



Meet the Owners, Brad Eakins, Stacy Gray, Founders/Owners, Wet Couch Radio and Wet Couch Studios

Describe your business:

Wet Couch Radio is a podcast and Facebook page dedicated to the community in Watkins Glen and surrounding areas. We endeavor to share information with the public about their local government, events, organizations helping in the community, local businesses, interesting people, news, and random fun stuff. It's not so much a business as a hobby: we don't sell advertisements or charge for anything we do. Our goal is to foster a more engaged and informed

community, because we strongly believe we all benefit from that. We also have a lot of fun and meet great people while we're at it, so it's incredibly rewarding. In the future, Wet Couch Studios is our idea for the business side of things. We'd like to help others in the community who have something to say, to record their own podcast, but more on that later...

Tell us your story:

Brad was a DJ on The Nerve in Rochester in the 90's. He loved it but eventually ended up pursuing another profession. A little over a year ago, he kept saying he wanted to do a podcast, and I kept telling him "You go right on ahead." I don't listen to podcasts, and could not imagine why anything I could say would be of interest to anyone. Then one day some Amazon boxes showed up on our porch; it turns out Brad had ordered the mics, headphones, etc. to start a podcast. He asked me to come sit with him and just try it, and it wasn't as uncomfortable as I thought it would be. We set up at our kitchen table, and started by interviewing local friends. This was right around the time of the last village election in 2019, and we managed to snag interviews with several of the local candidates for office. Concurrently, I had been attending the Village Board meetings pretty regularly just to observe, and I thought maybe it would be helpful to live stream the meetings on our Facebook page for people to watch at home.

What has helped you succeed and gain experience?

We are so grateful for the folks who have come and sat on the couch with us! Especially our friends Kevin Thornton and Billy Pylypciw, who were our first interviews, and the variety of candidates, leaders of local organizations, and interesting folks who have come to our home and helped us get to know them and our community better. We are very grateful for the folks who follow our page and give us feedback.

What inspires you?

This community is our inspiration! Our small village of Watkins Glen and all its quirky characters are constantly inspiring. The regular folks living their routine lives who identify a need or a problem or want to make things better, and figure out a way to make it happen. People with the courage to stand up and speak out for what's right, and those who act with integrity. Those who do their very best to be kind and honest in everything they do, and when they have a weak moment or mess up, they have the ability to own up to it and say "I will do better tomorrow." These are all the kind of people that inspire us both.

What keeps you up at night? What are your challenges?

We try to attend as many meetings as we can, but there sure are a lot of them! It is always disappointing when we miss something important that we think the community should know about. We are on a shoestring budget, so the audio and video quality can sometimes suffer due to connectivity issues. We want to put out high quality information but sometimes we know it falls short and that disappoints us greatly. It can also be complicated balancing the news and editorial aspect of what we do on Wet Couch, with our roles in other areas.

What is your favorite local activity?

Our favorite thing to do is watch the excitement on Franklin Street from our porch. Whether we're watching a quiet rainstorm and waiting for the rainbow, or grilling and watching all the cars go by during the Vintage Grand Prix Festival, we feel very lucky to live here and to have such a great view.

Is there anything else we should know about you?

The picture of us is from nearly 30 years ago, when we were in 10th grade.

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