

The Crosswalk

Stories from the Intersection of Diversity



A DOCUMENTARY FROM
BALLINRAN



ENTERTAINMENT

Stratford is a community that prides itself on diversity.

As a centre of arts and culture, we embrace all manner of artistic expression, whether it be theatre, culinary, musical or visual arts. At one time, Stratford was named as one of the top 10 gay friendly destinations in North America. Despite being a community plunked down in the middle of rural and conservative southwestern Ontario, Stratford is considered a welcoming oasis for a vocal and vibrant LGBTQ+ community.

'The Crosswalk' is a MicroDoc from award-winning film production company Ballinran Entertainment that shares the story of both pride and prejudice in our small town. At the centre of the story is the pride crosswalk, symbolically positioned in the shadow of Stratford City Hall at the centre of the city's heritage downtown district. At a time when some communities in Southwestern Ontario are rejecting pride flags and crosswalks, Stratford has strode a different path.

Led by community advocate Kelly Ballantyne, not one, but two crosswalk projects had been undertaken. The second replaced the first, damaged by a combination of vandalism and adverse winter weather. Kelly is the owner of the popular sandwich destination Sirkel Foods. Kelly - born and raised in Stratford is passionate about Stratford and all it has to offer. She has been instrumental in spearheading the crosswalk project and bringing together people from all walks of life to support it. Our MicroDoc 'The Crosswalk' is a stepping-off point for a broader examination which is intended to illuminate the extraordinary characters in the LGBTQ+ community who call Stratford home.

As we witness rising intolerance across the world, our documentary 'The Crosswalk' is an important and timely reminder of how communities like Stratford can be a model of acceptance for others to follow.

We are enlisting the support of community partners, businesses and individuals who share the view that this is a story worth sharing.

To support this film, scan the QR code below

