

MEDIA RELEASE – Dec 14, 2022

## **2023 Hog Jog – HOG JOG Returns**

After a 3-year pandemic induced hiatus, plans for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Hog Jog are off to the races and cause for CELEBRATION! Since 2005, the Ontario Pork Industry Council (OPIC) has organized the annual Hog Jog to celebrate the people and products of the pork industry while giving back to local community organizations. The 2023 Hog Jog will be held on the evening of Wednesday, June 21 at the Stratford Rotary Complex (353 McCarthy Road, Stratford, ON) – site of the Ontario Pork Congress.

Over the last 15 years Hog Jog has raised over \$500,000 for 15 very worthy local causes. With more than 400 runners participating in the 3.5 km, 10 km and Weaner Run events and coming together for a delicious pork meal post race. Hog Jog's continuing success comes from the enthusiastic participation of runners and walkers, sponsors, neighborhood and industry cheerleaders, and the many volunteers who participate each year. Not a runner, no problem. Our walkers and industry teams greatly contribute to the funds raised. Come out, families welcome for a fun and meaningful event.

The 2023 Hog Jog is in support of St. John Ambulance – Stratford Branch. You have likely seen their smiling volunteers at local events where they provide on-site Medical First Responders. Or maybe you have seen them operating their Therapy Dog Program, Paws-4- Stories Program or possibly participated in their health and safety educational programs. You may be surprised to learn that they do not receive any public funding.

St John Ambulance's mission to enable everyone to improve their health, safety and quality of life through training, education, resources and service to the community, fits perfectly with the Hog Jog mission of giving back to the community. The 2023 Hog Jog planning committee is excited and enthusiastic about the return of such a fun and exciting event in support of such a great cause.

The St. John Ambulance had applied and been chosen as the beneficiary for the 2021 Hog Jog, which did not run. At the time of application, St John Ambulance applied with the intent to replace their 19-year-old vehicle used to carry first-aid supplies, medical equipment and volunteers. However, the funds to replace this vehicle were not realised and the vehicle remained in service until the spring of 2022. At that time, the dashboard caught fire, which resulted in the vehicle being written-off. St. John Ambulance is in need of help to purchase a new vehicle so they can continue their great work in bettering their community. The Hog Jog is proud to support St John Ambulance in this fundraising objective!

To register or for further information about Hog Jog 2023, including a course map, pledge forms, sponsorship and volunteering opportunities, please visit [www.hogjog.ca](http://www.hogjog.ca). Would your company like to sponsor this great event? Sponsorship details are also available from Erin or Andreanna at [sponsorship@hogjog.ca](mailto:sponsorship@hogjog.ca).

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