eaton Lounge for at least an hour and a half, engaging with our amazing members, from EVERYWHERE in the world. I LOVE the people that I work. It is a great delight to be a part of this great great city & fantastic environment, all driven by the vision of Tom Patterson. We together need to update his marvelous vision, and keep this city, with the over 139 million estimated dollars that this theatre, all of our city's beloved restaurants, world class chef's school, YOUR own city jobs, the exciting University of Waterloo digital campus students, on and on. As Tim Patterson, who I met last summer at the Stratford festival Theatre Shop said to me My Dad would be SO PROUD TO HEAR THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU IMOVED THEIR WHOLE LIVES HERE BECAUSE OF HIS DREAMS! By the way, I am a senior, too! I will be 62, in November. My children are now 15, and 20, one has dreams of working in theatre, the other, well, either a carpenter, chef, astronaut, a careerin music(he loves to play guitar & he really loves our own Long & McQuade here. YOU KNOW< IT IS ALL POSSIBLE HERE< as Tim Patterson said to me, because of the vision of my Dad, we attract the best, kindest talents int he whole world. On a quick note, how are the SLAAA& its' members, and the Lawn Bowling fundraising? How can one help....pls let us know, it seems kind of quiet, how are they raising money to assist with these projects? We all need to help Stratford to grow! Best,</p>
09/25/2017	<p>Since 1953, the Stratford Festival has been a passionate part of our family life, and a defining factor in the economic well-being of our City. As a senior citizen and devoted fan of the theatre, I encourage City Councillors and Mayor Mathieson to approve the Stratford Festival's ambitious and inspired plan to ensure an even brighter future for our City through a much-needed redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre.</p>

09/25/2017	I fully support the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson theatre as an individual who grew up in Stratford and has returned as a semi-retired individual. The continued growth of the Festival is crucial to the well being of Stratford and what many residents have come to enjoy and support, along with others from all over the country, North America and further beyond. If the Hub does not proceed I would like to see if the bowling greens and possibly and outside pickle ball court could be integrated into the gardens design for the theatre and an option for the Seniors....maybe the Allman Arena area could be redeveloped.
09/25/2017	Stratford would be nothing without the Festival. It would be a wasteland of failed industrialism, and instead, it's a vibrant community of people for whom Canadian culture is a high priority. That community should make this new project a priority as well. I could understand the push back if the Festival hadn't--and had not been continuing to--thought of every angle of this project, every detail, and every person it would disrupt. The Festival has done all it can, and is still doing all it can to make this transition go smoothly. This is not a case of a big business corporation whose headquarters is on another continent coming in and forcing people out without their consent or opinion. Stratford Festival employs SO MANY people in this city. Everyone knows someone who works there, it's impossible not to. This project is of the same importance as the original buildings being built. It will be incredible for the city. Yes, there will be some shifting around, but with the new Hub, everyone will be happy. These things take time, but everyone will be happy, the city will make more money and employ more people, and welcome more tourists who will tell more people about us. If that means that for a few years, some people have to be displaced to another location before they get a state of the art facility of their own, why is that such a bad thing?
09/25/2017	It would be extremely short-sighted for the city not to give it's unconditional 100% support to the TPT project. Yes, there will be some disruption in the short term -- change is hard -- but in the end the new TPT will increase 10 fold the world-class theatre city that Stratford has become. And that is good for all citizens.
09/25/2017	I am a Senior living in Toronto, and have supported the Stratford Festival annually for at least 20 years. This year I spent \$3000 in a B&B, another \$5800 in restaurants, and \$1500 in Festival tickets! I do hope the City of Stratford will have the good sense to support the new Tom Patterson Theatre wholeheartedly, and that I will live long enough to be able to enjoy it myself!
09/25/2017	65 years ago the City of Stratford and its citizens took a leap of faith in supporting the establishment of the Stratford Festival. Now it has the opportunity to take that next leap of faith in supporting the creation of a world class new theatre facility, designed by a top architectural firm, that will enhance the theatre and the city for the next 65 years. Go for it!
09/25/2017	I am in favour of the construction of a new Tom Patterson theatre at the existing site on Lakeside Drive. I would prefer it if the senior's group could be incorporated into the new theatre, but even if it cannot, I want the new theatre to be built! The city needs this, and the benefits far outweigh any negatives.
09/25/2017	I was born and raised in Stratford, Ontario, and from the moment my parents could, they introduced me to the magic Stratford had to offer - it is a beautiful place, with beautiful history and scenery - and it is all well kept because of one thing : the stratford festival. So often do we forget that we are home to the 2nd ranked theatre in the world. I did not realize how lucky I was to be surrounded by such an incredible thing until now. Now that I am away at post secondary education, I am surrounded by people who are envious of the fact that I have been fortunate enough to grow up in Stratford - they talk of this place as a dream - something they couldn't even believe to seem possible (trust me, I'm not exaggerating) it is mentioned by not one, but all of my theatre professors - and yet, so easily we forget this magic when living here. I ask you to allow the Festival to build the new Tom Patterson Theatre at the location by the river, so that those dreams can be brought to more people across the world. Let's remember what it felt like the first time we saw a show at the theatre, and let's allow everyone to experience this by stepping into a new Tom Patterson Theatre. I thank you for everything! Cheers,
09/25/2017	The Stratford festival is the second ranked theatre in the world. I find it disgusting that the people who live in the town where it is located have the power to stand between the festival building a new theatre - even when countless celebrities, the mayor, the provincial government, federal government, and prime minister are in support of it - to name a few. I ask you to grant the theatre permission to build a new Tom Patterson Theatre wherever they want! The fact that it brings in 500000 people a year to the town - and a new theatre will only increase this - should obviously be enough to convince of it - I cannot even begin to imagine the amount of money that generates with other business and taxes back into the city. So please, let the home of the world's 2nd most renowned theatre do what it wants - it certainly deserves to. Thank you.
09/25/2017	I am very supportive of a new Tom Patterson Theatre as I think it will be of great benefit both socially and economically to the residents of Stratford and to the patrons of the theatre. Thank you [REDACTED] Stratford, ON
09/25/2017	I applaud the City of Stratford for showing vision and courage in examining two large projects that both have significant potential to improve the community/lives of community members. I am not a resident, but my husband and I are loyal, long-term patrons of the Festival. We come to Stratford at least 10 times a year because of the Festival, stopping for coffee at Revel, chocolates or a cold treat from Barr's, a meal at a nearby restaurant. It is quite possible we will choose to retire to Stratford to be closer to the Festival and all of its activities and programming. Thank you for admitting in your communications that the Tom Patterson Theatre is moving well past its' best before date. The Festival creates magic on that stage, but the front of house experience for guests is not great (far too small a lobby, uncomfortable seats), and I've heard horror stories about the backstage experience for actors as far as dressing rooms etc. I've also heard that the roof is structurally so weak as to not be able to handle snow AND the lights that are hung. That's not reassuring! A capital campaign is not a challenge an NFP goes into lightly, especially at \$60 million. The Festival will have thought this through carefully and strategically, looking for the best solution to a number of problems. My thanks to the City of Stratford for also thinking this through carefully and strategically. I encourage you to say yes to the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre, and also say yes to your new Community Hub. With thanks and best wishes
09/25/2017	A new Tom Patterson theater is a great for the city of the Stratford anyone that says other wise just needs to look at the city around us this city is only a city because of the festival we would just be drive through town the festival gives life to all business. It brings business to everyone. If someone is thinking we should not rebuild the Tom Patterson just think what the theater has done for you has business spiked during theater season or have you had a job at the theater or have you ran a b and b the theater is the life and soul of this city.
09/25/2017	Personally, I find it a privilege to live in the city. We should be proud of the accomplishments that the caretakers of this city have provided for the residents. From the upgrades to municipal services, to the forward thinking installation of fibre optic trunk networks, to the historic designation of our downtown core and the beautiful square that was recently completed behind City Hall. All of these things required careful consideration, planning and public input before they were implemented. Similarly we have watched the festival theatre grow from its first performance of 1953 (no I wasn't around for that one) to the internationally acclaimed entity that it is now. We have watched them carefully and considerably develop the properties which they are involved with into unique spaces and we have watched each one of them thrive. I'm not just referring to the main theatre but the other buildings within the city over which the festival has stewardship. The fantastic transformation of the Avon theatre and the Studio Theatre. The transformation of the Brunswick centre and the scene shops. The careful transformation and use of the normal school which sat empty for years and of course the continued stewardship over Tom Patterson Theatre which is personally one of my favourite venues to see live theatre. We have watched as different artistic directors, boards and executive have turned their hand to expanding the theatre and from my point of view, they have done an outstanding job. I also believe that the current administration is as focussed on the well-being of the city, as a whole, and not only as it relates to the theatres interest as any that has gone before them. There is an opportunity to create a new and vibrant space where the current TPT is. To use the adjacent lands which have become disused in recent years and to make an exciting new addition to our community. I see them moving through the same process of careful consideration and public input in order to realize this new vision. The theatre is a not-for-profit organization and of course it will benefit them to use this beautiful space along our park system for their purpose but make no mistake, this will benefit the residents of Stratford and live theatre enthusiasts around the world who wish to come and see the great work that the theatre does here. I think we need to support the theatre in this endeavour. I think we need to trust the stewards who have looked after the TPT and supported our community for so long, that they will do the right thing and with public input will provide a world-class venue that is carefully considered, properly funded and thoughtfully designed that we can all be proud of.
09/26/2017	Wonderful, visionary and desperately needed, both projects continue the legacy of Stratford Ontario as an extraordinary city and a great place to visit and to live.
09/26/2017	I wholeheartedly support the building of a new Tom Patterson Theatre. Having spent many times watching world class productions in extremely uncomfortable conditions. The designs I have seen of the new theatre look wonderful. I also support the idea of a community Hub. I am sure an alternative could be found for the lawn bowlers with all our park system that we have, what about the flats so much of it is unused. Please move forward with these plans.
09/26/2017	Obviously it appears the Festival is well ahead with its plans, funding, both government and private, architect plans and a need to start this fall. It sounds like the plans for the Hub, which would be a great opportunity for the City are not as far advanced at the moment. So long as accommodations can be made for groups such as SLAAA, even on an interim basis, it would be a step-backward to assume the Festival could not move forward, until the City receive its go-ahead, funding etc. for the Hub. Unfortunately, this is some of the feedback I've heard, and would hope that is not true. I would encourage our City Council to have the same faith in the Festival that our Council had in Tom Patterson, back in 1952.
09/26/2017	These comments are about the replacement project proposed by the Stratford Festival for the Tom Patterson Theater and the Stratford Community Center. We support a project which benefits the Stratford community and the Stratford Festival. The present options proposed for this project by the Stratford Festival benefits all. We are confident that the community and the Festival can successfully initiate and complete this project. That they do so is important. If successful completion fails, we shall be disappointed. More importantly, the future of the Stratford Festival and the Stratford community will be very limited. We urge the Stratford community and the Stratford Festival to initiate soon and complete a Tom Patterson Theater/Stratford community center replacement project for which all can be satisfied and proud.
09/26/2017	We are strong supporters of the new Theatre project for the TPT. Since we are out of town today, we send our best wishes for others to understand what a gift this will be to our lovely town. Festival, thank you for your foresight for our town and the theatre.
09/26/2017	As a resident of a quarter of a century and a tax payer, I believe that this is a critical project for the city. Many point up the number of jobs, both for construction and then ongoing. I'd point out also the support of the high property values in the city. Theatre success doesn't just happen, but needs to be carefully fostered, like a tree or for that matter any living organism. Finally, I'm pushing 76 years old and thus support programs for seniors -- the Festival has offered such support and interim and longer term solutions should be found, BUT that must not slow down the process to get this done.
09/26/2017	I look forward to the wonderful plans that the Stratford Festival has for The Tom Patterson Theatre. It takes a Giant to fulfil this wonderful new venue - We will succeed.
09/26/2017	Use the Cooper site. Remove all no parking signs. The new concrete square is horrible.

	<p>accessible community centre, centrally located, adequate parking for activities in the area, continued access to recreational facilities and a safe, inviting theatre for residents and tourists. The Kiwanis has had a long history of being involved in the needs of residents from the first senior centre in 1969 to the Kiwanis Centre http://www.kiwanisclubstratford.com/Page/16164#community to the Discovery Centre. http://www.kiwanisclubstratford.com/Page/16164#discovery. The festival first used the Casino Building in 1971 as the Third Stage which belonged to the Badminton Club. My concerns: 1. Let's keep Stratford walkable. This has health benefits for the citizens and benefits for planet. Many people have chosen to live where they do because of the location and walking distance. Do we know how many seniors move to Stratford, pay taxes to Stratford and are living within walking distance of the Kiwanis? Many things have moved further from the core in the past, badminton, volleyball, Farmer's Market, arena, museum. 2. Parking concerns. Where and what does the proposed parking look like? How will the extra demands be met? The city would seek to use the Tom Patterson Theatre parking when it is not needed by the Festival, and would ask the Festival to look at new parking arrangements. If the theatre season is expanded, will there not be more conflicts and demand for the parking when there are hockey games or other activities? The theatre is planning for 150 parking spots, up from 128 currently on the site. Is the theatre seating going from 457 to 600? Is there an economic benefit that will be lost to the present free parking for residents and visitors to Stratford for a walk around the river and a stroll downtown? 3. Economic costs of plan. The expected increase in patrons may not really be increased. There may be some economic benefits but maybe not as many as estimated if it just be the same number of people coming and seeing more shows while they are here. They are not going to be eating more or having more accommodation. What are the other economic costs? Road maintenance if people are driving more to get to community centres. Do we know the value of tax dollars received by the city from active adults moving to Stratford? Having the active adults association next to the theatre is probably better than any advertising or promotion on encouraging relocation to Stratford. How many visitors see the Kiwanis when they are here and choose to move to Stratford in part due to the location and of active adults centre? How many chose to move to their present home in Stratford and pay taxes based on the walkability or location of programs offered at the Kiwanis. Would the city councilors and staff be willing to look at the costs, economic and social of the decision of relocating the present well-used centrally located community centre, parking lot and lawn bowling? What are the economic costs to city of Stratford in going ahead with the proposed plan? And for the future citizens of Stratford? What happens if the Stratford Festival closes in 30-60 years? So many things affect the tourism industry and international issues are things that the city of Stratford has no control over. What are the environmental costs to the planet by building this new theatre? 4. What is the Kiwanis Centre used for presently? This year marks the 104th anniversary of the plebiscite narrowly won by R. Thomas Orr that kept Stratford's parks and waterfront from being turned into a rail yard. So what will it take to keep the lands around the lake for all the citizens of Stratford and their recreational use. Please keep our heritage! What is the Kiwanis presently used for? how many walks start there, how many different groups use the community centre and find the location ideal. What will the environmental impact be? Is there an impact on any other events such as the dragon boat festival, winterfest? The Kiwanis is used for the Pancake breakfast at winterfest, chamber of commerce events, United Way, teen dances, Coldest night of the year walk in Feb., the 'Keep it Kool' program in heat alerts. 5. The need to be informed? Was this event listed on the city website? Advertised widely? But not listed on the community calendar or council calendar https://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/calendar/Default.aspx?StartDate=09/26/2017&EndDate=09/26/2017&Limit=25 https://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/calendar/community/Default.aspx?StartDate=09/26/2017&EndDate=09/26/2017&Limit=2 What are the lands appraised? How are the lands zoned? What happens in 40 or 60 years if the Stratford Festival is no more? 6. How will this affect Stratford's Emergency Response Plan? 7. 17.0 REGISTRATION CENTRE The Stratford Kiwanis Community Centre will be the registration centre for any declared emergency. Alternate and/or additional centres shall be designated by the Emergency Control Group. Emergency Management Perth County Determine two safe locations in case you have to leave your home. One should be nearby, such as a local library or community centre. The other one should be farther away, outside your neighbourhood, in case the emergency affects a large area. 7. How have Age Friendly Communities and Seniors Active Living Centre Bill 209 been considered. Amenities (grocery stores, churches, government buildings, community centres) Services are grouped together, located near where older people live and can be easily accessed (e.g. are located on the ground floor of buildings, include wheelchair ramps). https://www.perthcounty.ca/en/living-here/resources/files/Perth-County-Age-Friendly-Community-Action-Plan-Full-</p>
09/26/2017	<p>My name is [REDACTED]. By way of background, I'm a 13 year Stratford resident and homeowner. My wife works at the Stratford Festival. I'm a professional engineer and I work at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation where I split my time between Toronto and Montreal. I commute daily because I love Stratford so very much. Significant portions of my career over the last 25 years have dealt with public asset lifecycle management. I spend much of my time writing and analyzing capital business cases. It is through this lens that I've looked at this project and I have to say from the city's perspective, this is not a conventional business case. It is in fact a gift to Stratford. It is hard to stress how exceptional this opportunity is. For this \$60 million project the proportional tax contribution by the citizens of Stratford to the Federal and Provincial grants is roughly \$2 per person for a grand total that of \$64,000. We must remember that this money, earmarked for arts infrastructure, will be spent on another community if the Festival is unable to proceed. By saying yes to this project the citizens of Stratford benefit as follows: A \$60 million state of the art theatre and meeting space. Publicly accessible gardens and green space across the street from the existing riverwalk. Zero cost to the city to build. Zero cost to the city to maintain. The city gains back the operational overhead currently spent maintaining the property and buildings at the 111 Lakeside site. The city can extract value from this asset through a commercial arrangement with the Festival that can provide the capital and operational headroom to proceed with other projects such as the community hub all while containing capital asset growth. We all know that managing city assets is a significant concern. A predicted \$13.4 million in economic activity with benefits to the whole community. My question is simple: Will you expedite the approval of this project to ensure they take advantage of the current political funding opportunities and avoid the negative economic impact to the city if the new building is not ready for the 2019 Festival season? They say to strike while the iron is hot. This iron is white hot! [REDACTED]</p>
09/26/2017	<p>As a 31 year old, I have worked at the Stratford Festival for 17 years. I put my full support in this project, not only for continued success for the Festival, but for the continued effect it has on our beautiful city. The Tom Patterson theatre has been in my life for 17 years and this project is a win win. No pro and Con list needed! I am part of the 'Next Generation' to see this city grow and prosper and I would love to see this happen with a Jewel on the Avon</p>
09/26/2017	<p>I just attended the meeting- very informative! am very much in favour as someone who retired here because of the beauty and the arts community. I have heard locals complain of elitism and the attention the festival gets. A very good point was made about the agricultural activities, but not about other non-artsyartsy activities that depend on the hotels, restaurants and shopping that are available because of the festival. The big hockey event of last December comes to mind, as do the numerous kids' hockey and soccer events. Also the rib fest, the beer fest, the dragon boat races, not to mention all the charity runs that bring people in. Stratford hospital is a superb facility (I know because I have experience with several in cities large and small). Medical personnel are drawn here because Stratford is a beautiful vibrant place to live. I think the naysayers mostly don't understand how much of what they appreciate is directly or indirectly related to the festival. The unemployment rate is low because business and industries located here because this is a good place to live and they can attract the skills they need. Change can be hard and I feel for those who believe they are losing too much or their needs aren't seen, but the common good has to take precedence. [REDACTED]</p>
09/26/2017	<p>INFORMATION MEETING AT THE AGRIPLEXI did not hear enough comments about the impact of the festival on the community- the city would be a boring has-been having lost many industries and the quality of life enjoyed by the seniors who profess having no interest in the festival would also be very much altered- without the ancillary benefits like hotels and restaurants, the city would not be able to attract international events (hockey, dairy, etc- I heard lots of wailing about the loss of access to the beautiful waterfront from a building that has no windows overlooking it and has only the view of a parking lot to offer. I am pushing eighty, so I think I qualify as a senior, but cities should build for the future and I hope Stratford will continue its tradition of forward thinking such as keeping rail-tracks away from the water, creating parkland, saving city hall and welcoming the festival 65 years ago.</p>
09/26/2017	<p>I think the City should immediately approve the land transfer necessary for the Festival to proceed with TPT construction. I believe the land should be leased, not sold, to the Festival since there is already too much private ownership and control of land along the River.</p>
09/26/2017	<p>We hope the city does not sell the park land to the Festival that land is part of Stratford the people of Stratford does not want to sell that beautiful piece of land</p>
09/26/2017	<p>New theatre fine, but NOT on park land!</p>
09/26/2017	<p>At the community meeting today. It was nothing more than a theatre spectacle. Why was the theatre answering questions like they are making the decision? Do not sell park land.</p>
09/26/2017	<p>According to the theatre reps at the meeting today, the city council said no to accommodating the lawn bowlers and the seniors, even though the theatre apparently wanted to accommodate them.... It's time for each council member to speak their views.</p>
09/26/2017	<p>The best thing to happen for our Beautiful City. Let's not drag our feet.</p>
09/26/2017	<p>I have been coming to Stratford for 22 years. I started bringing my children as soon as they were old enough, my mother comes from Tennessee, my friends, etc. I have enjoyed years of performances and made lifelong friendships here. In another decade and a half, my husband and I hope to relocate to Stratford. This is, quite simply, my Happy Place. Please consider the investment in the Tom Patterson Theatre as the investment in the community, in the future generations of theatre lovers, in the entire province of Ontario of which Stratford is the crown jewel. Please please please allow this community to grow and flourish by introducing this gorgeous updated new theatre into it. Please be on the right side of history. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
09/26/2017	<p>I attended the presentation at the Rotary Complex this afternoon. In general I am in favour of the proposed new theatre. Early in the presentation it was stated that the City Council will decide whether to sell or else the property to the Festival. Surely Council would not consider selling a section of OUR Park to anyone!!!</p>
09/26/2017	<p>I am all for the construction of a new TPT just NOT on LAKESIDE DRIVE! The current Festival Theatre, when built had an active railroad track running beside it and it wasn't a problem, and now there are so many new ways to control sound, I still feel that the Cooper Site would be a better place for a new TPT and put the tourists right in the heart of the downtown. It doesn't matter where they build the new TPT the tourists will come, don't give away any more of our park land!</p>
09/26/2017	<p>Move forward with the new Tom Patterson and community Hub!</p>
09/26/2017	<p>I have never seen a city do an information session led and choreographed by the subject. Lawrence Ryan would have enjoyed the same privileges the Theatre had today. Shame.</p>
09/26/2017	<p>The City needs to be leaders and support the Festival Theatre on their expansion plans. Yes, there are going to be challenges but the first challenges appears to be that the City does not support this. Make this happen. Show the Federal Government that Stratford is behind this 100% NOW and not 5 years from now after up to ten studies when it will be too late!</p>
09/26/2017	<p>Wow! What an exciting time to live in Stratford! Love the idea of the new TPT and Community Hub! The redevelopment of the cooper site is long overdue. And the Festival Theatre being able to expand its facilities and continue to contribute to this already world class city! Let's get this done Stratford!</p>
09/27/2017	<p>The law bowling club has been here since 1915, do not destroy our history.</p>
09/27/2017	<p>Just say Yes!!!</p>
09/27/2017	<p>When we retired, we moved to Stratford, because of the theatre. For the past 12 years, we have called Stratford our home but we have been coming to Stratford for over 50 years, again because of the theatre. Sixty-five years ago, City Council supported Tom Patterson's vision when it granted him funds to travel to New York. That trip sowed the seeds for what was to become the Stratford Festival. Sixty-five years later, the Festival has brought millions of visitors to the city, created tens of thousands of jobs, millions of dollars of tax revenue and spawned billions of dollars of economic activity. Building the new TPT will add a new gem to the jewel that is the Stratford Parks system, replacing a sea of asphalt with two acres of landscaped gardens. It will become a destination in itself. All of the current occupants of the site can be accommodated elsewhere with little disruption. I urge Council to embrace the vision of the Festival, as did your predecessors sixty-five years ago, and approve the Festival's proposal at the earliest opportunity. Delay will mean the loss of public funds already pledged to the proposal. Please do what is right so that sixty-five years from now, we will remember the Council that had the foresight to strengthen the City.</p>
09/27/2017	<p>I had the opportunity to attend the 3pm meeting on Wednesday September 26th, 2017. I was impressed by the factual information that the Stratford Festival offered, the plans and designs were also beautiful and that lake front side would be a perfect spot for the TPT and short term location for the various tenants affected. It is very clear that Stratford Festival has a plan and they demonstrated very clearly that will do everything they can, with help from the city and the other organizations, to accommodate. What was strikingly unclear, was the lack of any plan for the HUB proposed by the city. They have no founding, they have no contractors, the same information that the Stratford Festival has, in terms of who is going to build the HUB, how much and where the founding is coming from, was nonexistent. Another thing, we have already paid that \$2 in taxes and are we really wanting to give up millions of provincial and federal money? The city is unprepared to compete with the Stratford Festival, who was clearly more prepared, presented a viable plan and timeline and has secured already \$40 million dollars, with another \$20 million on the way. The city cannot say the same, with zero dollars put towards the HUB, not timeline in place, and no actual plan. I support the Stratford Festival proposal for the new Tom Patterson and I strongly urge the City of Stratford to put their support behind them as well.</p>
09/27/2017	<p>The rotary complex is not a suitable interim place for the Kiwanis senior activities. I can't afford to go there and it is too far to walk. Perhaps a better location for the TPT could be found. Maybe the old Legion. Then the citizens could enjoy the park because they don't benefit much for the high taxes here.</p>

	<p>Hello my name is xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. I have lived in Stratford for the past 11 years, I love this city and the people in it. I attended the community information session yesterday and was incredibly excited by three things &€“the way that this project seems to be taking into consideration all sides of those who would be displaced, the kind of energy a new piece of architecture, theatre and infrastructure can bring to this city, as well, I am very excited about the prospect of the community and cultural hub.I fully support this project for several reasons. This is building for the future of Stratford and its citizens. This project is vital for the progress that is bound to happen in the next 10 years. Stratford was just voted the 3rd best city to live in, in Ontario. People want a place to live where they can feel safe, supported, and culturally vibrant that they can grow with. Creating not only a new theatre which is necessary but a new place for seniors to congregate, stay active and participate is necessary as well. The Kiwanis centre is just meeting the needs of seniors RIGHT now, but in the future I don't believe that would be so. I know that my father will not be the same senior that exists today. He is more technologically savvy than myself, he is interested in different things. The sports he likes and plays are not the same as lawn bowling and pickle ball. Investing our city into this project means building for not only the future tourist, festival employee, or construction worker, this is building for the future senior. That being said, I think the plan proposed where the Cooper Block Community hub would be where the seniors centre is located makes so much sense. That sounds incredibly exciting to me. Having a central location for an expansion of the Waterloo campus, a cultural hub, a seniors centre, a pool; that sounds like an amazing place to celebrate our community of Stratford. That sounds like a place where seniors can thrive! I thought it was interesting to have a community centre in the Tom Patterson, it could work if it had too, but I truly believe that when I get to that age where this would be something I would use, I would much rather be in that community hub. As well, I would love to do things in a space (right now) where there is the ability to interact with those who are seniors, not just have space dedicated to them, but space that is shared with the community where they can impart their wisdom to those younger.The interim idea to build the agriplex to suit the needs of the SLAAA temporarily is wonderful. I think this will give them an opportunity to play, create and congregate in a space that will function well and will also give the agriplex a well needed renovation for future pork congresses, and dairy fairs. The lawn bowling moving to the golf green, could be such an opportunity for the lawn bowling folks to expand and have a better place to play. I was moved by the groundskeeper for the lawnbowling and understand his reticence to give up the site that has been there for a 100 years, though.After reading all of the literature behind this project, I believe that this project is vital to not only the survival of the Stratford Festival but also to the growth of this city. Please support this project when it comes time to vote on council. Support our city and build the theatre.</p>
09/27/2017	
09/27/2017	These decisions by council should wait until after the next municipal election. The issue should be an election issue as it will affect our city for many many years to come.
	<p>I attended the open house session last night and was thoroughly impressed with the quality of the presentation and the passion with which it was presented. It's clear the City and the Festival want to make this work and are appropriately sensitive to affected stakeholders. I'm a newcomer to Stratford and am thrilled to witness this once in a lifetime development take shape. Like others in the auditorium last night, I encourage Council members to approve the TPT proposal. I also see the merit in and support the plan to move the SLAAA facility and programming to the new Community Hub. As a future senior, I think is the better option.</p>
09/27/2017	
	<p>Dear Mr. Mayor and members of Stratford City Council,Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed Stratford Festival's Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment project.I am a relatively new permanent resident of Stratford and am confident that I made the right decision to settle in this city. Great visionary thinking which has led to the establishment of the Stratford Campus of the University of Waterloo and the recent establishment of testing facilities for driverless cars are just two recent examples of what I believe makes Stratford an exciting place. At the same time I believe that the visionary decision made in the past to establish and to maintain world class theatre is also a tribute to the citizens of this community. I believe that we can make a further visionary leap through the development of the Tom Patterson as has been outlined by the Stratford Festival.I certainly do not need to outline to City Council all the tremendous benefits which such a project can present. Those were carefully and respectfully outlined at yesterday's open house. I attended the 3 - 5 p.m. session and appreciated the care and thoughtfulness from all the participants.My own life has been enriched by the plays and Forum events which the Stratford Festival presents and by meeting and speaking with Stratford residents and Canadian and international visitors who also enjoy these events.My hope is that City Council will move forward with all due diligence and timeliness with this project while funding is being made available. I do also support the vision for the Grand Trunk Community Hub but believe that by moving forward on the Tom Patterson Theatre redevelopment we will demonstrate to other funders that we can be entrusted with important future projects which will benefit the current citizens of Stratford and will continue to attract new citizens, businesses, and industries.Respectfully,</p>
09/27/2017	
09/27/2017	I would like to know what part of this plot of land Has been long dormant in your eyes?
	<p>I am a lifelong resident of Stratford who has worked in various areas of wardrobe at the Stratford Festival Theatre since 1977.I agree that to remain competitive on an international scale the Tom Patterson Theatre is in dire need of updates and should be replaced in its present location.I am also a pedestrian who has enjoyed dance and exercise classes at the Kiwanis Centre. The offer of a three story permanent accommodation for the SLAAA within the Tom Patterson project seems a perfect solution. It is highly unlikely that funding can be found for two projects as large as the new TPT and The Hub in time for a proposed opening in 2019 or 2020. The people of the SLAAA should be displaced the shortest possible time and not be expected to move multiple times !Since there is a time sensitive aspect to the offer of government grant funding I urge council to make a decision by early December.It would be a sin to lose the opportunity to build a beautiful new world class theatre because of the indecisiveness of council !</p>
09/27/2017	
	<p>I support facilitating the Tom Patterson Theatre to grow in its current location. If this has to be done on a short timeline to take advantage of funding, something should be done to accelerate the transition for the lawn bowling club too. They are a small group but that's all the more reason that it could be very detrimental to miss a season. I also support greater use of the theatre buildings in the theatre off-season which has been raised in the community discussions. I believe there are union issues with music concerts on the theatre stages but it would be wonderful if those could be worked out to benefit the local community. Finally, a note of concern with the proposed design and all that glass. It can be fatal to birds. I hope the designers are consulting with experts on this. F.L.A.P. in Toronto comes to mind as they worked with the glass building that George Brown College built on Lake Ontario which has decals put on the glass that birds could see. With all the appreciation for our parkland, the riverside, and the proposed new gardens, I think it would be wise to plan for bird safety in advance. Glass buildings don't have to be high-rises for this to be a problem.</p>
09/27/2017	
	<p>Both of these projects, the new Tom Patterson Theatre and Community Hub, offer so many benefits to our town that I cannot understand any hesitation to commit to them. These projects offer economic growth as well as cultural enrichment for all of us, not just for visitors to our town (although tourist revenue is a substantial reason to say yes in itself). I understand the Province has committed \$20 million to this but if we drag our heels, we will lose \$5 million of it. Why hesitate? Have we less vision for our community it 2017 than Tom Patterson had in 1951? Sincerely,</p>
09/27/2017	
09/27/2017	1. Please support this project, it's beautiful and a much needed upgrade to a crumbling facility.2. However the land transfer proceeds, be it a sale or a lease, please ensure the zoning of parkland remains in effect in perpetuity.3. Please make it a condition of the project that a community space be created that is useable 365 days a year by various area groups until an alternate community hub project is realized.Thank you.
09/27/2017	
09/27/2017	I am in favour of the TPT going ahead. I have some concerns about parking; I understand there will be more spaces but wonder how affordable they will be, and access to spaces year-round. I am also concerned about light pollution so hope the illumination of the beautiful theatre can/will be muted after 11.
	<p>I attended the evening session of the public consultations on Sept. 26th. I am a member of the SLAAA as is my wife and several of our friends. We are all 100% supportive of the new Tom Patterson Theatre proposal and would urge our town council to whole-heartedly support this most important investment in the on-going financial and cultural health of this community we all love so much.At the end of the evening Antoni Cimolino made the absolutely crucial point that the financial health of our Festival is much more fragile than it might appear to be. Having had many of my plays produced on stages across Canada, I have seen the largest theatre in Vancouver, the Vancouver Playhouse, close because of revenue difficulties. I've seen the Neptune Theatre in Halifax struggle to survive in a theatre inadequate to the demands of modern theatre production, I have seen the Canadian Stage Theatre in Toronto have to reinvent itself in a struggle to stay culturally relevant and financially viable. The Festival and the City desperately needs a new Tom Patterson Theatre.It will pay enormous dividends in the years to come. Sincerely,</p>
09/27/2017	
09/27/2017	The Festival is what makes this city special! It is imperative that the city supports the Festival's dedication to improvement. Move now to make that happen please.
09/27/2017	
09/27/2017	I love the inside, the layout is great. I think the outside is too modern for Stratford and will age poorly. Similar design but incorporating wood for some/most of the glass. A little more in keeping with the image Stratford has portrayed.
09/27/2017	
09/27/2017	I encourage City Council to make request for a formal proposal from the Festival so that review of community input,debate on the merits and an early decision can be made. Dithering produces dissension and discord as witnessed by the Market Square debacle.
	<p>I have reviewed the open house deck and the letter from the Stratford Festival from September 25-26th. I strongly support the development and vision of the new Tom Patterson Theatre (TPT). I really appreciate the communication and work the Festival has done to allow for the SLAAA to be part of the building, if they choose not to be relocated to the Agriplex. The lawn bowling club although has been there for over 100 years does not seem to have the patronage to justify its current location, considering the area and lakeside frontage it takes up.Increasing patronage to the Festival benefits all in this community. The development of the TPT should not be dependent on development of the Community Hub (Grand Trunk/Cooper Site). I do not believe we should wait for the Community Hub (Grant Trunk/Cooper site) plan to be developed. I do not see how the two projects are interdependent except for the fact that the City would like to move forward on the Community Hub (which is a much more controversial and in the end will have a direct impact of cost to Stratford tax payer &€“ TPT will not). Now that the Festival has made accommodations for the SLAAA, it has allowed for community use of the building throughout the year, and this will provide the residences of the community ability to use the site and stay in the core/parkland. I also see the benefit for the Festival since in the future they will be able to use the community space for other uses if/when the Community Hub is developed. I have been employed in Stratford for the past 16 years in a field not related to the festival or tourism industry. I have lived in Stratford for the past 9 years and bought property 3 years ago. Recently my sister moved to Stratford with her husband and two children from Toronto, they moved here to escape the 'big city' and Stratford appealed to them because life in Stratford brings: theatre, restaurants, vibrant downtown core, community, good schools, affordable property. Proceeding with the TPT help to ensure this City and Theatre remain desirable to residents and tourists.</p>
09/27/2017	
09/27/2017	From everything I've heard and read, there are no downsides and, in fact, many many upsides to moving forward on this exciting and game-changing TPT project. The case made by Antoni and Anita is compelling. They are clearly well-informed and knowledgeable of all that is involved in putting such a project together, including the very legitimate concerns of the various parties that will be affected by the changes. Throughout this long and arduous process, they have reached out and listened to those folks, always with great respect and sensitivity, and always with viable solutions and accommodations to offer. I see no obstacles to moving forward so, please, no more delays. Let's green-light the TPT project asap!
09/27/2017	
09/27/2017	My husband and I visit Stratford twice a year, six days at a time, and are very excited about the plans to create a new complex on the current site. Having all four of the theatres within walking distance of downtown is very important to us.
	<p>I fully support the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson. The design looks beautiful. I believe it will be a striking addition to the Festival and the City of Stratford. Particularly as it will offer more opportunity for the general public and Stratford residents to enjoy that parcel of land with it's situation on the river, as well as enhance the experience of the theatre audience.I recognize that there are the community concerns to address but I'm sure you and everyone are generously and respectfully working to accommodate those groups that will be most affected. Based on the information available on the project's website it looks like you have taken this well in hand and I hope that those specifically affected can trust this.I've fully enjoyed my time as an audience member over these last years under Antoni's Artistic Direction as he's embraced the best of the heritage of the Festival family and continues to advance the company into the future. Every improvement to the theatre spaces and surrounding lands improves the ongoing success of a vital industry in Stratford.And as a longtime resident of Stratford I feel that anything that can be done to enhance the use and beauty of the area along the water is a plus. Currently that parcel of land does not invite general use through gardens and sitting areas, and it doesn't offer any architectural or aesthetic appeal. We have the recent redevelopment of Market Square as proof to how a new vision of a public space can enhance the beauty of the City and create new ways of enjoying all that's best about Stratford.I was unable to be at the City Council Open House tomorrow as I was out-of-town. But I hope that there were enough positive voices to garner the City's support to make this project a reality.</p>
09/27/2017	

09/27/2017	I attended the afternoon session yesterday and the following is my feedback. I'm in the 40-50 year old age bracket and I am extremely excited about the possibility of a community hub at the Cooper Site. I want a place that when I retire, I can go to one place to take part in SLAAA activities, go for a swim, walk the track, walk to a nearby restaurant for some lunch, head back to the Hub for a game or two of cards etc. I do have a vested interest in the new TPT being built as I work at the Festival, but my reasons for it are more because I'm excited for the prospect of a community hub which will mean that when I retire, I won't have to drive all over town for all those different facilities. My vote is a hard YES, and get the approval to the Festival in place NOW! Do not wait the 5-6 months that CAO Horne mentioned yesterday (even though that was later clarified to end of the year, rather than March when we would have lost the first 5 million from the province). Do not make this another Market Square where we are waiting years and years and having study after study done. The citizens of this city want something done with the Cooper site 10 years ago, and the new TPT is the project to get that finally moving!
09/27/2017	My husband and I attended the public meeting yesterday and listened to the concerns and we have always been behind the growth and change for the theatre. We moved from Timmins in December 2014 after 30 years there because we wanted to be closer to our children in Toronto and indulge in the madness of Shakespeare and other playwrights. What did we do at 65 and 75? We purchased a Bed and Breakfast. From our standpoint this is what the city is noted for and continues to excel as a number 1 choice for excellent theatre. Yes we are Seniors and use the Leaside Centre, but this city respects its roots and is ready to build a future for it's youth. I want my grandchildren to come to my home to see great theatre and the Tom Patterson redevelopment proposal will be a marvel for them and the whole world. Kudos to moving forward.
09/27/2017	We fully support the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre at its current location and also the construction of a community hub in downtown Stratford. Some groups may be temporarily inconvenienced by the redevelopment. However, new facilities will improve on existing facilities and the sacrifice of recreational space for a couple of years is a small price to pay for the long term benefit of people of all ages in Stratford, Perth County, and southwestern Ontario. Healthy, vibrant communities undergo regular renewal and thoughtful change. Communities stagnate when they don't move forward. Please approve the plans for the theatre redevelopment and start planning in earnest for the community hub.
09/27/2017	Hard to believe there is so much resentment to this project from the community. I for one believe the festival has a very well thought out plan and we should be embracing the fact that a world class theatre continues to make investments in our community.
09/27/2017	Build the new theatre the proposed designs look beautiful. watch the parking situation, parking downtown is already difficult enough for locals, let alone with a larger theatre
09/27/2017	To Whom It May Concern: I was unable to attend the Tom Patterson Theatre proposal meetings yesterday, as I am commuting to the University of Guelph and had classes all day until 10pm but would still like to voice my opinion. I am 23, and just moved back home to Stratford this past summer. I have grown up using the Kiwanis Community Centre, from Kumon in elementary school, to having my first real job based out of the KCC as a Camp Leader. I can appreciate that the KCC and TPT are both aging and becoming less able to serve the needs of the community they represent. However, I think it is important for the land to remain publicly owned. This ensures that the land (which people fought very hard to keep as parkland instead of becoming developed) will continue to be accessible to everyone who currently lives in and visits Stratford as well as future citizens. If we (the City of Stratford) sell the land to the Festival Theatre, it is no longer municipal property meaning the City no longer has less control of how it will be used in the future. It also sets a precedent when public land (or community centre) is space is available to be sold. This could jeopardize the beautiful park space we have surrounding the Avon River. It also concerns me that the Festival wants to relocate the SLAAA group to the Rotary Complex or Agriplex. As someone studying aging at school, this move raises concerns about accessibility. By having the SLAAA at the KCC, it is very central (i.e. the centre of town), and allows the members to be integrated into the community by easily accessing services in the downtown area. If the SLAAA activities were to be moved to the North-West end of Stratford (very much the outskirts), it would mean that people who could previously walk to their activities are now forced to drive, find a ride, or take the bus (which may be difficult for someone with mobility and/or financial issues). It would isolate this group of citizens from central services and discourage the support of local businesses (for example going for lunch or coffee at a local restaurant downtown). Although it is my understanding the ultimate goal is to repurpose the Cooper Site into a 'City Hub' which would include space for SLAAA, there is no time guarantee on it, meaning SLAAA could be relocated to North-West Stratford for years. There are also many large scale events throughout the year at the Rotary Complex (i.e. Fall Fair, and Ontario Pork Congress) which require the entire space, leaving me with the question, where is SLAAA supposed to operate their programs during these times? Finally, in regards to the younger members of our community, having the KCC downtown means it is easily accessible to everyone. From working at the Teen Dances (grade 7 and 8 students who attend), I have seen that many youth are able to walk to (and sometimes from) the dances, which allows them to attend. By moving these events to the North-West end of the city, youth from the East end and downtown area are at a disadvantage geographically (and buses do not run late enough for them to take a bus home). I like that the Festival and the City (and lawn bowling), have been peacefully co-existing in this space for many years, and the land and area should remain a public area. Thank you,
09/27/2017	I have been coming to the Festival since 1967 (as a student) and with my late husband since 1982. We have seen extraordinary theatre thanks to Tom Patterson's vision. He founded a world class theatre company and put Stratford Ontario on the map. The economic benefit is amazing. It is obvious when you have to make room and dining reservations well in advance when the theatre season is on, plus the shopping opportunities that visitors avail themselves of. It is now City Council's turn to show that same vision by approving the Tom Patterson Theatre project to ensure that the Stratford Shakespeare Festival can continue to present outstanding theatre, compete with other great companies in the world and contribute to making Stratford a vibrant destination community.
09/27/2017	Glass buildings are detrimental to birds! There are so many birds along the river/ park. Absolutely wrong place to put this structure.
09/27/2017	I have had occasion to require the restroom facilities at the Kiwanis centre because the washrooms at the arena were closed, the arena was closed so there was no access to the restrooms inside, and the boathouse was closed, so there was no access to the restroom there. I am a senior who enjoys the walk around Victoria Lake, and often require access to restroom facilities. Will the new building offer restroom facilities to the public daily and year round?
09/27/2017	I feel strongly, along with others, since the Community Hub will take years to develop and the Festival has offered to include space for a Senior's Centre, the City should take the Theatre up on their offer to build it along with the TPT. This way it serves our citizens who deserve to have the river location that they have enjoyed for years. Also, I feel that the emphasis should be for more parking spaces added to the current numbers and less gardens as parking is badly needed, especially when the arena has events at the same time. Thank you.
09/27/2017	To whom it may concern, I can only speak positively of a new TPT and Community Hub for the city. The revenue and visitor traffic that it will bring to our community is overwhelming. I understand that with the removal of the existing building other clubs will be displaced; I hope these clubs can see a brighter future for themselves after the construction of both facilities and can see that they do have short term alternatives. It is the responsibility of those clubs and the town to think larger and more long term for the sake of all Stratford residents and for the sake of small business owners and the millions of dollars that this project will bring to our town. I sincerely hope that the town acts fast with this decision, as everyday wasted is costing more money and more time. Thank you,
09/27/2017	I am writing to voice my support for both of these projects - the new Tom Patterson Theatre and the Grand Trunk Community Hub (with the long-term vision of this being a permanent home for both SLAAA and Kiwanis). These are such vital projects for the city of Stratford. But time is of the essence. I would urge City Council to move quickly on both of these initiatives. I say this not only because of funding, but also because the sooner construction begins on each, the sooner our community will have what it needs to continue to grow and flourish. These projects will bring such goodness not only to the citizens of Stratford, but also to those who choose to visit this place. Most sincerely,
09/27/2017	Dear Mayor Dan Mathieson and Members of Council, My name is [REDACTED]. I am the [REDACTED] at the Stratford Festival. I oversee the Retail and Food & Beverage Departments. I am currently in my ninth season at the Festival, and hope to remain here for many, many years to come. I wanted to send a quick note about an observation and an 'A-HA' moment that I had yesterday. After a 10 hour day, I left the Festival Theatre and started walking towards my car. It was about 7:15pm and many patrons were soaking up the last few rays of the day. As I walked along the pathway beside the theatre, I was amazed at the number of seniors waiting for the show. Many of them had canes and walkers by their side. I could feel their energy and excitement as I walked by them. I imagine that many of them were giddy to be spending their Wednesday night at the Theatre. As I walked closer to my car I started thinking about what our audience will look like in 5 or 10 years? Will these same individuals still make an effort to see an 8:00pm performance? What will our entire patron base look like in 10-15 years? If the average patron is 69 years old now, how many of them will be healthy enough to attend the theatre at 85 years old? And if they do come (which we hope they will!) will they stay overnight? Will they purchase from the local retailers, and frequent Stratford's numerous restaurants? I'm writing today, to urge you to strongly consider helping us win the Tom Patterson project battle. Help us keep the Festival alive and relevant which in turn, will keep the City alive and relevant. Let's use this opportunity to make the Stratford Festival the equivalent of the Hudson's Bay Company and not its unsuccessful counterpart Eaton's. This is our time to reinvent ourselves. Let's not keep our head in the sand (like Eaton's did) and assume that we will attract a new patron base by doing what we've always done. Let's be the HBC in this story and remain hip, ever changing and relevant. Let's appeal to a new demographic rather than solely depending on our current patrons who won't always be able to support us. Mayor Dan and Council - please make the right choice for the future of this City and the future of the iconic Stratford Festival. We have a Canadian jewel in our backyard. Please help us to see it flourish, instead of remaining complacent in a world that is constantly evolving. With gratitude
09/27/2017	I was proud to attend the Tom Patterson Theatre Open House last night, and to show my support for this project. Mayor Mathieson, City Councillors, please make a decision in favour of this project before the end of October 2017.
09/27/2017	I one-hundred percent support the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre as presented. I lived in Stratford for seven years in the late 70's, was married here (our wedding reception was held in the Kiwanis Centre) and returned here six years ago for retirement. Two things drove our selection of this city - family and the Festival Theatre. I try to see all the productions every season and take advantage of the free forum events as much as I can. The Festival is the economic and social engine of this city, if there were no theatre there would be no Stratford (or at the very least, a very different one). I believe more than satisfactory efforts are being made to accommodate those groups being displaced. Get those shovels in the ground a.s.a.p.!
09/27/2017	I absolutely support this project and hope that Council can approve this project before it's too late. Let's get this project started and invest in this amazing City. The new Tom Patterson Theatre will provide so many benefits to not only the Theatre, but to the City. As mentioned yesterday if you build it, they will come.
09/27/2017	The provincial and federal government are willing to give the city of Stratford 40 million dollars. This is an amazing amount of financial support for the new theatre. Building the theatre and using the given funds is keeping my tax dollars in my community for the benefit of my community. On top of that strangers to me are willing to donate another 20 million to help build a theatre. The theatre has proven over time that it are upstanding citizens and pay their way. I attended several meetings on the to build or not to build question. I was leery of the theatre taking over the proposed land but after attending the meetings my fears were expelled and I have confidence in the team that the festival has assembled. This is a good deal for the city of Stratford and the future of the city. The hub is the best place for the seniors as they grow in numbers and require different activities. The land for the theatre could be rented to the Festival but I did not hear the pro and cons of that debate. Build the theatre.
09/27/2017	I wish to express my support for the proposed redevelopment of the Tom Patterson theatre. I have been an actor at the festival for seven seasons and this year my partner and I bought our first home here. As a permanent citizen of this city and also as an actor in the festival I can see the benefits of the redevelopment from all sides. The festival accounts for nearly all of the tourism in Stratford, it is because of the festival that we have world class restaurants and accommodations in a city this small. To not allow for the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson suggests that we are complacent and satisfied with our success. Theatre - by its very nature is about pushing boundaries and expanding the mind. If we allow the festival to grow and expand then we allow the city to grow and expand. Yes, there will be temporary loss of space for the lawn bowling and such, but it will not be a permanent loss. To me the positives of the redevelopment far outweigh the negatives - change can be uncomfortable of course - but it is utterly necessary for growth. Thank you for your time! Sincerely,
09/27/2017	My main concern with the proposed design for the new theatre is in regards to parking. It's lovely that the new parking lot would be behind the theatre and there are gardens at the front but this moves the parking away from the arena. A significant amount of parking is needed for the arena every weekend from Sept to April and this plan would be disastrous in this regard. The parking is too far from the arena and if the Festival controls the parking it won't be free! I have never been to an arena in southern Ontario that doesn't have ample free parking!

	As a long-time employee of the Stratford Festival, and a lifetime citizen of Stratford, I fully support the proposed Tom Patterson project. Having begun my career working at the TPT, I feel a very personal connection with that space. Over the past 23 years, I have witnessed the building age; some of the building's issues require immediate attention for the comfort and safety of audience members and staff alike. Many of these issues cannot be properly addressed in the building's current form. While I understand the concern that some of Stratford's citizens have about the project - particularly those personally involved with some of the community groups currently housed in that space - a renewed TPT is crucial to the future of the Festival and (like it or not) the success of the Festival has a substantial impact on the future of Stratford as a whole. I do understand that obtaining the necessary funding for a community hub will play a significant role in the City's decision, but should funding be obtained, I believe the only option is to support a Tom Patterson Theatre rebuild. Change is frequently hard, but often a necessity. In this case, change is absolutely necessary and will help to ensure that tourism thrives to the benefit of everyone â€” keeping in mind that the Festival's success means success for the community.
09/27/2017	If there's no cost to the city, and the current non-theatre users of the TPT can be accommodated elsewhere to their satisfaction, go for it! No one will look back in 20 years and say, Gee, wish we didn't have that new theatre!.
09/27/2017	The Theatre wants to build on park lands. These lands do not belong to City Hall, but to the residents of Stratford who, for years, have paid for it's upkeep. Guess we did too good a job, for now the Festival wants to deprive us of a good portion of our park, because the tourists like to walk along the river. To heck with the residents who would like to do the same thing. No parking for those who live too far away to walk to the river. Liked how the Festival blamed the City Council for not inviting them to make a proposal to them. I would have thought they should have asked for time to present their proposal. Most of the speakers at the meeting who were for the festival were either newcomers to town, or had restaurants or B&B's that count on tourists. Looked like the festival may have sprinkled the audience with pro forces. I am definitely against letting the Festival build in park land. Beautiful building, but not in our park, please.
09/27/2017	As a tax paying citizen of this city, I am disappointed that Council has done so little and committed so little to the proposal made over a year ago by the Festival. While I appreciate the need and desire for community consultation, I am concerned that that will be an excuse to continue to sit on your heels and make no decisions or commitments one way or the other, leading to the loss of millions of dollars that the Festival has secured for the investment in our community through this proposed new building. I was at the afternoon townhall and was heartened by the turnout and what I felt was overwhelming support for the project by the citizens of Stratford. I, too, am excited and inspired by what the Festival has proposed. What was also clear to me, however, was that no matter what side of the decision people in attendance were on, everyone was dissatisfied with the idea of consultation taking months longer. Set a deadline for community feedback, commit to a date by which to have reviewed that feedback and make a decision in time to not jeopardize the funding the Festival has worked hard to secure should council decide to allow the proposal to go forward.
09/28/2017	First, that theatre is gorgeous, and will do a lot to make the riverfront even more attractive. And getting a community hub and (finally) developing the Cooper Site will go along way to perking up the aesthetic of southern downtown. Stratford puts a lot of focus on the beauty of our city (rightly so) and this will magnify that.I've thought for years Stratford needs active community space downtown. I live quite close to the Cooper Site, and cannot wait to see people utilizing that space!Finally, this city would not be what it is today without the theatre. It contributes greatly to our prosperity and allowing it to use allocated funds to further increase its appeal seems like an extremely smart decision to me.
09/28/2017	Please go ahead with this great opportunity,we need to look to the future and this plan helps Stratford and its citizens secure the Stratford Theatre here at little to no cost for the city.
09/28/2017	Dear Mayor Mathieson and City Councillors,Thank you for finally providing the venue for this community to share their thoughts and ask questions at Tuesday's public open house regarding the Tom Patterson Theatre building project.The Stratford Festival has a funded project ready to go forward that will enhance the current waterfront property as well as provide additional jobs and tax revenue for this city. Yesterday, this community showed a strong voice in favour and it was repeatedly asked 'what is the delay in approving the Festival's project?'. What purpose does it serve you to keep pushing this decision off to a later date? It appears to me that all the stakeholders have voiced their concerns and they have been addressed, including a memorial bench. I understand you needed to follow due process and gather/review input from the community. So why wasn't this started a few months ago â€” you have all know about this project for a long time and in May you found out the Festival received significant funding with time restrictions. Yet you have continued to delay and not engage the public, which has created a hostile environment that may take years to turn around.The Festival stands to lose \$5 million plus in funding as well as delays could prevent them from having a fourth theatre for two full seasons, which impacts revenue. Along with the funding deadline, the 'retrofit' in the Agriplex for the SLAAA group has to happen well in advance of the site's demolition so there is time to complete the work and for the seniors to move into their temporary home.As Ann Campion beautifully stated at the open house: 'what can we do to help make this happen?'. Thank you for Market Square, it was so needed. The Grand Trunk Community Hub is a great idea to inject even more life into the downtown core but will take years to develop a feasible plan and work with the YMCA and University of Waterloo, not to mention gathering funds to build it. The Festival needs the Tom Patterson Theatre project to go forward now.
09/28/2017	Thank you for making every opportunity available to send support for the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre. I have always felt that Stratford has lead, and continues to lead the rest of the country in showing how a community of our size can thrive. We read about ourselves in national newspapers all of the time. Everybody wants to live here, work here, be educated here, and very uniquely, attend the theatre here. Tom Patterson's legacy to us should not be underestimated. This project is a golden moment in our history. So many of us will be able to look back in ten years and wonder why was there was any deliberation at all. Here's to the new Tom Patterson!
09/28/2017	It appears to me that the Stratford Festival and the City of Stratford staffs have done an excellent job of coming together with representatives of the other users of the property, in an admirable spirit of give-and-take, to come up with an inspiring plan, which will allow all parties to improve on the excellent work they do in our community with a minimum of disruption. I think its an excellent plan, which deserves our support as citizens. I also think all the parties involved deserve our thanks and applause for their hard work to date. Respectfully submitted,
09/28/2017	Thank you for opening up the floor for comments and feedback from citizens of Stratford. I have been a resident of Stratford and an employee of the Stratford Festival for the past 10 years. I would not have chosen to live in Stratford if the Festival was not a success here. I would not have purchased a house, bought a car, contributed financially to trades, daycare, restaurants, retail and more all building Stratford's economy.It is certain that Stratford would not be as beautiful, thriving and successful without the Festival, the Festival requires the opportunity to grow in order to stay competitive in the theatre and tourism industry.The success of the Festival equals the success of Stratford. Please do not let the logistics (which can be solved) of moving, SLAAA, Kiwanis and the Lawn Bowling club stand in the way of the success of this city's future.Thank you,
09/28/2017	Please, please, please!!! Do not sit on this any longer. We have elected council to make decisions and it is obvious that this is a good project for the community, and thus a good decision. It makes sense, and it is obvious from the support at the Town Hall meetings that we need to move forward with this project. Please! Stop delaying and follow through. Make a decision that benefits our future as a vibrant community.
09/28/2017	I moved to Stratford two years ago from Alberta, having been offered a job at the Stratford Festival. I am part of the Millennial generation and work in a niche technical field. I know for a fact that others doing my job at larger institutions in bigger cities make more than double my wages. I took a pay cut to come to Stratford because it had what other institutions couldn't offer me: a proven respect for the arts in a setting that fosters community engagement. I have great respect for the care and consideration the Council is giving to the concerns of the SLAAA, Kiwanis Community Centre and the Lawn Bowlers. But the Tom Patterson Theatre in its current location cannot last. At work, I see grandparents taking their grandchildren to the Festival Theatre. Those grandparents were there for the opening season. I hear them tell stories about when the Festival Theatre was first built in 1957, and meet their adult children who are now patrons themselves. I want that story to be my story. One day I want to walk my grandchildren past a glittering Tom Patterson and tell the story of how a community was brave enough to invest in the arts, as it did a century before, and tell them about the Festival, Stratford, the legends and the life-changing power of theatre. Good health and God willing, I will be here in fifty years to walk past the current location of the Tom Patterson Theatre. What will I see? I was at the community meeting on Tuesday night and forgive me, but many of those in attendance will not be there to walk with me.So I ask you to please take into consideration not only the concerns of today, but the legacy that will be left for tomorrow. Stratford does not only exist in the present. Making decisions as though it does will ensure that it does not have a future. I chose Stratford because Stratford chose the arts. Please make that decision once again.Thank you,
09/28/2017	I'm fully in favour of this development. It is good for both the theatre and the city. In this competitive world, it is important to remain fresh .
09/28/2017	Council and staff must put all their attention to the approvals of these two projects. It is the future of our vibrant little city and all of our downtown. We must look ahead 20 years and think what a huge impact this will have on our community and the next generation.
09/28/2017	Please please allow the go ahead with the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre as proposed by the Stratford Festival. The existing theatre is becoming an embarrassment. Stratford can't afford to be complacent - we need to remain competitive and forward-looking. A new Tom Patterson theatre will be a great asset to the city.Sincerely,
09/28/2017	I am wholeheartedly in favour of the new Tom Patterson Theatre project. This is an amazing opportunity to replace the old existing building with a new beautifully designed structure that will improve the riverside drastically.
09/28/2017	build the theater now
09/28/2017	My husband and I have been supporters of the Stratford Festival for about 30 years. We retired and chose Stratford as a retirement home because we felt the influence of the Festival created an interesting, vibrant city where we would be comfortable and happy.We encourage the city council to support is proposal.
09/28/2017	Please make a new theatre, especially if they are doing another in the round stage because that adds diversity to the theatre. Also my fiance broke up with me in that theatre so I would like to see it torn down and a better one built.
09/28/2017	I attended the community open house on Tuesday evening and I am proud to support the new Tom Patterson Theatre project for the Stratford Festival. I feel that the Festival representatives have listened to concerns and addressed the needs of all the user groups involved. The only negative comments I have heard are from those who are either uninformed, uninterested or simply unhappy about the idea of change. Please, let's replace the ugly, aging building with the beautiful, world-class building the Stratford waterfront deserves. This design should be built.Respectfully,
09/28/2017	What an amazing project! We fully support the new TP, it will solidify Stratford and the Stratford Festival on the world stage for generations to come! We did attend the public meeting Wednesday Sept 27th and were greatly impressed with the city and citizens to ... think globally and act locally.Also the HUB is fantastic and the perfect location plan at the prev Cooper Site. Public transit access, UoW support for senior programs and very inclusive with the Y. LET'S GET MOVING FORWARD
09/28/2017	As Downtown business-owners we, wholeheartedly support the Tom Patterson Project. We are completely satisfied that the Festival is making every reasonable effort to accommodate every party that will be effected by the construction. We urge council to approve this exciting project, which can not help but make our great city even greater.
09/28/2017	I think that it is vital that the new theatre be available for community use for a VERY LOW COST, subsidized by the festival if need be. It will be a beautiful space and it should be used year round. It should be enjoyed by all the citizens of Stratford and open to the public perhaps every weekend for an indoor community event that is no cost to the public. And indoor green space with benches or tables and chairs? Yes, build that beautiful theatre please! But please make it also a community space, available pre and post season, regularly and with little to no cost to the public. Thank you.
09/28/2017	I appreciate the time and energy that has been put into informing the public for the proposed plans for the new Tom Patterson Theatre. There seems to be many reasonable options to assuage the objections that have arisen from concerned citizens. As the Stratford Festival and the City of Stratford continue to work with the affected and concerned residents, it seems all but certain the best option for Stratford (both economically and socially) is to move forward on this proposal for the new theatre.
09/28/2017	I definitely feel that we need a new Tom Patterson Theatre. When you are waiting to get into your seats there is no place to sit and wait. So you stand outside in the hot summer weather or the rain. The seating now is very difficult especially if you are not real sure of your footing or disabled a bit. So let's get onward with the project.
09/28/2017	I sincerely wish that this will receive the full backing of the City Council. Admittedly, some will not like to be displaced and would vote against but the overwhelming positive impact this will have for the City, its businesses and local residents should not be ignored but embraced.The Festival seems to be doing its best to accommodate those who will be effected by this project and I hope the Council will support and assist in this.I am a B&B owner however I have sold and will be moving out of the city as real estate is too expensive. However, I can see the long term positive impact this project will have on strengthening tourism here so, again, please support and encourage this project!!

	<p>Thank you to the Stratford Festival for being forward thinking visionaries to help us always strive for a better experience for our visitors and locals alike. Like any project of this magnitude, there will be short term pain for long term gain. Please do not be discouraged by the short term implications, they can be worked out if there is a desire to do so and it certainly sounds as if that desire is present. As a local business owner, the growth of our visitor base will only improve the strength of our local businesses. With the current challenges we face in terms of Minimum wage increases and new Federal tax proposals and implications, we are very concerned how we cope with these issues. There are two things we can do to stay open and profitable.... decrease expenses or increase revenue. I would like to offer my letter of support for the new Tom Patterson development so that we can strive to drive additional revenue to the local small businesses, grow our employment levels and increase our spend to our local suppliers. My only suggestion to The Festival is to please keep in mind that bringing additional visitors to our city in August will only serve to saturate an already prosperous month, we need more help stretching the season out to our shoulder months. Thank you to the city for helping facilitate this growth in our economy and keeping Stratford Ontario on the map as one of the most forward thinking cities in the province and country. Regards</p>
09/28/2017	<p>This is the biggest initiative Stratford has had since the original vision of Tom Patterson! It will benefit us all in the long run. Change is difficult for some but this change is needed and in the end we will all look back on this and be proud we stepped up and moved forward! Let's make it happen! NOW!</p>
09/28/2017	<p>This proposal deserves the full support of Council and the Stratford community. It is simple a wonderful opportunity for our city and will benefit us all. The Festival's goals simply cannot be achieved at any other location. Please do not let the attitude of the few who are resistant to change block the much needed progress for all that is being championed in this well designed, considered proposal. We fully support the proposal plan for both developments, but regardless of what happens with the HUB, the new TP theatre should go ahead asap.Best,</p>
09/28/2017	<p>I was heartened at the meeting my husband and I attended. While I am usually a stickler for retaining and restoring historical buildings and have previously felt that the Cooper site ought to be saved as an important part of Stratford's heritage I have come to a different point of view. I am now convinced of two things. First, we need to support the plans for the new Tom Patterson building in the form it has been presented. The short term costs far outweigh the long term benefits to this community and even provincially and nationally. Second, the plans for the Hub make perfect sense in view of the needs of the community and its visitors. While I have sympathy for those who will be temporarily displaced I wish to quote Spock from Startrek, The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few . We need to plan for the long view, not shortchange the future for the narrow visions of those who cannot understand. You have my full support for both these projects.</p>
09/28/2017	<p>Please support this wonderful economic opportunity for our city! The Stratford Festival has been so important to the growth of Stratford over the past 65 years - isn't it time that our city council return this gift and allow the Festival to grow into the future? We do such things all the time for sports ventures. Investing in the arts is just as important and this project will benefit the entire city! As a citizen and taxpayer, I request that City Council support the new Tom Patterson Theatre project in any way possible. Thank you.</p>
09/28/2017	<p>First, is it possible to still ask questions and get answers or is this only for comments. 2. Can the city sell or change the Kiwanis Centre without provincial approval according to the Elderly Persons Centres Act? https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90e04 Does the Agriplex have to first be approved as an Elderly Persons Centre? Evaluation and survey 6 Before selecting or acquiring a site, or erecting or acquiring all or any part of a building or an addition thereto for use as a centre in respect of which a grant is payable by Ontario under this Act, the municipality or corporation establishing or adding to the centre shall establish the need for the centre or the addition thereto to the satisfaction of the Minister and shall, (a) evaluate the site in accordance with the regulations to determine whether it will best serve the program of the centre and the best interests of the elderly persons to be served by the centre; (b) conduct a survey of the community and a review of population requirements in accordance with the regulations, and submit a report thereof to the Minister. R.S.O. 1990, c. E.4, s. 6. Approval of plans 7 No grant under subsection 4 (1) shall be made until, (a) in the case of the erection or acquisition of all or any part of a building or an addition thereto, the site thereof, selected and evaluated in accordance with the regulations, has been approved by the Minister; and (b) the plans of the building being erected, altered, extended, renovated or acquired, developed and prepared in accordance with the regulations have been approved in writing by the Minister. R.S.O. 1990, c. E.4, s. 7. Approval of changes 8 (1) No approved corporation that has been paid financial aid from Ontario under this Act in respect of an approved centre shall, without the written approval of the Minister, (a) change its name or the name of the approved centre; or (b) change the site or sell or otherwise dispose of any part of or structurally alter the approved centre. R.S.O. 1990, c. E.4, s. 8 (1). Approval of by-laws (2) No by-law of a municipality or an approved corporation that affects an approved centre in respect of which a grant has been paid under this Act has effect until it is approved in writing by the Minister. R.S.O. 1990, c. E.4, s. 8 (2). 3. I am concerned about the increased use of Water St. with this proposal and the possible implications for traffic on Waterloo St. with more cars turning left or right depending on the direction of travel. As well this intersection has a hill on Waterloo. There are lights at Lakeside/Veterans and Waterloo St. which might seem the more likely way to approach the theatre.</p>
09/28/2017	<p>Festival approach heavy-handed and condescending. Rotary meeting; dismayed at time given for Festival</p>
09/28/2017	<p>I think that the Tom Patterson theatre renewal will be a great boost to Stratford both culturally and economically. I hope that the Stratford City council will vote in favour of this project and that it will be able to be started very soon. I like what was done behind City Hall and have already attended 4 events there - I just wish it hadn't taken so long.</p>
09/28/2017	<p>I attended the afternoon meeting on Tuesday, Sept 26 and became increasingly concerned about the city's lack of timeline for a decision regarding the TPT Proposal. Vague responses like it will take months... are unacceptable and lacking in foresight. Please do not let this opportunity slip away or take years to address (like Market Square...). Address this in a timely manner. Those who are voicing negativity are not seeing the long term gain this proposal offers to the city in terms of economic and artistic growth. Please, move forward with a positive response to the proposal and do so quickly.</p>
09/28/2017	<p>I am in full support of this project. I know parking is currently a challenge there. I wonder if the planned number of parking spots is adequate? I would like to see this project be completed by in time for the 2019 festival season. Is there any way that can happen?</p>
09/28/2017	<p>This project has 100 percent support from myself and my husband. The Festival is spot on with this rebuild. Please council know that it is impossible to please everyone, but like the first plays performed in Stratford, we need to support the future, and this new theatre is the future.</p>
09/28/2017	<p>Dear City Councillors, I am wholeheartedly in favour of the Festival's vision for a new TPT at the existing location on Lakeside Drive. And I am also in favour of reconfiguring a community/senior's centre (with all it's attendant activities) in the proposed re-imagining of the Cooper Block. I live and work and play in the downtown core. I chose not to be tied to a car when I moved to Stratford 14 years ago, and want to be able to walk to a variety of community minded activities and pursuits in the centre of town. I also love walking along the river when I go to my volunteer duties or attend plays at either the TPT or Festival Theatres, because it actually gets me out along our beautiful river and parkland settings. I hear so many residents say, that while they live here, they never get down to the river. But I know just as many who, like myself, appreciate how the theatre naturally lures us there to walk and sit and spend time before a show. I am not of the opinion that the theatre would be taking over the waterfront areas, and I am excited by the look of the proposed new TPT and the gardens that will be there for everyone to enjoy. The possibility that the Hub might finally start forming as well is very exciting. With the Y being there, and some of the other great community-oriented ideas I've started to hear about (library, seniors/community centre, green space, alternative kinds of performance spaces), I am looking forward to having that kind of one-stop community space come alive. I'm just entering senior years and want so very much to be able to enjoy the Hub, and also to continue to enjoy all the theatre spaces and the fact that two are right downtown and two are along our glorious river/park ways. I really hope council is able to make decisions in a timely manner and not have this window of funding opportunities close. Thank goodness that Tom Patterson had the vision 65 years ago....let's be bold and build on that ever so successful vision now. Let's make sure that Stratford continues to be 'dramatically different.' Respectfully and full of hope....</p>
09/28/2017	<p>We need to build a new Tom Patterson Theatre, I believe it will benefit the community and bring in alot of new visitors to Stratford.</p>
09/28/2017	<p>Although I am not a Stratford resident, I make a six-hour pilgrimage from Mishawaka, Indiana three times a year to Stratford for multi-day indulgences in world-class theater. Sixty-plus years ago, the city of Stratford made a wise decision to invest in a theater experiment that over the years has put Stratford on the map not only in Canada, but in North America and the world and has helped make the city a vibrant and growing place that attracts people and businesses from all over. In order to continue to present a world-class theater experience, the Stratford Festival needs world-class facilities. The Tom Patterson Theater has been adequate at best, but it has structural and aesthetic shortcomings. The weight of the lights suspended from the ceiling and a snow load threaten to collapse the roof. The dark interior walls and ceiling look dingy and unattractive. A new theater would not only help improve the already high quality of the Stratford Festival productions, but would also be a gem that helps draw more people to Stratford. Money Magazine recently published a list of the top 'liveable' cities in the US with a population under 100,000. One of the eight criteria upon which Money selected the cities was 'cultural and recreational opportunities.' I am sure that were a similar ranking done in Canada, 'cultural and recreational opportunities' would be one of the criteria. And, thanks in part to the Stratford Festival, I am sure Stratford would make the list of top cities in Canada. The Festival helps create a vibrancy that makes Stratford attractive to residents, businesses, and visitors. New residential construction on the northwest side of the city and new industrial construction on the southwest side of the city testify that Stratford is a healthy city. Visitors support lodging and eating venues in addition to numerous small businesses such as bookstores, spas, clothing stores, grocery stores, etc. The proposed new Patterson Theater would not only help to continue, but would enhance, the city's health and growth. It would provide a strong seconding voice to Stratford's wise motion sixty-plus years ago to invest in what has become one of the world's best theater experiences. Failure to approve the new Patterson Theater threatens the positive momentum both the city and the Festival currently enjoy. Sincerely,</p>
09/28/2017	<p>I fully support the new Tom Patterson project. I think it will be a most welcome addition to our theatre community. My only concern is with the traffic congestion that will occur during construction and afterwards with an increase in seating at the theatre. I trust these concerns have already been addressed. The gardens are a great idea and give an option to people to spend intermission rather than crossing the road to a small path by the river. As to the lawn bowling club etc. I think the city should get it in writing as to where the senior activities will take place and when. Indecision is frustrating to older people. Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts.</p>
09/28/2017	<p>As a staff member at the Festival, I obviously totally support the proposal for the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre. As a homeowner, taxpayer and a senior, I also believe that the solutions proposed to address the concerns of others users of the site are thoughtful and well-considered. Time is of the essence and while the City has to certainly manage a process whereby input can be considered, I believe a go-forward plan should be approved as soon as possible. Thank you.</p>
09/28/2017	<p>I wholeheartedly support the proposed Tom Patterson renewal project and encourage City Council to expedite their process by inviting a formal proposal from the Festival and moving quickly to give the necessary approval with all that it entails. It would be shortsighted not make it possible for the Festival to accept available grants in timely fashion so that these can be used to full advantage. While I respect the need for Council to have process and due diligence there are times when that must be moved forward in extraordinary ways so that great plans for the future may be facilitated. This is one of those times and future citizens will not look kindly on a Council that did not embrace this opportunity and was not supportive of a vision that benefits the whole community in so many ways. Sincerely</p>
09/28/2017	<p>I'm in disagreement of location of proposal for a new Tom Patterson Theatre. I was born in Stratford & love the theatre. I go to all playsetc. however I'm not willing to give up the remainder of our river drive to tourists. Already we've given up Queens park as not having a parking space during theatre time & have accepted that for SFT. I would like for the money to develop cooper site where there would be an association to downtown, ample parking, a tie in with the Avon & Studio theatre & also U of W. The buildings around would spruce up & possibly become more prosperous. If the theatre would spend \$60000000 on this proposal the river drive would remain available to Stratford tax payers as well as for our wonderful tourists. I see this as a win win for all of us. Thank you for listening.....</p>

My comment: Sept.28, 2017First, a full disclosure: I am not, nor have I ever been, a member of Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association, an employee of the Stratford Festival, or a lawnbowler, nor have I ever operated a business dependent on visitors to Stratford. I am a septuagenarian, on the hill, but not over it (some may disagree), and, while not a 19-century Stratford Orr, I am one who has been here for four decades. I was at the afternoon information session regarding the new Tom Patterson Theatre project, held on Sept.26. I thought it was very well conducted and I heard many thoughtful and inspiring words, from the presenters and from the community. I came away feeling more supportive of the Festival's cause than when I had entered the hall. But during the ensuing night and day, a sense of unease pervaded me. I have identified it as the moral wrong of taking something away from others when they have not agreed to it. Proximity to the lakeshore is important to the Festival in terms of visitors' experience, but also to others, especially to those who live here and, through years of use of lakeside facilities, have precedence of place. The Festival has offered to SLAAA the opportunity of joining in their enterprise with a space within the new theatre. That gives SLAAA the opportunity to choose to stay or move to other quarters, which may be preferable in the long run. The lawnbowlers, however, are not being given a choice that could mean staying by the lakeside, where they have been for over a century, and will have to leave, perhaps to settle at the Municipal Golf Course. Taking something away from someone when they have not agreed to it and displacing them to less attractive locales, or pressuring them into it with persuasive economic arguments, visions of future greatness, and displays of superior numbers, leaves a trail of heartache and bitterness that in the long run affects both sides. A way to avoid this outcome is to think win-win, an approach that seeks to share the pie rather than having it for oneself. The process of aiming at mutual respect and benefits allows for the development of creative solutions not previously envisaged. The pie, or use of the lakeshore, instead of being a subject of adversarial competition, becomes an expanding source of opportunity. In this case, it means the Festival, the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club, and the City of Stratford commit to finding a plan of action that works well for all sides, and the theatre project proceeds when that is achieved.

09/28/2017

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the New Tom Patterson Theatre Project. The Stratford Festival is an incredible place that I am extremely proud of! 2017 marks my 14th season working in the membership/revenue fulfillment department at the Stratford Festival. Personally, for me, Theatre is healing for the soul. It is a great place where we can confront the problems of today. It is a great place to learn about history and other cultures. And it's a great place for imagination, beauty and creativity. Theatre gives us a great gift that we can share with the world. With the New Tom Patterson Theatre we can give this gift to approximately 52,000 additional patrons. How wonderful is that! As well as, 52,000 new patrons The New Tom Patterson Theatre would generate an additional \$14 million into the Stratford area each year! And that is in addition to the \$139 million of economic revenue that The Stratford Festival currently generates. The New Tom Patterson Theatre will substantially increase the economic impact creating an additional 242 full-time jobs along with 550 construction jobs relating to the project. Incredible! Please let's take a step forward into economic growth for the City of Stratford. Economic growth is so important to any city. It is essential to our future. I support the New Tom Patterson Theatre! I hope you will too. Let's move forward. Mr. Tom Patterson would've been proud! Sincerely,

09/28/2017

Stratford residents spoke loudly in favour of the new Tom Patterson Theatre Tuesday. We urge Council to approve this project based on the overwhelming support expressed at these public input sessions together with that which will be received between now and October 10. Federal Minister Joli's announcements today (Thursday) suggest Federal funding for the new theatre is surely to come in the very near future. Council should therefore move quickly to approve this project and turn its attention to completion of the Master Plan for the Grand Trunk Hub on the Cooper Block so that both can move forward as soon as possible.

09/28/2017

The riverfront belongs to all the citizens of Stratford. Each and everyone of us should be able to walk freely about the river area without being overcome by visitors and without having to pay for parking. (we should not be told not to come down during show times if we don't want to pay for parking) Those of us who support the city river-round and have lived here a lifetime also matter. Living in a tourist town has its perks but it also has some drawbacks for the average citizen. In respect to the spinoff jobs that are talked about...they would still happen if the TPT was built at the Cooper site. The KCC offers opportunities to host meetings and functions that are not solely related to the theatre. We want to be clear in that we fully support the development of the TPT and understand the importance of the Festival's programs however we do not support it being built in the proposed location. It makes sense to us that it would be part of the Hub. Close the university and in an area that has access to full parking. The KCC should stay as is. The senior programs should not be displaced. It seems that to have a differing opinion than those favouring the development opens oneself up to criticism so many people won't enter into the discussion. It seems to be dividing the community much as the same as Walmart. It feels like its already a done deal but it is our hope that under no circumstances should the land be sold to the theatre. Unless there is a guarantee of money in the bank for the new city facilities...the city should not put itself in a position where the taxpayer will be left holding the bill.

09/28/2017

The new Tom Patterson Theatre is an incredible opportunity, not only in the short term in regards to jobs and a boost to the local economy, but more importantly in the long term to put Stratford firmly on the international map as a destination for tourism, culture and entertainment. This would be a profound loss to this community if this project were to be thwarted. I encourage City Council and the Mayor to vote a resounding yes and approve this once in a lifetime opportunity. Sincerely, (actor and long time resident of Stratford)

09/28/2017

We began our visits to Stratford in 1990. We have since become permanent residents of Canada, and purchased 2 homes here. It was all for the love of the Festival Theatre and the excellence of the performances on their stages. This new project could only continue to improve the quality of life that Stratford's families enjoy, and what Stratford is known for. We support the Stratford Festival and this new development.

09/28/2017

Dear City Council, My name is xxxxxxx and I am in the 2017 acting company of the festival. I could of course go on for hours about how we actors would love a new, beautiful theatre to work in. That goes without saying. However, I would like to speak to you on behalf of audience members. When I got here last September, one of the first shows I saw was All My Sons at the Patterson. It was the most powerful show I have seen in a very long time. Fast forward a year later, I had some friends come from Florida-avid theatre goers and sponsors of the Asolo Rep in Sarasota. So, this couple are above-average audience members who have seen many things at many different places. They also told me that they come to Stratford every year. Immediately, I asked them if they had seen All My Sons. Their reply was fascinating: no, we don't usually like to go to that theatre. We like the Avon and the Festival stage as these beautiful, classical theatres. The studio is this cool, small space. The Patterson is neither here nor there. It's also quite uncomfortable and not very welcoming. So, as much as theatre artists want to believe that the quality of the work should be all that matters, there are many other factors: it is the lobby, the windows, the bar, the gardens out front, the views, the seats, etc, etc. I believe that this new Patterson will provide a world-class platform for some of the most exciting work of the Stratford Festival and will attract more and more patrons to the theatre and the city. I truly hope you see how valuable it will be for everyone. Thank you.

09/28/2017

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, That struts and frets his hour upon the stage, And then is heard no more. It is a tale Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing. These are the words the Vienna State Opera House will speak to you when you gaze at it and realize what you are in relation to it and time-A nothing burger. Your destiny is death and the Wiener Staatsoper with its magnificent frescos and marbled staircases will live on when you're gone. You would not want this living along the Avon River!! have some bad news for Antoni Cimolino, a well-known lover of the Bard, the new Tom Patterson Theatre will not refer to theatre-goers as 'walking shadows.' Interesting that the Stratford Festival chose to use 'walking shadows' in one of their presentations on-line! The new Tom Patterson Theatre will open a curtain to the breathtaking view of the Swan Ruled Avon River and inspire photo ops, selfies, Facebook posts and glowing Tripadvisor reviews galore! It will also open a curtain to the living art of the Stratford Festival in senior/handicap friendly seating along with a lobby that was never there before. Check out www.tripadvisor.ca under Tom Patterson Theatre and you will discover theatre-goers love the plays but are not very happy with the theatre itself. The design by architect Siamak Hariri is brilliant, as it lives not to only draw attention to itself; it lives to show off the lovely Avon River, the living art of the Stratford Festival, its gardens, along with its visitors. It is not the Wiener Staatsoper mocking passers-by with its grandness. It will not refer to us as 'walking shadows.' I liken this to when the National Ballet of Canada moved out of the dark confines of the Hummingbird Centre into the light of the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts with all its windows. There will be lots of excitement within the theatre world-So much so; the first season for the new Tom Patterson Theatre will likely be sold out before the premiere opening performance. Saying no to a \$60 million tourism gift horse that could turn into Secretariat would be political suicide. I hope the Town Council for the City of Stratford will think long and hard about all the small business owners who run B&Bs, shops, and restaurants, who will benefit from this theatre, which will likely be open for all Four Seasons. The applause and energy at the two Town Hall Meetings was overwhelmingly in favour of a new Tom Patterson Theatre along the banks of the Avon River. In it, we learned that Town Council could require 5 to 6 months to make a decision and that Chief Administrative Officer, Ron Horne, was hopeful a decision would be made by year-end. The Stratford Festival originally advised theatre-goers, it was hopeful digging would begin in October. If the Mayor of Stratford, Dan Mathieson, passes up on this golden photo op, the City of Stratford will be the laughing stock of the theatre and political world. If the Federal Government comes through with \$20 million worth of funding, they must believe in a vision started by a man with only a dream and \$125 in his pocket. What would Stratford be without Tom Patterson? What would Stratford be without a new theatre in his name to keep that dream alive? Stratford would be a 'walking shadow' of its former self.

09/28/2017

I am in full support of the Tom Patterson Theatre Project. The Stratford Festival has identified that to stay competitive and to continue to attract theatre goers to the city - this project needs to happen. If it doesn't it could mean that Stratford loses out to other competitors producing theatre entertainment. A vibrant Stratford Festival is an important part of a successful future for the City. Get a fair price for the purchase or lease of the land from the Festival and embrace this bold vision.

09/28/2017

Dear City Council. As a lifetime Stratford resident who has spent his whole career as a public accountant in this city, I know full well what the Festival Theatre brings to the city, both economically and culturally. I fully support the new Tom Patterson project and desire to see it commence as soon as possible. Yours truly,

09/28/2017

OOOPS, I made a few typos in the comments I sent you a few hours earlier today (Sept.28). Here's the corrected version: First, a full disclosure: I am not, nor have I ever been, a member of Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association, an employee of the Stratford Festival, or a lawn bowler, nor have I ever operated a business dependent on visitors to Stratford. I am a septuagenarian, on the hill, but not over it (some may disagree), and, while not a 19th-century Stratford Orr, I am one who has been here for four decades. I was at the afternoon information session regarding the new Tom Patterson Theatre project, held on Sept.26. I thought it was very well conducted and I heard many thoughtful and inspiring words, from the presenters and from the community. I came away feeling more supportive of the Festival's cause than when I had entered the hall. But during the ensuing night and day, a sense of unease pervaded me. I have identified it as the moral wrong of taking something away from others when they have not agreed to it. Proximity to the lakeshore is important to the Festival in terms of visitors' experience, but also to others, especially to those who live here and, through years of use of lakeside facilities, have precedence of place. The Festival has offered to SLAAA the possibility of joining in their enterprise with a space within the new theatre. That gives SLAAA the opportunity to choose to stay or move to other quarters, which may be preferable in the long run. The lawn bowlers, however, are not being given a choice that could mean staying by the lakeside, where they have been for over a century, and will have to leave, perhaps to settle at the Municipal Golf Course. Taking something away from someone when they have not agreed to it and displacing them to less attractive locales, or pressuring them into it with persuasive economic arguments, visions of future greatness, and displays of superior numbers, leaves a trail of heartache and bitterness that in the long run affects both sides. A way to avoid this outcome is to think win-win, an approach that seeks to share the pie rather than having it for oneself. The process of aiming at mutual respect and benefits allows for the development of creative solutions not previously envisaged. The pie, or use of the lakeshore, instead of being a subject of adversarial competition, becomes an expanding source of opportunity. In this case, it means the Festival, the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club, and the City of Stratford commit to finding a plan of action that works well for all sides, and the theatre project proceeds when that is achieved.

09/28/2017

The new Tom Patterson Theatre will be a state of the art theatre, and will contribute to the ongoing attraction of thousands of theatre goers to Stratford. What an economic benefit for this wonderful community. Restaurant owners, B&Bs, hotels and motels, shops, gas stations, construction workers, plumbers, electricians, etc. can only benefit from all this. With the willingness of the Festival to do it all it can make the transition for the seniors as pleasant as possible until the Hub is built, the Festival can only be applauded. The Festival has done much for Stratford, and the citizens of Stratford have done much for the Festival. As a citizen of Stratford, I support this new venture and it must get off the ground as soon as possible. We, as citizens, owe that much to the Festival. To delay is to do harm to a wonderful member of our community, and as a citizen of Stratford I want to see this dream fulfilled, not destroyed. I don't think that is who we are.

09/28/2017

We are blessed in Stratford to have the Shakespearean Festival Theatre. It has brought prosperity and culture to this small Ontario town. In order to move into the future I think it is important that we expand and modernize the Tom Patterson theatre. I totally support the Festival's insightful and exciting proposals.

09/28/2017

When we retired my wife and I moved here from Montreal because of the theatre. We are completely in favour of the proposed Patterson project (and the Hub eventually) We see the project as an investment in the theatre and our much loved City!. Please complete the necessary process ASAP.

09/28/2017

I have been a volunteer for the theatre for 28 years and know how important the festival is to the success of the city of Stratford. I support the festival in their plans to build a new theatre and gardens on the present Tom Patterson site. Thank you.

09/28/2017

09/28/2017 The main thing I would like to see kept as is are the bowling greens. It was one of the deciding factors in my moving here 4 years ago as it reminded me of my hometown in England and the greens in the local park. I am very much looking forward to taking up the sport in a few short years once I reach retirement. With its long history and beautiful setting I would hope the Festival group could work to keep it in their plans. The seniors activity centre can certainly be relocated and hopefully as accessible but this wonderful bowling green needs to remain where it is

09/28/2017 Having been to the Festival's presentation, and the Public Input meeting this week something became clear to me. The Festival embarked on this plan with no consideration of the community, or worse yet, of the people with whom they shared their current building. Now that they have received a backlash from local people, they are offering vague reassurances and asking for our 'help' to get their theatre going. The audience that night was heavily skewed in favour of the theatre. Many of the people who talked had a direct connection to it. Towards the end there were numerous calls for City Council to 'hurry up' and make this happen. I would urge City Council not to feel pressured, and to take their time to make the right decision for the whole community. If that means that the Festival has to change their timeline, then so be it. They are the ones who made assumptions and got funding before they consulted the community. Over the past years, the Festival has enlarged it services in ways that are financially helpful to them, but not to the community. The Festival's Toronto bus encourages visitors to come, see the show, and leave. They don't spend time or money in our downtown. The taking over of the Kiwanis food booth will mean that patrons to the new TPT will have no need to visit our restaurants either, and all of that revenue will go to the theatre, not the community. Most B & B owners have seen a large decline in business over the last few seasons. The offer of space for a community centre seemed generous, and a willingness to work together at first. But as the meeting wore on it became clear that it was a vague 'contingency' plan that had no timelines, and would cost the city millions if it ever happened. I find it ironic that we would be allowing them to destroy a perfectly functional community centre, and then we have to pay to replace it. There really is no desire on their part to compromise. There seems to be a desire to placate and hope that in 10 years we will have accepted our losses. I am sure the tourists do enjoy being on the river, but so do we locals, and we are being pushed out of it completely. The Bandshell and the Arena will be the only places not aimed at tourists along the whole river. I understand that Council has a dream of the Hub, and that this is the great solution. In all honesty, that site has been a drag on this city for too many years, and this is not the first great dream for it. Please don't let the theatre take so much from us with a very vague carrot being waved as the answer. At best it will be 3-5 years before there is a functional building, what happens to all the community events and groups in that time? The seniors will be pushed out to the Agriplex, and the Lawn Bowling maybe to the golf course. What about the Winterfest breakfast? The courses, and committees that use that space? Youth events like Battle of the Bands and dances? Why are we rushing this? They created this problem, and now the community is being forced to accept it. But we don't have to accept their timeline. Please, make sure you take all the time you need to answer all the questions we have in order to make this decision the best one, and less hurtful and divisive for the city. Sincerely

09/28/2017 I would like to support the Festival's proposal for a new Tom Patterson Theatre. I have been a member of the company for 28 years and have worked at the TPT as Stage manager - since 2009. It is a magical place to be. It desperately needs an upgrade, for everyone's health and safety. I also hope the other users of the current setting can also be looked after. With thanks.

09/28/2017 To the City of Stratford: We have very recently moved to Stratford, returning to Canada after many years in the U.S.A. As we contemplated where we would settle on our return, Stratford was our sole choice, based on our sense of the amazing community that has been created here by the city, its many wonderful small businesses, and the ever-glorious Stratford Festival. We strongly and fully support the renovation/rebuilding of the Tom Patterson Theatre, recognizing as we do, that this is an essential next step in the evolution of one of Canada's premier arts communities. Sincerely,

09/28/2017 The plans to redevelop the Tom Patterson Theatre are breath-taking. My message to City Council is simple: Don't pretend to think. Just make the right decision and let the building begin!

09/28/2017 as a new arrival to Stratford this development is paramount to having a better facility to allow great theatre access. I am not affiliated with the festival, but know the town is proactive in facilitating displaced groups for this important addition. It will add a great feature to the waterfront.

09/28/2017 I'm very much in favour of constructing the new Tom Patterson Theatre. It is not just tourists and Americans that come to see our first class theatre—I attend every show and so do many of the members of my organization, the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO/OERO) Stratford Branch. The Tom Patterson is a unique theatre and deserves to be a first-class venue. The building will only enhance our beautiful waterfront. As a member of the SLAAA I'm happy to wait until the Association reopens in the new Community Hub. I think that the Hub would be a wonderful addition to the City of Stratford. I refuse to join the YMCA because of the state of the pool and dressing room (moldy smell). I would like to see the expansion of the University of Waterloo but there is a real need for housing for new students. Perhaps a residence could be attached to the University if the Hub is approved.

09/28/2017 I think that the Tom Patterson theatre would be really good for stratford, I fully support it and hope that it can actually be built

09/28/2017 It seems to me that the only imperative for this massive project is the condition of the present building. Has any thought at all been given to repairing the present building? Surely this would save a vast amount in tax dollars from whatever source and calm many apprehensive, effected groups.

09/28/2017 Back in the early 50s, the Province stepped up to the plate, providing land for the new Festival Theatre. It was the vision of Tom Patterson, the belief of committed volunteers, and the foresight of the Province that made the Festival a world-wide success. The City and all its citizens reaped the rewards. Here we are, poised to embark on a new era for the Stratford Festival. Again, the Province is the first up to the plate. Can the City show some foresight? It would be tragic if they dithered, became mired in studies, and let the dream collapse. Please get on with selling to the Festival. We seniors may have to put up with a bit of inconvenience here and there. But the City and all its citizens -- even the naysayers -- will be the greater for it.

09/28/2017 I am in full support of the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre. I am excited by the design of the building and by the landscaping which I believe enhances our waterfront and creates another beautiful and unique experience for people in our community. I am alarmed and concerned that a decision by City Council is not immediately forthcoming so that work could have begun this fall. Of course there would be individuals and groups who would need assurance that their needs would be valued and carefully considered in this process, and it seems to me that they now understand that the Festival is willing to accommodate those concerns generously. I hope that City Council will make a timely decision at this point. It would be a shame for our community to lose five million dollars that has been earmarked for our use. I am also in full support of the Grand Trunk Community Hub which would further revitalize and beautify the downtown core. A decision re: the Tom Patterson Theatre project should not be held back by plans and discussions concerning the Hub.

09/28/2017 Having reviewed the Stratford Festival's plans for a new Tom Patterson Theatre and attended the 2 public meetings at the Rotary Complex this week, I am reassured, convinced, and enthusiastic about this proposal. I sincerely hope it can be approved as soon as possible to allow construction to get underway in time to ensure its completion in time for the 2019 season. I realize this will require luck - and courage - on the part of City Council - but am convinced it is in the best interest of the City and can be done. Thank you.

09/28/2017 My husband and I (Stratford residents for 28 years) fully support the construction of the new theatre, particularly since the uncomfortable seats in the current Tom Patterson theatre prohibit me from attending any performances at that location. Hopefully, patrons' comfort (including leg room) will be a priority for the new building.

09/28/2017 I support the proposal by the Stratford Festival for the new Tom Patterson Theatre. We need to ensure the future of Stratford as a viable city and increase the Festival's attendance thus bringing additional revenue for all. It would be a shame for the city of Stratford to drag their feet and not make a timely decision. PLEASE MOVE THIS PROJECT FORWARD.

09/28/2017 As a life long resident of Stratford, I support this project 100% This project will again put Stratford Ontario Canada on top of the world when it comes to theatre. The spin off will give Stratford just another boost. Let's keep this vibrant community current and up to date so we can maintain our tourism trade.

09/28/2017 The Tom Patterson theatre is in rough shape and should be rebuilt. Please support the Festival's redevelopment proposal. I feel the senior centre should be incorporated into the beautiful plan for the Tom Patterson as it may take several more years for the funding to come through for the proposed Community Hub.

09/28/2017 Very much in favour of this new development! It will be an incredible addition to this wonderful town.

09/29/2017 Mr. Mayor and City Councillors: My name is xxxxxxxxxxxx, and I am a proud citizen and business owner in this great city. I am writing to you in favour of the Tom Patterson Theatre revitalization project. As an accountant of owner-managed businesses, I have an interesting insight into the economy in Stratford and the surrounding region. I review financial results and speak with hundreds of business owners on an annual basis and can tell you that there is an interestingly symbiotic relationship between tourism, manufacturing, and agriculture in this region. For example, through my role on Stratford's Economic Development board, I can tell you that the City proudly promotes its tourism industry when trying to attract manufacturing businesses to locate in Stratford. Similarly, when I am attracting new employees to my Firm, people already know of all the wonderful cultural and culinary experiences we have to offer in Stratford (which obviously gives me an advantage over my competition from a hiring perspective). And speaking of culinary attractions, many of our amazing restaurants use products from our local agricultural providers. Tourism begets labour force; labour force spurs economic development; economic development increases city tax revenues & it all works together. But let me tell you a bit further about these three sectors: -The manufacturing industry is presently booming in Stratford with many of our current businesses expanding and new companies coming to town. As a matter of fact, their biggest issue right at the moment is that our unemployment rate is too low making it difficult to attract a steady labour force. What a great problem to have! -The local agricultural industry is also in a growth phase as there are more and more people in this world that need to be fed. Southwestern Ontario's fertile soil and growing conditions make it ideal for filling the need. Once again, things are looking up. -Then if you consider the tourism industry, you will find that there more and more cultural attractions seeking the audience of a patron base that is not generally increasing. This trend means that the Festival must constantly reinvent itself in order to attract visitors to our city. With the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre, the Festival will create something truly inspirational for the City, while at the same time trying to insulate itself from the struggles within its industry. We as citizens need to be careful that we do not take the Festival for granted as it is a charitable organization with a budget that depends upon how many patrons and donations it can attract. Over the course of the last year, I have sat in countless meetings with stakeholders and citizens to discuss this proposed project as I am a member of the Festival's Board. I have been very proud of how the Festival has approached all parties with great respect in its conversations, and we are now at the point where Council will need to decide on the viability of the project. Which brings to me to why I am writing you today: the Festival needs your help. I urge you to support the Festival's initiative to help keep the economy in Stratford alive and well. Thank you.

09/29/2017 A capital project of this size requires private fundraising from both local and distant patrons. The target of 20 million dollars will have a huge impact on the fundraising of other non-profit cultural organizations and other institutions (e.g. hospital, United Way, etc.) in this city. I guess we wouldn't feel so indignant about this project if the Stratford Festival was more inclined to support and collaborate with the smaller cultural/arts organizations of Stratford. For instance, why not offer various, relative advertising rates for ad space in the Festival's brochure and playbills that are affordable for those small scale organizations? I was also slightly perturbed to hear that the Stratford Festival administration arranged for supportive cheerleaders or plants to be disbursed throughout the audience, at last Tuesday's information sessions at the Rotary Centre. How is that fair and transparent when approaching the citizens of Stratford? I am fully supportive of the marvellous artistic work done by the Festival. However, it's not the goal I'm questioning but the process and sense of corporate entitlement that appears to overshadow this campaign. Do a better job of clearly and honestly promoting your cause.

09/29/2017 I would like the Tom Patterson Theatre redevelopment project go ahead. I think it is integral that the theatre be located on the river, not only for the aesthetics but also because it would have the least impact on the local community. We are all used to the traffic and business that occurs during the summer in that area due to the theatre. By keeping it there tourists and locals alike will feel no difference, where as if the theatre is moved this will disrupt tourism and locals by the change of flow and routine. Lastly I think it makes far more sense to build a community centre hub at the old cooper site because of it's proximity to downtown and where the bus terminal is currently. A community Hub this close to the downtown would be very advantageous not only to SLAAA and the Kiwanis club but to the businesses downtown. This location would help generate more economic activity from locals for the businesses that exist currently and could become launching point for new businesses to move into or build in that area. A community centre on the edge of the downtown could encourage greater development to expand the downtown out into an area of town that currently doesn't receive very much interest because there is nothing to draw people out from the current downtown core. Ultimately I feel the most logical arrangement and greatest economic and social benefit would come from redeveloping the Tom Patterson in it's current location and using it as an opportunity to relocate the other organizations to new facility in an overall better location.

09/29/2017	<p>Re: Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment As a concerned citizen, taxpayer and Stratford Festival Playwright's Circle member, I was able to attend the Tuesday evening meeting held by the City on the proposed Tom Patterson Theatre redevelopment. The presentations made by the City and Festival were insightful and informative. I was impressed with how Anita Gaffney and Antoni Cimolino professionally and respectfully answered questions from concerned stakeholders. They acknowledged the displacement of the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association (SLAAA) along with the lawn bowling club and that options are being explored for both groups. How many of Stratford's citizens know that the theatre has offered to provide \$500,000 to enable custom alterations to the Stratford Agriplex thereby providing transitional accommodation for SLAAA's activities? What other municipality in Ontario or Canada for that matter, could be so fortunate as to have a Not for Profit organization such as the Festival provide a half a million dollars in permanent upgrades to a municipally owned facility! These are alterations the municipality and its taxpayers will not have to pay for due to the generosity of the Festival. The following points were also made in the Festival's presentation: if The Festival has always told the City that they would make room for a three-storey community centre on the Lakeside Drive property; if The City provides no money to the Festival each year however the Festival generates \$5 million in taxes for municipal coffers annually; if Property taxes on the warehouse and call centre in the amount of \$50,000 per year are paid to the City with the Festival and Avon Theatres being exempt from taxes by Provincial legislation; if The Government of Ontario has announced a contribution of \$20 million, however if the project is delayed for any reason, including Municipal approval, these funds are at risk. In fact if the Festival has not made substantial headway by March, they will lose \$5 million. I heard many local impassioned speakers including Anne Campion, David Prosser and Franklin Famme and one speaker from Cleveland OH declare their support for this project. On numerous occasions the vast majority of taxpayers in attendance also voiced their support and approval either verbally or through applause. Once the City receives a formal request for this redevelopment project to move ahead; they must respond with an immediate and clear approval to do so. Anything to the contrary would result in the loss of \$5 million in provincial funding for which our elected officials, facing reelection in 2018, would be exclusively responsible. I implore Council just as Tom Patterson implored Mayor David Simpson and city council in 1952, to provide your unequivocal support and expedite the approval for this once in a lifetime project and help provide a new lasting legacy for the City of Stratford. It would be a shame if the project does not receive Council approval and in 15 years' time we look back and wonder 'what if' and even worse 'if only'.</p>
09/29/2017	<p>I hope people realise that this rebuilding of the TPT is needed. The old one cannot be used for very much longer. Please do not drag your feet on this issue. If you don't want to see the land then lease it to the festival just so they can get moving on the new project. We are just wanting to rebuild on a site where there is already a building. It NEEDS to be done and it won't be done if council does not make a decision when they should. Please don't make us wait as long as you made us wait on the market square decision. We should be more forward thinking in our thoughts process. Change is a good thing everyone!!!</p>
09/29/2017	<p>City Council has made no decisions on the Tom Patterson Theatre project, yet City staff already refer to 111 Lakeside as the Tom Patterson Property - see title slide from Sept 26. This sends the wrong message regarding transparency and the value of consultation with the public at large.</p>
09/29/2017	<p>Tremendous opportunity for Stratford. Support it 100%. The other issues can be solved.</p>
09/29/2017	<p>Tom Patterson theater is not viable as it is. The festival is the envy of many communities. I visit Stratford to enjoy the festival and all of the wonderful qualities Stratford has to offer. I see the re-development of the Tom Patterson Theater as an immense benefit to Stratford and will undoubtedly bring more opportunity to the local citizens. I look forward to the future growth of Stratford and the Festival while working in conjunction with each other.</p>
09/29/2017	<p>Why would City council refuse a \$60 million investment that would not cost them anything but would contribute to their coffers for years to come? On what reasonable grounds could anyone turn this down?</p>
09/29/2017	<p>Great to have the new Tom Patterson theatre replace the old one. Would like to see the seniors community centre stay at the Patterson. Any temporary place for the Seniors is acceptable but it preferably should stay where it is as it would be wonderful to be at the gardens and the lake after any activity.</p>
09/29/2017	<p>I feel uniquely qualified to comment on the TPT redevelopment as I am both a Stratford senior and an employee at the TPT, having ushered there since shortly after my retirement as a faculty member and program coordinator at Conestoga College Schools of Health Sciences and Business. That the TPT needs to be redeveloped at its river location seems self-evident to me, based on my own values and experiences as a patron and usher, where I have met and listened to thousands of patrons over the past 6 seasons, and the input of knowledgeable professionals from a variety of fields. Many of our patrons feel a special affinity for the TPT causing them to willingly dodge snapping swans, sidestep goose droppings, hike up alpine staircases, sit between rows of seats with mere inches to spare, and wrap themselves in layers to prepare for either heatwaves, frost warnings, or both. They do so with a sense of pride and ownership for knowing about this hidden gem of Stratford, the setting for those who really love and understand the theatre and the stage where Canada's best perform. Many come annually to the TPT to see all the shows, and often to see them multiple times, so we have come to know them personally....the woman from Wisconsin who brings us chocolates every year, the drama teacher from Philadelphia who fascinates us with his knowledge and interpretations, the 2 couples from near Chicago who met at the TPT by chance 20 years ago and now coordinate a group of people from their neighbourhood to come up together every year, and so many more familiar and fascinating patrons and theatre friends. The TPT simply must go on, and to do so it must be revitalized. Given its current popularity, imagine how popular it will be when the physical limitations of its age are removed! But I have a great fear that because the decision process is taking so long funding and revenue losses will be so severe as to render the project non-viable. I implore Council to please move quickly. I understand that the decision is impacted by the need for a broader view that includes development of the Cooper site, but don't make the theatre, its patrons, and the city residents bear the loss of this masterpiece because of the complexity imposed by the larger picture. Please act now to save the TPT.</p>
09/29/2017	<p>This is an amazing initiative for the community, and one that comes with a huge benefit and very little cost. Although there are some consequences, they pale in comparison to the benefits that our citizens will receive. This is an important initiative for the Canadian arts community as well, and particularly for theatre in this country. I proudly support this vision.</p>
09/29/2017	<p>I was so happy to attend the meeting on Tuesday night. All of my questions were answered and I cannot help but exclaim this is nothing but a win win situation. I truly loved the plans and am aware of the hardships for a period of time but it will only add to the ambiance of this truly beautiful city. I must say the Tom Patterson Theatre has needed an overhaul for a long time especially in the seating department. I've had a few moments myself that I felt a little unsteady on my feet on those steps. I cannot wait for Opening Night at the new facility. I am 100% in favour of this exciting project. Sincerely,</p>
09/29/2017	<p>many. I do hope we can transition the tenor of the discussions from debate to dialogue. Kerry McManusI agree 100%! Given guests will make up a large portion of people who visit the Tom Patterson Theatre, I'm curious whether the City of Stratford or the Stratford Festival has made any efforts to solicit their opinion on the new Tom Patterson Theatre design? What do you think the average guest would say? I believe they would be thrilled with the new theatre and thrilled it isn't moving from the current location. When I was a guest/tourist staying at B&Bs, I can confirm there have been many discussions about the Tom Patterson Theatre. All very negative as a venue. Mostly very positive for the actual productions. Myself, I never really cared. I am fit and healthy with zero health issues at Freedom 55 but others are not. Over the years, I have personally observed many elderly people either stumble, fall or have great difficulty with the seating. No one from the Festival or City has addressed this to my satisfaction. As for 'debate to dialogue,' the time for debate and dialogue is over. Now is the time for ACTION! I want a decision by December 4. That is my deadline. Check out below reviews from Tripadvisor. https://www.tripadvisor.ca/Attraction_Review-g155015-d42237&C 'Small theatre by the river. Fabulous plays. This will be the last year as construction will begin on a new theatre.' 'However, the seats are small, with little padding, and in such a tight line you wouldn't want to sit next to a 'large' person. And if you have long legs, there's literally no space in front of your chair to move much. In addition, if someone has to get past you to get to their seat, that's a big enough challenge that you might have to get up and out of the row, and especially to watch that you and others don't fall over, since there are no barriers separating the rows. Seeing the wonderful plays there makes it worth dealing with the difficult seating and limited parking (get there early to park!).' 'I understand this theatre is meant to project an intimate experience. However, the Tom Patterson Theatre is not ideal for people with mobility issues. The aisles were very narrow which couldn't support two people walking side by side. If you have seats in the upper levels, the inclines were rather steep. The chairs were uncomfortable. Most of all, the seating arrangement felt very cramped with very little leg room.' 'This was my first visit to the Tom Patterson Theatre although I lived in Stratford for 12 years of my life and got married in the community hall adjoining the theatre. I was actually shocked when I saw this place. The seating is very steep, uncomfortable and cramped. I think the rise on the seating is unsafe and really question whether safety standards are being ignored. I was seated at the end of a row and thought to myself if I needed to leave the whole row would have to empty out. So tight is the room between one row and the next. If a person was to lose their balance they would fall directly onto the heads of the row in front of them as there are no railings of any kind.' 'The facility, however, is not geared to the theatre-goer's average age and older. The seats are stacked on a very steep incline and crowded together. Three of us went (55 yrs, 92 yrs, 91 yrs); the mountainous stairs were daunting. The staffing was excellent, they were able to change at least one of the elderly in our group. The Operations (staff, management, and troupe) were excellent and professional....it is just the building (with encapsulated asbestos on the exposed superstructure) that is lacking in friendliness to those with even minor mobility issues.' 'Unless you have a significant amount of your own padding that you carry around with you, you are likely to find sitting through a play here an unpleasant experience. Dreadful seating - not the views, but the actual seats themselves. I hear they are going to renovate and make this into a theatre in the round. Hope they change the seats. Our group - we come every year - has decided we won't be going to the Tom P again until those seats are replaced.' 'It is almost impossible for someone with limited mobility to access their seat up the steep stairs or narrow spacing between aisles. I've attended two plays there. I went to the first and thought, 'never again'. After about a 6 year interlude I thought I'd try it again because there was a play I really wanted to see. It hadn't improved and it wasn't worth it. The group in the aisle ahead of us left at intermission after traveling from the United States because they were so uncomfortable in the seats. If I was paying \$20 for my ticket I would have no qualms about the Tom Patterson theatre, but at over \$60 a ticket, it is just not worth the discomfort. The theatre may be small and 'intimate' but it is also uncomfortable and questionably unsafe, which takes away from the power of the performance.' 'I felt I should give a review of the building itself. The lobby is extremely small and doesn't provide much space or seating if you're waiting to get in. The refreshment stand opens to the outside of the building. The view points for performances are good. I don't think there's a bad seat visually speaking. However, the seats are chairs with the back legs braced in on a bleacher type platform system. If you require leg room, make sure you purchase floor level tickets or you're out of luck. The balcony wings in the front row have a bit more leg room than the other upper seating but not by much. The seats are like cushioned restaurant chairs. It gets quite uncomfortable if the performance doesn't have an intermission. The stairs are also quite steep and narrow. Would not recommend upper seating to people with leg, hip or knee issues.' 'I felt like it was unsafe. It had narrow aisles and</p>
09/29/2017	<p>I very much support the Tom Patterson Theatre project. As an employee of the Festival, I have learned how special the TPT is to many of the Festival's patrons. They come year after year to a space that is much loved, but many of them also express how much they are looking forward to a new, improved TPT. The Stratford Festival is among the best theatre companies in North America and the Tom Patterson Theatre project would allow the Festival to have a space that lives up to the standards people expect from a world-class theatre company. Currently, the backstage area is quite small, the dressing rooms areas are cramped, and there is very little room for set storage. On the front of house side of things, the lobby is extremely small and cannot accommodate all the patrons on a rainy or cold day or on a day with a sold-out performance. Given the size of the lobby, there is often congestion when there are long lines for box office or patrons picking up hearing assistance or checking luggage in the usher room. The auditorium itself is much loved by many patrons, but the steep stairs make it difficult for many loyal patrons to continue to attend performances at the TPT if they have limited mobility. Although there are many designated special access seats, they are often full and the few steps leading up to the first or second row can be quite challenging for many of our older patrons. The TPT is a very special space and a new, improved building would provide everyone working in the theatre to have the space and facilities needed to achieve the level of excellence that is expected of the Festival and would provide patrons with the intimate space they know and love but with all the modern updates that would keep the Stratford Festival current and accessible for all our patrons. I have always thought of Stratford as a very forward-thinking city and the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre would create a wonderful space for future generations to enjoy.</p>
09/29/2017	<p>I am in support of this project</p>
09/29/2017	<p>I think that the new Tom Patterson Theatre is not only a welcome addition to the riverside, it is also a true representation of what Stratford stands for: innovation, beauty, community. Frequently, I have heard members of the City Council saying that they think we should hear the input of the youth. Well, at 24 years old, I am making my voice heard. I think that the City Council should move ahead on this project, without waiting any longer. Due process is much appreciated; however, in a time-sensitive situation like this, it is extremely important to move ahead. Projects like the new Tom Patterson Theatre show to the people like me that the city wants to provide growth and opportunity for the younger generation. It shows us that we do not have to move to a larger city, spend our money elsewhere, forgo small town life. I see a future for myself in Stratford and that future contains the new TPT.</p>

	<p>To Whom It May Concern,I am writing in support of the proposed rebuilding of the Tom Patterson Theatre.As a member of the Festival company and a 32 year resident of Stratford I have a strong interest in seeing this project go forward. The Stratford Festival is one of the few places in North America where it is possible for an artist to live and work and enjoy an almost 'normal life'. The opportunity to work in such an environment - to establish long term creative relationships, explore great plays, to be continually challenged; and also to become a town resident, to raise children and participate in the community, is rare for artists. To me the rebuilding of the Tom Patterson represents a vote of confidence in the unique institution that is the Stratford Festival and in it's artists and employees.We cannot be replaced by machines, or have our jobs out-sourced to China or Mexico. Any investment in the Festival is an investment that will stay in the community and benefit everyone.I appreciate the need for conversation and inclusion - for processbut over my years as a resident I have noted with frustration the apparent sluggishness at city hall.A number of buildings have stood derelict for years; the 7 Eleven at the corner of Queen and Ontario was an eyesore till just recently - and the Golden Bamboo continues to offend, not to mention the Cooper lot and the endless squabbling over it's fate.I know I could go on telling you things you already know - about the value of a beautiful new theatre - the optimism and pride it would bring to the city - the confidence it would give the company to feel that their contribution to the community is valued and respected - the number of new patrons it would attract - but mainly I want to urge you to not drag your feet. I think Shakespeare said it best:There is a tide in the affairs of men.Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;I have seen too much stalling in the past to feel confident that a decision will be made in a timely manner. PLEASE don't let that happen. We have too much to lose.Yours sincerely</p>
09/29/2017	will be made in a timely manner. PLEASE don't let that happen. We have too much to lose.Yours sincerely
09/29/2017	I would ask that City Council make a decision on either the sale of the property or alternately leasing the land to the Stratford Festival so this worthy project can proceed.
09/29/2017	The SLAAA has quite a large membership. Please ask the membership, not the executives, where they would like to finally be located.
09/29/2017	As a retired teacher who frequently came to your productions both with my class and with family I fully support the construction of a new Tom Patterson Theatre.
	<p>I fully support the Stratford Festival's plans to build a new Tom Patterson Theatre. My wife and I have been attending the Festival for 25 years and have been members for much of that time. Over seven years ago we retired to Stratford from Toronto because we had learned to appreciate the excellent quality of life available in Stratford. We are very pleased with our decision to move here.Over the years many of my favourite plays have been at the Tom Patterson Theatre, where I have appreciated the thrust stage and the relative intimacy of a somewhat smaller theatre. Of course, like most patrons, I found the seating uncomfortable, the workshops inadequate, and the lobby too small. Therefore, I am thrilled with the plans for a new theatre. I have also enjoyed attending many Forum events, and I am glad to hear that those events will be held in the new building. I am also very pleased with the plans to install impressive gardens which will add to the riverside experience and make an excellent addition to the existing gardens in the park system.The glass at the front of the building will be stunning.I am pleased to hear that the Festival is doing everything it can to help SLAAA, the lawn bowling club, and the Kiwanis Club with this major disruption. I am especially pleased that the city has plans to develop the GTR Shops/Cooper Site to incorporate a community hub which will include space for SLAAA.I am pleased to hear that the taxpayers of Stratford will not be paying for this project, and that the proceeds from the sale or lease of the land will be invested in the Cooper Site.Please approve the construction of the new theatre as soon as possible so the City of Stratford will become even more famous and popular as a centre for excellent theatre, and the related businesses will thrive.</p>
09/29/2017	Tom Patterson would be thrilled to know his original vision has a chance to grow again. Looking forward to seeing this project start. I hope parking has been properly dealt with.
09/29/2017	32 year old, frequent visitor to the Tom Patterson Theatre fully supports this project.
	<p>Do not sell the Theatre the land. It is Park. Last it to them at the same rate as the taxes earned on one of the apartment buildings that front the park system. The city needs revenue from the assets it owns. How long has City Council been discussing this? HOW DOES this impact our taxes? What exactly is this going to cost the city taxpayersAnd how much exactly will we be paying through the Provincial and Federal Government. Do you not realize it meaning the Government ...is the people of Ontario and Canada?You can do the Tom Patterson Theatre...BUT...do you Not plan ahead the repercussions of displaced activities? I am in favour of the Tom Patterson Theatre renovating but am certainly nervous about the costs and timeframe.And upset the City Council knew about this for a long time, but were NOT making plans before now. Late Time Lucies....the HUB will take forever...not all the Seniors will still be living to enjoy.</p>
09/30/2017	I am all in favour of this project even though I am a Kiwanian and having property by the bowling green. The Kiwanis centre is somewhat outdated and if constructed today would be more spacious. I believe that the Kiwanis name should be a dominant feature of the new designed Hub.
09/30/2017	In support fully. City needs to step up and get things moving. There are many people watching, and certain councillors are notorious for slowing it down. Hit the deadlines be aggressive, be problem solvers and represent the community properly. Make a decision and don't hide behind reports and gathering information.
09/30/2017	I am a member of SLAAA and want to say that I think the Tom Patterson project should proceed. It will be great to have SLAAA all together at the AgriPlex and besides, we can play cards anywhere!Let's get this project done.
09/30/2017	The Tom Patterson Theatre project should proceed as soon as possible to ensure the ongoing success the Stratford Festival. We can come together as a community if proper, respectful and immediate attention is given by the City to accommodate current users in other locations. A delay by Council in holding a vote is in my view irresponsible.
09/30/2017	I would love to see the new theatre built. We have spent enough on the old time for new
09/30/2017	Born and raised in Stratford, my husband and I returned to this city to raise our children .We chose to return because Stratford has a vibrant and unique sense of community. This community is inextricably linked to the success of the Stratford Festival. I am in full support of the proposed update to the Tom Patterson facility on Lakeside Drive! The continued success of the Stratford Festival ensures the continued success of our community!!
	<p>Do not sell the property to the Festival the city should continue to own the property and have the Theater pay rent. So that in the future if things don't work out we still have the land for other purposes. The new theater should only fill the current area and not take over the total space to the corner because that is prime land that belongs to the citizens of Stratford and we don't need that much garden and we can use the land for something else like lawn bowling association or tennis courts, etc...If the land is sold, then the amount should be enough to help lower our debt or pave our roads. The Festival should not be given the land. The seniors should also be in the this building and not in the Hub. No money from the City Council should go towards the new building. The design does not fit the landscape of Stratford. It is too Toronto, too modern for this city. We are not New York!!! Parking at the theater should be free and not at the back of the building. Parking should stay as it is (up front and to the side of the building). It makes it a safer place for people at night. The space for the current Tom Patterson Theatre is become inadequate. It is an old building, with many down falls, confusing and uncomfortable seating, and odd features. At a performance in the 2017 season I heard a patron remark the roof looks disgusting. The building just does not reflect the caliber of shoes that are presented at the theatre. Since its beginning, the theatre in Stratford has been an innovative, forward thinking institution. To continue to be such an institution we must modernize. As for the location of the theatre, along Lakeside Drive is the perfect location. It's a place where our history in buildings like the Alman arena can meet our future in the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre.</p>
10/01/2017	meet our future in the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre.
	<p>Mayor Mathieson and City Councillors:I was unable to attend the open meetings this past week, but I would like to add my comments in support of the Tom Patterson Theatre Revitalization Project.Our Stratford Festival is the envy of many communities; small and large. It is bought to the forefront when the hospital is recruiting young doctors to the community and when the Economic Development Group is pitching new industry to locate in Stratford. It is a place that people want to reside because the Festival is here and the artistic community is here.The Festival is a business. It does have government support and it is a charity, but it is operated and it needs to be operated as a business. Every business has its business cycles, a business that does not change and innovate will cease to grow and eventually shrink. The Festival has successfully responded to the digital world and economic factors beyond management's and the board's control. There is constant and increasing competition in their industry.Management and the Board of the Festival have been responding to these challenges and have provided the city with a plan to Revitalize the Tom Patterson Theatre which is necessary to innovate and grow. They have also been more than accommodating to all concerns related to the development.This is an opportunity for a business to invest in the City with no direct competition from other cities. As cities vie to attract new industry to their city, they must provide the best financial perks to win the competition. Is there a better use for the land along the river? The proposal and design is world class.Please let the Festival's management move forward and proceed with their vision now. The Hub can be dealt with in due course. There have been many pivotal decisions made by past City Councils that have changed the direction of the city; I hope that the current counsel will be known for providing the Festival with the opportunity to grow and innovate.Yours truly</p>
10/01/2017	with the opportunity to grow and innovate.Yours truly
	<p>As a long time Stratford resident and avid theatre-goer, currently retired from a career in education I would like to add my vote and state that I fully endorse the current plan by the Festival to build a state-of-the-art Tom Patterson theatre! Also - the Grand Trunk community hub at the Cooper site provides exciting possibilities to promote & engage ALL age levels in Stratford. The site provides adequate green space for lawn bowling, tennis and badminton. Incorporating the Y, with the addition of a much needed pool and space for athletic endeavours of a kinds, for all ages is inspiring! Using the Hub as a bus terminal catering to seniors activities and events would make the downtown accessible and facilitate economic growth for core businesses.Hopefully arts groups and educational ventures will also use this multi-functional space. Stratford is set to become a destination location not only for vacationers but as a permanent place to live well.I would be pleased to be part of ongoing community consultation.</p>
10/01/2017	become a destination location not only for vacationers but as a permanent place to live well.I would be pleased to be part of ongoing community consultation.
	<p>As a long time homeowner in Stratford and a member of both the Stratford Festival and SLAAA I am fully in support of the project to revitalize the Tom Patterson site. The economic impact of the project will benefit all, the enhanced inner and outer space will be enjoyed by patrons, actors and residents.Yes there will be disruptions for some, but short term change is always necessary for long term gain.I urge the Council to listen carefully to the proposal and move on to make a favourable decision in a speedy fashion so that work may commence as soon as possible.</p>
10/01/2017	Very impressive new theatre good luck in getting it passed
10/01/2017	Built it. SOON! What's the hold up?
10/01/2017	It's time that Stratford council finally make decisions on the Community Hub and the location of SLAAA so the Tom Patterson project can go ahead as presented. Please stop procrastinating and get moving on the job they were elected to do.
	<p>To our mind, Stratford is a vibrant cultural centre. We can not thank enough to the executive members of Stratford Festival Theatre for their efforts and contribution to make our city so attractive and appealing to, not only the residents but also, many out of town visitors. Redevelopment of TPT will be an integral part of our culturally enhanced beautiful community. Thank you for your vision.</p>
10/01/2017	I fully support the new theatre project- a badly needed update and improvement to enhance the city both culturally and financially.
	<p>We attended both information sessions on Tues. evening and were encouraged by the overwhelming support demonstrated by the citizens of Stratford.This project will bring construction jobs as well as increased activity from tourism and hospitality as this structure will become a must visit.The city of Stratford and many people of this city will benefit from this initiative. The project is essentially fully funded by the two senior levels of gov't and the private donors.The city will not only contribute no money to the project but will earn several millions from the sale.Good for the city,good for citizens who earn some or all of their income from hospitality and tourism and NO MONEY from the taxpayers of Stratford!!!What is holding up this approval????Stop dithering and get on with it before it is too late.</p>
10/01/2017	What is holding up this approval????Stop dithering and get on with it before it is too late.

	<p>Comments:Both the Community Hub and the Tom Patterson Theater projects are important to the community.Bowing to the whims of the theater, (who appear to be creating some urgency in a theatrical way), at the expense of the senior citizens that are part of the S.L.A.A.A. of this community is morally wrong. City Council should be taking the initiative to properly prioritize the two large projects as opposed to merely acquiescing to the whims of the theater group. I believe that the Community Hub should be constructed before the Kiwanis Center is destroyed and the Tom Patterson Theater reconstructed. It is not reasonable to believe that there will be money from all levels of government to complete both projects within the life expectancy of most of the seniors who currently enjoy the hospitality of the Kiwanis Center.If the Community Hub is not the first priority to City Council then the message to the population is that the senior citizens of Stratford, and their taxes and votes, are less important than the theater.Proceeding with the Community Hub before the Tom Patterson Theater, would avoid another fiasco, like the long running Walmart situation, where the City Council ignored common sense and the citizens of Stratford; fought the future location of Walmart and wasted many tax dollars in the process. In the end, City Council looked like a bunch of incompetent idiots.Currently, it appears that the seniors will be evicted from the Kiwanis Center and housed temporarily (how many years? how many decades?) at the Agriplex. This certainly must be an unwelcomed imposition on that facility. It is reasonable to assume it was built to accommodate the various needs of the agricultural community. Having S.L.A.A.A. take over some of the space there has to impose some hardship that through a common sense approach by City Council can be avoided. Space occupied by S.L.A.A.A. would deprive the Agriplex of space currently used for other purposes. Furthermore, it is likely that S.L.A.A.A. members would be restricted from using the 'temporary' space when other events are in progress at the Agriplex.In my view, the first order of business is to build the Community Hub, and when that is completed, then go to work on the Tom Patterson Theater project.</p>
10/01/2017	
	<p>Dear Mr. Matheson and Mr. Cimolino:Please re-think your proposal for the new Tom Patterson Theatre. It will dominate the whole park, rather than just be part of it. Also, that monstrous wall should be omitted. Walls are for separating people, Mongols from Chinese, Scots from Romans, East Germans from West Germans, and Mexicans from Americans. Is that what you really want to do? The present Festival Theatre is an architectural gem. The new Tom Patterson Theatre will be as far from an architectural gem as possible. The concrete wasteland on Market Place is enough bad design for now, thanks.</p>
10/01/2017	
10/01/2017	I think this will be great. Please don't allow a small vocal group to squash it.
10/01/2017	We are totally supportive of the redevelopment of the TPT. It would be a huge asset to the city.
	<p>I support the project and am very much looking forward to introducing my children to theatre experiences in Stratford and feel very fortunate to live so close to a world class Theatre. While I do not live in Stratford, I live a short 1 hour away from the city, and often visited as a child, taking advantage of the various lovely shops and delicious dining opportunities. I am looking very forward to the new Tom Patterson Theatre and Community Hub!</p>
10/01/2017	
10/01/2017	I think the new theatre is a great addition to the Stratford theatre...and Stratford.
	<p>Greetings. I realize change can be difficult for some people, but good grief - look at what the theatre has done for this city. Where would we be without it?! started attending the Festival when I was 7 years old and I lived in St Thomas - 10 years ago I moved here because I am such a fan, so I have been attending for 56 years.Sure the construction will inconvenience people a little bit - and the lawn bowling?? Seriously - I live close to the TP and walk by it frequently - rarely do I see anyone there.We need to support the theatre because it supports the city of Stratford and so many of the residents. So come on.....do the right thing and approve this fantastic new facility now!! It is the only thing that makes any sense.Thank you.</p>
10/01/2017	
	<p>City Council - I urge you to - quickly - approve the TPT rebuilding project as proposed by the Stratford Festival. It's time for a new building that will refresh, revitalize, and renew. There are so many areas of stratford that have been vacant or old derelict eyesore buildings in recent years - it's time to bring a bit of modernization in to town so that we stay current. The market square was a good first start. The TPT, and the central community Hub, are the next logical steps. The conceptual designs for the hub are beautiful and the TPT architectural plans are stunning. Please don't let a few citizens that are afraid of change hold up an incredibly positive thing for this community. Please let the land sale/lease and construction approval happen at an expedited rate so that the Festival doesn't miss out on the major government funding they have received as the clock is ticking on that first March deadline. Thank you!</p>
10/02/2017	
	<p>We strongly support the construction of the new Tom Patterson Theatre. We have many guests that avoid productions at the old curling rink due to mobility issues, and have expressed their enthusiasm for the new theatre. Indeed, with no physical issues of our own (or at least not yet!!) we have always had a little difficulty in sitting through an entire production. One event particularly stands out. I (Elaine) was sitting next to an empty seat and the person sitting directly behind that seat swung her legs over to my row to give herself more leg room. I wasn't very pleased with that. Please expedite this project. While I'm at it, we support the seniors centre at the Grand Trunk Hub, and the Lawn Bowling at the Stratford Golf Course. Everyone hates change until they start to see the benefits. There are lots of potential benefits with these plans. Lets make them happen.</p>
10/02/2017	
	<p>To who it may concern, I would like to put my full support behind the proposed Tom Patterson development. I am an actor with the festival and also a resident of Stratford. I understand that that may make us biased but since we moved here more and more of our colleagues have been buying homes and starting to live in Stratford, even if they have never worked at the Stratford Festival. Stratford is becoming a theatre hub and I believe the new Tom Patterson would be a tipping point for the theatre community in Ontario and potentially across Canada. Young, passionate artists are moving away from Toronto and moving to places like Stratford due to the concentration of Theatre and proximity to theatres in Cambridge, St. Jacobs, Grand Bend, Hamilton and more.Stratford is such a growing city and moving here was one of the best decisions of our lives. Between the new Tom Patterson and the development of the Cooper site it could change the landscape of this city. The new Tom Patterson would provide a multi-use building where new and exciting shows could be workshoped and tried before putting them in larger spaces such as the Festival Theatre or Avon, or transferring them across Canada or New York. Just this past week, Stratford resident Britta Johnson's new musical Life After opened at CanStage in Toronto. As is, the Stratford Festival has no space that could house or produce a show such as this realistically. Imagine the new Tom Patterson theatre opening with the world premiere of a full scale production of shows like this.Thank you so much for your time!</p>
10/02/2017	
	<p>I think the Festival Theatre should consider redeveloping the Cooper site and incorporate some of the existing structure into its building. By allowing the Theatre to destroy the lawn bowling green to put up a building, parking lot, landscaping, it is destroying a piece of Stratford's history. There is no reason, should the Theatre build on the Kiwanis site, that the lawn bowling green could not be included as part of the landscaping. It would add a unique component to the building that no other theatre company would have. Patrons of the theatre could watch the lawn bowling during intermissions.If the Theatre were to use the Cooper site and incorporate a portion of the existing building, it would make more sense as the theatre would be close to the train station, transit, and the downtown. It would also be a true test of the ability of the architects and landscapers to turn this eyesore into a glittering jewel.Another thing, if Lower Queen's Park is in the flood plain which means no building is allowed, isn't the Kiwanis building also in the flood plan? After all, both areas are on the same road and about the same distance from the river. The existing building would be a legal non-conforming use. If it is removed, a new building cannot be erected as a new building would be an illegal non-conforming use, if I understand by-laws correctly. This issue really needs to be addressed. If a new building can be erected on the Kiwanis site which is most likely in the flood plain, then it can just as easily be erected in Lower Queen's Park or is it because the Theatre does not want to lose its playground ?! disagree with the Theatre turfing out the people and organizations that use the Kiwanis building as well as destroying an historic landmark. A lot of money was spent a few years ago on remodeling the building so it cannot be as bad as the Theatre is saying it is. The Theatre is saying it is not getting any money from the city but citizens of Stratford who are the city pay taxes to the Federal and Provincial governments so the grants from these two levels of government are funded partly by the city (i.e. the citizens of Stratford). The Theatre claims it needs the new building in order to attract more patrons. Patrons come to the theatre to see the plays and calibre of the theatre company, not a building so the cost of the building could be reduced.</p>
10/02/2017	
	<p>What is going to happen to the Lawn Bowling Club? I feel seniors who engage in this healthy outdoor activity have the right to enjoy the beautiful riverside location which has been theirs for many years. I think it is lovely for tourists to see locals playing soccer and lawn bowls on community land - a great blend of culture and physical activity to indicate Stratford is not only a theater town but also a vibrant place with locals enjoying life here year round ie Stratford is not only about the theater.</p>
10/02/2017	
	<p>To Stratford City Council:I am a resident and homeowner in Stratford.I support the proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment Proposal without reservation. The existing theatre and site is unattractive inside and outside. The theatre space is very uncomfortable. The new development would significantly increase the functionality of the space and beautify it. I believe that it would be an enormous asset to the entire City. I also commend the Stratford Festival for its sincere and meaningful outreach to current site users, to find win-win solutions for everyone.Please support the Redevelopment Proposal.</p>
10/02/2017	
10/02/2017	Having lived in Stratford and worked at the Festival I appreciate all that this project could bring to the greater community and I wholeheartedly endorse moving forward as soon as the money is in place. Congratulations to all involved.
	<p>Since I think it highly unlikely that a little community of 32,000 is going to receive \$20 million + \$20 million + \$15 million + \$15 million in senior government infrastructure funding (I would be delighted to be wrong on this point), it is important to balance carefully the Tom Patterson Plan A proposal (no community centre) with the possibilities of a Grand Trunk Hub occurring in a reasonable amount of time.Unless something is going to happen on the Cooper site within two years, I say take the Plan B option with a combined Tom Patterson Theatre/Community Centre so that Stratford has the community meeting/ activities space it so badly needs while the longer-term vision is developed. The Theatre will make use of the community space created by the Plan B option when it is vacated &€" look at how quickly the Theatre populated the Normal School when that building stopped being the multi-use Discovery Centre.I went to the Open House expecting to hear information from both the Theatre and the City. Anita and Antoni did their job well. I thought that the City would then put two or three options up for consideration &€" perhaps a Community Hub involving new Romeo and Jeanne Sauve Schools and/or perhaps a scenario without the schools but a replacement KCC along with a new Y and additional UW facilities and/or something else based on the community consultation input received. Instead, the City presented that badly conceived cover of the Cooper Consultation paper (7 and 8 storey buildings on the Cooper site &€" really?) and asked for general input which resulted mostly in cheerleading for the Theatre and some complaints about the process. If you heard something new or valuable, your ears were better than mine.What was the goal of having these Open Houses other than being able to say 'we held open houses'? I've thought about this several times and I cannot identify a different answer.Process with content is very important because in a vacuum people naturally drift to the concept which is most coherently &€" which usually means visually &€" presented. This means that the stage is now set (no pun intended) for the Theatre's Tom Patterson proposal to be embraced. I'm not saying that the proposal is a bad one. What I am saying is that the possibilities were not equally presented. And that is shame.</p>
10/02/2017	
10/02/2017	I fully support the proposed Tom Patterson project. This is would benefit the citizens of the city, not just economically because of tthe business this would bring in to the city but with its multi use capabilities would be available to us (locals) in the off season (as well ss in season) Please make this hapoen!!
10/02/2017	
10/02/2017	The TPT has been a special space for so many people who have come and gone. It is in need of love and caring and I cannot wait to see what it can become. Seeing it evolve and become something new will allow it to share with more people.
	<p>Dear Mayor Mathieson and Members of the Stratford City Council,I am writing to share with you my great enthusiasm for the redevelopment of the new Tom Patterson Theatre.I have been working for the Stratford Festival since 2001 and Stratford has become my second and dearly loved home. When my grandparents immigrated to Canada in 1955, they lived just outside St. Marys and owned a pig farm. As a young teenager, my mother was enthralled with the jewel that was the Stratford Festival and could not believe that such a festival could exist in her community. It led her to believe that, here in Canada, anything was possible.It is for this reason that I feel a personal commitment to the redevelopment of the new Tom Patterson Theatre. I believe that it will be a vibrant civic asset: one that has the potential to bring the community together and one that has the potential to place Stratford, and it's unique Festival, on the international stage.The economic benefits of this are obvious, but I imagine that there is a concern about how such prominence will affect the community. It is my belief that the new TPT will serve as a hub for new community engagement and that it will serve to strengthen the ties that have bound us together for the past six decades. Sincerely,</p>
10/02/2017	

	<p>When the City and our elected councillors debate the new Tom Patterson Theatre proposal, it is paramount that this successful business be able to grow with respect and support from City officials. The Stratford festival is currently the most prolific business in Stratford. Whether or not you enjoy or even respect it's product; we must always respect the abundant financial contribution this business provides to every citizen. Would the original Festival building, built in 1957, succeed if it had been scrutinized to this degree by City Council back in 1957. When a municipality gets a gift horse from an extremely successful business they should ask how can we help, benefitting all citizens future. -take this opportunity to improved lawn bowling facilities -To improved senior facilities. Those honorable endeavors must not manipulate a good proposal for political gain. The revenue and sponsorship from the new TPT will easily provide interest and financial sponsorship for current and future community facilities. Last week I combined 100 acres of soybeans before flying to Boston to sing with the Symphony and Opera; before sending my son to a prestigious Hockey Prep school. I have been immersed in ALL diverse aspects of Stratford. It is when these diverse aspects support one another that the community is guaranteed a prosperous future. -Stratford Festival going to Japan to entice business. -Banks providing assistants to farmers during the 1980's interest rate crisis. -business backing hockey day in Canada. Etc. The Stratford Festival is the most successful business in Stratford and must be treated as such by Stratford's elected officials. Is it respectful to create community roadblocks for this business? Is it respectful to even suggest the failed Coopersite? Is it respectful to amalgamate community services while decreasing the esthetic value of proposal. The City and it people have an opportunity to reinvest in its most honored business. When I travel the world people know Stratford because of its festival. They have never heard of Woodstock, Kitchener or even London Ontario. Now that's respect !All the best,</p>
10/02/2017	<p>The rebuilding and launch of the Tom Patterson Theatre is paramount to economic and cultural progress in Stratford. You have my full support for this project to proceed. I look forward to hearing the announcement in the near future. best, downtown Stratford merchant</p>
10/02/2017	<p>For what it's worth, I fully endorse the new Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment Proposal. Stratford resident.</p>
10/02/2017	<p>We must go ahead with the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre. It is important for the plays that are presented at the Tom Patterson to have a proper place to be seen. We must honour the spirit of Tom Patterson and be proud to have a world class theatre in a world class beautiful building with magnificent gardens. Problems can be solved.</p>
10/02/2017	<p>I attend and greatly appreciate the performances offered to all by the Stratford Festival. I also am a member of S.L.A.A.A. and am an avid pickleball player and will take in other offered opportunities as I age. I feel strongly that our town should support the new proposed theater and all the good it will do for Stratford. I feel S.L.A.A.A. members will drive or bus to wherever their facilities are offered. It doesn't have to be beside the river. My vote is to build the proposed, new theater on the grounds of and adjacent to the present Tom Patterson theater.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>The Theatre stated at the open house that they have not raised the money, 500000\$, promised to upgrade the agriplex. That money and the renovation must be complete before the seniors' centre is moved. This seems like the cart lading the horse.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>I do not think that they should build at the current location. Let them build on the cooper site.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>The new Tom Patterson Theatre would be a beautiful addition to the town and should go forward as quickly as possible. The city and the festival have presented options for the seniors association that makes sense until their new permanent hub home can happen</p>
10/03/2017	<p>I am an actor at the Stratford Festival. This is my third season. I can't tell you how much impact this place has done for me personally and professionally. It has brought me to a place to better myself as an actor and to live an incredible life style here in Stratford. As I have struggled in the past to find work and not have a job etc., this place has made me flourish with wonderful work and to grow my career. I wouldn't be the same person that I am today without the Festival. I am in favour of this miraculous project. I am committed to the Festival and I look forward to seeing this festival grow and grow. THANK YOU!</p>
10/03/2017	<p>One concern that was forwarded from a fellow naturalist was that the amount of glass planned in the new build could be a hazard to bird life. Please refer to FLAP, fatal light awareness program in Toronto to see what the issues are with glass and lighting affecting bird life</p>
10/03/2017	<p>While it is sometimes hard to accept change, I think the revitalization of this property is long overdue and in the best interest of the property, the Festival and the City.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>I think this is great for the community. The Stratford Festival supports all our local businesses by bringing people from all over the world to our town. Time for our city to support the growth of the festival! Which will draw even more people to our community</p>
10/03/2017	<p>Love the design proposals and think it will look absolutely amazing when it's finished.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>So what's the problem here? This is a big project which will enhance your city and provide an economic boost all at virtually no cost to the city. Yes there will be some impacts on a couple of site users and neighbours. Deal with those. Refer the matter to your staff for a recommendation(s) to Council (quickly!). I live in a neighbouring city and frequently attend the Festival with family and visitors. We are unbelievably lucky to have such a world-class cultural offering so close and it should not be taken for granted. I also speak as a former senior municipal finance manager. You would be well advised to approve this thing promptly. 2/3 of the funding is committed by other levels of government. While I am not aware of the details of which bucket of funding these come from and some are highly politicized, government commitments can vanish at any time if they are not promptly acted upon. This is particularly likely following an election even if there is not a change in government.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>This is an opportunity to continue to build on Stratford's successes. From the University of Waterloo to our continued support of advanced technologies in business through our development of the new Market Square Stratford is on a roll. The amount of economic spin off from the Stratford Festival is unparalleled in this community and the Festival allows us to continue to create jobs in our tourist based economy. The infrastructure is already in place in Stratford for tourist based jobs. We have the hotel rooms, restaurants, labour force and citizens to keep strong economic development here if we keep making good choices to further the face and brand of our great city. The Tom Patterson Theatre development will ensure Stratford remains a world class destination for years to come and keep our economic engine running well into the future. Yes there will be hardships in the short term. Our seniors are being asked to make short term sacrifices for the good of this project. As a restaurant owner the loss of the Tom Patterson Theatre for two years will cause short terms job losses here at Pazzo as well as a significant decrease in revenue as a result of not having that theatre open. The proximity to downtown and the programming there is a direct draw for many of our guests. However, once this project is complete people will be drawn here from around the world and our business will stand to benefit from increased traffic due to this redevelopment. I sincerely ask council to make this the highest priority before them. Roll up your sleeves and get this done. We need to move quickly beyond the Yes we can stage of this to the Yes we did phase and enjoy all the benefits this will offer our great stage of Stratford.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>Comments To Stratford City Council re Tom Patterson Theatre. 1. Fact: There is no question but that the current Tom Patterson building is structurally unsound and will have to be replaced. 2. The proposed design of a multi-functional facility will provide both enhanced theatre space for the Festival and its various programs as well as take into consideration the needs of various community groups. 3. The building's design and the surrounding grounds as proposed will be a 'show piece' for the City. Its location by the water is a very inviting venue for tourists and residents alike as a space for relaxing and renewal. 4. There is no question but that solutions to 'displacement' for various groups will need to be found. However, sometimes there is no alternative but to follow what seems like 'an impossible dream.' Think back to Tom Patterson and his vision for renewing the city when the railroad industry took a major down swing. His efforts overcame a great deal of resistance and reluctance and look at the many benefits the Stratford Festival in all of its facets has provided over the 65-plus years and indeed, continues to provide for the City of Stratford. 5. We hope the City Council would make decisions based on these two things: a. To move with dispatch so that the Festival can take full advantage of the \$20 million grant from the Provincial Government. It would be bad stewardship of available resources if 'foot dragging' in making decisions resulted in losing the first \$5 million which must be spent by March 2018. b. In considering the needs of all groups involved, adopt the motto of our favorite cartoon character, Charlie Brown, whose wisdom includes the adage: There is no problem that cannot be solved. Respectfully submitted,</p>
10/03/2017	<p>Our beloved Stratford Festival has been a part of my life for more than fifty years. I know it needs a new theatre. But I felt a sharp pang of disappointment when I saw the architectural concept for the Patterson Theatre site. It's described in the marketing as a 'glittering jewel', though to me it looks more like the heat sink from a high-end 1970s hi-fi amplifier. All those gold/bronze fins. More importantly, it has no warmth, no contact with the natural environment, no sensitivity to the neighbouring architectural character. Is this what we should be setting down on the banks of Lake Victoria amid Stratford's heritage streets? It might work in other settings, but here I fear it will only jar. As Shakespeare himself tells us, 'all that glisters is not gold'. Of all institutions, the Stratford Festival should understand better than anyone that the real glittering gold is inside, on the stage, where creative people have for decades worked their wondrous magic. Please ask the Festival to go back to the drawing board and propose an architecture that truly suits the setting, without all that external glitter and glitz.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>Save the lawn bowling. I think 1915 makes it a heritage site in Stratford. Surprised it has never been designated.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>I think this would be a great addition to an already first class Festival Theatre. It would also be a great addition to the landscape of the river area.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>To Whom it May concern, I'd like to contribute to the debate regarding the proposed new Tom Patterson theatre. I have been a Stratford resident for 28 years now and feel as much a part of the community as anyone can, I suppose. I have also been employed by the theatre over those years as a composer and my wife xxxxxx has been a performer at the theatre. The theatre has been very good to us. I'm not sure if this gives us a unique perspective on the relationship between the theatre and the place we have come to call home but we have become friends with people who have grown up here and many to whom the theatre means very little and even some who never go to shows. I have taught school here and have played music with local musicians and can't imagine a finer place to live. I have also witnessed the effect that the theatre has on Stratford and its environs and regardless of one's opinion of the theatre I would be hard pressed to think of anyone on whom the Festival has not had a positive impact. The leap of faith being asked of this community with regard to the proposed Tom Patterson expansion pales in comparison to the leap of faith asked over 50 years ago when the theatre was just a dream. Any business needs an upgrade at times to stay current and relevant especially in a shrinking global economy. I believe that if we are to continue to receive the benefits that the theatre brings we have to look to the future and get behind this brave new project. To reject it and do nothing would be the equivalent of taking a step back. Let's do this!</p>
10/03/2017	<p>Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>Harry S Truman Thankfully the Festival and our city is blessed with courageous and skilled LEADERS.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>Please make the Tom Patterson project a reality.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>Please do not turn down a provincial grant. Bring this project to life!</p>
10/03/2017	<p>The proposed Tom Patterson redevelopment needs to be approved as soon as possible. To turn down the tax dollars that would be invested in our community through this project would be a great tragedy. The dynamism of this community depends on a vibrant, successful Festival. Please don't let us down.</p>
10/03/2017	<p>This is great! One of the reasons we moved to Stratford was because of the vibrant arts, so we wish to see it continue to grow and thrive. It's also great this will create many more jobs for the community, as well as bringing more tourists in. Start digging!</p>
10/03/2017	<p>I am 100% sure; this new design for the Tom Patterson Theatre will be the focal point of Stratford for decades if not forever. Many journalists and media from around the world will descend upon Stratford to write about the building, the Stratford Festival, and the city. It is absolutely brilliant as a design. They will compare us to the Salzburg Festival. This is such a fantastic story and wonderful way to honour the dream of Tom Patterson. They'll be nothing to advertise. You won't need a Festival Guidebook. Theatre-goers will want to come just to see the theatre. You could have a play starring Christopher Plummer reading the Stratford Phone Book and people will still come. This will be our chance to shine. I hope Town Council sees this as a once in a lifetime opportunity.</p>

	<p>I just want to add that personally I am fed up with this-Enough already start digging. We need a new Tom Patterson Theatre. The design is breathtaking and meets 3 key needs:Windows to provide a view of the Avon River.Big lobby.Senior friendly seating.It will attract theatre-goers galore for the 1st 5 years to check it out. People will look at it from the outside gobsmacked and when they see the view of the Avon River, they will be equally gobsmacked. You may be saying to yourself, well, you can see the Avon River outside stupid. Correctamundo! Some people need you to frame the Avon River to appreciate its beauty. We have the Stratford Festival along with a top notch architectural firm behind this in Hariri Pontarini Architects and yet many have posed all kinds of questions questioning their judgment? Why? I am going to go on record to state I am not an architect and if you gave me \$60 mil to build a new TPT, I would decline. If you're an architect then you have the background to question things. I have not read from one architect saying OMG this thing will sink and swallow up the city of Stratford. Have some faith in your institutions and move forward. Why on earth would this take Council 5 to 6 months to make a decision? I assume they will ask their experts working for the City of Stratford whether the design is doable, look at how much money this will bring in, along with the benefit to the community at large versus the lawn bowlers (35 members) and SLAAA, who will have to be relocated and hopefully sometime in the future, the Liberals will print off some more \$ for Stratford! This is all good and I have confidence the board for the Stratford Festival wants this project to benefit Stratford-Not just the Festival. Let's have some faith in these people-Many of whom live in our community and walk among us. As soon as I saw the design unveiled at the Stratford Festival Theatre, a light went on in my head! I wanted to scream yahoo and do cartwheels but held back. What is holding Town Council back?</p>
10/03/2017	I think the proposed redevelopment proposal for the Tom Patterson Theatre and the Community Hub is incredible and should be given every ounce of support from our city.
10/03/2017	I think we should go ahead with the projects as above.
10/04/2017	The TPT needs to be replaced with new and upgraded features. I like the idea of the Kiwanis going to the proposed Grand Trunk Community Hub,(temporarily at Agriplex). Perhaps the Hub could facilitate the lawn bowling as well. I have worked at the theatre for 16 years as a stage hand in all four venues. I loved the TPT for it's uniqueness, but the requests for more flying and heavy hanging of heavy show props were becoming a burden of the building. A new building would facilitate all of the designers dreams. It is time for a change. More jobs for Stratford people and more visitors to Stratford. A win,win, change for everyone.
10/04/2017	Hello Mayor Dan Mathieson, City Councillors and other Municipal decision makers:I attended last week's Public Open House & Discussion event about the new Tom Patterson Theatre and I want to lend my voice in FULL SUPPORT of the new TPT, as proposed by the Stratford Festival. I understand and agree with the concerns of the SLAAA and the Lawn Bowling club regarding the disruptive changes that will be made to their facilities because of this project. I also understand that the Festival's desire to re-build the TPT is not a vanity project - it is an absolute necessity. That building is not going to last too much longer, and then it will have to be torn down, regardless. It would be a complete travesty to leave it as a derelict. Cooper Site-like shell of its former self, in order to avoid disturbing the other occupants of this prime and vital piece of Stratford real estate.Change is going to come to that part of Stratford's waterfront, no matter what. Let's make the best of the situation and take advantage of all Provincial funding that is being offered. Why drag our feet?So ... let's move NOW, while we have the momentum, the full \$20 million from the Provincial Government, and very positive indications from the Federal Government. Let's not waste this opportunity. There was great support for the project at last week's meetings, and like many other people, I have been very impressed by the Festival's willingness to not only offer flexibility and accommodation to other parties, but also financial assistance for some aspects of the required transition process.Let's make this a we can do it together project, rather than an us vs them one.Please give your approval for this project to the Festival NOW, so that it can move forward, use ALL of the funds pledged by the Provincial Government, gain confirmation of Federal funding, and begin a new and exciting chapter in Stratford's long and storied history of vision and innovation.Thank you very much for your time
10/04/2017	I would like to see the new Tom Patterson Theatre built. The new theatre, aside from being a beautiful enhancement and upgrade to the river drive, it will increase the park land in that area making the grounds much more user friendly to locals and tourists alike. This issue is very time sensitive and unfortunately city council's record on decision making is not a good one, so I implore you as our elected officials to make a decision, there is no further need to hold up the process.
10/04/2017	My wife and I support the new Tom Patterson theatre location on its present site along Lakeside Drive. It will further enhance the beauty of the river to the benefit of the community.
10/04/2017	Dear members of the council,I am absolutely in favour of the Tom Patterson Theatre proposal. To let this opportunity slip past would seem to be an incredible lack of courage and vision for the future of our city. And what a wonderful enhancement for the core of our downtown it would be if the Hub could go ahead as well. Let's move forward, let's not miss opportunities to make our city better, for everyone. With thanks,
10/04/2017	The proposed Tom Patterson Theatre will once again bring Stratford into the international limelight - a forward thinking design by a renowned architect presenting not just theatre but programs broadcast on CBC, HD films available worldwide. And it takes an aging building at the end of its serviceable life off the City's hands (and the needed repairs/rebuild would disrupt the stakeholders in the same way) - while providing added revenue to the city and jobs. It also would move focus and support to the proposed community hub. Please move quickly to approve this project.
10/04/2017	fully support the construction of the new Tom Patterson Theatre with its surrounding gardens and improved parking lots. The Stratford Festival is the City's most important economic activity, and the Festival needs world-class facilities to remain competitive. We share this neighbourhood with countless visitors as well as city residents. The new theatre will increase the traffic, but we are happy to accommodate the greater level of activity. We are privileged to live in one of the most beautiful locations in Canada, and the Patterson project will change a plain parking lot into a wonderful asset for the entire community -- in addition to bringing substantial economic benefits to us all.
10/04/2017	I fully support the Festival's proposal for the development of the new Tom Patterson Theatre.Having travelled extensively throughout Europe including London, Scotland, Ireland, Italy, Paris, Spain, the Netherlands and Portugal it is clear that the communities which continue to thrive have embraced change and have a wonderful mix of arts, technology and education. The most vibrant communities have integrated spaces utilized by all ages of their society from pre-school to elderly and I believe the hub addresses this beautifully.Stratford has come a long way and is seen a city for innovation. I hope that council will vote in favour of the Festival's proposal. Thank you.
10/04/2017	The time is now to give the green light to the Tom Patterson Theatre renewal project. The Stratford Festival has succeeded in addressing concerns of all the major user groups, notably SLAAA and the Kiwanis Club, about the proposal. Further delays by City Council jeopardize provincial support of a visionary \$60-million project that will benefit this community for decades to come. Let's move forward quickly, not only to preserve provincial funding but to allow renovations to the Burnside Agriplex to begin immediately.
10/04/2017	To Stratford City Council,I sincerely hope that city council does everything it can to ensure that the new Tom Patterson Theatre is built, and does so as quickly as possible.I have lived in Stratford for over 30 years, but before that I was in high school in northern Ontario. Every year I looked forward to our theatre trip to Stratford. We got on a school bus early in the morning, drove to Stratford, saw a matinee show, and drove back home, arriving home just before midnight. We didn't have enough money for a coach bus or overnight accommodation, but we considered ourselves privileged to have the opportunity to see a show. Of course, the beauty of the city was not lost on us.When I was looking for a job teaching high school, I had interviews in North Bay, Mount Forest, and Stratford. The presence of the Stratford Festival was the main reason that I would even consider Stratford. As you know, the festival has been a catalyst for many other attractions (such as the chef school and the great restaurants that have resulted). It is a beautiful city. The new Tom Patterson Theatre will make it more attractive, and not just to tourists.I was at one of the information meetings and I wish to correct the misperception that local people do not patronize the downtown stores and restaurants. I love Stratford's downtown and shop/eat there as much as I can afford to. But of course my resources alone will not keep them viable; we need the out-of-town visitors to help with that.Full disclosure: this year, I retired after a 30 year teaching career with the Avon Maitland District School Board, and started working for the Stratford Festival as an usher. I consider myself fortunate to be working for such a well-managed organization.In conclusion, I would like to add my voice to the case for a timely endorsement of the new Tom Patterson Theatre by the Stratford City Council.
10/04/2017	We are strongly in favour of the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre which we believe will be a boon the the Festival and the city for many years to come.The funding being offered is a one-time opportunity to realise this important project and should not be let to go to waste.
10/04/2017	This project must move forward and there is no reason to delay and potentially cost the Festival money it cannot afford to lose. Construction time delays also cost money. You cannot please everyone in this community - you must do what is best for us and that is to allow the new Tom Patterson Theatre to be built on its current location (along the river). Get this on the council agenda this month and have it approved! We support the Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment and encourage city council to vote to proceed with this project. This opportunity for a critically important organization in Stratford to receive \$60 million of funding from other levels of government and private donors is not one that should be passed up.The disruption to the SLAAA and the Lawn Bowlers is unfortunate, but it is rare that development does not cause some disruption. Hopefully, the city will work hard to make sure both groups have acceptable temporary homes and even better permanent homes. We also support the idea of a Grand Trunk Community Hub (a shared-use facility).
10/04/2017	I support the renewed Tom Patterson Theatre project. It makes both economic and artistic sense. Though there are lingering questions about the Lawn Bowling Club and the SLAAA, and about how this affects the linked project of the Grand Trunk Community Hub, I think the positives far outweigh the negatives. What distresses me is the seeming slowness of council, particularly one or two of the councillors, to get in gear and get the approvals that are necessary quickly to get the project started.
10/04/2017	Urging City Council to approve the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre.
10/04/2017	In a town that has grown up with the Festival, this is the logical and right next step. We should be able to come together to find a way to accommodate the lawn bowlers and seniors in good,useable space, and allow this project to go ahead. I fully support the Festival plan and would like to see the city act quickly and work with the Festival to make it all happen.
10/04/2017	We are seniors and would dearly like to see the new Tom Patterson Theatre as soon as possible. It will be a good long term Stratford addition and we were impressed by the work that the Festival has done to obtain a fine design and to organize the funding. In the longterm it will be for the grater good.
10/04/2017	I have grave concerns when I read The Agriplex, adjacent to the Rotary Complex has been identified as a potential temporary location...The facility is fully accessible, on a transit route and has significant parking. The Agriplex is also the home of the Stratford and District Agricultural Society and was built with their needs in mind in the summer and the needs of a sports facility in the winter. Up to this point I believe this has worked well. Throw the demands of the SLAAA in the mix and someone has to pay dearly for it. In spite of what this article says the SLAAA appear to be angry and frustrated with their upheaval and not one bit happy with the Agriplex location. The Ag. Society has been around for over 176 years in Stratford and in an important part of our community. Please remember we are not Toronto, New York or Philadelphia but a small rural town in the heart of some of the best agricultural land in Ontario,and I am confident, that too plays an important factor with the wonderful success' of the Stratford Festival.Anita Gaffney, when replying to the Agricultural Society's concerns at the meeting answered that they were building a \$250,000 building that would be the Ag Society's when the SLAAA moves on, as if that should be enough to keep the Ag Society quiet. The fact is the building is one of the major issues...there is no room, it will be too small to be of much benefit and the building will take the space required by the cattle trailers to unload, manoeuvre and park.The Ag Society hosts the Pork Congress,-Farm, several cattle shows i.e. beef shows, East Gen 4-H show, Perth/Waterloo Championship Show, 4-H Achievement days,Perth 4-H Championship Show and the Western Ontario 4-H Championship Show, just to name a few. Perth County and Southern Ontario is home to many of the best cattle and farmers around the world. Their talent and skills are very comparable to the array of fine actors and actresses that grace the stage of the Stratford Festival. The best of both worlds, agriculture and the arts in one community. The market is also an important aspect of the work of the Ag Society and I would implore that you do not even consider tampering with the market building and the role it plays in the community. That would be a travesty. Imagine what the SLAAA wood working folks would say if after working for a morning they were required to pack up their table saws and tools and take them home to set them up again the next time their creative juices had them fired up. In closing I just want you to rethink your decisions concerning renovations and adjustments made to the Agriplex and seriously consider the devastating effects on the Ag Society of a fast and furious decision to satisfy the demands of a few for the short term ...or in reality is this really long term? Sincerely,
10/04/2017	Let's not throw this already gifted \$\$\$ away.....already the Theatre generates more than 139 million in annual economic activity, and the citizens of Stratford will pay NOTHING for this great new opportunity...I believe that Stratford, all of it's citizens deserve these great projects. Will you, as City Council be here in even 5 years to say, hey throwing 40 million plus dollars away was a great idea?
10/04/2017	I cannot say enough good things about the proposal for the new Tom Patterson Theatre. A highly sought-after architect has designed what will be a world-class facility for the Stratford community and visitors to enjoy. Aesthetically and functionally, it will be an enormous improvement on the existing building and unsightly parking lot. I understand that various local groups have concerns about their own displacement from the site, and feel the Festival has offered many different viable solutions for them. It will be a great disappointment if the City decides to block the project.

10/04/2017	I get this but how long will this be a priority over Lorne Avenue needing a turn lane? It isn't a glamorous project but people that support city taxes drive on this road every day-congestion is a huge problem on this road. The theatre will be beautiful but functional roads have to be a priority at some point in time. It can't just be about the theatre- citizens that support this town 12 months a year should come first.
10/05/2017	How many times a year are the halls of the Kiwanis booked? How many times a year does the city use the Kiwanis for meetings like the transit accessibility meeting this past week? If we give up the Kiwanis, there is only the Rotary complex. Please reconsider all the needs of the citizens of Stratford. We need a Kiwanis Centre.
10/05/2017	Is the \$20 million promised by the provincial government coming from infrastructure funding. Could it be used for other infrastructure needs for the City of Stratford.
10/05/2017	Hello - We live at xxxxxxxxxxxx, right behind the TPT. Could we please be added to a list so we are notified of meetings, changes to proposal, etc? We are excited about the project but worried that our view of the lake will be obstructed by the new building. My husband and I also both work from home so we are concerned about noise during the construction. My contact info is
10/05/2017	I propose that SLAAA be relocated temporarily to the old Sobey's building. The city should lease it since that space is accessible, on the bus line and available now. When the HUB is constructed we can move there. The Rotary Centre may have lots of parking spaces, but navigating the distances on an icy day is problematic for seniors. I am not against the Theatre building a new facility, but they should wait until plans are in place for the present users of the Kiwanis Centre before they consider that location.
10/05/2017	I fully support the building of a new Tom Patterson Theatre. The current venue is a fire hazard and lacks the feel and energy that a professional theatre venue should possess. The City of Stratford is such a beautiful place that it should have beautiful spaces, both inside and out, that it can be proud of. The old Cooper lot is such an eye-sore and an embarrassment to the city. If the building of a new TPT will fast-track the building of something new, beautiful, and useful on the Cooper lot then the City would be wise to pursue it. Thank you.
10/05/2017	I am a 20 year resident of Stratford, not an employee of the theatre, and wholeheartedly support the Tom Patterson proposal. It is a no-brainer - the City and its residents get the financial and cultural benefits, at no cost to the City (since the lands will be leased or purchased). An investment of at least \$60 million will be made by the province, federal government, and private donors. Think of that latter fact - individuals and foundations have committed \$20 million already without a fundraising campaign - that should tell the City that people are supportive, and public fundraising has not even begun. The thought that the City would risk losing \$5 million of the provincial funding by its usual dithering and flip-flopping takes this writer's breath away. We are all aware of the impact on SLAAA, the lawn bowlers, etc., but such a huge, positive investment should not be torpedoed by those few impacted. Funds are already available to accommodate those impacts, and those people should move on in the face of such a gift to Stratford. Like so many others, I chose Stratford for its combination of culture, food, events, etc. The City must expedite this approval (which would be a refreshing change from Market Square and numerous other initiatives) - it is a no-brainer and let's get on with it.
10/05/2017	I personally don't like the new design, and the way it was handled. Yes the Tom Patterson theatre needs an update, but there are many residents, and groups being displaced by this project. The integrity of this community needs to be preserved at Lake Victoria, the new design is too modernized, just simply too much for the area. I would rather not see a new theatre built there, there are many other locations where one can be built. Thank you,
10/05/2017	I think the SLAAA and Kiwanis Centre should stay where it is, and that the new Tom Patterson Theatre should be built within the Grand Trunk Community Hub. There would be plenty of parking (less current parkland converted to asphalt) for theatregoers, and we've already seen with the Avon Theatre, people will go to the theatre wherever it is if they want to. Then people who live here all year (and pay taxes here) could have what they wish: a community centre on the river for their continued enjoyment. There would be more local acceptance of the Festival if it for once would bow to the very reasonable wishes of local residents.
10/05/2017	When we moved to Stratford seven years ago, our prime reason for choosing this city was because of the Stratford Festival. As a frequent guest at the various Stratford theatres, I very much support the decision to replace the Tom Patterson theatre because the seating in the current theatre is not sufficiently comfortable or suitable. Furthermore, I support the decision to build a new Tom Patterson theatre in its current location by the Avon river. Our beautiful river is a prime tourist location in this city and for this reason, I think it is appropriate to continue to have this theatre located beside the river. The Stratford Festival is a world-class theatre company that draws countless visitors each year. I believe that we should be doing everything possible to continue to attract visitors to this great city. When talking with people that live in other parts of Ontario or Canada, Stratford is commonly perceived as a wonderful place to live. On many occasions, I have wondered, Where would Stratford be without the Festival? I am certain that it would not be as vibrant, as culturally interesting or as beautiful. Finally, as a homeowner, I am hopeful that if the Festival is allowed to expand and adapt as required, the value of our home will be maintained. For all of these reasons, I support the decision which will allow the Tom Patterson theatre project to move forward as planned. Sincerely,
10/05/2017	I reside in the city of Stratford and I am employed at the Stratford Festival. I attended the meeting at the Rotary Complex believe the majority of Stratford Citizens are in favour of the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre. Without the Council's approval this project can not proceed. How wonderful it would be to see the magnificent transformation of the Tom Patterson Theatre. We very much hope you and the city council will help us and allow the Stratford Festival proceed with this project. Regards
10/05/2017	When considering whether or not you are going to proceed with the Tom Patterson project, consider this: the Shaw Festival, not only cancelled shows this year that were undersold, but has actually made the decision to close one of their theatres, the Courthouse theatre, and go down to 3 theatres. Here we have a thriving Stratford Festival interested in expansion, interested in making a better facility that houses more people and more activities to bring in more revenue because there is a demand for it. Just think though... What if the Stratford Festival decided not to renew its lease? What if the Stratford Festival decided that it can run on three theatres? Who pays for the upkeep and/or renovation of the Tom Patterson building then? What does the city do with less tax dollars that they get from the festival? Sure, the city could make that a community building... But then what the hell happens to the Cooper site? Because the city still owns that behemoth... A lot of city tax dollars to spend on both if you don't give the Festival the rights to rebuild. What if the Festival decided to build the Tom Patterson in Shakespeare, or St Mary's -- like how Drayton has theatres in different communities? Now we are sending our tourists out to other communities to spend their money. The Festival is paramount to this city. You can't make it build where you want it to build. It wants the land its on. So let them to continue to use it. The seniors will adapt. The lawn bowlers will adapt. But Stratford needs the Festival to be happy, just as much as the Festival needs primary use of the land. Delaying this any further is ridiculous. Break ground. Get it built. Don't let the Festival lose out on \$5-million of its promised funding because you can't make the obvious decision on this.
10/05/2017	As proud supporters of the Stratford Festival for many years and major donors for the past 10 years, we strongly endorse the proposed Tom Patterson redevelopment project. Winnipegeers until 2 1/2 years ago, the Festival has enriched our lives immensely, introduced us to the many wonderful attributes of the Stratford community and enticed us to become year around citizens here. We believe a new Tom Patterson Theatre will enhance the Festival's continued tradition as world renown centre for educational and entertainment excellence and will greatly contribute to Stratford's evolving community foundation. However we do have compassion for those who may be temporarily displaced and whether it be the Festival's recommendations or other solutions, an amicable outcome can be achieved without further delay
10/05/2017	The redevelopment of the Tom Patterson theatre project is long overdue and certainly welcomed in the community. I was heartened to hear all the positive and enlightening comments expressed at the Town Hall meeting. With the exception of the views expressed on behalf of the lawn bowling association and SLAA? I believe there were ample alternatives provided for those two groups to find alternate and possibly better homes. The concept and design of the new facility is outstanding which will forever transform and enhance the river front. I can think of no better way to improve Stratford's landscape than with this project. As was mentioned, time is of the essence! Let's get moving!!
10/05/2017	My wish would be that the City absolutely give a go to the redevelopment of the T.P. In my opinion not doing so would be utterly foolish. Stratford does not exist only because of the Festival, but to deny or undermine its impact and importance is impossible. Business thrive in this city because of the Festival; the vibrancy and offerings present here are a direct byproduct of the Festival success. This past July theatre attendance was not stellar and everybody felt the difference. Why deny the Festival with this incredible opportunity? It needs to stay competitive, there are funds coming from the Provincial gov. and I'm sure from the Federal level as well. If these two levels of Gov. understand and agree that the Festival is worthy of funding, how could the City of Stratford be blind and deny the evidence? I really hope a positive decision will be made pronto so that ground can be broken in a short time. Be as good as your predecessors who finally allowed T. Patterson to go ahead with his project and not out of desperation but our of foresight-you and us, the Citizens of this beautiful town, will be thanked for your decision.
10/05/2017	If Tom p went to the cooper building they would not lose a season then the seniors would not have to move we could extend in to the theatre more room for them they don't need heavy lights on the roof would not be moved to a place that's not suitable for them for an period that a lot would not see the end
10/05/2017	Make it happen! Awesome awesome awesome.
10/05/2017	We are looking forward to this wonderful addition to Stratford. Both the exciting New Tom Patterson Theatre and the Srs. Centre at the Cooper site.
10/05/2017	I think that a new Tom Patterson Theatre would be a good thing but I strongly disagree with how and where this development is happening. The lawn bowling club of over a century in its' present location was never notified with time to relocate. The idea of selling our park land to the theatre because of location, I am absolutely against. Let's say the Avon Theatre wants to expand in the future. Will they want to buy City Hall or the total block in which it is located? We should just say yes to everything they want? If this development goes ahead on the river drive, how long will it be before our arena is deemed unacceptable located by a theatre? What about the parking in the overlap period of hockey and theatre? Besides noise and inconvenience to the homeowners and taxpayers on Water St., can it be guaranteed that ambulances and emergency vehicles will be able to access these homes during construction? Relocating the Seniors to a place at The Hub, when will this happen- 1yr., 2 yrs., longer? The Rec Centre seems like a good replacement but how many times a year will Senior activities be cancelled due to agricultural usage of the buildings and area? Seniors have lived, worked, raised their families, and paid taxes here. What kind of consideration has been given to their concerns, especially during recent open houses where positive people seemed to be planted in the audiences with prearranged comments- or at least that is what it seemed like to several people in attendance? People come out to express their opinions but recently these really don't seem to be taken into account, example, market square- the big cement slab. Soon too many will give up and just let things happen as their opinions don't seem to matter. Will mine?
10/05/2017	The Stratford Festival is a world-class theatre. Attendance at a new Tom Patterson Theatre is not dependent on a river location - it could be built anywhere in the city and, if the programming is excellent and appealing, people will come, regardless of location. Antonio Cimolino has been quoted as saying that the tourist/theatre-goers enjoy the river location. Well, so do locals. The proposed new theatre, including parking, will take up virtually all the land from Waterloo St. to the Aliman Arena, displacing community groups and clubs. Moving the SLAAA to the Agriflex is fine, however, parking at that complex is notoriously insufficient during community events such as the Stratford Garden Festival and Dairy Festival, and parking during those events might be insufficient to also accommodate members of SLAAA. I would prefer to see the lawn bowling club remain where it is and, if anything, extend parkland along there for all to enjoy. As previously stated, the Festival does not depend on walk by traffic and a river location, while maybe preferable in terms of being an attractive setting, is not necessary to a successful operation.
10/05/2017	I support the festival proposal. It would be a significant addition to our city and advancement of the vision of Tom Patterson as well as an economic boon in both the long and short term
10/05/2017	I know that the Festival is saying that this won't cost us a penny but let she be realistic what about improving the traffic flow down by the river it's obvious that traffic flow will increase what about the pollution cost to the river the swans with more traffic congestion, the roads will need to be repaired more often is our infrastructure capable of handling this increase that the Festival is predicting?
10/05/2017	The numbers that the Festival is throwing out are far from reality ...\$69 million is spent in Stratford during Festival season...really where are these numbers coming from...proof please. Walmart only brings in a measly million dollars a week so in one year Walmart makes less than what the Festival brings to Stratford ...I hope our council is not taking the Festival by their word I hope there is paper work to prove these numbers plus the full time jobs they say will be created ...I believe these numbers are thrown out like candy ...and I believe they are just that candy but not real candy

	<p>Include the seniors and lawn bowlers in the space of the new Tom Patterson Theatre project please. There is no need that ALL community space be housed at the future Hub project. Community space for the seniors could easily be incorporated into the design at this stage. It is shameful that the city council would push out the seniors to the Rotary. It is very far and as a bus rider let me tell you the bus drivers do not always even go to the Rotary to pick people up. They ask the people riding the bus is any one getting off at the Rotary then they don't even drive by the stop. The Festival is amazing at fundraising and has amazing resources. The seniors do not. The lawn bowlers do not. The City needs to negotiate that these groups be included in the new project. Lawn bowlers have been located along the river and have so much history in that location. Why push them out? Including them! Lawn bowling is a beautiful classy sport that certainly could be included in the plans if the City directed the Festival to do that. Why simply kick everyone out when there is NO need too. Include them. Have a wonderful new facility but please INCLUDE them. Ask for more for your community, your seniors, your lawn bowlers too! Don't simply look at the Festivals fancy Architectural plans and accept that what is best for the Festival is best for everyone. This is your first practice run at incorporating different groups and interests into the Tom Patterson Community Building and Theatre. If you cannot successfully negotiate for the inclusion of seniors then have zero hope that Council will be able to balance different interest groups on the larger Hub/Grand Trunk project. Show us you are looking out for the community as a whole and not simply taking the easiest path and accepting the Festival proposal without Community inclusion of other groups. Use the Festival expertise to get this project complete AND to make it inclusive. Thank for your consideration of my input. Picture your own grandmother taking the bus out to the Rotary on a winter day then tell me if this is really the best you can negotiate for our seniors.</p>
10/05/2017	
	<p>My family has lived in Stratford for over 125 years. My uncle, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, was the parks board superintendent until his death in 1954. My grandfather, xxxxxxxx, was on city council at the time of the referendum. In that 1913 referendum, the citizens of Stratford voted against the railway to preserve the city's park system for the people of Stratford. Over the decades, I have been able to enjoy the legacy of that decision. I learned to play tennis on the courts at Water and Waterloo Streets. I played badminton at the facility that is now the TPT. I park at the arena to watch hockey games. Multiple generations of my family have enjoyed lawn bowling at our beautifully maintained grounds. I took my children and grandchildren to play in Upper Queen's park. Currently, I attend and participate in events at the Kiwanis Centre. Unfortunately, future generations may not be able to enjoy the legacy of that referendum. The tennis courts have already been removed. The badminton players have been shuttled away from their facility. Taking grandchildren to play in Upper Queen's Park can be a long walk to the swings due to theatre parking. Soon the beautiful lawn bowling facility is to be removed along with the SLAAA. We keep being told that we need this new theatre to compete with Chicago. We can't compete with Chicago. They have symphonies, operas, ballets, museums, and professional sports franchises. Chicago also can't compete with what we have: small city charm full of welcoming citizens and beautiful parkland. Find it sad that the Stratford Park system is less and less available for the people of Stratford. With traffic congestion and buses spewing exhaust, even walking along the river drive or being at the playground equipment is not the enjoyable experience it should be. Perhaps another referendum should be held to see if the residents of Stratford truly want to give up the legacy of that 1913 decision. The Stratford Festival has world class theatre and requires a new building but I do not believe Stratford needs this big building along the river drive. Congestion created by this new theatre will deter from the residents' enjoyment of their river. Possibly trying to maintain some small city charm might be a better way to help the theatre as well as preserve the parkland our ancestors fought to keep for their descendants.</p>
10/05/2017	
	<p>I've been living in Stratford over 12 years and I think it's an amazing opportunity to have such a beautiful theatre on the water. I'm not of retirement age so I'm not affected (as of yet) by the concern over the senior centre. I don't understand why the senior centre must be on the water any more than the theatre. I hope a (relatively) small group of vocal seniors don't put a wrench in this plan. Not fair to the rest of the community. Go ahead with the new build!</p>
10/05/2017	
	<p>This city has a history with dragging projects like this out. Can we sell the land to the festival and use that money to develop the Cooper site. I think everyone in town is anxious to see this city grow. I would like to see the TPT in a location other than the cities cherished lakeside. I would like to think that the optics which suggest that this is a fait accompli are only that and that the city is considering the needs of all citizens like our seniors, when they expropriate the valuable property. If the decision is to give them this prime real estate then sell it outright....so that our purse strings are not reliant on the financial viability of the Festival and the fact that they chose to build on a flood plain in a time of climate uncertainty.</p>
10/05/2017	
	<p>What are you waiting for? Build this project!!</p>
	<p>When names, email address etc. aren't even asked for along with comments about the TPT New building how can you know if the people commenting here are only leaving one comment or if they are stuffing the ballot box if you will? There's nothing to stop those that will benefit (B & B owners, restaurateurs, Hotels, Motels etc.) from leaving numerous comments about how badly they want the city to vote to push this through. They were in the majority at the meetings at the Rotary Complex, isn't this just more of the same?</p>
10/06/2017	
	<p>I encourage you to consider the importance of the SLAAA site for the parkland area of Stratford. Moving it to the downtown area is not appropriate. The SLAAA site makes a statement about our city. Stratford is not just a tourist destination, it is an inclusive community, one where seniors are valued. Remember how many of the visitors to the theatre are seniors. Watching the lawn bowling is a part of the Stratford experience. Without it, a visit to the Festival is impoverished. Please consider the human side of our city as the area around the new Patterson theatre is planned. We can make the theatre better by not erasing ourselves as a community.</p>
10/06/2017	
	<p>I'm new resident to Sford. Choose to live here for my next stage in life after losing my husband when we retired to Nova Scotia several years ago. This small city has so much going for it and a rebuild of TPT plus the Grand Trunk Hub development will most definitely advance city's economic dev and enhance it as a place to live/work/play. You are so fortunate to have these opportunities here!!! Go for it all and accommodate somehow, somewhere any groups that will be displaced. The Festival made this city in the last century, let the city make the Festival in this century.</p>
10/06/2017	
	<p>Avon River. Over the past several months, it has become public knowledge that the Festival and the City of Stratford are working together to relocate some of the various organizations that will be displaced with the deconstruction of the Kiwanis Centre for the new Tom Patterson Theatre to take place. It has also become public knowledge that the Burnside Agriplex Building is the #1 location to be retrofitted to accommodate the SLAAA activities. The Agricultural Society which currently is located in the Burnside Agriplex building has been very open to discussion and willing to work with the needs of all those involved, while also working to try and keep their own organization, and activities functional, safe, economical and of course continue to grow them. Yes I do work for the Agricultural Society, I will declare that to you, but this letter is from myself. A livestock owner, breeder and exhibitor as well as a business woman, not the Agricultural Society. Let me give you a little background on myself. I grew up on a dairy farm just outside of Stratford. I attended Ridgeway College and developed my own Purebred Holstein Herd, which I marketed and exported Canadian Genetic locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. I have shown livestock since I was 5 years old here in Stratford and have competed at National and International Livestock competitions, and I have worked with some of the top breeders in Canada. The Burnside Agriplex is a State of the Art facility; it is a facility that is used 6 months of the year for sports, for both youth sports and seniors activities. It is also used the other six months of the year to host Agricultural exhibitions, right here in Stratford. It brings in exhibitors, judges and spectators from across Canada, the United States and overseas on a regular basis. These visitors are often overlooked but they too, stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants, and yes they shop in our shops more than you probably ever realized. Cattle arrive to the EastGen Challenge, the Western Ontario 4-H Beef Invitational, the National Limousin Association Show, the National Shorthorn Association Show, the Perth/Waterloo Holstein Show, the Stratford Jersey Championship Show, the Western Ontario 4-H Dairy Championship Show, the Perth County 4-H Championship show, the Stratford 4-H Achievement day and the Milverton 4-H Achievement day by the trailer loads. These livestock trailers are 20ft long pulled by A's and A4 ton pickup trucks. These trailers are pulling loads that weigh in at several tons. They don't stop on a dime, and they do take a lot of space to park. We as exhibitors struggle with parking as it is, with constantly being told we have to park at the back of the building, because trailers aren't welcome out front of City Buildings, it seems everything has to be parked at the back of the buildings. Well guess what, the space at the back of the building is only so big and it keeps getting smaller. I don't know if any of you have ever driven or tried to park a 20ft livestock trailer or maneuver it through tight quarters, but it's not easy. I know the Agricultural Society has asked for two years to please relocate the cement block loading dock that was constructed by Jordan Underhill of CDX away from its current location. Why? Because it takes a lot of valuable parking space, that is required on a weekly basis by the vendors and patrons of one of the oldest year round Farmers Markets in Ontario. Yes, that too is something Stratford can be proud of and should be something that Stratford would want to keep active. In the proposed retro fit drawings of the Burnside Agriplex to accommodate SLAAA it has a new 'storage' facility located at the back of the building, which will once again take away valuable parking space and accessibility to the Fieldhouse for future livestock shows, while also decreasing the amount of storage that the Agricultural Society currently has on site. The Agricultural Society is currently storing 11 wagon loads of supplies, offsite because they simply don't have enough space here, and now these new plans have the storage facility getting even smaller. We all know that livestock is livestock and sometimes it doesn't matter how well they are trained, an animal can spook, just the same as if someone came up behind you and startled you. You would jump, run, or scream too. My concern is a safety concern, I personally think it is fantastic that Stratford has such an active Seniors program, but reality is, as people age and I know first hand from my own personal experiences with my parents, we lose our strength, we lose our agility and we lose the speed of response time, not to mention we tend to also lose some hearing and sight. I have watched on a number of occasions seniors leaving sports activities happily talking and walking and not paying attention to where they are going, as they leave the Burnside Agriplex Building. My concern is this continuing to happen and they walk out in front of a cattle trailer, or an animal spooks and they can't get out of the way fast enough because their personal response time has become slower. What happens then? Is it really safe to mix livestock with seniors? My dad farmed for 52 years, he took over the family farm at 19 years old when he lost both of his parents. I was in the position to take over my family farm but watching my dad age, and seeing those exact same qualities disappear (strength and agility) I chose to sell the family operation to prevent an accident and keep my dad. I understand that seniors and livestock aren't a good mix, I can only imagine what it will be like with a group of individuals who have no or little knowledge of livestock behavior, and who forget they aren't as strong or as quick as they use to be, when I saw the need to remove</p>
10/06/2017	
	<p>The design for the new Tom Patterson Theatre is stunning, and the gardens will be vast and beautiful. What better addition to the City of Stratford? Accommodations have been made for existing users of the site, and funding is (almost) entirely in place for the new building. I hope that Council will vote very soon - and long before the March 2018 deadline to start using Provincial funding - to approve what seems to me, a perfect project that will benefit citizens of Stratford in myriad ways.</p>
10/06/2017	
	<p>I am writing in support of the Tom Paterson project. Giving the competition in the theatrical world and the entertainment world generally, the Stratford Festival cannot stand still. If it does, others will eclipse it and the City of Stratford will feel the negative impact. Unfortunately, some groups like the Seniors association and the Lawn bowling club will be impacted but discussions to find appropriate homes for these organizations have been underway for some time and serious options are on the table. The City cannot wait for provincial and/or federal support for the Hub before approving the Paterson project. The timing does NOT work and we risk losing both projects. Trying to convince the Festival to move to the Hub will not only delay the whole project but will mean forfeiting the already committed provincial funds. The economic future of the City is closely linked to the Festival's future - so many jobs and families depend on the Festival's success. As well, the Festival brings profile and visibility to the City. Without the Festival, Stratford would just be another small, southwestern community. I urge Council to approve the project as soon as possible.</p>
10/06/2017	
	<p>From what I've read, this is a reasonable plan and I think it should move forward in a timely manner. Thanks</p>
	<p>We are in very strong support of the Stratford Festival's proposal to redevelop the Tom Patterson Theatre. We feel that the project is completely necessary for the future of the theatre, which in turn will support the continuing success of Stratford as a wonderful place to live in and visit. We came to Stratford almost 45 years ago, in large part because of the Stratford Festival and the enrichment it gives to small city life. The wealth of fine restaurants, shops, music and arts programs that we enjoy is in large part because of the theatre's presence here. We are also regular patrons of the Festival Kiwanis Centre and believe that the programs it currently supports will be well served in a new community hub.</p>
10/06/2017	

10/06/2017	<p>Let's turn the tables. What if the Stratford Festival only had 35 audience members? The City of Stratford would be looking to make changes. The Stratford Festival drew half a million plus last year. In the real world of business, the elephant would not even have a discussion with the mouse. I believe the Stratford Festival has acted in a fair and responsible manner. Who is acting for the lawn bowling and the senior's community club? Does the City of Stratford have a plan for 111 Lakeside without the theatre? Does the City of Stratford have a plan for a new senior's space? Does the City of Stratford have a plan for a new theatre in another location? Does the City of Stratford have a plan for a new area for the lawn bowling? I only see 1 plan-One vision and that is from the Stratford Festival. It makes the most sense to me. I'm shocked the TPT has existed at 111 Lakeside for as long as it has-46 years. I'm curious how many accidents or stumbles by theatre-goers have been reported by the Stratford Festival? Read the reviews on Tripadvisor. https://www.tripadvisor.ca/Attraction_Review-g155015-d4223743-Reviews-Tom_Patterson_Theatre-Stratford_Ontario.html Employers must investigate all accidents and near misses. Near misses are incidents that cause no visible injury or damage but that could have caused serious injuries or property damage under slightly different circumstances. They should be investigated because they point to conditions or work practices that must be changed to prevent future incidents. Everyone in the production has a role to play in an accident investigation. Workers must report accidents and incidents to their supervisors. Employers and supervisors must promptly start investigations of accidents and incidents. After the investigation is complete, an investigation report must be prepared. http://www.actsafe.ca/wp-content/uploads/resources/pdf/Theatre.pdf There should be more than one plan. I sense the TPT started to become an issue that needed to be addressed about 10 years ago. The City of Stratford should be aware of all and any issues with the theatre in regards to safety and as far as I'm concerned, also with the general theatre-goer experience. Given how much tourism and the Stratford Festival means to the City of Stratford, this should be a given. I say it is time for the City of Stratford to grow up and grow up fast. You had 10 years to plan for this. The Council must be aware of the issues with safety and seating for the theatre, the fact the lobby is the banks of the Avon River, and that the building provides little or no view of the Avon River. The new design addresses these issues. If an architectural firm presented a design for a new theatre in any major city and replicated the old TPT, it would be rejected immediately and the architect would have trouble getting work designing a lemonade stand. The City of Stratford is now in cramming mode studying for a big exam that started 10 years ago. If any funding is lost or no good solution is found, you will have no sympathy from those of us living in the real world.</p>
10/06/2017	<p>We both heartily endorse proceeding with both projects - the TPT renovation as well as the Hub project. The TPT revitalization is crucial to the continued success of the Festival. In a city that started with no theatre-based culture or tradition, to become the home to the largest arts organization in Canada is both a history, and a potential future not to be ignored. Retaining the position and reputation that the Festival has in the world of the arts does not come without investment, not just in what goes on its stages, but in the stages themselves. The TPT, whether as home to one of Stratford's more popular theatres, or to the community activities of SLAAA, is faced with the need to be renovated - whether that happens now, when funding is being made available through a variety of sources, or later, when it won't be. The argument for doing it now is many fold: 1) The window of funding opportunity is now, thus saving the financial load on the City (and, by extension, on us as taxpayers); 2) The facility is in need of work. 3) Delay will only cost more, both in terms of hard costs for the renovations, (assuming that funding will not be available), as well as in a lost competitive opportunity for the Festival to demonstrate that it deserves its place as a leader in the arts world; 4) It reinforces Stratford's position as a city that leads the way, rather than chooses to fall behind out of fear of change. The Hub, in our minds, falls into a similar category. You have very ably outlined all the reasons why this project, as well as the TPT renovation project, should be going ahead. The reasons are clear, and the potential benefits great and long lasting. We encourage City Council, while respecting the need for public consultation, to not let that consultation be an excuse to not move forward and instead, to take the brave step required to approve these projects. Not everyone in the city will agree. Not everyone agreed about the benefits of the Festival back in 1953. But the long-term value of council's decision back then has borne itself out in the city that Stratford is today. We encourage you to look to the economic and cultural views of what Stratford and the Stratford Festival can be as you have outlined in this document, and act in a timely, and decisive manner to approve both projects. Sincerely,</p>
10/06/2017	<p>I have been a supporter of the Stratford Festival for years - donating & attending with enjoyment. However I am concerned about the new Tom Patterson Theatre. It does not seem to fit in with the architecture of 'quaint Stratford'. We have prided ourselves on the beautiful heritage buildings like city hall, the country court house, and the look of our downtown. This mammoth modern edifice (looking like something Donald Trump would build) on the most precious property in the city will distract not only from the atmosphere we have maintained, but will take away from the nature and peacefulness of our parklands. It should be built out by the Festival Inn or the Rotary Complex where it will fit in with that architecture. The Festival has said it needs to 'be by the water' to compete. Really? It isn't our world-class theatre, with famous actors, directors, amazing sets and costumes that people are coming here for? It's to see water as they walk from their cars to the lobby? On the other hand, if the Festival is planning to sell food 'on the water', that would be an unfair advantage over the wonderful assortment of restaurants we already have. The Festival has its mandate for drama - it should not expand into another industry and ruin jobs for wait staff, cooks, managers already established but not in a prime location. We had a one-industry town before - do we want the Festival to monopolize our town? In exchange for the present Active Adults Community Centre, we have been given a promise of the Cooper Site to build a 'hub'. With the downloading of responsibilities from the province, all cities are having trouble meeting their financial obligations. For Stratford to apply for a grant to clean up the Cooper Site, we will be competing with many other cities with legitimate needs. The Festival will have been given \$40,000,000 of taxpayers' money for the theatre. Is it really believable that the city will be given more money to prepare for and build a 'hub' when other cities need help with affordable housing, food security, etc.? The Festival should not be allowed to destroy the Active Adults Centre until we have assurances of what will be available, both in locations and money for Stratford residents.</p>
10/06/2017	<p>A few years ago there was a proposal to build a Walmart store on Ontario Street and this provides a point of comparison. The Walmart store was like any other Walmart store in every city in North America; the new Tom Patterson Theatre is unique, architecturally designed specifically for its site. The Walmart store sells good available in many other places (starting with all the other Walmart stores); the new theatre will offer an experience that is available only there, people will have to come to that building. Walmart is a net drain on the Stratford economy - the Walmart family is one of the richest in the world thanks to the profits that flow from each store back to Ohio. While we residents support (in aggregate) the theatre a lot, the bulk of ticket sales and donations come from outside the city, enhancing our economy. The Walmart store displaced other businesses; the new Theatre will displace some users. It is obvious to me that the new Theatre is a fabulous proposal. So is the new hub if our city council can make it happen - but that is a totally separate proposal. Clearly the Festival is so much further along in the Theatre planning than the City is with the Hub. The City (I think) needs to allow the Theatre to happen now and devote some real energy to making the Hub happen as soon as practical. The city seems very late to the party. Input is invited a year too late (I saw plans for the new theatre a year ago - so the City must have as well). 16ft high glass walls overlooking Lakeside Drive makes me nervous - my instinct is preserve precious parkland - but we are way past that now. The current theatre building is an eyesore and the proposal looks gorgeous. The City will be better for it. Help make it happen. Please don't kill it.</p>
10/06/2017	<p>I have submitted below my New Tom Patterson.doc , that I presented at the afternoon meeting September 26th at the Stratford Rotary Complex, Community Hall. I sincerely urge the City Council to go ahead with the project, and soon. It is Unique! A Theatre, sensitively and beautifully designed for its location and functional. As a senior and former principal dancer I urge you: Please go ahead. We are with you for the Festival and the City of Stratford. Please read my attachment below. Thank you.</p>
10/06/2017	<p>My name is xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. I live in the Avondale neighbourhood. I took an executive position in Waterloo two years ago precisely so that my young family could live in Stratford. We came here, in part because of the Festival, but mainly because we thought this city would be the best place in Canada to raise our children. And we have not been disappointed. What we see in Stratford is a community of people who are unusually civic-minded, who value education and culture, who are innovative in spirit but respectful of tradition, who take pride in their common stewardship of a shared architectural and floral/cultural legacy, and who interact with each other in an usually genteel manner. As an outsider who has lived in three comparable cities, I can see how unique this community is; and I cannot help but conclude that most of its strengths are either directly or indirectly a product of the game-changing decision in the 1950s to launch the Stratford Festival. Through the values it prioritizes and the people it attracts, the Festival has quietly, but steadily, put its stamp on the civic culture of this town. That's why I think it's so important to support the ongoing development of the Festival, and the Tom Patterson Theater project in particular. The old theater obviously has to be replaced sometime soon. There's external money for a new one and the design for it is breathtaking. And in true Stratford character, it is not simply a specific solution to a particular problem; it is a legacy project that dramatically enhances a major stretch of our community's beloved lakefront. We all win from that. I understand that the TPT proposal requires the displacement of two valued community groups. Regrettably, innovation often entails some degree of dislocation. I was struck at the community meeting last week by the genuine solicitude of Mr. Cimolino and Ms. Gaffney for the concerns of those stakeholders and by the generosity of their proposal for accommodation. And it was another testament to the character of the community that a number of those who would be negatively impacted by the project expressed support for it. I have lived in three other Canadian communities that are roughly the size of Stratford. Any of them would have killed for an opportunity to have a \$60 million theater built for them entirely with external money. This is an exceptional opportunity. Let's take advantage of it! Thank you.</p>
10/06/2017	<p>My husband and I fully support the effort and plan to replace TPT, feeling that it can only benefit our community and the status theatre in Canada, generally.</p>
10/06/2017	<p>Isn't it bad enough that we have one hideous eye-see (Market Square), and one in the making (All Wheels skate park) in this city? And now the Festival wants to build a concrete and glass monolith in place of the current Kiwanis Community Centre/Tom Patterson theater? I'm sure typing this is just a waste of my time as any criticism will surely fall on deaf ears.</p>
10/06/2017	<p>I do not think that the festival needed to make such an elaborate new theater. The people who use the kiwanis center and lawn bowling were not even informed that anything was being planned. If the festival makes space for the seniors group, that would be nice as long as the price to use the facility is not festival prices. Still other groups use the kiwanis center too. I do not see why they have to use the property used for lawn bowling. Just leave it alone and make the theater a bit smaller if necessary so it does not intervene. The theater should be able to come up with a design that would be more accommodating to the residents of Stratford not just the patrons of the theater. So I am not saying no theater I am saying go back to the drawing board and do better</p>
10/06/2017	<p>My wife and I are strongly in support of this new Tom Patterson Theatre. We went to the unveiling and were impressed. Very good job. All our support. Thank you City Hall.</p>
10/06/2017	<p>I think it is a horrible idea to displace the lawn bowling establishment that has been in that spot for over 100 years. I question the vitality of this theatre seeing as it needs Canada Council and Government of Ontario to operate and has been a temporary building for over 40 years. The Festival already has a lakeside theatre. The Festival cannot compete with Toronto and Chicago. Visitors come here because it is NOT Toronto or Chicago. The citizens of this city should have access to as much green space around the river as possible, not decrease it like in current years like when the tennis court was removed. The Copper Lot needs redevelopment and would be a perfect spot for the Theatre to redevelop provided that it actually receives its grants from Canada Council and the Ministry of Tourism, Sport, and Culture. The Copper Lot is more accessible with room for parking and is in close proximity to the downtown core and the VIA Rail station. Please do not let the Festival Theatre continue to bully the citizens of the City of Stratford when they can improve a much needed site in the Copper Lot.</p>
10/06/2017	<p>Tom Patterson bought the former Grand Trunk Railway site back in the 1970s for development. Why can't the Festival develop that site instead? It would be for the tourist interest to have parking. Plus it would be a historical site that would be an additional interest point for tourists. The Festival already has one riverside theatre. It does not need another. Redeveloping the former Grand Trunk Railway Site would be better for the city of Stratford, its citizens, and tourists. That site is accessible and capable of holding large masses of people. Leave the riverside site for the citizens of the city who use it all year. Cimolino's statement of it always being there is not a valid reason for developing the riverside site especially since the lawn bowling club have always been there too. The city of Stratford is not Sydney, Australia, Toronto, or Chicago. Visitors come here because it is a small town, not a big city.</p>
10/06/2017	<p>Sell the Grand Trunk Railway Shops to the Festival instead of the lakeside location. Keep green space around the river for the citizens of the city and tourists for everyone to enjoy all year round. The Railway Shops are in desperate need of development. If the Festival is able to receive provincial and federal government grants plus grants allotted to arts organisations, they can actually make a difference to the city by developing the former railway lands rather than a building that is only accessible to those who can afford it.</p>

10/07/2017	I'm completely behind the proposed TPT rebuild as designed. It appears that the Festival has covered all bases and is taking into consideration everyone affected by this. As long as the seniors are covered immediately and the lawn bowlers eventually, then City of Stratford....get right on this!
10/07/2017	Give the Festival the Grand Trunk Railway Land as a gift for free. The City is in debt and that land needs development. The Festival has \$60 million to develop. The Festival's reasoning to develop on the waterfront land because the tourists like it and it has always been there is weak and childish. The Festival uses city buses in the summer to transport tourists to the Stratford Perth Museum. If a transportation hub is going to be developed near the Grand Trunk Railway lands, it would be perfect for tourists to get to. The tourists can enjoy the riverside land as much as the citizens of this town despite where the Tom Patterson theatre goes. The tourists are going to the theatre to see a play, not the river.
10/07/2017	If we are to continue fostering our long valued tradition of ground breaking, visionary theatre here in Stratford, this project is vital to our cultural and economic prosperity. We need to embrace the changes that need to be made in order to facilitate this. As a resident of Stratford, I fully support this project. Thank you.
10/07/2017	I would like City Council to strongly consider approving the Tom Patterson Project. What would Stratford be without the theatre? A Woodstock? Or worse, be a city like Kitchener trying to revitalise a struggling core? We have a wonderful city in part thanks to initiatives from the theatre and the attention the city receives through tourism. This is who we are, and to deny the building opportunity would be a mistake. The Festival has committed themselves to this project, both in retrofitting a space for the seniors and making this space work. If the Festival pulls out, we'll have a parking lot. This simply doesn't make sense for the city to waste the space when it has so much potential. Embrace progress, and embrace the Tom Patterson Project.
10/07/2017	I feel it has to happen for the festival to continue to grow. The current TPT and community centre is an eye sore and needs to be replaced. The Festival will go ahead and do it anyway so if it is not at the current site (and it definitely won't be at the whenever to be available cooper site....no theatre builds next to active RR tracks) they will build somewhere else. So the \$80k rent that the festival pays for the year (which is only really 5 months) will be gone and they will not be doing any maintenance on the building so that will all fall to the city to cover. Get on with it please!!!!
10/07/2017	What does state-of-the-art Grand Trunk Community Hub mean exactly? That term is often used to sell a lemon. What is increase its annual attendance by some 52,000 patrons based on? Whatever it is these people are smoking, where can I get some? preferred location of the former Cooper site by who? Not the people I've talked to. Why \$60 million? I plan to get a copy of the submission for \$20 million to the federal government and see what is based on. If it is the additional 52,000 patrons I will raise a red flag since I seriously doubt it will happen. I realize Kathleen Wynne is in vote buying mode and she'll gladly spent tax payer money to buy votes.
10/07/2017	Having moved to Stratford seven and a half years ago I am quite bewildered why there would be doubt in any mind that a new Tom Patterson Theatre should not be built on the best piece of property in the city to honour the man that placed Stratford on the world map. It is a very exciting project and I am looking forward to seeing it get started. It is because of Tom Patterson that people wanted to come to Stratford. It is due to the existing theatre and our Mayor that people continue to come to our beautiful city. I think if the lawn bowling could be worked into the gardens it would be a great feature.
10/07/2017	I believe it is extremely important that a new theater be built to replace the TPT as this would provide not only enjoyment for people but also many jobs would be created to build and also to operate the theatre.
10/07/2017	I am very enthused about a new Tom Patterson theatre. The benefits to the city as well as Festival patrons, are immeasurable.
10/07/2017	I AM IN FAVOUR OF THE TOM PATTERSON ON ITS CURRENT LOCATION BUT BETTER
10/07/2017	if there's parking for the hockey arena too, I'm in favor of cleaning up that site
10/07/2017	I am not a resident of Stratford, however, I want to provide you with my feedback from my perspective as someone who lives outside of the city of Stratford. The Stratford Festival is an economic boon to those who live within a 25 mile radius of the city and we depend on the jobs provided by the Festival. The monetary impact boosts businesses for those who work in St. Jacobs, Kitchener/Waterloo and Cambridge. Likewise, these cities thrive when Stratford Festival is successful in its endeavours. I believe it is in the best interests of those who live in Stratford to support the rebuilding of the TPT and to enable the timely progress of this project fully. It is my hope, as a resident of Wilmot Twsp., to support Stratford Festival in its endeavours over the next couple of years as it benefit a wider geographical area than just the City of Stratford. Thank you for inviting my feedback on this matter!
10/07/2017	We need to consider all of the residents of Stratford. I myself love to walk around the river and watch the lawn bowlers. I used to play tennis on the court there, then that was taken away. Do we all want more tourists by the river? My husband and I like to take our kayaks down to the river but quite often there is nowhere to park to put them in due to Festival Theatre parking. I just feel the majority who can't even afford to frequent the shows should be considered. Lets keep our park system simple and not be dictated to by Cimolino. The theatre can be built elsewhere, theatre lovers will still attend.
10/07/2017	I am 100% in favour of the new Tom Patterson theatre. not only do I believe that this is something that needs to be done for The Stratford Festival to continue moving forward and producing world class theatre to a wide range of audiences but would be a huge boost to the city Stratford. Also aware of the state of the building and it's need to be torn down as over time it is no longer structurally sound. Lets get this project done and bring a new found excitement to Stratford.
10/07/2017	The new Tom Patterson Theatre is much needed and will be a wonderful asset to the community. The Cooper site would be a good location for a community hub, easily accessible by bus. This is a win-win for all.
10/07/2017	The Festival gives so much back to our community, not only with free tickets, but also supporting other projects like Culture Days, not to mention the taxes and employment opportunities that we offer... I simply cannot understand the hold up from our city to allow this project to go forward...the present building is in a state of disrepair and for the safety of our citizens and patrons, we cannot put a small bandaid on it...please Stratford...you know what needs to be done...just as the city stood behind Tom Patterson so many years ago...his namesake theatre now needs this same support... thank you
10/07/2017	I hope slaaa and city will look for feedback from those of us that are soon to be 55 and not just current slaaa members. For me to want to join slaaa I would like it to be as close to the downtown core as possible and to offer different programming than they currently do. So hoping wherever it ends up being located that the space has lots of flexibility to adapt to the changing needs/wants of us old folks!
10/07/2017	beautiful project will enhance the city
10/07/2017	Hello to you all, I have been a resident of Stratford for over 41 years. In that time I have enjoyed attending theatre performances immensely. I went to all three theatres. In those days the Tom Patterson Theatre was called the Third Stage. Theatre is such a soul awakening experience! So when I heard about the plans for a new TPT Theatre I was very enthusiastic! I thought to myself: Surely this is the way for Stratford to go. To provide a brand new state of the art theatre for patrons to attend their beloved plays. The TPT is aging rapidly. I even remember playing badminton there many years ago. I don't want us to pass this opportunity by, and 10 years down the road, look back with regret and say to ourselves: Oh Boy! We should have done this 10 years ago! We barely have enough money to build one new theatre, so we should do the theatres one at a time, and then years down the road, we will have a clear path towards renovating the Festival and then the Avon. No building lasts forever! If we put off building the TPT now, then 10 years down the road we may find ourselves saddled with having to renovate/build three theatres. Think of the \$5 million that the Festival generates for the city in taxes every year. Isn't that alone worth it? A new, modern TPT will be a showcase to the world depicting the world class theatre they will find in Stratford. And all this will cost the City of Stratford absolutely nothing! Is this a good deal or what? All the City has to do is push on ahead with granting the sale of the land to the Festival Theatre. Time is of the essence. Let us not procrastinate any longer. Let us take action, and get things moving with the land sale. I am absolutely confident that the new TPT will draw many more people than what the present TPT could ever do.
10/07/2017	I am absolutely in favour of the Stratford Festival's planned projects for the Tom Patterson site. I understand that some groups will be displaced, and that those people may feel saddened by this, but to the benefit of the entire city, I feel strongly that the plans should proceed.
10/07/2017	Hello to you all, I am a Stratford Festival Volunteer and my job is to welcome guests to the theatre, make them feel at home, and answer all their queries. Naturally they chat a lot and tell me how happy they are to be in this wonderful city-to see plays, visit restaurants, shop and also enjoy our beautiful gardens. Some have been coming for 30+ years, every year! If we are making improvements to our theatres, does this not entice them to continue coming? They will spread the word and tell their friends too. This brings revenue into the city, creates extra jobs, generates tax money (approx \$5 million per year)! Surely this is very good for the City of Stratford? Please support the Festival Theatre, and work with them. To begin with, get the land sale to the Festival approved and in the works. This is a good first step, and can only result in a win-win situation for Stratford.
10/07/2017	more than \$20 million in private funding commitments have also been made to the Festival Are the tax payers of Stratford ever going to find out who made these private funding commitments?
10/07/2017	In full support of the Tom Patterson rebuild. My family has depended on tourist based income since 1963 and our business currently supports 3 generations as well as being able to provide jobs for locals during Festival Season.
10/07/2017	time is of the essence get the deal done sad for the few benefits for the many kind of a no brainer
10/07/2017	Redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre is LONG overdue. Our theatre community must stay at the leading edge of theatre offerings and they need proper space for patrons, actors and the back stage people to offer their best work. It is in the community's best interest to go forward with this marvellous plan - jobs, revenue to the city and tourism will be positively enhanced with this wonderful new addition to our Festival Theatre family.
10/07/2017	This development would be a great move forward for Stratford.
10/08/2017	Dear Mayor Mathieson and City Council Members, I feel that the planning for the new theatre is too hasty. I think the seniors of Stratford need to be respected more and looked after better rather than just sticking them at the agri complex for a quick fix like you are thinking right now. Seniors unfortunately in our Western culture are not respected as they should be and it is shown again here with thinking to put the Festival first. I've worked with seniors for many years and done many ageism empathy sessions to educate people. I ask you to put yourself in the seniors shoes and think in their situation. The seniors will indeed require a new facility as the number of seniors in the community grows. I ask you to think of the seniors in Stratford first rather than leaving them shafted and not receiving the centre to provide the services that they deserve. The senior citizens of this city are your priority and you should be doing the very best for them. Seniors growing needs in Stratford should be your primary concern and the Stratford Festival second. You will be a seniors soon and need the support of your community in the future so I ask you to keep them in your thoughts now.
10/08/2017	With parking in the downtown core almost impossible to find why not build a parking system like the airports where its out of the way & designed for travelers giving them & stratford citizens less frustration by having a shuttle service coming & going to the downtown core & possibly the theaters. 52,000 new customers a year with the current parking situation makes it difficult for anyone to agree with more traffic downtown especially if the new parking system was large enough it would be easier to agree with any growth.
10/08/2017	Dear Mayor Mathieson and Members of City Council, Thank you for this opportunity to voice my strong support for the reconstruction project proposed for the Tom Patterson Theatre. Having read about the project, I think it is exciting, innovative and beautiful. It replaces a building that is past its life expectancy and poses creative limits on the actors, directors and designers. The proposed building is dynamic, and makes excellent use of the site while at the same time honouring the riverside location. I have, by chance, met and spoken with the architect. I admire his commitment to thoughtful and inspired design. Looking on-line at some of the projects he has completed around the world, he is supported by an impressive international catalogue of work. This proposed project is another important moment for Stratford to lead the way into the future of the development, presentation, and curating of live theatre in Canada and the world. It will provide an extended showcase for both new and established actors, directors and designers to do their very best. This very best will help to attract and educate new generations of theatre-goers to Stratford. I appreciate this moment of your time to express my support for this project. Please do so too. Thank you. With respect, and kind regards, Addendum: The Community Hub proposal is also an excellent opportunity for leadership with a different focus. The two projects, in my opinion, are both timely moments to show leadership to the residents of the City, to visitors from around Ontario, Canada and the world. Both projects provide amazing chances to move courageously into the future. Thank you.
10/08/2017	I strongly support the Tom Patterson Theatre project and encourage the council to act quickly to approve it. Delaying, or denying approval, will jeopardise the funds already approved by the province and anticipated from the federal government. Stratford cannot afford to waste this money. The proposed building is gorgeous and will greatly enhance the riverbank. The reputation of Stratford as a place where amazing things can happen will be increased. Do not waste this opportunity.

I moved to Stratford from Toronto 25 years ago and was drawn to the vibrancy of the community and the quality of life this city affords. We are very blessed to have such a diverse, and rich community in which to live, and yet, I would not have settled, nor stayed, here without the theatre. I am fully in support of the new Tom Patterson theatre project, and having worked there both as an usher and House Manager, am acutely aware of the need for the building to be torn down and a new one built rather than merely renovate the existing structure. I am also conscious of the need for larger and more suitable accommodations for the SLAA members and believe the ideal spot would be in the downtown Community Hub that has been proposed. I know that parking in that neighbourhood is precious when community activities or hockey are also taking place during theatre season. I understand that the Festival has agreed to look at creating space in their new building for the SLAA, but wondered if any thought had been given to using the city owned property on Morenz and relocating the heavy equipment and winter quarters for the swans. In spring the swans could be brought to a lakeside location with temporary fencing for the annual swim parade (such as lower Queens Park), and the back area could be used for additional parking for the Allman Arena in hockey season. I am disappointed that the lawn bowlers may lose an entire season due to the timing of the project and hope that their new location will be one that leaves them feeling that their needs have also been addressed and taken care of. Finally, I hope that a decision will be made in a timely manner to allow the funding for this project to be maintained, and that the city will continue to work towards the Community Hub to move forward.....soon.

10/08/2017

I hope that City Council demonstrates the vision and courage to move both these projects ahead. They will be of unquestionable economic, cultural and social value to our town.

10/08/2017

Maybe help with local homelessness prior to luxuries would be prudent and responsible.

10/08/2017

City Clerk directly. I have been a citizen of Stratford for the past two and a half years. Although I am not yet age 60, I want and plan to spend the rest of my life here. Before retiring here, I visited the city on an annual basis for 29 consecutive summers, spending 7 to 10 days here each year (and hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years!) During my working life, I worked for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and in my last decade with CMHC, I was a senior vice president with wide-ranging responsibilities that routinely exposed me to matters of urban planning and development. I have a Masters degree in economics with a specialization in the role of the service sector as a catalyst in regional economic development. I have also read extensively about the project, including both positive and negative commentary, and attended the public open houses. I believe all of this qualifies me to speak knowledgeably about the project. My comments are divided into three sections: why this project must proceed; why location and timing are critical; and, finally, what needs to happen now and how this project should inform future projects. Why should the proposed redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre proceed? The two open houses and feedback through a variety of channels demonstrate that the people of Stratford enthusiastically and overwhelmingly support the project as an economic, aesthetic and cultural advance. This should not be surprising. What community of any size would turn down a project that will inject \$60 million (raised from the two other levels of government and private donors, most of whom are outside the community), create over 500 construction jobs and attract 50,000 more visitors each year? In simple terms, this project is a gift for Stratford. Add to that that the project proponent is a not-for-profit, non-polluting organization that has a sterling reputation as a cultural institution of national and international importance. Consider that that institution has a 65-year commitment to this community and is its major employer and main economic engine. Remember that that institution has occupied this site for over 45 years and has worked tirelessly over the past year to address the needs and concerns of other stakeholders affected by this change, not to mention that it is quite responsibly raising an endowment fund of \$40 million, in addition to the construction cost, for the ongoing maintenance of the new facility. Recall that the project is already winning accolades among architecture critics and will replace an ugly behemoth on the lakeside with a stunning new complex and gardens of national importance. And finally, reflect on the fact that the City of Stratford will receive considerable cash compensation, either through the sale or lease of the site. That money will be a tool to help meet the needs of this community. It could be a down payment or funding source for an amazing community hub and seniors complex that would be the envy of southwestern Ontario. The case for this project is indisputable. Why should the project proceed now and at this location? The Tom Patterson Theatre is in urgent need of replacement. It is simply unsafe. This summer alone, I saw 6 people, most of them seniors, fall during events in the building because of the steep stairs and narrow aisles. It has become irresponsible for the Festival and the City to continue to operate this theatre. It is beloved but its functional life is over. This raises the important question: if the project does not proceed, how will the City rehabilitate the site? We hear as well that the Stratford Lakeside Active Adult Association (SLAAA) has outgrown its facility. If the theatre vacates this building, the City will be left with an untenable structure on prime real estate. Who else would be able and prepared to rehabilitate the site and offer as appropriate a land use? The opportunity is now and the City needs to act now or it will acquire another long-term problem. If the City doesn't act, then the Festival will have no choice but to close the Tom Patterson - perhaps not in 2018 but soon - and reconsider its options. We need to be cognizant that another comparable endeavour, the Royal Shakespeare Company in the United Kingdom, faced with a similar choice, chose to create a new operational space in London, instead of in Stratford-upon-Avon in order to broaden its reach, which has proved a highly successful endeavour. That is not what the Stratford Festival wants but, more importantly, it is certainly not what the citizens of Stratford need. I have seen online comments that question whether proximity of the Tom Patterson Theatre to the Avon River really matters to visitors. I can assure you that it does! People come here first and foremost for what happens inside the theatre. But it doesn't end there. It's the hospitality in the B&Bs. It is the extraordinary natural and architectural beauty of the community. It is what happens in the amazing restaurants. It is because of the friendly, warm, interested people that visitors meet here. Visitors come because of the amazing alchemy of Stratford, because of how it magically combines all of this into an exceptional experience. Play with that magic at your own risk. Further, even if it were a suitable location, which it is not, the Grand Trunk Railway site will not be ready for redevelopment in time to move quickly on this urgent need. As a result, precious funding will be lost. What needs to happen now? The message at the public open houses was clear: City Council, do what we elected you to do and act on this project now! If you do not act, the short-term pain that Stratford hospitality business are prepared to accept in 2018, because they better than anyone know the true long-term benefits, will extend beyond a single

10/08/2017

Theatre is our commune has far reaching benefits. I support you.

10/08/2017

Dear City Council in your Update to the Community, you state: The economic stakes are high. The Festival estimates that a new Tom Patterson Theatre could increase its annual attendance by some 52,000 patrons, bringing an additional \$14 million into the area each year. That's in addition to the estimated \$139 million in economic activity it currently generates. If this is an accurate statement of the economic impact that the construction of a new Tom Patterson Theatre will have on Stratford, then the City needs to do everything possible to support the Festival in this endeavour and to confirm that support immediately. I appreciate that, as always, a number of people would prefer to keep things as they are. Two points seem pertinent here. One is that the current theater is going to have to be closed and replaced sometime soon no matter what. The other is that fair and reasonable steps have been proposed to accommodate the two groups that will be displaced. The role of Council is to determine what is in the best interest of the community as a whole. In my opinion, the best course for Stratford is to take advantage of all the external money that is available and get the new theater built now. Sincerely,

10/08/2017

I have been very impressed with the thoroughness of the approach to this most important project on the part of the Festival. They have analyzed all possibilities and are prepared to partner with all those involved/affected to ensure every organization's needs are met. In an ideal world, the Hub would be built at the same time as the new TPT. What a testament that would be to our commitment to this wonderful city!! I understand the City must be very careful with taxpayers' money, and look after all constituents' needs, but I feel very strongly that this project will only enhance the quality of life in our city for all concerned!! I hope that all involved can take a page from Tom Patterson's book and be persistent in the pursuit of this dream. More than 65 years ago Tom did not rest until the dream of the Festival became a reality. What a different place our city would be without it!! Please, let's ALL WORK TOGETHER to make this project happen. It can only bring good things, and could be the catalyst for The Grand Trunk Hub to become a reality as well. Change can be uncomfortable, and change can cost money, but the benefits will be enormous! Good things happen when people work together towards common goals. Please, let's pursue this dream in honour of Tom Patterson and all who will benefit from it!

10/09/2017

Once upon a time there was a Church Mouse....Council has only one plan before them-A new theatre on 111 Lakeside Drive. Let's say they take until year-end to make a decision and say no. The Stratford Festival would have to redo the design, as their current design is only appropriate for the Avon River location. There is no way they could select a new location, redo the design for that location, get Council approval and make substantial headway by March in order not to lose \$5 mil in funding. How many small businesses rely on tourism to prosper? Quite a few I gather and most of the population would be upset at losing a \$60 million theatre, which is needed in an ideal location to attract tourists as well as residents. We would likely be looking at a new Council come election time. Let's say all the funding is lost, what do you think the new Council would do when the Lawn Bowling Club asks for consent to operate at a loss? <https://www.stratfordcanada.ca/æ/1/Final-2017-grant-approvalsæ> Eventually, the old TPT will need a roof repair or something. Where will the money come from? How would the Provincial government, Federal government, the Board for the Stratford Festival along with their sponsors react? This would be like a child saying no to their allowance. Who says no to money-Especially \$40 mil in government funding? Let's put this into perspective, Scotiabank is paying \$40 mil a year for naming rights to the home of the Leafs and Raptors. What does that tell you? Stratford is a mouse. A church mouse does not say no to \$40 mil worth of government cheese and \$20 mil in donor funding. A church mouse says thank you for your faith in me. I will accept your funding and do the very best to reward your faith in me. If the Federal government comes through with the funding, this sends a very strong message they have faith in the Stratford Festival, Stratford Tourism along with the legacy of Tom Patterson.

10/09/2017

We should vote unanimously in favour of their faith and do the very best we can. The church mouse who said no, met a very bad fate.

I have some major concerns about parking as the plan now stands for the new TP. All these gardens are great, however, that location holds buses for hockey tournaments and cars for many Alman activities. The new configuration of parking, although the Festival says it's the same amount of parking, does not look like it is designed to be arena friendly. The streets on Water and Cobourg are already packed every Friday night and during special occasions. My concern is this parking plan going to increase the number of cars parked on our streets. I think it is very important to maintain parking in the present location, and NOT paid parking. We have a lot of green space, and I appreciate it, but the amount of garden space on the horrendous design is a tad much, when parking is at a premium there to begin with. I love the idea of the Hub, but would prefer to see it started first, rather than the TP. It is like the buses all over again. Get rid of what's there and then flounder to figure out what's next. Hub first, TP second. Or at least secure funding for the Hub. My worry is once the Seniors are displaced to the ag complex the government will see no need to help fund the Hub. Also the relocation of lawn bowling to the muni is absolutely absurd. Just the wrong location all together! Any chance it could be relocated up by the tennis club and share their facilities?? Finally, the design of the new TP, in my opinion, does not suit Stratford. Why put such a large foye in a building where everyone is inside. That entrance way will sit empty most if the time. I know the city does not have control over the design, but you do over parking and gardens. Parking should trump gardens! Please take into consideration the fact that we are one way streets and our streets aren't in the greatest shape to begin with.

10/09/2017

We are in favour of the Tom Patterson Theatre proposal and of the creation of the new community hub. Investing in these improvements will pay off in the future.

10/09/2017

As proud citizens of the City of Stratford, we would like to express our support for the Tom Patterson Theatre project. Tom Patterson had a vision along with other Stratford citizens to build a Shakespearean Festival in our city. The economic impact of that vision over the past 65 seasons has been immense. The new project for the Tom Patterson theatre can only add to the prosperity of our city now and in the future. We urge the Mayor and City Council to approve this project as soon as possible, so that already approved funding is not lost. Let's honour Tom Patterson's memory and continue his legacy! Let's get this show on the road!

10/09/2017

Dear Council, We are a smart city so we need to look at the future of all citizens of this beautiful city. Both proposed projects are a great idea - a smart way to look at Stratford's future. I look forward to the Grand Trunk Community Hub not only as an active adult with growing children but as a future senior in this city. What the Kiwanis Community centre has today is not necessarily what tomorrow's seniors want. We also have to consider our youth - a place where adults, seniors and youth can all be together as a community is smart. This is how I see the Grand Trunk Community Hub. The new Tom Patterson Theatre will be a spectacular draw for many more visitors to our vibrant, smart city. Please consider both projects to move forward now. No more delay as everyone's future is at stake. Thank you, Sharon Butler Resident of Stratford since 1975. Choice of city for my husband and I to have an active, family life with our children and a place to eventually enjoy retired life. Full time employee of Stratford Festival

10/09/2017

Dear Stratford Council, My wife and I are residents of Stratford and have lived here since my first season working as an actor at the festival in 2009 (my wife has since joined the acting company as well). Stratford is where we decided to own a home and raise our family. We love Stratford dearly, and one of the things we love most about it is the culture that courses through it every year; there's no arguing the importance of that culture and the people who flock to it from around the world to experience it - anything that can be done to increase, or at the very least, maintain that flow is a necessity. We fully support the building of a new Tom Patterson Theatre. NOW is the time (for all the reasons which we know you are acutely aware). We attended the town hall meeting to hear out concerns for the project(s) and did not hear any satisfactory opposition. All concerns seem, ultimately, rather nearsighted. There are very good contingency plans to that will address the needs of the displaced seniors and lawn bowlers alike, and we look to you to not lose sight of the big picture. This, of course, has all been covered and said much better than we can here. We just urge you to make the move forward, and keep the future of our beautiful town foremost in your minds. Please build our new Tom Patterson Theatre! Thank you.

10/09/2017

	<p>Mayor Mathieson and Councilors would like to express my support for the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre. As I know you appreciate, it certainly would bring additional prestige to our city and in the replacement of a 'lesser' venue help our economy. The 'old' Tom Patterson has served the Festival Organization (and the City) well but it's prime for the professional theatre we host in our city. I do understand the attachment many have to the other facilities in the Kiwanis Centre. But I have every confidence that the Theatre will support the city in delivering, both short term and long term, facilities that will see them even happier with than they are in the Kiwanis Centre. I urge council to approve this project now so that the Theatre can take full advantage of the provincial government pledge of financial support. Yours truly,</p>
10/09/2017	<p>I think the redevelopment proposal is excellent! The location for the theatre is perfect and the plans for the seniors center and lawn bowling will all work themselves out. I look forward to seeing and attending the new Tom Paterson theatre!</p>
10/09/2017	<p>Regarding the new Tom Patterson project, we currently own 4.4 acres at 339 Romeo Street North which we believe would be perfect for the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association (SLAAA) and Stratford Lawn Bowling Club. It is a tranquil site on a city bus route with stone gates, a gravel parking lot for 40-50 cars, and water flowing through. Currently the property is 1.55 hectares zoned Park (P) and 18 hectares zoned R1(5)-32. The zoning for the building would need to be changed but there should be room for the city to build a facility for washrooms, meetings rooms, etc. The property is currently listed for \$499,900. We have not discussed this idea with our realtor. Our proposal is to sell our property to the City of Stratford for \$500,000 - \$100,000 per year for 5 years with no interest. The city would be responsible for our lawyer fees and any realtor costs. Hopefully this is a positive solution for everyone. We are sending a copy of this correspondence to Stephanie Potter, Antoni Cimolino, SLAAA, and Stratford Lawn Bowlers Club. Best Regards,</p>
10/09/2017	<p>The Tom Patterson Theatre Project must proceed. I am familiar with the reasons why this is so artistically, structurally, and aesthetically. For many years as part of my Festival tour, I relay information to the patrons about the significant amount of tax revenue that the Stratford Festival generates. It is time to reclaim some of this money to reinvest in the future. The provincial government has already pledged \$20 million toward the rebuilding of this theatre and if the federal government needs to see that there is community support for this project to receive additional funding, we as a community need to demonstrate our collective support. This has turned out to be a time sensitive matter. Decisions and actions must take place immediately in order for the Festival to proceed. The infrastructure money may not be available in the future. While I am a bit disappointed that considerations were not made to create a usable space for the lawn bowlers in time for their next season, this project must go ahead. I want to see my favourite theatre develop and grow into something even more spectacular.</p>
10/09/2017	<p>A new Tom Patterson Theatre is close to my heart. The old Kiwanis Centre building with its steep steps to the seats is increasing difficult to access and in my opinion rather dangerous. Also it would be a tremendous enhancement for Stratford's waterfront and makes The Festival Theatre competitive with other great Centres</p>
10/09/2017	<p>Please, please do the right thing and support all this Federal, Provincial and private money for Stratford to boost employment, beautify our waterfront and create buzz which will provide the city with free advertising it could never come close to purchasing. Now is the time to follow the inspiration of Thomas Orr and Tom Patterson and others. Fans of Stratford, the Festival, our parks and our economy and quality employment.</p>
10/09/2017	<p>I totally support this project.</p>
10/09/2017	<p>It will be money well spent! I hope it goes through</p>
10/09/2017	<p>I believe that it is in the best interests of Stratford residents if the Council would support and move ahead quickly with the proposed Tom Patterson project. The opportunity should not be lost, which could happen if there are ongoing delays to making decisions. Action ... not months of deliberation ... is essential. The opinions of long time Stratford business owners expressed at the consultation meeting resonated strongly with me! Do not believe that it would be prudent to wait until funding has been obtained for a Community Hub, but I would encourage the City to renew its efforts to secure government money for this other very exciting project. The two are not mutually dependent.</p>
10/09/2017	<p>Hello there, I'm an actor at the Festival, and I would like to express my support for the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre. I support it NOT because I am an actor with the company, but because - as a husband, a father and a resident of Stratford - I believe the Festival encapsulates and represents all that is best about this community: a sense of togetherness and an unending desire to improve ourselves as artists as well as a city. I moved to Stratford from Winnipeg in 2015 to join the company. My wife was pregnant at the time and decided to leave her job, and join me here and to raise our boy here. We both left everything and everyone we knew in Winnipeg because we felt safe in the decision that this place was the best place to not only start a new career, but also to raise a child. Over the past two years, I've been able to feel great commitment from the Festival to both my future as a professional and as a family oriented resident of Stratford. And it is precisely because of this experience that I fully trust the Festival in the redevelopment of the Tom Pat: this is about the community, not simply about putting on plays. It's an important development for our city, not for us actors. The new Tom Pat will provide the sharing of valuable resources, knowledge and experiences to all of us, and it will stand as a powerful statement to the world that Stratford may be a small community, but we think globally indeed. We need to come together behind this bold and deeply necessary idea. Thank you,</p>
10/09/2017	<p>I think that the City of Stratford should offer its full support for the new theatre. The festival is world class and adding a world class building will only benefit the City. My family moved here partly because of the theatre and we want to see it continue to make its mark on Stratford and the world. Please contact me at xxxxxx if you would like to hear any additional comments.</p>
10/09/2017	<p>Hello and thank you for your efforts in this process, I have lived and worked in Stratford for five years now. I work as an actor at the Stratford Festival and I am also a teaching artist that goes into schools to lead activities focused on drama, Shakespeare, acting, mask making and other theatre based subjects. As a newer resident of this town, I want to put my full support behind the Stratford Festival's proposal of a redeveloped Tom Patterson Theatre. The current facility needs to be upgraded. The building is showing it's age. I urge city council to approve the Tom Patterson plans so the Festival can start construction as soon as possible. From its beginning, the Stratford Festival brought the attention of the world to this town. Since then, the festival has continually created excellent theatre and the town of Stratford has increased the visitor's experience with fantastic restaurants, unique shops, and a beautiful relaxing atmosphere. I love living here! It's the duty of the staff, crew and artists that work at the Festival to continue our theatre's legacy and provide outstanding theatrical experiences to those who walk through the theatre's doors. The Tom Patterson Theatre needs to be upgraded so that we can do that. The world class quality theatre we strive to create needs to match a world class theatre facility. The new plans are exactly what a world class theatre looks like. It houses a state of the art theatre and stage while maintaining the intimacy of the current theatrical space. It also gives space in the lobby for other events that will complement the theatre going experience. One of the most important things theatre can do is get people talking about ideas together. And I am very excited to think about how the spaces in the lobby of the new theatre can provide more opportunities for not only conversations to be had but Forum events like lectures, panel discussions, readings, and debates. I understand that some community groups will be affected by the Tom Patterson plans. But it seems that there are temporary plans for all of the groups. And I fully believe that the Artistic Director and the Executive Director of the Stratford Festival want to find solutions that benefit all of these groups and the residents of Stratford. There are no better people to helm a project like this at this time than Mr. Antoni Cimolino and Ms. Anita Gaffney. They each have a deep passion for Stratford and for creating world class theatre. The Hub at the Cooper site seems like a great idea too. I hope they aren't dependent on each other. I hope the new Tom Patterson gets underway soon and I look forward to hearing more about the Hub. I hope the Tom Patterson redevelopment project can be an opportunity for the Stratford Festival and the residents of Stratford to deepen their friendships to one another. Sincere thanks and respect,</p>
10/09/2017	<p>As a resident of Water Street, as an employee of the Stratford Festival and as a resident of the City of Stratford, I am writing this note to offer my full support for the Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment Proposal. I would be proud to have such an architecturally beautiful building in our city to admire from the outside, as I drive by or walk around the lake or enjoy the new landscaped gardens around the theatre. I would be proud to experience the finest theatre within this new building, and thrilled to attend concerts and lectures in the new Forum meeting places. I moved from away to come work at the amazing Stratford Festival, an internationally acknowledged theatre company but, in the mean time, I've fallen in love with considered - health, recreation, transportation, arts of all kinds, education. So the concerns of the displaced seniors are important to me. I'm pleased that the Festival and the City of good plans in place to attend to their needs. I'm equally thrilled to hear of the many good plans in place for the HUB - an expanded YMCA is crucial, an expanded University brings in smart young people and helps expand and anchor the downtown as the heart and soul of our increasingly diverse community. All of these plans are win, win win for the city, for the Stratford Festival, for the citizens of this town, county and province - indeed, for all of Canada! Please consider me a strong supporter of the new TPT redevelopment. Thank you and all the best,</p>
10/09/2017	<p>Resubmitting my original feedback as there were missing sentence fragments... As a resident of Water Street, as an employee of the Stratford Festival and as a resident of the City of Stratford, I am writing this note to offer my full support for the Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment Proposal. I would be proud to have such an architecturally beautiful building in our city to admire from the outside, as I drive by or walk around the lake or as I enjoy the newly landscaped gardens around the theatre. I would be proud to experience the finest theatre within this new building, and thrilled to attend concerts and lectures in the new Forum meeting places. I moved from away to come work at the amazing Stratford Festival, an internationally acknowledged theatre company but, in the mean time, I've fallen in love with this city. I appreciate that the needs of all our citizens are considered - health, recreation, transportation, arts of all kinds, education - so the concerns of the displaced seniors are important to me. I'm pleased that the Festival and the City have good plans in place to attend to their needs. I'm equally thrilled to hear of the many good plans in place for the HUB - an expanded YMCA is crucial, an expanded University brings in smart young people and helps expand and anchor the downtown as the heart and soul of our increasingly diverse community. All of these plans are win, win win for the city, for the Stratford Festival, for the citizens of this town, county and province - indeed, for all of Canada! Please consider me a strong supporter of the new TPT redevelopment. Thank you and all the best,</p>
10/10/2017	<p>As a long time member of the Stratford Festival Acting Company and a thirty-two year resident of Stratford, I want thank the Mayor and the Council for holding the town meetings to discuss the future of the Tom Patterson Theatre. I was very glad to hear my neighbours weigh in on this most important project. What I heard was very encouraging; people with concerns were able to air them and know that those concerns were being addressed, as indeed all of them are. I could also hear, and I hope Council could too, that even among the people with reservations, there was a genuine sense that the rebuilding of the Tom Patterson Theatre would happen; that it should happen. The benefits to the future life of the city that the new theatre would bring, as well as the impossibility of the Festival remaining in the existing space were never in debate. I left that meeting feeling that the community was very much in favour of the project and that any points of discussion were about the details of the transition, not the project itself. One cloudy note I'd like to mention is the audible groan I heard from the entire audience when it was said that Council will take these things under consideration 'over the ensuing months'. I hope Council heard it too. You don't have months to consider this, nor should you need them. If I am reading the timeline correctly, Council has been aware of every step of this project for over a year, every concern that was brought up at the meeting was already being addressed by the Festival and the city. It is, of course, important to allow the citizens of Stratford a voice in such an important decision, but once those voices have been heard and the concerns addressed (as they are being), then the decision of Council is actually quite simple; to sell or lease the land on Lake Shore to the Festival for the rebuilding of a new Tom Patterson Theatre. This should not take months. I urge Council to set a deadline of November 1, 2017. This would give you three weeks to review any new comments and concerns; ample time given the realities of where we are in the process. If Council drags its feet on this, we are in very real danger of losing five million dollars of the Provincial funding; a catastrophe in and of itself and a continuing disaster for future fund raising efforts by the city. If Council drags its feet on this, the Festival will be without the Tom Patterson Theatre for two entire seasons rather than just one (and the city without the subsequent revenue). If Council drags its heels on this, frankly, it will look like political posturing. And if I may say a word about the proposed community Hub at the Cooper site; this is a worthy project for the city to undertake. The Cooper site has been an eyesore ever since I moved to town thirty-two years ago and I would be delighted to see it refurbished into a community hub, and I am sure most of my fellow citizens would be delighted as well. But we must remember that these are two distinct and separate projects; one initiated by the Festival and one initiated by the city. They are not, nor should they be, considered connected or one dependent on the other. I don't know how the proposed community hub wound up as part of the Tom Patterson Theatre discussion, but I urge Council to keep those projects separate in their deliberations; what you need to decide now is not the future of the Cooper site, but whether to sell or lease the land on Lake Shore Dr. to the Festival for the rebuilding of the Tom Patterson Theatre. I strongly urge Council to agree to sell or lease said land so the re-building process can begin. I strongly urge Council to commit to this by November 1, 2017 so as not to lose five million Provincial dollars. I strongly urge Council to agree to this because it is a tangible, living, continuation of Tom Patterson's dream; of a city and a theatre enriching each other; making a better life in the moment and ensuring a future for our children and their children. Sincerely,</p>

	<p>I am extremely concerned that this consultation process was started by the city so late in the game. You counsellors knew about this proposal, and the money that has been promised to the festival Months ago, and yet you waited until the beginning of October to start this process, putting the funding that the festival has worked extremely hard to procure in jeopardy. I also don't understand why you keep putting the hub and the Tom Patterson Theatre together, as if they are linked. They are not. They are two separate developments, and I don't think that you would have gotten as far as you have with the hub proposal without the work that the festival has put into raising awareness with the federal and provincial governments for the Tom Patterson Theatre. By linking them, you are confusing the public. Quite frankly, I think that you are trying to hold the Festival ransom over trying to get the Hub development done. You people are being incredibly selfish, short sighted and lazy. The economy of the town of Stratford owes much to the festival, which brings in millions of dollars in taxes, and for the local economy. The festival has been bending over backwards, trying to make sure that the everyone is happy, and I don't see the city doing much at all. Please let the Tom Patterson Theatre project move forward. I cannot understand why you have created this unnecessary, time sensitive, make it or break it scenario.</p>
10/10/2017	As a Stratford resident and taxpayer, I am 100% FOR the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre. The building will be stunning along the Avon River!
10/10/2017	The Citizens have been given 3 weeks of input on this. Meanwhile planning has gone on for a year. National newspapers are printing of this great theatre being built but yet no decision. That decision will be based on one option only. Why is that? The City has allowed this to go to a point where NO is not an option. That is not fair to the people of Stratford. It will be built and will be another example of the Festival gets what the Festival wants and we will provide lip service to the people by allowing 3 weeks after a year of planning.
10/10/2017	Your feedback system is reminiscent of the \$40,000 ATFocus survey where anyone could submit multiple submissions without accountability. A three week sham of a public input after one year of planning. Shameful. I think the city would be very foolish to let this opportunity for a beautiful building (TPT) to slip through their fingers. There is funding, the festival said it will help with the seniors. The building as it stands is in very rough shape. Who will pay to keep it maintained if everything is to remain the same? The theatre will not be able to operate in that space for much longer in the current condition. I even wonder how safe a space it is now? Does it come anywhere close to meeting crest regulations? We need to move forward as a city. Change can be hard for people to accept and there will be adjustments for all but the payoff, both financially and visually will be worth it. The city will only gain from this venture. Build the new TPT!
10/10/2017	Let me throw my full support behind the Tom Patterson theatre rebuild! What a glorious building this will be and I predict it will earn some notoriety and perhaps even design awards. We need to be competitive in today's entertainment market as we know how much easier it is to switch on Netflix! It is also imperative we draw patrons to our city from places which may be an hour and a half away to six hours away and for some a flight away. And when they arrive in Stratford they are rewarded with the lake, swans, parkland and smog free air. They have an abundance of excellent restaurants to choose from. They are greeted by friendly downtown merchants. And the tax dollars that they drop into our city coffers is a bloodline for the vitality of Stratford. We also try to draw them to Stratford by presenting on our Festival stages the very best artists working on the very best of plays. The current Tom Patterson theatre is not up to Festival standards. Colm Feore. Geraint WynDavies. Seana McKenna. These actors deserve better ~For the patrons arriving for a Tom Patterson theatre experience at the Cooper site this will not be the preferred experience. This design deserves better than that. It needs to shine proudly on Lake Victoria where patrons will spill out onto the shoreline and walk the magnificent gardens planned for the rebuild. I know we can do this as a community. This city deserves this. Please vote to sell the Festival the waterfront land.
10/10/2017	My name is xxxxxxxxxx and I'm writing as a show of support for the Stratford Festival Tom Patterson Project. I am a 21 year old theatre student currently employed in the CaFAs and Catering department at the Festival. I feel that the project will be a tremendous addition to both the festival and the city. Knowing that the current community centre is of great benefit to the city but is in dire need of revitalization, I feel that the new Tom Patterson Theatre will serve to fit that void quite nicely. Both as an arts hub and a community hub.As a student, an artist, and a lifelong citizen and lover of this city, I fully support the building of the new Tom Patterson theatre building.
10/10/2017	Kudos to Ann Swerdfager for taking the time to provide her feedback. Most companies are very careful with their brand image and strongly discourage any interaction on public forums. There is really nothing to discuss here. Looking a \$60 mil gift horse in the mouth would be political suicide. The theatre is old, an eyesore, has no windows, no lobby, unsafe seating, and should be put out of its misery. The new design for the theatre is brilliant. It is a work of art. I am offended by anyone who wants to stop this. For me it is very much like all the critics, who did not love the work of Vincent van Gogh. Who is laughing now? Time has long forgotten them and van Gogh lives on and so will the work of Siamak Hariri.
10/10/2017	I predict this will become one of the most talked about theatres in the world for the beautiful simplicity of its design. It will not exist for itself! It will live to show off the beauty of the Avon River, its gardens, the living art of the Stratford Festival along with its audience! It is the exact opposite of all those grand imposing European theatres. It will advertise itself through word of mouth, FB, Tripadvisor, you name it-This is a winner! You can dot the i's and cross the t's later! Just start digging! Think of me. I have to look at that monstrosity of a building everyday! The very least you can do is cover it up with some drapes to stop my suffering! It's visual pollution. How could something so hideous be built alongside the beautiful Avon River? Once 'The Gold Jewel of Stratford' is finally built, it will lift everyone's spirits. It will show that architecture can affect your physical and psychological well-being. That shed masquerading as a theatre and community centre has depressed the citizens of Stratford for 46 years! Tear it down! Dig! Dig!! DIG!!!!!! I give you my consent. Who cares about process? Just do it! No one will know or care. Just dig. I will not tell a soul. It will be our little secret. The Swans of Stratford grant you full approval. You can dot the i's and cross the t's later. This is a theatre town-We're not tied by silly things like procedure and politics.
10/10/2017	Sorry to inform you but we live in a capitalist and numbers society. The Lawn Bowling Club boasts all of 31 members from Stratford and 4 from outside Stratford. The Stratford Festival drew a little over half a million in attendance last year. If you flipped the two, I would be arguing in favour of the Lawn Bowling Club. The people have spoken loud and clear, they love lawn bowling and not theatre but this is certainly not the case. I personally have nothing against lawn bowling. We had a Lawn Bowling Club in Stouffville where I used to live and I can tell you when I left it was much more active than Stratford. How do you justify keeping them at that location versus a new theatre worth \$60 mil that ALL of the citizens of Stratford will use? I want to know how 31 people are more important than 31,500 along with all the tourists? If Council says no to this, you can bet the Provincial and Federal government will not look kindly upon this and neither will most of the voters from Stratford and neither will the Board for the Stratford Festival along with many small businesses in Stratford. Kudos to Matt Francis for taking the time to respond in a very diplomatic and sensitive manner. Call me Kevin O'Leary, call me Gordon Gekko, call me whatever you want. I don't have time for fools. I do not have the patience for those who want to hold onto the past and refuse to move forward for the benefit of a community. There is simply nothing to discuss here. It is over. Unless something seriously wrong is found with the design of the building for that location or the City and the Stratford Festival cannot come into agreement for the purchase of the land or rent/taxes, there is no way this should not be approved 100%. Any councillor who votes no will in effect be saying I have no future political or business aspirations.
10/10/2017	Let's turn the tables. What if the Stratford Festival only had 35 audience members? The City of Stratford would be looking to make changes. The Stratford Festival drew half a million plus last year. In the real world of business, the elephant would not even have a discussion with the mouse. I believe the Stratford Festival has acted in a fair and responsible manner. Who is acting for the lawn bowling and the senior's community club? Does the City of Stratford have a plan for 111 Lakeside without the theatre? Does the City of Stratford have a plan for a new senior's space? Does the City of Stratford have a plan for a new theatre in another location? Does the City of Stratford have a plan for a new area for the lawn bowling? I only see 1 plan-One vision and that is from the Stratford Festival. It makes the most sense to me. I'm shocked the TPT has existed at 111 Lakeside for as long as it has-46 years. I'm curious how many accidents or stumbles by theatre-goers have been reported by the Stratford Festival? Read the reviews on Tripadvisor. https://www.tripadvisor.ca/Attraction_Review-g155015-d4223743-Reviews-Tom_Patterson_Theatre-Stratford_Ontario.html Employers must investigate all accidents and near misses. Near misses are incidents that cause no visible injury or damage but that could have caused serious injuries or property damage under slightly different circumstances. They should be investigated because they point to conditions or work practices that must be changed to prevent future incidents. Everyone in the production has a role to play in an accident investigation. Workers must report accidents and incidents to their supervisors. Employers and supervisors must promptly start investigations of accidents and incidents. After the investigation is complete, an investigation report must be prepared. http://www.actsafe.ca/wp-content/uploads/resources/pdf/Theatre.pdf There should be more than one plan. I sense the TPT started to become an issue that needed to be addressed about 10 years ago. The City of Stratford should be aware of all and any issues with the theatre in regards to safety and as far as I'm concerned, also with the general theatre-goer experience. Given how much tourism and the Stratford Festival means to the City of Stratford, this should be a given. I say it is time for the City of Stratford to grow up and grow up fast. You had 10 years to plan for this. The Council must be aware of the issues with safety and seating for the theatre, the fact the lobby is the banks of the Avon River, and that the building provides little or no view of the Avon River. The new design addresses these issues. If an architectural firm presented a design for a new theatre in any major city and replicated the old TPT, it would be rejected immediately and the architect would have trouble getting work designing a lemonade stand. The City of Stratford is now in cramming mode studying for a big exam that started 10 years ago. If any funding is lost or no good solution is found, you will have no sympathy from those of us living in the real world.
10/10/2017	I just want to add that personally I am fed up with this-Enough already start digging. We need a new Tom Patterson Theatre. The design is breathtaking and meets 3 key needs:Windows to provide a view of the Avon River.Big lobby.Senior friendly seating.It will attract theatre-goers galore for the 1st 5 years to check it out. People will look at it from the outside gobsmacked and when they see the view of the Avon River, they will be equally gobsmacked. You may be saying to yourself, well, you can see the Avon River outside stupid. Correctamundo! Some people need you to frame the Avon River to appreciate its beauty. We have the Stratford Festival along with a top notch architectural firm behind this in Hariri Pontarini Architects and yet many have posed all kinds of questions questioning their judgment? Why? I am going to go on record to state I am not an architect and if you gave me \$60 mil to build a new TPT, I would decline. If you're an architect then you have the background to question things. I have not read from one architect saying OMG this thing will sink and swallow up the city of Stratford. Have some faith in your institutions and move forward. Why on earth would this take Council 5 to 6 months to make a decision? I assume they will ask their experts working for the City of Stratford whether the design is doable, look at how much money this will bring in, along with the benefit to the community at large versus the lawn bowlers (35 members) and SLAAA, who will have to be relocated and hopefully sometime in the future, the Liberals will print off some more \$ for Stratford! This is all good and I have confidence the board for the Stratford Festival wants this project to benefit Stratford-Not just the Festival. Let's have some faith in these people-Many of whom live in our community and walk among us. As soon as I saw the design unveiled at the Stratford Festival Theatre, a light went on in my head! I wanted to scream yahoo and do cartwheels but held back. What is holding Town Council back? https://www.hariripontarini.com/project/bahai-temple-of-south-america/
10/10/2017	Like it or not, Stratford is a tourism city. Give it up. Let it go. The residents will still be able to enjoy the theatre, talking theatre for free, the cafe, the view, music recitals, the gardens, etc. etc. This is the classic before-after! Historians will be writing about it. How could a lovely city like Stratford put up with a shed for a theatre-community centre for 46 years? Once the Federal Government says yes to the \$20 mil, this is OVER!
10/10/2017	I really dont like the idea of the tom patterson theatre rebuild. A lot of community groups are being displaced. It is quite distastful.
10/10/2017	The new theatre stands out like a sore thumb at the river.The architecture is quite over the top for a historical area of Stratford. I really don't like the new design, and quite frankly the festival should build elsewhere in town.The seniors center, and the lawn bowling club has been at that location far longer than the Tom Patterson has been. It would send a message to put the theatre in that location which would displace those groups.I understand the location is prime, but I don't like the fact the festival is bullying their way into the location. Locals are a priority, not the festival. It needs to be built elsewhere, or co-exist with the current community groups.
10/10/2017	To City CouncilThe time to act is now!! I have already submitted comments, but I am contacting you once again because I am sensing that not everyone sees the need for an immediate decisive response. The Festival risks losing millions from the Government of Ontario if shovels are not in the ground after the end of the 2017 season. This project deserves your support; all of Stratford will reap the rewards of its beneficial economic impact. Delays will put it all at risk and will serve no useful purpose.I call on the Mayor and City Council to respond favourably in the immediate future.Thanks for your attention.
10/10/2017	Please do every last thing you can to ensure Stratford citizens get the myriad of benefits from 60 million dollars worth of economic stimulus. Anything else is irresponsible, and any problems created by the proposal are completely solvable. Full force ahead please!!

The approval of this seems to me to be an absolute no brainer. We cannot hold up a project that will benefit the community as a whole because of the Lakeside Seniors preference for the riverfront location, and particularly for the few dozen lawn bowlers who are subsidized by the city already. The senior community will outgrow this facility in short order and there is no room for expansion, nor could the current building handle such a possibility structurally. As for the lawn bowling, the history of the club is terrific but there is no future. The limited membership could find itself with better parking and facilities and in all likelihood some renewed membership numbers by sharing space at the Municipal golf course. Please do not allow this potential investment by the provincial and federal governments into our community to slip away. If the City has not already made their total support of the project known to the feds in order to expedite then it needs to be done right way before an opportunity is lost.

10/10/2017

Totally against the development of the Stratford Festival using City land for this project. Very concerned about possible future funding for the Community Hub project. A new facility such as Tom Patterson is not only splitting a community, it is also being handled with a lack of transparency.

10/10/2017

Dear Mayor Matheson and Councillors, I am writing to request your support for the Tom Patterson Theatre project. The Tom Patterson Theatre has a rich history of presenting new and unique productions - from the production of The Red Convertible in 1971 to The Breadth of Kings productions in 2016. The close proximity of audience to the stage creates an intimate and distinctive venue for patrons to experience live theatre. The Tom Patterson Theatre project will allow the Stratford Festival to continue its work to present new and exciting plays in world class venue - a jewel to the city of Stratford and Canada. Please lend your support to the new Tom Patterson Theatre project. Sincerely,

10/10/2017

I strongly support the Tom Patterson Theatre project, and the Hub.

10/10/2017

We love the project! Let's not waste the government money. I look forward to seeing this plan go forward... sooner than later!

1. I strongly oppose the sale of the current Kiwanis/TPT theatre to the Stratford Festival. If Council approves the project (and I wish it would not, but I think that a lost cause), I urge it to negotiate a long-term lease agreement. 2. I prefer a development of the Kiwanis/TPT site for mixed uses rather than for the exclusive use of the Stratford Festival. Housing the SLAAA programs in the building included in the Festival's plan or preserving the lawn bowling green would achieve that mixed-use. 3. I regret the loss of a 100-year old building and the destruction of the lawn bowling green. I think we should not rush forward with the proposal until the potential disruptions done to the scheduled events of the lawn bowling association and the Agri-plex (noted at the meeting of 26 September) have been taken care of. 4. At this time, I cannot support the proposed 'hub' because I have no *reasons* to do so. We were assured by representatives of the Festival on 26 September that it is visionary and inspired (understandably give the Festival's aim) but no details support that claim. The Master Plan submitted to Council makes no mention of the Kiwanis or the SLAAA. Some imagine that their activities will be housed there, but there is no assurance to that effect. I imagine many groups will be competing for whatever space is available in this proposed UW, YMCA, and City collaboration.

10/10/2017

I'm concerned for the Stratford brand. Surely by now the world-wide theatre community is aware that the Board and Management of the Stratford Festival have put forward a well-developed plan for a \$60 million theatre complex. In theatre centres everywhere, informed theatre professionals and patrons will have heard that a purpose-built facility, designed to take Stratford's justly famous productions and ancillary projects to new heights, is on the drawing boards. By now, they may also be aware that no one on Stratford City Council is taking a leadership role to champion the project. If so, and the project fails to move forward, they will be quite right in thinking that it was council's lack of support that deprived the Festival from maintaining its leading role as one of the world's top theatre experiences. So what? Well, if the City of Stratford is unable to recognize and capitalize on the opportunity offered by the Festival's management team, it will throw away any right to position itself as an innovative or creative working environment and not just for theatre people. Across the spectrum from technology to environment to social engineering, people with ideas and the spirit to make new things that never existed before and who look at things and processes that do exist and re-purpose them to ground-breaking advances these people are pioneers. And pioneers look for partners who are facilitators - I for one have not seen or heard evidence of such partners stepping forward. So Stratford's brand of a creative leader could be lost. Failure to advance the proposal for the re-development of the Tom Patterson Theatre will undo years of work in creating a positive brand for the City of Stratford and greatly reduce its ability to attract the talent needed to maintain a position of excellence. And those who are here may be attracted to better opportunities elsewhere. Speak up now in support of Tom Patterson

10/10/2017

Terrible use of government money-the Stratford Festival can hardly get people in seats as it is every year is a struggle and a larger theatre is not going to drive a larger audience to Stratford. There are 3 other theatre spaces in this town-perhaps the City should terminate the lease on Lakeside and take the burden of lost revenue away from the Stratford Festival.

10/10/2017

I'm in favour of the new Tom Patterson Theatre. All the dissenting voices that I've read or heard from are people who have benefited from new developments within this community. One would hope that these same voices would vote in favour of a change in this community which will provide more jobs and financial spin-off which benefits the entire city. This is their chance to pay it forward and leave a beautiful legacy to the youth of Stratford, much like their fore-fathers left for them. Thank you.

10/10/2017

I support the Tom Patterson Theatre being rebuilt

10/10/2017

How very exciting that the Province is willing to invest in the Tom Patterson redevelopment. I do hope City Council can show the same foresight and make the land available to the Festival. The current users of the Kiwanis Centre (my husband and I are among them), are happy to move to another location, as we see this development as essential to the Festival's (and by extension the City's) economic well-being. However, I have this sinking feeling that some narrow-minded Councillors, who cannot tolerate change, who cannot envision a creative future for Stratford, will delay the process -- yet again! I'm referring to Councillors who stalled the development of Market Square for three years while they dithered over a very flawed alternative proposal. Thank goodness enough Councillors had the vision to approve the final plan and transform the bus parking lot into a community space. (Seventeen days after the completion of Market Square, my husband and I moved downtown, excited by the new development that will revitalize the core.) So here is another opportunity for Council. The Tom Patterson plan is in place, the money is waiting in the wings, and it's time for you to make the right decision for the future of our City. Please sell the land to the Festival, so they can get on with the renovation in good time.

10/10/2017

I am in favour of the theatre to go ahead with this project. There is great potential for the Hub and it is a project that I would also love to see go ahead.

10/10/2017

Some concerns from a resident living on Water Street. There has been talk about the Festival purchasing the parkland for the new TPT. Please do not sell parkland! That land was hard fought and hard won for the citizens of Stratford. If times get tough there is nothing preventing them from selling that land to the highest bidder. The Festival has already pushed out the badminton club, the tennis courts are gone, and now they are getting rid of the seniors and the lawn bowling club that has been there for over 100 years. It is a shame that citizen groups are being pushed out so the Festival can have more and more of our parkland. The Festival could have redesigned the TPT using a similar footprint to what they currently have, and included the seniors and lawn bowling they did not have to take that entire block of parkland for their needs displacing so many. I understand the Festival is a huge economic driver for Stratford, and that Stratford would not be what it is without the Festival. But this land is supposed to be for all of us and sharing it rather than taking it would have gone a long way. Please think seriously about the need to pave over an entire block of parkland along Water Street for parking. They are gaining the space at the Optimist building, which already runs a paid parking lot, plus the additional land from the house they have acquired. Does that not give enough additional parking? The Avon Theatre has never had dedicated parking (until this year) and it has functioned very well. Many tourists will walk whenever possible, and that forms part of the charm of Stratford for them. And with the seniors out of the building, more parking spots should be freed up for theatre parking. If they do pave over that parkland for a parking lot, please reconsider the access and/or exit on Water Street. As a resident of Water St. we have told them how busy the traffic gets, particularly in August and September. They were to do a traffic study, however, they only had strips down on the road for a day and a half in May. May is a shoulder season and does not adequately reflect what we see. We told them this traffic is more local traffic people using Cobourg and Water streets to avoid Ontario Street or the park. We are concerned about cars queuing up to get into this lot causing a back-up around the corner on Waterloo St. and across the street onto Lakeside Drive causing more congestion and making it difficult for us to get home during theatre time. The current parking has access from Lakeside Drive and Morenz Drive which works well, and does not disrupt any residential neighbourhoods. We have seniors, two day-cares and postal boxes that require crossing the road to get to. We don't need more traffic on that street. Please do not take our on-street parking away. We like to be able to shuffle our vehicles, or have a place for company to park when visiting. There is only 1 hour parking throughout the day, so theatre goers are not regularly parking there. We are concerned about light pollution. Is this building going to be lit throughout the evening? What about this proposed parking lot all along the block? Will there be parking lights shining into our bedroom windows at night? Can the lawn-bowlers not be relocated to another area in the park perhaps the flats in Lower Queens Park? To put them out at the Municipal golf course, where no one will ever be able to see them is a shame. Out of sight is out of mind and it may make it harder for them to recruit new members. There is a certain charm to watching the lawn bowling tournaments take place in the park. Thank you for taking the time to get public input.

10/10/2017

Dear City Councilors: I am writing to let you know that I fully support the new plans for the Tom Patterson Theatre and am excited about the Hub Project for Stratford. Tom Patterson Theatre: I have friends from out of town who attend shows at the Festival with me and they have made comments about the ugliness of the building, cramped treacherous seating, the interior ceiling (what in the world is up there??) and the fact that the front of the building features an ugly asphalt parking lot. Personally, I think the new plans for the TPT are amazing. The Building will look fabulous on the outside, and beautiful on the inside it will be more user friendly -- with more washrooms, beautiful gardens instead of pavement, it will have more parking, better, safer seating, and frankly it will rid Stratford of the current eyesore. If we are honest, the city will need to put tens of thousands of dollars into that building soon I've seen pieces of shingles laying on the ground; I understand lights need to be removed from the roof in the winter for fear of the ceiling and roof collapsing; I have heard patrons complain about so many different aspects of the building, I am actually embarrassed. You know visitors from around the world come here to attend the Festival and the spin-off to a) local businesses; (it generates \$134 million in economic activity every year.) b) jobs; (The Festival employs 1,000 people, and the tourism it spawns creates another 2,000 full-time jobs.) c) municipal, federal and provincial taxes; (The Festival generates \$5 million in taxes for municipal coffers annually, the provincial and federal governments receive \$49 million as a direct result of the Festival.) I am sure you are aware how important it is for the Festival Theatre to be competitive and that what affects the Festival affects the city and citizens of Stratford. I attended the Open House and was touched by some of the newcomers who came out and were actually excited to live here! Andrew Williams, Hospital CEO eloquently noted that one of the big draws to bring more doctors to Stratford is the Festival! If the new TPT is built, just think of the leverage he could have wouldn't it be great to see more family physicians, surgeons and specialists living in Stratford. I find all the negativity from the Lawnbowlers and Seniors frustrating. I am not saying these people shouldn't be accommodated, but life brings change and whatever happened to what is best for the community? I think of the restaurateur who commented on the loss for his business when the work was happening in market square but he realized what was happening was FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY. We already have the Provincial government's approval with a whopping contribution of \$20 MILLION! And if things keep being delayed I understand we could lose \$5 million earmarked for use by March 31st. Let's not jeopardize any provincial monies it happens so rarely!!! LET'S HAVE A BEAUTIFUL BUILDING THAT TOM PATTERSON WOULD BE PROUD TO HAVE AS HIS NAMESAKE! The HUB fully support the city's plans for a HUB to be built on the Cooper Site Property. I think it will be exciting to expand the University. I can see the potential spin-off in us being a 'University' town. Any growth in that area can only help Stratford! The Y facilities are old and outdated I can't imagine there is a single person here in Stratford who hasn't entered those doors at some point in their lives or had their children attend the Y. The HUB could be a great place for the Seniors as their group grows in numbers and they would be back downtown and close to the bus system. I assume there would be some kind of a railway museum; ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES!

10/10/2017

Dear City Council, The proposed redevelopment of the Stratford Festival TPT will bring millions of dollars to the city and solidify Stratford as a world class city. The current TPT building is not structurally sound enough to withstand renovations. The lights need to be removed in the winter time because the weight of both the lights and the snow would collapse the roof. There are benefits to having the seniors recreation centre in the TPT complex, for example, the seniors could attend an activity in the facility before going to the show. Kiwanis currently run the snack bar at TPT and Antoni has told them they can continue to run it at the proposed TPT. Festival has offered the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association (SLAAA) \$500,000. to modify the Rotary in the meantime, for their use. It is a very generous offer. The Cooper site has been tied up with legal action for a number of years so it is not a viable alternative for the new Tom Patterson Theatre. Keeping the Cooper site as a goal for a recreation hub does not deter TPT from housing the recreation centre in the proposed TPT. Once the hub is built at the Cooper site the SLAAA could relocate there and the Festival could repurpose the community centre space for theatre education etc. Please do the right thing and approve the proposed TPT centre to be built on the existing site along with space for the active adults association. By the way I overheard a couple getting out of their car after driving from Toronto to the show. The first thing he said was let's go look at the water. They are coming to the Theatre to escape the city and appreciate the tranquility of the swans on the river. Sincerely,

10/10/2017

	<p>It seems that the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre is a done deal. There should have been MUCH more public consultation on this. Even if the Festival has made allowances for a community centre to be built (notice that it is BEHIND the theatre - away from the riverfront), does the City have the resources to build a new community centre there - or at the Cooper site??? How long will the COMMUNITY be in limbo so that the Festival can build a glittering new facility? And PLEASE don't sell municipal lands - it isn't ours to sell. These lands belong to all of us - including future generations. Who knows what the land will be needed for in the years to come? The current parkland is a treasure that ALL citizens can enjoy - let's allow future generations to have the same privilege!</p>
10/10/2017	
10/10/2017	Full support of the TPT project
	<p>I think that the Festival should work with the Lawn Bowling Group as well as the Lakeside Srs to come up with a solution where all can be together in one facility. Has the Festival come up with alternative ideas using their current property or is it all or nothing? The Cooper site is a long way off to suggest that it be used. Consultation and discussion with all groups is needed. The river area should belong to the citizens of Stratford. Is the Festival in a situation to take on more debt when they had not the best year for ticket sales etc? What happens if they don't receive the money in time and withdraw from the plans for the Kiwanis Festival. Will there be discussions with the Seniors for a new facility then?</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>I am writing to support the Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment Proposal. The existing theatre is well past its best before date, is compromised from a technology standpoint, and leaves a lot to be desired from an audience comfort point of view. I see no reason for the SLAAA not take the Festival up on their offer to help them transition their activities into suitable facilities at the Stratford Rotary Centre Complex, with the long term goal being for them to end up a new Community Hub at the Cooper Site. The Municipal Golf Course would provide a suitable new home for The Lawn Bowling Club if arrangements could be made to reach that end. The Stratford Festival is a world class theatre competing on a North American scale with New York, Chicago, and Detroit. To maintain a competitive edge in the coming decades it must stage its works in state of the art facilities. The existing Tom Patterson Theatre doesn't meet that criteria, and it would seem to me that it is beyond all hope of a retrofit, so replacing it is the sole option. The space is there, the parkland surrounding it is some of the best in the country, and funding seems to be readily available if we can all get on the same page, out a plan together, and move this significant project forward. I would request that City Staff work diligently with the Festival and the affected groups to reach an agreement that is fair and equitable for all of the concerned parties. Twenty years from now I have to wonder whether we'll look back at this process and wonder why so much much noise was generated by so few, give the importance of this project to the Festival's long term quest to stay competitive. Thanks for the opportunity to provide some input.</p>
10/10/2017	
10/10/2017	The TPT renewal is a much needed improvement. However, the City needs to have a financial plan in place to develop the Cooper site before it is approved.
	<p>I support the new Tom Patterson Theatre. It is my favourite theatre in Stratford. I believe it will be a wonderful enhancement to the waterfront. The Stratford Festival contributes to the atmosphere and attraction to this fine city. I am impressed with the well thought out plans that include ample parking and the possibility of accommodation for the seniors if necessary. It is important for the city to move in an expedient manner so that this project can progress as soon as possible.</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>My name is xxxxxxxx. I live in Stratford. Postal code xxxxxx. I am in favour of the new Tom Patterson Theatre. It is my favourite theatre. This plan not only improves and enhances the theatre, it will enhance the waterfront. The plan is well thought out, including ample parking and possible accommodation for the senior group in the event that the proposed Community Hub does not come to fruition. The Stratford Festival enhances and supports this fine city. It was one of the primary reasons we chose to move to Stratford in our retirement. I enjoy all that this city has to offer and know that the festival has contributed to the vitality since it first put up the tent theatre in the 1950's.</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>There are so many things to consider about this project such as: The floodplain the theatre proposes to put the money into. The glass structure on the bird corridor along the river and the effects on the birds. The rushed community meetings with a biased set up. The fact that no place has been secured financially or structurally that would house all of the present users of the Tom Patterson theatre. The campaign the theatre has presented, including to media such as the CBC that presents it as a done deal, flying in the face of real protocols for such decisions. That this should be an ELECTION issue and Councillors should make their opinions public to the citizens of Stratford.</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>I would like to express my concern over the proposal to build a new Tom Patterson Theatre at the site of the Kiwanis Community Centre, lawn bowling and current Tom Patterson Theatre. I strongly oppose this proposal and believe it is a misuse of our public park system. As a taxpayer, and citizen of Stratford I believe that taking a multi-use community site to a single use, for the benefit for only those who wish, or can, pay to see theatre seems exclusive and wrong. The very idea that the land may even be sold, not leased, is extremely upsetting to supporters of public parks. I am not opposed to a new theatre being built, but it should not be on parkland, and it should not be pushed through Council with the threat of money being lost. Stratford exists not just because of the theatre, but because of the citizens who live here. The citizens that pay taxes into the coffers of the city. We should be reminded that the theatre does not pay property taxes for many of their (prime) properties in Stratford. I believe that there are alternative sites within the city that could meet the needs of the theatre. In any case, the proposed budget of the new theatre would build a palace anywhere in town. What's next, is the Allman Arena is up for grabs? Is it a part of the eye sore that they have referred to? The fact that there has been no remedy for the north shore path that was lost to citizens, makes one wonder why we would consider giving up more of our parks. Would there really be a seniors centre built to replace it? Why not have the theatre move to the RBC complex or the Hub that has been talked about at the former Cooper site? It could certainly benefit from an cash infusion that the theatre is expecting, and make it a part of the community. I am also concerned about the Festival Theatre launching a campaign to raise the remaining millions to build this theatre. How will this impact our other non-profit organizations in the City of Stratford such as the United Way, YMCA, etc. as they compete to raise funds for the programs that directly affect our citizens? I attended the community meeting on September 26, and was very disappointed from moment one. I do not understand why the theatre was there to present to the community. Was it not a meeting for the community to express their views, or was it another sales pitch by the theatre? If stakeholders should have the opportunity to rebuke questions and opinions, should we not have had stakeholders from all parties affected have the opportunity to give a speech followed by concerns, as Mr. Cimolini was permitted? That was nothing more than a staged production put on by the theatre. They worked hard to stock the audience in favour by sending out emails to staff, and those connected with the theatre, imploring them to attend. They also made phone calls asking people to speak on their behalf. Yes, they are good at a staged production. Many concerns (from those not convinced by the theatre's proposal) were brought forward, yet each of those had an opportunity by Mr. Cimolini to be rebuked. After one citizen asked why we are not taking more time to consider the Master Plan of the city, and to do a study on where it would be best for the theatre to build and to consider other options, Mr. Cimolini stated he did not need a study to know the best place for the theatre. I don't agree. The city needs to take more time to consider this project, whether there is money on the table or not. If those wanting a new theatre are so concerned about losing the government money, then they should find a piece of land that is private and purchase it, rather than take from the community. I believe the parks system should remain available to all of the citizens of Stratford. The theatre can build on purchased private lands. This decision is going to have lasting effects. Take the time to consider all opinions, and don't feel pressured by the theatre's campaign or threats of lost money. Save the park - for all community to enjoy as they have been.</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>Good Evening, I am sure to be one of the last voices to heartily endorse the new plans for the Tom Patterson theatre. I urge all City Councillors to consider seriously the consequences of non-action. There are numerous safety and accessibility concerns in what has been heroic use of a curling rink. It is time to honour the man who brought the first dream to fruition and give the Tom Patterson Theatre a prominence so richly deserved in the world's theatre community. Sincerely,</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>I am in support of the new TPT as I believe it will be an asset to the community and the present building is past its prime. It is a stunning building and the gardens will be lovely. We can't change how the process unfolded but we can get answers to concerns about parking, light pollution, and whether the city has a business plan to make money with the new theatre. I would rather see the city retain ownership of the parkland and do a long-term lease; I'm not sure whether this is possible but it should be considered. I think the Festival needs to be a little more forthcoming about the parking, costs and whether it will be free, and freely available when the Festival is dark. That parking lot is important for residents enjoying the park and for many downtown employees. We need more clarification on this. The entrance needs to be a bit further from Waterloo than what is proposed. Also will there be any angled parking on Water or Morenz? The building appears very glittery and bright. It is in a park and hopefully the lights will be suitably muted by 10:30/11:00 for both wildlife, enjoyment of the night sky, and most importantly local residents. I really hope the Cooper Hub comes together. We need this just as much as we need a new theatre. Keep the public informed as this proceeds.</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>My husband and I split our time between London & Stratford with the plan of moving to Stratford full time in a few years. We whole heartedly support the rebuild of the Tom Patterson theatre. What has always impressed us about Stratford is the foresight of the citizenry to get behind innovative projects. It takes courage & collective will to adapt to new ideas. Whether that be the train repair industry, the furniture making industry, the Festival theatre or the wired city, Stratford citizens have recognized the wisdom at being at the forefront. Future generations will thank today's citizens for having the courage to adapt & embrace this rebuild. Sincerely,</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>I do not support the current proposal as it stands. I would be more supportive if it were to include room for a new Kiwanis Community Centre. One of the reasons quoted by the Festival for building the new theatre along Lakeshore Drive is so that visitors can enjoy the beauty of Lake Victoria. I believe users of a new Community Centre should also be able to enjoy the beauty of Lake Victoria. I do not believe the City should allow the Festival to sweep away the current users of that area of Lakeshore Drive without a definite commitment to build a new Community Centre rather than a temporary move to the Rotary Centre and a vague statement to provide space in the proposed Community Hub (if that ever gets going!)</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>Is it reasonable for the small group of lawn bowlers to regret losing their charming location on Lakeview Dr.? Absolutely. If I were one of them, I would regret it too. Is it unfair to ask the SLAA to relocate to comparable space elsewhere in the city? I'm sure for some of them, there would be lots of reasons to prefer their current location. Maybe it's closer to where they live. Maybe they just like being near the lake. Who wouldn't? In the end, however, Council cannot let the interests and preferences of a relatively small group of people determine a major decision. Council's mandate is not to ensure that no one is ever unhappy with them; it's to do what's best for the community as a whole. The community as a whole benefits significantly from the Tom Patterson Theater project, and in a variety of ways. It brings \$60 million in construction revenues and jobs to the city, and all the multipliers associated with that. It enhances and expands the offerings of the Stratford Festival, which in turn will generate permanent jobs with the Festival and enormous spin-offs in the rest of the local economy. It also constitutes a substantial aesthetic improvement to the only unattractive stretch of our lakeshore. Put all of that in the balance and weigh it against the personal interests of those whose activities will be accommodated elsewhere. It doesn't seem like much of a contest to me.</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>I am very excited about the prospect of a new Tom Patterson Theatre. The Festival is a vital part of the city of Stratford's economy, and the Tom Patterson Theatre is a venue that continuously attracts patrons to see its innovative productions. The current space is in need of some very overdue updates and the new designs will assure continued success, and artistic growth in this space. The benefits to the community in the way of shared facilities and the growth of tourism to Stratford, I feel, far outweigh the prospect of the Theatre leaving this space. The space will need to be updated in the very near future to accommodate whatever the space is used for. Let us move positivity into the future.</p>
10/10/2017	
	<p>I know that many Stratford residents have provided feedback that speaks to the relationship between the Stratford Festival (and its various theatres) and the community of Stratford. Perhaps because I have moved here from Ottawa, I like to think of the national significance of what happens on the Festival's stages. In my mind, the Festival reflects and stands for the boundless potential of our country's cultural sector. It provides an outlet and venues for the creative expression of a multitude of artists â€” actors, directors, playwrights, producers, set designers, arts administrators â€” and gives them a place to meet with each other, and their publics, to share new ideas and reinterpret the classics. These artists are drawn here because of the opportunity that Stratford affords for growth, creativity and learning. They, in turn, share what they have learned here about integrity, artistic risk and quality theatre production on stages around the world. Audiences are drawn here for world-class theatre and a retreat to the pastoral beauty of our community, proximity to the river being a key component of that charm. Equally, the Festival's education program makes it possible for young people from across Canada, and even in the United States, to access the great works of Shakespeare, along with other important plays both well known and new. I have to admit that I was one of those young students who arrived here by school bus when I was just 12. I was forever changed and knew from that time on that Stratford would continue to feed my soul. I am excited by the notion that students in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland are no longer cut off from that experience. The Festival's HD series is bringing these works to Canada's youth. Exposure through film and education programming is so often followed by a journey to Stratford in adulthood. The Festival's proposal for a new Tom Patterson Theatre is about continuing this tradition of excellence for Canada and for Stratford. The facts are indisputable. This proposal constitutes a \$60 million investment that is supported by governments, private donors, and many, many residents of Stratford. It will mean jobs and tourism growth for the community of Stratford. It will allow the Festival to produce new and exciting productions in a state-of-the-art facility. It will facilitate its school and public education initiatives. But, more importantly, it will sustain and further the Stratford Festival's contribution to our national character and culture, and Canada's world-wide reputation for artistic innovation and excellence. The proposal put forward by the Stratford Festival needs to be recognized for what it is â€” a plan to sustain the magical heart of Canada's theatre community and traditions. The proposal is perfectly aligned with the evolution of the Festival as an international leader in the theatre arts. It demonstrates the expertise of the artistic staff and the architects engaged to develop the design. Stratford City Council simply must get behind this proposition, in a timely fashion, because it will benefit both Stratford and Canada. Sincerely,</p>
10/10/2017	

10/10/2017	<p>To the City Council:As Stratford resident, homeowner, property tax-payer, and yes, current Festival employee, I am very much in favor of the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre and Grand Trunk Community Hub. Both projects would propel our city into the next decades of community life and economic activity, whereas inaction at this point would lead directly to stagnation and loss of revenue to the city, not to mention leaving vital concerns unanswered. I ask the City Council to make a decision expeditiously, as prolonged deliberation -- especially since it is my understanding that the Council will have all of the information it needs at its disposal -- could endanger vital funding for this/these projects.Thank you,</p>
10/10/2017	<p>I would like to lend my voice to the growing chorus of citizens who are in favour of the Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment Proposal. It is time for the city to honour one of its heroes--Tom Patterson--with a theater and development befitting his gift to all of us. I look forward to city council seizing the day, and not letting this generous proposal from the Stratford Festival slip away. We are lucky to have this kind of artistic, corporate citizen in our midst. Other cities would be elated to have this kind of development presented to them and would be offering their full support in return.This is an opportunity to showcase Stratford as an example to the world. I look forward to our community leaders putting Stratford on the map once again, and ensuring in the process that we will have a vibrant, prosperous community for generations to come. Let's do Tom proud. With my thanks and best wishes,</p>
10/10/2017	<p>As a relative newcomer to the city (moving 16 months ago) I would see the redevelopment of the Tom Paterson Theatre as a real asset to the community and to the waterfront property. Given that initial funding is available (\$20m Provincial, \$20 Private) and there is optimism about the Federal government participation, it would seem both economically and culturally prudent to proceed. I believe that increased curiosity, alone, by tourists to view the new design might lead to new, regular patrons of theatre and the culinary community.</p>
10/10/2017	<p>I support the new Tom Patterson Theatre.</p>
10/10/2017	<p>Short and sweet. My opinion is that the Tom Patterson project should be on the existing Kiwanis site. The community hub at the former Cooper site is a great idea but I don't see it happening in the near future. Let's not let that hold up the progress of our Festival City.</p>
10/10/2017	<p>Yes. Go Ahead! Great for the future of this beautiful city</p>
10/10/2017	<p>I'm taking a TPT Hiatus. I've done my part to promote the new TPT as best I can. Hopefully the Festival and the City will meet up soon! I had a very lovely Thanksgiving Dinner at a popular B&B Sunday where there were some out-of-towners, former Festival actors, along with 2 long time Festival fans from Chicago. All in attendance were for a new TPT on 111 Lakeside Drive and ALL loved the design. The couple from Chicago had not been to the TPT for years because of mobility issues and the unsafe seating. The Festival may get a very pleasant surprise attendance wise when the new TPT opens. If the City says no, I wonder if the Festival has any option to move the TPT to another city, like St. Marys? In the articles I've read, it says Province approves funding to the Stratford Festival. Does it matter where the Stratford Festival is? It would be a pain to have the theatre so far away but there are always ways around everything. I imagine it would be difficult for actors shuttling back and forth between 2 cities-Especially for a matinee and evening performance. Who knows what will happen with a 'no' vote? Maybe, the Board could vote to cancel the 2018 season to think things over or move to another city? Then the City of Stratford could do a real life economic impact study and compare how the economy of Stratford does with no Festival? This should make a very small minority of Festival and Art haters very happy on this forum and especially, the other forum! I predict property values will plummet 25%, the population will drop 15%, 75% of B&Bs would close up shop, 25% of small business retail and restaurants would close. Sure this is a doomsday scenario but who knows? The City advised they wanted the new TPT to remain on 111 Lakeside Drive and that the Coopers Site was not a good option. If Council votes no, do they have another site in mind? I have not heard of another viable location from anyone. I really believe the government would step in if anything like that happened. They may also step in if Council says 'no.' I wonder if they could take Council to court or question their sanity over a 'no' vote? In the Year of Trump, I believe anything is possible.</p>
10/10/2017	<p>I don't think the facade of the proposed theater is congruent with Heritage design and does nothing to enhance our community's beauty. Surely there is something better than a gold ribbon. The location of the project is also at the expense of many in the community and provides the Festival with exclusiveness to area. How about Allman Arena/ Theater parking conflicts? Chicago and New York theaters are mainly in old areas with old facades. The competition argument is lame. Nobody attends a theater performance based on its external appearance.Build on your own floodplain as you call it. Not at Kiwanis site.</p>
10/10/2017	<p>i do hope the new Tom Patterson Theatre proposal will be approved and that the Kiwanis user groups will continue to have a presence there which for me as a visitor puts me in touch with the local community. [I liked the friendly cafe and iccream windows outside too]. I have been coming to this theatre for many years and have always loved the special experience of theatre it has provided and I assume the new theatre will provide this too. The design looks like a beautiful addition to the city. Best wishes,</p>

Written Feedback Received:

- At public Open House
- At service desks
- Via mail

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Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

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Comments:

I urge City Council to move forward in support of the Tom Patterson Theatre redevelopment, as they supported Mr. Patterson's vision in the 1950's. The Stratford Festival contributes to our community; it does not cost it. We, and many people we know, moved to Stratford specifically because of the theatre, and all it adds to a vibrant community.

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Address (optional)

Contact Information

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Comments:

Hopeful that there can be
SIGNIFICANT COMPROMISE; ie.
that TPT will include seniors,
LAWN BOWLERS ON SITE, AND
that Festival will pay full
MARKET VALUE FOR LAND
win-win-win would be
locating @ COOPER.



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Comments:

First off, I love the theatre. I worked there growing up and I continue to attend shows on a regular basis. However, I cannot get passed the fact that this project is at the cost of community assets, and the reality that money and narrow interests are being put before community well-being. I believe the use of the park system and other assets like the arena will be compromised. Citizens of Stratford are relegated to the fringes of their community.

In terms of the specific strategy:

- Why ~~isn't~~ the project discussed sooner if it is really the intention of the Festival and the City to engage the community?
- If you wouldn't change the rules for Walmart, are you willing to open the door and sell parkland to the Festival?
- Are you planning to use the fact that prov/federal funding usually has a deadline to force this project through?

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- Will ~~one~~ it be a both or nothing agreement for the TPT and the Hub ^{so that} ^{community} ^{asset are} ^{assured?} ^{through} ^{a public-private partnership?}

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Contact Information (optional):



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Comments: The Festival provides full time and part-time work for over 1000 people every year including myself. An updated theatre would be an amazing improvement to the city. Let the Festival build a new theatre and start to ~~actually~~ work on the plans for another community ~~hub~~ for the smaller groups that will be displaced in the process.

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Comments:

I fully support the
building of the new theatre
and hope it can be done
quickly

Thank you

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Comments:

Please bring this wonderful
project to Stratford so we
can continue our great
role as Story Tellers.
We also need the jobs!

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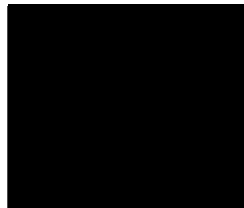
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Comments:

*Mid size cities like Stratford seem to be dying.
The courage and vision of our city leaders has kept it vibrant and growing. I encourage you to support this proposal with an eye to the future. Cities that do not grow and take risks die out. Too often we regret what we have not done rather than what we decided to support.*

Don't regret this decision by saying no at this critical time. Yes, we will be inconvenienced but we will get over it.



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Comments:

Beautiful design. Questions well answered tonight.

My question is about bird mortality. With the huge expanse of glass what is being done to minimize bird strikes?

Thanks

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Comments: I have been working for the Stratford Festival for five seasons... but I have been attending since I was six years old. The Stratford Festival has been a place of magic for myself for 25 years - and a place of magic for so many young people over the years. The opportunity that this theatre provides for youth - in programming, in classical training, in forum activities, and in employment... The festival is paramount for youth in this community and the communities beyond that the festival reaches. My very first show was treasure island. a year later I saw HMS pinatore. This year, 2017, I had the unique opportunity to relive my childhood again with those two shows. The emotions I felt in particular for HMS pinatore in particular as the familiar music swelled... I am so grateful to have employment here at the festival and be a part of the magic. It's so easy to forget those of us who work here as citizens of this city too. But we are here. And there are so many of us young people on stage, behind the scenes, as bar staff, ushers, shop staff, call centre and box office staff... and us young people are the FUTURE of this city. Build it.

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Comments: *I do hope the new Tom Patterson
Theatre will go ahead*

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Comments:

Last year
① On Cable TV (Strat 20) the Lawn Bowlers Rep stated that they had hardly any members. And if they didn't get any more people, it would have to close down.

② The Cooper Site (Hub idea) is a good one but it has been sitting for years! It is a separate issue from the TPT idea & should be dealt with separately. It's not fair to mix the 2.

③ How can a group (mo's???) keep the economy & growth of a city from moving ahead.

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Comments: I hope to make a verbal comment
at the 26th meeting at 3:00.

However, as a senior I am in
favour of the T.P redevelopment.

For the future of the city, the
legacy of younger generations.

We seniors have to accept the
time for this rebuilding is long
overdue. The theatre has
indicated it will assist in this
transition period.

Our city will become a destination
for world class architecture &
enable a growth in the economy.

This project is vital. Please, lets
have vision in this matter.

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Comments:

Why was the lawn bowling
greens not replaced before they
went to demolish them. I am a
lawn bowler. Not Fair.

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Comments:

LET'S GET IT DONE!!

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Comments:

I urge council to approve this
project at the earliest opportunity.

It is a win/win situation for both
the city & the festival.

Look to the future.

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Comments:

- WE MOVED TO STRATFORD ON IN SEPT 2017.
 - WE ARE A MARRIED COUPLE w/ 9 YR OLD DAUGHTER.
 - I HAVE LIVED ALL OVER ONTARIO
 - THE LAST 10 YEARS WE HAVE LIVED IN THE US. (ATLANTA → NC → PITTSBURGH)
 - WE DECIDED LAST FALL IT WAS TIME TO COME HOME TO CANADA
 - WE KNEW WE WANTED ONTARIO BUT WERE CONSIDERING EVERYTHING BETWEEN LONDON, TO OTTAWA AND UP TO BARRIE
 - WE CHOSE STRATFORD PRIMARLY BECAUSE OF THE THEATRE INDUSTRY & ALL THAT COMES WITH IT.
- WE SUPPORT ANYTHING THAT CAN HELP STRENGTHEN & EXPAND THIS INDUSTRY.

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Comments:

Go for it!
behind you 100%

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Comments:

The decision in this respect must be made based on facts not emotions, resentments and predilecting some other kind of use for the money available on the site or the current users.

I support the redevelopment plan because:

- The Festival did its homework to access funds from various sources, ~~not the~~
- The TP facility is old + must be repaired or replaced very soon or else we risk catastrophic damage and civil liability from weather or other causes

- The City must not try to leverage the success of the Festival in accessing govt funds + play "dog in the manger" until it gets \$ for its own narrow plans!

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Comments:

I recommend moving the Tom Patterson Theatre to the East end of Lake Victoria, East of the current Stratford Festival. The Kiwanas and SLAAW upgrade the old Tom Patterson Theatre for recreational use. Leave the seniors where they are we do not want to move. Use the \$500,000 renovation at the Agriculture complex to upgrade the Kiwanas Centre.

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Comments:

It is timely that the Festival re developes the
TPT.
In order for us also to compete with other
theatres, who also are improving their facilities.
To continue with the TPT, all parties using
the TPT must be facilitated, this is
paramount for the project to move forward.

I Wish You All The Best

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Comments:

*This is a fantastic opportunity
and must not be missed!*

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City of Stratford ←
Please share your comments on the ~~Stratford Festival's~~
~~Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:~~

Name (optional):

Sale of 111 Lakeside Dr.

Address (optional):

Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

The title of today's presentation presupposes
that the property belongs to the
theatre....

Not a Good Way to Start!

See title above

"City of Stratford Proposal
to See 111 Lakeside Dr."

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Comments:

I hope council decides to allow the renovations of the TPT. I feel that it is an investment that will serve the community for decades to come.

Please see reason, and do not stop this essential non-profit from their pursuit to be competitive.

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Comments:

I have had the privilege of living in Stratford for 6 years.

I think the Tom Patterson Redevelopment is a great idea. Fantastic plans. The old building needs new life. Its scary how run down it is.

The new theatre will revitalize the space, attract the world to the already world class theatre. But finally the reputation will fit the building. Thank you.

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Comments:

IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER ONE LIKES
THE THEATRE OR NOT. IT IS IMPORTANT
TO RECOGNISE THAT IT IS THE
THEATRE THAT HAS CREATED THE
CITY WE KNOW TODAY.
IT IS THE THEATRE THAT INDIRECTLY
HAS ATTRACTED DOCTORS, REALTORS
AND THE OTHER PROFESSIONALS
THAT MAKE THE CITY ONE OF
THE MOST DESIRABLE PLACES TO
LIVE POSSIBLY ON THE GLOBE

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Comments:

EXCITED AT THIS STEP FORWARD & THE
GREAT DRAW TO STRATFORD, IN SEASON
& OFF SEASON ESPECIALLY.

LOOKING FORWARD TO BRINGING FANS
OF STRATFORD HERE IN WINTER MONTHS
AS WELL AS SUMMER MONTHS. —

AND THAT WE FIND WONDERFUL
EVENTS FOR STRATFORD HOUSED IN
THE NEW TOM PATTERSON THEATRE.

ALL ROADS MOVE FORWARD

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Memo: To Antony Cimolino and Anita Gaffney. September 26th 2017

Completely In Favour

Stratford is a beautiful and safe city, one in which my wife and I have lived for almost 50 years. Since the down-turn of the steam locomotion repair era in the 50's, the Festival has become second to none as a centre for great theatre. Past accomplishments accepted, we must continue to grow so that we build a successful future.


The best news that a tax paying citizen can hear is that our mainstay industry is moving forward with a new state of the art theatre to replace the older venerable building.

To build a replacement will add a whole extra dimension to Stratford's riverside that will attract more visitors and city revenue upon which we as citizens rely. We are already the envy of the Canadian theatre world.

The new Tom Patterson Theatre will bring us up to date with today's world, with its digital media and education activities.

I think we should sidestep those selfish detractors who have a personal self interested agenda and think of our communities future welfare. The 'what about the poor older folks' is a red herring.

This once in-a-lifetime opportunity must not be missed.

Yours sincerely,  Stratford

**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information (optional):

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

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Comments:

I think that the only thing constant in this life is change. Change can be scary, but when you look at the financial benefit to the city, the extras benefit to the community as a whole, the TPT renewal only makes sense. I hope that the community takes into consideration the fact that the festival has taken the snows, the lawnbowlers & the Kiwanis into very thoughtful consideration is appreciated. This is not an US + THEM situation - we are all in this together.

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Comments:

Proposed new theatre is a wonderful idea - Stratford has been founded on dreams.

As 4th generation "Stratfordite" - I grew up here & have grandchildren here. My father worked for CN shops til they closed down. The theatre provided many jobs for Stratford's first class theatre. We run a small B+B - so our livelihood has been possible, post retirement thanks to Stratford visitors - most come for the Theatre.

I think there should have been more communication to the citizens & it should have come sooner... thus a backlash? There may also have been angst over the new Stratford Centres, mismanagement of Buses & ^{loss of} parking - that did not help this project. I still hope the new Patterson becomes a reality.

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Comments:

BUILD THIS NEW THEATRE!
A GEM ON THE RIVER.
A VICTORY FOR CANADIAN THEATRE.
AND A CHANCE TO BE A PART
OF SOMETHING MUCH LARGER THAN THE
HERE AND NOW. TO MAKE A MARK
ON THE FUTURE OF ARTS AND
CULTURE IN THIS COUNTRY.
COME ON, STRATFORD!

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Name (optional):

Address (optional)

Contact Information (optional).

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Comments:

This needs to happen.

*We will all lose if it falls through.
Behind it 100%!*

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**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional): Susan Wright - Employee.

Address (optional): 89 Rebecca Street.

Contact Information (optional): 519-703-2020

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

*Feedback is being accepted until **Tuesday October 10th 2017**

Comments:

- Very keen to see this level of community engagement.
- very clear that there is tremendous support for the Festival & the TPT proposal.
- the public needs to understand the extent to which the Festival addresses the needs of the seniors.
- concerned that the TPT plan will get dragged down by delays with the City plan for the Coopers site. Should be separate.
- ~~there are~~ process issues need to be addressed.
- more needs to be done to explore the value of the Festival to Stratford's economy and society.

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Comments: While I am a member of the seniors group at the Kiwanis club I am very supportive of the proposed T.P.T redevelopment. The T.P.T building does not seem safe to me & as is it is very difficult for most people to enter or exit the seating plan. I am looking forward to a new & safer environment to enjoy the type of excellent work that is performed on that stage.

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Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information:

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Comments:

Why did it take so long to
come before the Council and
public. ?

- Both meetings should not of
been on the same day's?

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Address (optional)

Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

I am so glad that finally something is going to happen with the Cooper Site. But my question is why did it take so long!!! and why did the city have to spend thousands of dollars in legal fees to Mr Ryan when that money could have been put to good use in developing this site years ago?? I guess the Festival should have got involved way back when and then something would have been done.
Whatever happens I hope it happens in my life time. What is left.

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Comments:

Clearly the good old Patterson facility is past its "best-by date".

We need to renew that facility to maintain the Festival as an attraction to continue to support the city.

Many businesses depend on the hordes of visitors that come to see World Class Theatre.

My wife and I moved (on our retirement) from Montreal - because of the theatre.

I support Stratford - we shop, we eat in the restaurants we bought a house!

We would not be here except for the theatre!

(Incidentally I first visited the festival in 1963 while a student at M'Carthy)

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Comments:

I hope that the project is able to go forward, and that it can be started this fall.

I appreciate the Festival, what it has done for the city, and what it can continue to do for the city. It will make the city more beautiful - for everyone - and will increase the economic activity of the city - which can benefit all Stratford citizens.

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Comments:

My hope would be that
the Hiwanis Centre could be
somehow ~~int~~ be integrated
with the Festival

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Comments:

We as senior citizens are very happy
with the facility that we currently have.
The city spent over 1 Million \$ to replace
the heating system & now the festival
wants to tear it all down.

Why can't the festival leave the building
and buy property elsewhere!

They DO NOT NEED TO BE
RIGHT THERE BY THE RIVER!

We elected the city reps to represent us
not the festival. It's time they
listened to us

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Comments:

This is a great city
because of the
wonderful cultural overlay
atop small town charm.
Please, please keep the
tourists at the future
coming and build the
new theatre. And build
the "Hub" as well.
Invest in the future

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Comments:

I am in favour of this project. Good Luck in moving forward with it.

P.S. the old TPT is not adequate (anymore) so this is essential the project goes forward soon!

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Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional): *Stratford, 74 years.*

Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

Destruction of our beloved Casino is vandalism. The dictionary defines vandalism as willful destruction of public or private property. It defines willful as deliberate, on purpose. It defines vandal as a person who willfully destroys public or private property.

Abandonment of the Lawnbowlers is unconscionable. The Festival wants a lovely park from the Tom P. Th. to Waterloo Street. They have a great street with the bowling green; there is in Stratford a no. more lovingly and meticulously kept piece of land than the bowling green. The new Tom P. Th. must include a clubhouse for the Lawnbowlers.

How does the festival plan to obtain ownership of the property? By paying market price? By paying a dollar? By paying between a dollar & market price? Or by asking the city to donate the property?

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Comments: I have been working this season at the festival as an actor, working exclusively at the TPT. I was surprised at the conditions of the building, the poor seating options in the theatre, and the poor ~~and~~ working conditions backstage. I really believe it's time for an updated building, both for the patrons and those working for the festival.

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Comments:

- EXPANSION OF THE T.P. IS ESSENTIAL TO THE ONGOING FUTURE OF STRATFORDS FESTIVAL.
- IT IS ONE OF THE BEST ^{LIVE} THEATRES IN THE WORLD, RECOGNIZED AS SUCH GLOBALLY AND NEEDS THESE EXPANDED SPACES AND SERVICES TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION
- THE WHOLE COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM ITS PRESENCE - ALL AGES!

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Comments:

*I applaud this extraordinary vision
for our town. Bravo!*

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Comments:

As I said in my email to all the
Councillors I am in full support of the
new Tom Patterson Theatre.

This will provide a great economic
boost to our local economy. The Theatre
has a proven track record of providing much
needed economic stability to the city. The community
love idea is inspired and will prove to be
a boon for the city and the seniors.

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Comments:

Why did The Mayor & some of city
council attend this meeting.
Are they ashamed to show their
faces. because of what they're
doing

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Comments:

I am fully supportive of the new proposed Tom Patterson Theatre in the venue & design that has been put forward. The effort to re-position the Senior Activity Centre, the Lawn bowling etc. are very adequate. The theatre is the life-blood of Stratford!

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Comments:

Wildly in support of this project
in every way!

No question that the current
location on the river is the
right decision

Bravo!

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Comments:

We're in favor of the project. This can make a significant contribution to the Theatre, our visitors & community at large. With careful planning this project has the potential to be a win-win for all.

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Comments:

Alexandra Quinty @
sympatico.ca.

The new TPT is a fantastic idea
for Stratford and for Canada and
for the arts.

Communities grow and change or
they shrivel and die... we are so
lucky to live in such a beautiful and
vibrant place and I believe the new
TPT will keep Stratford special and
relevant for a very long time.

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Comments: The reason my family and many of our neighbors came to Stratford is the theatre. To say that the citizens and patrons of the Festival aren't the same isn't true. Not that all citizens attend, but many do. To suggest the Festival is not the backbone of this community simply isn't true. Without the Festival Stratford would be Woodstock. I believe many forget that without the Festival we wouldn't have our beautifully manicured parks or 5 star restaurants to dine at. The tourists are the reason many of us find employment within Stratford. ~~Without the Festival we wouldn't have tourists.~~ I don't understand why so many are opposed to change. Change is what moves cities forward. Finally, why do we not take the city to task for how they handle these situations. We could have had these talks a long time ago but the city chooses not to!

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Comments:

I am absolutely shocked that the city has delayed this process by postponing the consultation process to this late date. If we lose that 20 million, we won't get it back. Shame on you for all the politicking.

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Contact Information

*Note that comments

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Comments:

This meeting should have been held a year ago — why didn't the Theater & the City recognize the need to get citizens on-side instead of ~~just~~ insulting them by presuming that all would agree without question.

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Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

Do not take away
the lawn bowling
greens!!!

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Comments:

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE
AWAY - HISTORY BOWLING
GREENS - LONG TIME ~~THE~~ TENANTS
A PLACE PEOPLE WHO BOWL
FROM OTHER AREAS +
VISIT HERE ENJOY STRATFORD
A LOT OF PEOPLE ENJOY
THE THE THEATRE AS WELL
BUT HAVE LOVED THEIR
TIME BOWLING AS WELL
REMEMBER PEOPLE OTHER
THAN THEATRE

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Comments: The Festival provides jobs, economic support in the community through tourism, and a welcome infusion of culture. It is a jewel in the crown of art in Canada. The new complex looks beautiful and will definitely create more work for the community. It will be a destination worldwide. I can only hope the project will move forward.

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Comments:

I AM IN FAVOUR OF THE
NEW TPT

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Comments:

We whole-heartedly support the Tom Patterson Theatre redevelopment. The contribution it will make to the cultural and economic well-being of our community will far outweigh any temporary inconvenience to ^{other} current users of ~~the~~ the ~~existing~~ existing Tom Patterson building.

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Comments:

No brainer: Yes. A unique development that
will be a hugely positive addition to the
city.

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Comments:

Is the theatre going to charge
\$15 for parking on that site & if so
are they going to charge for arena
parking?

Have city council considered
the old Sobey's for Senior's centre?
All one floor - lots of ^{exits} exits, parking,
& big open area to renovate for
seniors

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Comments:

My concern is with the process of the sale of public land. Being a Stratford City tax payer of three properties, how is it that this land is being sold to the Festival without it being offered openly for sale for any purchaser. Is there not a protocol to sell our City's land? Why is this not been put forward for anyone to purchase?

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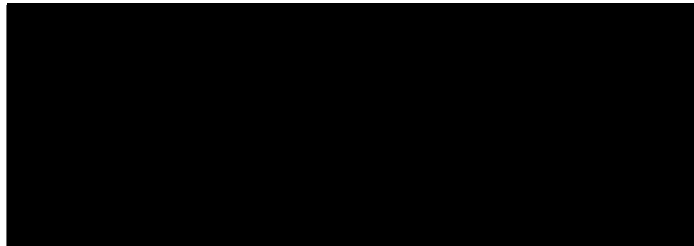
Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

Message to City Council
The Festival Theatre has brought
beauty and grace to Upper Queen's
Park,
Be brave and allow Festival
Theatre to do the same for Tom
Patterson.



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Comments:

① What about the Lawn Bowling
- Can it be incorporated
into space around / near
theatre?

② Did members of Active
Lakeside Seniors have any
say in moving location from
near new theatre when it was
offered or was decision
made only by Executive + City
make the decision

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Comments:

After today's discussion
there is overwhelming support.
Do NOT take 5-6 months to
decide lets get the show
on the road. The 1ST
5 million has to be spent
by the time you are proposing to make
decision.

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Comments:

IN favor of
TPT starting to
build ASAP.

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The New Tom Patterson Theatre

3 pm
page 1

My name is [REDACTED] and i am a Stratford resident for over 30 years.

I was a principal dancer with the Royal Swedish Ballet and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in Montreal for 23 years.

While on tour with these companies, I have performed in, and seen, most of the major theatres across North and South America, all over Europe and the Orient and visited the new Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Of all these theatres, The Stratford, NEW, Tom Patterson Theatre will be without comparison. It will be the most beautiful and functional jewel of a theatre in the world. It is Unique and it belongs here.

It will become a Beacon for tourists and theatre goers from all around the world.

The Stratford Festival has told the City that there is a way to include space in this project, for our Senior citizens, of which I am one, so we can all be equally proud.

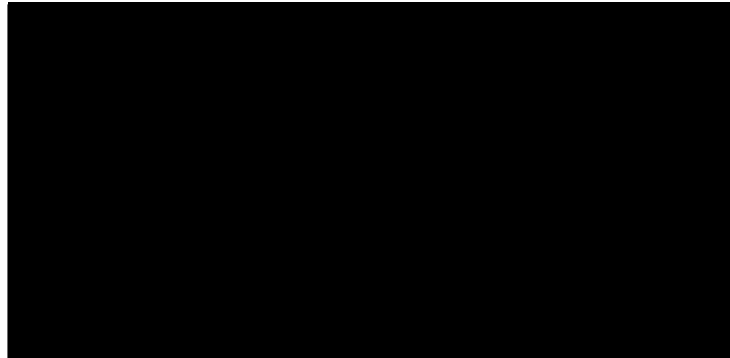
[REDACTED]

→
page 2 →

**I trust,
that this brilliant Architect whose design for the
new Tom Patterson, which is so specifically
moulded to our beautiful City,
together with our Mayor Dan Mathieson, the City
of Stratford, and the Stratford Festival
will find a perfect solution to include our Seniors,
while respecting and honouring them.**

Thank you!

Sept. 26th, 2017



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Comments:

I fully support the development
of the Tom Patterson Theatre as
proposed by Festival executives.

Get 'er done!

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Comments:

The proposed plan for a beautiful and yet amazingly useful in rebuilding a new Tom Patterson Theatre will be appreciated by Stratford population and theatre lovers from all of Canada & lots of the U.S.

But besides the stunning productions created by the Festival which will bring in thousands of theatre lover, I think of all the money/riches that this enhancement will be for our city.

In addition think of all the owners of restaurants, hotels, shoppes, taxis - bringing in excited ~~to~~ tourists will bring in wealth ~~to~~ and fame to our city. Thank you Festival!

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Comments:

It would help those affected/displaced by this proposed project if the Mayor & City Council would apologize for not revealing earlier that this possibility for a new theatre was in the works. Now that the public is aware, please get on with the consultation process and not drag it out for months.

Council needs to move as quickly as possible to the decision making phase.

I would favour the City retaining the lakeside property and giving the theatre a long-term lease (50-99 years).

Proceed with the option of having community space for SLAAA and others in the theatre complex and don't keep them up in the air for the years it will likely take for the Grand Trunk hub to materialize.

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Comments:

I keep hearing people say "I may be dead before the hub is a reality"
I'm 74. I may be dead before the hub is a reality! But this isn't about me. It is about what is good for the community, what is good for Stratford. And I think the new Tom Patterson is good for Stratford.

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Comments:

I am completing my service on the Stratford Festival Board - and feel I should say this upfront. It has been a great honor to have had this opportunity. I came to Stratford in 1963 and have come at least once, but usually two or three times a summer. We are now in our 4th generation of Schuberts coming to Stratford, from Cleveland and Seattle. When asked where they want to go for summer vacation all of my grandchildren say "Stratford," and they mean both the Festival and the city. They have played on every city playground and loaded every beach around the river. Most had their first ice cream cones here! You have a gem - the finest classical theater in North America. Take this step forward, insuring its life for another 65 yrs. Thank you for so much fun and great theater!

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Comments:

I applaud the Festival, Antoni Cimolino & his team for their dedication to the ongoing success of our beautiful city.

So many cities our size have dead downtowns and are in serious trouble because of unemployment and lack of visionaries in their respective planning boards. Not so Stratford.

Kudos to Antoni & his team!

I am delighted with this plan, support the concept of 'taking care' of our theatres and look forward to the completion of this project!

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Comments:

I think it is ridiculous for the festival to think they can publicly announce their plans Aug/1st & want to put shovels in the ground by the end of Oct. → unless Sr. Stratford people have advised them that the seniors & lawn bowlers will be tossed under the bus and to hell with public consultation. It WILL BE DONE - don't worry. They don't come up with \$30m plans overnight - this is at least a year + process - not 2 months. Like let us cancel the gas hydro plants - no cost.

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Comments:

I think that the Festival
Theatre could ; should find
an alternative location for
building a new Tom Patterson
Theatre.

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Comments:

The proposed redevelopment of Tom Patterson is what this city needs. We have to move forward. Cooper site needs to be finally developed. By doing these two developments we will get the city moving. Without the Festival our city would be nothing. The city has grown because of the festival, manufacturing ~~is~~ alone could not support the restaurants & stores.

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Comments:

This project is a perfect
example of far sighted civic
and cultural development.

IT MUST GO FORWARD.

I love Woodstock, but I do
not want the city of Stratford
to be Woodstock. We are
unique, and must remain so.

Build this artistic gem.

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Comments:

The Festival is getting too greedy!
Think about all the seniors who
will lose their bowling greens, all
for the sake of another flower bed.

The city does a fine job doing flower
beds!

And what about parking for the people
who use the arena 6 months of the
year, for hockey games and skating -
will they have to pay 10.00 to park?

Can't we compromise?

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10.1.16. 44 p.1/1

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Comments:

When the seniors move up to the Agri-plex
post the whereabouts at least a month in
advance. E.G. If they are displaced by
Dairy Expo - The Fall Fair etc. post that in
advance. Remember Sat night euchre or
Tues P.M. euchre could probably go to the
K. of C. or Army & Navy on occasion.
There are a handful of people who don't know
how they'll get home from the agriplex
because the buses don't run at 10 P.M.

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Comments:

I am a Festival Supporter & for many years & appreciate their economic fabric to the community
HOWEVER -

A new theatre is needed due to old facility needing renovations

BUT -

The river drive belongs to ALL Citizens - the Kiwanis Centre is not a ~~the~~ ~~the~~ Bldg - it is a community ~~at~~ centre - used by many organizations - also used 12 months of the year - not during theatre season only.

Please be fair to Stratford Citizens
- our City Council should not be bullied!!

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Address (optional):

Contact Information:

*Note that comments

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Comments:

Lets move this discussion to
The council table now
and get a decision by
The end of Oct.

I fully support the
proposal to build a new
Patterson Theatre on the
current site

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Comments:

EXCITED ABOUT TPT
OVERDUE
HOPE DISPLACED COMMUNITY
GROUPS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED
WITH BENEFIT TO TOWN
WELL THOUGHT DESIGN
COST TO TOWN IS NOT AN ISSUE
WTR THOUGHTFUL FUNDING
NO AFFILIATION WTR
FESTIVAL OR CONFLICT
OF INTEREST

Notice of Collection

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Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional)

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Comments:

Excellent proposition. I feel this plan will allow the Festival to continue moving ahead. This can only benefit us all. Having alternate plans for a community hub, Lawn Bowling etc. is necessary. I am hopeful this proposed redevelopment will allow us all to enjoy this beautiful town w its' world class attractions.

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Comments:

I am strongly for the proposal. I am a property and business owner & my husband & I moved to Stratford because of the festival. I am very distressed to hear that the city will take months to take a decision. This city has a reputation for dragging its heels. We need a new Patterson ASAP. The Cooper site is not a reasonable option for the time frame. Let the new TPT be this administration's legacy.

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Comments:

I am really thrilled by the proposed theatre development. Without the theatre, Stratford would likely be an almost-dead town. We moved here because of the theatre and also now enjoy the restaurants, shops, various cultural & community events. We have had many friends visit, and all say that Stratford is a gem. We want to keep it that way and the only way to do it is to ensure the continued success of the theatre.

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Comments:

- IT'S TIME FOR THE TPT TO BE RENOVATED !
- I'M A NEW RESIDENT (FOUR MONTHS) AND CAME TO THIS TOWN BECAUSE
 - (a) TRAIN SERVICE
 - (b) culture (not just SF.!)
 - (c) small walkable city on waterway
- MAKE SURE ALL STAKEHOLDERS ARE HEARD & PROBLEMS SOLVED OR ADDRESSED IN EXPANSION OF T.P.T.

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Comments:

AS LONG AS ALL THE AMENITIES
AT THE CURRENT KIWANIS CENTER
ARE MADE AVAILABLE I SEE NO
REASON TO BE AGAINST THE
PROPOSED FESTIVAL THEATER

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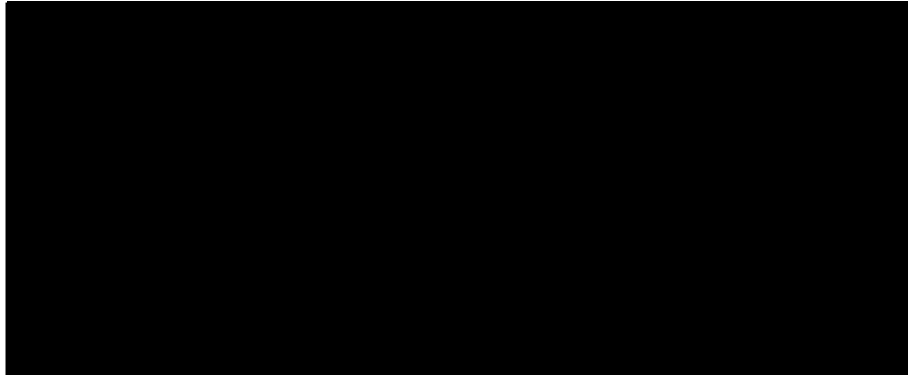
Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

GET EAR DON !



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Comments:

QUERY: BOWLING GREEN

NEW THEATRE - FANTASTIC!

GETTING RID OF BOWLING GREEN IN
THAT VICINITY ☹️

COULD IT NOT BE INCORPORATED
INTO THE GROUNDS? PARTICULARLY
IN THE TRIANGLE AREA NEAR
WATERLOO. IT IS A LOVELY OLD,
CULTURED ACTIVITY AND SHOULD
NOT BE REMOVED. A BEAUTIFUL
CRAZEBO COULD BE BUILT FOR
THE PLAYERS. ONE THAT FITS IN
WITH ARCHITECTURE.

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Comments:

We must go ahead with the proposal for the new Tom Patterson Theatre. Our city is a world class theatre destination. The plays performed at the Tom Patterson deserve a proper theatre. Our support in to the memory of Tom Patterson is essential. We must be able to compete on the world's stage! To do that we need a theatre that reflects our city's imagination & dedication. I took grade two chedien for years!

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Comments: The plans for the Tom Patterson are exciting and progressive, although I do think the preparation for the city was poorly planned with many people reacting that this plan seem to have been "dumped" on the city with very little preparation or pre warning - thus a lot of the negative comments. It seems like people "assumed" more information was known by more people - but not so. Residents have their ~~own~~^{own} little interest areas that are affected by the changes presented and the consultation process was not carried through as soon and often as it was necessary.
I feel badly there has been such a negative reaction to the changes!

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Comments:

MR CIMOLINO STATED IN THE MEETING ON AUGUST 1ST AT THE
KIWANIS CENTRE THAT HE EMPLOYED 3000 PEOPLE! IN 2015
HE EMPLOYED 1200 (ONLY 165 FULL TIME). DOES THAT MEAN
HE HAS EMPLOYED AN ADDED 900 EMPLOYEES IN EACH OF THE
LAST TWO YEARS?

HE HAS ALSO STATED THAT THERE WILL BE AN ADDED 245
EMPLOYEES WITH THE NEW TOM PATTERSON THEATRE. AM I TO
ASSUME THERE IS HARDLY ANYONE WORKING THERE NOW?

THE FESTIVAL HAS ASKED FOR MONEY FROM STRATFORD IN THE
PAST!

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Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's

comment:

Name (optional)

Address (optional)

Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

Thank-you for planning
the new theatre.
Excellent addition to
our town.
Hope it goes through.
The festival keeps
this town vibrant!!

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Comments:

I AM IN FAVOUR OF THE TPT PROJECT.
ON THE BASIS OF ~~THE~~ IT SERVES THE
GREATER GOOD TO THE LARGER POPULATION
OF STRATFORD AND IT GUESTS ~~THE~~
RATHER THAN CATERING TO THE DESIRES OF
A LESSEER NUMBER.

THE LAWN BOWLERS ARE SEASONAL
TENANTS OF LAKESHORE DR THE
THEATER IS NOT

THE SENIORS ARE NOT ADEQUATELY
SERVICED AT THE LAKESHORE SITE

THE ECONOMICS ARE CLEARLY IN SUPPORT
OF THE PROJECT

BOTH
DESERVE
FULL
CONSIDER-
ATION IN
RELOCATION

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Comments:

Build the TPT as proposed
by the Festival theatre.

Best deal for the majority
of tax payers - + future

youth, middle age + seniors

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Comments: COMPLETING THIS PROJECT IS ESSENTIAL TO STRATFORD'S ON-GOING VIABILITY AS AN ATTRACTION CENTRE OF CANADA & THE WORLD.

IMAGINE THE STATE OF STRATFORD WITHOUT THE FESTIVAL - NOT A PRETTY THOUGHT!

NOW IMAGINE STRATFORD IF THE FESTIVAL IS PERMITTED TO DEGRADE, BIT-BY-BIT. BY THE TIME TODAY'S NAY-SAYERS LEARNED TO REGRET THE NAY-SAYING, IT WOULD BE TOO LATE, AS OTHER BETTER-VISIONED CENTRES WOULD HAVE ECLIPSED US.

SENIORS' & LAWN BOWLERS ARE OFFERED HUGE UPGRADES TO CURRENT STATUS & AT LEAST SOME UNDERSTAND HOW GOOD THAT IS!

LAWNBOWLERS - WHERE IS THEIR DETAILED DEMOGRAPHIC & FINANCIAL INFO? WITH MEMBERSHIP @ \$110/YR, THEY SEEM TO BE A GROUP WHOSE BENEFITS FAR OUTWEIGH THEIR INPUTS & ADDITIONS TO OUR SUPERB CITY - BUT NEW FACILITIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

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Comments:

The building - TPT & Kiwanis is
in serious need of repair.
Should this be turned down &
the roof collapses does
'Our City' have a plan to
explain & look after disaster
victims & families

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Comments:

- I have lived in Stratford 50+ years
- If property is sold it should be at market value. The sale price should be disclosed to the City Tax payers.
- The funds from the sale of the property should go towards the groups that will be displaced and find them a facility to accommodate their needs.
- It does not matter where the theatre is located because the tourists / theatre goers will still come.
- There is vacant land around the city, Cooper, site, old fair grounds.
- If the project goes ahead as per the theatre's plan, what happens to parking for events at the arena. (Paid/unpaid)

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Comments:

I am very happy. Our festival city
will have new world class theatre.
This will benefit all our local
and our county. Thanks for
everyone has been working hard to
get this successful build up!

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Comments: Members of the Festival and the SLAAA.
Agree that the Festival needs to stay current
and grow; new facilities are necessary; need
to compete with other theatre groups; need
to have a fine venue and surrounds for
tourist attraction.

BUT Can't just 'kick seniors and
other users of the Kiwanis' to the curb.

When we have suitable accommodation
for all the activities presently on lakeside
then the building and property can be turned
over. Temporary facilities are unacceptable
and 'The Hub' is still years away.

You've just remodelled the T.P. so there
is no immediacy to this move. Do NOT
do anything until SLAAA and bowling have
found a place - not before 2018!

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Comments:

Appreciate the theatre completely & what it has done for the City of Stratford.

However, there are 2 things about this proposal that concern me -

1) The way in which this was done without really considering ~~about~~ how this will impact particularly the older citizens of this city - how realistic is it that the Community Hub will be available in the near future?

2) Lakeside is a special place that should be available to all residents of Stratford - will that still be the case.

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Comments:

Stratford's great community spirit that maintained the important riverside lands in the public domain in the past can do so today.

I recommend that we all go back to the drawing board and design & build a structure all the citizens of Stratford not one only for the effete elite.

If would have an improved new theatre and a community centre and perhaps even preserve those wonderful old lawn bowling greens. Other cities do this; why not us!

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Comments:

I'm in favor of the Festival build a new theatre, but not at the expense of taking over precious park space. Go some where else in town! Try to fill the seats you already have!

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Comments:

- ① CURIOUS AS TO THE SUGGESTED NUMBER OF NEW JOBS THAT WILL BE CREATED - PLEASE ELABORATE
- ② CONSIDER ANOTHER SITE !!
- ③ DON'T DISPLACE NUMEROUS OTHER ORGANIZATION.

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Comments:

Excellent proposal -
Beautifying waterfront.
Another tourist attraction.
A major bonus to an Arts
community.

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Comments: ← after listening to the presentation

Anything is possible for
sure - if you have tons + tons +
tons of money. (look how the cost of
market square skyrocketed)

This seems very "pie in the
sky" to me + I find that concerning
in our economic climate, to be
honest. Not something I'd want
to bet on happening (← in regards to
The Hub)

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Comments:

I'M NOT CLEAR ON THE REMAINING "WORKS"
TO BE GONE THROUGH FOR THIS PROJECT, BUT HOPE
THEY CAN BE MANAGED. IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR
A CITY TO HAVE ITS CITIZENS EXPRESSING DIFFERING
VIEWS. PROGRESS + ACCOMMODATION TRAVEL ON THE
SAME ROAD, IT SEEMS.

I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THE MAJORITY
OF PEOPLE ARE THUMB-UP & WANT THE PROJECT
TO GO FORWARD.

I CERTAINLY DO.

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Comments:

I'M ALL FOR THE NEW THEATRE! GET
GOING ON IT!

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Comments:

I feel luckier every year in the quality of my life in Stratford. Based on my experience as a citizen since 1978, I have great faith that this project will be of benefit, both financially & aesthetically.

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**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional)

Address (optional)

Contact Information (optional)

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

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Comments:

I support Stratford as a city helping the theatre build a new Tom Patterson Theatre, but I do NOT believe it should be built on the waterfront at the Kiwanis Centre. There are many other sites in the city that would be suitable. Leave our Parks Multi use.

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Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's

Name (optional)

Address (optional)

Contact Information (optional)

*Note that comments are anonymous

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Comments:

I'm for the building of the new Tom Patterson Theatre. It will be a beautiful addition to our waterfront.

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Comments:

Let's consider something other than the \$\$ that this change would make to the City as well as those that profit from Tourism

Let's consider

A) The "Heritage" of the lawn bowling club & the best "greens" in the province

B) The Seniors who have been here for a ~~test~~ lifetime, paid taxes & are now enjoying the programs offered in a

Central location

C) The Hockey fans who have limited parking now — which will be reduced greatly if the plan goes through

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Comments:

I feel that the membership of the clubs which are being relocated should be asked where they wish to be located when all is done.

- ① LAKESIDE
- ② AQUAPLEX
- ③ HUB
- ④ OTHER

Also, much clearer communications as to how each project will affect others.

Should SLAAA + KILNAN'S RETURN TO TPT
~~and~~ There should be plans for a large enough space to accommodate.

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Name (optional)

Address (optional)

Contact Information

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Comments:

*Great design
An asset to Stratford
Hurrah!*

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Comments:

BUILD IT!!!
ASAP

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Comments:

We would personally like it where it is - especially the lawn bowling. Can't see putting in a flower garden when we have so many already in the city.

The building the festival is putting up does not suit the space at all. ^{Too much glass} Where is the parking going for the arena or is the festival taking that over to.

Why put the seniors up where the Cooper Bessemer plant is.

I suppose the festival will get what they want, they always do.

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Comments:

I definitely think the new TPT should be built on the present site. It would bring in a significant number of tourists which in turn would be a boon to the Stratford economy.

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Comments:

Amazing project, and just what
Stratford needs to stay at the tip
of the spear in the arts & in
tourism!

Let's get this done!

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Comments: I am a lifelong resident of Stratford, attended my first play at the Theatre in the tent at age ten.

In my opinion, the Festival is the "life blood" of this community! I can not imagine what Stratford would be today if not for the Theatre.

We made sure our two daughters grew up with a love of the theatre and now we take our grandchildren.

I fully support the Tom Patterson Theatre project. By the way, I am a senior citizen.

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Comments:

This should be constructed
and functional as soon
as possible
Need to be beautiful

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Comments:

I am fully in support of going ahead with the Tom Patterson theatre redevelopment. This is something the city needs.

I also believe the Cooper site is the correct location for the community centre. This would go along way to creating the impetus of dealing with the Cooper site and getting our much needed HUB.

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Comments:

I AM VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS
PROJECT. MY EXCITEMENT STEMS FROM
MAKING OUR CITY A WORLD CLASS
DESTINATION FOR THEATRE. THE PROJECT
WILL ENHANCE THE PARK SYSTEM AND
MAKE PEOPLE EXCITED ABOUT COMING
TO OUR FABULOUS CITY. BRAVO FOR
THE VISION!

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Comments: I MOVED TO STRATFORD FOR THE THEATRE & ALL THE PROGRESSIVENESS THAT IT BRINGS. THAT INCLUDES A NEW T.P. THEATRE.

THE THEATRE KEEPS THE DOWNTOWN CORE ACTIVE. IF I HAD WANTED A COMMUNITY WITH NOTHING BUT WALMART ON THE OUTSKIRTS, I WOULD HAVE MOVED TO SARNIA!

I UNDERSTAND THAT FOR SOME PEOPLE, CHANGE IS DIFFICULT. BUT IF YOU'RE NOT MOVING FORWARD, BY DEFINITION YOU'RE ~~GOING~~ GOING BACKWARDS.

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Comments:

I believe the festival's existence has prevented Stratford from becoming Sarnia. Downtown Sarnia is derelict, downtown Stratford is vibrant.

To remain vibrant, Stratford must move forward with projects like the new theatre. Attempting to stand still will lead to decline.

(I worked in Sarnia in the 1960's and 1970's. It was vibrant back then)

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Comments:

the Stratford Festival acting company.
I am a member of ~~Stratford Festival~~ training program for
I trained in the Festival's conservatory
actress - a program funded by a local person - to hone my
craft. My growth as a person and as an artist is off the charts
because of the Festival. But not only that - I am not from here,
and sometimes I don't work here but I LIVE HERE. I bought a
house here, I got married here - in city hall - and I
pay taxes here. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. The Festival
has a large presence in Stratford, it is not the only piece of
Stratford's identity to be sure, but it undeniably contributes to
the city's vitality. I understand that change is difficult and
complicated, but this kind of progress is world class
and should be celebrated.

I appeal to City Council to move ahead
with the Tom Patterson Theatre.

Please Act Now.

P.S. The issues of displacement are
solvable, please band together
and find a way, a vision this exciting

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The thing that is displaced.

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Comments:

The new TPT is a breaktaking architectural design.
Newly constructed institutional buildings are increasingly being designed as dual-use or multiple use buildings. The idea of a community centre adjoined to the new TPT is a good one. Why? The hub concept is a concept - it will be perhaps a decade/maybe longer before it will be realized. Locating a community centre beside TPT will ensure that community activity on the lake-front continues by say 2020. Fund raising will be needed. If, say in 2025, the TPT needed to expand then the community centre could be "repurposed," if it is cleverly designed, for that support.

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Comments:

To Council

Please try to see the bigger picture in amongst the many demands facing you.

What is being proposed is "World Class". You can't say that about many theatres + arts institutions in the world.

Make a daring, world class decision and **MOVE AHEAD** with the new Tom Patterson Theatre. He would have loved this plan.

I'm a home owner since 2010 + a renter here since 2003. I shop locally, have adopted to rescue dogs at the local Humane Society + love living here. I'm a voice coach who works all over Canada, the US + the UK.

Working at the Festival is a privilege. I got married in City Hall.

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Please go forward with the new TPT

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Comments:

I'm excited about the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre. Not only as a Stratford Festival employee, but as a Stratford resident. Both the Festival & the City have done much research and I know from this that all Stratford groups will be accommodated and the economic impact will only be positive. As 65 years ago when Tom Patterson envisioned the Theatre, we envision this exciting new adventure for Stratford.

Regards

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Comments:

This is a Fabulous opportunity
for the city of Stratford, let's
get started.

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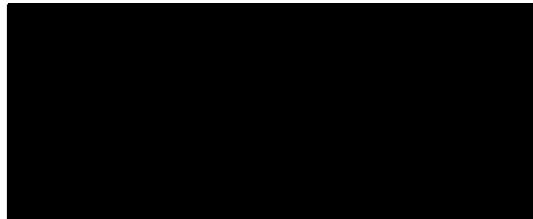
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Comments:

I MAKE THE LAWN BOWLING PART OF THE
GARDENS BECAUSE IT'S BEEN THERE FOR 102 YEARS



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Comments:

Anita G & Antoni C,
Thank you for the presentation
this evening. Great discussion,
inclusive of the community and
a view to the bigger & larger
issues for both the theatre going
forward & the community's growing
needs.

I really enjoyed seeing the
very organic & beautiful design
I love the use of curved &
sinuous curtain wall. The gardens
are crucial & the hidden parking in behind
- Thank you, Thank you

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I am in support of the Tom Patterson
redevelopment.

**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
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Comments:

Let's move Now
on this gift/magnificent
opportunity for the new TPT!!
Stratford needs this.
Thank you for this
Wonderful city / let's move on this!

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Comments:

- ① This is an historic opportunity to build a world class theater
- ② This is a ^{much} project that would normally only go to a larger city
- ③ Stratford needs to make the decision now to proceed (not in a number of months)
- ④ Lets build on the synergy that we already have between city & theater
- ⑤ Great town = great place to move including many new doctors + hospital funding

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Comments:

STOP STALLING
& BUILD IT.

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Comments:

Move the Tom Patterson
Theatre project ahead
now!!!

Delays cost money.

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Comments:

I hope you can find a way
to uncouple the plans for
the HUB (still in its infancy)
from the plans for the
new TP1 (which is ready to
go and needs to get going).
One shouldn't hold up the other,
in my view.
Thanks,

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Comments:

I am totally in favour of the Festival project going ahead.

I know we need to make sure the Lakeside Seniors' and lawn bowling Club's needs are met.

I also support the Hub concept.

Hopefully Council & the Festival can get things in order to meet deadlines and to quality for a Federal grant.

Thanks for providing this forum for the citizens of Stratford to engage.

Without the theatre this town wouldn't be much.

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Comments:

A NEW TPT would only add to the already exciting services available at the Stratford Festival. As a member of the acting company I know that the TPT is loved by audiences. But the stairs are way too steep especially for elderly patrons. The heating / cooling system doesn't seem to work. Would it be possible to have the services centre in the new building?

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Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

Please forge ahead w this project and prove
The festival founders right.
Show that you have the same forward
thinking about this incredible institution.
Stratford is on the map because of it and,
despite whatever we hear these days, S. would
not be the CITY it is were it not for the
Festival. Let's keep it competitive!
The injection of capital will further help
the City coffers and help with jobs.
I really hope to see this project go
forward and see the City become
even better for residents i tourists
who support us. And please do
not take six months to decide
upon it!

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Comments:

I fully support the Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment project, and would urge Council to approve this project as soon as possible. This project has the potential of changing the face of Stratford and becoming a real destination point. Stratford could be the next Bilbao !!

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Comments:

My concern is - if this is an all glass building are we going to have enormous problems with birds committing suicide thinking they can fly straight through.

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Comments: Will the Renovations of the Agriplex
Be Acceptible to the Senior Programs to
Allow the Seniors to Stay There Long
Time Until Hub is Done!
We could lose members if they
are not happy and comfortable in
new surroundings

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Comments:

I strongly support the TPT Redevelopment. The Stratford Festival brings thousands of tourists to the City of Stratford annually and what attracts these tourists year after year is excellence. Of the main facilities run ~~owned~~ by the Festival, the TPT theatre houses many superb productions, but the facilities themselves no longer meet the standard of excellence the Festival's audiences expect. To give Stratford audiences the experience they deserve and which will keep them coming to Stratford and spending their tourist dollars, please allow the TPT the new home it needs. Thank you.

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Comments:

I believe that the Stratford Festival has been & will continue to be good stewards of this community. They have a vision for the future ~~and~~ re: Tom Patterson and I think it is interesting and ~~intriguing~~ intriguing. I support it.

I really wish Stratford would develop the Cooper side. My dream = a pool, a space for all ages — real dynamic interesting community-use spaces.

The Tom Patterson Theatre ~~is~~ has the potential to be an engine for future success in Stratford. I hope the city gets behind it whole-heartedly!

P.S. - I think the seniors centre should be located as part of a ^{larger} community centre where they can access lots of other services and where they have room to expand.

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Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional): 45 year Stratford TAX PAYER

Address (optional): North end

Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

I am absolutely beyond angry that the Festival is ~~currently~~^{seizing} land, currently well used by many older citizens of Stratford. To claim that these SLAAP and lawning bowling clubs could be relocated is NOT acceptable. There are many other options of land for the new

Tom Patterson Theatre. Also the look of this new theatre is not sympathetic to the neighbourhood. Please stop the Festival from usurping this parkland setting!

Parkland should stay in public land for the public & people of Stratford

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Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

GREAT PROJECT

COUNCIL GET ON

WITH IT!!!

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Comments:

The Tom Patterson is a special place in town
But more importantly a cornerstone to the Stratford
festival and the entire theatre community.

I think the new plans will be a positive
step toward maintaining the festival's great
standards.

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Comments:

Please please PLEASE do not 'deliberate' about this until we lose the opportunity. This is a complete no-brainer to anyone looking in from outside. build the theatre. As a long-time city resident I would be absolutely appalled if our council drops this ball.

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Comments:

I have lived in Stratford for 3 years & am 62 Yr old.

I support the New Tom Patterson, provided they make suitable arrangements for the SLAAA seniors, & if away from the downtown that ~~they~~ they provide for transportation.

Also I would like to see continued free parking at the New Tom Patterson Theater.

I also support the Hub, new YMCA, space for university as Stratford grows & attracts younger people & jobs to this city.

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Comments:

Council needs to show some
vision — like Tom Patterson did
in the early 50's.

Take a chance for the future
well-being of our community.

Vote TP redevelopment.

You took 13 years to deliberate over
Market Square and look at the
fabulous use it's getting now.

Don't put your decision off until
it's too late. Show some Vision.

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Comments:

I strongly support the
new theatre!

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Comments:

*I am so disappointed in the
senior community that they
are not totally behind this
project. If not for our parents
& Grandparents support in the
past Stratford would not be
what it is to-day.
Go for it!*

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Comments:

Strongly support the positive economic impact that the building of a new Tom Patterson Theatre would have in Stratford.

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Redevelopment:**

Name (optional)

Address (optional)

Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

I fully support the proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment.

As a homeowner/taxpayer, I believe the benefits of a new world class centre would not only benefit the Festival but increase in tourism and, therefore, revenue for the city business' and city itself would easily offset the temporary inconvenience that it would ~~not~~ it would cause the citizens of Stratford. The theatre as is, is no longer safe. I brought my elderly mother to a show the other day and she could barely navigate the seating.

Please, please, please - move ahead with this very exciting & well thought out, considered project.
Notice of Collection Let's go Stratford!!

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Comments:

WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY HERE TO GIVE
OUR COMMUNITY A CULTURAL VENUE UNLIKE ANY OTHER.
TO LET THAT OPPORTUNITY - AND ALL THE ECONOMIC
BENEFITS IT WILL BRING, WHILE BEAUTIFYING
THE CITY - WOULD BE A BETRAYAL OF THE
PRINCIPLES THAT INSPIRED AN EARLIER
GENERATION OF CIVIC VISIONARIES.

THIS COUNCIL WOULD SURELY NOT WANT
TO BE ~~REMEMBERED~~ REMEMBERED BY
FUTURE GENERATIONS AS THE ONE
THAT CLOSED A DOOR ON STRATFORD'S
~~PROMISE~~ PROMISE TO THEM.

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Comments:

100% IN FAVOUR OF
A NEW TPT.

WIN, WIN, WIN
WIN, WIN, WIN
FOR ALL OF US

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Comments:

You as Theatre
are Steam Boiler
— an elephant
tromping the little guy
- the 900 Srs.
+ the 102 yr. old Lawn
Bowling Club.

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Comments:

All our guests that love
Stratford is it the
Glas + Brass Area on our
old brick and mortar old
Town Areas

The new theater should go
next to the post office or
Central High school

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Comments: I think re-building the TPT is a wonderful idea. Even if the plans fall through, it definitely needs some updating. Hopefully it goes through.

In terms of the Hub, I am curious about parking. ~~How~~ will there still be the same amount? Will it still be available for free? Parking is already a big issue for patrons coming to the Avon. Hopefully we won't lose out on more.

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Comments: As a member of Slea, I think the
plexicon on where we go should be
up to us. If the theatre is offering us a
space, for Gods sake it! There are all
sorts of recreation centres you could
build up at 'The Hub'.

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Comments:

Stop dragging your
feet - get it going.

Don't be stuck in the
mud.

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Comments:

Against the theatre

Reading The newspapers one comes to the conclusion that small towns are filled with small minds. However at the meeting there was great enthusiasm for a progressive approach to the new theatre and the hub. - Council has to go ~~with~~ with the majority of citizens and not just listen to old folks who have lived here all their lives and are afraid of change.

~~---~~

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Comments:

Yes, the city is twisting itself into knots trying to accommodate several small groups representing a tiny minority, who have had the privilege to reside in their current location. This sense of entitlement is so totally wrong headed since its against the majority of citizens

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Comments:

The hub projects sounds
wonderful too -
2 new projects add
value to everyone.
Vote for ~~the~~ both
Them!

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Comments:

As a young citizen of this amazing city, I am 100% in favour of the TPT revitalization project.

I understand that certain other leisure groups may be displaced/temporarily inconvenienced, and I understand that change is always difficult.

We fear what we do not understand.

But I KNOW that this project can do nothing except enhance this city and make it a vibrant and compelling place for people to visit/live/work in!!!

PLEASE do the right thing and bring this project to fruition. It can only be a good thing.

THANK YOU!

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Comments:

How will A NEW building
with 100 MORE SEATS held
To fill the SEATS in the
Existing buildings that are
only getting 35 to 55 %
House

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Comments:

Very proud to be
a member of the
STRATFORD FESTIVAL.

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**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information (optional):

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

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Comments:

Why wouldn't we look for ways to
improve Stratford?
We owe it to the many tourists
that help keep Stratford alive!

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Comments:

Festival Culture is Stratford Culture. We are united as westeners by the plays the festival programs. The Festival Stage and the Tom Patterson are revolutions in stage design that challenged the rest of the world. To keep innovating and supporting the Arts is to keep humanity growing towards its maximum potential. If the community organizations can be taken care of they will be allowing new generations of theatre makers to create cutting edge work. Build it and they will come.

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Comments:

The Tom Patterson theatre sorely needs refurbishing/
rebuilding to improve its safety - people falling in
narrow ~~aisles~~^{rows}, down steep stairs, wooden structures,
a roof holding heavy lighting equipment. What if a
strong wind or tornado came through Stratford?
Would the patrons (who bring lots of money into
town, keeping it vibrant) be safe?

But since the City needs to look after its
(me too, soon)
seniors as well, maybe this is the catalyst needed
to provide for them in a community hub complex.
That would be most welcome!

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Comments:

This project is good for
the festival & therefore good
for Stratford. It should enhance
our already beautiful parks.

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Comments:

I know communication is difficult, especially with a senior population who may not be as comfortable with digital media - but I believe the city could do a better job of communicating on what the issues are - both with the Cooper site redevelopment and with the engineering requirements of the Lakeside Drive property if the new rebuild does not go ahead.

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Name (optional):

Address (optional): *Stratford*

Contact Information (optional):

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Comments:

*Good for the community
Jobs - both festival and for the town.*

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Comments:

- ① I would not build a house on that location because it is too close to the river / flood plain.
- ② Was thought given to doing a back-split on the current Festival Theatre? With a circular drive connecting the new facility there to Lakeshore Drive, it would be just as picturesque as the Tom Patterson renovation plans. This would take away all the problems you are currently having with the present layout of the ~~now otherwise~~ Kivonics & lawn bowling facilities.

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Comments: I am an actor at the Stratford Festival, ^{this is} my 3rd year. I am looking around me and I see many other young actors here. Eager and worried about whether this city and community, which I have come to love & cherish, has the theatre company's best interest in mind. They are the future of this company & this project is a gift to the city for generations to come. Theatre culture and Stratford culture have become intertwined. Stratford will be better for it & theatre practitioners & theatre goers will pour themselves back into the community, into the shops, & restaurants. It is a step forward & the city should want to flourish.

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Comments:

Many of the comments we heard today are short term worries & criticisms. Few are thinking of the long term beneficial impact this theatre will bring.

Mr. Cimolino is thinking beyond the years of his term and is thinking of the future, 20-30-50 years to come.

The future of the theatre and the town.

It is unthinkable to me that this project, this step forward, be shut down.

~~It is the next logical step to~~ It is the next logical step to an internationally renowned reputable place.

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Comments:

I hope the council goes forward with selling the land on Lake Shore Dr. to the Festival for rebuilding the Tom Patterson Theatre. This project will be of great importance to the future of ~~the~~ both the Festival and the city. The financial rewards to Stratford are clear, but also the quality of life that a continued, healthy theatre brings to this community cannot be calculated. This is an investment by the Festival in the city - not the other way around. The concerns of the council or others are valid & must be listened to and dealt with, but surely we can all agree that the future health of the city will be better served by going ahead with this very important project.

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Comments:

I want to offer my support in the development and building of the new TPT. A new building will not only provide a safer work place for the many Stratford residents the theatre employs but will attract more tourism, which is a vital part of the Stratford economy.

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Comments:

I'm against the TPT ~~be~~ being built until the SLAAA, Lawn Bowling & other groups have a PERMANENT Place built first. While the current TPT has outlived it's purpose as a theatre I feel that that building could be given to the seniors for additional spaced leave that parkland & view of the river for the citizens of Stratford to enjoy. Let the theatre build beside the university.

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Comments:

*Seems to me that the Theatre is a
business. BIG Business*

Businesses make money.

*They should buy property & pay property taxes
like all good businesses.*

*Lawn Bowling is a leisure time sport,
a not-for-profit passtime and as
such REQUIRES city support on city land.*

*The Lawn Bowling Club collects fees to "pay as you go"
hydro, (water), equipment for upkeep of greens
& maintenance of clubhouse. NO PROFIT.*

*The Stratford Lawn Bowling Club has
seen 40% membership growth this past year.*

*They deserve better than being
ousted. And need a year to grow the
Australian Bent Grass Seed @ 19.95/pound.*

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Comments: *The TPT is about enhancing the economy
of our town. Doesn't everyone know this.*

*I'm an artist - the only job I can get is
at the Festival. Please help it to grow.*

*The town needs something beautiful to attract
people to spend more time here. The TPT
ideas will surely help this to happen.*

*Why didn't the city ask for government money
for the Hub years ago? Please don't miss
the TPT out of your fundraising.
They are two separate issues.*

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Comments: See the attached list
We would welcome your feedback
to our concerns.

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Re: Stratford Festival's proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment.

The following are our comments;

-The information handed out at the public meeting held Sept.26/17 was very much appreciated **but it came far too late**. It really hurts when citizens and seniors are treated in this way.

-the first thing that should have happened at the meeting Sept.26/17 was an apology from the City and Festival saying they were sorry this meeting didn't take place months ago in the scheme of events.

-Park land should **not be sold**. It belongs to the city and the residents of this city and we need to thank our forefathers for saving it years ago. This area has been and still is our heritage.

-The proposed design of the new Theatre is okay but it does not fit in whatsoever with the riverside/parkland area. It would look fine in the Grand Trunk area.

-This city is also well known for its hockey programs not just theatre. The Tom Patterson project takes away all the arena's parking- meanwhile we should be making sure that doesn't happen if we want to continue all those dollars coming into the city with the many hockey tournaments that are held here.

-I disagree with the comment that the proposed theatre site "has long been a dormant piece of land - that is a lie. This comment should be taken off the website.

-why were the members of SLAAA not contacted by the theatre early this year like all the other groups who use 111 Lakeside Drive?

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Comments:

The timelines are still too vague for the community. - At what point would the community centre be built in the TPT space? It is possible that the SHAA + many other uses of the Kiwanis centre will wait years for a home.

WHAT IS THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE new theatre? 20th ceilings can't be energy efficient.

WILL WE ALL NOW PAY FOR PARKING AT THE NEW COOPER HUB? → WILL SOMEONE LIKE PETE HYDE BENEFIT LIKE EVERY TIME MANY OF US NOW PAY TO GO TO THE DOCTORS?

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THE THING THAT UPSETS ME MOST ABOUT THIS IS THAT THE PLANS WERE MADE, ASSUMING THE DISPLACEMENT WAS FINE - UNTIL THERE WAS BACKLASH. WHY COULDN'T THE FESTIVAL + MAYOR HAVE THOUGHT TO CONSULT THE COMMUNITY BEFORE THE PLANS WERE MADE? THAT IS NOT HOW A COMMUNITY WORKS TOGETHER. IT IS CLEARLY TOO LATE TO ACTUALLY GET OUR INPUT - I FEEL THIS WAS LIP-SERVICE WHICH WAS ENGINEERED THROUGH THE FESTIVAL TO BE FOR THEM. (I GOT THEIR E-MAILS)

PLEASE - MAKE OUR CITY COUNCIL + MAYOR REPRESENT US BY KNOWING WHAT WE THINK, RATHER THAN BY WHAT THEY THINK IS BEST.

Why I Support the New Tom Patterson Theatre Project

When Tom Patterson first brought forward his vision of a Stratford rebirth here in the early 1950s, he embraced a spirit of innovation, enhancement and opportunity. His courage to adopt and champion new ideas for this community gave Stratford a significant advantage that it still enjoys today.

Nestled amongst southwestern Ontario farmland and located just slightly off the beaten path, this city of 32,000 people offers a vibrant and enviable lifestyle to its residents and visitors alike. Our city's reputation as a cultural centre and its continued success in adapting to economic and industrial change have made it a small but amazing city that we are all proud to call our home. Toronto, K-W and London all offer plenty of goods and amenities within a 2 hour radius, but what I love about Stratford is how almost all of our needs are available right here. Not every city of this size offers this advantage to its residents – and our city's cultural and industrial innovations are often at the heart of what has made this self-sufficiency possible.

Simply put, we in Stratford enjoy an atmosphere and variety of life that many people in similarly-sized small cities do not, and a decent part of that is because of what the Stratford Festival has inspired within and still provides to the community. We are in the enviable position of living at not just the crossroads of Lakes Ontario, Huron and Erie, but also in a place where Culture, Technology and Community converge and graciously offer us some truly awesome benefits.

Also, as a long-time Stratford theatre patron, I join with many others in our community when I refer to the Tom Patterson Theatre as our unsung treasure of a performance space. Like Massey Hall in Toronto, it is a rather ugly old barn of a building, but it offers an unparalleled live experience to its audience. The Festival productions mounted in that space are truly special, gloriously intimate and deeply moving.

That the building has lasted for more than 40 years as a "temporary" space is astonishing – and a testament to the dedication of both theatre and municipal efforts to keep it viable. It is clear, however, that the TPT building is very near the end of its lifespan and that it will be impossible to maintain it as a safe and useable public space in the not-too-distant future.

It would be a devastating blow to the Festival and to both its local and visiting patrons to lose the Tom Patterson Theatre entirely.

As an engaged and grateful Stratford citizen, I offer my full support to the new TPT project and I encourage the City of Stratford and all of its residents to embrace the opportunities it offers to make our city an even more beautiful place to live in and visit.

When I think of the enormous potential for community services and civic pride that is offered by the combination of our refurbished Market Square, the plans for the Cooper Site Community Hub, and this beautiful new theatre and public space at the river's edge, I am thrilled. This repurposing and renewal of several of our city's historic and long-loved spaces offers benefits and improvements to all Stratford citizens, both directly and indirectly. I sincerely believe we should seize the moment and proceed to fulfill the promise of a 21st century renaissance for our small but truly grand city.

There are some very good reasons why Stratford is consistently named as one of Canada's best places to live. Our community and its leaders have repeatedly shown foresight and embraced change without sacrificing or erasing the spirit or strengths of our past. The new Tom Patterson Theatre is a project designed with the same visionary pen, and it will be another great reason for us to proudly state that Stratford – our home – is indeed "dramatically different".

Where will all the \$ come from?

And remember the Government is us and taxpayers.

Why did the proposal of using Agriplex temporarily NOT vote on before accepted?

When building the new Adult Centre will members be able to have some input?

* First and foremost this parcel of land must be kept for the Citizens of Stratford now and years ahead!


Will the Glass Wall front Be A hazard for the birds, ducks, geese -
eg. flying into it?

Will this entitle the Festival to charge for parking? Free parking?

What will happen to the LAWN Bowling?
They count!!

I know the Festival is a big part of Stratford, but ALWAYS the citizens should be first! — Don't give away what doesn't belong to you - owned by each citizen of Stratford!

When will the seniors have a new place (not agriplex - permanent Time

Most seniors are 70 plus - time is
running out! 

About 18 years ago - L. Ryan had a mini fair with rides. Big
uproar - ended up Perth Health Unit R. Head put out an
alert. Even cement and asphalt too contaminated. Do Not
even let your children walk on it. Why did it become
a parking lot if so contaminated? Explain Please.

That side of town - across the other side of city is
so used to getting crap!! Why does everything has to
go there? About time the other side of the river
got the skateboard park or pickle ball or some
other shit!

Why can some of the ^{city} Councillors fight for
the year round locals - Why is it always for
the new arrivals - - luring Toronto people.
They never will be happy till they change
the whole city. But not their own backyards!!

Why hire a Communications Person - Can never
find in paper where he communicates? ???
CAN HARDLY WAIT to vote next year!
time

The New Tom Patterson Theatre

My name is [REDACTED] and i am a Stratford resident for over 30 years.

I was a principal dancer with the Royal Swedish Ballet and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in Montreal for 23 years.

While on tour with these companies, I have performed in, and seen, most of the major theatres across North and South America, all over Europe and the Orient and visited the new Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Of all these theatres, The Stratford, NEW, Tom Patterson Theatre will be without comparison. It will be the most beautiful and functional jewel of a theatre in the world. It is Unique and it belongs here.

It will become a Beacon for tourists and theatre goers from all around the world.

The Stratford Festival has told the City that there is a way to include space in this project, for our Senior citizens, of which I am one, so we can all be equally proud.

**I trust,
that this brilliant Architect whose design for the
new Tom Patterson, which is so specifically
moulded to our beautiful City,
together with our Mayor Dan Mathieson, the City
of Stratford, and the Stratford Festival
will find a perfect solution to include our Seniors,
while respecting and honouring them.**

Thank you!

Sept. 26th, 2017

For the past several months I have been following with interest the proposed re-development of the Tom Patterson Theatre and have attended the last three info meetings. A number of issues come to mind after listening to audience comments.

The creation of 240 new jobs. Can Mr. Cimalino expand on what these jobs might be? I might add at this point that jointly my husband and I were employed at the Festival for 72 years and are familiar with staffing of many departments. Most of these positions are seasonal and contracts are given according to the needs of each show.

Please give careful consideration to the Lawn Bowling Club a tranquil setting for both local residents and visitors to enjoy. Who is likely to drop by the municipal golf course? This is a valuable part of Stratford's history and we have over the years lost a number of important buildings in the name of progress.

I can see that parking could be an issue. Already users of the Allman Arena spill over to the Community Centre/Tom Patterson parking lot and a number of organizations use this lot as a meeting place for various activities. Mr Cimalino hinted there would be paid parking, does this seem fair.

In closing, let me make it clear I am not opposed to the theatre expanding, but do feel the choice of design (far too glitzy for a heritage neighbourhood and park setting) and I question the wisdom of their choice of location.

OPEN HOUSE – SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

The Stratford Lapidary Club

We are currently located in the Kiwanis Community Centre.

Our Lapidary Club has been operating since the 1970's and has been fortunate enough to be able to make annual donations to several local charities.

Our only source of revenue are the sales of our products, by club volunteers, at the Tom Patterson Theatre, but unfortunately it appears that it will close permanently this fall.

A more common sense approach to the issue would be to build the Community Hub first and have it in operation before closing the Kiwanis Community Centre. This would avoid all the commotion of moving to a temporary location and then moving again at some time in the future to a permanent home.

However, if the City Council chooses to ignore the wishes of the senior citizens of Stratford, and bends to the whims of the theatre, and imposes on the Agriplex to house the seniors activities, we will then be forced to re-locate to the Agriplex.

Assuming that we are forced to re-locate, several questions arise.

Will the space at the Agriplex be at least equal to the current space and amenities that we enjoy at the Kiwanis Community Center?

Will there be sufficient counter space for our machines?

Will there be sufficient electrical outlets for our equipment?

Will the moving of our equipment be looked after by professionals?

Will the costs associated with the move be covered by the City or others and not placed as a burden on the individual clubs?

Should the move take place, what kind of time frame would we have to pack up to prepare for the move?

Once the move takes place, how long before we could be back in operation?

Will the space at the Agriplex continue to be available to us for the next 5, 10 or 15 years that it will realistically take before the Community Hub is a reality?

What about all the other events that currently use the space at the Agriplex – where will they have to go for possibly the next several years?

If the move is made to the Agriplex, will we still pay the same annual rent to the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association?

Will the city buses stop at the Agriplex? When the parking lots are busy, will there be sufficient space to safely turn the bus around?

With all the events that are scheduled for the Agriplex, will we be denied access during the coming years?

Main area

Lockable door.

Lockable electrical box for all equipment.

Total area (excluding saw and stone storage rooms) = 1,000 square feet.

Total area includes the area required for the working tables and the area required for meetings, discussions, social time.

Counter space for 5 Genie machines = $(51 \times 5) = 255$ inches total.

Sit down table space for 2 Genie machines = $(51 \times 2) = 102$ inches total.

Duplex receptacles for each machine.

Cupboards (lockable) under counter space.

Counter space (with water drain) for wet polisher = 30 inches.

Counter space for dry polisher = 30 inches.

Counter space for drill press = 24 inches.

Counter space (with water drain) for faceting machine = 24 inches.

Counter space (with water drain) for 2 1/2 inch sander = 24 inches.

Counter space for the green polisher = 24 inches.

Counter space for heating iron, dop pot and cutting board – about 36 inches, duplex receptacle available for iron and dop pot.

Cupboard (lockable) space for storage of supplies = 16 feet long by 3 feet deep by 2 high.

Counter area for coffee machine and tea kettle. Approximately 24 inches with duplex receptacle.

Double sink and hot and cold water.

Soap and paper towel dispenser.

Ventilation system for any stone dust that may be generated.

Bulletin board.

First aid kit.

Small refrigerator

A separate room for the saws

Lockable door.

Approximately 100 square feet.

Total of 13 feet of linear space for:

- (a) Small trim saw,
- (b) Large trim saw,
- (c) Two small slab saws,
- (d) Large slab saw,
- (e) Vibrating table lap machine.

Appropriate electrical receptacles for each piece of equipment.

Sink with running water.

Paper towel dispenser.

Soap dispenser.

Ventilation system for any oily airborne residue.

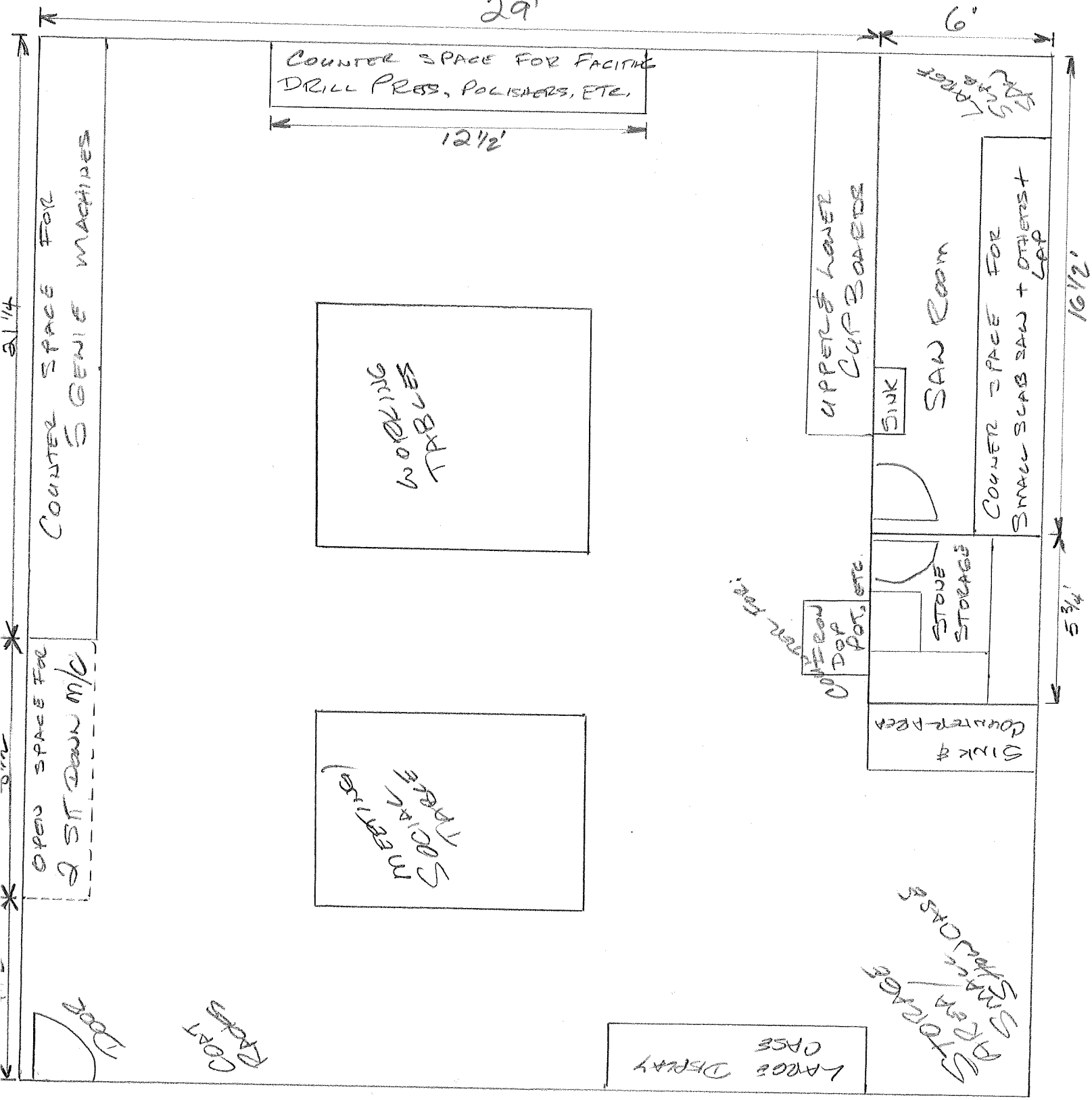
A separate room with shelves for stone storage

Lockable door.

Approximately 35 square feet.

Five heavy duty shelves 14 inches deep and 14 linear feet long for stone storage, along three walls.

SCALE:
1" = 4 1/2'



29'

6'

12 1/2'

16 1/2'

5 3/4'

COUNTER SPACE FOR 5 GENIE MACHINES

COUNTER SPACE FOR FACING DRILL PRESS, POLISERS, ETC.

WORKING TABLES

OPEN SPACE FOR 2 SIT DOWN M/C

WORKING TABLES

CUP BOARD

SINK

SAW ROOM

COUNTER SPACE FOR SMALL SLAB SAW + OTHERS + LAP

STOVE

STORAGE

COUNTER AREA

LARGE DISPLAY CASE

APPROX 50 SMALL CASES

DOOR

CORNICE

CORNICE

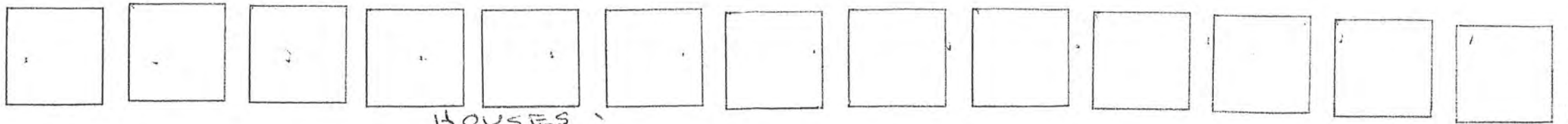
ATTN. - ROB HORNE; CAO, CITY OF STRATFORD.
SEPT 25, 2017.

SUBJECT - REBUILDING OF "CASINO" BUILDING FOR
HOUSING A NEW TOM PATTERSON THEATRE.

ASSUMPTIONS. (REFER TO SITE PLAN ATTACHED).

- ① THE NEW TOM PATTERSON THEATRE WILL BE LOCATED IN THE SAME LOCATION OF THE 110 YEAR OLD "CASINO" BUILDING, AND HAVE A SEATING CAPACITY OF 600; THE CURRENT CAPACITY, AS ANNOUNCED BY THE FESTIVAL THEATRE. NO OTHER LAKESIDE DRIVE SITE PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD OR LEASED TO THE THEATRE
- ② THE STRATFORD LAWN BOWLING CLUB WILL NEED TO GIVE UP THEIR CLUB HOUSE CONNECTED ON THE SOUTH WEST SIDE OF THE CASINO BUILDING; AND A NEW CLUB HOUSE ^{WILL BE} BUILT ON THEIR PROPERTY; ON THE WEST SIDE. THE PRESENT, APPROX 12 FT. CLUB HOUSE WIDTH CONTRIBUTES APPROXIMATELY 15% SPACE AT THE CASINO BUILDING, FOR THE NEW TOM PATTERSON BUILDING.
- THE LAWN BOWLING GREENS WILL REMAIN IN FULL USE, AND CONTINUE TO BE LEASED FROM THE CITY AS AT PRESENT.
- ③ THE KIWANIS COMMUNITY CENTRE (KCC) BUILDING LOCATED ADJACENT & ADJOINING THE "CASINO" BUILDING, WAS BUILT BY THE CITY OF STRATFORD IN 1978; FOR SENIORS. IT HAS A SEPARATE WEST SUPPORTING WALL, FROM THE EAST WALL OF THE CASINO BUILDING. THE KCC SHOULD BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN SERVICE BOTH DURING THE DISMANTLING OF THE "CASINO" BUILDING, AND REBUILDING OF THE TOM PATTERSON THEATRE. THIS SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BY A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER. AS SUCH, A MOVE OF THE KCC MEMBERS TO THE "AGRIPLEX" BUILDING, AT A REPORTED COST OF \$500,000 SHOULD NOT BE NECESSARY. SINCERELY;

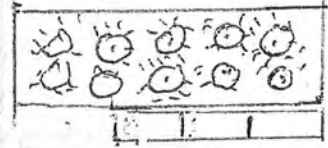
AND AVAILABLE IF YOU WANT CLARIFICATION;
OR FURTHER DISCUSSION.



HOUSES

WATER STREET

MORENZ DRIVE



OPTIMIST CLUB.

HOUSE
HOUSE

FUTURE SPACE FOR COMMUNITY CTR EXPANSION

KIWANIS CTR. COMMUNITY BUILDING BUILT 1978 TWO SEPARATE WINGS

BUILT 1906 "CASINO BLDG" (TOM PATTERSON BLDG) + CASINO BLDG EXPANSION L.P. CLUBHOUSE

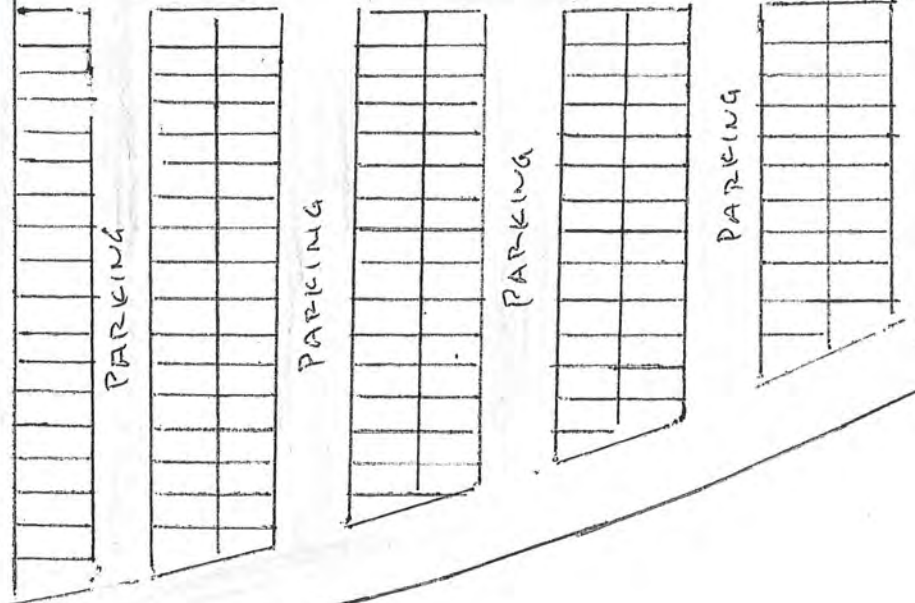
LAWN BOWLING GREEN

LAWN BOWLING GREEN

SM. LAWN BOWLING GREEN

NEW FUTURE

CLUB HOUSE L.P.



PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

LAKESIDE DRIVE

NORTH

WATERLOO STREET

VETERANS WAY

APPROX SCALE 1 INCH = 60 FT. JULY 2017



"Dedicated to Community Service"

How many seats does the current Tom Patterson Theater have?

How many seats will the new Tom Patterson Theater have?





"Dedicated to Community Service"

How many parking spots are now at the Kiwasis Center?


How many parking spots will the new location have?




Theatre Costume Accessories


TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF STRATFORD,
STRATFORD HAS BEEN MY FAMILY'S HOME FOR
FIVE GENERATIONS. MY FATHER AND MY GRANDFATHER
WERE FOUNDING CONTRACTORS OF THE FESTIVAL
THEATRE. I HAVE WORKED BACKSTAGE IN THEATRE
FOR DECADES BOTH HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD.
THEATRE HAS BEEN MY HOME, MY EDUCATION, MY
OCCUPATION AND MY HOBBY. I LOVE THE THEATRE.

THAT BEING SAID, WITH ALL MY HEART I BEG
THE CITY OF STRATFORD NOT TO SELL PARKLAND TO
ANYONE - NOT TO THE RAILWAY - NOT TO THE THEATRE.

I HAVE TRIED TO WRITE OUT PROS AND CONS
OF THE RIVERSIDE LOCATION FOR A NEW TOM
PATERSON COMPLEX. I HAVE 1/2 PAGE OF PROS AND 9
PAGES OF WHY A DIFFERENT SITE WOULD BE BETTER. I
WILL NOT BURDEN YOU WITH MY 9 PAGES UNLESS YOU
REQUEST DETAILS.  I HOPE YOU HAVE HEARD
ALL OF IT FROM OTHERS.

THIS THEATRE COULD BE BUILT ANYWHERE IN
TOWN. THE COOPER SITE WOULD BE PERFECT. THE
COMPLEX COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PARKING, SHOPS
AND RESTAURANTS AT ITS DOORSTEP. SITTING IN AN
AUDITORIUM ENJOYING A PRODUCTION DOES NOT REQUIRE
A VIEW. THE WEST END, LA SCALA, BROADWAY DO NOT

HAVE VIEWS. THE VIEW OF OUR AVON CANNOT COMPETE WITH THE VIEW OF SYDNEY HARBOUR FROM THE OPERA HOUSE. BUT THE PRODUCTIONS CAN COMPETE. THAT'S WHY PEOPLE COME HERE.

I WELCOME INNOVATION. I WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE THE PROPOSED NEW BUILDING TO BE MORE INTERESTING, INNOVATIVE AND REVOLUTIONARY THAN THE PRESENT PLANS. THE WAVE LIKE FACADE TO "SUGGEST A RIVER" IS A BIT ORDINARY AND DERIVATIVE. STILL THAT PLAN COULD BE PLACED ANY WHERE IF PEOPLE LOVE IT.

IF THE SEATING IN THE AUDITORIUM IS ABOUT THE SAME CAPACITY AS NOW AND THE FORUM EVENTS ARE AT PRESENT ACCOMMODATED IN THE PRESENT THEATRE BUILDINGS HOW IS THIS PROJECT OF INCREASED ECONOMIC BENEFIT? WILL CONSTRUCTION JOBS REPLACE THOSE LOST BY A CLOSING OF THE THEATRE? WHY NOT KEEP THE PATTERSON OPEN WHILE A NEW THEATRE IS BUILT ELSEWHERE. THE CITIZENS OF STRATFORD COULD THEN CONTINUE TO ENJOY THEIR RIVER AND RIVERSIDE FACILITIES AND THE PATTERSON PRODUCTIONS.

I HOPE YOU WILL ALL THINK CAREFULLY. PLEASE DO NOT LISTEN TO THE SIREN'S CALL, THE PROMISES OF BRIGHT LIGHTS AND BAGS OF GOLD. FAME AND FORTUNE ARE NOT LINKED TO A RIVERSIDE LOCATION.

I PLEAD WITH YOU KEEP THE SMALL SCALE AND SIMPLICITY, THE SMALL CITY IN THE SUMMER FLAVOUR OF THE RIVERSIDE PARKLANDS. FOR STRATFORD

3.

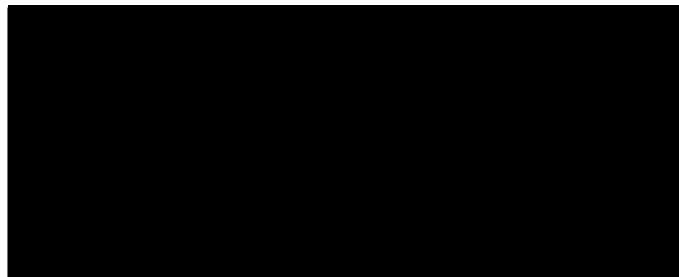
CITIZENS AND VISITORS ALIKE TO ENJOY.

SOME OF OUR FOREFATHERS WERE WISE
ENOUGH NOT TO SELL THE RIVERSIDE FOR THE
PROMISE OF RAILWAY WEALTH. DO NOT SELL OUT
NOW FOR A PROJECT BETTER BUILT IN ANOTHER
LOCATION.

IN FEAR OF THE WORST

AND HOPE FOR THE BEST,

YOURS SINCERELY,



Support for The New Tom Patterson Theatre : Sept. 26, 2017

To: Sam Mathison's Mayor,
7 Councilors

Change Is The Only Constant In Our Lives

'We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.' Max De Pree

Tom Patterson has everything to do with our situation today. I talked recently to a woman from Burlington who said she was an usher when Tom Patterson was trying to create a theatre. He invited all of the ushers to his meetings. She remembers how hard he had to fight some of the townspeople who were dead set against the idea of a theatre. Thank Goodness it happened she said. It has made Stratford what it is today. And she was not aware of our present situation.

I wear several hats in Stratford but today I am wearing my B&B hat. My husband and I have a B&B The Brunswick House. He can't be here today as he is recovering from open-heart surgery. We came here 30 years ago and have watched many years of change over this time. Some we have liked...others not. I grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan & I come from a large extended family... and we learned many life lessons from our farmer parents and grandparents that I feel are relevant to this situation today.

We learned to listen to each other, to share, to stand up for what we believe in, to tell the truth, to negotiate and to compromise. And if we lost an argument or didn't get our way we learned to be a good loser. To be a good sport. Blaming and shaming are not effective solutions. Name calling is not appropriate or a helpful answer. The Stratford Festival is not greedy or thoughtless or self-centred. And it doesn't always get what it wants. Rather, it works relentlessly hard to bring about changes that are badly needed. Want and need are two different things. Most of all, in our family we learned how to be good problem solvers. To work together and come up with the best solutions for the common good: for the family, for the community or even for our country.

When we first arrived here, we were shocked at the T-shirts we saw that said, Kill All The Tourists. We were told that they took up all the parking spots. Nothing for the locals. And do we really want people here "who are light on their feet". The children of those people changed their parents ways of thinking. They got jobs at the theatre, began their theatre careers, and took their parents to see plays. So we watched the community change and prosper.

With the growth of B&B's that the Festival & the city needed we watched the growth of many small businesses:

landscapers, renovators, sanders, air conditioning, designers, stores, restaurants, shops and hotels. The Festival has been one of the main job creators in the town.

At the B&B and in the town for many years we have heard complaints about the seating and safety at the Tom Patterson. How awful the seats are, how dangerous it is. And how many of them have stopped going there because it is not safe. They are getting more frail and vulnerable and because they are seniors they are at risk. But how sad they are because their favourite plays are often there.

When we moved here we got rid of our cars trying to be green and eco-minded. Loblaws was practically across the street. So we were very unhappy for seniors and people without cars when Loblaws went to the Mall and became Zehrs. Because we were problem solvers we eventually found positive alternatives to grocery shopping. Years later we still shop at Zehrs. So it wasn't the end of the world when you had to take a bus to get there. We were also upset when we lost Woolco's and when

Waldies went to the Mall. Our farmer parents taught us that it was how we coped with change that counted: whether it was the loss of a wheat harvest or an insurance policy that wouldn't cover a hailstorm. They also taught us to do our homework...to do research before making any big pronouncements about any situation.

And I remember listening to Chief Dan George who instilled in us that we must invest in the future...for our children for our grandchildren and the young people of today and tomorrow. He also said Respect your Elders. But most of all he wanted us to provide a model of behaviour that our youth can be proud of. That we had to look at the big picture.

And I recall very clearly the main question that the people who stopped going to the TPT said, with hands on hips, "Why on earth doesn't the Festival do something about it??"

And that's precisely what the Festival is trying hard to do. Not as a monument to the Theatre... but as an investment in our future... for all of the community and the citizens of Stratford. People retire here because of the theatre and the wonderful community we have all created. Let's be proud.

The Stratford Festival is our national treasure. And we must support it when it needs our help. Let's not hold up progress as we head into 2018.

The TPT Project with its beautiful architecture and landscaping will bring in many visitors, many theatregoers and many tourists to our city. Just what we need and want. I am confident that in 5 years you will all love it and be proud of it. It will be a beautiful addition to our community. And most of all we will provide a good role-model for our children in the process.

Vic Hayter used to say We are a world-class city. Let's build a world-class Tom Patterson.

Thank you.



**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information:

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

*Feedback is being accepted until **Tuesday October 10th 2017**

Comments: Very Important

* We don't think it's fair to have the Hub
& the TPT Project mixed up.

They are 2 different issues.

The Cooper Site has been sitting
for years — should be dealt
with separately. And not
to use one as a lever
against the other.

They are both good ideas.
One should not be pitted
against the other.
Many Thanks!

Notice of Collection

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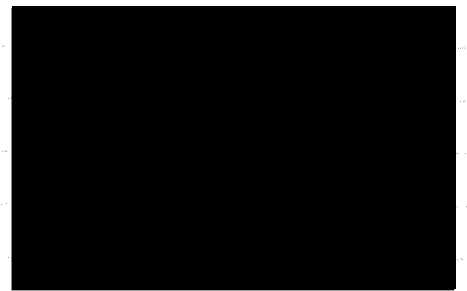
Oct. 2, 2017

Stratford City Hall

I would like the Senior Center to remain where the current Senior Center is now.

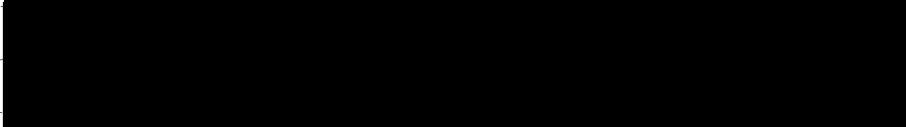
Parking should be free for the Seniors.

Agriplex / Stratford Rotary Complex is too busy with the Home & Garden Shows, Park Convention etc. to also accommodate the Senior Activities.



Our names are Duncan & Joan
Haggerty we have been coming down to
the Kiwanis Community Centre for 10 years.
Duncan has parkies and plays pool
every day. I take tina's class, line dance, and
help in the kitchen. You talk about having
a place for us in this new building that
you are going to build. I hope that is true.
You talk about the pub that you are
going to build on the Cooper site. A lot of
us will not be around to enjoy. I hope
that you can find a place in your new
building for us.

Thank You

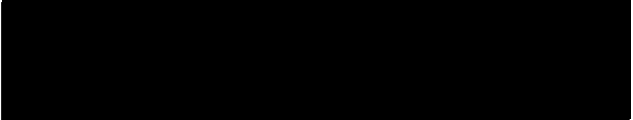


Oct 3/17

To Rob Hoone C.A.O.

As a member of SLAAA. I would like to remain in Lakeside Pl. as part of the Tompatterson redevelopment in the space made available in the new theater. I hope that the association would have some input into the design of the space allotted to them.

Re parking. - I hope that there will be free parking passes for the seniors.



**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information:

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*Feedback is being accepted until **Tuesday October 10th 2017**

Comments: Hello, I'm an actor. I've worked with the festival since 1989, and have done at least a dozen shows at the Patterson.

The new theatre will address many concerns with the theatre. We will now have rehearsal space (At present we make do with the Marquee or at the normal school)

The old space was full of memories some of which include listening to the building creak and groan while waiting to go on.

The Kiwanis center's concerns seemed to be addressed. The seniors will have a place to meet, and the festival, has a certain amount of money set aside to help with this.

The whole plan is a huge plus for Stratford. It will be the cornerstone of a beautiful Stratford.

Anyway these are some of my thoughts concerning the new theatre.

It is important to re-vitalize its space

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Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

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Comments:

Stratford is synonymous with The Theatre, and as a resident of Stratford I recognize and appreciate the many advantages and amenities we enjoy because of The Theatre's presence. We have experienced growth in our community, boasting new subdivisions, a wonderful variety of restaurants, shops, and parks, providing both a stronger tax base and stable employment and wages for so many of our citizens.

I firmly support the development of the new Tom Patterson Theatre. However, with success also comes responsibility:

- I would expect that those whose activities are disrupted and displaced will be treated with respect and the new locations provided for their chosen activities be both functional and pleasing to the participants.
- I would also expect that our new building is built with an eye to the future using "green" energy and products.
- I would also expect that we use local contractors wherever possible.

With so much support for the project, and money at stake here, I would also expect that we get shovels in the ground as soon as possible. I understand this is a complicated process, but please let's not have this project drag on as other local initiatives.

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To: MAYOR MATHESON AND CITY COUNCIL

**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information (optional):

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*Feedback is being accepted until **Tuesday October 10th 2017**

Comments: I WAS ASKED TO GO TO THIS MEETING WITH AN OPEN MIND. SO WITH NOTE BOOK IN HAND AND MY QUESTIONS, I SAT IN THE 2ND ROW SO MY HAND COULD BE EASILY SEEN. I HELD MY HAND UP EVEN BETWEEN PEOPLE TALKING. I VERY QUICKLY FOUND THIS PROCESS TO BE A TOTAL FARCE AS 80-90% OF THE PEOPLE PICKED WERE FROM THE FESTIVAL, BUSINESS PEOPLE AND THE BEST WAS THE LADY WHO OWNED A BED AND BREAKFAST, WHO WHEN TOLD HER 3 MINUTES WERE UP SAID SOMEONE ELSE HAD GIVEN HER THREE 3 MINUTES AS WELL AND SHE WAS ALLOWED TO FINISH READING HER SPEECH. I WAS SURPRISED THAT THE CITY OFFICIAL CONDONED THIS, BUT I WAS APPALED THAT HE WOULD ORCHESTRATE IT. I.E. THE GIRL TAKING THE MIKE AROUND WAS TOLD MORE THAN ONCE "NOT THAT PERSON THE OTHER ONE. AND LOW AND BEHOLD THEY WORKED FOR THE FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE, AN ACTOR, A BUSINESS OWNER, A BED AND BREAKFAST OWNER ETC. I WALKED OUT OF THERE FEELING THAT IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A FESTIVAL LOVE FEST. THEY MADE A MOCKERY OF A GOOD PROCESS.

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I was asked to go to this meeting with an open mind,so with notebook in hand and my questions in mind,I sat in the second row so my hand could be easily seen. I held up my hand even between people talking. I very quickly found this process to be a total farce,as 80 to 90% of the people picked were from the festival,business people.and the best was the lady who owned a bed and breakfast.When she was told her three minutes were up she said someone else said she could have there three minutes and she was allowed to finish reading her speech.I was surprised that the city official condoned this,but I was totally appalled that he would orchestrate it. Eg the girl taking the mike around was told more than once not that person the other one and low and behold they worked for the festival,an actor a business person, a B and B OWNER ETC..

I finally got to approach him after the meeting and ask my questions, i was told to write them down.

I do wish the city and festival speakers would stop insulting our intelligence [1] you can not build it down further because it is a flood zone [it is all flood zone] [2] the roof will not hold any more lights.[there are other alternatives] [3] people will not come if it is anywhere else. [it does not matter where it is if it a new state of the art theatre.

My questions were [1] the building is over 100 years old why has it not been declared a heritage building. [2]how do we have it declared a heritage site.

[3] is there a time limit on this, and if there is, is there any truth to the rumor that the city waited a year so that the time would be past.

Do not get me wrong i am for the festival getting a new theatre,but not at the expense of the seniors,whose tax money and hard work built this city over the years.

I suggest you build it further down the river drive where there is more room for the theatre,and parking,and less traffic congestion. I further suggest you give back the building to the badminton and pickleball people who are at the ag society for part of the year and have to drive approximately 10 miles to a farm the rest of the year when the ag society needs their space.

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Comments: I was very disappointed at the Sept 26th meeting. It was a "Festival Love Fest" with most hands picked that were actors, restaurant owner and bed and breakfast owners. Not much chance for others to have their say; like the gentlemen in the second row right in front of Mr House, who ignored his hand up for 1 1/2 hours straight. Never picked them to speak "Why" Andrew Williams said build it and they will come. Exactly build it anywhere ^{but} the river divide anywhere in the city of Stratford and they will still come. They are coming to see a play they can go to the river any time. The Avon theatre is down town and they still come. Let us not forget we as citizens enjoy the river and we have a lot more right to enjoy it as we have lived and worked here and paid taxes here all our life. What about the seniors and the location they deserve to enjoy 365 day a year, tourists come and go this is our home. Consider the traffic at the corner of Waterloo & River Drive when the festival is out; it will be a nightmare at that time (over)

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The Kiwanis area is not large enough land to make a grand theatre look spectacular it needs much more land and parking, if it plans to have a 100 more seats and space for 50 or so more parking spaces.

The Aquiplex is not at all suitable for seniors, we have 13 rooms & 5 storage rooms where we are now. The Aquiplex does not have the room for all activities such as Euchre & Pepper with a kitchen upstairs and an elevator to take food downstairs to the marked room. These volunteer are seniors not young adults to be using this area.

How many programs will have to be reschedule because the Ag society moved their space for their functions. Please remember you will be a senior one day. You should have had a plan in place when the festival suggested this a year ago. (some where suitable for the seniors of Stratford)

Remember we elected you to your office thinking you would be standing behind the people of Stratford and not warring about the festival whom have 2 theatres here now.

Leave the seniors where they are and let the festival have other land and the tourists will still come.

Nothing has been done at the Cooper Site, ^{for many years} we have no money for it at this time let the festival have that space close to downtown so everyone wins when the tourists shop and spend money.

Please consider the SENIORS in this big decision. Place the Festival somewhere else in the city and tourists will still come

October 9, 2017

Dear Ms. Potter,

I have emailed this info to you but I am dropping off this letter for you as it is a copy of the correspondence to the others involved and includes the site plan.

We currently own 4.4 acres at [REDACTED] which we believe would be perfect for the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association (SLAAA) and Stratford Lawn Bowling Club.

It is a tranquil site on a city bus route with stone gates, a gravel parking lot for 40-50 cars, and water flowing through.

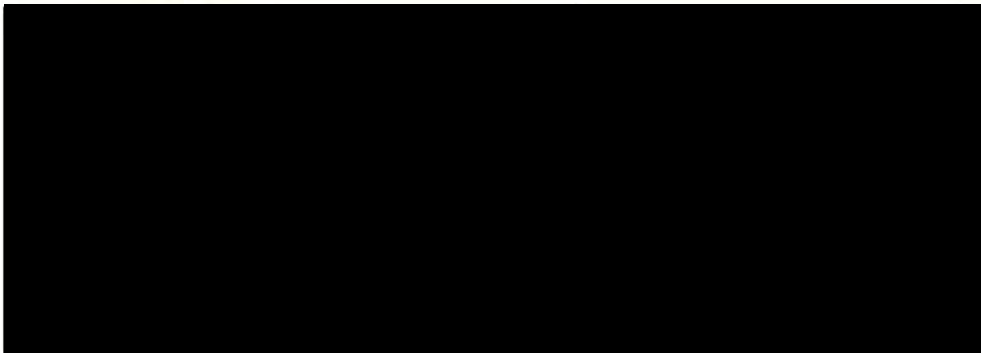
Currently the property is 1.55 hectares zoned Park (P) and .18 hectares zoned R1(5)-32. We have enclosed a site plan for the property. The zoning for the building would need to be changed but there should be room for the city to build a facility for washrooms, meeting rooms, etc.

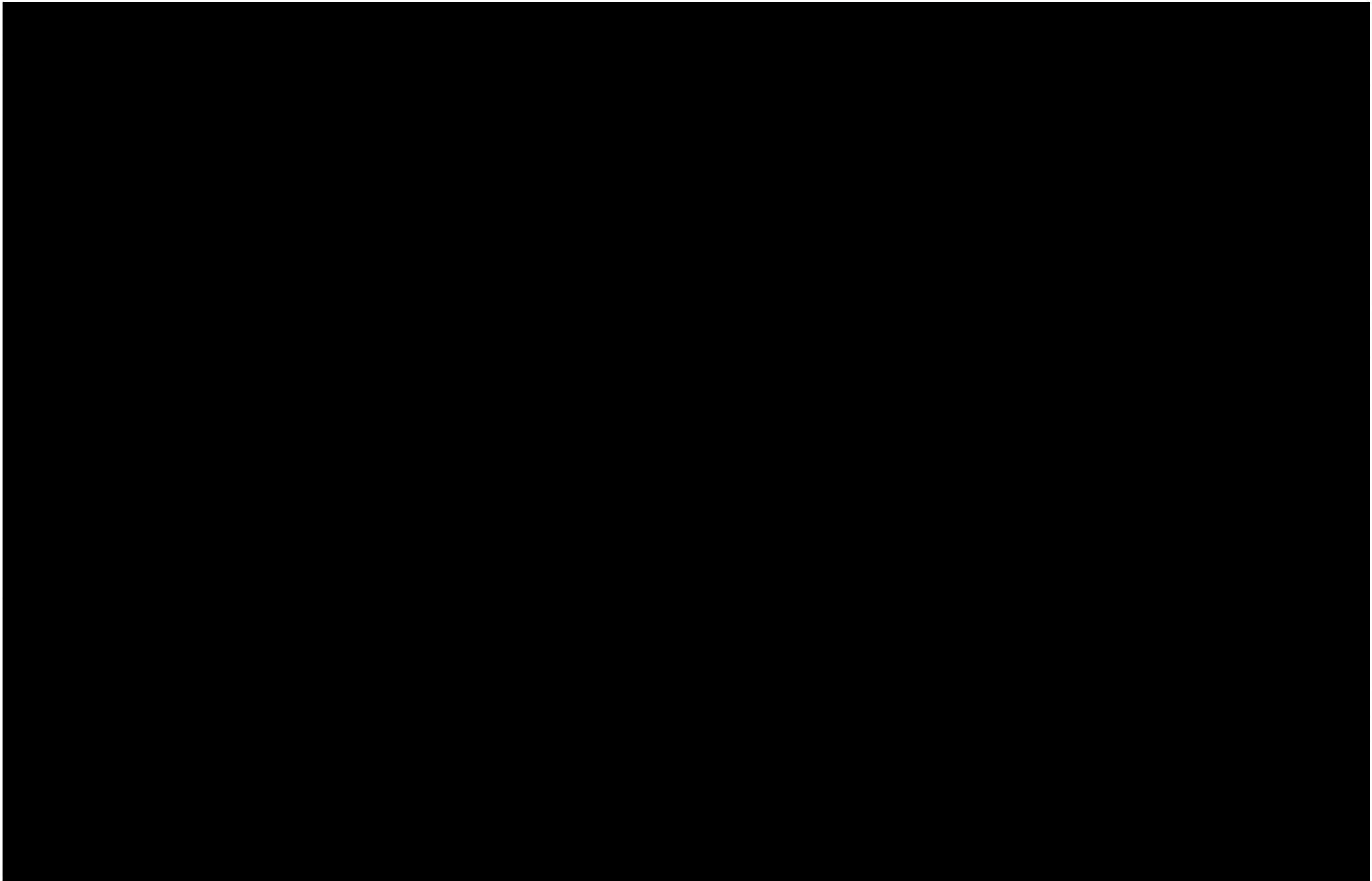
The property is currently listed for \$499,900. We have not discussed this idea with our realtor.

Our proposal is to sell our property to the City of Stratford for \$500,000 - \$100,000 per year for 5 years with no interest. The city would be responsible for our lawyer fees and any realtor costs.

Hopefully this is a positive solution for everyone.

Best Regards,





**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information (optional):

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

*Feedback is being accepted until **Tuesday October 10th 2017**

Comments:

The Festival Theatre is just plain selfish. They do not care about the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club and the Stratford Senior Club and the Stratford Senior. We have a lease until ^{December} 2018. Why do we have to be out before then. The building was donated to the city for the Senior. Why is this property ^{not} sold to the highest bidder. It should be sold by tender. Did the mayor get money under the table for this deal?

Notice of Collection

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, and will be used by Stratford City Staff and Stratford City Council, as part of the public consultation process regarding the Stratford Festival's proposed Tom Patterson Theatre redevelopment. Questions regarding the collection and use of this information should be directed to the City Clerk, 1 Wellington Street, P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON, N6A 6W1; or by telephone at 519-271-0250 ext. 235 during business hours.



October 3, 2017

To: Dan Mathieson, Mayor, City of Stratford

Bonnie Henderson, Councillor

Brad Beatty, Councillor

Danielle Ingram, Councillor

Frank Mark, Councillor

Graham Bunting, Councillor

George Brown, Councillor

Kathy Vassilakos, Councillor

Kerry McManus, Councillor

Martin Ritsma, Councillor

Tom Clifford, Councillor

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Response to the redevelopment on the site on The Tom Patterson Theatre

Five years ago I moved to Stratford with my husband. We had retired and decided to leave Waterloo where we had lived and worked for many years. When deciding where to move, we were drawn to Stratford because of the theatre. As long time members and supporters of the Stratford Festival and regular attendees of the shows it seemed a natural fit for us. And it was! We see almost all the shows, and go to many of the events sponsored by the Festival. But we also became part of the larger Stratford community, which included becoming members of the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association.

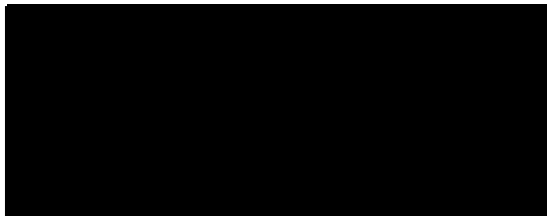
For the last five years I have attended fitness classes taught by Tini Pel at the Kiwanis Centre on Lakeside Drive. These classes, which are offered by the SLAAA as part of its program of activities for seniors, have become a mainstay in my life in Stratford, and for

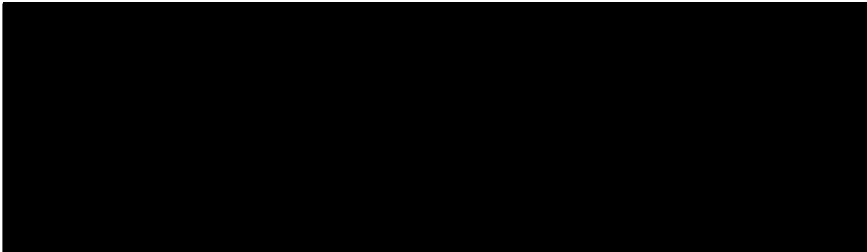
the past couple of years I have served as a representative of this class on the Advisory Committee of the SLAAA. When I began attending meetings of the Advisory Committee I quickly learned how important the activities of the SLAAA are, not just to those in my fitness class, but to many of the seniors in our community.

The proposed redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre would necessitate a relocation of the seniors' activities currently taking place at the Kiwanis Centre. I would strongly recommend that you consider permanently relocating the SLAAA and its programs to a building included in plans proposed by the Stratford Festival for the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre on Lakeside Drive; this building has been designated for use by seniors. I have no confidence that the other site which has been proposed as a home for the SLAAA and its programs, the Grand Trunk Community Hub, would be completed soon enough, i.e., within the next two to three years, for many of the SLAAA members and the growing community of seniors in Stratford, to enjoy. And I would hope that the SLAAA and the users of its programs would have a major role in the design of the building intended for their use on the site of the new Tom Patterson Theatre.

As a proud citizen of the City of Stratford, a supporter of the SLAAA and the Stratford Festival, I urge you not to sell the property on Lakeside Drive which currently houses the Tom Patterson Theatre, the Kiwanis Centre, the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club and the Optimist Club, and to support the continued shared use of this beautiful property by the Stratford Festival, seniors, and ideally other groups, so that it may be enjoyed all year by those visiting our city and those living here.

Yours,





October 3, 2017

To: Rob Horne, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Stratford

Dear Sir,

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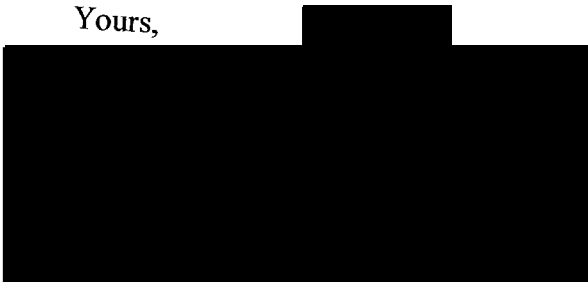
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Yours,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

Rob Horne
Chief Administrative Officer
Stratford, Ontario

October 2, 2017-10-02

Dear Rob

I attended the open house session last Tuesday regarding the Festival's proposal for a new Tom Patterson Theatre & am fully supportive of it going ahead. I attend the productions at the Tom Patterson every season and do feel that the present structure is unsafe. I often wonder what would happen if there was a fire as it is so difficult to manoeuvre in those aisles. I think the proposed building is beautiful and hope that the City will give its approval as soon as possible.

I am also a member of the SLAAA and am hearing a lot of complaints about the fact that we will be removed from the Kiwanis Community Centre if the Theatre goes ahead. Apparently we will be temporarily housed at the Stratford Agriplex until the City of Stratford can develop the Hub that is in initial planning & discussion at this time. As a citizen of Stratford for some time now I recognize how long it takes for such a proposal to be realized and like other members of the SLAAA don't think many of us will still be active enough or even still alive by the time the Hub is available to us. I know that the Festival has included a space in their plan for the SLAAA & other groups that use the Kiwanis Centre and I really believe that the City should give the Festival approval to go ahead with this plan. While this space would still leave out the lawn bowlers at least it would make most of the other SLAAA citizens of Stratford feel that they still belonged in the beautiful parkland along the lake instead of it being designated exclusively for tourists. I really hope you will take our concerns seriously as I believe a lot of the anger that is being expressed by SLAAA members would dissipate if we were included in the Tom Patterson Theatre Plan.

Yours Sincerely



Mayor Dan Mathieson, Stratford City Council

Cc. Rob Horne CAO

I am, as a member of the SLAA and a senior, in favour of having the seniors centre as a part of the new Tom Patterson Theatre for the following reasons.

The design has been completed, money has been allocated and the project is shovel ready where as any development at the "Hub" behind the YMCA is still in the planning stage.

Any money put into this part of development will not be wasted since the building will be there for future expansion of the Festival. It will buy some time for development of a new senior centre and will give the City the ability to provide services for seniors until a more permanent arrangement can be made.

This will create other problems such as parking on the premises. Will seniors be required to pay for parking or will they be given passes? Will all the activities provided now be available after this building is built? Grounds for the lawn bowling need to be addressed now. Will that be done?

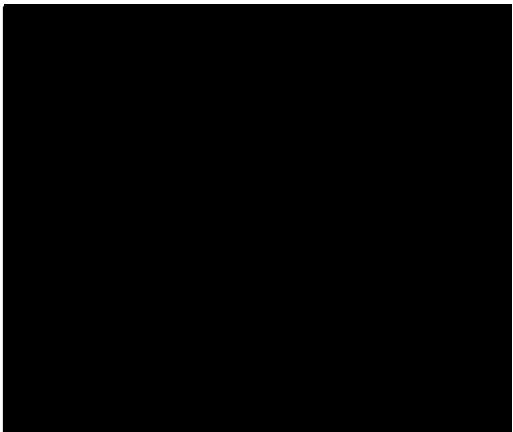
I am also concerned about increased traffic flows in the city resulting from the expansion of the theatre.

Cars leaving the main theatre after a performance frequently ignore the stop lights at the corner of Waterloo and Veterans Drive. As many as a dozen or more cars will run the red light before someone will stop and obey the law. This same intersection is also clogged with people prior to the performances, making it difficult for vehicles to make left or right hand turns at that intersection.

I suspect that there will be a need for an advanced or delayed left hand turn lights at Waterloo and Ontario as well as Erie and Ontario. Some form of traffic control may be needed at York and Huron as well.

Those patrons driving south to places like Woodstock are also going to cause traffic problems at the intersections of Waterloo and Downie, Douro and Downie and points in between.

Are there going to be any upgrades to these traffic areas? If so, are they going to be part of the new theatre proposal? Please provide me with design plans and their proposed implementation schedules for these areas?



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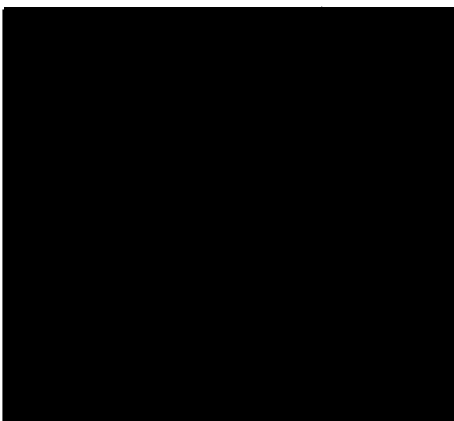
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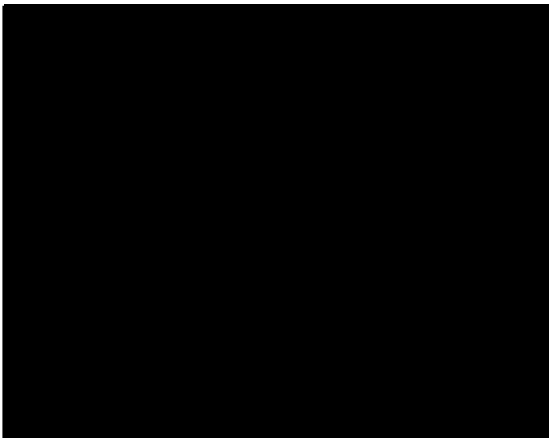
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[REDACTED]

Subject:

Date: October 5, 2017 3:05:24 PM EDT

Stratford October 5- 2017

Dear Councillors,,

You all are in, for some difficult decisions eh, I am glad, not being in" YOUR shoes."

I have experienced many senior groups in Sudbury, Manitoulin Island and this beautiful one now in Stratford

We are so lucky here, as some previous ones were terrible. One example, a basement at a health centre building made from brick but..... without any circulation , no windows, a cozy looking place. In order to get some air circulation they made a small hole in the brick wall with a fan in there and that had to be it. It had also a pool table and you know what that means. Anyway the community hall was free but the council did not want to use it, to safe on cleaning time..... it was sad !!!!!

The local United Church helped us out that time.

I have worked with seniors for about 48 years and this Kiwanis centre is just beautiful to work in, well taken care of, friendly helpful office people, Bill the caretaker always ready to assist.

Now with the change over where are you going to place us.? From what I learned we won't have a steady place at least three years from now, right? and where in the mean time.? Please not in a hall divided with curtains so we will be bothering others and others

us???? for at least three years.

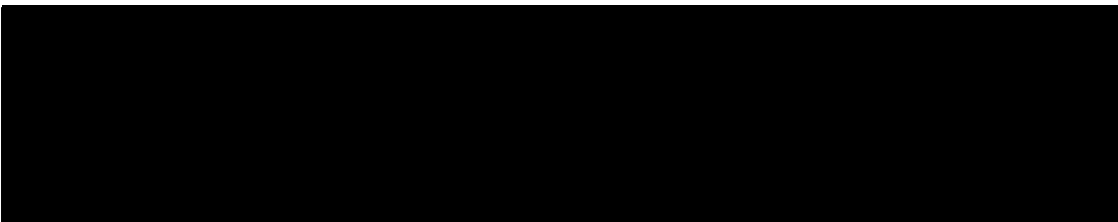
If you all let us join with the Paterson plan, would the extra expenses be too high on taxes for the Stratford residents to pay for the care of the building to give the today seniors a healthy and good facility for their last years in their life.?

I don;t know how long I will be on "this side" as I soon will be in my 9--tees

Well, what ever happens.....happens. but PLEASE think of yourself into "OUR shoes"

Hope you can make a desission that it makes you feel good as well

Thanks for your time.




Subject:

Date: October 5, 2017 3:08:33 PM EDT

Stratford October 5- 2017

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I have experienced many senior groups in Sudbury, Manitoulin Island and this beautiful one now in Stratford

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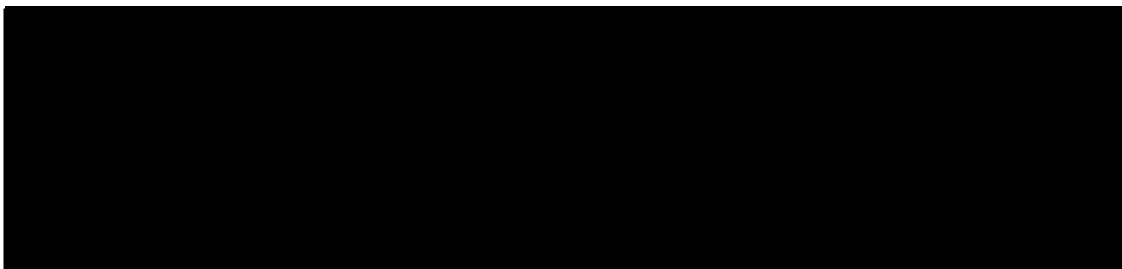
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Thanks for your time.



October 3rd 2017

Rob Horne, Chief Administrative Officer
Stratford Ontario

Mayor and City Councillors

I would like to support the building of the new Lakeside Community Centre at the site of the existing Optimist Club. The Cooper site is not an option. It will take a minimum of 6 years to materialize not the 3 years suggested. The existing location is easily accessible for seniors and why should they lose all their lakeside privileges....ie Community Centre, bowling green. Let us not forget that Stratford is quite a retirement community and seniors need to be considered. As far as a temporary residence in the Agriplex , I have heard that there won't always be room for the Community Centre activities.

There have already been recent examples of lack of consideration of forward planning in Stratford. Let us not make a costly mistake with this and let the seniors coexist , as they have done for years ,with the theatre.

Sincerely, [REDACTED] (senior and have worked in theatre for 50 years.)

[REDACTED]

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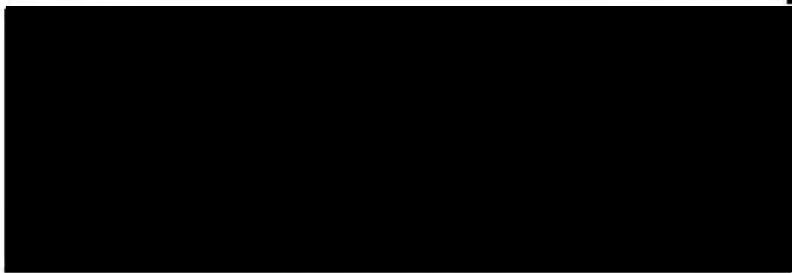
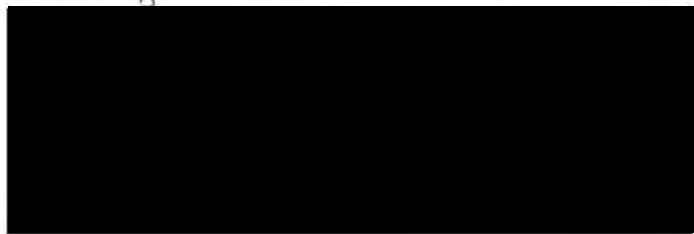
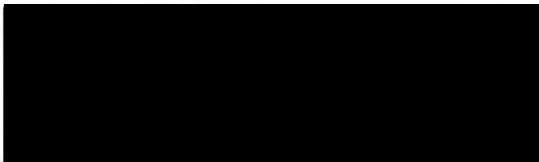
Comments on the Tom Patterson Theatre

We are writing this letter as citizens of Stratford and also as long-time members of the Festival Theatre.

The Stratford City Council was elected to represent the citizens of Stratford. Parkland must be protected, not encroached upon, and definitely not sold - it belongs to the citizens of Stratford. The community centre and lawn bowlers have first rights to their space - they were there long before the theatre,

We have enjoyed many wonderful productions at the Tom Patterson. Its intimate space and minimal sets make it our favourite theatre. A refurbishing of the building with easier seating is certainly acceptable, as long as the theatre's character is maintained.

We are happy with the ways things are.



October 10, 2017

Patricia Shantz

Subject: FW: Response for survey 'Email City Council'

From: Survey
Sent: October-10-17 4:37 PM
To: Patricia Shantz
Subject: Response for survey 'Email City Council'

1. Subject
Input to new Tom Patterson Theatre

2. Full Name
[REDACTED]

3. Email Address
[REDACTED]

4. Day time phone number
[REDACTED]

5. Street# & Name:
[REDACTED]

6. City:
Stratford

7. Message
Please see attached input regarding the proposed, new Tom Patterson Theatre and thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

8.
<http://stratford.survey.esolutionsgroup.ca/UploadedImageDisplay.aspx?ID=610>

input to proposed new Theatre

Note to: Stratford City Council and Staff

Date: October 9, 2017

From: [REDACTED] Stratford Resident

Subject: Input re the proposed Tom Paterson Theatre and the handling of the decision.

The following are some additional thoughts and considerations re the Stratford Festival's proposal regarding "a new Tom Patterson Theatre".

As noted when I spoke at the September 26th evening information session, the Festival has not yet formally put forward a proposal for Council to consider and vote upon.

As mentioned by several people who have spoken to me since that evening – including several Theatre patrons, employees and company members – they had thought that the city (council) was dragging their feet on the Festival's proposal and continually delaying a decision. It was new information to them that this was (perhaps) not the case.

As has come out during and after that meeting, there are several pieces of information the general public is not aware of regarding this hugely significant undertaking, including varying misunderstandings of the actual information-gathering and lobbying process which have been underway for some time, and the lawn bowlers' resistance to accept a new location for their greens which would be to the community's greater financial benefit.

As stated that evening, as tax payers, we elect council members *entrusting* them to make the right decisions for us such that we can have the best economic, social and health-related benefits possible in a city our size – while minimizing our mill rates and taxes. The current proposal would seem to accomplish this as it appears no residents' tax dollars will be used and the overall project will be to the city's residents' and businesses' financial and cultural well being.

So with that in mind, once the Festival does bring forth its actual proposal for Council's considerations and either approval, modification and/or rejection, I put forward the following:

1. Confirm (with the Festival) that one of the most creative ideas for a new Tom Paterson theatre (put forward by a former resident) IS or IS NOT viable for whatever the reasons.

This imaginative idea was to create a replica of a Greek or "Italian Renaissance theatre within the CN Rail Shops such as the Sabbioneta or the Teatro Olimpico (in Vicenza which was built out of an old fort)... "to which all of the world would come to see". (Such a "TEATRO DEL RINASCIMENTO" would also contain auxiliary features such as those contained within the current proposal.)

- a) If Council deems the preceding idea "makes sense to explore further", defer such consideration and approval no longer than 3 months;
 - b) If the idea is deemed NOT viable, proceed to approve the Festival's current proposal for the new Tom Patterson Theatre complex within 1-3 council meetings. Ensure the plan/complex will be LEED Platinum certified and as "green" as possible – maximized green – eg., roofs and north exterior wall; solar/wind utilization wherever possible; minimal use of concrete; etc. This way, the Festival can begin construction asap and not lose any potential federal or provincial funding, **AND:**
2. Further develop and execute a comprehensive Communication Plan to fully communicate to all residents and businesses everything that has gone into making this decision, such that all residents fully understand, appreciate and support the initiative. (The current information on the city's web site is very much improved from previous communications; however I believe it can and should be expanded to ensure correct messages get to all residents and businesses.) I have previously provided a template and guidelines for creating such strategic communication plans and I remain available if Council and/or Staff would like my assistance (gratis) in developing such communication.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input and I remain available for any follow-up conversation council members, council as a whole, and/or staff might wish to have.

[REDACTED] – Stratford Resident; E-mail: [REDACTED]

Patricia Shantz

Subject: FW: Response for survey 'Email the Office of the Mayor'

From: Survey
Sent: October-10-17 4:52 PM
To: Patricia Shantz
Subject: Response for survey 'Email the Office of the Mayor'

1. Subject
Tom Patterson Theatre

2. Full Name
[REDACTED] ndt

3. Email Address
[REDACTED]

4. Day time phone number
[REDACTED]

5. Street # & Name
[REDACTED]

6. City
Stratford

7. Message
I do not support the sale of city property on Lakeside Dr to the Festival Theatre. This whole process has been badly handled. If the Festival can afford 8 full page ads in the Beacon it rings false that they worry about losing \$ if they don't get approval. Where is your loyalty to the lawn bowlers and seniors who don't want to move? This decision should not be influenced by outsiders! Let Stratford taxpayers decide.

To the Council,

October 10, 2017.

I fully understand a new Tom Patterson Theatre is needed. Following are some of my concerns that have not been adequately clarified in the information given to the public.

The Hub

If everything was in place for construction to begin on The Hub it would be excellent but everything is not in place and the following information has indicated that to me.

From Councillors:

1. A Councillor told me that the **grants the city would apply for are not available** to any community yet.
2. Another told me the **city has applied to the federal government for the grant(s)**.
3. Finally, another told me that Council is **still in the process of gathering information** about The Hub.

From Urban Strategies INC.:

In the September 12, 2017 edition of the Beacon Herald, Galen Simmons wrote, "Hare expects a final draft of the Grand Trunk Community Hub master plan to be ready for Council's approval at **either the end of this year or the beginning of 2018**".

Questions I Have:

1. How do you apply for grants without presenting a plan?
2. How has The Festival received a grant from the provincial government before appearing before Council with their proposal, seeing that the present building that houses the Tom Patterson belongs to the city and is on city land?
3. Will either government provide large grants to two projects in the same city – The Hub and The Festival?

Present and Future Situation for the Seniors:

1. The facilities at the Agriplex are far from ideal **but if The Hub had a date of completion, people would make the best of it**. However, there is nothing definite about The Hub.
2. How will The Festival fundraise \$500,000 for the custom alterations to the Agriplex when they are fundraising for their new theatre (August 24, 2017 Edition of Stratford Gazette)? This is a lot of money for a **temporary** site, which makes one wonder how temporary the site is going to be.
3. The 3-storey centre for seniors onsite sounds promising **if The Hub is not a reality for next year**.
4. I understand that the rentals at the Kiwanis Centre go toward reducing SLAAA membership fees. If there are no rentals will this mean an increase in SLAAA membership fees?

The New Theatre:

1. The architect's design is marvellous **but it seems to overpower the location**. "Less is more" in design. The main theatre is where our roots originate and I think it should remain as the outstanding piece of architecture in our theatres here. We just need a new theatre to replace the Tom Patterson Theatre. People are drawn by the quality of the playbill and the productions, which are made possible by the heart of the theatre space (stage, lighting, sound, seating, backstage). Should this space not be the focus for the new theatre, rather than so many cosmetics outside of it?
2. I feel competition should not be driving decisions regarding The Theatre which has weathered the ups and downs here for 65 years and is still a remarkable part of North American culture. The **uniqueness of the small city experience is what makes Stratford special**. We can't and shouldn't feel the need to compete with large centres like Toronto, Chicago and New York.

Thank you for reading this letter from someone who grew up in Stratford, whose family opened their home to an actor in the first years of The Theatre and who wants to see The Theatre continue to grow but with care, honesty and respect for the whole community.

Sincerely,



Dear City of Stratford,

As a Stratford native, homeowner and enthusiastic play-goer, I am dismayed by the continuing controversy that has arisen over the plans for the Tom Patterson Theatre. Why do there have to be two sides on this issue? The combination of the Theatre with the seniors' centre seems the only satisfactory solution and is readily available.

My father enjoyed walking to the Senior Centre by the river and participating in the programs given there; he could never have walked to the Rotary Centre so would not have gone. For the City to displace seniors from their current home and require those who want stimulation and companionship sacrifice both to a future plan they will not live to enjoy is a cruel and unusual punishment for growing old.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Stratford property owner *and tax payer*

[Redacted contact information]

**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional)

Address (optional)

Contact Information (optional):

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

*Feedback is being accepted until **Tuesday October 10th 2017**

Firstly. I am not opposed to a new theatre, Tom Patterson does need replacing.

BUT does it need a 60 million dollar complex. Will not a 20 -30 million complex work just fine. And does the design of the building fit in with the design of our city. Let alone along our park system. And how many young people still attend our theatre. Not many.

By the time they put their kids into programs and pay for a new house not much is left over.

Did this get designed with any city input or did they design it and then bring it to the city for approval

About the seniors moving. Also not opposed to that. But to the agricultural complex with not enough space for everyone and everything. Seriously.

I am on the special events committee. We do bingo,pepparama and euchre as well as other special events. We need a decent good size kitchen. We need access to where the events are happening which is not good with an elevator. Sometimes we forget something or have to bring more to the event. And will now have to travel by a slow elevator.

Bringing in the food will be a challenge. All the close parking spots are handicapped. I often need more than one trip. And up to the kitchen.

REALLY.

Where will we store our stuff, or does everything have to be brought in every time.

A lot Of stuff.

and does not the agriculture complex need there space when they want it.

Trusting you are giving this matter a lot of serious consideration and listening to the residents of Stratford and not just the theatre. We count

ALL FOR
THE THEATRE
GOOD FOR
STRATFORD

Will parking be
free for community
meetings, activities?
How much of the
150 spaces will
be free parking?

Great idea go
for the Hub.
[REDACTED]

The City-owned
land where the
TPT is situated
Should not be
for SALE!
PUBLIC lands!!

Theatre
is big
business.
Pay Property
Taxes like
all businesses.

PARKING !


Basically the City
will Make No
Decisions in time
And this will cause
the Festival to lose
the \$5 million from the
Government. So the City

is actually sabotaging
the entire plan put
forth from the theatre.

↳ From the comment
by Council that an answer
will be decided in 5-6
months!

Yes! to both
new TPT

development +
Community Hub.
As Cooper site still
in litigation + if so
what is timeline for
development of same?

SHUT FATE  UP
AND BUILD

IT
ALREADY!

→ Thank you for history
this meeting

→ You have built over
backward to address
the concern of the
DAR as state police,

→ I hope the City
acts on this in a
prompt manner

* The city should devote
the LA.

Parking is
free & should
remain so
for seniors at
SLAA

What kind of
conditions
are (is) council
considering before
giving consent for
the theatre, eg.
HUB fund-gr.

Will there be
extra buses
to the Agriplex
when SLAA
moved?

MUCH NEEDED

FACE LIFT.

FOR THE FESTIVAL

AND THE CITY.

LAWN BOWLING NEEDS
A Place ASAP.

It takes 2 years
to build one.

Please do not turn
down the provincial
funding that has
been put forward.

As a new
homeowner in
Stratford, I
am excited and
supportive of
the new theatre
~~whatsoever~~.

The theatre
seems to want
to cooperate.
Cooperate with
pleas them

If you can't
build further down
due to flood
plain how can
you build on this
site on same
flood plain?

This is a big
gamble by the
city if approved.
The Festival has
nothing to loose.

Why do the residents have to pay \$2 person whether it goes forward or not?

Go 4 IT
Now



Stunning Plan!
You have
my vote!
~

I fully
support
the plan

Would like to
see the project
move forward
with a collaborative
community spirit!

Leave
Seniors where
they are

opportunity
slip through
our hands.

BUILD

IT ?

GO FOR
IT

(A SENIOR)

TPT FUNDING

- WHAT IS CITY'S PORTION.
- ie land, tax break, grants etc etc.

With growth
comes change
and this change
is very exciting
to all citizens
of Stratford!!
Let's work together

We only
regret
the opportunity
we missed.
Go for it!

Theatre is ✓
big business.
Pay Property
Taxes like
all businesses.

Let's get
moving
forward with
the TPT!

This is the time to
do it. Now. Let's
not be back footed
about this and
regret not doing it ~~in~~
10 yrs from now. ~~5 yrs from~~
now it will be done and
the benefits will be ^{Invest in}
obvious. _{the future!}

I fully
support the
proposed new
Tom Patterson

What a
vision
What a 'dream!
Let's get going!

TPT
project.
Now!

If you wouldn't
change the rules for
Walmart regarding land
will you ~~sell~~ park
land to the Festival?

BUILD
THE NEW
TPT!

Love
It!

CITY
NEEDS
A GOOD
DEAL ON
RENT!

KEEP
STRATFORD
AS A LEADER
AND APPROVE
THE NEW
TPT

DESIGN
LOOKS
BEAUTIFUL
ESP THE GARDENS

Build the new TPT
without delay!
We as a city,
would be
absolutely STUPID
to let this
incredible

Why has the city
put off this
decision for
so long?

Waste of my
time - no
mention of time
for sensors.

Yes
VISION
Dream

I AM 100% IN
FAVOUR of THIS
NEW THEATRE -
IT WILL PROVIDE
GREAT BENEFITS
TO THE ENTIRE
STRATH Community!


City Council -
Please pass
this now!

Please move Forward.
Don't let this
amazing project get
delayed & stalled the
way market square
did.

The Festival is an
integral part of
our community. Please
help to keep it
competitive...

Can you please provide
more tangible solutions
in stead of "we are looking
into options" I believe
that people and citizens
of Stratford at ease and
more in support of the
Plan for the TPT if more
tangible answers were
being provided. Enough
of the "we are thinking
of solutions" Provide
them

Why not put the
issue (SLAA) ^{LOCATION} go to
a public vote or
Senior Vote??



Feedback received via e-mail and
through other City of Stratford Website pages

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:48 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; bbeaty@stratford.ca; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson project

Hello Mayor Mathieson, councillors and Ms. Thomson, I would like to add my voice to those in support of the Stratford Festival's proposed Tom Patterson Theatre project. I believe the renewed theatre will boost Stratford's economy and enhance its reputation as a community of vision, imagination and cultural richness.

I understand the building is nearing the end of its life, structurally.

The Festival's plan will create an improved venue that will be more comfortable for audiences and better outfitted for the work that is done there, both in terms of space and for lighting and sound equipment. The proposed design is one that will enhance its riverside setting in our beautiful parks system.

I also understand that the Festival has offered to include space in the project for the senior citizens who use the current facility. I know the City of Stratford wants to include seniors' facilities in the proposed "hub" on the site of the former railway shops, but after so many years of waiting for that space to be turned into something that will benefit our city, I have my doubts that anything will happen soon. The seniors'

facilities at the Tom Patterson site could be used in the meantime and, when the hub is built, could probably still move into a space there. Or, maybe our quickly growing population of seniors would be able to use space at both venues.

I know time is of the essence -- the Festival stands to lose \$5 million of the funding the Ontario government has pledged for the project. A decision is needed soon. I hope councillors will vote in favour of the Festival's Tom Patterson project.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 8:54 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre

I am NOT in favour of the proposed expansion of this theatre. The displacement of the many groups that use the Kiwanis center is unacceptable. We are told the city would create a new facility on the railroad lands. May I suggest the theatre be located there and to leave the Kiwanis center as it is, where it is.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-06-17 12:31 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Visionary Leadership

Stratford is a world class city, unique amongst its neighbours because of the visionary actions of R.Thomas Orr, Tom Patterson and the mayors and city councillors that supported them. In looking through our archives I have seen that in every step into the future, there have been those who wanted to maintain the status quo. Luckily for our great city those voices, fearful of change at the expense of long term planning and economic viability did not frighten the majority of our city government. I hope this visionary approach will continue as you support the immediate rebuilding of the Tom Patterson Theatre.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 10:56 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Cc: guesservices@stratfordfestival.ca; [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter in Support of Stratford Festival rebuild of the Tom Patterson theatre
Attachments: 1710_1 memo to city council re support Festival.pdf

Dear Mayor Dan Mathieson and the Stratford city council. Please find attached my letter in favour of moving forward on the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre

Best regards in your deliberation of this important matter for our City.

[REDACTED]



October 7, 2017

Dear Dan Matthews and all members of council

This is a letter in support of the Stratford Festival's plans to re build the Tom Patterson Theatre and develop this waterfront property into another world class destination for theatre and the arts.

Why do I support this. It is time to look at what we can be as a community heading into the next 50, 60 100+ years and what that will bring to Stratford. The present has a role but we must also be forward thinking to see how this role can be enhanced going forward

If there are two things that have not let Stratford down is its tremendous agriculture sector. This is a hugh economic engine for our City and County. The other is the great cultural industry that is the Stratford Festival. Both have generated secondary industries and employment to support them.

It was nice the railroad came to town. Were are they now? The leagacy remains in the site that has been argued over for decades.

It was great the furniture industry was so large. Were are they now -just a bunch of beautiful old empty brick buildings trying to find re purpose.

It was wonderful for all those automotive jobs that came and went over the last decades of the last century

Call centres maybe nice, but they are just the latest iteration of business which only fit a certain era. How long are they to be around, as our connected world shrinks?

All these have been good for Stratford at one time in its history and do leave a rich history of how cities like Stratford grew and developed. We should not forget the history, but use them as our touchstones to the past.

Thanks goodness there always seems to have been people in Stratford who cared deeply for how this city grew. Because of their insight and their tenacity in fighting for what they saw. The best example of this is we ended up with a beautiful lake and park system, instead of an abandoned railroad running through the heart of our city. This foresight led us to Tom Patterson's dream and gave the fledgling theate its greatlocation.

Theatre like its agriculture component in this area, just keeps growing and evolving with every generation and becomes an even bigger and integral part of this community. In theatre, Stratford has an industry that won't pull up stakes to find cheaper labour in Mexico or find out the factory must close since they are making parts no one needs or wants anymore. The only thing the theatre can do is create growth where they are, here in Stratford

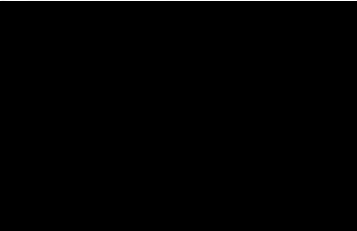
It is not a flavour of the month business, but to keep up with all those other theatre destinations it must keep growing its brand in all areas including infrastructure

Theatre is not elitist to most of us who attend these fabulous productions. We have developed the love of theatre becasue it is in our backyard, not someone elses. The plays speak to us and remind us that whatever era they were placed in, it was about the human condition. When we do see productions in NY, TO and even Niagara we know we are in the top tier and can out perform against any other company.

To all the doomsayers and negativists, I say learn how to look a bit further down the road rather than your own self interest, which mainly concern the immedate, typically short term solvable problems, forgotten in a generation or less. Yes there is always displacement, change and upheaval. We must not forget that there are legitimate concerns of the Seniors, Kiwanis and Lawn bowlers and these should and are being addressed by council as part of this grand review.

The addition of a rebulit theater at its current location is a step forward to the evolving theatre industry for the next 50+ years, in this city. Its impact and multiplier effect on Stratford will be the same, if not greater as when the original idea got of the ground. Future generations will benefit from this councils fore sight to support this undertaking. Lets continue and grow as a community the legacy that is the theatre industry in Stratford.

Best Regards in your deliberation on this matter at the next council meeting



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-08-17 11:02 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project

Dear Mayor Mathieson & Councillors:

I am writing this letter in support of the Tom Patterson Theatre Project.

My husband and I have been long time supporters of the Stratford Festival and its world class presentations of plays and musicals. The Festival brings in huge amounts of revenue to the city of Stratford and provides jobs for many. In order for it to continue to be at the top of its game and one of the best repertory companies in the world it must provide theatre-goers with top venues for their plays. The new Tom Patterson theatre would be a magnificent addition for the Stratford Festival and the city of Stratford. The architect has gone above and beyond in creating a magnificent building and gardens that would add significantly to the city and to the Festival. It would provide construction jobs for many living in and around Stratford. The addition of this theatre would continue to keep the Festival as a highly desirable destination for many people plus providing revenue for the city from tourists.

I realize for the seniors who use the facilities that are currently on the land, it is a difficult time for them. Constructing new buildings to meet their needs is a very important aspect of this redevelopment and hopefully this construction would begin at the same time as the new theatre andn minimize as much as possible any inconvenience to seniors.

I am urging you to vote in favour of the Tom Patterson Theatre Project.

[REDACTED]

Thank you



Sent from my iPad

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 11:18 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Renewal of Tom Patterson Theatre Site

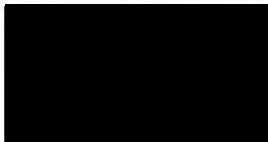
Dear City Council:

I urge City Council to approve the Festival's proposal to renew the Patterson Theatre because:

- Festival plans will mean construction of a national architectural treasure which will help secure the economic future of our city for decades to come;
- there are reasonable solutions for the concerns of current users, none of whom can claim a veto over this project;
- the Festival brings in millions of dollars of economic activity every year; its presence here is what sustains real estate values and the incomparable quality of life we enjoy here;
- it is foolish to link Patterson renewal with City plans for the Hub which stands now simply as a series of sketchy ideas years away from realization;
- putting off government funding for Patterson renewal until we get public funding for the Hub just makes us look greedy;
- Council knows the facts about how important the Festival is to this community; Council must look past ill-informed resentments and red herring proposals to delay saying yes to this project; and
- if Council does anything less than give its full and public support to the Patterson project, it will shock the thousands of Festival supporters who call Stratford home.

Council must give its approval in principle to the Festival's plans now and task City officials to work with Festival management and senior levels of government to make it happen!

Thank you



Sent from my iPad

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 10:54 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: TP Theatre

As a long time member of the Stratford Festival Acting Company and a thirty-two year resident of Stratford, I want thank the Mayor and the Council for holding the town meetings to discuss the future of the Tom Patterson Theatre. I was very glad to hear my neighbours weigh in on this most important project. What I heard was very encouraging; people with concerns were able to air them and know that those concerns were being addressed, as indeed all of them are. I could also hear, and I hope Council could too, that even among the people with reservations, there was a genuine sense that the rebuilding of the Tom Patterson Theatre would happen; that it should happen. The benefits to the future life of the city that the new theatre would bring, as well as the impossibility of the Festival remaining in the existing space were never in debate. I left that meeting feeling that the community was very much in favour of the project and that any points of discussion were about the details of the transition, not the project itself. One cloudy note I'd like to mention is the audible groan I heard from the entire audience when it was said that Council will take these things under consideration "over the ensuing months". I hope Council heard it too. You don't have months to consider this, nor should you need them. If I am reading the timeline correctly, Council has been aware of every step of this project for over a year, every concern that was brought up at the meeting was already being addressed by the Festival and the city. It is, of course, important to allow the citizens of Stratford a voice in such an important decision, but once those voices have been heard and the concerns addressed (as they are being), then the decision of Council is actually quite simple; to sell or lease the land on Lake Shore to the Festival for the rebuilding of a new Tom Patterson Theatre. This should not take months. I urge Council to set a deadline of November 1, 2017. This would give you three weeks to review any new comments and concerns; ample time given the realities of where we are in the process. If Council drags its feet on this, we are in very real danger of losing five million dollars of the Provincial funding; a catastrophe in and of itself and a continuing disaster for future fund raising efforts by the city. If Council drags its feet on this, the Festival will be without the Tom Patterson Theatre for two entire seasons rather than just one (and the city without the subsequent revenue). If Council drags its heels on this, frankly, it will look like political posturing. And if I may say a word about the proposed community Hub at the Cooper site; this is a worthy project for the city to undertake. The Cooper site has been an eyesore ever since I moved to town thirty-two years ago and I would be delighted to see it refurbished into a community hub, and I am sure most of my fellow citizens would be delighted as well. But we must remember that these are two distinct and separate projects; one initiated by the Festival and one initiated by the city. They are not, nor should they be, considered connected or one dependent on the other. I don't know how the proposed community hub wound up as part of the Tom Patterson Theatre discussion, but I urge Council to keep those projects separate in their deliberations; what you need to decide now is not the future of the Cooper site, but whether to sell or lease the land on Lake Shore Dr. to the Festival for the rebuilding of the Tom Patterson Theatre. I strongly urge Council to agree to sell or lease said land so the re-building process can begin. I strongly urge Council to commit to this by November 1, 2017 so as not to lose five million Provincial dollars. I strongly urge Council to agree to this because it is a tangible, living, continuation of Tom Patterson's dream; of a city and a theatre enriching each other; making a better life in the moment and ensuring a future for our children and their children.

Sincerely,

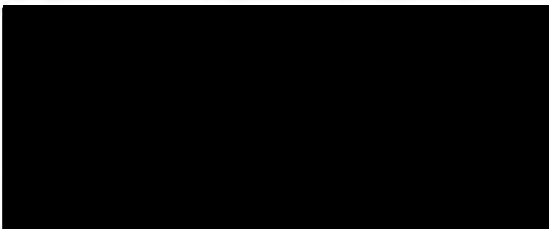
Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:09 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos
Cc: Joan Thomson; Anita Gaffney; Antoni Cimolino
Subject: Support for the Tom Patterson Theatre project

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Councilors,

I am writing to you today to ask for and encourage your support of the proposed Tom Patterson Renewal project. I understand that there are segments of the city's population that are upset by the proposed changes, but change is always difficult. I don't mean to dismiss their concerns or denigrate their feelings, but to give in to their demands, to leave everything as it is will be the beginning of the end for the Stratford Festival. I currently work for the Stratford Festival, and hope to for the rest of my working life! I want to see this organization grow and ultimately leave it in better shape than when I joined it at the end of Act III, the reconstruction of the Festival theatre. That was an exciting time to be in Stratford, in the few years following the main stage's renewal, we saw more visitor's to Stratford than ever before. The refurbishment of the Avon Theatre and the creation of the Studio Theatre showed the world our (Stratford's) commitment to excellence, and we let everyone know that we knew what we had, and how special it is! This is the next logical step, and if we falter now we may not get a second chance. Money will be lost, confidences will be shaken and we may never recover. The Stratford Festival needs the City's support – and the City of Stratford needs the Stratford Festival. Please keep this in mind when you are making your decision.

Thank you all for reading my e-mail,



Stratford Festival

PO Box 520 | Stratford ON | N5A 6V2

519.271.4040 x 2241

Box Office: Toll Free 1.800.567.1600 | Local 519.273.1600

stratfordfestival.ca

2017 Season | April to October

Twelfth Night | Romeo and Juliet | Timon of Athens | Guys and Dolls | HMS Pinafore

Treasure Island | The School for Scandal | The Changeling | Bakkhai | Tartuffe

The Madwoman of Chailot | The Komagata Maru Incident | The Virgin Trial | The Breathing Hole

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-08-17 11:12 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project

Dear Ms. Potter,

Here are my thoughts on the Tom Patterson Theatre replacement project.

I hope the council will make a quick decision to allow the city to access all this funding and minimise the business lost while the Tom Patterson Theatre is not available.

Tom Patterson Theatre Project

Jobs & The Stratford Festival:

The Festival provides a large number of direct jobs in Stratford, and supports a lot more in hotels, B&Bs, restaurants, bars, shops and other tourist-related businesses in Stratford. It should be supported by us all, whether we go to shows or not. A new TPT will protect existing jobs and add new ones.

The Tom Patterson Theatre:

The Tom Patterson Theatre is the home of productions that attract the “hard core” patrons of the Festival - those that stay longest and spend the most money in our city. The current building is a turn-off for audience members due to its poor condition, uncomfortable seats, lack of legroom, poor access and poor facilities. It needs a new building.

The design and river location:

The proposed design is a beautiful structure that can produce a mini “Bilbao effect” for Stratford. The design and the location are tightly linked. You cannot build this design elsewhere in Stratford. It is attractive in itself and, together with the proposed gardens, it will enhance the pleasure of Lake Victoria for everyone who walks, bikes, or just sits by it - it is a gain for our city even if nobody ever went inside its doors. Build the new theatre where it is proposed.

SLAAA:

The SLAAA deserves community support, but they are already bursting at the seams, and will grow more as the population ages, so they need a new location - let's get them to somewhere suitable ASAP.

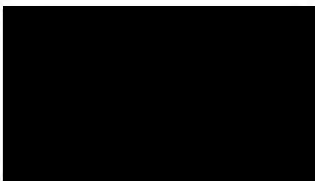
Lawn Bowling:

There should have been more thought given to the lawn bowlers earlier and they will be screwed by the construction. However, we cannot go back in time; let's just accelerate the establishment of new bowling greens at the golf course, to minimise their pain.

Funding:

The provincial government, private donors and (hopefully) the federal government will provide \$60 million to be spent on this project. If we do not go ahead, it will not lower anyone's taxes - the money will just go to other communities, including the donor money, they all have lots of other calls for their contribution. Do we want the money spent on Stratford, or spent somewhere else?

Let's build this theatre and do it quickly!



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 9:26 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre

My apologies for not using the feedback form but it will not accept comments today even though the information says they will be accepted until October 10th. (today)

I do not support plans for a new Tom Patterson Theatre unless they include space for the current community users.

I see this option as being of benefit to BOTH the theatre and the city. It would create a more interesting , vital space for the Festival than a stand alone theatre as well as helping keep the park area connected with the town and non-theatre goers. It already seems underused and oddly isolated despite its proximity to downtown.

The community hub is an exciting idea but I can see that taking many many years to come to fruition. When it does, if it does, I am sure that the Festival or the city would be able to find new uses for any space that frees up in the Tm Patterson building.

[REDACTED]

Origin: <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/insidecityhall/tom-patterson-theatre-questions---answers.asp>

This email was sent to you by [REDACTED] through <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/>.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-06-17 8:27 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson

I am very, very disappointed in the decision to remove the lawn bowling club from its current location. Why are we taking something away from senior citizens? Is it because it is easy to pick on a vulnerable sector of our society? Don't get me wrong, I like the festival. I saw 5 plays this year. Of those 5 plays, the majority of them had a significant number of empty seats. Only one of those plays was at the Tom Patterson, and quite frankly it wasn't very good. To be brutally honest, I have seen only one play that I have liked at the Tom Patterson in the last 5 years or so.

We already spend a lot of our tax dollars making the Festival the success it is. Why are we not supporting our vulnerable seniors with a better quality of life?

I agree Tom Patterson needs fixing up, but let's not forget that the festival is not the only part of the city that matters.

If the festival and the city go ahead and remove the Lawn bowlers, I will never vote for our mayor again, nor will I support the festival anymore. I do not support bullies.

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 3:40 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Danielle Ingram; Bonnie Henderson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Kathy Vassilakos; Martin Ritsma; Joan Thomson
Subject: The Tom Patterson Theatre Project
Attachments: To Mayor and the Members of City Council.docx

Please find my letter attached.

I have also copied it into the body of the email:

October 5, 2017

To Mayor Mathieson and the Members of City Council

I am writing with comments on the Tom Patterson Theatre project.

I can see both sides of the issue in regards to the Tom Patterson Theatre. I work for the Festival and I am also a home owner in Stratford.

The fact that I work at the Festival may seem to make this letter self-serving however, where the Tom Patterson Theatre is located does not impact on whether I have a job or not. That is dependent on my experience, skills and my employ ability in terms of the needs of the Theatre.

For me, this discussion is simple; as a tax payer, I do not want to spend 1 cent of our tax money on repairing the building that the Tom Patterson Theatre is in. It is in need of repair and renovations. I do not want any of the dollars I pay in taxes to be used on the repairs or renovations that are so obviously needed.

Let the Festival raise the money, do the planning and execute the plan for construction of the new building without involving me financially as a resident of Stratford. They have the desire and the ability to make this project successful. They are also not looking for local money to complete the project.

Please take any money that would be spent on the present building and spend it where ever it is best for the city of Stratford. Let's build a new center that fulfills the needs of all residents of Stratford. Let's build a new center where there can be programs for every age group: prenatal classes for parents to be: a gathering place for young mothers who are home with small children: recreation programs for children of all ages: programs for seniors and retirees: lawn bowlers: and many more.

Thank you for listening.

[REDACTED]

To Mayor Mathieson and the Members of City Council

October 5, 2017

I am writing with comments on the Tom Patterson Theatre project.

I can see both sides of the issue in regards to the Tom Patterson Theatre. I work for the Festival and I am also a home owner in Stratford.

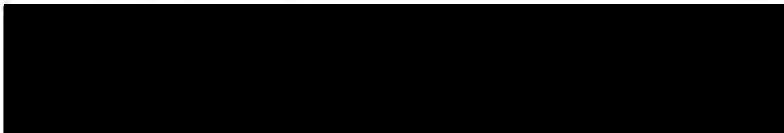
The fact that I work at the Festival may seem to make this letter self-serving however, where the Tom Patterson Theatre is located does not impact on whether I have a job or not. That is dependent on my experience, skills and my employability in terms of the needs of the Theatre.

For me, this discussion is simple; as a tax payer, I do not want to spend 1 cent of our tax money on repairing the building that the Tom Patterson Theatre is in. It is in need of repair and renovations. I do not want any of the dollars I pay in taxes to be used on the repairs or renovations that are so obviously needed.

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Thank you for listening.



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 9:46 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: TPT Letter
Attachments: [REDACTED] TPT presentation81d18170-2628-48a3-a8d9-11597972be20.docx

Hi Stephanie,

I am forwarding a document that one of our volunteers wished to submit regarding the TPT situation - she does not have a computer, so I am sending it on her behalf.

Thank you!

Origin: <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/insidecityhall/tom-patterson-theatre.asp>

This email was sent to you by [REDACTED] through <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/>.

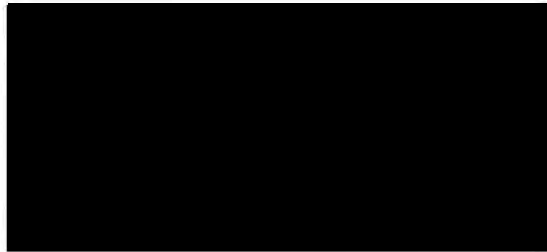
**Presentation Prepared for the
Stratford Festival/City of Stratford Town Hall Meetings
Tuesday, September 26 at the Stratford Rotary Complex**

1. Thank you to the Mayor and Councillors.
 2. Thank you for allowing my presentation.
 3. My name is [REDACTED] and I am a 10-year resident of Stratford.
 4. I have been coming to Stratford for 30 years prior to moving here. Staying in B&Bs, enjoying the growing number of restaurants and, of course, many plays at all theatres thus contributing to the city's economy.
 5. As a senior, very active in the community, I am well aware of the Kiwanis Centre and the excellent programs that are held there. However, the building and the Tom Patterson Theatre, which have served the community well for many years, are quite inadequate in today's world.
 6. In the 1950's Tom Patterson and other forward looking Stratford citizens had a vision of what could be achieved with an annual Shakespeare Festival and how, ultimately, the City and its citizens, whether directly or indirectly, would benefit.
 7. The proposed building includes not only a theatre but areas for community use and, like the Festival Theatre, the new building would give Stratford an enviable reputation of being in the forefront of excellence.
 8. It is understandable that all of us who use those buildings would not enjoy the disruption that would be inevitable, however, it has been stated many times, both in the press and at meetings, that every possible consideration will be given to whichever temporary place or places the Kiwanis programs move to. *
 9. I ask everyone to appreciate what an amazing opportunity Stratford has to move into the 21st century with this beautiful building and all the economic benefits it will bring and to think of the younger generation for whom this will be a legacy.
- * As seniors, we have experienced many changes in our lives and we should embrace this one: *Keep Calm and Carry On*

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 12:32 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre

Since 1979, we have attended many riveting productions at the Tom Patterson theatre, greatly enhanced by its intimate space and minimal sets. Hopefully, our favourite theatre will not lose its unique atmosphere. We have also attended and used the Kiwanis centre for many different events. The two functions of the building have nicely co-existed. Please keep it that way. Thank you.



Origin: <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/insidecityhall/tom-patterson-theatre.asp?source=76246>

This email was sent to you by [REDACTED] through <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/>.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-11-17 8:37 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson input

Hi Stephanie,

I think I am a day late, but I just wanted to add my voice to the discussion about the new theatre. I attended the public session and came away from that believing that the theatre should be a go. However, I think it is very important that the City of Stratford not lose the land. It needs to be preserved for the citizens of Stratford well into the future. The best scenario would be to rent the land to the Festival. If the Festival insists on buying the land prior to the development, the City needs to add a clause that the City must be offered to buy the land back in case of a future sale.

Please make the decision in time for the Festival to honour its commitments to the provincial government.

Thank you for your hard work.

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 5:37 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson project

Hello Stephanie,
We are writing to you regarding the new Tom Patterson project.
We currently own 4.4 acres at [REDACTED] which we believe would be perfect for the SLAAA and Stratford Lawn Bowling Club.
It is a tranquil site on a city bus route with stone gates, a gravel parking lot for 40 -50 cars, and water flowing through. Currently the property is 1.55 hectares zoned Park (P) and .18 hectares zoned R1(5)-32. The zoning for the building would need to be changed but there should be room for the city to build a facility for washrooms, meeting rooms, etc. The property is currently listed for \$499,900. We have not discussed this idea with our realtor.
Our proposal is to sell our property to the City of Stratford for \$500,000 - \$100,000 per year for 5 years with no interest. The city would be responsible for our lawyer fees and any realtor costs.
Hopefully this is a positive solution for everyone.
We are sending a copy of this letter to City of Stratford, Antoni Cimolino, SLAAA [REDACTED], and Stratford Lawn Bowling Club [REDACTED]

Address:
[REDACTED]

Origin: <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/insidecityhall/tom-patterson-theatre.asp>

This email was sent to you by [REDACTED] through
<http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/>.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September-28-17 11:19 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson rebuilding

Sent from my iPad I wish you all the best for the speedy completion of this wonderful project. It will be a real feather in the cities cap. Over the 45 years of my residence here it has been a privilege to live in a place which hosts such a world class cultural festival, in this difficult age of globalization [REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-07-17 10:12 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre

Dear Stephanie:

My point of view re development.

the City cannot move fast enough to approve the Festivals plans, if for no other reason than the building does not have a long life span....then what???

one could not see a better use for that property so please on our behalf act quickly.

I am very much a senior and probably would not prefer to see the seniors centre attached...I have to be honest I do not use the facility as a senior but do as a Kiwanian.

Thank you for allowing the input

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 2:47 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Cc: acimolino@stratfordfestival.ca; agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca
Subject: proposed Tom Patterson Theatre project
Importance: High

Good Day All!

The renewed Patterson would be a win/win for the theatre and the entire community. Most small businesses in Stratford (like ours) are dependent upon the success of the Stratford Festival. The Festival is facing broader competition in the theatre world and must not be complacent -- moving forward is essential. They need to expand their horizons and create a more practical, inviting and exciting space for their artists and patrons. What is good for them is good for us all.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-07-17 12:11 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: The Stratford Festival's Theatre Redevelopment Proposal

Dear Ms. Potter,

I am writing in support of the Stratford Festival's theatre development proposal.

I moved from Woodstock to the city of Stratford forty years ago, choosing to make this my home town. Many other artists like myself have chosen to do the same. What drew me to this city? The parks and the theatre. It is a winning combination.

During my years here, some of my happiest theatre experiences have been at the Tom Patterson. I can see innovative theatre in an urban environment in many locations across North America. The combination of a park setting and a high-quality performance space, however, is unique to Stratford.

Having said this, in the last few years it has become apparent that the building in which the Patterson is housed is in need of an upgrade. That the Festival would go to the extra effort and expense of commissioning a fine and site-sensitive piece of architecture that will add to the look of the city is a plus.

I hope the city councillors will work with the Festival theatre to iron out any conflicts that may have arisen about the use of the space by the river and allow this fine project to proceed.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 7:16 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: TP

Hello Joan,

I moved to Stratford in 2002 to work in the Music & Education depts. of the Stratford Festival. I have stayed in Stratford and worked to revitalize the SSO as well as take on the leadership of Music & Art Appreciation. The Tom Patterson project cannot help but make our amazing city even better. The design is brilliant and it is a win-win because the city does not have to pay for it.

Please move forward as quickly as possible so we can present a full season in 2018.

I appreciate all you do for our city!

with warm regards and best wishes,

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-06-17 5:17 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Stratford Festival Redevelopment Proposal for the TPT

Re: Stratford Festival Redevelopment Proposal for the TPT:

Dear Stratford City Council:

I have been a resident of Stratford for 30 years. I am also a member of SLAAA. I attended the information meetings held by SLAAA and by the Stratford Festival in August. I also attended both public input sessions held by the City on September 26, 2017.

I support the Stratford Festival's Redevelopment Proposal for the Tom Patterson Theatre.

I also support the proposed temporary accommodations for SLAAA at the Agriplex. Ideally, I would support a future home for SLAAA in a new Community Hub developed on the old Cooper site, but will be content for now sharing part of the fabulous new Tom Patterson Theatre.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 6:04 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Project

Mayor Dan Mathieson and Members of Stratford City Council:

My wife has already written to you on behalf of the new and much needed Tom Patterson project but I wanted my voice to be heard as well. She's a long-time employee. I'm a long-time fan. I first attended a play at the Tom Patterson before it was even renamed after the founder of the Festival. I recall falling in love with the space but emerging damp with sweat. I wondered why the Festival could not afford air conditioning. Well I soon learned about what a tenant could and could not do without support from the community. I didn't go back to the Tom Patterson until it was air-conditioned with the support of the City.

Now as a senior and recently retired, I love the shows in that theatre but find it more and more a physical challenge to attend. The Festival has done its part planning a new facility, for me and many like myself, for Stratford as a whole and for the future. The new building is very exciting and the Festival has made every effort to work with and accommodate other users of the building. What about City Council? It's called two public meetings. It's delayed. It's planning further delays. The Festival's plan is for the future while recognizing the needs of the present. I want my Council to make the right decision. If the Council in 1952 had listened to nay-sayers, we wouldn't have the City we have today. We'd be like Mitchell, Listowel and other towns in the area, pretty but unexceptional. I certainly wouldn't live in and pay taxes towards a place without the amenities made possible by the audiences who come to the Festival.

I leave my house on the river and cross the William Hutt bridge. And the first thing I see is the Tom Patterson, not the beautiful parkland talked about by a few at the public meetings but a decaying, dilapidated structure. A coat of paint won't help. You have the opportunity to do something lasting for this community. Go for it!

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:22 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre re-development

Hello-

I just wanted to write to express my full support for the re-development of the Tom Patterson Theater. I believe the Festival to be the cultural heart of the town and the economic engine that supports so many residents in Stratford. This is an incredible opportunity to reinvigorate the city and allow the Festival to further cultivate the environment in and around Stratford to compete on the world stage. The benefit for local employment, a boost in tourism and the further beautification of our home town should be paramount in council's decision. I hope you decide in favour of the redevelopment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

best,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 6:13 PM
Subject: TPT

Greetings-

We have been residents of Stratford for over 52 years and also patrons and supporters of the Stratford Festival through all those years. We appreciate very much how greatly the Festival contributes to this city. The Tom Patterson Theatre is greatly in need of replacement and the proposed development is very exciting to us. We support the project without reservation and encourage City Council to take all steps within its power to see that it comes to fruition as soon as possible.

Sincerely-

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-08-17 4:41 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Renewal Project

Dear Council of Stratford,

I have been reluctant to send this email because of the long association that I and my family have had with The Stratford Festival. My Father was cast as Lord Grey in 1953 and I saw this production 4 times. I was 9 years old when the Festival began.

In 1960, 61 and 62, I spent my summers ushering at the theatre even though we had moved to Toronto in 1956.

I continued to come back for the plays in the ensuing years.

Nan and I are long time members of The Festival Theatre, but the plan for the renewal of the Tom Patterson Theatre has disturbed us. We don't understand the necessity of eliminating the Kiwanis Centre and eliminating all of the valuable parking that is there. This parking lot is used by a large number of local citizens who will park there and go for a walk around the river, or just sit on a bench by the shore to just relax. Also, when there is a Hockey Tournament, there isn't a parking space available on the lot. The idea that the free parking lot used for whatever purpose the citizens and tourists wish, will be replaced by a Festival lot of two rows of parking behind the theatre and approximately 130 paid spots does not sit well with us. Surely we do not need a huge garden replacing the existing lot.

We therefore oppose this plan, The Tom Patterson theatre has been a favourite space since it opened. We have enjoyed tremendous productions there over the years, and hope to continue over the next few years. The design of the theatre would enhance the University building on the "Cooper Lot", and it would be close to the Avon/Studio complex. We don't agree that it has to be by the river.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-08-17 4:13 PM
To: Danielle Ingram; George Brown; Martin Ritsma; Joan Thomson; Bonnie Henderson; Kathy Vassilakos; Frank Mark; Graham Bunting; Kerry McManus; Tom Clifford; dmathieson; Brad Beatty
Subject: Re: Tom Patterson Renewal project

Dear Council of Stratford,

I have been reluctant to send this email because of the long association that I and my family have had with The Stratford Festival. My Father was cast as Lord Grey in 1953 and I saw this production 4 times. I was 9 years old when the Festival began.

In 1960, 61 and 62, I spent my summers ushering at the theatre even though we had moved to Toronto in 1956.

I continued to come back for the plays in the ensuing years.

Nan and I are long time members of The Festival Theatre, but the plan for the renewal of the Tom Patterson Theatre has disturbed us. We don't understand the necessity of eliminating the Kiwanis Centre and eliminating all of the valuable parking that is there. This parking lot is used by a large number of local citizens who will park there and go for a walk around the river, or just sit on a bench by the shore to just relax. Also, when there is a Hockey Tournament, there isn't a parking space available on the lot. The idea that the free parking lot used for whatever purpose the citizens and tourists wish, will be replaced by a Festival lot of two rows of parking behind the theatre and approximately 130 paid spots does not sit well with us. Surely we do not need a huge garden replacing the existing lot.

We therefore oppose this plan, The Tom Patterson theatre has been a favourite space since it opened. We have enjoyed tremendous productions there over the years, and hope to continue over the next few years. The design of the theatre would enhance the University building on the "Cooper Lot", and it would be close to the Avon/Studio complex. We don't agree that it has to be by the river.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-08-17 3:46 PM
To: dmathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Renewal project

Dear Council of Stratford,

I have been reluctant to send this email because of the long association that I and my family as [REDACTED] in 1953 and I saw this production 4 times. I was 9 years old when the Festival In 1960, 61 and 62, I spent my summers ushering at the theatre even though we had move I continued to come back for the plays in the ensuing years.

My wife [REDACTED] and I are long time members of The Festival Theatre, but the plan for the re don't understand the necessity of eliminating the Kiwanis Centre and eliminating all of the large number of local citizens who will park there and go for a walk around the river, or just a Hockey Tournament, there isn't a parking space available on the lot. The idea that the fre tourists wish, will be replaced by a Festival lot of two rows of parking behind the theatre and Surely we do not need a huge garden replacing the existing lot.

We therefore oppose this plan, The Tom Patterson theatre has been a favourite space since over the years, and hope to continue over the next few years. The design of the theatre would it would be close to the Avon/Studio complex. We don't agree that it has to be by the river.

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 2:29 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Redevelopment
Attachments: Council.docx

Hi Joan,

Please see attached a copy of the letter that I have sent to the mayor and all members of council.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Dear City Councillor

Re: Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment

As a concerned citizen, taxpayer and Stratford Festival Playwright's Circle member, I was able to attend the Tuesday evening meeting held by the City on the proposed Tom Patterson Theatre redevelopment.

The presentations made by the City and Festival were insightful and informative. I was impressed with how Anita Gaffney and Antoni Cimolino professionally and respectfully answered questions from concerned stakeholders. They acknowledged the displacement of the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association (SLAAA) along with the lawn bowling club and that options are being explored for both groups.

How many of Stratford's citizens know that the theatre has offered to provide \$500,000 to enable custom alterations to the Stratford Agriplex thereby providing transitional accommodation for SLAAA's activities? What other municipality in Ontario or Canada for that matter, could be so fortunate as to have a **Not for Profit** organization such as the Festival provide a half a million dollars in permanent upgrades to a municipally owned facility! These are alterations the municipality and its taxpayers will not have to pay for due to the generosity of the Festival.

The following points were also made in the Festival's presentation:

- The Festival has **always** told the City that they would make room for a three-storey community centre on the Lakeside Drive property;
- The City provides no money to the Festival each year however the Festival generates \$5 million in taxes for municipal coffers annually;
- Property taxes on the warehouse and call centre in the amount of \$50,000 per year are paid to the City with the Festival and Avon Theatres being exempt from taxes by Provincial legislation;
- The Government of Ontario has announced a contribution of \$20 million, however if the project is delayed for any reason, including Municipal approval, these funds are at risk. In fact if the Festival has not made substantial headway by March, they will lose \$5 million.

I heard many local impassioned speakers including [REDACTED] and one speaker from Cleveland OH declare their support for this project. On numerous occasions the vast majority of taxpayers in attendance also voiced their support and approval either verbally or through applause.

Once the City receives a formal request for this redevelopment project to move ahead; they must respond with an immediate and clear approval to do so. Anything to the contrary would result in the loss of \$5 million in provincial funding for which our elected officials, facing reelection in 2018, would be exclusively responsible.

I implore Council just as Tom Patterson implored Mayor David Simpson and city council in 1952, to provide your unequivocal support and expedite the approval for this once in a lifetime project and help provide a new lasting legacy for the City of Stratford. It would be a shame if the project does not receive Council approval and in 15 years' time we look back and wonder "what if" and even worse "if only."

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-08-17 11:56 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Development

City Clerk

Joan Thomson

As a Stratford area resident for the last 7 years I wish to clearly state my full support for the Stratford Festival's plans for the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre. It is a stunning design and would be an outstanding improvement to the less than attractive collection of existing buildings, parking lot and grounds that currently occupy this select waterfront property. Furthermore, it would be criminal if lack of expediency with the approval process by the city of Stratford saw the loss of or reduction of the generous government funding currently available that is essential to the realization of this project. This is an amazing opportunity for not only the Stratford Festival and their patrons but more importantly for the city of Stratford to have an architecturally breathtaking structure and gorgeous gardens to be enjoyed by all on the river, both residents and visitors alike.

Also, please keep in mind that the people who are not happy about this proposal will be speaking the loudest. Unfortunately, those who believe this is a good thing often wrongly assume there is no need to voice their support.

Change is always resisted especially if it will directly affect one's personal routine and activities. Essentially though, neither the lawn bowling greens nor the SLAAA truly need to be located on the riverfront. (Many Kiwanis Centre activities take place indoors anyway in a building that fails to feature its' waterfront location.) As elected councillors and city officials, you need to listen and consider individual opinions but ultimately are entrusted with making the decision of what is best for everyone, best for the city of Stratford and best for the future. Stratford needs to keep looking ahead and encouraging the kind of growth we are currently seeing for the ongoing health of the community and the businesses here. The Stratford Festival is an integral part of that. Please move ahead without haste and support the Stratford Festival fully in making this extraordinary vision a reality.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 8:35 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project

Dear Mayor Mathieson and Members of the Stratford City Council:

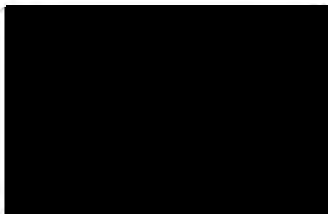
We are writing to you to show our support for the new Tom Patterson Theatre Project.

As long time Stratford residents we see the benefits that the theatre has given to our city. Tom Patterson and the founding members had a clear vision which continues to grow even now. With this new theatre their desire to bring world class actors and plays to Stratford will only help to make our river front more beautiful but will also continue to help our economy grow.

We fully support his project and ask that the city of Stratford approve and move forward in allowing the Festival to commence with the new vision of the Tom Patterson Theatre.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our feelings for this important decision.

Regards,



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 2:17 AM
Subject: Stratford Festival new theatre

Hello there!

I just wanted to express my support for the new theatre that the Stratford Festival is proposing to build to replace the Tom Patterson Theatre.

I've been living in Stratford for nearly a year, and I see what an incredible boon the festival is to the city. More than just bringing people into the city, what I think is best about the Festival is what it creates once people are IN town. The camaraderie between store owners and visitors to the city, how genuinely welcoming everybody is to one another, regardless of who they are or what brings them there. Because of the constant flow of people in and out of the city, because of the theatre they come to see, it creates a community that you feel at home in right away.

The Stratford Festival is THE premiere theatre festival in North America, and it has SO much more to offer if given the chance to grow.

I know that the community centre is a concern mixed into the new building plans, but I'm confident that between the city and the Festival, you can discover a solution that will outshine the current amenities offered in the building.

I am for the new building project. The new design will not only be a world class theatre space, but a beautiful new landmark to the already wonderful town of Stratford.

Thank you for your hard work in this endeavour, and I look forward to what the future brings for everyone.

[REDACTED]

tclifford@stratford.ca bhenderson@stratford.ca

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 11:30 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre

Hello there folks. [REDACTED] here. I'm a member of the acting company at the Festival. I've been here for 14 seasons and have lived in Stratford for the last 4. I've always felt lucky to be a part of the Festival and I feel even luckier to now be a resident of this fine town.

The Festival has always been a big part of my career but I must say that the years since Antoni and Anita have taken over have been my favorite. Their commitment to the place is unparalleled. They believe in it. They believe in the city. The plans they've got for the new Tom Patterson are wonderful. The design looks beautiful and seems like it would fit in with the waterfront. I couldn't be more excited to see it move forward.

Selfishly I can't wait to perform in the space. But more than that....i can't wait to sit and watch shows there. To share our work and this beautiful new building with the city is something that would make me smile for years to come. Just one more reason to be proud to be a part of this wonderful festival.

I wish I was better at pleading my case. I tend to let others write my lines for me. However I believe so strongly in what Antoni is trying to accomplish here.

Thanks for your time.
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:57 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: The Tom Patterson Project

>
> Dear Ms Thomson
>
> I am writing as a citizen of Stratford to support the construction of a new Tom Patterson Theatre. I have attended plays at Tom Patterson for over 20 years and I have been consistently impressed by the caliber of artistry, innovation and creativity of the productions. I appreciate that Tom Patterson is unique that it stages works that are not frequently performed such as this season's production of Timon of Athens. The current Theatre feels like a hockey arena and does not do justice to the high artistic quality of the productions.
>
> The current Theatre is not safe. I am visually impaired and am unable to navigate my way to my seat without assistance due to poor lighting. I understand that the current structure is physically quite fragile so will have to be torn down at some point any way so why not now before it becomes completely unsafe?
>
> Building a new, state of the art facility will benefit our city by increasing the number of people attending performances and will draw even more visitors from across Canada, the US and around the world. These visitors dine at our restaurants, shop at our stores and stay at our hotels and B&B's. This in turn supports our economy and also makes us richer socially and culturally.
>
> Please support this important project. Thank you very much.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> [REDACTED]
>
> Sent from my iPad

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:14 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: TPT

Please note my support of the new Tom Patterson a Theatre development.

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:51 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Cc: Antoni Cimolino; Anita Gaffney
Subject: The New Tom Patterson Theatre

Dear Mr. Mayor, Councillors and Mr. Thomson:

My name is [REDACTED]. I am the third generation of my family to work at the Festival. My grandfather on my father's side conducted the CNR Shop choir that sang at the coronation of Richard III in the tent in 1953. My grandfather on my mother's side was in favour of the plan to build a railway line through the fledgling park system. He was dissuaded from that opinion by Thomas Orr the elder. My father worked at the Festival for 17 years. The history of the town runs parallel to the history of the park.

There are well meaning people on both sides of the present discussion. A previous generation made the decision that led to the building of the world renowned Stratford Festival Theatre in the park. And they did so at their peril. To this day there are Stratford residents who rue the day the festival was born. They keep the city and the festival on their toes. No major decision goes unquestioned. And that is the way it should be.

Unfortunately the question of the Cooper site now seems an integral part of the decision to be made about the Tom Patterson Theatre. Tying the new TPT to The Community Hub muddies the waters.

Please lend your support to yet another jewel in the city's crown, a breathtakingly beautiful addition to the city's parkland. The new Tom Patterson Theatre will enhance the city, the festival, the province and will make an impression on the theatre community world-wide.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I wish you all the best in your deliberations.

Sincerely,



Stratford Festival

PO Box 520 | Stratford ON | N5A 6V2

519.271.4040 x 4315

Box Office: Toll Free 1.800.567.1600 | Local 519.273.1600

stratfordfestival.ca

2017 Season | April to October

Twelfth Night | Romeo and Juliet | Timon of Athens | Guys and Dolls | HMS Pinafore

Treasure Island | The School for Scandal | The Changeling | Bakkhai | Tartuffe

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 11:30 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Festival Project

My Husband [REDACTED] and I strongly support the new Tom Patterson Theatre proposalStratford is the city it is today because of the Festival. Please support it.

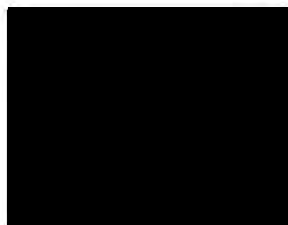


Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 10:09 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Proposed changes Kiwanis and Tom Patterson

I have grave concerns about the effects of the proposed changes and feel Council should not allow itself to be rushed meet the Festivals deadline for the following reasons.

1. The idea that site clearance would begin by the end of October is repugnant; the theatre must accept their time lines are too tight for all relevant facts to be considered.
2. Although the theatre states a seniors centre could be included in the complex, it does not make it clear this would be on three levels. Two of these would be below ground level with bottom level below the normal level of the lake. Since the lake periodically floods flooding is probable. Since many SLAAA members have some degree of difficulty in walking and /or climbing stairs great difficulty in evacuating them would be experienced; the proposal is unlikely to be approved by insurers or safety authorities.
3. The Agricultural Society have expressed doubt that SLAAA members can be accommodated; this must be resolved before any decision is made to proceed with site clearance.
4. The development of the Hub will take years if it occurs. In the draft plan the site is filled with buildings with no apparent parking.
5. A simple solution to the problems would be for the theatre to be allowed to build on the space below the Festival theatre. This would give them their desired location next to the lake and allow the city to proceed with necessary changes to the existing Patterson structure which could accommodate the inevitable increase in SLAAA membership.
6. In no case should the city relinquish ownership of its existing land.
7. The attendance at the festival sites was poor this year; this may be a random happening but may be a sign the younger generations are not interested in live theatre. Until we are sure this the case it would be unwise to spend \$60 million building a grandiose structure which will be expensive to maintain and staff. A much smaller and more basic building would be more sensible.
8. I should add I attend performances in the Festivals various locations and support it as a benefactor but feel its current demands are excessive and unrealistic



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 2:28 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project

When we moved to Stratford seven years ago , our prime reason for choosing this city was because of the Stratford Festival. As a frequent guest at the various Stratford theatres, I very much support the decision to replace the Tom Patterson theatre because the seating in the current theatre is not sufficiently comfortable or suitable. Furthermore, I support the decision to build a new Tom Patterson theatre in its current location by the Avon river. Our beautiful river is a prime tourist location in this city and for this reason, I think it is appropriate to continue to have this theatre located beside the river. The Stratford Festival is a world-class theatre company that draws countless visitors each year. I believe that we should be doing everything possible to continue to attract visitors to this great city. When talking with people that live in other parts of Ontario or Canada, Stratford is commonly perceived as a wonderful place to live. On many occasions, I have wondered, "Where would Stratford be without the Festival?" I am certain that it would not be as vibrant, as culturally interesting or as beautiful. Finally, as a homeowner, I am hopeful that if the Festival is allowed to expand and adapt as required, the value of our home will be maintained. For all of these reasons, I support the decision which will allow the Tom Patterson theatre project to move forward as planned.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 3:56 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos
Cc: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson

Mayor Mathieson and members of City Council:

I am writing to urge you to support the redevelopment plan for the Tom Patterson theatre/site. This project would be significant asset to the City. The current site detracts from the beauty of the waterfront, and the building is unpleasant and uncomfortable indoors and out. I understand the wish of current users of the site to be assured that their activities can continue; I believe that the Festival's and City's discussions with those users are in good faith and that potential plans to accommodate them are being identified.

I wholeheartedly support the proposal and urge you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 2:28 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project

When we moved to Stratford seven years ago , our prime reason for choosing this city was because of the Stratford Festival. As a frequent guest at the various Stratford theatres, I very much support the decision to replace the Tom Patterson theatre because the seating in the current theatre is not sufficiently comfortable or suitable. Furthermore, I support the decision to build a new Tom Patterson theatre in its current location by the Avon river. Our beautiful river is a prime tourist location in this city and for this reason, I think it is appropriate to continue to have this theatre located beside the river. The Stratford Festival is a world-class theatre company that draws countless visitors each year. I believe that we should be doing everything possible to continue to attract visitors to this great city. When talking with people that live in other parts of Ontario or Canada, Stratford is commonly perceived as a wonderful place to live. On many occasions, I have wondered, "Where would Stratford be without the Festival?" I am certain that it would not be as vibrant, as culturally interesting or as beautiful. Finally, as a homeowner, I am hopeful that if the Festival is allowed to expand and adapt as required, the value of our home will be maintained. For all of these reasons, I support the decision which will allow the Tom Patterson theatre project to move forward as planned.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-07-17 1:37 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre

Dear ladies and gentlemen

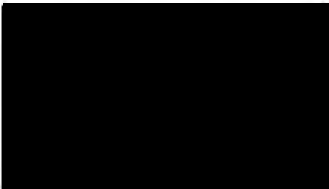
Eleven years ago, my wife and I retired to Stratford because of the beauty of the lakefront, the vibrant downtown and the world class theatre.

After studying the plans for the new Tom Patterson theatre, we are convinced that the new theatre will increase the beauty of the lakefront (for residents and tourists) and allow the festival to take their programming and associated events to a new level.

We have heard and understand your concerns as per the Lakeshore Seniors Association and the Lawn Bowling group. Your temporary plans are good. Your final plans are even better. Once the seniors are in their new premises, they will not even remember why they opposed such an obviously good thing. And don't forget, the Festival is prepared to accommodate them once the new theatre is complete.

Ultimately, the decision is yours to make, however, we will be very disappointed if you don't vote to go ahead with the project.

Remember, failure to move ahead is to move backwards. You can't stand still in life.



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 12:24 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: World Class Stratford and the Tom Patterson development

Dear Major Mathieson and the distinguished members of Stratford City Council,

I wanted to take the opportunity to express my support of the proposed redevelopment of the Tom Patterson theater.

- Stratford is world class city and the proposed Tom Patterson will ensure our status.
- The proposed design is spectacular.
- I am a small business owner of a software consulting company and I cannot the gravitas and distinction of being based in Stratford.
- If the festival does not grow (and embrace the digital age), there will be no future audience.
- I believe this is as important as the University of Waterloo campus in the evolution of our town and the Tom Patterson is a natural progression of our city's technological prowess.
- This will support and stimulate hundreds of small businesses, our downtown core and our hospitality sector, and as a consequence increase city tax revenues.

Thank you for your consideration. I sincerely hope that our City can become unified and behind this effort.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 1:21 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: The New Tom Patterson Theatre

I am a strong supporter of the proposal to re-build the Tom Patterson Theatre. I urge you to quickly support and approve the construction of the New Tom Patterson Theatre. The Stratford Festival is a vital economic engine for the well-being of our City. As such it is essential that the aging building of the Current Tom Patterson must be renewed. With the support of the Provincial and the expected support of the Federal government, plus the pledged support of several major donors, this is a clear win for the City.

We need your quick support and approval

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 2:06 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre project
Attachments: just dig it.jpg

Dear Joan Thomson,

As a resident of the beautiful City of Stratford, I want it known that I am in full support of the Tom Patterson Theatre project.

I want this project to go ahead, with no further delays.
The Stratford Festival is ready to go. Please do not hold up this project.

This is the future that I want for Stratford.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 9:55 AM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Reservations about the new TP theatre location

Dear Mr. Mathieson,

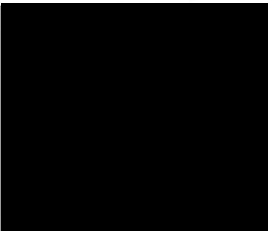
There is more, much more to Stratford than the theatre. Yes it is a key part. Yes it brings in revenue. Yes more businesses than just the theatre benefit from tourist dollars. Whilst I am in favour of a renovation project of the Tom Patterson theatre, I have found the plan and its execution to be high-handed, and dismissive of other groups currently on land coveted by the theatre.

I do not understand why the bowling group and the seniors' lakeside group need be swept aside in what appears to me to be a very cavalier manner, to make room for the new theatre. Much of what I have seen and been sent makes it appear that without the theatre, Stratford is nothing, and anyone opposing the new theatre is a stick in the mud and needs their head examining. I don't bowl; I don't belong to the active adults association; I oppose the plan as it is today; my head is just fine.

Certainly that area with the Tom P and the Kiwanis etc. is a little scruffy and could do with at minimum a spruce up, and better, a rebuild, but is it necessary to hog the waterside? To sweep all before them as though the only people with the rights to the river and lake are the theatre?

The plan needs to allow the seniors and the bowlers to remain where they are. Imagine the plaudits if these two groups were somehow folded into the new development. I for one can imagine going to a Shakespeare play, and walking out of the new theatre to see people playing the same game Francis Drake played whilst waiting for the Spanish invasion. A smart marketer could certainly do something with that!

In a nutshell, you and the council run the city, not the theatre board. Don't be pushed around or dazzled by dollars.



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 7:06 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: New TPT please!

Hello,

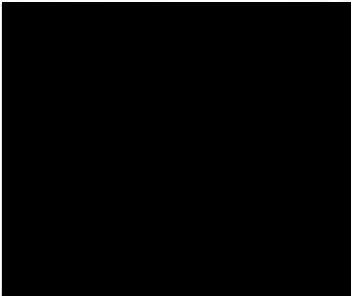
My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Stratford.

I wasn't born in Stratford but I have lived and worked in Stratford for 25 years. I will never live anywhere else as I love Stratford and always will.

I wanted to let you know that I am totally in favour of a beautiful new TPT theatre. Let's face it the old TPT building is ugly and aging and it's glory days are long gone. Please let it go so we can have a glorious new state of the art theatre in a stunning new building that will wow locals and visitors alike. My husband and I are close to being seniors so we understand that some seniors aren't happy and why but we are young enough that we aren't afraid of change and we embrace the dynamic and new TPT theatre vision and we think our city deserves this fantastic opportunity.

You can never make everyone happy but I believe that once the new TPT theatre is finished the majority of people will be thrilled and tourists will come flocking. I love Stratford and my hopes are high that in the very near future ground will be broken where the old TPT sits so we can be the proud city of the brand new state of the art TPT theatre. It's not hard to imagine that Mr. Tom Patterson would be thrilled for if it wasn't for his forward thinking we wouldn't have the Festival theatre at all.

Thanking you for your consideration,



Sent from my iPhone

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 4:29 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: TPT project

Sent from my iPad

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 6:48 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Subject: The New Tom Patterson Theatre

Dear Honourable Representative of Our Beautiful City,

I am writing you today to ask you to please do whatever you can to ensure we get everything in place, in a timely manner, to enable the New Tom Patterson Theatre to be built as soon as possible. So much work has already been done and now it is down to the wire. I understand the funding, worked so hard to achieve, is a time-sensitive ingredient for the success of this project. Please do not delay in throwing your full and vocal support behind this project that will bring so much to our city.

Thank you so much for all you do! Now let's make history!!

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]
Stratford resident and grade 3/4 teacher for AMDSB who regularly brings her students in from the country to see our world-renowned theatre festival as well as attends herself, of course, after dining out in our wonderful restaurants.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 11:04 AM
To: 'bbeatty@stratford.ca'; 'gbrown@stratford.ca'; 'gbunting@stratford.ca'; 'tclifford@stratford.ca'; 'bhenderson@stratford.ca'; 'dingram@stratford.ca'; 'fmark@stratford.ca'; 'kmcmanus@stratford.ca'; 'mritsma@stratford.ca'; 'kvassilakos@stratford.ca'
Cc: Joan Thomson
Subject: New Tom Patterson Theatre

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 10:03 AM

To: dmathieson@stratford.ca

Subject: New Tom Patterson theatre

Dear Dan,

As you know, [REDACTED] and I started coming to the Stratford Festival during his tenure as [REDACTED]. From 2009-2013, we had an incredible opportunity to sample the many wonders of Canada, and a great favorite was (and continues to be) the Festival...so much so, that I joined the [REDACTED] in 2014 and continue to serve on the board.

We return several times each year, and over the years have invited dozens of friends, American and Canadian, to join us. Most were new to the Festival, and some were returning after a long absence. Without exception, it has become a beloved tradition for each and every one. I promote the Festival broadly in Chicago and elsewhere, and I feel confident in promising potential patrons that the marvelous town of Stratford and the exceptional theatre at the Festival will make the not-easy journey well worth their time.

Here in Chicago, we have scores of wonderful theatres, large and small, including a spectacular and innovative new facility at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. I think that loyal theatre patrons seek, in addition to stellar productions, an exciting and beautiful venue. I have been looking forward to increasing my outreach efforts with the new Tom Patterson Theatre. I truly believe it will be a huge magnet for American patrons from traditional areas like Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Buffalo...but will also draw a vast new audience from around the U.S. and the world who will appreciate the glorious design and technical achievements of the new theatre.

A new Tom Patterson Theatre, as envisioned by our incredible design team, would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Stratford Festival. But it would also be an excellent opportunity for the town of Stratford to bring in new visitors from the U.S. and beyond, supporting local businesses and adding to the luster of an already-delightful town.

I urge you and the members of the City Council to approve this project.

Many thanks for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-08-17 5:39 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos
Cc: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project
Attachments: Tom Patterson Theatre.docx

To Mayor Mathieson and Stratford City Councillors:

Attached please find my thoughts on the critical state of affairs regarding the rebuild of the Tom Patterson Theatre, one that seriously threatens the future of the Stratford Festival and the economy of the entire South-West region of Ontario.

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]

To Mayor Dan Mathieson, City Councillors and CAO Rob Horne:

Having made a verbal presentation at the City of Stratford's Open House in support of the Tom Patterson project, I have since had a few other conversations that have made me even more concerned over what appears to be a breakdown of communication between the Stratford Festival and the City of Stratford.

I question WHY the (very successful) Open House sessions, gathering public input, were scheduled so late in this process, where the Festival now faces the potential loss of \$5 million dollars of the Province's commitment of \$20 million.

I then came across a social media thread where Councillor Bonnie Henderson states "It's up to them (Stratford Festival) to come to city council when they are ready, no different then any other developer or business". According to Executive Director Anita Gaffney, the Stratford Festival has had its detailed plan including an estimated land appraisal available for more than 6 months but are still awaiting the City's appraisal in order to move forward. The process has stalled.

Where is the spirit of Anita's father, Oliver Gaffney, owner of Gaffney Construction who embraced Tom Patterson's dream and had the courage to direct his crew to "pour the concrete" for footings for the theatre when, in the midst of a series of financial crises, the money had run out? Gaffney was a problem-solver, a practical man who found solution after solution to keep the project moving forward, without any certainty that he would ever be paid. The current process is mired in a municipal government bureaucracy that is in lockdown, one that threatens the future of the Stratford Festival and the region's economy.

I urge the City of Stratford to step up its game, to exhibit the inspired leadership needed for this most important project, at this most critical hour.

Stephanie Potter

From: Joan Thomson
Sent: October-05-17 11:58 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: FW: Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment

-----Original Message-----

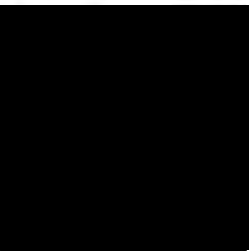
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:00 AM
To: Kerry McManus; Bonnie Henderson; Joan Thomson; Martin Ritsma; George Brown; Brad Beatty; Kathy Vassilakos; Tom Clifford; Frank Mark; Graham Bunting; Danielle Ingram; Dan Mathieson
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment

Good Morning,

I have been a resident of the City of Stratford for almost three years, having moved from Waterloo. Although my business is still located in Waterloo, I decided to move to Stratford due to the quality of life in this community. The Stratford Festival has attracted residents from around the world and has enabled the city to host myriad other cultural and culinary offerings. The vibrancy of this community has served to attract other important business sectors, including digital media, manufacturing, health care and institutions of higher learning.

Let there be no mistake, without a prosperous Stratford Festival, there would be very little reason for people or companies to come here. Unlike cities of a comparable size, such as Woodstock, Ontario, we are not blessed with major arterial access. The Stratford Festival is our trump card and should be nurtured and supported.

The proposed redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre is critical to the future prosperity of the entire city and ALL of its' residents. With both levels of government willing to invest \$40 million dollars towards this project, it is imperative that City Council not miss this Golden opportunity and vote in favour of this project, without delay.



Sent from my BlackBerry - the most secure mobile device - via the Rogers Network

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 9:51 AM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Danielle Ingram; Tom Clifford; Frank Mark; Graham Bunting; Bonnie Henderson; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre project
Attachments: PastedGraphic-2.pdf

Dean Mr. Mathieson,

As a young artist growing up I aspired to someday being a part of the Stratford Festival. As a young artist training in theatre arts I would spend my hard earned pennies on tickets to shows at Stratford. Why? Because the Stratford Festival is world renown for it's pursuit of excellence. I longed to be a part of an artistic company that strove to be the best. To not only entertain, but to inspire, to encourage and uplift.

I will be frank. I wouldn't have come to Stratford if it were not for the Festival. I came because your beautiful city is home to artistic expression. And now after a season of finally making my dream come true, I have a deeper more meaningful relationship with this beautiful place, and therefore, i have become an ambassador.

I spread the news of Stratford's commitment to art and artists, to educating youth and giving them opportunities, especially the First Nations students who arrived in Stratford as part of the Dare Arts project. I have heralded my ability to ride my bike for miles, how people say hi to me while I am walking down the street and how quick your council was to address the issue of racism when the word "savage" was written on the Indigena sign.

I want to continue being that champion by shouting to the world that a new theatre facility will be born. That the health and safety of the workers, from actors to technicians, are being considered as the old building becomes problematic. I will be sure to mention to everyone I know that this new Tom Patterson, in honour of a man who did so much for the vision of theatre in Canada and chose Stratford as the place to build that vision, will be a meeting place, a hub for artists and community to work in tandem and above all where the reach for excellence can not only continue but to grown.

On a smaller scale there have been these kinds of successes. The Theatre Centre in Toronto for example. In an area of town where the community worried about the impact of an artist centre bringing undesirable behaviour, that community has now championed the vision. It's a safe, vibrant addition to the community. A place where people of all ages and abilities come together. They must be doing something right, having just been nominated for an Premiers Award for Excellence in the Arts.

I look forward to returning to the festival as an artist at some point. More over I look forward to attending shows at the new facility. A theatre that has it's roots firmly established in the same location for decades. Where the presence of the water, the swans, the trees are all apart of it's magnificance. And I make a commitment to you that I will be an ambassador to your fair city in honour of your commitment to the building of the new Tom Patterson Theatre.

New ventures are risky no doubt. But if Tom Patterson had not risked all he had to build his vision for Stratford in the first place we would never have had the opportunity to experience the plethora of incredible memories, experiences, riches and grown that his vision has afforded us all.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:47 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Project
Attachments: TPT Letter.docx

Honourable Mayor and City Council
Attached is letter of my support of new Tom Patterson Project

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Re: Tom Patterson Theatre Project

October 4, 2017

I live in Stratford and to be completely open I have been working at the Stratford Festival Theatre for 26 years, working as a [REDACTED] and the last 15 years as [REDACTED]

I get to work behind the scenes so to speak I get to see how the current Tom Paterson backstage area is not well suited for the production company; I get the calls when the plumbing leaks or the drains get backed up or when the AC or heating does not work. I know the AC is fairly new but it's totally inadequate.

(Again last evening a cracked old cast iron drain pipe leaked under the ladies dressing room floor and collapsed the ceiling of the Lawn Bowling club house space setting off fire alarms etc.)

Last week Backstage AC unit leaked through to the Men's dressing room ceiling.

This kind of thing happens more often than most people know; we just don't call the city every time we just fix it ourselves to get it done quickly "the show must go on"

The building infrastructure is in poor shape.

I look at the Tom Patterson Project as a long term investment both for the Festival but more so for the City of Stratford. I believe if any business is not growing it is doomed to fail. I thank the Festival Board Members past and present that they have always looked to improve our Theatre spaces with past renovations and now the New Tom Patterson Theatre Project.

I also believe that the timing is right, the government funding is available (may as well have my provincial and federal tax dollars being spent in Stafford instead of Toronto or Vancouver) with no real cost to the Stratford citizens.

Regarding the SLAAA the New City Hub would be ideal and I hope this can happen soon.

I see this as only a WIN WIN for the City of Stratford.

I ask you to please support this project

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:40 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre
Attachments: Tom Patterson Theatre.docx

Please see attached letter with regard to the Tom Patterson Theatre project.

[REDACTED]

October 4, 2017

To: Mayor Dan Mathieson and members of Stratford City Council

Re: Tom Patterson Theatre project

We have been residents of Stratford for 14 years. We moved here from Toronto because it is a lovely, lively city of culture. We would not live in a town this size except for this one – because of its cultural base.

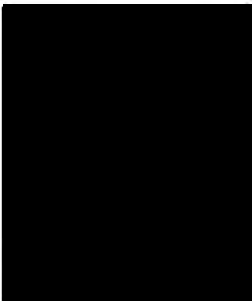
The basis of that culture is, of course, the Stratford Festival. It is the backbone of this city, established to save Stratford from economic ruin. And while, happily, there has been a diversification of business and industry over the past years to enhance its economic vitality, it is the Stratford Festival that is the draw for residents and visitors.

We fully support the Festival's plan for a new Tom Patterson Theatre. We also support the choice of location for the theatre, which has been beautifully designed by the Canadian architect, Siamak Hariri. It is important that all four theatres be located in the city core, convenient to restaurants and shops. Many visitors attend two performances per day in different theatres ; the inconvenience of going to a theatre on the "outskirts," as has been suggested by some residents, is not inconsiderable.

While we are senior citizens, we think the Lakeside Seniors Centre can be located in any part of the city, as long as there is public transportation to the location. The lawn bowling club, attractive as it is, could also be located elsewhere.

We strongly support the Stratford Festival's plans for a new Tom Patterson Theatre and the ensuing revitalization of the area. We urge you, the government of this city, to do the same.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-06-17 1:51 PM
To: bbeaty@startford.ca; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre

I have been a supporter of the Stratford Festival for years – donating & attending with enjoyment. However I am concerned about the new Tom Patterson Theatre. It does not seem to fit in with the architecture of “quaint Stratford”. We have prided ourselves on the beautiful heritage buildings like city hall, the country court house, and the look of our downtown. This mammoth modern edifice (looking like something Donald Trump would build) on the most precious property in the city will distract not only from the atmosphere we have maintained, but will take away from the nature and peacefulness of our parklands. It should be built out by the Festival Inn or the Rotary Complex where it will fit in with that architecture.

The Festival has said it needs to “be by the water” to compete. Really? It isn’t our world-class theatre, with famous actors, directors, amazing sets and costumes that people are coming here for? It’s to see water as patrons walk from their cars to the lobby?

On the other hand, if the Festival is planning to sell food “on the water,” that would be an unfair advantage over the wonderful assortment of restaurants we already have. The Festival has its mandate for drama – it should not expand into another industry and ruin jobs for wait staff, cooks, managers already established but not in a prime location. We had a one-industry town before – do we want the Festival to monopolize our town?

In exchange for the present Active Adults Community Centre, we have been given a promise of the Cooper Site to build a “hub.” With the downloading of responsibilities from the province, all cities are having trouble meeting their financial obligations. For Stratford to apply for a grant to clean up the Cooper Site, we will be competing with many other cities with legitimate needs. The Festival will have been given \$40,000,000 of taxpayers’ money for the theatre. Is it really believable that the city will be given more money to prepare for and build a “hub” when other cities need help with affordable housing, food security, etc.?

The Festival should not be allowed to destroy the Active Adults Centre until we have assurances of what will be available, both in locations and money for Stratford residents.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 2:31 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson project

Good afternoon:

As a Stratford citizen, I'd like to make my voice heard in favour of the Tom Patterson Theatre Project. The city can only benefit from this project, which will provide much-needed improvements to this theatre and will raise the profile of an already thriving theatre community. Stratford currently boasts 3 beautiful theatres. The Tom Patterson Theatre currently presents to theatregoers as an afterthought - a makeshift venue. Capitalizing on the river location and improving facilities and overall aesthetics will bring the Tom Patterson Theatre in line with what guests to Stratford have come to expect in terms of their theatregoing and tourist experience.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 5:00 PM
To: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project Support

Attention City Councillors,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I wanted to reach out to all of you personally and share my support for the Tom Patterson Theatre Project.

I'm so excited to be working for the Festival during this pivotal time of growth. I have recounted the history of the Festival and told the story of Tom Patterson and his vision to Tour Operators and Group Leaders throughout North America. So many of which are surprised and delighted to find this theatre and tourism gem in the middle of rural Ontario.

It's amazing to think we are on the verge of a new theatre that will bring in additional attendance estimated at 52,000 people and \$14 million into our region.

I can imagine a day 60 odd years from now when this is a chapter in the story of the success of Stratford and the Stratford Festival.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Stratford Festival

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519.271.4040 x 2262

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Stephanie Potter

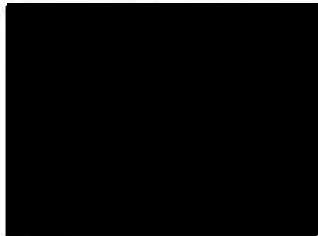
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 9:34 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project

I would like to make my husband's and my feelings known to each of you regarding the Tom Patterson Theatre project. My husband and I were both at the Open House meetings last week and it seemed apparent that the majority of Stratford citizens feel the same as we do. Please give your approval and let's get this project underway.

We believe that more than not, of Stratford citizens are indeed in favour of this project. This vision can only boost our city's economy and improve our community and town.

We cannot understand why you would drag your heels and prevent the Festival from receiving the full \$20 million dollars. You have known about this project; this was not a surprise or a new idea that you just heard of. So get on with it... and do your part in making our city even more desirable.

Warm Regards,



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 11:08 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: We support a new Tom Patterson Theatre

I would like to confirm the support of my husband and I for a new Tom Patterson Theatre as proposed by the Stratford Festival.

Please give them the go-ahead ASAP so they don't lose valuable funding.

We think the new theatre will be a real asset to Stratford.

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 12:12 AM
To: Brad Beatty; Graham Bunting; Danielle Ingram; Joan Thomson; Dan Mathieson; George Brown; Tom Clifford; Kerry McManus; Kathy Vassilakos; Bonnie Henderson; Martin Ritsma; Frank Mark
Subject: Tom Patterson Redevelopment Project

Dear Mayor Mathieson and Councillors,

I am writing today in support for the Tom Patterson Redevelopment Project. I have been a Stage Manager with the Festival for 20 years and much of my career was spent at the TPT.

It is essential that the safety and structure of the building is addressed at this time which is why I am writing today to show my full support of the Festival's plan for redevelopment. The design of the new building, encapsulating the waterfront and the gardens, will truly add to everyone's experience when they visit Stratford and I know it will highlight our city as progressive and compassionate in our thinking as well as practical and innovative in our planning.

I have been a resident of Stratford for 18 years, and an employee at the Stratford Festival since 1997. When I decided in 1999 to move to Stratford, it was not only because of my employment, but I had fallen in love with the city and what it has to offer. Today, I am very proud to be raising my two children in this incredible community, where they can feel safe yet adventurous as they grow. I feel that the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre will only add to their experience, growing up in a city that has a vision for the future.

Thank you very much,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:43 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson; [REDACTED]
Subject: We support the new Tom Patterson project for an even better Stratford for all

The honourable Mayor,
All councillors

My family highly recommends the new building project for the Stratford Festival.
Tom Patterson had great foresight and that is one of the reasons Stratford is such a great place, not only to live in, but for the entire Country to visit.

Please allow the Festival to bring more work, more tourists to this town.
Please allow this project as it will also provide parkland for all the residents of Stratford, whether they attend the theatre or not.
It will bring in money for everyone and ensure a future for all families.

It is unfortunate that the bowling lawn will take a few years to build another, however a few short years for such a great project for the town, surely is a small thing to ask.
I do believe the Festival has already stated they will look after the seniors concerned.

Please pass the permits for this to continue to make stratford the best place in the world to live in, a place for our children's future.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 3:26 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Supporting the new Patterson Theatre vision

Mayor Dan and fellow councillors, [REDACTED] and I totally support the theatre's new Patterson Theatre initiative. This is a world class theatre group that we have in our city and we as business owners and citizens want this project to move forward. We look for your support in making this happen. Cheers. [REDACTED]

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Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-06-17 12:29 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theater Project

Dear Mayor Matheson and Members of City Council:

My name is [REDACTED] I live in the Avondale neighbourhood.

I took an executive position in Waterloo two years ago precisely so that my young family could live in Stratford. We came here, in part because of the Festival, but mainly because we thought this city would be the best place in Canada to raise our children. And we have not been disappointed.

What we see in Stratford is a community of people who are unusually civic-minded, who value education and culture, who are innovative in spirit but respectful of tradition, who take pride in their common stewardship of a shared architectural and floricultural legacy, and who interact with each other in an usually genteel manner. As an outsider who has lived in three comparable cities, I can see how unique this community is; and I cannot help but conclude that most of its strengths are either directly or indirectly a product of the game-changing decision in the 1950s to launch the Stratford Festival. Through the values it prioritizes and the people it attracts, the Festival has quietly, but steadily, put its stamp on the civic culture of this town.

That's why I think it's so important to support the ongoing development of the Festival, and the Tom Patterson Theater project in particular. The old theater obviously has to be replaced sometime soon. There's external money for a new one and the design for it is breathtaking. And in true Stratford character, it is not simply a specific solution to a particular problem; it is a legacy project that dramatically enhances a major stretch of our community's beloved lakefront. We all win from that.

I understand that the TPT proposal requires the displacement of two valued community groups. Regrettably, innovation often entails some degree of dislocation. I was struck at the community meeting last week by the genuine solicitude of Mr. Cimolino and Ms. Gaffney for the concerns of those stakeholders and by the generosity of their proposal for accommodation. And it was another testament to the character of the community that a number of those who would be negatively impacted by the project expressed support for it.

Mr. Mayor, and Members of Council, I look to you for leadership on this issue. In any of the other communities where I have lived, City Council would have moved heaven and earth to facilitate the progress of an externally-funded \$60 million cultural infrastructure project. Please help us find the workarounds and compromises that are needed to make the TPT project happen!

Thank you.



London Health Sciences Centre

To: Mayor Mathieson and Councillors, City of Stratford

October 10, 2017

Re: The New Tom Patterson Theatre Project

This letter is being written to express my very strong support for proceeding with the plans for the new Tom Patterson Theatre Centre. Although I work in London, I am now a Stratford homeowner, taxpayer and voter -- entirely because of the Stratford Festival.

The Festival is an incredible cultural institution and all Canadians - particularly those from Stratford! - should be very proud of it. The range of works presented on its four stages is incredible and the majority of the amenities that make the City of Stratford what it is today would simply not exist if it were not for the Festival. It shouldn't be necessary to have to point out the huge volume of economic activity directly attributable to the Festival - local hotels, B&Bs, restaurants, shops etc - but incredibly, there are apparently people living in this city who are either unaware of or choose to ignore this.

The Tom Patterson Theatre needs to be replaced. The reasons for this are well known and have been clearly outlined. There are people who will be inconvenienced by construction of the new centre and this is certainly unfortunate, but most of these people seem to recognize the great need to proceed with this important project. As you know, many meetings and consultations have been held to develop both short and long term solutions to accommodate the needs of the members of both the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association and the Lawn bowling Club, and the Festival has committed to work closely with the city administration to support these organizations.

The design for the new theatre centre is breathtakingly beautiful - both the building itself and the gardens in which it will sit. It will be a splendid and much needed new facility for the Festival and a new major attraction to Stratford. As you know, the terms of the 20 million dollar grant from the provincial government require that the first 5 million dollars be spent by the end of March 2018. It is an important project for the Festival and a fabulous bonus for the city -- we need to get going on it !

Sincerely,



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 11:25 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: tpt

We bought a home here in Stratford in 2001 because of my love of the Stratford Festival. I hope that you also love it and want to see it grow and attract additional patrons. I have enjoyed many shows at the Tom Patterson Theatre but have absolutely hated the uncomfortable seats and the lack of amenities there which are available at the other theatres. I hope that you will support this project which I feel will enhance Stratford.

[REDACTED]
A Place Somewhere B&B
196 William Street
Stratford, ON N5A 4Y3
(519)273-2157
somewhere@dsemail.com

"Give me your hands if we be friends." Shakespeare

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Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:28 AM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: My Support for Tom Patterson Project

I wish to voice my support for the Stratford Festival's proposal for the Tom Patterson Project. I believe that this initiative will bring positive benefits to the city. I also believe that together with the festival, city councillors will be able to both approve the project and address the concerns of my fellow citizens. I think that with a creative, innovative and problem-solving approach, the project can proceed and solutions to concerns raised by citizens can be found.

Please vote in favour of this proposed project.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 3:13 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Please support the new Tom Patterson Theatre

> Dear Mayor Mathieson & Members of the Stratford City Council:
> I am writing to solicit your support in making the dream of a new Tom
> Patterson Theatre on the banks of the Avon River a reality. Most of
> you will be familiar with the short film The Stratford Adventure which
> was made by the National Film Board to document the founding of the
> Stratford Festival. Although there are appearances by Tyrone Guthrie,
> Tanya Moiseiwitsch and actors from the original 1953 Company, much of
> the film centres on Tom Patterson's quest to bring economic recovery
> to his hometown after the departure of the CNR shops. In one scene he
> appears before City Council to ask for a grant of \$100 to finance a trip to New
> York City to consult about creating a Shakespear festival. There is a
> footnote to that story which I first heard at Tom Patterson's Memorial
> in the Festival Theatre in 2005. One of the speakers was Wilfred P.
> Gregory who had been on Council when Tom came to them for help.
> Although a very elderly man, Mr. Gregory proudly mounted the steps of
> the Festival stage to recount what was obviously a precious memory.
> As Council discussed whether or not to grant the money, Mr. Gregory
> spoke up. "My wife and I went to New York for a weekend last month. One hundred dollars is not
> enough; we need to give him a hundred and twenty-five." Again, the
> Festival is asking for your help. We need the trust and support of
> City Council to create an even better Festival. We need the kind of
> trust and support that Council once gave to Tom Patterson. He did not
> let his hometown down & neither will our current administration.
> I first came to Stratford to work in stage management at the Festival
> in
> 1977 and this is my thirty-sixth season. We bought our first home here
> in
> 1991 and moved here permanently in 1997. Stratford is our home and we
> plan to stay for the rest of our lives. We want what is best for our
> town and for the Stratford Festival and we believe that the two are connected.
> Thank you for your consideration.
> Sincerely,

> [REDACTED]

> ---

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 5:02 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Support for the Tom Patterson Theatre Project

As a new Stratford resident, I am writing to express my support for the Tom Patterson Theatre Project. I believe it will further enrich this exciting city and will serve to draw new visitors to this place.

As a new resident and young family who is hoping to build her future here in Stratford, it is exactly this kind of project - along with the Cooper site revitalization - that allow me to imagine building my life here, and an exciting and rich life here for my children.

I would encourage you to move forward on this project and to make a decision quickly, as time is of the essence with regard to provincial support.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 12:45 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson

To the members of Stratford City council,

My husband and I have lived in Stratford for over 20 years. We were drawn to live here because we wanted to be in a small town but also wanted the dynamism and diversity of a larger centre. Stratford has the best of both. A high quality of life, a friendly and supportive community and a vibrant cultural life that extends well beyond the Festival. I am so grateful for the visionaries who saw that investing in a theatre festival would profoundly benefit the city both economically and culturally. The presence of the Festival has allowed us to stay and work here, has enriched our cultural lives and has influenced our son to pursue a career in theatre production.

But it's not enough to just rest on our laurels. We need vision again, especially at a time when the Arts seem to be at the bottom of everyone's list. There comes a time to grow both physically and in purpose. The quality of theatre at the Festival is exceptionally high these days and the Stratford Festival has demonstrated leadership and innovation in outreach and education among other areas. I am confident that an investment in the new theatre will result in a long-term increase in revenue for the city, increased opportunities for businesses and an even richer theatre experience for the community and for the world. I also anticipate it will allow more of our young people to stay in the community instead of having to go elsewhere for jobs.

Please don't squander this opportunity. Think big and far. To some it may feel like circuses when they can barely scrape by. But you have the opportunity to transform the community, leaving a legacy for so many people. 50 years from now the citizens of Stratford will be expressing their gratitude that you were fearless in planning for the future.

With best wishes and thanks to the City Council for their hard work.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 2:08 PM
To: Brad Beatty
Cc: George Brown
Subject: Re: Tom Patterson Theatre

Quoting [REDACTED]

> Oct. 10, 2017
>
> Your Worship, Dan
> I would like to express my support for timely progress in the renewing
> of the Tom Patterson Theatre. My wife, [REDACTED] and I live
> right behind the current theatre at [REDACTED] and will be amongst
> those most affected by the "breaking of a few eggs to make [this]
> omelette", but lets do it and get on with it.
> We treasure the peace and aesthetic beauty of the Stratford Lawn
> Bowling grounds and their grounds keeper spoke at the open forum with
> moving heartbreak about the loss of a season with the changes so we
> would like to support expediting their relocation as a priority.
> This sinuous new building design evokes the great designs of Frank
> Gehry, (Bilboa Museum, for example), and would be a sculptured
> presence of light, glass, and movement that would, in itself, draw
> people to Stratford from afar.
> There is a legacy of vision and inclusion in Stratford and we remember
> those visionaries.
> Much credit goes to those who have shown the foresight, courage,
> evident sensitivity, to get US [sic] this far. Let us all hope that
> those with decision making responsibility will take up the torch so
> that we may all look back and apply those same assessments to our
> current political/administrative leadership.
>
> Yours in trust,
[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 4:16 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson; Graham Bunting
Subject: new Tom Patterson Theatre

Dear Mayor Mathieson and City Council, my husband [REDACTED] and I are in full support of the proposed rebuild of the Tom Patterson Theatre in the chosen location and according to the beautiful design presented. We believe that this is a necessary rebuild in order for the Festival and Stratford to continue to be a world-class cultural venue for both Canadians and our American visitors. We feel that the considerations made by the Festival Board regarding the SLAAA, the Kiwanis Centre, and the Lawn Bowling Club are quite satisfactory and even an improvement for those organizations in the long run. We urge you to approve this project quickly in order that the plans for funding, demolition and reconstruction can move forward in a timely manner. Thank you very much.

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-06-17 4:46 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson; Stratford Festival
Subject: TOM PATTERSON THEATRE

Having grown up in Stratford, we experienced the excitement of the birth of the Festival and were old enough to appreciate what it meant for the economy of Stratford at a time when the outlook was bleak. As teenagers, we were able to take advantage of summer employment as well as the excitement that came with the magic of live theatre. After decades of living in a metropolis, we retired to Stratford, lured by the cultural aspects of the city within the context of a small community.

Unfortunately, over the years we have seen the Stratford Festival take over the city. It seems that whatever demands the Festival makes, the city is compliant. It would appear that the city administration is concerned for the most part in making Stratford more attractive for the tourists. Those of us live here all year round have to cope with huge potholes in our streets, climbing over snowbanks to put money in the parking meters, the inconvenient relocation of the buses and observing how little has been done to address the rental housing problem, both for low-income earners and seniors. The concrete puddle behind City Hall is one example of wasted resources.

What has spurred us on to write to you is the looming prospect of the new Tom Patterson Theatre. The architect may be world renowned but what he has devised in no way blends in with the bucolic riverside. It looks like a casino, more at home in Vegas or Reno. Even more upsetting is the fact the the lawn bowling facility and the Kiwanis Centre will likely be history. Certainly the Tom Patterson needs updating but why could it not have been done to incorporate the Kiwanis Centre and the bowling lawn? Exiling the seniors on a temporary basis to the Rotary Complex is a bad move. Why should the seniors have to give up the central, convenient riverside location which most of them enjoy as they attend their interest groups? The building of a complex at the so-called Hub is not likely to take place until they are all dead and gone. Council has been dithering over that cite for decades and still it remains in limbo. Why not put the Patterson there and let the citizens enjoy the riverside as Thomas Orr once wisely made possible. Theatre goers could still come down and enjoy the river as well.

The last time we met Tom Patterson, not too long before his death, he lamented that the Festival had gone from being a big family to big business. That is inevitable with growth and success but we think that Tom would be horrified to see that the behemoth being proposed for the city he loved would bear his name.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 9:22 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project

I am writing to show my support for the expansion of the Tom Patterson Theatre. I think it will be a great asset for this city.

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 4:24 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: TPT

Dear City Council,

I have submitted the following thoughts to the City website regarding the Proposal for the Tom Patterson Theatre. However, as I have received an e-mail from the theatre urging me to contact all of you, I felt that in order to balance the view you are hearing from both sides, I would send it to each of you. Please be aware that their ability to garner vocal support far outstrips the local population who do not have a contact list.

Having been to the Festival's presentation, and the Public Input meeting this week something became clear to me. The Festival embarked on this plan with no consideration of the community, or worse yet, of the people with whom they shared their current building. Now that they have received a backlash from local people, they are offering vague reassurances and asking for our "help" to get their theatre going. The audience last night was heavily skewed in favour of the theatre. Many of the people who talked had a direct connection to it. Towards the end there were numerous calls for City Council to "hurry up" and make this happen. I would urge City Council not to feel pressured, and to take their time to make the right decision for the whole community. If that means that the Festival has to change their timeline, then so be it. They are the ones who made assumptions and got funding before they consulted the community. Over the past years, the Festival has enlarged its services in ways that are financially helpful to them, but not to the community. The Festival's Toronto bus encourages visitors to come, see the show, and leave. They don't spend time or money in our downtown. The taking over of the Kiwanis food booth will mean that patrons to the new TPT will have no need to visit our restaurants either, and all of that revenue will go to the theatre, not the community. Most B & B owners have seen a large decline in business over the last few seasons.

The offer of space for a community centre seemed generous, and a willingness to work together at first. But as the meeting wore on it became clear that it was a vague "contingency" plan that had no timelines, and would cost the city millions if it ever happened. I find it ironic that we would be allowing them to destroy a perfectly functional community centre, and then we have to pay to replace it. There really is no desire on their part to compromise. There seems to be a desire to placate and hope that in 10 years we will have accepted our losses. I am sure the tourists do enjoy being on the river, but so do we locals, and we are being pushed out of it completely.

I understand that Council has a dream of the Hub, and that this is the great solution. In all honesty, that site has been a drag on this city for too many years, and this is not the first great dream for it. Please don't let the theatre take so much from us with a very vague carrot being waved as the answer. At best it will be 3-5 years before there is a functional building, what happens to all the community events and groups in that time? The seniors will be pushed out to the Agriplex, and the Lawn Bowling maybe to the golf course. What about the Winterfest breakfast? The courses, and committees that use that space? Youth events like Battle of the Bands and dances? Why are we rushing this? They created this problem, and now the community is being told to accept it. But we don't have to accept their timeline. Please, make sure you take all the time you need to answer all the questions we have in order to make this decision less hurtful and divisive for the city.

Thank you for listening,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 7:14 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos
Cc: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre

We moved to Stratford because of the Stratford Festival, both because of the Festival itself and the vibrancy the Festival brings to the downtown core. A new and exciting venue for Tom Patterson fans would add to what Stratford has to offer. As we mentioned in other documents we wrote during the city council open house, if we wanted to live in a city with no core and Walmart on the outskirts we would have moved to Sarnia or Woodstock!

While we understand that there are organizations that will be inconvenienced and must be relocated, their needs should not supersede the continued growth of the entire community. And if we are not moving forward by definition we're going backwards because our competition is moving ahead.

We fully expect that the current city council will continue to forge ahead on the trail blazed so successfully by its predecessors and immediately approve the new Theatre. It would be unforgivable to allow the \$40 million to be spent to advance some other community.

If you would wish to discuss we can be reached at the above email address or @ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 12:07 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Danielle Ingram; Martin Ritsma; Joan Thomson; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Kathy Vassilakos
Subject: Tom Patterson Project

Please support the Tom Patterson Theatre project as currently proposed by the Stratford Festival Theatre. The renewal is of great importance to the theatre and the community for several reasons.

I would also like to thank you for moving forward with the Market Square, it has greatly enhanced the city centre. Please continue with every effort to develop the community hub so that all citizens will have great access to each site within the city.

Again, please see this note as a strong affirmation for the renewal of the Tom Patterson Theatre as proposed by the Stratford Festival Theatre.

Sincerely,
Stratford resident,

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 7:06 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Fw: Tom Patterson Project

Subject: Tom Patterson Project

Please distribute the following to the Mayor and all Councillors.

After attending the Tuesday evening meeting, re the TPT project, where the Festival had supporters "planted" in the audience, I felt I had to write a letter to voice some support for the SLAAA and the Lawn Bowling Club.

In the 1950's, the citizens came together to support the Shakespearean Festival by opening their homes and by providing meals in church basements. These people are to-days Seniors! What are we asking them to do -- move out of their centre and make the Farmers' Market and Burnside Agriplex their temporary dwelling. If the Hub is their eventual destination, they will be in these temporary facilities for many years. Isn't this going to be a cosy and friendly environment for them???? Actually we, as a society, should be embarrassed to treat our Seniors this way! Everyone has passions - some to the theatre, some to lawn bowling or others to activities in SLAAA. Is any one group more important than the other?

Indirectly, this project will cost the city tax dollars because we will have to pay for the new Seniors' Centre. If you think Stratford will get grants from the governments, after receiving \$20 million plus for the theatre, think again! I have never known a project that didn't go over budget. I hope the city will refrain from handing over any money to the Festival for this project.

Isn't it a sad day when we send our Seniors to an unsuitable environment while the Festival builds their larger than necessary glass "castle" on our park land.

I am not against the Festival rebuilding the Tom Patterson{ but it could be a much smaller and less modern building) but I'm very concerned about the treatment of our seniors.

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 3:30 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Fwd: TPT PROJECT

Please distribute to the Mayor and all councillors

From: [REDACTED]
Date: October 5, 2017 12:56:36 PM EDT
Subject: TPT PROJECT

In regard to the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre project -

Over the years, I have been a supporter of the Stratford Festival and I certainly acknowledge all the positive things the theatre has done for Stratford.

However, I cannot support their latest venture for the following reasons.

1. Taking on such debt for a new building when the money from governments is just "promised" is very risky. I understand that they are not filling their existing theatres to even a 50% capacity for the majority of their productions which could impact their bottom line at year end.
2. The ultra modern design of glass does not enhance the Lakeside Drive venue.
3. The "high handed" way the Festival has approached this project bothers me as well. They are not considering the needs and wants of the citizens of our city .
It seems to be all about what they want and they seem to lack empathy for the groups that will be displaced by their project - eg" the Kiwanis Centre and the Lawn Bowling Club.
4. With the current debt our city is carrying, we shouldn't be incurring more debt to build a new Seniors' Complex when the present site is sufficient for their needs.

I can understand the need to improve the old Casino building but do not know why they could not build a new theatre on the existing footprint. I understand the Kiwanis Centre is a separate building so there would be no need to displace either the Seniors or the Bowling Club. The cost would be far less than the proposed 60 million to the Festival and there would be no tax burden on the citizens to build a new facility.

I can only hope that the City Council will put the needs of the citizens before the wants of the Festival.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 10:49 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Martin Ritsma; Kerry McManus; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Thoughts on the TPT redevelopment proposal

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I wanted to take a moment to voice my support for the Stratford Festival's proposed Tom Patterson redevelopment project. As a relatively new member to the community (residing in Stratford for the last 3 years) I hope that I have an unbiased view of the development plans. I am a Business and Geography teacher which I think provides me a unique insight of the impacts and effects that business growth and city development can have on a community. I would like to share some of the most valuable reasons that I believe in this project.

Firstly, the economic impact that the Festival provides is vital to the city as you are aware. However, the heightened impact that the new project will create is of even greater significance, the temporary jobs and influx of spending during construction as well as the permanent new jobs created will provide greater wealth potential for citizens and funnel new money into our small businesses. Secondly, I believe that the many other great uses of the current TPT are very important to the community and that this loss would be significant and represents a problem to be solved for those community members. However, if the building is in disrepair, which one performance of any production will allow anyone to believe is the case, than the building may not be fit for any uses in the very near future. Would the community response be the same if a health inspector deemed the property unfit and unsafe? My guess is no. If the Festival were to construct at a new site, what would happen to the TPT in the event of it being declared unsafe? Will it fall into disrepair and eventually be abandoned or will the community members then look to the city or someone else to intervene and save their space?

I believe that the Festival is looking towards the future and is considering what is in the best interested of itself and the community who utilize the space by proposing a project that would see it reconstructed. The reconstruction of the TPT will bring in further monies to our community as well as prevent the property from falling in to disrepair and abandonment. Thank you for your time and consideration of my perspective on the proposed TPT project.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 11:31 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Feedback On the Tom Patterson Redevelopment Project

Hello,

I submitted feedback on the city's website but my screen froze for some reason and I wasn't sure if it got through. So I thought I'd email you just in case.

Thank you.

Re: The Tom Patterson Redevelopment Project

To Stratford City Council,

Hello and thank you for your efforts in this process,

I have lived and worked in Stratford for five years now. I work as an actor at the Stratford Festival and I am also a teaching artist that goes into schools to lead activities focused on drama, shakespeare, acting, mask making and other theatre based subjects.

As a newer resident of this town, I want to put my full support behind the Stratford Festival's proposal of a redeveloped Tom Patterson Theatre. The current facility needs to be upgraded. The building is showing it's age.

I urge city council to approve the Tom Patterson plans so the Festival can start construction as soon as possible.

From its beginning, the Stratford Festival brought the attention of the world to this town. Since then, the festival has continually created excellent theatre and the town of Stratford has increased the visitor's experience with fantastic restaurants, unique shops, and a beautiful relaxing atmosphere. I love living here!

It's the duty of the staff, crew and artists that work at the Festival to continue our theatre's legacy and provide outstanding theatrical experiences to those who walk through the theatre's doors. The Tom Patterson Theatre needs to be upgraded so that we can do that. The world class quality theatre we strive to create needs to match a world class theatre facility.

The new plans are exactly what a world class theatre looks like. It houses a state of the art theatre and stage while maintaining the intimacy of the current theatrical space. It also gives space in the lobby for other events that will complement the theatre going experience.

One of the most important things theatre can do is get people talking about ideas together. And I am very excited to think about how the spaces in the lobby of the new theatre can provide more opportunities for not only conversations to be had but Forum events like lectures, panel discussions, readings, and debates.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 3:49 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; bbeatty@stratford.cabrad; George Brown; gbunting@stratford.catom; Bonnie Henderson; Frank Mark; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson; Tom Clifford; Danielle Ingram; Kerry McManus
Subject: Proposed redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatrs

I am sending this email to urge the City Council to support the Stratford Festival in the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson theatre. This theatre is vital to the ongoing success of the festival and integral to our community. I feel that with this development it can create a catalyst for not only the ongoing growth and excellence of the Stratford Festival but also for our city to move forward with the planning of the future community centre as part of the Cooper site redevelopment.

Rarely to big projects like this come fully packaged with a solution for all the issues BUT from what I see, to make a decision in favour of this project now. I also have confidence that we can work as a community to address the remaining outstanding issues. I also believe that there is an environment NOW for funding of the project at the provincial and federal levels. I would hate to miss this opportunity.

So again I urge you to make a decision to support the Stratford Festival in its proposal to redevelop the Tom Patterson theatre NOW. With this crucial decision made we can then get on with working on finalizing the other plans that need to be done to support this wonderful opportunity for the redevelopment our Tom Patterson theatre.

--

Stephanie Potter

From: Anita Gaffney <agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca>
Sent: September-27-17 6:34 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: FW: Please present to proceedings.

Stephanie. Can you make sure this note is directed to the City's website? Marc sent this to me last night and I didn't feel right sharing it with the group.

Thanks, Anita

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 6:54 PM
To: Anita Gaffney <agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca>
Subject: Please present to proceedings.

26 September 2017

To whom it may concern, and To address the Issue of the Proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre Venue

...
Stratford is a living entity.

It evolves.

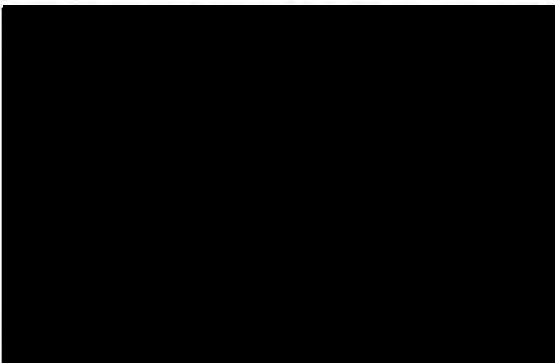
It makes way for new opportunities without begrudging its past.

Tom Patterson was a visionary, as were those on City Council back in the early fifties when they granted him \$150 to take his idea to New York. And look where we are now!

As Founding Chair of the Stratford Tourism Alliance, and Immediate Past President of Regional Tourism Organization #4, I can tell you that our single most important strength is our diversity coupled with our strength of purpose. We are much more than the individual needs and wants of those who feel threatened by change. To them, and to the entire community, *I say embrace change and move forward in a positive vision.*

Imagine Stratford without the Theatre. And more importantly, imagine the Theatre without Stratford. People opened their doors to strangers when the theatre first opened, welcoming them to Stratford, and we are still doing that, 65 years later. We had the very real possibility of becoming another very small, secondary town within Ontario, but instead chose to pursue a future where we are now one of the world's most respected and appreciated communities. We are thoroughly engaged with the Arts, Industry, Tourism, Agriculture, and a collective energy that benefits all!

The Tom Patterson theatre project is not about eliminating what we have, but expanding on what we still must offer. To accept the status quo goes against all our values, and it is these values that make Stratford what it is today.



Stephanie Potter

From: Naeem Khan
Sent: October-06-17 3:09 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: FW: Website Feedback

FYI. Received this from website feedback.

Naeem

1. Name

[REDACTED]

2. Email Address

[REDACTED]

3. Subject

tom patterson

4. Page or URL

[No Answer Entered]

5. Comments

We believe that the new Tom Patterson on the river would be fantastic and do nothing but good for Stratford as a city. We truly hope that it goes through as quickly as possible.

Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: September-25-17 7:29 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Fwd: Re: Stratford Lawn Bowling Club

Hello. Forwarding all the public comments to you. We'll figure it out in terms of consolidation. See you soon.

Sent from VMware Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sep 24, 2017 12:36 PM
Subject: Re: Stratford Lawn Bowling Club
To: [REDACTED], Rob Horne <RHorne@stratford.ca>, [REDACTED]
Cc:

Mr. Horne, Chief Administrator Officer:

As a fellow lawn bowler for 40 years the importance of the sport for participants from age 9 to 90 is great for health and social contacts. My wife and I along with other Exeter bowlers have bowled at the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club for many years. It would be a shame if this venue was taken away before a replacement green was built.

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: September-25-17 7:31 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Fwd: Stratford lawn bowling club closure.

Sent from VMware Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sep 24, 2017 1:14 PM
Subject: Stratford lawn bowling club closure.
To: Rob Horne <RHorne@stratford.ca>
Cc: agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca

Hi Mr. Horne & Ms. Gaffney;

It has been brought to the attention of the lawn bowling community that our friends in Stratford are about to lose their magnificent facility down by the river to the new Tom Patterson theatre and gardens. As a former resident of Stratford and still having my entire family living in your beautiful city, I as everyone realize the wonderful benefits the festival has bestowed on the city. So we have a dilemma, we know there will be progressive moves required to further enhance the overall festival experience for the many visitors to the city but it should not be at the expense of some of your longest term residents who have contributed to the tax base for most of their lives. The majority of the members at the club are seniors, many of them long term members who work hard each year to maintain the membership for the love of the sport, this is a sport that many seniors can partake in and enjoy without doing themselves physical damage. I do not believe that the city council nor the executive of the festival would choose to turf this club out of their present facility without a seamless transfer to a new location, don't these seniors and the other members deserve at least this, I believe they do. It was mentioned that delaying the closure of the club by a year could possibly give the city enough time to find a new location for the club and prepare it for opening season 2019. The executive and members of a very fine lawn bowling club are at your mercy, please try to come up with a plan that will be fair to all involved, we on the outside will be watching for a positive conclusion, we know it can be done and we thank-you in advance for our friends in Stratford as you work to gain this desired outcome.

With concern and respect for all involved, I remain;

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: September-25-17 7:31 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Fwd: Stratford Lawn Bowling Club

Sent from VMware Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sep 24, 2017 3:47 PM
Subject: Stratford Lawn Bowling Club
To: Rob Horne <RHorne@stratford.ca>, "David St. Louis"
<DSt.Louis@stratford.ca>, agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca
Cc: [REDACTED]

Mr Horne, Mr St. Louis, Ms Gaffney,

My name is [REDACTED] I belong to the Grand Cove Lawn Bowling Club in Grand Bend Ontario.

I was shocked and disappointed when I heard about the plans to remove the Stratford Lawn Bowling Greens and build a new theatre, here we have a club that has promoted the town of Stratford since 1898 by bowlers and there spouses coming to Stratford to play and shop. I know when a group of bowlers from our club would play at Stratford the no bowling spouses would come along so they could shop and have lunch and enjoy the town of Stratford. Why take something away from a group of people who enjoy this sport in favour of the arts when you already have a theatre for those people who enjoy the arts? To remove these Lawn Bowling Greens would be a big loss not just to Stratford but also to the towns and cities in this area .

I wish the members of Stratford Lawn Bowling Club all the best in there efforts to keep this old and noble club alive .

Yours Truly
[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: September-25-17 7:31 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Fwd: The Stratford Lawn Bowling Club

Sent from VMware Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sep 24, 2017 8:55 PM
Subject: The Stratford Lawn Bowling Club
To: Rob Horne <RHorne@stratford.ca>,"David St. Louis"
<DSt.Louis@stratford.ca>,agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca
Cc:

We have competed at the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club several times. It is a first class facility with greens to match. The Club has been a part of Stratford for over 100 years and we both feel that it should be treated with more respect than this.

All parties involved should be able to co-operate and work a deal that is a win-win for everyone concerned.

It should start with the town looking for possible re-location of the club.

Please do work together in finding answers that accommodate all.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Chesley Lawn Bowling Club

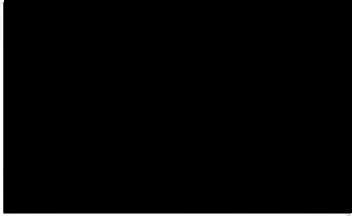
Ontario Lawn Bowls Association
www.olba.ca

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 9:09 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Project

I am in favour.

I feel it is necessary to lodge my position as the negatives tend to yell louder.



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 12:21 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Graham Bunting; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Support for the TPT Re-Development Project

Dear Mr. Mayor, Councillors and Ms City Clerk:

Support for the TPT Re-Development Project

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my voice in support of the Tom Patterson Theatre renewal project. I am a relatively new member of the Stratford Community as well as a new Permanent Resident of Canada. I would not have come to the city if it had not been for the Festival, of which I am an employee, but that being said, if I was not an employee, I would be proud to remain a resident: this is an extraordinary place and the truest home I have ever known. Nowhere have I ever been welcomed so warmly; nowhere has ever felt so right for me. This is why I am talking the liberty of writing this letter: quite simply I care deeply about the town where I live.

I know that in every discussion, there are (at least) two sides. I know that members of the Lawn Bowling Club have concerns about the TPT redevelopment and that the Kiwanis and the SLAAA also have understandable worries and questions that need answers. However, I do think that the impact on the city of not taking the step of allowing the renewal of the TPT within the Festival's planned timeline would be potentially disastrous for the community, both economically and in terms of the quality of life. Without the revenue that the theatre brings in directly and indirectly, one of the local economy's main sources will be badly affected, impacting on the support that the city can in turn offer these groups. The vitality of the city will be profoundly affected and local businesses will suffer.

I know that the timeframe for discussions on the TPT have been affected by other issues, in particular the intention to look at the removal of the SLAAA activity locations to alternative sites and in particular, the possible redevelopment of the Cooper site as a Hub. However, I do not believe that these two separate questions need to be or indeed *should* be linked. With the alternative temporary relocation plans that have already been aired, enough planning has been done to allow the two questions to be uncoupled. The urgency of the question of the TPT's future is great: even a small time lag in allowing the start of the work will potentially lose significant pre-allocated Provincial funding; the economy of the town would suffer badly from having to have the TPT dark for two seasons and I cannot guess at the time it would take for the losses to be clawed back.

I would therefore ask that a) the TPT project be approved swiftly and b) that this decision be separated from the discussion of the future of the Cooper site.

Many thanks for your attention.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 3:36 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson

Thank you for entertaining community feedback about the importance of the Tom Patterson Renewal Project. I want to urge you to do every last thing possible to encourage and accommodate this 60 million dollar gift of economic stimulus to the city of Stratford.

The rewards are far reaching, and the solutions to the issues surrounding this development are relatively easy to put in place.

Stratford is a great place to visit and an even better place to live — in large part because of courageous leadership that brought outstanding resources, citizens and tourists to our unique town. Let's keep the ball rolling and show the rest of the country what a willing and able small city can accomplish!

There are exciting times ahead, let's not miss them!

Thank you for your time,

Yours,

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 12:07 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson theatre project

Dear Ms. Thomson,

I would like to add my voice to the large chorus of Stratford residents who want to see council approve the Tom Patterson theatre project immediately.

This theatre would become a treasure of our community, and a beacon drawing visitors from across North America. Stratford and the Stratford Festival are intertwined; the success of one is the success of the other. It seems to me (and indeed to many visitors I have spoken with this summer) a “no-brainer” that the project should move forward without delay.

The Festival has offered reasonable compromise and accommodation for all of the objections that have been raised. It’s shameful that the project now risks the loss of five million dollars in provincial funds.

And for what it’s worth, I believe most of us who will one day be seniors in this community will indeed prefer the hub location for a senior’s centre with ready access to fitness and a pool to the current model. The baby-boomer generation are already showing us in their early senior years that fitness is a key component of healthy aging.

Let’s get on with it.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 10:19 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Danielle Ingram; Bonnie Henderson; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Centre

Build it! Build it! Build it!

Tom Patterson's Book was the inspiration for our decision to move to Stratford.

His spirit and adventurous nature is the backbone of this city.

The design for the new centre is so considerate of the area and will be a new jewel in the years to come, for the next generations.

Thank you.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 9:21 AM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Vote yes

I have sent this email to all of my local elected representatives:

Please vote in favour of the Tom Patterson theatre proposal.



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 1:53 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; gbonting@stratfore.ca; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: New Patterson Theater

My wife and I lived for many years in mining camps throughout Canada and worldwide.

When deciding on a place to live, we looked at communities throughout Canada.

We finally narrowed it down to Southern Ontario.

I like to golf and my wife appreciates the arts.

Stratford has all the things we like with a beautiful community thrown in for good measure.

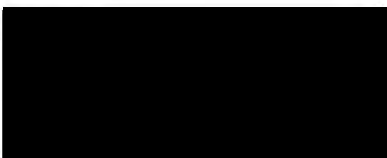
We became volunteers at the theater, met many new friends and learned to appreciate how lucky we are to be part world class live theater.

As one of the Information desk volunteers, i continue to be amazed that 1800 persons arrive every performance from away to this relatively small community.

The Tom Patterson theater building has reached its end of life. It has to be replaced. Its an integral part of the four venues.

The proposed lakefront setting design will enhance the city's attraction to visitors even more than our first impressions 25 years ago.

Don't screw it up!



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 2:42 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre

I have reviewed the open house deck and the letter from the Stratford Festival from September 25-26th. I strongly support the development and vision of the new Tom Patterson Theatre (TPT). I really appreciate the communication and work the Festival has done to allow for the SLAAA to be part of the building, if they choose not to be relocated to the Agriplex. The lawn bowling club although it has been there for over 100 years does not seem to have the patronage to justify its current location, considering the area and lakeside frontage it takes up.

Increasing patronage to the Festival benefits all in this community.

The development of the TPT should not be dependent on development of the Community Hub (Grand Trunk/Cooper Site). I do not believe we should wait for the Community Hub (Grant Trunk/Cooper site) plan to be developed. I do not see how the two projects are interdependent except for the fact that the City would like to move forward on the Community Hub (which is a much more controversial and in the end will have a direct impact of cost to Stratford tax payer). Now that the Festival has made accommodations for the SLAAA, it has allowed for community use of the building throughout the year, and this will provide the residences of the community the ability to use the site and stay in the core/parkland. I also see the benefit for the Festival since in the future they will be able to use the community space for other uses if/when the Community Hub is developed.

I have been employed in Stratford for the past 16 years in a field not related to the festival or tourism industry. I have lived in Stratford for the past 9 years and bought property 3 years ago. Recently my sister moved to Stratford with her husband and two children from Toronto, they moved here to escape the "big city" and Stratford appealed to them because of what life in Stratford brings: theatre, restaurants, vibrant downtown core, community, good schools, affordable property.

Proceeding with the TPT will help to ensure this City and Theatre remain desirable to residents and tourists.

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 2:30 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; Graham Bunting; Bonnie Henderson; Frank Mark; Martin Ritsma; Joan Thomson
Subject: Support for the Patterson Theatre development

Please be advised that although we are not residents of Stratford, we are frequent visitors and believe that the Patterson Theatre development will simply add ongoing excellence and attractiveness to Stratford. Regards,
[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 4:49 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Re: Tom Patterson
Attachments: Tom Paterson Theatre.odt


Please see my attached document for the support of the new Tom Patterson Theatre

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Tom Patterson Theatre:

To: Mayor and Council of the City of Stratford

From: 

Refurbishing the Tom Patterson Theatre is important to the City of Stratford, the Province of Ontario and Canada.

Antoni Cimolino and Anita Gaffney are correct in saying that if the Tom Paterson Theatre is not refurbished and elevated to standards of international excellence, Canada could lose a very important position on the international cultural scene.

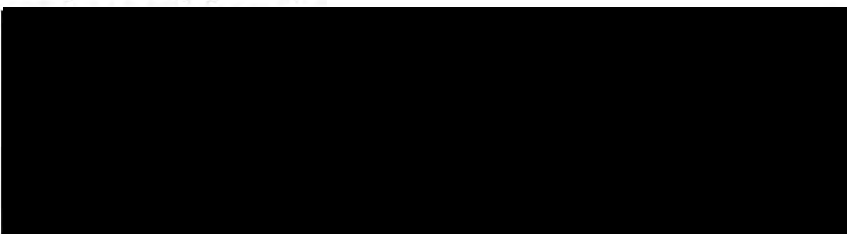
Chicago, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, and Atlanta are all currently planning to upgrade their theatre facilities. These cities know that this one of the best ways to stimulate economic growth. These up-graded facilities may also further undermine Stratford's competitive cultural edge.

In addition a business's decision about where to locate their operations, is often influenced by such factors as the availability of a creative workforce and the quality of life for its employees. For instance, the University of Waterloo located in Stratford because of the interface between the Theatre and the University's Digital Media Program..

In closing, if Stratford wants to emulate the economic planning strategy of the cities mentioned above, it should support the Theatre's opportunity to access the Provincial and Federal Capital Funding that is available at the moment. There is a Provincial election in the near future, as we all know. This constellation of financial support is unlikely to happen again in the near future.

Please consider the development/expansion of the Tom Patterson Theatre site.

Respectfully yours,



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 7:29 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project

My wife, [REDACTED] and I moved to Stratford 10 years ago from the United States. I first attended the Festival in 1963 on a school trip and introduced my future wife to this wonderful place on a date before we were married. We both fell in love with Stratford because of the Festival and the things about the City for which the Festival is largely responsible. The restaurants, the downtown merchants, the parkland and, of course the theatres. As we approached retirement we made the decision to move to Canada in order to be a part of the City of Stratford and all that it has to offer.

To my knowledge, two decisions have been turning points in the history of Stratford. The first was the referendum in the early part of the last century to deny the CN railroad its request to put tracks along the riverfront. The second turning point was the decision by City Council and the community to support Tom Patterson's idea of establishing a Shakespeare Festival in this small city in Southwestern Ontario. If either of these turning points had turned the other way this would be a very different, and I suspect, not nearly as magical a place.

I believe that we may have reached another of those turning points. The Festival is currently healthy, but competition for the public's entertainment dollar is increasing apace. Chicago has just built what I understand is a marvellous new theatre. More theatre is available in Michigan and New York as well as in Ontario and the rest of Canada. The Festival must continue to give the public exciting reasons to make the effort to come here. The new Tom Patterson Theatre will be a destination in and of itself.

It is my understanding that the Festival has gone to great lengths working to accommodate the interests which would be temporarily inconvenienced by construction and relocation. The City's plan for a Community Hub sounds wonderful and, hopefully, will proceed as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, the Festival is offering Stratford a wonderful gift which will help to insure the health of the Festival and the City of Stratford.

I urge you to expedite any approvals necessary for the Festival to begin work on the new Tom Patterson Theatre and the surrounding grounds and gardens as expeditiously as possible.

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Potter

From: MacLeods Scottish Shop <info@scottishshop.com>
Sent: October-04-17 1:57 PM
To: Stratford Festival; Sarah Hamza
Cc: Brad Beatty; Dan Mathieson; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson; Rob Horne; [REDACTED] CCBIA
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre letter of support
Attachments: TPT_support_ltr-17.doc; TPT_support_ltr-17.pdf

Please see attached document. Have a great day!

Cheers,

Rob

MacLeods Scottish Shop
80 Ontario Street
Stratford, ON
N5A 3H2
1-888-771-0302
www.scottishshop.com



Antoni Cimolino
Artistic Director
Anita Gaffney
Executive Director
Stratford Festival of Canada
55 Queen Street
Stratford, ON
N5A 4M9

October 4, 2017

Dear Antoni and Anita,

The Stratford City Centre Business Improvement Area would like to lend its voice to the many that have spoken up in favour of the proposed Tom Patterson Theatre revitalization project. There is no doubt among our Board of Directors that this project will have significant and long-lasting positive economic impacts throughout our nearly 400 strong membership, and the entire City of Stratford.

The competition for consumer dollars in the travel and entertainment sectors has never been stronger, which means now is the time to take bold and adventurous steps like this one to maintain and grow the incredible successes we have all enjoyed from the Stratford Festival over the years.

We sincerely hope that all the necessary requirements of support and funding fall into place, so that our community can realize this amazing project, and benefit from it for many years to come.

Sincerely,
Rob Russell
Chair, Board of Directors
Stratford City Centre Business Improvement Area

RR/cp

CC: Mayor Dan Mathieson and Stratford City Council
Joan Thomson, City Clerk
Rob Horne, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Stratford

Stratford City Centre
47 Downie Street, Stratford, Ontario N5A 1W7
519-273-2461 info@stratfordcitycentre.ca

Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: October-04-17 2:29 PM
To: Stephanie Potter; Mike Beitz
Subject: FW: Tom Patterson Theatre letter of support
Attachments: TPT_support_ltr-17.doc; TPT_support_ltr-17.pdf



Rob Horne, MA, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Stratford
P.O. Box 818
Stratford, ON N5A 6W1
Delivery address: 1 Wellington St., N5A 2L3
Phone: (519) 271-0250 Ext. 233
Email: rhorne@stratford.ca
Web: www.stratfordcanada.ca

Note: Please update your contacts with my current email address as written above. Thank you.

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Please consider your environmental responsibility before printing this e-mail.

From: MacLeods Scottish Shop [<mailto:info@scottishshop.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 1:57 PM
To: Stratford Festival; [REDACTED]
Cc: Brad Beatty; Dan Mathieson; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson; Rob Horne; Christina CCBIA
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre letter of support

Please see attached document. Have a great day!

Cheers,

Rob

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80 Ontario Street
Stratford, ON
N5A 3H2
1-888-771-0302
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Antoni Cimolino
Artistic Director
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55 Queen Street
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N5A 4M9

October 4, 2017

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Sincerely,
Rob Russell
Chair, Board of Directors
Stratford City Centre Business Improvement Area

RR/cp

CC: Mayor Dan Mathieson and Stratford City Council
Joan Thomson, City Clerk
Rob Horne, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Stratford

Stratford City Centre
47 Downie Street, Stratford, Ontario N5A 1W7
519-273-2461 info@stratfordcitycentre.ca

City of Stratford Mayor and Councillors

October 2, 2017

Dear Mayor and Councillors

I attended the open house session last Tuesday regarding the Festival's proposal for a new Tom Patterson Theatre & am fully supportive of it going ahead. I attend the productions at the Tom Patterson every season and do feel that the present structure is unsafe. I often wonder what would happen if there was a fire as it is so difficult to manoeuvre in those aisles. I think the proposed building is beautiful and hope that the City will give its approval as soon as possible.

I am also a member of the SLAAA and am hearing a lot of complaints about the fact that we will be removed from the Kiwanis Community Centre if the Theatre goes ahead. Apparently we will be temporarily housed at the Stratford Agriplex until the City of Stratford can develop the Hub that is in initial planning & discussion at this time. As a citizen of Stratford for some time now I recognize how long it takes for such a proposal to be realized and like other members of the SLAAA don't think many of us will still be active enough or even still alive by the time the Hub is available to us. I know that the Festival has included a space in their plan for the SLAAA & other groups that use the Kiwanis Centre and I really believe that the City should give the Festival approval to go ahead with this plan. While this space would still leave out the lawn bowlers at least it would make most of the other SLAAA citizens of Stratford feel that they still belonged in the beautiful parkland along the lake instead of it being designated exclusively for tourists. I really hope you will take our concerns seriously as I believe a lot of the anger that is being expressed by SLAAA members would dissipate if we were included in the Tom Patterson Theatre Plan.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

**Presentation Prepared for the
Stratford Festival/City of Stratford Town Hall Meetings
Tuesday, September 26 at the Stratford Rotary Complex**

1. Thank you to the Mayor and Councillors.
2. Thank you for allowing my presentation.
3. My name is [REDACTED] and I am a 10-year resident of Stratford.
4. I have been coming to Stratford for 30 years prior to moving here. Staying in B&Bs, enjoying the growing number of restaurants and, of course, many plays at all theatres thus contributing to the city's economy.
5. As a senior, very active in the community, I am well aware of the Kiwanis Centre and the excellent programs that are held there. However, the building and the Tom Patterson Theatre, which have served the community well for many years, are quite inadequate in today's world.
6. In the 1950's Tom Patterson and other forward looking Stratford citizens had a vision of what could be achieved with an annual Shakespeare Festival and how, ultimately, the City and its citizens, whether directly or indirectly, would benefit.
7. The proposed building includes not only a theatre but areas for community use and, like the Festival Theatre, the new building would give Stratford an enviable reputation of being in the forefront of excellence.
8. It is understandable that all of us who use those buildings would not enjoy the disruption that would be inevitable, however, it has been stated many times, both in the press and at meetings, that every possible consideration will be given to whichever temporary place or places the Kiwanis programs move to. *
9. I ask everyone to appreciate what an amazing opportunity Stratford has to move into the 21st century with this beautiful building and all the economic benefits it will bring and to think of the younger generation for whom this will be a legacy.

* As seniors, we have experienced many changes in our lives and we should embrace this one: *Keep Calm and Carry On*

Stephanie Potter

From: Jeremy Wreford <jeremy@bradshawscanada.com>
Sent: October-10-17 5:12 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; mcmanus@stratford.ca; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson; Rob Horne
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre proposal

Mayor Mathieson and Stratford City Council-

Carrie and I wanted to write you to express our enthusiastic support for the Tom Patterson Theatre proposal. We have attended three presentations on the project to date, and think that Mr. Hariri, Mr. Cimolino, and Ms. Gaffney have made a compelling case for the development. Architecturally, the building is spectacular; they have more than succeeded in creating a showpiece building that is considerate of the site, the surrounding river and park system, arena and adjacent homes.

In terms of theatre, some of the most memorable plays we have seen have been staged at the Tom Patterson. It is an vital part of the Stratford Festival Theatre, with each stage accommodating its unique type of production. However there are problems with the seating and amenities in the building, all which have been addressed in the proposal.

Without making light of the objections raised by the various concerned groups, considering the scope of the project they seem relatively minor. Solutions exist and any problems can be fairly easily overcome, and the long term benefit for the city far outweighs any negative impact. Similar to the Market Square project, people are often skeptical and slow to accept change, and yet we now have an incredible space that has already been put to good use, and will undoubtedly accomplish its goal of revitalizing the area that surrounds it.

As you know better than I, this is a unique time in Stratford's history: with the availability of the space on the Cooper Site and its architecturally significant structure, combined with the Tom Patterson proposal and access to funding from various levels of government, all of the pieces of the puzzle are coming together. The next five years could be some of the most exciting in Stratford's history, with positive development that will benefit the city for generations.

Respectfully,
Jeremy and Carrie Wreford
Bradshaws



Bradshaws & Kitchen Detail

Jeremy and Carrie Wreford, Proprietors
129 Ontario Street
Stratford Ontario
Canada
N5A 7V4
Phone: 519-271-6283
Toll Free: 1-844-271-6281
Fax: 519-271-8784

Bradshaws is proud to be a family-run Canadian business since 1895.

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And, check out our other store:

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www.small-mart.ca

@Small_MartGM

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 9:05 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: FW: Tom Patterson Theatre Project – Your support is urgently needed!

Dear City Council,

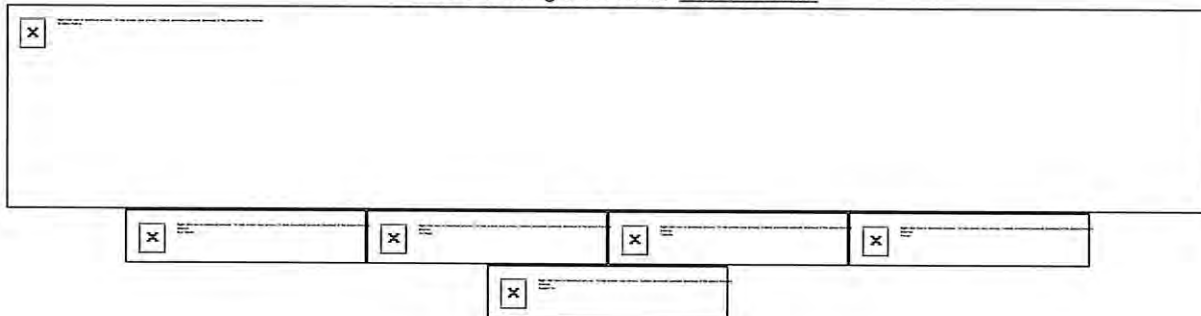
After attending the information meeting on Sept. 26th, my husband and I would like to express our full support for the proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Project. While we understand there are individuals and groups who will be negatively impacted by the proposed project, we were both tremendously impressed by the planning that the Festival has done to mitigate the impacts. We are also impressed by the steps the City has done to ensure the public is informed and has the chance to provide input. On the whole, our personal assessment is that this project is a wonderful opportunity for our City and that the interests of the people directly impacted can be reasonably addressed. We sincerely hope that City Council decides to fully support the Festival in the leadership and foresight it is showing in redeveloping this important site for the future benefit of all Stratford residents.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Stratford Festival [mailto:guestservices@stratfordfestival.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 8:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project – Your support is urgently needed!

Trouble viewing this email? [Read it online](#)



Once again, please accept our warmest thanks for your support of the Stratford Festival and your belief in the importance of what we do. We're writing today to remind you that a make-or-break deadline is approaching. **October 10** is the last day for written submissions to City Council regarding our proposed Tom Patterson Theatre project.

You may have already made your feelings known at last week's open-house sessions or on social media, or through other avenues, and for that we thank you. But for this project to go ahead, it is vital that you also take this opportunity to express your support directly to the

City.

We believe the great majority of Stratford citizens are in favour of an initiative that will beautify our city, boost its economy and enhance its renown as a community of vision, imagination and cultural richness. Certainly, some have expressed concerns – just as some did in those pioneering days when the Festival was first proposed – but while we take those concerns to heart and are pursuing every avenue to address them, we believe that failure to seize this historic opportunity would be a tragic mistake.

Naturally (and laudably), City Council is trying to gauge public opinion before committing itself to a course of action. But this moment is crucial. Without Council's approval, the project cannot proceed – and if its commencement is further delayed, we will lose \$5 million of the \$20 million that has been pledged by our provincial government.

So if you believe in our transformative vision for the Tom Patterson Theatre, please express that belief by every means possible. In particular, **before the deadline of October 10**, please share your views with Mayor Dan Mathieson and the members of Stratford City Council by emailing the list below. It is vital that our elected officials know what kind of

Antoni Cimolino
Artistic Director

future you
want for
Stratford.
Anita Gaffney
Executive Director

CITY OF STRATFORD EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Mayor

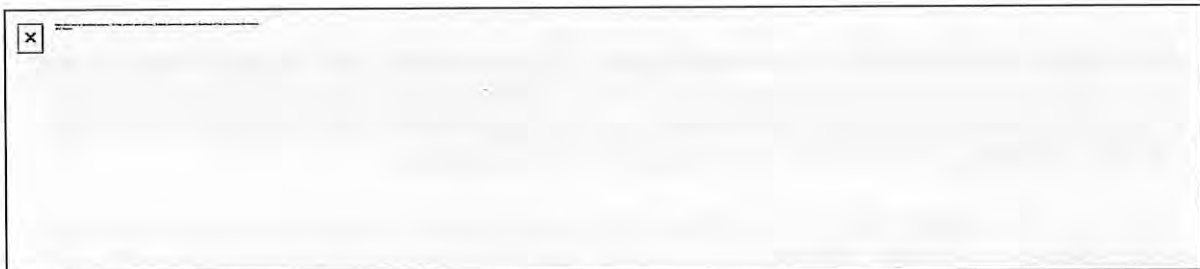
Dan Mathieson — dmathieson@stratford.ca

Councillors

Brad Beatty — bbeatty@stratford.ca
George Brown — gbrown@stratford.ca
Graham Bunting — gbunting@stratford.ca
Tom Clifford — tclifford@stratford.ca
Bonnie Henderson — bhenderson@stratford.ca
Danielle Ingram — digram@stratford.ca
Frank Mark — fmark@stratford.ca
Kerry McManus — kmcmanus@stratford.ca
Martin Ritsma — mritsma@stratford.ca
Kathy Vassilakos — kvassilakos@stratford.ca

City Clerk

Joan Thomson — jthomson@stratford.ca



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 12:11 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Joan Thomson; Kerry McManus; Kathy Vassilakos; Martin Ritsma; Tom Clifford
Subject: Fwd: TPT

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: October 10, 2017 at 9:44:03 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED]

Let me throw my full support behind the

Tom Patterson theatre rebuild!

What a glorious building this will be and I predict it will earn some notoriety and perhaps even design awards. We need to be competitive in today's entertainment market as we know how much easier it is to switch on Netflix!

It is also imperative we draw patrons to our city from places which may be an hour and a half away to six hours away and for some a flight away. And when they arrive in Stratford they are rewarded with the lake, swans, parkland and smog free air. They have an abundance of excellent restaurants to choose from. They are greeted by friendly downtown merchants. And the tax dollars that they drop into our city coffers is a bloodline for the vitality of Stratford.

We also try to draw them to Stratford by presenting on our Festival stages the very best artists working on the very best of plays. The current Tom Patterson theatre is not up to Festival standards. Colm Feore. Geraint WynDavies. Seana McKenna. These actors deserve better ~

For the patrons arriving for a Tom Patterson theatre experience at the Cooper site this will not be the preferred experience. This design deserves better than that. It needs to shine proudly on Lake Victoria where patrons will spill out onto the shoreline and walk the magnificent gardens planned for the rebuild.

I know we can do this as a community. This city deserves this. Please vote to sell the Festival the waterfront land.



Sent from my iPhone

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 5:02 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre

Dear Council Members:

Please include these comments among those submitted to Council with respect to redevelopment and renewal of the Tom Patterson Theatre.

I attended the first session of the open house on the Patterson Theatre proposal and Community Hub on the Cooper site.

1. The consultation was very well attended. Support for the Patterson renewal plan, i.e. the Stratford Festival's proposal, was substantial and clear, based on numerous oral interventions and the spontaneous applause these positive comments elicited.
2. There was also widespread sympathy for the impact of closure of the Patterson facility on current users, specifically the SLAAA, Kiwanis Club and Lawn bowling Club. It was also clear that there are reasonable proposals brought forward by both the Festival and the City to address those impacts. I am a member of the SLAAA and a Kiwanis supporter. I accept that renewal of the Patterson site will cause me disruption and change in my habits. But I also believe the renewal is worth more than my personal inconvenience.
3. It was clear to me as well that the Festival's plans were well researched and its funding proposals clear and tangible. However, the City's proposals for the Hub were quite vague and speculative. The Hub concept, while very interesting, is nowhere near any kind of focus. Funding remains entirely a matter of guess work and hope; and what I found rather disturbing, there was no mention at all of how much of the Hub cost local taxpayers will assume, even if partial funding from senior levels of government came through. Bottom line: Council is a long way from realizing anything for the Hub anytime soon, and given Council's track record, more likely years. City Council is clearly still in the "dream phase" for the Hub whereas the Festival's plans are "shovel ready". It makes absolutely no sense for Council to pursue a strategy of speculating about how many birds it might find in the bush when they have one in its hand.
4. The Stratford Festival's project would generate a tremendous burst of investment and employment, not to speak of positive publicity for this city. It is also undeniable that this investment would foster long term economic benefits to the community, and secure the Festival and the city's worldwide reputation as Canada's foremost live theatre and performing arts centre.
5. The Community would also benefit from beautification of the Patterson site: 8,100 sq.ft of garden vs. the 6,000 sq.ft. of asphalt that we have now. I also believe that, while the lawn bowling facility is charming and historic, we have the opportunity to create a huge garden not just to benefit a self-selected few but for the general public. There are options available for the city to offer another site to the lawnbowlers if the economics make sense for both the city and the club members.
6. The Festival has lined up Funding for its plans from major contributors, a great majority of whom live outside of the city. Hundreds, possibly thousands of people who believe in the Festival have agreed to put up huge resources to show

their affection and support for our city. And they do so without seeking anything in return. The Federal and provincial governments believe that the Festival's vision merits support because of the national and province-wide benefits that will emerge from this investment.

7. These same supporters (and national media) would find it shocking if City Council wanted to delay this investment or attach conditions unrelated to the proposal in hand. The worst reason Council could offer would be because the City wanted more money for some other, vaguely formed project with much narrower benefits. I find the idea that we should delay taking \$60 million in government and donor funding for what's regarded as a national project until we receive \$30 million more for something for local citizens the height of selfishness. Provincial and federal funding for Patterson renewal is drawn from an arts and culture infrastructure budget item; funding for development such as the Hub is drawn from a very different budget. Trying the "game" or juggle access to both funding streams at the same time for different projects is irresponsible. Gambling something in hand for a chance at more from another spin of the wheel of fortune is a sucker bet. If Council chooses that route they've obviously been watching too many game shows to be entrusted with managing the public purse!

8. The Tom Patterson Theatre complex is at the end of its structural life. The increased frequency of deadly weather events, including in our immediate area, means that danger lurks ahead with old structures which continue to be used for large scale public events. It would be the height of folly to turn down Funding to replace the Patterson Theatre when it was laid in your lap. I for one cannot support any decision which does not act to address the risks of structural damage from age, longterm use or catastrophic weather event at the current facility in order to gamble on money being available sometime, somewhere, from somebody in the future. If the funding available now is not taken up, Council and all ratepayers in this city must accept that Community resources, that is the taxpayers here, will be stuck with the cost of replacement of the Patterson property. Furthermore, Council must accept the financial risk of major liabilities, including reputational costs, which might follow - god forbid - from catastrophic collapse of the current structure while it was in use by seniors or visitors.

9. The public consultation made it abundantly clear that the Festival leadership, its hundreds of employees, and the thousands of supporters living in Stratford are all committed to this community. Council must reject arguments against the Patterson renewal based on latent resentments and caricatures of 'Theatre people'. Council should also beware of those whose principal objection to Patterson renewal seems rooted in "but what about me?"

10. My wife and I have lived here for five years. We are new residents who have retired to this community and have invested in its real estate market, restaurants, small businesses, professional services, public celebrations, charities and non-profits. We are constantly encouraging friends elsewhere to look at settling here and committing themselves to this city. We tell all that the community is strong, friendly and forward-looking, in no small measure because of the contribution that the Stratford Festival makes, not just to the economy but to the quality of life here. We are living in a small town in Ontario which has a global reputation, first and foremost because of the Festival. Sixty-five years ago, the city showed foresight by gambling on a vision of a community that celebrated its natural assets, welcomed change, and constantly invested in its future. We are at another crossroads today just like the city faced in 1952.

11. Council has a duty to consider all of the facts for renewal of the Patterson facility. Yes there are uncertainties around proceeding but waiting for every question to be answered and every alternative scenario or outcome to be identified and addressed is folly. As Chief Justice McLaughlin noted in her comments at the Avon Theatre Oct. 1, sound decisions are taken based on the facts before you, without being distracted by 'if only...' and 'maybe if we...' or wishing for different facts. Leadership means deciding, not postponing tough decisions in the hope that they'll somehow become easier later. The Festival's Tom Patterson renewal proposal is clearly in the interests of the community as a whole. It constitutes an extraordinary investment in the economic wellbeing of Stratford which will pay off immediately and for generations to come.

12. Council really has no other choice here but to say yes and simply get on with it.

Thank you for your attention.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-11-17 9:50 AM
To: Bonnie Henderson
Cc: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Re: Renewal of Tom Patterson Theatre Site

Hello Ms. Henderson, You probably will not like my response, given respectfully, as follows:

Thank you for your prompt response to my email, primarily representing the interest of 900 residents you cited who question the Tom Patterson project. Personally, I have always been fiscally focused and mindful of the "power of the dollar" for the good of the entire community. On this point alone, allow me to understand how a major contributor to our economic security and stability (for 32,000 residents), via strong real estate, countless businesses - restaurants, B&B, hotels, tax intakes, thousands of **jobs**) is viewed as almost the "bad" guy because of 900 residents and (2 businesses) who seem so inward focused instead of being inclusive and open minded to something that benefits them as well as the entire population of this city? Take a basic example: as a homeowner, I have confidence that our real estate investment here is "safe" mainly because of the presence of the Festival because it generates numerous spin-off "money makers" and jobs. **Tell me again what the 900 contribute towards our economic security?** I wonder how the 900 would feel if the worth of their homes are suddenly downgraded because essentially they are blocking the progressive momentum which will generate economic prosperity for everyone. People will think twice before investing in a place where innovative and progressive ideas are rejected for the benefit of 900 residents (and not the entire community) --- how would that make us look? My last question is economic prosperity and stability for 32,000 or consideration for 900 who do not contribute via significant jobs or businesses nor raise the quality of life for all residents of Stratford. Not just for the 900 - please!


Respectfully,

On Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 10:49 PM, Bonnie Henderson <bonnie48henderson@yahoo.ca> wrote:

Thanks for taking the time to send along your comments I appreciate it.

I'm looking forward to hearing the Festival's proposal when they come to council. Just so you are aware right from the beginning everyone including the government were made aware that in order for the Tom Patterson to go ahead the Cooper Site funding needs to happen. We have over 900 citizens with over 30 programs that use the Kiwanis daily all year long, 2 businesses that rent there, business/groups that rent the rooms, the hall, the kitchen this money helps to run the Kiwanis. We do have to consider their needs also.

Bonnie

 Consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

To: dmathieson@stratford.ca; bbeatty@stratford.ca; gbrown@stratford.ca; gbunting@stratford.ca; tclifford@stratford.ca; bhenderson@stratford.ca; dingram@stratford.ca; fmark@stratford.ca; kmcmamus@stratford.ca; mriitsma@stratford.ca; kvassilakos@stratford.ca; jthomson@stratford.ca

Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 11:19 AM

Subject: Renewal of Tom Patterson Theatre Site

Dear City Council:

I urge City Council to approve the Festival's proposal to renew the Patterson Theatre because:

- Festival plans will mean construction of a national architectural treasure which will help secure the economic future of our city for decades to come;
- there are reasonable solutions for the concerns of current users, none of whom can claim a veto over this project;
- the Festival brings in millions of dollars of economic activity every year; its presence here is what sustains real estate values and the incomparable quality of life we enjoy here;
- it is foolish to link Patterson renewal with City plans for the Hub which stands now simply as a series of sketchy ideas years away from realization;
- putting off government funding for Patterson renewal until we get public funding for the Hub just makes us look greedy;
- Council knows the facts about how important the Festival is to this community; Council must look past ill-informed resentments and red herring proposals to delay saying yes to this project; and
- if Council does anything less than give its full and public support to the Patterson project, it will shock the thousands of Festival supporters who call Stratford home.

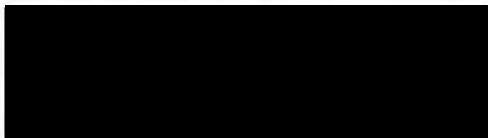
Council must give its approval in principle to the Festival's plans now and task City officials to work with Festival management and senior levels of government to make it happen!

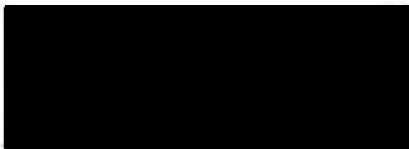
Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 1:36 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson theatre comments
Attachments: Tom Patterson letter.docx

Dear Ms Potter:

Attached please find our comments for consideration.





October 10, 2017

Mayor and Council,
City of Stratford,
City Hall,
Stratford, ON

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre

We acknowledge the Stratford Festival's significant contribution to the City's economy, both as a direct employer and as the City's primary tourist attraction. We also agree that the current Tom Patterson Theatre is old and in need of considerable repair and perhaps replacement. However, we believe the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre project is ill-conceived and ill-advised, and should not be supported by Council in its current form.

According to the Festival's "Fact Sheet" distributed at the September 26 Public Consultation meetings, the worldwide search for an architect commenced in April, 2016, nearly 18 months before the public was informed of the Festival's proposed design. In effect, the new theatre was presented as a "done deal", with no real opportunity for public or other input into the design, location or size of the project. This is disrespectful to not just the current users of the Kiwanis Centre and Lawn Bowling facility who will be displaced, but also to the citizens of Stratford and frankly to Mayor and Council.

The Festival's rationale for the size, scope and grandeur of the proposed new complex is essentially that they need to compete with new theatres built in Chicago and New York. We think it is misguided for a city the size of Stratford to expect to match the facilities that can be supported by two of the largest cities in North America, with populations far, far in excess of Stratford.

The Festival has not presented a business plan or other independent analysis to support the need for a new theatre of the proposed size and design, or as evidence of the jobs to be created or the number of new visitors that could be expected. The Festival's claims appear to be based on hope and a "if you built it they will come" attitude, not objective information and assessments. We understand that ticket sales are down about 25% this year, which raises additional questions about the Festival's claims. We believe it would be imprudent for the City to sign on to this project in the absence of objective and verified information on the anticipated economic and other impacts.

We object to the forced move of the existing users of the Kiwanis Centre and the Lawn Bowling facility without any real alternative. The Festival has talked of raising funds to help seniors move to the Rotary Complex, but there is no firm commitment and indeed no actual money. This is, in our view, unacceptable - the needs of existing users should be the first priority, not just an afterthought.

We also question the wisdom of essentially turning over a large portion of the Lake Victoria waterfront to a single user. How will the new theatre complex impact on residents and visitors who currently use the lakefront?

As noted, we do not dispute that a new Tom Patterson Theatre may be required, but if so, then believe the City should work with the Festival to place the new facility in the Grand Trunk lands. We understand that the Festival wishes to remain on the lakefront, and that there may be some technical issues with using the Grand Trunk lands. However, if the Festival truly wishes to be an integral part of Stratford, then they should be prepared to build in the location that best serves the City as a whole, not just their own interests.

In summary, we urge Council to not approve this proposed project in its current form, and in particular encourage Council to require the Festival to submit a full business case for the project, including potential economic and social impacts.

Thank you for considering our views.

Yours truly,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Stephanie Potter

From: no-reply on behalf of ldegrow@visitstratford.ca
Sent: October-05-17 9:33 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre
Attachments: STA Letter of Support62104d55-5c84-43bc-8864-e0a6226f3a8f.pdf

Hello Stephanie,

Feedback attached as requested by City Council.

Best,
Lori

Address:
47 Downie Street

Day Time Phone Number: 5192715140

Origin: <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/insidecityhall/tom-patterson-theatre.asp>

This email was sent to you by Lori DeGraw<ldegrow@visitstratford.ca> through <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/>.

Stratford Tourism Alliance
47 Downie Street, Stratford, Ontario N5A 1W7
P: 519.271.5140 T: 1.800.561.7926 F: 519.273.1818
hello@visitstratford.ca



His Worship Mayor Dan Mathieson
and all members of City Council:

October 2nd, 2017

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

We write in support of the Stratford Festival plans for a new Tom Patterson Theatre.

The Stratford Festival proposes to invest \$60 million in the construction of, not only another world-class theatre, but gorgeous gardens, striking architectural features, an outdoor patio, and expanded parking facilities; all of which will greatly enhance the appearance and value of the site. Stratford needs this new theatre to keep pace with those in larger cities such as Chicago, Toronto and New York City.

The Festival is an indispensable player feeding into the positive identity, well-being, and economic engine of Stratford. It is the principal draw for over 1 million visitors to the City, generates \$5 million a year in municipal taxes, creates 1,000 theatre jobs and 2,000 tourism-related jobs, and \$134 million in economic activity each year. However, like all organizations, the Festival needs to evolve to thrive. The Tom Patterson Theatre renewal is one way the Festival can modernize and expand. As such an important core to the City, the continued prosperity and growth of the Festival deserves our support in all possible ways.

Stratford needs a new theatre to replace a building at the end of its useful life. The Festival has offered to invest in solutions for new locations for The Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association (SLAAA) and the Kiwanis Club of Stratford. Further delay will cause growing uncertainty as to whether the project will be able to move forward in time to access an initial instalment of \$5 million of the \$20 million in funding from the Province of Ontario. Moreover, the Stratford Festival's application for funding from the Federal Government could be jeopardized or denied if there are not local commitments in place for this project in the very near future.

We applaud City Council and staff for town hall discussions with the community concerning the Tom Patterson project. Now, we ask the Mayor and City Council to take all steps necessary to ensure this exciting initiative moves forward to continue to revitalize the core of the city and build a stronger community for all Stratford residents.

Sincerely,

Conroy Schelhaas
Chair, Board of Directors

Lori DeGraw
Executive Director

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September-28-17 10:42 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Tom Patterson Feedback
Attachments: Allman drop off.pdf

Hello,

I would like to suggest that a new pedestrian area and a vehicle drop off be provided for the Allman Arena. This should be easily accommodated within the redevelopment plans for the new Tom Patterson Theatre site. Please see attached the proposed Tom Patterson site plan which I have edited.

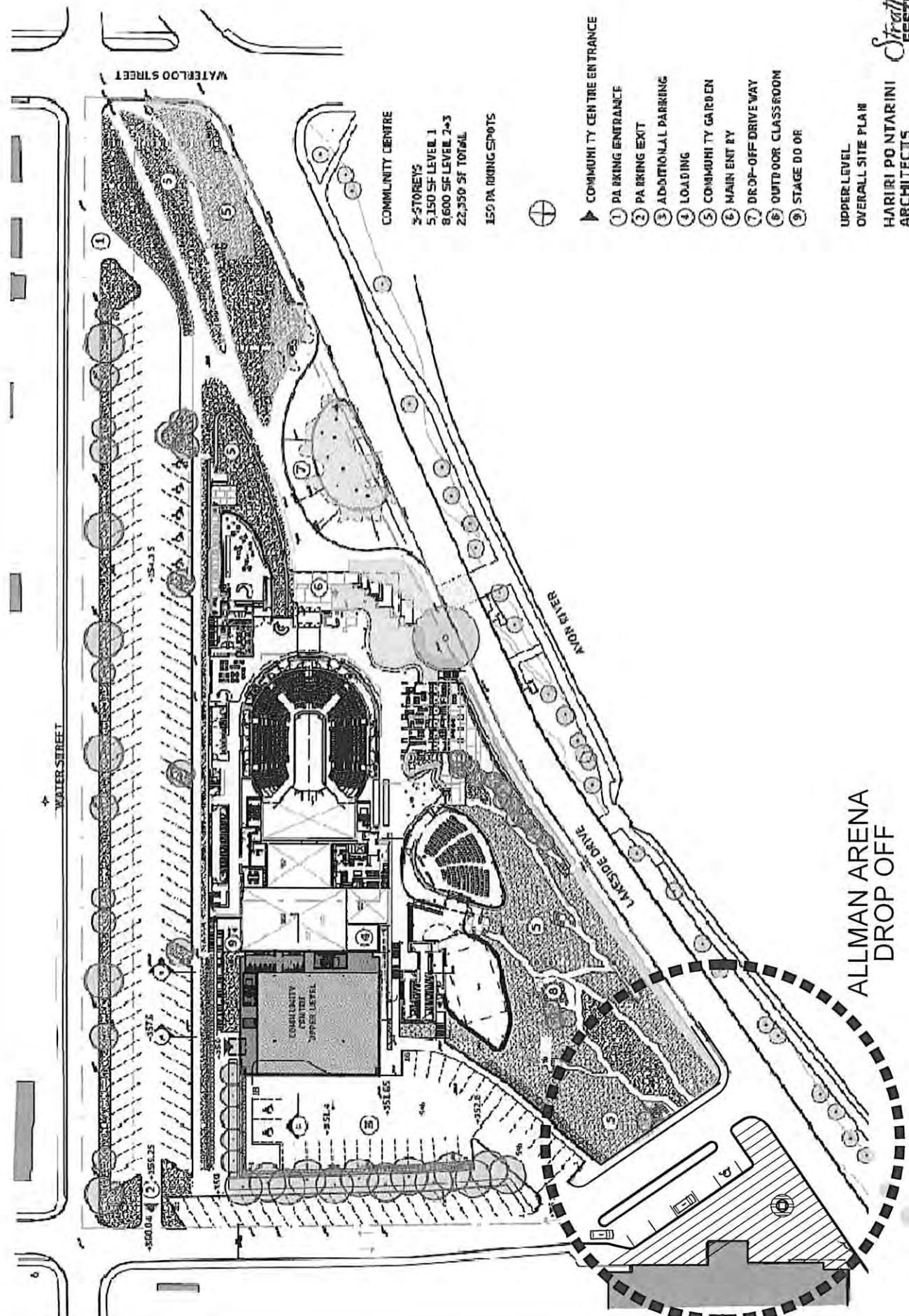
Thank you,
[REDACTED]



HARRI PONTARINI ARCHITECTS

UPPER LEVEL
OVERALL SITE PLAN

ALLMAN ARENA
DROP OFF



COMMUNITY CENTRE
 3 STOREYS
 5,150 SF LEVEL 1
 8,600 SF LEVEL 2+3
 22,350 SF TOTAL
 150 PA DRIVING SPOTS



- COMMUNITY CENTRE ENTRANCE
- 1 PA DRIVING ENTRANCE
- 2 PA DRIVING EXIT
- 3 ADDITIONAL PARKING
- 4 LOADING
- 5 COMMUNITY GARDEN
- 6 MAIN ENTRY
- 7 DROP-OFF DRIVEWAY
- 8 OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
- 9 STAGE DOOR

WATERLOO STREET

WATER STREET

ALLMAN ROAD

LAKESIDE DRIVE

COMMUNITY CENTRE
UPPER LEVEL

3500.4
3502.5

3512.2
3514.2

3516.5
3518.5

3522.2
3524.2

3528.2
3530.2

3534.2
3536.2

3540.2
3542.2

3546.2
3548.2

6

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-08-17 7:57 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos
Cc: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project

Mayor Mathieson and Stratford City Councillors,

I am writing to you to enthusiastically support the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson theatre. Because I believe this matter is of the utmost importance to Stratford, I have also submitted these comments via the online feedback window.

I have been a citizen of Stratford for the past two and a half years. Although I am not yet age 60, I want and plan to spend the rest of my life here. Before retiring here, I visited the city on an annual basis for 29 consecutive summers, spending 7 to 10 days here each year (and hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years!) During my working life, I worked for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and in my last decade with CMHC, I was a senior vice president with wide-ranging responsibilities that routinely exposed me to matters of urban planning and development. I have a Masters degree in economics with a specialization in the role of the service sector as a catalyst in regional economic development. I have also read extensively about the project, including both positive and negative commentary, and attended the public open houses. I believe all of this qualifies me to speak knowledgeably about the project.

My comments are divided into three sections: why this project must proceed; why location and timing are critical; and, finally, what needs to happen now and how this project should inform future projects.

Why should the proposed redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre proceed?

The two open houses and feedback through a variety of channels demonstrate that the people of Stratford enthusiastically and overwhelmingly support the project as an economic, aesthetic and cultural advance. This should not be surprising.

What community of any size would turn down a project that will inject \$60 million (raised from the two other levels of government and private donors, most of whom are outside the community), create over 500 construction jobs and attract 50,000 more visitors each year? In simple terms, this project is a gift for Stratford. Add to that that the project proponent is a not-for-profit, non-polluting organization that has a sterling reputation as a cultural institution of national and international importance. Consider that that institution has a 65-year commitment to this community and is its major employer and main economic engine. Remember that that institution has occupied this site for over 45 years and has worked tirelessly over the past year to address the needs and concerns of other stakeholders affected by this change, not to mention that it is quite responsibly raising an endowment fund of \$40 million, in addition to the construction cost, for the ongoing maintenance of the new facility. Recall that the project is already winning accolades among architecture critics and will replace an ugly behemoth on the lakeside with a stunning new complex and gardens of national importance. And finally, reflect on the fact that the City of Stratford will receive considerable cash compensation, either through the sale or lease of the site. That money will be a tool to help meet the needs of this community. It could be a

down payment or funding source for an amazing community hub and seniors complex that would be the envy of southwestern Ontario.

The case for this project is indisputable.

Why should the project proceed now and at this location?

The Tom Patterson Theatre is in urgent need of replacement. It is simply unsafe. This summer alone, I saw 6 people, most of them seniors, fall during events in the building because of the steep stairs and narrow aisles. It has become irresponsible for the Festival and the City to continue to operate this theatre. It is beloved but its functional life is over. This raises the important question: if the project does not proceed, how will the City rehabilitate the site? We hear as well that the Stratford Lakeside Active Adult Association (SLAAA) has outgrown its facility. If the theatre vacates this building, the City will be left with an untenable structure on prime real estate. Who else would be able and prepared to rehabilitate the site and offer as appropriate a land use? The opportunity is now and the City needs to act now or it will acquire another long-term problem. If the City doesn't act, then the Festival will have no choice but to close the Tom Patterson - perhaps not in 2018 but soon - and reconsider its options. We need to be cognizant that another comparable endeavour, the Royal Shakespeare Company in the United Kingdom, faced with a similar choice, chose to create a new operational space in London, instead of in Stratford-upon-Avon in order to broaden its reach, which has proved a highly successful endeavour. That is not what the Stratford Festival wants but, more importantly, it is certainly not what the citizens of Stratford need.

I have seen online comments that question whether proximity of the Tom Patterson Theatre to the Avon River really matters to visitors. I can assure you that it does! People come here first and foremost for what happens inside the theatre. But it doesn't end there. It's the hospitality in the B&Bs. It is the extraordinary natural and architectural beauty of the community. It is what happens in the amazing restaurants. It is because of the friendly, warm, interested people that visitors meet here. Visitors come because of the amazing alchemy of Stratford, because of how it magically combines all of this into an exceptional experience. Play with that magic at your own risk.

Further, even if it were a suitable location, which it is not, the Grand Trunk Railway site will not be ready for redevelopment in time to move quickly on this urgent need. As a result, precious funding will be lost.

What needs to happen now?

The message at the public open houses was clear: City Council, do what we elected you to do and act on this project now! If you do not act, the short-term pain that Stratford hospitality business are prepared to accept in 2018, because they better than anyone know the true long-term benefits, will extend beyond a single year. That may be a loss that some of those business can never recover from. It would be irresponsible for City Council not to move forward expeditiously on this project. If you do not act decisively and quickly, you are jeopardizing jobs and small businesses.

A second message was equally clear at the public open houses. Let's settle this question quickly so we can minimize the impact on those negatively affected by the project. Change - even the best and most desirable change - seldom benefits everyone. How a society responds to those who are affected is a measure of its maturity and effectiveness. The sooner the decision is made, the sooner we can all get on with addressing those consequences. I heard a deep well of support for SLAAA and for the lawn bowling club at the open houses. It is unfortunate they are being disadvantaged and the citizens of Stratford want to move quickly to minimize the impact. Again, if City Council does not move expeditiously, you are delaying those responses and causing unneeded uncertainty and hardship.

Finally, I hope very much that the Stratford City Council will reconsider its development process as a result of this project. The opaque approach, that seemed to be made up as the process went along, is not conducive to attracting important projects to our community. This is the third such project that I have seen in my less than 3 years as a resident, along with Market Square and the Grand Trunk Railway redevelopment. It is clear that Stratford has moved into the sphere where big projects are a way of life for us now. I hope the City will build more effective protocols for moving forward with big, complicated, important projects, with clarity for all involved, the right amount of thoughtful consultation and timely decision making. A private sector, for-profit business faced with the process that Tom Patterson redevelopment faced might well have moved their plans to Woodstock by now and who could blame them?

I can not emphasize enough: this project is critical to Stratford's future, it is thoughtfully designed, it is urgent and the impacts can be managed. Approve the project design and get on with the business of making this a reality.



Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 3:31 AM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson; Frank Mark
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project
Attachments: TP Support Letter.docx

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Tom Patterson Theatre project. I am sending the attached letter to each of your emails because the city website was not allowing me to comment. Although I am rather last second, I do believe submissions from the public were open until October 10. Please consider my submission since it is being sent before the work day begins on October 10. Thank you for listening.

Dear Stratford City Council Members,

I would like to express my support for the building of a new “Tom Patterson Theatre” on the present site by the Avon River. I am an [REDACTED] at the Festival. I have worked in stage management at the Festival for 30 years now and have owned a home in Stratford for 22 years as of this December. My 17-year-old son was born here, has lived here all his life and currently attends Stratford Central Secondary School. I intend to stay here for the rest of my days. In 4 years I will be old enough to join the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association and look forward to taking part in the fellowship and fun activities that they have planned.

Before I lived here, I lived half an hour away from here in Woodstock. Woodstock is a similarly sized city (in fact, I think it has a slightly larger population than Stratford). But it does not have all the wonderful restaurants, beautiful Bed and Breakfasts, nor nearly as many Arts organizations as Stratford does. Stratford Summer Music, The Stratford Concert Band, the Stratford Symphony, the Stratford Art Gallery, The International Children’s Theatre Festival & Springworks are just a few of the Organizations and Festivals that we have here in Stratford. Many of them, I believe, are here and thrive because The Stratford Festival is here. They are supported and attended by many of the same people that come here from all over the world to see plays at the Festival. We all, as citizens of Stratford, and our families get to benefit from these wonderful Arts organizations and events, too. Each of these events and organizations enrich our daily lives. I am thrilled that my son has been exposed to world class theatre, music and art right here in his home town. Whether you are directly involved in the Arts or are an Arts supporter, the Arts teach us and make our lives richer.

There is no doubt that the Stratford Festival brings an economic benefit to our community whether it is directly through the jobs the Festival provides or indirectly through the patrons eating in our restaurants, staying in our Bed and Breakfasts or shopping in our shops. It also has helped Stratford grow in other ways. Many people come to visit Stratford and then choose to move here or decide to retire here because of the proximity of the Stratford Festival. This is partially why we have such an active community, full of families and seniors who fill the programs at the Y, the SLAAA and the many arts and recreation programs that we are privileged to have in Stratford.

I have done many shows in the current Tom Patterson/Kiwanis building over the 30 years that I have worked here. I began my very first season at the Tom Patterson Theatre (then the Third Stage) as a Production Assistant. Even then, it was a building that had issues with air conditioning, steep seating, shared dressing room spaces that were way too small for the casts of the shows where stars and chorus occupied the same spaces. Today, it has all these same problems, but it has also aged 30 years and developed even more issues. But the Tom Patterson Theatre, a space was never meant to be a theatre, has always been a magical place where some of the most incredible theatre in the world is done. It is the favourite space of many of the people who work here and of many of our patrons. The intimacy and the simplicity of the space allows for a unique theatre experience.

That is why the Festival's new design for the new Tom Patterson Theatre has tried to retain the best of this space – that beautiful wooden stage, the ability to either perform a season in the round or with the back wall in, the intimacy of the seating – while fixing some of the shortcomings of the present space – more comfortable seating, better accessibility, a roof strong enough for the lighting equipment and the ability to use a trap. We will not lose what the present theatre has, but will keep that and add other rehearsal and performance spaces as well. New spaces that the community will also be able to use when the theatre is not in full swing. The design of the building also enhances the parkland in the area. Right now, the block is dominated by a concrete parking lot and an old, but beloved, building, a driveway whose design means that buses often get stuck in it, and a tennis court which has seen better days. The only green space currently is the beautifully maintained lawn bowling greens. The proposed plan keeps the parking, but makes it less visible from the river with most of it cleverly hidden behind the new theatre. The building itself will be stunning with the curved glass front that both allows the river to be seen from inside and reflects the river to those on the outside. The outside space will be mostly gardens which will be accessible to all of us and will be as beautifully maintained as the gardens surrounding the Festival Theatre.

I attended one of the recent community meetings and have heard some of the concerns expressed by members of the other groups that currently share the Kiwanis building with the Festival. They have legitimate concerns, of course. It will be inconvenient to relocate from the space they have called home for many years. But they are close to outgrowing the current space with the many activities that are done in the building already. Also, there has always been a problem with the need to keep noise down when the Kiwanis space is being used by a group at the same time as a performance is going on. It has been difficult for these events to co-exist without the noise from one of the spaces encroaching on the space where the other event is taking place. I would also like to point out that when the badminton club stopped using the theatre space in the winter, they were able to create their own space at the Rotary complex which was more suited to their activities and could be used year-round. The hope is that eventually the SLAAA will be able to have a new, customized space either in a new location or attached to the new theatre that will suit their needs more and will allow for future expansion. As the Bowling Club greens keeper pointed out at the meeting, the immediate needs of the Lawn Bowling club has a less clear solution. It is unfortunate that their situation could not have been planned for earlier, but hopefully, they will be able to find a suitable green that can be used next year and eventually find a permanent space, as well.

I feel that the Festival is being very generous by offering to spend a significant sum of money to assist the SLAAA in making changes to the Rotary Complex so that they can be accommodated there temporarily until a new space is completed for them. I also like that the Festival has been flexible enough to consider building an attached space for the SLAAA on the current site, if this is what is desired. These gestures did not have to be made, but the Festival does care about the other groups that share the current building. I am glad that they recognize the importance of giving back to the community that we are a part of. I would hope that the community can see how much they have gained because of the Festival and would want to support it, too.

The Festival wants to be able to continue to present world class theatre in Stratford, in world class spaces. The current Tom Patterson theatre, loved as it is, cannot be that world class space going forward. The theatre and the patrons can see that, I am sure that the City of Stratford can see that. In the next few years, the reality is that it will be necessary to replace the current building, or else tear it down. I am assuming that the City does not want another Cooper site fiasco with a building falling into disrepair and a prime location not being utilized. The commitment of 20 million dollars in funding that the province has made to the Festival is a vote of confidence in the building of a new theatre. The City of Stratford is not being asked for funding, it is only being asked for permission to proceed. I am glad that the province recognizes the value of this project, and I am quite dismayed that Stratford, which is the prime beneficiary of the Stratford Festival's existence, appears not to see the urgency of making its decision. The Festival stands to lose ¼ of this provincial funding, the money spent on the various studies done, what they have already paid for the architect's plan and, if the decision is delayed much longer, the lost revenue of two seasons instead of the one season they had intended. That provincial funding will not be redirected to another project in the City of Stratford so this will also put future funding for a Stratford Community Hub at risk. The Community Hub is another project that many of us would like to see come to fruition. It is a project that the Festival supports and is willing to also advocate for. It seems to me that delaying the decision on building a new theatre where the old one stands, or worse still, deciding to vote against the Festival's proposal really is destructive to our City in multiple ways. I am proud of Stratford. I am proud to live here. I want to continue to see us move forward and be an even better place to live.

I urge you to look at the value of this project and to approve the Festival's plans as soon as possible. I am already seeing the excitement and optimism that the Festival has had for this project begin to turn into desperation as they see the time ticking by. This wonderful vision should not be allowed to turn into a missed opportunity. Nor should the decision take so long that the Festival loses all they have already invested in it. That would affect the financial viability of the theatre immensely in the future. If this chance is not taken now, I fear that instead of continuing to grow and prosper, the theatre may instead have to cut back on the scope of future seasons to recoup some of the cost of having a dream that was not realized. I had the great privilege, when I first worked at the Festival of being visited frequently at the theatre by Tom Patterson when he just wanted to drop by the theatre and chat with someone. He was so proud of how the theatre that came from his crazy little idea had grown into such a marvelous place. Tom Patterson had a dream that involved a leap of faith. I know that he would support the dream of this new theatre which will bear his name. He embarked on his dream to benefit the citizens and the City of Stratford. Please allow Tom Patterson's dream to continue to fly and allow the Festival to build this beautiful new theatre by the Avon River.

“Make use of time, let not advantage slip.” – William Shakespeare

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 9:27 PM
To: guestservices@stratfordfestival.ca
Cc: Dan Mathieson; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson
Subject: Re: Tom Patterson Theatre Project – Your support is urgently needed!

As a supporter of the Festival for nearly fifty years, most recently at the Benefactor level as a resident of Stratford, I am gratified that you have such great confidence in the City of Stratford to continue to support the Festival for the coming decades. The Festival contributes so much to the vibrancy of this community as a 'world class' theatre, and precious gem of Canadian arts and culture. There are so many reasons for the City of Stratford to embrace this latest initiative of the Festival, which can only elevate the status of this community as a hub of professional theatre, attracting theatre goers from far and near. In our own case the Festival was a large factor in our relocating to Stratford, and I already see how many other new residents, seniors and others, have chosen Stratford. The public meetings have accentuated this fact, besides all the other factors like revenue, employment, infrastructure, culture, architecture etc.

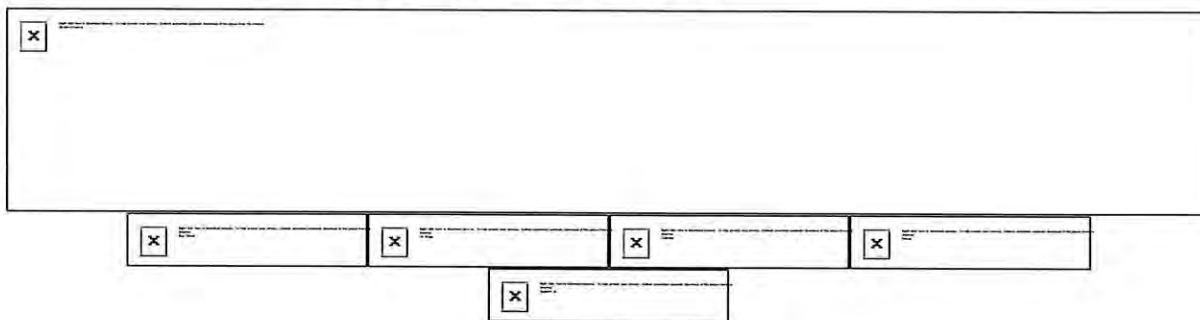
At this point in time the Festival has shown its confidence in the city to significantly increase its investment in this wonderful community. Now the onus is on Council to act vigorously to show its confidence in the Festival. A vote of no confidence might have dire consequences! There may be some short-term pain, but the reality will be 'long term gain' for the City and the Festival!

Respectfully submitted,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 4, 2017, at 8:50 AM, Stratford Festival <guestservices@stratfordfestival.ca> wrote:

Trouble viewing this email? [Read it online](#)



Once again, please accept our warmest thanks for your support of the Stratford Festival and your belief in the importance of what we do. We're writing today to remind you that a make-or-break deadline is approaching. **October 10** is the last day for written submissions to City Council regarding our proposed Tom Patterson Theatre project.

You may have already made your feelings known at last week's open-house sessions or on social media, or through other avenues, and for that we thank you. But for this project to go

ahead, it is vital that you also take this opportunity to express your support directly to the City.

We believe the great majority of Stratford citizens are in favour of an initiative that will beautify our city, boost its economy and enhance its renown as a community of vision, imagination and cultural richness. Certainly, some have expressed concerns – just as some did in those pioneering days when the Festival was first proposed – but while we take those concerns to heart and are pursuing every avenue to address them, we believe that failure to seize this historic opportunity would be a tragic mistake.

Naturally (and laudably), City Council is trying to gauge public opinion before committing itself to a course of action. But this moment is crucial. Without Council's approval, the project cannot proceed – and if its commencement is further delayed, we will lose \$5 million of the \$20 million that has been pledged by our provincial government.

So if you believe in our transformative vision for the Tom Patterson Theatre, please express that belief by every means possible. In particular, **before the deadline of October 10**, please share your views with Mayor Dan Mathieson and the members of Stratford City Council by emailing the list below. It is vital that our elected officials know what kind of future you want for Stratford.

Antoni Cimolino
Artistic Director

Anita Gaffney

Executive Director

**CITY OF
STRATFO**

RD EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Mayor

Dan Mathieson — dmathieson@stratford.ca

Councillors

Brad Beatty — bbeatty@stratford.ca

George Brown — gbrown@stratford.ca

Graham Bunting — gbunting@stratford.ca

Tom Clifford — tclifford@stratford.ca

Bonnie Henderson — bhenderson@stratford.ca

Danielle Ingram — digram@stratford.ca

Frank Mark — fmark@stratford.ca

Kerry McManus — kmcmamus@stratford.ca

Martin Ritsma — mritsma@stratford.ca

Kathy Vassilakos — kvassilakos@stratford.ca

City Clerk

Joan Thomson — jthomson@stratford.ca

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-05-17 12:04 PM
To: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos
Cc: Antoni Cimolino; Anita Gaffney; rorr Insurance; Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project -- A Letter of Support

To: the Mayor and Councillors, City of Stratford

Re: the Stratford Festival proposal for a new Tom Patterson Theatre (TPT)

We are writing to express our unreserved and enthusiastic support for the TPT proposal from the Stratford Festival currently under consideration by the Mayor and Council.

Opportunities to make a transformative, legacy decision in the life of any city are rare. For the City of Stratford, the 1953 decision to support Tom Patterson's dream enabled the creation of a cultural institution and economic engine which, over time, has transformed this City, enabled it to weather economic buffets, placed it firmly on the world cultural map, and supported the evolution of its current reputation as an IT hub, an educational hub, and one of the most vibrant and beautiful cities of its size in the world.

The proposal for the new TPT is likewise transformative. It promises a new phase of economic and cultural renewal, and public interest and awareness for the Festival AND for Stratford. This is very much a winning proposition for both parties.

We look forward to not only seeing the transformation of a well loved, well used, and now completely outdated and inefficient theatre facility, but also the much-needed rejuvenation and beautification of the popular surrounding riverside and parkland. As the grounds, gardens and surrounding parkland of the Festival Theatre demonstrate, the Festival cherishes its environment, and stewards it with the same care it invests in every aspect of its work.

And then there is the architecture. The design, as envisaged, is exquisite. It fits elegantly into its surroundings, respecting and enhancing them. In recent years, the rising prominence of architecture as icon and as city symbol has led many urban centres to seek out a signature piece of architecture. We didn't have to seek! The Festival, after intensive investigation and due diligence, is offering such a gift to Stratford and its citizens. Just as the Festival Theatre became such an icon in its day, so the new TPT will serve as a beacon for cultural tourists, for lovers of art and design, and for students of architecture wishing to study a superb example of form and function nestling gracefully into its environment.

The Festival has done impressive due diligence in the conception, development and articulation of this project. They have not only built a solid business case which has garnered the support of an exacting Board of Governors, but they have won extraordinary financial support from the province of Ontario and, it seems very likely, the federal government as well. (Parenthetically, it is gratifying to note that both of these Liberal governments are transcending party politics to support such a convincing and well deserving project!)

Like so many Stratfordians, it was the Festival that drew us to Stratford, and it is because of the Festival that we have chosen to remain here. I [Mary] grew up in Kitchener, and from an early age the Festival was part of my life, nurturing a lifelong love for and career in the arts and education. In the mid-1990s, I had the privilege of serving for several years as the General Manager of the Stratford Festival during the time of the redevelopment of the Festival Theatre. I saw firsthand, and was deeply involved in, the interactions with the community which the Festival voluntarily undertook in order to ensure that there was communication and shared understanding of the work being done and the impact it would have. Indeed, it has been a hallmark of every strategic action undertaken by the Stratford Festival that it has sought to communicate, to collaborate and to foster engagement in a positive and proactive way.

That has been the pathway taken with the TPT proposal. The Festival has reached out to and communicated with all of the impacted parties and interested individuals. Creative solutions, both interim and longer-term, have been found, and concerns have been listened to carefully. While it is inevitable that not everyone will be totally satisfied with the solutions, the Festival has entered into them with respect and good faith. It is troubling and unfair to hear a small minority of individuals refer to the Festival as greedy or arrogant. This is simply untrue. The Festival's offer to undertake special fundraising to support refurbishment of the Agriplex to ensure suitable interim accommodation for the senior citizens group is an excellent case in point.

Nor is the Festival asking the City or its citizens for a financial contribution to the TPT project. The Festival has invested substantial time, resources and talent in preparing a business case so compelling that governments and private donors and sponsors have stepped up to offer their support, so that the requisite funding is secured. That is good governance, and the Stratford Festival has a strong and very capable governing Board and Executive team.

Clearly, the project must also garner the support of Council and the City of Stratford. This is, after all a partnership. It is not a new partnership, but an exciting new phase for a partnership that has evolved and strengthened over the past 65 years. The two partners will need to come to agreement over the arrangements regarding the land on which the current time TPT sits and on which the new one would be located. Whether it is outright purchase, long term loan or some other creative arrangement, with mutual goodwill, agreement can be reached. This is a decision that Council needs to make in a timely manner, given the timelines for expenditure of the first year of grant from the province, and the need for an ambitious construction schedule.

We respectfully suggest that in your deliberations, consideration be given to the substantive economic benefit that will accrue to the city and to many of its citizens in the retail, business and service sectors, as a result of the increased jobs during construction and thereafter, and increased tourism with its attendant economic benefits.

As the owners of a commercial building in the downtown core, we know from our own and other retail operations the singular impact the health of the Festival has on local businesses. And we know how eagerly they welcome a new development that promises sustained and enhanced revenues and business security for them and their families. At a time when so many other smaller cities are struggling to attract new business and growth opportunities, the City of Stratford is in the enviable position of having one presented to them in good faith, without financial obligation and with no downside whatsoever.

Two years from now, when the new Tom Patterson theatre opens, we are absolutely convinced that, as has happened with the Market Square project, the doubts and disparagement will be forgotten and the citizens of Stratford will join with the Stratford Festival and with the City in celebrating a spectacular new facility for "locals" and visitors alike to share and to enjoy. And as the Festival has offered availability in the off-season for local activities, there is even greater benefit for Stratfordians.

Just as we appreciate the care, the thought and the respect the Stratford Festival has put into the development and presentation of the TPT proposal, so we appreciate the due diligence which City Council is undertaking before making its decision. You rightly waited until there was a complete project, fully fashioned and designed, ready to be presented publicly and discussed thoroughly.

We believe that the vast majority of the responses you have received recognize the tremendous economic, social and cultural benefits that the completed project will generate for the City and its citizens. We are optimistic that those who might not be supportive of the project now, will change their minds when they and their families and friends visit our wonderful new theatre, and the regenerated gardens and riverside.

This is a legacy project for the City, the Festival and yes, for Mr. Patterson and his crazy wonderful dream.

We thank you for your consideration, and look forward to celebrating a groundbreaking ceremony very soon.

With kind regards.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-04-17 1:13 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre Project



Dear Clerk Thomson;

I am writing to fully endorse the exciting plans of the Stratford Festival to re-develop the Tom Patterson Theatre. In my view, it is an extremely worthwhile endeavour, and I would highly encourage Stratford City Council to support it...for several reasons:

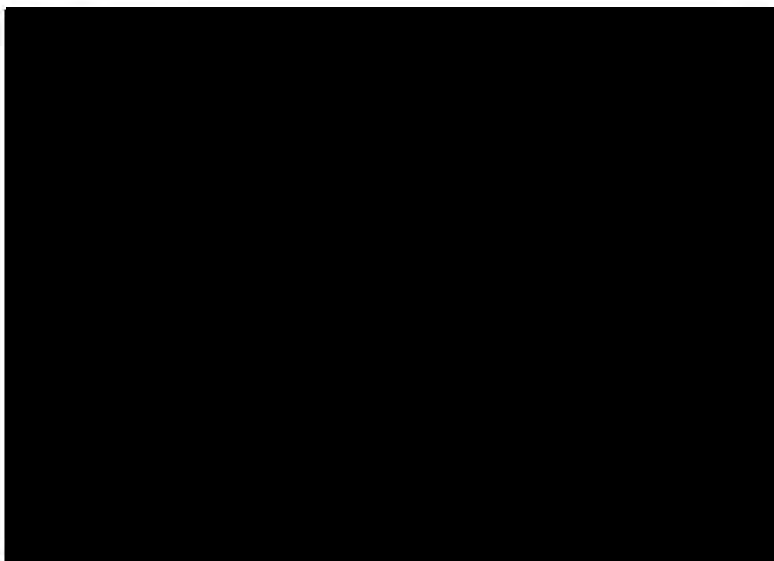
1) As a friend of the Festival, I think the list of opportunities that this new venue will afford future generations of theatregoers from our corner of North America is endless. Sure, the Festival is effective in the Patterson's current state, but progress in this field is mandatory. If the Festival isn't thinking at least a decade ahead, they really aren't doing their job. This new venue will be as important to future generations as the Festival Theatre has been to us for the last 60+ years.

2) As someone who grew up near Atwood, and spent an average of one Sunday per month in my youth picnicking in the park, the beauty and serenity of the park mean a lot to me, and when I saw how much the planned redevelopment of the Patterson Theatre is going to enhance that beauty I was very pleased. Now that I live in Stratford for part of the year, it is even more important to me.

3) I came to know and really appreciate Tom Patterson in his later years, so I was thrilled to see how Tom's legacy will be enhanced and celebrated by this new venue. Without Tom, there would be no Stratford Festival, and his vision for the future will live on through this great new facility. I remember the twinkle in his eye so well, and I'm sure he would be thrilled by this new concept.

Thank you for your time, and I do hope that you will look kindly upon the redevelopment of the Tom Patterson Theatre. In my view, it's a great vote for Stratford's future.

best regards,



Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: September-25-17 6:49 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: FW: Saving & Protecting Stratford Lawn Bowling Club



Rob Horne, MA, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Stratford
P.O. Box 818
Stratford, ON N5A 6W1
Delivery address: 1 Wellington St., N5A 2L3
Phone: (519) 271-0250 Ext. 233
Email: rhone@stratford.ca
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Note: Please update your contacts with my current email address as written above. Thank you.

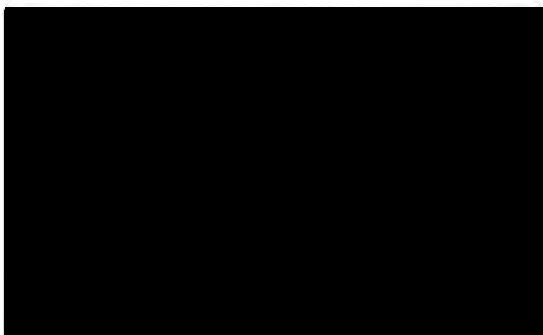
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Please consider your environmental responsibility before printing this e-mail.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Rob Horne; dstlouis@stratfordcanada.ca; agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca
Subject: Saving & Protecting Stratford Lawn Bowling Club

Ontario Lawn Bowling Association



Mr. Rob Horne

Mr. David St. Louis

Ms. Anita Gaffney

Hello All,

I would like to support efforts by Stratford to both grow and enhance all facilities within the community.

Stratford has an extremely rich history of providing both citizens and visitors alike with both recreational and arts opportunities throughout the four seasons. This makes Stratford one of the jewels of South West Ontario.

As a visitor living in Burlington Ontario, I have had the fortune to visit the Stratford Festival on several occasions for both Shakespearean and other wonderful performances. My partner actually donated \$5. to a 10 year street busker named Justin Bieber. I have also played some great badminton with such a stalwart Stratford citizen as Ray Cornish over the years in a very fine Stratford Badminton Club indoors beside the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club.

Historically, the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club, which has enjoyed the present site now for over a hundred years, has been internationally recognized for putting on the famous Stratford Merchants & Manufacturers Tournament. In years past, this great event would attract 80 men's teams playing on 20 greens in a "double draw" over a day that stretched from 8 in the morning right through to around midnight.

It would be wonderful if you were able to preserve and perhaps enhance all three of these grand institutions.

The nature of Lawn Bowling is that greens take a season for the grass to take hold, and to produce a surface that is playable. Consequently, if the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club was to remain as an entity within Stratford, then, ideally, Stratford would consider allowing the present club to continue one year in its present location, during which a new dedicated lawn bowls facility was constructed, and seeded so that in the second year, the club could continue seamlessly without having to close for a year. The new Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club went through this process over the past year, and has recently opened up within the boundaries of the Muskoka Highland Golf Course.

The Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club was able to host its first tournament just this September, with a new membership of over 80 bowlers.

In summary, give every consideration to saving the Tom Patterson Theatre, the Stratford Badminton Club and the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club. Please do not sacrifice two of them for the remaining one. Instead, grow all three and continue to make Stratford THE place to be!

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

OLBA Player Development Chair.

Canadian Short Mat Association President

Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: September-25-17 6:48 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: FW: Stratford lawn Bowls Club
Attachments: ATT00001.htm; [REDACTED] ATT00002.htm; Stratford Lawn Bowls .doc; ATT00003.htm



Rob Horne, MA, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Stratford
P.O. Box 818
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Please consider your environmental responsibility before printing this e-mail.

From: Ken Simpson [mailto:simpson@olba.ca]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 2:28 PM
To: Rob Horne
Cc: dstiouis@stratfordcanada.ca; agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca
Subject: Stratford lawn Bowls Club



Ontario Lawn Bowls Association

P. O. Box 1093

Tilbury, Ontario N0P 2L0

olba@olba.ca

N0P 2L0

www.olba.ca

To whom it may concern

25 September 2017

Subject: Stratford Lawn Bowls Club.

It has come to our attention that the City of Stratford maybe considering closing or relocating the Stratford Lawn Bowls Club.

As the president of the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association and having been born in Stratford I feel it appropriate for me to comment on the disposition of the Stratford Lawn Bowls Club.

Records indicate that some of the most influential people in Stratford gathered together in 1896 to establish a lawn bowls club for the citizens of Stratford. The club was ultimately located on it's present site in 1915. The citizens of Stratford have worked on a voluntary basis for over 100 years to maintain the sport of lawn bowling in your community. While the participation in organized sport has sadly declined on most fronts in recent years we are having resurgence in lawn bowls participation. Younger people are taking up the sport and it is a healthy pastime for seniors. We at the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association are working with Bowls Canada and World Bowls taking the first steps to have this sport included in the Olympics. We are now preparing to participate in the Commonwealth games to be held in Australia next year. We have had success internationally with Priscilla Westlake winning the world championship in New Zealand for under 25 players.

I understand that the current property is very valuable and desirable for commercial interests. I would however urge you to consider the importance of your beautiful park and the contribution the lawn bowls club makes for visitors who enjoy seeing our sport performed. I would estimate that in total several hundred people visit the Stratford lawn bowls club to participate in tournaments and support local business. Lawn bowls club in its current location is a living billboard indicating to visitors and citizens that the city is a caring vibrant community to consider living in.

I look at an example like Kitchener where the city administration chose to remove the old City Hall, and center Square farmers market. They replace these traditional facilities with commercial bricks and mortar destroying a great tourist attraction and community focal point leaving the city now with what is widely believed to be a cold ugly and dysfunctional city center.

If the city administration of Stratford see the need to expand the commercial interests and relocate the lawn bowls club I would urge that they consider that it takes a year to develop a new green. I'm sure the commercial interests proposing the expansion of their facilities would understand that if they were required to close for one full year it would have of highly negative affect on their operation impacting for many years.

In conclusion if it is felt necessary to relocate the club please ensure that the new facility is available without the need to close the club for a year.

With respect.

Ken Simpson
President

Ontario Lawn Bowls Association
www.olba.ca

Stephanie Potter


From: Rob Horne
Sent: September-25-17 6:50 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: FW: Stratford lawn Bowls Club
Attachments: ATT00001.htm; [REDACTED] ATT00002.htm; Stratford Lawn Bowls .doc; ATT00003.htm



Rob Horne, MA, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Stratford
P.O. Box 818
Stratford, ON N5A 6W1
Delivery address: 1 Wellington St., N5A 2L3
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From: Ken Simpson [mailto:simpson@olba.ca]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 2:28 PM
To: Rob Horne
Cc: dstiouis@stratfordcanada.ca; agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca
Subject: Stratford lawn Bowls Club



Ontario Lawn Bowls Association



P. O. Box 1093

Tilbury, Ontario N0P 2L0

olba@olba.ca

N0P 2L0

www.olba.ca

To whom it may concern

25 September 2017

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In conclusion if it is felt necessary to relocate the club please ensure that the new facility is available without the need to close the club for a year.

With respect.

Ken Simpson
President

Ontario Lawn Bowls Association
www.olba.ca

Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: October-10-17 5:18 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: FW: Tom Patterson Theatre proposal



Rob Horne, MA, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Stratford
P.O. Box 818
Stratford, ON N5A 6W1
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Phone: (519) 271-0250 Ext. 233
Email: rhone@stratford.ca
Web: www.stratfordcanada.ca

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Please consider your environmental responsibility before printing this e-mail.

From: Jeremy Wreford [<mailto:jeremy@bradshawscanada.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:12 PM
To: Dan Mathieson
Cc: Brad Beatty; George Brown; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; mcmamus@stratford.ca; Martin Ritsma; Kathy Vassilakos; Joan Thomson; Rob Horne
Subject: Tom Patterson Theatre proposal

Mayor Mathieson and Stratford City Council-

Carrie and I wanted to write you to express our enthusiastic support for the Tom Patterson Theatre proposal. We have attended three presentations on the project to date, and think that Mr. Hariri, Mr. Cimolino, and Ms. Gaffney have made a compelling case for the development. Architecturally, the building is spectacular; they have more than succeeded in creating a showpiece building that is considerate of the site, the surrounding river and park system, arena and adjacent homes.

In terms of theatre, some of the most memorable plays we have seen have been staged at the Tom Patterson. It is an vital part of the Stratford Festival Theatre, with each stage accommodating its unique type of production. However there are problems with the seating and amenities in the building, all which have been addressed in the proposal.

Without making light of the objections raised by the various concerned groups, considering the scope of the project they seem relatively minor. Solutions exist and any problems can be fairly easily overcome, and the long term benefit for the city far outweighs any negative impact. Similar to the Market Square project, people

are often skeptical and slow to accept change, and yet we now have an incredible space that has already been put to good use, and will undoubtedly accomplish its goal of revitalizing the area that surrounds it.

As you know better than I, this is a unique time in Stratford's history: with the availability of the space on the Cooper Site and its architecturally significant structure, combined with the Tom Patterson proposal and access to funding from various levels of government, all of the pieces of the puzzle are coming together. The next five years could be some of the most exciting in Stratford's history, with positive development that will benefit the city for generations.

Respectfully,
Jeremy and Carrie Wreford
Bradshaws



Bradshaws & Kitchen Detail

Jeremy and Carrie Wreford, Proprietors
129 Ontario Street
Stratford Ontario
Canada
N5A 7V4
Phone: 519-271-6283
Toll Free: 1-844-271-6281
Fax: 519-271-8784

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[@Small_MartGM](https://www.instagram.com/Small_MartGM)

Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: September-25-17 7:31 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Fwd: Stratford lawn bowling club closure.

Sent from VMware Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sep 24, 2017 2:23 PM
Subject: Fwd: Stratford lawn bowling club closure.
To: Rob Horne <RHorne@stratford.ca>
Cc:

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Fwd: Stratford lawn bowling club closure.
Date: 2017-09-24 14:15
From: [REDACTED]
To: <agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca>

----- Original Message -----


Subject: Stratford lawn bowling club closure.
Date: 2017-09-24 13:13
From: [REDACTED]
To: <rhorne@stratfordcanada.ca>
Cc: <agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca>

Hi Mr. Horne & Ms. Gaffney;

It has been brought to the attention of the lawn bowling community that our friends in Stratford are about to lose their magnificent facility down by the river to the new Tom Patterson theatre and gardens. As a former resident of Stratford and still having my entire family living in your beautiful city, I as everyone realize the wonderful benefits the festival has bestowed on the city. So we have a dilemma, we know there will be progressive moves required to further enhance the overall festival experience for the many visitors to the city but it should not be at the expense of some of your longest term residents who have contributed to the tax base for most of their lives. The majority of the members at the club are seniors, many of them long term members who work hard each year to maintain the membership for the love of the

sport, this is a sport that many seniors can partake in and enjoy without doing themselves physical damage. I do not believe that the city council nor the executive of the festival would choose to turf this club out of their present facility without a seamless transfer to a new location, don't these seniors and the other members deserve at least this, I believe they do. It was mentioned that delaying the closure of the club by a year could possibly give the city enough time to find a new location for the club and prepare it for opening season 2019. The executive and members of a very fine lawn bowling club are at your mercy, please try to come up with a plan that will be fair to all involved, we on the outside will be watching for a positive conclusion, we know it can be done and we thank-you in advance for our friends in Stratford as you work to gain this desired outcome.

With concern and respect for all involved, I remain;

 OLBA, Grand Cove Lawn Bowling Club, Grand Bend, Ontario.

Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: October-02-17 2:23 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Fwd: TOM PATTERSON THEATRE / GRAND TRUNK COMMUNITY HUB OPEN HOUSE

Hello! Another submission.

Sent from VMware Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Oct 2, 2017 2:14 PM
Subject: TOM PATTERSON THEATRE / GRAND TRUNK COMMUNITY HUB OPEN HOUSE
To: Rob Horne <RHorne@stratford.ca>, Dan Mathieson <DMathieson@stratford.ca>
Cc:

Hello, gentlemen.

I have submitted my comments regarding the Tom Patterson Theatre / Community Hub via the website as requested. I am sending this email to comment on the Open House process – which I did not find adequate.

I went expecting to hear information from both the Theatre and the City. Anita and Antoni did their job well. They presented both Plan A and Plan B (with a community centre attached). I thought that the City would put two or three options up for consideration – perhaps a Community Hub involving new Romeo and Jeanne Sauve Schools and/or perhaps a scenario without the schools but a replacement KCC along with a new Y and additional UW facilities and/or something else based on the community consultation input received. I was sitting beside Janet Baird-Jackson and a Catholic School Board representative when they stated at one of the Cooper Site consultation meetings that the two school boards would like to construct new schools on the Cooper site with shared recreational and/or library facilities – to say this in public means they are serious – furthermore, they have the financial resources to be strong re-development partners.

Instead, the City presented that badly conceived cover of the Cooper Consultation paper (7 and 8 storey buildings on the Cooper site – really?) and then asked for general input which meant that mostly there were cheerleaders for the Theatre and some complaints from others about the process. If you heard something new or valuable, your ears were better than mine.

What was the goal of having these Open Houses other than being able to say ‘we held open houses’? I’ve thought about this several times and I cannot identify a different answer.

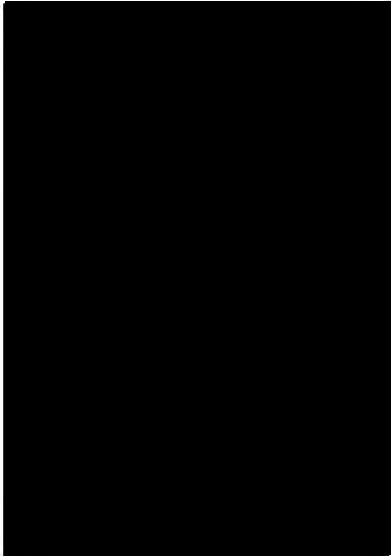
As we all know, process with content is very important because in a vacuum people naturally drift to the concept which is most coherently – visually – presented. This means that the stage is now set (no pun intended) for the Theatre’s Tom Patterson proposal to be embraced. I’m not saying that the proposal is a bad one. As I’m sure you both understand, what I am saying is that the possibilities were not equally presented. And since I think it highly unlikely that a little community of 32,000 is going to receive \$20 million + \$20 million + \$15 million + \$15 million in senior government infrastructure funding (I would be delighted to

be wrong on this point), it is important to balance carefully the Tom Patterson Plan A proposal (no community centre) with the possibilities of a Grand Trunk Hub occurring in a reasonable amount of time.

Unless something is going to happen on the Cooper site within two years, I say take the Plan B option with a combined Tom Patterson Theatre/Community Centre so this community has the community meeting/activities space it so badly needs while the longer-term vision is developed. The Theatre will make use of the community space when it is vacated – look at how quickly it populated the Normal School when that building stopped being the multi-use Discovery Centre.

And that is what I have to say.

Regards,



Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: September-25-17 10:19 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Fwd:

Sent from VMware Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sep 25, 2017 10:07 PM
Subject: Fwd:
To: Rob Horne <RHorne@stratford.ca>
Cc:

[REDACTED]

September 25, 2017

To the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club, Stratford CAO, Director of Community Services and Festival Director:

As a former member of the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club, it is with deep concern that I write this letter to support the present Club and its present location. Because of the wonderful setting and the historic significance of the present greens, it is difficult to fathom the idea of it being destroyed. Too many communities have had their history erased in the name of progress. This piece of Stratford history means a great deal to the club members and to the community.

When we belonged to this club, we experienced the comradery this club offers. We were always welcomed and invited to be part of all events. We received lots of encouragement from the members. The members make the club what it is, and to have the possibility of no club is heartbreaking, even if it is for only one year. As part of District 4 in Ontario Lawn Bowling, we have enjoyed several tournaments in the last few years, and admire the pride this club takes in its greens and care of the equipment and the clubhouse. We hope to continue bowling in Stratford for many years to come.

Many club members are seniors who enjoy this facility several times a week. Our province's municipalities are in the process of improving facilities for serving our seniors better, in recognition of their growing numbers in the community as well as their contribution to communities during their working careers and even continuing into the retirement years as volunteers in various capacities. Stratford seems to be working in the opposite direction by taking this step. Please reconsider the full ramifications of this decision involving the closure of the present Stratford Lawn Bowling Club.

[REDACTED]

Grand Cove Lawn Bowling Club, Grand Bend

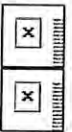
Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-09-17 5:22 PM
To: Joan Thomson
Subject: TPT Project

TPT project



4:31
PM (6
minutes
ago)



Dear Joan,

I am almost 61 years young , and like you, LOVE the amazing life that we all share here.

I work in the Big Festival shop, and almost every day also, twice a day , with the Members in the Eaton Lounge. I interact on an average day, with wonderful , wonderful people from every corner of our wonderful wide world (**perhaps 1500-3000 people each day.**) **Many every day**

Stratfordites, too!

I moved our family here some 15 years ago from mid-town Toronto. We had a beautiful baby son who is just 15, loves Stratford & is currently doing well at Central. Our little girl , who was 5 when we moved here, is now in Montreal, where she is *1 of only 10* studying in her course at Concordia University.

I chose *Stratford*, when we could have moved ANYWHERE in the world. I wanted for us a life that rich in culture, with great schools, and a bit less frenetic than our life in Toronto. I had visited Stratford a few times in my life, and I always felt that such a kind, forward-thinking community, with beautiful theatres, restaurants, safe neighbourhood, rich farmland nearby, beaches nearby, a tolerant , smart population would be the place to proudly call "our new home".

I have NEVER felt so happy & proud to go to work each day to a place like the Stratford Festival. We are your carpenters, your ushers, your plumbers & designers, your friends and painters, your maintenance people, electricians, gardeners. WE are people who believe FOR REAL that what the Stratford Festival, created 65 years ago to provide entertainment (world class) gives to our fair city is not only a **great place to work**, but so proud to generate at least 39 MILLION

dollars annually back to Stratford. **It is because of the Festival** that we have wonderful shops, B&B's, restaurants. This new theatre is sorely needed. If Council fights progressive change, you will need to explain to each & every one of us , just WHY you few have literally thrown all of the millions of dollars that **we** are raising, and the Ontario government have already **given** to us, down the drain. Yes, there are 35 Lawn Bowlers, & perhaps this (all white, dare I say, elderly) club needs space too. We all love the beautiful waterfront, and our many , many new sports facilities, too. I urge you , who were elected to make decisions on our behalf, to listen .

Please, NO MORE STUDIES & time wasting chats, the time to make this great new project happen is NOW> Let's not drag this into the sewer, or continue to throw money away. The Stratford Festival is *world* famous, Let's make this happen. Right NOW! Make us ALL PROUD! 65 years from today, is your own legacy going to say , with pride, "I had a part in that?" , or is it going to say ," well , the building was rotting & falling down, so we decided to NOT sell the Festival the land . Instead, we turned our back on our waterfront ". WE continued to drag the thing with Lawrence Ryan, on a "Hub" frankly, no University or the Y will even touch, after seeing this council walk away from an *already funded*, much needed beautiful theatre &

Please do your jobs, all of these projects can, & will be possible , if you sell the Festival this land, quickly, fairly. That money can then start the Hub TOO! Do Stratford proud!

Respectfully, and with great hope,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the author.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-10-17 11:40 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Feedback New TPT Proposal
Attachments: [REDACTED] Letter to Stratford City Council re TPT Oct 9
2017189419ab-2990-4588-8d4f-8558de47980e.pdf

Ms. Potter, please confirm receipt of my email with the PDF attachment. Thank you!

Address:

[REDACTED]

Origin: <https://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/insidecityhall/tom-patterson-theatre.asp>

This email was sent to you by [REDACTED] through <http://www.stratfordcanada.ca/>.



Dear Mayor Mathieson and Stratford City Councillors,

**Comments re: Stratford Festival's Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre ("TPT")
Redevelopment on City-Owned Land on Lakeside Drive**

My name is [REDACTED] and, for the most part, I have been a lifelong resident of the city of Stratford. I would also like to add that my wife and daughter have spent their entire lives as Stratford residents.

I have never written a letter to City council but, given the juggernaut nature of the Stratford Festival, with its newspaper, social media, email and other campaigns to elicit support for the new TPT, I felt that it was necessary to put in words why I have issues with the current TPT proposal.

I am writing to you to let you know that I do **NOT** support the TPT redevelopment as proposed by the Stratford Festival.

I believe that there are compelling reasons why this redevelopment should not proceed in the proposed Lakeside Drive block directly across from the Avon River.

1. Framing of the TPT Redevelopment Proposal

First and foremost, I would like to state that I support the building of a new TPT. I also do believe that there is an overwhelming consensus for a replacement TPT.

I understand that the TPT cannot continue in its current location due to the age and condition of the facility and therefore a new TPT needs to be built.

However the proposal before city council is not about a new TPT but a TPT on **city-owned land that is zoned for a totally different purpose.**

2. Parks and Recreation Zoning of the Current Land and Previous Council's Decision re: this City-Owned Site

The new TPT should **NOT** be built on city-owned land that was meant for parks and recreation.

It is my understanding that R. Thomas Orr, in the early 1900s, fought to keep the CPR out of our now current waterfront parks system even though there was a promise of new jobs and prosperity for the city. Our lush waterfront of parks and recreation is Mr. Orr's legacy for our great city.

I believe we have the same situation happening now, over 100 years later.

This time the CPR is now the Stratford Festival that wants to take over the entire block that includes parking, the Kiwanis Community Centre ("KCC"), the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association ("SLAAA"), the Stratford Lawn Bowling Club ("SLBC") and other space that included community tennis courts that the City decided several years back to not replace.

The residents of Stratford are losing parks and recreation facilities in a prime location that is handy for Stratford residents year round relative to a sales pitch of larger prosperity for the City of Stratford.

3. Inappropriate Size, Scale and Location of the Redeveloped TPT

Per my review of the online plans posted on the City's website, the Stratford Festival, on the other hand, is gaining virtually the entire block.

This current new TPT is a not a replacement of the old TPT but the development of a much larger TPT masked and hidden behind acres of a community garden.

To me, the gardens in the proposal are "lipstick on a pig". A bad idea that is being prettied up with a sprawling community garden to try and convince everyone how wonderful the new TPT proposal is. Who would be against large, lush gardens? Really?

To me this is a cheap sales trick to try and convince City council to give away or sell the site to the Festival at the expense of displaced everyday Stratford residents.

Also the new TPT is a second large commercial theatre operation on our waterfront parkland. The current main stage on Queen Street is already close to the Avon River.

Do we really need a second much larger theatre operation now right across from the Avon River?

I believe that we do not.

If City council approves the current TPT proposal, will Lakeside Drive become a commercialized Niagara Falls which no one in Stratford wants to see?

Industrialization, and I believe in today's world a corresponding commercialization, was never the intention of R. Thomas Orr in the early 1900s.

This TPT proposal, to me, is akin to a reverse takeover of a parks and recreation block from the City for the significantly primary benefit of the Festival and its visiting theatregoers, and not to the day-to-day benefit of everyday Stratford residents who may not even visit any of the Festival's theatres and shows.

I see this current new TPT proposal as Russia (i.e. the Festival) annexing Crimea (i.e. the KCC, SLAAA and SLBC) and Russia, in the process, pushing out the current Crimea residents.

4. Alternate Locations

I am also concerned that the Stratford Festival has not actively pursued other sites in its pursuit of a new TPT.

The new TPT does not need to be directly across the street from the Avon River.

I have seen on Facebook the Festival's director of publicity posting that the new TPT has to be across the street from the Avon River to entice theatre goers to Stratford. I have also seen video of Mr. Cimolino telling an audience of course theatre goers want to see swans when they visit the TPT theatre.

I have a real problem with this type of reasoning. Visitors to the Festival and its various theatres come to see world-class theatre, not to see swans, ducks, paddle boaters and canoeists. You don't see these things across the street from the Avon Theatre or the Studio Theatre or out the front door of the main stage.

Are they nice things to see? Yes, of course. But are they necessary for the success of a new TPT? I strongly believe not.

City also council needs to ask the Festival what due diligence it has undertaken for an alternate site should City council not approve the current proposal. I don't feel council should be pressured into a take-it-or-leave proposition, and oh, by the way, if City council does not support this exact proposal, then it was City council's fault for no new TPT.

That's how I see the framing of the Festival's proposal.

5. Alternate Uses for the Current Site

Since the Festival has abandoned the current site, I feel that the City should look at alternate uses for the site. I realize that the SLAAA, with its growing membership, needs more space so why not use the space that the current TPT was using?

Why do the booted-out parties have to look for a new location? Why is the Festival not looking at other locations for a new TPT?

I also understand that hundreds of thousands of dollars were in the recent past spent on upgrading the HVAC system on site.

Why would the City throw away thousands of public dollars away without looking at alternate uses for the site for that are significantly less commercial than the new TPT proposal and which are more in line with a parks and recreation theme?

6. Bad Land Use Planning by the City

I don't have a degree in planning but I strongly believe that this is a bad land-use planning for the city.

Has the City undertaken any planning studies re: the Lakeside Drive location in question?

I previously mentioned that I believe that the proposed takeover of the entire block would significantly commercialize our waterfront park and recreation system.

Second, given that the Festival has walked away from the current site, now is the time for all interested parties to sit down and decide what can and should be done with the current city-owned site.

Also, I believe that it would make more sense to have a new TPT anchored somewhere else in the city, perhaps at the Cooper site, or elsewhere.

For instance, a new TPT at the Cooper site makes more sense in making a more vibrant Stratford downtown for theatre goers to frequent, shops, restaurants and hotel accommodations.

I don't see the same upside for the rest of Stratford if the new TPT is on Lakeside Drive.

7. The Urgency (or Perceived Urgency for City Council to Make a Quick Decision Without Following a Due Diligence Process

I would like to note that I have a significant problem with the short time frame that citizens have been given with regards to the new TPT proposal.

I realize that the City has been meeting with the Festival since October 24, 2016.

However, from a public / other stakeholders' perspective, the FAQs on the Stratford website state that on September 11, 2017 "THAT special public input meetings be convened to hear delegations relative to the proposed Stratford Festival TPT redevelopment, and invite representatives of the Stratford Festival to hear the submissions".

The date is September 11, 2017, which is less than one month from the date of my letter.

I also understand that City council wants to make a decision later this year (October to December?) with the hope that construction may start in January 2018?

I just cannot fathom the lightning speed of this entire process.

Have all stakeholders' been addressed?

How can they be addressed in such a short timeframe?

8. Realistic Public Funding

The Festival has been promised \$20 million from the Kathleen Wynne Ontario Liberal government in \$5 million annual increments to be paid / spent by March 18 of 2018, and presumably by the same date in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

I have read that the Festival has stated that if the first \$5 million is not spent by March 18, 2018 then that money is lost.

One big concern I have is that the Kathleen Wynne Liberal government may not even be the Provincial government after the next election in mid-2018, so a new PC government, might just cancel the remaining \$15 million commitment. That's how the PC party in Ontario appears to work.

Also the Festival has requested a corresponding \$20 million dollar commitment from the Federal government. To date, no announcement has been made by the Federal government.

Also the City has asked both the Provincial and Federal governments for \$15 million each for the proposed Grand Trunk Community Hub.

I am sure that City council appreciates that there is only one taxpayer. If Stratford is getting \$20 million each from the Ontario and Federal governments for a new TPT, how likely and immediately generous would the Ontario and Federal governments be in providing an additional \$15 million each for the Grand Trunk Community Hub especially when there are competing communities for this type of funding and other funding requests?

If the new TPT proposal goes ahead, what if there is no money forthcoming for the proposed Grand Trunk Community Hub? The Federal government has a very large annual deficit and funding requests will most likely be limited by city and regions.

The City may have a scenario where there is funding for a new TPT but no funding for all the impacted and displaced Lakeside Drive current tenants and no community hub. Also the City may end up with displaced tenants in transitional, perhaps long-term, spaces that are inappropriate for their needs.

9. Incremental Benefits to Stratford – Lakeside Drive vs Elsewhere

I would like to point out to City council that a lot of the sales pitch from the Stratford Festival talks about incremental benefits to the city (construction jobs, full-time (or realistically is it part-time) jobs, and dollar impact to the city and its economy) with the respect to the proposed Lakeside Drive site.

Please note that a new TPT anywhere else in the city, other than the proposed Lakeside Drive site, will still have the same comparable incremental impact.

I strongly believe that there is no pressing need to have the new TPT on Lakeside Drive.

10. The Stratford Festival New TPT Sales Process

I have issues with the Stratford Festival's sales process to sell the new TPT proposal to city council.

First off, the Stratford Festival has had over a year to work on its sales pitch. The City has been a part of the process but the remaining stakeholders for the current Lakeside Drive site have had a shorter time frame. General citizens have had an even shorter time frame to respond.

I know that the Stratford Festival has reached out to it to its employees and to its members and visitors by email asking for their support and asking them to communicate their support in this consultative process.

In my opinion, asking your employees to support your proposal is really pressuring your employees and indirectly threatening them that they may not have a job in the future if you do not provide your support.

From a personal perspective, my wife and I have been asked by email to provide our support for the new TPT proposal.

My issue here is that the Stratford Festival has gone out of its way to work its client lists, email addresses, Facebook and Instagram posts, purchases of significant advertisements in local papers and online, and other ways.

I don't think it's appropriate or representative of the non-support of the new TPT proposal of everyday Stratford residents who do not want to see a new and much larger TPT on Lakeside Drive.

I would ask that the City of Stratford discount support received from residents outside of Stratford. These supporters, I believe, do not even know that Stratford residents are being negatively impacted by a new TPT on Lakeside Drive.

11. Some Really Bad Decision Making by the Stratford Festival

I would like to mention to City council that I find it offensive that the Stratford Festival brain trust would go ahead with an international design competition for a new TPT on the Lakeside Drive block without first firming up land title or a life-long lease.

It is my understanding that the site is city owned and zoned for parks and recreation, which I believe would exclude a larger commercial theatre operations.

It makes no sense to have a competition unless this issue was first decided by City council.

Having a competition, picking an architect, and unveiling a proposal puts a lot of undue pressure on City council. If council denies the Festival's proposal, the Festival brain trust wasted a lot of money on bad decision making and it's not City council's responsibility to bail out the Stratford Festival should it deny the Festival's proposal.

Also an architect could come up with an equally compelling new design for a new TPT elsewhere in the city without negatively impacting our waterfront park and recreation area on Lakeside Drive.

It is my hope that no one on City council or working for the city gave any kind of preliminary approval for the Festival to go ahead with a design competition without first determining the resolution of this most substantive issue. The actual issue that needs to be decided upon by City council.

So what should City council do?

My suggestions are as follows:

I am asking that our mayor and city council NOT make a rash decision to allow a new TPT to be built on Lakeside Drive.

City council has to make a decision that will be multi-generational and will significantly and negatively impact Lakeside Drive.

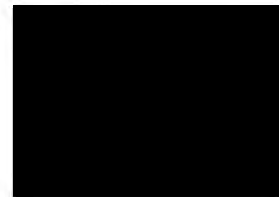
City council needs to be patient, cool headed and constructive in this process to examine all issues and the concerns of all impacted stakeholders.

If the site is leased or sold to the Festival, that entire block is effectively gone for a lifetime and our children's lifetime. Stratford's residents deserve to retain this site as parkland and / or as a recreational site.

Thank you for the opportunity for letting me voice my substantive concerns with the Festival's new TPT proposal.

It has been my experience that haste in decision making, and not listening to all stakeholders' concerns, usually ends up in a poor decision in the long run.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Potter

From: Rob Horne
Sent: September-28-17 4:36 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Fwd: Kiwanis Club Position Papers re Tom Patterson Theatre Project / Grand Trunk Hub
Attachments: Kiwanis Position - Member Focus.pdf; ATT00001.htm; Kiwanis Club - Theatre Position.pdf; ATT00002.htm; Kiwanis Position - City of Stratford Focus.pdf; ATT00003.htm

For our collection

Sent from VMware Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dan Mathieson <DMathieson@stratford.ca>

Date: Sep 28, 2017 4:34 PM

Subject: Fwd: Kiwanis Club Position Papers re Tom Patterson Theatre Project / Grand Trunk Hub

To: Rob Horne <RHorne@stratford.ca>

Cc:

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]

Date: September 28, 2017 at 4:12:02 PM EDT

To: Dan Mathieson <dmathieson@stratford.ca>, Brad Beatty <bradcbeatty@hotmail.com>, George Brown <gbrown1@gmail.com>, Graham Bunting <blfstmn@gmail.com>, Tom Clifford <tclifford@stratford.ca>, Bonnie Henderson <bonnie48henderson@yahoo.ca>, Danielle Ingram <dingram@stratford.ca>, "Frank Mark" <frankjpmark@gmail.com>, Kerry McManus <kmcmamus@stratford.ca>, Martin Ritsma <martrits@fc.amdsb.ca>, Kathy Vassilakos <kvassilakos@stratford.ca>, Antoni Cimolino <ACimolino@stratfordshakespearefestival.com>, Anita Gaffney <agaffney@stratfordfestival.ca>

Cc: Pat Shantz <pshantz@stratford.ca>, [REDACTED]

Subject: **Kiwanis Club Position Papers re Tom Patterson Theatre Project / Grand Trunk Hub**

To: City of Stratford, Ontario, Canada and Stratford Shakespearean Festival of Canada

Attached are three position papers created by the Kiwanis Club of Stratford:

- 1. Member Focus** - This paper provides more detailed history so that members have the context of the positions. This one clearly summarizes our position with regard to the Stratford Festival and the City of Stratford as well.
- 2. Theatre Focus** - This paper clearly states our support for the theatre while also highlighting the needs of this club.

3. City of Stratford Focus - This paper reminds the City of the large financial commitments that have been made for the creation of the Kiwanis Community Centre and urges the City of Stratford to move forward on the Grand Trunk Community Hub where we see great opportunity for the Kiwanis club to be involved and publicly recognized.

Hopefully, papers #2 and #3 particularly will be of some assistance as Stratford City Council, City Staff, Stratford Festival Board, and Stratford Festival Staff deliberate and make decisions.

Sincerely,
John Patterson, President
Kiwanis Club of Stratford



The Kiwanis Club of Stratford

Chartered January 21, 1948

Kiwanis Club of Stratford states its position on the Kiwanis Community Centre and Tom Patterson Theatre

Focus: Information for Kiwanis Club of Stratford Members

Kiwanis Community Centre

The Kiwanis Club has a long history with the Kiwanis Community Centre at 111 Lakeside Drive.

In 1967, the Kiwanis Club of Stratford inspired by a directive from Kiwanis International to "enrich the lives of the aging", began a 10-year journey that culminated in the opening of the Kiwanis Community Centre on October 18, 1978.

The Club recognized that the senior citizens in Stratford had no place of their own to hold meetings and social events so in 1967 they purchased the building at 30 Rebecca Street (now Gentle Rain) from the Children's Aid Society and began to convert it into a senior citizens' drop-in centre. By 1971 it became clear that the building was inadequate for the needs of the seniors and seniors' groups that were interested in using such a facility. The Kiwanis Club pressed City Council to support their efforts to provide improved facilities for senior citizens and by 1973 the Stratford-Kiwanis Senior Citizens Corporation was formed.

In 1975, the Stratford-Kiwanis Senior Citizens Corporation decided to house the facility in an addition to the Casino building on the Avon Riverfront.

*The Kiwanis Club of Stratford, whose contribution in both time and money was recognized by the Stratford City Council when it accepted the name, Kiwanis Community Centre as "the honor bestowable on a club that has supported the old, and new, centre for years", regards this facility as one of its most rewarding community projects.
(Sixty Years of Service: The Kiwanis Club of Stratford)*

The honour of having the Kiwanis Community Centre, a prestigious building in the heart of Stratford named for our club in recognition of its hard work and financial commitment of \$250,000 is without peer. *No amount of money* can compensate the Kiwanis Club of Stratford for this loss.

While we recognize that this historical roots of the proposed Hub make the Grand Trunk name appropriate and inevitable, the **Kiwanis Club of Stratford respectfully requests consideration for the 'naming right' to a significant section of this replacement building.**

Tom Patterson Booth

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford's association with the Stratford Festival began when Tom Patterson asked the club to operate a food concession in a tiny tent during its inaugural season. Given the stature of the Stratford Festival as it exists today, it is easy to forget that it was the incredible efforts of the small businesses, service clubs, and individual citizens of Stratford that launched it in 1953.

Volunteers worked almost twenty-four hours a day. A local construction company owner named Oliver Gaffney kept his crews working around the clock, even when there was no money to pay him. A local milkman organized ushers. Someone else formed a committee to arrange for actors and for visitors to stay in Stratford homes. And the people of Stratford responded to fundraising efforts in an incredible way....just under one-half of the original sum of money raised for the initial season came from Stratford people and businesses.
(Festive Stratford by Pauline Faubert McCabe, page 74)

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford operated booths at the Main Stage, Avon and Tom Patterson Theatres for decades, providing it with significant funding to support its community projects. The club members have always looked forward to their 'booth duties', a time when they greet and welcome visitors from all over the world. Should we lose the Tom Patterson booth, there could be no reparation for this intangible: the opportunity to serve the patrons of the Stratford Festival in the tradition of the theatre's earliest days.

The Stratford Festival has agreed, in the event that the present building on Lakeside Drive is replaced, to compensate the Kiwanis Club (partially) for the loss of revenue from our refreshment booth at the Tom Patterson Theatre. This will provide the club with some relief, but the fiscal survival of the club will ultimately depend on its ability to generate additional sources of funding to support our community partners.

To this end, **The Stratford Kiwanis Garlic Festival will be requesting an increase in the grant awarded by the City of Stratford (from \$500 to \$5000) when the next grant application is made.** This is an important agricultural festival which draws over 60 vendors and 4000 to 5000 patrons to Stratford in September each year.

The potential closure of the Tom Patterson booth, for which we had a contract with the City of Stratford for a 5- year period ending 2019, places the club in a difficult legal position. We have a long-time employee who anticipates working at the booth for the next two seasons, and would have an *expectation of compensation for this permanent part-time seasonal position.* We are looking to the Stratford Festival for financial assistance in compensating this employee for an early termination.

Summary

In summary, the members of the Kiwanis Club of Stratford have deep ties - historically, financially and emotionally - to the Kiwanis Community Centre at 111 Lakeside Drive. Should the City Council determine that the best use of this beautiful site is the structure proposed by the Stratford Festival, our membership would respectfully request the following three considerations:

1. **From the City of Stratford:** a significant naming opportunity for the Kiwanis Club of Stratford within the 'new' community centre to be known as the **Grand Trunk Hub at the Cooper Site.**
2. **From the Stratford Festival:** adequate compensation for a significant period of time to reflect the loss of income from the Tom Patterson Booth.
3. **From the Stratford Festival:** compensation for our permanent part-time seasonal employee who has an expectation of employment at the Tom Patterson booth through the end of our contract with the City in 2019.

Tom Patterson Theatre

Kiwanis Club of Stratford states its position on the new Tom Patterson Theatre and the Kiwanis Community Centre

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford regards the Kiwanis Community Centre at 111 Lakeside Drive as one of **our** most rewarding community projects.

In 1967, the Kiwanis Club of Stratford, inspired by a directive from Kiwanis International to "enrich the lives of the aging," began a 10-year journey that culminated in the opening of the Kiwanis Community Centre on October 18, 1978.

The Club recognized that seniors in Stratford had no place to hold meetings or social events. It bought the building at 30 Rebecca Street from the Children's Aid Society in 1967 and converted it into a drop-in centre for seniors. So many seniors flocked to the centre that it was no longer adequate by 1971. The Kiwanis Club of Stratford pressed City Council to provide improved facilities and formed the Stratford-Kiwanis Senior Citizens Corporation by 1973. The need for more adequate space led this corporation to favour an addition to the Casino building on the Avon waterfront in 1975.

The Club initially contributed significant funds towards the building of the current Kiwanis Community Centre. Later, in 1992, the Kiwanis Club of Stratford pledged \$10,000 a year for 10 years beginning in 1992 to expand and improve the building.

There can be no doubt that members of the Kiwanis Club past and present will feel loss of this community centre acutely once it is replaced by the new Tom Patterson Theatre. That's so in no small measure because the building has carried our name for 40 years in tribute to our role in its inception. No amount of money can ever compensate our Club for this loss.

Gone as well will be revenue from our refreshment booth at the Tom Patterson Theatre which has supported many of our community programs for more than 25 years. Club members have long looked forward to their booth duties, meeting and greeting visitors from around the world. We are grateful to the Stratford Festival for agreeing to compensate our club for this loss of revenue. **We look to the Stratford Festival to assist us in compensating a permanent part-time employee for early termination of a contract seasonal employee that expires in 2019.**

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford and the Stratford Festival have worked as a team ever since Tom Patterson asked the club to operate a concession stand next to the tent that served as the theatre for the inaugural season in 1953. That's as true today as it was then.

That said, our Club wishes to convey its unqualified support for the new \$60 million Tom Patterson Theatre.

This new theatre replaces one nearing the end of its useful life. Its striking design includes a wall of glass that looks out on a garden larger than the one fronting the Festival Theatre, and offers unobstructed views of parkland and river beyond. The new theatre preserves the ambience of the one it replaces, retains the thrust stage and offers **more seating and flexibility**. Theatre goers will have one more compelling reason to return to Stratford year after year.

Residents young and old will benefit from stimulus to the local economy resulting from this \$60 million project and the added \$40 million needed to maintain and operate this new theatre.

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford commends Artistic Director Antoni Cimolino and the Stratford Festival for embarking on such an ambitious project **that pays homage to the founder, Tom Patterson.**

We call on the Government of Canada to announce funding for the new Tom Patterson Theatre so that the Stratford Festival can meet commitments to qualify for \$20 million in funding from the Government of Ontario.

We leave the Kiwanis Community Centre knowing we will be in an even better position to serve the community by joining the large number of community groups that will benefit from the Grand Trunk Hub on the Cooper Block. We look forward to talks with the city to ensure that the Kiwanis name remains front and centre at a prime location in the Grand Trunk Hub.



The Kiwanis Club of Stratford

Chartered January 21, 1948

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford states its position on the Kiwanis Community Centre and the Grand Trunk Hub

Focus: City of Stratford

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford regards the Kiwanis Community Centre at 111 Lakeside Drive as one of our most rewarding community projects.

In 1967, the Kiwanis Club of Stratford, inspired by a directive from Kiwanis International to "enrich the lives of the aging," began a 10-year journey that culminated in the opening of the Kiwanis Community Centre on October 18, 1978.

The Club recognized that seniors in Stratford had no place to hold meetings or social events. It bought the building at 30 Rebecca Street from the Children's Aid Society in 1967 and converted it into a drop-in centre for seniors. So many seniors flocked to the centre that it was no longer adequate by 1971. The Kiwanis Club of Stratford pressed City Council to provide improved facilities and formed the Stratford-Kiwanis Senior Citizens Corporation by 1973. The need for more adequate space led this corporation to favour an addition to the Casino building on the Avon waterfront in 1975.

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There can be no doubt that members of the Kiwanis Club past and present will feel loss of this community centre acutely once it is replaced by the new Tom Patterson Theatre. That's so in no small measure because the building has carried our name for 40 years in tribute to our role in its inception. No amount of money can ever compensate our Club for this loss.

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford has been serving the needs of Stratford residents for 70 years. We leave the Kiwanis Community Centre knowing we will be in an even better position to serve the community by joining the large number of community groups that will benefit from the Grand Trunk Hub on the Cooper Block.

We look forward to working with many of these groups in the weeks and months ahead to complete the Master Plan taking the Grand Trunk Hub from the drawing board to reality. Stakeholders locating at the Hub will be able to collaborate with one another, enhancing their ability to share resources, information and know-how. We see the Hub serving as a venue for a host of activities, ranging from performances to creative sessions, community events, receptions, lectures, exhibits and workshops, to name but a few opportunities.

The Kiwanis Club of Stratford strongly requests that the Kiwanis name remains front and centre at a prime location in the Grand Trunk Hub.

We call on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to announce funding for this hub so that the City of Stratford can embark on this landmark project in the very near future.

We thank Mayor Dan Mathieson and City Councillors for their leadership in moving forward with a project that will bring new vitality to the downtown core of our city.

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-11-17 11:39 AM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Fwd: Tom Patterson RENO

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: October 11, 2017 at 10:51:23 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Tom Patterson RENO

After attending the afternoon meeting at the Rotary Complex I have a few comments and suggestions.

In my opinion, Anthony Cimolino and Ron Horne had “selective hearing” or were hearing but not listening anything against Anthony’s Grand dream. Anthony would say, “I feel for you but...” The Theatres attitude of what is good for the theatre is good for Stratford was constantly stated. My impression was that the meeting was poorly prepared -

*a handout was done in ten point font which was terribly hard to read

*same facts repeated over & over- seniors are not dumb we all remembered to show up. Even though there was No reminder notice in the Stratford Town Crier about a public meeting. (See newspaper exhibit # 1)

* very hard to hear

*The time limit of only 3 minutes for our comments

*Old pic of existing land it still included the tennis courts

*lovely new Pic of “the hub”

*Old pic of Cooper site

*Not near enough seats- luckily I arrived early

*Does the theatre pay their employees to show up for two hours??

My Father would have given you an “F” for the whole meeting.

- *How many will be free?
- *Where will your buses unload and park? (see photo)
- *Where will your overflow paid parking be? According to Johanna Metcalfe from 66 Queen “ Anthony told Johanna this overflow parking helped the theatre “stay afloat so it was necessary.” (see photo)
- *Will your employees learn to car pool? I see the ushers arrive in separate cars and after the play starts they leave so there are lots of empty spaces
- *Will the city enforce the No Parking signs? (see photo)
- *If I just want stroll along the river where will I park?
- *Where will your deliveries take place? (see photo)
- *Are privileged employees reserved parking spots? (see photo)
- * At present the parking on Water St. between Waterloo St. and Nile St. is only one hour. Will that sign be changed? (see photo)

My suggestion which I feel is a win win is a RENO.

Years ago, The Festival theatre underwent a huge Reno including adding the Paul Fleck Marquee and redoing the gardens and front entrance. Garry Thomas was the General Manager and he actually heard what the immediate neighbours said. My family was invited so I know our input was paid attention to - my Father wanted to keep the Ginkgo tree. That Ginkgo tree is still standing today. (see photo)

When my house needed a new roof it was Not demolished. Instead I called Smith Peat Roofing. The Tom Patterson was just changed in 2016 to a “theatre in the round.” So if the roof was such an issue why was that Not dealt with in 2016.?

If your roof does not support your fancy lighting system during the winter why was the lighting system put there?

Yes the theatre board may have a “dream to stay list” but money does not grow on trees!

The actors at the Tom Patterson are not Divas so why is there such an issue about dressing rooms? Perhaps you could hire a good designer to redo the existing room.

New washrooms could be added. If the theatre truly was a good neighbour it would pay for the new sewer lines needed for the fifteen plus houses on that block. I am sure that would be a good will gesture for people living near a construction zone.

patrons - the park is full of people with picnic coolers. Not every visitors pockets are bottomless! (See photo.)

My Father would say "KISS" which is an acronym for "keep it simple stupid" Let's do a Reno job on the Third Stage/ Tom Patterson and leave the Lawn Bowlers and Seniors in their existing location. Do not sell parkland to the theatre. I am sure the Reno would not cost 60 million. This only makes "common sense." The Tom Patterson can be a good neighbour not a "tax burden."

I would appreciate your feedback on these comments.

Sent from my iPad

Stephanie Potter

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October-11-17 12:21 PM
To: Stephanie Potter
Subject: Gingko tree

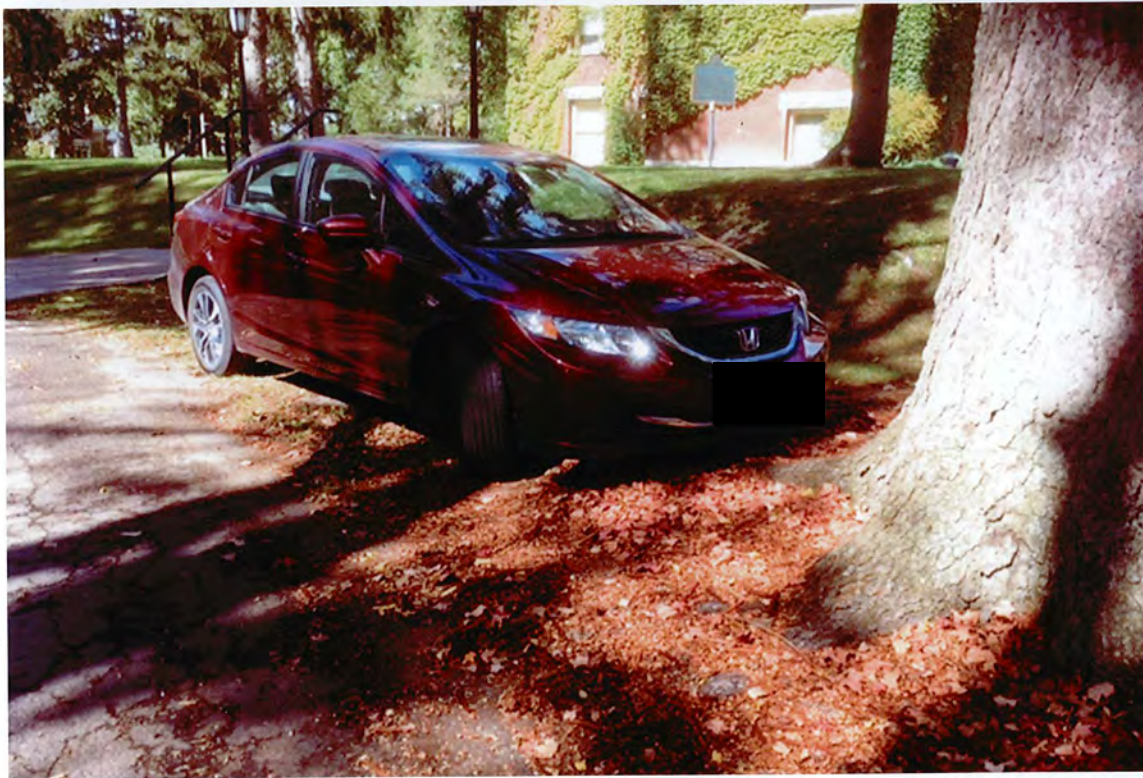
Hi
I forgot pic of the Gingko tree
At home & safe
Thanks for your patience
[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPad









September 15, 2017

Dear Madame, Sir:

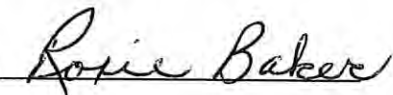
We are very sorry to advise you that we will not be able to make a contribution to your organization this year.

With the pending closing of the Tom Patterson theatre this fall, we will lose our sole selling venue for our jewelry. The sales of our hand-crafted jewelry provides the funds for our donations to various worth-while organizations in our community, such as yours. Revenue from the sales of our jewelry also pays for the annual fee to the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association for our room, costs of supplies and the upkeep of our equipment.

There are no provisions in the new theatre for selling our jewelry.

Our group is actively seeking other sales opportunities, but many of these incur monetary expenditures, sales commissions and other costs.

We sincerely hope that in the future we will again be able to provide financial support to your efforts.

Sincerely, 

President, Stratford Lapidary Club

c.c. Mayor D. Mathieson

Stratford City Council

Ms. A. Gaffney

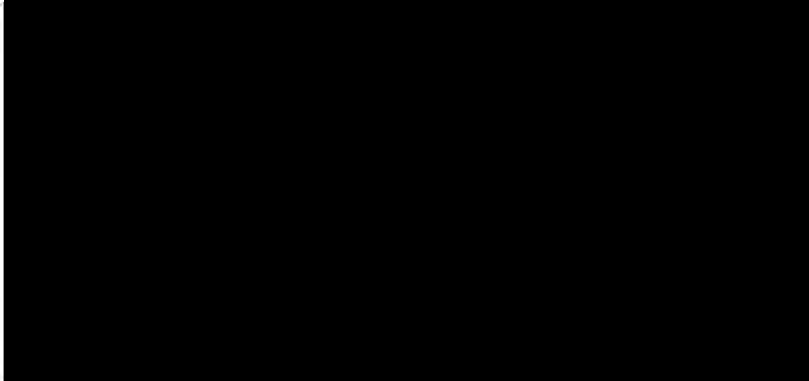
Mr. A. Cimolino

Stratford Beacon-Herald

Stratford Gazette

Stratford Market Place

TPT



Council ✓

August 22, 2017

Re: Tom Patterson Theatre redevelopment

Mayor Dan Mathieson
Councillor Brad Beatty
Councillor George Brown
Councillor Graham Bunting
Councillor Tom Clifford
Councillor Bonnie Henderson

Councillor Danielle Ingram
Councillor Frank Mark
Councillor Kerry McManus
Councillor Martin Ritsma
Councillor Kathy Vassilakos

Greetings,

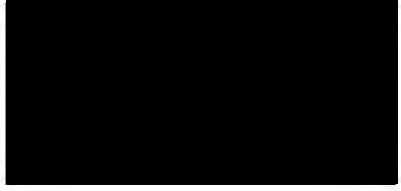
I am a long-time (50+ years) visitor and admirer of your city and, since a year ago, a proud resident. I write to urge you to support the plan of the Festival to redevelop the Tom Patterson Theatre.

You will already be familiar with the factual arguments for this redevelopment — the physical necessity to replace an antiquated building, the artistic need for expanded and modern facilities, the desire to remain competitive as a destination for theatre-goers and the projected substantial contribution to the local economy.

However I'd like to put forward an image argument — the image of Stratford as the Festival City with an international reputation. In my previous life as a newspaper correspondent, I was fortunate to have lived and worked around much of the world, including London (U.K.) and Washington. Many times I was surprised that people might not have heard of large Canadian cities such as Hamilton (where I lived for eight years) but they did know of Stratford, because of the Festival. Often they told me that they hoped to visit. And they do, as I've now discovered as a resident and sometimes host. Their visitor experience extends well beyond the theatre to such attractions as the new Market Square, the parks, the river and a truly enticing streetscape. Plus a burgeoning community of creative artists, including authors, musicians, painters...

Strong support for the TPT development from Council will further burnish Stratford's reputation as a welcoming and forward-looking city. I urge you to provide such support.

Yours truly,

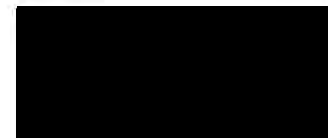


RECEIVED

AUG 25 2017

CITY OF STRATFORD
MAYOR/CAO OFFICE

TPT



August 24, 2017

Council ✓

To: Mayor Mathieson and Stratford City Councillors

After months of polite silence and quiet seething, I am compelled to express my dismay that Stratford's prime real estate still seems to be a target for takeover by the Stratford Festival Theatre.

What business model can be used that would advise us to simply give away our most valuable assets? The Riverside address of the Kiwanis Community Centre has big bucks potential, as the Festival and everyone else knows. I think it should be kept as a centre point in our parks system, preferably as the community centre which is used daily by so many. If not, then at least auction it to the highest bidders, as Tavistock did with surplus land in recent years. Let the Festival choose another site.

The Festival may give tax receipts for donations, but it is most definitely not a charity. It also has huge fund-raising options which we as a City do not have access to. Many times over the years taxpayers, through City Council, have magnanimously supported the Festival's growth, but this time we cannot afford to give away what is really **our** public land. We have already 'promised' to give generously to the theatre via Ontario government support of \$20 million.

Festival spokespersons want to phrase this as a "are you with us or against us" question. All of us should be smarter than to take that bait.

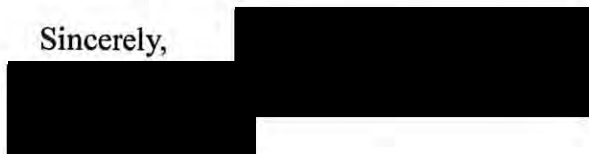
I treasure the arts and attend theatre wherever I can in many cities worldwide. But while I am an avid theatre-goer, I rank my neighbours and my community ahead of that.

Asking just a few people, it is very clear that this is a divisive issue. The extent of rancour is reason enough to put an end to this. Otherwise, the sense of betrayal and the resulting animosity will only grow.

I'm not on the Festival Board and so I don't judge the Festival's business plan, but I know it should not be contingent on my City's largesse.

I believe Council's work is to listen to and care for all of its citizens, not only those who live in the Festival's bubble.

Sincerely,



Subject: FW: Response for survey 'Email the Office of the Mayor'

From: Survey
Sent: August-28-17 8:34 AM
To: Patricia Shantz
Subject: Response for survey 'Email the Office of the Mayor'

1. Subject
Kiwanis Centre/TPT

2. Full Name

[Redacted]

3. Email Address

[Redacted]

4. Day time phone number

[Redacted]

5. Street # & Name

[Redacted]

6. City
Stratford

7. Message

Please take time to carefully consider the longterm impact of turning over community space adjacent to the river in favour of what is essentially a commercial endeavour despite it's 'economic impact'. As a Stratford native and lifelong supporter of the Festival, I am saddened and offended by the bullying and coercive tactics that have been used to force a decision. The Festival's deadlines are self-imposed and not a valid reason for the City to act in haste.

*Called
'i'
left
a message*

TPT

Patricia Shantz

From: [Redacted]
Sent: August-26-17 7:28 PM
To: bh.letters@sunmedia.ca
Cc: Dan Mathieson; Brad Beatty; George Brown; Tom Clifford; Bonnie Henderson; Danielle Ingram; Danielle Ingram; Frank Mark; Frank Mark; Kerry McManus; Martin Ritsma; kvassilikos@stratford.ca; Dan Mathieson; gbunting@stratfordcanada.com; Tom Clifford; Kerry McManus; kathy.vassilikos@gmail.com; Patricia Shantz
Subject: Letter to the Beacon Herald Editor
Attachments: Stratford letter August 2017.docx

Editor:
Pasted below (and also attached) is a letter that I would appreciate your considering printing in an upcoming edition of the Stratford Beacon Herald. It concerns the proposed new Tom Patterson Theatre.

Thank you.



New Tom Patterson Theatre

Many S.W. Ontario communities are confronting decline – due to deindustrialization, diminished ‘vitality’, and loss of tax revenues. In the Festival, Stratford enjoys a major advantage, distinguishing it from ‘the competition’. If the city’s municipal leaders embrace the development opportunity represented by the new Tom Patterson Theatre, Stratford will further enhance its attractiveness as a residential and commercial investment destination.

My love of Stratford began decades ago. Initially, the draw was world class theatre, just seven-hours by car from Ottawa. Today, in addition to its four stages, it’s the amazing array of dining and music opportunities that I find so compelling. I routinely come to Stratford in the winter as well. While the theatre is closed, the amenities that largely grew because of it remain open – making the city attractive year-round. I find the city ‘real’; its remarkable constellation of economic activity (industry and commerce, agriculture, the arts, hospitality) can’t be found in any comparably-sized Canadian city. I hope Stratford’s elected officials fully understand what a great thing they’ve got going.

Three years ago I made my decision. After living in Ottawa, Toronto, and four large U.S. cities, I bought a residential property in Stratford, to which I’ll move soon enough. In the meantime, I pay my taxes, insure with a local broker, buy appliances and furniture from city vendors, and hire only local service providers. Hopefully, all that legitimizes my voice on the subject of the new theatre.

To the Council,

October 10, 2017.

I fully understand a new Tom Patterson Theatre is needed. Following are some of my concerns that have not been adequately clarified in the information given to the public.

The Hub

If everything was in place for construction to begin on The Hub it would be excellent but everything is not in place and the following information has indicated that to me.

From Councillors:

1. A Councillor told me that the **grants the city would apply for are not available** to any community yet.
2. Another told me the **city has applied to the federal government for the grant(s)**.
3. Finally, another told me that Council is **still in the process of gathering information** about The Hub.

From Urban Strategies INC.:

In the September 12, 2017 edition of the Beacon Herald, Galen Simmons wrote, "Hare expects a final draft of the Grand Trunk Community Hub master plan to be ready for Council's approval at **either the end of this year or the beginning of 2018**".

Questions I Have:

1. How do you apply for grants without presenting a plan?
2. How has The Festival received a grant from the provincial government before appearing before Council with their proposal, seeing that the present building that houses the Tom Patterson belongs to the city and is on city land?
3. Will either government provide large grants to two projects in the same city – The Hub and The Festival?

Present and Future Situation for the Seniors:

1. The facilities at the Agriplex are far from ideal **but if The Hub had a date of completion, people would make the best of it**. However, there is nothing definite about The Hub.
2. How will The Festival fundraise \$500,000 for the custom alterations to the Agriplex when they are fundraising for their new theatre (August 24, 2017 Edition of Stratford Gazette)? This is a lot of money for a **temporary** site, which makes one wonder how temporary the site is going to be.
3. The 3-storey centre for seniors onsite sounds promising **if The Hub is not a reality for next year**.
4. I understand that the rentals at the Kiwanis Centre go toward reducing SLAAA membership fees. If there are no rentals will this mean an increase in SLAAA membership fees?

The New Theatre:

1. The architect's design is marvellous **but it seems to overpower the location**. "Less is more" in design. The main theatre is where our roots originate and I think it should remain as the outstanding piece of architecture in our theatres here. We just need a new theatre to replace the Tom Patterson Theatre. People are drawn by the quality of the playbill and the productions, which are made possible by the heart of the theatre space (stage, lighting, sound, seating, backstage). Should this space not be the focus for the new theatre, rather than so many cosmetics outside of it?
2. I feel competition should not be driving decisions regarding The Theatre which has weathered the ups and downs here for 65 years and is still a remarkable part of North American culture. The **uniqueness of the small city experience is what makes Stratford special**. We can't and shouldn't feel the need to compete with large centres like Toronto, Chicago and New York.

Thank you for reading this letter from someone who grew up in Stratford, whose family opened their home to an actor in the first years of The Theatre and who wants to see The Theatre continue to grow but with care, honesty and respect for the whole community.

Sincerely,



To: City Clerk

Support for The New Tom Patterson Theatre : Sept. 26, 2017

To: Sam Mathison Mayor

Councillors
RECEIVED

Change Is The Only Constant In Our Lives

OCT 10 2017

'We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.' Max De Pree

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Tom Patterson has everything to do with our situation today. I talked recently to a woman from Burlington who said she was an usher when Tom Patterson was trying to create a theatre. He invited all of the ushers to his meetings. She remembers how hard he had to fight some of the townspeople who were dead set against the idea of a theatre. Thank Goodness it happened she said. It has made Stratford what it is today. And she was not aware of our present situation.

I wear several hats in Stratford but today I am wearing my B&B hat. My husband and I have a B&B The Brunswick House. He can't be here today as he is recovering from open-heart surgery. We came here 30 years ago and have watched many years of change over this time. Some we have liked...others not. I grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan & I come from a large extended family... and we learned many life lessons from our farmer parents and grandparents that I feel are relevant to this situation today.

We learned to listen to each other, to share, to stand up for what we believe in, to tell the truth, to negotiate and to compromise. And if we lost an argument or didn't get our way we learned to be a good loser. To be a good sport. Blaming and shaming are not effective solutions. Name calling is not appropriate or a helpful answer. The Stratford Festival is not greedy or thoughtless or self-centred. And it doesn't always get what it wants. Rather, it works relentlessly hard to bring about changes that are badly needed. Want and need are two different things. Most of all, in our family we learned how to be good problem solvers. To work together and come up with the best solutions for the common good: for the family, for the community or even for our country.

When we first arrived here, we were shocked at the T-shirts we saw that said, Kill All The Tourists. We were told that they took up all the parking spots. Nothing for the locals. And do we really want people here "who are light on their feet". The children of those people changed their parents ways of thinking. They got jobs at the theatre, began their theatre careers, and took their parents to see plays. So we watched the community change and prosper.

With the growth of B&B's that the Festival & the city needed we watched the growth of many small businesses:

landscapers, renovators, sanders, air conditioning, designers, stores, restaurants, shops and hotels. The Festival has been one of the main job creators in the town.

At the B&B and in the town for many years we have heard complaints about the seating and safety at the Tom Patterson. How awful the seats are, how dangerous it is. And how many of them have stopped going there because it is not safe. They are getting more frail and vulnerable and because they are seniors they are at risk. But how sad they are because their favourite plays are often there.

When we moved here we got rid of our cars trying to be green and eco-minded. Loblaws was practically across the street. So we were very unhappy for seniors and people without cars when Loblaws went to the Mall and became Zehrs. Because we were problem solvers we eventually found positive alternatives to grocery shopping. Years later we still shop at Zehrs. So it wasn't the end of the world when you had to take a bus to get there. We were also upset when we lost Woolco's and when

Waldies went to the Mall. Our farmer parents taught us that it was how we coped with change that counted: whether it was the loss of a wheat harvest or an insurance policy that wouldn't cover a hailstorm. They also taught us to do our homework...to do research before making any big pronouncements about any situation.

And I remember listening to Chief Dan George who instilled in us that we must invest in the future...for our children for our grandchildren and the young people of today and tomorrow. He also said Respect your Elders. But most of all he wanted us to provide a model of behaviour that our youth can be proud of. That we had to look at the big picture.

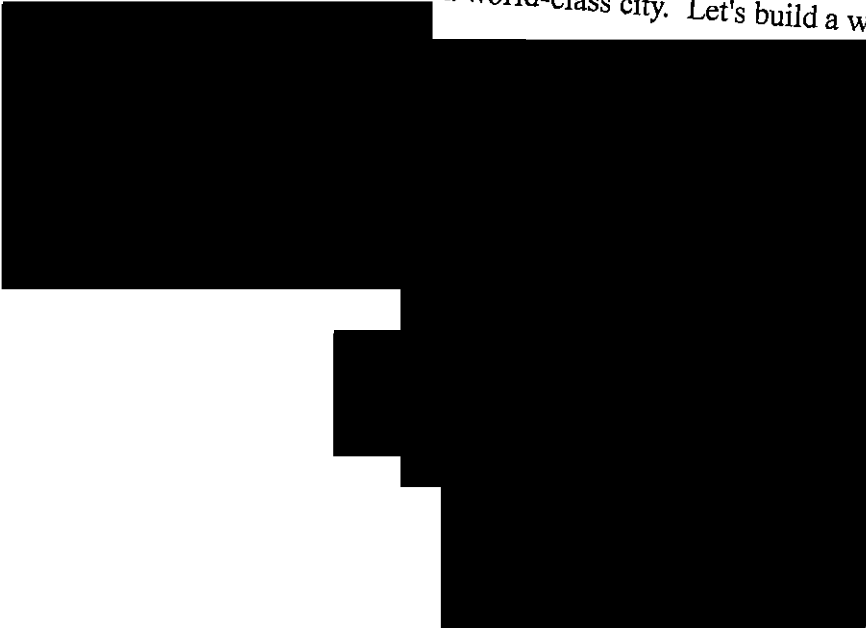
And I recall very clearly the main question that the people who stopped going to the TPT said, with hands on hips, "Why on earth doesn't the Festival do something about it??"

And that's precisely what the Festival is trying hard to do. Not as a monument to the Theatre... but as an investment in our future... for all of the community and the citizens of Stratford. People retire here because of the theatre and the wonderful community we have all created. Let's be proud.

The Stratford Festival is our national treasure. And we must support it when it needs our help. Let's not hold up progress as we head into 2018.

The TPT Project with its beautiful architecture and landscaping will bring in many visitors, many theatregoers and many tourists to our city. Just what we need and want. I am confident that in 5 years you will all love it and be proud of it. It will be a beautiful addition to our community. And most of all we will provide a good role-model for our children in the process.

Vic Hayter used to say We are a world-class city. Let's build a world-class Tom Patterson.



I am a resident of the first block of Water Street and I write to voice my objections to the exceedingly ambitious and needlessly costly project now being proposed by the Stratford Festival whereby an entire city block is to be decimated.

It appears to me that in order to provide a mere single row of extra seating at the Tom Patterson Theatre, they wish to unleash mayhem on the community. The excuse always dragged out is that the roof of the present building is unable to support the lighting fixtures during the winter months because of the added weight of snow. Why not simply reinforce the roof?

The cost would be minimal compared to the millions presently being proposed and none of the various groups affected by the proposal would be compromised (Seniors at the Kiwanis Centre, Lawn Bowlers et al). The actors too, who have often voiced their preference for performing at the present location compared to the other Stratford theatres, would also be more than happy.

Other arguments include the absurdity of building on a flood plain, in spite of engineering assurances,

Inevitable increased traffic flow on the block which currently has TWO child care facilities operating,

Anticipated noise pollution regarding air conditioning units that would have to be installed,

Finally and perhaps selfishly, the devaluation of property values due to diminished sight lines for which NO compensation has been proposed.

**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information (optional):

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

*Feedback is being accepted until **Tuesday October 10th 2017**

Comments:

Older people + let's use our age and wisdom and not fight the theater. It's the only game in town for so many people looking for work. Show them we can work with them + not against them. Make Tom Patterson proud.

The McEnty Center is very nice. The festival is very nice to help us get there. We have pickle ball, a fall fair, the antique fair, sports, garlic festival, and we can join them. It is a hub already.

I just wished we could have talked it over before this fight.

Many of my family have got their start at the Festival. I want to support them.

Their plans look nice and will help our city to grow and prosper.

Notice of Collection

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, and will be used by Stratford City Staff and Stratford City Council, as part of the public consultation process regarding the Stratford Festival's proposed Tom Patterson Theatre redevelopment. Questions regarding the collection and use of this information should be directed to the City Clerk, 1 Wellington Street, P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON, N6A 6W1; or by telephone at 519-271-0250 ext. 235 during business hours.

**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Contact Information (optional):

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

*Feedback is being accepted until **Tuesday October 10th 2017**

Comments:

You are repeating history!
Fighting over a new theatre
is NOT acceptable! You will
destroy our community and
our camaraderie!

City Hall + Stratford Festival -
Learn to communicate.
These meetings should have
taken place a long time ago.
Why didn't this happen before?

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STRAITFORD LAWN BOWLING CLUB

SITUATED ON THE BANKS OF THE AVON

48 Water Street - Stratford - Ontario - N5A 7C1

October 9, 2017

To Mayor Dan Matheson and all members of City Council:

The Stratford Lawn bowling club members met on October 6, 2017 to discuss the future of our club. Of course, all of us would like to stay on our current site for all of its obvious advantages. However, we realize that the Festival and probably most members of city council are in favour of the new Tom Patterson theatre proposal.

Some of our executive members have met with Rob Horne and David St Louis to discuss the possible re-location to a site at the Stratford Municipal golf course. After sharing the proposal to our members, we are in support of moving there provided the city moves quickly to build our new facility as soon as the decision has been made to support the new theatre. Even if our new green is seeded as early as possible in the Spring, we are going to be without greens for most, if not all, of next season. We have been assured that the golf club members are willing to accept us as co-tenants and that the golf club staff will be maintaining the greens for the bowlers.

There are many details that would have to be worked out but we are willing to accept the city's proposal to re-locate us to this site.

Also, we are currently looking into a heritage designation for our club which started in Stratford in 1898 and has been in its current location since 1915.

Sincerely,
Stratford Lawn Bowling Club Executive

Glenn Keew - Secretary

**Please share your comments on the Stratford Festival's
Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional):

Address (optional)

Contact Information (optional):

RECEIVED

OCT 18 2017

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

*Feedback is being accepted until **Tuesday October 10th 2017**

Comments:

The TPT redevelopment will enhance the city of Stratford and the Festival.

The SLAA members will be relocated temporarily (I am a member) but the vision for the city and theatre is more ^(bigger) important. I feel the proposed redevelopment will care for the SLAA members.

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Proposed Tom Patterson Theatre Redevelopment:**

Name (optional)

Address (optional)

Contact Information (optional):

*Note that comments can also be submitted online at www.stratfordcanada.ca/TomPatterson

*Feedback is being accepted until **Tuesday October 10th 2017**

Comments:

*I WILL BE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED IF OUR
COUNCIL DOES NOT COME TO AN AGREEMENT
TERMS OF LEASE FOR THE PROPERTY WHICH
ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
NEW PROPOSED TOM PATTERSON THEATRE.*

RECEIVED

OCT 18 2017

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

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Tom Patterson Feedback – Phone

25 September 2017

- Very supportive of project and will be a beautiful asset to the City and Festival;
- Festival is working very hard to accommodate those who will be displaced;
- Agriplex is the best option for temporary location for these groups;
- City's Community Hub is exciting, these things will take time;
- Without the Festival Stratford would decline significantly, therefore the health of the Festival is essential for Stratford;
- Many of the people complaining have some misinformation and hostility towards the Festival;
- Both are very supportive of the Festival and this proposal.

27 September

- Loves the theater and the productions this year, but thinks this project is unwise because theaters are often half full and spending \$60 million could ruin the festival – that money would be better spent donated to the hospice; if the festival doesn't do well it is bad for the city
- Plays bridge at the kawinas and realizes its not in great shape – should be rebuilt in a more modest fashion, \$60 million seems ruinous
- Where will they get the audience to fill the theater in the future? Very concerned about the long term viability of the festival
- They are also threatening to cut back staff – not enough ushers; lack of staffing to save money

10 October 2017

- Very supportive of the Festivals proposal, vital to the future prosperity of the festival and the community
- Proud resident and Festival employee