

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Gripping Mystery Buried in History A small town's past returns to haunt!

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Canadian author John Schlarbaum's new book, *The Diary Of Death – A Steve Cassidy Mystery*, is set in his adopted hometown of Amherstburg, Ontario, against a picturesque backdrop.

"Since moving here in July 2007, I have resided within a four-block radius of the award-winning Navy Yard Park and downtown core," Schlarbaum states enthusiastically. "I walk through these streets daily, and, to me, Amherstburg maintains its small town charm. For this book I wanted to craft an engaging storyline that both residents and visitors could easily follow, envisioning or actually walking in the physical footsteps of P.I. Steve Cassidy and his girlfriend, Dawn, as they try to solve two mysteries."

The present-day plot begins with the discovery of a worn diary at the renowned Duffy's Tavern and Motor Inn excavation site. This 150-year-old journal holds the key to unraveling the 1874 murder of Dr. James Samuels and theft of his wooden chest filled with valuable coins. Despite a thorough investigation, the case remains unsolved and has evolved into folklore. When the now dubbed 'Diary of Death' is unveiled at the Marsh Historical Collection, it captures the town's imagination and reignites the cold case brimming with secrets involving numerous long-standing affluent local families. The suspense escalates when the diary, along with its Marsh Collection caretaker, mysteriously disappears.

The Diary Of Death serves as the sequel to the highly acclaimed *The Groom Wore Red* from 2022, when Steve and Dawn made their first visit to Amherstburg for a very eventful wedding. Both books showcase many of the town's authentic historical events, as well as current news items and recent tourism attractions, such as The Hole In The Wall picture frame and the extension of the river walk where Duffy's once stood.

One reason that the author opted to continue with the *Steve Cassidy Mystery* series was the fun-loving nature of the main characters and their distinctive partnership in solving crimes. "It is a modern twist on a small-town mystery where everyone has an opinion on the events, but it falls on Steve and Dawn to discern fact from fiction," Schlarbaum remarks. "The beauty of writing in a first-person narrative is that the reader encounters the suspects and characters simultaneously with the investigators. Each clue and each suspect introduces a piece of the puzzle, enticing the reader to solve it alongside Steve and Dawn."

Embark on a journey through Amherstburg's historical allure, seamlessly intertwined with heart-pounding suspense. *The Diary of Death* is a gripping mystery with unexpected twists that will keep you hooked until its shocking conclusion!

Available in trade paperback and eBook formats at: www.johnschlarbaum.com and select area bookstores listed on the website.

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