

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Murder in Amherstburg!

Author sets new mystery novel in his hometown

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Canadian author John Schlarbaum knows about small town living, growing up in a Southwestern Ontario farming village with the population of 1,000, and for the past almost two decades in Amherstburg, ON. The new stand-alone novella in his “P.I. Steve Cassidy Mystery” series is titled, *The Groom Wore Red*, and is set in and around the Town of Amherstburg.

“This story is an adaptation of an interactive murder mystery play I wrote and first performed in 2014 as a fundraiser for the Amherstburg Museums and Galleries (AMG),” Schlarbaum says. “It focuses on two former rival families – the Smiths and Browns – who gather peacefully for the wedding of Nick Smith and a very pregnant Emily Brown. However, when the groom-to-be doesn’t show up for the ceremony it reignites a decades-old bitter feud. As angry accusations and fists begin to fly, the Chief of Police arrives to inform everyone that Nick was found dead in his pickup truck and a murder investigation has commenced.”

Initially, invited wedding guests Steve, a former police officer, and his girlfriend, Dawn, are shocked by this small town crime, but are reluctant to get involved until the bride-to-be asks for their help to find the killer. “Of course, not everyone welcomes this parallel investigation, especially a few local police officers who don’t appreciate big city folk telling them how to do their job,” Schlarbaum states. “In previous novels, my main character has run-ins with the authorities and in *The Groom Wore Red* it’s no different, although this time around Steve really is trying to help with the investigation for the sake of the mourning bride-to-be.”

The author acknowledges Amherstburg has been awarded “Canada’s Safest Community” on many occasions, and that one reason is the local police service. “The officers depicted in this fictional story do not in any way reflect the dedicated members of the service that keep our residents safe each and every day,” Schlarbaum adds.

For fans of the Steve Cassidy character and his girlfriend Dawn (who makes her third book appearance after *When Angels Fail To Fly* and *Off The Beaten Path*), Schlarbaum guarantees their sleuthing abilities and romantic bond are stronger than ever. “The wedding was an excuse to get

away together and visit Amherstburg in all its summer glory. Their personal storyline as a fun loving couple also gives the reader a contrast to Nick and Emily's (almost) life together."

The Groom Wore Red is an entertaining story with references to many of Amherstburg's attractions, businesses, and local history, that incorporates Schlarbaum's knack for creating believable characters and situations that keep the reader guessing until the final pages.

Available in trade paperback and eBook versions at: www.johnschlarbaum.com and area bookstores.

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The Early Reviews:

"I loved it! This wedding is unlike any you've attended before!" ~ Annette Hamm, Morning Live CHCH TV

