



St. Thomas Resident Wins \$83,410 in August 50/50 *Popular Raffle to Continue in September with Added Early Bird Draw*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Summer came to an exciting end for **Vanda OstojicMiddel** of St. Thomas! She is the lucky winner of Drayton Entertainment’s August Ultimate 50/50 draw. OstojicMiddel took home a final jackpot of **\$83,410**. The winning ticket number was **#99437813037**.

Although OstojicMiddel is a theatre fan, she has never been to a Drayton Entertainment production. She was supposed to attend a production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, starring Cindy Williams of *Laverne & Shirley* fame, at the Huron Country Playhouse in Grand Bend in 2019, but a family illness caused her to miss the show. She plans on seeing many shows in Grand Bend as soon as the Playhouse reopens.

OstojicMiddel has been entering the 50/50 draw every month since May because the performing arts are important to her family. Her daughter Katie just graduated from the theatre program at St. Clair College in Windsor, and OstojicMiddel felt that buying 50/50 tickets would be a great way to support the industry that her daughter is going into.

“I cried when I got the call. I couldn’t believe it. I honestly thought I might be dreaming for a moment,” said OstojicMiddel. “Our family loves theatre and the arts and we know how badly the industry has been impacted during COVID. We were just happy to do our small part by buying 50/50 tickets ... it’s an incredible feeling to win the jackpot.”

OstojicMiddel lives in St. Thomas, and has a large blended family. Two of her children are starting post-secondary studies this fall; her daughter Katie is headed to the dance program at George Brown College in Toronto to further her performing arts training, and her son Carter will begin a program at Fanshawe College in London. OstojicMiddel is not exactly sure what she plans to do with her windfall, but she will use some of the money to help her children with their education.

“We really appreciate that our patrons, artists, community leaders, and other supporters keep playing the 50/50 draw every month,” says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. “It’s even more exciting for us that people are telling their friends and family to play too. We love that so many people from all over Ontario are having fun and entering to win these big jackpots.”

Drayton Entertainment's Ultimate 50/50 draw launched in March with Diane Halstead of Cambridge taking home a prize of \$83,470. In April, Shawky Fabel of Waterloo won \$139,020. In May, Marcia Haworth of Rockwood won \$100,505. In June, Meryl Penman of Brantford won \$85,790. In July, Judith Tiivel of North York won \$78,540. Fabel, Haworth, and Tiivel all donated part of their prize money back to Drayton Entertainment to be pledged toward youth initiatives; Fabel donated \$15,000 and Haworth and Tiivel each donated \$10,000.

The Ultimate 50/50 draw will be back in September with an exciting change. There will now be an Early Bird Draw of \$1,000 halfway through the month on Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the September draw are already on sale. The raffle will run through 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, September 30 with a draw at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, October 1. Tickets are available for purchase online at <https://drayton5050.com>. The jackpot is updated online in real-time and grows as more people participate – the published amount is the winner's take-home prize.

Tickets may be purchased by individuals 18 years or older and located in the Province of Ontario at the time of purchase. All ticket sales are final and ticket buyers will receive a receipt via email after purchasing that will list all numbers associated with the purchased tickets. Tickets are sold using an electronic raffle system approved by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) and supplied by Bump Worldwide Inc. Raffle License AGCO #RAF1216458. Please play responsibly. Ontario Problem Gambling Helpline 1-888-230-3505 or visit www.connexontario.ca.

For complete details including rules of participation and frequently asked questions, please visit: <https://drayton5050.com>.

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