



WECSSO

WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY SENIOR SPORTS ORGANIZATION

FALL EDITION

Volume 25

NOVEMBER 2014

SLO-PITCH REPORT -Ron Ottogalli

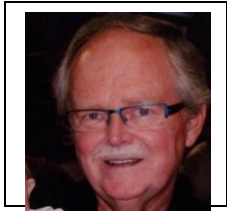
The season began in earnest in early May and ended on a beautiful fall day in September. In between, many competitive games were played, new friendships were formed, past competitors became teammates, laughs were shared and the camaraderie amongst the players was evident not only during the games themselves but afterwards while having food and refreshments. This is what WECSO slo-pitch is about. Winning is nice but more important than winning is being able to play this wonderful game at our advanced ages and to socialize afterwards. Our abilities may not be the same but our enthusiasm for the game is regardless of our shortcomings. Always stay positive and do not let the occasional error or strike out get you down- you will have another chance to catch the ball or another time at bat. Pick up a teammate who is having a bad game- words of encouragement always help, it is better than criticism and is much appreciated by the player. Enjoy each and every game as if it is your last one. Unfortunately we still have players in our league who "just do not get" what our league is about. These players always find something to complain about- be it an umpire's call, decisions made by their manager, rules of the league, etc etc. etc. Luckily, for the league, these players are in the minority and the vast majority of the players get what our league is about- a league for seniors to enable them to play a sport that they like no matter their age and abilities. What other league gives you a full summer of baseball and two banquets for a \$50.00 registration fee???

The major change in our league this year was the introduction of the pitching screen. The purpose of using the screen was to protect the pitcher. The pitcher is only 50 feet from the batter and is very vulnerable to getting hit by the batted ball. Bats are much better these days and the ball comes off the bat at tremendous speeds. Hence, the need for the pitching screens. This screen will be used every season going forward. Some (minority) disagree with the use of such a screen but anyone who played/umpired this year saw how the screen saved a few players from possible serious injury.

This past season, the Red Division had five teams, the Blue Division had six teams and the Green Division went from six teams to five teams. As the season progressed, some teams, due to injuries and other factors, had trouble fielding a team from time to time. In the future we may have to go with fewer teams with more players per team. We have to realize that at our ages injuries are more likely to happen as the season goes along. In the last few years it seems that each team loses a player or two and this resulted in a team being shorthanded. This trend will likely continue so maybe now is the time to be proactive and put more players on a team.

The playoff formats this year were different for each division. The Red Division went with a single round robin with one team being eliminated. The semi-finals were best of three as were the finals. The Blue Division had a double round robin with two teams being eliminated. The four remaining teams played and the two winners advanced to a final game. The Green Division played a double round robin with the top two teams advancing to a single game final. The results of the final games can be found on our website.

In closing I would like to thank the players for another successful slo-pitch season. Special thanks to: a) our volunteer umpires who give up valuable time to officiate our games. It may not seem so at times but your dedication is much appreciated b) the managers of the various teams for taking on the task of being a manager and all that it entails c) Rick Anderson for taking on the unenviable job as commissioner of our league d) the slo-pitch executive for the work done on behalf of the players e) last but not least to Bob Parent for the many years that he served as President of WECSO.



President Brian's Corner

Fall is upon us and winter is just around the corner. I hope everyone is still active in one sport or another. I'm looking forward to Winter Indoor Baseball which has just started at the Novelletto Centre. With some of the players going south in January there will be open spaces. Come on out and join us. Contact Ron Ottogalli.

I thought this past season with summer Slo-Pitch was a success. Our new Commissioner, Rick Anderson, and his Slo-Pitch Committee did an excellent job this year. It took us a while to get used to the pitching screens but most members adjusted well and we will continue with their use. The Slo-Pitch executive will be busy this winter organizing for next year.

We did experience some problems with fielding teams, (especially in the Red and Green Divisions), as a number of players due to health or injuries had to quit playing. We had 16 teams this year, (5 Red, 6 Blue and 5 Green.) At present, we are projecting only 14 teams next year, (down from 18 teams a few years ago), as both Red and Green will probably be down to 4 teams each. We need some new players. As a result a **Motion** was passed at the WECSO Annual Meeting to lower the age of involvement in the Slo-Pitch Division of WECSO to age 50. We're hoping to get more players that work shifts and are able to play in the morning.

I'd like to thank all the members who supported Megan and Matt this year at the concession, especially with their loss because of the concession fire. On behalf of the members, the WECSO Executive and the Slo-pitch Committee presented Matt and Megan with a donation of \$2000 to help offset some of their losses. They were also given a gift certificate to Babies 'R Us and funds from a 50/50 draw – special thanks to Maggie Miall and Bernie Decaire.

We had a beautiful day at our 18th Annual Memorial Day of Remembrance. Gord Gunnel and Bob Parent presented an excellent program to honour eight members that had passed away in the past year. Special thanks to Carolyn Campbell and Deacon Rick Heath, one of our members, for taking part in the service. It would be nice to see more members out at this event. A memorial brick is laid for each member in our own special reserved area which is right by the Udine Fountain at the corner of Riverside Drive and Ouellette Ave.

Since that service, four more members, Bill Vankoughnett, Dave Bohonko, John Parr and Ron Villeneuve have passed away. They will be honoured at next year's service.

The WECSO Slo-Pitch Annual Banquet was well attended this year. A special surprise presentation was made to Bob Parent. He was presented with a Tiger jersey and a beautiful Tiger jacket for his 22 years of service with WECSO. Bob will continue to serve as Past President and co-chairman of the Remembrance Committee.

A word about the Annual Meeting this past October 21st: We had 50 members, if that, in attendance. I thank those who were able to attend but we need to see more of you at this **once a year** meeting. WECSO is SLO-PITCH BASEBALL. Without a WECSO Executive to organize, recruit, fund-raise and direct the membership there is no Slo-Pitch Baseball. This executive along with the Slo-Pitch Committee provides an excellent program we all love, but it needs some leadership to continue to do so. We had 5 members up for re-election. Tom Bois, Ken Dafoe, and Sylvia Schultz, were willing to stand for re-election. Bob Parent and Bill

President's Message cont'd

Scheuerman, (both after many years of service), were stepping down leaving 2 vacancies on the executive. Nominations were open to the floor but no one was willing to stand for the 2 open positions. If this continues, where does that leave us?

The WECSSO executive is responsible for membership/recruitment, fundraising, (bingos, Windsor Best Seller Books, Lou Dupuis Memorial Bowling Event), support of the Goodfellows Paper Drive, Youth and Child Sponsorship and support of both the summer and winter indoor slo-pitch. The executive meets 4 – 5 times a year. **If you feel you are able give some time and want to serve on this executive**, please email or call me or any one of the executive members. Along with Tom, Ken and Sylvia, you have, Jim Bridge, Phil Ochs, Ron Ottogalli, Lido Sandre and myself as your 2015 WECSSO Executive.

ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE, TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH - Helen Keller

Report on Bowling Tournament Charity Disbursements – 2014

We held the Lou Dupuis Memorial Bowling Fundraiser last April. It was the 10th annual fundraiser, and the first year since Lou's passing last year. The event was a success as our chairman Tom Bois reported in our summer newsletter. We raised \$6,322.45 for a total of over \$59,000 for the past ten years. Seven youth oriented organizations received \$1000 each. These organizations serve youth with special needs or are less fortunate and under privileged

- a) Windsor Police Community Service Branch: Camp Brombal
- b) STAG, Sandwich Teen Action Group:
- c) W/E County Special Stars Soccer League
- d) Riverside Floor Hockey
- e) Forest Glade Baseball League.
- f) Windsor Essex Therapeutic Riding Association
- g) Forest Glade Optimist Club

We received a thank you from all of those organizations for their donations received.

Slo-Pitch – BLUE DIVISION

Thank you to all players for their support this year. The Blue Division had a very successful year with competitive and fun ball. The teams were closely balanced and with a break any team could have been the winner. Congratulations to the Gladiators on winning the division. They started out slow but as the year progressed gelled in a good team. It was nice to see gentlemanly play this year with no controversies. Let's keep up this spirit of fair play making this a fun sport for our members.

Looking forward to the 2015 season. Hopefully everyone has or will soon send in their registration. This greatly helps the organizers of the league who volunteer hours to put the teams together. Encourage your friends to join no matter their skill level, as we lose players every year due to age or health reasons.

Have a good holiday season and stay healthy over the winter.

Thanks Len Dupuis

RED DIVISION - Ron Ottogalli

The Red Division once again went with five teams. As a result we had a bye situation again. Having a bye, results in less games being played in the Red Division. The other major problem with a team having a bye is the prospect of not playing in a given week. A team could have a bye on Monday and then the games on Wednesday are rained out. This could happen to a team(s) several times during the season. The slo-pitch committee will have to look closely at this situation. Another problem faced by some teams was injuries. These injuries resulted in teams being shorthanded a number of times during the season and even in the playoffs. The slo-pitch committee may have to look at having fewer teams with more players on a team. Injuries at our age are inevitable and we should plan our team makeup accordingly.

The pitching screen was introduced this year and it was a major topic of discussion during the season. Players had their views on the use of this screen and were not afraid to express them at times. The slo-pitch executive knew that this would not be popular with some of the players but realized the importance of this screen in protecting the pitcher. Rules in regards to this screen were implemented and if changes needed to be made, they were implemented very quickly. This was our first attempt at using the screen and indeed was a learning process. A few more refinements will probably be made before next season but THE SCREEN IS HERE TO STAY. There is no denying the fact that the use of the screen protects the pitcher from possible injury.

The Red Division tried a different playoff format-- A single round robin eliminating one team, followed by a best of three semi-finals and finals. As a result of the single round robin, the Leisures were eliminated. Four teams remained- Vikings, Cavemen, Dinosaurs, and the Relics. In semi-final action the Vikings defeated the Relics in two straight and the Cavemen defeated the Dinosaurs 2-1. The finals pitted the Cavemen against the Vikings. The Vikings defeated the Cavemen 2-0.

In closing, I would like to thank the managers for their hard work for the benefit of our division and its' players. It is not an easy task to manage a team of players with different abilities, attitudes and egos. You want to field a competitive team while at the same time trying to be fair with each player. You make decisions which you think are best for the team and you hope that your players agree with your managerial decisions most of the time. It is very difficult to keep everyone happy but you hope that your players appreciate your efforts as a manager. To manage, you need "thick skin". This is a team game and you try to make decisions that will benefit your team even though you know that some players may not always agree and voice their complaints to others, not to you directly. This must be very discouraging but yet you persevere and give it your best. Again, thanks for managing for the benefit of our league. Even though many players may not thank you personally, most really do appreciate what you do and the efforts that you put in throughout the season.

A Division Managers: Leisures-Geoff McKay, Vikings-Jack Bump and Mike Dimaio, Cavemen-Hector Marinacci, Dinosaurs-Ray Hicks, Relics-Ken Dafoe.

Bob Parent

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the WECSO for the great evening we had at our Slo-Pitch Banquet. It was a tremendous surprise and I surely was surprised everyone involved kept it secret. Inviting my family to the banquet was very considerate and enjoyable also the amazing Tiger jersey and excellent warm winter Tiger jacket. The thoughtfulness of presenting Donna, my wife, with a beautiful bouquet of roses was a great idea. Being thanked for something one likes to do is really remarkable and rewarding. My family and I again Thank You for the appreciation you showed with the organizing of the event.

Thanks, Bob Parent

THE REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

Every third Saturday in August we celebrate the lives of our deceased members. The event has been held for the past eighteen years and we have honoured 88 members. Our event consists of a piper leading us in and out of the ceremony, we observe a moment of silence as the names of the past deceased members are read out loud, then we have the unveiling of the stones bearing the name of the deceased member who we are honouring on this day. The families of the deceased are present and do the honour of unveiling the engraved stones. We have had the honour of reciting the poems that were composed and written by our own Gerry Vidler, plus Gerry's daughter Carolyn Campbell has sung the poems for us which is a real treat. A closing prayer and blessing is led by a member of the clergy. The only thing that is missing is the attendance of his or her past teammates to honour his or her life. I would like to thank the members that do make an effort to attend and make it a worthwhile event. The families are always so thankful to the WECSO for honouring their loved ones. We have 4 members at this time that we will be honouring at our next ceremony: Bill Vankoughnett, Dave Bohonko, John Parr and Ron Villeneuve . Hope to see you on August 15th 2015.

Remembrance Committee Gord Gunnell, Bob Parent

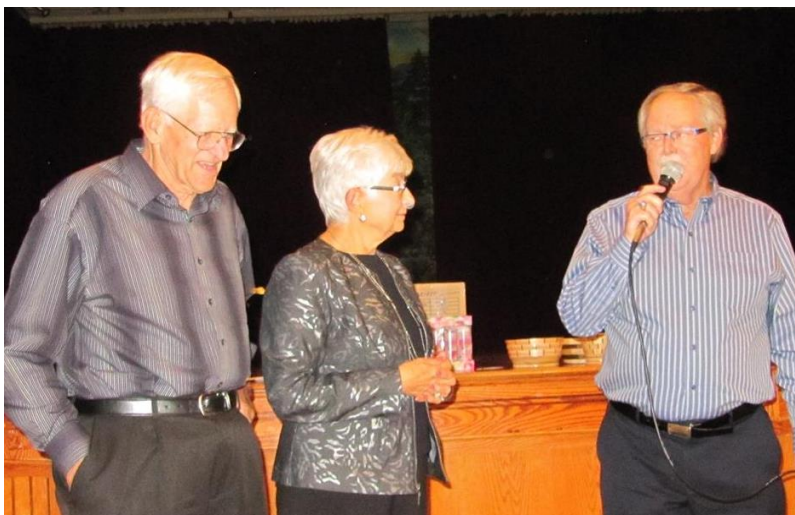
Report on Child Sponsorship - 2014

by Brian Adlam

We are sponsoring a young boy, Jerson Gabriel Gonzalez Rodriguez, from Nicaragua. This is our fifth year sponsoring him. He is 10 years old and is in grade 3. Jerson lives with his sister and parents in the small community of Oscar Turcios in the city of Esteli which is 150 kilometres north of the capital, Managua. His mother is a homemaker and his father is an agricultural worker.

We received a Child Progress Report from the Christian Children's Fund of Canada on June 12/14 indicating that Jerson is doing very well at home and school. His favourite subjects are gym and Spanish, he assists with classroom duties and attends a religious program. He has changed his career goals. Up until last year, he wanted to be a professional baseball player. He now wants to be a police officer.

Our sponsorship is \$456 per year. Money is used to buy school supplies, clothing, and anti-parasitic, anti-louse medicine. It also provides family health care and the services of a qualified doctor. We are sending a \$60 gift for Jerson and his family this Christmas, 2014.



Past President Bob Parent

Donna Parent

President Brian Adlam

SLOW-PITCH EXECUTIVE – Ron Ottogalli

The Slo-Pitch executive consists of ten elected members plus the President of WECSSO and the immediate Past-President of WECSSO. The current members are: Rick Anderson, Ron Ottogalli, John Goz, Don Balkwill, Neil McKnight, Bill Scheuerman, Dan Leithead, Len Dupuis, Brian Adlam, Bob Parent, Bill Magone, and Hector Marinacci. The executive is elected at the WECSSO annual meeting held in October of each year. Terms are two years in length with five members elected each year. The other five members have a year remaining on their term. This executive is responsible for implementation of rules and overseeing the operations of WECSSO'S slo-pitch summer league. The executive meets on a regular basis in the winter months formulating plans for the upcoming season. The current rules are revisited to see if any changes should be considered. As well, suggestions are made as to new rules that should be brought in for the betterment of the league. Every change/setting of a new rules(s) is discussed in detail by the executive members and then a vote is taken. Majority rules. If any player has suggestions on how to improve our league or has ideas about rule changes should contact an executive member. Remember this is YOUR league and YOU should have input into operation of the league. All ideas will be considered and appropriate action will be taken where deemed necessary. The slo-pitch executive works for YOU and represents YOU in matters affecting our slo-pitch league.

Managers Application Form

All managers who wish to manage a team for the upcoming and future seasons must indicate their desire to do so by filling out an application form. This form can be found on the WECSSO website. This was a decision made by the slo-pitch executive. Almost all sports organizations have prospective coaches/managers fill out an application form each year. It is an accepted and expected practice. The form is simply an indication of one's desire to coach/manage and provides important information for the organization in deciding whether or not to accept one's application. Our application form takes only a few minutes to fill out. You would attach this form to your registration form. It does not matter whether or not you have managed a team in the past. The slo-pitch executive wants all potential managers (new and old) to fill out an application form indicating their desire to manage a team. It is simply a new process that the committee wants implemented. This is by no means is an indication that we are unhappy with some of our present managers and want to weed them out. Far from it!! Our current managers have done a very good job and we encourage them to make a formal application to manage once again. This is simply a new procedure put in place by the slo-pitch executive. This form will be mandatory.

INDOOR SLO-PITCH

Indoor slo-pitch is once again being played at the Novelletto Center. The cost is \$85.00 for WECSSO members and \$110.00 for non members. Games are played on Tuesdays from 9:30am-11 am and from 11 am to 12:30pm. The season runs from November 4th till March 31st. If you would like to play during the winter months please contact me at 944-5635. Openings become available as some players leave for vacation for extended periods of time. There are no standings, no playoffs, and no pressure- just a bunch of guys playing in a relaxed atmosphere.

ANNUAL MEETING

WECSSO Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday October 15th. Once again, attendance was very poor. Approximately 43 players showed up for the annual meeting. Either we are very busy or this meeting is not that important to the majority of our players. I tend to think that it is the latter and that is really a shame. The executive puts a lot of effort into our organization to make it successful year after year. To have such low numbers attend the meeting is very discouraging and directors must ask themselves if they should continue to be on the executive. I would not blame them if they decided not to run when their term is up. As a matter of fact, we had two people resign from the executive and no one ran for the two open positions. What people do not realize that if there is no executive, there is no WECSSO, there is no slo-pitch. Think about it!!!!

A major issue discussed at the annual meeting was reducing the age of participation from 54 to 50. Our membership is decreasing and it was thought that lowering the age may result in increased numbers playing slo-pitch. Many views, both pro and con, were put forward by members in attendance. After much discussion, a motion was made to lower the age from 54 to 50 and it was passed by 90% of the members present.

Elections for the WECSSO executive were conducted at the meeting. Two positions were open. No one in attendance decided to run. As a result the executive is two members short and the remaining eight members must pick up the slack. If this trend continues, the future of WECSSO is in jeopardy. Members who have served on the executive for a good number of years may decide to resign in future years. If no one replaces them, the executive will continue to be short members. Eventually there will be no executive to run WECSSO. At that point WECSSO would be history. Only you can prevent this from happening, Remember it is not what YOUR organization can do for YOU but what YOU can do for YOUR organization.

Elections were also held for the slo-pitch executive. Five members were up for election and all five decided to run- Ron Ottogalli, Rick Anderson, and John Goz, Neil McKnight and Don Balkwill. Jack Westlake was nominated from the floor and he decided to run. The five incumbents were returned to the slo-pitch executive. If Jack so desires, he will be appointed to the executive if an opening becomes available during the year. I find it quite amusing that those players who habitually complain about the decisions made by the slo-pitch executive never want to run for the executive. On second thought, disappointing would be a better word.

The 2014 Goodfellow paper Drive is:

Thursday, November 27 8am to 10 am; 10 am to 12 noon; 12 noon to 2:30 pm.

Friday, November 28 8am to 10 am; 10 am to 12 noon; 12 noon to 2:30 pm.

Saturday, November 29 8am to 10 am; 10 am to 12 noon; 12 noon to 2:30 pm.

If you, your players or friends wish to Volunteer for a **two hour period** on one of the above dates please contact me - email mdafoe3@cogeco.ca

Phone: 519 948-4317

Please disregard this if you have already contacted me.

Our headquarters for Team #7 is the Lumberjack Restaurant at Tecumseh and Howard. 519 254-5538

Thank you, Ken

Here are the names and phone numbers of contact people for each of our activities:

WECSO: Brian Adlam – 735- 5438

WRS: Gerry Mayea - 519-739-2283

WECSO NEWSLETTER: Tom Bois - 519-735-3922 email - thomasb@mnsi.net

SLO-PITCH: Rick Anderson – 519-734-0173

VOLLEYBALL MEN: John Barron - 519-735-5236

VOLLEYBALL WOMEN: Carol Malewicz 519- 990 – 8709

BEST SELLER BOOKS – Phil Ochs 519-726-6974

WEBSITE –www.wecsso.com / Carla Hicks – info@wecsso.com

Member Discount List : **Bring your membership card.**

Restaurants:

Legends Diner - 12150 Tecumseh Rd. E., Tecumseh (10%) Mon - Friday

The Whistling Kettle - 11700 County Rd. 42 - 15%

Sports Equipment:

Nantais Source For Sports - 2020 Tecumseh Rd. W. (no GST/PST)

Bob Reaume Sports - 4275 Tecumseh Rd. E. (no GST/PST)

The Trophy Boys - 1540 McDougall (20%)

Miscellaneous:

Friendly Tech Computers - 1279 University Ave. W.

Argyle Manor Bed & Breakfast - 1138 Argyle Rd. (15%)

AERUS Air Purification - 5428 Tecumseh Rd. E. (15% discount)



BUMPS LAWN CARE

Free Estimates!

Grass Cutting,
Lawn Rolling, Aeration, Dethatching,
Tree/Shrub, Trimming & Shaping, Fertilizing,
Landscaping & Clean ups

RYAN: 519.792.9447 MATT: 519.817.1113
bumpslawncareinc@gmail.com

RCS
R. CRAIG
STEVENSON
LAW OFFICE

ST. CLAIR SHORES PLAZA, SUITE 18A, 25 AMY CROFT
TECUMSEH, ONTARIO N9K 1C7

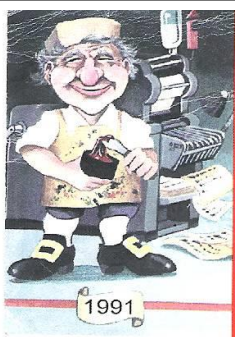
PHONE (519) 735-0777 FAX (519) 735-2999
E-mail rcslaw@mnsi.net



Millicent Vorkapich-Hill, D.P.M.
Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

283 St. Rose Avenue (at Wyandotte St. East)
Windsor, Ontario N8S 1X1
P 519-258-3668 F 519-258-7644
hill@footcareinstitute.ca

FOOTCAREINSTITUTE.CA



LOWES
PRINTING

Gerald Lowes
President

780 South Pacific Ave.
Windsor, Ontario N8X 2X2
Tel. (519) 966-4786
Email: lowesprinting@cogeco.net

KRAZY KELLY'S
THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

ELECTRONIC MADNESS

Geoff McKay, CEO

3210 Jefferson Ave. West Windsor 519 944-4855
194 Talbot St. East Leamington 519 324-0551

KEN HOGAN TOM JONES RICHARD MAYVILLE



2020 TECUMSEH RD. W. - WINDSOR, ONTARIO N9B 1V6
PHONE (519) 252-5705 FAX (519) 252-2940
1-877-626-8247 E-MAIL STELLAR@CAN.ROGERS.COM
SERVING WINDSOR & ESSEX COUNTY SINCE 1946

Telephone
972-3628

2938 Dominion

Hair Designs by Gerry

**Windsor
Ontario
N9E 2M8**

BOB REAUME
President

BOB REAUME
SPORTS

4275 Tecumseh Road East
Windsor, Ontario N8W 1K2

(519) 945-4101
(519) 945-4102
U.S. (313) 961-6117
www.bobreaumesports.com

Bertoni
CHAIRS & THINGS

Ornella Bertoni Liburdi
Owner

301 Edinborough Street
Windsor, Ontario N8X 3C3

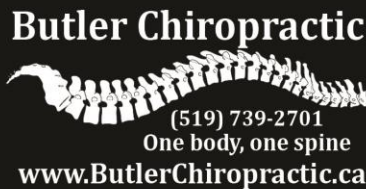
(519) 966-1280 • Fax (519) 969-9123
e-mail: info@bertonichairs.com
website: www.bertonichairs.com

You can inspire the next generations to help educate and inform the general public on the benefits of organ transplantation.

Then ask that they register their consent as an organ and tissue donor.



www.beadonor.ca/SportFestWindsor-org



WE SEE WHAT YOU SEE

MORTGAGES & HOME EQUITY
LINES OF CREDIT
PERSONAL & STUDENT LOANS
CHEQUING AND SAVINGS
ACCOUNTS

6701 Tecumseh Rd. E
519-944-7333

1375 Walker Rd
519-258-0021

895 Erie St. E
519-977-6939

189 City Hall Sq
519-252-0123

MCCCU.COM