

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1194


Thursday, January 18, 2024

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## Polar bear sighting in the Stonetown!



This friendly polar bear from Good Mood Service rental company has been seen out and about around town lately greeting residents and having its photo taken. See page 6 for more photos. (Contributed photo)

## St. Marys to replace hard-to-access watermain along Samuel and Carling streets

By Galen Simmons

A difficult-to-access and deteriorating watermain that currently runs under an easement along the property lines of CN Railway and Robson Scrap Metal will soon be replaced and relocated underneath Samuel and Carling streets in St. Marys.

At the Jan. 9 St. Marys council meeting, councillors awarded a nearly

\$158,000 tender to Kurtis Smith Excavating Inc. for the replacement of the Samuel Street and Carling Street watermain – included in the town's 2023 capital budget at roughly \$150,000.

“(This project) got delayed a little bit as we were doing design,” St. Marys infrastructure services manager Jeff Wolfe said. “We went through some

*Continued on page 2*

## St. Marys council poised to approve 2024 draft budget with nearly 5.9 per cent levy increase

By Galen Simmons

St. Marys town council is set to approve a 2024 draft budget with a nearly \$14.9-million tax levy, roughly 5.9 per cent or nearly \$828,000 more taxes than what was collected from property owners last year.


At the Jan. 9 St. Marys council meeting, town director of corporate services André Morin took councillors and residents through the town's nearly \$28.8-million draft budget ahead of council's expected budget approval at its Jan. 23 regular meeting. The draft budget includes a nearly \$28.8-million operating budget and a nearly \$5.9-million capital budget – which is funded through town reserves, grants and other sources and does not have an impact on the annual tax levy – with a total of 62 capital projects planned for the year.

“I think you and your staff have done an incredible job with this and put together a budget that is painless for us to go through,” Coun. Brogan Aylward said at Tuesday's meeting.

“While we put all the information together, it's really all the staff in all the departments that are working with us to get those numbers accurate and get that analysis done ... for what we think is a fair budget that accomplishes a lot,” Morin said.

According to Morin, the major factors impacting this year's budget include increases in wages and benefits expenses to the tune of \$611,000; an increase by \$274,000 to transfers to external organizations like the Upper Thames River Conservation

*Continued on page 2*



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COMMUNITY

# St. Marys council poised to approve 2024 draft budget with nearly 5.9 per-cent levy increase

Continued from page 1

Authority, Huron Perth public health, Perth County Paramedic Services and Stratford Social Services; and \$52,000 less in revenue as a result of development-charge discounts introduced in Ontario's More Homes Built Faster Act (Bill 23).

As part of the 2024 draft budget, the town is also proposing nearly \$290,000 in service level changes including a nearly \$170,000 increase in

transfers to capital reserves to ensure sustainable funding for future capital projects, \$53,000 to transition temporary clerks staff into permanent positions to assist with the town's data governance, retention and security strategies, an additional \$25,000 for community improvement plan grants awarded by the town, and an additional \$15,000 for a total of \$100,000 toward affordable housing initiatives in 2024.

After accounting for the nearly

\$240,000 in growth St. Marys saw to its residential and commercial tax base last year, Morin said the adjusted tax levy is \$588,000 or just 4.1 per cent higher than last year's adjusted levy.

"That is the number that all of our people, all of our (property) classes – residential, commercial industrial and otherwise – will be seeing on their municipal tax bill," Morin said, noting that with a more than four per cent increase in the annual cost

of wheelie bins and an education tax rate that is expected to remain the same as last year's, the owner of a median assessed home can expect to pay roughly \$150 or 3.7 per cent more in property taxes this year.

St. Marys residents and business owners can see the town's 2024 draft budget in its entirety at [www.town-of-stmarys.com/en/town-services/Annual-Budget.aspx](http://www.town-of-stmarys.com/en/town-services/Annual-Budget.aspx).

# St. Marys to replace hard-to-access watermain along Samuel and Carling streets

Continued from page 1

technical solutions ... we were concerned about. It is a watermain-replacement project on the northeast end of town. Currently, there is an old watermain that runs along the CN Rail line between Robson Scrap Metal and the railway. It's in poor condition and there's a lot of complexities around the rail-line property that make it costly and difficult to do repairs on it.

"It was our highest-priority pipe to

replace, so through design we're going to be reinstalling in the road allowance."

While the tender cost of the project is just \$8,000 over budget, Wolfe told council that consulting fees will bring the project's total cost to more than \$172,200. Council ultimately agreed to cover the remaining roughly \$22,200 with funds from the town's water-reserve account.

Though Kurtis Smith Excavating was ultimately awarded the tender as the

lowest bidder, Wolfe said the tender process for this project was fairly competitive with 10 bids from contractors coming in ranging in cost to upwards of nearly \$317,000.

As the installation of the new watermain will mostly be completed using directional drilling, Wolfe told councillors there will be no hard-surface repairs involved in this project and construction could take place over the winter months, depending on weather.

In response to a question from Coun. Fern Pridham about whether the new

watermain is large enough to accommodate future development in that part of town, Wolfe said the section of watermain that will run under Samuel Street will be, while the line that will run under Carling Street will remain a smaller diameter.

"It will be a two-inch or 50 mm diameter pipe and it is purely meant to be temporary in the sense that it is for the two existing services at the end of the road," Wolfe said. "Our expectation is that when the time comes for development, that section of pipe would be replaced with a larger one."

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# COMMUNITY

## St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre pool expected to reopen Jan. 19

By St. Marys Independent Staff

Following a more than two-week closure resulting from a falling rainwater pipe, the pool at the Pyramid Recreation Centre is expected to reopen Jan. 19 at 8:45 a.m.

In a press release, the Town of St. Marys said all necessary repairs and replacements have been made and an engineer has confirmed that the pool area is safe for the public. The pool is now being refilled and reheated in preparation for reopening.

Swimming lessons affected by the closure have been extended and are scheduled to resume Jan. 19. Those registered for this session of swimming lessons will receive an email with further details from activenet@activenet.com. Aquatics programs and rentals will also resume on Friday, Jan. 19. Questions about lessons, programs and rentals can be directed to town aquatics manager Andrea Slade at [aslade@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:aslade@town.stmarys.on.ca) or 519-284-2340, ext. 623.

In a press release issued Jan. 2, the town said the pool had been closed as a result of mechanical issues and all swimming lessons, aquatics programs and rentals had been cancelled until further notice.

In an email, town communications manager Brett O'Reilly clarified that the closure was a result of a falling rainwater pipe. In a later release, the town said the rainwater pipe – one of several that helps prevent rainwater from collecting on the roof – fell because the metal hangers that secure the pipe to the ceiling broke.

A full-scale repair of the pool area's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is planned for late 2024/early 2025. The work will improve dehumidification in the pool area and should result in fewer disruptions.

The pool will be closed for six to eight months while this project is completed. Further details and timelines will be provided when available.



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# COMMENTARY

## Beating the January blues

By Wendy Lamond

The third Monday of January is known as Blue Monday and is supposed to be the most depressing day of the year. But why is this? What is the history behind it?

Surprisingly, it didn't come from a doctor or psychiatrist. It was an advertising ploy from a U.K. flight company that was using it to get people to book holidays. The theory behind it was they played on the misery of the cold, dark weather, and the financial burdens resulting from Christmas.


It can be a tough time of year for these reasons; however, there are things you can do that will help get you through the blahs. Things like eating healthy, upping your vitamin D intake, exercising and sticking to regular sleep habits are just a few things that will help you feel better. And if you can book a holiday, then

great.

If you are more of an outdoor, summer-activity person like me, take advantage of the quiet time and read a good book, watch a show or movie, clean out a closet and donate what you don't need anymore, and really just do the best you can to get through the next couple of months.

If you are an outdoor, winter person, then all the power to you. I am sure you are happy we finally got some winter weather and are enjoying every minute of it.

So, I guess what it comes down to is that it doesn't matter if you love the winter or not so much, there are things you can do to survive this time of year. Try and have a positive mindset so that Blue Monday doesn't impact you. Life is tough enough sometimes, so find the joy in every day regardless of the time of year.



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## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Does beer at the Bills game cost less when it is frozen?

To all those who sang "Let it Snow" in December, are you happy now?

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

## Bravo

We have 1 Bravo this week.

1) Bravo to the woman who paid for my groceries when my credit card declined. It was over \$100 and when I persistently offered to get her information and e-transfer the money back she kindly said no and accepted a hug as payment. God bless her kind soul.



## Boo

We have no Boos this week.



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

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

## Quote of the Week

*You can't sit home. If you're sick as a dog, you say, 'Darling, I gotta make it!' Even if you vote and then pass away, it's worth it."*

- Donald Trump, encouraging his supporters to get out and vote for him at the Iowa Caucuses which took place Monday night

## St. Marys Independent

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## The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

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To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold.

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.

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The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



## BABYSITTING BASICS COURSE

January 20, 9 AM - 5 PM | Pyramid Centre

The St. John Ambulance Babysitting Basics course teaches youth aged 11 - 15 all they need to know to care for younger children. Register online!

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160

## SHOWER PROGRAM

Thursdays, 9 AM - 1 PM | Pyramid Centre

This program provides free showers to those in need. Showers are private, secure and accessible for individuals of all abilities.

Visit Guest Services or call 519-284-2160



## BOOKS AND BREWS

2nd Wed., 7 PM | Broken Rail Brewing

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## HOME ALONE COURSE

Jan. 21, 8 AM - 3:30 PM | Pyramid Centre

Equip your child with the skills they need to stay home alone at the St. John Ambulance Home Alone course. Topics include first aid basics, fire safety and more. Register online!

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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Perth County's draft New Official Plan determines how land will be used in Perth County, including: agriculture, settlement area growth, housing, employment and natural environment conservation.

The draft New Official Plan applies to all lands within the corporation limits of the County of Perth.

**There will be four Public Open Houses.  
Drop in 4:30 - 8:30pm. Presentation at 5:30pm.**

### WEST PERTH\*

**Wed. February 7, 2024**

West Perth Council Chambers  
160 Wellington St., Mitchell

\*Register to attend virtually:  
newofficialplan@perthcounty.ca

### NORTH PERTH

**Thurs. February 8, 2024**

Steve Kerr Memorial Complex  
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**Mon. February 12, 2024**

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**Thurs. February 15, 2024**

Perth East Recreation Complex  
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For more information, including appeal rights, contact Perth County Planning and Development.

perthcounty.ca/NewOP

1 Huron Street, Stratford

519-271-0531 x449

newofficialplan@perthcounty.ca

### Contact us

519-284-2340

communications@town.stmarys.on.ca



## TRIVIA NIGHT

3rd Mon., 7 PM | Gilly's Pubhouse

Come with a team or meet some new friends with the Library Trivia Night! Reservations are recommended, call Gilly's at 226-301-4431.

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# ACTION

## HEALTH CARE

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### Senior of the Week



Our Senior of the week is Roy Raider, a 76-year-old retired aircraft mechanic that fancies flying and rebuilding airplanes in his spare time. You also might find him skating in St. Marys or at Coffee hour with the farmers at Brown's church. Keep an eye out for Roy in the sky!

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

## COMMUNITY

# Polar bear introduces new business to locals



On Thursday local residents saw something that you don't usually see in our lovely town, a big friendly polar bear. According to Good Mood Service rental company, his mission is to sprinkle joy and create unforgettable moments. This charming bear is here to liven up your events, offering flowers, balloons, or thoughtful gifts. He dances with contagious energy and strikes the perfect pose for photos. If you would like to add this magical bear to your festivities or want to surprise a special someone or create a wondrous experience for children you can reach out by calling 437-665-5637 or email [servicegoodmood@gmail.com](mailto:servicegoodmood@gmail.com). Pictures of the bear's adventures will be posted on the Good Mood facebook page. Like their page and be the first to learn of upcoming events. (Contributed photos)

## Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What is the largest island in the Caribbean?
- 2) In what century did the Boston Tea Party occur?
- 3) How many eyes does a cyclops have?
- 4) The deltoids are the muscles of what joint?
- 5) "Fore" is a warning shouted in what sport?
- 6) Adam and Eve were banished from what garden?
- 7) PhD stands for what?
- 8) Which country has not fought a war since 1814?
- 9) What do you call a meteor that has landed?
- 10) Where would you find an ISBN number?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31



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## COMMUNITY

# Perth County OPP officer recognized for taking impaired drivers off local roads



Perth County OPP Const. Mike Garniss received an OPP impaired-driving accolade award at a ceremony in West Perth Jan. 9. (Contributed photo)

By Wendy Lamond

A Perth County OPP officer is being recognized for his dedication to taking impaired drivers off local roads.

On Jan. 9, the Ontario Provincial Police held a ceremony in West Perth to present accolade awards to deserving members. Awards were presented across 23 categories.

Perth County OPP Const. Mike Garniss was presented with an impaired-driving award for his commitment to preventing impaired driving in Perth County.

Garniss, who has been with Perth County OPP for six years, was surrounded by his family, colleagues and representatives from regional command when he accepted the award. According to an OPP press release, his unrelenting efforts to keep the community safe has not gone unnoticed. He has been involved in RIDE programs, traffic stops and general patrol to protect residents and take dangerous drivers off the road.

When asked the importance of the award, Garniss said, "This award is important to me because it recognizes the efforts police do every day to combat impaired driving. It shows the high numbers of impaired driving in Perth County, and across the province. I am just one officer. This is only

a fraction of the impaired drivers on the road. Cracking down on impaired driving is an important aspect of the OPP and they are out there working hard trying to make the roads safe for everyone".

Garniss laid 36 impaired driving charges last year, the most laid by an officer in West Region and second-most in the province among OPP officers.

He strongly believes that he is just being vigilant for impaired driving. It is only a small part of what he does as a police constable but is close to his heart as he has had a family member affected by this avoidable offence. With all the information and education out there for people on drinking and driving or under the influence of drugs, people still choose to take this route instead of a cab, uber, hotels etc.

"I only hope it can change someone's life for the better after each interaction," Garniss commented.

"Today we presented Const. Mike Garniss with a Provincial Accolade Award for his commitment to public safety and the enforcement of impaired driving laws in Perth County. Congratulations on your achievements and being selected for this well-deserved recognition," said Perth County OPP Staff Sgt. David Sinko in the press release.



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## COMMUNITY

# Mother of autistic boy denied service by local dog rescue applauds Ontario human-rights tribunal ruling

By Galen Simmons

The mother of a boy on the autism spectrum who was denied service by a St. Marys-area dog rescue is applauding a recent ruling by an Ontario human-rights tribunal that the organization's blanket policy against adopting dogs to families with children on the autism spectrum is discriminatory.

Last month, the tribunal released a 19-page decision ruling that Kim Thomas, owner of Kismutt Small Dog Rescue in Kintore, southeast of St. Marys in Oxford County, must pay \$20,000 to the family of 11-year-old Henry Doan after they applied to adopt a dog in March 2022, but were turned down because the boy has autism.

"The decision was of significant importance not just for my son and I, but for the autism and disability communities as a whole," Henry's mom, Erin Doan, said following the ruling. "It sets a precedent for establishing future guidelines in cases like this, and it's also crucial in debunking some of the stereotypes that are out there and the misinformation."

According to the tribunal decision, Erin Doan messaged the dog rescue on Facebook about setting up a meet-and-greet with a specific dog that was up for adoption to determine if it would be a good fit for her son, who she said at the time was on the autism spectrum, is non-verbal and communicates with an iPad, and can be a little aloof. Later that day, Thomas responded and told Erin Doan that Kismutt has a firm policy not to adopt dogs to any families with members on the autism spectrum – a policy stemming from two previous experiences when Thomas said Kismutt adopted dogs to families with children on the spectrum.

According to screenshots of the conversation shared during the hearing, Thomas said both dogs came back to the dog rescue with open wounds which she said the parents told her were a result of the autistic children being aggressive or violent with those dogs. Further, Thomas told Erin Doan that a teacher who volunteers with Kismutt and works with children with autism in her day job told her that children on the spectrum are violent or aggressive "99 (per cent) of the time," leading Thomas to establish the discriminatory policy.

"There are some that do have violent tendencies – I won't say that none of them do – but for the most part, people (with autism) are lovely people,"



**Pictured are Mike, Henry (11) and Erin Doan, a Listowel family that was refused service by St. Marys-area Kismutt Small Dog Rescue because of a blanket policy not to adopt dogs to families with children on the autism spectrum. Last month, an Ontario human-rights tribunal ruled the policy is discriminatory and ordered Kismutt owner Kim Thomas to pay \$20,000 to the Doan family. (Contributed photo)**

Erin Doan said. "They just want to be understood and they have rights just like anyone else. It's terrible to box them into one thing. ... I think that people should be vetted (and) I think that dogs should be matched – that's not my issue – but we never even received an application form to do a proper vetting."

In her decision, tribunal adjudicator Ramona Gananathan shared that sentiment.

"... The applicant's disability was a factor in the respondents' refusal to serve the applicant and his family by placing a rescue dog with the family," she wrote. "The respondents appear to have a uniform policy of not adopting to families with autistic members which is discriminatory on its face. I accept that they refused the applicant the dog adoption services on the expressed basis of his disclosed disability."

"The respondents also did not attempt to engage in any communications with the applicant's family to determine whether the disability-related needs of the child can be accommodated by the respondent to the point of undue hardship, and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the rescue animal."

In addition to the monetary penalty, the tribunal also ruled that Thomas' continued posting of derogatory comments about the Doan family on social media amounted to harassment and

with families with autistic children, and suggest that families with autistic children abuse animals," Gananathan wrote.

"... I find that the respondents' actions intentionally incite hatred against families with autistic children. The respondent's continued social media posts and detrimental public comments against the applicant and his family as a child living with autism constitutes a poisoned environment as set out (in the Human Rights Code)."

Throughout the tribunal's human-rights investigation, Thomas refused to participate and she failed to submit a response to the Doans' complaint.

Though Thomas or a representative of Kismutt Small Dog Rescue refused to comment on the ruling when reached for comment by Grant Haven Media, she told CBC News in a previous exchange that she would not pay the \$20,000 award and she stands by Kismutt's blanket policy against adopting dogs to families with children with autism.

Though Thomas told CBC that she is now retired from running her dog rescue, the Kismutt Rescue Facebook page remains active with a post from Jan. 11 pinned at the top of the page directly referring to and affirming the dog rescue's discriminatory policy.

In a response to a comment on the post about the \$20,000 monetary award to be paid to the Doan family, Thomas or another administrator for the Kismutt Rescue Facebook page wrote, "I won't be paying anything."

ordered her to stop posting derogatory comments about the Doan family online and complete human-rights code training within three months of the Dec. 5, 2023, decision.

Gananathan ruled that many of those posts, some of which affirmed the dog rescue's discriminatory policy and shared misinformation about people with autism, incited hate against people with autism.

"The respondents also continued to engage with the public by responding to posts that supported their position that rescue dogs should not be placed

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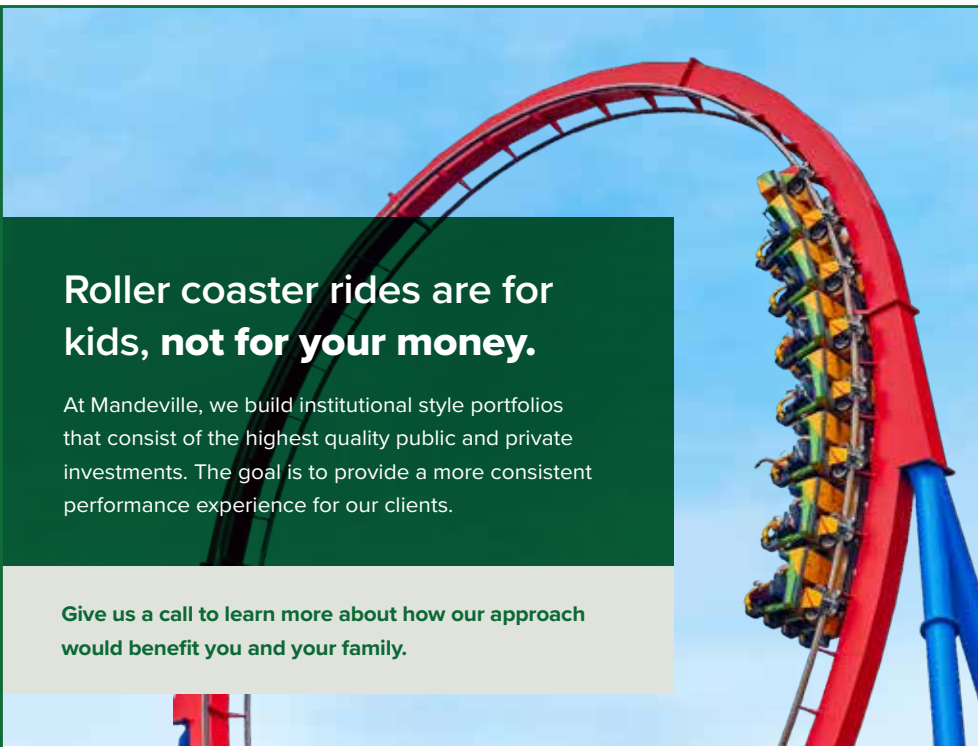
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# ARTS & CULTURE

## The Art of Cooking?



Sous Chef, Logan Chambers, Chef, Andrew Tutt and Maison Spearin (Apprentice). (Contributed photo)

By James Giles, edited by Alice Rixson

Is cooking a form of art or is it a craft? This question continues to be hotly debated in the culinary circles. On one side of the kitchen counter, the perspective is that cooking can definitely be considered a form of art but not all trained chefs become artists in their chosen field.

Just like a painter uses colors on some form of media to create a masterpiece, a chef orchestrates ingredients and techniques to create eye appealing cuisine that will visually delight our faculties, stimulate our sense of smell and arouse our taste buds. Visual art is centred on using a different set of tools and materials to express emotions or ideas.

As an art form, for example, the decoration of food, the way ingredients are assembled on the plate or how contrasting foods are incorporated to create a new cuisine can be artistic, limited only to the chef's imagination. It can also encompass and enhance cultural traditions. Many consider the arrangement of food at the table and on plates an art.

However, food preparation as a craft must also be recognized as there is much focus on the use of tools, particularly knives. Health and safety practices also play a large role in a chef's workspace.

Some disagree and offer the alternative perspective that cooking isn't an art; it's a craft. Crafts allow for creative expression, but still need to abide by certain rules. If not followed, the result can be a catastrophe. Not often realized is that the ability to create a menu also involves science. This is especially the case when meal preparation involves baking, which is a required course in Canadian Red Seal training.

Andrew Tutt, owner of Tuttco restaurant in St. Marys has been in the food service industry for over 30 years and is by no means a stranger to the daily challenges of food service and restaurant ownership. His grandfather was his inspiration, he recalled, "He was always thinking aloud about food and planning for the next meal. If that meal included green beans, then they were picked from the garden and were soon thereafter in the pot."

Growing up in Stratford, Andrew attended the Stratford Chefs School, one of the top culinary schools in Canada. He worked in reputable restaurants in Stratford, Calgary AB and Canmore AB. He is Canadian Red Seal certified. This accreditation, which requires the completion of 5,000 hours of instructional and hands-on training, indicates that the graduate has demonstrated his expertise with



Chef Andrew Tutt. (Contributed photo)

the national standard of his trade.

Andrew believes that food preparation is both art and craft. "Cooking is an edible art but only those who have mastered the craft of cooking can achieve art in the kitchen," he said.


He incorporates an abundance of local ingredients to create unique worlds of flavour. He believes that choosing the right products will be the success of the sustainability of the cuisine and culture at Tuttco.

Andrew has been in kitchens since he was 13, starting at McDonalds and working all the way up to Five Diamond eateries, the upper echelon of dining. With two young children and a partner, a holistic nutritionist, Andrew runs Tuttco on a four-day work week to allow a life balance for himself and his employees.

His support in the kitchen is sous chef Logan Chambers who also attended the Stratford Chef School. As second-in-command, sous chefs are responsible for overseeing the kitchen staff, managing the kitchen when the head chef is absent, and helping to plan and execute menus. They also play a key role in mentoring junior kitchen staff.

Andrew's love of local isn't limited to recipe ingredients. It extends to music and Saturday evenings usually features local musicians. To experience casual fine dining and enjoy cooking as a craft evolving into art, Tuttco is located at 159 Queen Street in St. Marys.

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# ARTS

## Whispers on the Path exhibit highlighting connections between Indigenous and settler communities to open at St. Marys Station Gallery

By St. Marys Station Gallery

St Marys Station Gallery is excited to announce our next show, Whispers on the Path, featuring the work of Indigenous artist Annette Sullivan and allied supporter Angela Found.

The pair focus on the intersection of reconciliation, equality and identity exploration. The approach is transformational through mutual allyship, with expansion of heart and mind being driving factors.

The collaborative journey began in 2019 when Annette and Angela forged an artist union around creating art focused on spiritual connections. Their work centres around social and personal transformation while giving voice to untold ancestral stories and, in the process, intrinsic bonds between Indigenous and non-indigenous (settler) communities.

Upon discovering both collected Canadian postage stamps as youth, they recognized that a postage stamp's graphic border represents the political boundaries of the state. Their art re-articulates scenes symbolizing national identity – "Canadiana"

– into paintings that speak of a country's truthfulness.

Angela Found studied fine art, art history and history at the University of Guelph and is now teaching the same subjects as a secondary school teacher. Travels to Ireland and Northern Ireland, the home of some of her relations and ancestors, has intensified her spirit-led path connecting her to creative energy. She seeks her own connections with the elements and landforms here on Turtle Island.

Annette Sullivan is an Indigenous artist who self-identifies as Metis and also carries First Nation and Inuit heritages. The artist received visual art training at Beal Art and Mohawk College followed by an internship in graphic design, leading to a career in sign making. Today, Annette works in acrylics producing colorful paintings, and creates culturally significant beaded art.

Through collaborative work with Angela Found, Annette is thrilled to be making memorable work. A preview of the show will be held at the gallery on Jan. 19. The exhibit's opening reception is Jan. 20 from 1-4 p.m. The show runs until March.

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## SPORTS

# Lincs drop two in a row

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns had a disappointing pair of results last week when, for the second consecutive week, they lost 4-3 in overtime on Wednesday night. That was followed by a calamitous off-night that saw the Lincs fall 8-3 to the visiting Strathroy Rockets.

Beginning with last Wednesday, one week after a 4-3 overtime loss to the London Nationals, the Lincolns once again were on the road, this time to take on the other member of the Western Conference's three-headed monster atop the standings, the LaSalle Vipers.

Jaden Lee opened the scoring with his ninth of the season when he jammed home the puck on a net-front scramble. Lee's linemates, Luca Spagnolo and Owen Voortman, earned the assists. Head Coach Jeff Bradley told the Independent that the trio whose members got in on all three St. Marys goals stood out.

"The line of Luca, Jaden and Owen was definitely our best line," said Bradley. "Those guys carried the game for us. We were really happy with the way those guys played. They came to play. Every time they were out on the ice, they seemed to carry the play. It was nice to have a line step up the way they did. We need more of that."

For over nine minutes, the Lincs held a 1-0 lead until an unexpected wrap-around by Patrick McManus tied the game at one apiece. A shade under two-and-a-half minutes later, Jak Thiessen fired a tight-angle shot that caught goaltender Brandon Abbott flat-footed and put the Vipers ahead 2-1.

In the second frame, an offensive zone steal by Spagnolo and a great pinch at the blueline by Jacob Montesi eventually sent the puck into the corner where Spagnolo set up Lee for a picture-perfect one-timer to tie the game at 2-2. Less than five minutes later, LaSalle's Connor Tucker put the Vipers back ahead by a goal on a one-timer in the slot.

Ryan Cornfield fired a bouncing puck in the third period moments after a St. Marys powerplay ended to tie things up at three, eventually forcing overtime. Spagnolo and Lee each earned helpers, giving both a three-point night. In the extra frame, an errant turnover in the defensive zone allowed Kyle Greene to take the puck to the net all alone and bury the game-winner.

Coach Bradley thought his squad pitched a solid effort but acknowledged that mistakes cost them the extra point.

"I thought we were really good in the first and third periods. The two goals we let in; maybe you wish you



could have back but we kept clawing back. The second period I thought they took it to us pretty good, but I still felt we played well enough to win looking at the game as a whole, so only coming away with a point was definitely disappointing."

## Roof falls in on Lincs against Strathroy

Just 48 hours later, the Lincolns came home to the PRC to host the Strathroy Rockets and after a solid start, the game completely got away from the home side. The result left a sour taste in everyone's mouth, including the bench boss.

"I thought the way the game started, in the first six or seven minutes, I thought it was going to be a good game for us," Bradley explained. "We got a powerplay goal early and a breakaway. We had them hemmed in their own zone and they were just flipping pucks out. We let one in, then had a breakdown on a faceoff, then had a flukey one go in and we seemed to fold up after that."

Just 41 seconds into the game, with a warmup violation penalty assessed right at the start of the game, Cornfield whacked home a rebound for his 11th of the year. The Rockets tied the game at the 5:15 mark on a quick shot finding the five-hole on goaltender Colby Booth-Housego.

Then, the roof fell in on the Lincolns.

Beginning at 11:24, the Rockets scored four goals in two minutes and 22 seconds, two of which were scored by Ethan Facchina while Matthew Souliere and Rene Van Bommel were credited with one each. The Rockets came within an inch of another goal later in the first when Facchina fed Kyler Morgan on a shorthanded two-on-none that Morgan cranked off the post.

After regrouping in the intermission, the Lincolns reeled the game back within reach in the second, beginning less than 90 seconds into the period when the newly acquired Maddox Callens made a

great individual effort and beat Rockets' netminder Hayden Duncan.

Callens, a 20-year-old from Langton, Ont., was acquired on the Jan. 10 trade deadline from the Kingston Frontenacs of the OHL. In 183 games of OHL experience, all with the Frontenacs, Callens posted 35 goals and 65 points. Callens was drafted in the third round of the 2019 OHL Priority Selection by Kingston. In a subsequent move, forward Jimmy Schiedel was released to the Exeter Hawks.

General Manager Pat Powers was thrilled about the acquisition of Callens, widely regarded as one of the most significant acquisitions made by any GOJHL team.

"Maddox is a veteran coming from a higher level who should bring a level of maturity and leadership to our team," said Powers. "He has shown the ability to put up good numbers so he should be able to help lead our group on and off the ice. He is a very big addition to an already strong group."

Just under 15 minutes later, Matt Prendergast turned on the jets and exploded through centre ice for a breakaway before potting his 13th of the year to cut the Rockets' lead to two. Ryan Hodgkinson earned the lone assist.

The comeback push was halted by Strathroy in the third when they scored twice in 50 seconds, first by Liam Spencer followed by the second of the game for Souliere. Later in the third, Spencer netted his second of the night en route to the 8-3 thrashing of the Lincolns.

Bradley explained that he felt better about his team's effort in the second but the two quick Strathroy goals in the third sunk any momentum St. Marys had.

"We pushed back and had a really good second period but at the start of the third, we let in another goal that we as a group need to keep out of our net. I think that one was too much for us to handle and, again, we folded up after that."

"As a group and as a staff, we certainly felt the game was disjointed," Bradley continued. "We just didn't have it. We just always seemed to be second to the puck, on the wrong side of it, losing our guys and missing coverages. As disappointing as it was, we have to remember that every game is worth two points and they're not worth double because we got eight scored against us."

The Lincolns were in Strathroy for a rematch against the Rockets on Tuesday after the Independent went to print. The Lincs are back on home ice this Friday taking on the Sarnia Legionnaires.

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## SPORTS

## DCVI Jr. Boys claim victory in return to court

By Spencer Seymour

In their first game back from the holiday break, the St. Marys DCVI Junior Boys basketball team got back in the win column when they travelled to Wingham and defeated F.E. Madill 50-38 last Wednesday.

Head Coach Ken French was happy with his team's all-around effort from

players up and down the lineup.

"We played well with lots of contributions right down the bench," French said. "Rumley [Snider] and Donovan [McGregor] played top-notch defence and also contributed on the offensive end. Henry [Switzer] was feeling it and Justin [Ropp] gave us what we have come to expect from him; that being leadership throughout the

game."

Switzer and Ropp led the charge on the scoresheet for the Salukis, putting up 15 and 14 points respectively. Brody Higham added nine points while McGregor, Snider and Parker Levy each chipped in four points.

French also noted that his team's play in their half of the court continued to

show positive strides.

"Our team defence has been improving a lot. We have had many of our guys contribute on that side significantly. Zone defence is about effort and we are getting it from guys up and down our bench. To me, [last Wednesday] was the best full game they played. They started strong and finished strong."

## U10 A Boys earn 'well-deserved' 1-0 win

By Spencer Seymour

Last Wednesday's 1-0 win over the New Hamburg Huskies was one of the strongest performances of the season for the Dunny's Source For Sports U10 A Boys St. Marys Rock, according to head coach Brent Kittmer.

"It was a great game for us," Kittmer told the Independent. "I think it was one of our most complete games of the season and every player contributed in one way or another. We did a really good job of limiting New Hamburg's shots and chances and when one did get through, our goaltender Franklin

Anderson calmly steered them away."

Hanging onto leads has been a recurring focal point for the U10 A Boys and the team successfully did just that after Dean Feeney scored the game's only goal just a minute-and-a-half into the first period. From there, a strong showing by Anderson in the Rock's crease and excellent attention to detail by the skaters in front of him carried St. Marys to the one-goal shutout win.

"For the past several weeks, the common message to the team before each game has been to play simple hockey

and to make the other team match our energy," said Kittmer. "We did a really good job of that against New Hamburg and we did it for the full game."

"There have been times this season when we get a lead that our players start to grip their sticks a little too tight and try to do a little too much and it's resulted in us losing those leads. [On Wednesday night], though, the boys did a really good job staying focused on doing the little things that we asked them while also playing loose."

Coach Kittmer added that, despite the

youth of the team, he and the entire coaching staff have been impressed with the group's understanding and implementation of various tactics being worked on during recent practices.

"Sometimes we forget that these are nine-year-old boys who are still learning many new concepts of hockey as the season goes on. For the last several weeks, we've introduced new systems elements to the players at practice and I was very pleased with how they translated that onto the ice with our positional play."

## Sims attends first Provincial Championship



On Sunday, January 14th, Tyler Sims of the St. Marys Bowling Lanes and his team went to Echo Bowl in Brantford to attend the Provincial Ontario Five-Pin Bowling Youth Challenge. This was Sims' first experience at the provincial level and his team placed eighth. Sims beat his opponent in four out of seven games and posted an average of 173. On November 26th, Sims attended the Youth Challenge at Mike's Lanes and won a place on the Region Three Grand River Team to attend the Provincials. (Contributed photo)

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# SPORTS

## U19 Snipers claim Silver at Winterfest tournament

By Spencer Seymour

The U19 St. Marys Snipers may not have won their final game, but this past weekend was still an incredibly positive one as they returned from the Waterloo Winterfest tournament with the Silver Medal.

Head Coach Samantha Henderson told the Independent that she was thrilled with how her group performed over the weekend.

“Our team played very well together,” Henderson praised. “We didn’t win every game, but we pushed through to win the ones that we needed to make it to the finals. Throughout the tournament, our team remained positive and energetic regardless of the scoreboard, helping them immensely with our results.”

According to Henderson, after going 1-2 in their first three games, the team’s final round-robin game against the Paris Thunder became vital for the U19 Snipers.

“To make it to the gold medal game, we knew it was crucial to move from fourth place into third for the semi-final game. Once we won our fourth game against Paris, putting us in third, that was the moment we realized we had a chance to win the semis and push through to the gold-medal game.”

“The continuous encouragement amongst teammates,” Henderson continued, “as well as hitting the ice strong and trusting one another throughout the game were major contributors to getting our team to the finals.”

St. Marys came out firing on all cylinders, capturing a 3-0 lead heading into the first intermission. The Snipers got goals from Charlee Henderson, Abby Martin and Emily Deighton. Trinity Greene added the lone goal of the second period en route to a 4-0 win for the Snipers.

In their semi-final match-up, the Snipers took on the Kitchener Wildcats in a rematch from earlier in the tournament which the Wildcats won 6-0. In the semis, however, St. Marys got a measure of payback with a 1-0 shutout win to punch their ticket to the gold-medal game. Chloë Bouchard scored the lone goal of the game.

The Snipers fell in the finals to the squad from West Ottawa, but overall, Henderson maintained that the tour-

namment was still an incredibly positive experience for the team.

“As a young team bumped into a higher age group, we haven’t set major expectations on winning as opposed to using this year to build a strong team for the new speed and play of ringette they are facing. Because of this, we went into our games trusting what we had practiced and giving it our all on the ice.”

“My biggest takeaway from this weekend is the huge amount of determination, commitment and strength our team has,” added Henderson. “From the beginning of our season four months ago to now, our game has improved exponentially, and this team is starting to really believe in their strength.”

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# SPORTS

## Minor Sports Scrapbook



Ahmad Ajjan Al Hadid stretches to nab a loose puck, part of his fantastic effort for the U13 LL Boys St. Marys Rock last Saturday in what was his first-ever hockey game.



Nora Frayne rockets a long-range shot during this past Sunday's St. Marys Landscaping U11 B Girls St. Marys Rock game.



Landon McIntosh corrals a loose puck during the Finnbilt Contracting U9 MD Boys St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Sheamus Ross whips a tight-angle wrist shot on net during last Saturday's U11 C Boys St. Marys Rock game.



Aspen Bond scores a breakaway goal during the St. Marys Kinsmen U9 C Girls St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Brinley St. Clair fires a shot on a breakaway during this past Sunday's U13 B Girls St. Marys Rock game. (Photos by Spencer Seymour)

**SPORTS**

# COMMENTARY: Hockey's dangerous ignorance

By Spencer Seymour

Some old-school hockey people won't like this. Some people who oversee hockey organizations won't like this. Some fans won't like this. Frankly, I don't care. I am sick of the sport of hockey, at seemingly every level and on seemingly every continent, not taking head trauma seriously.

Let's get this disclaimer out of the way; hockey is a contact sport played at high speeds. Players will sometimes suffer head injuries and concussions during the natural flow of a game or as a result of body checks, even legal and clean ones. Head trauma is an inherent risk in a fast, physical game.

However, what I cannot fathom is why an inability to remove every possible risk of head trauma is an excuse to essentially fail to act in drastic ways when drastic incidents that have no place within the sport and are not part of the natural flow of a hockey game occur. Hockey at all levels tends to be reactive, not proactive. It takes a disturbingly serious injury (see Steve Moore and Todd Bertuzzi) to provoke a whopping suspension, as opposed to handing out such a ban that would send a clear and decisive message before such an injury happens.

Late in 2023, Aydan Doyle of the GOJHL Port Colborne Sailors forcefully tore the helmet off the head of a player on the Fort Erie Meteors and proceeded to viciously punch the Meteors' player in the head no less than five times. For much of the incident, Doyle was standing over the Meteors' player and eventually fell on top of him when multiple other players entered the melee. Doyle was given,

among other penalties, a five-minute major and game misconduct for fighting, though strangely, no penalty for attempting to injure the Fort Erie player.

Doyle's suspension was initially listed as four games due to the GOJHL's automatic discipline summary on their website, though they were reviewing the incident and later made it a seven-game ban. Why they didn't have it changed to "TBD" online while they reviewed is a wonderful question. Coincidentally, after the incident, the GOJHL's discipline summary page was removed from their site.

In a turn of mind-boggling serendipity right around the same time as the Doyle incident, a similar on-ice assault occurred in Finland with former NHLer Nick Ritchie punching the helmet off an opposing player before adding a few extra gloves-on punches to the back of the downed player's head. Ritchie got suspended for eight games for the incident. As you probably can guess, that too wasn't enough for my liking.

Now, let me answer a few counterpoints. Number one, "So you want fighting to be taken out of hockey?" Whether fighting should or shouldn't be in hockey is irrelevant because what Doyle and Ritchie did were not fights. Fights involve two willing combatants and, in both incidents, only one person was interested in fighting. Those aren't fights, those are assaults.

Number two, "Hockey has always had stuff like this. It's old-school hockey." Guess what? It was wrong then too. Everyone romanticizes the past, but not everything in the past was good.

If you're thinking back to the days of Gretzky, Lemieux and Howe, it's entirely reasonable to think fondly about how great they were and miss watching them play. However, given what we know about the effects of head trauma and concussions and their connections to Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), even if you enjoyed it at the time, daily line brawls, blood-spattered rinks and on-ice riots should not be things we aspire to ever see even a whiff of again.

Number three, "Why isn't seven or eight games enough when that's more than almost any other suspension?" When a suspension is disagreed with, the instinct is to compare it to other suspensions for drastically different infractions. It's not tenable to measure suspensions that way. However, what you can do is, with items that are of the utmost seriousness, apply the same principle of preventing future offences. For example, Shane Pinto received a 41-game suspension for "activities related to sports wagering." I bring this up, not for the specific number of games or percentage of the season missed, it's the principle be-

hind the ban. The NHL made it clear that, whether purposeful or accidental, whether it's you or someone else operating your account, subverting the gambling rules in any way would not only be punished, but punished severely.

That's what I want when it comes to purposeful and unnecessary incidents. I'm not saying throw the book at every hit or fight that leads to a concussion. Things will happen that are part of the game and not malicious. I'm not saying eliminate head trauma entirely. That's impossible in a fast, contact sport. I'm not saying take hitting or fighting out of hockey. I'm certainly not saying that Doyle, Ritchie, or anyone involved in doling out these suspensions with which I vehemently disagree are of poor character.

What I am saying is that when someone deliberately attacks another player in a way that isn't a natural part of the game and is a clear and violent attempt to injure, especially when it relates to the head, apply the principle that such an incident must never happen again and punish accordingly.



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## NOTICE OF DESIGNATION

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys has passed By-law 08-2024 to designate 285 Emily Street as a property of cultural heritage value or interest in accordance with Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.0.18, as amended.

**Property Description**

The subject property is described as LOT 73 EAST SIDE WATER STREET PLAN 248 ST MARYS, BEING PT 3 44R-402 ; ST MARYS

**Description of Heritage Attributes**

- Site of residence, located on Emily Street on former Thamescrest Farm site.
- Saddleback style roof with large central gable on the west façade.
- L-shape design with central protrusion at west façade entrance.
- Two limestone chimneys, on the north and south ends of the Emily Street façade. The north chimney was fully rebuilt in 2023 using limestone to closely match the original.
- All exterior limestone masonry walls.

**Notice of Objection**

Any person who objects to By-law 08-2024 may appeal to the Tribunal by giving the Tribunal and the clerk of the municipality, within 30 days after the date of publication, and no later than 4:30pm on Tuesday, February 20, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection, accompanied by the fee charged by the Tribunal. Objections should be directed to the Town of St. Marys, Box 998, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6, Attention: Jenna McCartney, Clerk, or by email to [clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca) A notice of objection must set out the reason(s) for the objection and all relevant facts



## NOTICE OF DESIGNATION

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys has passed By-law 07-2024 to designate 100 Church Street South as a property of cultural heritage value or interest in accordance with Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.0.18, as amended.

**Property Description**

The subject property is described as PT BLOCK 3 WEST SIDE CHURCH ST PLAN 225 ST MARYS; PT LOT 1 WEST SIDE CHURCH ST PLAN 235 ST MARYS AS IN R242243; S/T R242243 ; ST MARYS

**Description of Heritage Attributes**

- Saddleback style roof with wood shake central gable on the front façade.
- The masonry walls which are limestone vary in cut style; with the east wall being half coursed square cut ashlar, running bond pattern, quarry faced finish. All four corners, quoined using full course, single block square cut ashlar, alternating vertically and horizontally in a tooled finish. All large, single-block lintels and sills.
- The red brick chimney on the south end of the building.
- All wooden windows and doors.

**Notice of Objection**

Any person who objects to By-law 07-2024 may appeal to the Tribunal by giving the Tribunal and the clerk of the municipality, within 30 days after the date of publication, and no later than 4:30pm on Tuesday, February 20, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection, accompanied by the fee charged by the Tribunal. Objections should be directed to the Town of St. Marys, Box 998, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6, Attention: Jenna McCartney, Clerk, or by email to [clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca) A notice of objection must set out the reason(s) for the objection and all relevant facts

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# COMMUNITY

## Perth-Waterloo egg farmers meet for their annual meeting in Stratford



Egg Farmer elected councillors from the Perth-Waterloo Zone include (back row from left) Jeff Rundle, Mike Ready, Delmer Schultz, Brett Graham, Josh Gerber and Gary West, and (front row from left) Paul Neeb, zone director Sally Van Straaten, Amanda Cook, Julie Wynette and Scott Graham. (Contributed photo)



Newly re-elected zone director Sally Van Straaten is congratulated by Egg Farmers of Ontario chair Scott Helps and Egg Farmers of Ontario CEO Ryan Brown. (Contributed photo)

By Gary West

Area egg farmers recently held their annual meeting in Stratford and came away with good news after learning an increase in egg production is needed.

Pullet and egg farmers in the Perth County and Region of Waterloo areas heard from their board members that consumer demand for eggs continues to be strong with sales trending higher than those average weekly sales in 2022.

Nielsen preliminary retail sales data is now available up to Dec. 2, 2023 and indications are that in the latest four-week period, 29 million dozen eggs were sold – an increase of 4.5 per cent in sales compared to the same period in 2022.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 2.4 per cent over the previous year.

Demand for eggs used for processing from the market continues to see fluctuations. This year, demand is predicted to continue to stabilize toward pre-pandemic volumes.

When it came to avian influenza, a report dated Jan. 2 stated there were 71 cases across Canada with no active cases in Ontario.

At the same time, there have been 73 confirmed flocks with bird flu in the U.S. over the past 30 days affecting 11.43 million birds in California, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kansas and Arizona.

Farmers at the meeting were urged to continue to be vigilant with their bio-security protocols to ensure they keep their flocks healthy and keep Ontario free from bird flu.

In December, Egg Farmers of Canada ratified a national allocation increase for eggs to meet growing demand in 2024.

Farmers were also told at the meeting that an in-

crease in the price of eggs was held off even though the cost of production warranted it, as producers felt they would look at it in the coming spring depending on input costs at the time.

Egg farmers of Ontario board chair Scott Helps of Lambton County said the board is focusing on the strategic priorities of pricing, sustainable practices, supply management, stakeholder relations and stimulating continued market growth for eggs in the future.

The producer numbers for the Perth County and Region of Waterloo area are as follows:

- Number of egg quota holders: 67 (457 in Ontario)
- Number of laying hens: 1,003,918 (10,144,813 in Ontario)
- Number of pullet quota holders: 27 (146 in Ontario)
- Number of pullets: 1,736,378 (12,044,320 in Ontario)

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# COMMUNITY

## 9-8-8 Suicide Helpline now available from anywhere in Canada

By Amanda Modaragamage, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Canadian government has now implemented a new, three-digit number -- 988 -- to call or text to help prevent suicide and offer crisis support.

John Nater, Perth Wellington MP, told the Stratford Times he's happy to see the program in place for those in need.

"I am relieved that three years after the House of Commons called for the creation of a national suicide prevention hotline, 988 has finally been launched," he said.

To prepare for the launch of 988, the Government of Canada announced in August 2022 that the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) will lead the coordination of 988 service delivery, building on its experience delivering Talk Suicide Canada.

CAMH is Canada's largest mental health teaching hospital and one of the world's leading research centres. CAMH's role in developing 988 service delivery in Canada builds on their ex-

perience delivering Talk Suicide Canada.

Nater says the program is a welcomed and much-needed service that aims to enhance mental health support across Huron-Perth.

"I truly believe that 988 will save lives," said Nater, "...For too long, people in need have not had access to help when they need it most. I have heard from far too many families and loved ones who have lost someone to suicide, and it is my sincere hope that this number will help prevent families in our community from dealing with that terrible loss. When someone reaches out, their call will be answered."

The Hope for Wellness Helpline will also provide support to 988 callers in Cree, Ojibway, and Inuktitut upon request.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call 911. If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, call or text 988. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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# HISTORY

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The history of St. Marys' L. A. Ball Building

By Mary Smith

Facing Water Street on the brick section of the building in this week's photograph is a smooth concrete memorial imbedded in the freshly cleaned and pointed wall. It reads: L. A. Ball Funeral Chapel 1914-2013.

It is fortunate that the mason placed it there because it provides information for future passers-by. After having been occupied by the same family for more than a century and home to a funeral chapel for almost as long, the L. A. Ball building at 95 Queen Street East is now for sale.

The building is one of the remarkable limestone commercial blocks in downtown St. Marys and has been well maintained by its successive owners since it was built in 1863. The owners themselves were notable, making significant contributions to the town's growth and development.

The building was first owned by Edward Long who was born in Gloucestershire, England, in 1828. At the age of 17, he emigrated, arriving in New York and travelling on to Canada West (Ontario) where he may have had friends or relatives from England to help him get established in his new country. Long first lived in Tuckersmith, Huron County, where he met and married Elizabeth Johnston in 1846. In September 1847, Caroline, their first child, was born. By 1850, the young father had brought his family to St. Marys. In the 1851 Lovell Directory, Edward Long is listed as a manufacturer of potash.

Long worked hard and prospered. By 1853, he was able to purchase commercial property on the northeast corner of Queen and Water Streets where he opened a general store. The very first issue of the St. Marys Argus, published Jan. 1, 1857, has an advertisement for Long's "Farmers' Store." In 1863, he replaced the original frame building with the three-storey stone block, now 95 Queen Street East, and opened a hardware store on the ground floor. He and his family moved into spacious living quarters on the two upper floors.

Edward Long was the first treasurer for the Town of St. Marys and kept that title until his death in 1902. Although he sold 95 Queen Street East in 1869, he continued to be a factor in downtown St. Marys, operating a general store for 20 years at 147 Queen Street East. In 1889, he transferred this business to his younger son, Frederick, but remained busy for the rest of his life, working not only as town treasurer but also as an insurance agent and division court



L. A. Ball building circa 1980 when it was both a furniture store and a funeral chapel.

clerk.

Robert Harstone purchased 95 Queen Street East from Edward Long in 1869. Harstone had recently moved with his family from Prince Edward County. An experienced merchant, he continued to operate the hardware business in the corner store. By the time he died in 1878, Harstone had made quite an impact through his integrity and community involvement. In April 1878, his obituary in the St. Marys Argus described him as a highly respected citizen, a lifelong Reformer and a committed Presbyterian who particularly enjoyed teaching Sunday School.

"His remains were followed to the cemetery by the largest number of people ever gathered together upon any similar occasion in this town. The places of business were closed along the route while the funeral was passing," his obituary reads.

Following Robert Harstone's death, 95 Queen Street had several successive owners. They continued to rent the store to hardware merchants until it was sold in 1895 to Sidney Fraleigh, a well-off, local businessman.

His new tenant was John W. Wood who had a furniture and undertaking business. One of his apprentices was James O. Mitchell who had grown up in Nissouri Township. When Wood decided to relocate to Brantford, Mitchell purchased the business and, in 1908, also bought the building from Fraleigh. In 1914, he sold the business for health reasons but retained ownership of the building. Mitchell did not retire. He purchased property on Emily Street and became one of the first St. Marys residents to engage in fur farming. The new own-

er of the furniture and undertaking business at 95 Queen Street East was Luther Ball.

Luther Alexander Ball (1873-1937) grew up on a farm near Brussels in Huron County, the youngest in a family of eight children. When he was still a teenager, he followed the footsteps of one of his brothers, John, and became an apprentice at a furniture and undertaking establishment in Brussels.

At that time, part of the apprenticeship was learning cabinet making because this meant, by extension, the ability to make coffins. The first undertakers in many small 19th-century communities were often furniture-makers. Following his apprenticeship, Luther Ball went west for several years, working his trade in Portage La Prairie, Man., and then in Edmonton, Alta.

However, a business opportunity came up closer to home, so he returned to Ontario. Luther and his brother, John, took over a furniture and undertaking establishment in Wingham with a five-year lease on the building. When the lease was not renewed, John went west and Luther purchased a business in Aylmer.

In 1912, Luther Ball married Ida M. Wood, a school teacher from Kincardine. In 1914, the couple moved from Aylmer to St. Marys and, for their first years in this community, lived in the apartment over the store at 95 Queen Street East. They had two sons – George, born in 1917, and Frank, born in 1920. By the 1931 census, the Ball family had moved to a handsome brick residence on Queen Street East. Their close neighbours were the Eedy family, publishers of the St. Marys Journal Argus. The newspaper

ran a series of in-depth articles, "The People We Meet," mainly featuring local businessmen. Luther Ball was the topic in the May 3, 1933, issue of the Journal Argus.

He and Lorne Eedy, the editor, had much in common. As well as being neighbours, they both had ties with Elgin County (Lorne Eedy had grown up in St. Thomas) and with Wingham where Eedy had been the publisher of a weekly newspaper, the Wingham Telescope. They were both active members of the United Church and, in 1925, both had been founding members of the St. Marys Rotary Club. It is apparent from the newspaper article that the two men enjoyed sharing stories. Lorne Eedy also paid credit to Ida Ball, stating that she and Luther had a great partnership and mentioning her work with the church women's groups, the Home and School Association, the Women's Institute and the I.O.D.E. The couple's two "active lads," George and Frank, were included in the article.

Luther Ball died Nov. 9, 1937, at the age of 64. At that time, George was an engineering student at Queen's University while Frank was still a student at St. Marys Collegiate Institute. In the difficult time that followed, including during the second world war, the L. A. Ball business continued under the direction of Ida Ball and members of the family.

Following their war service, George Ball became an engineer at the St. Marys Cement Company and Frank Ball took over the family business. He married Helene Berry and their son, Frank, was the oldest of their five children. In 1955, the Balls purchased the building at 95 Queen Street from J. O. Mitchell.

Through the years, the furniture sales part of the business dropped off and was finally discontinued. This allowed resources to be concentrated on the funeral chapel section. Many improvements were made to that facility, emphasizing support for grieving families.

Frank Junior worked with his father and took over when Frank Senior retired. He was assisted by his wife, Mary Jane Rout, however no member of the Ball family was interested in becoming a fourth-generation owner. In Dec. 2012, the business was sold to Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home Ltd. Frank Ball Senior died in 2002.

Frank and Mary Jane Ball had one final funeral service before retiring absolutely. It was for Helene Berry Ball who died on Dec. 17, 2013, at the age of 92.

# COMMUNITY

## Stratford Perth Museum calls for nominations for Agriculture Wall of Fame

By Emily Stewart

The Stratford Perth Museum is looking for residents of Stratford and Perth County who have made an impact on regional agriculture.

A press release from the museum announced that nomination forms are now available for the 10th Agriculture Wall of Fame. Nominations will close on Feb. 28. The 2024 honouree(s) will be announced at the Stratford Rotary Club's Rural-Urban Dinner on April 18.

"There are stars out there and they deserve accolades as much as some of the great and wonderful famous people who live in Stratford," Kelly McIntosh, general manager of the Stratford Perth Museum, said.

The committee in charge of selecting the winners is looking for those in the agriculture industry who demonstrate excellence in entrepreneurship, technological growth, contributions to the community and innovation. The Wall of Fame has honoured 21 Perth County residents for their work in agriculture and farming, along with seven charter members from Perth County who are featured in the Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame. There were no honourees in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions at the time.

Previous honourees include Nuhn Industries owner Dennis Nuhn, whose work in the family-owned

blacksmith shop is part of a history spanning four generations, Soiled Reputation owners Antony John and Tina Vandenneuvel for their contributions in organic farming, and dairy farmer Ken Scheerer for bringing dairy education programs to Grade 5 students in Perth County. Scheerer was also honoured for his role in the Rotary Club of Stratford by establishing what is now known as the annual Rural-Urban Dinner.

"The idea around that was to really try to bridge a road between rural and urban members of our community," McIntosh explained. "It is an unbelievably successful dinner to this day."

The Stratford Perth Museum hopes to include more programming in the future that highlights the agricultural history and contributions of Perth County.

"I can't think of a better way to gather those literal stories by really receiving nominations and applications," McIntosh said. "Because I want to personally - as does the committee - find out about who are doing things out there so we can talk about it in a story way."

More information about the previous winners and the nomination forms for the Agriculture Wall of Fame are available at stratfordperthmuseum.ca/stratford-perth-museum-agricultural-wall-fame-directory.

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# COLUMN

## HOSTING UKRAINE: Wait! What?

By VJ Knutson

Last week I wrote about the need for more hosts. It's an ongoing theme for me, so bear with me.

Thankfully, we found a host for the mom and two children I mentioned in my previous column the day before they were scheduled to arrive. They will be landing in London with a wonderful family who have hosted newcomers before.

In the meantime, between the request to help them and getting the new mom settled, I had another request for a woman arriving ahead of the mom and two children. It was a bit of a scramble, but bless Christina Saunders for stepping up. Lesia has taken Svitlana under her wing and shown her the town. We are now looking for employment for this 30-year-old woman who holds a masters in pedagogy (education) and was a language teacher in Ukraine, teaching Ukrainian and German. Like others who arrive, Svitlana is eager to start working and rebuild her life.

As for the man at the Toronto airport, he has stopped returning my messages. I am hoping this means he has found employment and a place to stay, and no longer needs a nagging grandmother.

The first things hosts should know, my friend Viki says, is that the goal is let your guests be independent. You do not want to create a dependency. It is difficult sometimes to draw the line. This is why I appreciate Viki. Her no nonsense advice has helped us throughout.



The polar bear from Ukrainian-owned Good Mood Service rental company recently visited Ukrainian newcomer Ole-na and her newborn baby, Charlotte. (Contributed photo)

Viki is offering a free seminar to hosts and volunteers on Feb. 4 from 2-4 p.m. called Managing Compassion Fatigue. It involves a self-assessment tool and helps you recognize and deal with the stress of helping those facing traumatic situations. Email me to sign up.

For those of us who have never had to leave our

birth country, it is difficult to fathom the many-layered decision-making process. What to bring? Who will be left behind? Are we better to flee or stay and hope that it will all be over soon? What country will we flee to?

I try not to pry, leaving it up to the individual to tell me their story when they are ready. When the time comes that the story pours out, I also feel it is important that I don't judge. My role is to focus on what is good about each person and support their success going forward.

Of course, every story is unique and every outcome will differ. As some of you may know, I now also write for the Stratford Times. This week, one of the Stratford hosts and her guest asked me to tell their story. It is a heartbreaking story of what happens when two people fall in love and their countries go to war.

I won't say more. Check out the story in this week's Stratford Times. Pick it up when you are in town, or read online: <https://granthaven.com/stratford-times/>

Harold Van Galen, host extraordinaire, asked me to give a shoutout to all the Ukrainians who have added to our community through the food they sell, their handyman and cleaning services, catering services, and now the polar bear...

Wait! What? The polar bear is Ukrainian?

Until next time.

(Reach me at [english.knutson@gmail.com](mailto:english.knutson@gmail.com))

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## Thorndale Dinner Theatre to present *Appearing This Evening*

By Nancy Abra

With every live theatre performance, there can be challenges. Whether it is a problem with the lighting, sound effects, a glitch in props or interrelationship conflict with a couple of the actors, what can go wrong does.

Next month, the Thorndale Dinner Theatre will present *Appearing This Evening*, a two-act comedic mystery centering around what can happen in front of and behind the curtain during a live theatre production when the lead actor doesn't show up for opening night.

Written by Anthony Keenleyside of the Ottawa area, the Thorndale troupe will present *Appearing This Evening's* debut performance. The cast of eleven players are veterans of the Thorndale stage, except for two new faces this year.

Rehearsals began in the first week of January. Kay Rogers, who is not new to the Thorndale Dinner Theatre stage, is



Members of the cast and crew for the Thorndale Dinner Theatre's production of *Appearing This Evening* rehearse the play that will debut at the Thorndale Lion's Community Centre Feb. 17. (Photo by Nancy Abra)

taking on a new role this year as the director.

"*Appearing This Evening* has a cast of unique and fun characters. This play will appeal to the young and old alike with its entertaining story of twists and turns,"

Rogers said.

The Thorndale Dinner Theatre's production of *Appearing This Evening* will take to the stage over the course of two weekends in February at the Thorndale Lion's Community Centre. These performanc-

es will also include a delicious meal. Dorchester United Church will oversee the roast-beef dinner Feb. 17 and the Thorndale Lions Club will oversee the Sunday brunch on Feb. 18. On the evening of Feb. 21 at 7 p.m., there will be a performance of the play without a meal.

As for the rest of the shows, the Thorndale Fair Homecraft Division is preparing the roast-beef dinner on Feb. 23, with the final evening performance on Feb. 24. The roast-beef dinner for that final show will be prepared by Thorndale United Church, however tickets for that evening's performance are already sold out.

For more information about this Thorndale Dinner Theatre performance and to purchase tickets, contact Jackie Malleck at 519-461-0218. Tickets can be purchased at Thorndale Ace Hardware (519-461-0280) with cash or cheque payable to Thorndale Agricultural Society.

## Predicting the weather



The weather proverb, "red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in the morning, sailor's warning," has been around for centuries. It suggests that if the sky is red during sunset, the following day will be pleasant and calm. On the other hand, if the sky is red during sunrise, the day ahead will be stormy and turbulent.

During sunrise and sunset, the sun is low in the sky, and it transmits light through the thickest part of the atmosphere. A red sky suggests an atmosphere loaded with dust and moisture particles. The amounts of water vapor and dust particles in the atmosphere are good indicators of weather conditions. They also determine which colors we will see in the sky.

This photo taken by Connie Bontje of Thorndale on the morning of Jan. 12 proves that the above weather proverb has merit because, later on Friday, we got a dose of wintery weather with strong winds and snow that continued for the rest of the weekend. (Photo by Connie Bontje)

## Thorndale section will benefit from increased visibility

By Stewart Grant

We expect to have more Thorndale eyes on this page than ever before, thanks to some recent brainstorming on how we can make a bigger impact to the community within our newspaper.

Over the last year, with huge thanks to local writer Nancy Abra, we've had a dedicated Thorndale News section within the St. Marys Independent. However, many residents might not be aware of this. They might see the Independent available throughout the village but have no idea that Thorndale news lies within.

Last Tuesday at Thorndale Family Restaurant, I met with Nancy, along with Arden McClean and Amy Morley of I Love Thorndale, and we shared all kinds of ideas on how to take our Thorndale section to the next level.

One of the best ideas that we came up with was to display copies of the Thorndale News cover page at locations in the village where people can pick up the Independent. If residents can see "Thorndale News" in display areas or bulletin boards, this should raise awareness of the fine reporting that Nancy does every week.

I think we have an opportunity to do something special with our Thorndale section - to make a successful "newspaper within a newspaper" that serves the village well. I'd encourage you to be a part of this by sending in submissions of your own - story ideas, photos of community activities or whatever. Nancy is our Thorndale team leader and her email is [nancy.ellen.abra@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ellen.abra@gmail.com).

For businesses of Thorndale, we also want to do something special. We've introduced ad space on the Thorndale page for as low as \$25 to help you make an attractive return on your advertising dollar within our Thorndale section. We're hoping that more local advertising can help us finance more pages of Thorndale content each week. To get involved, please contact us at [info@stmarysindependent.com](mailto:info@stmarysindependent.com) and use the subject line "Thorndale advertising".

By engaging with local readers and businesses, I hope that this Thorndale page will become a model for how our family of newspapers can vastly improve journalism in similarly sized communities in southwestern Ontario. It's no secret that people still want local news. The key is to find the best way to deliver it.

# COLUMN

## FROM THE GARDEN: The Story of Horticulture



**By Nancy Abra**

There are many good stories that start with “in the beginning”, be it tale or legend. The story of horticulture is a tale that starts back “in the beginning” of mankind.

Horticulture dates back thousands of years. From the transition of nomadic hunter-gathers who followed the migration of animals and ripening foods, such as berries, to feed themselves to more permanent settlements with humans domesticating animals and cultivating plants for food. The early history of horticulture is closely intertwined with the history of agriculture and botany. It is the story of mankind’s desire to gain control over nature through exploration, experimentation, innovation and globalization.

Some horticultural historians

believe that horticulture has its roots in Egypt. Ancient Egyptian temple gardens consisted of elements that are familiar in modern-day garden design – enclosed walls, water and irrigation features, and cultivated plants such as fruit trees, palms and grape vines. Egyptians also cultivated a wide range of food plants such as garlic, onions, radish, lentils and gourds, as well as herbs and spices.

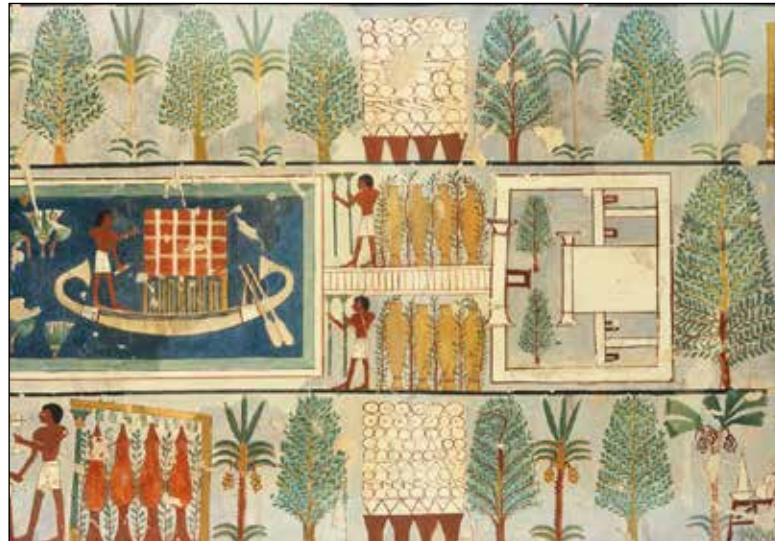
Archaeologists have also found evidence in Central and South America of terraced gardens and irrigation systems from pre-Columbian civilizations. The Incas were said to be successful horticulturists, growing plants used for medicines, dyes and poison. Other civilizations were governed by religious rituals and sacrifice. Aztec gardens were sacred places of ornamental, aromatic and medicinal plants that symbolized various myths and gods whereas Mayans focused on growing corn, root vegetables such as potatoes, and local fruits. We should also thank the Mayans for spreading the cultivation and use of cacao.

The Ancient Greek and Roman civilizations made significant advances in horticulture,

notably in the Mediterranean region. The Ancients Greeks were the first to develop the concept of botanical gardens and exotic gardens. They were also known for their extensive use of medicinal plants. In fact, they were one of the first civilizations to document the use of plants for medicinal purposes.

From the Greeks, the Romans inherited the knowledge of grafting, budding, plant rotation and enclosed growing. They refined and improved horticultural practices and technologies which influenced the development of horticulture in Europe centuries later. Their formal garden design was the base of Renaissance garden designs of the 14th century.

As for horticulture in the Middle Ages, one major development was its distinction from agriculture. Gardens were functional and included kitchen gardens, infirmary gardens, cemetery orchards and vineyards. Many sources suggest that the garden cultures in this period were centered around monasteries, but in fact there were castle gardens too.



A depiction of an Ancient Egyptian garden. Contributed image

The Industrial Revolution saw the development of new technologies and machines. The use of greenhouses and cold frames became more widespread, allowing for the cultivation of plants that were not native to that region. This was also a time that horticultural societies and garden clubs began to emerge. These groups were formed to share knowledge and tips about gardening, a tradition that continues today with a social and community service aspect. Also, late in this period, there was a focus on developing new plant

varieties through hybridization and selection, as well as the introduction of new plant species from other parts of the world that continues to shape horticulture into this century.

The story of horticulture is a fascinating one. It has evolved into sophisticated art and science. It is a story of human ingenuity and perseverance, sometimes in the face of natural adversity. This story has no ending. It continues in our gardens today as we push the limits of Mother Nature to grow and nurture our treasured plants.

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COLUMN

# WHAT'S FOR DINNER: Homemade breads in under an hour



**By Lauren Eedy**

With prices what they are in our grocery stores, many have taken up baking their own breads at home. I tried my hand at sourdough for a few months last year but found it time consuming, messy and too finicky for my level of patience. I enjoy making bread nonetheless, so I tend to lean toward recipes that don't contain much resting time (if any at all) or yeast. The following

are two fantastic breads you can easily make in under an hour at home and will have your house smelling divine.

**Homemade Savoury Cheese Bread**

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 50 minutes

3 cups all-purpose flour

1 tbsp baking powder

1 tsp salt

¼ tsp cayenne pepper (optional)

1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

1 cup milk

¼ cup unsalted butter, melted

2 large eggs

**Method:**

- Preheat oven to 350°F.

Grease 9"x5" loaf pan.

- Mix flour, baking powder, salt and cayenne pepper in a large bowl. Stir in shredded cheese.

- In a separate bowl, mix milk, butter and eggs. Add wet ingredients to dry, stirring just until moistened.

- Pour batter into prepared loaf pan. Bake for 45-50 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

- Let cool in pan for 10 minutes, then remove to a wire rack to cool completely.

- Feel free to add any herbs or spices your family may prefer.

**Homemade Earl Grey Tea Bread**

2 large eggs

1 cup granulated sugar

¾ cup canola oil

1 cup full-fat sour cream

2 tbsp Eary Grey tea leaves from about 6 tea bags

2 tsp vanilla extract

1 tsp orange zest

¼ tsp crushed dried lavender (optional)

2 cups all purpose flour

1 tsp baking powder

½ tsp salt

½ tsp baking soda

**Method:**

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a 9"x5" loaf pan with nonstick cooking spray or line with parchment paper.

- In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, sugar and oil un-

til very well blended. Whisk in sour cream, tea leaves, vanilla, orange zest and lavender, if using.

- In a separate bowl, whisk flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add dry ingredients to wet and stir until just combined.

- Pour batter into prepared pan and bake for about one hour until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Leave to cool in pan for 10 minutes, turning loaf onto a wire rack to cool further.

- Cover and store bread at room temperature for one day or in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.

- Can substitute all purpose flour for a gluten free flour.


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# Riddles

- What's black, white, black, white, black and white?
- A penguin rolling down a hill.
- What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?
- "I want to hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand."
- What rolls and jumps but never walks?
- A soccer ball
- What do you call a person with a tree for a briefcase?
- A branch manager.
- Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?
- Because they are always a little short
- What kind of chickens lay golden eggs?
- Golden Chicks
- Why did the boy take a packet of oats with him to bed?
- To feed his nightmare
- How do you get a baby astronaut to sleep?
- Rock-it.
- What happens when you throw a purple rock into a yellow stream?
- It makes a splash.

## - Word Search -

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

### Word List

- Kucherov
- MacKinnon
- Panarin
- Pastrnak
- Nylander
- McDavid
- Miller
- Reinhart
- Rantanen
- Hughes
- Pettersson
- Makar
- Aho
- Matthews
- Forsberg



## The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

Why do bees have sticky hair?



Because they use their honeycombs

Chelsea Hughes (8)

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 Pet of the Week is Angel. He is smart and catches on quickly but still needs work on house training and general manners around the home. He loves to play with toys and follow his preferred person around. He has lots of energy and would do well in a home with busy human(s). He's great with kids and other dogs. Angel is currently available for adoption. For more information please visit [www.paws-united.com](http://www.paws-united.com)



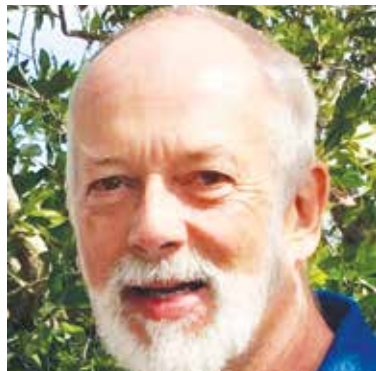
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## COLUMN

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Dinner at the ICI is worth the multi-month wait



By Paul Knowles

"The best things in life are worth waiting for."

Google that quote and you will find it attributed to dozens of folks, from Winston Churchill to Danielle Steele to "anonymous."

So, when I use that line to refer to dinner at the International Culinary Institute (ICI) of Myrtle Beach, I am probably not stepping on anyone's copyright. When it comes to this amazing dining experience, the necessary patience implied in the maxim is true. On the culinary institute's own website, they state, "All reservations for International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach have been sold. Please check again soon."

I am told this is a very common occurrence at this amazing place, so I write this feature, not to encourage you to dine at the ICI any time soon, but to inspire anyone planning a future visit to Myrtle Beach to watch that site and reserve a table whenever possible.

It's an amazing culinary experience. In terms of tastes, you will experience five-to-seven unique and individually wonderful courses. In terms of price – well, to quote chef Stuart Ford, for \$45 dollars you can enjoy a \$250-plus meal. It's the culinary bargain of the

century.

The institute is affiliated with Horry Georgetown Technical College. The ICI's executive director is the immensely talented and creative chef, Joseph Bonaparte. In addition to his genius in the kitchen, Bonaparte has also been named Educator of the Year in Myrtle Beach. He's been part of the ICI since the state-of-the-art centre for culinary education opened in 2017.

The mouth-watering menu is the work of the graduating students of ICI. The student body ranges right across the human demographic, including would-be chefs from as young as 18 all the way up to 73. Ford told me that the program welcomes "a lot of veterans" looking for a new and creative career.

Bonaparte and his team are committed to excellence in food preparation, but they are also focused on the current sustainability trends in the food industry. The school boasts that, "Menus are created using a wide range of cooking techniques focusing on taste, texture, color and creativity using locally-grown vegetables, fruits, meats, seafood, cheese and eggs."

For example, says Ford, "We only buy sustainable seafood. Ninety-nine per cent of what we buy is caught by Murrells Inlet fishermen." Murrells Inlet is a quaint fishing village and dining destination, just south of Myrtle Beach. It, too, is well worth a visit.

Reservations are required to dine in the ICI's Fowler Dining Room and, as noted, you can't actually make a reservation right now. They're booked for the season.

But when you do find an open-

ing in the coming months, here is a sample of what may be coming your way.

The fixed menu changes regularly but it will include such tasty delights as Beef & Oysters (beef carpaccio, fried oysters, roasted garlic aioli, shaved fennel, fried capers and pickled shallot). Or perhaps, South Carolina Chestnut & Caramelized Mushroom Soup (Indigo Farm chestnuts and shiitake mushrooms, duck confit, foie gras and black truffle croquette, celery and mountain apple slaw).

Entrees may include Pan-Roasted Fox Farm Chicken (Anson Mills Pencil Cobb grits, braised greens, glazed baby carrots, chicken jus, carrot caramel), Ember Grilled US Farm Raised Catfish Fillet (southern tomato gravy, Pencil Cobb grits, toasted sunflower seeds, sweet potato and banana pepper relish), or Crispy Carolina Heritage Farm Pork Belly (peach cider jus, Indigo Farm butter bean and corn succotash, pickled mustard seeds and sweet potato hay).

Desserts range from Pumpkin Chevre Cheesecake (poached honey pear, gingersnap crust, pear ginger caramel, blackberry curd) to Valrhona Dark Chocolate, Peanut Butter & Feuilletine Pie (Appalachian blue barley, banana fluff & watermelon syrup).

I know, that's a lot of detail about the menu. But be honest; at what point during the last couple of paragraphs did your mouth start to water? Mine, too.

By the way, when the menu suggests you will enjoy five to seven dishes, it's being a bit disingenuous. I chatted with one of the other faculty members supervising the servers and mentioned that I was sure



A class of eager, would-be chefs, studying at the International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

we had been served something like nine courses. "Yes," she said, "they always like to add a few special things at the last moment."

Our experience at the ICI was remarkable from start to finish. We took a guided tour and were shown the classrooms, the bakery, the enormous, refrigerated areas and, of course, the open kitchen in the Fowler Dining Room focused around the \$250,000 central island. This open concept means diners can watch the team of graduating chefs and their supervisors prepare their meals. You'll spot Chef Bonaparte right in the thick of it, supervising, cooking, finishing the plates.

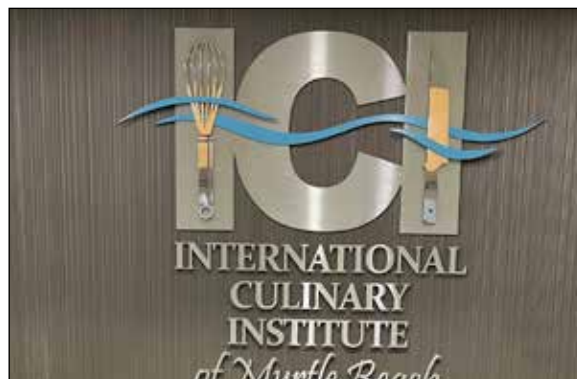
One caveat: these terrific meals may call for a nice cabernet sauvignon or an un-oaked chardonnay, but it's not going to happen. Because the ICI is part of a public school, they are not allowed to serve alcohol. Honestly, that bugged me for about a minute until I had my initial taste of our first appetizer.

For more information, see [www.hgtc.edu/academics/academic-departments/culinary-institute/index.html](http://www.hgtc.edu/academics/academic-departments/culinary-institute/index.html).

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](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).



Preparing seven-plus course meals is a full-on effort in the open concept kitchen at the International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach.



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### OBITUARY

## Greene



Sean Lennard Greene, 51 of St. Marys, passed away peacefully at Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth on January 9th, 2024 after a long heroic battle with Glioblastoma. Born in Toronto, July 2nd 1972, son of late Fitzroy Greene and Lynn Spinney (Peterson).

Sean is survived by his cherished, best friend and wife Laura Marie Greene (Pletsch). Adoring father to Gage (Sam), Charlotte and Katelyn. Loving brother to his dear siblings and will also be missed by his many cousins, aunts, uncles, in-laws and extended family members. Sean will also be greatly missed by his non-blood family. Sean's love for family was deep and very apparent. Sean spent his childhood living in both Nova Scotia and Toronto.

He was a man of many interests and deep rich relationships that developed from childhood, through adulthood, that were sustained his whole life. It is apparent that wherever Sean was in his life journey he touched lives deeply and is fondly remembered. Sean met Laura in 2008 thanks to a mutual love of fishing and they married in 2010, at which time Laura was blessed with also meeting and falling in love with Sean's beloved Gage. Sean and Laura went on to welcome their beautiful children, Charlie and Katie and zoo of furry family.

Sean's career was all and anything cars, from Editor/Writer/Photographer of Automotive Magazines to life in the dealership world. Sean's love and knowledge of cars was infused into all aspects of his life. Sean also had many other interests and would describe himself like a "Swiss army knife," the ability to do many different things. Sean had so many hobbies and interests and was always looking for the next adventure.

Sean's family would like to thank the staff and volunteers at Rotary Hospice for their exceptional care and support. We all received the such compassionate care during his extended stay and no words can express our gratitude. The Funeral Service was conducted at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home. Memorial Donations to Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

### THANK YOU

## Conley

I would like to thank my family and friends for all the phone calls, visits and gifts I received for my 90th birthday.

Also, thanks to the Town of St. Marys for their thoughtful message. It was a great day.

Mary Conley

### OBITUARY

## Longeway



LONGEWAY, Charles  
September 27, 1957 – January 7, 2024

After a short, courageous battle against cancer, with the strongest, positive mindset, Charles Jerrald Longeway took his last breath on January 7th in his 67th year. Leaving behind his wife Liz of 34 years.

His children that love him so much: Cara and Chris, Christena and Matt, and Scot. Charles was welcomed in heaven by his father Jerry, mother Judy, best friend and brother Mike, mother-in-law Jeanette, father-in-law Frank, and sister Debbie. He is survived by 5 siblings and their spouses, 4 siblings-in-law and their spouses, many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. Charles leaves behind his lifelong friend John Schutz (Jane, 2023).

A special thank you to the BGH ER dept, and the Palliative Care Unit for supporting and loving on Charles in his final days. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Victim Services Brant, or a charity of your choice. Dad, you are loved beyond words, and we will miss you forever.

Messages of condolence may be left at [www.ar-bormemorial.ca/en/toll](http://www.ar-bormemorial.ca/en/toll)

"Go Habs Go, you little jerks".

### OBITUARY

## Irwin



Roy Matthew Irwin passed away suddenly in St. Marys, on January 10, 2024 at the age of 63.

Son of the late Norman and Elsie Irwin. Brother of Lorraine Drouin (Norm), Ken (Uldene, deceased), Louise Lane (Tom, deceased), John (Tracey), Jim Barber (Jean), Terry Barber (Vicki). Father of

Matthew Irwin, Michael Irwin (Tisha), and Mark Irwin (Cheyanne). Also survived by two grandsons, many nieces and nephews and one great-niece. Loved by dogs Cally and Lady.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of life open house will be held in the Community Hall at the St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre, 317 James St. S. St. Marys, on Feb. 4, 2024 from 1 – 4 pm. Memorial donations may be made to the Stratford Perth Humane Society or Diabetes Canada. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

### OBITUARY

## Hammond



It is with a heavy heart the family announces the passing of Jason (Jay) Dee Hammond (51) peacefully on Saturday January 13th, 2024 surrounded by his family and friends after a strong battle against cancer at Victoria hospital.

Jason was well-loved and touched many lives with his

huge heart, personality, and loved everyone around him. Best dad ever, an amazing cook, loved golfing and playing pool but family was his favored places to be. Predeceased by his father George.

He is leaving behind his loving mother Lee his caring wife of 27 years Chantale, his pride and joy his sons Brandon (Allie) and Devin (Courtney). Jay will be remembered by "his village" aunts, uncles and cousins which he cherished every moment with. He will remain in hearts of his friends and co-workers.

A dedicated lab technician at the Stratford hospital for 15 years. He greatly enjoyed his work and co-workers but left the biggest impact on his patients. Cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donation our family would like ask for everyone to consider being organ donor and to donate blood. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

### THANK YOU

## Dufton

The family of the late Murray Dufton wish to express our sincere thanks for all the words of sympathy and comfort expressed to us since the passing of a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. Thank you to those who brought food, visited, called, sent cards, hugged and prayed for us. We so appreciate every one of you!

Thank you to Pastor Andrew Longmire, Pastor Doug Loveday and Rev. Darrell Shaule of Community Bible Church as well as Andrew Hodges Funeral Home for your care and support during these difficult days.

We also thank the medical teams at St. Marys Memorial Hospital and Stratford General Hospital for your care during Murray's short stay. We have truly been overwhelmed with the love and thoughtfulness of so many. Thank you!!

Shirley, Kevin & Sarah, Ryan & Jenn and families.

**Have you been affected by someone else's drinking?**

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COLUMN

# Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Some previous Make and Take projects are making a comeback with Make and Take: Encore. Join us Wednesday Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. to work on a craft you may have missed out on in the past or to work on something you'd love to make again. Available activities include diamond painting, jewelry making, a twine star, and more. To sign up, visit this link: [tinyurl.com/SMPL-Bookings](http://tinyurl.com/SMPL-Bookings). This is an 18+ event and there is a \$10 recommended donation.

**This Week's Recommendation**

Is one of your New Year's Resolutions to be more stoic? If not, perhaps it should be! Although being stoic is often attributed to someone resolute or perhaps someone giving the impression of being unfeeling, the philosophical school of Stoicism is more than meets the eye. It can be used to deal with grief, to handle insecurities, and to find inner peace. In "Reasons Not to Worry: How to Be Stoic

in Chaotic Times", Brigid Delaney delves deep into her own life experiences and details how practising Stoicism has changed her for the better. Stoicism isn't for everyone, but it sure is worth a try. "Reasons Not to Worry" is available as an eBook, an Audiobook, and in hard copy.

**Up This Week**

- Friday Jan. 19: Open 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday Jan. 20: Open 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Monday Jan. 22: Open 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday Jan. 23: Open 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Jan. 24: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30 a.m -10:30 a.m.), Mahjong Intro (1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.), Mahjong! (2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.)
- Thursday Jan. 25: Scrabble (6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

# LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

## Mystery asbestos

25 years ago (1999)

Rudy Broers, a former Granton area resident, was home visiting his family over the holidays. Broers is in the midst of taking his Masters in Development Studies in Bradford, England. Broers' year in England has been made possible by a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship sponsored in part by the Rotary Club of St. Marys.

The month of January, with its inclement weather, is shaping up to be a costly one for the Town of St. Marys. Town operations manager Bruce Grant reports that the town has already spent \$37,500 on snow-related work in 1999. That's almost a quarter of the annual budget.

A material containing asbestos has been discovered along a portion of the Grand Trunk Trail embankment, just east of the Sarnia Bridge. Since the discovery, the town has spoken extensively with the Ministry of the Environment and has also hired an environmental consulting firm to help deal with the problem. Mary Smith, museum curator, believes the asbestos may be left from a train derailment that took place there in 1900.

50 years ago (1974)

The demand for old Christmas trees as bird cover meant that Kinsmen had no bonfire after their recent collection. One load of trees went to Wildwood, the other to Horace Podbury for his pheasant operation.

Flour-milling machinery is being dismantled and removed from the premises of the Great Star.

A malfunction in the sprinkler alarm system at Allied Farm Equipment, James Street South, gave local firefighters a run at 11:30 p.m. last Saturday.

75 years ago (1949)

George Taylor has been appointed coach for the 1949 Stratford C.N.R. Boxing Team.

George Skipper and Son has removed the masonry of a fallen wall which toppled off town-owned property onto the Salvation Army property on Queen Street some two years ago.

Fenton Rumble was engaged in painting the outside portions of the new house he is building on Station Street on Saturday. Mr. James Purdue, who has lived in this town for almost ninety years, says it is the first time in his memory that such painting was accomplished in January.

100 years ago (1924)

The special train from Stratford to London on Friday night conveying guests from Perth County to the banquet given in honour of the Right Honourable Arthur Meighen, in the Winter Garden Hall, was packed with an enthusiastic crowd of conservative supporters. A splendid representation attended from St. Marys, Arthur Meighen's hometown.

The firemen were called out at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday to a fire at the home of Mrs. McLennan, Elgin Street West. The fire started when the coal oil stove that Mrs. McLennan had just started became flooded and began to blaze in a dangerous manner.

Avonbank Cheese & Butter Co. will hold their annual meeting in Temperance Hall, Avonbank on Friday.

# Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 31

# THE WEEK AHEAD

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

2024 Ontario Tankard/Scotties at Flight Exec Centre, Dorchester - January 21 to 28 Schedules and event updates at [ingersollcurlingclub.com](http://ingersollcurlingclub.com)

St. Marys Library events - See page 29

**Friday, January 19**

- Station Galley preview of "Whispers on the Path" - 11 am to 4:30 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Sarnia Legionnaires at the PRC at 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, January 20**

- St. Marys Farmers' Market at the PRC - 8 a.m. to noon
- Station Gallery opening reception for "Whispers on the Path" - 1 to 4 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.

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- 2) 18th century
- 3) One
- 4) Shoulder
- 5) Golf
- 6) Garden of Eden
- 7) Doctor of Philosophy
- 8) Sweden
- 9) Meteorite
- 10) On a book

### SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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