

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1231

Thursday, October 3, 2024

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HONOURING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION (PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS MUSEUM)
The St. Marys Museum honoured Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by hanging its Truth and Reconciliation banner created in September 2021 when community members were invited to add orange handprints. The centre was then completed by Ojibway artist Jeffrey "Red" George. The museum is also hosting the Legacy of Hope exhibit, "A National Crime: The Residential School Experience in Canada," to spread awareness of the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities.

King Charles III Coronation Medals awarded to five local individuals

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Upon the occasion of the May 6, 2023 Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, a program was established to "recognize 30,000 outstanding individuals of all ages and from all walks of life who have made a difference in their communities."

Following a nomination and review process here within the riding of Perth-Wellington, a ceremony was held on Sunday, Sept. 29 at Parkview Gardens (Royal Canadian Legion Auditorium) in Listowel where 20 individuals were presented with King Charles III Coronation Medals. Five of the 20 are based in St. Marys and area: Julie Docker-Johnson, Stewart Grant, Charles Hammond, Mary McIntosh, and Cameron Porteous.

John Nater, MP for Perth-Wellington, said, "Today, we honour 20 worthy recipients who embody the idea and the ideals of service. These recipients were nominated by their communities: their neighbours, co-workers, friends, and fellow volunteers. They come from all nine municipalities of Perth-Wellington, and embody different backgrounds, careers, and interests. But each of them holds one important thing in common: a commitment to community, and country."

"Collectively, they have devoted tens of thousands of volunteer hours to community causes, they've raised millions of dollars for

CONTINUED TO PAGE 8

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Pyramid Recreation Centre pool to close for seven months for major renovations

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of St. Marys will incur a major, unplanned expense to address the serious deterioration of equipment in the aquatics centre at the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC).

At its Sept. 24 meeting, St. Marys council awarded a nearly \$1.75-million contract

to Elgin Contracting and Restoration Ltd. for renovations that will close the PRC pool from November of this year until at least May 2025.

"The pool has had a couple issues that are pretty significant over the last couple of years," said St. Marys recreation operations manager Doug LaPointe. "So, we enlisted the services of DEI Consulting

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

David Forster

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COMMUNITY

Pyramid Recreation Centre pool to close for seven months for major renovations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Engineers to go over everything. ... We basically listened to the consultant when they recommended to us to improve the air quality. That's the root cause of the issues we're having at the pool.

"With that, we also need to restore a bunch of things that have excessively deteriorated over the years because of the high humidity and poor indoor air quality."

While the PRC pool is only 20 years old, both LaPointe and Matthew White, a partner at DEI Consulting Engineers, told councillors that the initial use of saltwater in the pool coupled with the fact that the current HVAC equipment only has about half the capacity actually needed for an indoor pool the size of the one at the PRC is what led to the pool equipment's deterioration well before reaching its expected lifespan.

"This is not typical of the lifespan of the building," White said. "We'd expect at least another 20 years out of the equipment, especially since the unit in the basement is inside protected from the elements. You'd expect equipment like that to last at least 40 years. The problem is the unit itself is undersized and, on top of that, the saltwater system had an impact on some of the systems as well, so there's kind of two elements there that caused the system issues."

As LaPointe told council, those underlying issues has led to numerous closures of the pool and near misses over the last couple years, including back in January when a rainwater pipe fell from the ceiling into the pool after the metal hangers that connect the pipe to the ceiling broke.

"The reality is there's two things that troublesome for me," Mayor Al Strathdee said. "... One is about the safety (of users) but also, this is being funded from general capital reserve because it was never anticipated (we'd need) repairs at the PRC. So, we're kicking our asset-management plan down the line in some respect to the tune of \$2 million, which is frustrating. ... To me, the (pool closure) dates are problematic, but I think it's the right choice because ... we've had some near misses and



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS)

Major renovations at the St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre Aquatics Centre are expected to close the indoor pool from November, 2024 to May, 2025.

some problems, and I certainly hear all the time, 'How come the pool is closed again?'

"... I would commend staff for saying let's move forward and let's try to address the problem as best we can."

The long list of work to be completed at the pool between November and May includes the installation of a new rooftop air-handling unit complete with exterior exposed ductwork and a new gas line; a new remote condensing unit; a new rooftop exhaust fan and associated low-level exhaust; a new high-level exposed aluminum supply duct and mid-return duct routed through existing change-room ceiling space; and a new automated control system. The work also includes structural reinforcement and repairs, the replacement of sprinkler heads and general cleaning and repainting. While it is a long list, White told councillors he is confident the work will fully solve the issues at hand.

While the pool is closed, director of community services Stephanie Ische

promote alternative programming like seniors and other exercise programs at the Friendship Centre, EarlyON programming and recreational programming at the youth centre.

Ische said the town may also offer additional programming to offset the loss of the aquatics-centre programming and a plan with timelines for the work being done and the pool's closure and eventual reopening will be communicated to the public as soon as possible and throughout the project.

"I just really appreciate your support," LaPointe told councillors. "We've enlisted the support of a lot of really smart-minded people like Matt (White), as well as your own staff have been great. It's been a project that we've worked across all the departments - finance, building and development and even public works. We've been lucky. You're correct, there's been a few near misses that we're lucky they either happened in the middle of the night or between programs. So that's something we want to avoid."

To ensure public safety after the repairs are complete, LaPointe said the town will continue working with DEI engineers, who will conduct regular inspections and safety audits on the pool and its equipment going forward.



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Sunny	Mainly sunny	Showers	Sunny	Sun/cloud	Sun/cloud	Mainly sunny
						
17°C	20°C	20°C	18°C	22°C	15°C	15°C
Feels Like 17	Feels Like 21	Feels Like 22	Feels Like 18	Feels Like 21	Feels Like 13	Feels Like 14

Friendship Force Stratford and St. Marys welcomes visitors from Cottbus, Germany

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

The Stratford and St. Marys Friendship Force club (FFSSM) had the pleasure of welcoming a group from Cottbus, Germany that were visiting the area from Sept. 22-29.

The out-of-town travellers had a busy but exciting itinerary that included a variety of stops from enjoying a nature hike at Wildwood Conservation Area and visits to town hall, the Toyota Experience Centre, Grand River Raceway, farm and garden centre and a chance to see Stratford theatre with opportunities to taste lots of good food along the way.

Friendship Force was founded in the '70s and is a non-profit cultural organization that focuses on promoting understanding and teaches cultural education, all while experiencing life in different areas. The visiting club members stayed at the homes of the hosting club, helping build personal friendships that many tourists don't get to experience and last for years.

Friendship Force is in more than 45 countries and on six continents. Currently, there are approximately 15,000 active members and over 300 journeys take place each year.

Murray Pink is the current president



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

One of the group's stops was at the town hall where St. Marys deputy mayor Brogan Aylward, with the help of an interpreter, shared information about the town hall itself and facts about the town. After that, they visited the Pyramid Recreation Centre to learn to play shuffleboard.

of the local club and has belonged since 2010 when the Stratford and St. Marys group was first chartered. Every ex-

change, which each of the journeys are called, have a designated journey coordinator. Pink's most memorable out-

bound journey was to the island of Java in Indonesia.

"The hosts of the two home stays were the most interesting and entertaining we have met. The culture is so significantly different than what we are used to. It was just amazing," said Pink.

When asked about what he enjoys most about being involved with Friendship Force, Pink said he likes meeting and living with the individual families and learning their daily way of life. They get to see things and go places that ordinary tourists do not. On one occasion, Pink said they were taken to an orphanage with over 400 children. They watched a performance of singing and dancing by a group of deaf children while some of the other children sat with them and held their hands. One of Stratford's members knew sign language and was able to converse with the performing kids.

According to Pink, the key component of why he enjoys this group so much is the lasting friendships that are made with so many people.

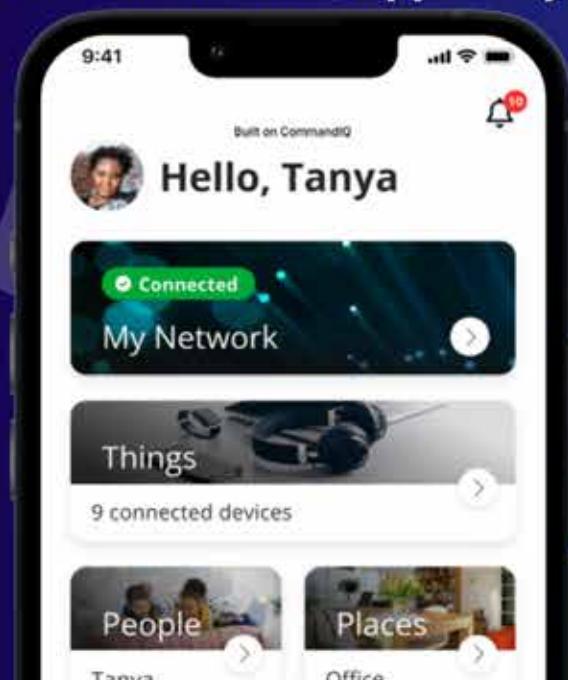
The club also meets for socials that include lunches, barbecues and golf.

Anyone interested in learning more about Friendship Force can email ffstratfordstmarys@gmail.com or visit the International website at www.friendshipforce.org

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ST. MARYS GIVES 2024: WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOUR?



How Can Businesses Participate?

Did you know that St. Marys Giving Tuesday was the first movement to be driven by businesses? Well we were and we have set the bar high!

We know businesses small and big are constantly asked to donate to events and causes. Giving Tuesday is not all about money. It is about time, it is about becoming involved, it is about sharing a message and it is about being part of something in the community that matters to you! Here is a chance to do something for a charity or organization that speaks to YOU and your staff's hearts. There are lots of ways to participate in Giving Tuesday, here are a few ideas:

- Take up a collection of food, mittens, socks or other items that a group or charity needs. Collect them for the weeks leading up to Giving Tuesday and make the donation on December 3rd.
 - Feature a product you sell and on Giving Tuesday attach a contest to it - ie. if someone brings new socks to your store, their name will go in a draw for a product that you sell.
 - Allow employees to volunteer for a day with a charity of their choice and be paid by your business.
 - Volunteer to host a Community Dinner at St. Marys United Church. If you are a small business, partner with other small businesses and do it together.
 - Reach out to other businesses in Town and work together to host an event to raise funds for a charity.
 - If you belong to a business organization or association spread the word about Giving Tuesday with the other members.
 - Like and share the St. Marys Giving Tuesday Social Media posts to help build the momentum.
 - Create a "neighbourhood" within our own business. On Giving Tuesday encourage staff to sit down at some point in the day together and have a "coffee break" or lunch. Have a "cookie swap" or pot luck for lunch - do something fun!
- Start talking to your staff about how they would like to participate in Giving Tuesday. Your St. Marys Giving Tuesday Committee is happy to help you make a plan, please reach out if we can be of assistance. Better Together Always!



GIVING TUESDAY

Dec 3

www.givingtuesday.ca

For More Information Contact:
jdockerjohnson@gmail.com

Bravo

We have 6 Bravos this week.

- 1) I lost my change purse with my licence in it by the river. A young lad brought it back to me, I want to thank the young lad.
- 2) Bravo to the people and merchants in the town of St. Marys. We call St. Marys our home for six months a year while we camp. The kindness of the townspeople never fails to impress.
- 3) Bravo to the staff & management at Wildwood Conservation Area. The park is our summer home. The cleanliness and friendly staff keep us coming back!
- 4) My very sincere appreciation to the director of public works and several town councillors I contacted who so efficiently coordinated the removal of the graffiti on our town's beautiful Grand Trunk Trail. Thank you so much!
- 5) Bravo and heartfelt thank you to the folks at St. Marys Veterinarian Clinic. Dr. Larry, Kassity, Karen, Katie and the whole team provided exceptional care over the past month when our beloved dog, Teo, developed a sudden illness. When he passed earlier this week, the staff at SMVC were supportive, empathetic, and incredibly patient. Thank you, all. We would also like to give one last "Good boy!" to Teo. A dog whose enthusiasm was matched only by his gentleness, we couldn't have asked for a better companion and guardian for our child. We miss you, buddy.
- 6) Bravo to the owners and staff of the St. Marys Little Caesars. Over the years, we enjoyed your pleasant, dedicated staff and your delicious, affordable pizzas. You will be missed!

*Please note all Boos and Bravos must be signed in order to be considered.

Boo

We have 1 Boo this week.

- 1) Boo to the individual(s) responsible for the graffiti that you added defacing the Grand Trunk Trail bridge. You should be ashamed; destroying this beautiful area which so many people enjoy! Your cowardly act, done under the guise of darkness, cost the taxpayers a lot of money to remove it. Think next time how your choices impact on the efforts to create a beautiful town for people to live.

Bravos and Boos are submitted by community members and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the St. Marys Independent.

Quote of the Week

"Oh, there's a fly up here. Oh, I wonder where the fly came from. Two years ago, I wouldn't have had a fly up here! You're changing rapidly."

- Just one of the many non-sensical comments made by Donald Trump on the campaign trail last week.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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MLB, brought to you by FanDuel and Draft Kings, ironically mourns the loss of Pete Rose.

Some people really shouldn't be in charge of social media platforms.

Have you heard something humorous around town that you think might be of interest to others? Either email them to us at info@stmarysindependent.com with the title "Overheard at The Coffee Shop", call 519-284-0041 or drop by the office to let us know!



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Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Regional Editor

Galen Simmons • galen@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Tyler Carruthers • info@stmarysindependent.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Contributors

June Grant, Nancy Bickell, Mary Smith, Nancy Abra, Lauren Eedy, Spencer Seymour, Sarah Cairns, Paul Knowles, Jake Grant

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@stmarysindependent.com | 519.284.0041 | granthaven.com



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The St. Marys
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THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness to change someone's life

The shortest distance between two people is a smile

Never be so busy as not to think of others

Friendship isn't a big thing, it's a million little things.

Town to unveil Sports Wall of Fame Oct. 19

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

On Saturday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m., the Town of St. Marys is hosting a grand unveiling celebration for its new Sports Wall of Fame at the Pyramid Recreation Centre (317 James St. S).

This event will highlight the newly installed Sports Wall of Fame and will include a ceremony to recognize the 2024 inductees who have achieved outstanding sports accomplishments in the community.

The Sports Wall of Fame was proposed by the recreation and leisure advisory committee in 2022 for the preservation and promotion of the importance of athletics history within the municipality. Nominations for the inaugural year were accepted this past April and the six selected inductees were announced in May.

The 2024 inductees include Riley Hern, Mark Bell, Dale Levy, Ferris

Stewart, Patrick Payton and the St. Marys Creamery Juniors (1988).

"We are excited to showcase the outstanding sports achievements in St. Marys," said Joannah Campbell, recreation manager for the Town of St. Marys in a press release. "The strong support and involvement from our community is why it's important to recognize the dedicated individuals, teams and builders who play a role in the success and development of sports in our town."

Everyone is welcome to attend the grand unveiling. Free refreshments will be available in the EndZone upstairs at the Pyramid Recreation Centre following the event, courtesy of the town.

The next call for Sports Wall of Fame nominations will start in April 2025. An announcement will be made when nominations open through the local media, social media (facebook.com/pyramid-centre) and the town's website (www.townofstmarys.com/sportswall).

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



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EARLYON PARENT WORKSHOP

Oct. 28, 6 - 8 PM | Pyramid Centre

Join the St. Marys EarlyON Navigating Sibling Relationships workshop for an interactive discussion on encouraging supportive sibling relationships. Child minding is available during the workshop.

townofstmarys.com/earlyon or 226-374-6544



Fall in love with the St. Marys Farmers' Market

Saturday, Oct. 12

Get your Thanksgiving ingredients

Saturday, Oct. 19

Harvest Soup Saturday

Cold & ready-to-eat soups for sale

Saturday, Oct. 26

Costume photos by donation to the Food Bank

Get your pumpkins for Halloween!

Final market at Milt Dunnell Field

Saturday, Nov. 2

First indoor market at Pyramid Recreation Centre



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TREE POWER PROGRAM

We've partnered with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) to offer native hardwood trees for \$25 to St. Marys residents. Tree sales are open, with pickup on October 5 at the Municipal Operations Centre (408 James St. S).

www.thamesriver.on.ca or 519-284-2340

EARLYON PLAY NATURE ADVENTURE

Oct. 19, 9:30 - 11:30 AM | Sparling Bush

Come and join EarlyON at the Sparling Bush for a Saturday morning adventure with self-directed activities to enjoy around the trail!

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Pyramid Centre

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Senior of the Week



The Seniors of the Week are Alan and Eleanor Kittmer who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 5. Alan and Eleanor have farmed together near Lakeside throughout their marriage. They have three children - Becky, Pam and Adam - as well as four grandchildren. Both have big birthdays coming up with Eleanor turning 75 in November and Alan turning 80 in January.

If you would like to nominate someone for Senior of the Week, Contact us at 519-284-0041 or info@stmarysindependent.com.

Fall Scrapathon raises funds for St. Marys senior services



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

On Saturday, Sept. 28 an all-day Fall Scrapathon fundraiser was held at the Pyramid Recreation Centre. Over 100 avid scrapbookers gathered together for a fun-filled day of scrapbooking. There were many different things to spark their interest - a silent auction, draws for free giveaways, learning new techniques, making cards and a whole array of items to purchase from the seven vendors present. Funds that were raised support the St. Marys senior services. The first scrapathon was held 15 years ago with 34 people in attendance; the popularity of this event continues to grow. If anyone is interested in preserving memories through photos, scrapbooking is a way to do so. Pictured are the committee members that worked diligently to put on this event. Front row L to R - Colleen Bryant, Joan Doupe, Faysie Telfer; Middle row L to R - Carol Ledgley, Ruth Robinson, Lynda King, Jane Cousineau; Back row L to R - Dorothy Seiler, Jennifer Azzano, Laura Good, Donna Goldstraw, Yoli Jakus - absent Anita Landon.

Weekend Quiz

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1. What is the birthstone for October?
2. What famous TV show premiered Oct. 11, 1975?
3. In the fall, a ginkgo leaf changes from green to what color?
4. What was Autumn or Fall originally called?
5. The science of apple growing is called what?
6. What was Johnny Appleseed's real name?
7. Is pumpkin a fruit or vegetable?
8. What is the capital of Israel?
9. What is the newest NHL franchise?
10. What do you call a female fox?

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

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Thanksgiving Baking at McCully's
Give the store a call to order your fruit and pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving Dinner. Maple butter tarts, apple crisp and a variety of cookies are also available.

Fresh Produce at McCully's
Sweet corn is available at McCully's and the Aarden Farms vegetable stand. We have tasty Apple Cider, this season's crop of Gala, Honey Crisp and Macintosh apples and Bartlett Pears. We have Fall Decor and Pumpkins.

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Who is the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary?



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY)

Longtime friends Marlene Weston and Nan Skirten are just two of the locals who volunteer with the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

JANIS FREED

Independent Contributor

Meet St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary members Marlene Weston and Nan Skirten, two longtime friends.

Weston, who was on the staff at St. Marys Public Library for 27 years, joined the auxiliary around 2019 after she had retired. Her aunt was an auxiliary member and suggested Weston become involved. She is the group's secretary, she volunteers in the hospital boutique and puts her baking skills to good use by donating to the group's annual bake sales.

"I want to be out there meeting people," Weston said of one of the many reasons, along with the camaraderie, she remains an active volunteer.

It was about 15 years ago that two auxiliary members invited Skirten to join the group and she reminisces that when she first worked in the hospital gift shop, the daily cash float to carry them through the day was only \$10. Vol-

unteering seems to be a family tradition in Skirten's family as one of her sisters is a volunteer at her New Glasgow, N.S. hospital.

Skirten remains an active volunteer by working in the hospital boutique and participating in just about every off-site fundraising event, plus she's been known to bring extended family to help if we're short staffed!

Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away so members are getting ready to bake a myriad of delectable desserts for the auxiliary's Thanksgiving Bake Sale. Mark Saturday, Oct. 12 as the day to come downtown to Troyer's Spices, which is again generously making space for our bake tables which will be loaded with scrumptious, home baked goodies. Watch our Facebook page for updates on the baking that will be offered.

For updates on fundraising events or to become a volunteer, follow the auxiliary on Facebook at The Boutique at St. Marys Memorial Hospital or email smmhauxiliary@gmail.com.

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King Charles III Coronation Medals awarded to five local individuals

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

charitable activities, and they have touched the lives of countless people in our communities. May each person we honour here today serve as an inspiration for others to embrace the spirit and commitment of service," he added.

The following citations were read for the St. Marys area honourees:

JULIE DOCKER-JOHNSON: Julie lives by the mantra, 'Better together'. As the community connector of The Local community food centre in Stratford, Julie thrives on helping members of our community connect with the resources they need to improve their life and those around them. Julie has been actively involved and has been a longtime member of the board, and supporter of, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in St. Marys. More recently, she has played a leading role in supporting the Rotary Hospice of Stratford-Perth and its annual Hike for Hospice. In 2017, Julie co-founded the Giving Tuesday initiative to help not only to raise funds for community projects, but also to foster a greater sense of community and togetherness.

STEWART GRANT: In a constantly evolving digital world, the importance of local journalism is more important than ever. For Stew, that means doing the heavy lifting to ensure the community knows what is happening, from the goings-on at Town Hall to the puck drop at the arena. Stewart is the owner and publisher of various community newspapers, including the St. Marys Independent and the Stratford Times. Through these papers, his hope is to restore small-town journalism which helps connect and promote communities across the region. In addition to journalism, he has been an active volunteer in the community, with the Rotary Club of St. Marys and the St. Marys Lincolns.

CHARLES HAMMOND: Charlie has been a loyal and productive member of the Rotary Club of St. Marys for over 30 years. He has served as President of the Club and has been recognized with the distinction of being a Paul Harris Fellow, a program setup as a legacy for the founder of the Rotary Club. Through the Rotary, he has supported important causes at home and internationally. Charlie has also been active in providing leadership within the St. Marys BIA and promoting the town. Without Charlie, St. Marys might have been a very different place today. He was one of a group of people to successfully bring

the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame to St. Marys. He served as a dedicated and respected governor and was a driving force in winning the bid against 13 other locations. He is a dedicated family man and loves serving his community.

MARY MCINTOSH: Mary's community involvement dates back nearly half a century, when she and her husband John became foster parents for the very first time. Since then, she has shared her time and talent for countless causes and activities, including being a 4-H leader, and being involved with Junior Farmers. She has served as President of the Board of Directors of the Perth County Children's Aid Society, and the Perth County Federation of Agriculture. She was also a Director of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Mary was the Perth Environmental Farm Coordinator and served as a Downie Ward Councillor for the Township of Perth South.

CAMERON PORTEOUS: Cameron has made an outstanding contribution to the Canadian theatre community. He has worked at various locations, including the Vancouver Playhouse and the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake. His career and passion for theatre and arts has taken him across Canada. His work has spanned across Canadian television, film, and the stage over five decades. His imagination has allowed the creativity of Canadian artists to flourish and share their art on all levels, great and small. Locally, we are lucky that he has brought his talents to St. Marys where he serves as the Curator of the St. Marys Station Gallery. Among his own artistic undertakings, he has displayed his own work, The Battle of Queenston Heights, at the Gallery. He was also pivotal in ensuring the exhibits were available on an online platform for everyone to enjoy.

Other Perth-Wellington individuals receiving King Charles III Coronation Medals on Sunday were: Richard Boon, Ruth Kneider, John Miller, and Bernard Van Herk from the City of Stratford; Dianne Josling and Donna Yundt of the Municipality of West Perth; Jean Smelski of the Township of Perth East; Ronald Ellis of the Township of Mapleton; Jack Benham, William Nelson, and Connor Schmidt of the Township of Wellington North; Michael Grosz and Debora Lynne Ritchie of the Municipality of North Perth; and Rose Van Sickle and Belinda Wick-Graham of the Town of Minto.



(MURRAY GRANT PHOTO)

Five local people were recipients of the King Charles III coronation medals at the Royal Canadian Legion, Listowel on Sunday, Sept. 29. Front row L to R: Mary McIntosh and Julie Docker-Johnson; Back row L to R Cameron Porteous, Charlie Hammond, Stewart Grant and presenter, M.P. John Nater.



TOWN OF ST. MARYS Water Flushing Program

The Town of St. Marys will be flushing all water mains and hydrants between October 7 and November 1, 2024.

Date(s)	Times	Locations
Oct. 7 - 11	7 AM - 5 PM	Area north of Trout Creek and east of the Thames River
Oct. 15 - 18	7 AM - 5 PM	Area west of the Thames River
Oct. 20	6 PM - 12 AM	Queen St. E (downtown core)
Oct. 21 - 25	7 AM - 5 PM	Area south of Trout Creek from the Thames River to James St., including James St. S
Oct. 28 - Nov. 1	7 AM - 5 PM	Area south of Trout Creek and east of James St.

POTENTIAL SERVICE DISRUPTIONS

Your water may be discoloured as naturally-occurring minerals are disturbed during flushing. If you experience discolouration, run cold water until it becomes clear. Avoid doing laundry until the discolouration has cleared. If your water does not run clear after five minutes, turn off the tap and wait 30 minutes before trying again.

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St. Marys McDonalds manager wins Roy Kroc Award

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

The person behind the St. Marys McDonalds recently received an internationally recognized award in honour of McDonalds co-founder Roy Kroc.

Local McDonalds manager Jordan Bucht earned the Roy Kroc Award for his excellence in management at the St. Marys McDonalds. The Roy Kroc award is given to the top one per cent of McDonalds restaurant managers from around the world. Bucht is one of the 398 recipients across 70 markets.

"It's definitely an honour and it just feels good to be recognized for the work that I've done," Bucht said.

He enjoys interacting with his staff in the kitchen and the customers in the dining lounge.

"McDonalds has a lot of development opportunities, so it's really good to watch people grow and learn different skills and being part of that," he said. "I'm currently taking on a new role as a supervisor, so I get the opportunity to now oversee the employees at five restaurants, which is a great honour as well."

Bucht's main reason for receiv-

ing the Roy Kroc award was for opening the St. Marys McDonalds location during the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, a difficult time for the hospitality industry.

"I was just able to fully staff the restaurant in a challenging time when they told me I would have challenges, but also retaining that crew," he said. "A lot of the staff that I have at the St. Marys restaurant are the same that started with me two years ago when we opened."

In addition to the St. Marys restaurant, Bucht opened another location in Lucan. So far, Lucan residents have been supportive and are thrilled to have McDonalds in their town.

"They're definitely excited to have that," Bucht said. "A lot of these small towns are excited to have something more than a pizza shop."

Bucht is thankful for St. Marys residents for being helpful and welcoming from the time when he was first recruiting employees.

"The community has been super supportive from day one and continues to be, so I would just say thank you to them for everything they've done," he said.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF JORDAN BUCHT)

St. Marys McDonalds manager Jordan Bucht received the globally renowned Roy Kroc Award for excellence in management.



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Co-op students try out firefighting with St. Marys Fire Dept.

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

St. Michael Catholic Secondary School and St. Marys District Collegiate and Vocational Institute (DCVI) co-op students recently tried out firefighting.

Kaylea Bains (DCVI), Carter Lemke and Campbell Ryan (St. Michael) were selected for the St. Marys Fire Department (SMFD) Co-op Program. The current program runs from September until January. This program allows students to shadow our firefighters and Chief Fire Prevention Officer while earning credits for doing so.

“What I like most about this opportunity is learning all the different aspects of firefighting and fire prevention,” said Bains. “It is a very diverse learning process.”

“This co-op placement is an awesome opportunity,” Lemke added. “It’s only been a couple of weeks, but I’ve learned so much about the occupation. I appreciate the guidance and look forward to what’s next.”

Since 2017, the St. Marys Fire Department has proudly partnered with St. Michaels and DCVI to participate in the co-op program.

Over the past eight years, the fire department had a total of nine students come through the program. Following their experiences in the program, four of those students attended fire college,



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS)

Pictured from left to right are firefighter and co-op program instructor Neil Lippert, and students Kaylea Bains, Campbell Ryan and Carter Lempeke.

two enrolled in police foundations, one trained to become a paramedic, one went into construction and one became millwright.

Two former co-op students were hired back with the department as probationary firefighters and are currently undergoing their two-year Firefighter Initial Training Program (FITP).

“I chose SMFD as a co-op because I wanted hands on experience as I am

looking to pursue a career in firefighting,” Ryan said.

The fire chief, chief fire prevention officer and firefighters prepare students for the field by sharing their extensive experience and expertise, providing theory and practical training to help prepare them for the demands and rewards of becoming a firefighter.


“At the start of the program, they learn how a fire department operates and the

kind of equipment used on the job,” said program instructor and firefighter Neil Lippert. “They learn more in-depth studying such as fire behaviour and combustion chemistry, firefighting techniques, rescue strategies and firefighter health and wellness. They also experience the everyday reality of firefighting by practicing their skills.”

Cooperative education in Ontario provides opportunities for secondary students to participate in an unpaid work placement in order to apply classroom learning to a workplace and explore possible career choices. They can be designed to include up to four credits per semester to a maximum of 12 co-op credits towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students are monitored and supported in their learning by the placement supervisor and co-op teachers.

“The St. Marys Fire Department Co-Op program is a great initiative that gives high school students a firsthand look at the daily life of a St. Marys Firefighter,” said Fire Chief Richard “Andy” Anderson. “From station life to practical training exercises, the co-op experience is a great tool to help those who want to be a firefighter see if it truly is a career for them.”

For more information on the St. Marys Fire Department, visit their website at townofstmarys.com/fire or contact Anderson at 519-274-2340 ext. 201.



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Live training gives St. Marys firefighters experience in controlled environments



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS)

Members of the St. Marys Fire Department participate in live-firefighting exercises at the Ingersoll Fire Training Centre.

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Last month, the St. Marys Fire Department participated in unique live-fire training exercises at the Ingersoll Fire Training Centre.

During the exercises, participants engaged in controlled-fire scenarios. These scenarios allow firefighters to experience the challenges of firefighting while focusing on safety and maintaining industry standards.

“It’s the first time that we’ve used (the facility),” St. Marys Fire Chief Richard Anderson told council at a recent meeting. “I plan on trying to make this a yearly event. We got so much out of this training with different things; you couldn’t image.”

Training instructors, Anderson and the department safety officer were present throughout the exercise to monitor and control the training environment, ensuring all necessary safety precautions were in place.

“We were able to use command and control, we place some of our junior of-

ficers into senior command positions – we tested them,” Anderson said. “Firefighters, of course, got to practice all of their interior firefighting (and) ladders. It was tremendous. I just can’t say enough.”

The live-fire burn training exercise is an essential component of the fire department’s ongoing commitment to ensuring the highest level of safety and proficiency among firefighters. By simulating real-life fire scenarios, St. Marys firefighters had the opportunity to sharpen their skills, enhance their decision-making abilities and further develop their teamwork and communication skills.

In his report, Anderson said he plans to build this training exercise into his department’s Master Training Plan.

“We thank the Ingersoll Fire Department for allowing us to use their facility for this important exercise,” Anderson said in a press release. “We want to express our appreciation to instructor Justin Whalen for passing along his knowledge and experience for the betterment of our firefighters.”

Residents reminded to check their smoke alarms as part of Fire Prevention Week

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Oct. 6-12 is Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme is, “Smoke Detectors: Make them Work for you!”

Data from the National Fire Protection Association shows that most home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Having working smoke alarms in the home can reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half.

“Smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference, but they have to be working in order to provide that protection,” said Fire Chief Richard “Andy” Anderson in a press release. “This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign reinforces the importance of smoke alarms and what’s needed to install, test and maintain them.”

Key messages for this year’s Fire Prevention Week include the following:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway) and on each level (including the basement) of the home.

- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.

- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or don’t respond when tested.

The St. Marys Fire Department has organized a variety of events for Fire Prevention Week:

- Sparky visit and Swag Bag Booth: Oct. 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Your Independent Grocer

- Senior Services Fire Safety Workshop: Oct. 11, St. Marys Friendship Centre

- Fire Department Open House: Oct. 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Look for the ad in this week’s paper for full details about these events!

For more information on Fire Prevention Week 2024, visit the town’s website (townofstmarys.com/firepreventionweek), Facebook page (facebook.com/stmarysontario) and Twitter account (twitter.com/townofstmarys).

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCT 6 - 12, 2024



SMOKE ALARMS: MAKE THEM WORK FOR YOU!

St. Marys Fire Department encourages everyone to test their smoke alarms monthly!



Sparky Visit and Swag Bag Booth: October 9

Stop by and see our firefighters and Sparky at Your Independent Grocer St. Marys from approximately 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.! Get a St. Marys Fire Department reusable bag (with important fire safety information and swag). See Sparky and get a photo with one of the St. Marys fire trucks!

St. Marys Fire Department Open House: October 12

The St. Marys Fire Department is excited to host the entire community for an open house event! Visit us between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Enjoy station tours, fire truck and equipment demonstrations, a new inflatable fire safety house, fire prevention display, the Stratford Police, Perth County Paramedics, three delicious food vendors (Campbells Catering, The Grill Cheezery, Brannigans Fish & Chips), and a chance to meet the local firefighters and Sparky too!

More Fire Prevention Week Activities!

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and this year's theme, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!" visit fpw.org. Additional Fire Prevention Week resources for children, caregivers, and educators can be found at sparky.org and sparkyschoolhouse.org.

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Fire Chief
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Brian Leverton
Deputy Fire Prevention Officer
Started Jan 2018



Phil West
Deputy Fire Chief
Started Nov 1995



Ryan Taylor
Captain
Started Feb 1995



Greg St. Clair
Captain
Started Aug 2021



Josh Becker
Captain
Started Sep 2013



Chris Primeau
Lieutenant
Started Nov 2015



Darcy Robinson
Lieutenant
Started Nov 2015



Jeff Sass
Firefighter
Started Oct 2001



Jim Burlingham
Firefighter
Started Jan 2006



Brandon Dundas
Firefighter
Started Jul 2012



Lucas Jeffrey
Firefighter
Started Nov 2015



Chad Petrie
Firefighter
Started Dec 2018



Josh McKay
Firefighter
Started Dec 2018



Curtis Downham
Firefighter
Started Dec 2018



Ryan Hartsell
Firefighter
Started Sep 2020



Neil Lippert
Firefighter
Started Sep 2021



Connor Byers
Firefighter
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Mike McKone
Firefighter
Started April 2022



Kruz Dumontier
Firefighter
Started May 2022



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Firefighter
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Started Oct 2023



Stuart Taylor
Firefighter
Started Oct 2023



Owen Wrigley
Firefighter
Started Oct 2023



Devin Oliver
Firefighter
Started May 2024



Jeff Sager
Chaplain
Started Sep 2022

Ukrainian School opens in St. Marys

SVITLANA LESKIV AND VJ KNUTSON

Independent Contributors

Sept. 1 was a special day for Ukrainian school children because it marked the opening of the Ukrainian School in St. Marys.

Thanks to the efforts of VJ Knutson, who has been helping Ukrainians for more than two years, the school is up and running. Thanks also to the St. Marys Presbyterian Church, which has offered suitable space to house the classes. A big thank you to VJ's friend, Nora Doan, and the ladies of the Xi Beta Tau sorority from London who provided us with pens, pencils, notebooks, chalk, rulers and so many other school supplies which are already in use in the classroom.

An important role in the process of opening and organizing a Ukrainian school is played by the School Council of the Canadian Congress of Ukrainians in Toronto. It coordinates the work of all Ukrainian-language schools and supplies teachers with pedagogical literature, materials and books. For 60 years, the school council has been taking care of the preservation of the Ukrainian language among Ukrainians and, most importantly, it supports the development of Ukrainian schooling, which makes it possible to transfer knowledge to the younger generation.

The Ukrainian School in St. Marys exists thanks to the patriotic position of the parents. Despite their difficult work schedules and daily tasks, they bring their children to school because, above all, they want their children to be able to write and speak Ukrainian. In the school, classes include not only the study of the Ukrainian language, but also mathematics, cultural events and holidays.

Exhibitions are planned, which will help the children to better understand their cultural heritage and be proud of it. The classes are conducted by two teachers, Lesia Danyliuk and Svitlana Leskiv. Both worked as teachers in Ukraine and now, on a volunteer basis, every Sunday they love to help children improve their knowledge of the Ukrainian language and mathematics. Currently, there are 10 children studying at the school, for whom educational materials have already



(NATALY SHYSHKIVSKA PHOTOS)

Above left, a new school dedicated to teaching and preserving the heritage, culture and language of Ukraine has been established at St. Marys Presbyterian Church. Above right, Alina Shyshkivska leads an acrobatics class at the new St. Marys Ukrainian School at St. Marys Presbyterian Church.

been selected.

Before the start of classes, children sing the national anthem of Ukraine. The first lesson on Sept. 1 coincided with the Day of Knowledge, which is celebrated in Ukraine. On this day, children are congratulated on the beginning of the school year and wished success and new achievements in their studies. To honour the day, the teachers prepared fun competitions and tasks in Ukrainian. Children had the opportunity to run, play, solve crosswords and mathematical puzzles.

Volunteer Ruslan Solopko also participated in the celebration, offering a master class for children and a quiz on the history of Ukraine. At the end, the children were awarded small gifts.

While the younger children are diligently studying, the older ones are volunteering to help the teachers, or conducting their own master classes. It really is a community effort.

The Ukrainian school is just getting started, but it has significance for maintaining the cultural identity of the Ukrainian community in Canada. This is an important step in preserving Ukrainian heritage for future generations. The school should become a place where children can not only learn the language, but also immerse themselves in the rich world of Ukrainian traditions, instilling a connection with their native land.

On behalf of our entire Ukrainian community, we would like to express our deep gratitude to everyone who helped establish the school. Your support, dedication and belief in the importance of education is a powerful and visible contribution.

We want our children to not only acquire knowledge, but to also form values that will eventually become the basis for their future. We at the Ukrainian School in St. Marys are committed to helping the children achieve their goals.



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Recent vandalism takes its toll on town coffers

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Vandalism is taking its toll on the Town of St. Marys' coffers.

At St. Marys council's Sept. 24 meeting, CAO Brent Kittmer shared the costs of recent vandalism to electric-vehicle chargers at the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) and graffiti spray-painted on the Sarnia Street Bridge and elsewhere around town – the latter of which was discussed in publisher Stewart Grant's editorial in the Sept. 26 edition of the St. Marys Independent.

"Staff are aware of (the recent graffiti around town)," Kittmer said. In certain circumstances, public works will go out and paint over it quite quickly. There was quite a bit over the last weekend (Sept. 20-22) on the Sarnia Bridge, especially on the west abutment.

"We had a company in (Sept. 23) and all of that has been removed. ... So, all of these large tags across town (are gone)."

In an email to the Independent last week, public works director Jed Kelly said the cost of having M & M Painting & Decorating Ltd. of Exeter soda-blast the graffiti off the Sarnia Street Bridge and from spots on the Victoria Street Bridge came to roughly \$2,500 plus the



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS)

Pictured is graffiti spraypainted on the Sarnia Street Bridge Sept. 20-22. The tag, "ROACH," was included alongside much of the graffiti seen around town recently.

cost of staff time.

Kittmer also told council that the word "ROACH" was spraypainted along with much of the graffiti across town and he asked anyone who knows anything about the graffiti or that tag to contact Stratford police at 519-271-4141.

Kittmer also noted in his monthly report to council that the cables for the level-two electric-vehicle chargers at the PRC had also been vandalized.

"The actual value of the damage to the chargers was around \$15,000, but ... because they're so new ... (Kelly) was able

to speak with our contact with Charger-Crew (Canada) and they're coming in and replacing them at a fraction of that cost," Kittmer said.

"(They'll replace them) at about \$600 per cable and we had six cables damaged," Kelly added.

The chargers at the PRC remained out of service until they could be repaired and the cables replaced, however the cost of the fix is well below the town's insurance deductible and it won't be reimbursed.

Deputy mayor Brogan Aylward asked Kelly whether town staff could do anything to prevent this sort of damage from occurring again, to which Kelly said staff are working on coming up with a few creative ideas and, in the interim, staff has improved lighting in that area of the PRC parking lot.

"We're going to try to put some stickers and some notices on the chargers about (how) there's no copper in them," town corporate services director André Morin added later in the meeting. "That seems to be why people are cutting the cords, to get a few dollars worth of copper."

"So, there's some proactive things we can do like that but again, it may or may not work moving forward."



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Lincs stay unbeaten with polar-opposite wins

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Despite the end results looking the same in the standings, how the St. Marys Lincolns got their victories over the Sarnia Legionnaires on Sept. 27 and Strathroy Rockets on Sept. 28 could not have been more different.

The Lincolns defeated the Sarnia Legionnaires by a final score of 3-1, but according to head coach Jeff Bradley, the team wasn't pleased with how the team got the victory.

"I didn't feel great about it after the game," Bradley told the Independent. "Of course, it's nice to get the two points but I didn't think we were at our best. Even though we controlled the play for the most part, and sometimes the puck doesn't go in for you, I thought we were trying to do too much at times and we had a few too many lapses in judgment. We allowed them to hang around and make a game of it when we felt we should have put them away earlier."

Bradley, who often calls the regular season a 50-game process to get their game in order for the playoffs, said he didn't see the team move in the right direction with regard to the execution of the structures and systems.

"It put a halt in the way we were progressing. It brought me back to how we played against St. Thomas in the home opener a little bit. I thought we were more organized against Sarnia than we were against St. Thomas, but I just felt we were lacking the chemistry and the trust of our systems. At times, it got away from our gameplan.

"I don't like the sloppiness," Bradley added. "We're not a sloppy team. We don't have sloppy players. I'm not a sloppy coach. We have a clear plan that we need to execute on and our returning core knows that what we do works. It's worked here for three years and our guys can execute it very well, so we can't deviate from it."

Owen Voortman scored the lone goal of the first period, potting a powerplay marker at just under 14 minutes into the period. Ryder Livermore and Jaden Lee earned the assists.

Where things became frustrating for the Lincolns is they struggled to take firm control of a game they had every reason to dominate. Not only was Sarnia playing the second half of a back-to-back



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Jacob Montesi looks to get by Sarnia Legionnaires' forward Gage Brandon during the St. Marys Lincolns' game on Sept. 27, which they won 3-1. The following night, in the Lincolns' 5-0 win over Strathroy, Montesi and forward Owen Voortman both appeared in their 100th GOJHL game.

which included a highly intense 7-6 loss 24 hours earlier, but they were playing the game against St. Marys with just 10 forwards and five defencemen. Despite this, both sides went into the second intermission tied at one apiece after Gage Brandon scored for Sarnia with just one minute and 16 seconds left in the middle period.

In the third, the exhausted and depleted Legionnaires ran out of gas, surrendering two goals to the Lincs in the final 20 minutes, including one by Luca Spagnolo and another by Dylan Searles. Lee and Voortman assisted on Spagnolo's goal, while Chase McDougall and Tanner Ducharmer collected helpers on Searles' goal.

Although it wasn't the complete showing the team had hoped for, several of the team's blueliners were bright spots for the bench boss.

"It wasn't a broad teamwide thing, but more of an individual-by-individual basis. Some people didn't have their best

game, but some did have good games. Ryder (Livermore) was unbelievable. I can't say enough good things about Ryder. He's just an amazing player for our team and he never gets the credit he deserves but he does everything right.

"I thought Jacob (Montesi) was really good. Jacob understands what we expect and he expects the same out of himself every night. Owen (Kalp) was really good. Rowan (Reid) took another good step in the right direction. With Owen, he is a third-year player getting used to a new team and I thought he looked great."

Lincs rebound in "virtually perfect" 5-0 win over Rockets

While fans could surely look hard enough and nitpick very minor moments of the game, considering how young the season is, Bradley couldn't have been happier with his team's bounce-back one night later when they walked into Strathroy and trounced the Rockets 5-0.

"The way it worked out meant a lot

to our process because this early in the season, you're still trying to learn a little bit about yourselves and see what kind of group you are. In the game against Sarnia, I thought we were dominant in the first period but we took our foot off the gas. We found ourselves in the same spot after the first period (against Strathroy) where I thought we really outplayed them even though it was scoreless, and we talked in the intermission about not taking our foot off the gas again. That was the big difference for me. Against Strathroy, we chose to keep playing the way we did in the first and, honestly, we played as close to perfect as I think we could have played."

It was the first time the Rockets had lost in regulation so far this season, and according to the team's internal stat-tracking software, the Lincolns finished the game with more shots on goal than Strathroy had shot attempts altogether.

After a scoreless first period, of which the Lincolns controlled the majority, the chasm between the two teams became massive, with St. Marys not only outshooting the Rockets 20-6 in the second stanza, but jumping ahead with three straight goals. Spagnolo and Jacob McLellan each buried powerplay goals, while Lee put St. Marys up by three when he buried a shorthanded breakaway.

Bradley felt the way the Lincolns outplayed the home side sapped the Rockets of their ability to stem the thunderous tide of the Lincolns' seemingly ceaseless momentum.

"You could see the life drain out of Strathroy the longer that game went on, and not because they played poorly. We just played incredibly well. We didn't give them anything. We were disciplined in our style of play. We trusted what we were doing was going to work and eventually it did. At one point, Strathroy was literally just firing pucks down the ice to get a break.

"The players deserve so much credit for their performance," Bradley continued. "They believe in our team and they believe there's a way to play to be successful. They weren't happy with how we got the two points against Sarnia. They know they are a good team and if they play properly, they should have success. Our guys take pride in how we

DCVI Jr. Girls take high-octane thriller over St. Mike's

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Fans could be forgiven for forgetting at times that the St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls basketball team's game on Sept. 25 against St. Michael Catholic Secondary wasn't a playoff contest, given the intensity of the clash, which was ultimately won by a score of 41-37 by St. Marys.

Despite some areas in which the team can still improve, head coach Tim O'Connor was pleased with his team's compete level as they willed their way to the four-point victory.

"It was a good battle for us," O'Connor told the Independent. "St. Mike's is a very good team and they didn't make it easy on us. I thought the kids were running and moving well and played with a good pace. Of course, there are some things that we still have to work on. We know we can probably do a bit better job managing the ball, but overall, I thought our girls did well."

The team got strong performances out of their Grade 10 core of Charlotte Richardson, Alanna Savile, Regan Jones and Holly Black, including 28 of the team's 41 points coming from Richardson and Savile alone. O'Connor credited the four as essential to both the win and the development of their younger teammates.

"Charlotte, Alanna, Regan and Holly are such a big help. They're setting a good tone that the younger kids are picking up on. If something doesn't go right in a game or practice, they have been great at getting things organized and back on track.

"Those four have really good composure, especially down the stretch when



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Alanna Savile drives by a St. Michael Catholic Secondary defender during the St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls basketball team's 41-37 win on Sept. 25.

things are tight," O'Connor continued. "That makes a difference for sure in how the game plays out and is absolutely critical when you've got so many first-year players on the team. That veteran presence helps calm things down a bit."

In particular, Savile turned in a gritty performance for the Salukis, seemingly only getting more effective as the game got tighter.

"Alanna really did come through in

a big way for us," said O'Connor. "She made some big plays at both ends of the court. She had several important contested buckets, and defensively, she really played well for us."

O'Connor also credited Charlotte Johnson for scoring a couple of key buckets that kept the Salukis in the game at critical moments, as well as Lily Hollestelle-Black, who impressed the bench boss with her "defensive energy."

It was evident how strong and evenly matched the two teams were, with much of the game either deadlocked or seeing leads traded back and forth. O'Connor feels it gives his team an incentive to keep refining their game, knowing strong teams like St. Mike's will keep developing as well.

"They will only be tougher the next time we see them. St. Mike's is a younger team like us but they're very good. They are very well-coached. There are quite a few good teams in our league who are going to keep getting a little bit better, so I think that is going to motivate us to keep improving as well."

The Salukis are hoping to improve their ball management and shooting efficiency, but O'Connor noted those areas of improvement are natural for a young team and he is thankful that they bring the vital intangibles to making progress in those areas.

"It's certainly not a lack of effort. Our team's effort is fantastic. As a coach, it's great when you don't have to try to pull effort out of them. For us, one of our biggest opportunities for growth is just learning to think basketball and not be so quick to make your first decision, look around, see what else is open and then make the best play you can.

"They work hard on defence, they are approachable and they aren't scared. They have energy and are willing to commit to working hard on the defensive side of the ball. We may turn the ball over at some point or miss a shot, but they're always trying to get better and we're not giving freebies away because we're too tentative, which is good to see."

Lincs stay unbeaten with polar-opposite wins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

play. It's not just about winning hockey games; they want to be proud of winning and they certainly deserve to feel proud of how they won in Strathroy."

Blake Elzinga tallied his second of the year in the third period, capping off a stellar night for his line that also included Searles and Ryan Cornfield, the latter of whom picked up an assist on the goal, as did Livermore.

Before that in the third, Spagnolo buried his second of the game, which came after a series of incidents that could have sent the game into a penalty-ridden tailspin. Instead, Spagnolo's goal felt like a dagger to whatever hopes, however faint, the Rockets had of finding some measure of positivity from the game. Voortman and Kalp earned the assists on Spagnolo's goal.

Bradley had high praise for Spagnolo,

who now has six goals in just five games, as well as his linemates, Voortman and Lee.

"Luca is turning into one of the best players in the league, if not the top player in the league. That line as a whole is unbelievable. Luca and Jaden are obviously tied together and they're scoring all the goals right now, and Voortman is just such a perfect fit for that line. They are great offensively. They are great de-

fensively. They are all leaders. They are honestly three of the best players I've ever coached."

The game was also a big night for Voortman and Montesi, both of whom were skating in their 100th GOJHL game. For Montesi, all but five of his games came with St. Marys, while Voortman has spent his entire GOJHL tenure in a Lincolns jersey.



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St. Marys Tennis Club hosts doubles championship tournament



(SPENCER SEYMOUR AND ESTHER DE YOUNG PHOTOS)

The St. Marys Tennis Club held their Doubles Championship Tournament on Sept. 28 at the local racket courts. In the Open Championship, the team of James Walkom and Massimo Paola came away with the top prize, winning the finals 6-1. The winners' trophy was contributed by Sandy Stephens and Carpe Vinum Wine and Gifts.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR AND ESTHER DE YOUNG PHOTOS)

Adam Pallone and Brad Everett were awarded the Club Championship after winning a tie-breaking match over Roger Batch and Marilyn Leasa. The Club Championship was determined by total games won, and both teams finished with 20 wins before the tie-breaking final.

Holy Name well-represented at Pat Cook Run

The 32nd Pat Cook Memorial Elementary Cross Country Meet was held at the Stratford Education and Recreation Centre on Sept. 24 and many students at Holy Name of Mary Catholic School in St. Marys participated in the meet. The following are the Holy Name students who finished in a top-10 position of their respective divisions:

- U7 Girls - Lacey Terpstra, third – Juliet Mills, fourth**
- U7 Boys - Jackson Monisit, seventh**
- U8 Girls - Ivy Smith, sixth**
- U8 Boys - Carter VanWieran, fifth – Levi Garniss, sixth**
- U9 Boys - Bentley O'Brian, third**

- U11 Girls - Lily Garniss, sixth**
- U12 Girls - Lily Forbes, second – Danika Terpstra, ninth**
- U12 Boys - Seamus McCotter, seventh**
- U13 Boys - Luke Simons, eighth**



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Tyler McDonald loads up a shot during a U12 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game during this past season.



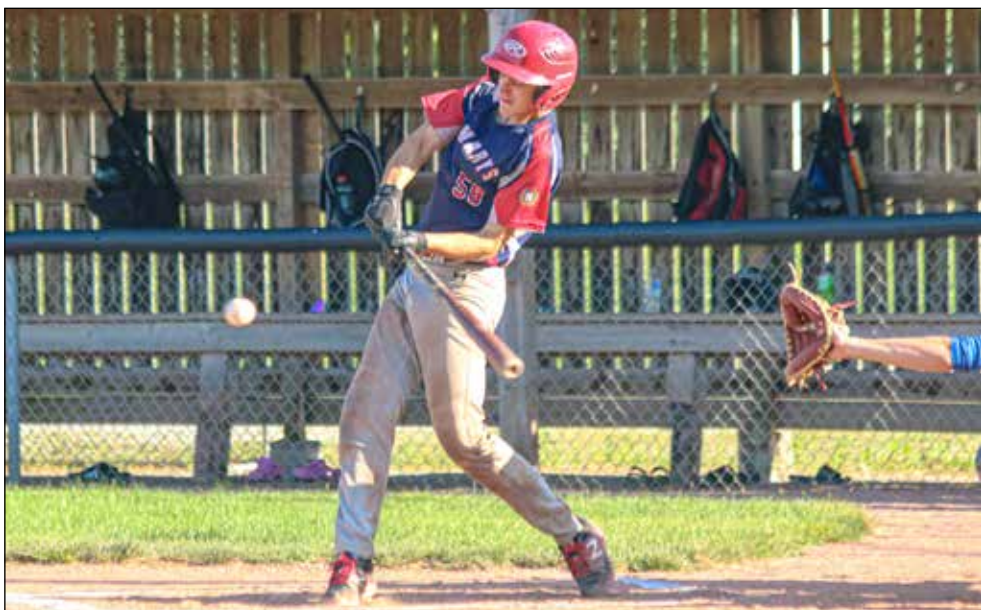
Chloe Phillips launches a pitch towards home plate during a Wildwood Care Centre U13 HP Red St. Marys Rockies game during this past season.



Brock Chessell rounds third base as he dashes home during a St. Marys Cement U18 WOBA Blue St. Marys Rockies game earlier this year.



Elliott Wilhelm dashes back to home plate during a Downie Optimist Club U13 OBA St. Marys Rockies game earlier this year.



Braden Roth swings at an incoming pitch during a U18 OBA St. Marys Rockies game this past season. (SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)



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DCVI Field Hockey team earns pair of wins

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys DCVI Field Hockey team remains in the mix near the top of the Huron-Perth standings after scoring a pair of wins on Sept. 25.

In their first game of the day, the Salukis got two-goal performances from Aubrey Cousineau and Joey Binning plus a goal from Harvest Elliott en route to a 5-0 win over Stratford District Secondary School (SDSS).

Coach Bob Ellison highlighted the evolution of the younger members of his squad when discussing the 5-0 victory.

“What really stood out to me (against SDSS) were the Grade 9s in particular,” Ellison told the Independent. “They’re the ones who came into this season with the most to learn and we’ve had nine practices before today, which amounts to nine hours of training. Comparing how we played today to even how we played last week when we were getting called on reverse sticks, the improvement is great. They’re correcting themselves in real time without needing me to do so.”

Ellison added it’s a very positive sign for the team’s capacity for success when the older players trust the skills of their younger counterparts, which he saw from the Salukis.

“It’s really exciting when you see them really come together as a team and you see that when, like today, our fourth-year veterans aren’t afraid to pass the ball to our first-years because they’re a teammate. Our older kids view our younger players as a bonafide teammate who they know they can count on.”

Although not quite as dominant, DCVI picked up another win when they defeated St. Anne’s 2-1 later in the day. According to Ellison, the team’s big task for the day was to implement their work in practice into their games, which they succeeded at doing.

“We talked about this being an important day because we needed to put on the field what we’ve been doing in practice. That’s what we wanted and that’s what the kids did. We’ve been practicing elimination moves, which is what a forward can do with the ball to get around someone. They did amazing at that. We saw kids circling away to get open, which is exactly what we wanted.

“We got a bit tired near the end (against St. Anne’s) and a little frustrated with some calls, but what I was happy with was that the kids took it in stride and didn’t let it bother them for the rest of the game,” continued Ellison. “It was nice to win, but what was important to us was getting those skills that we’ve been practicing actually into the game. They did that and that was awesome to see.

“At the beginning of every season, I give a speech that I’ve been saying for 41 years for every team I’ve ever had. I don’t care about winning and losing. Don’t get me wrong, winning is nice, but it’s not what truly matters. At the end of the season, you must have had a positive experience, you have to be a better player than you were at the start and we need to be a better team. If that happens, then we are successful. That’s what makes today successful in my eyes. We saw those three things realized.”



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Marci Linton fires the ball towards the net during one of the St. Marys DCVI Field Hockey team’s games on Sept. 25. The Salukis beat Stratford District Secondary 5-0 before downing St. Anne’s 2-1. Linton scored one of DCVI’s goals against St. Anne’s.



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SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS & CULTURE

Musical menopause?

JIM GILES

Independent Columnist

Edited by Alice Rixson

There are musical plays about cats, mean girls, kinky boots and – believe it or not – there’s even one about menopause!

Menopause The Musical is a 2001 musical with book and lyrics by Jeanie Linders, which premiered in March 2001 in Orlando, Florida. Since then, it has toured and been performed to audiences literally around the world in at least 17 countries.

St. Marys’ resident Janet Martin’s history with *Menopause The Musical* began in 2006 with the original Toronto company. Martin and biz partner Mark Zimmerman are the founders and producers of Shaggypup Productions, which has been licensing and producing the show across Canada since 2016.

“We have been presenting *Menopause The Musical* from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island almost always playing to sold out houses,” says Martin. This topic is timeless, she adds. “There is always a new generation of women going through ‘the change’. This play is a feel-good, inspirational romp of musical parodies, which helps women share and discuss the difficult symptoms of menopause and make fun of the silly ones. It has been said that we have saved a few marriages along the way because the partners realize what their ladies are suffering through,” says Martin. “It’s definitely a girls’ night out but it’s also a really good enlightenment for men,” Martin adds. “I love the show because it makes people laugh and it’s so much fun to perform. There is too much doom and gloom in the world and a little escapism is a good thing.”

With a career that spans more than three decades, Martin is no neophyte to musical theatre. She has been a member of both the Shaw and Stratford Festival companies and has performed in every major theatre in Canada. She toured North America with *HMS Pinafore* and played the alternate lead character of Yum-Yum in Brian MacDonald’s direction of *The Mikado*, which enjoyed a six-week run on Broadway. She was a part



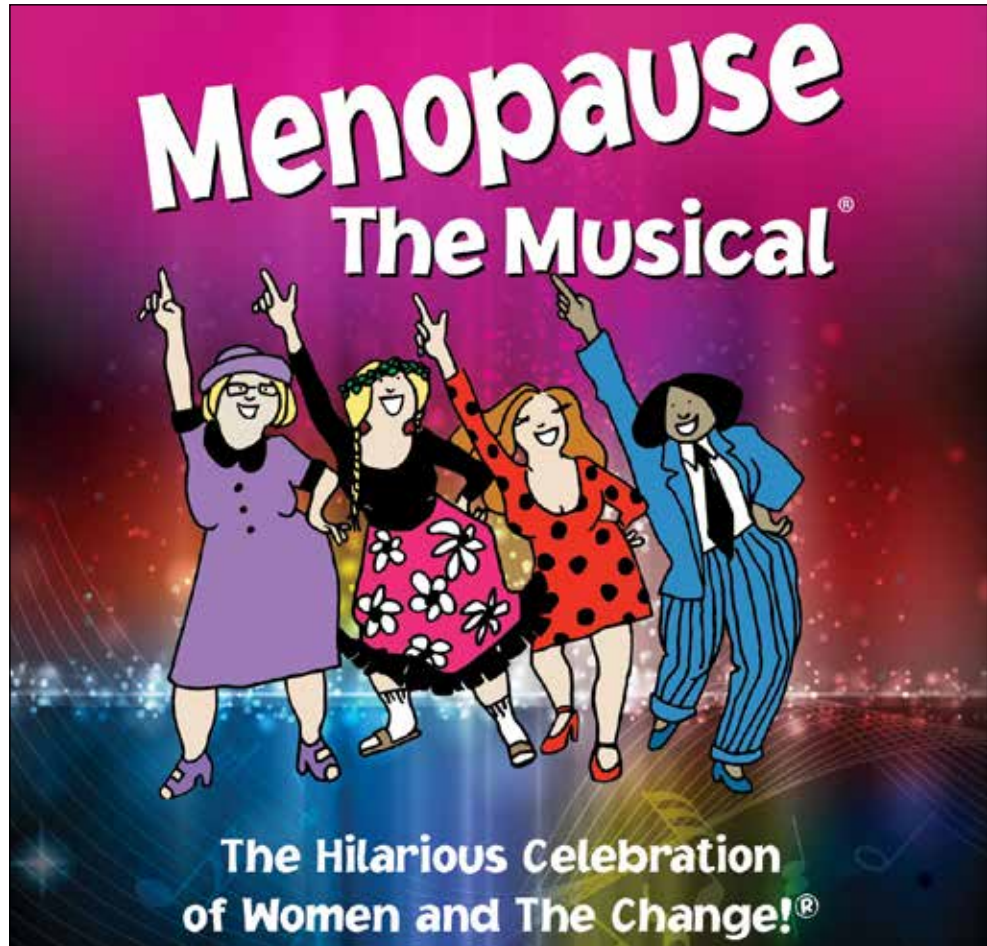
(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Performer and producer Janet Martin.

of the Toronto cast of *Les Misérables* and also spent seven years with *Phantom of the Opera*. Martin also worked in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore for extended periods of time in various shows.

As an artist of original works, Martin co-wrote and produced many concerts and cabarets, including *Three Little Maids* for Souleppper Theatre Company’s Cabaret series in Toronto and *A Broadway Valentine*, which was presented by the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga. As a veteran actor of the Canadian theatre scene, Janet’s favourite roles to date include Grizabella in *Cats*, Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*, Cosette in *Les Misérables*, and third nun from the left in *The Sound of Music*. During her years as an actor, Martin spearheaded many charitable events, raising thousands of dollars for various worthwhile organizations.

When asked what stands out for her during her vast career in musical theatre, Martin responds laughing, “The parties, of course! I think the Toronto opening of Andrew Lloyd Weber’s musical *Cats* was a spectacular and memorable event,” she recalls. “So was the Singapore opening of *Phantom of the*



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Poster for Menopause the Musical.

Opera. It is also a rush to see the full houses we have had for *Menopause The Musical* right across the country.”

Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Martin emigrated to Canada at the young age of five and attended school in Ajax, Ontario. As a child she always had the yearning to sing. In high school, Christina Evans, a theatre and guidance counsellor at Ajax High School, pointed her in the right direction and Martin went on to study musical theatre at George Brown College in Toronto.

So, what brought Martin, her husband and two dogs to St. Marys? “I wanted to be close to some friends in the area and also [to be] close to Stratford. We fell in love with St. Marys...and haven’t looked back,” she answers.

Menopause The Musical is a hilarious and heartfelt look at the trials and tribulations of menopause and friend-

ships, liberally seasoned with hot flashes, mood swings, memory lapses and more! Toss in some familiar and popular hit tunes of the 1960s, ‘70s and ‘80s for more flavour. “Audiences...laugh non-stop, almost to the point of having tears in their eyes. And yes, men love it too,” Martin attests.

The final Canadian performance for 2024 of this 90-minute play comes to the stage at Centennial Hall in London, Ontario Sunday, October 20 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available at menopausethemusical.com/list-of-events/ or www.eventbrite.ca/e/menopause-the-musical-tickets-970771753447?aff=oddtcreator

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BUSINESS PROFILE

Sip Sisters Bartending

WENDY LAMOND
Independent Reporter

Anyone in need of bartending services for their next event has a new, local option.

Best friends Edyn Taylor and Maddie Foster have teamed up to launch Sip Sisters Bartending. The girls, who have been best friends for approximately nine years, both have their Smart Serve certification and are excited for this next adventure. They are willing to travel two hours away from the area at all times of the year for any kind of event.

The business has a variety of packages available to suit any function. For those just looking for someone to serve, they will do that but they also offer packages that include both non-alcoholic and alcoholic options.

The two had bartended a few weddings for family and loved making a

positive impact for people's special events while having some fun doing it. They were being asked for business cards and recognized there is a need, and made the decision that it was the right time.

Taylor shared with the Independent why they chose to get into this line of work.

"You shouldn't be worrying about what is going on, you should be enjoying yourself at your special event. It is very rewarding to make a difference and see people having a great time."

Both girls grew up in the St. Marys area. Taylor is also a dairy farmer near Gads Hill and Foster works in office administration.

Both are excited to move into this new chapter with their travel-bartending business. For more information on availability and pricing, email sipsisterstravelbartending@gmail.com.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Maddie Foster and Edyn Taylor are ready to help you at your next function with their new business, Sip Sisters Bartending.

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MARY SMITH

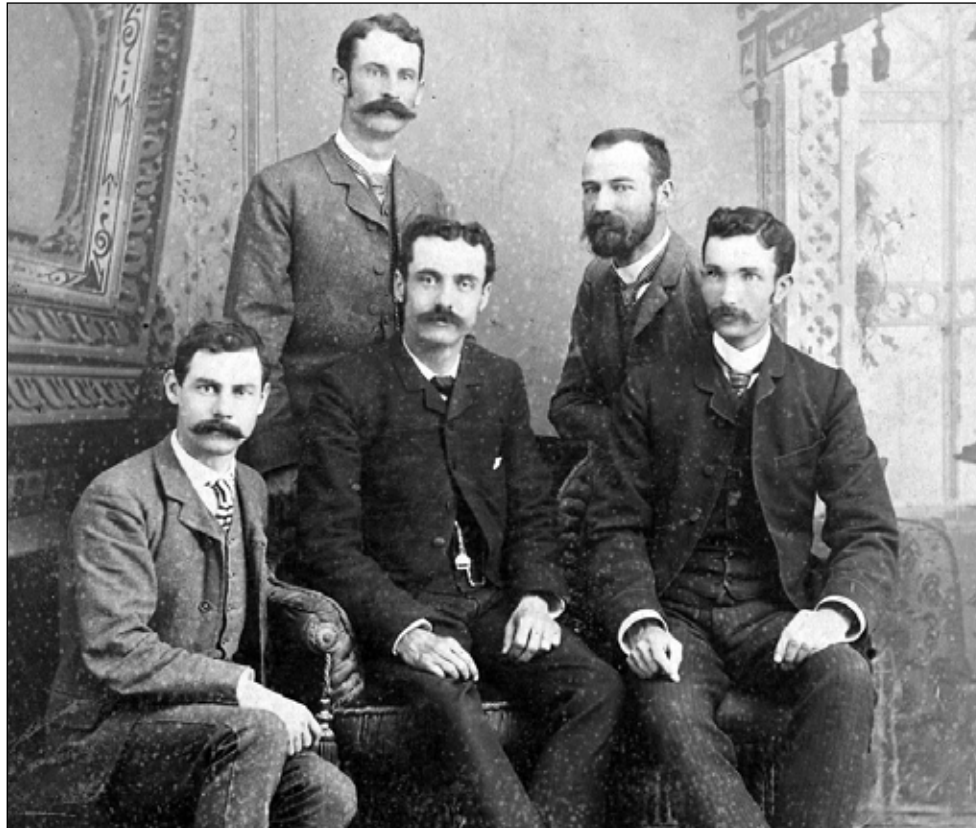
Independent Columnist

The five serious men in this week's photograph, dated 1888, were the teaching staff at the St. Marys Collegiate Institute. They had this picture taken in Leary's photography studio, possibly to mark the beginning of a new school term in September of that year. The school building in the north ward of St. Marys had been in existence for about 15 years, drawing students not only from St. Marys but also from the surrounding townships. As a marker of its success, the school had been awarded the status of a "collegiate institute." To qualify for this distinction, the school had to employ teachers who were "specialists" in their subjects – that is, teachers who had an honours degree from a recognized university. A collegiate also had to offer a full range of subjects, as prescribed by the province, to prepare students for post-secondary education. Although they lived in a relatively small community, residents of St. Marys believed they had every reason to be proud of their collegiate.

But for the school board, there were challenges. In the spring of 1888, on Wednesday, May 2, and Thursday, May 3, the provincial high school inspector completed his annual inspection of the collegiate. It was a very thorough examination of everything, from the grounds and the condition of the classrooms to the quality of teaching. The inspector reviewed the qualifications of the staff and assessed the overall organization and discipline within the school. Then he graded these components on a scale from I (the highest) to IV (the lowest.) In his five-page report, with scores and comments, he recommended improvements in a number of areas.

He approved the qualifications of four of the five teachers. As a small school, the collegiate seemed, in many cases, to serve as a stepping stone for ambitious young teachers. They gained valuable experience teaching for several years in St. Marys and then applied for positions in larger centres that could afford more generous salaries. In 1888, Isaac M. Levan, the headmaster, age 31, was the oldest on staff and had the most experience. (He is the man with the beard seated in the back row of the photograph.) With a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto, Levan had been hired in December 1883 and had been headmaster since the 1884 spring term. He was also the Modern Languages teacher. Stephen Martin, the tall man standing at the back, taught mathematics. He was 29 years old, married, with a baby daughter. He too had a BA from Toronto and had taught in St. Marys for almost two years. When Isaac Levan resigned in 1889 to take a position as principal in Owen Sound, Martin was appointed his successor.

Seated in the front row at the left was Frank Riddell, age 26, who taught Classics and English. In the centre was Thomas H. Follick, age 27, responsible



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS MUSEUM'S HISTORIC IMAGE COLLECTION)

The teaching staff of the St. Marys Collegiate Institute in 1888.

for Science and Commercial subjects. The inspector described both men, with degrees from Toronto, as "very efficient" teachers. However, the fifth member of the staff, E. Brown, (not in the photograph) presented a problem. He had merely a third-class certificate and although he was an able teacher, he was not legally qualified to teach in a collegiate institute. The inspector understood that he had been hired as an emergency replacement and agreed he should finish the term. However, the board would have to find a fifth specialist before the start of school in September. "Four Masters cannot possibly undertake the work now incumbent on Collegiate Institutes." (The young man seated on the right in the photograph, identified as Mr. Sills, presumably replaced the underqualified Mr. Brown.)

When the report was discussed at the next board meeting, the inspector's advice regarding the teaching staff was accepted. However, board members were upset by his grading in other areas – there were several IIIs and even a few IVs. Although the collegiate received a government grant and, in 1888, the students paid modest fees to attend, the cost of operating the school largely fell on local taxpayers. The board members, taxpayers themselves, were very conscious of the need to curb expenditures. Before authorizing spending to correct deficiencies, the board created a special committee to consider the inspector's recommendations. The three committee members were practical men, well-known in the community and long-time school board members: a popular local physician, Dr. John Hugh Mathieson; the Registrar of Perth South, Patrick Whelihan; and John Wesley Poole, a resident with a wealth of experience in municipal politics.

dents from dallying when out for a drink during school hours." The committee rigorously defended St. Marys water: "We have an abundant supply of beautiful, clear, spring water.... The water supplied by waterworks to city schools cannot, even when filtered, compare to our well water in the essential qualities mentioned." Water tanks, the committee believed, "would run the risk of introducing dysentery, typhoid fever, and kindred diseases, through water rendered more or less putrid from standing in heated rooms, in closed vessels." As for dallying, "The pump is within a few feet of the school, under the eyes of three of the teachers, and the principal has had no difficulty heretofore from pupils delaying as suggested." The committee believed that the inspector had his facts wrong and "that the suggested change, if carried out, would be pernicious."

The school grounds had been given a rating of III, the inspector stating that the fence was "very poor." The committee wrote in response that they were aware the fence was not aesthetic: "It is constructed of plain boards and posts, and equipped with gates and turnstiles, has recently undergone substantial repairs and humbly serves its purpose of excluding cattle, etc., from the grounds. Whether a child, studying in a school in a two-acre field, enclosed by a plain wooden fence, is placed at a disadvantage compared with a child in a school surrounded by an ornamental iron fence, gold-tipped and nickel-plated, ... is a problem with which your committee has not wrestled; but without any shame-facedness, it recommends that the wooden fence be perpetuated, at least until our little municipality, already heavily taxed for a system of education that has grown all out of proportion to the increasing wealth of our people, can afford to erect one of such artistic design and artistic material that shall not offend the taste of a High School Inspector!"

The inspector's report also dealt with the classrooms and the subjects taught. Next week's column will have the school board's response to bureaucratic criticism of these areas.

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Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

Thorndale Lions and municipality working to promote local history



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Thorndale Lions members, pictured from left, Ray Chowen, Larry Jones, Norm Jary, Murray Pink, Matt Adams install a heritage sign and new bench in the Foxborough Pond area.

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Thorndale Lions Club and the Municipality of Thames Centre have been working together for over a decade to enhance the park areas in Thorndale.

This collaboration started with the Wye Creek Pond area with the goal to add amenities to this park area to make it

more enjoyable for the residents. Through a cost-sharing agreement, the Thorndale Lions have added features such as benches, solar lighting, bird houses, a gazebo and, most recently, Thorndale heritage fact signs.

With the population of Thorndale growing, the Thorndale Lions Club felt it important for new residents coming to live in this community to learn about the



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Thorndale Lions members, from left, Les Youngson, Derek McClean and Bill McDonald install a Thorndale Heritage sign at St. George's Anglican Church.

town's history. The Thorndale Heritage Sign project started early in 2022 with the sign design and compiling history facts and information for these signs.

These heritage signs cover the history of the community centre, Thorndale Agricultural Society (circa 1857), sports and recreation, the Grand Trunk Railway, Thorndale United Church, St. George's Anglican Church, the Thorndale Fire De-

partment, early settlers and schools.

Lions member Matt Adams built the metal stands for the heritage signs while other Lions members laid the slabs of concrete for these signs. The nine Thorndale Heritage signs have been recently installed by Lions members throughout the town. These unique signs demonstrate that Thorndale is rooted in history as the town is growing for tomorrow.

Celebrating 100 years of volunteering for home and country

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Crumlin Women's Institute (WI) held their first organizational meeting on Sept. 24, 1924 at Young's Hotel in Crumlin (east London) with women of North Dorchester Township and East London invited to join women of the southern portion of West Nissouri Township.

Exactly 100 years later, on Sept. 24, 2024, members of Crumlin WI past and present along with invited guests gathered at Thorndale United Church social room to celebrate this significant milestone.

The Crumlin WI is a member of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, a not-for-profit charitable organization that works with and for women of rural and small-town Ontario. Their mission is to offer education programming and community support, advocate for social, environmental and economic change, and promote the personal growth of all women for the betterment of home and country.



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Pictured at the recent Crumlin Women's Institute 100th anniversary meeting are, from left, members Marion Weir, Bernice Duffin, Linda Roe, Helen White, Ann Vandembosch, Lois Nasmith, Ruth Parkinson, Marion Woods, Nancy Urquhart, Marlyn Brady, June Urquhart and Donna Wakeling.

Since that inaugural meeting in 1924, the Crumlin WI has been active in the community, participating in civic improvements such as advocating for safety barriers at local railroad crossings, the blue box recycling program and emergency relief, and supporting fami-

lies, victims of fire and other tragedies.

Over the years Crumlin WI has canvassed for various health campaigns and donated to local hospitals and area schools. Recently, they along with Thorndale & Brown's WI were recognized by the Thorndale Agricultural

Society as a significant supporter of the homecraft division of the Thorndale Fall Fair.

For more than six decades, the Crumlin WI has been active in recording and compiling news articles of people and events of the community in their Tweedsmuir History Books to document and preserve the area's social history.

Crumlin WI president Marion Woods opened this milestone meeting by welcoming everyone and reading the minutes of that first meeting of 1924. Secretary Nancy Urquhart read greetings from past members and area dignities, then treasurer Marlyn Brady reflected the past members and activities. Representatives from other area Women's Institute groups in attendance also offered their congratulations and best wishes.

The celebration of the Crumlin Women's Institute 100th anniversary marked the special commemoration of this group's past, members' lifelong friendships and memories, as well as their valuable achievements and significant contributions within the community for home and country.

COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: Trembita - the longest musical instrument in the world

OLENA OLIANINA

Independent Columnist

Trembita is not just a musical instrument; it is a true symbol of Ukrainian culture, impressing with its grandeur and uniqueness. Exploring this remarkable instrument, I have come to understand its profound significance for Ukrainians and I would like to share these impressions with readers.

Trembita has deep roots in the Ukrainian Carpathians, where it originated as a means of communication between mountain villages. Its length can reach up to eight metres, making it the longest musical instrument in the world. Trembita is made from wood, usually from spruce or fir, and is handcrafted, giving each instrument its uniqueness.

Historically, the trembita was used not only for musical performance but also for conveying information. The sound resonating from the mountains signaled important events, holidays and also indicated dangers. This tradition made the trembita an important element of social life, strengthening ties among communities.

One of the most fascinating features of the trembita is its powerful sound. Due to its length, this instrument can produce deep and resonant tones that can be heard from a great distance. Many people believe the trembita has a magical ability to transport listeners to a world of nature, where mountain landscapes intertwine with music.

The trembita is also a vital element of Ukrainian folklore. It often sounds at various celebrations, including weddings and festivals, where performers showcase their skills. The instrument adds a unique atmosphere that makes these events unforgettable.

The cultural significance of the trembita is hard to

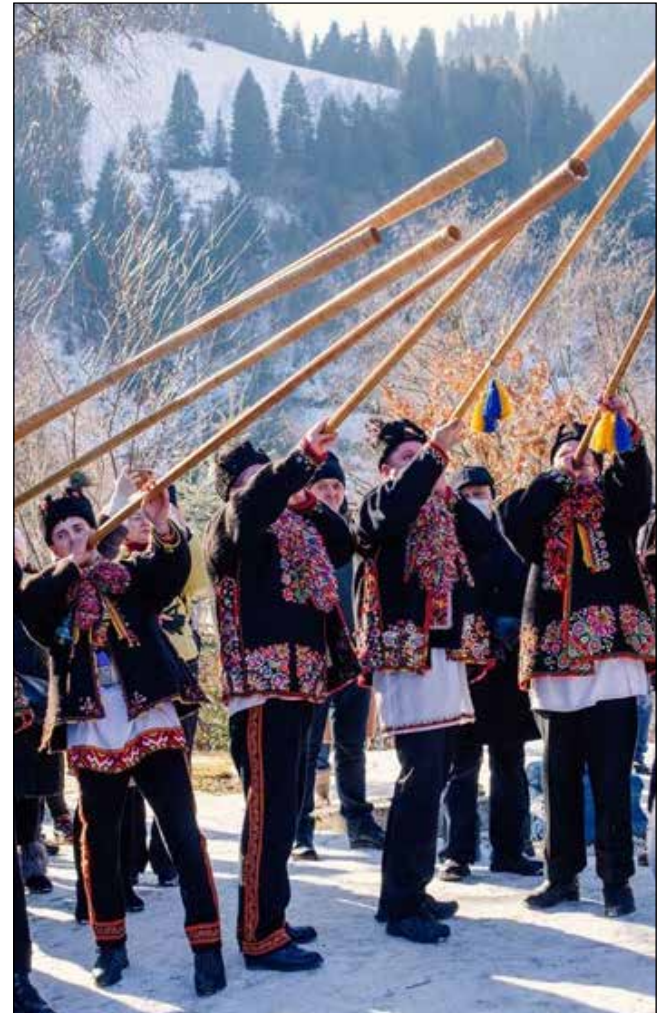
overestimate. It symbolizes the unity of the Ukrainian people, passing traditions from generation to generation. The sounds of the trembita can evoke strong emotions and memories of one's homeland, which is what makes it so important to Ukrainians.

The trembita is also an example of how culture can unite people. Regardless of where you are in the world, its sounds can remind you of community and belonging to a particular culture. In Ukraine, there are many groups that preserve and promote the traditions of playing the trembita, as well as organizing festivals dedicated to this instrument.

When I first heard the sound of the trembita, I was struck by its power and emotionality. It was something unforgettable – the melodies that echoed transported me to another world where nature and music merge as one. I felt a deep connection to the cultural heritage that has been shaped over centuries. This is an experience that words cannot fully capture.

Watching masters play the trembita, I realized that this instrument requires not only physical strength but also a profound sense of music. The performers skillfully control their breath to create sounds that can captivate any listener's heart. It truly is magic that lives within the music.

The trembita is not just a musical instrument but a living part of Ukrainian culture that continues to inspire and unite people. It reminds us of the deep roots of our nation, its traditions and customs. By studying the trembita, we not only familiarize ourselves with its history but also open ourselves to the vast world of Ukrainian music. This instrument deserves recognition not only in Ukraine but also on the international stage as a symbol of the richness of our culture.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Trembita, the longest musical instrument in the world, carrying the soul of the Ukrainian Carpathians.

Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

October is Canadian Library Month! In addition to the fun activities we have planned during Ontario Public Library Week (Oct. 20-26), we have two special Beanstack reading challenges with incredible prizes to be won!

For those 13+, we have "I Love My Library". Running from Oct. 1-31, logging at least 1 hour of reading enters readers into a draw for \$50 in St. Marys Money! For those 12 and under, we have "Library Lover". Running from Oct. 21 to Nov. 15, logging at least 1 hour of reading during the challenge enters readers into a draw for some cool prizes. There are 10 prizes up for grabs!

The winners of both challenges will be announced on our Facebook page at 10 a.m. on Nov. 1 and Nov. 18, respectively. Start tracking today by creating a Beanstack account at stmaryspubliibrary.beanstack.org.

This Week's Recommendation

When not encouraging mice to vacate the basement of Martinville's History House, Mortimer, an aged orange feline, guards the Little Free Library for

his housemate, Al, the ghost of a former librarian. When middle-schooler Evan finds this small collection of books and decides to take two home, a mystery begins to unfold. What happened to the Martinville Library and what does famous author H.G. Higgins have to do with it? Discover the story of "The Lost Library" by Rebecca Stead with illustrations by Wendy Mass, available in hard copy, as an eBook, and as an audiobook.

Up This Week

Fri., Oct. 4: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 5: Dungeons and Dragons (10 a.m.)

Mon., Oct. 7: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tues., Oct. 8: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wed., Oct. 9: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong Intro (1-2 p.m.), Mahjong! (2-4 p.m.), FOL Social (6:30 p.m.), Books and Brews*~ (7 p.m.)

Thurs., Oct. 10: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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ST. MARYS, ONTARIO

EAT AT OUR HOUSE: Make-ahead Thanksgiving sides



LAUREN EEDY

Independent Columnist

The following are wonderful accompaniments to a Thanksgiving spread and can be made in advance so the pressure of prepping a large meal can be alleviated.

Gingered carrots and parsnips

This recipe only contains five ingredients!

Time: 25 minutes; Serves: 6

- 4 medium carrots, peeled and julienned
- 4 medium parsnips, peeled and julienned
- 2 tbsp chopped, crystalized ginger, divided
- 2 tbsp butter
- ¼ tsp salt

Method:

- Place carrots and parsnips in a steamer basket; place basket in large saucepan over 1 inch of water. Bring to a boil, cover and steam for 15-20 minutes or until vegetables are crisp and tender.

- In a large skillet, sauté 1

tbsp ginger in butter for 1 minute. Add the carrots, parsnips, salt and toss to coat. Sprinkle with remaining ginger.

Slow-cooked sausage dressing

Slow-cooker dressing frees up oven space over the holidays and is also the star of the show in our home.

Prep: 20 minutes; Cook: 3 hours; Serves: 12

- 7 cups seasoned stuffing, cubes or croutons
- 1 medium tart apple, chopped
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- 1 ½ tsp sage
- ½ tsp pepper
- 1 lb. reduced-fat bulk sausage
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 2 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter

Method:

- Combine the first five ingredients. In a nonstick skillet, cook and crumble sausage with the onion and celery over medium-high heat until no longer pink, 4-5 minutes, drain. Add stuffing mixture, stir in broth and butter. Transfer to a greased 5-qt slow cooker.

- Cook covered on low for 3-4 hours or until apple is tender, stirring once.

Sweet-potato corn bread

An easy to execute holiday inspired corn bread for the

table.

Prep: 15 minutes; Bake: 30 minutes; Serves: 16

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups cornmeal
- ½ cup sugar
- 7 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp salt
- 4 large eggs, room temperature and slightly beaten
- ¾ cup whole milk
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 2 ½ cup mashed cooked sweet potatoes

Method:

- In a large bowl, combine the first five ingredients. In a small bowl, combine the eggs, milk, oil and sweet potatoes. Stir in the dry ingredients just until moistened. Pour into greased 13x9 inch baking pan.

- Bake at 425° Fahrenheit for 30-35 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean. Cut into squares and serve warm.

Pumpkin-almond butter freezer fudge (vegan)

Prep: 10 minutes; Serves: 12

- What to do with leftover pumpkin purée? Make this easy vegan freezer fudge!
- 2/3 cup all-natural almond butter, dripping
- ¼ cup + 2 tbsp melted coconut oil
- ½ cup pumpkin purée
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- Pinch of salt

2 tbsp mini vegan chocolate chips (PC carries them), optional for topping

Method:

- Line a square cake pan with parchment paper and set aside

- Place almond butter and melted coconut oil in a medium bowl and mix until

combined. Add in pumpkin purée, maple syrup, ground cinnamon and salt; mix again.

- Transfer into cake pan and use a spatula to spread out evenly. Top with melted chocolate chips and sea salt.

- Place in a freezer for 2-4

hours and let sit for 5 minutes before removing from pan. Use a sharp knife to cut into squares.

- If not eating immediately, don't leave out too long or it will get too soft. Store in a freezer-safe bag in freezer for up to three months.

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Concession 3 Part Lot 4, Perth South

98.25 Acre farm for sale in Perth South, approximately 2 miles north-east of Kirkton on Line 10. Selling land only (house has been severed) with approximately 84 acres of workable land with the balance in woodlot. Land is level, randomly tiled, both Perth and Huron clay loam soils with good natural drainage. Excellent opportunity to add a productive parcel of land to your existing operation.

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CLOSING DATE: January 7th, 2024

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PARENTAL ADVISORY MATURE LANGUAGE

Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett | 519 272 5742 | jtsquote@gmail.com

Dear Arborist,

I have a large Black Walnut. Last year it had a lot of nuts, more than I have ever seen. This year not so many, but it's a messy tree. Maybe I should just take it out.

Walnut Concerns

Dear Walnut Concerns,

Last year, all the trees produced a record amount of fruit and nuts. The official term for it is a mast year. The following year is generally less, it's a natural cycle. I don't normally recommend removing a healthy tree if there are other solutions. I have heard

that a good way to pick walnuts up is using a tool called Bag-A-Nut.

The other thing you have to consider with walnut trees is the chemical they produce called juglans; it kills most other plants. Even if you remove the walnut, the jugian chemical remains in the soil for up to 10 years.

Sincerely

The Arborist

Joel Hackett is a certified Arborist residing in the St. Marys area. Currently, he spends most of the year running Joel's Tree Service. For contact call 519 272 5742 or email jtsquote@gmail.com

Town encouraging charitable and volunteer groups to apply for community grants

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys is encouraging charitable, non-profit and volunteer organizations, sports groups and service clubs to apply for its Community Grant Program.

Eligible applicants could receive up to \$5,000 for their project, event, or initiative. Past grant recipients have included St. Marys Community Dinners, the

Kinsmen Club of St. Marys, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, St. Marys Station Gallery and many others.

Interested applicants should review the town's community grant policy and application form at www.townof-stmarys.com/grants. Eligible projects must support one of the following pillars of the town's strategic plan: culture and recreation, balanced growth, economic development, or housing.

Applicants must be in or provide ser-

VICES to the St. Marys community. External applicants will only be considered if they can clearly show any funding received will have a direct, positive impact on St. Marys. All applicants are required to demonstrate financial need and proof that other funding sources have been considered.

The deadline to apply is Nov. 30. Council will make all funding decisions after the 2025 budget process. Decisions will be made based on local needs and

priorities, the town's strategic goals and the approved municipal budget. If you were a successful 2024 recipient of this grant, make sure the required documents for the 2024 grant are submitted.

Questions and/or completed applications should be directed to the deputy treasurer, Denise Feeney, at 519-284-2340 ext. 238 or dfeeney@town.st-marys.on.ca.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Furious with health care in Ontario

We in Ontario have always raved about our health-care system. This week sure changed my opinion.

My elderly, close friend had a bad fall in her apartment. She was in a lot of pain, so I called an ambulance to take her to St. Marys Memorial Hospital emergency unit. An x-ray showed she

had a broken pelvis. She couldn't walk or put any weight on her right side.

She was then transferred, later in the night, to Clinton Hospital where there was one bed available. Apparently, no bed was available in St. Marys, Stratford or Seaforth.

Spending the day with her on Friday,

she is so depressed because she is in a hospital room with two men!! This room is meant to be a two-bed room, but her bed is shoved into the entrance, one foot away from a male patient.

She has to share a one-piece bathroom with two men! She is furious and so am I.

More pressure has to be put on Doug Ford's government to open more beds. We all pay high taxes but Ford wants to spend billions on a Toronto tunnel.

Rosemary Schaefer, St. Marys

Clarification on recent petition

Some passionate residents and taxpayers want:

To preserve the small-town nature of St. Marys. Developments at Queen/Pelissier, Maxwell/James Street South, Queen/Ann met with local objections

and may not be in keeping with neighbourhoods.

Rely on St. Marys official plan, a plan to provide a logical expansion of developments, (to create) a safe, vibrant community where all citizens may grow.

The Government of Ontario terminated the appeal process of developments once approved by the respective municipalities, so it was decided a petition requesting tax relief was in order.

To receive blank petitions and/or more

information, write Chris West at Box 786 St. Marys ON N4X1B5 or email westerbunny@icloud.com.

Chris West, St. Marys

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Community Closet thankful for support in first year

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

The St. Marys Community Closet's first year in operation had lots of support from St. Marys residents and organizations.

The Community Closet is a volunteer-run service operating out of the St. James Anglican Church Parish room that provides clothing at no cost to patrons. Jenny Calder, the vice-chair of the Community Closet board of directors, told the St. Marys Independent the idea came about in the winter months of 2022 and 2023, and it took a while to set up.

"We knew there was a need, but were unsure to what extent the service would be used in a small town," she said. "Just

because there is a need doesn't necessarily mean it will be used. When we opened in September of 2023, we were absolutely blown away by the outpouring of support from the community with donations. Way more than we ever could have imagined."

About 600 people have used the Community Closet in the past year. The organization has about 20 volunteers greeting patrons and stocking the racks as well as six members on the board of directors. Town of St. Marys community outreach worker Brittany Petrie promotes the Community Closet and runs Play and Browse sessions through EarlyON where children do a variety of activities while their caregivers look through the closet.

Meridian Credit Union will accept clothing donations on behalf of the Community Closet and RBC provided volunteering and grants that went towards purchasing clothing racks and storage totes. Several other organizations also put up posters and offer clothing donations.

"Offers for clothing donations come regularly," Calder said. "While sometimes we aren't in the position of being able to accept them due to space, the gesture is always appreciated. We have really felt the warmth of the whole community throughout this past year."

As many are facing financial difficulties with the ever-increasing cost of living, Calder said the Community Closet ensures families have work attire, kids

clothing, outerwear, shoes, socks and anything else they might need.

"Our goal is to eliminate financial barriers for residents of St. Marys and surrounding areas to access this needed clothing," she said. "Many people assume the closet is for the unhoused population. While we certainly do help support that group, we are open to absolutely everyone. Whether you're looking to save some money or be more environmentally conscious in your shopping decisions, there are lots of reasons to come check it out."

More information about the Community Closet can be found by visiting www.facebook.com/stmaryscommunitycloset.

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4		1	5	9		
9		6	5			7
	3			7		
	4				5	6

Solutions on page 35

Riddles

If athletes get athletes foot then what do astronauts get?

Missle-toe

Why was the clock in the cafeteria always slow?

Because every lunch it went back four seconds

What is the hardest thing to hold that even the strongest person in the world has difficulty with?

Your breath

What did the duck say to the waiter?

"Put it on my bill"

Where does a 600 pound gorilla sit?

Anywhere he wants

What did the doctor say to the rocket ship?

"Time to get your booster shot"

What did the Nerds Candy want to be when it grew up?

A Smartie

What did the bread say to the man?

Nothing, bread can't talk

What did the bee say to the naughty bee?

"Bee-hive yourself"

If Mr & Mrs Bigger had a baby, who would be the biggest?

The baby would be a little Bigger

- Word Search -

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SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

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X Z I L S D B B A C N L K V D I L T W N
X V S C H I X A T N W O T E N O T S Y I
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I G L G U J F D L J B M B V O W Y B R R
N Z L S Q A U K R H O U E T A Y K Z S S
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R X H O P R O Q A D W U R Y J C O A P L
V E N E L E H E N A C I R R U H K L G S
L R A O S E H K B I O O C A R K L Y I K

Word List

Back to School

Cats of Springfield

Terry Fox Run

Pager bombing

Israel vs Hezbollah

Stonetown Taxi

Kirkton Fair

Thorndale Fair

Shohei Ohtani

Macindrivers

Hurricane Helene

Lincs undefeated



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

Where would you take a sick boat?



To the dock!

Jack Cubberley (3)

Hey Kids... Every Riddle Kid that appears in the paper gets a FREE MILKSHAKE at the Sunset Diner!

TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

PET OF THE WEEK

Each Pet of the Week will receive a FREE treat bag from St. Marys Veterinary Clinic



Our Pets of the Week are two golden retrievers. Sutton on the left is three-years-old. She is pretty timid until she meets other dogs, then she loves playing. At home, she loves playing fetch with all her stuffed toys. On the right is eight-year-old Mercer.. He's very chill in his old age. He loves sleeping curled up on the couch, but when he gets outside, he's obsessed with his ball - both chasing it and rolling around in the grass with it. Both are members of the Adair family.

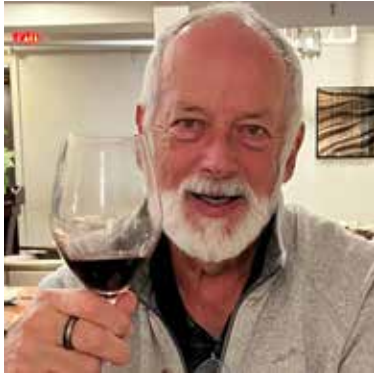


St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the PET OF THE WEEK Autumn Safety Tips to Help Keep Your Pets Happy and Healthy

As leaves fall and mushrooms sprout, it's essential to keep a close eye on what your pets may ingest. Some plants and mushrooms can be toxic to dogs and cats. Be aware of common toxic varieties in your area and remove them from your yard if possible. If you're unsure, consult your veterinarian.

**500 Water Street South St. Marys
www.stmarysvetclinic.com**

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Playing my way through the Maritimes



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

When we headed out on a three-week road trip through the Maritimes in August, I made sure we had packed all the necessities of life – golf clubs, wine and my guitar. Oh, and perhaps some clothes.

I took the guitar because I enjoy playing, but also because I am part of a very amateur group of musicians who were giving a concert shortly after our return, and if I didn't play for three weeks, I would be out of practice and my fingers would lose their callouses.

So, I was determined to play my way around the Maritimes with initial stops in eastern Ontario and Québec. Little did I know.

Because, yes, I did play the guitar most days – in a tiny house, in an elegant Charlottetown hotel, in B&Bs and country inns and waterfront cabins – but my musical experiences went way beyond strumming my own six-string Yamaha.

It all started in Woodstock, N.B., where we were invited

to visit the Connell House Museum. The Connell House is quite different from a typical local museum because the main galleries all focus on specific, unique and unusual exhibitions. I will write more about it in a future column but here, I am going to focus on my musical experience which was indeed unique because one of the rooms at Connell House is jam-packed with musical instruments from all over the world and through the ages.

In any other museum, there would be signs saying, "Do not touch." At Connell House, visitors – especially those interested in music – are invited to touch and, in fact, to play any instrument they choose! Remarkable.

In the centre of the room were two keyboard instruments – an antique piano similar to those made in Beethoven's time, and a spinet. I plunked out a couple of tunes. In one corner, in sharp contrast, was a theremin – that weird electronic instrument you play without touching it, merely waving your hands over the thing. It is perhaps best known as the instrument played in the original Star Trek Theme. As a would-be musician and dedicated Trekker, I was in heaven. I was also virtually incompetent when it comes to manipulating a theremin, but I can say that I have played the thing – even if the result was painfully unrecognizable.

Before we left New Brunswick, we toured the Sabian cymbal factory in Meductic. It's

a working factory, producing 500 cymbals a day which are shipped all around the world. Ask a drummer about Sabian cymbals – he or she will either own them or want them. More about Sabian in a later column. Let me just say I was invited, first, to hammer a cymbal (part of the production process), at which I was very inept, and then to play a unique symphonic instrument called crotales – a tuned set of small cymbals that play a bit like a xylophone. I didn't ask for a second opinion, but I thought my spontaneous composition was quite nice. Although, at a price of about \$2,500, I don't think I will be investing in a set of crotales, a lovely, handcrafted instrument, though.

Our first port of call in Nova Scotia was Halifax. There, on the beautiful waterfront, we discovered a small xylophone, probably intended as a child's toy. But, now determined to sample every musical instrument in sight, I hammered away until an impatient child, waiting to play, gave me a very evil eye.

We then spent almost a week on Cape Breton Island, and yes, you will hear more about that soon, too. But I had an eye-opening (or should I say ear-deafening) experience at the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre in Judique. There, visitors are invited to pick up a fiddle and follow the simple instructions on a video in order to learn to play a simple tune.

I tried. Really, I did. The result sounded like a herd of cats



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The author playing a washtub electric guitar in Prince Edward Island.

being fed through a wringer. I will stick to guitar.

But speaking of guitars, I was sorely tempted to buy an amazing creation we found in a shop called The Lovely Nelly in Georgetown, P.E.I. There, I discovered electric guitars crafted by David Vaglio – and unique guitars they were. His instruments, all perfectly playable, were built on a violin case, a tennis racquet, a washtub (I loved the washtub) and more unlikely foundations. And if you ask, the staff of The Lovely Nelly are happy to supply cords and a small amp so you can experience the unique pleasure of playing an electric, washtub guitar.

I confess that my musical experiments were not vaguely related to the fine music we en-

countered throughout the Maritimes. Those ceilidhs, concerts and dinner shows were astonishing, and I'll be telling you more about them in the coming weeks.

So no, I offered no threat to any of them. But I did get to smile a lot in these unique Atlantic destinations where the stereotypical Maritime warmth and welcome extended invitations to play antique, unique and top-quality instruments. And I learned some valuable musical lessons – like, never, ever touch a fiddle again.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



Long-time Sabian craftsman John Donovan playing his beloved Crotales.



The eclectic, electronic instrument called the theremin, backed by sundry stringed and percussion instruments, at the Connell House Museum in Woodstock, New Brunswick.



Playing a child's xylophone on the Halifax waterfront.

OBITUARY

Bradley



Margaret E. Bradley
1940 – 2024

It is with great sadness that the family of Marg Bradley (Irvine) announce her passing as a direct result of a stroke on Sept. 26, 2024.

Marg was the best friend and spouse of Ted Bradley (2020), married for 61 years. Marg was 83 years old (born Nov. 16, 1940). Marg grew up on a farm in Blanshard Township, however moved to St. Marys when she married Ted.

Marg will be forever loved by her children Annette Harburn (Hugh), Shawn (deceased), Todd, and Chris (Val). Grandma loved her grandchildren Josh (Robin), Matt, Katie (Kurtis), Justin Harburn (Amy), Jason (Alana), TJ (Sean), Zachary, Amanda Querin (Shane), Colin Harburn (Nicole), Larissa Klumpkens (Johnny), also very happy to have all her great-grandchildren. Marg worked full until retirement, including Ted & Marg's Variety Store, Journal Argus and Campbell Soup.

Mom had many friends, but none as special as Mildred who continued their weekly outings both before and after mom moved to Kingsway Lodge. Marg had two siblings, both deceased, Bill Irvine and Dorothy Fenz.

Cremation has taken place. A Graveside Service will be held at ST. MARYS CEMETERY, 150 Cain St. on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024 at 2 pm. Memorial donations may be made to Kingsway Lifecare or to a charity of choice. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Stevens

Celebration of Life for Lawrence A. Stevens

Please join the family and friends of Lawrence Albert Stevens in a celebration of his life on Sunday, October 6, 2024. This will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, 316 William St., Exeter, ON., from 1 to 4 pm.



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Wed. Sept. 25 - Andy & Katie Louwagie, Fullerton	\$50.00
Thur. Sept. 26 - Debbie & Nelson Hislop, Fullerton	\$50.00
Fri. Sept. 27 - Golda Wilson, St. Marys	\$50.00
Sat. Sept. 28 - Natalie Hibbert, St. Marys	\$200.00

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OBITUARY

Greason



It is with sadness that we announce that Dr. William (Bill) Duncan Greason passed away peacefully at home in Dorchester on Friday September 27th, 2024.

Dearly loved husband of the late Sandra Greason (Rutherford) for thirty-five years. Cherished father of Tamera

Greason (Michael Aloisio) and Ashleigh Scott (Denny), and grandfather of Mary Jane. His girls will remember him for his sense of humour, dedication to keeping the family organized, but most of all his loyal and loving heart.

Bill will forever be remembered by a network of family and friends who loved him dearly. Bill was born in Stratford, Ontario on June 12th, 1946, to Norman and Hester Greason. He grew up on the family farm with his late sister Sheila and he continued to embrace his simple country roots throughout the remainder of his life.

Bill was an electrical engineer and Professor Emeritus at Western University where he was an educator and recognized researcher in the field of electrostatic discharge. His work ethic and commitment to innovation and research remained constant in recent years through his participation in ongoing projects and work as a professional engineer.

Bill's philanthropic and giving nature was evident in his work with many different organizations such as his work with the Freemasons, Fanshawe Pioneer Village, and Dorchester United Church. In recent years he took up pottery as a hobby in memory and tribute to his late wife. Bill was often inspired by the scenery of Pelee Island, a place he would visit often and that remained close to his heart.

As per Bill's wishes, cremation has taken place. A private family interment at Dorchester Union Cemetery will take place at a later date. Bill generously supported a number of different charities and in that spirit, we ask that memorial contributions be made to a charity of your choice. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.



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OBITUARY

Finnie



Keith Ross Finnie, passed away unexpectedly on September 28, 2024 in his 72nd year.

Beloved husband of Donna (Morning). Cherished step-father of Diana Hodgins (Dennis), and Deb Thynne (Terry, deceased). Grandfather of Kelly Hodgins, Greg Hodgins (Raquel), Alisha Theal (Cory). Cameron Thynne, and Chole Thynne. Great-grandfather of Luci, Lily, Steffler, Henry Theal. Keith will also be remembered by his brother Dave Finnie (Betty-Anne) and their children John, Jennifer, Jamie and their families, his sister Norma Morenz and her children Lisa James (Matt), their children Sidney and Dylan, and Matt Morenz. Brother-in-law of Gordon and Alice Morning, Keith Watson and Ron Watson. Also remembered by special friend Sue Finnie. Predeceased by his parents Ross and Dorothy Finnie.

Since he was 20 years old, Keith's passion was farming and trucking. He was an avid collector of Cockshutt tractors and cats. Visitation at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 2 – 4 & 7- 9pm.

The Funeral Service will be conducted at the ST. MARYS UNITED CHURCH, 85 Church St. S. St. Marys, on Monday, Oct. 7 at 11 am with Rev. Mark Wolfe officiating. Interment in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or the MS Society Canada. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

CELEBRATION



**Happy anniversary to my wife
Louise on our 35th!**

Marco and Louise D'Angelo.

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THANK YOU



As St. Marys Minor Ball Association wraps up another successful ball season, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to all the loyal sponsors and supporters.

The following individuals, organizations and businesses have generously supported us with individual team sponsorships for our traveling and house league teams:

St. Marys Building Centre, Hubbard Pharmacy Limited, Dunny's Source for Sports, The Kinsmen Club of St. Marys, Dave Hensel, St. Marys Firefighters, Canadian Tire, Veterinary Purchasing Co. Ltd., Cubberley Plumbing & Heating, Social Thirty-One, Red Rock Construction, Royal Canadian Legion, St. Marys Cement, McLean Taylor Construction, Wildwood Care Centre, Stonetown Electric, Forman Electric, Happy Valley Health Team, Downie Optimist Club.

The following individuals, organizations and businesses have generously supported us financially as a general sponsor:

Hughes Electrical Solutions, Graham Energy, The Hitching Post, St. Marys Dentistry, Action Health Care, St. Marys Kinnette Club.

St. Marys Minor Ball Association is fortunate to have a high level of commitment and support of parents, grandparents, loyal fans, umpires, tournament sponsors, and the many volunteers that work behind the scenes to help provide an amazing baseball experience for our children.

Our final tribute goes to our coaches. Your commitment to baseball contributes to the fabric of our community, and we are grateful for the time you invest in our children. More than that, your love for the game keeps the spirit for baseball thriving in this community. What a great season it has been! Congratulations to all the coaches and your dedicated players, and on the many successes that you've enjoyed.

Sincerely, St. Marys Minor Ball Association



<https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/534>

Plant Auction

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7TH AT 7:00 PM



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Everyone Welcome
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Bring Any Perennials You Wish To Donate
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Bring A Friend To This Popular Event!!

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Happy 85th Birthday! Gayle Ivins



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Spring Great Grandchildren*

THE WEEK AHEAD

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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 26

Friday, October 4

- Royal Canadian Legion "hot dogs and more" lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Pelham Panthers at the PRC - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 5

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Fort Erie Meteors at the Fort Erie Leisureplex - 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 6

- Celebration of Life for Lawrence A Stevens at Royal Canadian Legion, Exeter - 1-4 p.m.

Monday, October 7

- Community Dinner at St. Marys United Church - 5 p.m., Sponsored by Trouw Nutrition
- St. Marys Horticultural Society plant auction at the Legion hall - 7 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Bingo & 50/50 at Thorndale Lions Community Centre - 7 p.m. start

Wednesday, October 9

- St. Marys Firefighters Sparky visit & swag bag booth at the Independent Grocer - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday, October 10

- St. Marys Firefighters ribs & pigtail dinner at the PRC - Dinner served 6:30-8 p.m. \$30 per plate, purchase from any firefighter or call 519-284-1752
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Sarnia Legionnaires at Pat Stapleton Arena - 7:10 p.m.

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

SMCP founded

25 years ago (1999)

Mobility bus patrons will soon be riding in fine style. The St. Marys and Area Mobility Service announced last week that it has a new bus on order. The new wheels will replace the aging bus, which will be taken as a trade-in. The new bus will cost close to \$70,000.

Long-time Rotarian George Clark, who died recently, was honoured at the Club's regular meeting on September 20. George Clarke's wife, Doreen, accepted the award in his honour.

The DCVI boys golf team heads to the WOSSA tournament in Ingersoll on Thursday. Members of the team are Kevin Thompson, Pete Hughes, Scott Wheel and Jim Schutz.

50 years ago (1974)

Burton Ready is president of the newly formed local drama club to be known as the St. Marys Community Players. The purpose of this organization is to promote community amateur theatre and to encourage local talent. There will be auditions for all roles and these will be advertised.

Three area farmers were seen on the T.V. program "Country Canada" this past Sunday. They included Jim Bryans, Roger Urquhart, and Allan Hutton.

The hopes of St. Marys Tennis Club for their additional courts are mounting. On Monday evening, the Rotary Club voted to donate \$1,000 and will also do the painting of the new courts, including purchasing the paint.

75 years ago (1949)

The St. James Parish Hall has been given a new roof and other parts of the church property have been re-decorated.

Local mushroom lovers had a field day last week. Some of the searchers gathered several baskets of the fungus and others secured several delectable puff-balls.

The leafy algae on the surface of the water on Trout Creek looks more like a well-cut lawn than an expanse of water these days. It is to be hoped that some unsuspecting person does not believe it is actually a lawn fit for human tread.

100 years ago (1924)

Early yesterday afternoon, fire broke out in the barn of Allan McNaughton, 10th Concession, Blanchard. The threshers had just completed work and were moving across the road to Allan's father's barn. Although the threshers and neighbours were quickly on the spot, the barn and all its contents, including 1000 bushels of grain, hay, buggy cutter, and implements, were destroyed.

Lillian, the seven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E Gellatly, was rushed to Stratford General Hospital on Tuesday night where an emergency operation for acute appendicitis was performed very successfully. She is now doing as well as can be expected.

All children should be taught both at home and at school to cross streets only at regular intersections, says a recommendation added to the verdict of a Coroner's jury at the Toronto Morgue.

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6	7	3	9	4	2	8	5	1
8	5	4	7	1	3	6	9	2
3	6	9	8	7	4	1	2	5
2	1	5	3	9	6	7	4	8
4	8	7	1	2	5	9	6	3
9	2	8	6	5	1	4	3	7
5	3	6	4	8	7	2	1	9
7	4	1	2	3	9	5	8	6

HELP WANTED



HAPPY VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM

The Happy Valley Family Health Team is a dynamic team of professionals including 11 Family Physicians, Dietitian, Pharmacist, Mental Health Workers, Addictions Counsellor, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and administrative support.

We currently have an opening for:

FULL-TIME OR PART TIME REGISTERED NURSE

This position requires the ability to multi-task in a fast paced environment and excellent communication skills.

Please forward resume by October 14th 2024 to:

Happy Valley Family Health Team
Attention: Kimberly Lang, Executive Director
268 Maiden Lane
P.O. Box 1120
St. Marys, ON
N4X 1B7
stmmc@stmmc.ca

Thank you to all applicants who apply.

Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Happy Valley Family Health Team welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process.



HELP WANTED

We specialize in Tool & Die, Custom Machining, Prototypes, Jigs & Fixtures, Wire EDM, Specialty Machine Building, CNC Mills, CNC Lathes

Cleaner – Part Time

Duties include but not limited to:

- General Cleaning Duties for our Office, Shop Floor and Changerooms

Duties include but not limited to:

- Mopping
- Sweeping
- Garbage Removal
- Dusting
- Washrooms
- Cleaning Lunch Room – tables, floors, counters
- Background Check required
- Evening/Weekend Hours Required Monday – Friday after 6pm
- Weekends – Optional if Needed

Please email resume to cass@echo-tech.ca with wage expectations.

Have you been affected by someone else's drinking?

Al-Anon Family Groups could help YOU! Call for time and place.

1-800-706-9833 or App Available



THE TOWNSHIP OF PERTH SOUTH SEASONAL EQUIPMENT OPERATOR / TRUCK DRIVER

The Township of Perth South is seeking a qualified equipment operator/truck driver who would be available to work on a seasonal basis for winter maintenance purposes from December 1st, 2024 until March 31st, 2025. Reporting to the Operations Manager, applicants will be experienced with the ability to operate various pieces of equipment, such as wheel loaders, road graders, and tandem dump trucks equipped with snow plow, wing, and sander. The operator may be required to perform other duties within the Public Works Department, along with other miscellaneous labour duties from time to time.

Applicants must have a valid "D" license with a "Z" endorsement. Experience in road and/or equipment maintenance would be an asset. This position is subject to weekend scheduling and 24 hr. call-out, with a minimum of 32 hours per week.

The salary range for this position is \$25.55 – \$31.36 per hour for 2024 and \$26.35 – \$32.34 per hour for 2025.

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume expressing their interest to the undersigned clearly marked as "seasonal operator" by October 15th, 2024.

Fred Tranquilli, CAO
Township of Perth South
3191 Road 122
St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0
E-mail – franquilli@perthsouth.ca

Information gathered is under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and shall only be used for candidate selection purposes.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Opal
2. Saturday Night Live
3. Golden-yellow
4. Harvest
5. Pomology
6. John Chapman
7. Fruit
8. Jerusalem
9. Utah Hockey Club
10. Vixen

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Sun. 12 to 4

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