

PRESS RELEASE

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PICTURE YOURSELF! LIBRARY PARTNERS WITH LOCAL RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

Ever wonder what it would be like to be an astronaut? Or to hold a koala bear? Or have tea with royalty?

For the past three weeks the Stratford Public Library has been piloting a project at Anne Hathaway Retirement Residence meant to engage seniors' imaginations by asking them to picture themselves doing something brave, outrageous, or whimsical. Participants could choose to 'meet' celebrities, 'go' on adventures, recreate memories of favourite vacations and pets, or pursue their dream jobs. Using green screen technology, Stratford Public Library photographed 26 seniors, transforming their wildest dreams—becoming a cowgirl or an astronaut, meeting the Queen, or petting a tiger—into actual photos. Then, each participant was gifted two copies.

"We hoped this project would give residents something to explore, learn, and happily anticipate in what turned out to be a very dreary January," said Robyn Godfrey, Adult Collections & Outreach Librarian. "I'm an amateur in photography and green screen editing but I'm pleased with the results."

A reception for the participants and their family members will take place at Anne Hathaway's Activities Room the evening of February 14th with all the photos on display. Kaitlin Carnegie, Retirement Living Consultant at Anne Hathaway, reported that residents were thrilled with the pictures, and are looking forward to the reception. "Many family members have been enquiring about 'this green screen' reception they keep hearing about, and are keen to see the results," she said Friday. The photos will be on display for the community to view in the Stratford Public Library's auditorium beginning on February 15th.

The Stratford Public Library hopes to run this project again in 2025 in more locations and with more partners.

For more details regarding library events, visit the library website www.splibrary.ca

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Robyn Godfrey, Adult Collections and Outreach Librarian at 519-271-0220 x132 or rgodfrey@splibrary.ca