



**Darren Fischer, Board Member** - Lifetime resident of Stratford and a father of three boys, Darren recognizes the importance of building community through teamwork, collaboration, and a sense of belonging, as such; he has a history of volunteer work in the community, which has focused mainly on sports and coaching. Darren is currently a member at Hydra Crossfit in Stratford and has a strong passion for fitness and health, understanding its importance in not only your physical wellbeing, but also your mental wellbeing.

Darren has been a police officer since 2002 and is currently employed with the Stratford Police Service in the role of Community Resource and Media Relations Officer. Throughout his career Darren has focused on community service, working with youth, and using a restorative justice approach to solving problems. Darren moved into his current role at the end of 2018, which sees him acting as the media relations officer for the Stratford Police Service, as well as, working closely with members of the community to help resolve ongoing problems, and working with a number of schools including Stratford Intermediate School and Stratford & District Secondary School. Darren is also one of the original officers to begin working with the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team, which commenced in the fall of 2019 and sees a police officer partnered with a mental health clinician, from the Huron Perth Crisis Centre and Helpline, to respond directly to calls for service that could include an element of mental health or crisis. In regards to his work with youth throughout his career, Darren has seen the importance of providing strong, and easily accessible mental health services to youth, to assist them with the complexity of problems they face on a daily basis. Darren has had the opportunity to work directly with many staff members at the Huron-Perth Centre and has seen, first-hand, the positive impact that their work can have on the youth they serve. As such, Darren agreed to join the Board of Directors with the Huron Perth Centre in 2021, in order to provide insight from his perspective of working with youth in crisis and as a first responder to mental health crises in our community.