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LIVING WITH LESS PLASTIC

SEVENTH COMMUNITY DIALOGUE EVENT FOCUSES ON THE GLOBAL PLASTIC WASTE CRISIS

Stratford, ON, February 25, 2019—Join us on March 20th at 7pm to discuss how to reduce our dependency on plastic in our daily lives. The Stratford Public Library and the University of Waterloo Stratford School of Interaction Design and Business will welcome Emily Chandler and Jennifer Pate for a free community conversation.

Emily was born and raised in Stratford and chose to return to her home town after receiving her Masters in Environment from the University of Waterloo, and has also received her Environmental Management and Assessment Certificate from Niagara College. She is currently employed at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and is Chair of the City of Stratford's Energy and Environment Committee.

Jennifer Pate has degrees in Geography and Environment, Science and Society from University College London (UK), and is a co-founder of Love Your Greats which aims to connect people to the Great Lakes while promoting their protection. In 2018 Jennifer's work with Love Your Greats earned her the CPS-ECP Western Ontario District Environmental Program award, the CPS-ECP National Environmental Award, and the CASBA Safeguard the Environment Award. Jennifer is also on the board of directors for Blue Bayfield, an organization whose mission is to prevent plastic and pollutants from entering the Great Lakes and waterways.

This lecture will follow the same format of the very successful Legal Cannabis 101 and Living Digitally held in July and November 2018, with a discussion on the global plastic waste crisis and strategies to take effective action in our daily lives. The lecture and following question and answer period will be moderated by Stratford City Councillor Kathy Vassilakos, current Chair of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee.

Julia Merritt, CEO of Stratford Public Library adds, "Sustainability and conscious consumption are topics that continue to build in resonance for members of our community, and we look forward to being able to support this interest with up-to-date information from experts in the field. And by engaging with this topic, we can all make informed decisions about the kind of community Stratford wants to be Please join us for another thought-provoking conversation in this series."

The Stratford Public Library and University of Waterloo Stratford School are committed to an ongoing series of community dialogues designed to enlighten, foster communication and strengthen community knowledge and ties. Please join us at 7:00pm at the University of Waterloo Stratford School (125 St. Patrick Street, Stratford) for this informative event. **Please register online** <https://uwaterloo.ca/stratford/less-plastic>

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Robyn Godfrey at 519-271-0220 x132 / rgodfrey@stratford.ca or Annaka Willemsen at 519-888-4567 x23039 / awillemsen@uwaterloo.ca